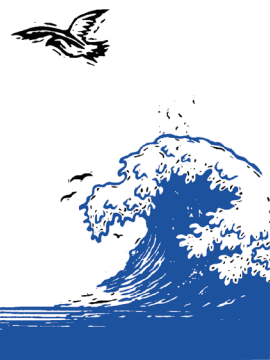


The Catholic Lighthouse

The Cradle of Texas Immigration



VOL. 25, NO. 7

OFFICIAL PUBLICATION OF THE DIOCESE OF VICTORIA IN TEXAS

November 2011

Sister Elizabeth Riebschlaeger, CCVI, testified before the US Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) September 29, in Arlington, Texas. Arlington EPA Hearing participants (back left): Fred Thompson, EPA Hearing chairman; front, l. to r.: Tricia Cortez, executive director, Rio Grande International Study Center, Laredo Community College; Bruce Moore, Senior Technical Advisor, Oil and Natural Gas, Office of Air Quality Planning and Standards, EPA; Sharon Wilson, executive director, Texas Oil and Gas Accountability Project; and Sister Elizabeth Riebschlaeger, representing the Sisters of Charity of the Incarnate Word, San Antonio.



Sister Elizabeth Riebschlaeger Testifies at EPA Hearing

ARLINGTON—On September 29, 2011, Sister Elizabeth Riebschlaeger, CCVI, joined environmental activist Sharon Wilson and others from the Barnett Shale area of North Texas and citizens from the Haynesville Shale area of East Texas, to testify before a hearing of the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA).

Held at City Hall in Arlington, Texas, where 15,000 oil and gas wells and installations exist within the city limits, the hearing focused on proposed new EPA regulations regarding hydraulic fracturing or “fracking” in combination with a new technology called “horizontal” or “directional” drilling.

This practice has been in use for at least 10 years across the United States for the purpose of recovering microscopic stores of gas and oil held under high pressure in geological formations called shale rock.

Authorized by her congregation to speak on behalf of the congregation, Sisters of Charity of the Incarnate Word, Sister Elizabeth testified: “The statement that I am making here today represents the commitment of our congregation of religious women. As co-signers with millions around the world of the Earth Charter, we have committed ourselves to work for a more life-sustaining environment for all the human family. Out of that commitment, and in the face of the frantic pace of new gas and oil fracking activities in Texas today, we join our voices with those here today, who come to ask the Environmental Protection Agency for immediate action toward regulating these activities.”

The fracking process involves perpendicular drilling to depths (in South Texas) of 12,000 to 15,000 feet, then turning at a right angle to drill horizontally up to an additional 3,000 feet. Once secured, the pipeline is used to inject a mixture of water, special sand and toxic chemicals under extremely high pressure at different points, fracturing the shale rock and forcing the sand into the fractures. Held open by the sand, the gas and oil are released to be recovered at the surface. This procedure has become more controversial with the growing incidence of: contamination of water wells in the areas surrounding drilling sites, of residents’ exposure to airborne contaminants, and of accidents at well sites. In addition, there is considerable uncertainty regarding the long-term effects of fracking on the environment, effects, which may be irreversible.

Sister Elizabeth was born and raised in Cuero, Texas, and has ministered in the Diocese of Victoria since 1985. Cuero now finds itself at the heart of the Eagle Ford Shale, a formation rich in oil and gas deposits, located beneath several counties in South Texas. Hydro-fracturing activity by several companies “...can only be described as frantic and furious,” according

See Sister Elizabeth, p. 18

Roman Missal, Third Edition 10 things you need to know

On November 27, the First Sunday of Advent, the *Roman Missal, Third Edition*, the ritual text containing prayers and instructions for the celebration of the Mass, will be implemented in the United States of America.

If you have been hearing the buzz but are not completely up to speed on the new Roman Missal, here are ten things you need to know:

1. It is not a new Mass, it is a new translation for a new edition of the Missal. Because a new edition of the *Missale Romanum*, the Latin Roman Missal, was promulgated by Pope John Paul II in 2000, it was necessary for all the countries of the world to translate this missal into the various local languages. The new missal has added features: prayers for the celebration of recently canonized saints, additional prefaces for the Eucharistic Prayers, additional Masses and Prayers for Various Needs and Intentions, and some updated and revised rubrics (instructions) for the celebration of the Mass. In the case of the English-speaking world, a common translation of the common text was sought through the International Commission for English in the Liturgy (ICEL) to ensure uniformity.

2. Vatican guidelines for translation. The translation of the new Roman Missal was carried out under the newest Vatican guidelines for translating prayers into modern local (i.e., vernacular) languages. These were given in the instruction *Liturgiam Authenticam*, published in 2001, urging a stronger adherence to the

original Latin wording and structure than earlier directives. In the new translation, the unique style of the Roman Rite is closely maintained. The texts are marked by a heightened style of English speech and a grammatical structure that follows closely the Latin text. In addition, many biblical and poetic images—such as “Lord, I am not worthy that you should enter under

See *Roman Missal*, p. 3

“And With Your Spirit.”

“And with your spirit.”

renewint.org/missal

The use of the new Roman Missal begins the last Sunday of this month, the first Sunday of Advent: November 27, 2011.

To learn more about the new English translation of the Roman Missal, Third Edition, visit the USCCB Roman Missal Web site at <http://old.usccb.org/romanmissal/>

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DELEGATES JOIN POPE AT INTERFAITH MEETING FOR PEACE IN ASSISI—Pope Benedict XVI leads an interfaith peace meeting in the Basilica of St. Mary of the Angels in Assisi, Italy, Oct. 27. Story is on page 15. Pictured from left are: Julia Kristeva, Bulgarian-born philosopher and psychoanalyst; the Rev. Olav Fykse Tveit, general secretary of the World Council of Churches; Archbishop Rowan Williams of Canterbury; Ecumenical Patriarch Bartholomew of Constantinople; Pope Benedict; Rabbi David Rosen, representing the chief rabbinate of Israel; Wande Abimbola, president of a Nigerian institute that promotes the study of the culture and traditional religion of the Yoruba people; Shrivatsa Goswami, a Hindu delegate; Ja Seung, head of South Korea’s Buddhist Jogye order; and Kya i Haji Hasyim Muzadi, a Muslim delegate. (CNS photo/Giampiero Sposito, Reuters)



Bishop Fellhauer's Schedule

November

- 6** 9:30 a.m., Mass, Veterans Day, St. Mary Church, Praha
- 7** 8:15 a.m., National Young Readers Week, Nazareth Academy
- 5:00 p.m., Liturgical Commission meeting, Chancery Office
- 9** 10:00 a.m., Diocesan Presbyteral Council, Chancery Office
- 13-16** United States Conference of Catholic Bishops' meeting, Baltimore, Maryland
- 18** 4:00 p.m., reconciliation service, Spiritual Renewal Center
- 20** 11:00 a.m., Mass, Installation of Acolytes, St. Mary Seminary Chapel, Houston
- 23** 11:00 a.m., Mass, St. Michael Church, Weimar

December

- 1** 6:30 p.m., Knights of St. Gregory Christmas gathering, Colony Creek Country Club, Victoria
- 2** 12 noon, presentation, Serra Club, Colony Creek Country Club
- 3** 2:00 p.m., Sons of the Republic of Texas awards ceremony, Presidio La Bahia, Goliad
- 5:00 p.m., Mass, Spiritual Renewal Center and
6:30 p.m., Bishop's Christmas dinner, Spiritual Renewal Center
- 4** 9:00 a.m., Mass, Dedication of Church renovations, St. Joseph Church, Inez
- 6:00 p.m., Fourth Degree Knights of Columbus Christmas gathering, Holy Family Church, Victoria
- 7** 6:30 p.m., Equestrian Order of the Holy Sepulchre Christmas gathering, Victoria Country Club
- 8** 10:27 a.m., Mass St. Joseph High School, Victoria

Pray for Peace!

Thank You Notes

October 10, 2011

Your Excellency,

I write to convey the prayerful thanks of this Congregation to you and the faithful of the Diocese of Victoria for the gifts and sacrifices offered during the year 2010 for the benefit of the mission churches served by the Pontifical Mission Societies.

You have provided a total support of \$26,933 to the Pontifical Mission Societies. Your support for the Society for the Propagation of the Faith sustains some 1,150 mission dioceses. Your support for the Society of St. Peter Apostle educates the next generation of priests, brothers and sisters as they go through the various stages of first formation. And your support for the Holy Childhood Association brings the light of the Gospel to children in some of the poorest and most remote parts of our world.

We have tremendous needs in educating and sustaining religious, seminarians and priests in our ecclesiastical circumscriptions that span more than half the globe. In this light, there is one particular group with whom I would ask you to convey my prayerful good wishes: your retired priests. Dispensed from full-time assignments, they occupy a unique place among God's faithful. Many continue to be pastoral guides and beloved ministers to the faithful of

all ages. While they too must take rest from their labors, I would urge them not to relent in their prayers and sacrifices for the missions. In a special way, I urge you to encourage them to forge a special bond with the Society of St. Peter Apostle and thereby with the upcoming generation of priests, religious and seminarians in mission countries.

Your pastoral leadership and example inspires the holy generosity of so many who support the Church in the developing world. This Congregation has long recognized and appreciated the missionary spirit of Catholics in the United States of America. With respect and fraternal encouragement I ask you to urge the faithful to even greater solidarity and sacrifice to meet the increasing and urgent needs of the *missio ad gentes*.

As you lead your diocese to active support and solidarity with the missionary work of the Church, it is my prayer that God will bless you in your episcopal vocation and bless also your generous people.

Fraternally yours in Christ,
Most Rev. Fernando Fioni
Prefect Congregatio Pro
Gentium Evangelizatione
Vatican

The Family of Deacon Arthur R. "Dick" Wearden wish to express their sincere thanks and love to all the people of the Diocese of Victoria for what they did for Dick in life and death.

We are especially grateful to those who attended his rosary and resurrection Mass and the respect shown him.

God bless you for this kindness. It was a wonderful tribute to a man we dearly loved and who gave so generously. We take comfort in your prayers and the knowledge that he is with our Lord.

Fondly,
Theresa, James and
Mary Elizabeth Wearden



~New E-mail Address~

To send local stories, photos or festival announcements, please use *The Catholic Lighthouse's* new e-mail address: Lighthouse@victoriadiocese.org. Thank you!

Updated Diocesan Directories are available now

Loose-page diocesan directory fillers are available for \$6 if picked up at the chancery office; \$10 if mailed. If a full directory, with the diocesan binder, is needed, they are \$8 if picked up at chancery office; \$15 if mailed.

Call 361-573-0828 ext. 2230 or e-mail janakr@victoriadiocese.org to place an order.

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

Effective October 14, 2011, the **Rev. William J. Moorman, O.S.S.T.** is appointed Parochial Vicar of Our Lady of Sorrows Church, Victoria, and its mission, Santissima Trinidad.

Effective October 21, 2011, the **Rev. Gabriel J. Mensah**, a priest of the Archdiocese of Cape Coast, Ghana, is appointed Parochial Vicar at Our Lady of Sorrows Church, Victoria.

Support Christians in Holy Land by purchasing Olive Wood crafts

The Diocese of Victoria has been supporting the Christians in the Holy Land by holding Olive Wood Sales prior to the Christmas season for the past seven years.

After coordinating these sales since 2003, Cynthia Brewer, the editor of *The Catholic Lighthouse* newspaper, has asked Mrs. Lorraine Novosad, the wife of Deacon Charlie Novosad of Columbus, to take over the coordination of these sales. She has graciously taken up this service.



Lorraine Novosad

Sales that have been scheduled include St. Agnes Church in Edna from Nov. 5 through 20; St. Rose of Lima, 1010 Lyons Avenue in Schulenburg, Nov 19-20; Holy Cross Church, 839 Church Street in East Bernard Dec 3-4; Our Lady of Sorrows in Victoria, Nov. 13 and 20; Capilla de la Santissima Trinidad, 2901 Pleasant Green Drive in Victoria Dec. 4 and 11; St. Robert Bellarmine in El Campo, Dec. 4; and St. Mary's in Victoria, Dec 10-11.

Please come out and support the Christians in the Holy Land, as well as the organizations that are volunteering to put these sales on.

If your parish would still like to set up a sale or a child sponsorship, please check with your pastor and then please contact Lorraine at novosad@swbell.net.

Family Prayer for Purity

Dearest Jesus, help me and each member of my family to thoughtfully consider the moral and spiritual harm of inappropriate television, movies, magazines, e-mails and internet. Give us the courage to remove ourselves from the occasions of sin. Preserve us from the evil around us and turn our eyes to you, for you have promised that the pure of heart will see God. Send your Holy Spirit upon us to fill us with your grace, and keep us pure of heart. In Jesus' name we pray. Amen.

From the Sts. Cyril & Methodius, Shiner, bulletin dated Oct. 30, 2011

DSA & Reflection of Faith Capital Campaign Updates

2011 DSA

Diocesan Goal:	\$ 1,471,384.00
Parish Pledge Totals:	\$ 651,204.52
Parish Contribution Totals:	\$ 615,200.52
Number of Parish Families Participating:	3,538

Reflection of Faith Capital Campaign

Diocesan Goal:	\$ 9,000,000.00
Parish Pledge Totals:	\$ 12,939,559.15
Parish Contribution Totals:	\$ 9,686,129.86
Number of Parish Families Participating:	6,768

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"The Catholic Lighthouse"!**



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DEADLINE IS THE THIRD TUESDAY OF THE PRECEDING MONTH.



In Memory of ...

Sister M. Adelaide Popp, IWBS

Sister M. Adelaide Popp, 91, of Victoria, died Friday, September 30, 2011. She was born April 13, 1920, in Nada, Texas, to the late Ferdinand J. and Anna Staff Popp.

Sister Adelaide completed her grade school education at Nada Public School. She attended Nada Public High School and Victoria's Nazareth Academy, from which she graduated. She received a BS degree with a major in education and a minor in social sciences from Incarnate Word College in San Antonio. She was also awarded a Master of Religious Education Degree from St. Thomas University in Houston. She held a Texas Teacher's Permanent Elementary Certificate of the First Class.

Sister Adelaide was received into the Novitiate of the Sisters of the Incarnate Word and Blessed Sacrament on July 27, 1942. She made first profession of vows on July 28, 1943, and pronounced her final vows on September 1, 1946.

During her years of active ministry, Sister Adelaide taught at St. Michael School in Weimar, Holy Cross School in Bay City, Sacred Heart School in La Grange, Sts. Peter and Paul School in Frelsburg, St. Ludmila Academy in Shiner, Nazareth Academy and Our Lady of Victory School in Victoria, and St. Leo School in San Antonio.

Sister Adelaide loved small children and was an excellent elementary teacher. She also taught CCD classes in many of the parishes where she ministered.

Some of her hobbies were making rosaries, crocheting, crafting bookmarks, embroidery, writing letters and being a pen pal. She enjoyed reading, playing cards and dominoes, and visiting the elderly, as well as spending time with family and friends.



She is survived by her brother, Bishop Bernard Popp; sister, Sister Anna Marie Popp; sisters-in-law Bernice Popp and Clara Breummer; numerous nephews and nieces, and great-great grand nephews and nieces.

She was preceded in death by her parents, brothers Joseph Lawrence Popp (Bernice) and Lawrence John Popp (Clara); sisters Margaret Popp Swoboda (Gustav) and Augusta Popp Gerberman (George).

A rosary for Sister Adelaide was recited and a wake service with evening praise and sharing of memories was held at the Incarnate Word Convent on October 3.

The Mass of the Resurrection was celebrated on October 4 at the convent with Rev. Phi Nguyen presiding. The homily was given by Bishop Bernard Popp.

Burial followed at Catholic Cemetery No. 3. Pallbearers were family members: Andrew Swoboda, Wayne Popp, George Gerberman Jr., William Gerberman, James Gerberman, Ben Gerberman, Koby Gerberman and Greg Swoboda.

Memorials may be made to Incarnate Word Convent, Hospice of South Texas, or Donor's Choice. Words of comfort may be shared with the family at www.colonialfuneralhomevictoria.com

Roman Missal, Third Edition

Continued from p. 1

my roof..." (Communion Rite, taken from Matthew 8:8) and "...from the rising of the sun to its setting" (Eucharistic Prayer III, taken from Psalm 113), that were lost in the 1973 translation—have been restored.

3. Particular adaptations to the U.S. are included. The new English-language Missal also includes Vatican-approved adaptations requested by the Bishops of the United States as well as texts for observances that are proper to the United States (such as the prayers for the Memorial of St. Elizabeth Ann Seton, and prayers for Independence Day and Thanksgiving Day).

4. "And with your spirit." The translation of several phrases in the Order of Mass had been previously decided by the Vatican in the instruction *Liturgiam authenticam*. Among these are "certain expressions that belong to the heritage of the whole or of a great part of the ancient Church, as well as others that have become part of the general human patrimony..." Such is the case of the response "*Et cum spiritu tuo*." What had originally been translated in 1973 as "And also with you" becomes now "And with your spirit." This places the English translation in line with the way this has always been translated in most other languages, including Spanish, French, German, and Italian.

5. Changes in the people's parts. In addition to the response to the greeting "The Lord be with you", people are going to find a number of other changes in the translation of common prayers throughout. This includes the various parts of the Penitential act ("I confess to Almighty God..."), the Gloria, the Creed (both in the Nicene Creed and the Apostles' Creed), the Sanctus (Holy, Holy, Holy), the Mystery of Faith, and the invitation to communion. (Samples of comparative texts for the new and old responses can be found at the USCCB Roman Missal Web site.

6. "For many." One of the points that has generated more discussion is the translation of *qui pro vobis et pro multis effundetur in remissionem peccatorum*, presently translated "which will be shed for you and for all so that sins may be forgiven." In the new edition of the *Roman Missal*, "for all" will be changed to "for many." There are several reasons for this change. First, "for many" is a more accurate translation of the Latin phrase *pro multis* than the present translation. This is also the wording used in the Biblical narrative account of the Last Supper found in the Gospels of Matthew and Mark. Even though it is a dogmatic teaching of the Church that Christ died on the Cross for all men and women, the expression "for many" is reflective also of the fact that this salvation is not brought automatically, without one's own willing participation, but rather is a gift to be accepted. Also, in the context of the Last Supper, Jesus was speaking to the Twelve, extending the reach of his sacrifice beyond the boundary of his closest disciples. In the context of the celebration of the Eucharist, the phrase "for you and for many" connects the particular gathered assembly with the larger sense of the Church in every time and place, as if to say "not only you gathered here, but many more as well."

7. Gradual implementation for Musical Settings. Though official implementation is set for the First Sunday of Advent 2011, Diocesan bishops may permit the gradual implementation of various musical settings of the people's parts in the Order of Mass starting in September to allow the congregation time to learn them. This applies only to the *Glory to God*, the *Holy, Holy, Holy*, and the Memorial Acclamations. Composers have readjusted previous musical settings and new compositions are also being prepared. New musical settings of the *Amen* and the *Lamb of God*, the texts of which are not changing, can be introduced at any time.

8. What's not changing. The structure and rite of the Mass itself is not changing, so the Mass will look and feel the same. Some texts of the Mass are not changing, including the Lord's Prayer and the Lamb of God. The translation of Scripture readings used at Mass will remain the same, so those who proclaim the readings (lectors and deacons) will not be affected in their ministry by the introduction of the new Missal. Much of the hymnody and other chants sung at Mass will not be affected by the changes, although many hymnals and other participation aids are being revised to reflect the changes in the parts of the Mass.

9. Symbolism of posture and gestures. The symbolism of some traditional gestures has been recaptured in the new missal. The gestures themselves have always been prescribed, but the introduction of the new Missal provides an opportunity to teach about these long-standing customs. One such example is striking oneself over the chest during the Penitential Act (Confiteor) while reciting the words "through my fault, through my fault, through my most grievous fault," (*mea culpa*), as a show of remorse, a tradition that had not always been followed in the U.S. Another example is the reverent bow during the recitation of the Creed. After the words "For us men and for our salvation he came down from heaven," at the words that follow up, "and by the Holy Spirit was incarnate of the Virgin Mary, and became man" all bow as a sign of reverence for the mystery of the Incarnation.

10. Proximate preparation. Parishes and dioceses are now abuzz with preparations for the reception of the new Missal. The Roman Missal itself is the primary source of training and instruction for the new translation. It displays rubrics, sentences printed in red that instruct a priest on what to say and do, how and when to gesture, and when to sing the common prayers in the Order of Mass. It provides instructions that guide the celebrant in leading the liturgy and the people assembled in ritual response for each occasion. It also dictates the words used by a priest during the Mass. In addition to the homily at Mass, during which many priests will offer instruction about the new text, many parishes are making use of various small- and large-group catechetical sessions to help the people learn the new responses and be aware of upcoming changes. A variety of print and online resources for use in parishes, in group settings, and in homes are available from many publishers.

The introduction of a new translation for the Roman Missal gives people an opportunity to pause to think about the words they are saying every time they participate in the Mass. It is an opportunity for the entire Church in the United States to deepen its understanding of the Sacred Liturgy, of its meaning and importance in their lives. It also puts Catholics in contact with the Church's tradition of prayer and helps create a historical awareness. The new translation and the education Catholics shall receive before it is implemented offer Catholics a chance to "brush up" on their knowledge of the Mass and of the Church's beliefs. Those leading the efforts to educate the community hope the changes "will invite the faithful to pause and reflect on what, after so many years, we may have taken for granted" and that such meditation will redound in an "enrichment of people's spiritual life."

To learn more about the new English translation of the Roman Missal, Third Edition, visit the USCCB Roman Missal Web site at <http://old.usccb.org/romanmissal/>. The "old" in the address just applies to the "old" vs. "new" USCCB Web site; it is not identifying the Mass as the "old" Mass.

What's Happening in Your Parish?

Blessing of St. Joseph Church – Dec. 4 –



Renovations to double the seating capacity at St. Joseph Church in Inez began in the fall of 2010 and is scheduled to be completed at the end of November 2011.

The church just recently had new pews installed in the renovated building. The church will now be able to seat about 400 persons – double what the original building could seat.

The blessing of the church will be celebrated by Bishop David Fellhauer and is scheduled for Sunday, December 4, at the 9:00 a.m. Mass.

An appreciation celebration will follow at the Inez Community Center. Thank you to all who have made donations toward St. Joseph's Building Our Faith Campaign.

If something new is happening in, or to, your parish, please let *The Catholic Lighthouse* staff know by contacting us at lighthouse@victoriadiocese.org



DO YOU FIT THIS PROFILE?



A Ministry of Service to the Church.

The Profile of the Permanent Deacon

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

**LISTEN TO YOUR HEART.
GOD MAY BE CALLING YOU TO BE A PERMANENT DEACON**

A new formation class will begin soon.

For further information contact:
The Director of Formation, Permanent Diaconate Office, C/O St. Joseph's Church
Post Office Box 399, Moulton, Texas 77975
Phone (361) 596-4674

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 October 31, 2011

	TOTALS
— Diocese Of Victoria General Burse	
Previously Reported	\$100,584.00
In memory of Deacon Wearden by Lee and Ray Beth Sills & Hamp and Pat Burwick	30.00
Total	\$100,614.00

— Msgr. Hubert J. Janak - Newly Established	
Previously Reported	\$805.00
In memory of Mildred Janak by Linda Sandelovic	25.00
Total	\$830.00

— Fr. Roman Janak & Msgr. Hubert Janak	
Previously Reported	\$14,194.84
In memory of living and deceased members of Joe and Cecelia Fikac Family	50.00
Total	\$14,244.84

— Joseph R. Janak Burse #2	
Previously Reported	\$2,018.77
In memory of 13th Anniversary of death by Rose Marie Janak Family	25.00
Total	\$2,043.77

— Knights Of Columbus #1329, Victoria	
Previously Reported	\$10,982.50
In memory of Robert Ondarza by K of C Council #1329	100.00
In memory of Deacon A.R. Wearden by K of C Council #1329	100.00
Total	\$11,182.50

— Rev. Msgr. Edward Bartsch	
Previously Reported	\$5,725.00
In memory of Olga Janek by Mary Jasek	10.00
In memory of Helen Stanzel by Mary Jasek	10.00
Total	\$5,745.00

— Reverend John C. Peters Burse #5	
Previously Reported	\$2,224.00
In memory of John Jr. and Tillie Peters by Father John Peters	30.00
In memory of Donald Berger by Elsie Farek	10.00
Annual donation by CDA Court #797 Hallettsville	100.00
Total	\$2,364.00

Existing Burses

- CDA St. Ann #369 Burse #2
- Rev. Msgr. Julius Petru Burse #2
- Rev. Joe Levya
- Rev. Marcus Valenta
- Rev. Godfrey F. Kuratko
- Rev. Msgr. John Hanacek
- Catholic Family Fraternal of Texas KJZT Burse #5
- Sophie Schmidt
- Rev. Sean Donohue Burse #2
- Rev. Msgr. Robert Schmidt
- Rev. Msgr. Vaclavic Bily
- St. Mary's Church – Praha
- St. Mary's Church – High Hill
- Rev. Jerome J. Stryk
- Sr. Perpetua Hawes
- Sr. M. Barbara Konvicka
- Bill Schmidt
- Rev. Jerry Caponi

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**

~ Two to be ordained to the diaconate December 17 ~

Two men are nearing the completion of their journey to become ordained clergy of the Church in the Diocese of Victoria. On Saturday, December 17, 2011, Larry Koether of Holy Cross Church in Bay City and Kenneth Fishbeck of St. Joseph's Church in Moulton will be ordained deacons for the diocese.

The Ordination Mass will be celebrated at Our Lady of Victory Cathedral at 10 a.m.

Both "deacons-to-be" responded to questions from Cynthia Brewer, editor, for an interview story for *The Catholic Lighthouse*. Their personal stories follow.

Larry Koether and wife, Lynn Holy Cross Church in Bay City

What first drew you to the decision to pursue the diaconate?

I wanted to serve God, but the question was: how and to what extent? Fortunately, I belong to an incredible parish family and they all helped me throughout this experience. It began when Deacon Walley Rodriguez saw something in me and suggested that I consider the diaconate. It continued with the encouragement from my pastor, Father Casey Jarzombek, who served as my role model as a true servant of Christ. Father Casey has since retired but still offers me support when I see him and now Father Greg Korenek is helping me through the final stretch.

Deacon Walley and Father Casey were instrumental in my starting the diaconate

but my immediate and parish family have kept me going. I believe their acceptance of me as a diaconal candidate has been my main motivation. There were so many times that I was filled with self-doubt and wondering: who am I to attempt such an accomplishment? However, it has been the acceptance, words of encouragement, and prayers from my fellow parishioners that has kept me going.

What has the formation process meant to you? What was it like for you and for your wife?

The formation process has been a life-changing event for both me and Lynn. Most importantly, it helped us grow into a closer relationship with Our Lord. Additionally, it gave us a better understanding of ourselves, the world around us, the Church, and our relationship with God.



Larry Koether and wife, Lynn

The formation is not a program where the husband goes off by himself to become a deacon. Our wives are there beside us throughout this whole experience, helping us and growing along with us.

Has it impacted your family in any way?

Yes, this experience has improved our family in many ways. The formation process has helped us change our old selfish way of thinking and replaced it with a more loving and

understanding attitude about life. This attitudinal change has improved our relationships as husband and wife, parents, and ministers to those around us.

What is the content/structure of the classes; what classes did you especially like? Did any in particular help you to discern your journey to becoming a deacon?

Our classes occurred as any school year from fall to spring. Each month we met one Sunday for spiritual formation. In addition, two to three Saturdays each month we would meet for various academic courses broadcasted to us from St. Mary's Seminary in Houston. These interactive broadcasts last for six hours and covered subjects such as: Biblical studies, Church history, liturgy, homiletics, philosophy, psychology, counseling, Catholic morals, and numerous theology classes.

The emphasis placed on spiritual formation helped me the most. All of the classes were very valuable and some were demanding. I do not think it would have been possible to get through them without a strong grounding in spirituality.

What is the specificity of your calling: How do you see yourself serving the Church?

There is no one thing that I feel I am being called to do. I know there are some things that I will feel comfortable doing and others where I am not. All I can do is stay open to any situation that comes up in the future and let the Lord guide me.

Kenneth Fishbeck and wife, Kathy St. Joseph's Church in Moulton

What first drew you to the decision to pursue the diaconate?

I retired from the Moulton ISD after having spent forty years as a coach,

teacher, and administrator. I thought I had my retirement plans pretty much in place, but sometimes things change, and in this case, for the better.

I attended an ACTS Retreat and found that the experience led me to a point where I felt there was still something I was being called to at this time in my life. Father Gabriel Maison, my pastor and program director, invited me to try one class... "To come and taste," as he put it. After that class and our first silent retreat with our Spiritual Formation Director Michael Fonseca, there was no turning back.



Kenneth Fishbeck and wife, Kathy

What has the formation process meant to you? What was it like for you, and for your wife?

The formation process has been so much more than what I had expected. There are strong ties and bonds of love and friendship that now exist as a result of our journey together... a journey shared with program leaders, instructors, and other groups at different levels in the program. Most surprisingly was how the process really brought me to a better understanding of myself. I see myself in a new light

See Two to be ordained, p. 7



Continued from last month:

Poisoned by the Pill: Truths about Chemical Contraception

By Mary Anne Moresco, reprinted with permission from Catholic Exchange January 17th, 2011

Hormonal contraception is a carcinogenic and potent drug. High doses of these drugs are needed to mimic pregnancy in the body and thus prevent pregnancy. It's not normal for the body to function with such high levels of these hormones, especially over a prolonged period of time spanning many years.[10]

What Can We Do?

The Food and Drug Administration (FDA), doctors, and the culture must work to solve these problems.

FDA: The big business of birth control has overpowered truth. But business is not about profit alone. It is about serving the good of the society. Drug companies should run their businesses in ways that help human beings, not in ways that exploit them. The FDA should mandate the following:

- Drug companies should be banned from using advertising to lure otherwise healthy people into using carcinogenic hormonal drugs.

- Labeling should clearly communicate hazards. The FDA is about to mandate gruesome images on cigarette labels. It ought to do the same for the pill. In a recent article in the Washington Times, Jenn Giroux, R.N. stated the FDA should mandate that images of young corpses in coffins, emaciated cancer patients and college-age stroke victims be placed on pill labels.

- Pharmaceutical companies should call the pill what it is—not a “contraceptive” pill but a “contraceptive-abortive” pill.

DOCTORS: Dr. Lanfranchi was sympathetic towards doctors. The carcinogenic information about the pill is itself a bitter pill for doctors to swallow. Dr. Lanfranchi said: “25 years down in my career, when I hear that I’ve been handing out a Group 1 carcinogen for the last 25 years, I’m going to be resistant to that...”

Doctors need to change their approach:

- Doctors need to prescribe hormonal drugs with care. They ought to be prescribed only when there is a serious medical condition caused by a hormonal imbalance, or for short-term need.[20]

- Doctors are more than pill dispensers. At the conference, Dr. John Bruchalski

Victoria Natural Family Planning classes

David and Annie Coffey have scheduled four sets of Natural Family Planning classes to be held throughout the 2012 year. The classes will be held once a month on Sundays from 1 to 3 p.m. at Our Lady of Victory library in Victoria.

The schedule is as follows:

- Winter class series: Jan. 8, Feb. 12 and March 11

- Spring class series: April 22, May 20 and June 24

- Summer class series: July 15, August 12 and Sept. 9

- Fall class series: Oct. 14, Nov. 11 and Dec. 9

Please contact Annie at victorianfp-teachers@yahoo.com or at 361-579-8464.




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(founder of the Tepeyac Family Center and Divine Mercy Care) explained that doctors need to engage their patients in conversation, and see if the relationships in which the patients are involved are healthy and bringing them respect. Doctors need to begin listening to their patients.

CULTURE: The cultural winds need a sharp turn in a moral direction. As parents, educators, doctors, and nurses, we can live by a few simple principles and teach our youth to live by them too. These principles will decrease the need for birth control and were articulated best by Professor Janet Smith at the conference:

“You are not ready for sex until you are ready for children. And you are not ready for children until you are married.”

One conference speaker stated: “No girl ever wished she’d had sex earlier.” Our culture is luring girls into unhealthy sexual behavior which they will eventually regret. We teach young people: “just say no...” to drugs, to alcohol and to hopping into a car with a drunk driver. In a similar fashion youth can be taught “just say no” to pre-marital and extra-marital sex.

But this moral message can’t come from only one place. It must permeate society. It must come from the schools, from parents and from the media through music, television and the internet. Society lived by this moral code for thousands of years just fine until the pill came along.

Defending Morality: It’s important not just to protect mortality, but to defend morality. Government must end its long-standing love affair with pornography. We need to stop calling pornography “freedom of speech.” It’s not speech at all. It’s immoral action that causes grave harm to humanity. It is indecent exposure gone wild and the job of government is to stop this indecency so that humanity might not be led into living dangerous and harmful life styles. If we want to live in a decent society, then we need moral laws that protect our right to live decently.

Teaching children to live by rules of chastity might infuriate pharmaceutical companies who have made a bundle contaminating the bodies of teens for decades. And it may throw Planned Parenthood into a fit. But we can’t be led by lies, or let women be killed by lies either.

We must stand strong and become good and moral leaders for young girls — leading them to keep their heads high, protect their own dignity and do what is good and right. We must shield girls from the harm of contraception as we guide them in truth, and lead them away from behaviors and deadly drugs that may ultimately do them grave physical or moral harm— or cost them their lives.

This is the final article in the series, which has been printed in The Catholic Lighthouse for the past several months. This article, as well as its footnotes, may be read in full at: <http://catholicexchange.com/2011/01/17/146008/>

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

My journey to the seminary

By James Dvorak, seminarian
Sts. Peter & Paul Parish, Frelsburg

As a child I always attended CCE classes. It was in my eighth-grade class when I first realized a real connection with God.

The teacher, who happened to be my Aunt Adeline, taught the students with methods that I had never experienced. She taught us faith through actions. We were involved in community service, serving the church, as well as attending church events.

The Catholic faith is more than just attending Mass on the weekend. Through these actions, I began to recognize the connection with God and experienced growth in my faith. My Aunt Adeline also recognized this growth in my relationship with God and offered me nothing but support.

As the school year was coming rapidly to a close, she informed me about an annual Vocation Camp sponsored by our diocese. I knew I wanted to serve God in my life the best way I could. The priesthood, for me, is the ultimate sacrifice and service for God.

To receive information on the camp, I contacted Father Dan Morales, the vocation director for the Diocese of Victoria, who also baptized me as a child at Sts. Peter & Paul Parish in Frelsburg. It is a blessing that through that sacrament, he is now guiding me to another.

I discussed with him my faith and my openness to priesthood. Father Dan encouraged me and gave me information about the vocation camp, but due to age restrictions, I was unable to attend the vocation camp that summer.

A year later, I was attending the camp, discerning in a group of young men my age, and learning from the experiences of both seminarians and priests. The camp was great for my discernment. It helped me better recognize the calling from God and how to deal with it.

I also attended two seminaries: Saint Benedict Seminary in St. Benedict, Louisiana, and Holy Trinity Seminary (HTS) in Irving, Texas. They both hosted a live-in weekend to aid in discernment and to experience seminary life for those who are considering God’s call

to the priesthood.

The greatest experience I have encountered in my vocation is everyone’s support. God has brought me to HTS this year, and I know without the support and guidance I received, fulfilling God’s will would have been more difficult.

Please continue to pray for me and my brother seminarians.

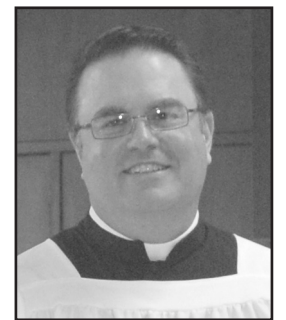


Women discerning retreat at IWBS

Single Catholic women (high school graduates through 50 years of age, who are discerning God’s call) are invited to attend a retreat on Nov. 12 and then stay for an overnight visit at Incarnate Word Convent in Victoria. If you are interested, please check us out at www.iwbsvictoria.org or call (361) 575-7111 or e-mail iwbsvoc@yahoo.com or iwbsvoc2@yahoo.com for more details or to make a reservation.

Happy Birthday!

Rev. Mr. Patrick Knippenberg is a Theology IV student at St. Mary’s Seminary in Houston. His home parish is Holy Family Parish, Victoria, and his birthday is December 3. Please show your support for this seminarian by writing to: Patrick Knippenberg, St. Mary’s Seminary, 9845 Memorial Drive, Houston, Texas 77024-3498.





You are invited to
OUR LADY OF LOURDES ANNUAL FALL FESTIVAL

Sunday, November 13, 2011

Victoria Community Center
Doors open at 10:00 a.m.

Serving Our Traditional TURKEY AND DRESSING LUNCH

Adults \$7.50 - Children 12 & under \$3.50
Serving begins at 11:00 a.m.

Plates to go \$7.50
Curb service available at 10:30 a.m.

Live Auction - Begins at 12:30 p.m.
Silent Auction - 10:00 a.m. to 3 p.m.

Raffle
Country Store
Quilts * Antiques * Crafts * Collectibles
Kolaches and Baked Goods

Booths and Games for the entire family

B-B-Q on Buns * Nachos * Soft Drinks
served all day

Right, priests, deacons and laity who prepare forms for marriage preparation or nullity procedures attend the Study Day held at Holy Family Parish.



Left, Judicial Vicar Rev. Matthew Huehlefeld; presentation facilitator, Ms. Anne Bryant; and Bishop David Fellhauer pose for a photo at the Study Day for the priests, deacons and laity involved with preparing forms for marriage preparation and the presentation of petitions to the Tribunal for nullity procedures.

Tribunal Office holds Priests' Study Day

On Tuesday, October 18 the Tribunal Office held a Study Day for priests, deacons and laity of the diocese involved with the presentation of petitions to the tribunal for nullity procedures, as well as marriage preparation forms.

The day was facilitated by Ms. Anne Bryant, the administrator of the Metropolitan Tribunal of the Archdiocese of Galveston-Houston.

Participants were introduced to the new forms and format that the Victoria Diocese has now implemented in the operations of the diocesan tribunal.

This approach will attempt to process petitions without the actual holding of weekly court sessions. This will entail that petitions and questionnaires be filled out as completely as possible when they are presented. In certain cases an actual court hearing may still be required; however, the expectation is that with the assistance of Case Sponsors at the parish level, it will not be necessary.

The new forms were adopted from the Archdiocese of Galveston-Houston and the Texas Catholic Conference.

Capitol Comments: Do This in Memory of Me

By Maria Huemmer, Communication Director, Texas Catholic Conference

A few weeks ago, Catholic churches across the country joined together to celebrate Catechesis – the joyful sharing of our faith.

Catechists, those who teach our faith, are prime examples of those who illuminate Jesus' life to others. The US Bishops have set the theme of the 2011-12 Catechetical year as "Do this in memory of me," which reflects the call Jesus gives to His disciples during the Last Supper. On Catechetical Sunday, which was celebrated in September, parishes were invited to reflect on the role that catechists, and indeed all parishioners, play in spreading the Gospel. Without our catechists' time, talent, patience, and other gifts, our young (and not so young) would not be so blessed with the knowledge and truth of our Catholic faith. In classrooms and youth groups across our state, the light of Christ is being lit in our youth and our parishes.

However, it's important to remember that not all catechesis happens in the classroom. As faithful citizens, we also bring our call as catechists, as teachers of the faith, to the public square. When we fulfill our civic obligations, guided by our faith, we serve as an example to others on how our faith informs our participation in the democratic process. We enlighten policy

makers and our communities to the needs of the poor and vulnerable, the migrant, the unborn, and all who are voiceless or ignored. We lift up the memory of Jesus, who is ever present in the least of our brothers.

Jesus, the divine catechist, spent hours patiently teaching. Are we patient in explaining the teaching of Christ and why the truth and fullness of the Gospel must be brought to the public square? Jesus also dined with tax collectors and sinners, calling patiently for repentance. How do we treat those who we encounter who are advocating against the positions of our Church? Is the loving call to repentance present in our words? Do our actions show that we recognize their dignity as a beloved child of God?

A contemporary Christian song lyric calls listeners to "Shine, make them wonder what you got, make them wish that they were not, on the outside looking in." Let us pray that all that is good, all that is true, is conveyed through us when we advocate as faithful citizens, and that the loving light of Jesus is always a torch and a sign that we come in order to "remember" Him who sends us to speak for His people.

Does the Catholic Church allow cremation?

Yes, as long as certain rules are followed. When the Church decided to allow cremation, she knew well how the secular world operates. Today, even with rules in place, the secular world, liberal media and out-of-control-TV make light of a situation that should be reverent and holy.

Cremation is used more often in today's society and families have many questions because of what they see, hear, and read in the secular world, which portrays the wrong information as far as the Church is concerned.

The Diocese of Victoria Cemetery Office at the chancery building has a simple but detailed pamphlet that explains cremation and the Church's rules for cremation. It is titled "The Church and Cremation."

An example of the information one will receive from the pamphlet is, "**Must cremated remains be buried/entombed?**"

Yes. Respectful final disposition of cremated remains involves interment or entombment. Burial options include a family grave in a cemetery marked with a traditional memorial stone or an urn garden, a special section in a cemetery with small, pre-dug graves for urns."

"**May I scatter the cremated remains?**"

No. The practice of scattering cremated remains on the sea, from the air, or on

the ground, or keeping cremated remains in the home of a relative or friend of the deceased are not the reverent disposition that the Church requires. ... Burial at sea of cremated remains differs from scattering. An appropriate and worthy container, heavy enough to be sent to its final resting place, may be dropped into the sea. Please consult your local government for environmental regulations."

The chancery cemetery office keeps some pamphlets on hand and are distributed free of charge. If you or the parish office would like some in English or Spanish, please let the cemetery office staff know and they will mail them to you, or better yet, they can reserve some for you and when someone from the parish comes to the chancery, they can pick them up. Since they are inexpensive, every parish should keep some on hand and order their own when the need arises.

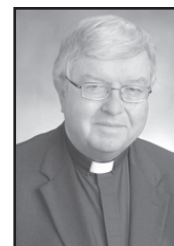
If questions should arise, please contact Gary Rangnow in the cemetery office at the chancery, 361-573-0828 ext. 2233.

LOCATE INTERMENTS

Locate interments of the Victoria Catholic Cemeteries by visiting the on-line database: <http://www.vccms.org> Check the interment information, print out data, print a location map and check for available gravesites by using the plot table link.

Question Corner

By Father Kenneth Doyle
Catholic News Service



Baptism when parents are not practicing Catholics

Q. About a year ago, I listened to a priest tell the story of how a relative of his asked him to baptize their infant child. The priest refused because the parents had not been attending Mass. Later, the parents started coming to Mass again, and the baptism was performed.

I was under the impression that we believe that, for a child to get into heaven, the child has to have been baptized. What are the church's guidelines for baptism? Is it common for a priest to refuse a request for baptism if he feels that the parents are unworthy?

A. Your question is an interesting one because the answer involves (as in many pastoral situations) a blending of church teaching and tactical strategy. Here, the goal of every priest is the same: to bring the parents back to regular attendance at the sacraments so that their child will have the best chance of growing up a faithful Catholic. Priests will differ, though, as to how best to reach that goal.

I should probably clear up one misconception first that has to do with your belief that a child must be baptized to get to heaven.

In 2007, the Vatican's International Theological Commission, with the approval of Pope Benedict XVI, said that the concept of limbo reflected "an unduly restrictive view of salvation," that the mercy of God offers good reason to hope that babies who die without being baptized can go to heaven.

(Limbo, understood as a place of natural happiness but without communion with God, had been a common belief for centuries; significantly, though, it had never been defined as dogma and is not even mentioned in the current Catechism of the Catholic Church.)

Now, to the heart of your question: what to do about parents who rarely, if ever, come to Mass but want to have their

child baptized.

The relevant guideline is Canon 868 of the church's Code of Canon Law, which states that, "for an infant to be baptized licitly ... there must be a founded hope that the infant will be brought up in the Catholic religion." The same canon goes on to say that, "if such hope is altogether lacking, the baptism is to be delayed ... after the parents have been advised about the reason."

The wiggle room, I suppose, is in the phrase "altogether lacking," and that's a subjective call on the priest's part.

Surely, baptism does involve the pledge of the parents to raise and educate their child in the beliefs and practices of the Catholic faith. (The very wording of the baptismal ritual itself requires an affirmative response by the parents to that pledge.) So a priest acts properly when he seeks some assurance of that parental commitment before agreeing to do a baptism.

My own approach on this is to give to parents the benefit of the doubt. A week or two before the baptism, I meet for half an hour individually with each couple who are having their first child baptized. I am particularly direct with those parents whom I haven't seen regularly in church, and we talk specifically about their willingness to support the child's growth in faith by their own practice. And I have to say that, only on one or two occasions, have I ever sensed that this commitment was "altogether lacking."

I know that some priests would differ, and I grant them that right. I've even seen parish Web sites which demand, for example, that in order to have their child baptized, parents must "show their willingness to practice their own faith by attending Mass each Sunday for at least three months" and must verify their attendance "by placing a note in the collection basket."

These, I think, are special times for tenderness. A priest's response at a moment

See *Baptism*, p. 11

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The Chancery Office
will be closed for the

Thanksgiving Holidays,
November 24 and 25.

Have a Blessed Holiday
with family and friends.



ACTS members donate guitar to prison ministry

By Cynthia Brewer

On Saturday mornings from 8:00 to 10:00 a.m., Father David Berger, from the Catholic Community of Cuero, celebrates Mass and confessions for the inmates of the Stevenson Prison Unit in Cuero.

When the Victoria area ACTS community presents retreats at the prison, Bishop David Fellhauer celebrates the Masses.

One of the highlights of the retreats is its music ministry. The ACTS community volunteers, as well as the unit inmates, play the music.

“The men love their music,” said ACTS member Bob Vincent, “and we saw a need for a new guitar for them, as the old guitar they had would no longer stay in tune.”

In early September, 15 men (14 from the Victoria Diocese and one from Fredericksburg) donated time and money to purchase a new guitar for the Stevenson Unit Catholic services.

Since ACTS was brought to the unit in September 2010, the attendance at Mass services has gone from around 15 to upwards of 50 or 60 inmates.

Rosary Rallies prayed throughout diocese

On October 15, over 7,348 public square Rosary Rallies throughout the United States united Catholics from Alaska to Puerto Rico, Texas to California and 22 other countries across the globe to pray the Rosary to Our Lady in reparation for the terrible sins of our nation and to save souls. The rallies brought America and the world one HUGE step closer to the triumph of the Immaculate Heart of Mary.

The purpose of America Needs Fatima is to spread Our Lady’s message all across

our country to stop Abortion, Same Sex Marriage, Euthanasia and to protect Life. The goal is to rally as many of the faithful as possible to pray the rosary, as Our Lady of Fatima asked during her appearances over 94 years ago with the miracle of the sun in Fatima, Portugal. The Public Square Rosary campaign intentions were to beg God and Our Lady to save America from today’s immorality and secularism.

Next year the rally will be held on October 13, 2012; please mark your calendars.

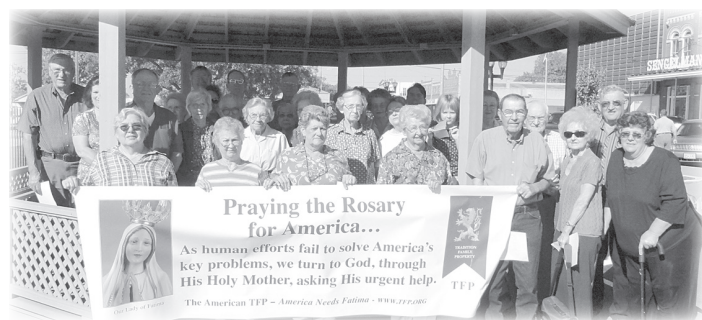


ST. ROBERT BELLARMINE, EL CAMPO—Over 50 attended this year’s rally at San Roberto Bellarmine Parish Gazebo from El Campo, Wharton, Blessing and Houston. Captains from El Campo are Terri Beltran, Margaret Anderson, Pete Quintana, and Charlie, Ella and Margie Merta. Those participating by leading the rosary, mysteries and music were: Terri Beltran, Margaret Anderson, Carol Korenek, Emily Soliz, Pete Quintana, Sylvia Falcon, Flo Tupa, Rev. Lawrence Matula, Charlie Merta, Tina Tamez, Ninfa Martinez and Eva Molina. Pictured, from l. to r., are Domingo Soliz, Ninfa Martinez, Tina Tamez, Terri Beltran and Margaret Anderson.



OUR LADY OF VICTORY, VICTORIA—Parishioners at Our Lady of Victory Cathedral held the Rosary Rally for the third year in a row. About 50 participants attended at the steps of the cathedral.

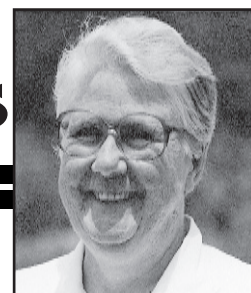
ST. ANNE’S SOCIETY IN SCHULENBURG—On Saturday, Oct. 15, the St. Anne’s Society of High Hill met at the gazebo in downtown Schulenburg to pray the rosary in response to the decline in values and the encroachment of secularism in America. Society members sang hymns and chanted the Litany of the Blessed Virgin. Those present included, front row, from left: Jan Ripper, Dorothy Meyer, Kathy Kutac, Janet Muras, Albert Muras, Mildred Hollas and Carolyn Prihoda; second row, from left: James Brossmann, Nancy Winkler, Frances Ripper, Joy Phillipus, Charles Phillipus, Bernice Herzik, Mary Ann Muras, Ositha Cykala, Cecilia Patlovany, Violet Kutac, Frances Anderle, Alvin Anders and James Prihoda; third row, from left: Janice Kutac, Joyce Dittrich, Lou Muhlstein, Ruth Fabian and Patrick Fabian; back row, from left: Denis Muras, Elmer Meyer and Fred Muras. Not shown: Marie Fajkus, Flo Boehm, Kenneth Berger and Sylvia Berger. (Sticker Photo By Andy Behlen)



PRAY the ROSARY!

SISTERLY THOUGHTS

By Sister Mildred Truchard, IWBS



~ Thanksgiving ~ The “In-Between” Holiday

When November rolls around each year, I think of Thanksgiving as the forgotten “in-between” holiday. It seems that our society makes a big deal of Halloween. For months the stores had been displaying costumes and yard decorations. Porches and yards had sported all kinds of scary objects. Even the media often got into the act of highlighting Halloween activities. Youngsters of all ages threatened “Trick or Treat” and gloated over their hauls of goodies.

Then, as soon as Halloween was over, the mercantile world immediately shifted into high gear promoting the material aspects of preparing for Christmas. As

I wander through the carefully stacked shelves, I can almost hear items that I definitely do not need calling, “Buy me, buy me!” I often wonder how extravagant the abundantly stacked shelves of attractively packaged merchandise must seem to the poor and unemployed people who enter the store to buy bare essentials with their meager funds. Yet, many of them – and us – can maintain a sense of what is most important – not the trappings of the holiday – but gratitude for the reason for it!

That’s where Thanksgiving, our “in-between” holiday, comes in; it shifts our attention from the superficiality of Halloween to a spirit of gratitude – hopefully an attitude that we maintain throughout the year and which undergirds our preparation for the feast of the greatest gift that God could give – his Son.

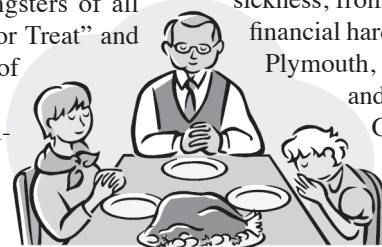
Fortunately, our country has a legacy of, at least occasionally, publicly expressing gratitude to God for his protection

and care. We all know the Thanksgiving story of the surviving settlers of Plymouth sharing a Thanksgiving meal with the Native Americans who had saved them from starving during their first winter in America. Many of their number had died from hunger and illness, a misfortune that could have taken all of them. Today, many of us have suffered from the drought, from sickness, from unemployment, and from financial hardship. Like those settlers of Plymouth, we join with our families and friends to give thanks for God’s long-term care and protection.

There were many other persons who publicly expressed their thanks for God’s protecting hand during difficult times. Early

Spanish and French explorers to our part of the country brought missionaries with them. The first event at a new site would be a Mass, the Eucharist, of Thanksgiving. Catholic immigrants who followed them would celebrate the Eucharist under a tree or near a river upon arrival at their destination. These Masses that were celebrated in thanksgiving and all the Masses that will be celebrated for the Thanksgiving Holiday are the greatest act of Thanksgiving that we can offer. In fact, the word “Eucharist” is the Greek word meaning “Thanksgiving.” In the Eucharist, we give thanks and praise for all that God had done and continues to do for us.

Therefore, let us try to celebrate the “in-between” holiday of Thanksgiving by participating in the Eucharist with the same sense of gratitude that our early immigrant ancestors expressed. The turkey and the football games won’t mind being relegated to second (and third) place!



Happy Thanksgiving!

~ Two to be ordained to the diaconate December 17 ~

Continued from p. 4

and realize that my life is a pure gift from an all-loving God. It is a very humbling experience.

I can’t even begin to imagine how I would have participated in this formation without my wife by my side. Had she not been involved, the process would have been incomplete and unfulfilled. The sacrament of marriage took on a deeper meaning for us, and we now have a better understanding of what it means to say, “The two become one body.” Kathy has been my biggest supporter and help-mate throughout this journey.

Has it impacted your family in any way?

Our family has always been close, loving, and supportive of each other. It was no different when I entered this program. They encouraged me, helped me, and most importantly, prayed for me during this journey.

What is the content/structure of the classes; what classes did you especially like? Did any in particular help you to discern your journey to becoming a deacon?

Our classes meet at St. Anthony’s Catholic School in Columbus, and we are taught by instructors from St. Thomas University in Houston. We share the same teachers who instruct the seminarians at St. Mary’s School of Theology. Once a month we meet in Moulton with Michael Fonseca, our spiritual director.

There have been many interesting classes, and in one way or another, they have all helped prepare us for our role as deacons in the Church. However, the academics would have been lacking without the spirituality we received. Our sessions with Michael and his silent retreats were most helpful during my discernment process and journey toward the diaconate. He has helped us so much with our prayer life and has been an inspiration to us.

What is the specificity of your calling: How do you see yourself serving the Church?

I don’t really feel myself being called to one special ministry over all others. I simply feel that I am answering a call to serve my Bishop, my Pastor, my Church, and my Community.



Sister Mary of Lourdes McDevitt, president at Immaculata College in the Philadelphia suburbs, is seen with members of the women's basketball team after they won the Association for Intercollegiate Athletics for Women's basketball championship in 1972. Pictured with Sister Mary are Theresa Shank, left, Maureen Stuhlman, slightly hidden, Janet Young, Cathy Rush, Denise Conway, Janet Ruch, with glasses, and Maureen Mooney. The team's story is told in the movie "The Mighty Macs." (CNS photo/courtesy of Immaculata College)

~ "The Mighty Macs" ~ A movie for the whole family

By Joseph McAleer, guest reviewer for the Catholic News Service

NEW YORK (CNS) — "The Mighty Macs" (Freestyle) is the fact-based story of a women's basketball team from a Catholic college who, through the grit and determination of their rookie coach, got a shot at the national title.

This old-fashioned, family-friendly film is "Sister Act" without the singing, "Rocky" with basketballs, and "The Trouble with Angels" with Ellen Burstyn in the Rosalind Russell role of the mother superior.

The year is 1972, the feminist movement is picking up steam, and change is in the air. For Cathy Rush (Carla Gugino), 23 and recently married, this means searching for a role to play beyond that of dutiful housewife to her husband, Ed (David Boreanaz). A star basketball player herself, Cathy missed out on her own chance for glory, as her college eliminated the sport.

Against Ed's wishes, Cathy takes a job at Pennsylvania's Immaculata College (now University), run by the Congregation of the Sisters, Servants of the Immaculate Heart of Mary. The stern mother superior, Mother St. John (Burstyn), has no time for sports; she's trying to keep the school afloat, fighting off appeals from the board and the church to close its doors. Impatient and irritable, she gives Cathy free rein to build a team from scratch.

This is Cathy's big chance and, although not a Catholic, she is determined to fit in and succeed, inspiring a ragtag group of girls to become a fighting force by believing in themselves. They practice despite not having a court, with improvised uniforms fashioned from nuns' smocks.

Cathy's faith never wavers, as she

hands out "We Will Be #1" buttons all over town. Help arrives in the form of the youngest nun, Sister Sunday (Marley Shelton). Like Cathy, she is struggling with her vocation, trying to find her place in a traditional world. She also shares an interest in basketball. The two bond, and Sister Sunday becomes the assistant coach, drawing out the older nuns to cheer the team on at games.

Against all odds, the "Macs" of Immaculata College make their way to their sport's first-ever national championship game. Cathy not only saves herself and her marriage, but the fortunes of the college — melting the cold heart of Mother St. John in the process.

Directed by newcomer Tim Chambers, "The Mighty Macs" is a feel-good movie offering lessons in friendship, teamwork, trust and perseverance. For the most part, Catholicism is treated with respect, but it serves more as a colorful backdrop than a source for commentary.

Sister Sunday provides some harmless comic relief. She lends Cathy a habit so they can qualify for free tickets on United Airlines. ("Second nun flies for free.")

Explaining her call to the religious life, Sister Sunday expresses her love for Jesus. "That whole Cana thing?" she observes, "Jesus just wanted everyone to have a good time."

The entire family will have a good time at "The Mighty Macs."

The Catholic News Service classification is A-I — general patronage. The Motion Picture Association of America rating is G — general audiences. Check it out on DVD soon.

STJ receives visit from "Debbie"

St. Joseph High School received a visit from "Debbie" the Pink Fire Truck, owned by the Guardians of The Ribbon South Texas Chapter on October 12, 2011. Dave Graybill, a Glendale, Arizona, firefighter founded the Guardians of The Ribbon, Inc. in September of 2007.

His noble and gallant efforts of supporting women with all forms of cancer and raising awareness is a sight to behold for any that are fortunate enough to witness these pink fire trucks and other emergency response vehicles and to be able to place signatures, as a Cancer Survivor, or to write loving tributes to those who have lost their battle, is a life moving experience.

You can truly witness where your money goes with this non-profit organization! The sales of T-Shirts and merchandise help keep these pink trucks on their mission... spreading Love, Hope and Awareness as

they travel from city to city... with the goal to keep funds raised local - where it will do the most good - supporting our local women with their needs while battling the ravages of cancer and the treatments that



St. Joseph High School Varsity Volleyball team wears pink in support of women who suffer from any kind of cancer; PINK, because pink is "her" color. (Photo by Groenhuyzen Photography)

it takes to fight for their lives.

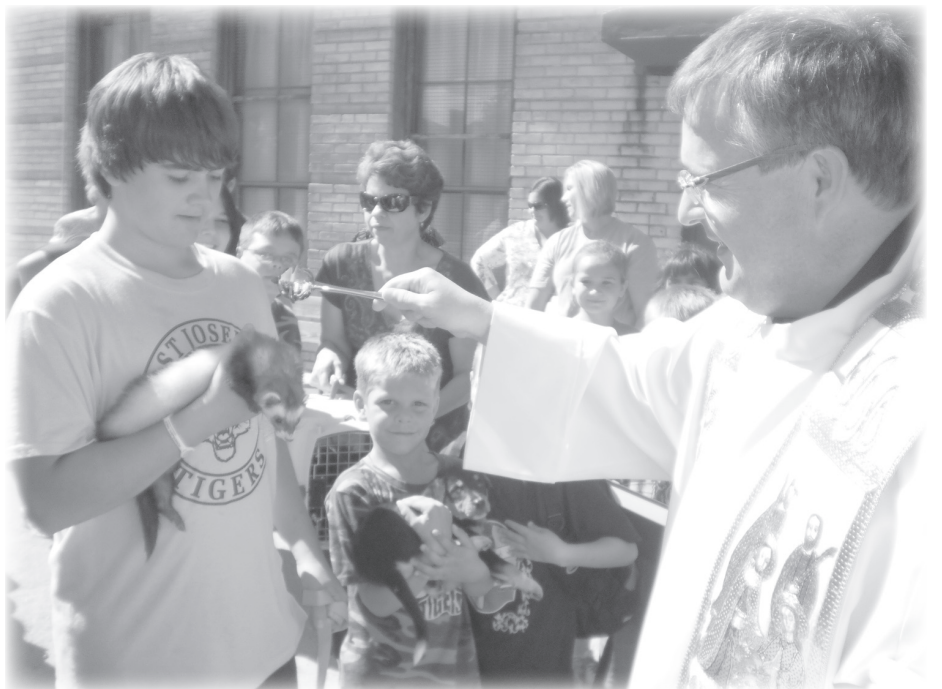
Surrounding women in their color - PINK - is a truly moving tribute to honor these women.

Learn more at:

<http://www.pinkfiretrucks.org/>



DICTIONARIES FOR 3RD GRADERS—The 3rd grade class at St Rose of Lima in Schulenburg was excited to accept dictionaries from the Fayette County Republican Women. Pictured, standing, Mrs. Windi Raphael (teacher), Bryce Wilson, Becca Wagner, Jalen Wilson, Lupita Torres, Shaun Jacobs, Colton Flood, Morgan Marburger, Alex Lozano, Kai Collins, Luis Lopez, Ethan Jacobs, Will Hooper and Mrs. Stephanie Steinhauser, representing the Fayette County Republican Women. Kneeling: Dustin Anders, Gavin Kubala, Renee Mazoch, Annie Stoner, Regan Lux and Julie Guentert.



BLESSING OF PETS CELEBRATED—St. Joseph School students of Yoakum, along with parents and faculty, gathered around the school for a special ceremony of the blessing of the animals. This custom is conducted in remembrance of St. Francis of Assisi's love for all creatures; his feast day is October 4. Pictured is Father Matthew Huehlefeld with various students and parents at St. Joseph School.

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GIVE IT AWAY NOW: OH BABY!!—In 2008, the Life Teen family collected and donated over 450,000 pounds of clothing in its first-ever global Life Night. In 2009, the Life Teen parishes stocked food pantry shelves everywhere with a global total of 205,000 non-perishable food items. In 2010, the Life Teen family came together again and with teens' spare change raised over \$200,000 to build and maintain 18 wells in Ghana. In 2011, we were challenged to come together once again for "Give It Away Now: Oh Baby!!" This year we turn our attention, prayer, and service to some of the most vulnerable in society: the unborn. Our goal is to collect 150,000 baby items to support local pregnancy resource centers. Holy Cross Life Teen asked parishioners to join us in this effort and we collected over 235 items for our local Gabriel Project. We are so very thankful for all the people who supported this great effort to show some love to moms and their babies.



LADY FLYER SOFTBALL TEAM MEMBERS RECEIVES CHAMPIONSHIP RINGS—St. Joseph High School recognized the 2011 TAAPS 5A State Champion Lady Flyer Softball Team and presented them with their State championship rings during half-time of the Flyer football game on September 30, 2011. The Lady Flyers defeated St. Agnes Academy Tigers (Houston) 3-2 in extra innings in the championship game held May 14, 2011. They had a season record of 28 and 12. The Lady Flyers finished up their season with 17 consecutive wins. The STJ Lady Flyers have made the state tournament eight out of the past nine years. St. Joseph High School has had 17 first-team all-state players, 12 second-team all-state players and six all-tournament players during this time span. Pictured is the 5A State Champion St. Joseph High Lady Flyer Softball Team, Sept. 30, 2011. Back row, l. – r., is Assistant Coach Walter Hamilton, Kate Tucker, Spenser Strnadell, Holly Parenica, Brianna Shimek, Kelsea Hempel, Emily Conti, Bailey Knippa, and Assistant Coach Bob Leach; front row, l. – r.: Co-Head Coach Rudy Diaz, Hannah Bigham, Mariah Clay, Sarah Sainz, Paige Terrell, Peyton Cuellar, Co-Head Coach Craig Lauger. Not Pictured: Fabiola Chinaea, Stephanie Kasper and Jenny Galvan.



MEMBERS OF BOY SCOUT TROOP 228 RECEIVE RELIGIOUS AWARD—Six Weimar scouts earned their Ad Altare Dei religious medal during this past year. These scouts have worked as a group studying the seven Sacraments of the Catholic faith. The purpose of the Ad Altare Dei (to the altar of God) program is to help Catholic Boy Scouts of the Roman Rite develop a fully Christian way of life in the faith community. The program is organized in chapters based on the seven Sacraments. The seven Sacraments are a primary means toward spiritual growth. Bill Briscoe, the scouts religious advisor, along with Father Bily, pastor of St. Michael Parish in Weimar, and scout leader Mark Meysembourg, presented the scouts with their religious award after Communion at the October 30, 2011, Mass at St. Michael Catholic Church. Pictured from left to right: Father Bily, Austin Purdy, Tanner Janak, Clay Firkins, Lane Hasse, Michael Mason, John Michael Blaha and Bill Briscoe.

"You will seek me and find me when you seek me with all your heart."

Jeremiah 29:13

Youth Calendar of Events

- November 12 — Foundations Youth Ministry Class - 9:00 a.m. - 12:00 noon at the Chancery in Victoria
- November 15 — Retreat Formation/Policy and Procedure Session
- November 17 — No Apologies, Just Apologetics at Holy Family in Victoria (7:00 - 8:30 p.m.) sponsored by Youth Adult Ministry
- November 17-20 — National Catholic Youth Conference in Indianapolis, Indiana
- December 4 — Youth Leadership Training at the Chancery in Victoria
- December 6 — Retreat Formation/Policy and Procedure Session



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

For more information contact:

Debbie Vanelli or Wendy Eggert at the Office of Youth Ministry at (361) 573-0828 ext. 2232/ ext. 2250 or e-mail at dvanelli@victoriadiocese.org or weggert@victoriadiocese.org new youth office e-mail ym@victoriadiocese.org or visit our Web site at www.victoriadiocese.org/youthoffice

Coming of Age

By Karen Osborne
Catholic News Service



Waiting to be old enough can wait

We spend a lot of time waiting to be "old enough," don't we?

Old enough to drive. Old enough to date. Old enough to wear makeup or a miniskirt, to drink, to graduate, to go to college. Old enough to be taken seriously. Old enough for the restrictions to fall off and for life to begin.

Many teens look toward their 18th birthday with anticipation normally reserved for Christmas morning.

Eighteen is when they're finally old enough to smoke, join the armed forces, live apart from their parents, buy their own car, get a full-time job, go to college, get married or date whoever they want.

Eighteen is the age when teens are finally adults.

But many teens feel that they are old enough to make these big decisions before they're 18. It chafes when adults tell them, "You're not ready" and "you're not old enough."

It can be annoying, too, when adults ask for proof that a teen is mature and responsible enough to handle driving, a job or going to a party. After all, countless teens know that they can do it, and they wonder why they have to prove this by finishing chores and homework.

Being "old enough," however, is rarely as easy as turning a page on the calendar; it's a completely subjective condition that depends on the person involved.

I know some 18-year-olds who are mature enough to handle marriage and kids. I also know some 40-year-olds who aren't even ready to move past one-night stands!

Teens, when your parents and teachers use the words "old enough," they don't really mean the age on your learner's permit. They mean the age that you are inside of yourself. They wonder if you are

maturing, spending time making yourself a better person and growing up or if you are squandering the time that you have on stuff that doesn't really matter and wallowing in immaturity.

If you don't spend much time doing your homework, you won't be ready or "old enough" for college even after your 18th birthday passes.

If you start dating just because all of your friends are, you may get hurt, especially if you are not ready for that kind of commitment.

If you are not ready to face the very real consequences of doing drugs, you will most certainly get hurt.

As people get older, the responsibilities start piling on.

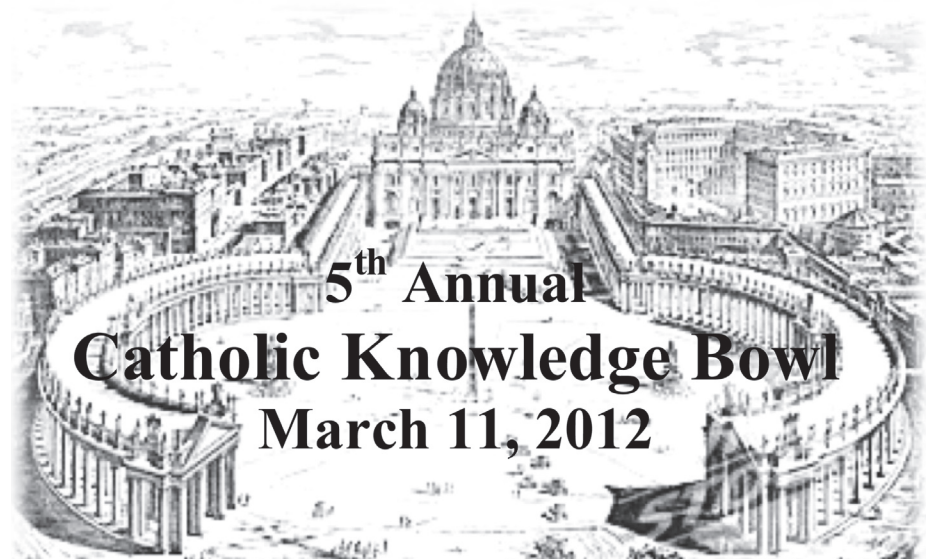
If the big "1" "8" hasn't yet crossed your calendar, it's perfectly all right to avoid the "adult" things you don't want to do if you don't feel that you are ready: You don't have to have sex, drink, wear clothes you don't like just to fit in or do anything that you are not yet comfortable doing.

Feeling this way doesn't make you a coward or an outsider; it makes you perfectly normal!

Your teenage years are a time to work toward being "old enough." And as you do, you will still have enough freedom and backup from friends, family and teachers to recover from poor judgment now and again and to learn what it's really like to tackle life after your 18th birthday.

So enjoy being a teenager while you can. Use this time to learn what you really want out of life. Don't push yourself into a tiny box that may not be where you want to end up! Responsibilities will come soon enough with the turning of the calendar.

And one day, when you're old enough, you'll happily look back to your carefree days with very few regrets.





For the second year in a row, St. Paul Cardinals and Sacred Heart Indians have united spiritual forces in the battle for life by taking a trip to pray in front of the largest abortion center in the Western Hemisphere, Planned Parenthood in Houston. This is becoming an annual event that takes place a couple of weeks before the two Catholic schools compete in their big, rivalry football game. Above are students, school faculty, parents and chaperones. Planned Parenthood is the large building in the background. (Photo by Kathleen Leininger)

Sacred Heart Indians & St. Paul Cardinals “Unite for Life” before the big, rivalry game

Before the great annual battle on the football field between the Sacred Heart Indians and the St. Paul Cardinals, (which occurred this year on Saturday, October 29, in Hallettsville) the two schools have united their spiritual efforts in the battle for life by praying for an end to abortion, for the protection of the unborn, and for the healing for those who have had abortions.

This year, the senior classes from the two Catholic high schools in the Diocese of Victoria (along with parishioners from the two parishes of Sacred Heart in Hallettsville and Sts. Cyril and Methodius in Shiner, joined by various parishioners from Holy Family in Victoria, Sacred Heart in Flatonia, and St. Joseph in Yoakum) participated together in the international pro-life campaign called 40 Days for Life by going to the Planned Parenthood abortion clinic in Houston on the morning of October 17.

The group began with prayer by Father

Tommy Chen who offered the holy sacrifice of the Mass for the pro-life intentions at Sacred Heart Church in Hallettsville. The group then traveled in three buses to Houston and spent one hour peacefully standing outside the facility praying for the unborn children and the conversion of those who work for the abortion industry.

Christine Melchor, the director for the Houston Coalition for Life said, “The value of people praying outside the [Planned Parenthood] facility, coupled with the grace of God really changes lives.” She has personally witnessed women who had arrived at the Planned Parenthood facility intending to procure an abortion actually experience a change of heart and decide to carry their babies to full term because of the witness and care of the people who pray outside the facility during the 40 Days for Life campaign. Even people who worked for Planned Parenthood have been touched by the grace of God through the power of

prayer and have walked off the property leaving their jobs, never looking back.

One of these people is Abby Johnson, who left her position at Planned Parenthood and is now a great promoter for the pro-life cause. Abby Johnson will be giving her personal conversion testimony at Sacred Heart Church in Hallettsville on Monday, February 27, 2012, at 7:00 p.m. Everyone in the community is welcome to come hear her testimony.

This year, through the generosity of numerous private individuals, the Houston Coalition for Life is able to have a mobile pregnancy center parked literally across the street from Planned Parenthood to truly offer a life-giving option to those who intend on getting an abortion. The mobile preg-

nancy center is a modified RV with a waiting room, a bathroom to take samples, a lab, a counseling room, and a fully equipped room to perform ultrasounds so that women can actually see their babies. All medical services provided in this traveling clinic are free of charge.

To date, the Mobile Crisis Pregnancy Bus has experienced a 98 percent turn-around rate of mothers who initially intended on aborting their children, but who then chose life after receiving help in the bus. It takes about \$250.00 to daily run the mobile pregnancy center and all this comes from private donations. If you are able to contribute to this life-saving cause, please go to the Web site: www.houstoncoalition.com/ to make a donation.

Abby Johnson to speak in Diocese of Victoria

The parishes of Holy Cross in Bay City and Sacred Heart in Hallettsville are excited to bring Abby Johnson to the Victoria Diocese to share her message of conversion, love, and the power of prayer.

Who is Abby Johnson?

Abby Johnson joined Planned Parenthood in 2001 as a college student because she wanted to help women in crisis – a goal she believed the organization shared.

As she rose through the ranks to become a clinic director, she became increasingly unsettled about what she was being asked to do. But it wasn't until she helped perform an ultrasound-guided abortion procedure that Abby fully realized what she had been a part of all those years.

In 2009, she left Planned Parenthood and joined the pro-life movement as a volunteer. Abby now works full time in the pro-life movement. She continues her volunteer activities, works as chief research strategist for Live Action Films, works on projects with the National 40 Days for Life

campaign, and works on both federal and state pro-life legislation.

The true-life account of her experiences with Planned Parenthood are detailed in her best-selling book, “unPLANNED.” Abby's story has been featured on Fox News, the O'Reilly Factor, Huckabee, ABC News, and many other national news outlets.

There will be two opportunities



Abby Johnson

to hear her powerful message, as she will be speaking at Holy Cross in Bay City on Sunday, February 26, 2012, at 7:30 p.m. and Sacred Heart Church in Hallettsville on Monday, February 27, at 7:00 p.m.

Everyone is welcome to hear this dynamic speaker, so please invite a friend.



Father Tommy Chen, parochial vicar at Sacred Heart in Hallettsville and director of Diocesan Pro-life Concerns, celebrates the Mass during the Day of Prayer held at Raphael's Refuge on the feast day of the archangels Sept. 29.

Day of Prayer held for the unborn and for babies who have died

A Day of Prayer was celebrated at Raphael's Refuge Chapel of the Holy Innocents near Flatonia to remember, to pray, and to heal the loss of one's baby on the feast day of the archangels on Sept. 29, 2011.

The Day of Prayer began with a rosary, Litany of St. Raphael and celebration of Holy Mass at 9 a.m. Father Tommy Chen, parochial vicar at Sacred Heart in Hallettsville and director of Diocesan Pro-life Concerns, celebrated the Mass and Frederick Henneke, from Hallettsville, was the altar server. About 30 persons attended the Mass.

A rosary and Litany of St. Gabriel were recited at noon.

During the 3 p.m. hour, Father Joe Hybner, pastor of Sacred Heart in Flatonia

and Sts. Cyril & Methodius in Cistern, celebrated the sacrament of reconciliation while Ginny Antaya of Austin, who founded the Divine Mercy Prayer Center, led the participants in a very special Chaplet of Divine Mercy.

The Day of Prayer culminated with a Holy Hour and the recitation of the Chaplet of St. Michael at 6 p.m. Deacon John McCourt, of Queen of the Holy Rosary in Hostyn and Sts. Peter & Paul in Plum, exposed the Blessed Sacrament and presided during the Adoration service.

For more information, please check out the newly designed Web site at www.raphaelsrefuge.org; same address/new design, or contact Raphael's Refuge at (361) 865-3812 or (361) 258-1514.



CUERO STUDENTS INVOLVED IN CHARITY—Students at St. Michael's School in Cuero recently joined with the parishioners of St. Michael's Parish and Our Lady of Guadalupe Parish to collect items for the victims of the Bastrop fires. Here, the fifth graders are shown loading some of the items that were transported. From l. to r. are Ariana Diaz, Hannah Weber, Jacob Catron, Kerstyn Saenz, Joseph Hernandez, Jared Sauer and Trey Moore.



The Sacred Heart JCDA Court #797 new members are pictured, front row, l.-r.: Jules Janak, Kylie Grahmann, Lilly Machicek, Bailey Schindler, Bailey Haas, Lani Pilat, Emma Baucom and Melea Henke; middle row, l.-r.: Kenna Kubenka, Elizabeth Grahmann, Erin Fawbush, Briahna Mayfield, Savannah Filip, Emma Nieto and Elise Lackey; and back row, l.-r.: Mrs. Shanna Clark, JCDA counselor; Hannah Bludau, Sarah Bludau, Jyllian Hicks, Kaitlyn Nieto, Corrina Lackey, Stacie Sykora and Father John Peters, JCDA state chaplain.

JCDA Court #797 inducts new members

HALLETTSVILLE—The Junior Catholic Daughters Court #797 from Sacred Heart Parish in Hallettsville held its first meeting of the 2011-2012 school year on August 31, 2011. A total of 68 girls were in attendance making it a record number of attendees.

Officers were elected for the new school year. They are as follows: president – McKenzie Bludau; 1st vice president – Megan Harper; 2nd vice president – Ellen Machicek; secretary – Callie Bludau; reporter – Hailey Steffek; and chaplain – Elizabeth Wysocki. An induction of 21 new members was held on September 21, 2011.

At each meeting, as well as everyday, the girls strive to reach these four JCDA goals: develop yourself as a good Christian; learn to work for the good of others; grow spiritually; and be creative and flexible.

Baptism when parents are not practicing Catholics

Continued from p. 6

like this can dictate a family's relationship to a parish — and even to the church — for years down the line.

Baptisms are the ideal occasion for evangelization, for blessing marriages in the church, for lifting lost sheep onto your shoulders and bringing them back.

(Questions may be sent to Father Kenneth Doyle at askfatherdoyle@gmail.com and 40 Hopewell St., Albany, N.Y. 12208.)



75-YEAR KJT PIN PRESENTED—Joseph Kokes of Houston, formerly of Hostyn, received his 75-year membership pin from Hostyn KJT Society #3. State Treasurer/Secretary Kevin Kana presented Mr. Kokes his 75-year pin on October 2, 2011, at the Holy Rosary Catholic Church in Hostyn. Joseph and his wife Mary Ann of 54 years are members of St. Theresa Catholic Church in Houston. Congratulating the honoree are pictured left to right; Hostyn KJT Chaplain Deacon John McCourt, President Benedict Kallus, Treasurer Theo Svec, Vice-President Patrick Janda, Father Daniel Kahlich (pastor of Holy Rosary Church), Secretary Ted Hoffmann, State Treasurer/Secretary Kevin Kana, son Patrick Kokes, honoree Joseph Kokes, and grandchildren: Matthew, Christine and Jason Kokes. All members of the Kokes family pictured are members of Hostyn KJT Society #3. Congratulations, Joseph Kokes!



ST. PHILIP STUDENTS HONORED—Nine 8th graders at St. Philip the Apostle School in El Campo were inducted into the National Junior Honor Society on Oct. 7, 2011. Each member was selected based upon the student's outstanding performance in the areas of: Scholarship, Service, Leadership, Character and Citizenship. From l. to r., the inductees are Jerald Krenek, Emily Strnadel, Laura Dornak, Helena Triska, Noah Jasek, Matthew Wilkins, Elise Raun, Hannah Tupa and Clayton Bruton. Congratulations, students!

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Twenty Something

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



Giving thanks for 'all things in good plenty'

When Mary Chilton first spotted the New World in November 1620, the 13-year-old had been aboard the Mayflower for 10 weeks, stuck in the same clothes and cramped in dark, damp quarters among seasick passengers and dying goats. Each family was allotted one storage trunk for all their possessions.

Imagine the terror and thrill of squinting at Cape Cod's thickets.

Mary earned the distinction of being the first European woman to set foot on Plymouth Rock.

The week before Christmas, her father died. Three weeks after Christmas, the illness they called the "general sickness" had claimed her mother. Only half of the Mayflower's 102 passengers lived to see spring in Massachusetts.

Mary marked her 14th birthday as an orphan, grasping the ways of a foreign land, where the Wampanoag Indians offered guideposts: how to grow corn, catch fish, extract maple sap and identify poisonous plants.

She was present at what we consider the first Thanksgiving, a three-day feast called for by Governor William Bradford to celebrate a successful corn harvest. The Plymouth colonists were joined by their teachers, the Wampanoag, who arrived with five deer. They cooked wild duck over an open flame, feasted on seasoned corn and gave thanks: for their harvest, for their friendship, and ultimately, for their survival.

Governor Bradford chronicled it all, writing: "Thus they found the Lord to be with them in all their ways and to bless their outgoings and incomings, for which let his holy name have the praise forever to all posterity. They began now to gather in the small harvest they had and to fit up their houses and dwellings against winter, being all well recovered in health and strength and had all things in good plenty..."

The general sickness had ceased. Their food was hot, their faith, intact. It was hard for him to fathom what more they could possibly want. It was, to him, "all things in good plenty."

It takes an awful lot to make 21st-century Americans decide we have "all things in good plenty." We haven't really got there. We're still upgrading our vehicles, filling our basements and then paying to store the overflow.

It's hard to see much of the first Thanksgiving in our 390th, with stuffing

and pie and football on big-screen TVs.

But I'm trying to look back. I have such awe for the pioneers who paved the way — saints and settlers, miners and mothers.

I'm praying with St. Francis de Sales, who said: "Give me one more thing, O Lord: a grateful heart." I know that can cover and cure every matter, turning my portion into "all things in good plenty."

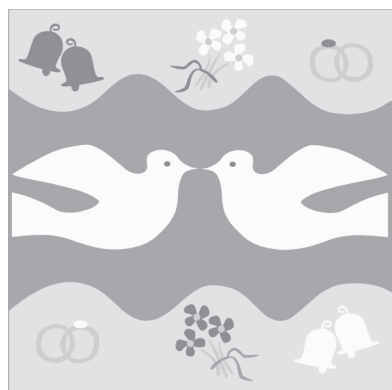
I'm giving thanks while hoping for a life as full and rich as Mary Chilton's, who married and then delivered 10 children. She died an old lady who had raised a family, welcomed grandkids and written a will. In it, she accounted for six white aprons, three pocket handkerchiefs, two leather chairs and a brass candlestick.

Mary understood what really counted. "Knowing the uncertainty of this present life and being desirous to settle that outward estate the Lord hath lent me, I do make this my last will and testament," she wrote. "First and principally, I commend my soul into the hands of Almighty God, my Creator."

Here's to putting first things first.

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

Longest Married Contest



Do you know of a couple you think might be the longest married couple in the Diocese of Victoria? If so, please send their names, their parish, the number of years they've been married, and the date of their sacramental wedding to *The Catholic Lighthouse* by January 10, 2012! We'll make the announcement in the February issue of *The Catholic Lighthouse*. Include submitter's contact information.

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Q	H	Y	R	O	Q	H	X	E	T	A	R	U	C	M
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October Puzzle Contest Winners Announced

The winner of the October contest and the book *The Fox, the Foetus (Fetus) and the Fatal Injection* by Rabbi Daniel Levy is Vic Kahane of St. Mary's Parish in Hallettsville. The winner of the children's contest is Angelica Belman (9) of Parish of the Nativity in Eagle Lake. She will receive a gift from the Incarnate Word Gift Shop. The winner of the November Puzzle Contest will win *Why We Should Call Ourselves Christians — The Religious Roots of Free Societies* by Marcello Pera with a preface by Pope Benedict XVI. Please mail all completed November puzzle forms to arrive in *The Catholic Lighthouse* office, P. O. Box 4070, Victoria, TX 77903 by Nov. 28.

November Puzzle Contest Book prefaced by Pope Benedict XVI

Prominent European Atheist says Christianity Essential to West's Survival. *Why We Should Call Ourselves Christians: The Religious Roots of Free Societies* by Marcello Pera will be the November Puzzle Contest Prize.

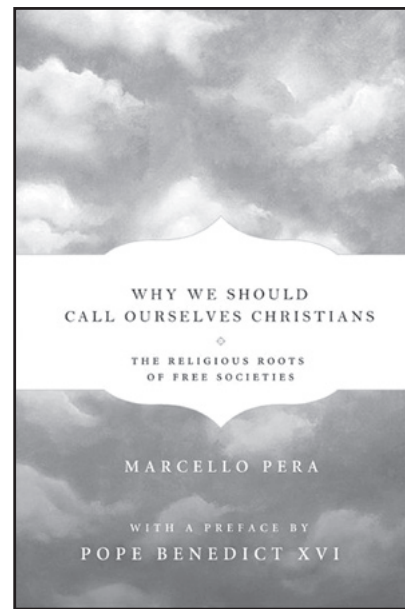
"With its sober rationality, ample philosophical sophistication and the force of its argumentation, Pera's book is, in my opinion, of great significance at this moment in the history of Europe and the world." ~ Pope Benedict XVI

A surprising new book by former president of the Italian Senate, and self-described atheist, Marcello Pera says that the intellectual and political elite of the West have recklessly written off religion, in particular Christianity. In the United States and in Europe, Christianity is derided as a cultural vestige, a primitive form of knowledge, a consolation for the weak minded — or worse — as an oppressor and obstacle to peace. We are told that politics must take a neutral stance on religious values. The

Western, liberal, open society is taken to be "self-sufficient" and "freestanding."

In *Why We Should Call Ourselves Christians*, Pera explains why the popular view that we have outgrown and outsmarted our religious roots is not only wrong, but extremely dangerous. The very liberties that secularists have come to cherish and the ideas on which liberal societies are based — the concept of human dignity, the moral priority of the individual, the view that man is a "crooked timber" inclined to prevarication, the limited confidence in the power of the state to make him virtuous — are distinctively Christian or, more precisely, Judeo-Christian ideas. Without them, Pera asserts, the open society we have inherited will collapse.

Anti-Christian secularism jeopardizes the identity of the West, leaving it without its conscience. Indeed, the Founding Fa-



See November Puzzle Contest, p. 13

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Catholic By Grace

By Denise Bossert
www.catholicbygrace.blogspot.com



The elderly deserve dignity, not hurried care

I want caregivers who know I'm made in the image and likeness of God

My first encounter with the elderly and dying came when I was eighteen. I was a nurse's aide for about five months. That's how long it took me to realize I was not meant to be a nurse.

I dropped my plans to go into nursing, but the memories of the people I met in that Nebraska nursing home have stayed with me for nearly three decades.

I remember the stroke victims. The woman who spent each day repeating "Mana, mana, mana." The man who was able to say a handful of words clearly. All expletives.

Another woman reminded me of Edith from *All in the Family*. She would nervously apply red lipstick when her handsome husband visited. I remember how much I disliked him as he stood there with his arm around his girlfriend and urged his adolescent daughters to give their invalid mother a hug.

I remember the woman named Mary who said she'd never had cross words with her husband of fifty years. I wondered if she was being honest. I still wonder.

And there was the man who demanded our immediate attention, saying he was related to William Buckley, Jr. I was only eighteen. I had no idea who William Buckley, Jr., was. I asked the other nurses. They hadn't heard of him either.

The residents of that Omaha nursing home fascinated me. I wanted to sit with these people. Talk to them. Find out their stories. Was Mary a saint, or was her husband just easy to get along with? Had the man who swore a blue streak been a swearer before his stroke? Did "Edith" really think her husband would be impressed with her red lipstick? Did it kill her spirit to see him with a mistress, both of them standing near her like they had done their good deed for the year?

Was Mr. Buckley really related to the Mr. Buckley, Jr.?

The first floor of that nursing home was busy, sometimes downright chaotic. There was never a moment to sit and simply be with the patients. There was little dignity in getting old. And something in me said this isn't right.

I remember one day in par-

ticular. Three patients had to be bathed before the evening meal. I gently washed a frail woman, the second of the three patients on my list. I did all the talking while she simply submitted to the process. She weighed almost nothing. I could lift her from the wheelchair to the bath chair and back again by myself. She looked at me quietly as I dressed her, putting on her gown and robe and slippers. If I hurried, I would get the last patient bathed before the floor nurse announced that the kitchen was open.

I wheeled the woman to her room and collected my final patient. A few moments later, the head nurse entered the shower room. She asked me if Lydia had seemed okay when I bathed her. "She was quiet, but nothing unusual. Why?"

The nurse told me that Lydia was dead. I was the last person

who had touched her body, bathed her, spoken to her.

And I didn't know anything about her, except her name.

In that moment, I knew that the elderly deserve more than the hurried care our society gives them. We are so advanced. And yet, we often forget the dignity of the human person.

The unborn.

The man in prison.

The cast-off wife with her lipstick-smile.

The one who spends all day saying mana, mana, mana or a string of profanity. The one who thinks about her deceased husband all day, every day.

I have decided that I want to go to a Catholic nursing home when I'm old. I want to spend my final hours and minutes in a place where I can go to Mass, where a nurse can wheel me into an Adoration Chapel, where I will be surrounded by rosaries and crucifixes and images of Our Lady. I want to pass from here to there with the faith and the faithful all around me.

As Catholics, we believe in the dignity of the human person. I plan to spend my final days in a place where the caretakers know that I am made in the image and likeness of God. And maybe, I will share a few words with a young nurse's aide, and perhaps she will remember me with a smile.

November is National Hospice month

~ providing quality care at the end of life ~

By Hilary Lucas, director of Community Relations with Hospice of South Texas

When recalling end-of-life experiences of those we love, many of us have different recollections. These memories may include the hurt on the face of a loved one in pain, the sorrow on the face of a family member who did not get the opportunity to say goodbye, the stress on the faces of those making difficult decisions about end-of-life choices without guidance. We can carry these difficult memories with us for a lifetime. However, there are people working in our community who bring hope, dignity and love when they are needed most.

November is National Hospice/Palliative Care Month, a time to celebrate those who provide hospice and palliative care in our community and a time to help raise awareness of quality care at the end of life.

An important thing to be aware of is that this journey should not begin at the final stages of dying. Early referrals

to Hospice allow the patient and family to establish a relationship with their Hospice team and, by so doing, they maximize the quality of care. This early connection prepares them for what they can expect throughout the stages of their illness and informs them about how to properly react if unforeseen events occur. The sooner the referral takes place, the earlier the support systems are put into place ready to respond before the need arises.

Hospice of South Texas, a non-profit hospice organization, has been offering end of life care services throughout the Diocese of Victoria for over 25 years and is fortunate to have experienced staff, which includes a full-time medical director, Dr. Ty Meyer, and trained volunteers who offer care and support during one of life's most challenging journeys.

With a special emphasis on family bereavement support, Hospice of South Texas' specialized team of professionals and volunteers provide compassionate care by focusing on the physical, spiritual, and emotional needs of patients and their families.

Hospice care is not about waving a white flag or giving up hope – it is in fact a "redefining of hope." Hospice of South Texas is about making the most out of life, reframing hope for a cure into hope of making every moment count.

This November, I encourage all those in our community to thank these dedicated individuals and support the ongoing work of Hospice of South Texas.

Sunday Readings from Nov. 6 to Dec. 11

November 6 —
Thirty-Second Sunday
in Ordinary Time

Wisdom 6:12-16
Psalms 63:2, 3-4, 5-6, 7-8
1 Thessalonians 4:13-18
Matthew 25:1-13

November 13 —
Thirty-Third Sunday
in Ordinary Time

Proverbs 31:10-13, 19-20, 30-31
Psalms 128:1-2, 3, 4-5
1 Thessalonians 5:1-6
Matthew 25:14-30

November 20 —
Solemnity of Our Lord
Jesus Christ The King

Ezekiel 34:11-12, 15-17
Psalms 23:1-2, 2-3, 5-6
1 Corinthians 15:20-26, 28
Matthew 25:31-46

~ New Roman Missal Goes Into Use ~

November 27 —
First Sunday of Advent

Isaiah 63:16b-17, 19b; 64:2-7
Psalms 80:2-3, 15-16, 18-19
1 Corinthians 1:3-9
Mark 13:33-37

December 4 —
Second Sunday of Advent

Isaiah 40:1-5, 9-11
Psalms 85:9-10-11-12, 13-14
2 Peter 3:8-14
Mark 1:1-8

December 11 —
Third Sunday of Advent

Isaiah 61:1-2a, 10-11
Luke 1:46-48, 49-50, 53-54
1 Thessalonians 5:1-24
John 1:6-8, 19-28

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

www.usccb.org/nab/

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November Puzzle Contest Book prefaced by Pope Benedict XVI

Continued from p. 12

thers of America, as well as major intellectual European figures such as Locke, Kant and Tocqueville, understood how much our civilization depends on Christianity. "The challenges of our particular historical moment," as Pope Benedict XVI calls them in the preface to the book, can be faced only if we stress the historical and conceptual link between Christianity and a free society.

Author Bio:

Marcello Pera has been professor of philosophy of science at the universities of Catania and

Pisa and is now teaching at the Pontifical Lateran University in Rome. He served as the president of the Italian Senate from 2001 to 2006. A visiting fellow in many universities and institutes in the United States, England and Israel, he is the author of several publications in the field of history and philosophy of science. In 2005, he co-authored a book with then-Cardinal Joseph Ratzinger (now Pope Benedict XVI) titled *Without Roots: The West, Relativism, Christianity, Islam* (Basic Books). He lives in Rome, Italy.

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ADVENT WREATH—The season of Advent is a time of anticipation and hope before Christmas. The Advent wreath, with a lit candle marking each week of the season, is a traditional symbol of the period. This year, the first Sunday of Advent falls on Nov. 27. (CNS photo/Lisa A. Johnston)



The Human Side

By Father Eugene Hemrick
Catholic News Service



Getting away from it all

“Listen, God, to my prayer; do not hide from my pleading. ... I say, ‘If only I had wings like a dove that I might fly away and find rest. Far away I would flee; I would stay in the desert. I would soon find a shelter from the raging wind and storm.’”

I don’t know how many times I have read these thoughts in Psalm 55 over the years, but as I read them while staying at the St. Vincent Archabbey in Latrobe, Pa., they touched my very soul more than ever before. If ever I, like so many of us, could find that rest these days, what a blessing it would be!

There is anything but rest around us. The daily news is filled with discord in our government and governments worldwide. Storms, earthquakes, flooding, fires and tornadoes seem to be more regular occurrences. Nothing seems to be going right in this world.

Would that we could escape it all! But we can’t.

We can, however, cope with it in a way that allows us to better achieve the peace we desire.

And how do we accomplish this?

One good starter is to spend more

time reading uplifting books rather than being glued to the news. Books abound that contain stories of people making this world better. Many books contain creative ideas that raise our level of enthusiasm for the world. Others offer inspiring stories of people uniting and helping one another in troubled times, exemplifying an indomitable human spirit at its best.

Another way to achieve peace of mind is to get lost in a space filled with beauty and quiet, a garden spot or botanical garden that reflects God’s splendor and peace at its best.

And then there is music — soothing or energizing music! Music speaks to our soul and is one of the most excellent tools we possess for lifting our spirit.

In addition, cultivating daily meditation can’t be beat for pulling our thoughts and feelings together. It encourages us to practice interiority, going within ourselves to see more fully what is disturbing us. More than this, in meditating we stop our time to enter into God’s time and to see God’s hand in everything around us.

It helps us to see God’s reasoning in moments that are often chaotic.

Down on the farm, there is an old saying: “There are many ways to skin a cat.” It means that there always can be found a way to get around or cope with difficult challenges. This saying reminds us that God has given us the gift of imagination, one of the finest advantages we have in our turbulent times for creating the peace we seek.

Pope calls on Christians to offer prayers, help to world’s migrants

VATICAN CITY (CNS) — Christians need to offer migrants special care, ranging from prayer and concrete aid to promoting policies that uphold immigrants’ rights and dignity, Pope Benedict XVI said. Modern migration represents “an unprecedented mingling of individuals and peoples, with new problems not only from the human standpoint but also from ethical, religious and spiritual ones,” he said. The influx of people from all corners of the world offers new opportunities to evangelize and to provide material and spiritual care to those in need, he said. The pope made the comments in a message on the theme of “Migrations and New Evangelization” for the World Day for Migrants and Refugees 2012; the text was released at the Vatican Oct. 25 during a news conference. The World Day for Migrants and Refugees is observed Jan. 15. In the United States, National Migration Week will be celebrated Jan. 9-14. In his message, the pope called on Christians to pay special attention to migrant workers and their families and to accompany them with “prayer, solidarity and Christian charity.” Christians also should promote political, economic and social policies and strategies that uphold “the dignity of every human person, the safeguarding of the family (and) access to dignified housing, to work and to welfare,” the pope said.

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Following the death of his granddaughter, country music star Collin Raye releases new inspirational album

DALLAS—Catholic, country music recording artist Collin Raye finally went back to the recording studio to produce his first album since the heartbreaking 2010 death of his ten-year-old granddaughter, Haley. Raye, who converted to Catholicism at age 23, managed to take the pain from that experience into his music, commencing with a new album titled *Through It All, His Love Remains*.

“Haley was the most perfect human being I ever encountered and I have no doubt she went straight to heaven,” said Raye. “I’ve always wanted to do a spiritual album, and I hope that this will serve to inspire the broken-hearted and empower those of faith to stay determined and persevere.”

Dedicated to Haley, the album is a mix of traditional inspirational tunes that showcase Raye’s incredible vocal abilities. In addition, the CD includes a song specifically written by Collin and his daughter Brittany after the passing of Haley, called “Undeatable” <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Yeu1kpq0QbM&feature=email>.

Equally moving is the ballad, “I Get What I Need” <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=EFrO9uQhA&feature=email>.

“This song so expresses what we painfully lived through as a family over the past few years,” says Raye. “Almost everything

we prayed for, God said ‘no.’ Please help her to swallow, He said ‘no.’ Please, just let her stop getting fevers every other day.

He said ‘no.’ It was so difficult having to accept God’s will for Haley because clearly we wanted her to get better.”

Throughout the 1990s and early 2000s, Collin Raye was nominated ten times for Male Vocalist of the Year, had 16 #1 hits and 24 Top Ten songs. Tunes like “Love, Me,” “That’s My Story,” “In This Life,” and “Little Rock” kept fans coming back for more.

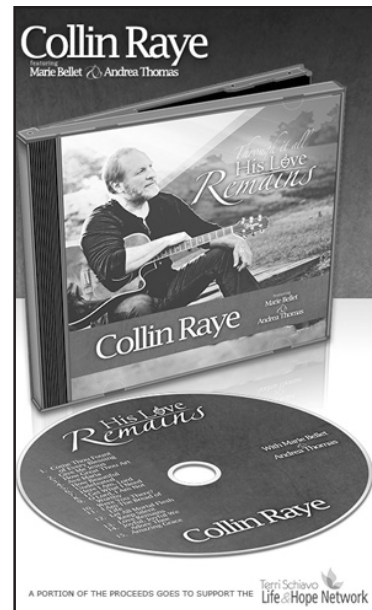
But Raye’s time in Nashville ended and his career took a backseat in 2001 when Haley was born with an undiagnosed

neurological disorder. She died on April 3, 2010, and with this CD, Raye is finally ready to talk publicly about the granddaughter he loves so much, and the pain in losing her. Raye’s heartache has been largely hidden from his fans until now.

“I am looking forward to sharing my story through this album and how I came to realize God’s providence — learning to stand strong in life’s toughest battles,” said Raye, 51.

Also on the new album is a new acoustic version of Raye’s 1996 top ten hit, “Love Remains.”

Through It All, His Love Remains is now on sale. More information can be found at <http://www.hisloveremains.com/>.



Bishop addresses House panel on ‘grave threats to religious liberty’

By Nancy Frazier O’Brien
Catholic News Service

WASHINGTON (CNS) — Recent “grave threats to religious liberty” serve as “grim validations” of the U.S. bishops’ decision last June to create a special committee to address those issues, Bishop William C. Lori of Bridgeport, Conn., told a House subcommittee Oct. 26.

Bishop Lori, appointed in late September to chair the bishops’ new Ad Hoc Committee for Religious Liberty, said the Bill of Rights and the Declaration of Independence require government “to acknowledge and protect religious liberty as fundamental, no matter the moral and political trends of the moment.”

But in recent days, he said, “the bishops of the United States have watched with increasing alarm as this great national legacy of religious liberty, so profoundly in harmony with our own teachings, has been subject to ever more frequent assault and ever more rapid erosion.”

In written testimony before the House Judiciary Committee’s Subcommittee on the Constitution, Bishop Lori called for “corrective action by Congress” to address six areas of particular concern:

- Regulations issued by the Department of Health and Human Services in August that would mandate coverage of contraception and sterilization in most private health insurance plans.

- A new requirement by HHS that would require the bishops’ Migration and Refugee Services to agree to provide the “full range”

of reproductive services, including abortion and contraception, to human trafficking victims and unaccompanied refugee minors.

- The U.S. Agency for International Development’s requirement that Catholic Relief Services and other contractors include condom distribution in their HIV prevention activities and provide contraception in a range of international relief and development programs.

- The Department of Justice’s actions to mischaracterize the federal Defense of Marriage Act, which states that marriage is the union of a man and a woman, as an act of bigotry and to actively attack its constitutionality.

- The Justice Department’s efforts to undermine the “ministerial exception” that exempts religious institutions from some civil laws when it comes to hiring and firing.

- State actions on same-sex marriage that have resulted in Catholic Charities agencies in Illinois being “driven out of the adoption and foster care business” and some county clerks in New York state facing legal action for refusing to participate in same-sex unions.

The bishop called those concerns “only the most recent instances in a broader trend of erosion of religious liberty in the United States.”

“The ultimate root causes of these threats are profound, and lie beyond the scope of this hearing or even this august body to fix,” he said. “But we can — and must — also treat the symptoms immediately, lest the disease spread so quickly that the patient is overcome before the ultimate

cure can be formulated and delivered.”

Bishop Lori urged members of the House of Representatives to pass three bills that would “go a long way toward guaranteeing religious liberty and freedom of conscience for religious employers, health insurers and health care providers.” They are the Protect Life Act (H.R. 358), the Abortion Non-Discrimination Act (H.R. 361) and the Respect for Rights of Conscience Act (H.R. 1179).

He also called for a congressional hearing or other investigation into “the illegal conditions that HHS and USAID are placing on religious providers of human services.” He said new statutes might be necessary “to create new conscience protections, but more likely to create private rights of action for those whose rights under the existing protections have been violated.”

“Unfortunately, the authority to enforce the applicable conscience protections now lies principally with the federal agencies that may be violating the protections,” Bishop Lori said.

He urged House members to “resist legislative efforts to repeal” the Defense of Marriage Act, including the Respect for Marriage Act (H.R. 1116).

“The religious freedom threats to marriage at the state level may fall beyond the scope of authority of Congress to control — except to the extent that state adoption and foster care services are federally funded,” he said.

Other witnesses at the hearing on “The State of Religious Liberty in the United States” were the Rev. Barry W. Lynn, executive director of Americans United for Separation of Church and State, and Colby M. May, director and senior counsel of the Washington office of the American Center for Law and Justice.



Bishop William C. Lori of Bridgeport, Conn. (CNS photo/Joshua Roberts)



THE POPE SPEAKS

Pope Benedict XVI



CNS photo from Reuters

Believers must oppose violence to promote peace, true faith, pope says

By Cindy Wooden
Catholic News Service

ASSISI, Italy (CNS) — Taking 300 religious leaders with him on pilgrimage to Assisi, Pope Benedict XVI said people who are suspicious of religion cannot be blamed for questioning God's existence when they see believers use religion to justify violence.

"All their struggling and questioning is, in part, an appeal to believers to purify their faith so that God, the true God, becomes accessible," the pope said Oct. 27 during an interfaith gathering in the Basilica of St. Mary of the Angels.

Marking the 25th anniversary of the first Assisi interfaith gathering for peace, hosted by Blessed Pope John Paul II in 1986, Pope Benedict brought together the religious leaders and — for the first time — four philosophers who describe themselves as humanists or seekers who do not identify with any single religion.

After a train ride of almost two hours from the Vatican, Pope Benedict and his guests arrived in Assisi and were driven to the Basilica of St. Mary of the Angels for the morning gathering focused on "testimonies for peace."

Entering the basilica before the pope, the delegates created an unusually colorful congregation: They wore white, black or crimson robes or business suits; on their heads were skullcaps, turbans, scarves or veils.

The pope condemned the use of religion to excuse violence and the use of violence to impose a religion, as well as the growing violence resulting from "the loss of human-

ity" that comes from denying the existence of God and of objective moral standards.

"As a Christian, I want to say at this point: Yes, it is true, in the course of history, force has also been used in the name of the Christian faith. We acknowledge it with great shame," Pope Benedict said.

Christian leaders, like all religious leaders, he said, must work constantly to help their followers purify their faith and be "an instrument of God's peace in the world, despite the fallibility of humans."

But a lack of religion isn't the answer to world peace, he said.

The Nazi death camps clearly proved that "the denial of God corrupts man, robs him of his criteria (for judging right and wrong) and leads him to violence," the pope said.

On the other hand, he said, those who have not found faith, but are seeking, also are "pilgrims of truth, pilgrims of peace."

"These people are seeking the truth, they are seeking the true God, whose image is frequently concealed in the religions because of the ways in which they are often practiced. Their inability to find God is partly the responsibility of believers with a limited or even falsified image of God," he said.

"They challenge the followers of religions not to consider God as their own property, as if he belonged to them, in such a way that they feel vindicated in using force against others," the pope said.

Sitting to the pope's right were Orthodox Ecumenical Patriarch Bartholomew of Constantinople and Anglican Archbishop Rowan Williams of Canterbury, and to his

left were Rabbi David Rosen, representing the chief rabbinate of Israel, and Wande Abimbola, president of a Nigerian institute that promotes the study of the culture and traditional religion of the Yoruba people. He chanted a poem, shaking a rattle made of an animal tusk.

Eleven of the pope's guests spoke before Pope Benedict did.

Patriarch Bartholomew said the 25 years since Blessed John Paul II's Assisi gathering have included the 9/11 terrorist attacks in the United States and the Arab Spring democracy movement "which has not put an end to tensions between communities."

"The place of religions in the changes under way remains ambiguous," the patriarch said, echoing the concerns of many Christians that more radical followers of Islam may not protect the rights of Christian minorities in the countries that have thrown off dictatorships.

"We must oppose the deformation of the message and symbols of religion by perpetrators of violence," said the Orthodox spiritual leader.

Archbishop Williams, spiritual leader of the Anglican Communion, told the participants they must help the world see how much wisdom religions have to offer "in the struggle against the foolishness of a world still obsessed with fear and suspicion, still in love with the idea of a security based on defensive hostility, and still capable of tolerating or ignoring massive loss of life among the poorest through war and disease."

The Rev. Olav Fykse Tveit, a Lutheran minister and secretary-general of the World Council of Churches, urged the leaders to do more to assist and guide their young people, who can be the source of new energy for change — like with the Arab Spring — or can express their frustrations through violence.

He also pleaded with all the religious leaders present to pray and work for peace in Jerusalem, a city sacred to Jews, Christians and Muslims and a symbol of ongoing tensions among people of different faiths.

A Hindu representative from India, Shrivatsa Goswami, said the leaders needed to ask themselves why interreligious dialogue has not had a greater impact on the world situation in the last 25 years.

"Are we missing the inward part of the journey?" he asked. "Dialogue will be a futile exercise unless we undertake it with humility, forbearance, and the desire to respect the 'other,'" whether or not they return that respect, he said.

Hasyim Muzadi, general secretary of the Indonesia-based International Conference of Islamic Scholars, could not attend, but sent a speech. He said people of different faiths must work together to build on something they all share: "a hope for the creation of human harmony, justice, prosperity and an improved standard of human life."

Spiritual Renewal Center to offer second weekday retreat

The Spiritual Renewal Center will be offering a two-night retreat, directed by Ron Friedel, on the Gospel of St. Mark from Monday, November 7, to Wednesday, November 9, 2011.

The Church is about to enter into a new liturgical year where the Sunday Scripture readings will be primarily from the Gospel of Mark. This retreat will focus solely on the Gospel of Mark, reflecting on its many themes. If you think you have stress in your life, come empathize with the stress of Jesus and his disciples.

The cost for the two-night/three-day retreat, which includes all meals, is \$100. As space is limited, reservations are required; therefore, please call (361) 894-1699.

Amor Meus Spirituality Center, Victoria, offers spiritual events

• Amor Meus Spirituality Center, an outreach Ministry of the Sisters of the Incarnate Word and Blessed Sacrament, will offer a day of prayer and reflection, Saturday, November 12, 2011, from 9:30 a.m. to 3:30 p.m. The theme for this retreat is "A Still Small Voice" (1 King 19:12). Men and women interested in deepening

their love relationship with God will benefit from this retreat. Come and enjoy the peace and quiet as you listen for "A Still Small Voice."

You may purchase a sack lunch for \$5 or bring your own. A love offering is accepted for the day. Please call for reservations (361) 575-7111.

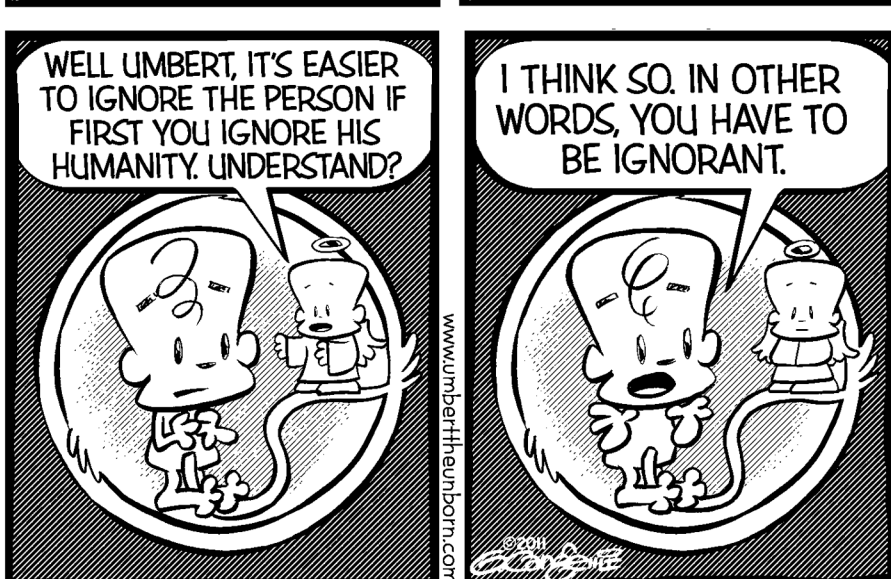
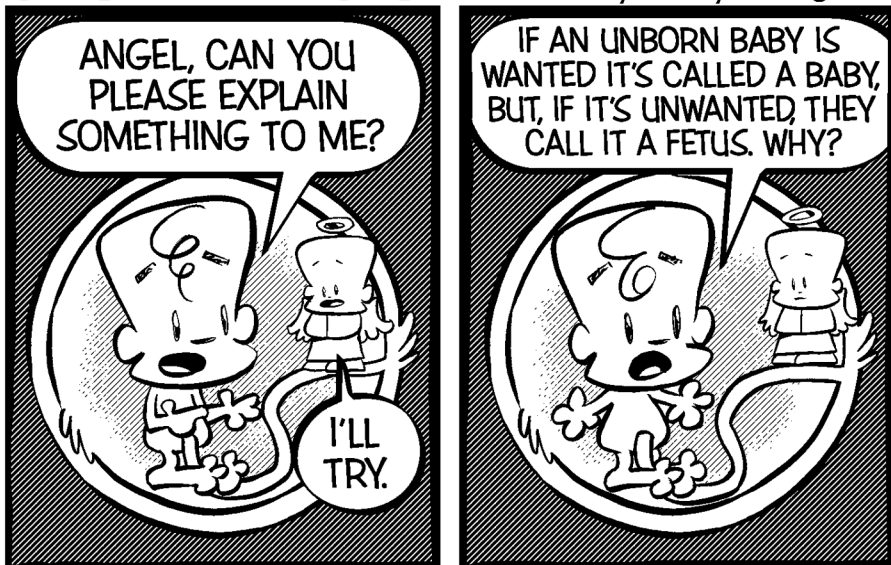
• Single Catholic women (high school graduates through 50 years of age, who are discerning God's call) are invited to attend a retreat on Nov. 12 and then stay for an overnight visit at Incarnate Word Convent in Victoria. If you are interested, please check us out at www.iwbsvictoria.org or call (361) 575-7111 or e-mail iwbsvoc@yahoo.com or iwbsvoc2@yahoo.com for more details or to make a reservation.

• Amor Meus Advent Vespers
Join the IWBS Sisters for Vespers on the Sundays of Advent, November 27, and December 4, 11, 18, 2011, from 5 to 6 p.m. Evening Prayer (or Vespers) is an ancient prayer form that predates the Church. It is a gift from our Jewish brothers and sisters. Evening Prayer finds its base in the prayers of the Psalms. This prayer calls us to give praise and thanksgiving to our loving God. Park in the front of the convent and enter the side door of the chapel.

Incarnate Word Convent is located at 1101 N.E. Water Street in Victoria.



Umbert the Unborn by Gary Cangemi



Substitute Adorers Needed

The Adoration Chapel at St. Mary's Church in Victoria is in need of adorers to spend time with our Lord in Eucharistic adoration. Please consider committing an hour per week at the chapel. Hours available include: Mon., 8-9 a.m. & 4-5 p.m. and Thurs., 5-6 p.m. Please call St. Mary's at (361) 573-4328 or Mrs. Cleo Boldt at (361) 573-6161.

~ Christmas Tour ~ Dec. 2-4, 2011

Grapevine, Texas at the Gaylord Texan Hotel \$698 p/p for double

~ Mystery Tour ~ April 9-16, 2012

Rushmore & Badlands June 11-20, 2012

Imperial Cities, Prague, Vienna & Budapest - Sept. 10, 2012

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



The ABC Factor at HHS - Anybody But Catholics

By Sister Mary Ann Walsh, RSM,
director of media relations, USCCB

There seems to be a new unwritten rule at the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services (HHS). It's the ABC Rule, Anybody But Catholics. It showed up in a letter from HHS's Office of Refugee Resettlement (ORR) to advise the United States Conference of Catholic Bishops' (USCCB) Office of Migration and Refugee Services (MRS) that it would not receive a grant to continue its services for victims of human trafficking.



Sister Mary Ann
Walsh, RSM

The USCCB program excelled because of its anytime-anywhere approach. It had extraordinary reach, something valued by people who work to free men, women and children from slavery. Because of USCCB's organizational capacity, MRS could respond immediately. Should an Immigration Enforcement official find a vulnerable child, for example, a call to the MRS program got safe housing immediately. There was not the delay of weeks that one associates with programs that lack such a network.

The program worked well on the ground, but not so well for distant administrators promoting the abortion and contraceptive agenda, who bristle at the fact that in accord with Church teaching, USCCB won't facilitate taking innocent life, sterilization and artificial contraception.

MRS anti-trafficking programs ran successfully for six years in harmony with these moral convictions until the American Civil Liberties Union brought suit against the government for not forcing the USCCB program to provide these services as a part of the program.

The suit's outcome is pending, but ORR apparently has made its own decision apart from any judgment of the court. So much for the Administration's guarantee of conscience protection. That's the climate which allowed ORR to dismiss the USCCB proposal and instead award grant money to the United States Committee on Refugees and Immigrants, (USCRI), Heartland and Tapestry. ORR even awarded more money than it said it would in the original proposal. ORR earmarked most of the money for USCRI. Eskinder Negash, current director of the

ORR, had been vice-president and chief operating officer at USCRI before joining ORR in 2009.

The ORR's request for proposals had stated that agencies receiving the money were to be fully operational ten days after being awarded the grant. That would have been October 10. One wonders how that could have happened since USCRI and Heartland reportedly were posting ads seeking to hire staff just a few days before that date. None of the three organizations has much depth of experience in monitoring and providing services. USCCB staff were given a number to call for a smooth transition for the people served by the anti-trafficking program. Those who called it found no one could answer their questions.

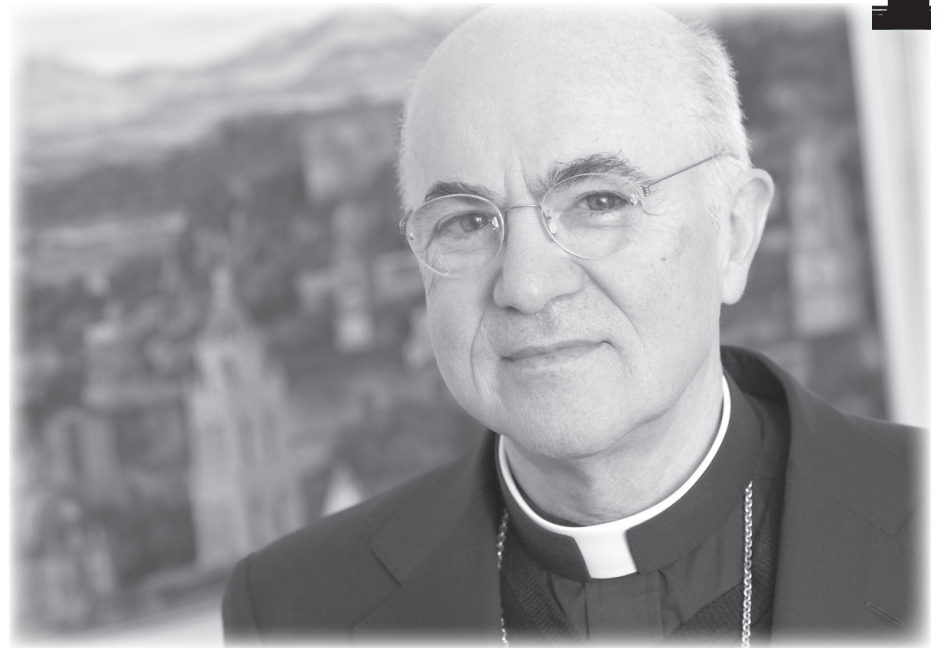
Trafficking of human beings is one of the great modern-day scandals, but at least until now, the U.S. government sought to sincerely address the issue. It asked USCCB for help when regional programs weren't reaching victims outside the usual hotspots for trafficking. USCCB created an extraordinary program in conjunction with several partners, Christian and secular, including Lutheran Family Services, Jewish Family Services, Salvation Army, YMCA affiliates, domestic violence shelters, World Relief and others. Only one-third of its subcontractors were Catholic-affiliated, but with the USCCB infrastructure they reached virtually everywhere in the USA.

Now ORR seems to have yielded to abortion politics. It has undercut a worthy program, limiting the numbers served, while increasing the time and money it will take to serve them. Apparently HHS rules about the benefits of experience and cost effectiveness can be waived. So can rules about being fully operational by a certain date. What can't be waived is the new, albeit unwritten rule of HHS, the ABC rule - Anybody But Catholics.

Annual search begins for the couple married the longest in the United States

San Bernardino, CA - The annual search is on for the couple married the longest in the United States, the U.S. leaders of Worldwide Marriage Encounter (WWME) recently announced.

This is the second consecutive year for the highly acclaimed project recognizing couples for their long marriages. This past February, Marshall and Winnie Kuykendall of New Mexico were honored nationally for their 82 years of marriage. There were also 50 state winners recognized for their longest marriages at the same time. There were over 350 couples nominated



Italian Archbishop Carlo Maria Vigano, the new apostolic nuncio to the United States, is pictured at his residence at the Vatican Oct. 20. He succeeds the late Archbishop Pietro Sambi. (CNS photo/Paul Haring)

Pope names Archbishop Vigano new nuncio to the US

VATICAN CITY (CNS)—Pope Benedict XVI named Archbishop Carlo Maria Vigano, 70, to be the new nuncio to the United States. In his most recent position, the Italian archbishop had served for two years as secretary-general of the commission governing Vatican City. He succeeds the late Archbishop Pietro Sambi in Washington. Just minutes after his assignment was announced Oct. 19, Archbishop Vigano told Catholic News Service he hoped to get to the United States in time for the U.S. bishops' general assembly Nov. 14-16. The archbishop said being nuncio in the United States is an "important, vast and delicate" task; he said he was grateful to Pope Benedict for entrusting him with the mission and he felt called to renew his "trust in the Lord, who asks me to set out again" to a new country. Being a nuncio, he said, is "a call to know this people, this country

and come to love them. For me to take the place of someone who was so loved, so committed, makes it an even greater challenge," he said. Archbishop Vigano said he knew a U.S. presidential election is coming up, but before he can say anything "I need to hear from the bishops and learn from them. The election is important for the country and for the whole world." New York Archbishop Timothy M. Dolan, president of the U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops, sent a message of welcome to the new nuncio and said the bishops looked forward to meeting him at their November assembly in Baltimore. Archbishop Dolan said that, as the pope's representative in the U.S., Archbishop Vigano would "serve as a continuing sign to us of that source of renewal and hope that Pope Benedict brought to our country" during his April 2008 visit. Archbishop Dolan said the new nuncio's variety of experiences would enable him "to see the intricacies involved in representing the Holy Father in both the Church and diplomatic worlds, especially now as they are lived out in America's democratic society."

Texas Catholic Correctional Ministries Conference ~ Nov. 11-12

In the last four legislative sessions, the Texas Legislature has focused upon reducing the number of persons going into prisons, improving the results of probation and parole, and preparing ex-offenders to meet the challenges of daily life without returning to prison.

Texas has retained the efforts in treatment and rehabilitation over this period resulting in the lowering of the crime rate and halting the continued rise in numbers of persons incarcerated.

The central unit in Sugar Land is scheduled to be closed, making it the first reduction of prison units in Texas history.

With more than 70,000 offenders being released annually, there is a critical need for communities to assist in the rehabilitation process. Returning offenders often need clothing, initial help with housing, transportation and food. Those dealing with substance abuse also need AA and NA support groups.

The Texas Catholic Correctional Ministries will sponsor a conference designed to guide parishes in assisting communities with those needs. It will be held November 11-12 at Wyndham Garden Hotel 3401 S. IH 35, Austin, Texas. For more information please contact Deacon E. Genes Dufour at (512) 949-2462, or go to <http://www.austindiocese.org/departments/home.php?id=7>.



You are cordially invited to a
Christmas Celebration
Saturday, December 3
Mass 5:00 p.m. in the Chapel
followed by Social (6:15) and Dinner (7:00)
Special Guest: Most Rev. David E. Fellhauer
\$120 per couple (limited to 150 guests)
For reservations Ron Friedel at (361) 894-1699

Spiritual Renewal Center
718 Gussie Schmidt Road (77905)
All proceeds of the dinner will benefit
the Spiritual Renewal Center

for the honors during the last event.

"Once again we want to honor the longest married couple in the United States as well as in each of the 50 states and territories. The national winners will be recognized during Valentine's Week 2012, which coincides with World Marriage Day, which is the second Sunday of February," explained Scott and Karen Seaborn and Father Tom Griffith, SVD, the United States Ecclesial Team for WWME.

In addition to the longest married couple for the entire United States, recognition will also be given to a couple from each state and territory who has achieved that distinction. In the case of the United States couple, appropriate gifts will be presented to them at a ceremony to be held at their location during Valentine's week. The state winners will receive personal recognition and a special certificate of achievement from the Worldwide Marriage Encounter movement.

Nominations, which are open to all husband and wife couples regardless of religious affiliation, may be submitted by e-mail, regular mail or by calling a special phone number.

The contact information for sending in a nomination, which simply requires the name of the couple, their wedding date and where they currently reside plus a contact phone or e-mail address of the individual nominating the couple, is as follows: e-mail dickanddiane66@bellsouth.net; regular mail Dick & Diane Baumbach 1430 Scorpious Ct., Merritt Island, FL 32953 and special phone number (321) 453-2475. Nominations must be received by January 10, 2012.



Seven Billion People: Cause to Celebrate?

WASHINGTON, DC — Steven W. Mosher, president of the Population Research Institute (PRI), will have addressed the national media at the National Press Club in Washington, DC, October 31, 2011, on the topic of the birth of the world's seven billionth person.

The United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA) has projected 31 October 2011 as the day on which the world will be home to seven billion people. "This is a happy occasion," says Mosher, a leading population expert and best-selling author. "The world's population has more than doubled since 1960, and humanity has never been so prosperous."

The UNFPA, supported by assorted environmental extremists and no-growth types, is abusing this milestone to promote the myth of overpopulation and to raise more money for its anti-people projects. "The attitude of the anti-people types is arrogant and elitist," says Mosher. "They say, in effect, to Africans, Asians and Latin Americans: 'There are just enough of us, but there are way too many of you.'"

According to Mosher, "Contrary to what you might hear, the most pressing problem in country after country today is not overpopulation, but underpopulation. In a time of fiscal austerity, the last thing that we need to be doing is spending more tax dollars to drive down the birth rate, reducing the amount of human capital available, and making us all poorer in the long run."

"We at PRI are grateful that Baby Seven Billion will come into this world," Mosher says. "Baby Seven Billion, boy or girl, red or yellow, black or white, is not a liability, but an asset; not a curse, but a blessing for us all. Humanity's long-term problem is not going to be too many children, but too few children."

Mosher's analysis of world population trends is a welcome corrective to the United Nations Population Fund's (UNFPA) misleading report on The State of World Population 2011. Further U.S. funding of the UNFPA is presently in jeopardy because of UN population control agency's continued involvement in China's coercive one-child policy. PRI

investigations have repeatedly shown that the UNFPA is complicit in a policy that is carried out by means of forced abortions and forced sterilizations, and which has eliminated some 400 million Chinese.

New Cartoon From PRI as Population Reaches 7 Billion

By PRI Staff

We at PRI are proud to announce the fifth episode of our highly popular YouTube cartoon series—just in time for the world's population to reach 7 billion people this month. The series has, to date, garnered over 800,000 views, and we fully expect to finally reach one million with this video.

The latest video is available by visiting overpopulationisamyth.com. Two minutes long, it aims to show that the world's population is not skyrocketing out of control. Rather, according to the latest UN data, our numbers are slowing to a standstill before plummeting downward again.

"Our goal is to be both accurate and entertaining," says Colin Mason, PRI's Director of Media Production and the video's editor. "We figure if we can be funny and visually interesting, people will absorb the concepts painlessly."

"When people see that we're adding a billion people," Mason continues, "they automatically assume that our population is ballooning out of control. But that's not the case at all ... and most of the time, all it takes is a simple chart and people get it. The hard part is getting them interested enough to look. That's what we hope to accomplish with these videos."

"The fight against the myth of overpopulation does not have to be a bare-knuckled brawl," says Steven Mosher, PRI's president. "These videos are funny and easy to digest, the very opposite of Al Gore's boring pronouncements on the 'dangers' of too many people. Our viewers end up considering the science that supports our pro-people position, often for the very first time. We say to our skeptics: watch, laugh, and learn."

Vatican: Gadhafi's death marks end of 'harsh and oppressive regime'

**By John Thavis
Catholic News Service**

VATICAN CITY (CNS)—The Vatican said the death of Libyan strongman Moammar Gadhafi marked the end of a "harsh and oppressive regime" that was based on power instead of human dignity.

It expressed hope that the bloodshed would end in the North African country, and that the new Libyan government would open a rebuilding phase based on "a spirit of inclusion" and social justice.

The statement was issued by the Vatican press office late Oct. 20, several hours after Gadhafi was reported killed in his coastal hometown of Sirte, where he had been barricaded with loyalist troops. His death came after months of bloody civil strife and NATO airstrikes in support of Libyan rebels.

The Vatican said the Libyan conflict had been "too long and tragic" and should prompt reflection on the "cost of immense human suffering" that accompanies the collapse of systems not founded on respect for human rights.

It encouraged the new Libyan government to try to prevent further violence caused by a spirit of revenge and to begin a program of pacification. The international community, it said, should provide generous aid toward the reconstruction of the country.

For its part, the minority Catholic community in Libya will continue to offer "its witness and its unselfish service, especially in the areas of charity and health care," it said. The Vatican said it would work in favor of the Libyan people in the international diplomatic arena.

The statement said the Vatican considers the transitional government as the legitimate representative of the Libyan people. The Vatican, it said, has already had various contacts with the new authorities in Libya, through the Libyan Embassy to the Vatican, at the United Nations and in Libya.

It said the apostolic nuncio to Libya, who resides in Malta, had gone to Libya for talks in early October with the provisional prime minister, Mahmoud Jibril, and other officials.

"In these diverse encounters, both sides underlined the importance of the diplomatic relations between the Holy See and Libya. The Holy See had the opportunity to renew its support for the Libyan people and its support for the transition," the Vatican said.

The officials of Libya's new government have expressed appreciation for the humanitarian appeals of Pope Benedict XVI and for the church's service in Libya, in particular the work of 13 religious communities in hospitals or assistance centers.

Bishops visit U.S.-Mexico border, hear migrants' stories of violence

**By Andy Sparke
Catholic News Service**

EL PASO, Texas (CNS) — Thousands of Mexican citizens are fleeing the violence that continues to plague the border city of Ciudad Juarez, Mexico. That was the message from college professors, the director of a refuge for migrants and the migrants themselves to members of the U.S. bishops' Subcommittee on Catholic Home Missions during a recent visit to El Paso.

Ruben Garcia, director of Annunciation House in El Paso, told the eight bishops on the subcommittee Oct. 20 that there is a "steady stream" of refugees trying to escape their country's "police, military and government," as well as the nation's drug cartels.

Howard Campbell, professor of anthropology, and Kathleen Staudt, professor of political science, both at the University of Texas at El Paso, also addressed the bishops about the violence in Juarez.

El Paso and Ciudad Juarez, Mexico, are twin cities joined by four bridges along the Rio Grande.

The home missions subcommittee met in El Paso for their regular meeting to allocate assistance to the 87 mission dioceses in the United States. They chose to meet in El Paso to get a firsthand look at immigration and border violence issues that confront the church in the United States, said the chairman, Bishop Michael W. Warfel of Great Falls and Billings, Mont.

El Paso Bishop Armando X. Ochoa said he was happy to welcome the committee to his diocese which has received so much assistance from the USCCB subcommittee over the years.

In addition to Bishop Warfel, the

visiting bishops were Bishop Peter F. Christensen of Superior, Wis.; Archbishop Paul S. Coakley of Oklahoma City; Bishop Curtis J. Guillory of Beaumont; Bishop Thomas J. Olmsted of Phoenix; Archbishop Stefan Soroka of the Ukrainian Archdiocese of Philadelphia; Bishop Robert F. Vasa of Santa Rosa, Calif.; and Bishop Joe S. Vasquez of Austin.

The bishops broke from their allocation meeting Oct. 19 to celebrate Mass at the UT El Paso Catholic Campus Ministry Newman Center. At the center they had lunch with university students and faculty affected by the border issues.

The next day the bishops toured Immigration and border protection facilities along the Rio Grande border between El Paso and Ciudad Juarez, and met at St. Pius X Parish to hear testimony from refugees from Latin America.

The bishops briefly visited a catechism class at the parish for unaccompanied migrant children. The children aged 9 to 15 were being detained at an immigration facility where they receive some academic schooling and religious instruction.

St. Pius X pastor Msgr. Arturo Banuelas said children left behind by parents coming to the United States often leave their homeland on their own in search of the parents.

Five women taking refuge at Annunciation House emphasized the relation of the drug cartel violence on the U.S. border with Mexico and corruption among Mexican government officials in remarks to the subcommittee. The women asked not to be identified since they fear retaliation and are unsure of their status in the United States.

*St. Michael's Home and
School Association
Presents*

Santa's Christmas Bazaar



**Saturday, December 3, 2011
St. Michael's Parish Hall
(104 McLeod Street, Cuero)
8:00 a.m.-2:00 p.m.
Admission is free**

Booths include: Arts & Crafts • Gifts & Gift Ideas

Food Concessions Available Throughout the day

Breakfast food served from 8-11 a.m. (prices vary)

**Chicken Spaghetti Lunch from 11 a.m.-2 p.m.
at \$5 p/p**



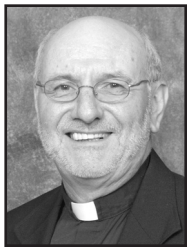
**Santa will be available for
pictures with a
professional photographer
from 9a.m.-noon**

*For more information contact St. Michael's Catholic School, 208 McLeod Street, Cuero, TX 77954
• (361) 277-3854 • www.stmichaels-cuero.org*



A Step Backward Is Forward Progress

By Father John S. Rausch



Ben Cohen, co-founder of Ben and Jerry's, creatively uses Oreos cookies to explain the federal budget. By making one Oreo equal \$10 billion, he can stack 70 Oreos to graphically illustrate the \$700 billion budget of the Pentagon. In contrast, he shows that the federal government spends only four-and-a-half Oreos on education, only one-half an Oreo on alternative energy and a fraction of an Oreo on Head Start.

"If you take just seven Oreos off the Pentagon budget, you could provide health care for all the kids who currently don't have it," he claims.

The bloated security complex brings to mind the 1961 Farewell Address of President Dwight Eisenhower to the American people: "Every gun that is made, every warship launched, every rocket fired signifies, in the final sense, a theft from those who hunger and are not fed, those who are cold and are not clothed."

While the Pentagon's budget heaps up lots of Oreos according to Cohen's scheme, it represents only about half of what the U.S. spends on its total military related activities. Not included, for example, are budgets for the Veterans Administration, military retirement programs, and most notably, the Department of Energy's nuclear weapons programs.

Last year to encourage the ratification of the New Start treaty that reduced deployed nuclear warheads in Russia and the U.S. from 2,200 to 1,550, President Obama pledged to spend \$80 billion over ten years to modernize the nuclear arsenal.

People of faith applauded the reduction in deployed warheads, but they lamented the misguided efforts to make our nuclear arsenal "certified reliable" for the next 100 years.

"We're building bombs for the next century and do we understand what that means?" asks Presentation Sister Mary

Dennis Lentsch, recently released from jail for her civil disobedience at the Y-12 National Security complex near Oak Ridge. She knows that besides the immediate destruction of human life, a nuclear explosion would produce radioactive fallout contaminating the ground and water supply causing the collapse of food production that would result in rampant disease and widespread starvation.

"My years of nonviolent resistance and acts of conscience have their roots in my Christian baptismal promise to renounce and resist evil," she said. "And, nuclear weapons are evil."

Today throughout the world there remain approximately 20,000 nuclear weapons located at 111 sites in 14 countries. More than half the world's population lives in a nuclear-armed country, and nations spend \$100 billion each year on maintaining and modernizing their nuclear arsenals. At a time of budget cuts and debt reduction, modernizing nuclear weapons offers a line item that should be reconsidered.

Archbishop Francis Chullikatt, the Vatican's ambassador to the United Nations, recognizes that nuclear weapons once acted as a deterrent during the Cold War, but today the moral imperative propels all nations to contemplate a world without them.

"The Church's condemnation of any use of nuclear weapons has always been grounded in the Church's respect for life and the dignity of the human person," Chullikatt said.

"The Church's moral acceptance of nuclear deterrence was always conditioned on progress toward their elimination."

A nuke-free world seems impossible, almost ludicrous. Yet, Chullikatt reminds us even slavery that once held whole races and classes of people in bondage denying them their God-given right to live in freedom and dignity was ultimately ended.

To the incredulous, perhaps Ben Cohen's Oreos will make a point. To faith believers, maybe prayerful acts of nonviolence will speak. To Archbishop Chullikatt, "A world without nuclear weapons is not only possible, it has now become urgent."

Sister Elizabeth Riebschlaeger Testifies at EPA Hearing

Continued from p. 1

to Sister Elizabeth. Joining with others, she has learned about this procedure, its positive and negative aspects, and has become with them, an active spokesperson for responsible drilling, alternative and truly sustainable options. She also speaks against irresponsible fracking activity that endangers the public health and the environment.

In her testimony, Sister Elizabeth's first points highlighted what has become a statewide concern about water, exacerbated by the recent record-breaking drought in Texas. She testified, "In Dewitt County alone, an average of 1.7 million gallons of water per fracking job is being taken from our aquifer and destroyed, never to be returned to Nature's replenishing cycle for the Earth—and drilling is projected by just one company in Dewitt County to continue for 20 years. Even as I speak, a 24-inch pipeline is being laid under the historic Guadalupe River, which is so vital to farming and ranching interests. Smaller pipelines spiderweb throughout the county from well to gathering stations, to compressor stations, and to the much bigger main pipelines leading to refineries—all bringing with them potential for spills if and when a pipeline ruptures."

Sister Elizabeth then cited an incident in which a family living in another Eagle Ford Shale county was forced to move from their long-time rural home because it "... was overwhelmed by the toxic fumes from a compressor station across the county road. One family member was hospitalized intermittently over the course of a year

with symptoms similar to pneumonia, and arsenic was found in their blood. Doctors warned that if this family did not move out of their home, that member would be dead in a year." After a lawsuit settlement with the responsible company and correction of the problems at the site, the family was able to move back into their home after two years of renting space to live.

With a statewide concern about water, exacerbated by the recent record-breaking drought in Texas, Sister Elizabeth testified, "In Dewitt County alone, an average of 1.7 million gallons of water per fracking job is being taken from our aquifer and destroyed, never to be returned to Nature's replenishing cycle for the Earth..."

Unfortunately, through another practice used by the oil and gas industry, that settlement included a "non-disclosure clause" which seals the public record of this incident and

keeps the public uninformed about the dangers that come with this windfall to their communities.

Sister Elizabeth went on to say, "... we join our voices with those here today, who come to ask the Environmental Protection Agency for immediate action toward regulating these activities. Daily many more wells are drilled, more flares ignited, more emissions from new oil and gas storage sites are released into the air we breathe. Irreversible damages are occurring, so these regulations should not be delayed. Reckless actions occur, such as placing a rig immediately opposite a high school, exposing students, faculty, and staff to toxic emissions during drilling and fracking, the results of a blowout, explosion, or chemical fire. Our environmental house is on fire, and the USA cannot sit around discussing which door to use for escape. Specifically, all these new sources of emissions should be covered under the new rules."

Sister Elizabeth ended her presentation to the hearing panel by saying, "As the late Pope John Paul II said: 'To care for creation is a moral duty for all human beings. We are called to govern nature as a responsible administrator and not as a merciless exploiter.' We call upon the EPA to act as that responsible administrator. And as our US Catholic Bishops have said, a moral imperative leads us all to act to protect the people of the planet. This decision has moral and ethical dimensions that cannot be ignored."

The Chancery will be closed Dec. 8 for the Holy Day of Obligation ~ Immaculate Conception

Time for a 'new American experiment' – again

By Stephen Kent
Catholic News Service

Often the best way to judge the staying power of a cause is by the degree of off-point criticism that it draws. The more that criticism concentrates on secondary concerns – such as clothing, hairstyle, hygiene – and less on the principles at stake, the greater the chance that the basic principle of the cause will persevere and eventually prevail.

Such has been the case with protests against racial discrimination and wars, for example, and such is likely for the future of Occupy Wall Street as it continues in many cities at month's end.

It used to be found in letters-to-the-editor columns in print newspapers, criticizing "hippies," "long hairs" and "draft dodgers."

Today, look at your local daily online, go to the comments section following most articles, and you will find the same thing.

The apparently loosely organized demonstration by Occupy Wall Street against financiers, bankers and others are advised to "get a job" (how is that working out?), are called "lawbreakers" (for the offense of remaining in a park past closing time), and are attacked as a generation "spoiled," "entitled."

And of course, they are advised to "work through the system."

But it is that system in which financial types and government regulators all drink at the same club at the end of the day that is the cause of frustration.

A good explanation of this system is

given by Pulitzer Prize-winning author Ron Suskind, who needs more than 500 pages to detail the complexities of the financial shell games that almost brought down the economy.

In "Confidence Men," he tells of government regulators made impotent by politics and the fiscal miscreants' lack of a firm purpose of amendment after receiving billions of dollars to pull them out of the mess.

"Once this sort of thing starts, it takes some real toughness to stop it," former Federal Reserve chairman Paul Volcker told Suskind. "But someone should have. Because having people paid tens of millions for activities of no social or really economic value – or, as the crash shows, negative value – just tears a society apart."

What the Occupy Wall Street people seem to want is economic justice -- a central point of Catholic belief and social teaching.

"Economic Justice for All," the landmark pastoral on Catholic social teaching and the U.S. economy that was published by U.S. Catholic bishops a quarter-century ago, puts it most succinctly: "The economy should serve people, not the other way around."

In 1986, the bishops called for a "new American experiment" to implement economic rights, to broaden the sharing of economic power and to make economic decisions more accountable to the common good.

Had such an experiment been undertaken 25 years ago, we might not have

heard of bailouts and derivatives and credit swaps.

Occupy Wall Street may turn out to be a flash in the pan, as its critics say, only symbolic and most likely futile.

Placing a flower in the barrel of a soldier's rifle, taking a seat at a lunch counter or in the front of a bus were symbolic in their time but hardly futile. They decreased racial intolerance and kept the war in front of the public until the tide turned against it.

It is still not too late to try again for a new American experiment.

(Kent, now retired, was editor of archdiocesan newspapers in Omaha and Seattle. He may be contacted at: considersk@gmail.com.)

Reporting Abuse

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

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

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

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



Special Collection Campaign for Human Development

November 20

Tri-Conference Fund for Retired Religious December 11

Ongoing Events

That Man is You! — The men's faith meetings will be held at three parishes in the diocese: Bay City, Holy Cross School cafeteria, Fridays, 5:45 to 7:15 a.m.; Ganado, Assumption parish hall, Wednesdays, 5:30 – 7:15 a.m.; and Victoria, Holy Family education building, Wednesdays, 5:45 – 7:00 a.m. All men are welcome; no fees. More information at: www.thatmanisyoudiocese.org.

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 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.

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 2012 dates are: Feb. 17-19, April 27-29, June 29-July 1, Sept. 7-9 and Nov. 16-18. For more info., call (361) 573-0828 ext. 2230. All registrations are on a first come, first serve basis. Fee must accompany registration form.

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. Retrouvaille serves as Marriage Encounter in the Diocese of Victoria. Go to <http://www.retrouvaille.org> for more information or contact Gerd and Linda Conner at lbconner@sbcglobal.net, (979) 543-3493. Other contacts are at (800) 470-2230 and www.helpourmarriage.org

Marriage Encounter — The Marriage Encounter Weekend is open to married couples, Catholic and non-Catholic. World-wide Marriage Encounter is designed to make good marriages even better. For more information for encounters outside the Diocese of Victoria, see www.wvme.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: sanantonioe@yahoo.com; phone: (210) 734-2146.

Natural Family Planning — It is the only Church-approved form of family planning. For information about the Sympto-Thermal Method in the Victoria area, contact David and Annie Coffey at victorianfpteachers@yahoo.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 advanced reservations. The fort is handicapped accessible. For more information call (361) 645-3752 or see the Web site at www.presidiolabaha.org.

Picnics, Activities, etc. November

Victoria — St. Mary's Altar Society's Annual Harvest Bazaar will be Saturday, Nov. 5, from 9:00 a.m.-5:00 p.m. and Sunday, Nov. 6, after the 8:00 a.m. and 10:30 a.m. Masses, in the activity center (401 S. Liberty St.). There will be many unique hand-crafted items including prayer blankets, quilts, pillow cases, baby items, wood crafts, holiday gifts and decorations, and much, much more. The Country Store will have home-baked goods, canned goods and more. Dine-in or take-out homemade cinnamon rolls, old-fashioned potato soup, warm cheese bread and drinks.

Port Lavaca — Our Lady of the Gulf Altar Society Annual Turkey and Dressing Dinner (catered by Werner's of Shiner)

Nov. 6 at the KC Hall. Serving from 11:00 a.m.-1:30 p.m. at \$8 p/p with dine-in or carry-out available.

Praha — Veterans Memorial Service Nov. 6

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

Hungerford — KJT Society #79 and KJZT Society #57 will be hosting their annual turkey and dressing dinner Nov. 13 at the community center. Serving begins at 10:30 a.m.

Victoria — Our Lady of Lourdes Fall Festival Nov. 13 at the community center. A turkey and dressing dinner will be served, with dine-in or plates-to-go available at \$7.50 p/p. Doors open at 10:00 a.m. For more information see ad on page 5.

Upcoming Events

Victoria — St. Joseph High School Choirs and Band will perform their annual Christmas concert on Thursday, Dec. 1 beginning at 7:30 p.m. at Holy Family Church Activity Center. The concert will feature STJ singers, varsity honors chorale and concert band. Admission is free.

Cuero — St. Michael's Home and School Association presents Santa's Arts and Crafts Show Saturday, Dec. 3, at the parish hall. The event held from 8:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m. For more information see the ad on page 17 or contact St. Michael School at (361) 277-3854 or www.stmichael-cuero.org.

New Taiton — St. John's Games Party Dec. 4 at 6:00 p.m. at the community center. There will be games, door prizes, a drawing, auction and refreshments. Proceeds benefit the youth of St. John.

Victoria — KJZT Society #101 will have a Christmas party on Dec. 4 at Our Lady of Victory Cafeteria at 2:00 p.m. with dinner to be served at 4:00 p.m. Meat will be furnished, members are asked to bring a covered dish. RSVP by calling (361) 573-2669.

Hallettsville — A Sacred Heart High School All Alumni Reunion will be held on June 23, 2012, at the KC Hall In Hallettsville from 3:00-11:00 p.m. Please save this date and make your lodging reservations early. Call Irene Knebel at 361-798-4942 if you would like to assist with the planning or preparation of the reunion.

Masses • Retreats • Conferences

Please also look on page 15 for local spiritual events.

Victoria — Spiritual Renewal Center offers days of reflection and retreats for the public. The Gospel of St. Mark, Nov. 7-9 and Advent Reflections, Dec. 5-7.

Victoria — Single Catholic women (high school graduates through 50 years of age, who are discerning God's call) are invited to attend an "Amor Meus" (My Love) day retreat on Nov. 12 and then stay for an overnight visit at Incarnate Word Convent in Victoria. If you are interested, please check us out at www.iwbsvictoria.org or call (361) 575-7111 or e-mail iwbsvoc@yahoo.com or iwbsvoc2@yahoo.com for more details or to make a reservation.

Victoria — The Holy Family Catholic Church is sponsoring a Men's ACTS Retreat Nov. 17-20 at the Spiritual Renewal Center. For more information, call Ron Sitka at (361) 550-1314, Gerald Bryant at (361) 212-5938 or Harvey Kocian at (361) 920-0738.

Victoria — The Holy Family Catholic Church is sponsoring a Women's ACTS Retreat on January 26-29, 2012, at the Spiritual Renewal Center. For more information, call Carla Hanes at (361) 648-6964, Tina Kabela at (361) 571-2298, or Marlene Hennessey at (361) 652-0735.

Victoria — Latin Masses will be celebrated by Father Bob Knippenberg at St. Mary's Church in Victoria every 2nd & 4th Sunday of the month at 1:00 p.m.

Victoria — Incarnate Word and Blessed Sacrament Sisters have released their 2011-2012 Calendar for the Amor Meus Spirituality Center. To learn more about their Retreats, Taize Prayer and Advent and Lenten Vespers, call (361) 575-7111 or e-mail amormeus@yahoo.com.

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 Sister Louise Marie at (361) 575-7111.

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

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

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

Pilgrimages, Tours, etc.

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

Have an event???

Contact us at

(361) 573-5725 (FAX)

or e-mail: janakr@victoriadiocese.org



Recently installed pastor to Sts. Cyril & Methodius Parish in Shiner, Father Kirby Hlavaty, shows he is ready to demonstrate his baking skills at the parish's 25th annual Strudel Bake.

Sts. Cyril & Methodius celebrates 25th year of Strudel Bake

SHINER — Father Kirby Hlavaty, pastor of Sts. Cyril & Methodius, Shiner, is gearing up for his first Strudel Bake in Shiner, which is scheduled for Saturday, November 12, 2011. He is surrounded by some of the "tools of the trade" for making apple strudels, including flour from Pioneer, one of the sponsors of the Shiner Strudel Bake.

Father Kirby said he is ready to try his hand with the rolling pin; however, he did admit he would much rather be in on the tasting end of the strudel making.

Father Kirby is wearing one of the special aprons designed to commemorate the 25th Anniversary of the Shiner Strudel Bake. These aprons, as well as strudel tee-shirts, will be available at the Strudel Bake.

Strudels are \$15 for a baked strudel and \$13 for unbaked; place all orders by Friday, Nov. 11. Orders for pick-up in Shiner on November 12 can be placed at 361-594-2361. Delivery is also available to other cities by contacting any of the following: Victoria, 361-573-5283 (Victoria customers can pick up their strudels at the OLV parking lot on Sun., Nov. 13, from 1 to 2 p.m.); Yoakum, 361-293-7789; Gonzales, 830-672-7954; Ganado/Edna, 361-649-4248; El Campo, 979-543-8605; Moulton/Flatonia, 361-594-8468; Weimar, 979-725-8461; Wharton, 979-533-1209; and East Bernard, 979-335-7551. Ask for delivery times and locations when placing the order. To assure delivery, all orders must be placed by Friday, November 11, 2011.


"Lives for Sale" documentary on NBC

Immigration & Human Trafficking, a one-hour investigative documentary that exposes the painful and rarely seen human side of illegal immigration, has been made available to all NBC affiliated stations for broadcast beginning September 25 through to March 25. Viewers interested in this growing social issue should contact their local NBC stations for broadcast date and time. The documentary was co-produced by Maryknoll Productions and Lightfoot Films. Maryknoll is the foreign mission society of the U.S. Catholic Church. For more information, visit <http://www.livesforsale.com>

TV program notes — week of Nov. 13

Sunday, Nov. 13, 9-10 p.m. CST (EWTN) "The New Translation of the Roman Missal, Part Two." Colin Donovan and the EWTN theology staff discuss the imminent implementation of the new English translation of the Roman Missal. Part of the series "EWTN Theology Roundtable."

Monday, Nov. 14, 8-11 a.m. CST (Telecare, EWTN and others) "USCCB Fall General Assembly." The annual fall general assembly of the U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops, broadcast live from the Baltimore Marriott Waterfront Hotel. Coverage of the gathering's public sessions continues Tuesday, Nov. 15, noon-4 p.m. CST and Wednesday, Nov. 16, 8-9:30 a.m. CST, concluding Wednesday, Nov. 16, 1-2:30 p.m. CST.



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XXIV Annual Conference for Catechesis and Ministry

“Do This in Memory of Me”

By Cynthia Brewer

“We sometimes have a creeping amnesia about our Catholic faith and the profound gift of the Eucharist,” opened Bishop Richard J. Malone, the keynote speaker for the Annual Conference for Catechesis and Ministry for the Diocese of Victoria. “It’s important that we grasp this,” he emphasized. “We are not the ‘forgetters’, we have to be the ‘rememberers’ – and not have amnesia!”

On Saturday, September 24, the 24th Annual Conference for Catechesis and Ministry was held at Holy Family Church in Victoria. The Most Reverend Richard J. Malone from the Diocese of Portland, Maine, offered

the Church makes the Eucharist,” he emphasized. “The Eucharist is not a luxury, but a necessity, for without it, in the spiritual sense, we’d starve to death.”

In his presentation, Bishop Malone

Near his conclusion, he retold a story told by the Preacher to the Papal Household, Father Cantalamessa, that a non-believer in the presence of Christ in the Eucharist said, “If I believed that (that Christ was truly present in the Eucharist), I think I’d fall on my knees and stay forever.” To which Bishop Malone said, “We can’t fall and stay there forever; we’ve got a mission. We’re going to be sent forth in a mission at the end of Mass. We’ve been nourished, and we go out. We’re sent out, scattered like seed.”

At the following break, Pam Fanelli of St. Mary’s in Victoria stated, “The keynote speaker was so outstanding.”

In addition to Bishop Malone, a fabulous lineup of clergy, religious, and lay persons from the Diocese of Victoria and from throughout the nation offered a large variety of workshops on pertinent Catholic (Christian) topics in both English and



Brother Patrick Wildgen, O.S.S.T., explains that the “End Times” idea of “The Rapture” as the “Left Behind” series teaches and many Christian fundamentalists believe, was introduced in the 1800s by a Protestant preacher, John Nelson Darby. The Catholic faith rather teaches what the Bible teaches: that we will not know the end of time and it will come only once, when Christ returns in glory (Jn 5:28-29; Mt. 25:31, 32, 46). More information on this subject comes from the Catechism of the Catholic Church, Article 12 “I Believe in Life Everlasting” (CCC 1020 – 1065).



In a quick interview with Sister Emily Eilers, IWBS, (above) who presented “Many Mansions’ of the House of Prayer,” she was asked, ‘What do we do with distractions.’

“When you go to prayer, there’s two things that you do; you go there with the ‘intention’ of talking to God, but your ‘attention’ gets pulled aside,” Sister Emilie responded.

“When you find that you’re sitting there really taking in the distraction, you need to have a prayer, word or phrase to pull you back to your intention of being with God. That was new to them. They didn’t know that there was a way they could help themselves. But they really caught on to that. And they really appreciated that, I thought.”

“So many people go to confession, confessing that they were distracted in their prayer. But I told them God made us with a brain and a mind that is going to function all the time, and we can’t shut it off, but we know how to deal with what the brain and mind is doing,” she continued.

During the presentation, Sister Emilie also had the participants practice guided meditation for about 15 minutes. She read a Scripture passage, and while participants listened, they put themselves into the scene with Jesus and asked themselves, “What do I see? What do I hear, smell?”

“I told the teachers that they can do this with their students,” she said.

Then she talked about developing our relationship with God, just like we develop a relationship with other humans.

“In the beginning, we do all the talking and we don’t listen a lot, but the longer we know this person and become familiar with them, we develop a relationship and understand one another and we don’t have to talk all the time; we can just be with this person, have intimacy, and friendship.”

It’s the same with God.

• Beginning at top clockwise, Bishop Richard J. Malone of the Diocese of Portland, Maine, opens the conference with his presentation featuring the Catechetical Sunday theme, “Do This in Memory of Me.”

• Father Michael Rother, parochial vicar at Our Lady of Victory, explains Catholic apologetics in “Why Do You Do That?”

• Father Tommy Chen, parochial vicar at Sacred Heart in Hallettsville, explains that “The Mass is A Feast for Our Souls, A Feast for Our Senses.”

• Mr. Matthew Schaefer of Our Lady of Sorrows delights his audience in his teaching, “Eucharist: A Taste of Heaven!”

• In Spanish, Sister Mary Louise Barba, MCDP, teaches “Celebrate the Eucharist in Our Every Day Lives.”

the keynote address using the Catechetical Sunday theme, “Do This in Memory of Me.”

Currently, Bishop Malone serves on the committee for Evangelization and Catechesis for the United States Conference of Catholic Bishops (USCCB) as well as other USCCB committees.

Prior to the keynote address, the Most Reverend David E. Fellhauer, bishop of the Diocese of Victoria and friend of Bishop Malone, celebrated the opening prayer service and reflected on the day’s reading from Philippians. Bishop Fellhauer reminded the participants how great and blessed we are to have been given the faith of Jesus. “So many have not been given this gift – this gift of faith – millions in the world. How good God is to all of us.”

Sister Digna Vela, IWBS, and director of the Office of Catechesis and Ministry of the Diocese of Victoria, and Christela Alvarez, her associate, welcomed everyone to the conference and then introduced Bishop Malone for his address.

Following his opening statement of how we Catholics sometimes have amnesia when it comes to the Eucharist, Bishop Malone continued saying, “These days there is a lot of confusion, even ignorance of the Eucharist,” he said.

“The Eucharist makes the Church, and

quoted many great thinkers of the Church, including Blessed John Paul II, Dorothy Day, Cardinal Avery Dulles, the Preacher to the Papal Household, Capuchin Father Raniero Cantalamessa; St. Ambrose, and St. Thomas Aquinas; and referenced often to Father Robert Barron’s book, “Eucharist”.

Dorothy Day was attracted to the Catholic faith, he said, when seeing everyone welcomed at the Eucharistic table: the rich and poor, educated and uneducated, the housekeeper and the owner of the mansion.

The Eucharistic Prayer is the heart of our Catholic Faith; Christ becomes really, truly transubstantiated; no longer bread and wine. Something happens! Reality changes although the appearance stays the same.

“Too many have forgotten that Jesus is truly present in the Eucharist.”

“The Eucharist affirms Christ’s intention to always feed us because he knows we are hungry for something,” he continued.

He advised, “Don’t go by the tabernacle without genuflecting or bowing, otherwise we’ve lost the wonder, the awe.”

Spanish.

Workshops were offered on forgiveness, apologetics, liturgical ministry, the Roman Missal, the Mass, prayer, the Rapture and what the Church teaches about it, Our Jewish Roots, praise and worship, “Texas in Mission,” Catechesis/Communication, Scripture, spirituality, baptism, the Liturgical Year, the Eucharist, classroom management, and in Spanish: “Viviendo los Sacramentos”, “!Sacerdote, Profeta y Tey! ?Sera Cierto?”, “!Celebrar La Eucaristía en Nuestras Vidas Diarias!”

What an inspirational conference.,” said diocesan liturgical commission director, Cynthia Goerig. “Something for all ministries.”

“This is the best one I’ve been to, so far,” said Gwen Clark, of St. Mary’s in Victoria.

The conference concluded with the Most Reverend David E. Fellhauer celebrating the Sunday Liturgy.