



The Church's Noblest at Ground Zero

By Sister Mary Ann Walsh

There are times when the church makes you feel proud. Priests' response to 9/11, ten years ago, is one of them.

This became evident as the U.S. Bishops' Office of Media Relations interviewed and sought reflections from a few persons for "The Catholic Church Remembers." It is a website memorial of video clips, photos and print that can be found at <http://www.usccb.org/issues-and-action/human-life-and-dignity/september-11/>.

Cardinal Edward Egan, retired archbishop of New York, was one of the first responders that fateful morning. He headed for Ground Zero when he heard of the attack. As he was on the way, Mayor Rudolph Giuliani called and asked him to go instead to await the injured at St. Vincent's Hospital. Thus began the cardinal's critical service to a city in need.

The first person he met at St. Vincent's was a woman, burned from head to foot. The second was one of his priests, a fire department chaplain.

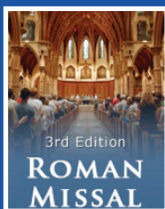
By rank, a cardinal is like a U.S. senator or a general, a big-time leader you don't expect to find on the front of any war. Cardinal Egan didn't see himself that way.

"I kept saying to myself, 'I'm not a fireman, a fire person, a firefighter,'" he recalled on video. "I'm not a police officer.

See *The Church's Noblest*, p. 8

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POLICE OFFICERS AND FIREFIGHTERS HOLD SEPT. 11 FLAG DURING CEREMONY IN NEW YORK—Police officers and firefighters hold the National 9/11 Flag during a pre-game ceremony at Frontier Field in Rochester, N.Y., Aug. 22. The flag flew atop a severely damaged building across from ground zero and was left tattered by debris from the fallen World Trade Center. In 2008 a group of tornado survivors in Kansas stitched the flag back together, and it has been touring every state since then. In each stop, local service heroes stitch pieces to it to help complete its stripes. (CNS photo/Mike Crupi, Catholic Courier)



Father Charles Dwomoh celebrated his Silver Jubilee July 17 at St. John the Baptist Parish in Hungerford, of which he just recently became pastor. Pictured are Fourth Degree Knights of Columbus and some of the priests who celebrated his Thanksgiving Mass. From left are Fathers Dominic Antwi-Boasiako, Gary Janak, Bishop David Fellhauer, Charles Dwomoh and former pastor of St. John's, Henry Rachunek.

Father Dwomoh Celebrates Silver Jubilee

By Cynthia Brewer

HUNGERFORD—Rev. Charles Dwomoh, the pastor of St. John the Baptist Parish in Hungerford, celebrated his 25th anniversary of ordination to the priesthood among parishioners and long-time friends on Sunday, July 17, 2011.

A Mass of Thanksgiving was celebrated by Bishop David Fellhauer and Father Charles and concelebrated by another eight priests from throughout the diocese, including Father Henry Rachunek, former pastor of St. John's, and half a dozen priests originally from Ghana.

Following the Mass, a reception was held, which was organized by a few parish ladies and contributed to by parishioners. Many other friends, who originate from Ghana, were in attendance, including la-

See *Father Dwomoh*, p. 5



Sister Carol Cimino of Sadlier Publishing kept the attention of diocesan Catholic school faculty and staff during the 14th Annual Catholic Schools Seminar held at the KC Hall in Hallettsville August 12, 2011. She taught about the heroes of U. S. Catholic Schools and gave helpful advice to today's teachers on how to continue being Catholic school heroes.

Catholic schools – made by heroes from throughout history

By Cynthia Brewer,
The Catholic Lighthouse

Some people think history is boring. I doubt they'd think that if they had sat in Sister Carol Cimino's "History of U.S. Catholic Schools" presentation at the 14th Annual Diocese of Victoria Catholic Schools Seminar in Hallettsville on August 12, 2011. And the comments on the evaluations proved she kept their interest.

Veteran Catholic schoolteacher and administrator Sister Carol Cimino, SSJ, Ed. D., taught and entertained 250 diocesan Catholic schools' staff and faculty at the conference titled, "The Hero Teacher in All of Us," sponsored by Sadlier Publishing

and held at the Knights of Columbus Hall in Hallettsville.

Sister Carol has the distinction of being the only woman religious to have been a three-day champion on the television show *Jeopardy!* With the laughter she evoked from the audience by the jokes and funny stories she told her audience of faculty and staff, she might be the only woman religious who could hold her own comedy show.

Superintendent John Quarry made a wise decision when he chose Sister Carol, currently a national consultant for the William H. Sadlier Co., as the guest speaker

See *Catholic schools*, p. 7



Bishop Fellhauer's Schedule

September

3	Sacred Heart School golf tournament, Hallettsville
5	1:00 p.m., St. Joseph School golf tournament, Yoakum
6	10:00 a.m., Texas Bishops' meeting, Oblate Renewal Center, San Antonio
7	10:00 a.m., Diocesan Presbyteral Council meeting, Chancery Office
11	8:30 a.m., Mass, St. Patrick Church, Seadrift 10:30 a.m., Mass, St. Ann Church, Point Comfort 2:00 p.m., Incarnate Word and Blessed Sacrament Associates Consecration, Incarnate Word Chapel, Victoria
14	6:00 p.m., Mass, The Exaltation of the Holy Cross, Equestrian Order of the Holy Sepulchre of Jerusalem, St. Mary Church, Victoria
17	3:30 p.m., Penance service, retreat with Michael Fonseca and 5:00 p.m., Mass, Spiritual Renewal Center
24	9:00 a.m., Registration, Conference for Catechesis and Ministry, Holy Family Activity Center, with Mass at 4:15 p.m., Holy Family Church, Victoria
30	8:10 a.m., School Mass, followed by blessing of Children's Chapel, St. Rose of Lima Church, Schulenburg
October	
4	10:27 a.m., Mass, St. Joseph High School, Victoria
8	10:30 a.m., Mass, Deacons' retreat, Spiritual Renewal Center
10-13	Canon Law Society of America Convention, Jacksonville, Florida

Seminary Burses

Continued from p. 4

— Msgr. Hubert J. Janak
Newly Established Aug. 27, 2011
In memory of Mildred Janak by:

Laverne Weischwill	20.00
Chris and Karen Roznosky & Jenna	5.00
Janie Fikac	5.00
Daniel and Janet Pohl & Family	5.00
Gussie Kelnar	20.00
Elizabeth Keepers	25.00
S.E. & Mary Golsch	10.00
Glenn and Dedie Dobbs	20.00
Frankie and Lucille Klekar	10.00
Jerome and Mary Janak	25.00
Gary and Joyce Bludau	40.00
Gilbert and Mary Urbish	5.00
Joseph and Dorothy Schneider	20.00
Vic and Katherine Kahanek	10.00
Agnes Pustka	20.00
M/M Joe A. Lara	25.00
Melvin and Janet Roeder	20.00
Robert and Sally Janak	10.00
E.J. and Leah Janik & Tyler	300.00
Elias and Peggy Krejci	20.00
Hubert and Elizabeth Janak	25.00
Wilma and David Wagner	10.00
Anthony and Jo Matula	20.00
Arnold and Gene Marie Bohuslav	10.00
Robert and Annette Prochaska	25.00
The Joseph V. Zarsky Family	25.00
Kerry and Diana Bowler	40.00
Peoples State Bank, Hallettsville	10.00
Total	\$780.00

— Rev. Jerome J. Stryk
Previously Reported \$13,844.50
In memory of Agnes Machicek by
Lad and Helen Muras 15.00
Total \$13,859.50

— Rev. Michael Rother
Previously Reported \$4,185.00
In memory Toan (Tony) Nguyen by
Bernard and Madeline Rother 25.00
In honor of Rev. Michael Rother's Birthday
by Richard and Jeanette Allums 25.00
In honor of Rev. Michael Rother's Ordination
by R. L. Allums Family 25.00
Total \$4,260.00

— Frs. Okrulik & Verdarme
Previously Reported \$10,377.89
In Honor of Marvin Hilscher by
M/M Anton Schoener 20.00
In memory of Agnes Machicek by
Edwin and Julie Stryk & Family 25.00
Total \$10,422.89



~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!

"... but the gift of God is eternal life in Christ Jesus our Lord."

Romans 6:23

USCCB Response to September 11

The principal document that outlines the U.S. Bishops' response to the attacks of September 11 is the Pastoral Message: *Living with Faith and Hope After September 11*, which was issued by the full body of bishops in November 2001. This message was the product of intensive work by the International Policy Committee and a subcommittee of bishops and lay experts. This subcommittee, whose members represented diverse areas of expertise and diverse perspectives, met weekly for five weeks to craft this statement.

Reach Out to Those In Need

The first response of the Church was to provide **pastoral and spiritual guidance** and words of healing and consolation for those directly effected by the attacks and for a suffering and traumatized nation. Faith has been awakened in many ways and in many people as a result of the terrorist attacks and faith has sustained our nation in dark times.

Catholics, like other Americans, showed an **overwhelming generosity of spirit** in providing aid to those affected directly or indirectly both in the United States and, through Catholic Relief Services, in Afghanistan.

The bishops and other religious leaders called on Americans to **avoid succumbing to hate, revenge, and violence**, particularly against Arab-Americans and Muslims.

Resolve to Defend Innocent Life and the Common Good

Crimes against humanity. The attacks of September 11th were not just attacks on the United States, but, as Pope John Paul II has said, they were crimes against humanity. The victims came from dozens of countries, and the economic and political repercussions have been global. Those responsible for the attacks may have been motivated by opposition to specific U.S. policies, particularly in the Middle East, but their underlying agenda seems to be a deep antagonism toward Western culture and institutions.

Duty to defend the common good. The U.S., in collaboration with other nations and organizations, has a moral right and a grave obligation to defend the common good against mass terrorism. Therefore, there is a right and duty to seek out and hold accountable, in accord with national and international law, those individuals, groups and governments which are responsible. The real risk that terrorists will use weapons of mass destruction in the future only reinforces the urgency of this task.

Restraint in the Use of Military Force

Non-military means of defending the common good. While military action may be necessary to defend the common good, it is by no means sufficient to deal with this terrorist threat. National leaders bear a heavy moral obligation to see that the full spectrum of non-violent means is employed. From bolstering homeland security and ensuring greater transparency of the financial system to strengthening global cooperation against terrorism, a wide range of non-military measures must be pursued.

Military force may be justified in Afghanistan but U.S. actions must be governed by respect for just war criteria, especially civilian immunity and proportionality. The U.S. must not only act justly but be perceived to be acting justly if it is to succeed in marginalizing terrorists.

Long-term efforts to rebuild Afghanistan: A just war requires a just peace. The U.S. must work with the international community on long-term and sustained efforts to help Afghans rebuild the political, economic, and cultural life of their country after the war. CRS is playing a key role in this effort.

Use of force against Iraq: The Bush administration has reiterated, in a new context and with greater vigor, the long-standing U.S. policy of calling for the removal of Saddam Hussein. While major military strikes do not appear imminent, they would likely be part of a multi-faceted effort to achieve this objective. The USCCB has not addressed these new threats against Iraq, but absent any clear evidence that Iraq was involved in the September 11th attacks or that it represents a clear and present danger to other countries, previous statements by the bishops opposing the use of force against Iraq remain valid.

The Roots of Terrorism

A new sense of solidarity. One function of the bishops' statements on September 11th was to refocus the public debate from military responses to terrorism to long-term efforts to get at the roots of terrorism. After September 11th, Americans better appreciate how injustice and instability in far away lands about which we know and care too little can have a direct impact on our own sense of peace and security.

A broad understanding of security. In dealing with terrorism, a focus on military security is not adequate; a much broader, long-term understanding

See *USCCB Response*, p. 14

DSA & Reflection of Faith Capital Campaign Updates

2011 DSA

Diocesan Goal:	\$ 1,471,384.00
Parish Pledge Totals:	\$ 619,382.54
Parish Contribution Totals:	\$ 562,355.54
Number of Parish Families Participating:	3,425

Reflection of Faith Capital Campaign

Diocesan Goal:	\$ 9,000,000.00
Parish Pledge Totals:	\$ 12,948,316.78
Parish Contribution Totals:	\$ 9,496,179.66
Number of Parish Families Participating:	6,767

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DEADLINE IS THE THIRD TUESDAY OF THE PRECEDING MONTH.



In Memory of ...

Ann Gertrude Hollas, mother of Sr. Amata Hollas, IWBS



EDNA — Ann Gertrude Gerdes Hollas, 97, of Edna, died Aug. 19, 2011. She was born Jan. 6, 1914, in Koerth, to the late Anthony Martin Gerdes and Annie Gertrude Hill. She married Albert John Hollas on Nov. 25, 1935, at St. Agnes Catholic Church. Ann was a homemaker and faithful member of the Legion of Mary and Catholic Daughters Court of St. Therese.

She is survived by five children, (Jeanette) Sister Amata Hollas, IWBS, of Victoria, Bill Hollas and his wife, Bunny, of New Braunfels, Dave Hollas and his wife, Betty, of The Woodlands, Martha Sawyers and her husband, Norman, of Victoria, and Dan Hollas and his wife, Kathy, of San Antonio; nine grandchildren, Michael Hollas, Brad Hollas, Paul Hollas and his wife, Lindsey, Beth Ann Andrews and her husband, Kevin, Jill Hollas, Rachel Markum and her husband, Cleve, Becky

Johnson and her husband, Tom, Catherine Sawyers, and Emily Hollas; and three great-grandchildren, Jackson, Kendall, and Matthew Hollas; one brother, Tony Gerdes of Edna; four sister-in-laws and many nieces and nephews.

She was preceded in death by Albert Hollas, her husband of 57 years; parents, Anthony and Annie Gertrude Gerdes; five sisters, Pearl Mascheck, Bessie Gerdes, Ursula Staggs, Mary Ann Weigand and Therese Wileman; and six brothers, William Gerdes, Joe Gerdes, Louis Gerdes, Jerome Gerdes, Benedict Gerdes and Paul Gerdes.

A rosary was recited on Monday, Aug. 22, 2011, at St. Agnes Catholic Church with the Funeral Mass following with the Rev. Michael Petering officiating. Interment was at Memory Gardens of Edna.

In lieu of flowers, memorial contributions may be made to St. Agnes Catholic Church, 506 North Allen Street, Edna, Texas 77957, or Nazareth Convent, 105 W. Church St., Victoria, Texas 77901.

No lack of resources available to prepare Catholics for new missal

By Nancy Frazier O'Brien
Catholic News Service

WASHINGTON (CNS) — As Catholics look toward Nov. 27, when the new edition of the Roman Missal goes into use in the United States, there is no lack of resources to help them prepare for the new sound and feel of the liturgy.

Dozens of books and brochures have been published or are in the works, along with many DVDS and audiotapes aimed at specific audiences — from priests to teens to elementary school students.

But how can average Catholics know what the best resources are for their particular circumstances?

Father Richard Hilgartner, executive director of the U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops' Secretariat on Divine Worship, advises people to look to their pastors, diocesan worship offices or Catholic bookstores for recommendations.

"Anything will ultimately be helpful in some way," he told Catholic News Service. "But some materials are more targeted at different age groups and audiences."

He does not recommend that Catholics get their information about implementation of the new missal exclusively from the blogosphere, however.

Much of the liturgical information on popular Catholic blogs is "not fact but opinion," he said. "And it is hard to discern what is helpful."

Some of the resources are designed to work best in an adult religious education or small-group faith formation program.

Ascension Press, for example, has released *A Biblical Walk Through the Mass*, a five-part DVD series, book and workbook, along with a 20-page *Guide to the New Translation of the Mass*, which includes a pull-out reference card detailing the new responses by the people at various parts of the Mass.

"Perhaps more than any other time in recent history, people's attention will be focused on the Mass," said Catholic theologian Edward Sri, who wrote *A Biblical Walk Through the Mass* and the briefer guide. "This is an excellent opportunity for catechesis and faith formation."

The Essential Guide to Catholic Prayer and the Mass, written by Catholic columnist Mary DeTurris Poust and published by Alpha Books, has a similar goal.

In addition to describing the upcoming Mass changes, it "offers devoted Catholics a way to explore prayer styles never been considered, and non-Catholics or Catholics on the edge a look into a world that can

seem mysterious and intimidating," according to a news release about the book.

Among other new books aimed primarily at adult Catholics are: *Understanding the Mass: 100 Questions, 100 Answers*, written by Mike Aquilina, executive vice president of the St. Paul Center for Biblical Theology, and published by Servant Books; *The Mass in Scripture* by Catholic biblical scholar Stephen J. Binz and published by Our Sunday Visitor; and *Mass Revision: How the Liturgy Is Changing and What It Means for You* by Catholic author Jimmy Akin and published by Catholic Answers.

That does not mean there aren't ample resources available for other ages.

Life Teen, the Arizona-based national program for Catholic teenagers, recently introduced *Word for Word*, a book and DVD designed to update high school students, middle schoolers and their parents about the coming changes.

For younger children, Liturgy Training Publications has published *What's New About the Mass* by Maureen Kelly for third- to seventh-graders with an accompanying handbook for teachers and catechists. Liguori Publications has a four-page brochure called *Going to Mass with Roman Missal* by Father Joe Weiss, explaining the upcoming changes in simple language.

Seven publishers — Catholic Book Publishing Corporation in Totowa, N.J.; Liturgical Press in Collegeville, Minn.; Liturgy Training Publications in Chicago; Magnificat in Yonkers, N.Y.; Midwest Theological Forum in Woodridge, Ill.; USCCB Communications in Washington; and World Library Publications in Franklin Park, Ill. — have been authorized to print the new missal, with completion expected by Oct. 1.

Many of them also are offering preparatory materials on the missal through special Web sites. The bishops' divine worship secretariat also has a variety of resources available at www.usccb.org/romanmissal.

Each publisher has a slightly different emphasis, however, Father Hilgartner said. Liturgy Training Publications and Liturgical Press are focusing on catechetical resources and resources for priests, he said, while Magnificat has an emphasis on personal devotional material and World Library Publications has a special interest in hymnals and other musical aids for worship.

For further information, please call Cynthia Goerig, director of Victoria Diocese's Liturgical Commission at (979) 543-5706 or e-mail cag1@sbcglobal.net.



75-YEAR PIN AWARDED TO ADOLPH MATOCHA—On July 17 State Officer Kevin Kana and Hostyn Society #3 officers had the honor of presenting a 75-year membership pin to Adolph Matocha, who resides at the La Grange Monument Hill Nursing Home. Members that were there for the presentation were: (front row) Ben Janda, recipient Adolph Matocha, and State Officer Kevin Kana; back row: Vice President Patrick Janda, Gregory Matocha, son of Adolph Matocha; and President Benedict Kallus. Not pictured were Patsy Janda and Dianna Kallus.



75-YEAR PIN AWARDED TO VIT B. JANDA—State Officer Kevin Kana presented a 75-year membership pin to Hostyn Society #3 member Vit B. Janda from Bellville, who attended the meeting held on July 17 at the Hostyn Parish Hall. Pictured are (front row) Vice President Patrick Janda, Ben Janda, brother of Vit B. Janda, Vit B. Janda (center), wife Gertie Janda, and President Benedict Kallus; back row: Chaplain, Deacon John McCourt, Treasurer Theo Svec, Secretary Ted Hoffmann and State Officer Kevin Kana.



Father Bryan Heyer, pastor of St. Anthony of Padua in Palacios, was Sir Knighted at the El Campo Knights of Columbus Fourth Degree 2011 summer exemplification on June 18, 2011. The following day he was presented with his etched sword, scabbard and service baldric. Pictured with Sir Knight Father Bryan is, l-r, Sir Knight Robert Torres and Sir Knight Joe Reyna.



Raffle Prize
Not exact bike

138th Annual Parish Picnic

St. Joseph Church, Inez

**Sunday, September 11
Inez Community Center**

Fried Chicken, Brisket, Sausage Dinner
Plates-to-go starts at 10:30 a.m./ Dine-in starts at 11:00 a.m. @ \$8 p/p

Auction at 1:00 p.m.

**Kids' Games • Country Store • Cakewalk
Silent Auction • And More!**

~ Raffle ~ Half Call ~ Flat Screen TV ~ Rod & Reel ~ Gift Cards

Come Out And Join The Fun!!!!!!



Three seminarians study Spanish in preparation for priesthood

This summer, three of the Diocese of Victoria seminarians spent eight weeks in Antigua, Guatemala, studying Spanish and spending free time with more than a dozen other seminarians, eight of whom were from the Austin Diocese and three from Charlotte, N.C.

Scott Hill, Jacob Koether and Matthew Soto studied Spanish while living in an orphanage called Las Obras Sociales. Each had different experiences, but overall they were thankful for the time spent in Guatemala. Following are reflections of each of these seminarians.

Scott Hill, St. Roch Parish, Mentz



This past summer, I had the opportunity to study Spanish in Antigua, Guatemala, for eight weeks as part of my preparation for the priesthood. Seminarians study Spanish for a summer after their first year of theology studies. The school I attended had class for four hours in the morning and two hours in the afternoon. It was long, but pleasant work.

What touched me the most about living in Guatemala was seeing how happy are the people. Guatemala is a third-world country. Therefore, the people do not really have a lot of material possessions, but they are genuinely happy. Simplicity is something overlooked in our society because we are constantly bombarded with the latest technology, and there is a tendency to simply live for possessions. In Guatemala, because the people cannot afford superfluous items, there is not a feeling that they must own the newest item and are happy with what they have.

Overall, my summer was enjoyable, and this August I begin my second year as a seminarian of the Diocese of Victoria.

Jacob Koether, Holy Cross Parish, Bay City



My trip in Guatemala was a good one. Eight weeks out of the country can be difficult no matter where you go or what you're doing, but I still enjoyed myself. Most of what I did was study Spanish for five-and-a-half hours every weekday at a beautiful school a couple blocks away from where we were living.

Though I was not able to do much besides classes, one of the things that I was able to participate in was the religious festivities that frequently occurred. On the feast of Corpus Christi, for instance, there was a procession around the city with flowers made into different designs scattered throughout the street. Men setting off fireworks followed us the whole way while a band played different traditional

songs. Their very vibrant and extraverted way of worshipping made me realize how often I take my religion for granted here in America.

What the summer did for me as a whole was solidify me in my identity as a seminarian. Being able to spend time with other seminarians, praying, going to Mass everyday and being involved in something that was particularly for my formation as a priest, helped me better grasp what it means to be a seminarian. I am very grateful for having this opportunity.

Matthew Soto, Sts. Cyril & Methodius, Parish, Shiner



My time in Guatemala was a very rewarding experience, but it was very difficult spending eight weeks in a country where I could not speak the language very well. So some days I was so tired of learning, but we had to continue taking classes. This forced me to be patient and learn some humility, and after a few weeks in the new country I could appreciate my time in Guatemala.

Guatemala is a country that revolves around religion. The people there had such faith and obviously turned to God for everything. Seeing how integral religion was to their life helped me to turn to God more. God is a part of their everyday lives and it caused me to try and turn to God in all facets of my life.

Guatemala was very similar to the seminary in the aspect that the other seminarians and I said morning and evening prayers together. We went to Mass daily and got to know each other much better. I found myself very fortunate to spend my time in Guatemala with other guys who are striving to do God's will. Going to Guatemala allowed me to build camaraderie with the other seminarians that I would have missed if I had not gone. Therefore, I am very thankful for my time in Guatemala, but am even more thankful to be back here studying for the priesthood.

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 August 30, 2011

— General Seminary Burse		TOTALS
Previously Reported	\$98,434.00	
In memory of O'Tillie Brezina Sacky by Richard and Judy Sacky	1000.00	
Donation by Elizabeth Hawes	1000.00	
Total	\$100,434.00	

— CDA #1374 Queen Of Peace	
Previously Reported	\$5,652.72
In memory of Jessie Pavlicek by Catherine Drapela	25.00
In memory of Allene Jensen by Merrill and Cecilia Schramm	10.00
Total	\$5,687.12

— Rev. John C. Bily	
Previously Reported	\$9,159.00
In Honor of Rev. John C. Bily's Birthday by Mary and Martin Luchak	100.00
In Memory of Joe Vesely by M/M Franklin Addicks	25.00
In Memory of William J. Henneke by Annie and Mary Ann Henneke	50.00
In Memory of Beatrice Helmcamp by M/M Franklin Addicks	10.00
In Memory of Joe Hartensteiner by Annie Henneke	10.00
In Memory of Lavernia "Sissy" Charbula by K&R Sestak & Family	25.00
In memory of Grace Vacek by James and Barbara Janak	25.00
In memory of William J. Henneke by M/M Franklin Addicks	50.00
In honor of Mary & Martin Luchak 50th Anniv. by Josephine Peters	50.00
In honor of Martin & Mary Luchak 50th Anniv. by M/M Addicks	25.00
Total	\$9,529.00

— Rev. Msgr. Benton Thurmond	
Previously Reported	\$2,025.00
In memory of Rev. Msgr. Benton Thurmond by CDA Court #2475	100.00
Total	\$2,125.00

— CDA #369 St. Ann Burse #2	
Previously Reported	\$8,573.99
In Memory of Lamar Vela by Otto and JoAnn Bleier	25.00
In memory of Benita Janecek Bordovsky by JoAnn and Otto Bleier	25.00
Total	\$8,623.99

— Reverend John C. Peters Burse #5	
Previously Reported	\$1,194.00
In Memory of Fr. Henry Rolf and Msgr. Anthony Drozd by Fr. John C. Peters	20.00
In memory of Marilyn Bludau Marikle by Willie Borborak	10.00
Gift from Sacred Heart Federal Credit Union	1000.00
Total	\$2,224.00

Seminary Burses Continue on p. 2

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

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

Happy Birthday!

Jacob Koether will be a Theology II student at St. Mary Seminary in Houston. His home parish is Holy Cross, Bay City, and his birthday is September 14. Please show your support for this seminarian by writing to: Jacob Koether, St. Mary Seminary, 9845 Memorial Drive, Houston, TX 77024-3407.



To Philip Brune, the seminary is like a woodshop

I've been asked many times, "So what's seminary like?"

Being a woodworker I'd compare it to a woodshop — it helps me to begin to look at and cut away those parts of me that don't allow me to be the man God knows I can be.

Seminary has sent me through the planer and helped to shape me so that I can begin to be a man who helps build up the Church. Warped studs and 2X6's don't make good walls for God's Church, yet it's amazing because God still uses my flawed self.

Now all of this shaping, this formation, does not mean the seminary only turns out 2X4's. Each of us who are called to be priests is different and so the seminary shapes us and develops our particular gifts.

I have different gifts other seminarians don't have and they have gifts I don't have. That's pretty awesome because all these gifts will be shared with God's people. When we nail all of our gifts together we begin to become the Church God wants us to be and we become who we truly are.

Some of the tools the seminary uses are intellectual education, spiritual growth, pastoral growth and growth as humans.

Our education in philosophy and theology help us see that everyone has a philosophy and theology we live by and it affects every aspect of our lives, whether we know it or not.

Our spiritual growth is the heart of who we are as people. It's like sanding down a piece of wood and then being able to clearly see all of the beautiful grain patterns.

Spiritual growth helps me to see who I am and who God is as he works in my life.

Human growth in the seminary helps me to be a human, so that, simply put, I am not obnoxious (a feat in and of itself — just ask my siblings).

Finally, pastoral education helps me to grow as a shepherd, as a father, who will one day be helping people take care of the one thing that will never die — their souls.

There is a lot of chiseling, cutting and sanding that happens in the seminary, but it's not something that is done to me. This shaping is something the formatters, the carpenters at the seminary, help me to do so I can be with and serve God's people.

Philip is in Theology III. His parish is Sts. Peter & Paul in Frelsburg. He may be written to at: St. Mary Seminary, 9845 Memorial Drive, Houston, TX 77024-3407



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Sister Digna Vela, IWBS, and chancery staff celebrate her birthday and her completion of a three-year graduate program in Spiritual Direction and Directed Retreats. From left are pictured Christella Alvarez, Melissa Gutierrez and Sister Digna, all with the Catechetical office; Jamie Stirneman, with Catholic Cemeteries; and Irene Marler, with Tribunal and Chancellor's offices.

Chancery staff celebrates Sister Digna's graduation and birthday

Sister Digna Vela, IWBS, director of the Diocesan Catechetical Office completed a three-year graduate program in Spiritual Direction and Directed Retreats from Creighton, a Jesuit University in Omaha, Nebraska, where she earned a graduate certificate. The staff celebrated this accomplishment on August 16, Sister Digna's birthday, with a cake and ice cream social.

Creighton University's Christian Spirituality Program, one of the first and oldest programs in the United States for training and forming spiritual directors, began over 38 years ago. Its many students and graduates throughout the years have come from the United States and numerous foreign countries.

When asked what she plans to do with this graduate certificate Sister Digna replied, "I am open to whatever God wants me to do with this knowledge and training. I hope to continue to be a spiritual director at the Amor Meus Spirituality Center in Victoria sponsored by the Sisters of the Incarnate Word and Blessed Sacrament and also to give directed retreats at Amor Meus and at the Diocese of Victoria Renewal Center."

When asked to explain what exactly spiritual direction entails, Sister answered, "Spiritual direction is not counseling, giving advice, or psychotherapy. Spiritual direction is the process of accompanying

people on a spiritual journey in a context that emphasizes growing closer to God. The emphasis is on helping the directee develop a good prayer life and relationship with God. Sometimes a director may suggest forms of prayer and readings that might help the person on their spiritual journey. People who go for spiritual direction usually meet with their director once a month for an hour. There is not a fee for spiritual direction; however, people usually offer a stipend or donation."

Sister Digna has been trained to give directed retreats. What exactly is a directed retreat and how does it differ from other retreats such as ACTS? Conference or preached retreats such as ACTS are aimed at the general situation of a number of people. On the other hand, individually directed retreats are silent retreats tailored to suit the unique calling and experience of an individual through the assistance of an experienced spiritual guide. Once daily while on the retreat, a retreatant will meet individually with the director. The rest of the time is spent in meditation and other activities designed to deepen an awareness of God and one's relationship with God.

Anyone interested in spiritual direction or directed retreats can call Sister Digna at (361) 573-0828 or e-mail her at dvla@victoriadiocese.org to get more information or to set up an appointment to talk about this.

Father Dwomoh Celebrates Silver Jubilee

Continued from p. 1

dies from a Ghanaian choir who have sung all around the world. They performed at the reception and many of Father Charles' Ghanaian friends, including priests, joined in dancing.

"I just can't describe it," said Father Charles' secretary, Margaret Zahn.

"We surprised him by inviting his cousin, Michael, who now lives in Florida. Normally, Father Charles does not like surprises," she said, "but this one, he really enjoyed."

Father Charles was born in Kumasi,

the second largest city in Ghana. He was ordained to the priesthood on July 19, 1986, and served the Catholic Church in Ghana for three years before coming to the United States in 1989.

He served as an associate pastor for one year in the Diocese of Pensacola-Tallahassee, FL., before coming to Victoria, Texas, in 1992. He was incardinated into the Diocese of Victoria in 1995.

He served as an associate pastor at St. Mary's Parish, Victoria, from Nov. 1992 to Feb. 1993, and Our Lady of Victory Cathedral, Victoria, from February 1993 to January 1998.

He served as pastor at St. Anthony of Padua Church in Palacios from Jan. 1998 to August 2010. In August 2010, he was appointed pastor of St. John the Baptist Parish in Hungerford.

Father Charles is a naturalized U. S. citizen, and he is very proud to be an American. He always thanks God for calling him to serve the Kingdom of God as a priest. He is very much dedicated to the promotion of respect for the human dignity of every person.

"I live by faith in the Son of God who loved me and died for me" (Gal. 2:20).



Above are some of Father Charles' friends in traditional Ghanaian attire.



Pictured from left to right are priests of Czech descent who attended at the latest Czech American Priest Association (CAPA) meeting in Georgetown, Texas, August 2 - 3. Fathers William Straten, Ed Karasek, Bob Kincl, Louis Pavlicek, Stephen Duyka, Deacons Karel Janu (Diocese of Brno), Martin Sekanina (Archdiocese of Olomouc), Father Joe Hybner - vice president (Flatonia), Deacon Jan Zelenka (Diocese of Ostrava), Fathers Emilian Foltyn, Stephen Nesrsta, and John Peters - treasurer (Hallettsville). Absent from the photo is Bishop Pat Zurek, president of CAPA.

Diocesan priests attend CAPA meeting

GEORGETOWN—Priests of Czech descent met at the latest Czech American Priest Association (CAPA) meeting at St. Helen Parish in Georgetown, Texas, August 2-3, 2011. From the Diocese of Victoria, Father John Peters of Sacred Heart Parish in Hallettsville and Father Joe Hybner of Sacred Heart Parish in Flatonia attended the meeting, which included the celebration of Mass and a luncheon and social time.

Three Czech deacons, who will be ordained priests in the spring of 2012 also attended the meeting. The three young men from the Czech Republic were visiting under the sponsorship of Father Stephen Nesrsta of Fayetteville. CAPA helps with this program also.

The objectives of CAPA are to foster fraternity, unity, solidarity and mutual support of Czech-American priests to deepen their spirituality and understanding of

Czech history; to collaborate with Czech bishops for renewal and preservation of liturgical customs, traditions and heritage of the Czech people; to foster understanding and appreciation of the valued traditions and customs of the Czech ancestors in faith; to collaborate with Czech Catholic organizations to promote faith-filled Catholic family life; to promote the Czech language and history through courses in high schools, colleges, universities and cities; to promote and encourage Czech music and song at churches, festivals, family reunions and in the home; to promote the rich, educational and social history of Czech-American communities; to promote religious vocations and lay ministries within the Czech-American communities; and to have an exchange program of priests and seminarians between the Czech Republic and the United States.



SEMINARIANS AND RELIGIOUS ENJOY SERRAN COOKOUT—This summer, before the seminarians and religious in formation of the diocese had to return to school, the Serra Club Northwest hosted the summer hamburger cookout at St. Mary's, St. Mary (Hallettsville). The Aug. 9 evening was also attended by Serra Club of Victoria members along with the religious sisters, priests and family members of those being honored.

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

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No Limit (Country/Rock 6:00 P.M. til?)

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POPE GREETES YOUTHS AS HE ARRIVES FOR WORLD YOUTH DAY VIGIL IN MADRID—Pope Benedict XVI greets young people as he arrives for the World Youth Day vigil service at Cuatro Vientos airfield in Madrid Aug. 20. (CNS photo/Susana Vera, Reuters)

Youths welcome pope to WYD; he asks them to think about faith

By Cindy Wooden, Catholic News Service

MADRID (CNS) — Formally welcomed to World Youth Day by a boisterous, flag-waving throng of hundreds of thousands of young people from around the world, Pope Benedict XVI encouraged their enthusiasm but also urged them to be strong, solid and think about their faith.

The pope greeted the youths in Spanish, French, English, German, Italian, Portuguese and Polish.

In English, he expressed his hopes that “these days of prayer, friendship and celebration” would “bring us closer to each other and to the Lord Jesus. Make trust in Christ’s word the foundation of your lives.”

After the Gospel was sung in English, the pope gave the youths an in-depth introduction to the World Youth Day theme, “Rooted and Built up in Jesus Christ, Firm in the Faith.”

The pope said that some words simply amuse or inform, but the words of Jesus “must reach our hearts, take root and bloom there all our lives.”

He asked the young to listen to God’s word and allow it to become “a rule of life which likens us — poor in spirit, thirsting for justice, merciful, pure in heart, lovers of peace — to the person of Christ.”

World Youth Day is an opportunity to know Christ better and “to make sure that, rooted in him, your enthusiasm and happiness, your desire to go further, to reach the heights, even God himself, always hold a sure future, because the fullness of life has already been placed within you,” he said.

The pope asked the young to be steadfast in faith, but also know that “in the face of our weaknesses which sometimes over-

whelm us, we can rely on the mercy of the Lord who is always ready to help us again and who offers us pardon in the sacrament of penance.”

He said some people “take it upon themselves to decide what is true or not, what is good and evil, what is just and unjust; who should live and who can be sacrificed in the interests of other preferences.”

Such people claim to be living a life free from every constraint, but their lives have no mooring and no clear horizon, he said: They are lost.

The 84-year-old pope urged the young people to be “prudent and wise, build your lives upon the firm foundation which is Christ” so that “nothing will make you fear, and peace will reign in your hearts.”

“Then you will be blessed and happy and your happiness will influence others,” he said. “They will wonder what the secret of your life is” and they, too, will discover Christ, “your friend, brother and Lord, the Son of God incarnate, who gives meaning to all the universe.”

After reviewing his trip to Madrid for World Youth Day at the Aug. 24 weekly general audience at Castel Gandolfo, Italy, Pope Benedict announced the themes he has chosen to guide the reflections of young Catholics next year on a diocesan level and in Rio de Janeiro in 2013.

The 2012 theme will be, “Rejoice in the Lord Always.” The theme for the international gathering with the pope in Rio, he said, will be: “Go and Make Disciples of All Nations.” The Vatican decided not to wait three years for the international gathering because in 2014 Brazil is scheduled to host the World Cup soccer tournament and will have its hands full.

Setting the Record Straight About World Youth Day

By Christopher Stefanick

Denver pilgrims got front row seats to the riots that took place in Madrid to protest World Youth Day. They broke out just outside of our hotel. Thankfully, no one was hurt.

The incident was spun by many mainstream news outlets around the world with the same choice words. Google “lavish party for the Pope” and you’ll be amazed at the lack of originality in reporting. To cite one outlet, the Denver Post posited that “Thousands of protesters...took to Madrid’s streets to decry the expense of a rock festival-style, million-strong youth party for Pope Benedict XVI at a time of economic crisis...in time for lavish World Youth Day celebrations.”

The spin accomplished by this reporting gives me media induced vertigo. To set the record straight, in case you were successfully spun: World Youth Days is not a luxurious party for a megalomaniacal octogenarian that drains a different nation’s economy every three years.

Anyone who has been to a World Youth Day would chuckle at the choice of the word “lavish” to describe the experience. Have you ever waited 90-minutes to use a portapotty? I have! Only at World Youth Day. It’s a pilgrimage in the truest sense. While vacations are for rest and luxury (if you can afford the latter), pilgrimages tend to be packed with redemptive suffering. This can be especially true at a World Youth Day. Even if pilgrims attempt to avoid austerity, it has a way of finding you when you’re in a crowd one million strong. There’s simply no way for a city to gracefully accommodate such numbers. World Youth Day pilgrims are often hungry, thirsty, tired and without access to bathrooms, among other basic necessities. Though miraculously they’re usually smiling!

As for World Youth Day being a “party for the Pope,” you’d be hard-pressed to find a single pilgrim who would describe the purpose of his trip in those terms—the Pope included. Labeling it a “party for the Pope” is like labeling the Democratic National Convention that took place in Denver a “party for Obama.” World Youth Day is a celebration of Catholic youth with the Pope. Are they excited about the Pope? You bet! But that’s a far cry from the occasion being a party “for” him.

And as far as World Youth Days hurting the economies of host cities, nothing could be further from the truth. According to the executive director of World Youth Day Madrid, Yago de la Cierva, not a dime of the event’s expenses came from the taxpayers of Madrid. Thirty percent was from donations and 70 percent from fees the pilgrims paid. But the irony is that even if protestors were correct about the source of the funding, some basic math would reveal that they still have no good reason to protest. World Youth Day brings in about one million visitors who spend at least \$20 per day for at least six days. That’s a minimum of \$120 million—though event organizers estimate that World Youth Day will pump \$144 million into the local economy. Even if the city had put \$70 million into the event, it would have doubled on the investment for its people. Perhaps the rioters should turn their anger toward math illiteracy.

Only a people steeped in the dogmas of the “culture of death”—wherein humans are always seen as a “drain”—would overlook the obvious financial blessings of a crowd one million strong.

The good news is that even if a riot is thousands strong and reaches a violent pitch, if it happens in a crowd of a million, most of those present won’t even notice it! This was the case in Madrid. While our Denver pilgrims had the unfortunate experience of getting a bird’s-eye view of the riots, most pilgrims weren’t even aware it was happening. The culture of death was muted by the sheer multitude of joyful Catholic young people celebrating the beauty and universality of their faith.

Along those lines, it could well be that this article is your first wind of any bad press at all about World Youth Day. That’s understandable. If you Google “World Youth Day,” there’s so much Catholic news, positive press and so many youth group Web sites that it takes several pages to find a negative story from mainstream media.

Maybe what constitutes “mainstream” is changing. A million youth that just got home from Spain probably think so.

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

Come and See with the Sisters of the Holy Spirit and Mary Immaculate in SA

Have you ever wondered what life in a convent is like and how sisters live, work and spread the Gospel? The Sisters of the Holy Spirit and Mary Immaculate would like to give you this opportunity to get an inside view of their life in the convent. The Sisters of the Holy Spirit and Mary Immaculate live and work among the people to whom they have ministered since their founding in 1893. These ministries are in Texas, Louisiana, Mississippi, Mexico and Zambia, Africa.

In an effort to increase vocations to religious life and to their community, the Sisters are hosting a “Come and See” event at the Motherhouse, 200 Yucca St., San Antonio, Tx 78203, on October 21-23, 2011, to give discerning women

(ages 18-45) an opportunity to experience “life in a convent situation.” During the weekend, these women enjoy community prayer, small group sharing, discernment themes, personal reflection, an Emmaus Walk, recreation, meals and other activities with the Sisters.

Registration on-line is available on the Web site www.shsp.org (under “What’s New?”) or contact Sister Gabriel at (210) 533-5149 or at sghession@hotmail.com.

Come & See Visit for Women Discerning Religious Life

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 September 17 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. We’ll be waiting for your response.

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Catholic schools are made from history and heroes

Continued from p. 1

of this year's conference, as she was able to not only share her knowledge with the staff of the 15 diocesan Catholic schools, but kept them entertained for three sessions throughout the day.

"This was fantastic, interesting, informative and entertaining," said one participant.

"[She] kept our interest, see the relevance for us to know that past to continue the future," said another.

"We are Heroic Teachers!" Sister Carol began by asking all the teachers, "How many of you are here for the money?" Of course that question brought a lot of laughter. "It's never been about the money," she said. "It's about the kids, and I can teach them about Jesus and there's little the government can do about it."

She reminded the teachers, "Wherever you are, you're a Catholic schoolteacher, a witness; pay attention," Sister Carol said. "For kids, the Catholic schoolteacher has to be the Catholic schoolteacher 'All the Time'."

"They scrutinize you – watch you. In the end we're really teaching ourselves. There are not enough real people in kids' lives."

"And finally, you are people of the Spirit," she said. "Out of our mouths should come wisdom, and if you listen to the Spirit, it will. Unless we're open to the Holy Spirit, we can't instill wisdom to the students."

"So you are heroes," she said. "In America, we talk about Heroes."

She gave the history of Catholic education in the United States, stating that, "Before there was a United States of America, there were Catholic schools here."

Sister Carol described how the Catholic schools were founded for immigrants. The schools were structured to prepare immigrant children for menial jobs: housekeeping, maids and nannies, or to work on the railroads, canals or fields, and they taught trades.

"Laymen originally staffed Catholic schools, for there weren't any religious sisters teaching at first," she said. "There were no tuitions; people bartered with food or offered to build the schools and the churches. Schools were built first even before the church. Church was often held in the school until the church building could be built."

Public schools were teaching Protestantism. If the Catholic Church was to maintain the faith, they had to provide their own schools for the children.

Sister Carol listed heroes and heroines of Catholic education beginning with Junipero Serra, who educated the American Indians in missions on the West Coast. Katharine Drexel also taught American Indians and African Americans. Catholics taught those no one else would teach. Others included Elizabeth Ann Seton, Bishop John Neumann, Sister Francis Cabrini and Sister Rose Philippine Duchesne. These heroes and heroines opened scores of schools and hospitals throughout the United States.

The first Catholic school opened in 1640 in Maryland. In 1727, the Ursulines opened the first school for girls in New Orleans; it's the oldest Catholic school in the U.S. still operating.

"We were an embattled Church – a stranger in a strange land," Sister Carol said. There was anti-Catholicism; for example, newspapers ran anti-Catholic cartoons, and in 1834, mobs turned on a nun and tarred and feathered a priest. Catholic churches and schools were burned down.

Then a controversy within the Church came about in the late 1880s among conservative and liberal Catholics as to whether Catholic schools were still needed. Liberals believed that in order to survive, Catho-

lics needed to assimilate as Americans; whereas, conservatives argued that if the schools shut down, Catholics would lose their faith.

The 3rd Plenary Council of Baltimore confirmed the absolute necessity of parochial schools "and the obligation of pastors to establish them. Parents must send their children to such schools unless the bishop should judge the reason for sending them elsewhere to be sufficient" (title VI).

After this last plenary council, there was an explosion of Catholic schools.

"Then came the nuns," Sister Carol said.

Sisters provided the growth of Catholic schools. They could staff the schools, they were educated, they were cheap to hire, and they lived on the premises and took orders from the bishop. The religious sisters were also self-sustaining: they taught people lace making and gave music and French lessons to raise funds for the schools."

"By 1965, 96 percent of Catholic schoolteachers were religious men and women and they taught 6.5 million students in about 14,000 schools," she stated.

"Catholic education has always rested on the quality of instruction provided, and our history involved struggle and change," Sister Carol summarized. "We presumed that the Church would stay the same – that the nuns would always be there and could provide cheap labor," she added.

She then detailed the legal battles pertaining to a supposed separation of church and state and government dollars going to fund private schools – from government funds for textbooks and school busing, to the sharing of school buildings and teachers.

Sister Carol showed how the Catholic schools had to fight to remain in existence

beginning with the Blaine Amendment of the mid 1870s, to Agostini Vs. Felton in 1997.

Often the Church won these battles if it was proven that the funds were helping children, not Catholic schools.

With the social revolution of the 1960s, other struggles came to Catholic schools. There was a decline in church attendance, and there was a decline in the profession of women religious as more opportunities became available to women.

Multiple Catholic schools have closed in the past 50 years. In 1965 there were about 14,000 Catholic schools; today there are fewer than 7,500. In a four-year period in the 1970s, 20 percent of schools closed.

"In 1991, it was realized that Catholic schools do it best," Sister Carol commented, "but schools continue to close – 50 to 70 per year."

"You don't know where you're going unless you know where you've been," she said. "We have to go back and see what 'started us.' We need to examine and reclaim ownership."

"What Catholic schools do really well is blend curriculum with faith - academic excellence integrated with values," Sister Carol pointed out. "Catholic schools have a family atmosphere, care for the child as an individual, and have structure, safety and discipline."

She closed this session cheering, "They're happy, they're smiling and still wearing their plaid! I hope you have a greater appreciation of Catholic schools."

"Sister Cimino was an excellent presenter!," said a participant. "She was so funny, kept my attention and truly gave me the inspiration to teach and made me proud to be at a Catholic school."



The Diocese of Victoria Library and Media Center was begun in 1991 in order to serve the people of the 50 parishes and 19 missions of the diocese, which are located in a nine-county area. Since most people in the diocese are not able to come to the library to check out materials during regular business hours, the library is automated and accessible at the diocesan Web site www.victoriadiocese.org. This is a valuable and needed service for the people in the Victoria Diocese.

The library houses an excellent collection of books and videos on spirituality, Scripture, prayer, liturgy, catechetical topics, morality, saints, Church documents and many more topics not readily available at a public library or book store. The General Directory for Catechesis states, "The means of social communication have become so important as to be for the

many the chief means of information and education ... For this reason, in addition to the numerous traditional means in use, the media has become essential for evangelization and catechesis."

Each year a Library Agreement is offered to parishes and schools through the Diocese of Victoria Library and Media Center in order to help individual parishes from having to purchase audio-visual resources, thus defraying costs for them. The Library Agreement allows for all catechists, teachers, and those in ministry in Catholic schools and parishes to check out videos (VHS or DVD) for educational and instructional purposes at no charge. Call (361) 573-0828 for additional information on how to become a patron of the library or come by and visit the library Monday – Friday, 8:30 a.m. - 4:30 p.m.

THE FINAL SESSION OF THE DAY CONCENTRATED ON THE CHARACTERISTICS OF A HERO.

"A hero has to have a mission and a quest," remarked Sister Carol. "And to be a teacher, one must have a vocation," she added.

She compared the quest of a teaching vocation to the Annunciation of the birth of Christ to the Blessed Mother, which included receiving a "Heavenly Visitation," "Reaction of Fear and Awe," "A Glimpse of the Future Outcome," "Objection from the Hero – in the question of How?" and "Assurance of Divine Accompaniment."

We have school mission statements, she said, "What about us, we need our own personal mission statement."

One must ask oneself, "Why am I on this earth, what am I to do? Then line up your mission with the mission of the school, the Church and Jesus ... 'That they may have life and have it more abundantly.'"

A hero also has to hit the road and stretch beyond that feeling of safety. To do this, Sister Carol advised the heroes to pay attention to the leader and noted, "The leader should take us where we would never have gone alone. You'll need to make friends along the way. To assist us, we need to get a mentor, a teacher who's been teaching for a long time. Cultivate a circle of friends and contribute to your community of friends."

"A hero also has to meet monsters," she exclaimed. "Sometimes those monsters are our own fears of inadequacies. We need to get comfortable with our choices: we need to kill those monsters or live with them," she continued.

One way to kill the monster is to confront doubts. She explained, "One must ask oneself, 'Am I the right person for the job? Will I be able to meet all the students' needs, maintain a healthy lifestyle, and spend time with my family and friends?'"

She continued, "One must then complete the mission – return home. To do this, ask yourself, 'How will I know that I've completed the mission? Is it this year? How do I look at my life and my vocation now? How differently has it changed the way I see the kids, life and faith?'"

"And finally, a hero has to have a song," she said. "It's good to have a song to share with the community."

She led the audience of teachers and faculty in singing her hero's song, *Side by Side* by Harry Woods.

"Oh, we ain't got a barrel of money, maybe we're ragged and funny, but we'll travel along, singing a song, side by side. Don't know what's comin' tomorrow, maybe it's trouble and sorrow, but we'll travel the road, sharing our load, side by side ..."

Shiner Catholic School Fall Festival

Sunday, October 2
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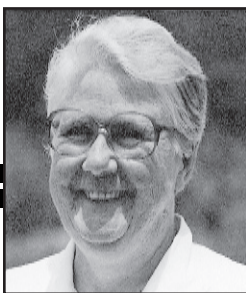
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SISTERLY THOUGHTS

By Sister Mildred Truchard, IWBS



Letting our Light Shine as Incarnate Word Sisters and Associates

The Eighth Incarnate Word National Reunion is now a part of history and things are just about back to normal; however, we the Sisters and Associates involved, will never be the same. The intense days of liturgies, talks, and mingling have enriched us. We have seen how the Holy Spirit is working through the Church and through the Sisters of the Incarnate Word and their Associates in various parts of the world. Representatives of Incarnate Word groups, who have members serving in North and South America, Africa, and Europe, illustrate the growth of the order that Venerable Jeanne Chezard de Matel founded nearly 400 years ago in France.

After being totally dispersed during the French Revolution, the order resurged to the point that it was ready, with a little arm-twisting by Church officials, to send Sisters to bring the message of the Incarnate Word to the New World where the order would flourish.

Twenty-three-year-old Mother Saint Claire Valentine, with three companions, would establish the first American house in Brownsville, Texas, in 1853 and the second in Victoria in 1866. That first trip from Brownsville to Victoria took some three days by railroad. When the train broke down the passengers had to walk; moreover, on the way they were greeted

by a raw "blue norther" to which they were unaccustomed. These young French Sisters were challenged by the frontier culture and the English and Spanish languages, which they immediately tried to learn in order to minister in Texas.

These early Sisters were to experience great difficulties from the prevalent yellow fever and malaria, to hurricanes, to extreme poverty and to religious persecution in Mexico. One early Texas account describes their daily fare of coffee, molasses and black bread. Their furniture consisted of packing crates until the priest tore his cassock on the crates; he then procured some furniture for them!

Little did they know that from these first foundations would spring numerous houses in the United States, Mexico, and foreign mission lands. One has to admire these women, along with other early immigrants, who were so willing to leave their families and homeland, even via warships coming to Mexico, to serve their God!

Now, over a century later we follow the example of such valiant women as these. Seeing all their spiritual descendants throughout the reunion, one can't help but see the Holy Spirit in our midst. Let us all invoke the Holy Spirit to guide each of us as we continue to witness to God's love for all peoples.

Pray for Peace in the Holy Lands

Please pray for peace and for God's will to be done at the UN regarding Palestinian's quest for recognition of Statehood Sept. 20, 2011.

Annual Picnic

St. Roch Catholic Church — Mentz, Texas

Join Us For Mass at 10:30 a.m.

Sunday, October 2

BBQ BEEF, PORK & SAUSAGE

Adults \$8:00 Children Under 12: \$4:00 Dine in AC comfort or under pavilion
Serving beginning at 11:00 a.m. — 2:00 p.m.

DRIVE-THRU LINE

BBQ & SAUSAGE SOLD
AT PTT BY THE POUND

HAMBURGERS

GET A HAMBURGER
BEGINNING AT 3:00 P.M.

Auction • Bingo • Country Store • Kids Activities
Live Music by Odessa - 1:00-5:00 p.m.

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.



Victoria IWBS Sisters and Associates Host National Reunion

The Victoria Sisters and Associates of the Incarnate Word and Blessed Sacrament of Victoria hosted the Eighth Incarnate Word National Reunion on July 22-24, 2011. The theme of the assembly was *Sisters and Associates of the Incarnate Word: On the Cutting Edge of a New Vision - Where are WE Standing?*

As the Sisters and Associates of the Incarnate Word and Blessed Sacrament from Cleveland, Corpus Christi, and Houston, along with representatives from the Sisters of Charity of the Incarnate Word gathered, the reception area rang out with greetings of joy upon reuniting with old friends and meeting new ones who embraced the Incarnate Word heritage.

The reunion gave us the opportunity to search out some aspects of our common heritage, to pray together and to share animated conversation, delicious food and joyful laughter. It gave us an opportunity to appreciate what the Incarnate Word is

doing in our lives and ministry, as each congregation gave a presentation on how its members were "extending the Incarnate Word" and being "crystal vases." The imagery of the crystal vase had been given to our foundress by Jesus, the Incarnate Word, when he told her, "You have seen how I have placed you like a crystal vase upon the altar." Like our foundress, Jeanne Chezard de Matel, we are called to let the Incarnate Word be seen through our lives and our ministry.

We were blessed to have Bishop David Fellhauer with us celebrating the Eucharist and giving the homily on Saturday and Cardinal Daniel DiNardo, Archbishop of Galveston-Houston, doing likewise on Sunday.

At the closing ceremony, each congregation was presented with a large crystal vase bearing an etched likeness of the Incarnate Word — as a reminder of our call to be such vases wherever we are.

The Church's Noblest at Ground Zero

Continued from p. 1

I'm not an emergency worker. I'm a priest and I'm going to do everything that a priest can do under these circumstances."

Afterwards, he worked at Ground Zero, a site so contaminated that officials told him to discard all his clothes when he returned home. He anointed bodies, listened to rescuers, and consoled both the disconsolate and their consolers. He celebrated funeral Masses at St. Patrick's Cathedral and led prayers when President George W. Bush arrived at Ground Zero and at an ecumenical service he organized at Yankee Stadium.

Other priests sprang into action too. Msgr. Kevin Sullivan, head of Catholic Charities of the New York Archdiocese, saw that it was not just Wall Street people with significant finances who were affected. It was also those who live on the edge, such as the wait staff at *Windows on the World*, the restaurant atop one of the Twin Towers. Msgr. Sullivan contacted the unions and said Catholic Charities would pay the salaries for six months for restaurant workers there who were suddenly out of work, enough time, he thought, for them to find another job.

Other priests made their way to the scene, most notably the fire department chaplain Franciscan Father Mychal Judge, the first officially recorded fatality of the attack. Weeks later, when rescuers found his body, firemen carried it from the rubble, not to a mortuary van but to the sanctuary of a nearby church.

Other clergy responded as priests too. The city established a site for those looking for missing family members, a place with counselors and social workers. The line went on for blocks and priests walked alongside it and helped people accept the inevitable — a loss of someone only to be found again in heaven. A veteran psychia-

trist told Cardinal Egan that he was amazed when he interviewed families and saw how deeply they had been touched by their sidewalk conversations with priests.

The church knows the importance of chaplains and designates priests to help emergency workers such as police, firefighters, and Federal Bureau of Investigation agents. These public servants need one of their own in crises and at 9/11 their own priests responded.

9/11's own, however, also turned out to be not just official chaplains but also priests in other ministries, like Msgr. Anthony Sherman, a Brooklyn pastor who counseled strangers and led funeral Masses for the dead from his parish, some whose bodies were never found. And Jesuit Father James Martin, an editor at *America* magazine, who worked with rescuers in the aftermath. And other unnamed and unrecognized priests who offered the sacraments, encouragement and human consolation. They rose to the heights of their calling in the depths of that tragedy.

Cardinal Egan calls Ground Zero, "Ground Hero." He speaks of a medical intern who stayed on duty though his father worked high in one of the Twin Towers, of a widow with babe in arms in the front pew of St. Patrick's for her husband's funeral, of the police who demanded for five days that the cardinal wear a gas mask to protect him from the contaminated air at the site but didn't wear their own because the masks impaired visibility.

New York's fire department, which lost 343 members, is known as "New York's Bravest;" the police department as "New York's Finest." Looking at the church's response to 9/11, the priests who responded would say they were "just priests," but surely they were "the Church's Noblest" too.



Wharton students get opportunity to sing in Rome

Reprinted with permission from Wharton Journal-Spectator (Aug. 10, 2011)

A vocal ensemble representing Wharton Independent School District traveled to Rome, Italy, last month where they joined with other vocal groups to sing the Mass in St. Peter's Basilica.

The following day they presented a concert to a capacity audience in the Basilica di Santa Maria Sopra Minerva.

Traveling from Wharton was Michaela Thornton, daughter of Rick and Danette Thornton, members of St. John the Baptist in Hungerford. Michaela will be starting her sophomore year at Wharton High School. She was accompanied by her father who enjoyed visiting Italy's capital and hearing his daughter sing in the world's largest church.

Also representing WISD was Mianasija Foston, daughter of Kenneth and Erica Smith, who will be in the seventh grade at Wharton Junior High School this year. She was the youngest singer in the entire choir.

The girls were prepared for this concert by Kay Bollom, former director of the Dawson/Wharton Elementary and Wharton Junior High choirs, who also sang with the ensemble. They began working on the music in January and arrived in Italy ready to rehearse with the full group.

The Mass choir was composed of six smaller choirs hailing from Calif., Maryland and Texas. The choir was under the direction of world-renowned conductors



Michaela and Mianasija are inside the Colosseum and learning about the games that were held there.

Dr. Hilary Apfelstadt and Dr. Anna Hamre and was accompanied by string players of the Rome Symphony Orchestra. The choir

performed classical literature in Latin and Italian.

During the non-rehearsal hours the group was able to tour the city and see such well-known sites as the Colosseum, the Vatican Museums, the Sistine Chapel, Trevi Fountain, the Spanish Steps, Castel de Sant'Angelo, Piazza Navona, the Pantheon, la Bocca della Verita, the Roman Forum, Basilica di San Pietro in Vincoli, which houses Michelangelo's *Moses* and the chains that held St. Peter, and of course St. Peter's Basilica where they viewed Michelangelo's famous *Pieta*.

They also saw Roman baths and aqueducts, the sites where gladiators trained and where Julius Caesar was assassinated.

The Wharton vocalists were immersed in history and art during their stay in the Eternal

City and agreed that one week was not long enough.

Upon their return, Michaela commented, "It's so amazing. We'd need a month to see it all." And Mianasija answered, "I'm going back."



Michaela looks out on the Tiber River and the bridge on the Piazza Pasquale Paoli.

Continued from last month:

Poisoned by the Pill: Truths about Chemical Contraception – and Youth

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

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

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

EFFECT ON YOUNG GIRLS

For many young girls across America, the carcinogenic birth control pill is now eerily mandated by some as a "right of passage" into adulthood. Oddly, it's often the mothers who are taking their daughters to their physicians to have their "precautionary" prescription written. Obtaining this prescription is seen by many as a "natural" step in growing up. But it's not natural. It's unnatural. It's dangerous and exploitative.

Hormones Dangerous to Young Girls:

The elevated hormones in oral contraception are particularly dangerous for girls whose bodies are still in a rapid growth phase, causing rapid growth not only in normal cells but in cancer cells too. After a full-term pregnancy, a cancer resistant mechanism develops in breast tissue cells. Hormonal contraception is especially dangerous to teens because they normally have not developed this cancer resistant mechanism to protect them. [13] At the conference, Dr. Lanfranci

explained: It's like you took this Molotov cocktail of a Group 1 carcinogen and threw it into that young girl's breast." [14]

Hormones Exploit Girls: As though we were talking about candy, rather than a dangerous drug, birth control pills are dispensed and pushed upon girls by pharmaceutical companies through the media, "family" doctors, through school systems and through Planned Parenthood. This push is madness.

One example of this "push" was explained by conference speaker Patricia Bainbridge. This example is a birth control pill named "Yaz." Yaz is specifically marketed to young girls, hence its "Yazzy-pizzazzy" name. The television commercials for these pills show floating balloons and pretty girls lightly and gaily dancing about. But the commercials mislead young girls in a serious way.

Yaz is a dangerous drug. In 2009 there were 1100 lawsuits against Yaz. The dangers of Yaz are ineffectively communicated to girls who are the target "market" for these drugs. Here are some dangers: cerebral hemorrhage, cholestatic jaundice, depression, candidiasis, change in corneal curvature, thrombophlebitis, arterial thromboembolism, pulmonary embolism, myocardial infarction, cerebral thrombosis, hypertension, gallbladder disease, hepatic adenomas, retinal thrombosis and gastrointestinal symptoms.

If you want to know more about Yaz, you can google: "Yaz lawsuits," "almost killed by Yaz," or "Yaz birth control deaths." But it is not just with respect to the dangerous side effects of birth control pills that girls are being misled. They are misled in other ways too.

DUPING THE GIRLS

Girls are further duped through inadequate communication in the following ways:

There is *poor communication* to girls that *no contraception is completely "effective."* The on-line medical manual of one drug company states: "There are several methods of contraception. None is com-

See *Poisoned by the Pill*, p. 18



KJZT #101 DISTRIBUTES SCHOLARSHIPS—At the breakfast following their annual Mass for Living and Deceased Members at Our Lady of Victory Parish on August 14, KJZT #101 of Victoria presented scholarships of \$350 each to five young people preparing for college this fall. Scholarships were presented to Andrew Polasek, son of Paul and Michelle Polasek, will attend U.T.; Kaley Jurica, daughter of Gerald and Jean Jurica, will attend Victoria College; Dana Vanek, daughter of Dennis and Donna Vanek, will attend Blinn; Kendra Hanslik, daughter of Kenneth and Denise Hanslik, will attend Victoria College; and Cameron Burger, son of Michael and Michelle Burger, will attend Victoria College. The recipients are pictured from left to right. Also during the breakfast, KJZT Treasurer Carolyn Nevlud presented a \$400 check to Jimmy Zamora, vice-president of Our Lady of Victory's St. Vincent de Paul Society in honor of KJZT's "Feeding Families Across Texas," program.



Nazareth Academy Fall Festival 2011

Sunday, October 2nd, 10:00 a.m.

**Victoria Community Center
Traditional Turkey Dinner and Sides Served
11:00 a.m. - 2:00 p.m.**

Plates To-Go begin at 10:30 a.m.

- Roast Turkey and Gravy
- Homemade Dressing
- Yams and Mashed Potatoes
- Seasoned Green Beans
- Chilled Cranberry Sauce
- Rolls and Iced Tea




Games & Booths

-Plinko	-Country Store	-Inflatable Slide	-Concessions
-Lollipop Tree	-Arts & Crafts	-Beer Garden	-Inflatable Jumper
-Fish Pond	-Cake Wheel	-Mini-Golf	-and more!

Games & Booths open from 10:00 a.m. - 2:00 p.m.



Silent Auction 11:00 a.m. - 3:00 p.m.

Live Auction: preview items at 11:00 a.m

Bidding begins at 1:00 p.m.



Clara Allen meets with Texas Representative Ron Paul while she attends the National Youth Leadership Conference in Washington, D.C., this summer.

Clara Allen Represents St. Joseph High School As National Scholar

Clara Grace Allen represented St. Joseph High School as a National Scholar from Texas at the 2011 National Youth Leadership Conference in Washington, D.C., June 12 - June 24. While attending the NYLC, she collaborated with high school students from across the United States and abroad in an array of political forums. Clara was honored to have the opportunity to be an active participant in learning about the presidency,

our government, and especially being involved with the human rights campaign. Meeting and visiting with Mr. Ron Paul, a Texas presidential nominee hopeful, was an extraordinary highlight.

Clara is a top-ten honor student and student ambassador at St. Joseph High School and is a member of the varsity band and varsity cheerleading squad. She is the daughter of Cory and Marylouise Allen of Victoria. Clara will be a junior this year.



FIRST DAY OF SCHOOL 2011—St. Philip School students and faculty in El Campo had a restful summer, and now school is back in session. Above are pictured 8th graders on the first day of school at St. Philip School. Welcome back to school all students and faculty. Have a great year!



PRAYER PILGRIMAGE TO RAPHAEL'S REFUGE—The Catholic Daughters of the Americas, Court St. Roch of Mentz, #2328, came to pray a rosary at the Monument to the Innocents in Flatonía on August 6. Pictured in front of the Monument's chapel are (l. to r.) Donna King (Columbus), Evelyn Orange (Alleyton), Linda Venghaus (Cat Spring), Judy Kestler (Bellville), and Sharon Roensch (Cat Spring). For information about the monument at Raphael's Refuge, call Midge at 361-865-3021 or visit the Web site at <http://www.raphaelsrefuge.org>.

Pray for the unborn and suffering little children.



BOY SCOUT TROOP 364 MEMBERS RECEIVE RELIGIOUS AWARDS—Four boys earned their Ad Altare Dei religious emblem during the 2010-2011 school year from Boy Scout Troop 364, sponsored by Our Lady of Victory Cathedral in Victoria. These boys have diligently worked as a group studying the Seven Sacraments of the Catholic Faith. Father Michael Rother presented the boys with their religious emblems after Mass on Saturday, July 30, 2011. Pictured from l. to r. are Kenneth Hathaway, Diego Garza, Father Rother, Miguel Garza, LeeAnn Hathaway (Ad Altare Dei Advisor) and Sam Bonorden.



KJZT SUPPORTS ASSUMPTION'S VBS—Members of KJZT – Catholic Family Fraternal of Texas – Society No. 43, The Purification, of Ganado assisted in Assumption BVM parish Vacation Bible School in July. They served snacks of fresh fruit plates. Pictured are Frances Vesely, President Cecilia French, Mary Ann Peters and Helen Anandel.



8th-grader Hailey Miller shows an auction item during the "Readin' Ritin' Reelin' Fishing Tournament" live auction benefiting Nazareth Academy.



Knights of Columbus members prepare fresh fish caught during the tournament for the Readin' Ritin' Reelin' fish fry.

9th Annual "Readin', Ritin', Reelin' Fishing Tournament" benefits NA school

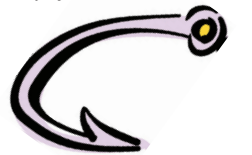
PORT O'CONNOR—The Knights of Columbus Holy Family Council #9088 hosted the 9th annual "Readin', Ritin', Reelin'" Fishing Tournament in Port O'Connor August 5 and 6, 2011, with all proceeds benefiting Nazareth Academy Catholic School.

Being a Catholic service organization, the KCs of Holy Family have adopted Nazareth Academy to help the school, operated by the Sisters of the Incarnate Word and Blessed Sacrament, continue to provide a quality Catholic education for children Pre-K-3 through 8th grade. The tournament is organized by four specific members of the Knights of Columbus: Dennis Lockstedt, Scott Smejkal, Bryan Ellis and George Wenzel.

On Friday, Aug. 5, teams competing in the tournament registered, followed by a barbecue dinner and live auction. Forty-five teams entered and competed in this year's tournament.

The fishing started at 5:00 a.m. Saturday morning, and the official weigh-in of fish occurred between 3:30 p.m. and 5:30 p.m. Many of the teams donated their fish to the fish fry that occurred Saturday evening. Following the fish fry, prizes were awarded to the winners of the tournament.

This year's tournament brought in \$46,000. Over the past nine years, the Knights have raised in excess of \$400,000 for Nazareth Academy. The funding has been directed toward a variety of purposes including: creating and maintaining the computer lab in the school, the purchase of SMART boards for every classroom – 1st through 8th grade, an electronic security system with key fob doors and security cameras to keep our children safe, a new fire alarm system, RenWeb online database for parents to remain informed of their children's grades and schedules, as well as an air-conditioned bus.





St. Rose of Lima Parish honors two special people with chapel restoration

SCHULENBURG—The Marti Love Children's Chapel & Jack Hooper Prayer Garden is a new addition to the parish grounds, yet it is also a return to history. The chapel building itself was an original part of the parish grounds. Bishop David Fellhauer will bless the chapel and garden Friday, September 30, following an 8:10 a.m. school Mass.

The small wood-frame building was recently moved to its new location very near the original spot of its construction between the church and school on Black Street. Details regarding the age of

cancer in 2008, and she went home to our Lord on June 14, 2010.

After a diverse and exciting life jour-

teaching kindergarten at St. Rose of Lima Catholic School in 1996.

Her demeanor was calm, warm and inviting. During her twelve years of teaching, her life was truly an example of love to her students, parents and coworkers. She had a passion for children and a strong commitment to helping them learn and grow. Her advice and support was an asset to St. Rose School.

The site plan's surrounding plants and gardens not only speak to Ms. Love's own personal love of gardening and nature but will also serve as a reminder of the beautiful life of Jack Hooper. Jackson Allan Hooper was born on May 15, 2001, to Chris and DeeAnn (Fike) Hooper and died suddenly on April 5, 2011, from "a viral-like syndrome of unknown etiology."

These gardens will encompass a "living cross" water feature. The stone reflecting pool will be contained in a cross shape to serve as a reminder of the faithful

life Jack lived. Jack had a very deep love and understanding of Christ and approached the sacrament of the Eucharist with amazing reverence.

Bishop Fellhauer will be at the site, September 30, to dedicate and bless the chapel and grounds. The chapel steering committee hopes to see the chapel used by the parish for various

religious activities such as adoration of the Blessed Sacrament and special prayer services. The chapel and grounds will also

be open to the public as a place of reverence where anyone can come to remember, reflect and pray. Members of the committee have enjoyed the opportunity to revive a part of parish history while paying tribute to two wonderful people.

In addition to site preparation, planning and renovation, the committee is also working to secure the funds necessary to make this project a reality. The budget of the project is \$30,000 and a grant for \$15,000 has been obtained. The committee has also acquired other money through fundraising efforts and donations. Fundraising efforts will continue with a raffle that includes the top prize of a \$3,000 St. Rose tuition credit OR \$2,000 Visa cash card. The drawing will be held on Sept. 30. Tickets are available at the school and parish offices or from any committee member.

Chapel steering committee members are Maura Bennett, Rosanne Gallia, Donna Kunz, Stacy Oeding, Linda Schmidt, Melissa Schmidt, Stevie Smith-Thompson, and the project manager is Bob Stanzel. The entire move was donated by John Kana. Bernard Ripper and his son, Michael, did all the preparation work to make the structure secure for the move. They will continue the additional restoration and renovation at the new site.

The committee will also be relying on the generosity of individuals and businesses who would like to make a financial contribution. If you would like to make a donation to the project please contact the parish, (979) 743-3117, or school office, (979) 743-3080, or any committee member.

Anyone who has any information and/or photographs relating to the history of the chapel they would like to share is asked to contact any committee member.



The future Marti Love Chapel is lowered to the ground at its new location, which very well may be its original location. It was returned from the former Stanzel home to St. Rose of Lima Church to be renovated. The blessing of the chapel will be held Sept. 30.



Jack Hooper



Marti Love

the building and who constructed it remain unknown but there are many stories shared about the use and purpose of the tiny structure.

St. Rose parishioner, Helen Stanzel, remembers the building as a small chapel used in eucharistic processions in conjunction with the Church feast of Corpus Christi. She recalls little girls lined up in white dresses, as they did on the celebration of First Communion, and processing to the main church.

The chapel is also remembered as a family project according to parishioner Mildred Bohlmann. She recalls the memory of a group of families being responsible for decorating the chapel building on various feast days. The families would gather flowers from their personal home gardens to fill the chapel for these celebrations. She added that another similar building also existed and the two structures sat on opposite sides of the original church building.

During the 1950's, possibly during the site preparation for the new church, Father Goertz made arrangements with the Stanzel family to relocate the building to their backyard. There it served as a playhouse, woodshed and workshop where Bob Stanzel fondly recalls building many of his first woodworking projects. After the Stanzel home was acquired by the school in 2009 for renovation to an Early Childhood Center, the building remained on the property with plans for its future uncertain.

Today this piece of church history has new purpose. The Marti Love Children's Chapel and Jack Hooper Prayer Garden will serve to honor two very special people whose lives were great models of Christian love.

The building itself is being renovated and remodeled to become a small prayer chapel honoring former St. Rose teacher Marti Love. Ms. Love was diagnosed with

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Michael Koeth Weimar
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Barbara McCain, FIC Victoria
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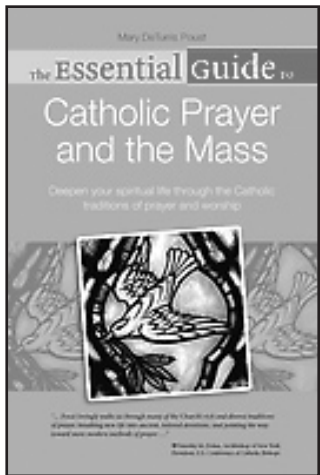
Puzzle Contest Prize:

The Essential Guide to Catholic Prayer and the Mass

Today, there are an increasing number of Catholics looking for new ways to explore spirituality. Some may seek to adapt simple traditions to modern life, or are hungry for a deeper connection through the Eucharist. Whatever prayer styles are sought, *The Essential Guide to Catholic Prayer and the Mass* will help those who are longing for a connection to God to reach their pathway to worship.

Mary DeTurrís Poust, columnist, blogger and author of *The Complete Idiot's Guide® to the Catholic Catechism*, has focused on Catholic issues for over 25 years.

Her *Essential Guide to Catholic Prayer and the Mass* offers devoted Catholics a way to explore prayer styles never before considered, and non-Catholics or Catholics on the edge a look into a world that can seem mysterious and intimidating.



Archbishop of New York, Timothy M. Dolan, endorses the book saying, "As Saint Paul confessed, 'none of us know how to pray as we ought,' This book is sure a help."

The book offers lessons on Scripture, ancient rituals and the examples set by the saints; a description of the Church's new translation of the Mass – which requires Catholics to relearn familiar prayers; a pathway to prayer for every person of every background and mindset; and an exploration of new prayer methods. *The Essential Guide to Catholic Prayer and the Mass* is available from Web

sites for as little as \$12.01. For a chance to win your own copy, please complete this month's Puzzle Contest and send it to arrive at *The Catholic Lighthouse* by September 26.

August Puzzle Contest Winners Announced

The winner of the August contest and the book, *Swimming in the Daylight ~ An American Student, A Soviet-Jewish Dissident, and the Gift of Hope* by Lisa C. Paul and published by Skyhorse Publishing is Louis E. Pustka of Queen of Peace Parish in Sweet Home.

The winner of the children's contests are Zach Socha (8) of St. Philip School in El Campo and Scott Wenske (12) of St. Joseph Parish in Moulton. Each will receive a gift from the Incarnate Word Gift Shop.

Congratulations to our winners, and thank you to all the "guys" who have been playing the Puzzle Contest.

The winner of the September Puzzle Contest will win this month's featured book, *The Essential Guide to Catholic Prayer and the Mass* by Mary DeTurrís Poust and published by ALPHA. See review on this page.

Please mail all completed September puzzle forms to arrive in *The Catholic Lighthouse* office, P. O. Box 4070, Victoria, TX 77903 by Sept. 26.

Those wishing to purchase *Swimming in the Daylight*, may purchase it from booksellers on Web sites at \$18.96.

"That Man Is You!" grows in Victoria Diocese

Beginning at Holy Cross Parish in Bay City three years ago, "That Man Is You" is now offering men's faith meetings on a weekly basis in three towns in the Diocese of Victoria.

"That Man is You!" is transforming men, families and society as it presents the vision of man fully alive! Combining the teachings of the Church and wisdom of the saints with the best research from modern science in an interactive, multimedia format, "That Man is You!" puts this vision within the grasp of every man. All men are welcome. There is no cost for participants. The cost is being underwritten by parishes.

Learn more at: (www.thatmanisyou.org).

• Bay City "That Man is You!" meets at Holy Cross School cafeteria, 2001 Katy

Ave., each Friday morning from 5:45 to 7:15 a.m. beginning Sept. 16. Breakfast included. Questions? Please contact Mike Allison at (979) 479-1370 or Allen Green at (979) 245-2598.

• Ganado "That Man is You!" will meet at Assumption Parish Hall, 108 S. Sixth St., each Wednesday morning from 5:30 to 7:15 a.m. beginning Sept. 14. Questions, please contact parish at (361) 771-3425.

• Victoria "That Man is You!" will meet at Holy Family Church, 704 Mallette Dr. each Wednesday morning from 5:45 to 7:00 a.m. beginning Sept. 21. Depending on the number of participants, meeting will be held in education annex or gym. The core team is made up of members from all parishes in the city of Victoria and St. Joseph in Inez. Questions? Please contact Mike Brown at (361) 573-0828.

LITURGICAL OBJECTS

www.wordgamesforcatholics.com

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| CENSER | CRUETS | PALL |
| CHALICE | LUNA | PATEN |
| CIBORIUM | MISSAL | PYX |

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 Address: _____
 Phone number: _____
 Parish: _____
 Age if 18 or under: _____



~ Retreat by Father Ron Rolheiser ~ October 28-30

The Paschal Mystery in our Lives – moving through every sort of death and diminishment towards ever deeper life

Spiritual Renewal Center,
Victoria, TX

How do new life and new spirit appear in our lives? How do we name our deaths, claim our births, grieve what we've lost, let our losses bless us, and then receive new spirit for our lives? How do we learn to live inside of our own skins? The paschal mystery is the deep secret. This will be a retreat on the paschal mystery.

Father Rolheiser is currently serving as president of the Oblate School of Theology in San Antonio. His books, including *The Shattered Lantern*, *The Holy Longing*, and *The Restless Heart*, are popular throughout

the English-speaking world, and his weekly column is carried by more than 60 newspapers worldwide. For additional information on Fr. Rolheiser visit his Web site at www.ronrolheiser.com.

The retreat cost is \$170.00 per person for double occupancy. There may be a limited amount of single rooms (\$190.00) available. Space is limited and will be reserved in the order of deposits (\$50.00/non-refundable). The balance is due September 15. Please make checks payable to Spirit Wind Ministry and mail to: Susan Oakley, 103 Woodmere, Victoria, TX 77904.

For additional information, please contact Susan Oakley at (361) 576-1515/361-649-6391 or e-mail: smoak53@msn.com.

Umbert the Unborn by Gary Cangemi

Holy Cross Catholic Church

Fall Festival and Turkey Dinner

Sunday, October 2, 2011
 Knights of Columbus Hall
 63 CR 216 (Nicholas Rd), Bay City, TX

Turkey & Dressing Dinner
 Drive through or dine in 11:00AM to 1:00PM

Turkey • Home-made Dressing • Mashed Potatoes
 Green Beans • Cranberry Sauce • Dessert & tea
(tea for dine-in only)

\$8.00 per plate

LIVE & SILENT AUCTION **Country Store, DCA Raffle**
 begins @ 12:00PM **Children's Games**

EVERYONE WELCOME
FUN FOR ALL!!!

for more information call 979-245-6379



Bishop David Fellhauer, left, and Father John Peters, right, are pictured with 15 of the 29 honorary members of the Confraternity of Christian Mothers who attended the celebration. Honorary members were (l-r) Mildred Grahmann, Theresa Hemmi, Mary Grahmann, Eleanor Huser, Marcella Henke, Lillian Haas and Annie Etzler; standing (l-r): Georgia Haas, Ella Mae Bludau, Margaret Bludau, Rita Zaruba, Laverne Trojcak, Florice Leopold, Bea Heinzl and Mary Migl.

The Confraternity of Christian Mothers Celebrates 100th Anniversary

HALLETTSVILLE — The Confraternity of Christian Mothers (CMS) of Sacred Heart Parish, Hallettsville, celebrated the 100th anniversary of its organization on July 24, 2011. The celebration began with Mass with Bishop David Fellhauer as main celebrant. Rev. John Peters, pastor, concelebrated, with Deacon Joey Targac assisting. Bishop Fellhauer delivered an inspiring homily and stressed the importance of parents being the first teachers of the faith to their children, which begins at home.

Following the Mass, the celebration continued at the Family Center with a catered meal served to 180 members and guests.

The Confraternity of Christian Mothers of Sacred Heart Parish was granted affiliation by the Archconfraternity of Christian Mothers of Pittsburgh, Penn., on July 16, 1911. However, organizational ceremonies were not conducted until July 26, 1915. The society in Hallettsville was originally a German organization, but in the 1930s the organization adopted English as the official language.

With the patroness of the Christian Mothers, the Blessed Mother, centrally displayed, the family center was beautifully decorated with flowers and greenery. This display was surrounded by mementos from the past, which brought back fond memories for many. Inspirational plaques depicting the virtues of Faith, Family, Love, Prayer and Laughter were displayed as a reminder of their importance in daily life.

Twenty-nine honorary members, those who have been members for more than 50 years, were presented a white carnation and recognized by Vice-president Sandy Bujnoch and 25-year and 50-year pins were awarded to six members from each of the respective categories. Sincere thanks and appreciation were expressed to all these honorees for their dedication in keeping the Christian Mothers Society active for 100 years.

The society was happy to welcome 20 new members who were inducted into the organization by Father John Peters in a very impressive ceremony. Following the induction of new members, Patricia Mladenka sang a solo of a hymn to the Blessed Mother, "Ave Maria." This was a special honor for the society because she also sang the same hymn at the 50th anniversary of

the confraternity.

Installation of officers for 2011-2012 was held with Barbara Grahmann installed as president, Sandy Bujnoch, vice-president, Debra Huser, secretary, and Rhonda Brown as treasurer. Barbara Grahmann gave recognition to the past 23 presidents, some of whom served more than one term.

The CMS of Sacred Heart Parish presently consists of 254 members. The activities sponsored by the society include a chicken noodle soup and bunco social in February, blessing of expectant mothers in April and November, a swim social for members and their families in August at the Lavaca Swimming Pool, the sponsoring of Sharing Tree for Christmas gifts for Nursing Home residents, a Christmas party for the children, presenting an embroidered crib quilt (handmade by members) to all new mothers, baptismal bibs for all newly baptized in the parish, sponsoring the weekly children's bulletin, giving First Communicants eucharistic pins, awarding of scholarships and numerous other projects.

President Barbara Grahmann extended thanks to the officers for their support, the social and decorating committees for their help in planning the celebration and a special thanks to all who attended.

The celebration concluded with benediction led by Bishop Fellhauer and everyone singing the hymn "Immaculate Mary."

As the history of the first 100 years of the Christian Mothers comes to a close, a review of the objectives of the organization is the same in 2011 as it was in 1911. While the world has changed over the years and raising children in today's world has certainly changed, good Christian mothers (and fathers) continue to strive to raise their children to be good Catholics through prayer and good example. According to the guidelines, as quoted from the Mother Love prayer book, "The Confraternity of Christian Mothers has for its objective the Christian Home Education of children by truly Christian Mothers. It plans to unite, by the observance of its rules and

regulations, all Christian ladies, married or widowed, who are willing to assist one another to attain this noble purpose. Under the



In a Hallettsville nursing home, Barbara Grahmann (left) visits with the confraternity's oldest member, Mrs. Lena Grafe, who will be 102 years young on Sept. 23. She has been a member for 79 years and was very active in the organization for many years.

special patronage of the 'Mother of Sorrows' the members are encouraged joyously and hopefully to undertake the important task of training and sanctifying the young souls entrusted to their care. They are schooled to edify one another by word and deed, to support one another by fervent prayers and thus become the mainstay of spiritual life within their own family and a fruitful source of blessings to the community in which they live. This is the principal aim of all Confraternities affiliated with the Archconfraternity." This was ... and continues to be ... the goal and objective for the Confraternity of Christian Mothers of Sacred Heart Parish today — just as it was 100 years ago!

Full story on diocesan web.

Catholic Women's Conference

SAN ANTONIO—The Catholic Women's Conference—"Come to Me" will be held Oct. 7-8. Special guests include: Archbishop Gustavo Garcia-Siller of Archdiocese of San Antonio, celebrating Saturday Mass; Mother Adela Galindo, SCTJM, "If You Only Knew the Gift of God"; Amber Pilkington, Catholic therapist, "Women, Food and Christ: Finding Peace with Your Body, Food and God"; Sharon Lee Giganti, former New Age instructor, "New Age Deception"; and Elizabeth Ficocelli, best-selling author, "The Age of Mary." Registration before Sept. 12 is \$45; after is \$55. For more information visit: www.CWCSanAntonio.com or call (210) 521-3377.

Sunday Readings from Sept. 11 to Oct. 23

September 11 — Twenty Fourth Sunday in Ordinary Time	Sirach 27:30 — 28:7 Psalms 103:1-2, 3-4, 9-10, 11-12 Romans 14:7-9 Matthew 18:21-35
September 18 — Twenty-Fifth Sunday in Ordinary Time	Isaiah 55:6-9 Psalms 145:2-3, 8-9, 17-18 Philippians 1:20c-24, 27a Matthew 20:1-16a
September 25 — Twenty-Sixth Sunday in Ordinary Time	Ezekiel 18:25-28 Psalms 25:4-5, 8-9, 10, 14 Philippians 2:1-11 Matthew 21:28-32
October 2 — Twenty-Seventh Sunday in Ordinary Time	Isaiah 5:1-7 Psalms 80:9, 12, 13-14, 15-16, 19-20 Philippians 4:6-9 Matthew 21:33-43
October 9 — Twenty-Eighth Sunday in Ordinary Time	Isaiah 25:6-10a Psalms 23:1-3a, 3b-4, 5, 6 Philippians 4:12-14, 19-20 Matthew 22:1-14
October 16 — Twenty-Ninth Sunday in Ordinary Time	Isaiah 45:1, 4-6 Psalms 96:1, 3, 4-5, 7-8, 9-10 1 Thessalonians 1:1-5b Matthew 22:15-21
October 23 — Thirtieth Sunday in Ordinary Time	Exodus 22:20-26 Psalms 18:2-3, 3-4, 47, 51 1 Thessalonians 1:5c-10 Matthew 22:34-40

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

www.usccb.org/nab/

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SUNDAY, SEPT. 25, 2011

K.C. HALL (ARMORY RD.) EL CAMPO 11 A.M.-7 P.M.
BBQ BEEF & SAUSAGE WITH ALL THE TRIMMINGS
\$8.00 PER PLATE -- DINE IN OR GET PLATES TO GO!

HUGE AUCTION
BEGINNING AT 1:00 P.M.

BINGO!
EVERYONE'S INVITED!

KLOTS OF FUN GAMES & RIDES!

CAKE WALK • COUNTRY STORE • FISH POND
HAMBURGERS • GAMES • SNO CONES

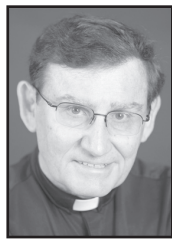
COME AND DANCE TO
THE MUSIC OF THE
DUJKA BROTHERS
10:30 A.M.-NOON & 2-4 P.M.
and
AL SULAK
NOON-2 P.M. & 4-6 P.M.



IRONWORKERS ANCHOR SECTION OF STEEL COLUMN DURING GROUNDBREAKING CEREMONY FOR 9/11 MEMORIAL—Ironworkers anchor a section of a steel column once part of New York's World Trade Center to a concrete foundation during groundbreaking ceremonies for a 9/11 memorial in St. James, N.Y., July 17. The column was recovered from the rubble of the Sept. 11, 2001, terrorist attacks and will be the centerpiece of the memorial, which is scheduled to be dedicated Sept. 11 of this year, the 10th anniversary of the attacks. (CNS photo/Gregory A. Shemitz)

The Human Side

By Father Eugene Hemrick
Catholic News Service



Ten years later: Pausing to reflect on the effects of 9/11

Like most Americans who experienced 9/11, I can remember the events as if they just happened.

As I was leaving the rectory that day, our housekeeper motioned me to the television set. As the first of the twin towers exploded, I thought of my days as a fireman and wondered how the people on the top floors would survive.

And then the second tower got hit, and shortly later when the Pentagon was hit, I realized that the United States itself was under attack.

Across the street, the Hart Senate Building and other senate buildings were evacuating. Not all of the people rushed off of Capitol Hill. Many came to our 12:10 p.m. Mass.

After Mass, the Hill went dead silent. The police, who were a second community to me, and who more often than not acted as tour guides, went into body armor and carried high-powered rifles. I cried, seeing them so out of character.

As night came, so did eeriness like none I had ever experienced. The streets to the U.S. Capitol were blocked with whatever vehicles were available: garbage trucks, buses and police cars. Flaming-red flares giving off the odor of sulfur dotted all of the main intersections.

As I walked around the Supreme Court next to the Capitol, police officers with whom I loved to chat were deadly silent, not wanting to talk with anyone. Some

of their expressions reflected disgust, disbelief and sorrow, while others were just blank.

It was at that moment that I looked up at the U.S. Capitol and saw the light lit in its dome. It was signaling that Congress was in session.

Seeing it, I thought to myself, "They missed the most important symbol of the American spirit, Liberty atop the Capitol!"

And then there was a glimmer of joy in knowing that we had not been stopped and were regrouping.

Our spirit had been rocked but not broken!

Because of 9/11, many innocent American lives were lost, and, after it, countless others innocent and not so innocent around the world have been lost.

At this moment, the spirit of terrorism triggered by 9/11 has spawned a new wave of revenge, retaliation, reverse terrorism, heartlessness, profiling and hyper protectionism.

On this 10-year anniversary, we would do well to examine these depressing spirits in the light of our American spirit that was founded on Judeo-Christian ideals.

In 2001, we regrouped and sustained a strong spirit in the midst of a horrific catastrophe. And today, there still exists a need to once again regroup and strengthen our spirit against those things that can tarnish, darken and make it fearsome.

COST of 9/11 and the WARS



207,000 LIVES LOST

172,000 CIVILIANS IN IRAQ, AFGHANISTAN, PAKISTAN; **18,678** IRAQI & AFGHAN FORCES; **6,051** U.S. MILITARY MEMBERS; **3,520** PAKISTANI FORCES; **2,977** IN THE 9/11 ATTACKS; **2,300** U.S. CONTRACTORS; **1,192** OTHER ALLIED FORCES; **130** JOURNALISTS



\$2 TRILLION

property, economic, labor and insurance losses due to the attacks

\$4 TRILLION

wars in Iraq and Afghanistan

OTHER HUMAN COSTS

Hundreds of thousands have been **maimed or injured.**

Others were **forced to leave** their homes and country.

And even more have **lost jobs** and/or **incomes.**

Sources: Brown University's costsofwar.org and the Institute for the Analysis of Global Security

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USCCB Response to September 11

Continued from p. 2

of security is needed. Without in any way justifying the unjustifiable, the U.S. must do much more to address policies and problems that provide fertile ground in which terrorism can thrive. Addressing poverty, injustice and conflict around the world will not eliminate terrorism, but people of hate and violence will have fewer allies, supporters and resources to commit their heinous acts.

Therefore, the United States should:

- renew efforts to achieve a just solution to the Israeli-Palestinian conflict and the genocidal conflict in Sudan;
- end the economic embargo against Iraq;
- address with much greater seriousness the scandal of global poverty and economic inequalities by promoting sustainable development in the poorest countries;
- ensure that human rights are an integral part of U.S. foreign policy;
- reduce the predominant role of the US in the arms trade;
- and strengthen the UN and other international institutions.

• **Religion and terrorism.** Any simplistic connection between Islam and terrorism must be rejected. The most effective counter to terrorist claims of religious justification for violence or, for that matter, to those who claim that religion is mostly a source of conflict comes from within the world's rich religious traditions and from the witness of so many people of faith who have been a powerful force for non-violent human liberation around the world. September 11th presents a challenge to the Church as well as our government to come to a deeper level of understanding and engagement with Islam.

Burden Sharing and the Poor

- Needs of the poor and oppressed.

The combination of the war on terrorism, tax cuts and a recession are putting new pressures on international and domestic programs that serve the poor and vulnerable. The poor abroad and in the United States must not be asked to bear a disproportionate burden of the sacrifices that will have to be made in this long-term effort against terrorism.

• **Homeland security and migration and refugee issues.** The bishops are concerned that, as essential security measures are strengthened, the U.S. government is singling out immigrants and taking this opportunity to unnecessarily restrict legal immigration. Moreover, the U.S. temporarily suspended and might reduce refugee admissions at a time when the need to protect refugees who flee terror in their homelands is as great as ever. Ensuring security is not necessarily incompatible with a generous immigration regime. Undermining our heritage as a nation of immigrants will weaken, not strengthen, our country, an outcome any terrorist would welcome.

9/11

Announcement

Following the September 11, 2001, terrorist attacks, the United States Conference of Catholic Bishops issued A Pastoral Message: Living With Faith and Hope After September 11. The message remains extremely relevant as we reflect on what happened ten years ago today. Visit www.usccb.org and search on "9/11" to re-read, reflect on, and pray with the bishops' statement, for only with God's help can we have the strength to forgive and the ability to live in hope instead of fear and hatred.

Our Lady of Guadalupe Festival Meal

Bay City — Parish Hall (12th Street and Ave. D)



Brisket Dinner — Sunday, September 18

11:00 a.m. to 1:30 p.m. at \$6 p/p

Dine-in / Pick-up / Drive-Thru

Auction Begins at 11:30 a.m.





THE POPE SPEAKS

Pope Benedict XVI



CNS photo from Reuters

Earthly affairs can wait; things of God demand action now, pope says

By Catholic News Service

CASTEL GANDOLFO, Italy (CNS) – Temporal things can wait; only the things of God merit acting upon without hesitation, Pope Benedict XVI said.

God's words and his will are the only things "that are truly urgent for our lives," he said.

Celebrating an early morning Mass Aug. 15, the feast of the Assumption of Mary, the pope reflected on the reading from the Gospel of Luke in which Mary visits Elizabeth "in haste" after the angel Gabriel announced to Mary God's plan that she conceive the son of God.

Mary's sense of haste is important, the pope said, because it shows "the only things in the world that merit haste are exactly the things of God."

Pope Benedict celebrated the Mass in the parish Church of St. Thomas, just across the main square from the papal villa in Castel Gandolfo. Those attending the Mass in the small church included retired Hong Kong Cardinal Joseph Zen Ze-kium and the pope's brother, Msgr. Georg Ratzinger.

In his Mass homily, the pope said the Old Testament shows that the Ark of the Covenant in the Temple of Jerusalem was "the symbol of the presence of God among his people."

However, "the New Testament tells us that the real Ark of the Covenant is a living concrete person – it's the Virgin Mary," he said.

Mary offered a new dwelling place for God by carrying Jesus in her womb, showing that God no longer lives in some static location, but "lives in a person and in one's heart," he said.

The pope said Mary invites everyone

today to become, "in some modest way, an ark in which the Word of God is present" and has transformed and enlivened one's life.

A few hours after the Mass, Pope Benedict led the recitation of the Angelus prayer with visitors gathered in the courtyard of the villa.

He continued reflecting on Mary's life and her assumption into heaven. He said that Mary was taken, body and soul, into heaven is "a great mystery," which brings hope and joy to all those who believe.

"In Mary we see the destination toward which walk all those who know to link their own life to Jesus' life, who know to follow him as did Mary," he said.

The feast of the Assumption is about the future of every Christian – living in eternal life next to Jesus in God's glory, he said.

He told pilgrims to have courage and believe that the power of Christ's resurrection can be at work in every person so that they can bring the light of goodness to the darkness of the world.

The pope also recited the Angelus prayer at noon Aug. 14 at the papal villa. Many of the visitors in the courtyard were young people en route to World Youth Day in Madrid.

He asked everyone "to accompany us with your prayers for the spiritual fruitfulness of this important event" in the Spanish capital. The pope was to attend events Aug. 18-21.

The pope also greeted pilgrims from Cuba. Cardinal Jaime Ortega Alamino of Havana was "leading the first pilgrimage for Cubans to the tombs of the Apostles" in Rome, the pope said.

Spiritual Renewal Center offers retreats to the public

Days of Personal Reflection & Private Prayer - Oct. 10 – 12, 2011

The Spiritual Renewal Center will be open to the general public for private prayer, reflection and spiritual reading. This is not a directed or preached retreat but a silent retreat. Each participant will provide their own spiritual material and structure their own day. All meals will be provided. Space is limited. Reservations required, call (361) 894-1699. Cost for the two nights/three days is \$100.

The Gospel of St. Mark - Nov. 7 – 9, 2011

We are 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. All meals will be provided. Space is limited. Reservations required, call (361) 894-1699. Cost for the two nights/three days is \$100.

Advent Reflections - Dec. 5 – 7, 2011

Advent is a time of hoping, waiting and preparing for the coming of the Christ child. This retreat is an opportunity to spiritually prepare ourselves for Christ's entrance into our lives anew. The retreat will include spiritual reading, prayers, reflection and conferences. All meals will be provided. Space is limited. Reservations required, call (361) 894-1699. Cost for the two nights/three days is \$100.

Still time to join God's Embrace

There is still time to join God's Embrace Program led by Michael Fonseca, formation director for diocesan diaconate program. Although the daylong overview retreat took place August 27, those wishing to join the spiritual development program may still do so. The next session will be held Tuesday evening, September 13, from 7 to 9 p.m. at St. Robert Bellarmine Parish Hall, El Campo. The first of four weekend retreats of the first year of the program will be held at the Spiritual Renewal Center September 16 – 18. Although no financial payments for the program are required, there is a \$150 fee for the weekend retreat (lodging and meals). For more information, please contact Sandy Reese at (979) 541-6881 or sandyreese-foaj@yahoo.com.

Amor Meus Spirituality Center 2011 – 2012 Calendar

Amor Meus Spirituality Center, an outreach Ministry of the Sisters of Incarnate Word and Blessed Sacrament, offers various opportunities to deepen one's spiritual life.

Come join us in quiet reflective retreats, meditative prayers of Taize, Solemn Vespers of the Advent and Lenten seasons.

These spiritual opportunities are offered on the grounds of Incarnate Word Convent at 1101 NE Water Street, Victoria.

All are invited to enjoy these spiritual experiences in a place surrounded by the beauty of nature, the peace and solitude of walking paths, and the silence of sacred spaces and places.

They began the 2011-2012 spiritual offerings with Taize Prayer from 7:00 – 8:00 p.m. on August 30. Taize is a ritual of prayers, sacred chants, praise, mantras, Scripture readings, psalms and silent reflections.

"Prayer of Welcome" reflection/retreat, Saturday, September 17, is the first of our fall 2011 contemplative retreats.

All retreats and prayer experiences are open to men and women desiring to find ways to deepen their love relationship with God.

Questions?

Call: (361) 575-7111 or

E-mail: amormeus@yahoo.com

Retreats - 9:30a.m. – 3:30 p.m.

2011: September 17; November 12

2012: January 21; March 31;

September 15; November 3

Advent Vespers - 5:00 – 6:00 p.m.

Incarnate Word Convent Chapel
November 27, December 4, 11, 18,
2011

Taize Prayer - 7:00 – 8:00 p.m.

2011: August 30; October 18;

December 6

2012: February 23; May 1;

August 30; October 18;

December 6



Pope Benedict XVI's September 2011 Intentions

General Intention: For all teachers, that they may convey love in truth and educate in authentic moral and spiritual values.

Missionary Intention: That the Christian communities spread throughout the Asian continent may proclaim the Gospel with fervor, bearing witness to beauty with the joy of the faith.

OUR LADY OF VICTORY CATHEDRAL ANNUAL FALL FESTIVAL



Sunday, October 9

at the Victoria Community Center

Doors open at 11:00 a.m.

**Buffet style barbecue-beef and sausage
dinner with all the trimmings**

Adults • \$8; children under 12 years • \$4.50

All plates-to-go • \$8

with curb service available

Booths and games for the entire family

Auction begins at 12:30 p.m.

in the Community Center Annex



At national conference, Knights announce new initiatives

By Veronica Ambuul
Catholic News Service

DENVER (CNS)—Archbishop Charles J. Chaput, currently administrator of the Denver Archdiocese, welcomed the Knights of Columbus at their national convention August 2. Denver's archbishop since April 1997, he was named July 19 to head the Archdiocese of Philadelphia, where he will be installed Sept. 8.

"I expect that this convention will be the source of many, many graces for the local church. The Knights have been my right hand when I was bishop of Rapid City, South Dakota, when I came here to the Archdiocese of Denver, and as I head to Philadelphia, I expect them to be very close partners in the work of the church in the years ahead," Archbishop Chaput said.

More than 2,500 delegates and their families attended the convention, which opened Aug. 2 with a Mass concelebrated by some 100 priests and more than 70 archbishops and bishops, including 11 cardinals.

Archbishop Chaput was the principal celebrant and delivered the homily, in which he outlined the requirements for true reform in the Church.

The first, he said, is found in Psalm 51, which was read at Mass: "For I acknowledge my offense, and my sin is always before me."

"Renewal begins not in vilifying others, but in examining ourselves honestly, repenting of our own sins and changing ourselves," he said. This applies to clergy as well as laypeople, he noted.

The second requirement for reform, Archbishop Chaput continued, is found in that day's Gospel reading, in which Peter walks to Jesus on the water when his faith is strong, but begins to sink when fear overtakes him.

The faith needed for reform is "not faith as theology, or faith as a collection of doctrines and practices, although these are important, but rather faith as a single-minded confidence in God," he said. "Faith as the humility -- and in some sense the passion and the recklessness -- to give ourselves entirely to God."

He added, "That kind of faith changes people. That kind of faith shifts the world on its axis because nothing can stand against it."

Later in the day, during his annual report, Anderson announced the Knights will purchase the Pope John Paul II Cultural Center in Washington, and over the next year will build a shrine to Blessed John Paul and put up related exhibits on the property.

"True to Pope John Paul II's vision, and using the story of his life as an inspiration, this shrine will be an opportunity to evangelize and spread the good news of the Gospel through a new evangelization," Anderson said.

He also announced that the Knights are forming a Disaster Response Program, through which members of the organization who are retired emergency personnel will act as second responders providing food, clothing and shelter to victims of disasters.

A fourth initiative Anderson highlighted was the establishment of a Father McGivney Military Chaplain Scholarship to support priestly vocations for the military. It will be exclusively for seminarians who will, once ordained, serve both their home diocese and the U.S. Archdiocese for the Military Services as a uniformed chaplain.

Anderson reported that the Knights of Columbus donated \$154 million to charity in 2010.

During the general business session Aug. 3, delegates heard a talk by Archbishop Jose H. Gomez of Los Angeles, who reminded the delegates that most Americans are living in the country because of immigration.

"If we traced the genealogies of everyone in this room today, it would lead beyond our borders," Archbishop Gomez said. "We all have some immigrant blood."

He added that while he doesn't like to see immigrants breaking the law, "human rights come from God, not the government. If your homeland can't provide basic needs like food and shelter, you must be free to seek these things in another country."

Chinese sculptor Lei Yixin stands in front of a 30-foot sculpture of the Rev. Martin Luther King Jr. Aug. 22 in Washington. He created the sculpture as part of a memorial to the civil rights leader on the National Mall. The memorial's Aug. 28 dedication was postponed because of Hurricane Irene. (CNS photo/Bob Roller)



At relocated interfaith service, life, legacy of Rev. King recalled

WASHINGTON (CNS) — The Aug. 23 earthquake that caused significant damage to the Episcopal National Cathedral in Washington led to a change in venue for a planned interfaith prayer service four days later to commemorate the opening of the Rev. Martin Luther King Jr. Memorial. With Hurricane Irene approaching Washington, the Basilica of the National Shrine of the Immaculate Conception opened its doors for the Aug. 27 interfaith prayer service, which drew nearly 1,000 people from across the country who prayerfully remembered the life and legacy of Rev. King. Bernice King, his youngest daughter, was among the dignitaries who spoke at the prayer service. Now a Baptist church minister and elder, she was 5 when her father was assassinated in 1968, and said as an adult "I began a quest to try to find my daddy." Ultimately, she said she found her father, as an obedient servant of God who once said, "I just want to do God's will." Bernice King then said, "As we dedicate this memorial, as we remember my daddy's legacy, let it not be about us. Let it be about being obedient to the will of God." Msgr. Walter Rossi, the basilica's rector, welcomed the congregation and expressed sorrow at the damage to the Episcopal cathedral. "Together we join hands, hearts and prayers to honor a great American, a champion of the civil rights movement and a man of unwavering faith," the priest said. Bishop John Bryson Chane of the Episcopal Diocese of Washington offered the invocation, noting that "there is still work to do, a promised land to be discovered, and hearts and minds to be changed." The dedication of the King memorial, which had been planned for Aug. 28, was postponed until September or October due to the approaching hurricane.

Diocese of Orange increases its bid for Crystal Cathedral

By Catholic News Service

ORANGE, Calif. (CNS) -- The Diocese of Orange has upped its bid to buy the Crystal Cathedral complex in Garden Grove from \$50 million to \$53.6 million.

Once the home church of the Rev. Robert Schuller, a noted television preacher, the cathedral property was put up for auction earlier this year as part of the Crystal Cathedral Ministries bankruptcy proceedings.

News media in California reported that a bidding war had begun, prompting the Orange Diocese to increase its offer. Other bids in the \$50-million range have come from David Green, a prominent evangelical who heads the nationwide arts and crafts retailer Hobby Lobby, and Chapman University, a private liberal arts university in Orange.

Meanwhile, the board of Crystal Cathedral Ministries, or CCM, announced it has no plans to sell the property and has launched a fundraising drive to try to save it. But the creditors committee, which is part of any bankruptcy proceeding, must review the bids and present them to the bankruptcy court.

According to its Aug. 9 announcement about increasing its bid, the Orange Diocese said its goals remain the same: "to see creditors satisfied, adequately provide for all constituents

and stakeholders, and accommodate the Diocese of Orange's need for a new cathedral, while respecting the CCM ministry and its legacy."

The Orange Diocese said that if it has the winning bid, the \$53.6 million would be paid in cash at closing and if Crystal Cathedral Ministries wanted to remain on the site for a period of time, \$3.6 million of the funds would be reserved to pay the organization's rent for up to two years.

The diocese also would provide "alternative worship space of at least 50,000 square feet to allow CCM to continue its ministry for up to 15 years, with rent to be equal to 90 percent of fair market value." Or the organization could buy back space

"at 90 percent of fair market value during the first five years of the lease."

"This sanctuary should remain a place of worship and remembrance, nothing less," said Orange Bishop Tod D. Brown. "Further, the diocese itself would have access to a much-needed cathedral complex in a shorter time, and at significantly lower cost, than original construction would demand."

The cost of building a new cathedral for the Orange Diocese has been estimated at \$100 million.



Tree branches frame the Crystal Cathedral in Garden Grove, Calif., July 26. The Diocese of Orange, Calif., has upped its bid to buy the cathedral complex, increasing its offer from \$50 million to \$53.6 million. The 10-story cathedral has a seating capacity of 2,900 and is made up of more than 10,000 panes of glass. (CNS photo/Tim Rue)

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Vatican newspaper says mandatory sex ed programs don't work

VATICAN CITY (CNS) — When it comes to sex education programs, the Catholic Church is painted as old-fashioned and callous about teen pregnancy and disease. But governments that mandate sex education in the schools are fooling themselves about its effectiveness, the Vatican newspaper said. Writing on the front page of *L'Osservatore Romano* Aug. 30, Lucetta Scaraffia looked specifically at New York City, where students in middle school and high school will be required to attend a semester-long course in sex education. She said that “to avoid religious controversy, chastity will be cited among birth control methods and teachers will have to speak about sex with some caution” in the New York courses. Still, Archbishop Timothy M. Dolan of New York criticized the mandatory program as usurping the rights of parents to educate their children in line with their beliefs and values, she said. The situation has been repeated several times, Scaraffia wrote: “The state decides to include compulsory sexual education in schools, and the Catholic Church opposes it, earning the image of an obscurantist force, cruel because of its indifference to the consequences its refusal could have among young people, that is, unwanted pregnancies and disease. It is not clear why public institutions in the West continue to have such magical trust in the effectiveness of sex education,” especially when young people in those countries continue to have precocious, unprotected sex, leading to an increase of disease, pregnancy and abortion, she said.

Maryknoll leader urges reconciliation as a priority in South Sudan

NAIROBI, Kenya (CNS) — The president of the U.S.-based Maryknoll Sisters urged leaders of the newly independent Republic of South Sudan to prioritize peacemaking and reconciliation within its national concerns. Maryknoll Sister Janice McLaughlin also suggested that the fledgling country's leaders begin efforts to disarm and demobilization ex-combatants in South Sudan's militia. Her recommendations came during an interview with Catholic News Service after she spent nearly three weeks in the country July 25 through Aug. 13 leading a series of workshops on conflict transformation. The workshops were for nursing students, seminarians and radio broadcasters in both Diocese of Wau and the Archdiocese of Juba. She previously served as a missionary in Kenya, Mozambique and Zimbabwe. “It is critical to provide skills training and employment possibilities for former fighters so they have means of making

Archbishop Issues Statement on U.S. Military Helicopter Crash in Afghanistan

WASHINGTON, D.C. — His Excellency, the Most Reverend Timothy P. Broglio, J.C.D., Archbishop of the Archdiocese for the Military Services, USA, today issued the following statement on the crash of a United States military helicopter in Afghanistan, killing 30 Americans and eight Afghans in the single deadliest loss for U.S. troops in the ten-year-old war.

“On behalf of my Auxiliary Bishops, the priests, and the faithful of the Archdiocese for the Military Services, I express my heartfelt condolences to the family and friends of the valiant members of the Armed Forces and the Afghani citizens who perished in the helicopter crash and the recent fighting in the Tangi Province of Afghanistan. Their death is one more reminder of the terrible tragedy of war and

a living and contributing to rebuilding the nation,” Sister Janice said. “If they feel left out and have no way to support themselves, they can easily turn to crime or to extortion to survive.” Counseling for trauma and other means to help people emotionally heal from the violence they have experienced also is needed, she said. Sister Janice said she found most people hopeful and optimistic about the future. Young people in particular, she said, view South Sudan's independence as a miracle that they thought would never be realized in their lifetimes. People seem to be aware of the challenges ahead and realize that it will take united action to rebuild the war-torn country, she added.

Nuncio praises Turkish decision to return some religious properties

VATICAN CITY (CNS) — The Turkish prime minister's announcement that the government will return hundreds of properties confiscated from non-Muslim religious groups or compensate the groups for properties sold to third parties is “a historic decision,” said the Vatican nuncio to Turkey. “Even though the Roman Catholics will not benefit from this, it is an important step that is a credit to Turkey,” said Archbishop Antonio Lucibello, the nuncio. “It is a sign that is not just good, it's an excellent sign that the government wants to reconstruct the unity of the country so there no longer are first-class and second-class citizens,” the nuncio told Catholic News Service Aug. 30 in a telephone interview from Ankara. Turkish Prime Minister Recep Tayyip Erdogan announced Aug. 28 that his government would return hundreds of pieces of property — including schools, orphanages and hospitals — that were confiscated by the government in 1936. The properties involved belonged to officially recognized religious minorities: Jews, Greek Orthodox, Armenian Orthodox and Armenian Catholics, Syrian Orthodox, Syrian Catholics and Chaldean Catholics. Although Pope Benedict XVI, human rights supporters and the European Union have pressed Turkey to recognize all religions, the Latin-rite Catholic community and Protestant churches do not have official legal standing in Turkey. Archbishop Lucibello said the decision does not include the Church of St. Paul at Tarsus, now a government-run museum, which church officials have asked to have back. “The government has made a commitment to continue looking for a solution, and this decision gives us good reasons to hope,” the archbishop said. The case of the Church of St. Paul, he said, is complicated by the fact that it was built by the Armenians, then taken over by the Greek Orthodox and restored by Latin-rite Catholics.

its toll on all people. No person of good will is left unmoved by this loss.

“As we pray for the repose of their souls and the consolation of their families, we also raise our hearts and minds to Almighty God and beg for the elusive gift of peace on earth and harmony among all people.”

As the nation's only Catholic archdiocese without geographical boundaries, the Archdiocese for the Military Services, USA, has active military priests and chaplains stationed throughout the country and around the world. Their mission is to meet the spiritual and sacramental needs of 1.5 million Catholics in the U.S. Armed Forces, their families, Catholics in VA Medical Centers, and U.S. Government civilians overseas.



A man holds up a white cross as people demonstrate against violence in Monterrey, Mexico, Aug. 28. At least 50 people died in an Aug. 25 arson attack on a casino in Monterrey. The wealthy city increasingly has fallen prey to the ravages of drug cartels and organized crime. (CNS photo/Carlos Jasso, Reuters)

Mexican church officials condemn casino attack that killed more than 50

MEXICO CITY (CNS) — Mexican church officials have condemned an arson attack on a casino in Monterrey, Mexico, which killed more than 50 bettors and employees and left the nation horrified as a city once considered a crown jewel of industrial development and progress descends deeper into organized crime violence. “In terms of the criminal groups,

we believed that we had seen everything. However, what happened today surprised us,” said Cardinal Francisco Robles Ortega of Monterrey in a message issued late Aug. 25. “Hopefully our authorities surprise us with a definite solution to this serious scourge. We join in prayer for those who lost their lives, for their families and so that peace is restored,” the cardinal said. A statement released late Aug. 25 by the Archdiocese of Mexico City labeled the attacks as “cowardly and abominable,” and said the deaths “add to the innumerable victims of the cruelty and evil of organized crime.” Attackers burst into the Casino Royale in Monterrey Aug. 25, doused the premises with gasoline and torched the building, trapping patrons and employees, according to media reports. The Nuevo Leon state government put the death toll at 53, but some media reports said the number had reached 61. President Felipe Calderon told the nation Aug. 26 the attacks were “terrorism” and called for three days of mourning. He also blamed the United States for the problems with organized crime violence in Mexico, saying U.S. consumption and weapons were aggravating the situation south of the border.

Middle East Christians must be courageous, open, says Franciscan custos

VATICAN CITY (CNS) — Christians in the Middle East should not live in fear of the changes happening across the region but should act with courage to denounce situations of injustice and with a Christian attitude of willingness to dialogue, said the head of the Franciscan Custody of the Holy Land. “There is great uncertainty and great fear” among Christians in Egypt and Syria, Franciscan Father Pierbattista Pizzaballa told Vatican Radio Aug. 24. Speaking to the radio in Rimini, Italy, where he was participating in a conference sponsored by the Communion and Liberation movement, Father Pizzaballa said that, too often, if Christians in the Middle East express concern about problems or potential tensions between Christians and Muslims, they are accused of “wanting to accentuate the differences. If, on the other hand, you say there is collaboration and sharing, you're (accused of being) naive,” he said. “Both these experiences exist. It's not one or the other. There are experiences of sharing, but also elements of fundamentalism, division and persecution” in the region, he said. “We must not be afraid, we always say, but we must have the courage ... to say how things really are with clarity, but also maintaining a Christian attitude of witness, openness, welcome and trying in every case to reconstruct dialogue and relationships,” the Franciscan said.



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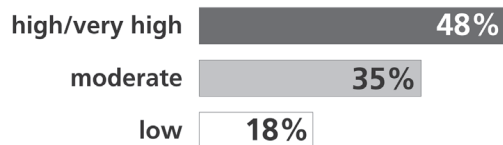
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Social Hostilities Regarding Religion

Nearly half of the world's population lives in countries where social hostilities involving religion rate as high or very high.

Percent of population and severity of social hostility:



VERY HIGH		HIGH					
Afghanistan	Iraq	Algeria	Ghana	Mexico	Saudi Arabia	Timor-Leste	
Bangladesh	Israel	Bulgaria	Iran	Moldova	Serbia	Turkey	
Egypt	Nigeria	Comoros	Jordan	Myanmar	Sri Lanka	U.K.	
India	Pakistan	Congo	Kenya	Nepal	Sudan	Vietnam	
Indonesia	Somalia	Denmark	Kyrgyzstan	Romania	Syria	Yemen	
		Ethiopia	Lebanon	Russia	Thailand	Palestinian Territories	

Source: Pew Research Center's Forum on Religion and Public Life, "Rising Restrictions on Religion"

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Role for world's religions seen in peacebuilding, solving conflicts

By Sara Angle
Catholic News Service

WASHINGTON (CNS)—Few would argue against the notion that to solve conflict created by religious intolerance, prejudice and discrimination, it is essential to understand how religion motivates believers and shapes their worldviews, that respecting all religions is not enough.

While religion can be a cause of conflict, it carries political leverage that many say makes it a source for solutions and a tool for peace building.

"We are giving a whole government effort to put religion on the table," said the Rev. Suzan Johnson Cook, the new U.S. ambassador-at-large for international religious freedom.

The United States is "on the front lines of confronting conflict and urging and pressing governments" to fight for religious freedom, she told Catholic News Service in a phone interview.

Her comments came in response to remarks of participants in a recent panel discussion at the National Press Club in Washington on the role of faith-based diplomacy and the use of religion to resolve conflict, especially with regard to Pakistan.

The press club discussion, held in mid-June, focused on a new book by Douglas M. Johnston, president and founder of the International Center for Religion and Diplomacy, who says the U.S. should realign its view on the role religion plays in politics.

Among those joining Johnston were James Glassman, former undersecretary of state for public diplomacy and public affairs, and Edwin Meese, former U.S. attorney general.

Johnston said his book — "Religion, Terror and Error" — is a "how-to" book for U.S. foreign policy as it relates to religion.

In it, he addresses what he says are political ambiguities surrounding religion and the state; describes the need for additional training of military chaplains; offers suggestions for reorganizing the executive branch of the U.S. government to "facilitate the consideration of religious factors in the normal course of doing business"; develops "a realistic model for conflict prevention"; and highlights the important work of nongovernmental organizations.

Johnston's book also introduces the idea of "organic suasion," a method of change from within. He specifically focuses on one of his ongoing projects at the international center — a teacher-training workshop to reform madrasas, Pakistani religious schools, by transforming the pedagogy.

Over the past seven years, he said, the workshops have had success in more than 1,600 madrasas. The project works to expand the curriculum to include issues of human rights and religious tolerance, but suggested changes are grounded in Islam. The program also appeals to Islamic heritage, respects the importance of "indigenous ownership of the process of change" and is taught "with humility."

By changing the education of young Pakistani boys, the International Center for Religion and Diplomacy hopes to change the future of Pakistan by combating the nation's historically violent past, according to Johnston.

Speaking of government methods of solving religious-based conflict, Johnston said, "most of what we've done today is

addressed the symptoms, but we need to address the cause."

Johnston said in his book that there is nothing more strategic "on or off the battlefield than our work with madrasas."

Glassman said, "We need to take the tools of public diplomacy as seriously as we take the tools of violence" and "engage the persuasive impact of religion."

He described Johnston's approach as "a new avenue to diplomacy," one that addresses "the ideas behind the guns."

Meese said he believes religion is often excluded as a solution to political issues because there is a misunderstanding of what the concept of "separation of church and state" means.

Meese cited the First Amendment, which says the government cannot endorse one religion over another or establish a national church, but "there is no mention that government should exclude religion in their activities."

"There is no prohibition from properly using religion and providing a bridge between people," said Meese.

Meese said Johnston's work provides an accurate depiction of what a proper relationship is between church and state, and his approach would allow readers to "rediscover what our founders had in mind."

Glassman said the problem now is that "the State Department is not constructed to address issues of religion."

Johnston agreed, saying the department is "still tightly bound in a straightjacket of dogmatism." He also emphasized the pragmatic side of the issue: "It's not that they need to be religious," he said, but they need to understand religion's influence.

But Rev. Cook told CNS the State Department is already taking an active role in addressing issues of religion.

For example, the Foreign Service Institute in June launched a new program offering an annual religion and foreign policy course to all foreign service officers. Rev. Cook said the course was such a success State Department officials hope to expand the program and offer the course more often.

Rev. Cook agrees with Johnston that "education is an ongoing process," saying the State Department is "not afraid of having the conversation" about religion and has monthly religious seminars with scholars, as well as faith round tables.

"The change is already here," she said. "I've come into a structure that exists and we're making it work."

Rev. Cook said she is confident about effecting change. "The structure does not confine me; it compels me."

Vatican urges Muslims, Catholics to promote spirituality

VATICAN CITY (CNS) — As Muslims around the world prepared to celebrate the end of their monthlong Ramadan fast, Cardinal Jean-Louis Tauran encouraged Catholics and Muslims to work together to promote spirituality. Cardinal Tauran, president of the Pontifical Council for Interreligious Dialogue, said Christians and Muslims are concerned about the challenges of materialism and secularization and the loss of the importance of spiritual and moral values in society. The message, released Aug. 19 at the Vatican, was issued in 30 different languages. It was addressed to Muslims around the world to mark the end of Ramadan on or around Aug. 30. Cardinal Tauran deplored that "Christians and Muslims are too often witnesses to the violation of the sacred" and are often mistrusted by others. "We cannot but denounce all forms of fanaticism and intimidation, the prejudices and polemics," as well as the fact that believers are, at times, the object of discrimination by people in society, politics and the mass media, he said. "Christians and Muslims, beyond their differences, recognize the dignity of the human person endowed with both rights and duties," the cardinal wrote. That younger generations embrace religious and moral values is a common concern, he wrote.

Poisoned by the Pill

Continued from p. 9

pletely effective." [15]

This truth is ineffectively communicated to girls.

There is *poor communication* to girls that *hormonal contraception can cause abortion*: Girls are often not told that if they do conceive a child while on the pill, the hormones in the pill may cause the baby to be expelled from the womb. This is called chemical abortion. A nurse at the conference described chemical abortion as being like a child going down a slippery slide. The conceived child slides out of the womb because it is unable to implant. It is now estimated that there have been 250 million chemical abortions caused by the pill. [16] Who is explaining this to young girls?

The term "contraception" is misleading. The origin of the word is "contra" + "conception" meaning "against conception." But the pill does not just work against conception. It also works against the already conceived baby by blocking implantation in the womb, thus forcing the baby to abort. Drug companies know this. The following statement is also from a drug company's medical instruction manual: "Contraception is prevention of fertilization of an egg by a sperm (conception) or attachment of the fertilized egg to the lining of the uterus (implantation)." [17]

Thank You Letters

Your Excellency,

The Holy Father has asked me to acknowledge the offering of \$10,000 which you sent through the Apostolic Nunciature as a contribution from the Diocese of Victoria for the support of the Holy See.

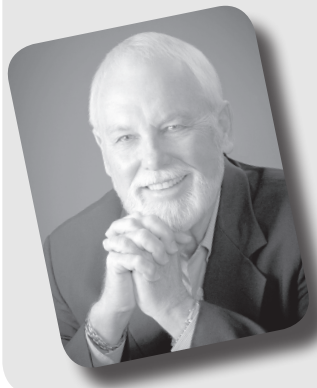
His Holiness is grateful for this donation and for the devoted sentiments that inspired it. He very much appreciates the support which you and your people have given to him in his service to the universal Church.

I am pleased to assure you of the Holy Father's prayers for you and for those entrusted to your pastoral care. Invoking upon all of you joy and peace in our Lord Jesus Christ, he cordially imparts his Apostolic Blessing.

With personal good wishes, I am

Yours sincerely in Christ
Tarcisio Cardinal Bertone
Secretary of State (Vatican)

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EVENTS

Special Collection Mission Sunday - October 23 Ongoing Events

That Man is You! — a men's weekly faith meeting will be held in three cities this year: Bay City, Ganado and Victoria. Please see page 12 for more information.

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.

Marriage Encounter—The Marriage Encounter Weekend is open to married couples, Catholic and non-Catholic. Worldwide Marriage Encounter is designed to make good marriages even better. For more information for encounters outside the Diocese of Victoria, see www.wvme.org.

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

The Beginning Experience—The Beginning Experience is an international ministry that helps divorced, separated and widowed individuals resolve their grief surrounding the loss of a marriage partner. It is a ministry of the San Antonio Archdiocese Family Life Office. For more information, go to their Web site: www.beginningexperience.org; e-mail: sanantonio@yahoocom; 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 advance reservations. The fort is handicapped accessible. For more information call (361) 645-3752 or see the Web site at www.presidiolabahia.org.

Engaged Encounter—Register as soon as you have contacted your pastor due to limited space. *It is strongly recommended that you attend an encounter weekend four to six months prior to your wedding date.* For a registration form, contact your pastor, visit the Web site at www.victoriadiocese.org/family/ee.htm, or write to: Engaged Encounter, P.O. Box 4070, Victoria, Texas 77903. The weekend is held at the Spiritual Renewal Center. The dates for 2011 are: Sept. 9-11 and Nov. 11-13. 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.

Picnics, Activities, etc. September

Inez — St. Joseph Parish Picnic Sept. 11 at the community center. A fried-chicken, brisket and sausage dinner will be served. The auction starts at 1:00 p.m. There will be kids games, country store, cakewalk, silent auction and more. See page 3 for ad.

Wharton-KC #3262 Bazaar and Celebration will include a barbecue-chicken and sausage dinner Sept. 11, dine-in or drive-thru, \$8 p/p, from 11:00 a.m. to 1:30 p.m. at the Knights of Columbus Home at 2820 North Fulton. There will be an auction, games and more.

Yorktown—Holy Cross Festival Sept. 11 at the community hall across from the church, beginning after the 9:30 a.m. Mass at the church, located at 1214 Zorn Rd. Homemade sausage, barbecue plates at \$10 p/p for adults and \$5 for children; games, cakewalk, country store, live auction and music by DJ Val.

Bay City—Our Lady of Guadalupe Church Festival Barbecue Meal and Auction Sept. 18 at the parish hall (12th Street and Ave. D). The barbecue-brisket dinner will be served from 11:00 a.m. to 1:30 p.m. at \$6 p/p with dine-in, pick-up or drive-thru available. Auction begins at 11:30 p.m. See page 14 for ad.

Holman—St. Wenceslaus Annual Picnic Sept. 18 at the parish hall grounds (FM 155 between Weimar and La Grange). A fried-chicken and sausage dinner will be served in a/c hall at \$8 p/p for adults and \$4 p/p for children starting at 11:00 a.m.

Plates-to-go available and hamburgers available after 4:00 p.m. The auction begins at 1:30 p.m. Free dance under pavilion after auction with music by Janak & Shimok Polka Band. There will also be amusements and refreshments.

Moulton—St. Joseph Parish Picnic Sept. 18 on the KC grounds. An open-air Mass at the city park will be at 10:00 a.m. Starting at 10:30 a.m. a kettle-fried chicken and beef stew dinner will be served in the a/c hall with drive-thru plate-to-go available. D.J. the DJ will provide music outdoors, auction (outside) and a free dance inside with The Texas Legacy Czech Band at 1:00 p.m. There will be games, cakewalk, country store and more.

Bloomington—St. Patrick Fall Turkey Dinner Sept. 25 on the parish grounds. Serving begins at 11:00 a.m. Games, auction and more. See ad on page 6 for more information.

El Campo—St. Philip Catholic Church annual Parish Picnic will be held on Sept. 25 at KC Hall starting at 10:30 a.m. Food, music, dancing, games, cakewalk, silent and live auctions. Call 979-543-3770 for more information. See page 13 for ad.

Sweet Home—St. John the Baptist Parish in Koerth will hold its picnic Sept. 25 at the Sweet Home Community Center (Hwy. 531) starting at 11:00 a.m. A beef-stew and sausage dinner will be served. The auction starts at 1:00 p.m. There will be games, country store, cakewalk, various booths and more. Hamburgers and cold drinks all afternoon. Fun for all.

Meyersville—Sts. Peter and Paul Annual Festival Sept. 25 on the church grounds (11220 FM 237) beginning with Mass at 10:15 a.m. followed by a barbecue-beef dinner served from 11:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. All plates will be \$8 p/p with dine-in or plates-to-go available. Bingo starts at 12:00 p.m. Live auction starts at 1:00 p.m. There will be a country store, raffle, games and much more.

Victoria—Victoria County's Annual Czech Heritage Festival will begin on Sept. 25 with a Czech-English Mass celebrated at 9:00 a.m. at Our Lady of Victory Cathedral and continue at the community center with music, food, museum, arts & crafts, Czech demonstrations, tarok tournament and much more. Admission is \$6 p/p — under 15 free. More information at www.victoriaczechs.org.

Victoria—Our Lady of Lourdes Games Party, Sept. 26 at \$7 p/p from 6:00-9:30 p.m. at the KC Hall (corner of Ben Wilson and Airline). Call Leona Sedlar at (361) 575-3160 or Helen John at (361) 575-6058 to make reservations.

Upcoming Events

Bay City—Holy Cross Fall Festival Oct. 2 at the KC Hall, 63 CR 216 (Nicholas Rd.). A turkey and dressing dinner will be served from 11:00 a.m.-1:00 p.m. at \$8 p/p with dine-in or drive thru plates available. There will be a live and silent auction starting at 12:00 p.m. A country store, children's games, cakewalk and more throughout the day. See page 12 for more information.

Shiner—Shiner Catholic School Fall Festival sponsored by the Home and School Association Oct. 2 at the American Legion Hall. A barbecue-chicken dinner at \$7.50 p/p will be served from 11:00 a.m.-1:00 p.m. with drive-thru available. The live auction begins at 12:00 p.m. There will be a cakewalk, games, concessions and much more. See ad on page 7.

Hungerford—St. John Annual Church Bazaar Oct. 2 at the Hungerford Hall starting at 10:30 a.m. A barbecue-chicken, beef and sausage dinner will be served along with sauerkraut at \$8 p/p. There will also be all types of homemade pastries, kolaches, strudels, pies and more. The auction starts at 12 noon. There will be entertainment for all including a country store, cakewalk, bingo, brown bag, kiddie rides to name a few. See page 17 for ad.

Mentz—St. Roch Annual Picnic Oct. 2 with a barbecue-beef, pork and sausage dinner from 11:00 a.m.-2:00 p.m. at \$8 p/p. Music by Odessa, games, auction and more. See ad on page 8.

Hostyn—Queen of the Holy Rosary Festival Oct. 2 with a fried-chicken and sausage dinner starting at 11:00 a.m. at \$7.50 p/p. Games, bingo, country store, music and more. See ad on page 16.

Victoria—Nazareth Academy Fall Festival Oct. 2 at the community center; doors open at 10:00 a.m. A traditional turkey and dressing dinner will be served. Games, country store, auction and more, see ad on page 9 for more information.

East Bernard—Holy Cross Parish Bazaar will be held at Riverside Hall Oct. 9. Dinner will be served starting at 11:00 a.m. The menu will include barbecue beef, chicken and sausage with "homemade dressing" and all the trimmings. Hamburgers will be served starting at 3:00 p.m. The auction will begin at 12:30 p.m. All kinds of games will be available from noon -5:00 p.m. There will be live music starting at noon. See ad on page 5 for more information.

Victoria—Our Lady of Victory Cathedral Parish Festival Oct. 9 at the community center; doors open at 11:00 a.m. A buffet-style barbecue beef and sausage dinner will be served at \$8 p/p with dine-in or curbside service available. There will be booths and games for the entire family to enjoy. See ad on page 15.

Goliad—Immaculate Conception Fall Festival Oct. 16 will be held on the church grounds starting with Mass at 10:00 a.m. followed by a barbecue-beef, buffet-style dinner at \$7 p/p. There will be a cakewalk, games, country store, moonwalk, ballet folklorico, music, auction (1:00 p.m.) and much more. See page 4 for ad.

LaSalle—St. Theresa Annual Parish Picnic Oct. 16 with a turkey and dressing dinner starting at 11:00 a.m. at \$8 p/p with dine-in or plates-to-go available. Auction at 12:30 p.m. and there will be a plant sale, cakewalk, games, country store and more.

Blessing—St. Peter barbecue turkey and dressing dinner Oct. 30 with dine-in or drive thru plates available at \$8 p/p. Auction begins at 12:30. There will be a country store.

Praha—Veterans Memorial Service Nov. 6

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

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.

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

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

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

Victoria—Spiritual Renewal Center offers days of reflection and retreats for the public. Days of personal reflection, Oct. 10 - 12; The Gospel of St. Mark, Nov. 7 -9; and Advent Reflections, Dec. 5 - 7. Read more on page 15.

Victoria—A Public Square Rosary Crusade will be held in front of Our Lady of Victory Cathedral at noon on Oct. 15. Event will last one hour.

Victoria—Spirit Wind Ministry presents a retreat led by lecturer, columnist and author Father Ronald Rolheiser at the Spiritual Renewal Center Oct. 28 -30. Please register and make deposit by Sept. 15. See page 12 for more information.

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—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, please see page 15 or call (361) 575-7111 or e-mail amorameus@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 lwbsvvc2@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.actsmiissions.org. For more information about the ACTS community movement in the El Campo Deanery, to download an upcoming ACTS retreat application, or to submit/view the prayer requests across the El Campo Deanery, please visit their site at <http://ecdeaneryacts.org/>.

Put Your Parish/ School's next event on Diocesan Web Calendar!

Please send the following information to calendar@victoriadiocese.org: Subject or Title; Start date; Start Time; End Date; End Time; All Day Event?; Description; and Location. If you are submitting multiple events, you may put them in an Excel spreadsheet saved as a CSV file. Please use the information above as column headings.

For an event to be listed on the Diocesan Calendar the following requirements must be met:

- (1) Sponsored by a Catholic institution
- (2) Be of interest beyond a single parish or school
- (3) Must include all the information requested above
- (4) Must include contact person's e-mail and phone number

~New Lighthouse E-mail Address~

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



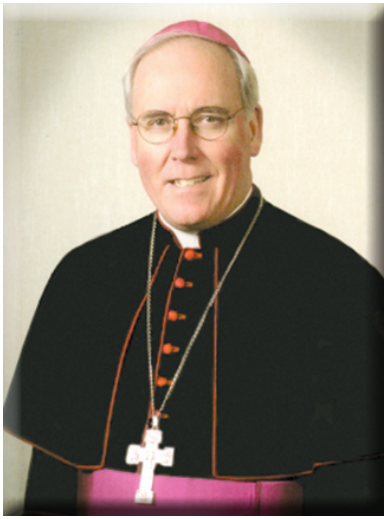
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Keynote Presenter
The Most Reverend
Richard J. Malone
Bishop for the Diocese of
Portland, Maine



Saturday, September 24, 2011 • Holy Family Parish in Victoria

This year there will be 37 workshops on a variety of topics for adult Catholics. For a full description of the workshops and biographical information on the presenters, visit www.victoriadiocese.org. This diocesan event offers an opportunity for all Catholics to attend workshops on pertinent topics offered by local and national presenters.

Otto Bleier and the Knights of Columbus will provide breakfast and lunch at very affordable prices. Catholic publishers and vendors will exhibit their products and offer advice on a variety of catechetical materials.

Round A
10:45 a.m. - 12:00 p.m.

A-1 *The Transforming Power of The Eucharist* by the Most Rev. Richard J. Malone
 A-2 *Revising the Roman Missal, Third Edition* by the Rev. Ty Bazar
 A-3 *Why Do You Do That? - Catholic Apologetics* by the Rev. Michael Rother
 A-4 *Eucharist: a Taste of Heaven!* by Matthew Schaefer
 A-5 *The Mass: A Feast for Our Souls, a Feast for Our Senses* by the Rev. Tommy Chen
 A-6 *Not Confusing the ACT of Forgiveness with the EMOTION of Forgiveness and How to Reconcile the Two* by the Rev. Bob Knippenberg
 A-7 *Believe! Celebrate! Sing!* by Kathleen Demny
 A-8 *"Many Mansions" of the House of Prayer* by Sister Emilie Eilers, IWBS
 A-9 *Our Jewish Roots* by Ron Friedel
 A-10 *The Rapture and the End of the World: Are You Ready For It?* by Brother Patrick Wildgen, O.S.S.T.
 AS-11 *¡Celebrar la eucaristía en nuestras vidas diarias!* Por La Hermana Marilu Barba, MCDP

Round B
1:15 p.m. - 2:30 p.m.

B-12 *Hearts Wide Open* by Charleen Katra
 B-13 *The Time of Your Life!* by Kathy Kelley
 B-14 *The Last Things: Death, Judgement, Heaven and Hell* by Michael Way
 B-15 *Eucharist: A Taste of Heaven!* by Matthew Schaefer
 B-16 *Preparing to Proclaim the Word of God* by the Rev. Eddie Winkler
 B-17 *RCIA: What About the Baptized?* by Lynda Knoche
 B-18 *Drawn Into Union with Christ: A Eucharistic Spirituality for the Minister* by Rita Minkley
 B-19 *Texas in Mission* by the Rev. Gerry Kelly & Larry Bourdeau
 B-20 *You're a Catechist? Truly? Come and See!* by Robert Walden
 B-21 *Let the Children Sing to Me: Music for First Communion and More* by Kathleen Demny
 Sponsored by World Library
 B-22 *Classroom Management - A Positive Approach* by Joyce Howison
 Sponsored by William H. Sadlier, Inc.
 B-23 *Praise and Worship Music in the Catholic Mass* by Mark Zepeda
 BS-24 *¡Sacerdote, Profeta y Rey! ¿Sera Cierto?* Por la Hermana Miriam Perez, MCSH

Round C
2:45 p.m. - 4:00 p.m.

C-25 *Bless us, O Lord* by Charleen Katra
 C-26 *The Catechetical Leader and Effective Communication* by Kathy Kelley
 C-27 *Relating Scripture to Daily Living* by Michael Way
 C-28 *Ministers of Communion: Distributors of the Body of Christ* by the Rev. Eddie Winkler
 C-29 *Priest, Prophet, And King! You Have To Be Kidding!* by Sister Miriam Perez, MCSH
 C-30 *RCIA: What About the Baptized?* by Lynda Knoche
 C-31 *The Liturgical Year: An Essential Resource for Catechists* by Rita Minkley
 C-32 *Texas in Mission* by the Rev. Gerry Kelly & Larry Bourdeau
 C-33 *You're a Catechist? Truly? Come and See!* by Robert Walden
 C-34 *Celebrating the Eucharist in Our Daily Lives!* by Sister Mary Louise Barba, MCDP
 C-35 *Praise and Worship Music in the Catholic Mass* by Mark Zepeda
 C-36 *The Rapture and the End of the World: Are You Ready for It?* by Brother Patrick Wildgen
 CS-37 *Viviendo los Sacramentos* Por Maria Salinas

REGISTRATION

Call 361-573-0828 for more information.

REGISTER ONLINE at
www.victoriadiocese.org

- Individual \$25.00
- Group Reg. \$20.00 ea. (10 - 15 persons)
- \$18.00 ea. (16 - 20 persons)
- \$16.00 ea. (21 or more)

Registration at the door \$30.00



Schedule of the Day

Doors Open	7:30 a.m.
Opening Prayer	9:00 a.m.
Keynote	9:30 a.m.
Round A Workshops	10:45 a.m.
Lunch	12:00 p.m.
Round B Workshops	1:15 p.m.
Round C Workshops	2:45 p.m.
Liturgy	4:15 p.m.

2011 Conference Lineup of National Presenters



Mary Louise Barba, MCDP



Kathleen Demny



Joyce Howison



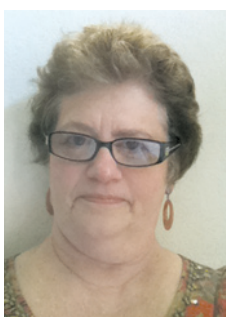
Charleen Katra



Kathy Kelley



Rev. Gerry Kelly



Lynda Knoche



Rita Minkley



Maria Salinas



Robert Walden



Michael Way