

The Catholic Lighthouse

The Cradle of Texas Immigration



VOL. 26, NO. 7

OFFICIAL PUBLICATION OF THE DIOCESE OF VICTORIA IN TEXAS

November 2012



Former Episcopalian priest assists in Victoria Diocese

By Cynthia Brewer

Father James Ramsey, a retired priest from the Archdiocese of Galveston-Houston, who now resides in the Diocese of Victoria, was one of the first Episcopalian priests to leave his church and become a Catholic priest under the Pastoral Provision approved by Pope John Paul II in 1980.

Upon his retirement in May 1, 2012, he moved into his “weekend” house in Blessing and made it his retirement home. He now fills in for priests in the Diocese of Victoria when they need a substitute.

He has generously answered the following questions for The Catholic Lighthouse to help readers understand this transition from the Episcopalian Church to the Catholic faith.

You and another Episcopal priest petitioned Rome to join the Catholic Church; when did this take place?

Father James Moore and I were part of what was called the Pro-Diocese of St. Augustine of Canterbury. This was a group of Episcopal priests who petitioned the Vatican to let us not only join to the Catholic Church, but also to bring along with us

Father James Ramsey delivers a homily at St. Mary Parish in Victoria this fall. Since his retirement to Blessing in May 2012, Father James Ramsey, once an Episcopalian priest, now assists at parishes within the Diocese of Victoria. He resigned from the priesthood of the Episcopalian Church in 1982 and was ordained a Catholic priest in the then Diocese of Galveston-Houston in 1984.

our Anglican heritage, and if married our wives. The Pro-Diocese was organized in California about 1978 and Father Moore and I joined it in 1979.

Editor’s note: According to the Episcopal Church Website, the Episcopal church is part of the Anglican Communion, and is comprised of 110 dioceses in 16 nations.

Can you explain why you came to the decision to do so?

It had been on my mind for a number of years that Christ left only one Church and that it is the Catholic Church. So there was a very positive attraction. The moving factor so to speak, was that by the 1970s, the Episcopal Church had begun to depart from the faith of classic Christianity, as we understood it. Eventually the feeling became one of, ‘I cannot live in this house any longer.’ At the same time, the Anglican tradition had formed my spiritual upbringing since I was 16. So when the opportunity presented itself to become a Catholic priest and enter the Catholic Church along with our tradition, it was time to make the

See Former Episcopalian, p. 4

Pope sends Obama telegram with prayers that freedom, justice flourish

By Carol Glatz
Catholic News Service

VATICAN CITY (CNS) — Pope Benedict XVI congratulated U.S. President Barack Obama on his re-election, saying that he prayed the ideals of freedom and justice that guided America’s founders might continue to flourish.

The Vatican did not make public the full text of the pope’s telegram to Obama, which was sent via Archbishop Carlo Maria Viganò, the apostolic nuncio to the United States, Nov. 7.

“In the message, the Holy Father sent his best wishes to the president for his new term and assured him of his prayers that God might assist him in his very great responsibility before the country and the

international community,” the Vatican said in a statement.

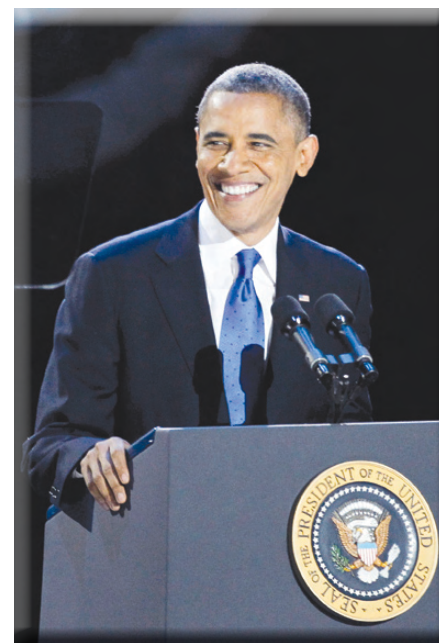
The pope also told Obama he was praying that “the ideals of liberty and justice that guided the founders of the United States of America might continue to shine” as the nation goes forward, the statement said.

In remarks to reporters, Jesuit Father Federico Lombardi, Vatican spokesman, voiced hopes that Obama would also promote “a culture of life and religious freedom.”

It is the hope of everyone that President Obama “respond to the expectations” of the American people and “serve law and justice for the well-being and growth of every person, by respecting essential human and spiritual values and by promoting the culture of life and religious freedom, which have always been so precious in the tradition of the American people and their culture,” the priest said.

U.S. Catholic bishops have been at odds

See Pope sends Obama telegram, p. 17



U.S. President Barack Obama, who won a second term by defeating Republican presidential nominee Mitt Romney, smiles before addressing supporters during his election night victory rally in Chicago Nov. 7. (CNS photo/Jim Bourg, Reuters)

Stories on Web issue

To see the following stories on pgs. 21-24 of *The Catholic Lighthouse* please go to <http://www.victoriadiocese.org/lighthouse/lighthouse.htm>.

- *To Politicians With Love - Five Marriage Counseling Lessons for Political Discourse*
- Heather Kallus Pro-Life Poem for Down Syndrome Awareness Month
- Guest Commentary on Assisted Suicide
- Twenty-five years since Pope John Paul II’s visit to Texas
- *Are There “Good” and “Bad” Emotions?*
- *Norplant is Back – Under a Different Name* by Population Research Institute



Bishop Fellhauer's Schedule

November

- 11-15** United States Conference of Catholic Bishops, General Meeting, Baltimore, Md.
- 19** 6:00 p.m., Evening Prayer, ceremony honoring the seven priests promoted to Monsignors: Rev. Celestino Say, Rev. Casimir Jarzombek, Rev. Joseph Hybner, Rev. Gerard Cernoch, Rev. John C. Bily, Rev. Lawrence Matula, and Rev. John C. Peters, at Our Lady of Victory Cathedral, with a reception following in the OLV Gymnasium
- 21** 4:00 p.m., Diocesan Building Board meeting, Chancery Office
- 28** Installation of Bishop-elect Joseph E. Strickland as Bishop of the Diocese of Tyler, in Tyler
- 29** 6:30 pm., Knights of St. Gregory Christmas gathering, The Club at Colony Creek, Victoria

December

- 3** 6:30 p.m., Catholic Daughters and Knights of Columbus Christmas gathering, Knights of Columbus Hall, Victoria
- 6** 6:30 p.m., Equestrian Order of the Holy Sepulchre Christmas gathering, Victoria Country Club
- 7** Noon, Bishop Fellhauer's presentation to Serra Club of Victoria, The Club at Colony Creek, Victoria
- 8** Bishop's Christmas Dinner, Spiritual Renewal Center: Mass at 5:00 p.m., Social at 6:15 p.m., and Dinner at 7:00 p.m.
- 9** 10:30 a.m., Mass, Celebration honoring Msgr. John C. Peters being named Monsignor, Sacred Heart Church, Hallettsville

Father Lawrence Matula to be invested with Monsignor title

CORRECTION:

Although the story on Father Lawrence Matula had been written and even placed in the article on the priests who had been elevated with the title of monsignor, for some strange reason in the shuffle of reorganizing the October issue before it was sent to the printer, he was inadvertently left out. Our sincerest apologies go to Msgr. Matula, his family, and the parishioners of St. Robert Bellarmine in El Campo. Congratulations, Msgr. Matula.

Bishop David E. Fellhauer will celebrate the investiture of each of the seven priests to be honored with the title of monsignor on Monday, Nov. 19, at 6 p.m. at Our Lady of Victory Cathedral; a reception will follow the Mass.

Rev. Msgr. Lawrence Matula

Father Larry Matula, pastor of Saint Robert Bellarmine Parish in El Campo, celebrates being bestowed with the title of Monsignor during his 50th-year anniversary to the priesthood. Father Matula was born May 7, 1936, in Shiner and graduated 8th grade from St. Ludmila's Academy. He attended high school at St. John's Seminary in San Antonio and was ordained to the priesthood on May 26, 1962, by Archbishop Robert E. Lucey at San Fernando

Cathedral. He celebrated his first Mass the following day in his hometown church of Sts. Cyril and Methodius.



His assignments have included ministering to parishes in San Antonio from 1962 to 1982; a Notre Dame Sabbatical and Holy Land Study Tour from 1982 to 1983; he then came to the rural parishes in the newly established Diocese of Victoria: St. Anthony Church, Palacios, from 1983 to '85; and Saint Robert Bellarmine from 1985 to present. Msgr. (Father) Matula is fluent in Spanish; his interest in Hispanic ministry

began in seminary, where he was required to study Spanish. In the summers of 1958 and '61 he ministered in the summer catechetical program with migrant families in the Diocese of Crookston, Minn. He felt his first experience of being truly evangelized was when he attended a Cursillo in 1961 in Houston. This experience continues to be an influential part of his continued spiritual growth.



Inset: Alec and Willie Immenhauser hold the America Needs Fatima sign.

In Victoria, Rosary Rally participants met at Our Lady of Victory Cathedral with Father Michael Rother (top left). Participants stated it was truly an honor to be part of such a great day with our Blessed Mother of Fatima. They are looking forward to next year and growing their number of participants. Rally Captains for Victoria were Mrs. Patricia Hessler and Mrs. Corinne B. Hinojosa.

Rosary Rallies honor Our Lady of Fatima's Message

Submitted by Terri Beltran

On October 13 over 9,077 public square Rosary Rallies throughout the United States united Catholics from

Alaska to Puerto Rico, Texas to California and 22 other countries across the globe. They joined together to celebrate the 95th anniversary of the Miracle of the Sun at Fatima, to pray the Rosary to Our Lady in reparation for the terrible sins of our nation, and to save souls.

The purpose of America Needs Fatima is to spread Our Lady's message all across our country in an effort to protect Life and stop Abortion, Same Sex Marriage, and Euthanasia. The goal is to rally as many of the faithful as possible to do what Our Lady of Fatima asked of us during her appearances 95 years ago – to PRAY the ROSARY!

The Public Square Rosary campaign intentions were to beg God through Our Lady to save America from today's immorality and secularism. The rallies brought America and the world one huge step closer to the triumph of the Immaculate Heart of Mary.

To see the photo of the El Campo Rosary Rally please go to EXTRA issue of *The Catholic Lighthouse* at www.victoriadiocese.org/lighthouse/lighthouse.htm.



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DEADLINE IS THE FIFTEENTH (15) OF THE PRECEDING MONTH.

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In Memory of ...

Sister M. Hilda Meismer, IWBS

Sister M. Hilda Meismer, IWBS, 88, of Victoria, died Saturday, October 6, 2012. She was born September 26, 1924, in Nada, to the late Joseph Arthur Meismer and Annie Elizabeth (Leopold) Meismer. She was a member of the Sisters of the Incarnate Word and Blessed Sacrament.



Sister Hilda completed elementary school and part of her high school in Nada Public School and the remaining subjects at Nazareth Academy, Victoria. She graduated May 28, 1943.

She entered Nazareth Convent, Victoria, as a candidate May 12, 1941. She became a postulant December 8, 1941, and received the habit July 27, 1942. She made her first profession of vows July 28, 1943, and final vows September 1, 1946.

She received a BA degree with a major in history and a minor in social science from Incarnate Word College in San Antonio. She did additional studies at Our Lady of the Lake College in San Antonio, Sacred Heart Dominican College in Houston, and Southwestern Texas State College in San Marcos.

During her 69 years of religious profession, Sister Hilda ministered as a teacher in the following schools: St. Jerome School in Plum, public school in Ammansville, St. John School in San Marcos, St. Leo School in San Antonio, Sts. Peter and Paul School in Frelsburg, Nazareth Academy in Victoria, Our Lady of Victory in Victoria, Sacred Heart School in Hallettsville, St. Patrick School in Dallas, Sacred Heart School in La Grange, Holy Cross School in Bay City, and St. Michael School in Cuero.

After retirement from active teaching in 1991, Sister Hilda resided at Incarnate Word Convent and assisted in various household duties when health permitted. She enjoyed reading, playing card games and visiting with the Sisters, family and friends.

She was preceded in death by: parents, Joseph A. and Annie Leopold Meismer; sister, Dorothy Stanley; brother, James Meismer; and brother-in-law, Alois Bittner.

Survivors are sister, Irene Bittner; brother, Norbert Meismer; brother, Leon Meismer and his wife Nita Meismer; and nieces and nephews.

A scriptural rosary, wake service with evening praise and sharing of memories was held on October 8 at Incarnate Word Convent.

Funeral services were held at the convent on October 9. Burial followed at Catholic Cemetery No. 3.

Pallbearers were Paul Meismer, Jody Meismer, Timmy Bittner, Paul Bittner,

Sister M. Isabel Estrada, IWBS

Sister M. Isabel Estrada, 77, of Victoria, died Wednesday, October 17, 2012. She was born March 1, 1935, in Floresville, to the late Jose Gonzalez Estrada and Julia De Leon Estrada. She was a member of the Sisters of the Incarnate Word and Blessed Sacrament.



Sister Isabel attended Sacred Heart Catholic Elementary School in Floresville and Floresville Public High School. She entered Nazareth Convent, Victoria, August 26, 1951, as a senior and graduated from Nazareth Academy in 1952. She became a postulant December 2, 1951, and received the habit June 2, 1952. She made annual vows June 3, 1953, and final vows August 5, 1956.

She received her BA degree with a major in English and a minor in Spanish from Incarnate Word College and a Master of Education degree from Southwest Texas State University with a major in administration and a minor in psychology/sociology. She also studied at the Oblate School of Theology in San Antonio.

During her 59 years of profession, Sister ministered as a teacher at St. Leo School in San Antonio, Holy Cross School in Bay City, St. Mary School in Nada, St. Agnes School in San Antonio, St. Michael School in Weimar and Nazareth Academy in Victoria. Later she served as principal at St. Michael School in Weimar, Holy Cross School in Bay City, Our Lady of Perpetual Help School in Selma and St. Joseph School in Yoakum. Sister Isabel had a great love for music and spent many after-school hours teaching piano lessons in an effort to inspire others with the great love of music which she had. She moved to Incarnate Word Convent in 2004, and began a part-time ministry at Nazareth Academy as well as household ministries at Incarnate Word Convent. She entered into her Apostolate of Prayer and Suffering in 2009.

She was preceded in death by her parents; brother, Joe A. Estrada and his

Donny Meismer, Leroy Leopold; honorary pallbearers were all her nieces and nephews.

Memorials: Incarnate Word Convent, Hospice of South Texas, or donor's choice.

wife, Alice; and sister, Sister M. Rosario Estrada, IWBS.

Survivors are her sister, Albina and her husband, Norbert Lucius; brother Edward and his wife, Helen; niece, Theresa Estrada; and nephews, Joey Estrada, Eddie Estrada Jr. and Roland Estrada.

Viewing of the body and scriptural rosary was held on Friday, October 19, at Incarnate Word Convent. A wake service with evening praise and sharing of memories was held that evening at the convent.

Funeral services were held at the convent on October 20. Burial followed at Catholic Cemetery No. 3.

Memorials: Incarnate Word Convent, Hospice of South Texas, or donor's choice.

A Tribute to Will

A tribute to Frank "Will" Wearden Jr. may be seen at www.youtube.com; type in Soldier by Mud River Boys (Revised). Will, the son of Frank and Gloria Wearden of Victoria and an Iraqi War Veteran and Aggie Catholic, was found murdered May 14, 2012, near Kingsville, Texas. Read about Will in the archives at the bottom of the page at www.victoriadiocese.org/lighthouse/lighthouse.htm. May he rest in peace.

NEW OFFICERS—

The Victoria Holy Family Church Altar Society officers for 2012-13 are from l-r, Sharon Keefe, first vice president; Bobbe Wenzel, corresponding secretary; Mary Jo Holt, parliamentarian; Ophelia Salinas, second vice president; Melicent Bryarly, president; and Ann Korinek, recording secretary. Not pictured is Carolyn Dornak, treasurer.



Updated Diocesan Directories are available now

The 2012 Diocesan Directory is now available on the website. You may download the PDF and print it from home.

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

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

ST. JOSEPH
HIGH SCHOOL

SAVE THE DATE!
Open House
November 15, 2012
6:30 pm
StJ Gymnasium

You'll love the Journey®



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St. Joseph High School- Victoria, Texas



Seminary Burses

Seminary burses are a permanent fund used for the education of future priests for the Diocese of Victoria. The goal of each burse is \$15,000. The interest from this amount is applied yearly to the education of seminarians. The burses are in memory of or in honor of an individual priest or lay persons, living or deceased. Publication of the burses will appear periodically when new contributions are received.

As of October 30, 2012

	TOTALS
— General Seminary Burse	
Previously reported	\$101,189.00
In honor of Rev. Wayne Flagg's 24th ordination anniversary to the priesthood by M/M DeWayne Dvorak	<u>250.00</u>
Total	\$101,439.00
— Knights of Columbus Ganado Council #3204 Rev. Msgr. Joseph Hybner	
Previously reported	\$2,936.00
In honor of Rev. Msgr. Joseph Hybner's appointment as Monsignor by Midge Elam	<u>35.00</u>
Total	\$2,971.00
— Catholic Family Fraternal of Texas — KJZT Burse #6	
Previously reported	\$13,340.98
In memory of Elsie Steffek by KJZT Society #2	5.00
In memory of Victoria Klmitchek by KJZT Society #2	<u>5.00</u>
Total	\$13,350.98
— Knights of Columbus Victoria Council #1329 Burse #3	
Previously reported	\$11,982.50
In memory of Clinton Klare by Imogene Klare	<u>50.00</u>
Total	\$12,032.50
— Our Lady of Victory Altar Society	
Previously reported	\$425.00
In memory of Ruby Kruppa by OLV Altar Society	<u>25.00</u>
Total	\$450.00
— Josephat R. Janak Burse #2	
Previously reported	\$2,378.77
In memory of Josephat R. Janak on his 14th anniversary of death (Nov 30, 1998) by Rose Marie Janak and Family	<u>20.00</u>
Total	\$2,398.77
— Rev. Msgr. Celestino Say	
Previously reported	\$5,640.00
In honor of Rev. Msgr. Celestino Say's appointment as Monsignor by: Theresa and James Wearden	25.00
Emily Yeary	150.00
M/M Daniel Kubena	<u>500.00</u>
Total	\$6,315.00
— Rev. Jerome J. Stryk Burse #2	
Previously reported	\$29.50
In memory of Bessie Havelka by: The Helen Muras Family	25.00
Steven and Ann Henning	<u>25.00</u>
Total	\$79.50

— Rev. Theophil Okruhlik & Rev. Vincent Verdaramo

Previously reported	\$10,667.89
Donation by Catholic Life Insurance Branch #55 Port Lavaca	<u>100.00</u>
Total	\$10,777.89

— St. John the Baptist Church, St. John, In Memory of Rev. Brian Crookes Burse #2

Previously reported	\$5,276.00
In memory of Leroy Rybak by: Alois and Joyce Machicek	10.00
Robert and Louise Pesek	10.00
In memory of Henry Tupa by: Eugene and Betty Stepanek	20.00
Oswald and Mary Berger	<u>20.00</u>
Total	\$5,336.00

— Rev. Msgr. John C. Peters Burse #5

Previously reported	\$5,784.00
In honor of Deacon Fred Soto's 25th diaconate anniversary by Deacon Fred and Patty Soto	40.00
In memory of Leroy Rybak by Willie E. Barborak	10.00
In memory of Henrietta Fabian by Anita Barrera-Rocha	10.00
In honor of Rev. Msgr. John C. Peters' appointment as Monsignor by: M/M Daniel Kubena	500.00
Deacon Luan Van Tran	100.00
Ann Margaret Kutac	20.00
In honor of Rev. Msgr. John C. Peters' birthday by Jimmie and Sylvia Steffek	40.00
In memory of George and Agnes Pesek by Eugene and Henrietta Veselka	<u>20.00</u>
Total	\$6,524.00

— Catholic Daughters Court of St. Ann #369 Burse #2

<i>CORRECTION from earlier publishing</i>	
Previously reported	\$9,398.99
In memory of Jimmy Frazier by Otto and JoAnn Bleier	20.00
In memory of Deia Blanchette by Otto and JoAnn Bleier	20.00
In memory of Margaret Purdy by Otto and JoAnn Bleier	<u>20.00</u>
Total	\$9,458.99

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

Former Episcopalian priest assists in Victoria Diocese

Continued from p. 1

move. I did so at the age of 38 and I have never looked back.

What did the process entail?

We had to resign from the Episcopal Church, which I did in 1981. We then had to go through the standard process of becoming a seminarian, psychological tests, interviews, reference letters, etc. and then go to Catholic University in Washington, DC, for interviews on the different aspects of the Catholic faith, to see where we needed further reading. When we returned home, we read for a year on the subjects we were given. Then we had a written examination on questions sent from Catholic U. and finally we returned to the university for oral exams on what we had written.

During this process, Father Moore and I catechized the parishioners who also wanted to become Catholic with us. We met each week and went chapter by chapter through a catechism of the faith.

In the meantime all our papers were sent to Rome for approval by the Congregation for the Doctrine of the Faith, at that time headed by Cardinal Ratzinger.

When our papers were approved, a rescript was sent to Bishop Morkovsky of Galveston-Houston, and we were then prepared and ready to be ordained Catholic priests.

What hardships or joys did you experience during and upon the completion of the process?

During the transition process, I taught at a private school in Houston, so did not experience any real hardships, but others who were in the process did.

One of the joys was the founding of Our Lady of Walsingham (OLW) Church in 1982. Father Moore and I started it with parishioners from my last Episcopal parish and some mutual friends. It was a house church, neither Episcopal nor Catholic, when we started it. On April 7, 1984, OLW was erected as a parish of the then Diocese of Galveston-Houston.

I was under the assumption that whole Episcopal parishes left their faith and converted to the Catholic faith, perhaps even keeping the church building; can you help me to understand better?

It is important here to understand that we left the Episcopal Church completely. The Episcopal parish I was pastor of stayed in the Episcopal Church; no attempt was made to proselytize anyone, and there was no attempt to take anything with us. It was a clean break.

Since retiring in the Diocese of Victoria in January 2012, what parishes have you assisted?

So far, I have helped in Bloomington, Vanderbilt, LaSalle, Hillje, Flatonia, Cistern, Frelsburg, Mentz, and Holy Family and St. Mary's in Victoria.

Read more about the specifics of Father Ramsey's conversion process at www.victoriadiocese.org/lighthouse/lighthouse.htm; click on November issue.

See page 6 for Question Corner column on Episcopal priests becoming Catholic priests.

DSA & Reflection of Faith Capital Campaign Updates

2012 DSA

Diocesan Goal:	\$1,623,907.00
Parish Pledge Totals:	\$732,546.40
Parish Contribution Totals:	\$689,721.58
Number of Parish Families Participating:	3,459

Reflection of Faith Capital Campaign

Diocesan Goal:	\$9,000,000.00
Parish Pledge Totals:	\$12,904,194.71
Parish Contribution Totals:	\$10,792,079.19
Number of Parish Families Participating:	6,769



FEEDING THE POOR—Recently the KJZT Society #101 presented a check in the amount of \$400 to the St. Vincent de Paul Society at Our Lady of Victory Cathedral in conjunction with KJZT program Feeding Families Across Texas. Representing St. Vincent de Paul are Jimmy Zamora and Debbie

Vanelli; representing KJZT Society #101, President Evelyn Dierlam.



Mr. Parks, team bus driver, is greeted by tearful players, Brooke Brooks and Analise Ybarbo, after the Mass of Thanksgiving and Celebration of Life.

St. Joseph volleyball team in bus crash

Many believe it a miracle none severely injured or killed

By Cynthia Brewer

“Our first thought was that nobody would come out alive,” said Martha Young of the bus she was following and her daughter, Iris, a sophomore volleyball player, was riding on.

The St. Joseph High School girls’ volleyball team was going from Victoria to Austin on Saturday morning, October 13, to play against Austin Hyde Park, but never made it, due to their bus going off the side of the road, flipping in the air and then rolling another time on the ground.

Mothers, Martha Young and Pam Malik, as well as many parents, were driving behind the bus when the bus crashed.

“We just watched it happen and were so helpless,” said Mrs. Malik. “We just prayerfully called out, ‘Oh my God, oh my God’ over and over.”

None of the 32 people on board the bus received any life-threatening injuries, although most went to area hospitals to be checked. There were no broken bones

and only four required stitches. Only the bus driver, 67-year-old Mr. Clint Parks, remained overnight at Gonzales Memorial Hospital for observation.

A Mass of Thanksgiving and Celebration of Life was celebrated in St. Joseph’s gymnasium Tuesday morning, October 16, with family members, students, and faculty members.

Prior to the Mass, Mr. Bill McArdle, president and principal of the school, spoke to the Mass participants, saying, “Life is so precious; we truly face the reality of it when something like this happens. We often go through life thinking we’re prepared for that final day, but we never think that day may come so soon.

“In this case, a tremendous tragedy was narrowly averted; I feel we truly had a miracle take place. The Lord obviously has some wonderful things in mind for these young ladies.”

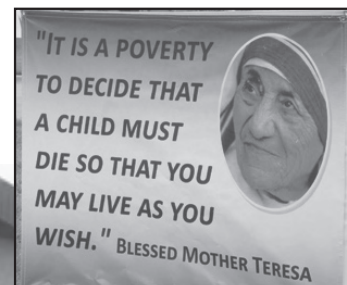
See St. Joseph volleyball, p. 19



CROSS SHINING FOR ALL TO SEE—A blessing of a new cross was held recently at Sacred Heart Church with Msgr. John Peters celebrating the ceremony. The cross, which sits atop the church and will be illuminated during the evening hours, was donated by Victor Roeber in memory of his dear friend Harry M. Hruzek. Pictured front from left, are altar server Ty Hynes and Msgr. Peters; back from left, are members of the Harry Hruzek family, who include Harvey, Kristin and Cheryl (daughter of Harry) Pavliska, David Hruzek, Victor Roeber, and Harry “Bubba” Hruzek Jr. and wife, Tammy. Photo by Hallettsville Tribune, Jimmy Appelt.

HOLY FAMILY RESPECTS LIFE—The first Sunday in October is a date known to many pro-life advocates. It is the date set aside annually for the Life-Chain, a peaceful and prayerful public witness and visual statement of pro-life individuals standing for 60 minutes praying for our nation and an end to abortion. This year at Holy Family in Victoria, before participating in the Life Chain, parish-

ioners and young people in the youth leadership program of the diocese, erected 400 crosses in memory of those who were never allowed the opportunity to live in this world. Each of the 400 crosses represents 10 babies that are killed by abortion each day in this country. Four thousand lives lost daily, 1.4 million each year; the number is so large that people have a hard time really understanding. The cross memorial has put this into perspective for many people. People have stopped, prayed, and left flowers, teddy bears and notes for the lives lost. The crosses remained for one month.



The Chancery will be closed for the Thanksgiving Holidays Nov. 22 and 23



Holy Day of Obligation
Saturday, December 8
Feast of Immaculate Conception

Question Corner

By Father Kenneth Doyle
Catholic News Service



Episcopal priests becoming Catholic priests

Reprinted from Feb 27, 2012 (CNS)

Q. I would like to know about the process of bringing Anglican clergy into the Catholic priesthood. Does it involve a ceremony of ordination that confers the power of consecrating the Eucharist, or do they already possess this power? I always thought that, because some Catholic bishops left the Catholic Church along with King Henry VIII and then continued to do ordinations, that Anglican orders were valid – but my former pastor contradicted this. (Richmond, Va.)

A. In 1980, Pope John Paul II issued a pastoral provision allowing married or unmarried Episcopal priests in the United States to become Roman Catholic priests after proper new formation. (The Episcopal Church is the U.S. branch of the worldwide Anglican community.) Since then, a number of men have made this “transfer,” and they have all been ordained in a new ceremony of Roman Catholic ordination.

By contrast, an Episcopalian who wants to become a Roman Catholic would not be rebaptized but simply received into the Catholic Church by professing his or her faith after a period of convert instruction.

The difference lies in the fact that, at least at this point in history, the Catholic Church does not recognize the validity of Anglican orders.

This goes back to a papal bull called “Apostolicae Curiae,” issued in 1896 by Pope Leo XIII. After convening eight scholars of divergent views who met during 12 sessions, Pope Leo concluded that Anglican ordinations were null and void,

based on the fact that the intention of the Anglican rite was not clearly to confer the power to consecrate bread and wine and to offer it in a eucharistic sacrifice.

In 1978, Cardinal Basil Hume, the Roman Catholic archbishop of Westminster in London, observed that the Catholic Church “needs to look carefully again at ‘Apostolicae Curiae’ and its status. We need to discover whether the historical background upon which it was working and the argumentation upon which it was based is consonant with historical and theological truth as theologians and historians see it today.”

Now, more than a century since Leo XIII, due to extensive dialogue between Catholic and Anglican scholars and a developing convergence regarding the nature of the Eucharist and ordained ministry, the validity of Anglican orders is still a matter of ongoing discussion.

The working assumption is that “Apostolicae Curiae” is still in force, so Anglican clergy wishing to become Catholic priests are ordained anew.

On Jan. 1, 2012, Pope Benedict XVI established a U.S. Catholic ordinariate (similar to a diocese) for Episcopalians who wish to become Catholic [it is located in Houston]. About 100 Anglican priests and 1,400 laity from 22 Episcopal parishes are seeking to enter the Catholic Church through this ordinariate.

When the above mentioned do move into full communion with the Catholic Church, they will be allowed to maintain some elements of Anglican worship, including many elements of the Anglican Book of Common Prayer. The head of this new ordinariate is Msgr. Jeffrey N. Steenson, a Catholic theology professor in Houston and a former Episcopal bishop. He was ordained a Catholic priest in 2009.

Pray for Vocations!

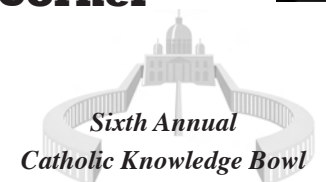
Heavenly Father, if it is your divine will, inspire many of our youth to say “Yes” to your special calling to be priests, sisters and brothers. Amen.

Serra International

Catholic Knowledge Bowl Corner

Test your Catholic IQ

1. October 11, 2012, was the 50th anniversary of:
 - a. John Paul II's visit to San Antonio
 - b. the opening of Vatican Council II
 - c. the publication of the Catechism of the Catholic Church
 - d. the establishment of the Victoria Diocese
2. October 11, 2012, marked the beginning of:
 - a. the 2012-13 Pastoral Institute classes in the Diocese of Victoria
 - b. the 20th International Week of Prayer and Fasting
 - c. the Year of Faith proclaimed by Pope Benedict XVI
 - d. Deacon Joe Duplan's service at the Spiritual Renewal Center



Sunday, March 3, 2013
Holy Family Church, Victoria
1:30 – 4:30 p.m.

The answers can be found in the October 2012 issue of the *Catholic Lighthouse*. You can continue to “test” your Catholic IQ during this “Year of Faith” at www.victoriadiocese.org. Click on Catechetical Ministry, then Catholic Knowledge Bowl, for an array of questions.

Consider putting a team together to study and enter the Diocese of Victoria Sixth Annual Catholic Knowledge Bowl. What a fun way to learn more about your faith! For more information contact the catechetical office at (361) 573-0828 or visit the website.

Newly released books by Liguori Publications

Liguori Publications has released several new titles on topics from Advent, to meditations, to saints.

Meditations from St. Vincent de Paul help inspire extraordinary charity in “Advent and Christmas ~ Wisdom from St. Vincent de Paul” by John Rybolt, CM, \$10.99; source code 12-901.

“Advent Daybreaks, Daily Reflections for Advent and Christmas” by Bishop Robert J. Morneau, \$1.25; source code 12-901.

Affordable year-round daily scriptural reflections, for Years A, B, and C, are offered by Rev. Warren J. Savage and Mary

Ann McSweeney. The titles are “Joyful” for Advent, “Peaceful” for Weeks 1-9, “Mindful” for Lent and Easter, “Hopeful” for Easter to Pentecost, and “Faithful” and “Grateful” for the rest of Ordinary Time; \$8.99 each; source code 13-901.

For ages 4-9, “Kateri Tekakwitha ~ Model of Bravery” and “Juan Diego ~ Mary’s Humble Messenger” are written by Barbara Yoffie and illustrated by Katherine A. Borgatti, \$4.99 each; source code 13-901.

Available at bookstores or call 800-325-9521, or online at www.liguori.org.

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.

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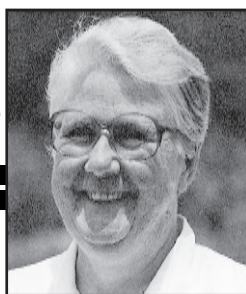


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SISTERLY THOUGHTS



By Sister Mildred Truchard, IWBS

Continued Growth

(Historical series, cont. since March 2012)

The newly-built convent/school building (which currently stands next to St. Mary's Church) was the realization of the dream of the Sisters who had originally begun the convent school in 1867, in a hastily-built room, which was only 30 by 16 feet with a six-foot wide gallery.

After the 1904-5 building was completed, the old wooden building was renovated and served as the kitchen and dining rooms for the Sisters and as living spaces for the young Sisters in formation. The new building housed the school, the boarders' living space, and the Sisters' home,

anniversary of the arrival of the Sisters to Victoria in 1866. Sister Regis Chavasieux, who had come directly from France as a novice, was the only member of the original founding Sisters who was alive at the time.

The second milestone was the lifting of the cloister for the Sisters. When Jeanne Chezard de Matel had founded the Order of the Incarnate Word and Blessed Sacrament in France in the 17th century, she had no option but to make a religious foundation that was cloistered – that is, an institution in which the members were bound to remain within the monastery

this day consider themselves to be contemplative, active religious responding to the current needs of the Church through various forms of Christian education and health care. After the Sisters were no longer required to remain within Nazareth Convent, they sallied forth into the field to teach in parochial schools and catechetical programs. Group by group, Sisters were being sent to staff Catholic schools and

hospitals. Some of our readers may have memories of when they had been students or patients of these Sisters.

To be continued...

For more about the Sisters of the Incarnate Word and Blessed Sacrament Sisters in Victoria – please come by the Gift Shop at Incarnate Word Convent and purchase Sister Alberta Novosad's book: TEXAS FOOTPRINTS in the Sands of Time.



BAKE SALE RESULTS HELP SCHOOL—St. Anne's KJZT Society #4 Praha donated \$843 to St. Rose of Lima Catholic School in Schulenburg on October 10, 2012. The money donated was raised through a bake sale held recently as a community fundraiser under the fraternal program and from matching funds received from the State KJZT Office in Austin. Those present at the donation include, l-r, Rosanne Gallia, principal of St. Rose School; Georgia Cerny, KJZT president; Father Tim Kosler, pastor of St. Rose of Lima Church; Patricia Masek, KJZT treasurer; Nancy Jasek, KJZT secretary; and Ellene Vrazel, KJZT vice-president.



Pictured above is part of Incarnate Word Convent that was renovated after the 1904-5 brick building was completed. Some of our readers may remember some of these buildings.

thus providing the much-needed space for the Sisters to conduct an excellent program of studies and cultural advancement to the students and to the city at large.

In addition to the school curriculum, the Sisters offered private instruction in music, art, sewing, speech, drama and languages. Thousands of students have gone forth with an education which equipped them to become outstanding members of society in spiritual, educational, social, and civic endeavors.

The year 1916 marked two significant milestones. It was with joy that the Sisters and the people celebrated the 50th

and live lives of contemplation, good works, and leading others to the Incarnate Word through instruction and example. They were able to teach; however, the students had to come to the monastery for the classes. So when the Sisters came to Victoria, they were only allowed to minister within the monastery or convent. Therefore, they accepted boarders and day students, who could come to the Sisters for their education.

After 1916, when the Sisters were no longer bound by the cloister, the Sisters maintained much of the contemplative aspect of their former lifestyle, and to

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St. Anthony of Padua Parish Celebrates Centennial

History of St. Anthony of Padua Church

The presence of the Catholic faith in Palacios began with the families that moved to this area prior to 1912. One could make the argument that it has been here since La Salle landed nearby on his ship La Belle. The Catholic Church's presence in the area as a community of faith, organized and united, began in the mid 1800s when St. Mary Church in Victoria tended to much of the mission territory that is Victoria, Calhoun, Jackson, and Matagorda counties.

Port Lavaca was the most thriving town in the area and built its first church in 1865. The priests at St. Mary in Victoria would travel by train and attend to the needs of the "mission territory," which included Vanderbilt, Benview (later La Salle), Port Lavaca, Blessing, and Palacios. The first baptism celebrated on September 11, 1912, by Father Francis Pallanche, an assistant priest in Victoria, serves as the earliest recorded sacramental presence here in Palacios. In 1913, Port Lavaca church, Our Lady of the Gulf, became a parish, and Father Pallanche became its pastor with Blessing and Palacios as missions.

The *Palacios Beacon* on October 3, 1913, reports that Father Pallanche came to celebrate Mass and the Catholic families were beginning to solicit funds to build a church. In 1916, Father Peter Baquet became the pastor at Our Lady of the Gulf and he purchased a lot on the corner of Fifth and Moore Streets in Palacios for the purpose of building a church. On December 29, 1917, Bishop Shaw dedicated the first church building at the site, naming it under the patronage of Saint Anthony of Padua, purportedly in honor of the St. Anthony Altar Society in Chicago, who donated much of the money for the construction.

In 1930, St. Peter in Blessing was elevated to a parish, and the administration of St. Anthony's was transferred to Blessing from Port Lavaca. In 1938, Father A.A. Gorek, an assistant at St. Peter, attached living quarters to the back of the Saint Anthony Church, and for the first time Palacios had a resident priest.

In July 1954, after 42 years as a mission, St. Anthony of Padua Church was made a parish with Father Anthony Constantino as its first pastor. By this time the Catholic population had outgrown

the church and a two block track was purchased on the western edge of town. The church and the hall were moved onto the new site, and in 1960 a new church building was dedicated by Father Julius Petru, dean of the El Campo Deanery.

In the 1970s, the cultural identity of Palacios grew richer as many immigrants from Vietnam began to move to Palacios to take part in the fishing industry. The Vietnamese, most of whom were Catholic, needed the sacraments and instruction in the faith in their native language. In response, Father Joe Pham came in 1976, and the St. Anthony's Vietnamese Apostolate was established. A chapel was built and named under the patronage of Our Lady of the Assumption.

In June of 1979, a local Palacios man, Robert Hickl, was ordained to the priesthood for Oblates of Mary Immaculate. He

Lady of Victory Cathedral in Victoria.

On September 8, 1990, Dan Morales, another Palacios native, was ordained to the priesthood at St. Anthony's and was assigned to Our Lady of Victory Cathedral. (It is interesting to note that Father Janak and Father Morales both were assigned to the cathedral under the pastorship of Father Harrold, who had also been in Palacios as their pastor from 1964-1968.)

Four more ordinations of native Palacios men to the priesthood took place in the coming years. Father Thu Nguyen was ordained May 9, 1992, for the Diocese of Victoria; Father Mike Buentello was ordained May 13, 1995, for the Congregation of St. Basil (Basilian Fathers); Father Dung Nguyen was ordained December 24, 1998, for the Legionnaires of Christ; and in June 9, 2007, Michael Rother was ordained and is currently at Our Lady

of Victory Cathedral. Though he was only born here and then moved after Hurricane Carla, Bishop Danny Flores, bishop of Brownsville, Texas, could be counted among the Palacios vocations. St. Anthony's is truly a wellspring of vocations to the priesthood. Also it has been a source of religious vocation for eight women: Sister Wanda Gray, CCVI; Sister Jean Ann Wesselman, DC; Sister Denise Bowers, IWBS; Sister Louis Marie Najvar Jones, IWBS; and four Dominican sisters from the Vietnamese Apostolate.

The Catholic faith in Palacios certainly has flourished with a growing number of families, an expanding physical plant, and numerous vocations to the priesthood and religious life. As we turn to the annals of Catholic life in Palacios, we look fondly on its history and joyfully face the history yet to be made.



Former pastors and local vocations concelebrate St. Anthony of Padua Parish Centennial Mass with Bishop David Fellhauer and Father Bryan Heyer, current pastor. Pictured from left are Fathers Dan Morales and Mike Buentello, CSB, Deacon Mike Vieira, Father Michael Rother, Bishop Fellhauer, Fathers Gary Janak and Robert Hickl, OMI, Msgr. Larry Matula, Father Bryan Heyer (foreground), Msgr. Gerry Cernoch, and Father Charles Dwomoh.

serves as a missionary priest in Mexico.

Father Larry Matula was assigned as pastor of St. Anthony's in January of 1983 and Father Gerard "Gerry" Cernoch became pastor in 1986.

On August 15, 1987, Michael Vieira was part of the first ordination of deacons for the Diocese of Victoria, and he was assigned to St. Anthony's. The following year, on May 14, 1988, Gary Janak, another local man, was ordained to the priesthood at St. Anthony's and assigned to Our

Celebration Celebrated for 100th Anniversary

PALACIOS—In honor of the 100th anniversary of St. Anthony of Padua Parish in Palacios, a Centennial Mass was celebrated September 9, 2012. The main celebrant was the Most Rev. David E. Fellhauer, bishop of the Diocese of Victoria, and the principal celebrant was Father Bryan Heyer, pastor of the parish; they were assisted by Deacon Mike Vieira.

A special treat was having former pastors and native vocations concelebrate the Mass. Former pastors concelebrating were

Msgr. Larry Matula, Msgr. Gerry Cernoch, and Father Charles Dwomoh; present native vocations were Fathers Robert Hickl, OMI, Gary Janak, Dan Morales, Mike Buentello, CSB, and Michael Rother.

Celebrants processed between the honor guard columns of the Fourth Degree Knights of Columbus Assembly 1131 of El Campo. About 500 people attended the Mass and following dinner reception. Entertainment was provided by mariachis and local Vietnamese youth.



NADA KJT TO ADD TO THEIR NATIVITY SCENE—Nada KJT Society #34 members recently received a letter from KJT State President Chris Urban, advising them that they were to receive a Matching Grant Funds check. The matching funds were the result of a bake sale held in conjunction with the Priest and Religious Retirement Fundraiser. The funds will be used to purchase a figurine for the Christmas Nativity Scene that is displayed during the Christmas Season at St. Mary's Catholic Church in Nada. Pictured, l. to r., are Nada KJT Society Officers: Kelly Korenek, treasurer; KJT President Clem Korenek, presenting the check to Society Chaplain Father Joe Vrana; Mark Eggemeyer, vice president; and Anita Meismer, secretary.

Current officers of St. Ann KJZT Society No. 37 pose with Bishop David Fellhauer at their society's 100th anniversary celebration; they are Roberta Wenzel, Ruby Wigginton, Bishop Fellhauer, Pauline Kloesel, and Rose Mary Havlik.



St. Ann KJZT Society No. 37 Celebrates 100 Years

HOCHHEIM—On October 30, 1912, five women of St. Ann Parish organized the 37th KJZT Society in Texas. These charter members were Albina Hanzelka, Cecilie (Jiral) Wagner, Marie Jiral, Marie Horky, and Antonia Benys. Officers of the original group were Anna Benys, president; Ludmila Beys, vice-president; Anna Peters; secretary; and Albina Hanzelka, treasurer.

On September 30, 2012, Society No. 37 celebrated its 100th anniversary in conjunction with St. Ann's Feast Day and the completion of the Bell Tower project and other renovations to St. Ann Church.

Presiding at the Mass was Bishop David Fellhauer. A social gathering was held after Mass at the church pavilion.

Current officers of Society No. 37 are: President Ruby Wigginton; Pauline Kloesel, vice president; Rose Mary Havlik, secretary; and Roberta Wenzel, treasurer. The Society has been active in fundraising for the church renovations; in the daily upkeep of the church and the cemetery; and in many other parish and community activities. Membership in St. Ann Society No. 37 stands at 109 currently, but continues to increase that number by referrals for membership.



COURT ST. PAUL AWARDS JCDA OF THE YEAR AWARD—State Junior Catholic Daughters of the Americas (JCDA) President Mary Adamek received the Outstanding JCDA of the Year Award for Shiner's Court St. Paul #1604, 2011 – 2012. Mary was selected based on her service to the Church, community, and school, and for the content of her short essay. Pictured at left is State CDA Regent Carolyn Malik (l.) presents Ms. Adamek (r.) the Outstanding JCDA Award.

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SACRED HEART OBSERVES THE MONTH OF THE ROSARY—Sister Emiliana Grafe and the 6th grade class of Sacred Heart Catholic School in Hallettsville reflect on Jesus' life through the recitation of the rosary. Students and faculty of the school spend a few minutes in every class, during the month of October, reflecting on a different aspect of the life of Jesus. The feast of Our Lady of the Holy Rosary is October 7 and October is celebrated as the Month of the Rosary. To read the full *Hallettsville Tribune Herald* article on the rosary, please see pg. 21 of The Catholic Lighthouse Web issue.



ST. PHILIP SCHOOL FAMILY HELPS TROOPS—St. Philip Catholic School students recently collected over 6,000 items for the American Red Cross Collection for Troops in Afghanistan. Items collected included food and snack items and personal hygiene items. The drive was coordinated by 5th grade teacher, Diann Srubar. The winning classes that brought in the most items (shown above) are 1st place: eighth grade; 2nd place: kindergarten ; and 3rd place: second grade.

(right) Bishop Fellhauer celebrates All Saints Day at Resurrection Cemetery, Victoria; he is assisted by Deacon Jim Koenig (l.).



All Saints Day celebration

Bishop David E. Fellhauer celebrated the Mass of All Saints at Resurrection Cemetery Mausoleum in Victoria Friday, November 2.

In his homily, Bishop Fellhauer said that in the book of Maccabees, we have a witness that it is right to pray for the dead. "Pray especially for those who have no one to pray for them," he continued. He also reminded those participating that this is a happy time for what God has done for us.

Bishop Fellhauer also gave an update on Msgr. Eustace Hermes, who for years celebrated the Mass at the mausoleum, saying that he now lives at Elmcroft Assisted Living in Victoria.

Mr. Joe Morris was the lector of the readings and Deacon Jim Koenig of St. Mary's Parish assisted the bishop. Carmen Lockstedt and Regina Koenig, of Our Lady of Victory Sister ACTS, provided music.

Following the Mass, Mr. Gary Rangnow, director of Catholic Cemeteries of Victoria, provided a light lunch to participants. Women from the chancery office assisted.

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First Chapel for Hispanic Ministry Celebrates 75th Anniversary

BAY CITY—Our Lady of Guadalupe held a celebration for the 75th Anniversary of the first chapel for Hispanic Ministry in Bay City on September 30, 2012.

The first chapel was a Santa Fe Railroad Line caboose called “Vagoncito.” Father Elmendorf, pastor of Holy Cross Church, bought a lot on the corner of 13th Street and Avenue L, and the Vagoncito was placed there. In 1945, a new church was dedicated to Our Lady of Perpetual Help. In 1950, property was bought on the corner of 12th Street and Avenue D and the construction of Our Lady of Guadalupe Church was begun.

A procession, featuring the parish float that won 1st place in the non-commercial entry in the Bay City Lions Club 67th Annual Rice Festival Parade the previous week, took place from the original site corner of 13th Street and Avenue L to the present church – nine good blocks to walk. Leading the procession were the Matachines Dancers of Our Lady of Guadalupe Parish.

Bishop David Fellhauer, Bishop Ricardo Ramirez, CSB, from the Diocese of Las Cruces, New Mexico; priests, and parishioners followed the float. Mass was celebrated by Bishop Fellhauer, main celebrant; Bishop Ramirez, homilist; Msgr. Gerry Cernoch, pastor; and native vocation Father Timothy Tran; Deacons Luan Tran

and Bill Key assisted.

After Mass, a reception with a meal and a program was held at the parish Family education building. Pictures of the years past, up to the present, were on the walls in the building.

“It was a great celebration; the people did an excellent job!”, Msgr. Gerry said.



Carmen Hernandez, a tenth grader at Bay City High, portrays Our Lady of Guadalupe on the parish float during the 75th anniversary of the parish’s first chapel.

Vietnam Vet receives grandson’s letter out of thousands written

By Cynthia Brewer

When Vietnam War Veteran Les Garcia opened the thank you letter randomly handed to him, following the “Parade That Never Was” event sponsored by Warriors’ Weekend, he held in his hands more than an anonymous “thank you.”

Following the parade in downtown Victoria on Oct. 13, Mr. Garcia read the handwritten note that had words of grati-

tude and drawings of the U.S. and Texas flags in it. He glanced down at the signed name and saw “Ryan G. a 5th grader.”

He asked his wife, Frances, what grade their grandson, Ryan, was in. She replied, “The 5th grade.” He then asked, “Is this his handwriting?” and in amazement she said, “Yes.”

Mr. Garcia wondered what the odds were that he, amongst nearly 1,000 veterans at the event, would receive his own grandson’s letter of appreciation. “I couldn’t believe it,” he said.

Later that afternoon at a family gathering, his family was also in disbelief that he received Ryan’s letter, so they called Ryan over and asked, “Did you all write some letters for the veterans’ parade?” to which he said yes. They then showed him the letter and said, “Is this yours?” He responded, “Yeah, that’s mine. Where’d you get it?” It was explained to him that when the letters were handed out Grandpa got his. He asked in surprise, “For real, you got it?”

It meant so much to the war veteran. “I think it was God’s destiny to have it stay in the family,” he said. “It really emphasized the ‘coming home’ aspect of the whole event. How big of a ‘thank you’ can I get than this from my grandson?”

Mr. Garcia, who served in the 5010th Security Police Squadron with the U. S. Air Force from

1967-1971, is the father of René, who works in the business office of the Diocese of Victoria, and grandfather of Rene’s son, Ryan, 5th grader at Our Lady of Victory School.

The letter he received at the “Parade That Never Was” event:

Dear Veteran,

Thank you for your service to our Country. Because of you and all of our proud and brave military, the United States is free and independent. I hope you enjoy the “Welcome Home Parade”. We will keep you in our prayers. God Bless you always!

Gratefully yours

Ryan G. a 5th grader



Three generations of Garcia’s share in coincidence, or rather God’s blessing, when Vietnam War Veteran Les Garcia (r.) was handed a letter at random, one from nearly a thousand students, at the “Parade That Never Was” luncheon. It just so happened to be from his grandson, Ryan (c.), a fifth grader from Our Lady of Victory. His father, Rene, sits at left.



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Saturday, the 8th of December

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5:00 p.m. Mass in the Chapel

6:15 p.m. Social · 7:00 p.m. Dinner

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Assorted Desserts



Cutting Edge

By Sister Margie Lavonis, CSC
Sisters of the Holy Cross, Notre Dame



Living with a Grateful Heart

Many years ago a missionary friend of mine told me about a beautiful tradition practiced by the people who live in Uganda, East Africa. From a very young age children are taught to live with grateful hearts. The word they use is “webali”, which is an expression of gratitude for all God’s gifts no matter how seemingly insignificant.

For example, any time a person goes to another’s home, the host thanks that person for taking the time out of his day to visit and the guest thanks the host for welcoming him into his home. Or if someone has a conversation with another, that person thanks her for taking the time to speak and listen to her. The Ugandan people express their gratitude for every human act of kindness no matter how big or small. It has become part of their culture.

When I heard about this life of appreciation and gratitude it left quite an impression on me, and I believe we can learn a lot from our Ugandan brothers and sisters.

It can be so easy to take our gifts for granted. I know I am sometimes guilty of this. I expect the heat to work when it is cold, that I will have the food I need when I am hungry, and I will have health care when I need it. There are so many things in life I just expect and do not recognize as gifts.

It would be good for each of us to develop an attitude of thanksgiving and gratitude. One way we can do this is to spend some quiet time reflecting upon all God has given us, especially those things we often take for granted or just expect.

Why wait until we meet a blind or deaf person to thank God for our gifts of sight and hearing. Or, after we lose a parent,

sibling, close friend or relative, we realize we are reminded to be thankful for our families and friends.

Then there are those who serve us who we often neglect to express our thanks and appreciation. I think of people like the waitresses we encounter when we go out to eat or the cashier who waits on us when we shop. Others might be the secretary or cleaning man at work.

Maybe we never even think about thanking the teachers who educate us or our parents who pay our tuition. We also need to thank people who give us gifts or invite us to their homes or go out of their way to be kind to us. Perhaps we have an attitude of entitlement rather than gratitude.

A good prayerful reflection I have found helpful is to take some quiet time to thank God for the people, living or dead, for whom I am grateful and, when possible, to express my thanks to them. I find that writing them a real letter, not e-mail, is an effective way to do this. In fact I have even written in my journal to those who have died. After all, they are part of the communion of saints.

Finally, the Mass is the ultimate offering of thanksgiving to God. When we celebrate the Eucharist we give thanks for the greatest gift of all, Jesus Christ, the Son of God.

Eucharist means thanksgiving.

Let us live as eucharistic people and, like the Ugandans, let thanksgiving become an attitude in our hearts and a way of life. Let us appreciate all that we have while we have it and not take people and our other gifts for granted.



Elie Mejia presents a copy of her new book, *Elie's Spiritual Treasures, Volume 1: The Old Testament-Genesis*, to Bishop David Fellhauer. She had a chance to visit with Bishop Fellhauer in mid-August and he requested a copy once it was printed. She was extremely delighted by his excitement for her project.

Local woman publishes puzzle book to encourage people to read the Bible

Eloisa Mejia, “Elie”, a longtime parishioner of Our Lady of Sorrows (OLS), recently published her first volume of a series titled *Elie's Spiritual Treasures, Volume 1: The Old Testament-Genesis*. It is a Bible Word Search Puzzle Book designed to encourage reading the Bible through word search. Elie plans to continue the series to include the entire Holy Bible.

The idea actually came to Elie in early 2006, but when her computer hard drive crashed, the expense of retrieving all her work was just too costly and she set the project on a back burner.

In 2008, Elie and her family would face a true test of faith when her youngest son, Jacob, was involved in a life-threatening car accident. The injuries he sustained were incomprehensible to the family. After much praying, acceptance, and months in various hospitals, where he would relearn to eat, drink, swallow, walk, talk, and balance, he finally walked out, something the doctors could not guarantee him doing.

During the Lenten season of 2011, Elie and Jacob attended Mass given by Father Stan DeBoe, O.Ss.T., pastor of OLS. Father Stan announced, “One percent of your day is 14 minutes. Give God 14 minutes of your day during this Lenten season.” So

with her son, Jacob, Elie started reading the Bible 14 minutes a day.

There were times when Elie was interrupted while reading and she recalls, “My family and friends would ask what I was doing; I’d tell them I was reading the Bible and that I read it for 14 minutes every day – 1% of my day.” They would reply, “I wish I could discipline myself to read the Bible, but the print is so small and it’s such a big book.”

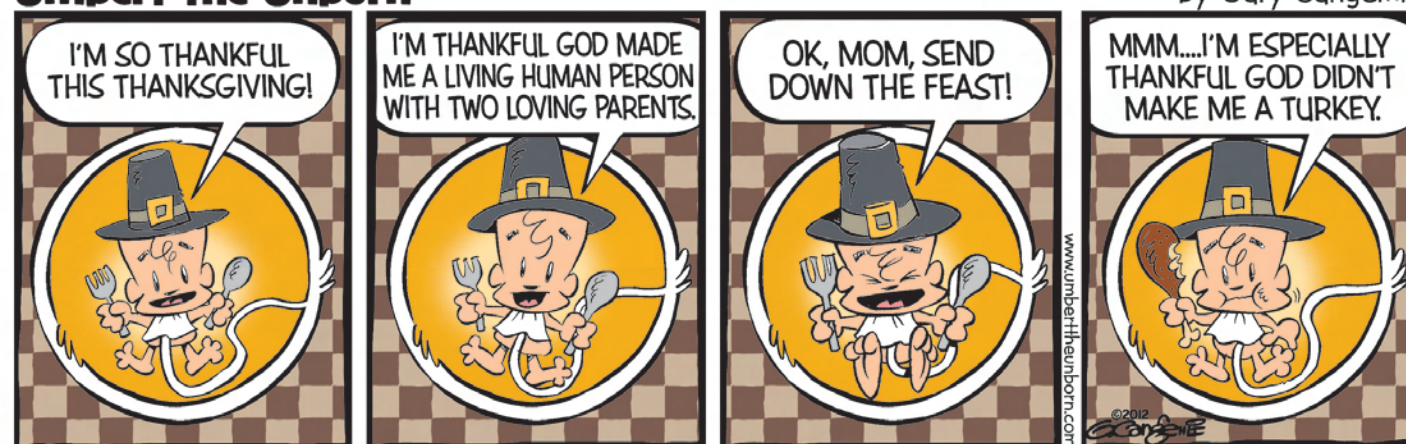
Soon after, Elie was searching for insurance papers for Jacob and she came across the folder of her 2006 project. Through all the trials and disappointments Elie faced in her personal life over the past five years, her faith endured. She was now inspired to start up her project again. Elie believes, “Whether it’d be the loss of a loved one, an illness, a near-death experience, or just being ‘lost’, the test of faith is a challenge to all.”

Volume 1: The Old Testament-Genesis is the first completed volume of the Bible Word Search Puzzle (WSP) Series designed to encourage people to read the Bible. This volume consists of the complete Book of Genesis through the use of 261 word search puzzles. The author plans to continue the series to include the complete Bible.

Elie’s faith in God made this dream become a reality and she trusts that it will benefit many in their time of need. The books are now available at Incarnate Word Gift Shop and Citizen’s Medical Center Gift Shop, both in Victoria; Cuero Community Hospital’s Wishing Well Gift Shop; www.searchingforjesus.com; and Amazon.com. They are printed on high-quality paper and sell for 19.99 plus tax (\$21.64).

The next puzzle in the series will include the Mass readings from the Catholic Lectionary for Mass, Year C, so they can be used for CCD classes or Catholic school classes.

Umbert the Unborn





Genesis 1:26-31

Then **God** said: “Let us make **man** in our **image**, after our **likeness**. Let them have **dominion** over the **fish** of the **sea**, the birds of the air, and the **cattle**, and over all the **wild** animals and all the **creatures** that crawl on the **ground**.” God **created** man in his image, in the **divine** image he created him; **male** and **female** he created them. God **blessed** them, **saying**: “Be **fertile** and **multiply**; fill the **earth** and **subdue** it. **Have** dominion **over** the fish of the sea, the **birds** of the air, and all the living **things** that **move** on the earth.” God **also** said: “See, I **give** you **every** seed-bearing **plant** all over the earth and every **tree** that has **seed-bearing fruit** on it to be **your** food; and to all the **animals** of the **land**, all the birds of the **air**, and all the **living** creatures that **crawl** on the ground, I give all the **green** plants for **food**.” And so it **happened**. God **looked** at **everything** he had made, and he **found** it **very good**. **Evening came**, and **morning followed** – the **sixth day**.



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



Sunday Readings from Nov. 11 to Dec. 9

Nov. 11 — Thirty-second Sunday in Ordinary Time	1 Kings 17:10-16 Psalms 146:7, 8--9, 9-10 Hebrews 9:24-28 Mark 12:38-44
Nov. 18 — Thirty-third Sunday in Ordinary Time	Daniel 12:1-3 Psalms 16:5, 8, 910, 11 Hebrews 10:11-14, 18 Mark 13:24-32
Nov. 25 — The Solemnity of Christ the King	Daniel 7:13-14 Psalms 93:1, 1-2, 5 Revelations 1:5-8 John 18:33b-17
Dec. 2 — First Sunday of Advent	Jeremiah 33:14-16 Psalms 25:4-5, 8-9, 10, 14 1 Thessalonians 3:12-4:2 Luke 21:25-28, 34-36
Dec. 9 — Second Sunday of Advent	Baruch 5:1-9 Psalms 126:1-2, 2-3, 4-5, 6 Philippians 1:4-6, 8-11 Luke 3:1-6



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

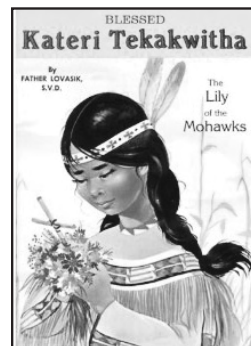
www.usccb.org/bible/readings

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October Puzzle Contest Winners Chosen

The winner of the October puzzle contest and the book “5 Simple Steps to Choosing Your Path”, by author W. Granville Brown is Frances Vesely of Assumption BVM in Ganado. Since there were only two contestants for the children’s contest, both will receive a gift from Incarnate Word Gift Shop. They are Bryce Patrick Rasmussen (7) of St. Philip Parish in El Campo and Angelica Belmán (11) of Parish of the Nativity in Eagle Lake.

The winner of the November Puzzle Contest will receive *Elie’s Spiritual Treasures, Volume 1: The Old Testament-Genesis* by Elie Mejia. See review on pg. 12.



Father Lovasik, SVD.
Please mail all completed November

puzzle forms to arrive in *The Catholic Lighthouse* office, P.O. Box 4070, Victoria, TX 77903, by November 26, 2012, for a chance to win the book.

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THE POPE SPEAKS

Pope Benedict XVI



CNS photo from Reuters

Pope says material progress not enough to make free, happy; prays for Hurricane Sandy victims

By Carol Glatz
Catholic News Service

VATICAN CITY (CNS) — The world's huge technological and scientific progress hasn't always made people freer or happier, Pope Benedict XVI said.

While scientific knowledge and advancements "are important for human life, it's not enough on its own," the pope said Oct. 24 at his weekly general audience.

"We need not just material sustenance, we need love, meaning, hope and a solid foundation" that helps people live with courage even in the face of doubt, difficulties, and everyday problems, he said.

Before an estimated 20,000 people gathered in St. Peter's Square, the pope continued a new series of catecheses to accompany the Year of Faith, which runs until Nov. 24, 2013.

His talk focused on the nature of faith and what it means to believe.

The pope said, "Despite the great magnitude of scientific discoveries and technological successes, humanity today does not seem to have become truly freer and more human." Along with signs of progress and increased well-being, there also are "many forms of exploitation, manipulation, violence, tyranny, and injustice."

Faith gives people a solid sense of certainty in uncertain times because "faith is believing in this love of God that never fails in the face of human wickedness, evil, and death, but is capable of transforming every form of slavery, offering the possibility of salvation," he said.

"Faith is not the simple intellectual approval by man of truths concerning God; it is an act in which I freely entrust myself to a God who is Father and loves me," the pope said.

In fact, having faith is above all about having a relationship with a God whose love is "indestructible" and who understands people's problems, he said.

Christian faith entails giving up control and placing one's life in God's hands, he said. It's this "liberating and reassuring certainty of faith" that helps people live without fear, proclaiming and living out the Gospel with courage.

While faith is a gift of God and it takes divine grace and help from the Holy Spirit in order to truly believe, a free acceptance of faith is also necessary.

Trusting in God and adhering to his truths "is contrary neither to human freedom nor to human reason," he said quoting the Catechism of the Catholic Church.

Breaking free from one's own limited views and expectations, and believing God will show the way result in true liberty, an authentic human identity, real joy, and peace, he said.

After reciting the Angelus Oct. 28, Pope Benedict XVI expressed his concern for everyone affected by Hurricane Sandy and encouraged all those working to rebuild from the disaster.

Jake Finkbonner, 12, of Sandy Point, Wash., is pictured during an interview in Rome Oct. 18. Jake's healing from a rare and potentially fatal flesh-eating bacteria was the miracle accepted for the Oct. 21 canonization of Blessed Kateri Tekakwitha. (CNS photo/Paul Haring)



Kateri and Jake: American Indians are joined in sainthood cause

By Cindy Wooden
Catholic News Service

VATICAN CITY (CNS) — Jake Finkbonner knows what it's like to have kids tease him because of the way he looks, but one of his heroes also grew up being teased.

The 12-year-old boy said Kateri Tekakwitha, who became an official saint Oct. 21, was "an inspiration because I remember reading that many of the children in her tribe teased her because of her faith, but she continued to praise God and she made her own rosary."

"One of the things she always tried to do was spread her faith, even though her uncle and aunt didn't really approve of it," he said.

Kateri was raised by her Mohawk father's family after her parents died in a smallpox epidemic; Kateri survived, but with a scarred face and damaged vision.

Jake and his parents — Donny and Elsa — his two little sisters, all four of his grandparents and lots of aunts and uncles traveled to Rome for Kateri's canonization.

Pope's Intentions — November 2012

General Intention: Ministers of the Gospel. That bishops, priests, and all ministers of the Gospel may bear the courageous witness of fidelity to the crucified and risen Lord. **Missionary Intention:** Pilgrim Church. That the pilgrim Church on earth may shine as a light to the nations.

The scars left on Jake's face are all that remain of the flesh-eating bacteria that nearly took his life almost seven years ago. The sudden disappearance of the necrotizing fasciitis was recognized by the Vatican as the miracle needed for the canonization of Kateri, who Jake proudly explains "will be the first Native American saint."

Jake's dad, Donny, is a member of the Lummi Nation. The family lives in Sandy Point, Wash., on the Lummi reservation.

Jake was teased a lot, especially when he was younger and was first recovering, but "now I don't really have problems with that," he said.

Jake said he wants to be a plastic surgeon when he grows up so he can help other children; while he believes Kateri interceded to save his life, he also says his doctors "had a big part in my recovery."

Jesuit Father Paolo Molinari, Kateri's postulator, said, "It's really moving to see the declarations of the doctors who gave an account of what they went through for three weeks — the child really went between life and death, life and death."

The Jesuit said he also was touched by what the Finkbonners' parish priest reported the parents saying: "Father, we've decided to respond like Abraham, and if God wants to take our son, we'll say, 'yes.'"

But the priest told the parents that they could ask God to

See *Kateri and Jake*, p. 15

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A Muslim girl in Manila, Philippines, flashes the peace sign after watching the Oct. 14 arrival of a nationwide peace caravan supporting the signing of a framework agreement between the government and Muslim rebels. The agreement was signed Oct. 15, ending a 40-year conflict in the South that left more than 120,000 people dead. (CNS photo/Cheryl Ravelo, Reuters)

Filipinos seek answers on peace deal

COTABATO, Philippines (CNS) -- Some Catholics in Cotabato are taking a wait-and-see attitude toward the recently signed preliminary agreement between the Philippine government and the country's largest Muslim rebel group. While welcoming the end of fighting that has claimed more than 120,000 lives and displaced millions more over 40 years, Christians in the region are awaiting details of the deal and said they want an explanation about what the future holds for them. Their questions revolve around the agreement's framework for the establishment of an autonomous Muslim region in the southern Philippines, where the majority of the country's Muslims live. Sister Bernadette Baldemor, a member of the Oblates of Notre Dame based in Cotabato, said she wants to know more about what the agreement entails. "We see the need, most especially to educate the mass base, both Christians and Muslims," she said, "because there are misunderstandings." She said rumors were circulating that Catholics would have to leave the area. Based at the Cathedral of the Immaculate Conception in Cotabato, near the rebel group's administrative camp, Sister Bernadette said the church community has scheduled

several consultations with those familiar with the framework agreement to give the public a better understanding of it. The Moro Islamic Liberation Front had been in on-again, off-again negotiations with the government for 15 years until the agreement was signed Oct. 15. The organization has held fast to its demand to the right to self-govern in their claimed ancestral land, which has steadily diminished in size since European Christians colonized the region beginning in the 16th century.

Kateri and Jake: American Indians are joined in sainthood cause

Continued from p. 14

return their son to them, and he suggested they pray to Blessed Kateri, who died in 1680.

"That was the beginning of a movement of prayer that was extremely strong and solid," Father Molinari said, describing how the praying spread from the family, to Jake's classmates, the parish and the Tekakwitha Conference, which serves indigenous communities in North America.

Growing up, Donny said, Kateri's story was "something we had pride over — she lived more than 300 years ago and her story's still being told and, so, looking back on her story it's kind of come full circle with Jake's miracle."

Father Scott Connolly is pas-

Caritas Cuba appeals for aid for thousands left homeless by Sandy

SANTO DOMINGO, Dominican Republic (CNS) — Catholic leaders in Cuba are calling for emergency assistance to help feed and shelter thousands of victims of Hurricane Sandy, which cut a devastating path through the eastern part of the island. "There are thousands and thousands of people that are in need of help," said Santiago de Cuba Archbishop Dionisio Garcia Ibanez in a telephone interview with Catholic News Service Nov. 6. "It is going to take several years to fully recover from this." Santiago, Cuba's second-largest city, and the eastern part of the island were devastated by the storm Oct. 25 before it headed north to the U.S. mainland. Homes, community buildings, churches, electricity grids, telephone lines and roads were destroyed. Authorities said 11 people died. The storm damaged an estimated 200,000 homes and hundreds of schools. Caritas Cuba has appealed to international church agencies for financial assistance.

Advent Begins Dec. 2

tor of Assumption Parish where Jake and his sisters go to school. The Finkbonners and he traveled with dozens of his parishioners on a pilgrimage to Rome for the canonization.

"The saints are so important in our life as a Catholic people," he said. "The fact that we actually have a miracle in our school — someone we can actually touch and see and talk to and enjoy" — has an impact on the community, but also on native peoples in the United States and Canada, and on the whole church.

Jake said he is convinced that "Kateri truly did intercede and if it weren't for her, I wouldn't be here."

Decrying situation of Chinese Catholics

VATICAN CITY (CNS) — Over the past five years, relations between the government of China and the Catholic Church unfortunately have been marked by "misunderstandings, accusations" and new "stumbling blocks" to religious freedom, said the prefect of the Congregation for the Evangelization of Peoples. Cardinal Fernando Filoni, congregation prefect, said, "Control over persons and institutions has been honed and sessions of indoctrination and pressure are being turned to with ever greater ease." In an article published in late October in Tripod, a publication of the Holy Spirit Study Center in Hong Kong, the cardinal, who spent nine years in Hong Kong as

a Vatican diplomat monitoring the situation of the Church in China, issued a call for dialogue with China's communist government. He asked for the establishment of a high-level, bilateral commission of China and the Holy See, similar to the China-Taiwan commissions that continue to discuss issues of importance even though relations between the two are strained politically. The Catholic community in China, he said, does not enjoy the freedom it should and it cannot move toward unity and reconciliation as long as the government appoints bishops unacceptable to the Holy See, pressures other bishops to participate in illicit ordinations and detains bishops who insist on maintaining their ties with the Vatican.

Family is key ally in fighting crime, Vatican official tells Interpol

VATICAN CITY (CNS) — The absolute frontline in the prevention of crime is the family, a top Vatican official told members of Interpol, the international police organization. To prevent crime and violence, societies must educate citizens about their own dignity and the value of each human life, promote solidarity and instill a sense of justice in society — all values that can be learned earliest and best in the family, said Archbishop Dominique Mamberti, the Vatican's secretary for relations with states. The archbishop spoke to members of Interpol holding their general assembly Nov. 5-8 in Rome. The 190 country-members of Interpol not only coordinate crime-fighting efforts, but also work together on crime prevention programs. An increase of crime, particularly brutally violent crime, around the world calls for even greater preventative actions, Archbishop Mamberti said. Prevention requires "the removal of factors which give rise to and nourish situations of injustice. In this field a primary and preventative role belongs to education inspired by respect for human life in all circumstances," he said. Only with the recognition of the value of each life, he said, will it be "possible to create a strong social fabric united in its fundamental values and able to resist the provocation of extreme violence. In this context, the most important place in which human beings are formed is the family."

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TEXAS PRIEST NAMED BISHOP OF TYLER—Pope Benedict XVI has appointed Msgr. Joseph E. Strickland, the 53-year-old vicar general of the Diocese of Tyler, Texas, to serve as its bishop. The appointment was announced in Washington Sept. 29 by Archbishop Carlo Maria Vigano, apostolic nuncio to the United States. Bishop-designate Strickland is pictured in a 2011 photo. (CNS photo/Felipe Natera, courtesy Bishop T.K. Gorman Regional Catholic School)

Internal matters top agenda of bishops' fall assembly in Baltimore

WASHINGTON (CNS) — Statements on preaching and ways that bishops can respond using new technologies to modern-day challenges to their teaching authority are among the items the U.S. bishops will consider when they gather in Baltimore for their annual fall assembly. Set for Nov. 12-15, the assembly also will consider a statement on work and the economy proposed by the Committee on Domestic Justice and Human Development as a way to raise the profile of growing poverty and the struggles that unemployed people are experiencing. In addition, the bishops are scheduled to vote on a document encouraging Catholics to see Lent next year as an opportunity to return to regular celebration of the sacrament of penance and reconciliation. See more on Web issue, pgs. 21 – 24, at www.victoriadiocese.org/lighthouse/lighthouse.htm.

Catholic Charities USA collects funds to aid victims of Hurricane Sandy

WASHINGTON (CNS) — Catholic Charities USA is accepting cash donations as it develops its response to the victims of Hurricane Sandy. Donations can be made online at the Catholic Charities USA website at www.catholiccharitiesusa.org. Donations also can be made by calling toll-free (800) 919-9338 or by mail to P.O. Box 17066, Baltimore, MD 21297-1066. The Alexandria, Va.-based agency has begun working with state and local government disaster response agencies and charitable groups to meet emergency needs in communities in New Jersey and New York devastated by the late October storm. Bishop Fellhauer, on November 2, 2012, authorized pastors in the Diocese of Victoria to take up a second collection for this cause, if they wish, as it is optional to pastors. Proceeds may go to CRS or Catholic Charities.

Catholic-owned Michigan company wins injunction against HHS mandate

ANN ARBOR, Mich. (CNS) — A federal district court judge in Ann Arbor granted a Michigan business, Weingartz Supply Co., a temporary injunction from the Health and Human Services' contraceptive mandate. The judge Oct. 31 also dismissed a lawsuit filed by a nonprofit Catholic group, Legatus, because he said the religious organization qualified for the Obama administration's temporary "safe harbor" from having to comply with the mandate. But he also stipulated the federal government must provide monthly updates on the status of the process for amending final regulations covered by the safe harbor period. Erin Mersino, lead counsel for Thomas More Law Center, a national public interest law firm based in Ann Arbor, which represented the plaintiffs, told Catholic News Service Nov. 2 that she was "happy with the court decision" and described both decisions as "a straight win for us." Daniel Weingartz, president of the supply company, which sells outdoor power equipment and employs approximately 170 people, is a Catholic who says the mandate conflicted with his faith. In the ruling, Judge Robert Cleland of the Eastern District of Michigan, said the "loss of First Amendment freedoms, for even minimal periods of time, unquestionably constitutes irreparable injury." He did not rule on the mandate's constitutionality, but his decision keeps the company from having to comply with the mandate until the constitutional claims are resolved.



A statue of Mary stands amid the remains of homes destroyed by fire and the effects of Hurricane Sandy in the Breezy Point section of the New York borough of Queens Oct. 30. More than 80 homes were destroyed in the tiny beachfront neighborhood. (CNS photo/Shannon Stapleton, Reuters)

People lost 'stuff' in storm but still have each other, priest says

ISLAND PARK, N.Y. (CNS) — Sacred Heart Church in Island Park is in an area of the Diocese of Rockville Centre that experienced the most devastation from Hurricane Sandy, but the pastor urged parishioners not to fret about the material goods they have lost. "Don't be angry. We lost stuff. We will get other stuff," Msgr. John Tutone told the congregation during his homily at Sunday Mass Nov. 4. "We still have each other and the people we love. That's the most important thing. There are people on your block that need you. Knock on their doors and offer your help. We have to maintain our souls," he said. "We have to maintain ourselves by helping others." In the community of 10,000 people in the southwest corner of Nassau County, Long Island, 80 percent of the homes were flooded. The church, too, was flooded with about a foot of water, damaging the floor. Three feet of water was pumped out of the parish center, which is now being used for Masses. As of Nov. 4, Island Park was still without electricity and the village's mayor, James Ruzicka, announced at the end of Sunday Mass that it would be at least another two weeks before power was restored. Cell-phones weren't working, Msgr. Tutone told Catholic News Service. "(The) worst thing is not having communication." He shared a story about a stranger's generosity. After the hurricane, a man in his 70s whom the

priest did not know, drove up to the church and saw Msgr. Tutone outside. He was not wearing his clerical garb. The man asked him if he was the parish priest. After Msgr. Tutone said he was, the unidentified man handed him a bank envelope and told him to "rebuild your church" before driving off. When Msgr. Tutone later opened the envelope, he found \$1,500 in cash inside.

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Cardinal congratulates President Obama, urges he give priority to most vulnerable

By Catholic News Service

WASHINGTON (CNS) — Cardinal Timothy M. Dolan of New York, president of the U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops, congratulated President Barack Obama on his re-election in a Nov. 7 letter.

“The people of our country have again entrusted you with a great responsibility,” Cardinal Dolan said. “The Catholic bishops of the United States offer our prayers that God will give you strength and wisdom to meet the difficult challenges that face America.”

Cardinal Dolan added the bishops pray that Obama will “help restore a sense of civility to the public order, so our public conversations may be imbued with respect and charity toward everyone.”

He said, “In particular, we pray that you will exercise your office to pursue the common good, especially in care of the most vulnerable among us, including the unborn, the poor, and the immigrant. We will continue to stand in defense of life, marriage and our first, most cherished liberty, religious freedom.”

In the press release containing the text of the letter, the words “our first, most cherished liberty” were in italics. The bishops and Obama administration have clashed for the past year on

a federal Department of Health and Human Services mandate that would require most religious employers to provide contraceptive access to their employees, allowing for few exceptions.

With 270 electoral votes needed to secure a presidential win, Obama, a Democrat, had 303 to 206 for his Republican challenger, former Massachusetts Gov. Mitt Romney. Florida’s 29 electoral votes had not been decided the morning after the Nov. 6 election.

“I believe we can seize this future together — because we are not as divided as our politics suggest; we’re not as cynical as the pundits believe; we are greater than the sum of our individual ambitions; and we remain more than a collection of red states and blue states. We are, and forever will be, the United States of America,” Obama said at the end of his 20-minute address to supporters at a victory rally in Chicago during the early morning hours of Nov. 7.

“And together, with your help, and God’s grace, we will continue our journey forward, and remind the world just why it is that we live in the greatest nation on earth,” he added.

Go to *The Catholic Lighthouse’s* Webissue at www.victoriadiocese.org for full story.

Pope sends Obama telegram

Continued from p. 1

with Obama over his support for legalized abortion and his administration’s plan to require that the private health insurance plans of most Catholic institutions cover surgical sterilization procedures and artificial birth control, which are forbidden by the church’s moral teaching.

The role of president of the United States is “an immense

responsibility not just for the great nation, but for the whole world, given the United States’ role on the world stage,” Father Lombardi said, expressing hopes that the president would be able to “find the best ways to promote the material and spiritual well-being of all and effectively promote integral human development, justice and peace in the world.”



SIGNS AGAINST, FOR MARYLAND SAME-SEX MARRIAGE INITIATIVE SEEN OUTSIDE POLLING PLACE IN STATE—Political signs against and for Maryland’s same-sex marriage initiative – Question 6 – are seen outside a polling place in Landover, Md., Nov. 3. Voters by small margins in Maryland and Maine approved gay marriage in their states. (CNS photo/Nancy Phelan Wiechec)

Massachusetts defeats assisted suicide; California keeps death penalty

By Dennis Sadowski
Catholic News Service

WASHINGTON (CNS) — Massachusetts voters narrowly defeated a “death with dignity” measure, rejecting attempts to legalize assisted suicide.

In California, an initiative to end the use of the death penalty was defeated as well in another close vote.

The Massachusetts initiative, known as Question 2, was defeated by fewer than 39,000 votes – 1,395,227 to 1,356,899.

Cardinal Sean P. O’Malley of Boston was pleased with the outcome, saying the common good was served in the measure’s defeat.

“It is my hope and prayer that the defeat of Question 2 will help all people to understand that for our brothers and sisters confronted with terminal illness we can do better than offering them the means to end their lives.”

The measure may have generated the widest debate of any statewide ballot issue in the country. The initiative would have allowed terminally ill adults to commit physician-assisted suicide under certain conditions.

California voters rejected Proposition 34, which would have repealed the death penalty clause in the state constitution, by 52.6 percent to 47.4 percent. Inmates already facing a death sentence would have been resentenced to life in prison without parole under the measure.

The California Catholic Conference backed Proposition 34, saying that the inherent dignity of each person must be upheld and that even people convicted of any serious crime must not be put to death. The church also called for wide-scale restorative justice efforts to afford the opportunity for repentance and reconciliation among the affected individuals.

Five other states have banned capital punishment since 2007: Connecticut, Illinois, New Jersey, New Mexico and New York.

In Florida, voters defeated an amendment to the state constitution that would have prohibited public funding of abortion ser-

vices or insurance coverage that covered abortions and also would have allowed legislation to restore parental consent for a minor less than the age of 16 to have an abortion.

In Montana, voters approved by more than 2-1 a referendum that would require parental approval of a minor child’s abortion.

Montanans also favored a referendum to deny some state-funded services to undocumented residents by 79 percent to 21 percent and chose to prohibit the state or federal government from mandating the purchase of health insurance, 67 percent to 33 percent.

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Special Collections

Campaign for Human Development - Nov. 18
Fund for Retired Religious - Dec. 9

Ongoing Events

That Man Is You—This men's group transforms men, families, and society as it presents the vision of man fully alive; see www.thatmanisyou.org. It is held at Holy Cross, Bay City, Fri., 5:45-7:15 a.m.; Holy Family, Victoria, Wed., 5:45-7:00 a.m., St. Peter Parish Hall; and Assumption, Ganado, Wed., 5:30-7:15 a.m., JPII Family Center.

Grief Group—Meetings held the 1st and 3rd Thursday of each month at 7:00 p.m. in conference/brides' room at Holy Family Church in Victoria. Before attending, please call Sharon at (361) 578-7572.

The Beginning Experience—This is an international ministry that helps divorced, separated, and widowed individuals resolve their grief surrounding the loss of a marriage partner. San Antonio contact is (210) 734-2146 or sanantonio@yaho.com; or see: www.beginningexperience.org.

Catholic Family Services—To find listings of e-mail/Websites of Catholic organizations that focus on the family, please go to the Catholic Association of Catholic Family Life Ministers at www.nacflm.org.

St. Francis and St. Clare Fraternity/Secular Franciscans—For information, please go to www.lostrescompaneros-sfo.org. For Victoria meeting dates, contact Mary Ann LeBlanc at (361) 575-1858.

Natural Family Planning—NFP is the only Church-approved form of family planning. To learn about the Sympto-Thermal Method in the Victoria area and the NFP class schedules, contact David and Annie Coffey victorianfpteachers@yahoo.com.

Gabriel Project—A ministry providing help to women experiencing a crisis pregnancy — an alternative to abortion — holds monthly meetings for all interested. Victoria meetings, 2nd Tuesday, 101 W. Convent, 6:30 p.m., includes light supper; Angel Workshop, meets 101 W. Convent, 3rd Saturday, 9:00 a.m.-1:00 p.m.; contact Barbara (361) 649-1612 or Linda (361) 655-3008. Holy Family, Wharton, meets 4th Tuesday at 6:30 p.m.; contact (979) 532-3593, M-F, 9:00 a.m.-4:30 p.m. See: www.victoriadiocese.org/lighthouse/gp.htm

Raphael's Refuge—The mission of Raphael's Refuge is to build and maintain a memorial in honor of babies, born and unborn. It is a 501(c)(3) non-profit organization located in Flatonia that also provides peer counseling and spiritual direction for those suffering a loss of a baby due to miscarriage, stillbirth, infant death, or abortion. Learn more at www.raphaelsrefuge.org/

Retrouvaille—Retrouvaille, meaning rediscovery, is a marriage-healing ministry offered in the diocese to couples in difficult marriages. Go to www.retrouvaille.org; contact John and Jennifer Vincent at jbvjov@sbcglobal.net or (361) 580-2770; (800) 470-2230; or www.helpourmarriage.org.

Marriage Encounter—This program is no longer offered in the Diocese of Victoria. Retrouvaille (see above) has replaced it. To find a Marriage Encounter weekend outside of the diocese, go to www.wwe.org.

Courage—This is a ministry for those experiencing same-sex attraction and looking for answers. It is a Roman Catholic Apostolate endorsed by the Pontifical Council for the Family. Encourage ministers to family and friends of persons with same-sex attraction. Learn more at couragec.net/.

Presidio La Bahia Museum and Visitor Center—The Presidio, located in Goliad, is the only Spanish fort in the possession of the Catholic Church in North America and is a National Historic Landmark. It and its museum are open daily from 9:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m.; closed on major holidays. The Quarters, a two-bedroom guest quarter, is available for overnight stays. For rates and more information, contact (361) 645-3752 or see www.presidiolabahia.org.

Picnics, Activities, etc.

November

Hungerford—KTJ Soceity #79 and KJZT Society #57 to hold annual turkey and dressing dinner Nov. 11 at the community center; serving begins at 10:30 a.m.

Victoria—Our Lady of Lourdes Fall Festival Nov. 11 at the community center. A turkey and dressing dinner will be served.

Upcoming Events

New Taiton—St. John Scholarship Games Party Dec. 2 at 6:00 p.m. at Taiton Community Center. There will be door prizes, drawings, auctions, and refreshments. Fun for the whole family. Proceeds benefit the youth of St. John Parish.

Bay City—Holy Cross Parish in Bay City will celebrate 10 years of Life Teen this year and Josh Blakesley and his Band will come help them celebrate!! The date is set for Saturday, Jan. 5, 2013, at 7:00 p.m. at the Bay City Convention Center. It will be a night of great music, talks, and adoration!! Mark your calendars now so you don't miss this great night!!

Edna—The CDA, Court St. Theresa of the Little Flower, #1350 from St. Agnes Church will host a "celebration of life" program, an ecumenical event for all of Jackson County and the general public on Wednesday, Jan. 16, 2013, at the Jackson County Services Building, 411 N. Wells St., from 7:00-8:00 p.m. The program will show the importance of life from conception to natural death and the need for respect, dignity, and justice for all of human life. Admission is free; refreshments will be served.

Hallettsville—Sacred Heart School "A Black & White Masquerade" Saturday, Feb. 2, 2013; includes a social, dinner and dance. Call (361) 798-4251 or (361) 798-5888 for more information.

Schulenburg—St. Rose of Lima School Fundraiser featuring The Original Triumphs Feb. 16, 2013, at Swiss Alp Hall. Please contact Laura Fogle at l.fogle@strosecardinals.org for tickets.

Masses • Retreats • Conferences

Diocese—God's Embrace First-Year Program dates for Dec.: Blessing, Monday, Dec. 3; Frelsburg, Tuesday, Dec. 4; Schulenburg, Thursday, Dec. 6; all times are 6:30-9 p.m., except for Victoria. Victoria, Holy Family Parish - St. Peter's Hall, Sunday, December 9, 6-8:30 p.m. All are welcome to attend.

El Campo— "inTune With The Holy Spirit", a Life in the Spirit Seminar at St. Philip Parish on Dec. 7-8, presided by Father Joseph Lam Nguyen, C.S.Sp. Contact: Gwen Edwards at dennis1@sbcglobal.net or (979) 543-8865; Jan Dornak at jan.hair@sbcglobal.net or (979) 543-6785.

Victoria—Holy Family Church is sponsoring a women's ACTS retreat at the Spiritual Renewal Center from Jan. 24-27, 2013. For an unforgettable experience, please contact Retreat Director Janet Charbula (361) 550-2327, Assistant Director Margie Ramirez (361) 571-0026, Assistant Director Janet Huse (361) 550-4764, or Spiritual Adviser Mary Jeansonne (361) 935-0122.

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

Victoria—Incarnate Word Convent — Amor Meus Spirituality Center invites you to Advent Vespers on Sundays, Dec. 2, 9, 16, and 23, from 5:00-5:45 p.m. in the chapel; and Taizé Prayer on Dec. 6, 7:00-8:00 p.m. in the Amor Meus Prayer Room. Incarnate Word Prayer Group invites you to Praise and Worship on Mondays at 7:30-9:00 p.m. in the auditorium. FMI on any event, contact Sr. Louise Marie Jones at (361) 575-7111, or amormeus@yahoo.com

Shiner—Latin Masses will be celebrated by Father Bob Knippenberg at Sts. Cyril and Methodius Church every 1st & 3rd Sunday of the month at 11:00 a.m.

Tivoli—First Friday Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament at 6 p.m. at Our Lady of Guadalupe Church, 501B William Street, Mass follows at 7:00 p.m., with Rev. Paulson Panakal. Mark

your calendars for Dec. 7, the first Friday of December. Call for more information: (361) 237-3634

ACTS Retreats—For information on ACTS retreats, please go to ACTS Web site at www.actsmiissions.org.

Pilgrimages, Tours, etc.

The Catholic Tour LLC a 33 year old Catholic Pilgrimage Apostolate is pleased to announce their new schedule of tours for 2013. They invite you to become a promoter with them and earn free travel. Please visit their website at www.thecatholictour.com or simply call for their schedules and itineraries to be sent to you at (877) 627-4268. They look forward to serving you.

For more information on locally designed pilgrimages, please contact Betty Urbanovsky at (979) 332-3044 or burbanovsky@sbcglobal.net.

Have an event??? Contact us by
e-mail: janakr@victoriadiocese.org

TV program notes — week of Nov. 18

By John Mulderig Catholic News Service

NEW YORK (CNS)—Here are some television program notes for the week of Nov. 4 and 18 with their TV Parental Guidelines ratings if available. They have not been reviewed and therefore are not necessarily recommended by Catholic News Service.

Saturday, Nov. 10, 1-2 p.m. CST (EWTN) "Napa Institute: Beauty and Freedom" delivered by Bishop Robert C. Morlino of Madison, Wis., at the 2012 Napa Conference.

Sunday, Nov. 18, 7-9 p.m. CST (PBS) "The Dust Bowl." First half of a two-part film in which renowned documentarians Ken Burns and Dayton Duncan examine the worst man-made ecological disaster in U.S. history: the catastrophic dust storms of the 1930s. The film concludes Monday, Nov. 19, 7-9 p.m. CST (TV-PG—parental guidance suggested).

Tuesday, Nov. 20, 10-11:30 a.m. CST (EWTN) "Installation Mass of James D. Conley as Ninth Bishop of Lincoln, Neb." Bishop Conley will be installed as bishop of Lincoln during this Mass, broadcast live from Lincoln's Cathedral of the Risen Christ. Part of the series "Cathedrals Across America."

Tuesday, Nov. 20, 9-10 p.m. CST (PBS) "Poor Kids." This episode of the series "Frontline" presents an unflinching and revealing exploration of what poverty means to children.

Friday, Nov. 23, 5:30-6 p.m. CST (EWTN) "Christ the Servant: The Vocation of Deacons — The Spiritual Heart of a Deacon" ~ a look at the true nature and character of the diaconate, which is not defined by what a deacon does, but by who the deacon is.



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Youth Calendar of Events

Saturday Nov. 10 – Youth Minister Retreat - Hallettsville
 Tuesday Nov. 13 – Youth Minister Retreat - Victoria
 Sunday, Dec. 9 – YLT – Chancery - Victoria
 Saturday/Sunday, Jan. 12/13 – YLT Retreat - Cooper Farms
 Sunday, Jan. 20 – Confirmation Retreat/YLT - Wharton
 Saturday, Jan. 26 – Pro Life Rally - Austin
 Sunday, Feb. 10 - YLT Planning Spectacular
 Thursday, Feb. 21 – Renewing the Vision – Holy Family - Victoria
 Saturday, Feb. 23 – Foundations
 Sunday, Feb. 24 – Spectacular – Holy Family - Victoria
 Sunday, March 24 – Confirmation Retreat – St. Mary’s - Victoria
 Saturday, April 13 – Foundations
 Sunday, April 21 – YLT – Camp David Planning



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


For more information contact:

Wendy Eggert at the Office of Youth Ministry at (361) 573-0828 ext. 2232,
 e-mail at weggert@victoriadiocese.org,
 Cassandra Hybner, administrative assistant, ext. 2250
 e-mail at chybner@victoriadiocese.org
 new youth office e-mail ym@victoriadiocese.org or
 visit our website at www.victoriadiocese.org/youthoffice



JCDA OFFICERS INSTALLED—Shiner JCDA officers were installed during a meeting on Sunday, September 16, 2012, at Sts. Cyril and Methodius Parish Activity Center. They are listed from l. to r. as follows: Alexa Schaefer, secretary; Abby Irvin, 1st vice-president; President Kristin Schacherl; Victoria Kusak, 2nd vice-president; and Samantha Siegel, reporter. Congratulations, Ladies!

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St. Joseph volleyball team in bus crash

Continued from p. 5

In his homily, Father Bob Knippenberg, pastor of Holy Family in Victoria, spoke of how precious and fragile life is and that God can bring goodness out of any tragedy.

In an e-mail to the diocesan school principals, Superintendent Mr. John Quarry stated, “We are all very blessed at the remarkable outcome of the accident, given the “totaling of the bus” and what could have happened. The coaches, driver, families, and young ladies are to be commended for their handling of the situation.

See full story on Website issue of The Catholic Lighthouse, pg. 22.



YOAKUM JCDA BEGINS NEW YEAR—State JCDA Chaplain Msgr. John Peters helped to kick off the 2012-2013 year for Junior Catholic Daughters of the Americas #206 (Yoakum) on August 30. He gave an informative and motivational speech to the members and then blessed their rosary bracelets so the members can continue with praying a decade of the rosary at each meeting. JCDA #206 will focus on the Fruits of the Spirit this year, and all the members are excited about giving back to the community – they plan to collect shoes in excellent condition for a spring shoe drive and they are collecting spare change that they will donate to a worthy organization! On Sept. 20, new members were installed. The following members were welcomed into JCDA #206 at the ceremony: Hannah Schultz, Leah Muenich, Kaydence Turk, Olivia Fojt, Meagan Mikes, Kayla Kimes, Kasey Kimes, Rayann Alvarez, Madison Mikes, Samantha Adamek and Brooke Prasek.

STJ CHOIR MEMBER NAMED TO ALL-STATE CHOIR

The Texas Private School Music Educators Association is pleased to announce that Sarah Valenzuela, a junior at St. Joseph High School in Victoria, has been named to the Texas Private Schools All-State Choir. She finished 28th out of the top 75 from across the state trying out for the All-State Choir. Mr. Michael Petrisky, choir director for St. Joseph High School, commented, “Sarah is a brilliant student. She sings with great enthusiasm, and feeling. Sarah put in a lot of hours to prepare her music for the audition. Please, join me in congratulating her for this honor.” Sarah sings alto in the St. Joseph High School Honors Choir and is the daughter of Michael and Evelina Valenzuela of Victoria. Sarah will now be preparing All-State Concert music. She will attend an All-State Music Workshop on January 25, 2013, in Houston, hosted by TPSMEA Region 3. Sarah will then attend the TPSMEA All-State Choir Clinic and rehearsals from January 31-February 2, 2013, culminating in the Texas Private Schools All-State Concert on February 2, 2013, in San Marcos at Texas State University.



Concert tour celebrates Bay City’s Life Teen anniversary

BAY CITY—The “You Are The Light” tour, featuring Josh Blakesley, will come to the Bay City Civic Center Jan. 5, 2013, to help Holy Cross Parish celebrate its 10th year of participating with Life Teen.

Join Josh Blakesley and his band, along with Ennie Hickman, for an evening of Worship, Adoration, Thanksgiving and Praise!! The event will be held from 7 to 10 p.m. at 201 7th St., Bay City. Free admission.

Josh’s Christian music journey began in 1992, while he was involved with a high school peer ministry team. During that time he saw the power of God at work in the lives of teens as they were transformed into believers and lovers of Jesus Christ.

He vowed to be “sold out” for

Christ and to use his gift of writing music to glorify God. Listen and read more under Band Members at <http://joshblakesley.com/>



Josh Blakesley Band



25th Annual Conference celebrates *Year of Faith and the New Evangelization*

By Cynthia Brewer

The 25th Annual Conference for Catechesis and Ministry featured topics celebrating Pope Benedict XVI's declaration of the *Year of Faith*; the 50th anniversary of the Second Vatican Council; and the 20th anniversary of *The Catechism of the Catholic Church*. It was held September 29, 2012, at Holy Family Catholic Church in Victoria.

Opening the conference were two keynote speakers, one English speaking and the second Spanish speaking, discussing the same subject: The Year of Faith and the New Evangelization.

In the nave (the main church), Deacon Gerald DuPont, M.A. D.Min., of the Archdiocese of Galveston-Houston, ad-

dress the larger crowd of observers,

while Mrs. Fanny C. Pedraza, D.Min., of Dayton, Ohio, spoke to nearly 60 Spanish speaking participants in the large St. Peter Hall, across the narthex from the nave. Mrs. Pedraza is the national consultant of catechesis for Hispanics for the RCL Benziger publication, which also sponsored her.



Maryknoll exhibiter Larry Boudreau of Houston speaks with Bishop David Fellhauer during a break between workshops.

As the *Year of Faith* asks Catholics to study and reflect on the documents of Vatican II and the catechism, in an effort to deepen their knowledge of the faith, the conference provided an excellent opportunity to do just that, and even added more subjects to help catechists



Missionary Catechist Sisters look to the conference schedule to know where their next class will be held, or in Sister Miriam Perez' (r.) case, where she will teach her next workshop.



English-speaking keynote speaker Deacon Gerald DuPont, D.Min., of the Archdiocese of Galveston-Houston, spoke on the "Year of Faith and the New Evangelization".



Mrs. Fanny C. Pedraza, D.Min., was the Spanish speaking keynote speaker; her keynote was titled "Catequistas y Maestros como Agentes de la Nueva Evangelizacion".



Pablo Ocañas, M.M.Ed., from the Archdiocese of Galveston-Houston, holds a bilingual class titled "Music Literacy Matters".

Nearly 60 Spanish speaking catechists attended Mrs. Fanny C. Pedraza's keynote address.



Volunteers from within the Diocese of Victoria register participants for the conference.

Deacon Gerald DuPont, M.A. D.Min., of the Archdiocese of Galveston-Houston, addressed the larger crowd of observers, while Mrs. Fanny C. Pedraza, D.Min., of Dayton, Ohio, spoke to nearly 60 Spanish speaking participants in the large St. Peter Hall, across the narthex from the nave. Mrs. Pedraza is the national consultant of catechesis for Hispanics for the RCL Benziger publication, which also sponsored her.

Liturgy, Entendiendo Dei Verbum Nueva-mente, Joy & Hope, Grief & Anguish: The Church in the Modern World, and 50 Years of Renewal in the Church.

The teachings of the faith were taught through the ABCs of the CCC, The Eucharist at the Center of Our Lives, Theology of the Body, The Old Testament in a SNAP!, First Penance, First Communion: What's it all About?, Getting to know the Bible, Sacraments for All ... And Parents Too, Stewards of the Earth, and Service with a Smile.

New Evangelization workshops included The Call of Parishes to Mission, Teachers or Witnesses?, and Agents of Evangelization. Another dozen or so classes covered prayer and spirituality, Faithful Citizenship (voter's guide), music, and helps for catechetical teachers.

A variety of vendors were available for participants to visit between workshops and purchase religious articles and helps to prayer, or just browse through an assortment of resources.

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



Father Tommy Chen, parochial vicar at Sacred Heart Parish in Hallettsville, speaks to a large crowd about the Vatican II liturgical document in "A Walk Through the Constitution on Sacred Liturgy".



Former Episcopalian priest assists in Victoria Diocese

Continued from p. 4

What's the difference between "Anglican Use" (Episcopal priests and parishioners joining the Catholic Church in the 1980s) and those joining since the establishment of the Personal Ordinariate in the United States on January 1, 2012?

During the 1980s, clergy and laity withdrew from their Episcopal parish and then started new parishes (usually quite small). This is what eventually entered the Catholic Church. The Pastoral Provision of 1980 was for individual clergy who wished to become Catholic. Those who came into the Church under this provision, such as myself, were incardinated into the local diocese and were responsible to the bishop of that diocese, as that was all there was then.

The three "Anglican Use" parishes which became Catholic in the 1980s were Our Lady of Walsingham in Houston; Our Lady of the Atonement in San Antonio; and St. Mary the Virgin in Arlington, Texas. Notice that almost the entire "Anglican Use" in the U.S. was centered in Texas, for roughly, the first 25 years of its existence.

The churches in Houston and San Antonio were started in the same way: a priest who had left the Episcopal Church, together with some laity who had also left, organized themselves into a new parish (neither Episcopal nor Catholic from 1982 – 1984). Arlington was an Episcopal Parish, which left and became Catholic as a parish, but it was only able to do so because the Episcopal bishop of Ft. Worth allowed them to keep the property; it was heavily in debt, so he didn't mind getting rid of it.

The new arrangement under the apostolic constitution "Anglicanorum coetibus" is for groups who wish to become Catholic. A number of whole parishes in the Episcopal Church have withdrawn and petitioned to join the Ordinariate.

Others have left the Episcopal Church and started yet other denominations and not become Catholics.

Editor's Note: "Anglican Use" parishes became part of an existing Catholic diocese with their priests being incardinated into the existing diocese; whereas, under the "Anglicanorum Coetibus" of Nov. 4, 2009, Personal Ordinariates, which function as a diocese, are set up by the Vatican's Congregation for the Doctrine of

the Faith within the confines of the territorial boundaries of a particular Conference of Bishops and preserve elements of the Anglican spiritual and liturgical patrimony (see http://www.vatican.va/holy_father/benedict_xvi/apost_constitutions/documents/hf_ben-xvi_apc_20091104_anglicanorum-coetibus_en.html).

When looking on the Internet, I find many churches named Our Lady of Walsingham that have become Catholic. Can you please clarify this?

The town of Walsingham in Norfolk, England, was the site of the only recognized apparition of the Blessed Mother in England. She appeared to Lady Richildis in 1062. An abbey was built there and she became the Patroness of England; pilgrimages were made there, etc., until it was destroyed by Henry VIII. Revival of the site began in the 1890s by both Catholic and Anglican churches.

When Father Moore and I started the little parish of ex-Episcopalians in 1982, this was the name we chose for our new parish. When the Ordinariate was erected in England, this is the name they chose for their ordinariate. Since the name OLW was already taken by the English Ordinariate, another name was chosen for the U. S. ordinariate, Ordinariate of the Chair of St. Peter, but placed under the patronage of OLW.

The Website of OLW in Houston states that it is the Principal Church of the Personal Ordinariate of the Chair of St. Peter. What does this mean?

The ordinariate, for all intents and purposes, functions as a diocese, but since the ordinary, Father Steenson, is married, he cannot be a bishop. A bishop would have a cathedral, but since he is not a bishop, he has a "principal church."



ROSARY RALLY—Over 50 participants from El Campo, Wharton, Louise, Blessing, and Houston attended this year's rally with Msgr. Lawrence Matula at San Roberto Bellarmine Parish Gazebo. Captains from El Campo are Terri Beltran, Margaret Anderson, Pete Quintana, and Charlie, Ella and Margie Merta. Those participating by leading the rosary, mysteries, and music were Terri Beltran, Margaret Anderson, Carol Korenek, Sophie Nunez, Regina Janak, Fortunata Gonzales, Rosie Ortiz, Charlie Merta, Josie Falcon, and Mercy Arismendez.

SHCS Students Reflect on the Life of Jesus as they Honor his Mother

Hallettsville Tribune Herald

Students and faculty at Sacred Heart Catholic School spend a few minutes in every class, during the month of October, reflecting on a different aspect of the life of Jesus. By the end of each day they will have covered a period of His life. After four days they will have reflected on all the major aspects of the life of Jesus in the Gospels. While doing this, they also honor His Mother, Mary, and ask her to intercede for them as she did for the newlyweds at Cana, John 2:1-11. The Hail Mary prayer, prayed 53 times during the rosary, is like a mantra as they reflect on Scripture. The Lord's Prayer and the Doxology, a prayer of praise of the Trinity, mark the beginning and end of each reflection.



The feast of Our Lady of the Holy Rosary is on October 7 and October is celebrated as the month of the rosary. The devotion to the rosary has been treasured in the Church for many centuries. It is a summary of the Christian faith in language and prayers inspired by the Bible. For centuries, 15 events were reflected on, beginning with Angel Gabriel's visit to Mary and the incarnating of the Word, Luke 1:26-38.

In 2002, Blessed John Paul II, gave the world five more events, which cover the major part of the Gospels, beginning with the baptism of Jesus, (Lk 3:21-22), His miracles, (Jn 2:1-11), His teaching, (Mk 1:38-39, etc.) the Transfiguration (Lk 9:28-29 and the institution of the Eucharist at the Last Supper, (Mt. 26:26-28).

Transatlantic conference at UHV to explore global relevance of migration

The histories of Muslims in Germany and Mexican Americans in the U.S. are different and complex, but each are portrayed as the fastest growing minority group in their respective countries.

A Nov. 15 to 17 conference at the University of Houston-Victoria will

launch a conversation about the migration, globalization and integration that German Muslims and Mexican Americans have faced. One group is seen through the filter of religion, while the other is viewed through national background and language, said Riem Spielhaus, a conference orga-

nizer and a research fellow at the Erlangen Centre for Islam and Law in Europe of the Friedrich-Alexander University Erlangen-Nuremberg in Germany.

Click here to read full story: <http://www.uhv.edu/car/newswire/release.asp?id=1487>



St. Joseph volleyball team in bus crash

Many believe it was a miracle none injured severely or killed

By Cynthia Brewer

“Our first thought was that nobody would come out alive,” said Martha Young of the bus she was following and her daughter, Iris, a sophomore volleyball player, was riding on.

The St. Joseph High School girls’ volleyball team was going by bus from Victoria to Austin on Saturday morning, October 13, to play against Austin Hyde Park, but never made it, due to their bus going off the side of the road, flipping in the air and then rolling another time on the ground.

Mothers, Martha Young and Pam Malik, as well as many parents, were driving behind the bus when the bus crashed.

“We just watched it happen and were so helpless,” said Mrs. Malik. “We just prayerfully called out, ‘Oh my God, oh my God’ over and over.”

“You’re calling your child’s name at the bus, hoping that she’ll answer you, and when she does, it’s the sweetest sound,” Mrs. Malik said. Her daughter, Danielle, also a sophomore player was not badly injured; she left with a bruised shoulder blade and sore low back.

None of the 32 people on board the bus received any life-threatening injuries,

although most went to area hospitals to be checked. There were no broken bones and only four required stitches. Only the bus driver, 67-year-old Mr. Clint Parks, remained overnight at Gonzales Memorial Hospital for observation.

Mrs. Young and Mrs. Malik were in St. Joseph’s gymnasium Tuesday morning, October 16, with other family members, students, and faculty members for a Mass of Thanksgiving and Celebration of Life.

Prior to the Mass, Mr. Bill McArdle,

president and principal of the school, spoke to the Mass participants, saying, “Life is so precious; we truly face the reality of it when something like this happens. We often go through life thinking we’re prepared for that final day, but we never think that day may

come so soon.”

“It is so important to remember how precious life is,” he continued. “And in this case, a tremendous tragedy was narrowly averted; I feel we truly had a miracle take place. The Lord obviously has some wonderful things in mind for these young ladies.”

He then praised the football team, who on their own initiative, purchased pink roses and went to the three different



Mr. Clint Parks is surrounded by St. Joseph High School volleyball players after the school Mass of Thanksgiving and Celebration of Life.

emergency rooms and delivered them personally to each of the volleyball players; they even remembered the parents, bringing them donuts. In the early evening the St. Joseph students organized an evening prayer candlelight service at the school’s football practice field.

“What took place in the school and community since the wreck may have been the norm 50 years ago,” Mr. McArdle said, “but not in today’s world.”

“But it is the norm here and that’s what’s special about the St. Joseph family,” he continued. He also thanked the larger community for their caring and support during this difficult time.

The Mass opened with volleyball co-head coach Alvin Mumphord singing “Amazing Grace” a cappella. He experienced the bus crash and even held out his arm to stop someone from being violently tossed in the bus, before he, himself, lost control of his own position.

In his homily, Father Bob Knippenberg, pastor of Holy Family in Victoria, spoke of how precious and fragile life is and that God can bring goodness out of any tragedy.

“In the tragedy of the suffering and death of our Lord, God brought out goodness with the resurrection,” Father Bob said and continued, “God can bring any kind of goodness out of tragedy – if you let him.”

Father Bob concluded, “Let God’s amazing grace continue to be active in your lives. Perhaps we’ve been given the reminder that our lives must not be wasted. Give back to God the gift of your life (the

wonderful gifts that he’s entrusted to us) and rededicate your lives to live for him, then this can have a positive outcome.”

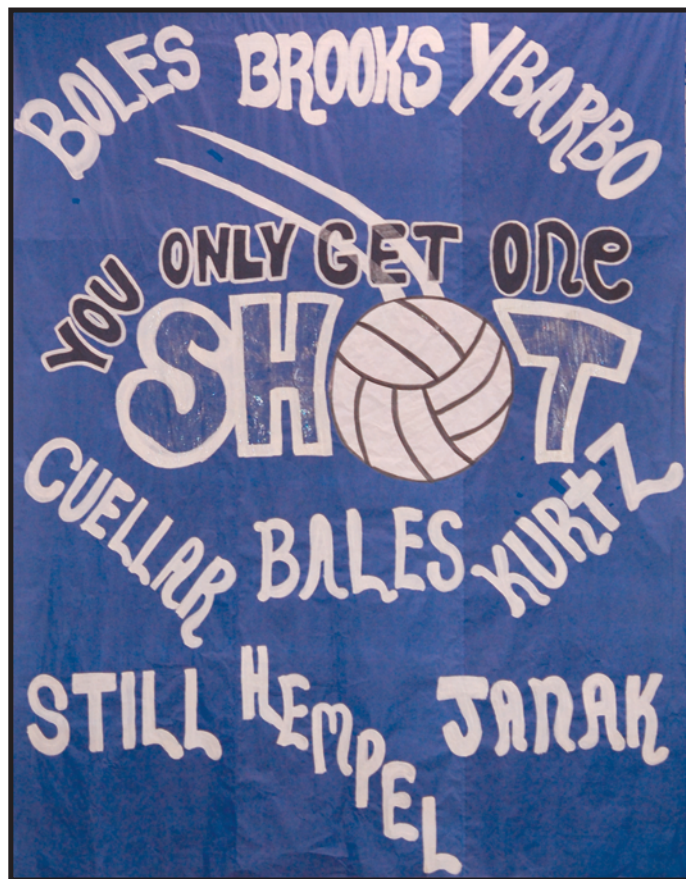
Following the Mass, Mr. McArdle introduced Betsy Westerman, volleyball coach of Texas Military Institute in San Antonio and a district opponent, who came to the school to deliver goody bags and teddy bears from her players for the Victoria team.

“When we’re on the field, we’re fierce competitors,” she said in an unprepared talk, “but off court, we’re a bigger family in Christ.”

While going across the gymnasium floor to get their goody bags, they saw Mr. Parks. Immediately, the girls formed a circle around him, and with tears in their eyes, each gave him a hug. While co-head coach Allyson Griffin waited for the girls, I asked how she was doing, she replied, “Battered and bruised, but blessed to be alive.”

In an e-mail to the diocesan school principals, Superintendent Mr. John Quarry stated, “We are all very blessed at the remarkable outcome of the accident, given the “totaling of the bus” and what could have happened. The coaches, driver, families, and young ladies are to be commended for their handling of the situation.

The Lady Flyers went all the way to the State Volleyball Championship Nov. 3 and placed 2nd in state. They played against Arlington Grace Prep at the NEISD-Blossum Center in San Antonio.



A team-spirit poster of the names of the STJ volleyball varsity team members hangs in the school gymnasium.



Take My Hand

A Pro-Life Poem for Down Syndrome Awareness Month

By Heather Kallus

Blog address is: <http://www.sipsofsunshine.blogspot.com/>

Take my hand and not my life – please Mommy let me live,
The extra chromosome inside means I have more to give.
I know you're scared about the news, but please let me explain,
Don't think of what you might be losing – think of what you'll gain.

A loving child with almond eyes – a deep crease in my palm,
In that crazy world out there – I will be your calm.
I might be small and flexible – a tiny nose and ears,
We're more alike than different, you'll learn throughout the years.

Sometimes things won't work quite right, but please give me a chance,
I'll need some extra time for sure, but soon I'll sing and dance.
I might have trouble talking too; just ask me to repeat,
I'll steal your heart, Mommy and Dad, the moment that we meet.

I'll need a little longer, to learn to read and write,
Just show me how to draw and count, you'll see I'm very bright.
If you teach me early on, my IQ will just soar,
You'll tell me that you love me so – I'll say, "I love you MORE!"

I'll go to school and work real hard to make you very proud,
I'll teach you how to truly love because I'll love out loud.
No scientist can tell you why...I was made this way,
But Mommy, please be certain, God hand-picked you on that day.

He chose you, Mom and Daddy, because He knew you'd be,
The ones who'd be just right – for the special gift of me.
So, when I'm born, please take my hand – gentle is my soul,
God sent me down to teach you trust – that IS my very goal.

My joy will be contagious – my heart, an open door,
I'll show you what life's all about – I'll leave you wanting more.
More of what God offers – that God IS love Himself,
Not to sweat the small stuff – leave those worries on the shelf.

So, Mom and Daddy, take my hand – I will be your light,
I won't withhold an ounce of love – I'll love with all my might.
You won't be able...to rush through...this life, while by my side,
You'll have to slow it down a notch, since I will be your guide.

I'm not perfect, Mom and Dad, and really no one is,
The one thing that I DO know...is only that we're His.
It won't be long now, Mom and Dad – my birthday's coming soon,
I'll be there...in twenty weeks – please bring me a balloon.

Accept my own uniqueness; respect what I can do,
Patience is the key to see...I'm special just like you.
My journey might look different – just work with me each day,
I'll bring so much...to your life...WORDS just cannot say.

On my eleventh birthday, I want to bake my cake,
And, Daddy, let's go fishing. God showed me a GREAT lake!
He actually showed me many things before He sent me down,
Mostly, Mom, He taught me...that love is NOT a noun.

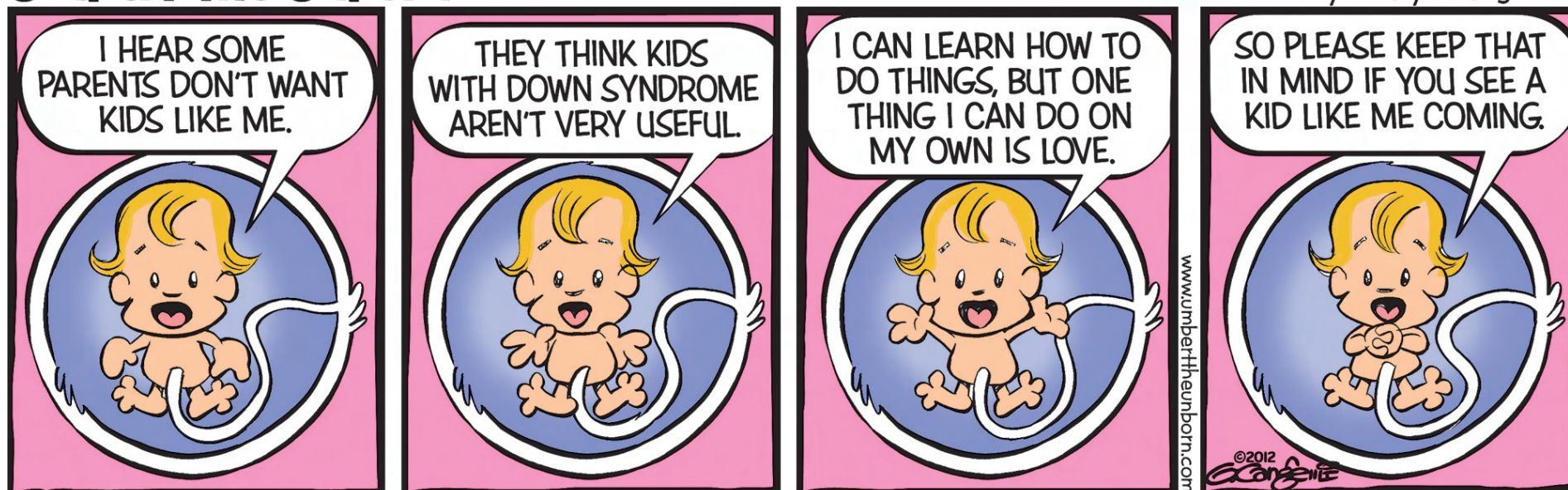
Dad...love's a verb...a mighty action word, it surely is,
I'll give you just a tiny glimpse...of the love that's His.
You'll see Christ in all I do and all I say each day,
You might pay more attention to the little things – you may.

Please hold me close when I am born – I really am a gem,
My talents might be hidden – you can help me find them.
Why IS Down Syndrome set aside for just a numbered few?
Cause God...He chooses wisely – not just anyone will do.

So, take my hand and not my life – please Mommy let me live,
The extra chromosome inside means I have more to give.
I'm glad you're not as scared now, Mom, cause no one is to blame,
By choosing life, you saved an angel – one you get to name.

Umbert the Unborn

by Gary Cangemi





Twenty-five years on, faithful of Texas are still strong through John Paul II

From West Texas Catholic

No one would doubt that the visit of Pope John Paul II was the biggest event ever to happen in the Catholic Church in Texas, a time that still impacts lives and ministry in the church in the Lone Star State.

However, most would probably never guess that this undertaking, and all of the massive planning involved, was headed by a core team that could be counted on one hand.

This small coterie included then-Father Larry Stuebben, statewide coordinator; Sister Charlene Wedelich, CDP, administrative assistant; and Robert Aguirre, project manager.

BEGINNINGS OF THE VISIT

The seeds were planted for the papal pilgrimage when Archbishop Patrick F. Flores and the bishops of Texas were in Rome in 1982 for their “ad limina” meetings at the Vatican.

Pope John Paul II had visited the United States in 1978, and let it be known that he wanted to come back and visit different parts of the country.

More than 60 dioceses submitted invitations to the Holy See, hoping that the Holy Father would grace their own local churches with his presence.

In the fall of 1985, an advance team came through and looked at facilities in San Antonio in anticipation of a visit by the pontiff, and a few months later, in February of 1986, a group from the Vatican appeared in the town for the same purpose.

Two weeks after their departure, then-Father Stuebben was called into the office of Archbishop Flores. The archbishop told him that the pope was probably going to travel to Texas, and the archbishop asked the then-rector of Assumption Seminary to coordinate the visit. On top of these new duties, the rector was still expected to maintain his current job.

“I practically collapsed,” Msgr. Stuebben exclaimed. He thought the matter over for three weeks, but was concerned about fundraising for the effort. However, when he brought that problematic situation to Archbishop Flores, the prelate replied, “I’ll raise the money.”

In what Msgr. Stuebben called a “master stroke” by Archbishop Flores, San Antonio was the only location in the United States in which the whole province

hosted the visit and not just one diocese. It was a joint invitation that featured joint payment, based on a formula devised by the Texas Catholic Conference. Under that plan, larger sees, such as Dallas and Galveston-Houston, contributed more toward funding the papal pilgrimage. Of a \$2.4 million budget established before the trip 25 years ago, \$200,000 remained in the coffers after the event. “Some dioceses across the country are still paying for their papal visit more than two decades after the fact,” Msgr. Stuebben said incredulously.

The monsignor noted that a decision was made early in the process to not pay for the visit by selling souvenirs, as was done in some of the other cities on the U.S. tour.

He emphasized that at every level of planning, the then-13 different dioceses of Texas were involved, and each diocese had its own event coordinator. As an example, at the papal Mass, the ushers, eucharistic ministers, and choir members came from all over the Lone Star State.

After agreeing to lead the effort, Msgr. Stuebben told the archbishop that he needed someone to work with on the massive endeavor. Archbishop Flores suggested Sister Charlene, coordinator for the San Antonio Office for Religious, and she agreed to join the team. Then Aguirre was hired as project manager. “He was the person who had the overall view,” the monsignor said.

“Nobody had ever done anything like this before,” said the visit coordinator, “so 12 basic committees were composed of the best, most competent people we could find. There were 18 months of preparation, and everyone had to ramp up at the same time. In the summer, things were put in place, and in the fall, we really got organized.”

After careful deliberations, a Mass site was chosen in the Westover Hills area that

fit all of the criteria needed for a huge outdoor gathering. The property was owned by developer Marty Wender and attorney Wayne Wright, with a small part of the acreage purchased by Tim Von Dohlen; who were of the Jewish faith, a Baptist and a Catholic, respectively.

THE DAY THE TOWERS FELL

The Mass site was to feature two seven-story towers designed to withstand 40 mile-an-hour winds. However, just as the pontiff was arriving in Miami on the first leg of his American visit, a freak storm with 60 mile-an-hour wind shear hit the location and the towers toppled.

The disaster avoided becoming a tragedy thanks to Ben Hoffner, the alert volunteer fire chief in Westover Hills. He was watching the storm forecast, drove out to the site in his truck and called workers off the scaffolding from a loudspeaker mere minutes before the storm hit. Through his actions, no one was injured or killed in the accident.

Msgr. Stuebben praises Archbishop Flores for having a classic line in speaking of the incident two days later at the papal Mass. “Your holiness,” the archbishop said, “we had a little problem in that the towers fell, but the Church of Texas is still standing.”

That Liturgy still holds the record for the largest attendance at a single event in Texas, with more than 350,000 turning out for the service. It featured 5,000 ushers and 3,000 eucharistic ministers.

And, out of a crowd of a third of-a-million people, there were surprisingly few health issues. Two people had strokes, two babies were delivered, and eight people needed to be hospitalized.

“The Mass went well. Smashingly good. The liturgy was very, very good,” said Msgr. Stuebben. The service was

also attended by 45 bishops, and the pope had dinner with them later in the day at Assumption Seminary.

During his 22 hours in Texas, the pontiff also spoke to a Catholic Charities national meeting and met with 1,000 Polish representatives at a gathering outside of Assumption Seminary.

However, it was in the cathedral where the Holy Father had perhaps his most dramatic moment in the Alamo city, said the monsignor.

Just prior to the pope’s visit to San Fernando, while they were at Guadalupe Plaza, Msgr. Stuebben said he received a call from the Secret Service that they were going to cancel the subsequent event at the cathedral because, in their opinion, the crowd was out of control. In actuality, the seminarians and women religious were singing and cheering in anticipation of the pope’s arrival there.

“As the pontiff started up the aisle at the cathedral, the atmosphere was explosive,” said Msgr. Stuebben. “The crowd stands up and then they start cheering, and the volume doesn’t subside,” he says. The pope gestured for the crowd to quiet down, and finally pleaded, “Please please, I have to give this talk.”

WHAT DOES THIS ALL MEAN?

“The effect on the Church as a whole in Texas was extremely positive,” said the monsignor. The involvement of the community was total. I never got a ‘no.’ San Antonio said, ‘We are a big town.’ The ecumenical reality flowered beautifully at that time.”

Msgr. Stuebben commented that there are two moments when everyone here of a certain age can tell you where they were: at the death of John Kennedy and the visit of Pope John Paul II. “The Church of Texas was greatly enhanced. We were greatly involved,” he said.

The monsignor gave much of the credit for the success of the visit to his boss at that time. “Archbishop Flores was absolutely fabulous. During the entire thing, he was wonderfully supportive, and he never micromanaged,” said Msgr. Stuebben. “When the pope came, Archbishop Flores was relaxed and excited and enjoyed it. It was beautiful to see.”

The coordinator of the visit by Pope John Paul II summed up his feelings by saying, “He is probably a saint, and he was right here.”



CNS file photo



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MOTHER, DAUGHTER CLEAN UP DEBRIS NEAR HOUSE IN TUCKERTON, N.J.—Kim Mongillo and her daughter, Miranda, clean up debris near their home in Tuckerton, N.J., Nov. 6. The waterfront community took a huge blow from Hurricane Sandy a week ago. (CNS photo/Bob Roller)

Are There “Good” and “Bad” Emotions?

By Reneau Peurifoy

You often hear people talking about emotions as being “good” or “bad.” For example, it is good to love and bad to hate. This is unfortunate because thinking about emotions in this way is the same as describing your hands as being good or bad. Emotions, like every other part of you, were originally designed to help you enjoy and serve God. However, just as the actions of your hands can be pleasing or offensive to God, your emotions can also serve good or evil purposes. What we need to focus on is the source of the emotion and the actions we take.

When the Pharisees saw that Jesus’ disciples were not performing a ritual washing before eating, they questioned him about it. After pointing out how the Pharisees had become consumed with ritual and failed to do what God commanded, Jesus called the crowd to him and said, “Listen and understand. What goes into a man’s mouth does not make him ‘unclean,’ but what comes out of his mouth, that is what makes him ‘unclean.’” (Matthew 15:10–11). When Peter questioned him further on this point Jesus explained that the Pharisees had become consumed with ritual and failed to do the important things that God had commanded. Then, Jesus called the crowd to him and said, “Listen and understand. What

goes into a man’s mouth does not make him ‘unclean,’ but what comes out of his mouth, that is what makes him ‘unclean.’” (Matthew 15:10–11). He went on to explain that “the things that come out of the mouth come from the heart, and these make a man ‘unclean.’ For out of the heart come evil thoughts, murder, adultery, sexual immorality, theft, false testimony, slander. These are what make a man ‘unclean.’” (18–20). Keep in mind that when the New Testament refers to the heart, it means more than just the center of your emotions; the New Testament uses the heart to represent your entire inner being: your mind, desires, emotions, spirit, and soul.

The point is that the source of evil lies in a mind and heart tainted by sin. The actions you take and the emotions you experience are just the outer expression of what is in your heart and mind. Yielding to the Holy Spirit transforms your inner being into what God intended it to be. As this occurs, your emotions, desires, and thoughts are transformed so they function more closely to what God intends. More and more you rejoice in the things that please God and hate only those things that are detestable to Him.

When you experience emotions such as anger, anxiety, sadness, or envy, take a look at the beliefs and attitudes that are

generating them. Ask God to reveal to you what it is that is causing you to feel this way. Perhaps you are seeing things and responding as God would have you see and respond. However, it may also be that you are viewing things from a sinful and worldly perspective and doing things that are not pleasing to God. If you are sincere in asking, God will show you those areas in your life that still need his perspective and his healing touch.

After more than three decades as a therapist and teacher, Reneau Peurifoy has become a master at reducing complex ideas into simple, easy-to-understand terms and applying them to daily life. He holds a master’s in counseling, attended Fuller Theological Seminary, and worked as a therapist specializing in Anxiety Disorders for twenty years. Many self-help groups and clinics addressing anxiety-related problems have selected his books from among a host of others on the market as the basis for their programs. The Anxiety Disorders Association of America (ADAA), has invited Peurifoy to speak at eleven national conferences.

Peurifoy is the author of several books including “Anxiety, Phobias, and Panic: Taking Charge and Conquering Fear, and Overcoming Anxiety: From Short-Term Fixes to Long-Term Recovery”, “Anger: Taming the Beast.” His latest book, “Why Did God Give Us Emotions?”, is a work twenty years in the making, one that draws on both his myriad counseling experiences and his own deepening understanding of God. Peurifoy is currently on the faculty at Heald College in Sacramento, California and has dedicated the rest of his writing career to books that benefit Christians.

Website: <http://www.whyemotions.com/>

Internal matters top agenda of bishops’ fall assembly in Baltimore

**By Dennis Sadowski
Catholic News Service**

WASHINGTON (CNS)—Statements on preaching and ways that bishops can respond using new technologies to modern-day challenges to their teaching authority are among the items the U.S. bishops will consider when they gather in Baltimore for their annual fall assembly.

Set for Nov. 12-15, the assembly also will consider a statement on work and the economy proposed by the Committee on Domestic Justice and Human Development as a way to raise the profile of growing poverty and the struggles that unemployed people are experiencing.

In addition, the bishops are scheduled to vote on a document encouraging Catholics to see Lent next year as an opportunity to return to regular celebration of the sacrament of penance and reconciliation.

The document on confession highlights the connection Pope Benedict XVI has made between the confession of sin and the new evangelization during the Year

of Faith.

Bishop David L. Ricken of Green Bay, Wis., chairman of the bishops’ Committee on Evangelization and Catechesis, said in an Oct. 31 statement that the brief document serves as an invitation from the U.S. bishops to all Catholics “to participate in the sacrament.”

The proposed text from the bishops expresses their readiness to welcome Catholics who stayed away from confession for a long time.

Plans call for distribution of the statement to parishes for inclusion in weekly bulletins, print publications and social media. Teaching resources on the sacrament also are being prepared for distribution to dioceses, parishes and schools.

The document on preaching that the bishops are to consider encourages preachers to connect the Sunday homily with people’s daily lives.

Titled “Preaching the Mystery of Faith: The Sunday Homily,” the document is the bishops’ first substantive statement on

preaching in 30 years, said Archbishop Robert J. Carlson of St. Louis, chairman of the bishops’ Committee on Clergy, Consecrated Life and Vocations.

The intent to address preaching first surfaced among the bishops six years ago, but drafting it took place over the past year and a half, Archbishop Carlson said.

The bishops also will consider a proposed statement on opportunities to use new media — including blogging and social media — in exercising their teaching authority.

The statement drafted by the Committee on Doctrine, “Contemporary Challenges for the Exercise of the Teaching Ministry of the Diocesan Bishop,” has been distributed to the bishops and suggested amendments are being received, said Capuchin Franciscan Father Thomas G. Weinandy, executive director of the bishops’ Secretariat for Doctrine. The text, like all of the proposed

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Band instruments needed

Our Lady of Victory School in Victoria is still looking for donations of band instruments that might be in your closet or attic that students at OLV could be using. They are for students who cannot afford to rent one. Please consider donating or lending an instrument to OLV. For more information, please call OLV School at (361) 575-5391.





Say No to Assisted Suicide and Yes to Dignity, Compassion and Trust

By Sister Constance Carolyn Veit,
Little Sisters of the Poor

A measure to legalize physician assisted suicide is on the ballot in Massachusetts this November, and a similar bill was recently introduced in the New Jersey legislature. With Little Sisters Homes for the elderly in both of these states, these measures are of the utmost concern to us. Cardinal Seán O'Malley of Boston has repeatedly said that Massachusetts was singled out by assisted suicide advocates because it is considered a gateway to the rest of the country.

We cannot remain silent on this issue. The archdiocese of Boston, the Massachusetts Medical Association and other groups have articulated strong arguments against assisted suicide. What we offer as Little Sisters of the Poor is over a century and a half of hands-on experience caring for the elderly and dying.

As Little Sisters of the Poor, our mission is to offer needy elderly persons a home where they will be welcomed as Christ, cared for as family and accompanied with dignity until God calls them to himself. Our life is usually lived far from the political fray, but we now feel compelled to speak out on the issue of assisted suicide.

We see this as an issue of human dignity, compassion and trust. First, advocates of euthanasia and assisted suicide seem to feel that human dignity is based on an individual's autonomy, attractiveness or functional status, and that some lives are no longer worth living. But we know that no disability or suffering can rob us of our true dignity, because this is God-given and inviolable. The lives of the frail elderly have no less value than those who care for them. Perhaps they possess an even greater dignity because they so clearly reflect Christ in his passion and death.

Secondly, while advocates of assisted suicide speak of compassion, they completely misinterpret the meaning of this beautiful word. Compassion means "to suffer with," to share another's pain — it does not mean to do away with the one whose suffering we cannot bear. Caring for another often draws out the best in us. As Little Sisters, we experience this every day in ourselves, our staff, our volunteers and the families of our residents.

Finally, caring for another person in time of greatest need is a matter of trust. A Little Sister who recently returned from several years in Europe shared that in the

countries where assisted suicide and euthanasia are legal, trust between the elderly and the medical profession has deteriorated. Our residents are terrified of being hospitalized because of the possibility that their lives will be involuntarily terminated and they will never return home.

When an elderly person nearing death looks into our eyes, he or she asks, "Does my life still have meaning? Is it worth living?" Through our caring gestures and our prayer, we wish to respond to each person with a committed "yes." Our tradition of maintaining a constant vigil beside the dying has always been considered the highest expression of our vocation.

An elderly gentleman named Charles had been in our home a short time when the health of one of his new friends began to deteriorate. The Little Sisters and staff, as well as the man's family, surrounded him with competent care and attention,

providing every possible comfort until the end. Charles watched in silence as his friend died peacefully, the Little Sisters and his family praying beside him. Later, Charles pulled one of the Sisters aside and asked her, "When my time comes, will you do the same for me?" "Of course!" she replied. "Then everything will be alright," he said. "I'm not afraid anymore."

Please join us in praying that "everything will be alright" for the elderly, the disabled and the dying in Massachusetts, New Jersey and across our nation. Only by rejecting physician assisted suicide and euthanasia will we be able to assure dignity, compassion and trust for our loved ones and ourselves, until the moment God calls each of us to himself.

Sister Constance Carolyn Veit, LSP, is director of communications for the Little Sisters of the Poor in the United States



POPE LOOKS ON AS HE LEADS GENERAL AUDIENCE AT VATICAN—Pope Benedict XVI looks on as he leads his general audience in St. Peter's Square at the Vatican Nov. 7. (CNS photo/Paul Haring)

Norplant is Back — Under a Different Name

By Steven W. Mosher and Elizabeth Crnkovich of Population Research Institute

The population controllers have long dreamed of chemically sterilizing women for extended periods of time. That was the idea behind Norplant I, which consisted of six silicon capsules loaded with levonorgestrel that, implanted permanently in a woman's body, was intended to shut down her reproductive system for up to five years. And it is this same idea that is driving the release of Norplant II, touted as "one of the most effective reversible contraceptives available."

Except that, if the history of Norplant I is any guide, the second generation of this device will prove just as dangerous as the first.

No sooner had Norplant been approved by the FDA in 1990 than woman who received the implant began reporting serious side effects. By 1996, over 6,000 complaints of "adverse medical consequences" had been filed by American women who were suffering from various Norplant-related ailments, from heavy bleeding and vision impairment to general malaise and lack of appetite.

But these problems paled in comparison with those suffered by women overseas, perhaps because these latter were more often malnourished and in poor health to

begin with. PRI investigations revealed that these women, instead of just suffering from vision problems, sometimes went blind, and instead of just suffering from a general feeling of malaise, were sometimes actually bedridden for months on end. And when they sought to have the troublesome implants removed, their requests were turned down by population control officials. They were forced to continue in pain and suffering, and sometimes died.

So it was that PRI in 1996 launched a media campaign against Norplant, advising American women who were suffering serious side effects from the device to contact legal counsel. We also filed a "citizen's petition" with the FDA to have Norplant taken off the market.

Both of these efforts bore fruit. Faced with tens of thousands of lawsuits from injured women, the original manufacturer, Wyeth-Aherst, in 2002 reached an out-of-court settlement with the victims. That same year it took Norplant I off the market in the U.S., in an obvious effort to stem the financial hemorrhaging caused by the lawsuits.

It was a different story overseas. Wyeth-Aherst continued to manufacture, and USAID continued to purchase, millions of Norplant I to use on women in the developing world. Such women were, after all, easy targets. They lacked the means to fight back legally, and their complaints

were brushed off by local health agencies complicit in population control programs. USAID finally ended its contract with the manufacturer in 2006, after PRI called attention to the obvious double standard at work here: How can the U.S. continue to promote the use of a drug/device overseas, we asked, that is so dangerous it has been taken off the market in the U.S.?

Now the same thing is happening all over again. It turns out that the new manufacturer, Bayer HealthCare, has no plans to market Norplant II in the United States. USAID has nevertheless signed a contract with the German pharmaceutical company to purchase and distribute the drug/device to its population control partners to implant in poor women around the world. Sound familiar?

Both Norplants are implanted under the skin of the upper arm. Both contain the same "active ingredient": levonorgestrel, a synthetic progestin. Like other such steroid-based drugs, it thickens the cervical mucus, sometimes (but not always) inhibits ovulation, and alters the lining of the uterus to prevent implantation. This means that women on Norplant can conceive children, who are then aborted after failing to implant in the uterus.

The main difference between the two



Norplant is Back – Under a Different Name

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Norplants is a relatively minor one. Norplant I contains six silicon rods containing synthetic progestin, while Norplant II contains only two, albeit larger, rods. In fact the two drug/devices are so similar that when the FDA approved Norplant II way back in 1996, it relied mostly upon Norplant I studies. We already know how well that turned out.

There is one more difference we should mention. Since “Norplant” has become a byword for a dangerous contraceptive drug/device, Norplant II has been given a new name. It will be marketed under the name “Jadelle”. Of course, a dangerous contraceptive by any other name is still a dangerous contraceptive.

The U.S. Agency for International Development picked World Contraception Day to proudly announce its new Jadelle program. We think the choice of this day oddly appropriate, since our aid agency apparently does have ambitions to contracept the world: it is ordering no fewer than 27 million implants at roughly \$10 apiece from the manufacturer over the next six years.

What this means is that, even if this massive chemical sterilization campaign falters for some reason – such as large numbers of poor women injured or dying as a result, the American taxpayer will still be on the hook to the tune of \$270 million dollars.

Norplant I died a very public death some years ago, pilloried in the courts and pummeled in the media. One may well ask why it has now been resurrected, under a new name, and with a new manufacturer.

The answer is that implanting long-term contraceptives in poor women is one of the cherished goals of the population control movement. USAID itself reiterated its commitment to this goal at the recent London Family Planning Summit sponsored by the Gates Foundation.

A woman on birth control can stop taking her pills. A woman on depo-provera can stop taking her injections. But Jadelle, like its predecessor, is impossible to remove short of surgery. A woman who has been chemically sterilized by Jadelle will stay sterilized—for five long years.

See more stories from Population Research Institute (*Putting People First for Twenty Years*) at: <http://pop.org/Z48>



Left: Members of the U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops gather for the start of their annual fall meeting in Baltimore Nov. 15, 2010. They meet again Nov. 12-15, this year in Baltimore. (CNS file photo/Nancy Wiechec)

Internal matters top agenda of bishops’ fall assembly in Baltimore

Continued from p. 25

documents the bishops will consider, has not been made public.

The statement complements a 1989 document on the doctrinal responsibilities of local bishops that sets forth guidelines for a bishop to follow when responding to comments, statements, books or other communication from a theologian that incorrectly portrays Catholic teaching, Father Weinandy told Catholic News Service.

“Given the situation and the speed and breadth in which (a theologian’s view) could be circulated, the bishops on the doctrine committee felt it would be good to encourage, in some circumstances, (ways) to put up more quickly a response to these situations,” Father Weinandy explained.

An immediate response from a bishop would be followed up with the normal invitation to dialogue with the theologian, he said.

The statement on work and the economy, titled “Catholic Reflections on Work, Poverty and a Broken Economy,” is expected to advance the bishops’ priority of human life and dignity to demonstrate the new evangelization in action, Bishop Stephen E. Blaire of Stockton, Calif., chairman of the Committee on Domestic Justice and Human Development, explained during the bishops’ June meeting in Atlanta.

It would be a follow-up to a Sept. 15, 2011, letter by Cardinal Timothy M. Dolan of New York, president of the U.S. bishops’ conference, in which he urged bishops and priests across the country to preach about “the terrible toll the current economic turmoil is taking on families and communities.”

The bishops will devote time to discuss

whether to revise the norms governing fundraising as covered by Canon 1262 in church law. The discussion is expected to focus on the need to clarify when a bishop would have to approve any appeal to raise funds based on from where the fundraising appeal originated.

Existing norms on fundraising were approved unanimously by the bishops in 2002 and received approval from the Vatican, or “recognitio,” in 2007.

A proposal to establish a new national collection for the U.S. Archdiocese for the Military Services will be weighed by the bishops. Under the proposal from Archbishop Charles J. Chaput of Philadelphia and Archbishop Timothy P. Broglio of the military archdiocese, the collection would be taken up every three years.

The U.S. Archdiocese for the Military Services provides pastoral ministries and spiritual services to those in the U.S. armed forces. The archdiocese serves 1.8 million men, women and children in more than 220 installations in 29 countries, patients in 153 Veterans Affairs Medical Centers, and federal employees serving outside the boundaries of the United States in 134 countries.

Liturgical matters also are scheduled to come before the bishops.

In regional meetings, bishops are expected to spend 30 minutes evaluating the implementation of the third edition of the Roman Missal, which was introduced at the start of liturgical year last November. The comments were being solicited by the Committee on Divine Worship to assist in preparing translations of other liturgical books and plans for their implementation.

In addition, the bishops will vote on a proposed “scope of work” for revision of the Liturgy of the Hours submitted by the Committee on Divine Worship. The committee’s request comes as the International Commission on English in the Liturgy has started work on revising some parts of the liturgy, specifically hymns, some orations and some antiphons.

The bishops also will vote on a new treasurer and chairmen of five committees. Those elected will begin three-year terms during the bishops’ 2013 fall general assembly.

The bishops will choose a new treasurer; the two candidates are Bishop Robert J. Cunningham of Syracuse, N.Y. and Bishop Kevin J. Farrell of Dallas. The treasurer serves as chairman of the Committee on Budget and Finance.

New chairmen of the committees on Consecrated Life and Vocations, Divine Worship, Domestic Justice and Human Development, Laity, Marriage, Family Life and Youth, and Migration also will be chosen.

Members of the boards of the Catholic Legal and Immigration Network, Inc. and Catholic Relief Services also will be elected.

Also under consideration will be proposals to add one staff member in the National Religious Retirement Office and another to serve the Subcommittee on Native American Affairs under the Secretariat for Cultural Diversity in the Church.

The bishops also plan to view a Spanish-language video on the promotion and defense of marriage between one man and one woman.



To Politicians With Love - Five Lessons from Marriage Counseling for Political Discourse

“Give it a rest, Kristi,” Chad moaned as the family minivan idled before an eternally red light, lamenting the latest impasse in which he and his wife had been entrenched all morning. “You spend money like a drunken sailor and won’t stick to our budget, but when I confront you, you explode like it’s my fault. That’s so childish!”

As Kristi fumed in the passenger seat to Chad’s right, she was too upset to realize that they only had time to fire back and forth several more times in the three blocks that remained between their car and the school fundraiser, an event for which they were fifteen minutes late. They’d argued that morning in every room of their house while struggling to get themselves and the kids ready, make breakfast, and cram into the car. Still, she was in no mood to let Chad have the last word. “It’s okay for you to spend thousands on an unbudgeted boat, but if I buy a used lamp at a rummage sale, I need Dr. Chad’s written permission. You’re such a hypocrite.”

Suddenly, the high-pitched voice of a seven-year-old interrupts from the back-seat, where Chad and Kristi’s two kids were strapped in tightly. “Will you two stop fighting? You sound like those two guys that are running for president!”

And a little child shall lead them.

Indeed, conflict in marriage often stems from a fairly typical pattern of communication breakdown, which can easily be recognized in politics. We know that marriages can improve their conflict resolution with a little elbow grease, and so it makes good sense to apply some “lessons learned” to the political realm as well. What follows, therefore, are several principles which, when adopted in either marriage or politics, lead to better dialogue, increased mutual respect and understanding, a more effective outcome, and generally happier people.

1) You can be dead right. In marriage and politics, feeling right” is woefully inadequate in producing a positive outcome, and it can easily destroy the relationship. Spouses and politicians can hold to an inflexible and uncompromising position in such a way that places them in isolation from those with whom they would otherwise collaborate. It can undermine their willingness to respectfully engage parties with whom they disagree, and it often leads them to demonize and assassinate the character of the opposition. But being “right” isn’t enough. Healthy individuals honor their personal convictions while engaging in a productive dialogue in which

opposing parties and spouses (who also believe that they are right) can get a fair hearing. It’s okay to believe you’re right. But don’t be dead right, or you’ll lose the relationship along with any hope of a positive outcome.

2) Pick a time and place. Most marital conflict happens when tempers flare, with no thought to managing the sensitive issue in the context it deserves. This leads couples to argue in stressful car rides, public places, or late at night when they should be enjoying a bit of sleep (or romance!). This same tendency leads politicians to take shots at opponents through the media or in speeches to like-minded individuals, rather than holding their tongues until they sit down on the committee or task force where the issue can actually be worked out. Such tactics might score points in a mixed martial arts contest, but they diminish people’s willingness to work together, deepen entrenched battle lines, and tend to provoke retaliation. Instead of destroying trust and collegiality before we ever get a chance to deal with an issue calmly, we do ourselves and our opponents a favor by giving the conflict the context and attention it deserves.

3) Try listening first. People tend to

listen to those who are willing to listen to them, and they refuse to listen to people who don’t. So spouses and politicians must show a willingness to listen and empathize first in order to gain a hearing. While this principle seems obvious, it’s rarely adopted in marriage or politics, as people are too eager to be heard, score points, and to assert their views.

4) Admit how your side has caused the problem. Credibility is a funny thing. We lose it when we try to appear faultless, and we gain it when we admit our own fallibility. Few marriages work if one or both spouses are unwilling to acknowledge wrongdoing. Politically speaking, with all of the long term challenges that linger because of the decisions, endeavors, or inactivity of both major parties, there is plenty of blame to go around. As with marriage, political discourse should start with how one’s own party has contributed to the problem so that we don’t cling to prior mistakes with a kind of self righteousness that prevents honest and creative thinking.

5) Go back to the beginning. When a marriage is on the rocks, a counselor will often guide couples back to the early days of their relationship in order to remember and reclaim the original feelings and values

that brought them together. In politics too, we must also remember and reclaim the aspirations and values that led to America’s founding in order to come together around our commonalities, rather than defining ourselves by divisions that have since evolved. Sadly, those in office are rewarded for partisan behavior and frowned upon for reverting to the “classical statesmanship” that made George Washington the most trusted politician in American history. Unfortunately, it often requires a national crisis for today’s political rivals to embrace one another with the spirit that permeated America’s founding days. But if we can’t reclaim the momentum generated by those formative years, we’re left in the conflicted foxholes of our present day divisions.

Matthew M. Anderson envisioned the story in *“Running Mate”*, his debut novel, during the 2008 presidential election. A former history teacher and lifelong student of American history, Anderson reflected on his experience as a pastor and marriage counselor, and the visions for a bipartisan presidential partnership established by the founding fathers, as a way to change the face of today’s political climate. For more information, please visit www.running-matebook.com.

Cardinal congratulates Obama, urges he give priority to most vulnerable

**By Mark Pattison
Catholic News Service**

WASHINGTON (CNS) – Cardinal Timothy M. Dolan of New York, president of the U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops, congratulated President Barack Obama on his re-election in a Nov. 7 letter.

“The people of our country have again entrusted you with a great responsibility,” Cardinal Dolan said. “The Catholic bishops of the United States offer our prayers that God will give you strength and wisdom to meet the difficult challenges that face America.”

Cardinal Dolan added the bishops pray that Obama will “help restore a sense of civility to the public order, so our public conversations may be imbued with respect and charity toward everyone.”

He said, “In particular, we pray that you will exercise your office to pursue the common good, especially in care of the most vulnerable among us, including the unborn, the poor, and the immigrant. We will continue to stand in defense of

life, marriage and our first, most cherished liberty, religious freedom.”

In the press release containing the text of the letter, the words “our first, most cherished liberty” were in italics. The bishops and the Obama administration have clashed for the past year on a federal Department of Health and Human Services mandate that would require most religious employers to provide contraceptive access to their employees, allowing for few exceptions.

With 270 electoral votes needed to secure a presidential win, Obama, a Democrat, had 303 to 206 for his Republican challenger, former Massachusetts Gov. Mitt Romney. Florida’s 29 electoral votes had not been decided the morning after the Nov. 6 election.

Four years ago, Obama, previously a U.S. senator from Illinois, received congratulations from a fellow Illinoian – Cardinal Francis E. George of Chicago, then president of the U.S. bishops – when Obama became the nation’s first African-American president.

“I believe we can seize this future together – because we are not as divided as our politics suggest; we’re not as cynical as the pundits believe; we are greater than the sum of our individual ambitions; and we remain more than a collection of red states and blue states. We are, and forever will be, the United States of America,” Obama said at the end of his 20-minute address to supporters at a victory rally in Chicago during the early morning hours of Nov. 7.

“And together, with your help, and God’s grace, we will continue our journey forward, and remind the world just why it is that we live in the greatest nation on earth,” he added.

The Massachusetts-based group Catholic Democrats said in a statement Obama and Vice President Joe Biden’s re-election “is a victory for the Catholic social justice tradition that has guided the conscience of our nation for over a century. The American



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people chose a worldview that values community and the common good over one that puts the market and individualism before the welfare of all people.”

A Catholic Democrats board member, Nicholas Cafardi, was co-chair of the Obama campaign’s Catholic outreach effort.

Charmaine Yoest, president and CEO of Americans United for Life Action, took the Obama administration to task for its health care law and what she described as its efforts to expand access to abortion. In a Nov. 7 statement, she said she expected state legislatures and a “pro-life majority” in the House of Representatives to blunt those efforts during Obama’s second term.

“Already, AUL has worked with 10 states in passing legislation to opt out of permitting taxpayer-subsidized abortion coverage through Obamacare,” Yoest said. “And we predict that the courts are going to see an ever increasing number of lawsuits as Americans fight for their First Amendment rights of conscience.”

Care Net, an organization that promotes alternatives to abortion, said it hopes

Obama will honor a promise he made during his first term to make abortion “rare.”

“In 2010, President Obama talked about the importance of making abortion ‘rare.’ Sadly, the record of his administration so far has been a record of expanding abortion, said Care Net CEO Roland Warren in a Nov. 7 statement. “Yet most American women agree: Abortion is not the best solution in an unplanned pregnancy situation.”

In other reaction Nov. 7, National Farmers Union president Roger Johnson said Obama “has shown his dedication to rural America over the past four years, and we will continue to work with him and the administration to ensure that continues.”

United Auto Workers president Bob King said the president “stood by American workers in their darkest hour, and UAW members and citizens in communities that are part of the thriving auto industry, are grateful for his willingness to bet on us.”

“Today,” he said, “the domestic auto industry is roaring back, with investment in factories, new workers and manufacturing returned to our country.”

“While the economy, health care and the deficit were the leading issues that voters specifically cited as most important in this election, the results also signal historic shifts in values and demographics,” said a statement from Robert Jones, founding CEO of the Public Religion Research Institute.

In focus groups conducted by PRRI in Columbus, Ohio, the weekend before the election, “among white working-class independent voters, the participants emphasized economic issues like jobs, the deficit and

taxes as their highest-ranked priorities for this election.”

Jones said early exit polls also showed Obama “won younger voters under 30 by 23 points, while Romney won seniors by 12 points. And this year, as in 2008, younger voters turned out, rivaling seniors as a proportion of the electorate.”

Another key issue in the election, he said, was the treatment of immigration and other issues important to Latino voters, “who now constitute 10 percent of all voters.”



CATHOLIC WOMAN PRAYS DURING ELECTION DAY ‘MARATHON OF MASSES’ AT PARISH IN ST. LOUIS

—Patricia Newell prays the rosary between Masses celebrated all day long at St. George Parish in St. Louis, Mo., Nov. 6. The church held a “Marathon of Masses for God and Country” from 6 a.m. to 6 p.m. on Election Day. (CNS photo/Lisa Johnston, St. Louis Review)

At least three states approve laws permitting same-sex marriage

**By Patricia Zapor
Catholic News Service**

WASHINGTON (CNS) – Voters in Maine, Maryland and Minnesota Nov. 6 approved ballot measures legalizing same-sex marriage. A similar measure appeared likely to pass in Washington state.

The Catholic bishops in each state had urged voters to uphold the traditional definition of marriage between one man and one woman and warned that religious liberties could be threatened by legalizing same-sex marriage.

Maryland and Washington voters upheld laws permitting same-sex marriage that were passed earlier in the year by their legislatures and signed by their governors, but challenged in the referendum process. Minnesotans rejected a measure to ban same-sex marriage.

Thirty other states have passed laws prohibiting such marriages. Previously six states and the District of Columbia had allowed same-sex marriages through legislative action and court rulings.

Voters in Maine approved a referendum authorizing same-sex marriage, a measure that bypassed courts and the Legislature, and reversed a 2009 referendum to ban such unions.

In Maryland, Baltimore Archbishop William E. Lori was among the most vocal leaders of the campaign to defeat the referendum, and he expressed disappointment in the vote.

“I think that vote will prove not to have been for the common good of our state,” he said in a statement.

The Maryland Catholic Conference, which advocates for public policy on behalf of the state’s bishops, joined the Maryland Marriage Alliance in efforts to overturn the law. Archbishop Lori praised the advocates’ work over the past year.

“So much hard work went into this, and I’m very, very grateful to everyone who worked so hard,” he said. “We will continue to witness to the values of marriage as understood as the union of one man and one woman, as the most sound, secure and loving way to bring children into the world.”

The Catholic conference said: “Regrettably, Marylanders decided by the narrowest of margins not to repeal the law that redefines marriage.”

With 97.5 percent of the Maryland vote tallied, 52 percent, or 1,208,068 voters, approved the same-sex marriage measure, compared to 48 percent, or 1,112,998 vot-

ers, who rejected it.

The language of the ballot measure “masked the fact that this law does not simply assign civil benefits to gay and lesbian couples, but drastically dismantles in our state law the fundamental family unit of mother, father and child,” the conference said.

“The people of Maryland were promised that this law would protect religious institutions and individuals who believe marriage is the union of one man and one woman, and we will remain vigilant in ensuring that those promises are upheld,” it added.

Bishop Richard J. Malone, who is administrator of the Diocese of Portland, Maine, said in a statement he was deeply disappointed in the outcome in his state.

“I am deeply disappointed that a majority of Maine voters have redefined marriage from what we have understood it to be for millennia by civilizations and religions around the world,” said the bishop, who in August was installed to head the Diocese of Buffalo, N.Y. He thanked “the Catholic faithful who did not abandon Catholic teachings on the nature of marriage.”

Maine’s voters, with 78.1 percent of the vote tallied, agreed to repeal the same-sex

marriage ban by a vote of 53.4 percent to 46.6 percent against.

In efforts to persuade voters to oppose legalizing the marriages, the bishops of Washington had issued video statements and a pastoral statement opposing the referendum.

With about 60 percent of the vote tallied as of early the morning of Nov. 7, the vote was 52 percent in favor of allowing same-sex marriages compared to 48 percent opposed.

In Minnesota, with 99.7 percent of the vote tallied, the result was 51.3 percent, or 1,507,152 votes, to oppose a ban on same-sex marriage, compared to 47.6 percent or 1,400,396 votes to support the measure.

Archbishop John C. Nienstedt of St. Paul and Minneapolis wrote in a column in the archdiocesan newspaper, *The Catholic Spirit*, that the church’s “effort to support God’s unchanging plan for marriage is not a campaign against anyone but rather a positive effort to promote the truth about marriage as a union between one man and one woman.”

Contributing to this report was Maria Wiering in Baltimore.