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EASTER GLORY

The resurrection of Christ is depicted in a mosaic at the Basilica of the National Shrine of the Immaculate Conception in Washington. Easter, the feast of the Resurrection, was April 4 this year. (CNS photo/Paul Haring)

In memory of Msgr. Edward Bartsch who died Easter Sunday

PRAHA—Msgr. Edward Charles Bartsch, pastor of Assumption of the Blessed Virgin Mary Parish (St. Mary's) in Praha, passed away Easter Sunday, April 4, 2010, at the age of 89.

Msgr. Bartsch was born January 21, 1921, in Rockne, Texas, to the late Julius Bartsch and Elizabeth Goodman Bartsch. He is survived by one sister, Margaret Frerich of Bastrop, and numerous nieces and nephews. He was preceded in death by his parents and one sister, Vivian Frerich.

Visitation, Rosary and Mass were held at St. Mary's Church in Praha Tuesday, April 6. A Mass was also held at Sacred Heart Catholic Church in Rockne Wednesday, April 7, with burial following. Bishop David E. Fellhauer officiated at all services.

Until days before his death, Msgr. Edward Bartsch, who preferred to be called Father, had been the active pastor at St. Mary's Parish in Praha since 1993.

Prior to the printing of the April issue of *The Catholic Lighthouse*, the staff had already scheduled Msgr. Bartsch's and Father Rachunek's "Year for Priests" interviews to be printed on page four of the April issue of *The Catholic Lighthouse*. It was such a shock to learn of his death. His interview story is now being included in his obituary.



"As I was retyping Father Bartsch's printed interview notes, I kept saying to myself, 'I've got to call Father Bartsch and tell him how nice his story is ... how much

I enjoyed reading it,'" said *The Catholic Lighthouse* editor, Cynthia Brewer. "Unfortunately the time slipped by and I never got to tell him; I never got to tell him his story would be printed in the next issue. I pray he knows in the afterlife."

Below is the "Year for Priests" interview by Father Edward Bartsch:

Date and place of

birth: January 21, 1921, in Rockne, Texas

Parents' names and home: Julius Bartsch and Elizabeth Goodman Bartsch (both deceased)

Names of siblings: Margaret Frerich, Bastrop, Texas, and Vivian Frerich (deceased)

Home parish: Sacred Heart in Rockne

Schools attended and degrees received: Elementary – Sacred Heart School, Rockne, grades 1-9, 1928-1937; high school, college and seminary – St. John's Seminary, San Antonio

Date ordained and by whom: May 24, 1949, at San Fernando Cathedral, San Antonio, by Bishop Reicher of Austin Diocese (Archbishop Robert Lucey of San Antonio was in Rome at the time).

If ordained in another diocese, when

See In memory of, p. 4

President of USCCB Encourages Vigilance that Health Care Legislation Protects Conscience, does not Fund Abortion

WASHINGTON—The U.S. bishops called on Congress and people in the Catholic community to make sure promises are kept that new health care legislation will not expand abortions in the United States.

Cardinal Francis George of Chicago, president of the United States Conference of Catholic Bishops (USCCB), made the call March 23, moments after President Barack Obama signed the Senate version of health care reform legislation approved by the House of Representatives by a slim margin, March 21. The statement was approved unanimously by the 32-member Administrative Committee of the USCCB.

The statement by Cardinal George follows:

For nearly a century, the Catholic bishops of the United States have called for reform of our health care system so that all may have access to the care that recognizes and affirms their human dignity. Christian discipleship means, "working to ensure that all people have access to what makes them fully human and fosters their human dignity" (United States Catechism for Adults, page 454). Included among those elements is the provision of necessary and appropriate health care.

For too long, this question has gone unaddressed in our country. Often, while many had access to excellent medical treatment, millions of others including expectant mothers, struggling families

or those with serious medical or physical problems were left unable to afford the care they needed. As Catholic bishops, we have expressed our support for efforts to address this national and societal shortcoming. We have spoken for the poorest and most defenseless among us. Many elements of the health care reform measure signed into law by the President address these concerns and so help to fulfill the duty that we have to each other for the common good. We are bishops, and therefore pastors and teachers. In that role, we applauded the effort to expand health care to all.

Nevertheless, for whatever good this law achieves or intends, we as Catholic bishops have opposed its passage because there is compelling evidence that it would expand the role of the federal government in funding and facilitating abortion and plans that cover abortion. The statute appropriates billions of dollars in new funding without explicitly prohibiting the use of these funds for abortion, and it provides federal subsidies for health plans covering elective abortions. Its failure to preserve the legal status quo that has regulated the government's relation to abortion, as did the original bill adopted by the House of Representatives last November, could undermine what has been the law of our land for decades and threatens the consensus of the majority of Americans: that federal

See President of USCCB, p. 16



Bishop Fellhauer's Schedule

April

- 9 6:30 a.m., Mass, ACTS retreat, Spiritual Renewal Center, Victoria
- 10 6:30 p.m., Confirmation Mass, Our Lady of Guadalupe Church, Bay City
- 11 10:00 a.m., Confirmation Mass, Our Lady of Lourdes Church, Victoria
2:00 p.m., Confirmation Mass, St. Patrick's Church, Bloomington
6:00 p.m., Confirmation Mass, Our Lady of the Gulf Church, Port Lavaca
- 16 7:00 p.m., Confirmation Mass, Our Lady of Mount Carmel Church, Wharton
- 17 5:00 p.m., Confirmation Mass, Sts. Cyril and Methodius Church, Shiner
- 18 10:30 a.m., Confirmation Mass, Sacred Heart Church, Hallettsville
2:00 p.m., Confirmation Mass, Our Lady of Victory Cathedral, Victoria
- 19 Texas Bishops' Meeting, Oblate School of Theology, San Antonio
- 20 10:00 a.m., Mass, Safe Environment training class, Spiritual Renewal Center, Victoria
4:30 p.m., Diocesan Building Board meeting, Chancery Office
- 21 7:00 p.m., Confirmation Mass, St. Michael Church, Weimar
- 22 6:30 p.m., Mother Seton Awards, Knights of Columbus Hall, Shiner
- 23 Knights of Columbus Council 9088, Annual Bishop's Charity Golf Tournament, Colony Creek Country Club, Victoria
- 24 6:00 p.m., Confirmation Mass, Holy Family Church, Victoria
- 25 9:15 a.m., Confirmation Mass, St. Mary Church, St. Mary (Hallettsville)
6:00 p.m., Confirmation Mass, Holy Cross Church, Bay City
- 27 Ordination of Bishops-Elect J. Douglas Deshotel and Mark Seitz as Auxiliary Bishops of Dallas, Dallas
- 28 9:30 a.m., Priests' and Lay Pension Board meeting, Chancery
7:00 p.m., Confirmation Mass, Holy Family Church, Wharton, including St. Joseph Church, Boling
- 29 7:00 p.m., Eighth grade religion awards, Our Lady of Victory Cathedral, Victoria
- 30 7:30 a.m., Mass, ACTS retreat, Spiritual Renewal Center
12:00 noon, Clergy luncheon, Knights of Columbus State Convention, Omni Hotel, Corpus Christi

May

- 1 10:00 a.m., Mass 50th Anniversary of dedication of St. Patrick's Church, Bloomington
5:00 p.m., Confirmation Mass, St. Mary Church, Victoria
- 2 9:30 a.m., Confirmation Mass, St. John Church, St. John, including Ascension of Our Lord Church, Moravia
6:30 p.m., Confirmation Mass, Our Lady of Sorrows Church, Victoria
- 5 10:00 a.m., Presbyteral Council Meeting, Chancery Office
- 7 6:00 p.m., Confirmation Mass, St. Anthony Church, Palacios
- 8 5:00 p.m., Confirmation Mass, Holy Rosary Church, Hostyn



LARGE DONATION MADE FOR PRIESTS AND RELIGIOUS RETIREMENT BY KJT—Father Bob Knippenberg, pastor of Sts. Cyril & Methodius in Shiner and State Spiritual Director for the Catholic Union of Texas (KJT), presents a check in the amount of \$8,131.22 to Bishop David Fellhauer for the Priest and Religious Retirement Fund for the Diocese of Victoria in February 2010. The KJT adopted the Priest and Religious Retirement Fund as its statewide charity project in 2009 and once again in 2010. The check represents donations that were made on behalf of the societies from within the Diocese of Victoria. In a letter, President Christopher L. Urban said, "It is indeed our pleasure to donate these funds to the Priest and Religious Retirement Fund as a token of our appreciation for the service that our priests and other religious have given us throughout the years."



LENTEN MINI RETREAT HELD—The seventh annual Holy Family Lenten Mini Retreat was held at Holy Family Catholic Church on February 13, 2010. The retreat master was Father Gabriel Espinosa of Our Lady of Mt. Carmel, Wharton. He spoke on the question, "What can you offer every day?" Father Gabriel used the story "The Return of the Prodigal Son" by Father Henry Nouwen to illustrate his presentation. He explained that we must first recognize that God loves us; that allows us not to be selfish and to act on the plan he has for us. In the story, both the brothers failed to recognize how much the father loved them. Father Gabriel explained that in our own lives we must ask, "How am I to let myself be loved by God?" First we must love ourselves, as God does not make junk, then to accept God's love and to look to do his will. God is rich in mercy, forgiveness and love, and hopes that we will love him. We can do our part by bringing people we know back to God. The retreat ended with a delicious meal provided by the Altar Society. Chairmen for the event were Barbara Wilcox, Marjorie Tasin and JoAnn Jalufka (above l. to r.).

DSA & Reflection of Faith Capital Campaign Updates

2009 DSA

Diocesan Goal:	\$1,282,100.00
Parish Pledge Totals:	\$1,016,950.58
Parish Contribution Totals:	\$1,016,950.58
Number of Parish Families Participating:	4,032

2010 DSA

Diocesan Goal:	\$1,349,808.00
Parish Pledge Totals:	\$ 395,894.00
Parish Contribution Totals:	\$ 293,179.00
Number of Parish Families Participating:	2,444

Reflection of Faith Capital Campaign

Diocesan Goal:	\$ 9,000,000.00
Parish Pledge Totals:	\$13,664,024.49
Parish Contribution Totals:	\$ 7,339,966.34
Number of Parish Families Participating:	6,749



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In Memory of ...



SRC CHAPEL FURNISHINGS HANDMADE BY LOCAL ARTISAN—Mike Craig is standing behind the altar he was commissioned to build for the newly renovated Incarnate Word Chapel at the Spiritual Renewal Center. The altar was constructed from cedar wood that was salvaged from the original chapel. In addition to the altar, he also built the ambo (pulpit), credence table and the stand for the tabernacle. Maryann Heimsath, a liturgical consultant with Heimsath Architects from Austin, Texas, designed the furnishings.

Holy Cross – Yorktown – Renovates

Father Rogers Hawes, pastor of Holy Cross Parish in Yorktown, is proud to announce the completion of the renovation of the parish church. Restoration began in October of 2009 and was expected to be complete in time for the Easter celebration. The parishioners have been attending Mass at their mission parish, San Luis. To see up to 200 renovation photos from beginning to end, please see the Facebook site of Ecclesiastical Art Studios & Son at <http://www.facebook.com/photo.php?pid=9548742&id=281517725550&fbid=307242815550#!/photo.php?pid=9548767&id=281517725550&fbid=307242980550>

To avoid typing the long Web ad-

Happy Birthday!

E.J. Gutierrez is in College II at St. Joseph Seminary in Saint Benedict, La. His home parish is Our Lady of Mount Carmel, in Wharton, and his birthday is April 27. Please show your support for our seminarian by writing to: E.J. Gutierrez, St. Joseph Seminary, 75376 River Rd., Saint Benedict, LA 70457



New Diocesan Directories Available

The 2010 Diocese of Victoria Directory is available for purchase from *The Catholic Lighthouse* office.

To purchase a new, complete diocesan directory with the official diocesan binder, the cost is \$15 if shipped, \$10 if picked up at the chancery office.

The Catholic Lighthouse office has provided directory updates on the diocesan Web site for changes and updates. Every so many years, the office will update the whole directory and sell its contents at a reduced price compared to the directory/binder.

If you have purchased a diocesan directory in the past and have the official

dress, go to www.victoriadiocese.org/lighthouse/lighthouse.htm and go to April issue, pg. 3, then click on the Web address.

Seminarian leaves to do missionary work

Sean Breeden is leaving his seminary studies to do missionary work in Honduras. Please note his new address:

Sean Breeden
3416 Meadow Ln
Bay City, TX 77414-7336

Sister M. Constance Kapitza, 96, of Victoria, died Tuesday, Feb. 23, 2010. She was born Nov. 9, 1913, in Borisch, Germany, to the late Frank and Anna (Nieschwietz) Kapitza. Sister was a member of the Sisters of the Incarnate Word and Blessed Sacrament.



The family came to the United States in 1924 and settled in Falls City where sister attended Holy Trinity School and then graduated from Nazareth Academy in Victoria. She entered Nazareth Convent as a postulant on Aug. 15, 1931, and became a novice on Aug. 17, 1932. She made her first profession of vows on Aug. 19, 1933, and final profession on Aug. 24, 1936. Sister Constance received a B.A. degree with a major in English and a minor in Spanish from Our Lady of the Lake College in San Antonio.

Sister Constance ministered as a teacher and/or principal on the elementary, junior high and high school levels at Holy Trinity School in Duquesne, Pa., St. Jerome School in Plum, Texas, Sacred Heart School in La Grange, St. Boniface School in Hobson, St. Michael School in Weimar, Holy Cross School in Bay City, Nazareth Academy and Our Lady of Victory School in Victoria, Sacred Heart School in Floresville, Blessed Sacrament Academy, St. Agnes School and

St. John School in San Antonio, Sacred Heart School in Hallettsville, St. Patrick School in Dallas, and St. Ludmila Academy in Shiner.

When Sister retired from active ministry in education in 1987, she assisted wherever needed at Incarnate Word Convent. She also reveled in the beauty of the birds and flowers that she tended when able. Sister resided in the Congregation's Retirement Center/Infirmary for the last ten years participating in the apostolate of prayer and suffering.

Survivors: brother Paul Kapitza of Jensen Beach, Fla., nephews and nieces.

Preceded in death by: parents; brothers, Frank Kapitza who became Brother Leo, O.C.S.O., and John Kapitza; and sister, Mary Kapitza Sturm.

A rosary was recited on Feb. 26, 2010, at Incarnate Word Convent. A wake service with evening praise and sharing of memories was held at the convent on Friday.

The funeral service was held at the convent on Saturday, Feb. 27, with Bishop David Fellhauer presiding, assisted by Rev. Casey Jarzombek. Burial followed at Catholic Cemetery No. 3.

Pallbearers were Paul Kapitza Sr., Arnold Sturm Jr., George Sturm, David Sturm, Fabian Sturm, Johnny Reeh, Jay Jackson, Nick Sturm, Danny Sturm and Sam Lyssy.

Memorials: Incarnate Word Convent or donor's choice.

Charity & Truth in Ministry: Our Call to Service Apr. 30 – May 1

The Texas Catholic Conference Charity & Justice Dept. will hold its conference Friday, April 30, to Saturday, May 1, at the Hilton Austin Airport Hotel, in Austin.

Keynote Speaker Father Louis Brusatti, Dean of Humanities at St. Edward's University in Austin will provide insight and reflection on "Caritas in Veritate," Pope Benedict's third encyclical. The encyclical links charity and truth in the pursuit of justice, the common good, and authentic human development. In doing so, the pope calls all men and women to think and act anew.

Workshops Include Working on Reen-

try; Recruitment, Retainment, and Formation of Volunteers; Models of Effective Engagement of Parishioners; Advocacy 101 and Faithful Citizenship; Ministering to Families of the Incarcerated; Raising Money for Ministry; Immigration Reform: A Catholic Perspective; Theology of Justice and Peace: Engaging the Hispanic Community; and Health Care Reform Report.

All are welcome. For more information, or to request additional copies of the registration brochure, please contact Becky Sierra at 512-339-9882 or visit www.TXcatholic.org.

Principal of Sacred Heart School Floresville, Texas

The Archdiocese of San Antonio is seeking qualified candidates for the position of principal of Sacred Heart School. The school is a small Catholic elementary school serving 3K-5th grade students and is located in a rural community, 30 miles southeast of San Antonio. This historical school has been providing a quality Catholic education for 77 years.

Minimum Qualifications:

- Must be Catholic in good standing with a commitment to ongoing formation in catechetical and spiritual leadership development
- Master's degree
- 18 credit hours in educational administration and supervision courses or a valid, appropriate state certificate
- 2-5 years of administration experience, preferably in a Catholic school, or possess knowledge of the Catholic educational system.

Special Skills/Abilities:

- Budgeting and financial management
- Long-range strategic planning
- Demonstrated strong interpersonal skills to collaborate with multiple constituencies within a parish and school community.
- Instructional technology proficiency
- Marketing and development skills

Position begins no later than July 1. Applications may be downloaded from www.sacatholicsschools.org and will be accepted until the position is filled. You may visit www.shsfloresville.org for more information on the school, or you may contact Ms. Beverly Lejeski, Associate Superintendent, at 210.734.2620 ext. 1252.

Applications should be mailed to:

Department of Catholic Schools;
Attention: Ms. Beverly Lejeski;
2718 W. Woodlawn Avenue; San Antonio, TX 78228

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Position Available

Sacred Heart Parish in LaGrange, Texas, has an opening for a Director of Religious Education. The applicant will administrate the total parish catechetical program for the parish. A bachelor's degree or higher in theology, religious education, pastoral ministry or related field is required. Sacred Heart Parish offers a competitive compensation/benefits package.

Please reply by May 1, 2010

Send resume' to:
Fr. Joseph Varickamackal
Sacred Heart Church
PO Box 548
LaGrange, Tx 78945
Phone: (979) 968-3430



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 March 29, 2010

	TOTALS
— General Seminary Burse	
Previously reported	\$ 95,634.00
In memory of Amador Amador by	
M/M Robert Bochat	25.00
Gift to burse by M/M Dewayne Dvorak	1,000.00
Total	\$96,659.00
— Rev. Jerome “Jerry” Caponi Seminary Burse	
Previously reported	\$300.00
In honor of 1st Anniversary of death of Father Caponi by	
John and Lillian Marek	200.00
Total	\$500.00
— Catholic Daughters Court of St. Ann #369 Seminary Burse No. 2	
Previously reported	\$7,048.99
Donation to burse by	
CDA Court St. Ann #369	500.00
Total	\$7,548.99
— Sr. M. Barbara Konvicka Seminary Burse	
Previously reported	\$165.00
In memory of George J. Shimek by	
Evelyn Konvicka	15.00
Total	\$180.00
— Rev. Msgr. Benton A. Thurmond Seminary Burse	
Previously reported	\$1,975.00
Gift to burse by Our Lady of Victory Legion of Mary Curia	50.00
Total	\$2,025.00
— Rev. John C. Peters Seminary Burse #4	
Previously reported	\$9,449.00
In memory of Bohumil and Annie B. Barta by Lee and Pat Barta	200.00
Total	\$9,649.00
— Rev. Sean Donohue Seminary Burse #2	
Previously reported	\$4,219.36
In memory of Audrey Leese by	
M/M Bernard Rother	25.00
Total	\$4,244.36
— Catholic Life Insurance #51 Rev. Msgr. Eustace Hermes & Rev. Msgr. Gino Bernasconi Seminary Burse #2	
Previously reported	\$1,590.47
In honor of Winfred and Mary Ruth Kainer's 50th wedding anniversary by	
Henry and Carolyn Janak	25.00
Total	\$1,615.47

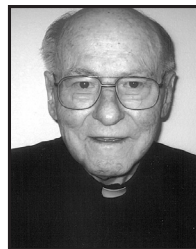
— Knights of Columbus Ganado Council #3204 Rev. Joseph Hybner Seminary Burse	
Previously reported	\$2176.00
In memory of Steve Mozisek by	
Arnold, Rosemary, Jennifer and Barbara Riske	10.00
Total	\$2,186.00
— Knights of Columbus 4th Degree St. Michael's Assembly #1527 Weimar, TX, Seminary Burse	
Previously reported	\$3,470.00
In memory of Rev. Benton Thurmond by	
KC 4th Degree #1527	200.00
Total	\$3,670.00
— Knights of Columbus Holy Family Victoria Council #9088 Seminary Burse	
Previously reported	\$720.00
In memory of Melvin Macha by	
KC Council #9088	100.00
Total	\$820.00
— Rev. Charles Kram Seminary Burse	
Previously reported	\$2,710.00
Gift to burse by	
Milam F. Herchek	1,000.00
In honor of Joe and Benita Roller's golden wedding anniversary by	
Edmund and Lucille Zissa	50.00
Total	\$3,760.00
— Rev. Theophil Okruhlik & Rev. Vincent Verdaram Seminary Burse	
Previously reported	\$9,895.44
In memory of Jerry Svetlik by	
M/M Elroy Brogger	25.00
Total	\$9,920.44
— Rev. Celestino Say Seminary Burse (Catholic Life Ins.)	
Previously reported	\$3,240.00
Gift to burse by Catholic Life Ins. Branch #51	419.71
Total	\$3,659.71

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**

Year for Priests Interviews with priests in the Diocese of Victoria

Rev. Henry C. Rachunek ~ Hungerford



Father Henry Rachunek is pastor at St. John the Baptist Parish in Hungerford. Below is his “Year for Priests” interview.

Date and place of birth: May 14, 1932, in Hungerford, Texas

Parents' names and home: Frank and Mary (Mikel) Rachunek (both deceased)

Names of siblings: Clara Kostka, Wharton; Anton Rachunek, (deceased); Frank Rachunek, Wharton; Ollie Faltisek, Lake Jackson; Della Morris, Wharton; Mary Andel, (deceased); Richard Rachunek, Angleton, Texas; Edward Rachunek (deceased); Leona Clemons (deceased); Ben Rachunek, Brazoria; and Adolph Rachunek, Wharton

Home parish: St. John the Baptist in Hungerford

Schools attended and degrees received: Elementary – Hungerford School – grades 1-10; St. John's Seminary, San Antonio – grades 11, 12; college and seminary – St. Mary's Seminary, Houston; graduate or future studies – St. Mary's Seminary

Date ordained and by whom? June 2, 1962, at Sacred Heart Co-Cathedral, Houston, by Bishop Wendlin J. Nold

If ordained in another diocese, when did you become a priest of the Diocese of Victoria? Ordained for the Galveston-Houston Diocese but went to the Victoria Diocese when it was established (1982)

Assignments: June 1962 - 66, parochial vicar, Holy Cross Church in East Bernard; August 1966 - March 1967, parochial vicar, St. Charles Borromeo, Houston; March 1967 - to Sept. 1970, parochial vicar, Holy Rosary, Rosenberg; Sept. 1970 - May 1973, parochial vicar, Queen of Peace, Houston; May 1973 – March 8, 1974, Corpus Christi Church, Houston; March 8, 1974 – present, pastor, St. John's, Hungerford, and its mission church, St. Wenceslaus, Beasley, Texas.

On March 8, 1974, I was called in by

Bishop Morkovsky to take the parish of St. John's, Hungerford, and with obedience to the bishop, I accepted this assignment, knowing it would be hard, since this was my hometown.

When the Diocese of Victoria was formed, I was asked to keep St. Wenceslaus, although it was under the authority of the Galveston-Houston Diocese. Although the work mounts up at times, with two dioceses, I enjoy it very much and thank God that I am able to continue my work.

Receipt of papal dignities: Papal blessing (1987 on the occasion of my 25th priesthood anniversary)

Your hobbies or special interests: gardening – growing flowers and fruit trees, and hunting and fishing

When was the first time you thought of the priesthood? In the summer of '48, when I was teaching CCD in Wharton and Hungerford

Who influenced or inspired you? Father Leo J. Price and seminarians

What would people be surprised to know about you? I'm a very giving person.

What is your favorite Scripture passage? “Take up your Cross and Follow me!”

How did you come to know Jesus? Through my parents' strong faith in our home

What was your background before the seminary (things you did, jobs, etc.)? I worked on the farm.

Please share a little about your calling to the priesthood - how, when, you knew it was time to join the seminary? In the summer of 1952

What are some of your favorite experiences/joys/surprises since becoming a priest? Attending the sick and dying. I enjoy this so very much.

What was the last book you read? Still reading the Bible

What is your favorite spiritual book? St. John Vianney

What is your favorite movie? None, I don't go.

Who is a hero to you? St. Paul, Father Leo J. Price and the James A. Vincek Family

In memory of Msgr. Edward Bartsch who died Easter Sunday

Continued from p. 1

did you become a priest of the Diocese of Victoria? Ordained for the Archdiocese of San Antonio but incardinated to Victoria at its beginning, May 1982.

Assignments: June 15, 1949 - June 20, 1950, parochial vicar, Sts. Peter & Paul Church in New Braunfels, Texas; June 20, 1950 - Oct. 3, 1950, parochial vicar, Nativity of the Blessed Virgin Mary (BVM) Church, High Hill; Oct. 3, 1950 - Feb. 27, 1951, administrator, BVM, High Hill; Feb. 27, 1951 - Jan. 12, 1955, parochial vicar, St. Mary's Church, Fredericksburg; Jan. 12, 1955 - April 2, 1956, parochial vicar, St. Michael Church, San Antonio; April 2, 1956 - Feb. 5, 1957, administrator, Espada Mission, San Antonio; Feb. 5, 1957 - June 1961, pastor, St. John Bosco Church, Vanderbilt; March 1, 1957, moderator, Victoria Deanery – Council of Catholic Youth; pastor, June 22, 1961 – June 15, 1967, St. John's Church, St. John, and its mission church, Ascension of Our Lord Church, Moravia; June 15, 1967 – June 11, 1975, pastor, St. Cornelius Church, Karnes City, and its mission parish, Fashing; June 11, 1975 - Dec. 11, 1976, Holy Cross Church, Yorktown; Dec. 11, 1976 – July 1993, pastor, Sts. Peter & Paul Church, Meyers-

ville, and its mission church, St. Aloysius, Westhoff; July 1993 – present, pastor, St. Mary's Church, Praha, and mission parishes for several years each: BVM, High Hill, and Sts. Cyril & Methodius, Cistern; Dec. 2007 – present, chaplain, Raphael's Refuge, Flatonia

Receipt and date of papal dignities: Became Monsignor May 16, 2001

Published works: Many church bulletins

Your hobbies or special interests: Card tricks

When was the first time you thought of the priesthood? As a child – my brother-in-law tells me that he remembers kids calling me “Father Bartsch” back in grade school.

Who influenced or inspired you? My parents – by the way they lived and what they taught me.

What would people be surprised to know about you? As a teenager, I played the guitar in a small band for house dances.

What is your favorite Scripture passage? Matthew 7:24 – 27 (“No one can serve two masters”) and Luke 4:16-19 (the beginning of Jesus' ministry in Galilee)

How did you come to know Jesus? I came to know Jesus through family life and prayers at home.

What was your background before the seminary (things you did, jobs, etc.)? I worked with National Youth Administration and on the farm to help my parents after I got out of grade school. I was the only son and felt needed on the farm. When I finally made the decision to go to the seminary, I had come to trust that God would provide for them.

Please share a little about your calling to the priesthood - how, when, you knew it was time to join the seminary? My call to the seminary was a long process that started in my home. My parents were very faithful to God and passed that on to me. When I finally made the decision to go to the seminary, my mother said she believed in her heart that she did not have to worry about me anymore.

What are some of your favorite experiences/joys/surprises since becoming a priest? My favorite experiences and joys since becoming a priest are celebrating Mass and teaching others the doctrine of our faith. I am surprised by the fact that I have reached 89 years of age and am still

able to handle the job as pastor of a small parish. It is both a blessing and an honor for me and I hope with the grace of God I will be able to continue to serve Him.

What was the last book you read? I cannot remember the last book I read. My eyes get tired these days so I save my reading time for the projects needed to perform my duties as pastor.

What is your favorite spiritual book? My favorite spiritual book would have to be the Bible.

What is your favorite movie? “The Wizard of Oz”

Who is a hero to you? My hero is Pope Benedict.

Official Appointments By
Most Rev. David E. Fellhauer

Effective April 6, 2010, the **Rev. Timothy Kosler** is appointed Temporary Parochial Administrator of St. Mary's Church, Praha, until such time when more permanent provisions can be made. Father Kosler continues in his present appointment at St. Rose of Lima and its mission churches.



Eleven of the 14 University of Dallas students, who volunteered at the Riding Therapy Center in Victoria, take a break from their hard work with Director Judy Gillespie and Pal (Paloma), a trained therapy horse.

UD students spend Spring Break helping Riding Therapy Center

By Cynthia Brewer

Instead of going to the beach and kicking back, 14 students from the University of Dallas decided to spend their spring break volunteering at The Riding Therapy Center, an accredited facility offering specialized therapy for children with special needs, in Victoria.

The ladies, freshmen to grad students, came from as far away as California, Florida, Maryland, West Virginia, Oregon and the Midwest to help Judy Gillespie, the Riding Therapy Center director, as part of a service project organized by Opus Dei.

The majority traveled each day from Twin Lakes Ranch in Welder, north of Schulenburg, to Victoria and back, making their work days long, while three stayed in Welder studying, preparing meals and housekeeping.

The eleven students working at the RTC cleaned tack (the saddles and equipment used with the horses during therapy sessions), organized the tack room, painted trail signs,

cleaned brush from riding trails, bathed horses and painted office furniture.

"We'll be dead tired, but actually well rested and energized in a deeper way," Allannah from Chicago, one of three team leaders, said of their hard work.

Their theme for the trip was, "Freedom for the Sake of Love," which allowed them to focus on how they use their freedom to really commit themselves to love, not just to let life happen to them, but to make real choices.

"We have our eyes set on a goal of love for God and others, so we'll actually be living as full human beings," Allannah said.

Judy was very grateful for the ladies' help. "It's work that seems to never get caught up with, but we have 14 very energetic, focused, young people willing to serve cheerfully," she said. "Hopefully they'll gain an added perspective on the struggles of those with special needs who use our services."

Days of Discernment for Women

HOUSTON—The Sisters of the Incarnate Word and Blessed Sacrament in Houston are holding Days of Discernment for Women expressing an interest in Religious Life Sunday, May 2, (8:30 a.m. - 1:00 p.m.) at their Motherhouse, 3400 Bradford, Houston, 77025. Interested women are also welcome each Saturday evening to join in

Scripture Sharing (in preparation for Sunday's readings) from 7:00 - 8:00 p.m. and each first Sunday to attend Mass followed by Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament, beginning at 8:30 a.m. and closing with noon lunch. Please contact Sr. Scholastica (sscholastica@yahoo.com) at 713-668-0423 for more information.

Dallas Benedictine Experience Retreat

DALLAS—The 13th annual multi-denominational Dallas Benedictine Experience Retreat will take place at The Catholic Conference Center in Dallas from Wednesday, June 23, to Sunday, June 27, 2010. This retreat is presented by The Friends of St. Benedict, Washington, D.C., and endorsed by The Benedictine Community of the Holy Savior, which meets at St. Matthew's Episcopal Cathedral. Participants will live at the conference center for five days, forming a temporary monastic community to experience the balanced way of life of the Rule of St. Benedict as it divides each day into private and group prayer,

study, work and leisure. Four Benedictine Offices (Lauds, Sext, Vespers, and Compline) will be sung each day in Gregorian chant. There will also be two classes each day on Benedictine spirituality. Please e-mail dallasbenedictine@yahoo.com or call 214-339-8483 for more information.

The retreat will be led by two nationally-known religious figures: Sister Mary Donald Corcoran, O.S.B.Cam., the Superior of Transfiguration Monastery (Roman Catholic) in Windsor, New York., and Father Dwight Longenecker, a prolific author and renowned as a retreat leader, from Greenville, South Carolina.

"Come and See" Weekend

The Sisters of Incarnate Word and Blessed Sacrament in Victoria are hosting a "Come and See" Weekend for single Catholic women from 18 to 50 years of age on April 17-18, 2010, at Incarnate Word Convent in Victoria, Texas. If you are interested in learning more about the life of a religious sister or in discovering if God might be calling you to consecrated life, please call (361) 575-7111 or e-mail iwbsvoc@yahoo.com or check www.iwbsvictoria.org for more information about the sisters.



Immaculée Ilibagiza, survivor of the 1994 genocide in Rwanda speaks to students at Franciscan University in Steubenville, Ohio, about forgiveness. She will be in Austin May 1, see p. 19.

Immaculée Shares Story of Survival

STEBENVILLE, OH — "No matter what happens to you in life, hold on to hope," said Immaculée Ilibagiza, survivor of the 1994 genocide in Rwanda. "If I can forgive, anyone can forgive."

Over 1,000 people heard her message of hope in the face of evil, prayer as the path to forgiveness, and devotion to Our Lady of Kibeho, the only Vatican-approved Marian apparition in Africa, at Franciscan University on March 9.

The event opened with praise and worship, followed by a brief video telling the story of the Rwanda genocide, in which Ilibagiza lost almost all of her family. A member of the Tutsi tribe, she survived only through the aid of a local Hutu Protestant minister, who hid her and seven other women in a small bathroom for 91 days. One of her father's last acts was to send Ilibagiza to the pastor for shelter, trusting that even though they were of different tribes, "I know that man, and he will not be able to kill."

"Don't judge people, or put people in boxes. Don't stereotype people," said Ilibagiza. "God will send you angels, and they will be the most unlikely people."

While in hiding, Ilibagiza found peace and the ability to forgive the killers through constant prayer, especially through praying with her father's rosary beads. "I counted, once, and I said 27 rosaries in a day."

She described her struggle against despair and hatred of those who were perpetrating the evil going on all around her. Her inner turmoil came to a head when she attempted to pray the Our Father.

"I couldn't say the words 'Our Father,' because I knew that meant everybody, even the killers. I was hurting, crying, trying to understand what that means. 'And I heard, 'They are all my children. And I am hurting for them. If you love me, you don't hate them. You pray for them. I went through [the Passion] for you and for them.' 'Whatever God wants—it is good for us,' Ilibagiza said.

She attributed the women's survival in the bathroom to God's intervention,

describing a near miss when bands of killers searched the house. "The pastor said, 'I don't know what you are praying or how you are praying, but keep doing it!'" said Ilibagiza.

The women survived the civil war and had to cope with the loss of friends and family, as well as the betrayal of their Hutu neighbors during the genocide. "That is the worst thing when you are rejected—you end up believing the bad things they say about you," Ilibagiza said. "If they kill us, maybe there is something wrong with us. 'No—you are the child of the King, of God.'"

The night closed with a short video on the Marian apparitions in Kibeho, Rwanda. As Ilibagiza said, "Our Lady of Kibeho warned us 12 years before the genocide, saying to the visionary, 'My children, it does not have to happen if you listen to me.' It's in your hands if only you will listen."

"Our Lady of Kibeho received a level of approval by the local church and the Congregation for the Doctrine of the Faith," said Dr. Mark Miravalle, the internationally known mariologist and Franciscan University theology professor who introduced Ilibagiza. "She (Our Lady) conveyed a message of prayer, penance, and conversion, which was offered to prepare the people of Rwanda for great challenges.

"The message of Our Lady of Kibeho was not just for the people of Rwanda but for all people who face great trials and suffering, whether it be personally, in the community, or globally," Miravalle said. "She specifically requested a return of the praying of the Rosary of the Seven Sorrows, a meditation on Our Lady's role as co-redemptrix. As Pope Benedict says in his 2008 World Day of the Sick address, 'Mary uniquely shares in the suffering of Jesus, and she shares in our suffering.'"

The event was sponsored by Solidarity, a Franciscan University student club, which aims to raise awareness of injustices, such as homelessness, poverty, genocide and war.

Ilibagiza's books may be purchased through the Franciscan University Bookstore at www.franciscan.edu/bookstore

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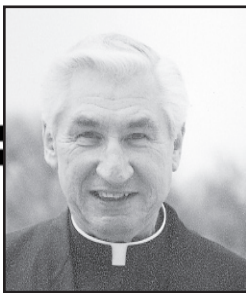
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Fred Kubesch



FAITH POINT



By Rev. Msgr. James C. Brunner
Vicar General, Diocese of Victoria

For past articles: www.stmaryvic.com/desk.htm

What Tree will you Plant in Your Garden?

We are cautioned to judge plants by their fruits. If we compare philosophies to plants we can also judge them by the fruits they produce. There are basically two competing philosophies: theistic and secular. Let us look at the fruits that each produces.

The theistic, or God-based philosophy, holds that man has a divine origin. God made him to his image and likeness. The first fruit of this philosophy is that man must be respected as an image and the likeness of God. He must not be treated as an object, a means, but only as an end.

Secular philosophy says that man evolved from the slime of some prehistoric pond. Consequently there is nothing special about human beings who are really only clever beasts. If humans have rights then logically other animals with the same common ancestor have the same rights as humans. An unthinking baby is less valuable than a clever cat or dog, says Peter Singer, an Australian utilitarian philosopher, proponent of animal rights, and Ira W. DeCamp Professor of Bioethics at Princeton University. Many think that Singer's view is wacky, but actually it is very logical. His conclusion follows from his premise that there is nothing special about man. If most consider his conclusion absurd it is only because his premises are absurd.

Theistic philosophy holds that man has rights because of his nature and that these rights exist prior to the formation of States. His rights do not derive them from the State or any human power. Secular philosophy maintains that man has no rights of himself but only those granted by the State. If humans have no rights of their own they have nothing negotiable to concede to the State or give it the right to govern. Without God there are no secure human rights because what government gives it can also take away.

In theistic philosophy, morality is based on the eternal law of God which, when discovered and developed by human reason, is known as natural law. This law contains unexceptionable norms that bind all persons. For secularists, morality is entirely developed by human beings and is relative to different times and places. Morality is largely a matter of taste. This is a convenient stance because it requires no discipline to hew to an objective code.

Some consequences of theistic philosophy is that man has a right to life, property, and to form a family. The life of a man cannot be taken arbitrarily. Besides murder, abortion and euthanasia are impermissible evils. For secularists, since rights derive from the State, it may also eliminate that right and permit abortion and euthanasia so that persons are not a burden to society or to others. It also permits embryonic stem cell research (killing of embryos to harvest their stem cells) even though human life is destroyed.

Theistic philosophy states that a man has a right to own property that he acquires as a result of his labor or by inheritance. The task of government is to protect and guarantee private property rights. Secularists believe that all productive goods belong to the State, which may distribute them as it sees fit.

Theists hold that a man has a right to

marry and establish a family. Sex must always be open to children and apart from marriage it is not permissible. Marriage is a union of male and female. Secularists want no restrictions on use of sex by consenting adults. There can be genuine marriages of various genders, male plus male, female plus female, polygamy, polyandry, and any combination of any number of males and females.

Secularists attempt to develop moral systems without God. It is difficult to see how inalienable rights can be grounded on mindless matter in motion, which is how secularists view man. Secularism steals the notion of rights from theism but tries to escape other parts of the theistic package (or plant, in our allegory) by denying the existence of God.

The theistic view has given rise to the greatest amount of human freedom and respect for human rights in history. The Founding Fathers of our nation were Christians imbued with Christian philosophy. Of those who attended the Virginia Constitutional Convention in 1776 there were 40 Christians and one deist. John Adams testified to America's Christian roots when he wrote, "The general principles on which the fathers achieved independence were...the general principles of Christianity."

By contrast the secularist view of man and society has inevitably led to a reign of terror such as during the French Revolution of 1793 when 17,000 were killed in the first year. During the first 88 years of the 20th century almost 170 million men, women and children have been shot, beaten, tortured, knifed, burned, starved, frozen, buried alive, hanged, bombed and killed in other myriad ways. This does not count the millions killed each year by abortion. The rationale for all this killing was the "common good." Truly secularism is a Culture of Death. Secularism produced Communism, Socialism, and Nazism, which spawned the bloodiest epoch in recorded human history.

The sexual immorality of secularism has led to other deaths. Secularists propagate the notion that sex should be unlimited as long as one is "responsible," meaning that one uses a condom. This has resulted in high incidence of teenage pregnancy, transmission of STDs, poverty and social pathology.

Hollywood and the media relentlessly present the image of the fit, healthy, and well-adjusted homosexual. The opposite is true. Comprehensive medical studies found diseases, such as anal cancer, Chlamydia trachomatis, cryptosporidium, giardia lamblia, herpes simplex virus, HIV, human papilloma virus, Isopera belli, microsporidia, gonorrhea, viral hepatitis types B&C and syphilis with extraordinary frequency among homosexual practitioners. Studies show that homosexuals have a life span that is 20 years less than normal heterosexuals. Society has to bear the cost of treating diseases that are 100 percent preventable. Yet secularists demand that we endorse behavior patterns that are dangerous, reckless, deadly, and antithetical to a healthy society.

All these ills could be eliminated by following the morality of theism. Abstinence transmits no STDs. It produces no

unwanted teenage pregnancies. It provides two parents for children brought forth.

If two children are born, one of a single teenager and another of a married mother, which child is likely to have a normal upbringing? Which one is likely to go to college? Which mother has the better chance of finishing college? Which family is more likely to escape poverty and dependence on welfare? The answer to the questions is obvious. Extensive research done by the Heritage Foundation establishes definitively that children in a two-parent family will do better on practically every desired social characteristic than children reared in a single-parent household.

If a disobedient child puts his hand in a fire, he learns that his decision has immediate and painful consequences and is not likely to repeat it. Secular immoral practices likewise have painful conse-

quences, but we seem to be incapable of learning and we repeat the acts that cause the trouble and pain. The reason is that we are attracted to immediate gratification and spurn the discipline required to live theistic morality. "Sometimes a way seems right to a man, but the end of it leads to death!" (Prov. 14:12) If correct moral norms were never revealed to us, we should have been able to discover them from the negative consequences of violating them.

If you want to avoid political slavery; the loss of life, liberty and property; premature death through disease, destruction of human life for the convenience of others; then plant the theistic tree in your garden. You cannot compromise by planting both trees because, in spite of the presence of the theistic tree, the fruit of the secular tree will still poison you.



Newly elected officers in the Secular Franciscan Order, from left to right, are Mary Ann LeBlanc, SFO secretary; Corrine Dum, SFO formation director, both of Victoria; and Johana Kurtz, SFO president/minister; Charline Stehle, SFO vice-president/minister; and Dorothy Harper, SFO treasurer, all of Yoakum.

Fraternity of the Secular Franciscan Order hold elections

Election of officers for the St. Francis and St. Clare Fraternity of the Secular Franciscan Order in the Diocese of Victoria under the auspices of Los Tres Compañeros Region in the state of Texas was held on Saturday, February 13, 2010. Ms. Pat Watson, SFO, from the Leo Portion in Austin attended as presider over the election process.

The elections were held in the basement of Our Lady of Lourdes Catholic Church in Victoria. The gathering began with a 'pot-luck' meal. Father Celestino Say led the prayer before the meal. After the meal, the election process commenced. Those elected include Victorians: Mary Ann LeBlanc, SFO, and Corrine Dum, SFO. Also, Charline Stehle, SFO, Dorothy Harper, SFO, and Johana Kurtz, SFO, of Yoakum, were elected. Deacon Linard Harper, SFO, will continue to serve as spiritual director. Each office will be held for three years.

The St. Francis and St. Clare Fraternity was canonically established on March 10, 1996. The order celebrated its 14th an-

niversary at the March meeting. The SFO meets the second Sunday of each month from 3:00-5:00 p.m. at Our Lady of Lourdes CCD Center in Victoria. "Come and See" what the SFO is about and experience the charism of St. Francis and St. Clare in your daily walk as you bring the "Gospel to life."

For more information about the SFO, call Corrine at (361) 573-3576, Johana-361-741-5308, or go online at www.nafra-sfo.org.

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Only a very few seats left (7-8)

Spiritual director will be Father Bob Knippenberg, pastor of Sts. Cyril & Methodius, Shiner

Holy Land – November 7

Spiritual director: Father Anthony Boating-Mensah from St. Mary's Church, Victoria

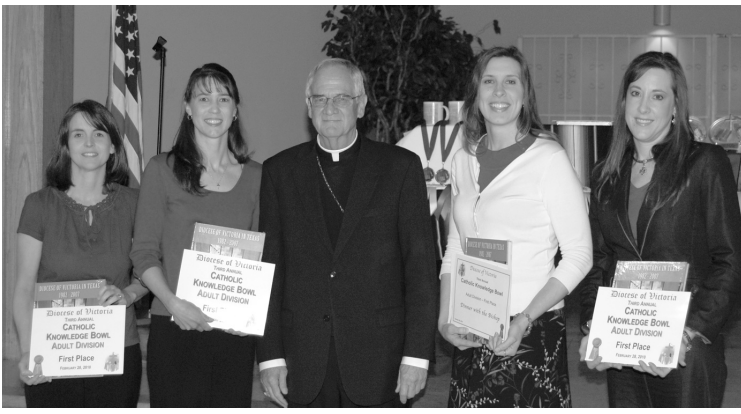
Medjugorje/Dubrovnik – September 5-14

For more information or to register, please contact Betty Urbanovsky, 911 Fahrenthold, El Campo, TX 77437; (979) 543-2333; e-mail: burbanovsky@sbcglobal.net.



Division:
Adult

1st Place
Winners
“Leaders of
Little Hearts”
of Victoria and
Edna



Division:
Family

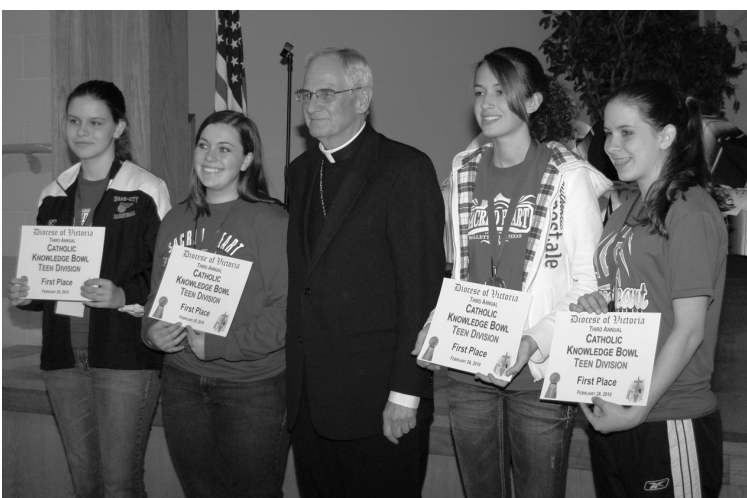
1st Place
Winners

Leininger-
Wenske
Family of
Shiner and
Moulton

Division:
Teens

1st Place
Winners

Blue
Albatrosses
of
Hallettsville



2010 Catholic Knowledge Bowl Winners

By Cynthia Brewer

The 3rd Annual Catholic Knowledge Bowl was held February 28 at Holy Family Parish in Victoria with 20 teams competing in three divisions for first, second and third-place prizes. This year the categories were Adult – with 11 competing teams, Family – with six teams, and Teens – with three teams. Prizes and certificates were awarded to all winners.

Adult category first-place winners were “Leaders of Little Hearts” home-school mothers with Jennifer Kallus of Edna and Marie Immenhauser, Heather Bonorden and Valerie Barton of Victoria. They won a dinner with Bishop David Fellhauer and the 25th anniversary history book, “Diocese of Victoria 1987–2007.” Second place was the “Catholic Knowledge Bowl Winners” team with Tim Bricker, Barbara Sherman, Cecilia Rziha and Natalie Scott of Columbus and third place were “Mega Catholics” Mary Kay Heffley, Lorraine Novosad, Cynthia Sunderman and Lorrie Walla of Columbus.

The first-place winners of the Family category were the “Leininger-Wenske Family” with Johnine Leininger, Bernadette Fikac, Annie Wenske and Mary Ann Wenske from Shiner and Moulton. They each received a trophy. Second place was “Fides et Ratio” team of Shiner with Joseph Arlinghaus and son, Philip Arlinghaus, and Robert Whitworth and son, Robert Whitworth III, and third place were the “Catholic Cousins” from Shiner and Moulton with Kathleen Leininger, Ted Wenske, James Wenske and Emily Fikac.

The first-place winners of the Teen category were the Hallettsville teen group “Blue Albatrosses” with Hannah Hines, Emily Kossa, Mary Kossa and Emily Seyl. The first place prize was an Olympic-type medal. Second place winners were “Bible Eaters” from Columbus with Craig Weido, Matt Rodriguez and Amanda Magera, and third place was “Catholic to the Bone!” from Columbus with Jordi Theut, Adam

Magera, Clayton Theut and Riley Weido.

The Catholic Knowledge Bowl held three rounds of 50 multiple-choice questions. Questions were available to study at the catechetical office’s Web site at www.victoriadiocese.org.

To see more pictures of event and winners go to www.youtube.com and type in Catholic Knowledge Bowl.

This year Orthodox and Western Church celebrate Easter together

JERUSALEM (CNS) — The confluence of the Eastern and Western Christian calendars that leads to a common celebration of Christ’s resurrection this year is a “symphony that expresses the unity of faith,” said Latin Patriarch Fouad Twal in his Easter homily at the Church of the Holy Sepulcher.

This year the religious calendars for the Jewish Passover, the Eastern Orthodox and Catholic Holy Week and Easter days fell during the same week, bringing tens of thousands of Christian and Jewish pilgrims to the winding alleys of Jerusalem’s Old City.

“This year, then, our joy is double. It is the same voice. The Christians of the world shout out today in a loud voice: ‘Christ is Risen!’” he said during Mass April 4 at the church built on the site believed to be Christ’s tomb. “Today more than ever we need a lively hope in the midst of so much violence, in the midst of bloody clashes and ethnic and religious divisions,” Patriarch Twal said.

In a February CNS story, retired Greek Orthodox Metropolitan Kallistos said setting a common date for Easter for Christians and Orthodox would be helpful, although it has not been a dialogue topic. Easter will fall on the same date this year and next for both faiths, but “then it will be a very long time” before it happens again, he said. He added Orthodox prefer their formulation for setting the date of Easter, which is usually later than the observance

Q. What determines the date of Easter today? Several years ago I read about a project in some denominations at least to establish a fixed date for Easter like Christmas and other holidays. Is that still possible? (Indiana)

A. Yes, there is a major effort among many Christians to settle on a consistent date for Easter, but more about that later. At present the most common formula for determining the date of Easter in the Western church is the familiar: first Sunday after the first full moon after the vernal (spring) equinox (the point when daytime and nighttime are equal). This would theoretically place Easter somewhere between March 22 and April 25.

The reality isn’t that simple, however. Though that definition is handy, it is not strictly correct. One complexity is that the vernal equinox in use is not the true equinox but an artificial one, making that date always March 20 or 21. The “full moon” used is not the true full moon but a simulated one based on a cycle which ignores the earth’s longitude, and is therefore unrelated to time zones.

The Gospels associate the date of the crucifixion with the date of Jewish Passover; the three synoptic Gospels place it on the day before Passover, John’s Gospel has it on Passover itself, in fact on the very hour the Paschal lamb was sacrificed.

Christians assumed, therefore, that Easter should reflect that connection. Just how that might be done, however, was hotly debated to the point that Christian heads of churches in the East and West, including the bishop of Rome, began to ostracize each other over the matter.

For years some churches celebrated Easter on the day of Passover, on whichever day of the week that happened to fall. Even the churches in the West had no uniform

date for Easter, though most of them eventually favored the method established by the Council of Nicaea (325).

The Latin church and other Western churches calculate the date of Easter following the revised calendar instituted by Pope Gregory II in 1582 (the Gregorian calendar).

Churches of the East generally still use the older Julian calendar, which explains the continuing discrepancy of dates between the two groups of Christian churches.

Almost since the beginning, Christians have talked about setting a common date for Easter. The subject surfaced again during the 20th century in an encyclical of the ecumenical patriarch of Constantinople addressed to the 1923 Pan-Orthodox Congress. His suggestions occasioned bitter controversy, but the discussion continued, especially after World War II, with new initiatives from the World Council of Churches.

While not an official member of the World Council of Churches, the Catholic Church has several times indicated positive approval of the establishment of a common date for Easter, whether that would be a fixed day (for example, the second Sunday of April), or a movable day commonly agreed upon by all Christian churches.

In the Constitution on the Sacred Liturgy, the bishops of the Second Vatican Council stated they have no objection if Easter were assigned to a particular Sunday in the Gregorian calendar, provided all concerned give their consent, especially those churches and other religious bodies not in communion with the bishop of Rome (Appendix 1).

In March 1975, Pope Paul VI supported the project in a letter to the Ecumenical Patriarch Dimitrios. He expressed “our hope that by celebrating the mystery of mysteries with a single heart and voice we may be able to render glory to God, the Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who raised him from the dead.”

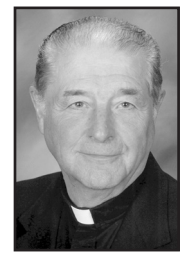
As recently as January 2001, Pope John Paul II also eloquently supported a common date for Easter. Considering the complexities of longstanding different traditions, however, agreement on a common date for celebrating Easter doesn’t appear imminent.

St. Peter wrote: “Entrust all your worries to God, since he takes care of you.”

— 1 Peter 5:7

Question Corner

By Father John Dietzen
Catholic News Service



The date of Easter

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
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Mark your letter “Personal and Confidential”

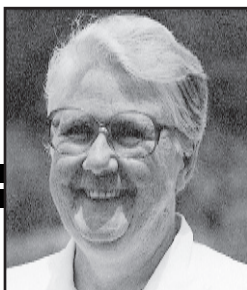
We will also help you bring your concerns to Church officials outside the diocese if the abuse occurred elsewhere and you now reside in the Diocese of Victoria.

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



SISTERLY THOUGHTS

By Sister Mildred Truchard, IWBS



Continuing the Quest for Spiritual Gold

Last month we were challenged to go for the gold – spiritual gold, that is. We were called to persevere in our training and in our sacrifices in order to capture that gold. Moreover, we were reminded to help one another as together we struggle toward victory.

So, today we'll review some ways in which we can be of service to our fellow strivers for that gold. First of all, we can help ourselves and others through our prayers. We can pray especially for those who may have stumbled or may be feeling overwhelmed or on the verge of giving up. And since we don't know what may be going on in one another's lives, it's a good idea to continually pray for all spiritual athletes – for all of us.

Another powerful means of support is that of our good example. We may

not even be aware of the influence that our example has on others. Sometimes when I ask young people, and not so young people, to think of the person they most admire, they will usually mention someone whom they know rather than a nationally renowned celebrity; they often recall a parent, a grandparent, a sibling, a teacher, a neighbor, or an acquaintance. This admired person is often unaware of the influence that he or she has on others. So, as you read this, try to think of those whom you may be influencing through your genuine Christian living. No matter what your age is, there's often someone who may be patterning his or her behavior and thinking on yours without their being conscious of doing so.

Children often imitate the "big kids" in their lives. I'll never forget how my little sister shadowed me when I was a teenager. Every thing I did, she wanted to do; I couldn't shake her. She wanted to be and dress just like me. I remember how happy she was when we both got red cowgirl straw hats so we would look alike. Now, she has continued to be a good Christian so I guess my example didn't hurt her. No, she didn't follow me to the convent; rather she is a happily married mother and grandmother. I'm sure you all have similar recollections of times when others followed your example.

So, let us continue to support one another through our prayers and our example. Let the light of our Christian living shine for one another as we all struggle toward life's finish line where we all hope to be winners united with our Risen Savior. HAPPY EASTER!



Cardinal Daniel DiNardo and Madelyne Consley

Granddaughter of Victoria Parishioners Placed in Essay Contest

HOUSTON—Madelyne Consley, a sixth grade student at St. Elizabeth Ann Seton placed third, out of 413 contestants, in her grade level in the 2010 Galveston-Houston Archdiocese Essay Contest. Madelyne is the daughter of Mike and Karen (Kouba) Consley of Houston, and the granddaughter of proud grandparents, Mr. and Mrs. John Consley and Mr. and Mrs. Dave Kouba, all of Victoria.



ROSARIES BLESSED—Our Lady of Victory Kindergarten class came to the chancery with their red rosaries to be blessed by Bishop David Fellhauer. The children also wished Bishop Fellhauer a happy Valentines Day. After the blessing, they took a tour of the chancery chapel.



St. Joseph High School Band Gold Medal Soloists include, from left to right, junior Michael Petrash II, bass guitar; sophomore Sofia China-Alvarado, alto saxophone; senior Eric Still, trumpet; sophomore Mark Chavez, clarinet; and senior Hilary Kristynik, flute.

4 Soloists Advance to State

STJ Band Students Win 5 Regional TPSMEA Solo & Ensemble Medals

Students of the St. Joseph High School Band program were awarded five first division medals on Saturday, March 6, 2010, at the Regional Solo & Ensemble Contest sponsored by the Texas Private Schools Music Educators Association (TPSMEA). The contest was hosted by The Greenhill School in Addison, Texas.

TPSMEA divides the Solo & Ensemble competition into three classifications. A Class III solo or ensemble is generally recommended for first year participants in solo performance. A Class II event is for the more advanced soloists to be performed at a director's discretion, may include seniors. Class I solos or ensembles are for most accomplished students, mostly performed by seniors. A first division rating at region on Class I events allows the student or students to advance to the TPSMEA State Solo &

Ensemble Contest held in May.

Mark Chavez received a First Division Gold Medal for his performance of Class II Bb Clarinet solo.

Advancing to the state competition for a Gold Medal performance on a Class I solo are Sofia China-Alvarado, saxophone; Hilary Kristynik, flute; Michael Petrash II, electric bass; and Eric Still, trumpet.

Accompanist for the band students was Mrs. Sandra Glenn of Victoria.

Director for the St. Joseph High School Band is Michael Petriski. Mr. Petriski commented, "This was a near perfect trip. The students were super. Great performances, and behavior beyond reproach."

Petrisky concluded, "Once again, Mrs. Glenn has demonstrated a special talent working with our students."

KCs offer basketball competition for diocesan youth

HALLETTSVILLE—Boys and girls, age 10 to 14, throughout the Diocese of Victoria played in the KC Basketball Free-throw Contests this spring. Winners of individual KC Council contests attended the KC District contests. Winners from the district contests then went to competition at Regionals, which was held at Sacred Heart gymnasium in Hallettsville February 21.

Winners are listed first through third place:

14 year old boys: Kameron Page of Weimar Council 2971 with 20 baskets, Dalton Herrington of Hallettsville Council 2433 with 19 baskets and Cameron Zafereo of Victoria Council 1329 with 18 baskets.

13 year old boys: William Maraggio of Inez Council 11351 with 23 baskets, Kyle Kerzee of El Campo Council 2490 with 20/4 baskets in tie breaker and Travis Neuendorff of Columbus Council 2971 with 20/2 baskets in tie breaker.

12 year old boys: Brandon Liteav of Blessing Council 4307 (Midfield) with 20/19 baskets in tie breaker, Wesley Sliva of Inez Council 11351 with 20/18 baskets in tie breaker and Hunter Koudela of El Campo Council 9394 with 19 baskets.

11 year old boys: Drayton Henneke of Hallettsville Council 2433 with 20 baskets, Nathan Galvan of Blessing Council 4307 with 19 baskets and Jase Bill of

See KCs offer, p. 9

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VICTORIA COUNTY - INEZ AREA RANCH PROPERTY FOR SALE: 82.97 ACRES



St. Joseph Catholic Church of Inez is selling, by sealed bid, ranch property located 1.5 miles south of Inez adjoining and on the east side of FM 444, being a long rectangular tract with its east boundary being the Arenosa Creek and its west boundary being FM 444 and is located in the Industrial Independent School District with large oak trees and no existing improvements. Surface only with no minerals. Seller to provide survey and title policy.

Any prospective buyers may contact the Church office (by e-mail stjosephchurch@tisd.net or phone 361-782-3181) to request the one-page "Information and Instructions for Viewing & Bidding on Ranch Property." Based upon a new appraisal valuing the property at \$3,100 per acre, the Church has established a minimum bid price of \$2,750 per acre. No offers will be considered below this established floor price. Sealed bid final deadline date is 5:00 p.m. CST on April 30, 2010. The proceeds of this sale are critical to our planned renovation & expansion of our church.



HOPE for a Lifetime donates \$1,500 to Sts. Cyril & Methodius Assistance organization for helping the needy of the community. Seated and making the presentation to Josie Orosco, president of Assistance, are Ron Johnson, treasurer and board of director for HOPE for a Lifetime, as well as Blue Hybner and Devin Pesek, co-founders of HOPE for a Lifetime. Standing in the back are members of Sts. Cyril & Methodius Assistance who were on hand to help accept the donation: Rebecca Till, Pat Brown, Delores Morkovsky, Betty Kosler, Dolores Leared and Harriett Briseno.

Two Shiner teens hold Casino Night Fund-raiser for the needy

SHINER—After witnessing the plight of the many poor adults and orphans while on several mission trips to Mexico over a three-year period, two juniors from St. Paul High School in Shiner vowed to return home and help their own community of Shiner and the surrounding counties.

During the summer of 2009, Blue Hybner and Devin Pesek brainstormed to come up with their vision for helping the needy in this area. Through many meetings and discussions and with countless hours of help from a local attorney, their non-profit organization was no longer a vision. HOPE for a Lifetime was created on August 3, 2009, as a 501(c)3 agency providing hope for the future by “helping our poor excel” in Shiner, Texas, the surrounding communities and other areas the organization deems worthy.

The fall of 2009 was spent meeting with various pastors and other people to determine the need of the community. A Casino Night was scheduled for December 31, 2009, at the KC Hall from 9 p.m.-12 a.m. with proceeds benefiting the local food pantry, Sts. Cyril & Methodius Assistance. Through many generous donors, both businesses and individuals, the two young men were blessed with a successful Casino Night and were able to present the Sts. Cyril & Methodius Assistance organization with a \$1,500 check on January 11, 2010, at their monthly meeting.

Blue and Devin would like to thank everyone who had any part in helping them with their Casino Night - businesses, individuals, family and friends. It was a huge project and the community support was

tremendous. Thanks to all the sponsors of the evening who answered yes to the call of helping the poor as well as those who generously donated prizes for the casino players. Sponsors included GT Trophy Whitetails, Kaspar Wire Works, Cornerstone Properties, Gonzales Cannon, Excel Sports Therapy, Quality Pharmacy, Boedeker Plastics, Mraz Lumber Co., V’Anne Huser, attorney; SmileTime Photography, Lala Realty, Lone Star Bank, Kasper Bed & Breakfast, Jennifer Machacek, attorney; Barnes/Osburn & Assoc, Patrick Matusek, Shiner Physical Therapy, Adamek Construction, Farm Bureau, Tornado Tees, 10th Inning, Vanessa Shimek, CPA; M/M Adolph Novosad Sr, Hallettsville Walmart, The Design Center, Ken’s Kar Parts, Pohler’s Tire Center, Howard’s, Klozik Financial, Friday’s Fried Chicken, Shiner Animal Hospital, Shiner Family Pharmacy, and the employees of Dollar General.

Player Prize and Silent Auction Donors were Preferred Plastics, Dennis & Melissa Vargo Family, Double D Ranchwear, Laura’s Floral, Kasper Bed & Breakfast, Patek’s Grocery, Shiner Brewery, Leah’s Cookin’, David & Trish Kapavik Family, Licorice & Lemon Drops, Reflections, Shiner Short Stop, Jaeger John Deere, A-1 Fire & Safety, Boehm Tractor, and AOC.

The Shiner KCs donated the hall and M&M Floral and Phillip Pilat provided decorations and supplies.

The evening was full of fun and friendship while supporting a great cause. Blue and Devin would like to invite everyone to join them at their Casino Night in 2010.



DREAM TEAM ANNOUNCED—Subiaco Academy proudly announces that Josh Darr, son of Joe and Amanda Darr of Lissie, Texas, was named to the KARV (Russellville, Arkansas, radio station) football “Dream Team.” The Darrs are members of Holy Cross Parish in East Bernard. Subiaco Academy is a college preparatory boarding and day high school in northwest Arkansas dedicated to Catholic Benedictine traditions of service to God, respect for self and others, mutual support and the value of work. From l. to r. are the four Subiaco Trojans who were named to the “Dream Team” along with their coach: Allen Freeland, Nick Powell, Josh Darr, Ethan Ruesewald, Coach Mike Berry. Follow Subiaco Academy at: <http://www.subi.org> or <http://www.subiacoabbey.blogspot.com>.

Youth Calendar of Events

- April 10 — Strong Catholic Families - Strong Catholic Teens - Leader Presentation** 9:00 a.m. - 3:00 p.m. at St. Philip in El Campo
- April 11 — Parish Confirmation Retreat** at Immaculate Conception in Goliad from 9:00 a.m.-3:00 p.m.
- April 18 — Camp David Planning** - Youth Leaders/Staff at the Chancery in Victoria
- April 23 — Bishop Fellhauer Invitational Golf Tournament** at Colony Creek Country Club in Victoria
- April 27 — Theology of the Body** presentation at St. Anthony’s in Columbus
- May 1 — Foundations - A Certificate Program in Youth Ministry Studies** - at the Diocese of Victoria, Chancery - This session is “Retreat Formation” - 9:00 a.m.-12 noon
- June 6 — Rocky Mountain High** parent/ participants meeting - 3:00 p.m at the Chancery in Victoria
- June 13-15 — 1st Session - Camp David Junior High Camp**
- June 16 — Camp David Elementary Camp**
- June 16 - 18 — 2nd Session - Camp David Junior High Camp**
- June 28 - July 1 — Discipleship Week**
- July 3-11 — Rocky Mountain High, Colorado**

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



For more information on any of these events, please contact: Debbie Vanelli or José Ortega at the Office of Youth Ministry at (361) 573-0828 ext. 32 / ext. 50 or e-mail at dvanelli@victoriadiocese.org or jortega@victoriadiocese.org Web site: www.victoriadiocese.org/youthoffice



YOUTH SPECTACULAR—The Diocesan Youth Leadership Team led over 300 participants at the High School Spectacular in El Campo. Todd Lemieux, the keynote presenter from New York, had the high school students and adults alike enraptured with his humor and message of our call to sainthood.

KCs offer basketball competition for diocesan youth

Continued from p. 8

Louise Council 9394 with 18/2 baskets in tie breaker.

10 year old boys: Cory Collinsworth of Schulenburg Council 2902 with 18 baskets, Mason Maraggia of Inez Council 11351 with 17/4 baskets in tie breaker and Daniel Cantu of St. Roch Council 10249 (Alleyton) with 17/3/5 baskets in tie breaker.

14 year old girls: Laura Moeller of Columbus Council 2971 with 18/3 baskets in tie breaker, Callie Witte of Yoakum Council 1582 with 18/1 baskets in tie breaker and Danielle Galvan of Blessing Council 4307 with 15 baskets.

13 year old girls: Madison Vacek of Weimar Council 2153 with 14 baskets, Faith Hagan of Yoakum Council 1582 with 12 baskets and Erin Svetlik of Shiner Council 3081 with 10/3 baskets in tie breaker.

12 year old girls: Samantha Gabler of

Schulenburg Council 2902 with 21 baskets, Malori Mitchon of Moulton Council 3244 with 19 baskets and Keiana Robinson of Nada Council 3371 (Garwood) with 17 baskets.

11 year old girls: Lauren Schuette of Shiner Council 3081 with 14 baskets, Kiana Haywood of Schulenburg Council 2902 with 13 baskets and Regan Douslauf of Eagle Lake Council 3371 with 11 baskets.

10 year old girls: Alexandra Iglesias of Port Lavaca Council 3253 with 16 baskets, Chloe Darilek of Hallettsville Council 2433 with 13 baskets and McKenna McCown of Louise Council 9394 with 12 baskets.

The first place winners went on to state at the Knights of Columbus State Free-throw Contest, which was held at Holy Cross High School in San Antonio on March 6.



TEENS FROM SEVERAL PARISHES JOIN FOR MASS—Queen of the Holy Rosary Parish at Hostyn hosted the monthly Teen Mass for the 7th to 12th grade youth from surrounding parishes Sunday, January 24. Celebration of the Mass, with Father Peter Yeboah-Amanfo presiding, started the evening, followed by games and a hamburger supper in the nearly filled dining hall. Entertainment included an acoustical set by Southbound 955, a local band made up of parishioners of St. John the Baptist Church in Fayetteville. Thanks goes to the musicians, cooks and all others who helped to make the evening a success. A Mass was also held March 21 at St. Rose in Schulenburg. The next Teen Mass will be April 18 at 5 p.m. at St. Anthony Parish in Columbus. A softball tournament is also in the works for May 1 in Weimar.



(above) Forty-nine catechumens from 13 parishes in the Diocese of Victoria to enter the Catholic Church. Here they are pictured at the Rite of Election, held the first Sunday of Lent, February 21, 2010 at Our Lady of Victory. (below) In 19 parishes within the Diocese of Victoria, 87 candidates prepare to join the Catholic Church at the Rite of Election, held the first Sunday of Lent, February 21, 2010.



Diocese of Victoria brings in 136 new members this Easter

Nineteen parishes within the Diocese of Victoria received a total of 136 catechumens and candidates on the Easter Vigil of 2010. Catechumens (cat.) are those who received baptism as well as first Communion and confirmation; and candidates (can.) are those, already baptized, who entered the Catholic Church fully with the reception of Communion and confirmation.

Parishes who received catechumens and candidates are St. Anthony, Columbus, 1 can.; Our Lady of Guadalupe & St. Michael, Cuero, 5 cat., 2 can.; St. Philip the Apostle, El Campo, 1 cat., 5 can.; Assumption of the Blessed Virgin Mary, Ganado, 2 cat., 12 can.; Immaculate

Conception, Goliad 2 cat., 1 can.; Sacred Heart, Hallettsville, 1 cat., 1 can.; Queen of the Holy Rosary, Hostyn, 1 can.; St. Roch, Mentz, 1 can.; Sts. Peter and Paul, Meyersville, 1 cat., 2 can.; Our Lady of the Gulf, Port Lavaca, 5 cat., 19 can.; Holy Family of Joseph, Mary, Jesus, Victoria, 5 cat., 4 can.; Our Lady of Lourdes, Victoria, 5 cat., 6 can.; Our Lady of Sorrows, Victoria, 17 cat., 13 can.; Our Lady of Victory Cathedral, Victoria, 4 cat., 6 can.; Holy Family, Wharton, 7 can.; St. Joseph, Yoakum, 1 cat., 5 can.; and Holy Cross, Yorktown, 1 can.

Please make any new members of your parish feel very welcomed and loved.

Church of Assumption of the Blessed Virgin Mary in Ganado celebrates 40 years

By Cynthia Brewer

GANADO—The parishioners of the Assumption of the Blessed Virgin Mary, Assumption Parish, in Ganado celebrated the 40th anniversary of the dedication of their present church building, Monday evening, February 22, 2010.

The celebration began with Mass celebrated by Bishop David Fellhauer and concelebrated by Assumption's pastor, Father Michael Lyons, and visiting priests and deacons.

The Mass was followed by a dinner in the elegantly decorated parish hall. The master of ceremonies was Allen Petrash, who introduced Carl Wright, Frances Vesely, Wayne and Diane Bubela, and Blake Petrash, who spoke on the history of the parish, which originally began with Masses held in the home of Mr. Ed York in 1870. The Masses were said by Father McSweeney, a priest who rode horseback from Victoria to minister to the people of Ganado. In 1890,



Sister Marietta Hajdik, who spent 18 years as Director of Religious Education at Assumption Parish, finishing in 2006, spoke saying how nice it was to see everyone and to see how well they were carrying out their ministries. Allen Petrash, master of ceremonies, listens in the background.

Ganado Catholic Church was established as a regular mission, which was attached to El Campo. The first regular priest who came every month was Rev. P Schnetzer.

The building was blessed and dedicated on February 22, 1970, by Archbishop Francis J. Furey. The church was paid off by 1974.

The evening concluded with a mention of thanks to all who helped make the celebration a big success and to all those who attended.



Bishop David Fellhauer presides over the 40th Anniversary Mass for Assumption Parish; concelebrating with him were Father Michael Lyons, pastor; visiting priests, Msgr. Eustace Hermes, Father Celestino Say of Our Lady of Lourdes in Victoria; Father John Bily of St. Michael in Weimar and Father Michael Petering of St. Agnes in Edna; assisting were Deacons Edward Wendel (l.) of St. John Nepomucene in New Taiton and Charlie Novosad (r.) of St. Anthony in Columbus.



First place winners of the annual National Education Contest sponsored by Our Lady of Guadalupe Court #206 of the Catholic Daughters of the Americas in Yoakum are pictured above and will continue to the state contest. The district contest was held March 1, 2010.

Yoakum CDA winners go to state

YOAKUM—Our Lady of Guadalupe Court #206 of the Catholic Daughters of the Americas in Yoakum recently sponsored its annual National Education Contest. The themes for this year's contest are "The joys of God surround us" and "The joys life brings through others."

The St. Joseph School fourth through eighth grade winners of this year's contest are: ESSAY-DIVISION I: First – Weston Bergey – 5th gr.; Second – Alex Hull – 5th gr.; Third – Bryson Hagan – 5th gr.; ESSAY DIVISION II: First – Ashley Carroll – 8th gr.; Second – Kelley Kusak – 8th gr.; Third – Jenna Holik – 8th gr.; POETRY-DIVISION I: First – Jensen Schindler – 4th gr.; Second – Presley Carter – 4th gr.; Third – Lisa Seidenberger – 4th gr.; ART- DIVISION II: First – Karli Stehle –

6th gr.; Second – Caroline Spaeth – 6th gr.; Third – Lane Lahodny – 6th gr.; ART- DIVISION I: First – Kaitlyn Kvinta – 4th gr.; Second – Weston Bergey – 5th gr.; Third – Alex Hull – 5th gr. The Adult CDA POETRY-DIVISION IV winner was Mrs. Carolyn Janak. The first place winner for each division will be sent to the state contest. Students attended the Catholic Daughters meeting at the Parish Family Center on March 1 to present their work, and receive their awards. Pictured: front row l. to r.: Jensen Schindler, Presley Carter, Lisa Seidenberger, Kaitlyn Kvinta; second row l. to r.: Alex Hull, Weston Bergey, Lane Lahodny; third row l. to r.: Caroline Spaeth, Jenna Holik, Ashley Carroll; not pictured: Bryson Hagan, Kelley Kusak, and Karli Stehle.

Eagle Scout Andy Polasek practices core teachings

Dr. Frank Parma of Troop 364 in Victoria and Eagle Scout Andy Polasek



The development of character, leadership ability, and good citizenship are only a few of the traits scouts are taught to practice. These were all demonstrated by Andy Polasek, sophomore at St. Joseph High School and son of Paul and Michelle Polasek, as he shouldered the burden and responsibility of cleaning, repairing and refurbishing the pre-K playground at Nazareth Academy.

Andy and his volunteer team of scouts worked tirelessly over a period of six weeks to complete the labor intensive project. The scouts encountered various aspects of physical, mental and emotional challenges. They removed several tree stumps; power washed, painted, and repaired play equipment; and did light landscaping. Andy has truly served his community through his hard work and dedication. The project should stand as an inspiration to others who desire to obtain their Eagle Scout's Badge. As a small token of appreciation, DeAnn Vilchez, the former Pre-K Director, presented Andy with a photo DVD, which chronicled his achievement.



St. Joseph High School choir Gold Medal Soloists include, from left to right, back row: junior Teresa Vincent, sophomore Andy Polasek, senior Brooke Rau, junior Florian Bamborschke, freshman Jaclyn Boozalis; middle row: senior Hilary Kristynik, junior Kayla Janecek, sophomore Meghan Mead, sophomore Katie Streeter; and front row: senior Taryn Gann, senior Jolynn Hoang, and sophomore Ofelia Rodriguez.

9 Soloists Advance to State

STJ Choir Students Win 13 Regional TPSMEA Solo & Ensemble Medals

Students of the St. Joseph High School Choral program were awarded 13 first division medals on Saturday, February 27, 2010, at the Regional TPSMEA Solo & Ensemble Contest. The contest was hosted by Providence High School in San Antonio.

TPSMEA divides the Solo & Ensemble competition into three classifications. A Class III solo or ensemble is generally recommended for first year participants in solo performance. A Class II event is for the more advanced soloists to be performed at a director's discretion, may include seniors. Class I solos or ensembles are for most accomplished students, mostly performed by seniors. A first division rating at region on Class I events allows the student or students to advance to the TPSMEA State Solo & Ensemble Contest held in May.

Class III Solo Gold Medals winners are Megan Mead and Katie Streeter. STJ Choir members awarded a gold medal for a superior rating on their Class II Solo are Jaclyn Boozalis and Kayla Janecek. Qualifying to advance to the state competition winning a Gold Medal in performance on a Class I solo are Florian Bamborschke, Taryn Gann, Jolynn Hoang, Hilary Kristynik, Andy Polasek, Brooke Rau, Ofelia Rodriguez, Brooke Small, and Teresa Vincent. Accompanist for the choir students was Mrs Sandra Glenn of Victoria.

Director for the St. Joseph High School choirs is Michael Petriski. Mr. Petriski commented, "The students all sang exceptionally well as our results reflected. I would like to personally complement these young ladies and gentlemen on their superb conduct and manners displayed Saturday. This was a superb effort in every way." Petriski concluded, "Mrs. Glenn deserves the lions share of the credit for the students results. She is a tireless, talented, and caring accompanist with extraordinary vocal training she shares to help the St. Joseph students."



HUMAN FOOD CHAIN—More than five hundred students and their teachers from Our Lady of Victory School in Victoria formed an assembly line—food chain from the interior of the school to the St. Vincent de Paul house, located across the street, to deliver over 600 non-perishable items to the organization for the needy. "The event took place on Ash Wednesday (Feb. 17), which fits right in with the Catholic Church's three [Lenten] tenets: alms-giving, fasting and prayer," said Jennifer Vincent, an eighth-grade religion teacher.



JCDA HOLD BABY SHOWER FOR GABRIEL PROJECT—On February 22, the Yoakum Junior Catholic Daughters of the Americas #206 held a "Baby Shower for Jesus," where they collected new baby items and donated them to the Gabriel Project. Accepting the gifts on behalf of the Gabriel Project were Tammy Grahmann and Renae Harper who explained to the members how the gifts will benefit new and expectant mothers in their community. After the presentation, the girls enjoyed a fun evening of playing baby shower games such as "taste and guess the baby food," "dress the baby" and "guess how many M&M's are in the baby bottle."



INEZ CDA CELEBRATE VALENTINE'S DAY WITH SINGLE SENIORS—Court #2475, Protector of Mary, presented the 4th annual Valentine's Day brunch on February 14, to their parish congregation's "Single and 60 and Over." The CDA cooked, decorated, played music and games, and presented gifts, along with door prizes. A king and queen were also crowned. Pictured are Father Gabriel Bentil, Regent Laura Koliba, Queen Lillie Stasny and King James Zak. We would like to thank Donna DeBault and Jacki Lincke for all their hard work in preparing the brunch.

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Puzzle Prize is book on religious brother to be canonized

In "Brother Andre – Friend of the Suffering, Apostle of Saint Joseph," the revised and updated edition of Br. André's acclaimed biography, author Jean-Guy Dubuc shows clearly the contemporary relevance of this "miracle man of Mount Royal."

Brother Andre Bessette will be the first saint in the history of the Congregation of Holy Cross, a Catholic order of priests and brothers, best known in the United States for its role in founding the University of Notre Dame, Indiana, and St. Edward's University, Texas, as well as many others.

On February 19, 2010, the Vatican formally recognized Br. André as one of six candidates to be canonized a saint later this year. Pope Benedict XVI announced that the date for his canonization has been set for Oct. 17, 2010.

Born Alfred Bessette to Isaac and Clothilde Bessette on August 9, 1845, in Montreal, Canada, Brother André joined Holy Cross in 1874. He worked as a porter [door keeper] and barber at a Montreal school run by the Congregation, and it was there that his reputation as a healer and miracle-worker took hold.

Bessette's biographers recount tales

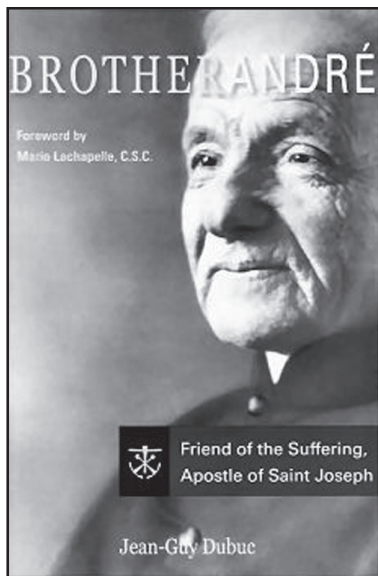
of crippled rheumatics healed and fever-stricken schoolboys made suddenly well, often aided by "Saint Joseph's oil," a mixture that Bessette rubbed on wounds and sick limbs after burning it under a statue of the saint.

Rooted in his devotion to Saint Joseph and motivated by his compassion, Brother André dedicated his life to comforting those in greatest need, prompting the late Pope John Paul II to say, "We venerate in Blessed Brother André Bessette a man of prayer and a friend of the poor, a truly astonishing man.... In each age the Holy Spirit raises up such humble

witnesses of the Gospel, who turn things topsy-turvy."

Over seventy years after his death in 1937, this member of the Congregation of Holy Cross is memorialized by millions of pilgrims who travel each year to St. Joseph's Oratory, which he founded in Montreal in 1904.

The book will be the April Family Puzzle Contest Prize. Please send in completed puzzle and form by April 26 for a chance to win it. Or, it may be purchased on Web sites for between \$12 and \$17; ISBN: 9781594711909, 260 pages.



Friend of the Suffering,
Apostle of Saint Joseph

Jean-Guy Dubuc

TV program notes ~ Week of April 11

By John Mulderig
Catholic News Service

NEW YORK (CNS) — Here are some television program notes for the week of April 11 with their TV Parental Guidelines ratings if available. They have not been reviewed and therefore are not necessarily recommended by the Office for Film & Broadcasting.



Sunday, April 11, 12-2:30 p.m. CDT (EWTN) "Mass and Celebration of Divine Mercy From Stockbridge, Mass. (Live)." The celebration of the solemn liturgy of Divine Mercy Sunday, live from the National Shrine of the Divine Mercy in Stockbridge, Mass.

Sunday, April 11, 8-10 p.m. CDT (PBS) "The Diary of Anne Frank." This "Masterpiece Classic" adaptation of Anne Frank's moving account of life hiding from the Nazis stars newcomer Ellie Kendrick as a maturing teenager who undergoes an

extraordinary ordeal. Laura Linney hosts (TV-PG — parental guidance suggested).

Monday, April 12, 9-10 p.m. CDT (PBS) "Among the Righteous: Lost Stories From the Holocaust in Arab Lands." This special recounts how Robert Satloff, head of a Washington policy center, set off in the wake of 9/11 on what would become an eight-year journey to find an Arab hero whose story would change the way Arabs view Jews, themselves and their own history. Along the way, Satloff found not only the Arab heroes whom he sought, but a vast, lost history of what happened to the half-million Jews of the Arab lands of North Africa under Nazi, Vichy and Fascist rule (TV-PG — parental guidance suggested).

Wednesday, April 14, 5:30-6 p.m. CDT (EWTN) "Road to Rome: Training Priests for the Third Millennium." This inside look at the Pontifical University of the Holy Cross in Rome and its method for training the priests of the new millennium includes interviews with various international seminarians and priests who have attended the institution.

Wednesday, April 14, 7-8 p.m. CDT (PBS) "When Families Grieve." Katie Couric and the "Sesame Street" Muppets present families' personal stories about coping with the death of a parent and strategies that are both child-appropriate and that have helped these families as a whole move forward (TV-G — general audience).

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SCRIPTURE SEARCH

Gospel for April 11, 2010

John 20:19-31

Following is a word search based on the Gospel reading for Divine Mercy Sunday, Cycle C, when Jesus appears in the Upper Room on Easter evening. The words can be found in all directions in the puzzle.

DOORS	LOCKED	JESUS CAME
PEACE	SHOWED	HANDS
AS THE FATHER	BREATHED	RETAIN
THOMAS	DIDYMUS	TWELVE
NAILS	FINGER	BELIEVE
A WEEK	SEEN ME	BLESSED
WRITTEN	BOOK	HIS NAME

JESUS CAME

```

P D I D Y M U S D N A H
A A W E E K O O B D E I
S A S G W H J O K E V S
R L E T Y B T W M T L N
O L E H H L N A B B E A
O E N O L E C A E P W M
D H M M A S F L I R T E
E E E A U S I A I L B L
W D K S P E U T T I S W
O J E C V D T A N H D K
H J R E O E N I A T E R
S D W E N L F I N G E R
    
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Address: _____
Phone number: _____
Parish: _____
Age if 18 or under: _____



Family Puzzle Contest

The next Family Puzzle Contest winner will win "Brother André – Friend of the Suffering, Apostle of Saint Joseph" by Jean-Guy Dubuc. See book review on this page.

The winner of the March Family Puzzle Contest and "A Maryknoll Book of Prayer" by Orbis Books is Grace Rigamonti of Our Lady of Victory Cathedral in Victoria. The book may be purchased online at <http://www.orbisbooks.com/>.

The youth winner is Delilah Valenzuela, 7, from St. Philip the Apostle Parish in El Campo. She will receive a gift from the Incarnate Word Gift Shop.

If you have not won the puzzle contest within the past six months, please send completed puzzle and contest form to *The Catholic Lighthouse*, P. O. Box 4070, Victoria, TX 77903, by April 26 for a chance to win "Brother André – Friend of the Suffering, Apostle of Saint Joseph." Youth 18 years of age and under will have the opportunity to receive a gift from the Incarnate Word Gift Shop (youth, please state age).

"Ultimate Catholic Trivia – 1001 Fun and Fascinating Facts" by Scott Paul Frush will be featured for the Puzzle Contest prize soon. Until then, here are a few fun trivia questions ...

(183) Who is the patron saint of grandfathers?
(360) In what year did Roman Catholics become the single largest religious denomination in the United States
Find answers elsewhere in paper.

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Your Family

By Bill and Monica Dodds
Catholic News Service



Resurrection of the body ... for everyone

Even older Catholics raised with the Baltimore Catechism can stumble a bit when it comes to defining “the resurrection of the body.” Oh, sure, they can still blitz through the book’s first few questions (Who made you? Who is God? Why did God make you?), but by the time they get to Question 78 (in the 1964 edition, anyway) they’ve run out of steam.

That one wants to know: “What is meant by ‘the resurrection of the body?’”

Most folks assume “resurrection” refers to Jesus at Easter. And, of course, they’re right. On the 4th of this month, the Church marked the greatest feast of the liturgical year. If you or your family have never been to an Easter Vigil Mass (the Mass celebrated on Holy Saturday night), consider going next year.

It’s a long Mass, to be sure. But with all the ritual and symbolism, it’s very impressive. Around the world, the church pulls out all the stops for this celebration.

But, the answer to the catechism question makes no mention of Jesus or Easter. It says: “By ‘resurrection of the body’ is meant that at the end of the world the bodies of all men will rise from the earth and be united again to their souls, nevermore to be separated.”

Prefer a more contemporary source? Not a problem. In the

words of the Catechism of the Catholic Church: “The church teaches that every spiritual soul is created immediately by God — it is not ‘produced’ by the parents — and also that it is immortal: It does not perish when it separates from the body at death, and it will be reunited with the body at the final resurrection” (No. 366).

At Sunday Mass, when we profess “we look for the resurrection of the dead,” that’s what’s being referred to.

Your body. Your spouse’s body. Your parents’ bodies. Your children’s bodies. Every ... body.

Boys on the Left, Girls on the ...

It shouldn’t be surprising that every generation has a hard time with this teaching. In the fifth century, St. Augustine pointed out: “Some say that women shall

not rise again in the female sex, but all in the male; but they seem to me wiser who have no hesitation in affirming that all shall rise in their own sex.”

But, he also noted, that’s not to say how we looked before is how we’ll look after our own resurrections. “The bodies of the saints [that is, all the people in heaven] will therefore rise again free from every defect, from every deformity, as well as from every corruption, encumbrance or hindrance. In this respect their freedom of action will be as complete as their happiness; and for this reason their bodies have been called ‘spiritual,’ though undoubtedly they will be bodies and not spirits.”

Just as there will be no illness — and no more death — there will be no disabling conditions. Everyone will hear, see, walk, speak, think and all the rest just fine. They’ll do it perfectly.

On the Web:

Do you know the name of the Church teaching about the “second” person to have a “glorified” body? That’s right. It’s the Assumption. The University of Dayton has an outstanding site on Mary at www.udayton.edu/mary.

Sunday Readings from April 11 to May 16

April 11 — Second Sunday of Easter Divine Mercy Sunday	Acts 5:12-16 Psalms 118:2-4, 13-15, 22-24 Revelation 1:9-11a, 12-13, 17-19 John 20:19-31
April 18 — Third Sunday of Easter	Acts 5:27-32, 40b-41 Psalms 30:2, 4, 5-6, 11-12, 13 Revelation 5:11-14 John 21:1-19
April 25 — Fourth Sunday of Easter	Acts 13:14, 43-52 Psalms 100:1-2, 3, 5 Revelation 7:9, 14b-17 John 10:27-30
May 2 — Fifth Sunday of Easter	Acts 14:21-27 Psalms 145:8-9, 10-11, 12-13 Revelation 21:1-5a John 13:31-33a, 34-35
May 9 — Sixth Sunday of Easter	Acts 15:1-2, 22-29 Psalms 67:2-3, 5, 6, 8 Revelation 21:10-14, 22-23 John 14:23-29
May 16 — Seventh Sunday of Easter	Acts 7:55-60 Psalms 97:1-2, 6-7, 9 Revelation 22:12-14, 16-17, 20 John 17:20-26

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

www.usccb.org/nab/

Two books provide insights, fuel for debate about end-of-life issues

Reviewed by Nancy L. Roberts
Catholic News Service

“A Better Way of Dying: How to Make the Best Choices at the End of Life” by Jeanne Fitzpatrick, M.D., & Eileen M. Fitzpatrick, J.D. Penguin Books (New York, 2010), 222 pp., \$15. “Living Well and Dying Faithfully: Christian Practices for End-of-Life Care,” edited by John Swinton & Richard Payne. Wm. B. Eerdmans (Grand Rapids,

Mich., 2009), 311 pp., \$25.

These two quite different books each offer considerable illumination as well as fuel for debate.

In “A Better Way of Dying,” sisters Jeanne and Eileen Fitzpatrick, the former a physician and the latter a lawyer, have teamed to provide pragmatic, explicit guidelines to help us direct end-of-life care. Such instruction is essential today, because, as they write, antibiotics and other mir-

acles of modern medicine have made sudden death fairly rare. Instead, they say, death “more often follows a long, slow decline into extreme old age marked by increasing frailty and debility, and sometimes dementia.”

Through numerous real-life examples, the authors make it clear that sometimes a living will is not enough. Despite detailed advance directives, personal preferences for end-of-life care are all too often not honored. Enriched by the authors’ decades of experience, “A Better Way of Dying” outlines a five-step “compassion protocol” that can help guide caretakers in a clear, concrete and legally binding way to carry out our final wishes.

For a deep understanding of how Christian practices — such as love, prayer, lament and compassion — can help us die well,

“Living Well and Dying Faithfully,” edited by John Swinton & Richard Payne, should be consulted, and preferably before we are face to face with our own or our loved ones’ demise.

This anthology of a dozen well-edited articles contributes importantly to the debate about the “medicalization” of death. Where once theological perspectives dominated our approach to death, we now look to medicine to shape our final days. These two approaches are not wholly incompatible, the authors write. But dying, they wisely remind us, is an art. Living confidently in the face of death means caring deeply for others at the end of life — and indeed, caring for each other throughout life, as Stanley Hauerwas of Duke Divinity School points out in an eloquent foreword.

The Bottom Line

By Antoinette Bosco
Catholic News Service



April Is Holy Humor Month

I think the movement to declare April the holy humor month is wonderful news. The idea began with Cal Samra, founder of a much-needed ministry, The Fellowship of Merry Christians. The way Samra saw it, the kingdom of God should be a party because what we’re celebrating is such good news! Yet he kept observing people leaving church looking like sad sacks.

Easter especially seemed to Samra to be the absolute centerpiece for proclaiming “holy humor.”

Samra recalled an Easter sermon given by the “golden tongue” preacher, St. John Chrysostom, in which he described a vision of Christ confronting the devil and laughing at him.

Easter deserves our joyful laughter. That’s the April message Samra puts yearly into his newsletter, which he named, brilliantly, The Joyful Noiseletter.

“If you really believe you are saved and are going to go to heaven, for God’s sake, smile!” he says.

The fellowship founder says

that April is the perfect holy humor month because it starts with April Fools’ Day. Terry Lindvall, consulting editor of The Joyful Noiseletter, writes:

“There are two kinds of fools in the world: damned fools and what St. Paul calls ‘fools for Christ’s sake.’ Paul himself is the one who legitimizes April Fools’ Day for Christians. The cross is foolishness for those who do not believe; it is salvation, hope, love and joy to those who do. It is a divine joke on Satan, the great deceiver. The empty tomb triumphs with laughter over the empty cross.”

It’s nice to know that someone is helping Christians to stop being humor-impaired!

The news has been around for quite a while now about the importance of humor for health, human relations, friendships, marriage, work situations — you name it. I just finished a great book called “Funny Business, the Art of Using Humor Constructively,” (Arrowhead). The author, Bob Ross, has crammed his chapters with a smile every

other paragraph. I learned a lot about what he calls “the magic of mirth.” I discovered firsthand the truth of his words, “Try stiffening your body and then, remaining rigid, smiling broadly or laughing.” You can’t do it. Laughter is the great relaxer. We should read refresher course books like this one to educate ourselves on the value of humor.

I am convinced that heaven is a fun place, full of joy and laughter. And why not? It is, after all, the realm of the Creator.

I think God must be very pleased with Samra’s mission, which is “to recapture the spirit of joy, humor, unity and healing power of the early Christians.”

I hope Samra’s call to make April the holy humor month catches on. For, as he says, we have been called to know joy. He affirms this by quoting the 16th-century mystic, St. John of the Cross:

“The soul of one who serves God always swims in joy, always keeps holiday and is always in the mood for singing.” Right on!

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P091006



Entre Amigos

Por Mar Muñoz-Visoso
Relaciones de medios
USCCB



Volver a las imágenes: el poder comunicador del arte religioso

El Ecce Homo: espalda lacerada, gotas de sangre corren por su cara y torso. Frente a él, una estatua de San Francisco de Asís mirando hacia arriba en estado de éxtasis. Regreso a mirarla una y otra vez. Me atrae su expresión. Al fondo, como precedido y escoltado por una procesión de amigos (La Inmaculada Concepción, San Francisco de Asís, San Ignacio, Santo Domingo, San Serapio, María Magdalena y otros) un Cristo muy real está colgado en una cruz. Su cuerpo, aparentemente exhausto, esculpido a tamaño natural en madera pero pintado con intenso realismo para asemejar la complejidad humana, casi te invita a bajarlo de la cruz y a ponerle fin a la agonía. En el centro de la sala, la Piedad recibe con dolor indescriptible el cuerpo sin vida de su hijo mientras frente a ella el alma cristiana, pintada como un niño vestido en un blanco radiante, recibe un rayo de luz al contemplar las heridas de Cristo.

No estoy delirando. Lo que acabo de describir es una exposición de arte sacro español de los siglos XVII y XVIII que visité recientemente en la Galería Nacional de Arte en Washington. Se trata de una pequeña pero magnífica muestra de los grandes maestros de la época dorada española, del realismo e hiperrealismo en el arte religioso. Creadas para conmover el alma, estas imágenes invitan a la contemplación. Son al mismo tiempo logradas obras de arte y vehículo para la catequesis — y jugaron un papel importante en la estrategia para mantener a España y sus territorios católicos durante la época de la Contrarreforma.

Aparentemente fuera de contexto en un museo — y podría decirse que casi desnudas sin la decoración barroca, las flores y toda la parafernalia que habitualmente las rodea todavía hoy en iglesias, conventos y procesiones en España —, estas pinturas y esculturas conservan sin embargo su poder de atracción en este nuevo, si bien temporal, ambiente. Contemplarlas en sí mismas me ha permitido encontrar un significado más profundo en algo que siempre di por hecho: las imágenes religiosas en las iglesias.

Nunca valoramos lo que tenemos hasta

que lo perdemos. Mi primera experiencia al entrar en una iglesia católica en Estados Unidos es algo memorable. Era una comunidad parroquial relativamente nueva, creada unos veinticinco años antes en un próspero suburbio. La iglesia era una construcción tipo “bunker” de ladrillo. Los asientos eran sillas normales arregladas en forma de auditorio. No había reclinatorios. Había un altar en el centro y al lado derecho el sagrario empotrado en una pared. Arriba de él la Cruz de la Resurrección, con una tela blanca colgando. No había Cristo en la cruz. Buscando alrededor, encontré una imagen solitaria de María. La verdad sea dicha, luego resultó ser una estructura temporal y el nuevo templo construido recientemente es un edificio que ha ganado premios arquitectónicos cuyo diseño invita a la oración e inspira admiración.

Aunque aquella comunidad se convirtió en mi parroquia por los siguientes doce años, y no cambiaría la amabilidad y alegría de sus gentes por nada, debo reconocer que a menudo buscaba consuelo en las parroquias mexicanas de la zona y en algunas de las más antiguas construidas por inmigrantes italianos, irlandeses y polacos. No podía evitarlo. Estoy acostumbrada a estar en la compañía de imágenes cuando estoy en la iglesia. Necesito que me recuerden visualmente que Cristo sufrió y murió por mí en la cruz, y me reconforta saber que estos “amigos” — la Madre de Dios en sus múltiples representaciones, los apóstoles y los santos — están ahí rodeándome e intercediendo por mis necesidades. ¡Cuántas veces una imagen en un cuadro o vidriera me han ofrecido inspiración en un momento de desierto en la oración!

En la cultura latina, la gente tiene una relación muy personal con estas imágenes religiosas con forma humana. Les rezamos, hablamos con ellas, las tocamos, besamos y hasta vestimos sabiendo que representan una realidad más allá de su existencia material. En este sentido es una relación muy “encarnada” con aquello que nos acerca o nos conecta con lo divino.

Quizá sea por eso que la costumbre de cubrir las imágenes en la iglesia — en algunos casos comenzando desde el quinto

domingo de cuaresma pero como mínimo para la veneración de la cruz el Viernes Santo — todavía me causa tanto impacto. Los católicos con una cultura visual realmente sienten la pérdida producida por este “ayunar de imágenes” dentro de la iglesia para enfocarse de forma más intensa en el misterio central de la fe. En la calle, sin embargo, las procesiones con imágenes de la Pasión son tanto una tradición como una oportunidad para evangelizar y recordar tanto a creyentes como no creyentes que este es el tiempo

más sagrado del año.

El poder del arte religioso necesita ser descubierto y reclamado para evangelizar a una generación y cultura altamente visual. Acá en los Estados Unidos, un ejército de latinos con una gran tradición de catequesis visual está a la mano para ayudar.

Mar Muñoz-Visoso es subdirectora de prensa y medios de comunicación en el Conferencia de Obispos Católicos de Estados Unidos

Cientos de líderes católicos y docenas de asociaciones nacionales de pastoral hispana en los Estados Unidos se reunirán en Chicago para celebrar el Congreso Nacional del Ministerio Hispano “Raíces y Alas 2010”, el cuarto encuentro de este tipo en los Estados Unidos.

Con el deseo de reavivar el espíritu de los Encuentros y celebrar el 10º aniversario de Encuentro 2000, el Congreso Nacional del Ministerio Hispano “Raíces y Alas 2010” será un extraordinario encuentro de organizaciones, líderes e individuos católicos involucrados en el ministerio hispano procedentes de todos los Estados. Este congreso ofrecerá la oportunidad de celebrar, reflexionar sobre la realidad actual del ministerio hispano en los Estados Unidos, realizar reflexión teológica y dirigirse al futuro con acciones concretas para el ministerio.

El Congreso Nacional “Raíces y Alas 2010” ha sido organizado por el Consejo Nacional Católico para el Ministerio Hispano (NCCHM, por sus siglas en inglés), una asociación independiente que agrupa a organizaciones de carácter nacional y regional dedicadas al ministerio hispano. “Raíces y Alas 2010” está siendo organizado en colaboración con el Secretariado de Diversidad Cultural en la Iglesia, de la Conferencia de Obispos Católicos de los Estados Unidos (USCCB). Está copatrocinado por American Bible Society, Barry University (Miami), Boston College, Catholic Theological Union (Chicago), Mexican American Catholic College-MACC (San Antonio) y Jesuit School of Theology at Santa Clara (California).

Su eminencia, el Cardenal Francis George, de Chicago; el excelentísimo José Gómez, arzobispo de San Antonio, TX,

y presidente del Comité de Diversidad Cultural en la Iglesia de la Conferencia de Obispos Católicos de los Estados Unidos; y el excelentísimo Jaime Soto, obispo de Sacramento, CA, y presidente de la junta directiva de la Catholic Legal Immigration Network son algunos de los obispos que se tiene previsto participen en el Congreso Nacional “Raíces y Alas 2010”.

Los asistentes al Congreso Nacional representan organizaciones y asociaciones nacionales y locales, y sus miembros, dedicadas al ministerio hispano; oficinas diocesanas y regionales; organizaciones y movimientos laicos católicos hispanos y sus miembros; párrocos y sus feligreses; individuos que sirven con y a hispanos; y todos aquellos comprometidos con el ministerio hispano.

Congreso Nacional del Ministerio Hispano “Raíces y Alas 2010” se celebrará en el área metropolitana de Chicago, en el hotel Hyatt Regency O’Hare, en Rosemont, IL. Los líderes, organizaciones nacionales y sus miembros están invitados a participar del 23 al 26 de septiembre, 2010. Los parroquianos, movimientos y demás personas están invitados a participar en los talleres el 25 y 26 de septiembre, 2010.

El Consejo Nacional Católico para la Pastoral Hispana (NCCHM) es una red y foro nacional para la promoción religiosa, social, profesional y cívica de la comunidad católica hispana de los Estados Unidos. Visite su página digital www.ncchm.org o su blog www.ncchm.blogspot.com.

Póngase en contacto con Santiago Cortés-Sjöberg para organizar entrevistas y recibir más información: 773-663.80.58 — media@ncchm.org

Study finds Latinos who leave their churches are choosing no faith

WASHINGTON (CNS) — A new analysis of religious identification data finds that contrary to popular belief, U.S. Latinos are not leaving behind Catholicism for Protestant churches, but instead are becoming more secularized, affiliating themselves with no faith at all. A study released March 16 by the Institute for the Study of Secularism in Society and Culture at Trinity College, a secular liberal arts school in Hartford, Conn., reported that although Latinos remain predominantly Catholic, those who have left the church since 1990 have shifted more than expected toward secularism as they become more Americanized. It also reported on shifts of the Latino population away from the Northeast and to Southern states, and from urban to suburban communities, among other information. The study compared changes in the Latino population’s responses to questions about faith between 1990 and 2008. The analysis of the American Religious Identification

Survey of 2008 echoes many of the findings of previous studies of Latinos and their faith, such as that the influx of Latino immigrants continues to be a factor in maintaining the size of the Catholic population in the United States. “Over the 18-year period, the influx of 9 million Latino Catholics accounted for most of the 11 million additions to the U.S. Catholic population and, as a result, Latinos comprised 32 percent of all U.S. Catholics in 2008 compared to 20 percent in 1990,” it said. Among Latinos, 66 percent in 1990 said they were Catholic, compared to 60 percent in 2008. The study by Juhem Navarro-Rivera, a research fellow, and professors Barry Kosmin and Ariela Keysar noted that just as in the general U.S. population, Latinos became less identified with Christianity between 1990 and 2008, down from 91 percent to 82 percent. Those who said they identify with no faith grew from 6 percent in 1990 to 12 percent in 2008, they found.

Ciudad Juarez church spokesman welcomes new U.S.-Mexican plans

MEXICO CITY (CNS) — A spokesman for the Diocese of Ciudad Juarez welcomed plans by the Mexican and U.S. governments to focus more on social and economic problems in Mexico, instead of just military and law enforcement crackdowns on the rampant violence attributed to narcotics-trafficking cartels. “The social sphere requires attention,” said Father Hesiquio Trevizo, spokesman, told Catholic News Service from Ciudad Juarez, the city that borders El Paso, Texas. “We lack schools, lack hospitals and lack jobs. There’s enormous poverty,” Father Trevizo told CNS. “The response can’t be exclusively militaristic.” The change of course, announced during a March 23 visit to Mexico City by Secretary of State Hillary Clinton, would put increased focus on creating jobs and reducing poverty in areas rife with violence. The new approach comes as violence escalates in the crackdown on drug cartels, which has claimed more than 18,000 lives since December 2006 and left parts of Mexico — such as Ciudad Juarez — almost ungovernable.

Intenciones para Abril de Papa Benedict XVI

El fundamentalismo y el extremismo. Para que toda tendencia hacia el fundamentalismo y el extremismo sea contrarrestada por el respeto, la tolerancia, y el diálogo entre todos los creyentes.

Los cristianos perseguidos. Para que los cristianos perseguidos perseveren, sostenidos por el Espíritu Santo, en fiel testimonio del amor de Dios por toda la humanidad.



Feast of Divine Mercy — April 11

The Feast of Divine Mercy will be held at St. Mary Parish in Victoria Sunday afternoon, April 11, from 2 to 5 p.m.

The speaker for the Feast of Divine Mercy at St. Mary's will be Msgr. Thomas C. McLaughlin. The event will include the Chaplet of Divine Mercy, Divine Mercy Prayers, Confessions from 2:00 to 3:45 p.m. and Mass at 4:00 p.m.

Msgr. McLaughlin will lead the intercessions, the procession for the Veneration of the Image and will also be the celebrant for the Mass. Deacon A.R. Wearden will assist him.

All participants are encouraged to recite the Divine Mercy Novena (on their own or with their own group) beginning on Good Friday, April 2, through Saturday, April 10, in preparation for the feast. Divine Mercy Feasts will be held at other parishes as well. Please check with your local parish.

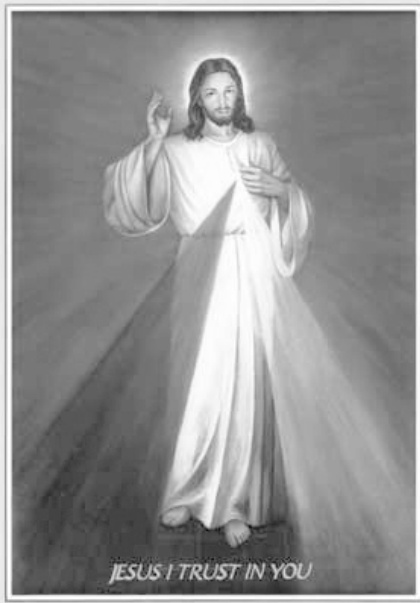
The New Plenary Indulgence

During the course of Jesus' revelations to Saint Faustina on the Divine Mercy, he asked on numerous occasions that a feast day be dedicated to the Divine Mercy and that this feast be celebrated on the Sunday after Easter. The liturgical texts of that day, the 2nd Sunday of Easter, concern the institution of the Sacrament of Penance, the Tribunal of the Divine Mercy, and are thus already suited to the request of Our Lord.

This Feast, which had already been granted to the nation of Poland and been celebrated within Vatican City, was granted to the Universal Church by Pope John Paul II on the occasion of the canonization of Sr. Faustina on April 30, 2000. In a decree dated May 23, 2000, the Congregation for Divine Worship and the Discipline of the Sacraments stated that "throughout the world the Second Sunday of Easter will receive the name Divine Mercy Sunday, a perennial invitation to the Christian world to face, with confidence in divine benevolence, the difficulties and trials that mankind will experience in the years to come." These papal acts represent the highest endorsement that the Church can give to a private revelation, an act of papal infallibility proclaiming the certain sanctity of the mystic, and the

granting of a universal feast, as requested by Our Lord to St. Faustina.

Concerning the Feast of Mercy, Jesus said: Whoever approaches the Fountain of Life on this day will be granted complete forgiveness of sins and punishment (Diary 300). I want the image solemnly blessed on the first Sunday after Easter, and I want it to be venerated publicly so that every soul may know about it (Diary 341).



On one occasion, I heard these words: My daughter, tell the whole world about My Inconceivable mercy. I desire that the Feast of Mercy be a refuge and shelter for all souls, and especially for poor sinners. On that day the very depths of My tender mercy are open. I pour out a whole ocean of graces upon those souls who approach the fount of My mercy. The soul that will go to Confession and receive Holy Communion shall obtain complete forgiveness of sins and punishment.* On that day all the floodgates through which grace flow are opened. Mankind will not have peace until it turns to the Fount of My Mercy (Diary 699).

Yes, the first Sunday after Easter is the Feast of Mercy but there must also be deeds of mercy, which are to arise out of love for Me. You are to show mercy to our neighbors always and everywhere. You must not shrink from this or try to absolve yourself from it (Diary 742).

*The Cardinal of Krakow, Cardinal Macharski, whose diocese is the center of the spread of the devotion and the sponsor of the Cause of Sr. Faustina, has written that we should use Lent as preparation for the Feast and confess even before Holy Week! So, it is clear that the confessional requirement does not have to be met on the Feast itself. That would be an impossible burden for the clergy if it did. The Communion requirement is easily met that day, however, since it is a day of obligation, being Sunday. We only need confession again, if received earlier in Lenten or Easter Season, if we were in the state of mortal sin on the Feast.

Answer from question 360 on p. 12: 1850

Pope Benedict XVI April Intentions

General Intention: That the Church may offer new generations, through the believable proclamation of the Gospel, ever-new reasons of life and hope.

Missionary Intention: That missionaries, with the proclamation of the Gospel and their witness of life, may bring Christ to all those who do not yet know him.

THE POPE SPEAKS

Pope Benedict XVI



CNS photo from Reuters

Without Christ, life would have no hope, pope says in Easter message

By Carol Glatz
Catholic News Service

VATICAN CITY (CNS) — Without Christ's sacrifice and resurrection, life would be without hope and human destiny would end only in death, Pope Benedict XVI said in his Easter message.

However, "Easter does not work magic," and the human journey will still be marked by grief and anguish, as well as joy and hope for the future, he said April 4 in his message "urbi et orbi" (to the city and the world).

Humanity today needs to free itself from sin, not by making superficial changes, but through a true moral and spiritual conversion, he said.

"It needs the salvation of the Gospel, so as to emerge from a profound crisis, one which requires deep change, beginning with consciences," the pope said in the message broadcast from St. Peter's Square to millions of people worldwide.

Before celebrating the Resurrection, Pope Benedict presided over the candlelit Way of the Cross at Rome's Colosseum April 2.

"The day of greatest hope is Good

Friday" when Christ, through his death, becomes the source of life for all of humanity, he said.

Christ's gift of love on the cross transforms reality, he said, so that "from betrayal can come friendship, from repudiation, pardon, and from hatred, love."

In his April 7 weekly general audience, Pope Benedict said if Christians truly believe that Jesus has risen, they must allow his love and goodness to shine through their words and their actions, Pope Benedict XVI said.

"We will truly and completely be witnesses of the Lord's resurrection when we allow the lavishness of his love to shine through us and when in our words and even more in our gestures people can recognize the voice and hands of Jesus himself," the pope.

The pope said, "The good news of Easter requires a work of enthusiastic and courageous witness. Every disciple of Christ, including each one of us, is called to be a witness."

The pope said the resurrection of Jesus is "a historical fact," and one that means the promise of new life is not simply a wish.

Cutting Edge

By Sister Margie Lavonis, CSC
Sisters of the Holy Cross



Recognizing Jesus

The story of the disciples on the road to Emmaus that we read during the Easter season is one of my favorites. I often wonder if I would have recognized the Lord walking the path with me. Hopefully I would but, like the disciples, I may have not.

During these Sundays after Easter the Scripture readings tell of several appearances Jesus made to the disciples after his resurrection and how the faith of his followers (like Thomas) was challenged and deepened.

Today the resurrected Jesus is all around us in our daily lives. He is present in the persons we encounter. It is up to us to recognize him.

Usually it is not too hard to see Christ in those we like and who attract us. We can easily recognize him in those kind, compassionate, likeable people who touch our lives. It is more difficult to see the Lord in the less attractive or unpleasant people we meet. Many times we consciously or unconsciously ignore Christ's presence in the street people, in the addicted and those who don't live up to how we think a "good" person should act.

A still vivid example in my life happened recently. I was with a group of very good, wonderful Catholics and a poor person who had one too many drinks wandered into the room where we were meeting. It was a cold, bitter night and he was obviously walking. He asked for some directions to where he could get a newspaper to check out the job openings. After we sent him back in the cold, several people made jokes and other not so kind remarks about him. I still feel bad that I

did not do something concrete for him. Ironically, the talk that night was about Jesus' unconditional love for each person. Somehow we seemed to forget that his love included that man as well.

In the Gospel of Matthew Jesus preaches about the last judgment when he tells us that whatever we do for the least of our brothers and sisters we do for him. And it works the other way too. When we ignore any of our brothers and sisters, we also ignore him.

When I drive around the city and see people with signs that read, "Will work for food," I feel very guilty when I don't stop or try to help them. It is so easy to be swayed by those who say things like, "There are a lot of con artists out there," or "It is too dangerous, you may get robbed or hurt." I can rationalize, but deep down it causes a dilemma for me and I can just hear the words of the Lord saying, "I was hungry and you did not feed me."

Recognizing Jesus in the poor and needy is crucial, but we are also challenged to see him in the people in our everyday lives; in the fellow student it seems nobody likes; in the co-worker who never stops complaining; or in the neighbor who keeps loud music on late into the night.

It seems to me that a good practice during this Easter season is to try to really see Jesus in those we encounter and to treat everyone with the same respect we would give Jesus if we saw him in person, and remind ourselves that Christ loves them just as much as he loves us. Imagine what the world would be like if each one of us would really do this?



HEAVENLY HELPERS

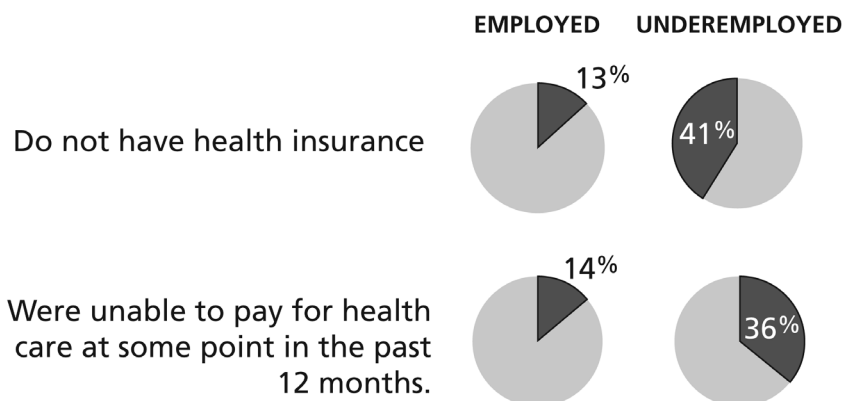
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Without Health Coverage

Four in 10 underemployed Americans do not have health insurance. They are among those who stand to benefit from the new health care law.



Results based on Gallup Daily tracking in January and February and include interviews with nearly 40,000 adults aged 18 and older in the U.S. workforce. "Underemployed" respondents are either employed part time but want to work full time or are unemployed.
Source: Gallup poll ©2010 CNS

President of USCCB Encourages Vigilance that Health Care Legislation Protects Conscience, does not Fund Abortion

Continued from p. 1

funds not be used for abortions or plans that cover abortions. Stranger still, the statute forces all those who choose federally subsidized plans that cover abortion to pay for other peoples' abortions with their own funds. If this new law is intended to prevent people from being complicit in the abortions of others, it is at war with itself.

We share fully the admirable intention of President Obama expressed in his pending Executive Order, where he states, "it is necessary to establish an adequate enforcement mechanism to ensure that Federal funds are not used for abortion services." However, the fact that an Executive Order is necessary to clarify the legislation points to deficiencies in the statute itself. We do not understand how an Executive Order, no matter how well intentioned, can substitute for statutory provisions.

The statute is also profoundly flawed because it has failed to include necessary language to provide essential conscience protections (both within and beyond the abortion context). As well, many immigrant workers and their families could be left worse off since they will not be allowed to purchase health coverage in the new exchanges to be created, even if they use their own money.

Many in Congress and the Administration, as well as individuals and groups in the Catholic community, have repeatedly insisted that there is no federal funding

for abortion in this statute and that strong conscience protection has been assured. Analyses that are being published separately show this not to be the case, which is why we oppose it in its current form. We and many others will follow the government's implementation of health care reform and will work to ensure that Congress and the Administration live up to the claims that have contributed to its passage. We believe, finally, that new legislation to address its deficiencies will almost certainly be required.

As bishops, we wish to recognize the principled actions of the pro-life Members of Congress from both parties, in the House and the Senate, who have worked courageously to create legislation that respects the principles outlined above. They have often been vilified and have worked against great odds.

As bishops of the Catholic Church, we speak in the name of the Church and for the Catholic faith itself. The Catholic faith is not a partisan agenda, and we take this opportunity to recommit ourselves to working for health care which truly and fully safeguards the life, dignity, conscience and health of all, from the child in the womb to those in their last days on earth.

Answer from question 183 on p. 12: Saint Joachim (Father of the Blessed Virgin Mary)

Immigration reform advocates flock to Washington, pressing for change

By Patricia Zapor
Catholic News Service

WASHINGTON (CNS) — By bus from across the country and on foot from across town, an estimated 200,000 people flocked to the National Mall March 21 to press Congress and the president — with signs, banners, T-shirts, chants and prayers — to make good on promises to fix the immigration system.

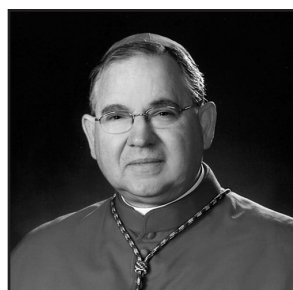
U.S. citizens, legal immigrants and some who admitted they are in the country illegally covered a six-block stretch of the Mall to make their case for reforming a system that keeps families apart, limits students' education prospects and causes millions of people to exist "in the shadows," because they lack legal papers.

Before marching three miles past the Capitol to RFK Stadium, where their

buses waited, the exuberant, hopeful crowd waved flags and signs as dozens of speakers took to the stage to tell their personal immigration stories. Other speakers pledged the support of their churches, unions and human rights groups.

A videotaped message of support from President Barack Obama brought a hush to the crowd, turning to cheers as he pledged "to do everything in my power to forge a bipartisan consensus this year on this important issue. You know as well as I do that this won't be easy, and it won't happen overnight. But if we work together — across ethnic, state and party lines — we can build a future worthy of our history as a nation of immigrants and a nation of laws."

A few blocks from the Capitol at St.



(left) Archbishop Jose H. Gomez of San Antonio



(right) Cardinal Roger M. Mahony

San Antonio archbishop named coadjutor of Los Angeles Archdiocese

By Catholic News Service

WASHINGTON (CNS) — Pope Benedict XVI has named Archbishop Jose H. Gomez of San Antonio as coadjutor archbishop of Los Angeles.

The appointment was announced in Washington April 6 by Archbishop Pietro Sambi, apostolic nuncio to the United States.

Cardinal Roger M. Mahony, who is 74, currently heads the archdiocese. As coadjutor, Archbishop Gomez, 58, automatically becomes head of the archdiocese upon Cardinal Mahony's retirement or death.

The cardinal will turn 75 next February, the age at which bishops are required by canon law to submit their resignation to the pope.

"I welcome Archbishop Gomez to the Archdiocese of Los Angeles with enthusiasm and personal excitement," Cardinal Mahony said in a statement. "The auxiliary bishops and I are looking forward to working closely with him over the coming months until he becomes the archbishop early in 2011."

Archbishop Gomez is currently the highest-ranking prelate of the 27 active Hispanic Catholic bishops in the U.S. When he succeeds Cardinal Mahony, he will become the first Hispanic archbishop of Los Angeles, the nation's largest archdiocese.

"I'm very grateful to the Holy Father for giving me this opportunity to serve the church with a mentor and leader like Cardinal Roger Mahony," Archbishop Gomez said in a statement.

A Mass of reception for Archbishop Gomez will be celebrated in Los Angeles May 26.

The archbishop, one of 22 Opus Dei bishops around the world, was installed to head the San Antonio Archdiocese in February 2005. When he was named to Texas in December 2004, then-Bishop Gomez had been an auxiliary bishop of the Denver Archdiocese for about three years.

On a national level, Archbishop Gomez is chairman-elect of the U.S. bishops' Committee on Migration. He is chairman of the Subcommittee on the Church in Latin America and of the Task Force on the Spanish-language Bible. In 2007 he was elected to a two-year term as the first chairman of the Committee on Cultural Diversity in the Church. He is currently a

member of the Committee on Doctrine.

Jose Horacio Gomez was born in Monterrey, Mexico, Dec. 26, 1951. He attended the National University of Mexico, where he earned a bachelor's degree in accounting. In college he joined Opus Dei, an institution founded by St. Josemaria Escriva to help people turn their work and daily activities into occasions for growing closer to God, serving others and improving society. Opus Dei became a personal prelature in 1982.

Archbishop Gomez studied theology in Rome and at the University of Navarre in Spain, where he earned a bachelor's degree in theology and a doctorate in moral theology. He was ordained a priest of Opus Dei Aug. 15, 1978, in Torreciudad, Spain.

After ordination he pursued pastoral work with college and high school students in Spain and Mexico. In 1987, he was sent to what was then the Diocese of Galveston-Houston to minister for Opus Dei in several capacities in Texas. He became a U.S. citizen in 1995.

Then-Father Gomez was president of the National Association of Hispanic Priests from 1995-99, then its executive director from 1999-2001. He was treasurer of the National Catholic Council of Hispanic Ministry, 1998-2001.

In 1999, he became the vicar of Opus Dei for the state of Texas. Pope John Paul II named him a Denver auxiliary bishop in January 2001.

Archbishop Gomez, is the only U.S. bishop who was ordained for or incardinated in the Prelature of Opus Dei.

With a Catholic population of 4.6 million, the Archdiocese of Los Angeles is one of the largest dioceses in the world, and when Archbishop Gomez succeeds Cardinal Roger M. Mahony it will be the most populous diocese headed by an Opus Dei member.

Archbishop Gomez is one of 22 Opus Dei bishops around the world, although like any priest, once a member becomes a bishop, he answers directly to the pope and no longer to his bishop or religious superior.

An additional 22 bishops belong to the Priestly Society of the Holy Cross, an association of diocesan clergy associated with Opus Dei. Members include four bishops in the United States: Archbishop John J. Myers of Newark, N.J.; Bishop Robert W. Finn of Kansas City-St. Joseph, Mo.; Bishop Nicholas DiMarzio of Brooklyn, N.Y.; and Bishop John O. Barres of Allentown, Pa., said Marc Carroggio, an Opus Dei spokesman.

According to the Vatican's 2010 yearbook, the Prelature of Opus Dei has more than 87,500 lay members, almost 2,000 priests and 337 seminarians.

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

**Reporting Child Abuse • Hotline
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See *Immigration reform*, p. 18



Bishops restate concern for abuse victims, praise pope's leadership

By Catholic News Service

WASHINGTON (CNS) — Leaders of the U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops voiced concern for victims of clergy sexual abuse while offering praise for Pope Benedict XVI's long-standing leadership in dealing with abuse cases.

In a Holy Week statement issued March 30, members of the Executive Committee of the USCCB said they are aware of the pope's concern for abuse victims and "how he has strengthened the church's response to victims."

Committee members also acknowledged Pope Benedict's support for efforts within the U.S. Catholic Church on behalf of victims as well as the steps taken to deal with perpetrators of abuse.

"For the majority of new allegations (71 percent) brought to dioceses, the abuse began between 1960 and 1984. The most common time period for allegations reported in 2009 was 1975-1979," CARA noted.

The letter was sent by Cardinal Francis E. George of Chicago, USCCB president; Bishop Gerald F. Kicanas of Tucson, Ariz., vice president; Bishop George V. Murry of Youngstown, Ohio, secretary; Archbishop Joseph E. Kurtz of Louisville, Ky., treasurer; and Bishop Arthur J. Serratelli of Paterson, N.J., an elected member of the committee.

The committee said recent revelations of sexual abuse by clergy "saddens and angers the church and causes us shame."

"If there is anywhere that children should be safe it should be in their homes and in the church," the bishops said.

In recent weeks hundreds of new sex

abuse allegations against priests and other church personnel have surfaced in Ireland, Germany, the Netherlands, Austria and Switzerland.

The Executive Committee members reiterated that bishops across the U.S. continue to "respond with compassion to victims (and) survivors."

"We continue to intensify our efforts to provide safe environments for children in our parishes and schools. Further, we work with others in our communities to address the prevalence of sexual abuse in the larger society," the bishops said.

The 2009 annual report on compliance with the U.S. bishops' Charter for the Protection of Children and Young People shows the fewest number of victims, allegations and offenders in dioceses since 2004. Most cases reported to dioceses were from decades ago. "For the majority of new allegations (71 percent) brought to dioceses, the abuse began between 1960 and 1984. The most common time period for allegations reported in 2009 was 1975-1979," the Center for Applied Research in the Apostolate noted.

"With the support of both Pope John Paul II and Pope Benedict XVI, we bishops have made a vigorous commitment to do everything in our power to prevent abuse from happening to children," they said.

"As we accompany Christ in his passion and death during this Holy week, we stand with our Holy Father Pope Benedict XVI in prayer for the victims of sexual abuse, for the entire church and for the world," the bishops concluded.

US bishops pledge to help rebuild church institutions in Haiti

Continued from p. 20

Bishop Gomez said the Americans urged the bishops to reopen Catholic schools as soon as possible and to resume the celebration of Mass, especially in tent camps around the city.

A whirlwind tour of the Haitian capital March 2 took the delegation to the Daughters of Mary convent, American-affiliated Louverture Cleary School, seriously damaged St. Frances de Sales Hospital, collapsed Sacred Heart Church, and the destroyed major seminary of the Archdiocese of Port-au-Prince.

At the Daughters of Mary, who lost 15 members in the earthquake, Cardinal O'Malley reminded the sisters at Mass that good can arise from the horrors of disaster. The mystery of suffering must result in something better for the people of Haiti, he said.

The seminary has been of particular concern for the Haitian bishops. About 20 seminarians — including about a dozen from the archdiocese and eight others — were killed in the earthquake.

Initially, the bishops considered postponing seminarian education and assign-

ing students to pastoral duties at parishes around the city, Father Small explained. But they have reconsidered and decided to move forward with classes in a consolidated location elsewhere in the capital by mid-April.

"The bishops have agreed to have all the seminarians continue with their formation this year rather than send them to pastoral assignments, and that is a sign that the church here is getting some support and confidence," Father Small said. "Through the encouragement of the U.S. bishops, they decided they do have what they need to stand up their formation and to find the shelter space for classes."

Throughout the visit, Father Small said, the delegation perceived a sense of welcome among Haitians. He said the group often expressed a "constant urge to pray and express a common faith."

"The main point here this week is that we talked about making sure they have enough capacity, so that management structures are available to the church in Haiti for what will be a multi-year reconstruction project," Father Small said.

Vatican intensifies defense of pope on sex abuse decisions

By John Thavis

Catholic News Service

VATICAN CITY (CNS) — The Vatican and other church officials have amplified their defense of Pope Benedict XVI and his decisions regarding priestly sex abuse, and rejected accusations of a continued cover-up of such crimes.

After a series of reports in the New York Times and other media criticizing the pope for alleged "inaction" on sex abuse cases, Vatican authorities emphasized that it was the pope who, as Cardinal Joseph Ratzinger, pushed for harsher measures against abusers and made it easier for the church to defrock them.

On March 27, the Vatican newspaper, L'Osservatore Romano, ran the full texts of two landmark documents that in 2001 placed the sexual abuse of minors by priests among the most grave sins, and established that allegations be handled by the Congregation for the Doctrine of the Faith, then headed by Cardinal Ratzinger.

The same day, the newspaper ran a front-page commentary by British Archbishop Vincent Nichols of Westminster that had appeared in the Times of London, expressing shame over priestly sex abuse but strongly defending the pope's efforts to curb it.

"What of the role of Pope Benedict? When he was in charge of the Congregation for the Doctrine of the Faith he led important changes made in church law: the inclusion in canon law of Internet offenses against children, the extension of child abuse offenses to include the sexual abuse of all under 18, the case by case waiving of the statute of limitations and the establishment of a fast-track dismissal from the clerical state for offenders," Archbishop Nichols wrote.

"He is not an idle observer. His actions speak as well as his words," he said.

Jesuit Father Federico Lombardi, the Vatican spokesman, said the recent media focus on the sex abuse cases and the way they were dealt with by the hierarchy comes as no surprise.

"The nature of the question is such as to attract the attention of the media, and the way in which the church deals with it is crucial for her moral credibility," he said in a commentary on Vatican Radio.

But Father Lombardi pointed to the "many positive signals" that indicate the church has understood the problem and addressed it. For example, he said, a recent report showed that the number of reported sex abuse cases declined between 33 and 36 percent in U.S. dioceses and religious institutes between 2008 and 2009.

"It must be recognized that the decisive measures currently being implemented are proving effective: the church in the United States is on the right road to renewal," he said.

"This, we feel, is an important piece of news in the context of recent media attacks, which have undoubtedly proved harmful," the spokesman said.

Father Lombardi said impartial observers would recognize that the pope and the doctrinal congregation are continuing to guide bishops and help them "combat and root out the blight of abuse wherever it appears." The pope's strongly worded letter to Irish Catholics earlier this month demonstrated his commitment to "healing, renewal and reparation" in the church, he said.

German Cardinal Walter Kasper, the Vatican's top ecumenical official, said the pope's letter to Irish Catholics was "courageous." It indicated that the church was on an "irreversible" path toward greater transparency and severity in dealing with sex abuse by priests, the cardinal told the newspaper Corriere della Sera March 27.

Pope Benedict has never tried to protect abusers, and the criticism aimed at him is really an attack on the church itself, Cardinal Kasper said.

"He was the first who, even as a cardinal, felt the need for new and stricter rules, which didn't exist before. That some newspapers are now using terrible cases to attack the pope head-on is something that goes beyond every limit of justice and fairness," he said.

Capuchin Father Raniero Cantalamessa, preacher of the papal household, mentioned the sex abuse scandal in his weekly Lenten meditation. In his talk to the pope and Roman Curia officials March 26, Father Cantalamessa said the church and its members are called to purify themselves and, if there is humility, then "the church will end up more resplendent than ever from this war."

"The media's tenacity ñ and we have seen it in other cases ñ in the long run will bring about the opposite effect that they had hoped for," he added.

Addressing the pope specifically, Father Cantalamessa reminded him that God told Jeremiah that before his detractors he would make him "a solid wall of brass. Though they fight against you, they shall not prevail. For I am with you to deliver and rescue you."

French bishops, assembled at their annual spring meeting, sent a "message of support" to Pope Benedict, saying they were with him "in the difficult period our church is going through."

Italian Archbishop Giuseppe Betori of Florence told Vatican Radio March 26 that the media was manipulating information in order to falsely accuse the pope of inaction on sex abuse. He said he had dealt directly with the doctrinal congregation under Cardinal Ratzinger on abuse allegations, and found that the congregation demonstrated "the maximum attention and the maximum severity."

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OBLATE PRIEST GREETES PEOPLE AT MASS FOR IMMIGRANTS IN WASHINGTON—Oblate Father Kevin Collins of Houston greets people before a special Mass for immigrants at St. Aloysius Church in Washington March 21. Catholics from around the nation attended the service before joining tens of thousands of people at the “March for America” immigration reform rally on the National Mall. (CNS photo/Nancy Wiechec) (March 22, 2010)

Immigration reform advocates flock to Washington, pressing for change

Continued from p. 16

mitment during the campaign and again recently that immigration reform is one of his top priorities,” the cardinal said. Now that a health care bill will help millions of uninsured people receive affordable medical care, he added, it’s time for the government to address the millions of people who are living in the shadows because they lack legal immigration status.

“This is unfinished business,” Cardinal Mahony said, adding that bringing those immigrants into the system for paying taxes and tapping into assorted public services will help the U.S. economic recovery.

Among the crowd on the Mall estimated by organizers at 200,000 people, Jose, who asked that his last name not be used, described his motivation for making a 15-hour bus ride with Holy Cross and

St. Cecilia’s parishes in Clearwater and St. Petersburg, Fla.

A U.S. citizen who was born in Mexico, Jose explained that his wife lacks legal immigration status. He lives in constant fear that she will be arrested and deported before the current years-long process it would take to get her legal residency status.

They have three young U.S. citizen children. While he works 13- to 14-hour days to support the family, his wife manages the household, gets the children to and from school, doctors and other activities, he said.

But next year, a change in Florida law will require her to show proof of legal immigration status to renew her driver’s license. Lacking that license, the family’s way of life will have to change in order

to adapt.

Of bigger concern to Jose is that “I’m afraid, every moment, that she will get arrested and taken away from me and our children.”

He doesn’t believe that either he or his wife can safely return to their native Mexico, mostly because of the pervasive violent crime in his home state of Zacatecas and her state of Michoacan.

“My family there already is threatened because the criminals know they receive help from me,” Jose said. Were he to go back, he’d be an immediate target, he believes.

“She has so much heart,” he said, describing how lost he and his children would be if she were deported. “She’s a wonderful mother.”

Go to the United States’ Bishops’ Web site at Justice for Immigrants: <http://www.justiceforimmigrants.org/> for the below information:

- Parish Kit!
Justice for Immigrants has developed an updated parish kit that explains the USCCB’s position on immigration and provides tools for parish organizing.

- New Economic Report on Immigrants!
Experts release report detailing benefits of immigrant workers to economic recovery.

Statements

- Bishop McGrath’s Homily on Immigration Reform
- Bishop David A. Zubik’s Letter and Statement of Bishop John C. Wester, USCCB Chairman, on Immigration Reform
- Article of Archbishop John Vlazny, Archbishop of Portland, Oregon

JFI in the News

- Conservative Catholic defends U.S. bishops’ immigration position in the American Spectator
- Miami Herald: U.S. Catholic leaders want President Obama to make immigration reform
- Salt Lake Tribune: Top bishop calls for immigration reform
- Albany Times Union: Bishop supports immigration reform

Myths about Immigrants

Reported from the United States Conference of Catholic Bishops at <http://www.usccb.org/jfi/myths.html>

Immigrants don’t want to learn English — FALSE

The development of English proficiency among non-English speaking immigrants today mirrors that of Nineteenth and early Twentieth century immigration, when masses of Italian, German, and Eastern European immigrants came to America. While first generation, non-English speaking immigrants predictably have lower rates of English proficiency than native speakers, 91% of second generation immigrants are fluent or near fluent English speakers. By the third generation, 97% speak English fluently or near fluently.

(Source: Shirin Hakimzadeh and D’Vera Cohn, “English Usage Among Hispanics in the United States,” Pew Hispanic Forum, Dec. 6, 2007. <http://pewhispanic.org/reports/report.php?ReportID=82>; Janet Murguia and Cecilia Muñoz, “From Immigrant to Citizen,” *The American Prospect* (Oct. 23, 2005), <http://www.prospect.org/cs/articles?articleId=10487>)

Immigrants Don’t Pay Taxes — FALSE

Undocumented immigrants pay taxes. Between one half and three quarters of undocumented immigrants pay state and federal taxes. They also contribute to Medicare and provide as much as 7 billion dollars a year to the Social Security Fund. Further still, undocumented workers pay sales taxes where applicable and property taxes—directly if they own and indirectly if they rent.

(Source: Immigration Policy Center, “Undocumented Immigrants as Taxpayers,” (November 2007), http://www.americanimmigrationcouncil.org/sites/default/files/docs/Undocumented%20as%20Taxpayer%2011-29-07_0.pdf;

Eduardo Porter “Illegal Immigrants are Bolstering Social Security with Billions,” New York Times, (April 5, 2005), <http://www.nytimes.com/2005/04/05/business/05immigration.html?ex=1270353600&en=78c87ac4641dc383&ei=5090&partner=kmarx>)

Immigrants Increase the Crime rate — FALSE

Recent research has shown that immigrant communities do not increase the crime rate and that immigrants commit fewer crimes than native-born Americans. While the undocumented immigrant population doubled from 1994 to 2005, violent crime dropped by 34% and property crimes decreased by 32%. Furthermore, Harvard sociologist Robert Sampson has found that first generation immigrants are 45% less likely to commit violent crimes than Americanized, third generation immigrants.

(Source: Immigration Policy Center, “Immigrants and Crime: Are They Connected,” December, 2007, <http://www.americanimmigrationcouncil.org/sites/default/files/docs/Crime%20Fact%20Check%2012-12-07.pdf>; Robert Sampson, “Open Doors Don’t Invite Criminals,” *The New York Times*, March 11, 2006, A15; Executive Office of the President: Council of Economic Advisors, “Immigration’s Economic Impact,” June 20, 2007, http://www.whitehouse.gov/cea/cea_immigration_062007.html)

Immigrants Take Jobs Away from Americans — FALSE

A recent study produced by the Pew Hispanic Center reveals that “Rapid in-

creases in the foreign-born population at the state level are not associated with negative effects on the employment of native-born workers.” In fact, given that the number of native-born, low-wage earners is falling nationally, immigrants are playing an important role in offsetting that decline. The Urban Institute reports that between 2000 and 2005, the total number of low wage workers declined by approximately 1.8 million while the number of unskilled immigrant workers increased by 620,000, thus offsetting the total decline by about a third.

(Source: The Urban Institute, “Trends in the Low-Wage Immigrant Labor Force, 2000-2005,” March, 2007, <http://www.urban.org/publications/411426.html>;

Rakesh Kochhar, “Growth in the Foreign Born Workforce and Employment of the Native Born,” Pew Hispanic Center, August 10,

2006, <http://pewhispanic.org/reports/report.php?ReportID=69>)

Immigrants are a drain on the United States Economy — FALSE

The immigrant community is not a drain on the U.S. economy but, in fact, proves to be a net benefit. Research reported by both the CATO Institute and the President’s Council of Economic Advisors reveals that the average immigrant pays a net 80,000 dollars more in taxes than they collect in government services. For immigrants with college degrees the net fiscal return is \$198,000. Furthermore, The American Farm Bureau asserts that without guest workers the U.S. economy would lose as much as \$9 billion a year in agricultural production and 20 percent of current pro-

duction would go overseas.

(Source: CATO Institute, *CATO Handbook for Congress: Policy Recommendations for the 108th Congress*, <http://www.cato.org/pubs/handbook/hb108/hb108-63.pdf>; Executive Office of the President: Council of Economic Advisors, “Immigration’s Economic Impact,” June 20, 2007, http://www.whitehouse.gov/cea/cea_immigration_062007.html; Derrick Z. Jackson, “Undocumented Workers Contribute Plenty,” *The Boston Globe*, April 12, 2006, http://www.boston.com/news/globe/editorial_opinion/oped/articles/2006/04/12/undocumented_workers_contribute_plenty/)

Undocumented immigrants are a Burden on the Healthcare System — FALSE

Federal, state and local governments spend approximately 1.1 billion dollars annually on healthcare costs for undocumented immigrants, aged 18-64, or approximately \$11 in taxes for each U.S. household. This compares to 88 billion dollars spent on all health care for non-elderly adults in the U.S. in 2000. Foreign born individuals tend to use fewer health care services because they are relatively healthier than their native born counterparts. For example, in Los Angeles County, “total medical spending on undocumented immigrants was \$887 million in 2000 – 6 percent of total costs, although undocumented immigrants comprise 12 percent of the region’s residents.”

(Source: The Rand Corporation, “RAND Study Shows Relatively Little Public Money Spent Providing Healthcare to Undocumented Immigrants,” November 14, 2006, <http://www.rand.org/news/press/06/11.14.html>; Dana P. Goldman, James P. Smith and Neeraj Sood, “Immigrants and the Cost of Medical Care,” *Health Affairs* 25, no. 6 (2006): 1700-1711)





Special Collections Collection for Home Missions — May 2

Ongoing Events

St. Francis and St. Clare Fraternity/Secular Franciscans — For meeting dates see page 6 or call Mary Ann LeBlanc at (361) 575-1858. **Marriage Encounter** — Marriage Encounter weekend is held at the Spiritual Renewal Center. For more information or to register, write or call Milton and Diane Rejcek, 2512 Hillcrest, Bay City, Texas 77414; (979) 245-0323; register@mevictoria.org www.mevictoria.org

Retrouvaille — The word Retrouvaille means ‘rediscovery.’ It is a program that offers the chance to rediscover yourself, your spouse and a loving relationship in your marriage. Tens of thousands headed for divorce have successfully saved their marriages by attending. Contact Gerd and Linda Conner (979) 543-3493 or (800) 470-2230 for more information. For dates in Texas, please go to www.retrouvaille.org or www.helpourmarriage.org.

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

Natural Family Planning — For English or bilingual sessions of the **Sympto-Thermal Method (S-TM)** in Palacios, call Rene and Wilma Galvan at (361) 972-5030. Available for counseling and classes. For information about the Sympto-Thermal Method in the Victoria area, contact Rudy and Estella De Los Santos (361) 894-6950. Introductory presentations on the **Creighton Model Ovulation Method** are offered in Wharton at Our Lady of Mount Carmel Church and in East Bernard at Holy Cross Catholic Church. Please contact Melissa Morse at (979) 335-7306 for more information or to register for classes. To learn more about Natural Family Planning, please go to Natural Family Planning Outreach at: www.nfpoutreach.org. *Natural Family Planning is the only church approved form of family planning.*

Goliad — Presidio La Bahía Museum and Visitor Center — a National Historic Landmark — is the only Spanish fort in the possession of the Catholic Church in North America. A tour program is available to groups. The Presidio is open daily from 9:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. and is closed on major holidays. Admission is \$3 for adults and \$1 for children under 12. The fort is handicapped accessible. For more information call (361) 645-3752 or see the Web site at www.presidiolabahia.org.

Engaged Encounter — Register as soon as you have contacted your pastor due to limited space. *It is strongly recommended that you attend an encounter weekend four to six months prior to your wedding date.* For a registration form, contact your pastor, visit the **Web site at www.victoriadiocese.org/family/ee.htm**, or write to: Engaged Encounter, P.O. Box 4070, Victoria, Texas 77903. The weekend is held at the Spiritual Renewal Center. The dates for 2010 are: June 25-27, Sept. 24-26 and Nov. 19-21. For more info., call (361) 573-0828 ext. 30. All registrations are on a first come, first serve basis. Fee must accompany registration form.

Picnics, Activities, etc.

April

Victoria — Our Lady of Lourdes Altar Society will host the quarterly bunco party on Mon., April 12 from 9:00 a.m.-12:30 p.m. at the church hall (105 N. William Street). For reservations call: JoAnn Lau at 573-3369; Margaret Baros at 575-1218; or Gloria Hofer at 575-5019.

Victoria — The Gabriel Project Ministry will hold its monthly meeting on Tuesday, April 13, at 6:30 p.m. We will meet in the educational building at Holy Family, 704 Mallette Dr. The Gabriel Project Ministry serves women and their families during crisis pregnancies. All are welcomed. For more info., please call 1-866-627-9243 (MARY AID).

Inez — CDA Court #2475 of Inez invite you to their annual games party on April 18 from 2-5 p.m. at the CCD center at St. Joseph Catholic Church. Please bring your game and friends for a wonderful afternoon. Lunch and refreshments will be served for a donation of \$6. Door prizes, and a raffle will be held. Please call to make reservations to Kathy Prukop (361) 575-3559 or Laura Koliba (361)935-6918.

Yorktown — San Luis Jamaica at San Luis Hall, 502 E. 2nd St., on April 18, after 8:00 a.m. Mass until 8:00 p.m. There will be music, brisket lunch, tamales, raffle, children’s games, country store and more.

Father Corapi back from hiatus ... live in San Antonio

SAN ANTONIO — Popular and world renowned Catholic preacher, Father Corapi, to thrill attendees at “Life, Love, and the Purpose of our Existence” conference to be held at the AT&T Center in August with proceeds benefiting the Alexander House, a San Antonio-based Catholic marriage ministry.

The Alexander House announces the largest conference of its kind coming to the AT&T Center in San Antonio on August 7, 2010. Internationally known radio and television personality and conference speaker, Father John Corapi, is back from an extended hiatus to provide answers to questions about the meaning of life.

Father Corapi is known for his wit, his commanding presentation style, and his amazing life’s story: from Vietnam era veteran, to successful businessman, to homeless drug addict, to Catholic priest



Father Corapi

ordained by Pope John Paul II.

Organizers are expecting to attract a 13,500 person audience from around the region. Proceeds to benefit The Alexander House marriage ministry. More details can be found at www.fathercorapisa.com. Catholic recording artist Michael John Poirier & Friends will also perform at the event.

Individual tickets for “Life, Love, and the Purpose of our Existence” begin at \$37. For more information or to reserve seats, call (800) 745-3000 or visit fathercorapisa.com. To inquire about individual and corporate sponsorships available, contact the Father Corapi Event Chairman at: info@fathercorapisa.com. The Alexander House (www.thealexanderhouse.org) is a 501 (c)(3) lay Catholic Apostolate, non-profit organization. Donations may be tax-deductible.

Beasley — St. Wenceslaus Annual Bazaar April 18 at the CCD building on the church grounds. A barbecue- chicken, beef and sausage dinner will be served starting at 10:30 a.m. with dine-in or drive-thru for plates-to-go available. The auction will start at 11:30 a.m. with many great items. There will also be many types of games throughout the afternoon.

Weimar — St. Michael Spring Festival April 25 at Veterans Memorial Park. A fried-chicken and sausage dinner will be served starting at 11:00 a.m. at \$7.50 p/p for adults and \$4 p/p for children. Drive-thru take-home-plates will be available at St. Michael Family Center only. The auction begins at 1:00 p.m. There will be many attractions — country store, cakewalk, children’s games and rides. Food and drinks available throughout the day along with music by Czechaholics and Red Ravens.

Victoria — Knights of Columbus Council 1329 chicken-barbecue fund-raiser April 18 at the KC Hall. The price is \$6 per chicken. Beans and Spanish rice available for \$1.50 per pint. Sale starts at 8:30 a.m. Proceeds benefit council’s projects.

Bloomington — St. Patrick’s Annual Spring Barbecue April 25 at the parish hall. Half a barbecue-chicken dinner and dessert will be served at \$7 p/p. To-go-plates begin at 9:00 a.m. Inside line begins at 11:00 a.m. There will be an auction (beginning at 11:30 a.m.), cakewalk, toy walk and other children’s activities and religious goods store.

Victoria — Our Lady of Lourdes Altar Society Games Party Mon., April 26 at the KC Hall (3610 Ben Wilson) from 6:00-9:00 p.m. Entrance fee will be \$7 p/p includes supper and door prizes. There will also be a kolache booth and a raffle. For reservations call: Leona Sedlar at 575-3160; Helen John at 575-6058; or Donna Maxey at 576-2670.

Victoria — The Gabriel Project Ministry Volunteer Workshop will be held Tuesday, April 27, at 6:30 p.m. in the educational building at Holy Family, 704 Mallette Dr. Come find out how you can volunteer to help women and their families during crisis pregnancies. Please RSVP by Friday, April 23, by calling Martha (361-571-7130) or Becca (361-564-3887).

Victoria — St. Mary’s Altar Society Games Party Tues., April 27, at the parish hall (401 S. Liberty St.) from 11:30 a.m. - 4:00 p.m. Admission is \$7 p/p, which includes lunch and other refreshments. There will also be a country store, raffle and door prizes. For reservations call: Ann Carver at (361) 575-2050 or Martha Hamel at (361) 575-1932.

Upcoming Events

Hostyn — Holy Rosary Mayfest May 2 beginning with a Polka Mass at 10:00 a.m. Dinner will begin at 11:00 a.m. with music, activities and games all day.

Victoria — Holy Family Parish Festival May 2 at the community center with a barbecue-beef and sausage dinner starting with plates-to-go at the curb for fast service from 10:30 a.m.-1:00 p.m. at \$7 p/p or dine-in from 11:00 a.m.-2:00 p.m. at \$7 p/p for adult and \$4 p/p children under 10. There will be a cake wheel, children’s games, country store, plant booth, estate booth and more. Entertainment will be Rusty Steins in the dome and DJ Chris Hessler in the annex from 11:00 a.m.-12:30 p.m. A live auction begins at 1:00 p.m.

Victoria — Knights of Columbus Council 1329 chicken-barbecue fund-raiser May 16 at the KC Hall. The price is \$6 per chicken. Beans and Spanish rice available for \$1.50 per pint. Sale starts at 8:30 a.m. Proceeds benefit council’s projects.

Masses • Retreats • Conferences

Victoria — *Victoria, Where Texas History Began* will be open to the public through January 29, 2011. Viewing hours are Tuesday — Saturday, 10:00 a.m. — 4:00 p.m. at the Museum of the Coastal Bend, located on the campus of The Victoria College, at the corner of East Red River and Ben Jordan. Visit www.museumofthecoastalbend.org for detailed lecture description of Ceramic Discoveries Apr. 22, 5:30 p.m. Admission is \$3.50 for adults, \$2.50 for senior citizens, and \$2 for students ages 4 years through 8th grade. Admission is free for museum members, faculty, staff and students of The Victoria College and the University of Houston - Victoria, and for children under 4 years of age.

Victoria — Come join us at Our Lady of Lourdes Church (105 N. William) as Father Phi Nguyen, chaplain of IWBS convent, celebrates Mass and Healing Prayer on Saturday, April 10, at 10:00 a.m.

Victoria — A Life in the Spirit Seminar will begin Monday evening, April 12, and continue for the following five Mondays, 7:30 to 9:00 p.m., at the Incarnate Word & Blessed Sacrament Convent. The seminar is designed to help us deepen our relationship with Our Lord, to recognize and yield to the Holy Spirit so that we can begin to experience God working in us and through us for our good and the good of others. Come bring an

old friend and meet new ones and each week journey into: God’s love, Salvation, New life in Christ, Receiving God’s Gifts, Baptism in the Holy Spirit, and Growth and Transformation in the Holy Spirit. For further information please call: Paula Gauna at 361-575-7120. The seminar will be held in the auditorium of the IWBS Convent at 1101 N. E. Water. PLEASE PARK IN FRONT PARKING LOT.

Victoria — “Come and See” Weekend for single Catholic women, from 18 to 50 years of age, at Incarnate Word and Blessed Sacrament Convent April 17-18. Learn more on page 5.

Houston — Nationally-recognized teacher, writer and activist Jack Nelson-Pallmeyer will be the keynote speaker at the 2010 Pax Christi State Conference scheduled in Houston Saturday, April 17, to speak on “Reclaiming the Missing Jesus: Saving Christianity from Wall Street.” Nelson-Pallmeyer teaches peace and justice at the University of St. Thomas in St. Paul, Minn. He is a proponent of nonviolent social change and has focused his work on showing linkages between faith and critical political, economic and social issues. He is author of “Hunger for Justice: the Politics of Food and Faith,” “Jesus Against Christianity: Reclaiming the Missing Jesus,” “Is Religion Killing Us: Violence in the Bible and Quran,” “Saving Christianity from Empire.” Conference to be held at the Dominican Center for Spirituality, 6501 Almeda Rd., Houston. Register at 8:30 a.m. Saturday, April 17; donation of \$35 includes lunch. Students free. No one will be turned away. Questions, contact Frank Skeith at (281) 955-0342 or fskeith@sbcglobal.net.

Victoria — Amor Meus Spirituality Center will offer a retreat day of quiet reflection, prayer and Liturgy Saturday, April 24, from 9:30 a.m. — 3:00 p.m. (arrive by 9:15 a.m.) at the Incarnate Word Convent, 1101 N. E. Water St. The retreat is open to men and women. Come and enjoy God’s nature and experience peace and quiet. Register by April 20, by calling (361) 575-7111. You may buy a box lunch for \$5.00 or bring your own. Drinks will be provided. Park in front of Incarnate Word Convent and follow the signs to the auditorium.

Austin — The Bible Timeline Seminar will be presented by Jeff Cavins, April 23-24, at St. John Neumann Church, 5455 Bee Caves Rd, Austin TX, 78746. Cost is \$55; please register on parish Web site: <http://www.sjnaustin.org>; childcare available. Friday night: Conversion Story 7:00-9:00 p.m., Saturday: The Bible Timeline Seminar 8:30 a.m. - 4:00 p.m. VIP session offered during lunch for interested Bible study leaders. Contact St. John Neumann Church at (512) 328-3220 or darleneab@mac.com.

Austin — Immaculée Ilibagiza will share her story as written in her bestselling book, “Left to Tell: Discovering God Amidst the Rwandan Holocaust,” on Saturday, May 1, at 7:00 p.m. at the Paramount Theatre in Austin. The evening will include a question and answer session and a performance by a multi-denominational Gospel choir. Proceeds from the event will benefit the Austin Refugee Roundtable, a coalition of local organizations, including Caritas of Austin, Refugee Services of Texas and Austin Area Interreligious Ministries, focus on addressing the needs of refugees within the community. Tickets are available at www.austintheatre.org. For more information about this event, visit www.immaculeeinaustin.org. See p. 5

Bay City — Want to get more out of Mass? Join Sean Breeden and Dr. Scott Hahn’s St. Paul Center for Biblical Theology for “The Bible and the Mass,” a dynamic 6-part Bible study that looks at the Old Testament roots of the Mass, how the earliest Christians celebrated the Mass, and how the Mass brings heaven to earth. The Bible and the Mass begins Thursday, May 20, at 7:00 p.m. in the Holy Cross School cafeteria. All are welcome, and a \$10 donation is suggested for those who wish to purchase the workbook for the study. To register, simply sign up in the foyer of the church or call the Holy Cross Church Office at (979) 245-6379.

Lake Charles, La. — Saint Charles Center to offer a basic and intermediate workshop/retreat in Icon Painting led by Father Mefodii of the Skete of Maximus the Confessor Monastery of Palmyra, Va., from July 12 — 18, 2010. Father Mfodii is a faculty member of the Prosopon School of Iconography and will introduce participants to the Christian practice and theory of the ancient art of Icon-Writing in the Byzantine-Russian tradition. For more information, google: “Prosopon School of Iconography.” The final day to register for this program is May 15 and is limited to 18 participants. Suggested donation is \$915 p/p single, \$855 p/p double. To register, call the center at (337) 855-1232, a deposit of \$105 is due upon registration

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

Tivoli — Our Lady of Guadalupe Church invites you to a Healing Mass and Prayer Service every First Friday of the month at 7:00 p.m. Mass is followed by praise and worship/adoration, healing prayers, praying over, etc. Counseling available. For more information, please contact Rev. Gabriel P. Coelho at (361) 286-3349.

Houston — Coming Events at Holocaust Museum Houston — Education Center and Memorial: www.hmh.org/pc_home.asp. **Pilgrimages, Tours, etc.**

Europe — 13-day Pilgrimage to Italy & France May 16 — 28, 2011, with spiritual director Father Tony Boateng-Mensah of St. Mary’s in Victoria. Go to Lourdes, St. Anthony of Padua, Venice, Assisi, tomb of Padre Pio — San Giovanni Rotondo, Mass at St. Michael’s Cave, hometown of Padre Pio - Pietrelcina, tour of ancient Rome, St. Peter’s Basilica, papal audience, panorama of Paris, Basilica of St. Therese of Lisieux. Tour operated by Little Flower Tours & Travel, Ltd.; hosted by St. Mary’s Catholic Church Padre Pio Prayer Group, Victoria. For detailed itinerary/reservation form, please call Dora Silva at (361) 573-7761.



Haitian students lend a hand in earthquake recovery efforts



(above) Students gather outside the Louverture Cleary School near Port-au-Prince, Haiti, March 2, during a visit by Cardinal Sean P. O'Malley of Boston and a small group of U.S. bishops. (CNS photo/George M. Martell, The Catholic Foundation)

(left) Students sit at their desks inside Louverture Cleary School during a visit by a small group of U.S. bishops who were assessing damages following the Jan. 12 earthquake. (CNS photo/Tom Tracy)

By Tom Tracy
Catholic News Service

PORT-AU-PRINCE, Haiti (CNS) — Colomb Mitsuka was on a playground at Louverture Cleary School when the massive magnitude 7 earthquake shook Haiti Jan. 12, causing a cinder block to fall on her, significantly injuring her face.

The 14-year old needed stitches to close the wounds around her eyes and she was under observation by doctors and her family for nine days to make sure she had no other serious injuries. One of seven students injured at the private school founded by an American deacon, Mitsuka was doing fine March 3. She was just waiting for classes to resume.

"I was afraid at first, but my mother explained to me that this was a natural disaster and it had nothing to do specifically with the school," she said.

"All of the other students on campus help to give me courage to be here. When I am not at school I sit around and can do nothing. I want to be here to study — to be able to do something," she said.

The students of Louverture Cleary School, just outside the Haitian capital, have their work cut out for them. But they are perfectly situated to be of service to the Haitian community in a difficult time.

"They are out translating for medical missions at the archdiocesan hospital, they are cleaning the streets, helping others demolish and rebuild houses on real foundational pads," said Deacon Patrick Moynihan, the school's president. "We also are running a large program for the neighborhood in which the kids act as teachers for the illiterate for youth and teenagers."

Deacon Moynihan's Haitian Project operates Louverture Cleary, a free boarding school for academically gifted low-income students. The youngsters also perform community service every week, working in the neighborhoods of Port-au-

Prince or at places such as the Missionaries of Charity orphanage.

The Haitian Project has ties to the United States, with offices in Providence, R.I., and Rockford, Ill.

The earthquake has provided a substantial new challenge for the students to both get back to a sense of normalcy and to provide leadership even to the adults.

Student Jules Jean Anold, who lives with his father and stepmother at Routes-de-Frères, a Port-au-Prince suburb, volunteers as a translator at St. Francis de Sales Hospital in perhaps the most devastated part of the city. He works alongside foreign doctors treating Haitian patients.

"Haiti needs graduates, people with diplomas who will rebuild this nation," he said. "I want to go to university after my graduation this year and be a great doctor."

Keeping the youngsters working and

engaged, sleeping in their dorms again rather than in tents or in the streets, has been a way of moving beyond the earthquake, said Deacon Moynihan, a former commodities trader who came to Port-au-Prince in the 1990s for mission work.

Deacon Moynihan said having the students sleep in the dorms again gives them courage.

Structural engineers who checked the school found most structures safe and able to house classes again. But he expressed frustration with not being able to begin classes again because the Haitian government wants all schools to remain closed until they can reopen simultaneously.

"Keeping people busy is important and we have been working hard collectively to get the government to get schools to reopen," he said. "It would give a sense of hope to the people of Haiti to open the school."



Cardinal Sean P. O'Malley of Boston, along with Deacon Patrick Moynihan, founder of The Haitian Project, greets students outside Louverture Cleary School near Port-au-Prince, Haiti, March 2. (CNS photo/Tom Tracy)

Salesian official says Europe, US vital to rebuilding Haiti

PORT-AU-PRINCE, Haiti (CNS) — Haiti urgently needs a Marshall Plan-style project with U.S. and European backing if the poverty-ridden country is to ever recover from the massive Jan. 12 earthquake, said the vicar general of the Salesians. "The greatest poverty of the people is absence of government and a humane system," said Salesian Father Adriano Bregolin during a visit to Port-au-Prince in early March to observe how the order's extensive network of ministries was faring since the earthquake. His visit included stops at schools and training centers, as well as in Cite Soleil, a neighborhood in the Haitian capital notorious for its gangs and violence. The Rome-based priest also visited the badly damaged towns of Leogane and Jacmel, southwest of Port-au-Prince. Father Bregolin told Catholic News Service that on an earlier trip to Haiti he found its considerable violence and poverty troublesome. During his most recent visit, he said he was awestruck at the apparent lack of a comprehensive government plan to rebuild the devastated region where about a third of all Haitians live. "There are a few men here from other countries working on rebuilding but you don't see enough machines removing materials," Father Bregolin said, adding that a stronger Haitian military might have been helpful in the recovery. The Salesian priest said he hopes Germany and France will join the U.S. in implementing a massive aid project, rather than leave other nations to fill the void. He expressed particular concern that socialist countries such as Cuba and Venezuela, which already have business and health projects in Haiti, would gain a stronger foothold. At the same time, Father Bregolin left Haiti impressed by the spirit of the Haitian people.

Pope earmarks Holy Thursday collection for rebuilding Haiti's seminary

VATICAN CITY (CNS) — Pope Benedict XVI decided the collection taken up at his Holy Thursday evening Mass will be used to help rebuild Haiti's major seminary in Port-au-Prince. The seminary was reduced to rubble by the magnitude 7 quake that struck Jan. 12. Each year the pope chooses where to send the collection taken up during the Mass of the Lord's Supper at the Basilica of St. John Lateran, the cathedral of the Diocese of Rome. Pope Benedict's decision to use the collection from the Mass April 1 to support the rebuilding effort of the Catholic Church in Haiti was announced by the Vatican March 22.

Jim Cavnar, president of Cross International Catholic Outreach, which has been supporting church programs in Haiti for years and is responding to the post-quake needs of Haiti, was meeting with Vatican officials when the announcement was made. "The Haitians have always been very religious, even though they are very poor, and their faith has remained remarkably strong in the face of such tragedy," he said.

US bishops pledge to help rebuild church institutions in Haiti

By Tom Tracy, Catholic News Service

PORT-AU-PRINCE, Haiti (CNS) — Walking around the massive tent city at the Petionville Club March 2, Archbishop Jose H. Gomez of San Antonio wondered what will become of the thousands of Haitians left homeless by the Jan. 12 earthquake.

For Archbishop Gomez, the enormity of the tragedy was almost too much to comprehend.

"They (Haitian bishops) were telling me today that they think 300,000 are dead, but whatever the number the loss of life was huge," Archbishop Gomez, chairman of the U.S. bishops' Subcommittee on the

Church in Latin America, told Catholic News Service.

The archbishop was in Haiti leading a three-day tour of the earthquake-damaged Haitian capital as part of an advisory group from the U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops. The group's task: Explore ways to help the Haitian church and the people of Haiti move forward after the quake.

"Besides (damage to) the structure of the whole archdiocese, losing the archbishop and the cathedral has created a vacuum and emptiness that (the bishops) are trying to fill with all of us in rebuilding the church," he said at the conclusion of

two intensive days of visits to damaged parishes, convents, seminaries, schools and hospitals.

The delegation, which included Cardinal Sean P. O'Malley of Boston, Auxiliary Bishop Guy Sansaricq of Brooklyn, N.Y., and Oblate Father Andrew Small, director of the bishops' Church in Latin America office, also met with Haitian bishops and had a private dinner meeting with Haitian President Rene Preval at the residence of Archbishop Bernardito Auza, papal nuncio to Haiti.

"It has been an overwhelming experience for me while looking at the reality, but

at the same time I am enthusiastic about the future and with prayers and solidarity the church in Haiti is going to flourish again," Archbishop Gomez said.

In a meeting with Haitian bishops, the delegation discussed the importance of strengthening existing church institutions and developing new leadership as the church begins to rebuild, the archbishop said. The delegation also recommended that the bishops consider parishes as places for Haitians to come together as they rebuild their lives.

See US bishops pledge, p. 17