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Father Charles E. Otsiwah celebrates Silver Jubilee

By Cynthia Brewer

Faithful from Meyersville to New Taiton came to Our Lady of Victory Cathedral Sunday, July 11, to wish Father Charles E. Otsiwah a happy anniversary.

Father Charles celebrated the 25th anniversary of his priesthood at Our Lady of Victory, the parish he has been at since he came to the Victoria Diocese from Ghana in July 2008, on sabbatical from his diocese.

The late morning Mass was presided over by Father Charles and concelebrated by Bishop David Fellhauer and four other Ghanaian priests, Fathers Anthony Boateng-Mensah, parochial vicar of St. Mary in Victoria; Peter Yeboah-Amanfo, pastor of



Celebrating with Father Charles (c.) are (from left) Father Albert Yankey, Wharton; Bishop David E. Fellhauer, Father Augustine Nsiah Asante, El Campo; and Father Anthony Boateng-Mensah, Victoria, who was also the homilist.

St. Peter's Church, Blessing; Augustine Nsiah Asante, parochial vicar of St. Philip in El Campo; and Albert Yankey of Holy Family in Wharton.

in Victoria, Sts. Peter & Paul in Meyersville, St. Michael in Cuero and St. John Bosco in Vanderbilt, places in which he had assisted during his summer vacations in the United States before his sabbatical (he had also assisted at St. James in Carmel, NY, before visiting Texas). Parishioners from St. John Nepomucene in New Taiton also came, as they've met Father Charles through his visits to their pastor, Father Gabriel Oduro Tawiah.

Father Charles was ordained July 7, 1985, in Ghana. In his homily, Father Anthony (Tony) Boateng-Mensah said that Father Charles' journey to the priesthood was a long one. He began the journey in 1971 at the age of 13 in a preparatory seminary for one

Among guests attending his Mass and reception were parishioners from St. Mary

See Father Charles, p. 4

High Hill 150th Anniversary - Sept. 5

By Cynthia Brewer

The Nativity of the Blessed Virgin Mary Mission in High Hill, Texas, will celebrate its 150th anniversary Sunday, September 5, with a huge celebration beginning with a flag raising ceremony at 9:30 a.m. and Mass with Bishop David E. Fellhauer at 10:00 a.m. St. Mary's, as it's lovingly called, celebrates its patronal feast, September 8, on the weekend of Labor Day each year. The mission is under the care of St. Rose of Lima Parish in Schulenburg.

Attendees of the church festival are invited to tour the church as it has just finished restoring its beautiful, stencil work in late June of this year. The res-

toration project was conducted by art conservator Robert Alden Marshall who is originally from Penn. but currently lives in La Grange, Texas. He and his crew have covered every millimeter of the 104-year-old church and restored, retouched or repainted every painted surface, according to an article by Lisa Mederos with the Schulenburg Sticker newspaper.

Those who have previously toured St. Mary's will be excited to see some treasures uncovered by the restoration crew. According to the newspaper article, paint that was removed from the vestibule "revealed two Psalms in hand-painted

See All invited to High Hill, p. 22



Sisters of the Incarnate Word and Blessed Sacrament celebrate with 2010 Jubileans. Pictured standing are Golden Jubilee sisters: Sister Maria Goretti Warzecha, Sister Frances Cabrini Javier, Sister Emiliana Grafe, Sister Faustina Orsak, Sister Bernarda Bludau; seated: Sister Genevieve Zavrel, 75 years; and Sister Agatha Shimek, 70 years.

Three Catholic schools receive new principals

Our Lady of Victory

"Blue ribbon" principal to oversee "blue ribbon" school.

Sister Laura Toman, a religious sister of the Incarnate Word and Blessed Sacrament of Victoria, was selected as the new principal of Our Lady of Victory School.

Sister Laura holds a bachelor of arts degree in English/history from Our Lady of the Lake University in San Antonio and a master's degree in administrative education from Southwest Texas State University in San Marcos. She has a provisional Texas certification for life in English/history and a professional Texas certification in administration for life.

Born in Houston and one of six children

of Raymond and Anne Toman, Sister Laura spent most of her young life in Ganado. After entering religious life at an early age, she attended Nazareth Academy and Annunciation College in Victoria, and then went on to San Antonio to complete her bachelor's degree.

Sister Laura has been in the education field both as a teacher and a principal. She taught at St. Michael School in Cuero for seven years before becoming principal of Our Lady of Perpetual Help School in Selma. Since then Sister Laura has also served as principal at Sacred Heart School in Floresville, St. Michael School in Cuero,

See Three Catholic schools, p. 10

IWBS Sisters Jubilee Held

On Sunday, July 11, 2010, seven Sisters of the Congregation of the Incarnate Word and Blessed Sacrament celebrated the anniversaries of their religious profession. Those celebrating were: Sister M. Genevieve Zavrel, 75 years; Sister M. Agatha Shimek, 70 years; and Sister M. Faustina Orsak, Sister M. Frances Cabrini Janvier, Sister Maria Goretti Warzecha, Sister M. Bernarda Bludau and Sister M. Emiliana Grafe, 50 years. Together these Sisters have contributed 395 years of service to the Church in ministries of education, administration and pastoral services.

Bishop David Fellhauer of the Diocese of Victoria celebrated the Mass of Thanksgiving in the Convent Chapel at 2:00 p.m. for the Sisters and their invited guests. The Sisters celebrating their anniversaries renewed their vows during the Liturgy. A reception followed in the convent dining room and auditorium.

Sister M. Genevieve Zavrel, daughter of the late Vladimir and Maria Sklenar Zavrel, was born in Cameron, Texas. She received her elementary education at St.

See Incarnate Word, p. 9



Bishop Fellhauer's Schedule

August	
8	9:30 a.m., Mass, installation of Fr. Bryan Heyer as Pastor of St. Anthony of Padua Church, Palacios
9	5:00 p.m., Diocesan Liturgy Commission meeting, Chancery Office
12	6:30 p.m., Mass, Serra Club Seminarian cook-out, Knights of Columbus Hall, Victoria
14	4:00 p.m., Mass, installation of Fr. Charles Dwomoh as Pastor of St. John the Baptist Church, Hungerford
15	10:00 a.m., Mass, St. Mary Church, Praha 6:00 p.m., Mass, Assumption of the Blessed Virgin Mary Church, Ganado
18	4:30 p.m., Diocesan Building Board meeting, Chancery Office
19-22	8:30 a.m., R.C.I.A. (Rite of Christian Initiation of Adults) Institute, Spiritual Renewal Center, Victoria (19 - Opening Mass at 9:00 a.m.)
20	8:10 a.m., Opening School Mass, Sts. Cyril and Methodius Church, Shiner
22	11:00 a.m., Mass, R.C.I.A. Institute, Spiritual Renewal Center, Victoria
24	8:05 a.m., Mass, Installation of Fr. Ty J. Bazar as Pastor of Our Lady of the Gulf Church, Port Lavaca
September	
1	10:00 a.m., Presbyteral Council meeting, Chancery Office
3	Catholic School Seminar, Spiritual Renewal Center
4	Sacred Heart School Golf Tournament, Hallettsville
5	10:00 a.m., Mass, 150th Anniversary of St. Mary Church, High Hill

Official Appointments By Most Rev. David E. Fellhauer

Effective August 12, 2010, the **Rev. Augustine Asante** is relieved of his assignment at St. Philip the Apostle Church, El Campo, and appointed Parochial Administrator of Sts. Peter & Paul Church, Meyersville, and its mission, St. Aloysius Church, Westhoff.

Effective August 12, 2010, the **Rev. Albert Yankey**, who is on a sabbatical leave from his Diocese of Sekondi-Takoradi, Ghana, is appointed Parochial Vicar at St. Philip the Apostle Church, El Campo.

EDITOR'S CORRECTION: There is a correction for Father Casey's story in the July issue of *The Catholic Lighthouse*. Deacon Mike Vieira of Palacios was the deacon of the Word at Father Casey's Golden Jubilee Mass and was also pictured with Father Casey in the continued story on pg. 4, it was not Larry Koether. Deacon Wally (Guadalupe) Rodriguez was the deacon of the altar. Larry Koether, who is preparing for the diaconate, was an acolyte. I apologize for my mistake.

2010 BISHOP'S CHARITIES BANQUET

Under the auspices of the Victoria Diocese Knights of St. Gregory the Great, the annual Bishop's Charities Banquet was held July 8, 2010, at the Victoria Country Club. The evening began with a social and then went into a buffet dinner. Father John C. Peters, pastor of Sacred Heart Church in Hallettsville, led the invocation. The Hon. Gaylan Duncan, past president of the KSG, was the master of ceremonies. He introduced the Hon. Jerry A. Hajek, president of the KSG, who presented a \$14,000 donation to Bishop David E. Fellhauer for his charities. Bishop Fellhauer gave an update on some of the activities of the diocesan offices of the past 12 months, including a three-percent enrollment increase in the Catholic schools' 2009-2010 year to a total of 3,089 students on 13 campuses; the catechetical instruction of 11,000 students (besides Catholic school students) by more than 1,000 trained catechists; contact by the Office of Child & Youth Protection of over 17,000 persons in our diocese in an effort to protect children from abuse; a capital campaign update; an Eagle Scout summer project of constructing 9-foot tall crosses for a 1,600-foot long Stations of the Cross trail at the Spiritual Renewal Center (SRC); the announcement of the planned construction of a new building at the SRC that will sleep between 48-52 people; and an increase of three young men to the seminary this fall, which will bring the total number of diocesan seminarians to 10. The evening concluded with entertainment by Randy Faulk and benediction by Father Michael Petering, pastor of St. Agnes Church in Edna.



Thank You Letter

USCCB and CRS receive 143 million in donations for Haiti earthquake and Latin America

Dear Bishop Fellhauer,

On behalf of the USCCB Subcommittee on the Church in Latin America and Catholic Relief Services (CRS), we express our heartfelt thanks to you and your faithful for your contributions to help our brothers and sisters in Haiti after the devastating earthquake of January 12, 2010. Below you will find a report of the amount we have received to date from your diocese for the Special Haiti Relief Collection, the amount CRS has received from other groups and individuals with zip codes in your diocese, and the total of the two. Your generosity has helped to raise \$80,090,607.82 so far for the Special Haiti Relief Collection, making it the largest special collection of its kind in memory. Additional donations have brought the grand total to \$143,343,522.41.

Received from Diocese of Victoria for the Special Haiti Relief Collection: \$147,081.92

Received from other groups and individuals with zip codes in Diocese of Victoria: \$25,225.75

TOTAL: \$172,307.67

In the months since the earthquake, CRS has distributed food and water to hundreds of thousands of people, while providing emergency shelter and medical care to many thousands more.

As the humanitarian response begins to have a real impact, USCCB has begun to address the needs of the local Church. The Catholic Church was an important institution in Haiti before the earthquake and it will continue to play a significant role long into the future. Funds have been granted through the Subcommittee on Latin America for transitional parish centers so that faith communities can gather and be nourished by the sacraments. We have also provided transitional structures for the National Seminary so that the next generation of Haitian priests can continue with their formation.

Since a portion of the Special Haiti Relief Collection will be used by the USCCB to rebuild parish communities and church structures, we have been working very closely with the Haitian bishops to help them put in place a construction entity that can ensure that all building carried out with our funds will follow accepted codes and practices. This initiative is being developed as a collaborative effort involving the Haitian Bishops' Conference, the French Bishops' Conference, the USCCB, and CRS. We look forward to providing more details on this construction entity so that you can share its existence and its services with groups in your diocese interested in funding similar reconstruction activities in Haiti.

USCCB and CRS are dedicated to using all funds in a responsible and accountable way, both for immediate relief and long-term development. We are doing everything possible to help rebuild lives and communities for the long-term. But our task is only beginning. We will continue to call for your prayers and support as our brothers and sisters in Haiti recover from the devastating earthquake.


With prayers and gratitude to you and to all the faithful, we remain,
Sincerely yours in Christ,

Most Rev. Jose H. Gomez
Coadjutor Archbishop
of Los Angeles
Chairman, USCCB Subcommittee
on the Church in Latin America

Most Rev. Timothy Dolan
Archbishop of New York
Chairman of the Board,
Catholic Relief Services

Books

Books belonging to the late Msgr. James Brunner, are on display on the first floor of the diocesan chancery building. Priests, sisters, teachers and seminarians may look through the books and may take whatever is useful to them. These books are mostly theological, Scriptural, spiritual and religious.



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DSA & Reflection of Faith Capital Campaign Updates

2010 DSA

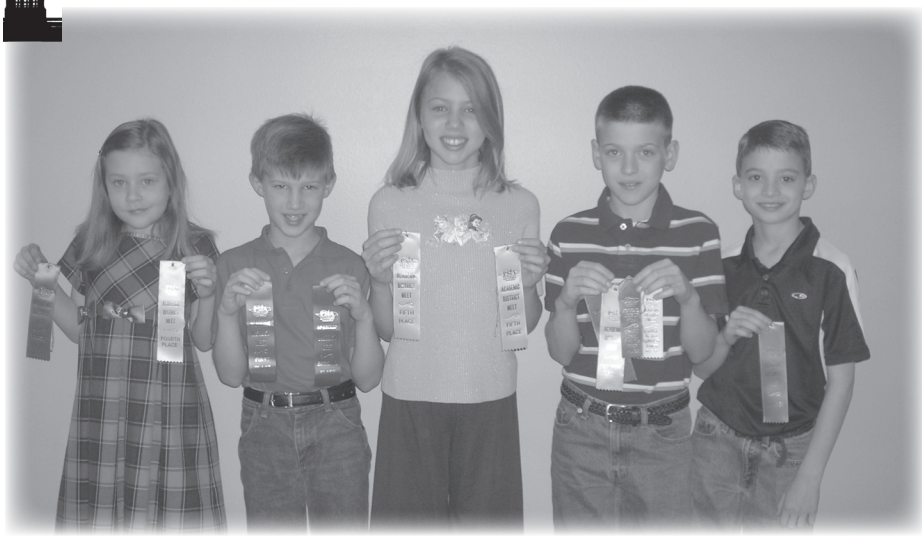
Diocesan Goal:	\$1,349,808.00
Parish Pledge Totals:	\$ 558,408.98
Parish Contribution Totals:	\$ 495,149.98
Number of Parish Families Participating:	3,361

Reflection of Faith Capital Campaign

Diocesan Goal:	\$ 9,000,000.00
Parish Pledge Totals:	\$12,982,178.76
Parish Contribution Totals:	\$ 7,801,875.08
Number of Parish Families Participating:	6,753



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Call 361-573-0828 with the change in your address.
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Immaculate Heart Homeschool students placed in recent PSIA academic meets. Pictured from l. to r. are Sydney Kallus, Andrew Barton, Faith Barton, Samuel Bonorden and Alex Bonorden.

Homeschool students place in PSIA meets

Several Immaculate Heart Homeschool students participated in district Private Schools Interscholastic Association (PSIA) academic meets March 27, 2010.

Competing and placing in the District 7A meet in Weimar were Sydney Kallus, who won 1st place in 1st grade creative writing and 4th place in 1st grade storytelling; Sydney has advanced to the state competition in creative writing. Andrew Barton won 1st place in 3rd grade spelling and 2nd place in 4th grade math, advanc-

ing him to state in both subjects. Faith Barton won 5th place in 6th grade spelling, 5th place in 6th grade math and 1st place in dictionary skills.

Competing in the District 14A meet in Richwood, Texas, were Samuel Bonorden who won 1st place for 7th grade calculator applications, 4th place in 6th grade math, 3rd place in 6th grade number sense and 6th place overall in 6th-8th combined scores for number sense. Alex Bonorden participated in 3rd grade spelling.



Four young men receive CDA Court St. Ann scholarships. From left they are Kerry Culberson, Ryan Williams, Kevin Schmidt and Kendle Patek. Grace Rigamonti (r.) is the education chairman for the court.

CDA presents scholarships

CDA Court St. Ann #369 presented four \$500 college scholarships at their June meeting. The certificates were presented by CDA National Regent Libby Ramirez, as she is also a member of Court #369. Grace Rigamonti is the education chairman and presented the honorees, highlighting their school, community and church activities and reading from their essays, which included remarks about their future plans.

This year's recipients include Kerry Alan Culberson, Robert "Ryan" Williams, Kevin Schmidt and Kendle Patek.

Kerry is the son of Alan and Jane Culberson and is a graduate of St. Joseph

High School. He will be attending Texas Lutheran University in Seguin and is an education major with plans to be a teacher and a coach. He has already been accepted to the school's golf team.

Ryan, the son of Rob and Julie Schoenherr Williams, is also a graduate of St. Joseph High School. He will be attending Texas A&M University at College Station, majoring in pre-med/biology. His future plans include many years of school on his way to becoming a doctor.

Kevin is the son of Wesley and Sandra Kocian Schmidt. He is a graduate of Memorial High School in Victoria. He will be attending Victoria College studying instrumentation. He plans to eventually open his own business, buy some land, and give back to the community, which has given so much to him.

Kendle, the son of Mike and Rose Etzler Patek, is a graduate of St. Paul High School in Shiner. He will be attending Texas State Technical College in Waco, studying advertisement design and printing, using computer graphic design. He plans to take his place in the workforce with his degree and computer experiences from school.

Kendle is also the recipient of an \$800 scholarship from the CDA State Memorial Scholarship fund. He was presented that certificate after the local awards. His scholarships from CDA total \$1,300.

A reception followed the awards ceremony.

Longtime pastor of Hungerford retires

HUNGERFORD, Texas—Father Henry C. Rachunek has retired from active priestly ministry after 48 years. He has been the pastor of St. John's Catholic Church in Hungerford and St. Wenceslaus Church in Beasley since 1974. The date of his retirement was July 31, 2010.

He will be residing at St. Wenceslaus in Beasley, saying the Masses and administering the sacraments. The administration of the church will be done by the Archdiocese of Galveston-Houston, in which the mission church is located.

The parish of St. John's honored Rev. Rachunek with a retirement party following the 4 p.m. Mass July 17.

Father Rachunek has served both parishes for the past 36 years.

He was born in Hungerford May 14, 1932, to Frank W. and Mary Ann Mikel Rachunek and was the eighth of 12 children. He had five sisters and six brothers.

Father Rachunek went to school in Hungerford until the 10th grade when he dropped out of school to help his father in the fields for four years, while his father was ill.

He knew at the end of those four years that he had a calling to the priesthood. After a discussion with his parents, he decided to begin his studies.

His studies started at St. John's Minor Seminary in San Antonio in 1952, and he graduated from there in 1954. The fall of that year he entered St. Mary's Seminary in Houston to complete his studies. The next seven years were spent in college philosophy and theological studies.

Due to illness and the need of several

operations, he was given a year's leave. There were those who doubted he would return to become a priest, but his faith carried him through his illness.

He resumed his studies in September 1961 and despite being weak from operations, he taught school at St. Mary's Star of the Sea Parish in Freeport.

On June 2, 1962, he was the last priest ordained by Bishop Wendelin J. Nold before the bishop became totally blind.

Father Rachunek's first assignment was at Holy Cross in East Bernard from 1962 to 1966. He was at St. Charles Borromeo in Houston for a year and at Holy Rosary in Rosenberg from 1967 until 1970.

He returned to Houston in 1970 to lead Queen of Peace until 1973 and Houston's Corpus Christi Church from 1973 to 1974.

On March 8, 1974, Bishop Markovsky asked him to take the parish of St. John's in Hungerford and its mission church, St. Wenceslaus in Beasley. Knowing it would be difficult to return to his hometown, he did so in obedience to his bishop.

When the Diocese of Victoria was formed, it separated St. John's Parish from its mission. However, Father Rachunek was asked to keep both churches, St. John's under the authority of the Victoria Diocese and St. Wenceslaus under the authority of the Galveston-Houston Diocese. He served two dioceses together for the past 36 years.

Although there were times when the work mounted up having portions of two dioceses, Father Rachunek says he enjoyed the work and just thanked God that he was able to continue his work.



Father Henry C. Rachunek



SERRA-NORTHWEST INDUCTS NEW MEMBERS—Four new members were inducted into the Serra Club of the Diocese of Victoria Northwest after the first Saturday Mass in High Hill on June 5. Pictured from l. to r., back row: Father John Peters, pastor of Sacred Heart Church, Hallettsville; Dana Daughtry, president; and Father Tim Kosler, pastor of St. Rose of Lima, Schulenburg; front row include new members: Elsie Grahmann, Sacred Heart, Hallettsville; V. T. and Pat Richter, Holy Rosary, Hostyn; and Pat Mladenka, Sacred Heart, Hallettsville.



KJZT NO. 101 DONATES FUNDS—The KJZT Society from Victoria recently presented the American Red Cross with a check for \$1,500. The funds were raised from their annual bake sale. Pictured above, representing the Red Cross l-r, are Linda May and Lanell Manthley; from the KJZT society are Irene Brosch, Carolyn Nevlud, Rosie Olsovsky and Wendy Hrcncir.

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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 July 30, 2010

	TOTALS
— General Seminary Burse	
Previously reported	\$ 96,939.00
In memory of Henry Sitka by	
Martha Sitka	20.00
In memory of Dorothy Jordan by	
M/M Robert Bochat	25.00
	Total \$96,984.00

— Catholic Daughters of America Our Lady Queen of Peace Court #1374	
Previously reported	\$4,942.72
In memory of Msgr. James Brunner by	
M/M Alphonse Janda	20.00
In memory of Mrs. Mary Ann Krauskopf by	
M/M Alphonse Janda	20.00
	Total \$5,092.72

— Knights of Columbus Council #2971, Weimar, Seminary Burse	
K of C Council #2971 donation	\$25.00
In memory of Lawrence Wostarek by	
F.J. & Violet Fischer, Jr.	25.00
	Total \$50.00

— St. John the Baptist Church, St. John In Memory of Rev. Brian Crookes Seminary Burse #2	
Previously reported	\$4,746.00
In memory of Anton Orsak by	
Willie E. Barborak	10.00
In memory of Annie Leopold by	
Bob and Bea Welfl	10.00
In memory of Joe N. Steffek by	
Ervin and Bernice Neskora	10.00
In memory of Kenneth Besetzny by	
Jim and Mary Jean Kimbill	10.00
	Total \$4,786.00

— Rev. Michael Rother Seminary Burse	
Previously reported	\$190.00
In honor of Fr. Michael Rother by:	
Jerry and Margaret Kallus	25.00
Larry and Doris Crubert	25.00
S.F. Jares	20.00
Theresa Adair	10.00
Catholic Daughters #797	50.00
Harvey Jahn	100.00
M/M S.E. Golsch	25.00
Bruce and Debbie Schneider	50.00
John and Charlene Pillow	20.00
M/M William Bradbury	25.00
Pauline Najvar	10.00
Leona Chovanetz	20.00
Tommy and Elsie Grahmann	50.00
M/M Dennis Haas	50.00
Eddie and Catherine Kosh	20.00
M/M Gilbert Schindler	20.00
Margaret Novak	10.00
John and Evelyn Pavliska	25.00
Margaret Bludau	25.00
Deacon Sonny and Elaine Rogers	20.00
Willie and Mary Migl	10.00
Georgie Henke	15.00
Vickie Klimitchek	10.00
Grace Steinberg Family	40.00
Ed and Judy Aulick	25.00
Emil and Joyce Hermes	20.00
Daniel and Beverly Wagner	20.00
Janice and Earl Dutcher	100.00
Dan and Barbara Kubena	100.00
Elsie Farek	25.00
Lucille Werner	50.00
Beverly and Guthrie Blahuta	100.00
Bea Heinzl	20.00
Marcus and Marjorie Grahmann	25.00
Virginia Pustka, Michael and Rebecca Till & Karen Pustka	50.00
Charles and Doloris Leopold	300.00
Philip and Patricia Schlageter	10.00
Leo and Joyce Janda	25.00
Vaclav and Helen Motal	50.00
Marvin and Virginia Warzecha	25.00
Katherine and Victor Kahanek	50.00
Raymond and Helen Janak	25.00
Deacon Joey and Mary Targac	25.00
Frankie and Lucille Klekar	25.00
Sidney and Barbara Jasek	50.00
Anita Migl	15.00
Alphonse Besetzny	100.00
Robert and Leona Steffek	50.00
Ella Mae Bludau	20.00
Angela Hermes	50.00
Anonymous Donor	50.00
Frank and Jonell Janecek	25.00
Allan and Mary Leopold Family	25.00

Pat and Glen Pozel	100.00
Leon and Nancy Etlzer Family	20.00
Various parties and Franklin Billimek	175.00
Ronnie and Agnes Huser	20.00
Robert and Barbara Grahmann	25.00
Pat Mladenka	10.00
Frank and Bernadette Bludau	10.00
Edna Bludau	20.00
Catholic Life Branch #22	300.00
M/M Roland Schaefer	25.00
Charles and Dorothy Jansky	25.00
Gilbert and Bea Butschek	25.00
Laurence and Carol Bludau	50.00
Mary and Robert Kendal	100.00
Daniel and Dorothy Rother	20.00
August and Josephine Janak	25.00
Arthur and Rose Mary Etlzer	10.00
Marty and Karen Steffek Family	20.00
St. Mary's Czech Choir	50.00
Richard and Ruth Rouse	50.00
Melvin and Joyce Janak	20.00
KJZT Society #2	25.00
Michael, Janice and Steven Jares	20.00
	Total \$3,465.00

— Sr. M. Barbara Konvicka Seminary Burse	
Previously reported	\$180.00
In memory of Abena Kwabna Agyare by	
Helen Lempa	20.00
	Total \$200.00

— Rev. Msgr. Michael O'Shaughnessy Seminary Burse	
Previously reported	\$9,154.90
In honor of Msgr. O'Shaughnessy's 60th anniversary of ordination by	
Louis and Joycelyn Kozelsky	25.00
	Total \$9,179.90

— Rev. Arnold Anders Seminary Burse	
In memory of Mike Anders by	
M/M Richard Coerver	\$100.00
	Total \$100.00

— Rev. Msgr. James Brunner Seminary Burse	
Previously reported	200.00
In memory of Msgr. Brunner by	
Deacon and Mrs. Dick Wearden	\$100.00
	Total \$300.00

— St. Patrick Church, Bloomington Seminary Burse	
Gift to burse by St. Patrick's Church, Bloomington	\$1,000.00
In memory of Msgr. Brunner and to honor his home parish pastors' 60th anniversaries — Msgr. Joseph Petsch, Msgr. Michael O'Shaughnessy and Msgr. Michael Harrold by	
Rev. Ty Bazar	200.00
	Total \$1,200.00

— Rev. John C. Peters Seminary Burse #4	
Previously reported	\$13,104.00
Gift from Sacred Heart Federal Credit Union	1,000.00
	Total \$14,104.00

— Rev. Msgr. Stanley Petru Seminary Burse	
Previously reported	\$615.00
Gift to burse from Hostyn Catholic Daughters #2282	100.00
	Total \$715.00

Additional Burses for donations:

- Rev. Roman M. Janak & Rev. Msgr. Hubert J. Janak Burse Total: \$14,124.84
- M/M Nicholas A. Grahmann Burse #2 Total: \$10,145.00

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

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



"SPIRITUAL BOUQUET" FOR TROOPS—As our Christian brothers and sisters continue to serve and protect us as a people and a nation, the Secular Franciscans of the Diocese of Victoria have heard and replied to their call for concrete/material spiritual assistance. Recently, the SFO began gathering a "Spiritual Bouquet," from professed members, which contained literature, pamphlets, rosaries, chaplets, medals, magazines, saint prayer cards, etc...specifically for our enlisted Catholics. The donated items numbered greatly and will provide yet another dimension to their personal bond with Christ and home. The SFO also received numerous donations from parishioners in the El Campo and Palacios areas of the diocese — donors are unknown, but their generosity and gift of love will forever be heartfelt by the ones receiving and those of us giving. As in the words attributed to St. Francis, 'It is in giving of ourselves that we receive'... may we all answer to Jesus' call - far and near. Peace be with you! SFO members are from l. to r.: Mary Ann LeBlanc, Corrine Dum, Nancy Hilbert, Bonnie Vieira, Charline Stehle, Dorothy Harper, Deacon Mike Vieira and Deacon Linard Harper; not pictured (taking the photo) is SFO Minister Johana Kurtz.

Father Charles E. Otsiwah celebrates Silver Jubilee

Continued from p. 1

year, then to the minor seminary for seven years before spending another six years at St. Peter's, a major seminary.

"This is the finished product that we are enjoying today," said Father Tony. "Thank you for your service in your country and in this country."

Since the readings were about the Good Samaritan "who did what needed to be done," Father Tony said, "Jesus calls us to use the special gifts he has given us — to share love with one another. We don't have to go anywhere to do this, even though Father Charles' journey started 25 years ago and from a different country." He closed his homily praying, "Lord, give us strength and energy that we may reach out to others."

At the end of Mass, Father Charles spoke, saying, "Words cannot express how grateful I am for the wonderful things God has done for me. ... It is the hand of God that has brought me this far, with all the ups and downs (of 14 years) in seminary. God has led me to his altar."

Often he told the congregation, "Thank you for accepting me as one of your own."

He thanked the bishop for welcoming him as his son, saying, "It's a good sign of a good father." And, "Msgr. Harrold has taken me as a son and a brother that advises," he continued. "Some of you have been my friends since 1995," since he first began visiting the diocese. He closed, thanking the congregation for sharing his joy with him.

Bishop Fellhauer remarked that he was pleased he had the opportunity to be present with Father Charles during his anniversary.

"Regarding Father Charles, we're so fortunate for our international priests," he

said. Then he made a forecast about Father Charles, "My prediction is that he'll be named a bishop," but then he quickly added that he didn't have any inside information. Father Charles will be here a couple of years before returning to the Diocese of Cape Coast.

At the following reception, more priests from throughout the diocese came to celebrate Father Charles' anniversary, including Ghanaian priests Fathers Gabriel Oduro Tawiah, parochial administrator of St. John Nepomucene in New Taiton, Johnson Owusu-Boateng, pastor of St. John Bosco, Vanderbilt, and St. Theresa, LaSalle; Charles Dwomoh, pastor of St. John the Baptist in Hungerford; and Dominic Antwi-Boasiako, pastor of Holy Family and Our Lady of Mt. Carmel, in Wharton, and St. Joseph in Boling.

Father Charles' assignments in Ghana included parochial vicar at St. Joseph Church in Elmina, upon his ordination in 1985; parochial vicar for two and one-half years at St. Michael Church in Bisease; pastor at Queen of Peace Parish in Cape Coast from 1991 to 1999, and vicar forane of the Cape Coast deanery from 1993 to 2006; and pastor at St. Stephen Church in Abura Dunkwa from 1999 to 2008. He was sent to St. Stephen's, a mission church, to develop it into a parish. He was very successful as it is now a very large parish with 16 mission churches.

One of Father Charles' happiest moments while at St. Stephen's was when his archbishop, Most Rev. Peter Kodwo Appiah Turkson, was made a Cardinal of the Roman Catholic Church in 2005. His archbishop invited him to go to Rome with him for the ceremony, and while there, Mother Teresa of Calcutta was beatified. Cardinal Peter Turkson was also appointed the president of the Pontifical Council for Justice and Peace by Pope Benedict XVI in October 2009.

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On The Cutting Edge

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



Hello college, goodbye church? We hope not....

For some students, going away to college is often viewed as a chance to be liberated from their parents and the restrictions of family life. One such parental rule that is exercised in many Catholic homes is the one about Mass attendance. I can still hear my own father and mother saying to us when we would rather stay in bed on a Sunday morning, "As long as you live in this house you will go to Mass." Does this sound familiar?

Aside from the natural tendency many young people have to rebel against authority, living away from home, especially for the first time, presents many challenges. It can be difficult to live the faith without good support systems. In most cases we learn about our faith from our parents, teachers and other mentors. College is a prime time for a young person to begin to mature in and really own his or her faith. Attendance at Mass and practicing the faith becomes a personal responsibility. No parent or other authority figure is around to try to make one go to church. It becomes a personal decision.

Sometimes I have heard students and other young adults declare, "I didn't ask to be a Catholic. My parents made that decision for me. I was just a baby and not able to choose my own religion." That is true for those of us baptized as infants, but the fact still remains that we received the gift of faith through our parents and one of the tasks of young adulthood is to own that faith and mature in it. We are part of the Church whether we chose it or not.

College is a special time for intellectual growth and that should include growth in knowledge and appreciation of our Catholic faith. When I was a campus minister at the University of Michigan in Ann Arbor we had a course every semester

entitled "Catholic Update." The pastor always gave a plug about the program at the end of Masses the previous couple of weekends before the first session. He would challenge the people, particularly the students, by saying it seemed strange to him that so many of them were working on degrees in higher learning while they often had little more than an eighth grade education in their faith. That statement really made an impact and we always had large classes of students sincerely seeking to know and understand more about the riches of Catholicism.

Some students have a great need to explore different faith traditions during their college years, and I think that is good. However it is important to include the Catholic Church in that exploration. Sadly enough, some people abandon their faith without ever actually knowing what the Church really teaches and why.

College is the prime time to deepen that knowledge and also one's relationship with Jesus. Among other things, one's faith and friendship with Jesus and his Church provide the sustenance needed to get through college and all the challenges that it presents.

As many will discover, it is when one is away from his or her support systems that he or she needs the Church even more. And not only does the Church provide a haven during college days, it often provides a chance to discover and exercise one's gifts. Many students who get involved in campus ministry or at Newman Centers (Student Parishes) discover leadership abilities that they often use throughout their lives.

My advice to college students who are

See Hello college, p. 8

Texas A&M student goes on Honduran mission

HALLETTSVILLE—John Greive, son of Serra Club Northwest member Gary Grieve, was invited to tell of his recent mission trip to the Hallettsville club.

During spring break, John, a senior at Texas A&M, and six other students, two boys and four girls, traveled to Honduras for a Catholic missionary trip. The project was coordinated through St. Mary's Parish, College Station; the Missionaries of Christ; and the Franciscans of Renewal (in Honduras).

Honduras was to a large part a 100-percent Catholic country from the 15th century; however, due to a limited education in the faith, an extreme shortage of priests (ratio 1:28,000), and evangelization by other religions, the percentage of Catholics today is 79 percent.

After meeting with the local priest in the city, the students split into two groups, each with resident lay missionaries, and traveled four to five hours into the mountains. There were many small churches or chapels in the mountains, but

the people would only see a priest perhaps once a year.

There was no electricity in the area and the people would light candles in the evening when the groups went house to house to talk about the sacraments, play with the children and arrange for a service in the chapel. These services could go from 7 to 11 p.m. with the people singing into the night.

Everyone was impressed with John's enthusiasm and commitment to his faith as well as his willingness to go on this trip. John slept on pews in the chapel at night, struggled to communicate when he didn't speak the language and ate the local diet of mostly rice, beans and tortillas.

The Serra Club of the Diocese of Victoria – Northwest thank John for traveling from College Station to speak to them and teach them the need to profess their faith.

Reprinted from the August Serra Club of the Diocese of Victoria – Northwest newsletter



John Greive, a senior at A&M, speaks to the Serra Club Northwest of his missionary trip to Honduras.

Where can I find a Catholic campus ministry?

To keep in touch with your faith while away at college, please visit the Catholic Campus Ministry Association, which provides links to Catholic Campus Ministry Web sites at: <http://www.ccmanet.org/ccma.nsf/campusites>.

Below is information about a few Catholic student centers on or near a university that students might be attending this year.

University of Texas

For generations UT Catholic students have found their spiritual "home away from home" at the University Catholic Center. It fosters spiritual and intellectual growth in the university setting. By encouraging students to take active roles in liturgy, volunteer work and social justice projects, the Center staff prepares these young people to become leaders in the larger Catholic community and to raise families in the Catholic Christian tradition. The University Catholic Center provides a safe and hospitable place for the community's educational and social needs. Within its walls, students can pray, reflect, relax, study, have fun and grow. The center is located just south of the main UT Tower at the end of the South Mall (in front of Little Field Fountain). More information can be found at: <http://www.utcatholic.org>.

Texas State University – San Marcos

The Texas State University-San Marcos Catholic Student Center (CSC) is dedicated to the spiritual, religious, moral, intellectual and social development of all who participate. As Christians living the life of Christ and spreading the Gospel, we are called to serve the people. We seek in our worship to better our understanding of Christ and his mission for us; we pray for wisdom and support one another in this quest. The H.L. Grant Catholic Student Center and St. Jude Chapel at Texas

State University-San Marcos are located adjacent to the campus at the intersection of LBJ Drive and Concho Street. More information can be found at: <http://www.txstatecatholic.org/>.

Texas A&M University – College Station

St. Mary's Catholic Center is the Catholic Campus Ministry serving Texas A&M University and Blinn College. They strive to live and proclaim the Gospel of Jesus Christ through worship, education, service, fellowship and stewardship, as a parish community of students, faculty, staff and others who choose to share in this mission. A Welcome Weekend retreat is offered to incoming freshman or transfer students and a Fall Kick-Off with free food, fun and information about all the different groups at St. Mary's is held at the beginning of each Fall Semester. St. Mary's Catholic Center is located at the corner of Church Ave. and Nagle in College Station. More information can be found at: <http://www.aggiecatholic.org/>.

The Victoria College

To help Catholic students learn more about their faith and provide all students with a wholesome environment, the Catholic Student Association at The Victoria College provides activities throughout each month. Activities include monthly campus Mass, group Rosary and Divine Mercy Chaplet each said twice monthly, service projects centered on the Corporal Works of Mercy, social gatherings and occasional faith-filled field trips. Different activities meet at different locations, so for more information, please contact Melanie Yosko at: melanie.yosko@victoriacollege.edu or by cell phone at: (361) 212-0538; or Catherine Heath at catherine.heath@victoriacollege.edu.

Fellowship of Catholic University Students announces four-city, 'FOCUS Conference 2011'

DENVER, Colo.—The Fellowship of Catholic University Students (FOCUS), a fast-growing college campus outreach, has announced a four-city conference tour to be held over four weekends in January 2011.

Building on the popularity of their national conferences, traditionally held in a single location every two years and drawing thousands of attendees from across the country, FOCUS now aims to make it easier for young adults everywhere to experience, firsthand, what have been life-changing events for so many people over the years.

The cities and dates for FOCUS Conference 2011:

- Minneapolis/St. Paul, MN (Jan. 7-9)
- Denver, CO (Jan. 14-16)
- Baltimore, MD (Jan. 21-23)
- Nashville, TN (Jan. 28-30)

Each city will feature several dynamic keynote speakers, presenters and workshops geared toward young adults seeking to better understand how their skills and gifts can be applied to where they are being called to serve and strengthen the Church.

"FOCUS began with a conference. It has always been integral to what we are and what we stand for," said Curtis Martin, founder and president of FOCUS. "With these events, we are inviting students to gather together, away from the day-to-day bustle of campus, to think about God's call in their lives and give them guidance and the necessary tools to better

understand how they can strengthen and serve the Church using the talents unique to them."

To register, see a regularly updated list of speakers and entertainers, or to learn more about FOCUS Conference 2011, please visit www.focusconference.org.

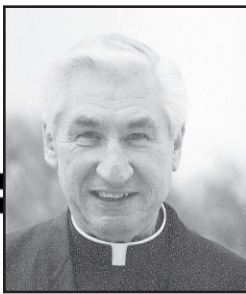
ABOUT FOCUS: Answering the Church's call for a new evangelization, FOCUS, the Fellowship of Catholic University Students, is a national outreach that meets college students where they are and invites them into a growing relationship with Jesus Christ and the Catholic faith. www.focusonline.org



**"Theology at the Well"
will be back
this fall starting
Thursday, Sept. 9,
at Chili's in Victoria.
More details to follow.**



FAITH POINT “CLASSIC”



By Rev. Msgr. James C. Brunner

A Primer on Gay Marriage

Originally printed in March 2004

Editor's note: I will occasionally print an archived column from Msgr. James C. Brunner's "Faith Point" column in "The Catholic Lighthouse."

Many people had difficulty with the length and "in depthness" of some of Msgr. Brunner's columns. I believe this article, titled "A Primer on Gay Marriage," is very straightforward, easily understood, and explains the difficulty the gay argument has in reconciling with natural law.

When John Adams, a religious man who made frequent allusions to God in his writing, penned the Massachusetts constitution 224 years ago, who would have suspected that he secreted within it a constitutional right to homosexual marriage? That is what the clever Massachusetts justices have found. Their decision will have profound effects on the rest of the nation as gay couples will wed in Massachusetts as soon as May of this year (2004) and then demand that their unions be recognized in other states. Since the legalization of homosexual marriages has been thrust upon us we offer herewith a primer on the subject.

1.) Homosexuals should be allowed to marry because homosexuality is a birth condition.

That is a position wholly unproven. No homosexual genes have ever been found. Even if a genetic predisposition could be proved, it would not follow that homosexual acts are good. Persons may have a genetic predisposition to alcoholism, rape, or child molestation, but expressing them would be against right reason if not against the law. Homosexual acts are essentially disordered and there is no way to justify their approval except on the grounds that all purely recreational sex is permissible.

2.) Opposing gay marriage is like opposing interracial marriage, a violation of civil rights.

Laws against miscegenation were wrong because they promoted an unjust racial order. Marriage laws are not against anyone. Society needs men and women to make babies for the society to survive and so it makes laws to foster this endeavor. There is no corresponding public stake in promoting other sexual arrangements. Freely chosen acts cannot have the same standing as a nature. That violates logic. One can have a homosexual orientation and still refrain from homosexual acts, but one cannot for example be born black and refrain from being black. Expression of homosexual acts does not deserve the same respect that a nature does.

3.) Marriage is not for children but for the commitment of the spouses.

History, research and common sense show that the best situation for children is to be reared by their biological parents in a permanent low-conflict union. Society does not make the decision for spouses to have children but it does have an interest in seeing that children receive the best upbringing. Gay unions cannot contribute to the survival of the human race. Whatever contributions they make, they are not equivalent to that of marriage and so there

is no social policy reason to equate gay unions with heterosexual ones.

4.) The government creates civil marriage. (Massachusetts decision)

Marriage pre-existed the formation of states. States may regulate and promote marriage by defining rights and obligations, but it may not redefine marriage. Private property pre-exists the state. The state may regulate and defend private property but may not redefine it in such a way as to make it meaningless, such as saying that all property must be held in common. That doctrine taught by Communism resulted in millions of deaths. Redefining marriage by removing it from parenthood will have devastating effects on society. Gay unions gut marriage of its central assumptions because homosexual acts close sex to the gift of life.

The Massachusetts Supremes wrote: "Eliminating civil marriage would be wholly inconsistent with the Legislature's deep commitment to fostering stable families and would dismantle a vital organizing principle of our society." Ironically, the Justices were unknowingly making the case that homosexual unions would dismantle marriage.

5.) Without legally recognized unions, homosexuals cannot enjoy certain legal and tax benefits.

Homosexuals can freely visit their partners in the hospital and even other heterosexual friends. They can leave their property to their partner. Have they never heard of wills? Laws can be passed to make up for other anomalies. There is no need for recognition of gay unions to provide these rights.

6.) Gays should be able to live under the same set of laws as other people.

They already do. There are no special speed limits for gays. Like others, they may marry someone of the opposite sex. What is denied them in opposing recognition of homosexual unions is society's stamp of approval on their deviant lifestyle, which undercuts marriage. (Editor's note: Deviant: diverging sharply from a customary or traditional norm or accepted standard, or displaying sharply divergent behavior [Encarta World English Dictionary])

7.) People who love one another should be allowed to celebrate their love.

Marriage is not self-definition, nor from a social policy point of view, is it about love. The state may have no place in the bedroom, but it does have an interest in maintaining the basic building block of society and replacing it with straw. It is not the job of government to make people feel good about their private relationships. Destroying the basic building block of society is a high price to pay to make homosexuals feel good.

8.) Recognizing homosexual unions will foster greater stability among gays.

Apart from the lack of desirability in promoting a disordered lifestyle, there is scant evidence that endorsing gay marriage would produce stability. A Dutch study in a nation that approves homosexuality found that in so-called monogamous gay relationships there was room for an average of eight additional partners. It also found that these

The Courage Apostolate – for those who have same-sex attractions

Persons with homosexual desires have always been with us; however, until recent times, there has been little, if any, formal outreach from the Church in the way of support groups or information for such persons. Most were left to work out their path on their own. As a result, they found themselves listening to and accepting the secular society's perspective and opting to act on their same-sex desires.

His Eminence, the late Terence Cardinal Cooke of New York, was aware of, and troubled by this situation. He knew that the individual dealing with same-sex attractions truly needed to experience the freedom of interior chastity and in that freedom find the steps necessary to living a fully Christian life in communion with God and others. He was concerned that many would not find this path and would be constantly trying to get their needs met in ways that ultimately do not satisfy the desires of the heart.

In response to this concern, he decided to form a spiritual support system which would assist men and women with same-sex attractions in living chaste lives in fellowship, truth and love.

Knowing of Father John Harvey's extensive ministry experience in this field, he invited him to come to his archdiocese.

With the help of the Rev. Benedict Groeschel, C.F.R., and others, Father Harvey began the Courage Apostolate with its first meeting in September 1980 at the

Shrine of Mother Seton in South Ferry.

With the endorsement of the Holy See, Courage now has more than 110 Chapters and contact people world-wide, over 1500 persons participating in its ListServes, and hundreds of persons per week receiving assistance from the main office and Web site. It has become a mainstream Catholic Apostolate helping thousands of men and women find peace through fellowship, prayer and the Sacraments.

The Courage Central Office operates through the prayerful and financial support of the Archdiocese of New York as well as contributions and volunteer work from Courage members and other individuals and organizations committed to advancing its efforts.

Individual chapters throughout the world are self-supporting and exist with the permission of their diocesan bishop.

In helping individuals gain a greater understanding and appreciation of the Church's teachings, especially in the area of chastity, Courage extends the Church's invitation to a life of peace and grace. In chaste living, one finds the peace and grace to grow in Christian maturity.

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Editor's note: Currently, there is no Courage Chapter in the Diocese of Victoria; however, a great amount of information and help can be found at the Courage Web site at: <http://www.couragerc.org/>.



DEMONSTRATORS OPPOSING SAME-SEX MARRIAGE GATHER OUTSIDE CONGRESS BUILDING IN ARGENTINA—Demonstrators opposing a bill authorizing same-sex marriages gather outside the Congress building in Buenos Aires, Argentina, July 13. Two days later, Argentina became the first Latin American country to legalize same-sex marriage. (CNS photo/Enrique Marcarian, Reuters)

relationships lasted an average of one and one half years. So much for stability.

9.) Why should the marriage of two men or two women affect anybody else's marriage?

Gay unions deprive children of either motherhood or fatherhood. Children born to unmarried mothers or in stepfamilies or cohabiting relationships face higher risk of poor outcomes. There is abundant research to establish that.

Gay unions will obliterate the importance of marriage. It has already done so in Scandinavia where gay unions are legally recognized. Thus in Norway the out of wedlock birthrate rose from 39% in 1990 to 50% in 2000. In Sweden the rise was from 47% to 55%. In Denmark 60% of first born children have unmarried parents. Both married and unmarried couples are breaking up at an unprecedented rate. Contraception and abortion allowed a separation of sex from parenthood. Once marriage is redefined to accommodate gay unions the cultural separation between marriage and parenthood will be widened. Gay unions confirm the idea that individual choice trumps marriage

form. If marriage is concerned only with personal relationships, it will lead to a decline if not the disappearance of marriage. Why does a couple or other grouping need a document to certify their love?

Recognition of gay unions leaves no principled way of forbidding incestuous, polygamous, or even interspecies unions.

Gay marriages once legalized will be presented to youth as being just as acceptable as heterosexual marriages. There will be deep changes in school curricula. Sex education classes will present gay unions as legal and normal, something that they might seek for themselves. Contrary religious teachings will be branded as hate speech and discriminatory. Restrictions on religious teaching condemning homosexual activity have already been placed in Canada, England, and Scandinavia.

Recognition of gay unions would undercut traditional morality and endorse decadence. If we reap what we sow, we will further the corruption of our society. "The one who sows for his flesh will reap corruption from the flesh." (Gal. 6:8)



The Life of a Catechist

By Christella Alvarez

"I almost can't remember when I wasn't teaching CCD," Mary Ann Zepeda said at a parish religious education celebration as she began sharing her story of her life as a catechist.



The religious sisters of the Missionary Catechists of the Sacred Heart of Jesus and Mary at Our Lady of Sorrows Parish in Victoria began calling Mary Ann at the age of nineteen to help teach the children about Jesus.

She recalls that in those days teaching religion was done under a tree, in people's garages, or at the St. John Bosco Center, which was an old, vacant house in the middle of nowhere off Pleasant Green Drive in Victoria.

"On Wednesday's we'd ride with Father Vincent to McFaddin. I'd lead the rosary, then Father would celebrate Mass, then we would have CCD," Mary Ann said smiling.

Mary Ann admits that she personally never attended a CCD class as a child. "When I was young, I lived in Placedo with my 11 brothers and sisters, my parents and grandfather. We were taught to love, respect, work and to have faith. At night we all prayed together with my parents. My parents were definitely my most influential catechists," she proclaimed proudly.

At the age of 15, after first studying the Baltimore Catechism and then going to a missionary priest in Port Lavaca, who asked her a series of questions and heard her confession, she received her first Holy Communion. She often shares this story with her students.

Once married, Mary Ann did not teach CCD for a while, but when her children were of age to attend classes, she returned and was instrumental in preparing her four children for the sacrament of confirmation. She has taught just about every grade level as well as the parents of the children who are preparing to receive one of the sacraments.

As a catechist, her studies began with a three-year program called Catequesis Familiar under the direction of the Missionary Catechist Sisters; she continued taking courses, including many catechetical and theological classes, workshops and conferences. "Even before we had our own diocese, we used to attend workshops in San Antonio and Houston," Mary Ann said.

After the Diocese of Victoria was established, Mary Ann also took the three-year, 144-clock hour, Pastoral Institute Extended

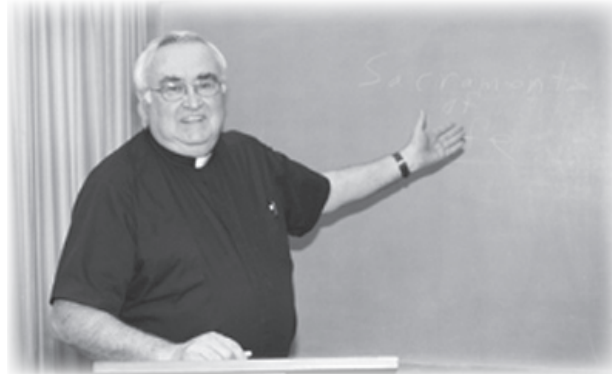
Program in Victoria.

In October 1995, Mary Ann's husband, Ernest, suffered a heart attack and a stroke, which left him paralyzed for a few months. Two years ago, Mary Ann was diagnosed with breast cancer. During those painful times Mary Ann had to discontinue teaching. She states, "By the grace of God and many prayers from everyone, we are doing well."

Lastly, Mary Ann said, "I encourage all of you catechists to deepen your faith by growing in knowledge of the faith by attending the classes offered in our parish as well through the diocese; celebrate the sacraments; live moral lives; be persons of prayer; and witnesses to Jesus Christ. We have a unique opportunity to prepare our students to witness to Christ, even in a society that doesn't always reflect Christian values."

She explained that because of our baptism, our deep faith and love of God, when we hear the words, "Go into all the world and preach the good news," we can say, "Yes, Lord, here I am, send me."

Closing, Mary Ann asked everyone to pray with her, "Jesus, transform me into your image so I may be your image for others, especially for those to whom I minister. Amen."



Father Robert Fisher will be teaching a six-week course *The Sacraments of Initiation* at the chancery as well as Holy Rosary in Hostyn.

Pastoral Institute Classes continue with a study of The Sacraments of Initiation

Father Robert Fisher, a Divine Word Missionary, who is presently serving the parish communities of St. Ann in Point Comfort, St. Joseph in Port O'Connor and St. Patrick in Seadrift will be teaching the six-week course *The Sacraments of Initiation* beginning Monday, September 13, at the chancery in Victoria as well as at Holy Rosary in Hostyn using distance learning technology.

The course will explore sacraments in general. Father Fisher will also explain the interrelatedness of baptism, confirmation, and Eucharist, and how they are required for full Christian Initiation (Canon 842

§2). Father Fisher will explain the history and theology of these sacraments and their relevance in our lives as Catholics today. After the six-week course is completed, he will teach a course on The Sacraments of Healing and Vocation.

The Pastoral Institute Extended Classes are for adults who want to learn more about the Catholic Church and its traditions. All are welcome to attend. For more information or to register, e-mail kperez@victoriadiocese.org, visit www.victoriadiocese.org, call (361) 573-0828, or register on the first day of class. There is a \$15 fee for this course.

How do we make up in our sufferings what is lacking in the sufferings of Christ?

By Father John Dietzen
Catholic News Service

Q. St. Paul wrote that we should make up in our sufferings what is lacking in the sufferings of Christ. Wasn't his atonement sufficient? How could we add anything to what Jesus did? (Arkansas)

A. Assuming as we do that our Lord's death and resurrection were totally and

absolutely sufficient for the salvation of the world, two drifts of explanation for Paul's remarks (Col 1:24) seem most common in Christian thinking.

One relates this verse to the context in which he speaks of his own role as an apostle of the good news of Christ. Each new receiver of the message, each suffering he and others undertake for the sake of the world and the church, moves the church that

much closer to its fulfillment in bringing the Gospel to the whole human race.

Another interpretation addresses our sufferings themselves. Jesus makes clear that the sufferings of his followers, his community of believers, are indeed his own sufferings. Those who persecute his disciples persecute him. (Acts 9:4; 22:7)

Thus the completion of his mission given by the Father will arrive only when the last "daily cross" of which he spoke has been borne faithfully by each member of his body on earth.

What was lacking, therefore, in the sufferings of Christ was not an insufficiency in his redemptive actions. Rather, our Lord's work would not attain its complete effect until all of his disciples have carried their crosses with him.

(A free brochure describing basic Catholic prayers, beliefs and moral precepts is available by sending a stamped, self-addressed envelope to Father John Dietzen, Box 3315, Peoria, IL 61612.)

(Questions may be sent to Father Dietzen at the same address, or e-mail: jjdietzen@aol.com.)

The Sacrament of Marriage: Implications for Catechetical Ministry

Father Gary Janak, pastor of St. Philip Church in El Campo, will be the keynote presenter for the first Organization of Catechetical Leadership meeting which will be held at the Chancery in Victoria on Thursday, August 12 beginning at 9:30 a.m.

Father Gary will address the Church's understanding of the Sacrament of Marriage and its various canonical implications regarding catechetical ministry. Participants will be offered practical information on how to better assist parents and students, in the canonical and sacramental

aspects of marriage, including assistance for hurting marriages, the psychological, emotional and spiritual effects of divorce, declarations of nullity (i.e., annulments) and convalidations of civil marriages.

All clergy, parish catechetical leaders, catechists, youth ministers, RCIA team members and Catholic schoolteachers are highly encouraged to attend; however, anyone interested in this topic is also very welcomed. Call 361-573-0828, visit www.victoriadiocese.org, or e-mail kperez@victoriadiocese.org for more information or to register.

Workshops on Scripture, Sacraments and Ethics offered at the Twenty-third Annual Conference Saturday, September 25, at Holy Family Parish in Victoria

This year many of the conference presenters will be local clergy and parish catechetical leaders as well as others persons in various ministries. In the workshop "Medical Ethics & End of Life issues," Father Greg Korenek pastor of Holy Family Parish in Victoria, will discuss how modern medicine and technology have significantly impacted the treatment of disease as well as the moral and legal aspects of these matters. Father Stan De Boe, O.S.S.T., pastor of Our Lady of Sorrows in Victoria will offer two workshops on lay leadership. Father Stan will use Scripture and Church documents to explore the unique mission of the laity in the Church.

Brother Patrick Wildgen, O.S.S.T., will offer two workshops on Scripture. In "Practical Ways of Using Scripture in the Classroom," he will examine various Scriptural topics, i.e., morality and prayer, and offer an understanding of the implications for pedagogical use in the classroom. Brother Patrick will discuss the styles of literary genre found in the Scriptures while looking at some of the major themes from books of Genesis and Exodus as well as other books of the Bible. Deacon Larry Rossow from Our Lady of Victory in Victoria will be offering a workshop on Eucharist as Source and Summit.

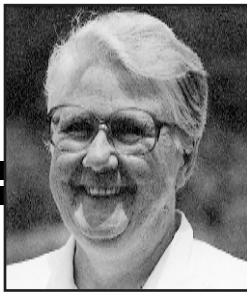
Laurie Bautista, catechetical leader from Our Lady of Lourdes Parish in Victoria, will present two different workshops. In the "First Reconciliation: Don't Just Teach It! Experience It!" workshop, Laurie will offer ways to engage children and parents with positive life-changing experiences about the sacrament of reconciliation. Her second workshop "First Communion: Don't Just Teach It! Experience It!" Laurie will give practical ways to effectively present the teachings about Eucharist in experiential and understandable ways. Parish catechetical leader Betty Mitchell from Our Lady of Victory in Victoria will also offer a workshop in which she will offer tips and practical ways to help parents and catechists to be the best teachers of the faith to their children. Judy Gillespie, catechist at St. Mary and Holy Family parishes in Victoria, will offer a workshop on Natural Family Planning.

Sister Digna Vela, the director of the Catechetical Office will present a workshop for catechists on how to have a well-planned lesson; Debbie Vanelli, the director of the Office of Youth Ministry is offering a workshop titled: Parents: The Primary Educators of Our Faith, Right? Ron Friedel, teacher and director of the Spiritual Renewal Center, will be presenting a workshop on the Gospel of Matthew; Cynthia Goerig, Diocesan Liturgical Commission director, is also offering a workshop on Implementing Music in the Third Edition of the Revised Roman Missal. In the workshop, "Stewards of Creation," Sister Mildred Truchard, IWBS, will discuss the importance of environmental stewardship through an overview and understanding of Catholic Social Teaching. Sister Elizabeth Riebschaelger, CCVI, will present two workshops: one on the Church after Vatican II and another workshop on the issues surrounding family life, violence and the death penalty.

We look forward to seeing you at the Diocese of Victoria Twenty-third Annual Conference for Catechesis and Ministry at Holy Family Parish in Victoria on Saturday, September 25, 2010. Call (361) 573-0828, e-mail calvarez@victoriadiocese.org, or visit www.victoriadiocese.org for more information.



SISTERLY THOUGHTS



By Sister Mildred Truchard, IWBS

Pro-Life Trends vs. "Culture of Death"

Last month we examined some of the Church's teaching on the controversial issue of the use of capital punishment when other means are available to isolate the criminal and to protect society. Especially striking was Pope John Paul II's concern about the "prevailing Culture of Death" in his communication to the Church in America and repeatedly in his talks.

Many of us have been listening to the voices calling for promotion of the "Culture of Life" regarding the human being — from conception until natural death. While I think that most of us have been and continue to be active in the struggle against abortion, we may not be as aware that during the last decade there have been significant inroads in combating the use of the death penalty. Globally there has been an average of three nations a year who abolish capital punishment. Of the 58 nations who still retain capital punishment on their books, only 18 are known to have actually carried out executions in 2009. There were no executions in all of Europe, while in the Americas the only country that executed anyone was the United States—a nation which currently ranks among the top five along with China, Iran, Iraq, and Saudi Arabia.

A hopeful sign is that the number of executions in the United States had decreased from 98 in 1999 to 52 in 2009. Twenty-four, down from 37 in 1999, of the 52 executions in the US took place in Texas in 2009. Moreover, only nine Texas death sentences were given in 2009 down from as many as 48 in the late 1990's.

Several recent Supreme Court decisions are affecting the number of death sentences given in the United States (and Texas). Two major decisions were *Athens v. Virginia* in 2002 which forbids the execution of those with mental retardation (intellectual disability) and *Roper v. Simmons* in 2005 which prohibits the execution of those who had committed their offenses before the age of eighteen. Also, in 2005, the Texas Legislature approved the sentence of "Life without Parole" giving jurors an alternative to a "Death" sentence for those who were

deemed too dangerous to be eligible for parole in the future....

There is a growing awareness that the justice system that supports the death penalty is seriously flawed. The death penalty is an act of violence that cheapens life and diminishes all of us. A disturbed mind may reason that if the state can kill its citizens, killing must not be so bad. The U.S. Bishops tell us, "The antidote to violence is love, not more violence."

Unfortunately, there is a false perception that the death penalty deters violent crime. However, numerous studies show that this is not true. In fact, the states which have the death penalty have 42% more homicides than non-death penalty states.

Studies also illustrate that the death penalty is racist, with minorities much more likely to be sentenced to death. Of the 24 people executed in Texas in 2009, 14 were African American, 7 were Hispanic/Latino, and 3 were white.

Prisoners who end up on death row are generally very poor; some 90% are indigent and cannot afford competent legal counsel. They are appointed public defenders who often lack experience and the resources to provide proper investigation and testing. Innocent persons have been executed and will be executed in the future, as long as the death penalty is in effect. So far, 138 condemned prisoners have been exonerated nationally. How many more falsely condemned prisoners are still on death row? How many innocent ones have been killed by the state? Death is irrevocable!

Then, there is the matter of justice. Should we be depriving local citizens of their fair share of taxpayer supported benefits so that we can divert funding toward the execution of a few? Capital punishment costs three times as much as life-long incarceration. The average Texas execution cost 2.3 million dollars in 1992. That cost is borne by the local county, sapping funding that should have been used for social services, health programs, and transportation. As a consequence of death penalty expenses, increased property taxes have

Hello college, goodbye church? We hope not....

Continued from p. 5

serious about their faith and relationship with God — or want to be — is to try some of the following suggestions:

First of all find someone to go to Mass with you. Most young adults hesitate to go to Mass on their own. It is a lot different not being connected to a family or with familiar people at Sunday Mass. Establish a group of "church friends." Students have told me that they met some of their dearest friends, and often their spouses, while they were involved in campus ministry or at the Newman Center of their university.

Second, sign up for at least one activity that campus ministry or the center provides. Get involved in a liturgical ministry. Join a faith sharing or Scripture group. Sign up for a retreat. At Michigan, students in their final year or semester of school who went on a campus retreat for the first time often said how much they regretted not participating early on. It is a great way to make good friends who share similar values.

If you are a commuter student who does not live on a campus or goes to a school that does not have its own Catholic

Center, find a parish where you can get involved. Talk to the pastor about opportunities to connect and use your abilities there. Find some other students who are also interested. Start your own sharing or service group!

Find a mentor or a spiritual companion, with whom you can express your doubts, fears, concerns, questions, etc. about the Church. This can be a priest, religious brother or sister or any good Catholic that you trust and admire. It is not good to go it alone when you are searching. A wise, listening ear is often a big help in times of confusion. Also, a friend like this can also help you grow in your faith.

Last, but certainly not least, take a little time to pray each day. Give Jesus some of your quality time, even if it is only five or ten minutes a day. Share your joys and concerns. Deepen your relationship with him and ask him to help your faith grow. When it comes right down to it, it is your friendship and faithfulness to him that will sustain you throughout college and your entire life. The Church is here to support us in our efforts to be disciples.

Sacred Heart coach inducted into Hall of Honor

HALLETTSVILLE—Sacred Heart coach Pat Henke was recently inducted into the Texas Private Schools Coaches Association (TPSCA) Hall of Honor. The induction ceremony was held on June 19 at the University of Dallas.



Pat was inducted along with TAPPS Director Edd Burleson and Coach Dick Hall of Dallas Greenhill.

"The Hall of Honor was established for lifetime achievement by private school coaches," said Randy Hollas, the president of the TPSCA, which was formed three years ago. "The inductees are elected by the TPSCA board of directors."

Pat will begin his 35th year of coaching at Sacred Heart this fall and this will be his 30th as head football coach. He has a

record of 252-108-1 in football and has led the Indians to the state finals 13 times and has won seven state championships. His first title was in 1986 and the others were in 1990, 1992, 1996, 2000, 2002 and 2007.

Pat has won nine state softball championships and has a record of 259-135. He also led a boys and girls team to the state tournament in basketball.

Hollas said Henke is well-known throughout the state. "Coach Henke has a reputation of getting the most out of his kids," Hollas said. "Every coach knows that when you play Sacred Heart, you are going to be in for a dogfight."

"This is an unbelievable honor, especially since I was inducted with Mr. Burleson," Pat said. "I've been very fortunate over the years to have a good administration to work with and great student athletes. This is very humbling."

TPSCA began the Hall of Honor last year when two coaches were inducted.

First days of Catholic School Instruction

Monday, August 16

St. Philip, El Campo
St. Anthony, Columbus
Our Lady of Victory, Victoria
Nazareth Academy, Victoria
Shiner Catholic Schools, Shiner
St. Joseph, Yoakum
St. Joseph High, Victoria
St. Michael, Weimar
St. Michael, Cuero

Tuesday, August 17

Holy Cross, Bay City

Wednesday, August 18

St. Rose of Lima, Schulenburg
Our Lady of the Gulf, Port Lavaca

Friday, August 20

Sacred Heart, Hallettsville

Happy Birthday!

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



been levied, services have been curtailed, and payrolls have been slashed to avoid bankruptcy in some Texas counties. Can we afford capital punishment?

For more information, you might want to check out the following resources.

- The Catholic Campaign to End the

Death Penalty (US Bishops) www.ccedp.org

• National Coalition to Abolish the Death Penalty (links to states) www.ncadp.org

• Death Penalty Information Center www.deathpenaltyinfo.org

SACRED HEART PARISH FALL PICNIC

128 YEARS

Sunday, September 5, 2010
at the K.C. Hall in Hallettsville, Texas

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

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


Adults \$7.50 Children \$4.00

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

Music on the Main Pavilion
Kovanda's Authentic Czech Music
11:00 a.m. - 1:00 p.m.

Free Dance on the
Polka Pavilion/Biergarten
Music by The Red Ravens &
Dujka Brothers
1:00 p.m. - 9:00 p.m.

 Pig-Plop sponsored by
Sacred Heart Youth Group

 Kiddie Rides & Games
all afternoon!!!

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

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



Hostyn KJT Society #3 presents a check for \$1000 to Msgr. Stanley Petru, pastor of Queen of the Holy Rosary Parish, as a donation to the Adoration Chapel and Narthex Fund.



Edward Kallus of Navasota, Hostyn KJT Society #3 member, received a 75-year membership pin. Making the presentation was State Secretary Mary Jane Oltmann. Standing by was Society #3 Vice President Benedict Kallus.



Hostyn Society #3 member, Lawrence Kallus of Hostyn, received a 75-year membership pin from KJT State President Christopher Urban. Sitting is Society Chaplain, Msgr. Stanley Petru. Standing by were Ted Hoffmann, Theo Svec, Ralph Goerig and Benedict Kallus.

Incarnate Word and Blessed Sacrament Sisters Jubilee Held

Continued from p. 1

Mary's School in Marak, and graduated from St. Ludmila Academy in Shiner. Sister entered St. Ludmila Convent and became a novice on September 5, 1934. She made her first profession of vows on September 7, 1935, and pronounced her final vows on October 1, 1938. Sister Genevieve attended Incarnate Word College in San Antonio from which she received a BA degree with a major in English and a minor in Spanish. She held a permanent elementary Texas teacher certificate and a provisional all-level librarian certificate.

During her years of active ministry, Sister taught at St. Ludmila Academy in Shiner, St. John School in San Marcos, Holy Trinity School in Duquesne, Pa., St. Agnes School in San Antonio, St. Michael School in Weimar, Holy Trinity School and the public school in Falls City, St. Mary School in Nada, Holy Cross School in East Bernard, Nazareth Academy in Victoria, Sacred Heart School in La Grange and St. Joseph School in Yoakum. She also served as librarian at St. Ludmila Academy in Shiner for four years.

When Sister retired from her ministry in education, she was assigned to Incarnate Word Convent where she assisted in various household duties. She found time for sewing and crafts; making aprons and dressing dolls were her specialties. She presently resides in the Incarnate Word Convent Healthcare Center and is engaged in the apostolate of prayer.

Sister M. Agatha Shimek, daughter of the late Louis and Frances Kutac Shimek, was born in St. John, near Schulenburg, Texas. Sister received her education at St. John School and St. Rose School in Schulenburg, and graduated from St. Ludmila Academy in Shiner. She entered St. Ludmila Convent on September 18, 1938, and became a novice on June 4, 1939. She made her first profession of vows on June 10, 1940, and pronounced her final vows on July 28, 1943.

Sister Agatha received a BA degree with a major in English and a minor in Spanish from Incarnate Word College in San Antonio and a master's degree in education with a major in administration from Our Lady of the Lake College in San Antonio. Sister was awarded Texas teacher certificates on the elementary and high school levels, as well as for principalship, counselor and librarian.

During her years of ministry in education, Sister Agatha served at St. John School in San Marcos, St. Paul in Sedan, St. Mary School in Nada, Guadalupe School in Victoria, St. Jerome School in Plum, Radhost Public School, Holy Cross School in East Bernard, St. Ludmila Academy and St. Paul High School in Shiner, Blessed Sacrament Academy in San Antonio, Falls City Public School, Nazareth Academy and St. Joseph High School in Victoria, and Sacred Heart School in Hallettsville. She also served as principal, librarian, counselor and senior

class sponsor.

Among her many hobbies, Sister Agatha enjoyed gardening, growing potted plants, cooking, crocheting afghans, shawls, caps and baby sets, and reading. Sister now resides at Incarnate Word Convent where she is involved in the apostolate of prayer.

Sister M. Faustina Orsak, daughter of the late John and Albina Gajewski Orsak, was born in Sealy, Texas. She received her elementary education at the Frydek Catholic School and at Immaculate Conception School in Sealy. After Sister graduated from Nazareth Academy, she became a novice on August 5, 1959. She made her first vows on August 6, 1960, and pronounced her final vows on August 6, 1965. Sister received a BA degree with a major in history and a minor in English from Incarnate Word College in San Antonio. She was awarded a Texas teacher certificate with a specialization in the elementary level.

During her years of ministry, Sister Faustina taught at St. Leo School in San Antonio, Sacred Heart School in Floresville, Our Lady of Perpetual Help in Selma, Sacred Heart School in Hallettsville, and Our Lady of Victory School and Nazareth Academy in Victoria. In the early years of Sister's ministry she taught the first grade; however, she had been the kindergarten teacher at Nazareth Academy for the past 30 years. Sister has enjoyed teaching children of her former students. The past two years she has volunteered at the school on a part-time basis and so keeps in touch with her many friends.

Sister M. Frances Cabrini Janvier, daughter of the late Noel and Anna Marie Mueller Janvier, was born in Elsa, Texas. She received her early education at Edouch-Elsa Elementary, Central Elementary, Edouch-Elsa High School and graduated from Nazareth Academy. Sister entered Nazareth Convent and became a novice on August 5, 1959. She made her first vows on August 6, 1960, and pronounced her final vows on August 6, 1965. Sister earned a BA degree with a major in English and a minor in Spanish from Incarnate Word College in San Antonio and a MA degree with a major in religion from St. Louis University in Missouri. Her Texas teacher certificate was for grades 7 through 12.

During her years of ministry, Sister Frances Cabrini taught at Sacred Heart School in Crosby, Holy Cross School in Dallas, St. Ludmila Academy and St. Paul High School in Shiner, St. Joseph High School and Nazareth Academy in Victoria, Blessed Sacrament Academy in San Antonio and Sacred Heart School in Hallettsville. Sister taught in the Secondary School at Nakuru in Kenya, East Africa from 1982 to 1989. In 2004 she returned to Africa and was the directress of postulants and assisted with the novices at

the CVI Convent in Nairobi for two years. The past four years, Sister served as the Spanish teacher in the elementary grades at Nazareth Academy.

Sister now resides at Incarnate Word Convent where she assists in various duties, does research and keeps in touch with others on the computer. She also assists in doing translations in Spanish and French.

Sister Maria Goretti Warzecha, daughter of the late Isidore and Clara Brysch Warzecha, was born in Falls City, Texas. Her early education was at Three Oaks Public School and she graduated from Poth High School. Sister entered Nazareth Convent and became a novice on August 5, 1959. She made her first profession of vows on August 6, 1960, and pronounced her final vows on August 6, 1965. Sister received a BA degree with a major in history and a minor in English from Sacred Heart Dominican College in Houston, Texas. She later earned a master's degree in religious education from the University of St. Thomas in Houston. She held Texas teacher certificates on the elementary and high school levels.

During her 50 years of religious profession, Sister ministered at St. Mary School in Nada, Holy Cross School in Bay City, St. Leo School and Blessed Sacrament School in San Antonio, St. Ludmila Academy in Shiner, St. Michael School in Cuero, Sacred Heart School in Floresville, and Nazareth Academy in Victoria. During 1977-1979, Sister resided at Incarnate Word Convent where she served as formation directress for aspirants and junior sisters. Sister presently teaches the First Communion class and does tutoring at Nazareth Academy.

Sister M. Bernarda Bludau, daughter of the late Andres and Anna Friesenhahn Bludau, was born in Hallettsville, Texas. She received her education in grades 1 through 12 at Sacred Heart School in Hallettsville. Sister entered Nazareth Convent and became a novice on August 5, 1959. She made her first profession of vows on August 6, 1960, and pronounced her final vows on August 6, 1965. Sister earned a BA degree with a major in history and a

minor in English from Sacred Heart Dominican College in Houston, Texas, and a master's degree in education with a major in administration and a minor in supervision from the University of Houston at Victoria. Her Texas teacher certificates are for high school and librarian.

Sister Bernarda ministered as a teacher and/or principal at Assumption School in Ganado, Holy Cross School and St. Patrick School in Dallas, Sacred Heart School in Hallettsville, Our Lady of Victory School, St. Joseph High School and Nazareth Academy in Victoria, Blessed Sacrament Academy in San Antonio and St. Michael School in Weimar. In 1973 - 1976, Sister was also vocation directress while teaching at Nazareth Academy. Sister is presently serving as the assistant-principal at Nazareth Academy.

Sister M. Emiliana Grafe, daughter of Lena Grahmann Grafe and the late Victor Grafe, was born in Hallettsville, Texas. She received her education in grades 1 through 12 at Sacred Heart School in Hallettsville. Sister entered the Nazareth Convent and became a novice on August 5, 1959. She made her first profession of vows on August 6, 1960, and pronounced her final vows on August 6, 1965. Sister earned a BA with a major in English and a minor in Spanish at Sacred Heart Dominican College in Houston. Sister completed numerous post-graduate hours in administration, theology and continuing education in other areas. She was also awarded Texas teacher certificates in general elementary, elementary English and elementary mathematics.

Sister Emiliana ministered as a teacher/principal at Sacred Heart School in La Grange, St. Michael School in Weimar, St. Leo School in San Antonio, and Sacred Heart School in Hallettsville. She served as San Antonio Archdiocesan School Consultant from 1972 to 1978 and was a member of the Congregational General Council from 1976 to 1982 and from 1988 to 2000. Sister Emiliana was appointed director of the Associates of the Incarnate Word when the group was organized in 1989 and continues in that capacity. She also teaches religion part-time at Sacred Heart School in Hallettsville.

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A New Attitude of Gratitude: A+ for our Diocese

A note from the diocesan Superintendent of Catholic Schools, Mr. John Quary

The weathermen and women are calling for dark skies and rainy days, mixed with clouds and hot temps, draped in a blanket of muggy humidity. Sounds like the familiar forecast that we hear around this time of year...August is here!

However, here in the Catholic schools of the Diocese of Victoria, our outlook is a great deal brighter and so much more grateful! Sunny smiles, bright eyes, excited hallways and corridors, new classrooms and classmates, warm dispositions and high expectations for a brand new school year make our outlook for 2010-2011 an A+ Year!

A+ Year for America: Catholic Schools is the theme selected by The National Catholic Education Association (NCEA) for Catholic Schools Week 2011 (January 30-February 5, 2011). This theme "celebrates the fact that Catholic schools are an added value ("a plus") for the nation. Because of their traditionally high academic standards and high graduation rates, all supported by strong moral values, Catholic schools and their graduates make a definite contribution to American society."

This August, a new school year presents opportunities for various beginnings – new classes, new faces, sometimes new courses, and often new buildings and schedules. Summer and vacation can be great healers, and as we approach the opening day of a brand new school year for the Catholic schools of our diocese, the end-of-year pressures and pains that plagued us in June seem remote and inconsequential...for most of us, anyway.

As we begin to look toward the start of a new school term, however, let us take a look back to remind ourselves of our ever-present mission. According to the Church document, "To Teach as Jesus Did: A Pastoral Message on Catholic Education" (1972), the educational ministry of youth has the following three-fold mission: "...strive to teach doctrine, to do so within the experience of Christian community, and to prepare individuals for effective Christian witness and service to others." Our Catholic schools throughout the nation have been addressing this mission for the past centuries. In fact, if one were to examine the roots of U.S. Catholic education, one could probably point "...to at least 1606 AD. That year, expressing their desire 'to teach children Christian doctrine, reading

and writing,' the Franciscans opened a school in what's now St. Augustine, Fla." (Historical Overview of Catholic Schools – NCEA 2010)

The schools of the Diocese of Victoria can be traced back to 1867, when Nazareth Academy was first opened. At that time, however, the school was a part of the Diocese of Galveston. Since those humble beginnings, Catholic education has flourished throughout our diocese and the state of Texas. The most recent figures state that there are more than 6.5 million Catholics in Texas and more than 73,000 children attending 442 Catholic schools (2008). Our own diocesan school student population realized an increase of 3.3 percent during the last school year (2009-2010), bringing our total to 3,009.

Starting a new year also gives us the opportunity to make new plans, design new strategies and implement new ideas. There is a special kind of joy and satisfaction in planning lessons and activities for a new class; for although the subject or grade may be the same, the students are new, and they appreciate the planning that is done for them.

We, in the Diocese of Victoria, can be proud of what we achieve in our Catholic school classrooms, our offices, and on our playing fields and stages, but our achievements are not due to complacency and satisfaction with the status quo. Our program is what it is because of dedicated staffs of aspiring men and women with a common goal of excellence and service. This year, we are happy to welcome our newest administrative members: Sr. Laura Toman, IWBS, principal of Our Lady of Victory; Ms. Kimberly Patek, principal of St. Michael of Weimar; and Mrs. Neely Yackel, principal of Shiner Catholic School.

We invite you to share an attitude of gratitude for all of our students, our parents, our staffs, our parish and civic communities, our God, and our forerunners of Catholic education who have paved the way for our light to continually shine. Please pray that we will continue to serve as a beacon of spirituality, scholarship and selflessness to all those seeking guidance, friendship and knowledge, as we spread the good news of Jesus Christ.

If you have any questions on how you might enroll your youngster, please contact a Catholic school near you for more information or visit our Web site at www.victoriadiocese.org.

Remember, "Catholic Schools: F.I.R.S.T. Class Education...for life!"



Three Catholic schools receive new principals

Continued from p. 1

St. Patrick School in Dallas and St. Michael School in Weimar. For the past two years, Sister Laura has served as the vice principal at St. Patrick School in Dallas.

While under the direction of Sister Laura, St. Michael School in Weimar was nationally recognized as a No Child Left Behind – Blue Ribbon School of Excellence in the fall of 2006. She will now be in charge of Our Lady of Victory School, which was given the same recognition in 2008 under Sister Leonita Barron's watch.

It is with much pleasure that Our Lady of Victory School community welcomes Sister Laura Toman.



Catholic School, effective July 1, 2010. In her two years as the school's assistant principal, Mrs. Yackel has proven herself to be an extremely effective administrator consistent with our school's mission of 'Preparing the Children of God for the Kingdom of God.' I have every confidence that Mrs. Yackel will continue to help lead our school community in its mission and provide exemplary administrative guidance and support to that endeavor."

St. Michael Catholic School, Weimar

St. Michael, Weimar, welcomes Miss Kimberly Patek, as the first lay principal in the school's history. She began her duties officially on July 1.

A native of Shiner and a 1992 graduate of St. Paul High, she is the daughter of Eugene and Dorothy Patek, and the youngest of eight children. She received a bachelor of science in Interdisciplinary Studies in 1999, with a major in reading and a minor in early childhood education from the University of Houston, Victoria Campus. In 2004, she received a master's degree in education majoring in administration and supervision from the same institute. Miss Patek is certified in reading, early childhood, and administration.



Miss Patek has taught Kindergarten at St. Michael Elementary in Cuero, seventh grade math and was the Girls' jr. high and High School athletic coach at Cuero ISD, and was administrator at Sacred Heart, Floresville, from 2006–2009.

Co-workers, parents and friends describe her as a deeply spiritual, persistent, dedicated leader who provides guidance to the school family, both young and old. At Sacred Heart School, Miss Patek was instrumental in implementing a strategic plan with long-range goals, increasing the enrollment by adding various grade levels, and working diligently at bridging the gap between the church and the school. She also worked long hours participating in the school's fundraisers.

Miss Patek says that she believes her mission is to be a Catholic School principal where she can influence the young in their Catholic journey. The family of St. Michael in Weimar looks forward to working with her and has already been impressed with her enthusiastic approach to her new ministry.

Shiner Catholic Schools

Father Bob Knippenberg, pastor of Sts. Cyril and Methodius Catholic Church and School, has announced the appointment of Mrs. Neely Yackel as principal of Shiner Catholic School (St. Ludmila Elementary and St. Paul High). Mrs. Yackel has been the school's assistant principal for two years and brings to Shiner Catholic School extensive educational experience.

Holding a bachelor of science in Interdisciplinary Studies, Mrs. Yackel specializes in early childhood education from Southwest Texas State University, 1997, and a master of science in education, specializing in educational leadership from Walden University, 2008. She received her Pre-K through 12 Texas principal's certification in 2009. Prior to coming to Shiner Catholic School, she had 10 years of teaching experience in the Gonzales Independent School District.

Mrs. Yackel, her husband of twelve years, Mark, and her two sons, Reid and Jake, reside in Gonzales and are members of both Sts. Cyril & Methodius Catholic Church in Shiner and St. James Catholic Church in Gonzales.

In making the announcement, Father Bob said, "After consultation with the Catholic School Advisory Council and its Principal Search Committee and based upon their recommendation, I am very happy to announce the appointment of Mrs. Neely Yackel as principal of Shiner



Catholic Education Questions of the National Catholic Educational Association

- Q:** How many students are enrolled in Catholic educational programs at all levels – schools, religious education programs, colleges and universities and seminaries? **A:** There are 7.6 million students in Catholic education at all levels.
- Q:** Where do Catholic educators stand on school choice? **A:** Any educational reform efforts must include a commitment to parental rights in choosing schools for their children and assisting those who do not have the financial means to exercise choice.
- Q:** What is the enrollment of Catholic schools? **A:** Total Catholic school student enrollment for the 2006-2007 academic year is 2,320,651. 1,682,412 middle school; 638,239 secondary school
- Q:** How many Catholic schools are there? **A:** There are 7,498 Catholic schools; of these 6,288 were elementary/middle, and 1,210 were secondary.
- Q:** Where are the most Catholic schools located? **A:** Student Enrollment: Dioceses with The Twenty Largest Enrollments
- New York Chicago Philadelphia Los Angeles Brooklyn Cleveland St. Louis Cincinnati Boston Newark New Orleans Detroit Miami St. Paul/Minneapolis Baltimore Rockville Centre Milwaukee Washington, DC San Francisco Pittsburgh
- Q:** How many new schools opened last year? **A:** 36 new schools opened; 212 closed or consolidated during the 2006-2007 academic year.
- Q:** What is the average cost of tuition in a Catholic school **A:** Elementary Mean parish school tuition: \$2,607; Secondary Mean freshman tuition: \$6,906.
- Q:** Why do parents choose Catholic schools for their children? **A:** Faith formation, High academic standards; Values-added education; Safe school environment
- Q:** What percentage of Catholic secondary school students graduate? How many go on to college? **A:** 99% graduation rate, 97% go to college

Reporting Abuse

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

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

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

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

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



Shelby Bohuslav

Emily Wagner



Jill McElroy

St. Paul trio named TAPPS All-Stars

Reprinted from *The Shiner Gazette*

SHINER—Three St. Paul Lady Cardinals received TAPPS All-Star honors recently.

Shelby Bohuslav, now graduated, and Emily Wagner, a junior, received the honors in basketball, while Jill McElroy, also graduated, excelled in volleyball.

The basketball games were played at San Antonio Christian School, Saturday, June 12. Emily and Shelby played for Blue North which won 62-50. Shelby made two 3-pointers and Emily was noted for her defensive play.

The girls were honored at the All Star/Fine Arts Banquet held at the Omni Hotel on Friday, June 11. Coaches and fine art teachers of the year were honored with them. Fine Art student of the year and athletes of the year for each classification were also honored.

Sacred Heart TAPPS overall 2A state champions

HALLETTSVILLE—For the seventh year in succession Sacred Heart High School was named the Texas Association of Private and Parochial Schools (TAPPS) 2010 Overall 2A State Champion. They received this distinct honor for advancing in the playoffs in the following athletic and music competitions: Football (4 points), Volleyball (1 point), Girls Basketball (1 point), Boys Basketball (1 point), Girls Tennis (8 points), Girls Golf (1 point), Girls Track (1 point), Boys Track (10 points), Baseball (4 points), Softball (10 points) and Instrumental Music (10 points). A total of 51 points were earned for the 2009-10 school year.

Congratulations to the student participants, the teachers, the coaches and the parents for their support of the overall extracurricular programs offered at Sacred Heart School.

Sacred Heart has received the Overall State Championship in 1989, 1996, 1997, 2004, 2005, 2006, 2007, 2008, 2009 and 2010.

Ethan Svetlik TAPPS Student of the Year

HALLETTSVILLE—Ethan Svetlik, a 2010 Sacred Heart High School graduate, was selected as the Texas Association of Private and Parochial Schools (TAPPS) 2010 2A Fine Arts Student of the Year. Ethan was recognized at the TAPPS Annual Awards Banquet on June 11 held at the Omni in San Antonio. He received a plaque for this special honor.

Ethan received District and State Honors in academic and art competition. He also was the Historian of the Class of 2010. Ethan is the son of Johnny and Marilyn Svetlik.

This is their second consecutive year to receive the TAPPS All-Stars honor.

Shelby plans to attend Blinn College this fall where she will pursue a degree in Nursing.

Emily, who will be a senior this year at St. Paul, was selected to the All-Tournament team in all three tournaments in which she participated, Bracken Christian, Victoria Faith Academy and Palacios (3A).

Jill will be attending Texas State University in the fall, majoring in psychology and minoring in English. She then plans to attend Baylor University School of Law and pursue a career as an attorney.

Bill Harrison TAPPS Teacher of the Year

HALLETTSVILLE—Bill Harrison, the band director at Sacred Heart High School, was recently selected as the Texas Association of Private and Parochial Schools (TAPPS) 2010 Fine Arts Teacher of the Year. He received a plaque at the TAPPS Annual Awards Banquet on June 11 held at the Omni Hotel in San Antonio.

Mr. Harrison was recognized for his outstanding leadership in leading the high school band to three consecutive TAPPS Instrumental Music State Championships.

2010 Life Teen Core Member University

All Life Teen and Edge Core Members - new and veteran - will be blessed by all-new, comprehensive training sessions. Attend this CMU and receive the gift of solid, Catholic youth ministry training this fall and watch the ripple effects it has on your teens.

The Core Member University will be held at St. Francis of Assisi - 4201 DeZavala - San Antonio. The cost is \$65.00 per person registered 10 days prior to CMU and \$75.00 per person registered within 10 days of the CMU or at the door. Youth ministers receive free registration. Register online at www.catholicyouthministry.com or call: 1-800-809-3902.

Beal named TAPPS Coach of the Year

Reprinted from *The Shiner Gazette*

SHINER—Donna Beal, athletic director and coach at St. Paul High School, was honored as the TAPPS 2A Coach of the Year at the TAPPS summer meetings held in June.

Each year one coach is selected from each of the five classifications that compete in TAPPS.

Beal is not only the athletic director at St. Paul High School, but she also serves as the head coach for boys and girls cross country, volleyball, basketball and track and field. She is also an assistant coach for the softball team.

This year, the Lady Cardinals were the TAPPS 2A State Cross Country Champions for the second straight year and the state runner-up in basketball. Eleven

qualified for state in track and field in eight events with all three relays advancing.

Beal was recognized not only for the athletic achievements of her teams but also their academic accomplishments. The Lady Cardinals placed eight young ladies on the All-Star team for both athletics and academics in TAPPS.

Texas Association of Basketball Coaches recognized two of the Lady Cardinals for All-State and three for Academic All-State. Six Lady Cardinals were recognized for Academic All-State by Texas Girl's Coaches Association for volleyball, basketball and cross country.

Coach Beal has just completed her seventh year at St. Paul. During that time, the Cardinals and Lady Cardinals have combined for a total of 16 state appearances in five sports and eight state titles combined.

"It is easy to be successful when you have athletes who are willing to consistently work hard and understand the lessons that athletics can bring into their life," she said. "We do our best to provide an environment of Godly values, structure and competitiveness in all our programs. We have great kids at St. Paul and that makes our job as coaches very easy."



Donna Beal

Internet program to help smokeless tobacco users quit

Many young American adults engage in the habitual use of smokeless tobacco (chew or snuff) and many wish to quit but lack resources.

Effective treatment for smokeless tobacco addiction is now available for free on the Internet, thanks to a research study funded by the National Cancer Institute.

Researchers at Oregon Research Institute have been awarded research grants from the National Cancer Institute to develop and evaluate innovative smokeless tobacco cessation interventions to the largely underserved population of smokeless tobacco users. This program is free and available to anyone interested in quitting and willing to complete a brief survey about their tobacco use.

DID YOU KNOW?

Smokeless Tobacco may be a factor in

9,000 U.S. cancer deaths each year.

My LastDip.com can help smokeless tobacco users quit their habit with two unique programs:

- One specially designed for ages 14 – 15
- Another for all other users ages 26 and older.

It is free to any smokeless tobacco user who has access to a computer and has an e-mail address, and expresses an interest in quitting.

It is able to reach out to rural users or users who do not have access to any other assistance for helping them quit smokeless tobacco.

It is an adjunct to any other program you have for tobacco cessation.

Both programs are available by going to www.MyLastDip.com

Youth Calendar of Events

August 21 — Altar Server Appreciation at Splashway

August 23 – 27 — USCCB Safe Environment Audit

September 7-8 — St. Anthony School Retreat at SRC

September 9 — Theology at the Well at Chili's in Victoria

September 12 — Our Lady of Victory Confirmation Retreat at SRC

September 18 — Foundations Youth Ministry Class at the Chancery



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



ST. MARY'S PARACHUTES WITH ANGELS—Pictured are Father Dan Morales (r.), the newly installed pastor of St. Mary's in Victoria, and Father Tony Boateng-Mensah, parochial vicar, with the children who attended St. Mary's Parachute with the Angels and St. Catherine Laboure Vacation Bible School, held July 19 – 23 in Victoria. Sixty-three children participated this year, along with 20 teen and 14 adult volunteers. The children collected "Pennies from Heaven" totaling \$130 to be donated to Love for Life and \$70 to be donated to the Gabriel Project in memory of St. Mary's late pastor Msgr. James Brunner.

SISTER REBECCA: KENYAN DAKTARI YA (DOCTOR, VET)

By Cynthia Brewer

Living in the bush country of Kenya, that is home to warring African tribes, would frighten most people, particularly a woman living alone for a period of 10 days per month – but not Sister Rebecca Janacek, a petite, fair-skinned woman, 56 years of age, and a member of the congregation of the Sisters of the Incarnate Word and Blessed Sacrament in Victoria, Texas.

Rather than being fearful of living with the Pokot people and the neighboring tribes with whom they fight, no longer with spears, bows and arrows, but with automatic AK-47

be very deep. We just don't have the money to continue this project at this time."

The cost for each well – drilling, equipping with solar powered pumps, storage tanks and hand pumps – is between

stays out, she said.

The roads are the responsibility of the government, and Sister Rebecca spends much time and energy reminding them of their promises and responsibilities. Basically the promise is:

"We've got the money, you do the work." The government has the money and is supposed to provide medicines and see that she can access the people through good roads, and she has the time and skill to provide health care for the people.

She warned the government that she'd be gone for two months (visiting home in Texas),

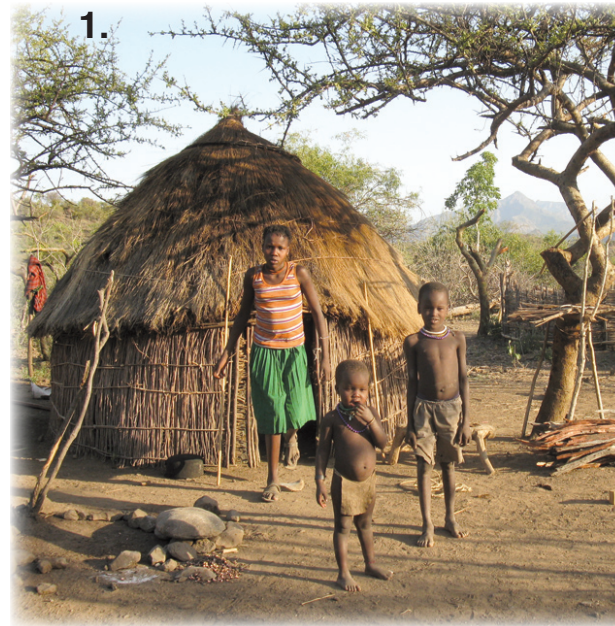
and expected the roads to be repaired by the time she got back. Eventually they listen to her because they know how valuable she is to them.

While at the Rotu Mission of a couple of buildings, which is situated similarly to the family homesteads, Sister Rebecca is on her own and alone for ten days at a time. She is able to drive there from Barpello in her brand new truck, which came from donors.

In Rotu her many skills are utilized: she provides for anyone sick, human or animal; works on the water wells (which she designed); from her little shop, she sells sugar, tea, salt, soap

and animal medicines. The majority of the natives receive income through the sale of their livestock at markets. To supplement their income, others sell honey to the Sisters who sell it at market in Barpello.

Because they're on the equator, day and night are equally 12 hours. She finds a lot of peace at the mission once shoppers and



assault rifles that have trickled in from countries fighting civil wars, she fears a lack of clean water, passable roads and medicine for the people she serves.

Sister Rebecca, a registered nurse, has been ministering to the Pokot people of the Pokot district in northwest Kenya since 1987, and speaks both the Pokot and Swahili languages.

The people are pastoralists; their lives depend on their cattle and goats, thus the battle with AK-47s to protect their livelihood from cattle rustlers – a notorious problem. The Pokot territory, an arid and forgotten land, encompasses 693 sq. miles, an area approximately 10 by 60 miles with a population of about 15,000. The family unit is patriarchal with the men practicing polygamy, having several wives. The large families live remotely in two to three wood or mud, round huts encircled as one homestead (manyatta) to provide protection.

Sister Rebecca's home base is in Barpello, E. Pokot, Kenya, where she works with seven other religious - two priests and five sisters - at the Kenya Foundation of the Mexico City Incarnate Word Sisters, which now also includes native Sisters, and the Victoria Community of the Incarnate Word. Barpello, the established mission, is about 12 hours northwest of the Kenyan capital city of Nairobi, and 30 miles (four hours) from the Rotu Mission.

In an effort to multiply the foundation's health programs, Sister Rebecca spent from January to September 2006 conducting a needs assessment to determine the most important needs of the Pokot people. She and two lads with secondary-level educations conducted the assessment. She and each lad, for a week at a time, would travel by foot from one round hut to another, each with their own tent, collecting data about the resources and population, before returning to Barpello.

At the time, all water collection was done by the women, carrying two to five gallon containers on their backs, from one-half mile to 20 miles from their homes. Collection can occur from one to four times daily depending on the season and closeness of the water points. This hardship caused women to have spontaneous abortions, and children were left in the care of older children while mothers were away. To reach basic health care facilities it could take from two to five days walking through the bush.

From this process, she and the Pokot people concluded that access to clean water, healthcare, food and education were their most important needs. Three stations were selected to receive water wells: Rotu, Chesawach and Chesettim, each about 15 miles from the other. Wells have already been established in Rotu and Chesawach, and a medical mission has been built in Rotu.

"Unfortunately, they have not found water at Chesettim," said Sister Rebecca. "However, the water assessment says there's a huge amount of water, but we have to find the fissure in the volcanic rock, and the well will have to

\$48,000 and \$58,000, depending on the depth. The solar powered pumps provide water for the health units and the hand pumps for the people and their livestock.

Sister Rebecca requires the natives using the water wells to pay for some of the more expensive parts of the hand pumps, in this way they have some ownership, "Each family makes their payment by the sale of one, big goat at the December market. This way they also help fund the upkeep of the well."

The medical unit at Rotu has passed inspection by the Kenyan government; they're only waiting for the paperwork to be officially licensed. The goal with this unit, as well as all future medical units (Chesettim and Chesawach), is to have four professional people experienced in health care, community development and financial management, to eventually be able to manage their own independent health units at each of these stations.

"I want the government to provide us nurses. Hopefully by October we'll have a couple of nurses in Rotu," Sister Rebecca said. "Ideally, each health unit will also have a hostel with nine rooms including a dining and sitting area, where the nurses will stay, using their government housing stipend, and visitors may rent an overnight stay; therefore, it should become a means of generating income for the health unit."

While home in Victoria in June and July this year, Sister Rebecca received a generous donation to build the hostel at the Rotu unit. She is hopeful that by next year the Rotu station will be fully established, so they don't have to rely on the mobile clinics.

Because of the extremely poor road conditions, the mobile clinics that normally come once monthly have been unable to come for the past ten months. Children have missed their vaccinations.

"This place is totally neglected by the government because it is so far away, has such bad roads, and there is so much violence."

Some of Sister Rebecca's largest troubles come from the corrupt and slow government in Nairobi. Because of the cattle rustling and the AK-47s replacing the more traditional weapons, it's so dangerous that even the Kenyan military

water collectors leave to beat sundown at 7 p.m. Sister Rebecca says she is safe when alone because she's the people's "Daktari." Even the "enemy" tribes respect her. She said, "They all know I would also help them if they needed medical attention; in fact I have helped other tribe members."

The missions bring health and education to the people, but religious missions also bring the good news of Jesus Christ. Sister Rebecca said that at their home mission in Barpello, with the help of God, they've established an active, faith community, "Fifty to 60 natives have received



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A WATU, WANYAMA NA MTU YA DUKA (VETERINARIAN AND SHOPKEEPER)

baptism and some of the other sacraments and attend Sunday Mass, while an additional 100 to 150 also come to each Sunday Mass to worship with the others. All their services are in the Pokot language.”

“As far as in the bush, the new areas, they have not yet established faith communities; they’re just trying to lay the ground work – the pre-evangelization,” she said.

Sister Rebecca’s ministry is in the healing ministry; whereas, the teaching Sisters’ and the priests’ ministry is in evangelization and in teaching the faith.

“The Sisters take about nine years before asking about the people’s faith/gods. They ask and then, eventually, the natives begin to ask who our “god” is. But in Rotu, they’re already asking about our faith,” she said. “I’m asking the priests and the teaching Sisters to hurry and come do the evangelizing; the people are ready.”

Sister Rosa Marta of Mexico City was instrumental in establishing the Incarnate Word Sisters Foundation in Nakuru, Kenya, in July of 1979. Soon after, she invited the Incarnate Word Sisters in Victoria and Corpus Christi to collaborate with them in this project.

“When Sister Marta asked for volunteers to go to the mission, it was in my heart to go,” Sister Rebecca said. “But I was just an LVN, so in 1983 I went back to school to become a registered nurse. I graduated in 1985.”

graduated in 1985.”

“Because the doctors at my job in the hospital knew I would be going to Kenya to work in the missions and would not be at work for long, they took me under their care and taught me what the intern doctors were learning.”

To learn even more vital mis-

sionary skills, she quit her job in August of 1986. During that time, she attended a missionary internship program in Detroit, Mich.; worked with her dad acquiring carpentry skills, as he was a retired building contractor; and worked in a car garage with an old family friend to learn mechanical skills. These were skills most would not think of needing to go on a mission, but if one lives alone in the African bush they are necessities.

The reason Sister Rebecca is able to serve the Pokot people is because of donors from throughout the world: mostly the U.S., Ireland and Italy. Donations from the U.S. come mainly from the dioceses of Victoria and San Antonio, especially from where her family lives. Her new

truck came by saving donations for four to five years from a combination of many people. She also has a core group of anonymous donors on which her mission relies. Even smaller donations help, “The children from Catholic schools help with their penny collections,” she said, “and they know a lot about our mission.”

To help Sister Rebecca financially, please make checks out to the Sisters of the Incarnate Word and Blessed Sacrament (IWBS) and earmark the funds for Sr. Rebecca’s Water Well/Health Project. Mail to Sr. Evelyn Korenek at 1101 N.E. Water Street, Victoria, TX 77901.

Also, please remember to pray for Sister Rebecca and the Pokot people.



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1. Friends of Sister Rebecca outside their home – a typical native hut in the Pokot District in Kenya
2. Pokot women bring their children to the clinic for vaccines
3. Sister greets a young Pokot “tribesman”
4. Sister Rebecca’s living quarters and office at the Catholic Mission in Rotu
5. Sister Rebecca, stands in front of the new health unit at Rotu
6. The only two participants of the Rotu Mission compound blessing Mass; they are Sister Rebecca and Father Sean McGovern, a Spiritan Father (Holy Ghost Fathers). He was visiting to see the mission’s progress.
7. Prior to the installation of wells at the Rotu Mission, women would collect water from very poor water sources; this was risky as tribes, competing for water, would shoot at them
8. Hydro Water Well Ltd. drills a water well for the Rotu mission; they found water at a depth of 325 feet
9. A picture is worth a thousand words – a water pump for the people of E. Pokot and their livestock
10. This is an example of some of the roads Sister Rebecca has to traverse. They wreak havoc on her vehicle and tires.
11. Men build a trough to go to the water collection site for their livestock. In the background is the solar powered water pump



Mr. Larry Hoelscher ordained to the diaconate

By Cynthia Brewer

EL CAMPO—With praise and thanksgiving to Almighty God, Lawrence Earl Hoelscher of El Campo, Texas, was ordained to the Sacred Order of Deacons by Bishop David E. Fellhauer Saturday, July 10, 2010, at St. Philip the Apostle Church. This brings the total number of deacons in the service of the Diocese of Victoria to 35.

Mr. Larry Hoelscher and his wife, Patricia are the parents of three children, Jason, and his wife, Jill, and their son, Beck, of Sugar Land; Christina Louise who is deceased; and Matthew Lee of

laying on of hands, as told in the Book of Acts, by Bishop Fellhauer. This represents the most solemn moment of the ordination rite, where the bishop prays for the gift of the Holy Spirit to come upon the candidate. The bishop then consecrates the candidate a deacon.

Patricia Hoelscher and Richard Hoelscher, his father, presented the liturgical vestments of a deacon to Father Gary Janak, the vesting clergy. Father Janak vested Deacon Hoelscher with the stole and dalmatic that were handmade gifts from the Sisters of the Infant Jesus of Lufkin, Texas.

As the Church's herald of the Good News of Jesus Christ, the bishop then presented Deacon Hoelscher with the Book of Gospels. The Ordination Rite closed with the Kiss of Peace given to the deacon by the bishop and each of his brother deacons. The Mass then continued with the Liturgy of the Eucharist.

Below, Deacon Larry shares his story of becoming a deacon and some reflections on his ordination.

My journey to becoming a deacon

My journey of becoming a deacon actually started when I was just six years old. I lived just across from St. Anthony's Catholic Church in Violet, Texas, (smaller than Hillje). I served Mass every day I could and loved every minute of it. I served, until I was a senior in high school. I really grew to love serving the Lord. Many priests who passed through our parish encouraged me to enter the priesthood, but my love of sports and girls did not help with that vocation.

I married Patricia Ann McNair on August 3, 1974, and we started our life together. God blessed us with three children Jason, Christina and Matthew. When the children were young, I would preach to them about what was right and wrong; it was Christina who was the first to ever call me "Deacon Larry." I will never forget that. However, on August 30, 1997, God called Christina home to be with him. Her death was a big test of faith for me. I struggled with her passing for a long time.

In the summer of 2004 Patricia and I took our family on a pilgrimage with Betty Urbanovsky to Italy and Medjugorje. This trip was the beginning of God's calling me to serve him as a deacon. While we were in Rome, we went to see Pope John Paul II one day, and when he passed by us, I felt I made eye contact with the Holy Father and he blessed me. I found out later that John Paul II had the ability to connect with a person with just one look into one's eyes. I really felt that connection that day; however, I did not know what it meant, but I felt different.

The spiritual leader on that pilgrimage was Father Gary Janak. He would celebrate Mass everyday, and during the intentions, he would offer a petition for an increase to the priesthood, diaconate and religious life. Everyday, when he would offer that petition, I would get an aching in my heart that would last for about a minute or so. It would happen everyday at Mass, even back at home.

I did not tell Patricia of the experience until after we had returned home. She told me I should make an appointment with Father Gary and talk to him about it. He said that it could be a calling from God to serve him as a deacon, so he wrote a letter to Father Gabriel Maison who allowed me into the formation program that August.

Patricia and I started our journey together for the next six years. Though the courses were very challenging, with God's help, he touched both of us and helped us realize that this was where he wanted us to be.

My ordination was a very special day. I have never felt God's love more than I did that Saturday morning. God blessed me with the presence of Bishop Fellhauer and the many priests and brother deacons who were there.

When I was first vested in my dalmatic, I was overcome with all the love that the Sisters of the Infant Jesus had put into making it for me. I am truly humbled and blessed to have had them praying for me and my family throughout my journey to becoming a deacon.

I am so thankful to everyone present at my ordination and to all who have prayed for me and wished us well. Know that I will pray for you also, as I start this ministry of service in God's Church.



(above) Deacon Hoelscher's wife, Patricia, and father, Richard, present to Father Gary Janak the liturgical vestments that were handmade by the Sisters of the Infant Jesus.



(left) Bishop Fellhauer imposes his hands upon candidate Larry Hoelscher's head — an ancient sign of ordination referred to in Acts 6:1 — 7b.

Houston. His career is in agriculture, selling crop protection products.

Candidate Larry Hoelscher processed into the church with Bishop Fellhauer, fourteen priests and 20 future brother deacons to the gathering hymn, *Come, Let Us Gather*, which was sung by the St. Philip the Apostle Adult Choir and led by the parish music director, Janice Cox.

The Scripture readings were read by Denise Hilberling and Rick Hoelscher. The first reading was from Jeremiah 1:4-9 and included the call of the prophet Jeremiah: 'To whomsoever I send you, you shall go.' The second reading was from Acts 6:1-7b, which was an account of the presentation of the first seven deacons to the apostles, who prayed over and imposed hands on them. The Gospel, Mt. 20:25-28, repeated Christ's heeding, "Whoever wishes to be first among you shall be your slave."

Following the readings, Mr. Hoelscher was called by name as a candidate and presented to Bishop Fellhauer. Father Gary Janak, pastor of St. Philip Church, speaking on behalf of those responsible for Mr. Hoelscher's formation, attested to the readiness of his ordination. On behalf of the entire Church, the bishop accepted the candidate and called him to ordination as a deacon, to the applause of the congregation. After the bishop said the homily he examined the candidate through a series of questions, including asking him to express his desire and willingness to be ordained a deacon and to fulfill the responsibilities that come with ordination.

Candidate Hoelscher knelt before the bishop, placed his hands between the bishop's signifying his obedience. He then lay prostrate before the altar while the bishop invited the community to join in prayer for the Church, the world, one another, and the candidate himself, through the singing of the Litany of Saints. In honor of his daughter, Christina, the choir added St. Christina to the litany.

The ordination continued with the



Bishop Fellhauer presents the Book of the Gospels to Deacon Hoelscher, as he is now an official herald of the Good News.



Deacon Hoelscher assists at the altar for the first time. Behind him is Deacon Jerome Grahmann.



One of the largest assemblies of Fourth Degree Knights was present at Deacon Larry Hoelscher's ordination; they included the El Campo Fourth Degree Knights of Columbus Assembly 1131.

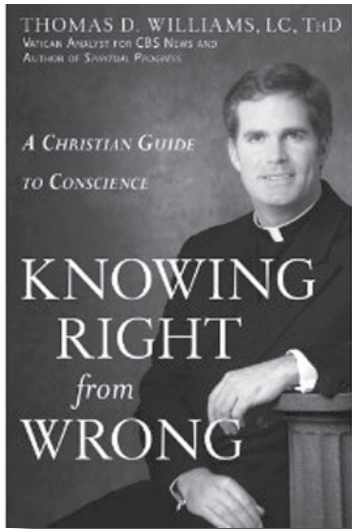


“Knowing Right from Wrong: A Christian Guide to Conscience” to be August puzzle prize

Father Thomas Williams, a professor of theology at the Regina Apostolorum Pontifical University in Rome, walks through the moral life and the conscience in his new book titled *Knowing Right from Wrong: a Christian Guide to Conscience*. Father Williams discusses in depth the moral life of every human and how it is much more than just choosing between right and wrong.

Stating that conscience is something all Christians struggle to understand, Father Williams writes, “This book seeks to provide Christians with a fresh set of categories by which to think about conscience and its function in their lives. It will explore the relationship among conscience, freedom, faith, truth and happiness. Without oversimplifying complex problems, this text will ... guide [you] through today’s moral jungle.”

Speaking eight languages – five fluently – with an undergraduate degree in economics and finance, a Licentiate in philosophy, and a doctorate in moral theology, Father Williams writes *Knowing Right from Wrong* in an intellectually-charged theological voice delivering revelations equally appropriate for all believers.



With instinctive simplicity, *Knowing Right from Wrong* lays out the purpose of conscience and God’s intention for it (hint: it’s much more than a little cricket named Jiminy). He says, “Conscience

is to the soul what the eyes are to the body. It lets in light and allows us to see things as they are. Our eyes reveal the physical ... while conscience unveils the moral quality of our actions.” Father Williams’ pragmatic message redefines conscience as a helpful, ambitious “coach” and not the nagging “referee” it’s known to be.

“*Knowing Right from Wrong*” offers easy to understand definitions of the different levels of conscience and how we can train it to “see” clearly. Covering the different roles one’s conscience plays, Father Williams breaks them into three categories: antecedent, concomitant and consequent (or before, during and after). He says conscience “has no authority of itself, but carries moral weight because it testifies to a higher moral truth ... [it] speaks for Another.”

“*Knowing Right from Wrong*” is published by Faith Words; list price: \$19.99, but sold by various Internet sites for a reduced price.

Major survey shows 97 percent approval rating of Marriage Encounter weekend experience

Houston—Statistics released at the recent meeting of the North American Secretariat of Worldwide Marriage Encounter show that 97 percent of the over 2,000 respondents to a detailed survey indicate the experience was good to excellent.

The statistical data was collected over the past six months and also showed that 73 percent of the survey participants said the Worldwide Marriage Encounter weekend changed their relationship with the Church and they decided to become more active in the Church after their weekend.

“This information truly validates what leaders of Worldwide Marriage Encounter have believed for many years. The WWME weekend does change lives and marriages and the relationship couples have with the Church,” said Jose and Marilyn Garcia and Father Mitch Walters, the North American Secretariat Ecclesial Team.

“The results of the survey really give each of us so much hope for the Worldwide Marriage Encounter movement’s effectiveness in the Church and for what we are attempting to do in helping couples in good marriages attain better ones,” the ecclesial team members added.

Other statistics show that 90 percent of the survey respondents encouraged family members to attend a WWME weekend and 84 percent said that the program helped to keep their marriage healthy and vibrant.

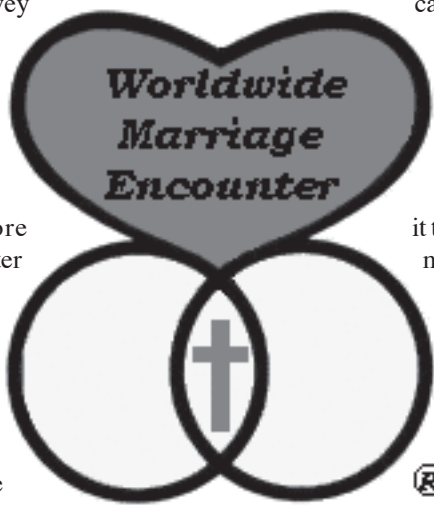
Worldwide Marriage Encounter has been offering weekend experiences for

over 40 years and is considered the original faith-based marriage enrichment program. It is continually updated to keep abreast of changes in society, and now offers evening and half-day programs that are presented at parishes. The weekend program, traditionally presented as an overnight experience at a hotel or retreat center,

can also be presented at the parish where the couples return to their homes in the evenings. WWME has a presence in over 90 countries, which makes it the largest pro-marriage movement in the world. In North America, the WWME programs are presented in English, Spanish, French and Korean languages.

Worldwide Marriage Encounter offers married couples the opportunity to spend time together away from the busyness of the world to focus on each other. It offers tools for building and maintaining a strong, Christian marriage in today’s world. To learn more about the Worldwide Marriage Encounter weekends online, go to www.wwme.org, or you can call 1-800-795-LOVE (English) and 1-800-599-AMOR (Spanish), or contact the WWME Office at (909) 863-9963.

In the Diocese of Victoria, for more information, please contact Ken & Theresa Eisman (979) 245-2497 or e-mail them at kteisman@mevictoria.org. To register for a weekend, please contact Milton and Diane Rejcek at (979) 543-3493, or at register@mevictoria.org.



IMAGES OF GOD

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BREAD OF LIFE	GATE	LAMB
BRIDEGROOM	GUIDE	ROCK
CHRIST	HOLY ONE	SHEPHERD

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



Family Puzzle Contest

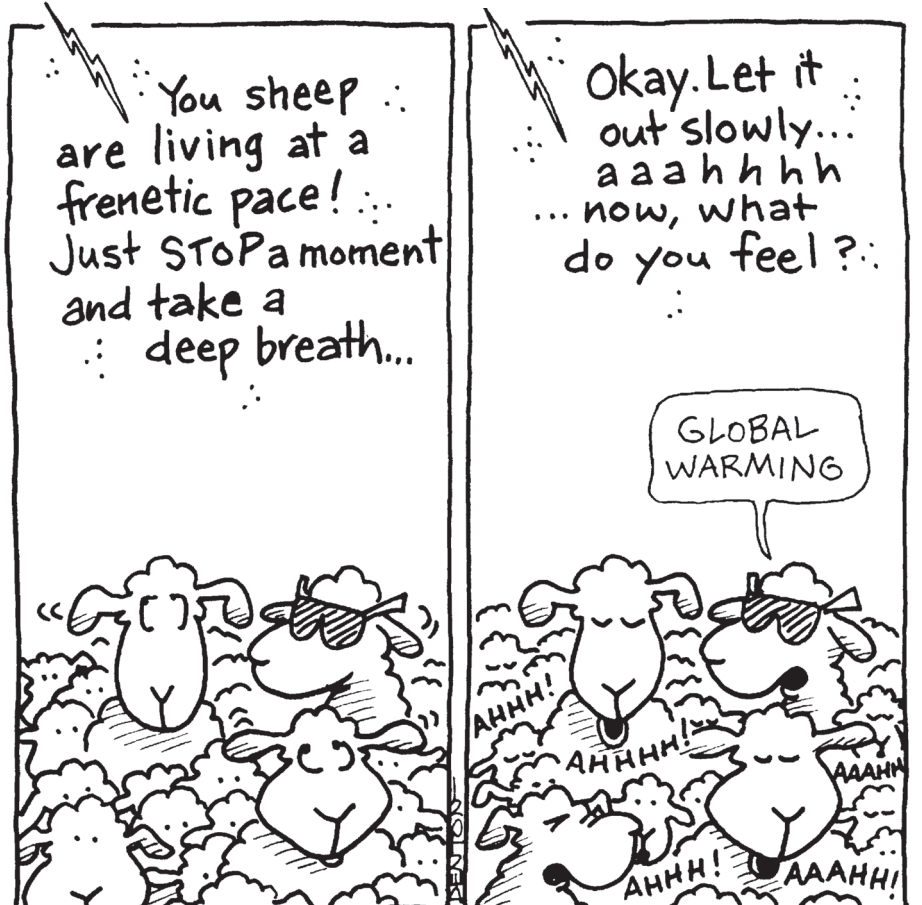
The next Family Puzzle Contest winner will win *Knowing Right from Wrong: A Christian Guide to Conscience* by Father Thomas Williams and published by Faith Words. See book review on this page.

The winner of the July Family Puzzle Contest and *Ultimate! Catholic Trivia* by Scott Paul Frush and published by Marshall Rand Publishing, is Barbara Jasek of Sacred Heart Parish in Hallettsville. We had many contestants this month; if you’d still like a copy of this book, you may purchase it by contacting the publisher at (800) 431-1579 or by mailing \$9.95 plus \$2.50 postage to Marshall Rand Publishing, P.O. Box 1849, Royal Oak, MI 48068-1849 (remember, educational quantity discounts apply).

The winner of the youth contest was Michaela Blough (11) of Holy Family Parish in Victoria. 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 August 25 for a chance to win *Knowing Right from Wrong: A Christian Guide to Conscience*. 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).

The Flock By Jean Denton
Copyright ©2005, Jean Denton





From Summer into School: Four Ways to Ease the Transition

By Ginny Kubitz Moyer

It's that time of year again. Teachers are decorating their classrooms, brand-new lunchboxes wait to be filled, and kids who have savored the delights of vacation are looking downright glum.



If you're a hardcore summer fan, you too may find it tough to get excited about the return of school. It's not easy to exchange the relative leisure of vacation for the tyranny of the alarm clock, the inflexibility of pickup times, and the challenge of shepherding your family through another academic year while (hopefully) keeping your own life in balance.

Luckily, the start of school does not have to mean the end of sanity. Here are a few ways

to ease the transition, making Back-to-School a positive, fun, and even spiritually enriching time for you and your family.

1. Make a New School Year's Resolution. When I was a kid, I adored buying school supplies. The folders were clean, the pencils smelled like cedar, and the crayons hadn't yet been blunted by use. If you'll bear with my English teacher riff here, those supplies are symbolic of the beginning of the school year, when everything is fresh and new. If your kids are old enough, talk about what they hope to accomplish during the year. Do they want to participate more in class? Limit the number of after-school activities to create more time for the one they really love? You can even pen some personal goals for yourself, like reducing school-year stress by exercising three times a week (this

one always works for me). Don't attach guilt to the resolutions, but do check in and reevaluate them as the year goes on. It's a great way to get kids reflecting on their own priorities.

2. Focus not on what you're losing, but on what you're gaining. Yes, it's tough to bid goodbye to swimming pools and charcoal barbecues. But every season has its own charms. On my short list of autumn fun: taking the boys to the pumpkin patch, letting myself eat candy corn again, smelling wood smoke in the air. Even if school itself doesn't generate any smiles, get your kids talking about fun experiences they had last fall. Pull out some photos if you need to refresh their memories (or your own).



3. Pack a letter along with the juice box and string cheese. At times throughout my childhood (and early adolescence), my mom would tuck a handwritten note

into my lunchbox. "I love you! Enjoy the Cheese Puffs! Love, Mom." When I was very young, these little letters helped me deal with the homesickness I often felt at school. When I was older, they were a subtle, non-intrusive reminder that my mom wanted to stay connected to me. Though I couldn't have articulated this at the time, I loved the fact that I was holding something handwritten, something that Mom herself also touched. That's instinctively comforting for kids, who sometimes need a little shot of motherly encouragement in the middle of a long school day.

4. Get mindful and remember that nothing stays forever. "This too shall pass," my grandmother always used to say. While that is a comforting mantra when you're so stressed out you can't see straight, it also captures the bittersweet reality of parenting. Someday you will miss the four-year-old who, though exhausting, dances with excitement upon showing you the letters he traced at preschool, or the exasperating teen who makes an unguarded comment revealing how much she still values your approval. I always try to remember that wishing away the negatives of a certain phase of parenthood inevitably means wishing away its joys, too. So if the school year is ratcheting up your stress level, try this little assignment: pause, breathe deeply, and think, "This won't last forever." Savor what's good about the present moment. In the classroom of life, it's one of the most important lessons we'll ever learn.

Ginny Kubitz Moyer is the author of Mary and Me: Catholic Women Reflect on the Mother of God, which received a 2009 Catholic Press Award. She's also an English teacher, weekend gardener, sporadic exerciser, and proud mother of two young boys. Visit her blog at www.blog.maryandme.org for thoughts on Mary, faith, parenting, and the occasional ode to Jane Austen.

Sunday Readings from Aug. 8 to Sept. 12

August 8 Nineteenth Sunday in Ordinary Time	Wisdom 18:6-9 Psalms 33:1, 12, 18-19, 20-22 Hebrews 11:1-2, 8-19 Luke 12:32-48
August 15 — Solemnity of the Assumption of the Blessed Virgin Mary, Mass during the Day	Revelation 11:19a; 12:1-6a, 10ab Psalms 45, 10, 11, 12, 16 1 Corinthians 15:20-27 Luke 1:39-56
August 22 Twenty-first Sunday in Ordinary Time	Isaiah 66:18-21 Psalms 117:1, 2 Hebrews 12:5-7, 11-13 Luke 13:22-30
August 29 Twenty-second Sunday in Ordinary Time	Sirach 3:17-18, 20, 28-29 Psalms 68:4-5, 6-7, 10-11 Hebrews 12:18-19, 22-24a Luke 14:1, 7-14
September 5 Twenty-third Sunday in Ordinary Time	Wisdom 9:13-18b Psalms 90:3-4, 5-6, 12-13, 14-17 Philemon 9-10, 12-17 Luke 14:25-33
September 12 Twenty-fourth Sunday in Ordinary Time	Exodus 32:7-11, 13-14 Psalms 51:3-4, 12-13, 17-19 1 Timothy 1:12-17 Luke 15:1-32,

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

www.usccb.org/nab/

Eight building blocks identified to become a Marriage-Building Parish

The USCCB's National Pastoral Initiative on Marriage (NPIM) has developed an Assessment Tool and Resource Guide at the request of the committee on Marriage and Family.

Through this research, they have identified eight building blocks necessary to become a marriage-building parish. A list of resources to assist parishes in each of those building blocks has been compiled. A Marriage-Building Assessment Tool & Resource Guide will soon be in each parish in the Diocese of Victoria.

The eight building blocks are BUILDING Leadership; FORMING Youth and Young Adults; PREPARING for Sacramental Marriage; CREATING a Culture of Life; STRENGTHENING the Marriage; Pastoral CARING for those in Need; Divorce HEAL-

ING for Spouses and Children; and WORSHIPING and Prayer. The Assessment Tool uses these eight building blocks to offer a comprehensive approach to marriage-building at a parish level.

NACFLM serves dioceses and parishes by developing Catholic resources and offering training opportunities for those who minister with families in the Catholic Church.

Please see the National Association of Catholic Family Life Ministers Web site at www.nacflm.org for a multitude of family resource information and contacts from Engaged Encounter to Effective Father Seminars to Family Matters to National Catholic Ministry to the Bereaved to Divorce and Annulment Support Ministry.



Living Well

By Maureen Pratt
Catholic News Service



A 'good, long rest' for the rest of our lives

When was the last time you had a good, long rest? I'm not talking about a restorative sleep or vacation. I mean a simple, pure, refreshing rest.

If you're like many of us, the concept of "just sitting out," that is, calming the mind, soothing the soul and putting aside the ever-increasing to-do list, is a tough one.

Some people feel that rest is the equivalent of sloth, a vice to be avoided. They become piqued with guilt at the thought of being still. In addition to emotional obstacles to rest, there are other considerations that argue against it: We cannot earn money by resting; we cannot cross off items on that bloated to-do list; we might be criticized for spending time on the sidelines or feel less of a Christian for not laboring tirelessly for the good of others.

Yet, for all of its perceived downsides, there are physical, emotional and spiritual benefits to making rest one of your life's priorities.

When I clear my head of the jumble of ideas and images that have taken up residence there and try to relax mentally and physically, I find that my stress level decreases and I am actually more productive when I return to activity. It is also easier for me to discern what God is saying about the challenges in my life. So I lift up a prayer of thanks for the "timeout."

Resting might seem out of order at first, but given time, it will feel like part of the fabric

of the whole day.

It can be helpful to schedule in rest just as you calendar other aspects of life that you tend to put off or forget since they do not require a specific deadline.

Beginning rest with a prayer invites God's comfort and protection upon you. Allowing your heart to open to the experience can bring moments of inspiration and revelation, too.

If guilt prevents you from resting, consider the life of Jesus. We often think of Jesus' ministry as a never-ending stream of activity, but he, too, took time to rest — and pray. For example, the Gospel of Matthew tells us that "Jesus was led by the Spirit into the desert" (4:1), that he "withdrew in a boat to a deserted place by himself" (14:13), and, after dismissing the crowd that beseeched him for healings, "went up on the mountain by himself to pray" (14:23).

These instances and others remind us that rest and prayer are valid ways to spend our energy.

While playing games, reading, watching a movie or talking with a friend can be very invigorating or relaxing, they do not offer the kind of rest that is possible when we retreat from all activities and disengage our minds.

Cultivating this under-appreciated, very vital aspect of living can give us extra strength and insight to meet challenges throughout the rest of our lives!

(Pratt's Web site is www.maureenpratt.com. E-mail her at maurpratt@aol.com.)

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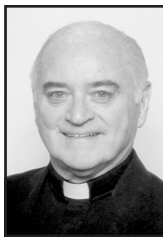
Lower rates apply for lower premium. Rate subject to change without notice. Actual rate credited will be rate in effect on the day premium is received. Market Value Adjustment, if applicable, will decrease or increase values if withdrawals are made prior to the end of the Interest Rate Guarantee Period. Surrender Charge may apply in first 9 years. No Market Value Adjustment and no Surrender Charge will be applied to any death benefit payable. Consult your State Farm agent for policy details and your tax or legal advisor for specific advice. Policy Series: 03047 & 03097 in TX, OR and PA.

State Farm Life Insurance Company, Bloomington, IL



Spirituality for Today

By Father John Catoir
Catholic News Service



The Many Dimensions of Grief

The death of a loved one can bring an avalanche of confused feelings. We call this form of emotional pain "grief." However, the word itself means different things to different people. For some, grief is the pain of separation; for others there is the added element of anger.

A few years ago when I hosted the TV program "Christopher Close-Up," I did a show with Dr. Joyce Brothers on the topic of grief. One year had passed since her husband's death. He was a physician who smoked heavily his entire adult life. He knew better, but despite good intentions and promises to quit, he never did.

Brothers wrote an excellent book on grief. In it she tells the story of how her anger complicated the grieving process. She missed him terribly, but at the same time she resented him for advancing his own death. To deal with her grief she first had to forgive him completely for smoking himself to death. Once she forgave him, her own healing began.

To gain a better understanding of grief, or any emotional trauma for that matter, here is a little formula to keep in mind.

First, identify the problem. The death of a loved one will bring grief, but there may be other issues as well. Whom are you blaming for your loneliness?

Second, search for all the reasons why this happened, and don't be afraid to ask why God allowed it. Be angry with God if you need to. When you calm down think some more.

Does God deserve the blame? Suppose a drunk driver hit your son and killed him. Why does God allow drunk drivers to do such things? Feelings of outrage are understandable. If you try to smother them you will do yourself a disservice. Suppressed anger only leads to depression.

Think about it. Christians believe that

God is love. In order to give us the freedom to love, he had to surrender his control over our actions. Thus, we have an endless stream of accidents, murders, wars, etc.

Since heaven is a place of love, there can be no love slaves in paradise. However, God never surrendered his omnipotence. God is not answerable to us. His ways are beyond human understanding.

Shouldn't we give God the benefit of the doubt? When you figure this out, you may be able to deal with your grief more easily. Stop blaming God. He has his reasons even if you don't understand them.

A woman I knew was broken-hearted when she lost her infant in childbirth. She blamed God for taking her child. The anger lasted quite awhile until she read a line from one of the mystics of the church, St. Gertrude. The saint asked God why he takes innocent children and allows evil people to live. The Lord answered, "I take each one home at the time that is best for their eternal salvation."

Maybe that's the reason behind a lot of deaths. Don't try to figure it out. God is mystifying. Accept him, and accept the mystery. Do not judge God too harshly.

Once you resolve the resentment issue, the grief will subside, and you can get on with your life. In time all will be well.

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Editor's note: In response to an anonymous letter to the editor requesting more articles on grief, I have found this article originally submitted to Catholic News Service in May 1999. Unfortunately, I do not have the space to include an article on grief each month as requested in the letter; however, I thank the writer for bringing the subject to my attention. I will try to include the subject in the paper more often.

Catholic radio host prepares MP3 players for troops, wounded soldiers

By Mark Pattison
Catholic News Service

WASHINGTON (CNS) — It has been a year in the making, but the first 1,000 MP3 players prepared by the host of a Catholic radio program are making their way to Catholic troops and wounded soldiers.

They're not just any MP3 players, though. They're "filled with Catholic content," according to Cheri Lomonte, host of the Gabriel Award-winning radio program "Mary's Touch" and the force behind a project she calls "Frontline Faith."

The intent of the distribution program is to provide Catholic inspirational messages and recordings to tide Catholic soldiers over between the infrequent visits of a Catholic chaplain to battle zones in Iraq and Afghanistan.

The MP3 for use by troops are "packed with Catholic things," Lomonte said — seven hours' worth. "They could listen to a Mass, they could listen to a rosary."

The Mass is a Memorial Day Mass celebrated by Archbishop Timothy P. Broglio of the U.S. Archdiocese for the Military Services at St. Matthew Cathedral in Washington. The rosary is a "Warrior Rosary" conceived by Lynda MacFarland, the wife of a career military man, using the sorrowful mysteries.

Other programming on the MP3 includes "Centurions of Rome," a presentation made by the late Archbishop Fulton Sheen at the U.S. Military Academy at West Point, N.Y.; children's letters to soldiers

read by the children themselves; an examination of conscience; interview features from "Mary's Touch"; and two-and-a-half hours of stories about faith in military life, including "The Grunt Padre" about a priest who ministered to infantry soldiers and a tale of a soldier who carried the Eucharist into battle.

The military archdiocese is distributing the MP3 players through its chaplains, but that can take some time. With a shortage of Catholic chaplains in the military, our troops do not get to see a priest for sometimes seven to eight months.

It costs about \$24 to buy the MP3 player, load it and prepare it for shipment. The funds raised have allowed for 1,000 players to be readied for distribution.

"We have 330,000 Catholics in our military, and our long-term goal is to have an MP3 player called 'Frontline Faith' to every member in our military who wants it," Lomonte said.

The MP3 players aren't just for combat zones. "One of the first places we send this to is our hospitals," Lomonte said. "They have nothing. Our chaplains hand them out."

Lomonte noted that the suicide rate among active-duty soldiers is at an all-time high. "They're deprived of their spirituality," she declared. "At a time when they need some kind of spirituality, this will help them. ... That's why we're doing this. Learn more at: www.frontlinefaithproject.com.

THE POPE SPEAKS

Pope
Benedict XVI



CNS photo from Reuters

Spend vacation on life's essentials: the Gospel, pope says at Angelus

By Catholic News Service

CASTEL GANDOLFO, Italy (CNS) -- Take advantage of summer vacation by spending time on the essentials in life: listening to the word of God, Pope Benedict XVI said.

Speaking during his Angelus address at the papal summer residence of Castel Gandolfo July 18, the pope said it is important people "rest from our daily labors, so that we may give time to the one thing that is truly necessary in our lives -- listening to the word of God in attentive stillness."

People need to work and dedicate themselves to their homes and professions, but God must still come first, he said.

God is that "inner light of love and truth" that gives every action meaning, value, and joy, he said.

Without that deeper meaning, everything one does is reduced to "fruitless and disorganized" busyness, said the pope.

He said he hoped the holidays would

leave people "truly refreshed in body and spirit so that you may return with renewed vigor to the responsibilities of your daily lives."

The following week on July 25 the pope expressed sorrow for the deaths of 20 young people who were trampled to death during a music festival in Germany.

After reciting the Angelus prayer at the papal summer residence, Pope Benedict prayed in German for "the young people who tragically lost their lives at Duisberg."

"For their bereaved family and friends, as well as for the many injured people, I ask for closeness and comfort from the Holy Spirit," he said.

Twenty were killed and hundreds injured July 24 at the annual Love Parade when concertgoers moving through a crammed tunnel began to push to get out, creating panic and a stampede.

AMOR MEUS SPIRITUALITY CENTER 2010 – 2011 event schedule

The Sisters of the Incarnate Word and Blessed Sacrament again offer you an opportunity to join us in quiet reflective retreats, Taize prayers, and Vespers. These spiritual experiences and prayers

are held at Incarnate Word Convent, 1101 N E Water Street, a place surrounded by the beauty of nature, the peace and solitude of walking paths, and the silence of sacred spaces and places.

We begin this season on August 17, 2010, from 7:00 – 8:00 p.m. with an evening of Taize Prayer. This special prayer experience is held in an atmosphere of quiet and candlelight. Taize Prayer originated in Taize, France, near the birthplace of our foundress, Jeanne Chezard de Matel. The prayer consists of sacred chants, songs, scripture readings, meditations and prayers of praise and petition.

All retreats and prayer experiences are open to men and women and anyone interested in deepening their relationship of love with God.

Schedule:
RETREATS

9:30 a.m. – 3:30 p.m.
Sept. 18 and Oct. 9, 2010
Jan. 15 and March 5, 2011

TAIZE PRAYER

7:00 – 8:00 p.m.
Aug. 17, Nov. 16 and Dec. 7, 2010
Feb. 15, April 19 and May 17, 2011

ADVENT VESPERS

5:00 – 6:00 p.m.
Nov. 28, Dec. 5, 12 and 19, 2010

LENTEN VESPERS

5:00 – 6:00 p.m.
March 13, 20, 27, April 3, 10 and April 17, 2011

Come discover God's love with us. For more information, please call/e-mail (361) 575-7111; amormeus@yahoo.com.

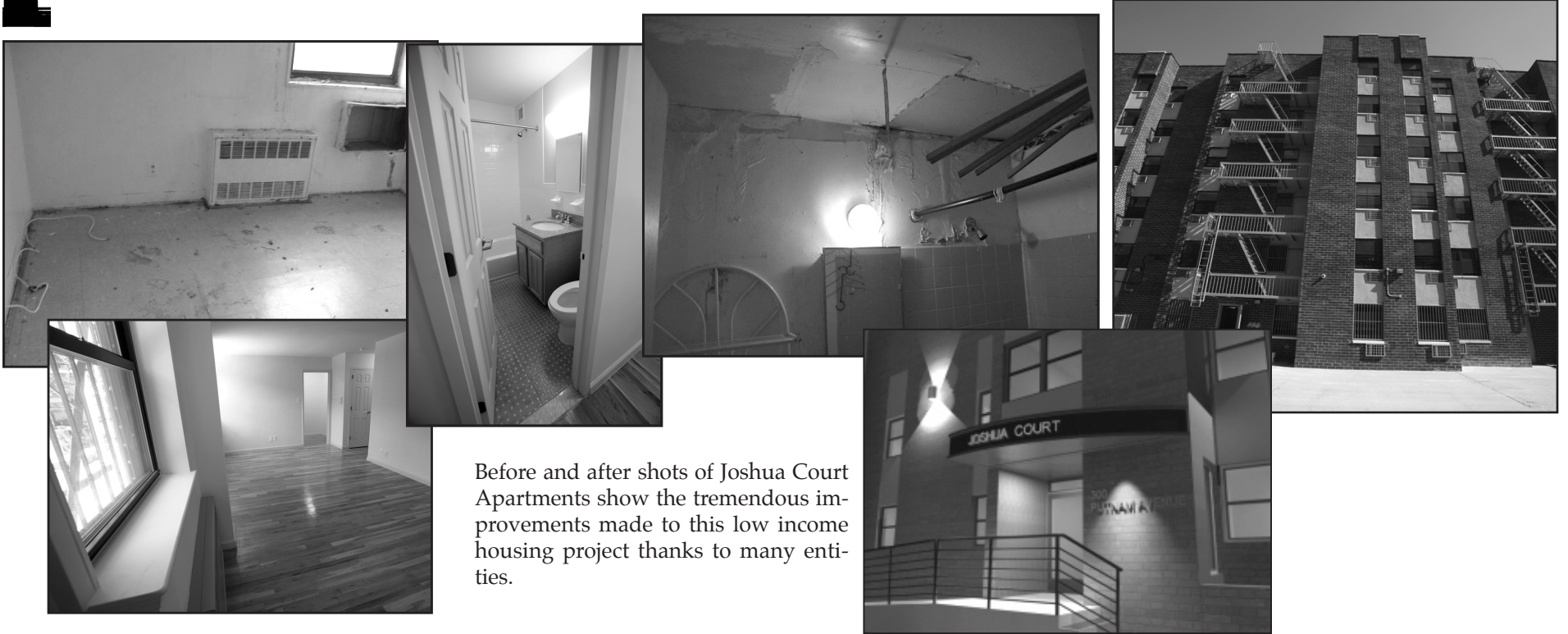
Como reportar un abuso.

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

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

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

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



Before and after shots of Joshua Court Apartments show the tremendous improvements made to this low income housing project thanks to many entities.

First solar-paneled apartment building for low income residents

BROOKLYN, NY (African American Newswire) – Bridge Street Development Corporation (BSDC) has taken the first step in creating Bedford Stuyvesant’s sustainable future with the unveiling of the newly renovated and rehabilitated 300 Putnam Avenue (Joshua Court), with its new solar-panel enhancements, announced Rhonda A. Lewis, BSDC president and chief executive officer, at a press conference and public reception during the grand opening of the six-story/52-unit residence, July 13, 2010, in Brooklyn, New York.

“We are pleased to play a role in the transformation of lives and the improvement of the quality of life for all of the residents on this block,” said Ms. Lewis. “When BSDC took over the building in September of 2006, the residents had no heat, hot water or cooking gas for an entire year. The elevator and the trash incinerator did not work. The 300 Putnam Avenue tenants and their neighbors on the block often felt anxious, distressed and voiceless. The building was a major source of blight and reduced the overall quality of life for homeowners on the block. Today, Joshua Court has emerged proudly like a phoenix rising from the ashes – as the first multifamily building in Bedford Stuyve-

sant to have rooftop solar panels.”

“In undertaking the stabilization and revitalization of 300 Putnam Avenue, the Bridge St. Development Corp did not choose the easy path,” said Vincent McDonnell of LISC. “This project – involving the turn-around of an extremely distressed building – presented a high degree of risk, and the route to the finish line was far from clear at the outset. The project ended up setting a new precedent for the preservation of other distressed HUD-assisted properties, when it became the first such property to be purchased at a HUD foreclosure auction directly by a local nonprofit via a restricted-bid process. LISC NYC is proud to have helped BSDC preserve this important community housing asset.”

Overall the green installations will reduce building utility costs and offer tenants more effective and efficient use of their spaces as well as an opportunity to be environmentally responsible. In addition to the solar paneling, the building’s other green features include: Energy Star-Related appliances, energy-conserving motion-activated lighting and energy-efficient windows and air conditioners. Apartment features include all-new

kitchen appliances, tiled bathrooms, and ample closet space. A community room outfitted with state of the art computers is located in the basement.

NY City Council provided \$3.5 million for Joshua Court and construction financing of \$8,332,968 and permanent financing of \$5,679,385 was provided by The Community Preservation Corporation (CPC), a not-for-profit mortgage lender that finances residential multi-family development throughout NY, NJ and CT,

the Department of Housing Preservation and Development (HPD) and the New York City Pension Funds. The project also received Federal Low Income Housing Tax Credits with National Equity Fund (NEF) as the investor. The State of New York Mortgage Agency (SONYMA) will insure the permanent loan.

For more information on Joshua Court at 300 Putnam Avenue and BSDC, visit: www.bsdc.org

“GET LOW” – New movie tackles meaning of life and death

Robert Duvall, Bill Murray, Sissy Spacek star in a tale of an old man’s search for forgiveness... but on his terms

NEW YORK— “GET LOW,” an Oscar-worthy movie starring Robert Duvall, Sissy Spacek, Bill Murray, and Lucas Black—executive-produced by Robert Duvall—opens in theaters soon. Based on a true event, “GET LOW” tells the story of Felix Bush, an old man with many secrets, who is contemplating death. The film promises to stir passionate discussions about the end of life, the process of death, grace, pride, forgiveness and free will.

The real Felix “Bush” Breazelale was a hermit in the 1930s who staged his own funeral party. “Life Magazine” covered the “living funeral,” which drew up to 15,000 people. Georgia pastor Scott Seeke heard the old family story while sitting on the porch with his wife’s grandfather, played by actor Lucas Black. Seeke wrote down the story and passed it to his longtime friend, screenwriter Chris Provenzano, of the acclaimed “Mad Men” series.

In Duvall’s “GET LOW,” Bush is a hard and selfish man seeking some kind of forgiveness but on his own terms. In the same breath, he yearns for grace and rejects it. Duvall, a film legend who began his career with a Southern classic, “To

Kill a Mockingbird,” was drawn to the writing—and to the lead character.

“Felix was an important part and a wonderful character to do at this point in my career,” Duvall said. “He has been maybe not such a great guy at various points in his life, but now he’s moved to ask for certain forgiveness at the end.”

“The story touches a universal chord,” director Aaron Schneider said, of what attracted him to “GET LOW.” “The only meaningful way to live ultimately is to engage with the world and accept the love and forgiveness offered to you.” Schneider, who won an Oscar for his short film, “Two Soldiers,” makes his feature film debut with “GET LOW.” What attracted him to the story of Felix Bush also attracted Academy Award-winning actors Robert Duvall and Sissy Spacek.

The movie, rated PG-13, will intrigue Christians, non-Christians . . . any thinking person in this portrait of one man’s struggle to come to terms with his deeds, his stand toward the free gift of grace, and his attempt to find forgiveness his way.

More information about the movie can be found at: www.GetLowtheFilm.com.

Blood Bank loses 16-percent of donors in summer

SAN ANTONIO - Every summer, the South Texas Blood & Tissue Center (STBTC) loses 16 percent of its blood supply. High school and college students are our largest donor group and when they’re out of school, students miss out on regularly scheduled drives. As a result, the blood supply suffers.

“The blood supply is always tenuous but summer is a challenge as schools close and families go on vacation. Despite the decline in donations, patients still require life saving blood donations from volunteer donors. All eligible donors are encouraged to donate for their community,” said Carmen Davila, director of Community Relations for STBTC.

During these last weeks of summer vacation, STBTC wants to encourage all eligible donors to donate and help maintain an adequate blood supply. The 2010 summer vacation months are almost over, but we still need your help to supply patients with the blood they need. Donate at a local blood drive.

Victoria:

• Texas Vocational School
1921 E. Red River
Aug. 12; 8:30 a.m. - 11:30 a.m.

• Texas Vocational School
1414 N. Laurent
Aug. 12; 8:30 a.m. - 11:30 a.m.

• Victoria Mall
7802 N. Navarro
Aug. 14; 1:00 p.m. - 6:00 p.m.

• DeTar Hospital
101 Medical Dr.
Aug. 19; 8:30 a.m. - 10:30 a.m.

• DeTar Hospital
Aug. 19; 1:00 p.m. - 4:00 p.m.
506 E. San Antonio St.

• Pattie Dodson Health Department
2805 N. Navarro
Aug. 19; 1:30 p.m. - 4:30 p.m.

• Our Saviour’s Lutheran Church
4102 N. Ben Jordan
Aug. 22; 8:30 a.m. - Noon

• Hospice of South Texas
605 E. Locust
Aug. 27; 8:30 a.m. - 11:00 a.m.

• Victoria County Offices
115 N. Bridge St.
Aug. 27; 8:00 a.m. - Noon

• Parkway Baptist Church
4802 John Stockbauer
Aug. 29; 9:00 a.m. - 1:00 p.m.

Anyone 16 years old weighing 120 pounds (with a parental consent form), or at least 17 years old, weighing 110 pounds, and in good general health can donate blood. It is recommended to eat iron rich foods before donating and to drink plenty of fluids to keep the body hydrated. Donors must present identification. Visit www.southtexasblood.org for more information.

**Ultimate
Getaways
Savannah - Charleston -
Jekyll Island - Myrtle Beach**

September 18-25

**New York Christmas
Nov. 29-Dec. 3
Statue of Liberty
Ellis Island
Rockettes-Broadway Show**

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



Javier and Gretchen Mena of Sterling Heights, Mich., share a moment with their 19-month-old son, Javier Jr. The Menas are among the couples who volunteer their time to teach others about natural family planning in the Archdiocese of Detroit. (CNS photo/ Joe Kohn, *The Michigan Catholic*)

Couple urges bold efforts to educate people on natural family planning

DETROIT (CNS) — Three-plus years ago, St. Anastasia parishioners Gretchen and Javier Mena were like many people getting ready to get married. They wanted to be thoughtful about how they grew their family — and they assumed that using contraceptives might just have to be part of the equation. That's when they were introduced, through Catholic marriage preparation, to natural family planning, a natural and highly accurate way for couples to know when the woman is fertile and thus achieve or avoid pregnancy. Gretchen, 34, said she had never heard of the natural method. "I didn't even know it was an option. We were excited when we found out about it — neither of us was excited about using contraception." On July 20, Gretchen and Javier — now parents of 19-month-old Javier Jr. — gave their testimony at Sacred Heart Major Seminary at the Archdiocese of Detroit's first conference about natural family planning. They are among 10 couples who have volunteered to teach introductory classes on the method in a growing effort by the church of Detroit to educate engaged couples about its benefits. "Be bold," Gretchen urged the gathering of 100-plus at the seminary. "They're hearing everything in this world about contraception — we don't have to be shy about telling them about natural family planning." The conference, titled "Cracking the Contraceptive Myth," featured experts from both the moral and medical side of the issue. It was attended by clergy, medical professionals and those who teach Catholic marriage preparation.

Bishops commend ruling stopping major parts of Arizona immigration law

PHOENIX (CNS) — Arizona's Catholic bishops commended a July 28 ruling that blocked enforcement of the most controversial sections of the state's contentious immigration law a day before it takes effect. They also voiced a hope "that reaction to (the) ruling will be expressed only in peaceful and legal ways." Los Angeles Cardinal Roger M. Mahony also praised the ruling. "This entire Arizona attempt to deal with various immigration issues outside federal law reveals once again the level of frustration across the country that the U.S. Congress will not deal with the pressing issue of needed immigration reform," he said. "Without needed congressional action, local communities and states will continue to propose stopgap measures which do not address all aspects of needed immigration reform," he added. U.S. District Court

Judge Susan Bolton blocked provisions in that law, known as S.B. 1070, that would have: required law enforcement officers to verify the immigration status of anyone stopped; made it a crime for immigrants not to carry proof of their immigration status at all times; allowed police to make warrantless arrests over suspicion of someone being in the country illegally; and criminalized the act of looking for work without the proper paperwork or hiring someone who lacks a work permit. Bolton's injunction is preliminary, pending further judicial review of legal challenges, primarily that of the U.S. Department of Justice. A full course of legal challenges could take years.

USCCB issues guidelines for use of social media

WASHINGTON (CNS) — The U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops has issued a set of guidelines for using social media, especially as social networking sites such as Facebook and Twitter continue to gain in popularity. "Social media are the fastest growing form of communication in the United States, especially among youth and young adults," the guidelines say. "Our church cannot ignore it, but at the same time we must engage social media in a manner that is safe, responsible and civil." Helen Osman, USCCB secretary for communications, in a July 19 interview with Catholic News Service said, "My hope is that they'll be a useful resource to people, especially to dioceses and parishes that are interested in using social media." The guidelines point to visibility, community and accountability as three principal areas where the church can make a positive mark in social media. The guidelines can be accessed by going to www.usccb.org/comm/social-media-guidelines.shtml.

African immigrants work to define their place in diverse US church

TUCSON, Ariz. (CNS) — Immigrant African Catholics in the United States are working to define a place for themselves and their cultures amid the melting pot of the U.S. church. At an annual gathering of African Catholics in the U.S. in Tucson July 16-18, the several dozen participants from around the country heard from local and national speakers, prayed and brainstormed about the possibilities for the budding network created by the National Association of African Catholics in the United States, a two-year-old organization. Judge Ronald Wilson of the South Tucson City Court, for example, encouraged participants to take an active role in their communities at a variety of levels, particularly in supporting immigrants as they traverse the criminal justice system and as they deal with the complexities of the immigration system. Many at the gathering came from the small African Catholic community in Arizona, where the local news during the conference was overwhelmingly dominated by stories about the pending enactment of S.B. 1070, the state's new immigration law. Several participants questioned Wilson about the law, noting that it is broadly seen "as pertaining only to Latinos, but the victims may be of African origin as well."

Church already mandates reporting of sex abuse to civil authorities

WASHINGTON (CNS) — The revised norms announced at the Vatican July 15 deal only with church law and so do not address bishops' obligations to report allegations of sexual abuse of a minor to civil authorities. However, church documents approved by the U.S. bishops and on the Vatican Web site already contain such an obligation. The U.S. bishops' 2002 "Charter for the Protection of Children and Young People" states that dioceses and eparchies "are to report an allegation of sexual abuse of a person who is a minor to the public

authorities." In addition, Article 4 of the charter says, they must "comply with all applicable civil laws with respect to the reporting of allegations of sexual abuse of minors to civil authorities and cooperate in their investigation in accord with the law of the jurisdiction in question. ... even when the person is no longer a minor." The U.S. charter adds: "In every instance, dioceses/eparchies are to advise victims of their right to make a report to public authorities and support this right."

Archbishop: Norms on women's ordination reflect sacraments' importance

WASHINGTON (CNS) — The Vatican's decision to declare the attempted ordination of women a major church crime reflects "the seriousness with which it holds offenses against the sacrament of holy orders" and is not a sign of disrespect toward women, Archbishop Donald W. Wuerl of Washington said July 15. The archbishop, who chairs the U.S. bishops' Committee on Doctrine, spoke at a news briefing in the headquarters of the USCCB hours after the Vatican issued new norms for handling priestly sex abuse cases and updated its list of the "more grave crimes" against church law, including for the first time the "attempted sacred ordination of a woman." In such an act, the Vatican said, the cleric and the woman involved are automatically excommunicated, and the cleric can also be dismissed from the priesthood. Noting that women hold a variety of church leadership positions in parishes and dioceses, Archbishop Wuerl said, "The church's gratitude toward women cannot be stated strongly enough. Women offer unique insight, creative abilities and unstinting generosity at the very heart of the Catholic Church." But, the archbishop said, "the Catholic Church through its long and constant teaching holds that ordination has been, from the beginning, reserved to men, a fact which cannot be changed despite changing times." The archbishop's statement included: All Catholics are called to Christian service. Women have responded with extraordinary generosity. Historically, women have had an essential role in the life of the Church. This is true especially through their volunteer work in parishes, their professional service and their membership in religious communities, lay movements and other organizations, where they serve in a range of areas such as health care and education. Today women serve in Church leadership positions at all levels. Women hold nearly half of diocesan administrative and professional positions—a fact that compares favorably to the U.S. workforce as a whole. Women also hold about one-quarter of the top diocesan positions, such as chancellor, school superintendent or chief financial officer. About 80 percent of lay parish ministers are women.

Bishop says revised norms expand ways church responds to sex abuse

WASHINGTON (CNS) — The revised procedures governing the handling of clerical sexual abuse cases give church officials stronger tools for aiding victims and for disciplining wayward priests, said the chairman of the U.S. bishops' Committee on the Protection of Children and Young People. Bishop Blase J. Cupich said bishops around the world have definitive rules for handling abuse cases and other serious violations of church law under the procedures, known as norms in church parlance. "The new norms go beyond the 'Essential Norms' (adopted in 2002 by the U.S. bishops). They include other aspects of the crime of sexual abuse, for instance vulnerable adults and pornography. They also allow for the quick adjudication of these cases," Bishop Cupich said. The changes have been in the works for months and were approved by Pope Benedict XVI May 21. They formal-

ize many existing church practices involving clergy sexual abuse while raising the seriousness of offenses by clergy who use child pornography as well as those accused of abusing adults with physical or mental disabilities. Other changes announced by the Vatican upgrade the seriousness of offenses related to the attempted ordination of women and the recording of confessions. They confirm that the Congregation for the Doctrine of the Faith can judge cardinals, patriarchs and bishops accused of "more grave crimes." Qualified lay Catholics also are permitted to serve on tribunals that deal with sex abuse cases.

Financial reform provides benchmarks for a just and stable economy

WASHINGTON (CNS) — Now that financial reform legislation has been signed into law, the focus is shifting to ensure that the legislation works as intended. In the minds of financial reform proponents, that means adopting strong rules that allow government agencies to carry out their now-mandated watchdog role, protect average people in their financial transactions and end the casino mentality they say dominated markets before the worldwide economic free fall started in late 2007. Michael Masters, portfolio manager for Master Capital Management, and Oblate Father Seamus Finn, director of social justice for the Missionary Oblates of Mary Immaculate and a leader within the Interfaith Center on Corporate Responsibility, are planning to take a simple message to the rule-makers in government and to leaders in the financial sector: Markets must work for everyone. "You don't need some crafty Wall Street lawyer ... to eviscerate what Congress intended to do," Masters told Catholic News Service. Both Masters and Father Finn were part of a coalition of 450 organizations that included consumer groups, social justice advocates and various industry trade organizations that pushed for the reform measures. In the end, they were pleased by the law's final language. One of the major reforms in the 2,330-page Dodd-Frank Wall Street Reform and Consumer Protection Act requires greater transparency in the trading of derivatives, a financial instrument whose value is linked to the expected future price movements of the asset to which it is linked. The opacity of the derivatives market before reform is widely blamed for the near collapse of the banking industry in 2008.

Catholic professor reinstated by university for fall term

WASHINGTON (CNS) — A Catholic professor barred from teaching courses on Catholicism after he defended in class the church's teaching on homosexual behavior has been reinstated by the University of Illinois. Kenneth Howell, an adjunct professor in the university's religious studies department, learned of the decision July 29. The reinstatement came days after a deadline for suing the university set by the Alliance Defense Fund, which had taken on Howell's case. The alliance is a non-profit Christian legal defense organization specializing in religious liberty, sanctity of life and protection of family issues. Attorney Jordan Lorange, part of the alliance's legal team, told CNS the university's decision came as a surprise. He charged that the university had violated Howell's First Amendment right of free speech by firing him. "The matter is resolved for the moment and we'll be watching to make sure this is a long-term resolution to the matter," Lorange said, noting that Howell's teaching status for the spring semester is unknown. Howell was dismissed in May following the spring term after a student described as "hate speech" his explanation of the church's teaching that homosexual acts are morally wrong.



Boys sit with their belongings beside receding floodwaters in Nowshera, Pakistan, Aug. 2. Floods caused by a week of heavy rain in northwestern Pakistan had left more than 1,200 people dead. Aid workers were scrambling to help those desperate for food and shelter. (CNS photo/Faisal Mahmood, Reuters)

Church aid workers try to reach Pakistanis homeless, hungry from floods

BANGALORE, India (CNS) — Church aid workers in Pakistan were trying to reach hundreds of thousands of people displaced and rendered homeless by the rain and floods that had claimed more than 1,200 lives in Pakistan's mountainous northwestern region. "The biggest challenge before us is how to (get) relief to the needy. Bridges have collapsed and roads have been washed out," Carolyn Fanelli, CRS acting country representative in Pakistan, told Catholic News Service in a telephone interview Aug. 2. Eric Dayal, national coordinator for disaster management of Caritas Pakistan, said his agency was faced with the same difficulty. "Most of the roads in the affected (area) are gone and even telephone links are broken. With electric supply also disrupted, communication remains a big headache," he said. Fanelli said CRS was in touch with its 40 staff in the field through satellite phones, even though in the most devastated areas they have had to vacate their offices. Mehmood Senior, a field engineer for CRS in Besham, reported that staffers walked along muddy roads blocked by landslides and had to cross a temporary bridge made of electrical utility poles to reach some of the villages.

Pope views film of first five years

CASTEL GANDOLFO, Italy (CNS) — Even when the Catholic Church suffers, "faith creates joy," Pope Benedict XVI said after previewing a German television film about his first five years in office. The film, "Five Years of Pope Benedict XVI," was produced by the Bavarian network Bayerischer Rundfunk and is scheduled for a Christmas season broadcast in Germany and Austria. After watching the film July 29 at his summer residence in Castel Gandolfo, Pope Benedict said it allowed him to experience again some of the most important events of his pontificate, which began in April 2005. "Personally, it was very moving to see certain moments, especially the moment when the Lord placed the Petrine service on my shoulders, a weight that no one could ever carry alone with just his own strength; it can be carried only because the Lord carries us, carries me," he said. The music-loving pontiff said he also appreciated the filmmakers' decision to use Beethoven's "Ninth Symphony" — the "Ode to Joy" — as the soundtrack because it expresses the joy of redemption. "Even

today, although the church may suffer much ... it is a joyful church," he said.

Bishops, others push Kenyans to vote against proposed constitution

NAIROBI, Kenya (CNS) — Kenyan Christian leaders — including the nation's Catholic bishops — urged citizens to vote against the proposed constitution, saying it "takes away your sovereignty, now and forever. The proposed constitution in its current form is not good for the country," they said. After an ecumenical prayer service at Nairobi's Holy Family Minor Basilica July 30, more than 20 Christian leaders issued a statement calling upon "each and every Kenyan to turn up in large numbers, to exercise their democratic right to vote, and to display their patriotism for our country and convincingly vote no to this flawed proposed constitution." About 12 million Kenyans are expected to vote in the Aug. 4 constitutional referendum. The bishops repeatedly have opposed the draft on the grounds that it could legalize abortion and allow for the entrenchment of Islamic courts. "The proposed constitution does not safeguard the sacredness of human life, the sound and moral education of our children and religious equality," said the Christian leaders' statement. The document would keep abortion illegal but includes exceptions if, "in the opinion of a trained health professional, there is need for emergency treatment, or the life or health of the mother is in danger, or if permitted by any other written law." The document also limits the powers of the Kenyan presidency and includes sections on judicial reform, land reform and an end to impunity.

Conversion: Ancient prison went from pagan to sacred Christian site

VATICAN CITY (CNS) — Tradition holds that St. Peter was jailed in Rome's maximum security Mamertine Prison before he was crucified upside down and buried on the hill where St. Peter's Basilica was later built. And now after recent excavations in Rome's oldest prison, archaeologists say they have uncovered evidence that, while not providing direct proof, does support that belief. The prison, which lies beneath the Church of St. Joseph of the Carpenters facing the Roman Forum, was closed for the past year as experts dug up old floors and picked away plaster. They found and restored a 14th-century fresco of Jesus with his arm around a smiling St. Peter and an

11th-century fresco of Jesus with the oldest known image of the Campidoglio, Rome's city hall, behind him. Patrizia Fortini from the city of Rome's department of archaeological heritage led the excavation and restoration project. She told journalists July 27 they found proof that the site had been a place for venerating St. Peter by the seventh century, lending support to historical accounts that he had been incarcerated there. The prison has two levels: the upper chamber called the "Carcer" and the lower chamber called the "Tullianum," which was built in the sixth century B.C. In the Tullianum, Fortini said, they found "traces of a basin that must have been where water was collected — water which, according to tradition, sprang forth after St. Peter pounded on the stone floor."

Catholic official hopes to help Palestinians take charge of their lives

JERUSALEM (CNS) — After a year that included dealing with the fallout of the Israeli-Gaza war, Sami El-Yousef is ready to begin focusing efforts on projects aimed at helping Palestinians take charge of their lives. El-Yousef has spent nearly a year as regional director of the Pontifical Mission's Jerusalem field office. "I see our role as (helping) get people back in charge of their own affairs and getting on the right track. We are starting to think what's next, what's the next phase," said the Jerusalem native and former vice president for finances and planning at Bethlehem University. With the almost-constant cycle of violence and crisis in the area, it has been a challenge for the mission to move forward with society-building projects, he said. "We were starting to think of income-generating projects, youth projects that would put these people on their feet, and then the war (happened) and our attention (went) back to the war and emergency aid and rebuilding ... going back to the charity mentality," he said. Now, he added, as things have stabilized to a certain extent, he would like to see projects implemented that will help the Palestinians control their own lives. "They don't want handouts; they say they are losing their dignity and it is not good for the

spirit of (their) children," said El-Yousef. Pope Pius XII created the Pontifical Mission for Palestine in 1949 as a temporary mission to aid the Palestinian people, but 61 years later the mission is still providing subsidies and other aid for Palestinians. The mission, which falls under the direction of the Vatican's Catholic Near East Welfare Association, has regional offices in Jerusalem, Beirut and Amman, Jordan.

Pope to name envoy to Vietnam as step toward full relations

VATICAN CITY (CNS) — Pope Benedict XVI will appoint a representative to the government of Vietnam as a first step toward establishing full diplomatic relations with the communist country, the Vatican announced. After a meeting of Vatican and Vietnamese representatives June 23-24 at the Vatican, a statement said that unlike a nuncio, the Vatican's representative would not be residing in Vietnam for the time being. The June meeting was the second encounter of the joint working group. The meeting took place about six weeks after 57-year-old Archbishop Joseph Ngo Quang Kiet of Hanoi resigned his post amid rumors that the Vietnamese government had told the Vatican that the archbishop must go. The archbishop denied he had been pressured to step down after he asked Catholics in 2007 to pray for the government to return the former apostolic nunciature to the church. AsiaNews, a Rome-based Catholic news agency, said the archbishop stepped down because the Vietnamese government made his ouster a condition for launching full diplomatic relations. In a statement June 26, the Vatican said the Vietnamese representatives said their country has a "consistent policy of respect for freedoms of religion and belief as well as the legal provisions to guarantee its implementation." "The delegation of the Holy See took note of this explanation and asked that further conditions be established so that the church may participate effectively in the development of the country, especially in the spiritual, educational, health care, social and charitable fields," the statement said.



This is a view of the lower level of the ancient Mamertine prison in Rome. Tradition holds that St. Peter was imprisoned here before he was crucified. The prison was built over a natural spring. Prisoners were dumped onto the watery floor from the hole in the ceiling. (CNS photo/Paul Haring)

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

Reporting Child Abuse • Hotline
1-800-252-5400

St. Mary's Parish

Festival & Homecoming

Nada Community Center • Sept. 5

Barbecue Beef & Sausage Dinner • \$8 p/p 11-1:30

Enjoy Polka Music while you dine in the air-cooled hall
Plates-To-Go available with a drive-thru line open 11-1

Antique Tractor & Equipment
exhibition from 10-4~Parade of Tractors
Ladies' Bazaar • Waterslides • Karaoke
Train Ride • Bingo • Variety Walk • Kid's Games
Special Appearance by Rainbow the Clown

Free Dance with music by DJ Vestal Odom from 6:00-8:30 p.m.
Come When You Can - Leave When You Want - Plenty of Free Parking

Country Auction
1:00 p.m.

Food & Refreshments
All Day



~ The Best Fest ~

Who do you say has the best parish festival?

Just for fun, we want to know which parish the readers of *The Catholic Lighthouse* think has the best picnic/festival. Here is your chance to nominate your favorite parish festival. Vote for your top three festivals with *The Catholic Lighthouse* during the months of August and September and we'll announce the best festivals in the October issue. Parishes that haven't yet had their annual festival are also included in this contest, based on their recent past events.

We'll have three categories: 1. Best Meal; 2. Best Entertainment for both young and old; and 3. Best Overall Festival; you may list your top three church festivals in each category.

To vote, please mail in the form below to *The Catholic Lighthouse*, P.O. Box 4070, Victoria, TX 77903. For nominations to be valid, the form must include your name and the town you live in. Please vote only once during contest period. Copies of form may be made so spouses and other family members may also vote, or others may write the names of their top three festivals in the three categories on a piece of paper and send in (by September 25).

The winning parish in each category will be honored by being recognized by *The Catholic Lighthouse* as being the "Best Fest."

Best Parish Festival Form

Best Meal:
1st _____ 2nd _____ 3rd _____

Best Overall Entertainment:
1st _____ 2nd _____ 3rd _____

Best Overall Festival:
1st _____ 2nd _____ 3rd _____

Your name and town: _____
Don't worry, if you don't vote for your parish, we won't tell.

TCJC offers re-entry guide for newly released prisoners

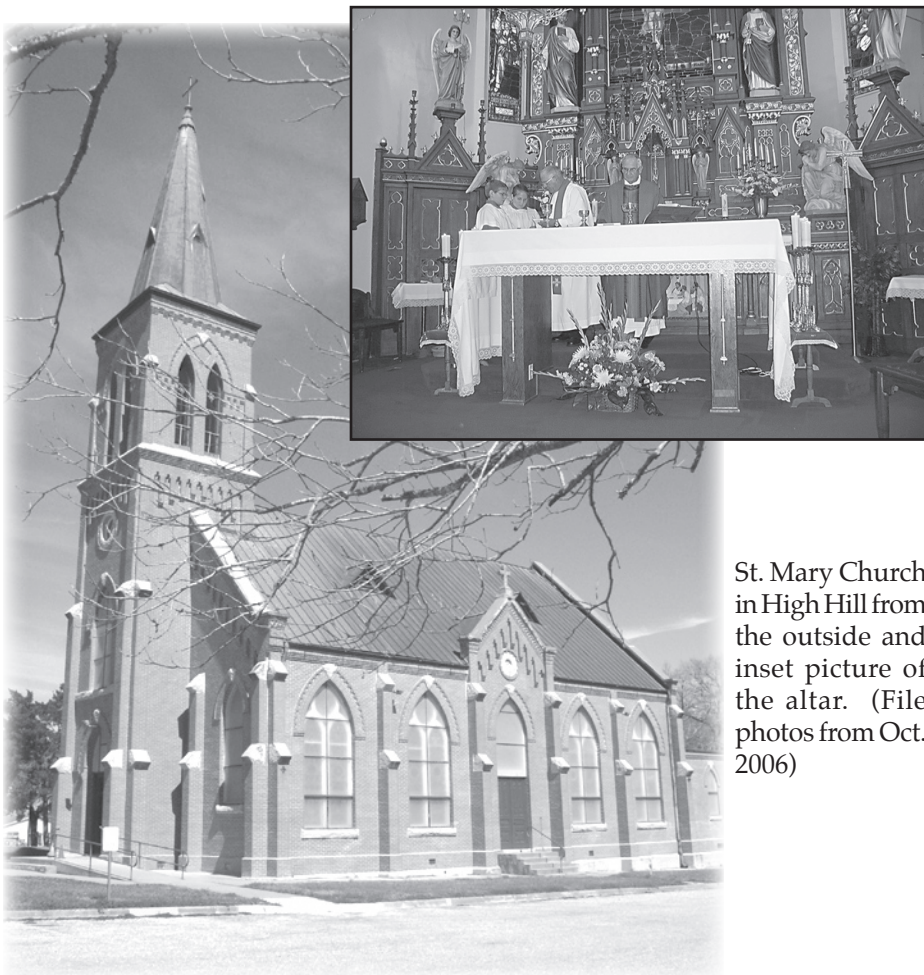
AUSTIN—The Texas Criminal Justice Coalition proudly announces: *A New Start: A Re-Entry Guide for Texas – Key Information for Successful Reintegration.*

The new guide provides valuable information about re-entry related policies, as well as numerous regional resources in various areas of re-entry: housing, health services, employment, benefits and assistance, education, and community involvement.

Our goal with this guide is three fold. Primarily, we want to help re-entering individuals seeking to live successfully in their communities. The guide can point them to community groups and agencies that will

assist them in improving their lives and those of their families. The guide is also a tool for organization and agency leadership, as well as their supervisory personnel and local service providers. They can use this resource to provide particularized information to their clients and other staff members. Lastly, the guide will help policy-makers meet requests for information from their constituents.

To download a reentry guide for your ministry, or if you've recently been released from jail and would like this available assistance from TCJC, please go to: http://www.criminaljusticecoalition.org/tools_for_re_entry/reentryguide



St. Mary Church in High Hill from the outside and inset picture of the altar. (File photos from Oct. 2006)

All invited to High Hill Sesquicentennial

Continued from p. 1

Gothic, gilt letters with red borders on a blue field."

The Psalms verses, 47:10 on the north wall and 42:4 on the south wall, are written in German, and according to Mr. Marshall the verses are painted in the exact translation that can be found in the 1832 Deutsch translation of a Volgate Roman Catholic Bible.

In English the first verse would commonly be translated as "We have received O Lord Your divine mercy within Your temple," and verse 42:4 would state, "I will enter into the altar of God and will praise my God."

The High Hill church community was established by eight Austrian families who arrived in late 1860. Father Victor Gury of Frelsburg was the first priest to celebrate Mass for the small community, originally celebrated in private homes the following year. The community became a parish with first resident priest, Father Friedochowsky, who was appointed in 1870. On the feast of the Nativity of the Blessed Virgin Mary, September 8, Father Friedochowsky blessed the newly erected small, frame church building. The site of the building was a donated tract of land from the Hillje family.

Father Henry Pefferkorn became the next pastor of St. Mary's. He built a small, frame rectory and a second church in 1875. The original church was converted into a school, which was run by the Sisters of Divine Providence, beginning in 1880 and continuing until 1959.

Two parish societies were organized under the pastorate of Father Pefferkorn, St. Joseph's Society in 1879 and St. Ann's Society in 1880, both of which are still active today.

With no pastor between the years 1890 and 1899, St. Mary's served as a mission of St. Rose of Lima Parish in Schulenburg. The next assigned parish priest was Father (later Monsignor) Henry Gerlach who was to spend forty years of his ministry serving the people of the parish in two separate terms of office from 1899 to 1913 and from 1925 until his death in 1951. During Msgr. Gerlach's first administration, the parish hall was built in 1900 and the present brick church was erected in 1906. Between 1913 and 1925 a new school was built under the pastorate of Father Joseph Schweller.

Since the death of Msgr. Gerlach, the church community of St. Mary's has once again become the mission of St. Rose in Schulenburg.

Three priests, one brother and nineteen sisters are native sons and daughters of the parish. All of the sisters joined the Sisters of Divine Providence.

St. Mary's Mission celebration will include the San Antonio Liederkrantz Choir at the 10:00 a.m. Mass. Other festivities will be an auction that will begin at 1 p.m. as well as a horseshoe tournament that begins at the same time. A souvenir booth, featuring cookbooks and stained-glass art slates from the church's replaced roof slates, will be featured, along with a country store and games for both young and old. A chicken and stew dinner will be served. Later in the day, nachos, hamburgers and High Hill homemade sausage will be sold. Texas Sound Check and Mark Halata will provide music during the day. A free dance at night will be held with music by Texas Dream. The Grand Finale will be the Super Spectacular Fireworks Show at 10 p.m. All are invited to attend this once in a lifetime celebration. High Hill and St. Mary Church is located about five miles northwest of Schulenburg on FM 2672.

Editor's note: The history of the St. Mary community comes from "Diocese of Victoria in Texas 1982-2007," compiled by Father Ty Bazar and on sale for \$32 at the diocesan chancery office: (361) 573-0828. Photos of the newly renovated church will appear in the September issue of *The Catholic Lighthouse*.

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**Our Lady of the Gulf Catholic Church
Annual Parish Festival
September 19, 2010
Bauer Community Center
Port Lavaca, Texas**

Auction Beginning at 12:30 p.m.
All major credit cards accepted.

RAFFLE
Many great prizes on the raffle list!

Cake Spin

Seafood Platter
Includes Fried Shrimp, Fish, Coleslaw, German Potatoes, Hushpuppies & Tea
\$8.00 11:00 a.m. - 1:30 p.m.
Dine in or Carry Out
For Deliveries call 361-212-9656
Raffle and Meal Tickets available at church office

Kolaches

Bingo

CHILDREN'S GAMES!

Tamales

Desserts

Arts & Crafts

Egg Rolls

Nachos

Youth Wii Tournament


Country Store

Bring your family & friends and join us for a day of fun, food, crafts & games.
For more information call: 361-552-6140



Special Collection

Retired and Needy Priest of the Diocese

September 5

Ongoing Events

Catholic Family Services—For a listing of e-mails and Web sites of Catholic organizations that focus on the family from marriage preparation to marriage enrichment, fatherhood, parenting, healing, bereavement, separated or divorced, and widowed, please go to the Catholic Association of Catholic Family Life Ministers at <http://www.nacflm.org/>

St. Francis and St. Clare Fraternity/Secular Franciscans—For meeting dates call Mary Ann LeBlanc at (361) 575-1858.

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

Retrouvaille — Retrouvaille of Victoria will be holding a Retrouvaille Weekend September 10. The word Retrouvaille means 'rediscovery.' Retrouvaille is a program that offers the chance to rediscover yourself, your spouse and a loving relationship in your marriage. Tens of thousands headed for divorce have successfully saved their marriages by attending. Go to <http://www.retrouvaille.org> for more information, or to register for the upcoming Victoria Retrouvaille, please go to: <http://www.retrouvaille.org/dates.php> or contact Gerd and Linda Conner at lconner@sbcglobal.net, (979) 543-3493. Other contacts are at (800) 470-2230 and www.helpourmarriage.org

The Beginning Experience—The Beginning Experience is an international ministry that helps divorced, separated and widowed individuals resolve their grief surrounding the loss of a marriage partner. It is a ministry of the San Antonio Archdiocese Family Life Office. For more information, go to their Web site: www.beginningexperience.org; e-mail: sanantonio@mevictoria.org; 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 David and Annie Coffey at zoukoda@yahoo.com. 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. 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. If unable to connect with any of these trainers, please contact Father David Berger at frdvbrgr@gmail.com.

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

Engaged Encounter—Register as soon as you have contacted your pastor due to limited space. *It is strongly recommended that you attend an encounter weekend four to six months prior to your wedding date.* For a registration form, contact your pastor, visit the Web site at www.victoriadiocese.org/family/ee.htm, or write to: Engaged Encounter, P.O. Box 4070, Victoria, Texas 77903. The weekend is held at the Spiritual Renewal Center. The dates for 2010 are: Sept. 24-26 and Nov. 19-21; the dates for 2011 are: Feb. 25-27, April 15-17, June 24-26, Sept. 8-11 and Nov. 11-13. 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.

August

Weimar—St. Michael Harvest Feast Aug. 8 at the Veteran's Memorial Park. A fried-chicken and stew dinner begins at 11:00 a.m. at \$7 p/p for adults and plates-to-go and \$4 p/p for children 12 and under. There will be entertainment for all: train ride, country store, cakewalk, ring toss and more. Auction starts at 1:00 p.m. Refreshments and food throughout the day. Music by Czecholics 11:00 a.m.-3:00 p.m.; The Red Ravens 3:00-7:00 p.m.; and Southbound 7:00-11:00 p.m.

Victoria—KJZT #101 will hold a breakfast in honor of their living and deceased members at Our Lady of Victory Cathedral following the 7:30 a.m. Mass Sunday, Aug. 8. Please RSVP at (361) 573-2669.

Hillje—St. Andrew Summer Festival Aug. 15 at the parish hall. A prime-beef barbecue and homemade sausage dinner will be served starting at 11:00 a.m. with dine-in or plates-to-go available at \$7 p/p. Bulk sales will be available at the pit. There will be an indoor auction beginning at 12:30 p.m. There will be a country store, bake sale, cakewalk, music, games and more.

Praha—St. Mary Parish Picnic Aug. 15 on the parish grounds. The day will start with Mass at 10:00 a.m. celebrated by Bishop Fellhauer and visiting priests. Following Mass, a dinner will be featuring Praha stew and fried-chicken at \$8 p/p with dine-in or plates-to-go available from 11:00 a.m.-2:00 p.m. There will be a country store, bingo (1:00-5:00 p.m. and 6:00-10:00 p.m.), cakewalk, children's games, homemade ice cream and much more. The auction begins at 1:00 p.m. Music throughout the day with Fritz Hodde & the Fabulous Six (11:00 a.m.-1:00 p.m. and 3:00-5:00 p.m.); Donnie Wavra Band (1:00-3:00 p.m. and

5:00-7:00 p.m.); Incredible Music Makers (7:00-10:00 p.m.). Hamburgers will be available after 4:00 p.m. For more information contact Charlie Bartos, chairman, at (361) 865-2167 or go to www.stmarys-praha.com.

Victoria—Catholic Daughters of the Americas Court St. Ann Games Party Monday, Aug. 16, from 6:00-9:00 p.m. at the KC Hall (3610 N. Ben Wilson) with admission at \$7 p/p. There will be door prizes, raffle and a silent auction. For reservations (required) call Joan Schramek at 485-2387; Delores Schroller at 575-6111; JoAnn Jalufka at 575-6045; or Joyce Morris at 575-5817.

Cistern—Sts. Cyril & Methodius Parish Annual Homecoming Picnic Aug. 22 with dine-in or drive-thru plates available. Serving V & V Sausage and fried-chicken with all the trimmings. Music, auction, bingo and games throughout the day. Something for everyone!

Victoria—Our Lady of Victory Boy Scout Troop 364 Annual Barbecue Chicken Dinner Aug. 22 at OLV Cafeteria from 10:00 a.m.-1:00 p.m. with dine-in or plates-to-go available. Plates will have half-a-chicken and the trimmings for \$7 p/p. There will also be a bake sale.

Upcoming Events

Hallettsville—Annual Indian Open Golf Classic Saturday, Sept. 4, at the Hallettsville Municipal Golf Course. Tournament will be a 3-person scramble, limited to first 48 paid team (\$180 per team). Prizes will be awarded. To register your team, make a donation or sponsor a hole, contact Hallettsville Golf Association (361) 798-9908 or Sacred Heart Catholic School at (361) 798-4251. Tournament benefits Sacred Heart Catholic School.

High Hill—St. Mary Catholic Church Sesquicentennial Parish Picnic — 150th Anniversary 1860-2010 to be held on Sept. 5. Chicken & Stew Dinner will be served. Visit the newly restored Queen of the Painted Churches. Flag raising ceremony at 9:30 a.m., Mass with Bishop David Fellhauer as celebrant at 10:00 a.m. with San Antonio Liederkrantz Choir, cakewalk at 11:00 a.m., Liederkrantz Performance at 12:30 p.m. The auction and horseshoe tournament begin at 1:00 p.m. There will be a souvenir booth, featuring cookbooks and stained glass art on slate, toy walk, country store, duck pond, ring toss, ball throw, train rides, bingo (Lic. # 3-00-0620320-9) 2:00 – 6:00 p.m.; nachos, hamburger stand, High Hill homemade sausage, sweepstakes drawing at 9:00 p.m. Music during the day by Texas Sound Check and Mark Halata. Free dance at night by Texas Dream. Grand Finale with a Super Spectacular Fireworks Show at 10:00 p.m.. Come join us.

Cuero—Our Lady of Guadalupe Jamaica will be held Sept. 5 at the parish hall grounds (207 Graham). There will be many activities, food and refreshments and music throughout the day with the auction beginning at 1:00 p.m. in the parish hall.

Shiner—Sts. Cyril and Methodius Picnic Sept. 5 at Legion Park begins at 10:30 a.m. to 2:00 p.m. with dinner consisting of three meats - stew, fried-chicken and sausage at \$7.50 p/p. Drive-thru plates available at KC Hall. There will be many activities throughout the day along with music day and night. See page 14 for complete listing of music and happenings.

Hallettsville—Sacred Heart Festival Sept. 5 at the KC Hall with a country fried-chicken, stew, homemade cornbread dressing dinner from 10:30 a.m. to 1:30 p.m. for dine-in (10:30 a.m.-1:00 p.m. for plates-to-go) at \$7.50 p/p. There will be inside a/c hall bingo (noon-6:00 p.m.), cakewalk, country store and religious articles booth. Auction begins at 1:00 p.m. Music starts at 11:00 a.m. to 9:00 p.m. There will also be games, food, washer pitching tournament and more. See page 8 for complete details.

Nada—St. Mary Parish Festival and Homecoming Sept. 5 at the community center. A barbecue-beef and sausage dinner served from 11:00 a.m. to 1:30 p.m. for dine-in or drive-thru plates-to-go available at \$8 p/p. The auction begins at 1:00 p.m. There will be entertainment throughout the day. For more information see page 21.

Vanderbilt — St. John Bosco Parish Picnic Sept. 5 to be held at Trinity Family Center (FM 616) with barbecue brisket and sausage dinner serving from 11:00 a.m.-2:00 p.m. at \$7.50 p/p. The auction begins at 1:00 p.m. There will be games, refreshments, cakewalk, religious and craft store, silent auction and much more for young and young at heart. Bingo begins at 5:30 p.m.

Inez — St. Joseph Parish Picnic Sept. 12 at the community center. A fried-chicken, brisket and sausage dinner will be served. The auction starts at 1:00 p.m. There will be kids games, country store, cakewalk, silent auction and more.

Yorktown — Holy Cross Festival Sept. 12 at the community hall across from the church, beginning after the 9:30 a.m. Mass at the church, located at 1214 Zorn Rd. Homemade sausage, barbecue plates, games, cakewalk, country store, live auction and many more things to see and do.

Bay City—Our Lady of Guadalupe Church Festival Barbecue Meal and Auction Sept. 19 at the parish hall (12th Street and Ave. D). The barbecue-brisket dinner will be served from 11:00 a.m. to 1:30 p.m. at \$6 p/p with dine-in, pick-up or drive-thru available. Auction begins at 11:30 p.m. There will be a volleyball tournament with more information next month.

Port Lavaca—Our Lady of the Gulf annual parish festival Sept. 19 at the Bauer Community Center. A seafood platter will be served starting at 11:00 a.m.-1:30 p.m. at \$8 p/p. The auction begins at 12:30 p.m. For more information and details for the day see page 22.

El Campo—St. Philip the Apostle Parish Picnic Sept. 26 begins at 10:30 a.m. at the Knights of Columbus Hall (Armory Road, just off Hwy. 71 South). Food and fun for the entire family, including a live auction and music by the Dujka Brothers. Call (979) 543-3770 for more details.

Meyersville—Sts. Peter and Paul Annual Festival Sept. 26 on the church grounds (11220 FM 237) beginning with Mass at 10:15

a.m. followed by a barbecue beef dinner served from 11:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. All plates will be \$7 p/p with dine-in or plates-to-go available. Bingo starts at 12:00 p.m. Live auction starts at 1:00 p.m. There will be a country store, raffle, games and much more. For more information call (361) 275-3868.

Bloomington—St. Patrick Turkey Dinner Sept. 26 in the parish hall. The dinner will be served beginning at 11:00 a.m. at \$7 p/p with plates-to-go available at 9:00 a.m. The auction starts at 11:30 a.m. There will be kids games, country store, cake and toy walk and more.

Victoria—Victoria County's Annual Czech Heritage Festival Sept. 26 at the community center. A Czech-English Mass will be celebrated at 9:00 a.m. at Our Lady of Victory Cathedral followed by music, food, museum, arts & crafts, Czech demonstrations and a tarok tournament with much more. Admission is \$5 p/p - under 15 free. More information at www.victoriaczechs.org.

Shiner—Shiner Catholic School Fall Festival sponsored by the Home and School Association, Oct. 3 at the American Legion Hall. A barbecue chicken dinner at \$7 p/p will be served from 11:00 a.m.-1:00 p.m. with drive-thru available. The live auction begins at 12:00 p.m. There will be a cakewalk, games, moon walk, concessions and much more.

Dallas—Save the date for the Holy Trinity Seminary 2010 Seminarian Welcome Dinner to be held Tuesday, Oct. 5, at the Fairmont Dallas. For more information, please go to <http://www.holytrinityseminary.com>.

East Bernard—Holy Cross Bazaar Oct. 10 at Riverside Hall

Columbus—St. Anthony Fall Festival Oct. 10

Victoria—Our Lady of Victory Cathedral Parish Festival Oct. 10 at the community center; doors open at 11:00 a.m. A buffet style barbecue beef and sausage dinner will be served. There will be booths and games for the entire family to enjoy.

Eagle Lake—Parish of the Nativity Picnic Oct. 17

La Salle— St. Theresa Annual Parish Picnic Oct. 17

Goliad—Immaculate Conception Fall Festival Oct. 17

Seadrift—St. Patrick Annual Turkey Dinner will be held Oct. 24, at the parish hall. Serving begins at 11:00 a.m. Plates are \$7 p/p with dine-in or take-out available. There will also be egg rolls, fried rice and more.

Praha—Veterans Memorial Service Nov. 7 at 9:30 a.m.

Masses • Retreats • Conferences

Victoria—A retreat will be led by lecturer, columnist and author Father Ronald Rolheiser, OMI, titled "Entering the Soul through Stories." Father Rolheiser is currently serving as president of the Oblate School of Theology in San Antonio. His books, including *The Shattered Lantern*, *The Holy Longing* and *The Restless Heart*, are popular throughout the English-speaking world. Retreat to be held Oct. 15-17 at the Diocese of Victoria Spiritual Renewal Center. Cost — \$170 double occ./\$190 single occ. (limited availability). Contact: Susan Oakley (361) 576-1515 or (361) 649-6391 or e-mail smoak53@msn.com.

Victoria—Holy Family Church is sponsoring a Women's ACTS Retreat on Oct. 21-24 at the diocesan Spiritual Renewal Center. For more information, call Lisa Haynes at (361) 571-5743 or Terre Davidson at (361) 649-3893.

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.

Pilgrimages, Tours, etc.

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 more information. 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.

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.



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HOSTYN/PLUM VBS HELPS LOCAL ANIMAL SHELTER— The Queen of the Holy Rosary Parish of Hostyn along with the Sts. Peter and Paul Parish of Plum hosted their annual Vacation Bible School the week of July 5-9. Baobab Blast was this year's theme. With the help of the animals of the savannah in Africa, the participants learned the five key precepts of the week—Trust, Love, Follow, Care and Share. The five days were filled with crafts, storytelling, games and music that carried out the words. The youngsters chose the local animal shelter as their mission project for the week. They brought needed items for the animal shelter or donated money. Pictured above are the participants and the youth leaders along with the animal shelter donations.



MARVELOUS MYSTERY REVEALED AT HOLY CROSS VBS— Holy Cross Parish in Bay City held the Cat Chat Vacation Bible School program June 28 to July 2 for 53 young parishioners. The theme for this year's program was Marvelous Mystery – The Mass Comes Alive. The week included crafts, snacks, music, games and learning about the mystery of the Mass! A children's holy hour was one of the highlights during the week that led up to the celebration of Mass on Friday. The week was a success thanks to all the volunteers!



Girls from as far away as Dallas, Floresville and Deer Park attended the State Junior CDA annual Spiritual Retreat, which was held at Father John Peters' family farm in Weimar. Here they pose with silly faces to show a spiritual retreat includes a lot of fun.

Prayer For Beginning a New School Year

Father,
We thank you for the opportunity to begin the 2010-2011 school year, and we ask that you bless the faculty, the students, and student families.
We pray that you will guide us in all ways, and that we will seek your will in everything that we do.
We ask this in the name of Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen

From ChurchYear.Net
By David Bennett



State JCDA hold annual retreat in Weimar

WEIMAR— The State Junior Catholic Daughters of the Americas held their 2nd Annual Spiritual Retreat June 26 at Father John Peters' farm in Weimar. The girls enjoyed a day of crafts and games, and enjoyed a meal of chopped BBQ, chips, tea, peach cobbler and homemade cookies.

Olga Samaniego, State CDA Spiritual Enhancement chairman spoke to the girls on "Empowerment in Jesus." Father John celebrated Mass, Carl Kallies served as altar server and Terri Beltran served as minister of Communion.

Girls from Courts Sacred Heart #797, Hallettsville; St. Bernadette #1108, East Bernard; Court Pope Pius XII #1805, Lubbock; Ancillae Marie #1886, Crosby; Annunciation #1962, La Grange; Our Lady of The Snows #2100, Dallas; Immaculate Mary #2134, Angleton; St. Theresa Of Liseiux #2211, Sugarland; Our Lady of the Hills #2415, Round Rock; San Roberto Bellarmine #2275, El Campo; Our Lady of St. Hyacinth #2361, Deer Park; Mary Queen of Peace #2497, Floresville; Olga Samaniego, Terrie Vacek, JCDA chairmen; adult helpers, parents, along with Father John and the State JCDA officers, enjoyed a beautiful day celebrating and rejoicing in God's Love and truly "Responding to his Call."

Junior Catholic Daughters of the Americas (JCDA), is a youth program for girls 6 through 18 and was founded in 1925. To find a JCDA court near you or to learn how to start a JCDA court in your area check with your local CDA court. You can also contact Father John Peters at (361) 798-5888.

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