

The Catholic Lighthouse

The Cradle of Texas Immigration



VOL. 23, NO. 10

OFFICIAL PUBLICATION OF THE DIOCESE OF VICTORIA IN TEXAS

January 2010

WHOEVER
believes
IN ME
WILL Live

JN 11:25

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Victoria and Moulton Catholic Churches Vandalized

By Cynthia Brewer,
The Catholic Lighthouse

From January 14 to 21, 2010, two Catholic Churches in the Diocese of Victoria were violently vandalized.

St. Joseph Catholic Church in Moulton was vandalized Thursday, Jan. 14; its KC Hall was struck Tuesday night, January 19; and Holy Family Catholic Church in Victoria was vandalized Wednesday night, January 20, or Thursday morning, January 21, between 9:30 p.m. and 5:30 a.m.

According to the Shiner Gazette, both

or church itself.

"It was quite a shock to me and disheartening," Mary Lou said. "When we were finally able to enter the church,

I was relieved to see no desecration in the church sanctuary."

"We were very fortunate that we did not have major damage to the church sanctuary and statues," she said.

The safe in the Moulton KC Hall was broken into the day before Holy Family in Victoria was vandalized.

Holy Family Church at 704 Mallette Drive in Victoria had major damage done to the church foyer, rectory offices, CCD offices and classrooms.

Father Greg Korenek, pastor, was at the priests' retreat at the diocesan renewal center when he received a call early Thursday morning from Deacon Steve Borowicz notifying him of the vandalism he and Msgr. Peter Agbenu had discovered before the 6 a.m. Mass. He quickly came to the church to inspect the damage with Victoria police officers and Mike Brown, diocesan finance officer.

"The damage was extensive; we're just in the process of accessing it all right now," Father Greg said the day the damage was discovered.

Numerous office doors were broken open, many plate-glass windows were shattered, the office safe was broken into with some type of tool (crow bar/sledge hammer), the large, copper Celtic Cross in the foyer was pulled off the wall and thrown through the window of the back meeting room off the foyer, and the offices were trashed.

The CCD offices and some classrooms in the activity center were damaged in the same manner: broken doors, shattered windows and glass display cases, knocked over bookshelves, smashed televisions and destroyed office equipment.

Mary Jane Peña, who cleans the church, said, "I was just happy they didn't take Jesus (in the Eucharist)." Although the interior

See Victoria and Moulton, p. 8



the Moulton ISD and St. Joseph Church were vandalized between 12:15 a.m. and 6 a.m. Jan. 14.

Mary Lou Dierschke, St. Joseph's parish secretary, said glass was broken, desks and cabinets were vandalized, pins taken off door hinges and items were stolen from St. Joseph's Youth Ministry Center, the parish hall, an office and classrooms. A Wii, Xbox and 14" television were stolen from the youth center; the center's 52" flat screen TV was taken off the wall but had broken and was left. The sacristy was broken into and pyxes for eucharistic ministry were taken, but there were no other damages to the sacristy

Pictured from top left: A copier is just one of many items destroyed in the church offices; it looks as if a tornado hit all but the print of the Blessed Virgin in the youth office at Holy Family; the 8-foot Celtic Cross was ripped from the wall and thrown through a window; televisions and computer monitors were smashed; glass display cases were shattered; and an "indestructible" safe (bottom left-hand corner) was broken into and destroyed in the parish office. All pictures are from Holy Family Parish.

Photos by Regina Matus-Janak



Bishop Fellhauer's Schedule

February

- 6 4:00 p.m., Mass, Acolytes and new candidates for the Diaconate retreat, Spiritual Renewal Center, Victoria
- 7:30 p.m., Mass, Catholic Committee on Scouting, Adult Awards and banquet, Holy Family Chapel and parish hall, Victoria
- 8 5:00 p.m., Diocesan Liturgy Commission meeting, Chancery Office
- 9 11:15 a.m., Mass, Texas Catholic Correctional Ministers' retreat, Spiritual Renewal Center
- 14 4:00 p.m., Mass, 4th Degree Knights of Columbus Ladies Night, St. Andrew Church, Hillje
- 17 4:30 p.m., Diocesan Building Board meeting, Chancery
- 18 9:00 a.m., Connecting Catholic Families with the Bible, OCL meeting, St. Mary Activity Center, Victoria
- 21 11:30 a.m., Mass, Pilgrims' Reunion, St. Philip Church, El Campo
- 3:00 p.m., Rite of Election and Call to Continuing Conversion, Our Lady of Victory Cathedral
- 22 6:00 p.m., Mass, 40th Anniversary of dedication of Assumption Church, Ganado
- 24 10:00 a.m., Priests' Study Day, Holy Family Church, Victoria
- 28 1:30 p.m., Catholic Knowledge Bowl, Holy Family Church, Victoria
- March**
- 3 10:00 a.m., Presbyteral Council meeting, Chancery Office
- 7 5:00 p.m., Mass, "High School Spectacular," Knights of Columbus Hall, El Campo
- 8 Installation of Bishop Joseph Vasquez as the new Bishop of the Diocese of Austin

Louise Rose Migl Machalec — She's 100!

Louise Rose Migl Machalec was 100 years old on January 12, 2010. She is the 12th child of Josef and Aloizie Migl and the last remaining survivor of 13 children. Louise married Joseph P. Machalec on October 21, 1930, and a few years later, they purchased the farm from her parents in Novohrad, Texas. They made their home there until Joseph's death on February 22, 1995.



Louise and Joseph had six children, Alvin, Genevieve, Joseph, Benjamin, Beatrice and Louise. They also have 25 grandchildren, over 40 great-grandchildren and three great-great-grandchildren. She also was the care giver to her brother, Edward Migl, until his death.

Louise and Joseph were faithful members of St. Mary of the Assumption Church in Praha, where they were married and baptized all of their children. Louise is also a charter member of the Catholic

Daughters of the Americas, Father Joseph Kopp Court 2018 in Moulton, TX.

Louise was an excellent homemaker on the farm — gardening, canning, processing meats and quilting. Twenty-five of her quilts have been handed down to family members.

Louise's greatest love is listening, singing and dancing to Czech songs. In her younger years she enjoyed playing the accordion and singing with her family on the porch (this was before television existed). At her 100th birthday party at her residence of Shady Oak Nursing and Rehab in Moulton, her family sang as she danced with her son, Joe. Louise is still active today and her family honored her with another party on January 16. God has blessed Louise with a loving family and they are proud and happy to celebrate her 100th birthday.



Our Lady of Sorrows and Santisima Trinidad Trinitarian priests, Father Stan De Boe and Father Antonio Perez, are embraced with prayer chains created by OLS religious education students.

Our Lady of Sorrows honors priests

Our Lady of Sorrows Parish and Capilla de la Santisima Trinidad gathered for a bilingual prayer service on January 10 for the Year for Priests. Papers were handed out so that each person could write the names of the priests who have helped them throughout their life, those who baptized them and gave them the sacraments. Prayers were said for all priests, both diocesan and religious, but in a special way for the Trinitarian Order and other priests who have served at OLS and its mission church. A Spiritual Bouquet by the catechists and prayer chains by the religious education students were presented to the Trinitarian priests, Father Stan De Boe and Father Antonio Perez, who joined them to Jesus on the cross. Excerpts from different homilies to priests by Pope Benedict XVI were read that emphasized the priest's call to service, deep love for the Eucharist, and expertise not in economics, construction or politics but in the spiritual life. All recited the Litany of the Priests, and Santisima Trinidad children's choir and Mark Zepeda provided beautiful music. The celebration continued at Trinity Hall with fellowship and entertainment by the Mariachi Group and Our Lady of Sorrows Ballet Folkloric.



(above) Father Phi explains the priesthood to the 5th graders.

(right) Nazareth students look to buy treasures at the IWBS Gift Shop.



(left) Sister Amata teaches Sacred Heart students the history of the IWBS Sisters.

Catholic School 5th graders introduced to vocations

On January 12 and 13, 2010, the fifth graders from the Catholic Schools in the Diocese of Victoria attended Church Vocation Awareness Days at Incarnate Word Convent in Victoria. The students heard a number of religious and priests talk about their own experience of religious life and the priesthood. Sister Laura Toman showed pictures and told stories of her recent mission to Kenya, Africa, during "A Missionary's Experience;" Sister Louise Marie Jones and Father Phi Nguyen explained "Different Lifestyles;" Sister Amata Hollas gave tours of the IWBS museum, "Visit Hall of Memories;" Sister Gregoria Berger assisted students in making purchases in the Gift Shop; Sister Charlene Machala taught students music for the closing ceremony; and Sister Mildred Truchard led "Vocation Bingo and Meet Religious." The day culminated in a prayer service that highlighted the gifts of

the Holy Spirit. The Vocation Awareness Days are sponsored by the Vocations Office of the Diocese of Victoria, The Serra Club, Knights of Columbus Council No. 1329 and the Catholic Daughters of Court St. Ann No. 369, all of Victoria.



Save the Date

Bishop David Fellhauer Invitational Golf Tournament

Benefiting the Youth and Vocation Activities of the Diocese of Victoria
Sponsored by the Knights of Columbus Council 9088

Friday, April 23, 2010

Colony Creek Country Club—Victoria, Texas
For more information, please contact Monroe Rieger at 571-6535; or Benny Vitek at 576-5354.

DSA & Reflection of Faith Updates

2009 DSA

Diocesan Goal:	\$1,282,100.00
Parish Pledge Totals:	\$ 713,188.22
Parish Contribution Totals:	\$ 703,893.45
Number of Parish Families Participating:	3,987

Reflection of Faith Capital Campaign

Diocesan Goal:	\$ 9,000,000.00
Parish Pledge Totals:	\$14,333,392.97
Parish Contribution Totals:	\$ 7,076,754.09
Number of Parish Families Participating:	6,750



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DEADLINE IS THE THIRD TUESDAY OF THE PRECEDING MONTH.



Seminary Burses

In Memory of ...

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 January 27, 2010

	TOTALS
— General Seminary Burse	
Previously reported	\$ 95,124.00
In memory of Frances Pekar Hermes by:	
M/M Guy James	50.00
Linda G. Sandelovic	25.00
Kenneth & Mildred Lester	50.00
M/M David Sonntag	25.00
M/M O.R. Borchers	15.00
M/M Billy Parks	25.00
M/M Dennis Melnar	25.00
Mary R. Polansky	20.00
Mary Kocian	20.00
Mary Polansky	50.00
Kenneth & Judy Anderle	10.00
Parishioners of St. Joseph	95.00
Total	\$95,534.00
— Rev. Msgr. Edward C. Bartsch Seminary Burse	
Previously reported	\$1,935.00
In honor of Msgr. Bartsch's birthday and Louise Rose Machalec's 100th birthday	25.00
In honor of Msgr. Edward Bartsch by M/M Robert Benys	20.00
Total	\$1,980.00
— Rev. John C. Bily Seminary Burse	
Previously reported	\$8,174.00
In memory of Alvirda Helmcamp by Richard & Annette Coerver	20.00
In memory of Henry J. Dreitner by Catholic Life Weimar Br#5	25.00
In memory of Henry J. Dreitner by James & Barbara Janak	25.00
Total	\$8,244.00
— Catholic Daughters of America Our Lady Queen of Peace Court #1374	
Previously reported	\$4,612.72
In memory of Ellen Vickery by CDA Court #1374	25.00
Total	\$4,637.72
— Catholic Daughters Court of St. Ann #369 Seminary Burse #2	
Previously reported	\$6,983.99
In memory of Louis Tasin by CDA Court St. Ann #369	20.00
In memory of Bessie Nevlud Morris by M/M Otto Bleier	25.00
Total	\$7,028.99
— Knights of Militia Immaculata, St. Anthony Village of Bay City Burse	
Previously reported	\$300.00
In memory of Shannon Combs by Militia Immaculata	100.00
Total	\$400.00

— Knights of Columbus Victoria Council #1329 Seminary Burse #3	
Previously reported	\$9,257.50
In memory of Otto J. Kalischko by KC Council #1329	100.00
Total	\$9,357.50
— Knights of Columbus 4th Degree St. Michael's Assembly #1527 Weimar, TX Seminary Burse	
Previously reported	\$3,270.00
In memory of Henry James Dreitner by KC 4th Degree #1527	200.00
Total	\$3,470.00
— Rev. Theophil Okruhlik & Rev. Vincent Verdarame Seminary Burse	
Previously reported	\$9,810.44
In memory of Mary Louise Blough by M/M Anton Schoener	20.00
In memory of Martha Emilie Scheel by Archie & Pat Dworaczyk	40.00
Total	\$9,870.44
— Rev. John C. Peters Seminary Burse #4	
Previously reported	\$9,319.00
In memory of M/M John Peters, Jr. by Deacon Joey & Mary Targac	25.00
In memory of M/M Joe C. Targac by Deacon Joey & Mary Targac	25.00
In memory of Charles W. Bubela by Lorine C. Bubela	25.00
Wishes for a Blessed 2010 by James & Monica Stock	25.00
In memory of Mary Kutach by Catholic Fam. Fraternal	5.00
Total	\$9,424.00
— St. John the Baptist Church, St. John In Memory of Rev. Brian Crookes Seminary Burse #2	
Previously reported	\$4,451.00
In memory of Alphonse Berger by:	
Lillian Besetzny	10.00
Joe & Loretta Cernoch	5.00
Allen & Marilyn Cerny	5.00
Alphonse & Josie Kubenka	10.00
Melvin & Dorothy Zapalac	10.00
Total	\$4,491.00
— Rev. Msgr. Benton A. Thurmond Seminary Burse	
Previously reported	\$1,575.00
In memory of Rev. Msgr. Benton Thurmond and Lee Thurmond by KC Council #11351	200.00
Total	\$1,775.00
— Rev. Celestino Say Seminary Burse (Catholic Life Ins.)	
Previously reported	\$3,215.00
In memory of Louis Tasin by Mrs. Wayne Fisher	25.00
Total	\$3,240.00



Happy Birthday!

Sean Breeden is in College IV at Franciscan University in Steubenville, Ohio. His home parish is Holy Cross, in Bay City, and his birthday is March 4. Please show your support for our seminarian by writing to: Sean Breeden, Franciscan University, 1235 University Blvd., Steubenville, OH 43952

Sister Doloretta Leopold, IWBS

Sister M. Doloretta Leopold, age 74, died Tuesday, Jan. 5, 2009. She was born Aug. 4, 1935, in Nada to the late William and Josephine Meisner Leopold. She was a member of the Sisters of the Incarnate Word and Blessed Sacrament.

Sister Doloretta received her elementary education at St. Mary's School in Nada, Brown Public School and Sacred Heart School in Hallettsville and graduated from Sacred Heart High School in Hallettsville.

She entered Nazareth Convent as a postulant on Dec. 8, 1953, and became a novice on Aug. 25, 1954. Sister made her first profession of vows on Aug. 26, 1955, and pronounced her final vows on Aug. 6, 1960.

Sister Doloretta earned a B.S. degree in elementary education from Incarnate Word College in San Antonio. She also received a master's degree in religious education from the University of St. Thomas in Houston. Sister ministered as a teacher at Our Lady of Guadalupe School in Victoria, Immaculate Conception School in Sealy, Sacred Heart School in La Grange, St. Agnes School and St. Leo School in San Antonio, Sacred Heart School in Crosby, St. Patrick School in Dallas, and Our Lady of Perpetual Help School in Selma. In 1989, Sister began Parish Ministry in Sacred Heart at Flatonia and in St. Joseph's at Moulton, St. Michael Parish in Cuero, and Holy Cross Parish in East Bernard.

During the past 12 years, Sister Doloretta served as portress at Incarnate Word Convent and did various household duties. She took great joy in visiting patients at the

hospitals, as well as Twin Pines Nursing Home where she also assisted the priest in the celebration of Mass. She loved serving as spiritual director for the ACTS Retreats of the various parishes. Sister made phone

calls and visited the homebound and took flowers to those who benefited from her thoughtfulness. She would pray for and with anyone who needed a special prayer. Sister loved to hug friends and family and appreciated a hug in return. She liked to crochet cross-shaped bookmarks and care for flowers she planted.

Sister Doloretta is survived by her brothers, Alois "A.J." Leopold and Leroy Leopold and wife Donna of Hallettsville; sister, Joline Etzler and husband Hilbert of Victoria; sister-in-law, Martha Leopold of El Campo; and beloved nieces and nephews.

She was preceded in death by her parents; brothers, Rev. Wilbert Leopold, Pius Emil Leopold, and Leonard Leopold; and sisters, Friedolina Leopold and Evanelle Leopold Bittner.

A rosary was recited and wake service with evening praise and sharing of memories was held at Incarnate Word Convent on Friday, Jan. 8, 2010, with the Rev. Phi Nguyen presiding. Burial followed at Catholic Cemetery No. 3.

Pallbearers were family members: William Etzler, Glen Leopold, Fred Kubesch, Dale Loesch, Charles Leopold, and Leonard Leopold.

Memorials may be made to Incarnate Word Convent or donor's choice.



Otto J. Kalischko

Member of the Diocesan Finance Board

Otto J. Kalischko, 79, of Victoria, passed away Thursday, Jan. 7, 2010. He was born March 18, 1930, in Victoria County, the son of Joe and Theresia Benesch Kalischko. He was a retired loan officer with First Victoria National Bank.

He was a member of St. Mary Church, the Knights of St. Gregory, the Knights of Columbus, the Travelers Protective Association and the Independent Cattlemens Association. He was appointed a member of the diocesan finance board by Bishop Charles Grahmann at the inception of the diocese and had continued this position up to his death. He was also a past eucharistic minister and usher at St. Mary Church.

He is survived by his wife, Evelyn Kalischko of Victoria; daughters, Karen

Kalischko of Victoria, and Shannon Loest and husband Kyle of Meyersville; and son, Patrick Kalischko of Victoria.

He was preceded in death by his parents; sisters, Josephine and Anna Bell Kalischko; and his brother, Eugene Kalischko.

Mass of Christian Burial was celebrated Monday, Jan. 11, 2010, at St. Mary Church with Monsignor James C. Brunner officiating. Burial followed at Catholic Cemetery No. 3.

Pallbearers include Edwin Hajek, Louis Hajek, John Larson, Ed Wagner, Paul Oerling and Charles Lassman.

Honorary pallbearers include Bennie Hajek and Juan Mendez Jr.

Memorials may be made to St. Mary Church or Nazareth Academy.



Year for Priests Interviews with priests in the Diocese of Victoria

Father John C. Peters ~ Hallettsville

Father John Carl Peters is pastor of Sacred Heart Parish and School and St. Mary's in Hallettsville, Ascension of Our Lord Church, Moravia, and St. John the Baptist Church, St. John. Below is his "Year for Priest" interview.

Date and place of birth: October 14, 1948, in Schulenburg, Texas

Parents' names and home: John Peters Jr. and Tillie Stock Peters (both deceased)

Names of siblings: None

Home parish: St. Michael Parish in Weimar

Schools attended and degrees received: 1st-8th Grade - St. Michael, Weimar; 9th-12th Grade - St. John's Seminary, San Antonio, Texas; College and Theology

- Assumption Seminary, San Antonio, Texas; B.A. Sociology - St. Mary's University; Theological Studies at St. Mary's University and Oblate School of Theology, San Antonio, Texas.

Date ordained and by whom?: April 26, 1974, at St. Michael, Weimar, by Archbishop Francis J. Furey

Assignments: 1973-74, deacon internship, St. Mary Magdalen, San Antonio; 1974-77, associate pastor, St. Joseph, Yoakum; 1977-81, associate pastor, St. Matthew, San Antonio; 1981-82, associate pastor, St. Pius X, San Antonio; 1982-85, pastor, St. Joseph, Yoakum; 1982-90, vocation director, Diocese of



Victoria; 1983-90, permanent diaconate director, Diocese of Victoria; 1985-90, pastor, Our Lady of Lourdes, Victoria; 1994-present, pastor, Sacred Heart, Hallettsville and St. Mary's, Hallettsville; 2001 - added as pastor to Ascension of Our Lord Church, Moravia, and St. John the Baptist Church, St. John

Other activities: 1978 - present, sponsor Summer Exchange Program for children from Mexico City; 1979-82, chaplain in Texas Army National Guard; 1984-present, state chaplain of Junior Catholic Daughters of the Americas; 1986-90, state chaplain of KJT; 1987, diocese coordinator for papal visit to Texas; 1987-

90, Executive Team Priest for Marriage Encounter (ETPME), Diocese of Victoria; 1988-90, ETPME, Section X (Texas, Okla. and N. M.); 1991-94, ETPME, Houston-North; 1990-94, formation faculty, St. Mary's Seminary, Houston; 1995-present, chaplain of Serra Club, Victoria Diocese Northwest; 1995-present, state chaplain, St. Isidore Society; member of the 4th Degree KCs; member and representative of the Victoria Diocese to the Southwest Lieutenant Equestrian Order of the Holy Sepulchre; and member of the Czech Heritage Society

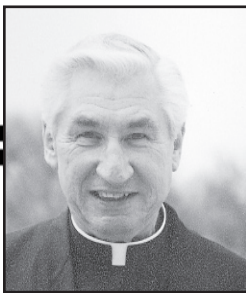
Your hobbies or special interests: Bowling and going to the farm; enjoy hosting the family reunion at the family farm - started this with my parents when



FAITH POINT

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

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



Gay Marriage Trial in California

The trial *Perry vs. Schwarzenegger* which seeks to declare California's Proposition 8 unconstitutional began mid-January. Proposition 8 defined marriage in California as a union of a man and woman. District Judge Vaughn Walker who will conduct the trial has shown obvious animosity to Proposition 8, approved by 52% of the California electorate.

The trial should concern questions of law, but Judge Walker has turned it into a trial of fact. Why? Because ordinarily higher courts do not question rulings of facts by lower courts. The Judge can cram his personal opinions into the "facts" box and not be called to make a decision on the "review of law."

As part of the "facts" Judge Walker has issued an extraordinary ruling that the private opinions of supporters are the proper subject of this trial. Promoters of Proposition 8 can be subpoenaed for their correspondence and private emails. This begs the question: why should private opinions of voters be the basis of deciding the constitutionality of a law? Distinguished lawyer Ed Whelan noted, "These are kangaroo-court procedures."

The third outrageous move of Judge Walker was to order the trial televised in violation of federal rules and he did so without proper notice and public comment. Whelan points out that the Judicial Conference of the United States opposes televising federal trial in part because this "could jeopardize ... the safety of trial participants" and "produce intimidating effects on litigants, witnesses and jurors." That is a predictable outcome in this trial. The Heritage Foundation reported that "supporters of Prop. 8 in California have been subjected to harassment, intimidation, vandalism, racial scape goating, blacklisting, loss of employment, economic hardships, angry protests, violence, at least one death threat, and gross expressions of anti-religious bigotry." Supporters of Prop. 8 appealed the order to televise to the Supreme Court, which overturned it by a 5-4 vote.

In earlier articles I have explained why giving gay unions the status of marriage is a bad idea. Here are some gay marriage talking points and their refutation:

- *Homosexuals should be allowed to marry because homosexuality is a birth condition.*

That is a wholly unproven position. 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 can in no way be approved except on the grounds that all purely recreational sex is permissible. I suppose some teenagers would be delighted to hear that.

- *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

produce progeny for it to survive and so it legislates to foster this endeavor. There is no corresponding public stake in promoting other sexual arrangements. It violates logic to give freely chosen acts the same standing as a nature. One with a homosexual orientation can refrain from homosexual acts, but one cannot, for example, be born black and refrain from being black. Acts do not deserve the same respect as a nature.

- *Marriage is not just 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.

AIDS has killed more men in the US than six Vietnam wars combined and 83% of all cases in the US are white homosexual men.

Gay unions cannot contribute to the survival of the human race. Any contributions they make are not equivalent to that of marriage and so

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

- *Without legally recognized unions, homosexuals cannot enjoy certain legal and tax benefits.*

Homosexuals can freely visit their partners in the hospital and even heterosexual friends. They can will their property to their partner(s). There is no need for legal recognition of gay unions to provide these and similar rights.

- *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 is society's stamp of approval on their deviant lifestyle, which subverts marriage.

- *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 has an interest in maintaining the basic building block of society and not replacing it with straw. It is not government's function to make people feel good about their private relationships. Destroying the basic building block of society is too high a price to pay to make homosexuals feel good.

- *Why should the marriage of two men or two women affect anybody else's marriage?*

Redefining marriage by divorcing 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. Gay unions deprive children of either motherhood or fatherhood. Research establishes that children from other than intact heterosexual families face higher risk of poor outcomes.

Gay unions will obliterate the importance of marriage. If marriage is only a matter of who loves whom there will be a decline if not disappearance of marriage. Why does a couple or other grouping need a document to certify their love?

If gay unions must be given the status of marriage because of the love of the participants, there is no principled way of forbidding incestuous, polygamous, or even interspecies unions.

Gay marriages once legalized will be presented to youth as 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.

Apart from the immorality of homosexual unions, permitting them is bad public policy. AIDS has killed more men in the US than six Vietnam wars combined and 83% of all cases in the US are white homosexual men. Homosexuals who are 1-2% of the population have 50% of the nation's syphilis cases. At least one STD afflicts 78% of them. They account for half

the cases of gonorrhea of the throat and intestinal infections. They have abnormally high rates of hepatitis A, B, and C, herpes, enteric infections, cancers and tumors. Gays who die from AIDS have a median life span of 39. Gays who die from other causes have median life spans of 42. By contrast unmarried men in general have median life spans of 57 and married men 75. Nearly half the homosexual and bisexual men aged 20 to

Flag Day Poster Contest

SAN ANTONIO - Catholic Life Insurance is sponsoring a poster contest to commemorate the 233rd birthday of our nation's flag. The theme of this year's contest is: "What the Stars and Stripes Mean to Me."

The design of this year's poster should depict a student's personal interpretation of what the flag means to them. All posters should include the American Flag.



Elementary school students in grades kindergarten through fifth may submit one original poster no larger than 20" x 20." Judges will evaluate posters based on eye appeal, originality and theme. Winners will receive cash awards.

Entry forms and complete contest rules may be downloaded from www.cliu.com. Participants in the contest do not have to be Catholic Life members or of the Catholic faith. The deadline is April 30, 2010.

Year for Priests Interviews with priests in the Diocese of Victoria

Continued from p. 3

I was ordained and have been doing it ever since

When was the first time you thought of priesthood?: When I was very young, probably about 5 or 6

Who influenced or inspired you?: Msgr. Anthony Drozd, my pastor, and my parents

What would people be surprised to know about you?: I really am rather shy

What is your favorite Scripture passage?: "For God so loved the world that he gave his only son, that whoever believes in him should not perish but have eternal life." (John 3:16)

How did you come to know Jesus?: At baptism

Please share a little about your calling to the priesthood - how, when, you knew it was time to join the seminary?: Throughout grade school, especially, in the 8th grade

day will not reach their 65th birthday. Gays have a 40% shorter lifespan than heterosexuals. "The evidence [of health hazards of homosexuality] is so overwhelming that even if all moral judgments and religious biases are set aside, homosexuality — by its very nature — cannot play a part in a healthy society" (National Association for Search and Therapy of Homosexuality, September 24, 2002). Instead of a lifestyle, it should be called a death style. The consequences of violating religious principle demonstrate its validity. Condemnation of homosexual practice need not be based solely on religion.

What is at stake in this case is the future of marriage in all 50 states. Whatever the outcome of the trial the matter is sure to be considered by the US Supreme Court possibly as early as 2011. Pray that the Supreme Court Justices will not be as biased as the District Court seems to be.

JOB OPENING Elementary School Principal

Our Lady of Victory School in Victoria, Texas, has an enrollment of 500 students, grades PK-8; it is a Nationally-Recognized Blue Ribbon School of 2008! It is currently seeking a principal for the next school year, 2010-2011.

The successful candidate must hold a master's degree in educational administration or related field and be a practicing Catholic who is able to continue the reputation and spirit of academic excellence and provide essential leadership in maintaining a vigorous Christian environment. Excellent communication skills and enthusiasm for developing and maintaining a top-grade academic and religious oriented school are a must!

Request application from:
John E. Quary, Superintendent
OLV Search Committee
1505 E. Mesquite Lane
Victoria, TX 77901

Applications must be completed by March 15, 2010, or until the position is filled with the appropriate candidate.

For more information about the school, please visit the school's Web site: www.ourladyvictory.org

What was your background before the seminary (things you did, jobs, etc.): In seminary, during summers, I worked at Frederick's A.C. in San Antonio, Texas, Hwy. Dept. in Columbus, and a moving company in San Antonio

What are some of your favorite experiences/ joys/ surprises since becoming a priest?: Helping people and being with people and celebrating the sacraments

What is your favorite movie?: "The Sound of Music"

What was the last book you read?: "The Shadow of His Wings" about a young German seminarian drafted into Hitler's Army in WWII and still was able to be ordained and minister to others caught up in the horrors of war.

Who is a hero to you?: My parents in giving their only child to the Church and parents of young children today who are trying their best.



High School Spectacular

Sunday, March 7, 2010

The Sainthood Project

Knights of Columbus Hall

2490 Armory Rd
El Campo, Texas

Speaker: **Todd Lemieux**



Todd Lemieux is a full time missionary and evangelist who speaks to groups around the country about living a life filled with prayer, Scripture, Theology of the Body, Beatitude, Virtue, and the Fruits and Gifts of the Spirit as the recipe for our best life possible. For the last ten years, he has been involved in evangelization as either a youth or campus minister, diocesan director, teacher, speaker, comedian, or music minister.

After graduating from Pepperdine University in California, Todd worked in production for television while starting his own theater company in Los Angeles. After moving to New York, he left the entertainment industry to follow the call of youth and music ministry on a parish level. Todd has taught Scripture, Morality, and Christian Existence, along with serving as an assistant chaplain at the Catholic high school level. He has served as a worship leader, and a coordinator of campus ministry at the college level.

After a year of prayer and discernment, Todd founded The Sainthood Project and The Sainthood Challenge, convinced that only when we allow the grace of God to transform our lives can we truly change the world. He resides with his wife Dominique on Long Island where they raise their two daughters.

For more information contact your parish coordinator or Debbie Vanelli at the Office of Youth & Young Adult Ministry (361)573-0828, dvanelli@victoriadiocese.org or Jose Ortega, jortega@victoriadiocese.org

Early Registration deadline:
Thursday, March 4, 2010

\$17.00 per-Youth Participant

Group Rate of 8 or more \$15.00 per-person
(\$7.00 per-Adult Participant)

(\$20.00 at the door **NO EXCEPTIONS**)

All fees must be mailed to the office before the event.

Doors Open at 11:00 a.m.
Spectacular begins at 11:30 a.m. and Concludes with Liturgy at 5:00 p.m.

- Lunch
- Keynote
- Activities
- Liturgy



Youth Calendar of Events

February 14 — Confirmation Retreat at St. Michael in Cuero

February 18 — Connecting Catholic Families with the Bible - St. Mary's Parish Activity Center, Victoria

February 20 — Foundations - A Certificate Program in Youth Ministry Studies at the Diocese of Victoria, Chancery - This session is "Justice and Service" - 9:00 a.m.-12 noon

February 23-26 — Region 10 Diocesan Directors Meeting

February 28 — Parish Confirmation Retreat at Sacred Heart in Hallettsville

March 7 — High School Spectacular in El Campo

March 13 — Diocesan Confirmation Retreat at St. Mary's in Victoria

March 15 — Parish Confirmation Retreat - Our Lady of Guadalupe, Bay City, at the Spiritual Renewal Center

March 27 — Foundations - A Certificate Program in Youth Ministry Studies at the Diocese of Victoria, Chancery - This session is "Ethics and Crisis Management" - 9:00 a.m.-12 noon

March 28 — Parish Confirmation Retreat at St. Joseph in Inez

April 8 — Strong Catholic Families - Strong Catholic Teens - Parent Presentation 6:30 - 8:30 p.m. at Our Lady of Victory in Victoria

April 9 — Strong Catholic Families - Strong Catholic Teens - Leader Presentation 9:00 a.m. - 3:00 p.m. at the Chancery in Victoria

April 9 — Strong Catholic Families - Strong Catholic Teens - Parent Presentation 6:30 - 8:30 p.m. at St. Philip in El Campo

April 10 — Strong Catholic Families - Strong Catholic Teens - Leader Presentation 9:00 a.m. - 3:00 p.m. at St. Philip in El Campo

April 11 — Parish Confirmation Retreat at Immaculate Conception in Goliad

April 17 — Foundations - A Certificate Program in Youth Ministry Studies -at the Diocese of Victoria, Chancery - This session is "Retreat Formation" - 9:00 a.m.-12 noon

April 18 — Camp David Planning - Youth Leaders/Staff at the Chancery in Victoria

June 13-15 — 1st Session - Camp David Junior High Camp

June 16 — Camp David Elementary Camp

June 16 - 18 — 2nd Session - Camp David Junior High Camp

June 28 - July 1 — Discipleship Week

July 3-11 — Rocky Mountain High, Colorado

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



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



Youth from throughout the diocese participated in the Pro Life March in Austin



Faculty, staff, parents, students and alumni of St. Anthony School in Columbus "Marched for Life" in Austin January 23.

Youth March for Life in state and national capitals

Thirty-seven years ago our Supreme Court decided that abortion should be legal in this country in the infamous Roe vs. Wade case. That decision in essence gave way to what is being called the New Holocaust. More than fifty million babies have been killed since that decision, roughly one-third of all pregnancies since 1973 have ended in abortion.

Saturday, January 23, 2010, more than 160 young people and adults from the Diocese of Victoria joined thousands of people at the Capitol in Austin for the annual Pro-Life March. The group gathered at Republic Square and marched up the south steps of the State Capitol. They prayed and heard from keynote speaker Gov. Rick Perry, Sen. Dan Patrick, Rep. Frank Corte Jr., Carol Everett, Cathy Kerr, Elizabeth McClung and Msgr. Michael Mulvey.

Twenty-five youth from St. Joseph

High School went to the National March in Washington, DC, January 22, with Father Bryan Heyer of Our Lady of the Gulf Parish in Port Lavaca and Father David Berger of Our Lady of Victory Parish in Victoria. OLV sponsored the trip and provided chaperones.

Although some were met with a few pro-choice protestors, the group stood unwavering in their faith and respectfully offered to pray for them.

"Although, I wish there were no need for a pro-life march, it was wonderful to see our next generation in action," diocesan director of youth ministry, Debbie Vanelli said. "I am sure their conviction, strong faith and enthusiasm had God smiling."

Mark your calendar for next year's march in Austin, which will be held on the 38th anniversary of the Roe vs. Wade decision - January 22, 2011.

Cutting Edge

By Sister Margie Lavonis, CSC
Sisters of the Holy Cross



Discovering God's Call

One of the major tasks of young adults is to discover God's call. It is a process we all go through in one way or another.

Each of us has a unique call — one only we can answer. Discovering our call isn't as easy as picking up the phone or texting a message to God or our pastor. It takes hard work to find out how God wants us to live our lives. We must take time for prayer and reflection that includes serious discernment.

When I was a campus and young adult minister, and also in my ministry as vocation director for the Sisters of the Holy Cross, I was often asked the question of how a person knows God's will and plan for his or her life. There are no easy answers, but there are some things that can help us discover how God wants us to live our Christian lives.

First and foremost, it is important to remember that God calls everyone. Each of us has a vocation. We received our most important call at Baptism. In that primary sacrament of our faith, we became members of Christ's body, the Church and were called to help bring about the reign of God in this world. It is not just a role reserved for religious brothers and sisters or ordained ministers. Through Baptism each Christian shares in the priesthood of Jesus Christ and in his mission to reveal God's love to the world. The challenge is to discern, or to figure out, how God wants us to carry out this mission with the gifts we have received, and what is the way of life we can best do this.

The majority of Christians live God's

See *Discovering God's Call*, p. 7



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Pastoral Institute Course:

Church: The Oldest Institution on Earth

The United States bishops and recent Church documents emphasize the importance of lifelong learning for Catholics today. For this reason the Diocese of Victoria and Bishop Fellhauer continue to provide Scripture and theological classes for adults through the Pastoral Institute.



Mr. Ron Friedel

In the wake of the Second Vatican Council, almost half a century ago, the Catholic Church made a serious attempt to reach out to the modern mentality and adapt itself to the style and language of contemporary culture.

The Pastoral Institute Extended program will offer the six-week course

on Church on Tuesdays from February 16 – March 23, from 9:15 – 11:30 a.m. and again from 7:00 – 9:15 p.m. at the chancery in Victoria and at Holy Rosary Church in Hostyn via distance learning.

The instructor, Mr. Ron Friedel, who has a M.A. in theology, will lead adults in a study and exploration of the Catholic Church and its relation to the modern world, using various Church documents such as Vatican II's Dogmatic Constitution on the Church.

All are invited to come and learn more about the Catholic Church, the oldest institution on earth, which traces its beginning back to Jesus Christ and the Apostles. To register, visit www.victoriadiocese.org, call (361) 573-0828, or register on the first day of class. There is a \$15 fee for this course.

More theology needed for national security

Human history is shaped by religious history. Faith is the engine that most often propels a society. It's what makes people "tick." The very word "culture" has the Latin, cultus (meaning "worship") at its heart. Christianity was the mortar for the brick layers of western civilization. We are a Judeo-Christian culture.

Yet, in a time of growing unbelief, religion barely gets a passing glance in most history books. Look up "Catholicism" in the index and you'll see "Crusades" and "Inquisition." Every other contribution of Catholicism to the civilization founded, in large part, by Christian thought, is ignored. We've come to treat faith in education as we do in our fragmented lives—

divorcing it from every other subject. In the educational establishment, discussions related to faith are relegated to an optional "world religions" class.

Such an impoverished understanding of religion's role in human history is especially dangerous when the No. 1 enemies wanting to wipe out western civilization claim religious roots. Government agencies knew Army Maj. Nidal Hasan from Fort Hood was in contact with an imam tied to extremist elements of Islam. They were, apparently, clueless about how dangerous that might be. The Christmas Day bomber's extremist links were known. That wasn't enough for us to deem him high risk. Much was reported on the methods of the Christmas bomber. Very little was said by mainstream media about Umar Farouk Abdul Mutallab's motive or why he was targeting a nation of largely Christian people on Christmas Day—religious jihad (which, as illustrated by this young man from a well-to-do family, has nothing to do with poverty or a lack of education.)

Much is mentioned in the news about Iran's President Mahmoud Ahmadinejad's nuclear ambitions. Most Americans don't know just how troubling that is, because little is said about his religious ambitions. He believes in the coming of a great

See More Theology, p. 15

OLL Catechetical Leader honored

The diocesan catechetical office has chosen Laurie Bautista of Our Lady of Lourdes Church in Victoria as the February Parish Catechetical Leader. Below is her story.

My catechetical background began at All Saints Parish in Houston as a sophomore in High School. One of the parish priests asked if I would teach a CCD class. I didn't even know what CCD meant, but I said "yes."

That "yes" brought me into a ministry that I love and has helped to transform my question and answer catechism background to a living, growing and ever-open experience with faith. The historical part of my ministry was during and after Vatican II, so the doors were open to work creatively and experientially while teaching the truths of our Catholic faith.

Since my initial "yes," I have been involved with Religious Education at Ft. Hood, in Wharton, Rosenberg, Port Arthur, Houston and now in Victoria where I have served at St. Mary's and am presently serving at Our Lady of Lourdes.

At St. Mary's, I was asked by Father Roy Rihn to head up the faith education of the parish. During those eight years, it was wonderful to see faith come alive with Scripture, CCD family faith education and activities, and Vacation Bible School.

My second round of religious education in Victoria began at Our Lady of Lourdes in 1995 when Father Say asked if I would be the director of Faith Formation. I welcomed the opportunity to work with Father Say and the people of the parish. Generations of Faith was introduced to our parish as a blended program. We have lively classes on Sunday mornings in our Faith Centers, and during the year we open up teachings to the whole parish with FaithAlive Sundays held in the Church Hall.

Our Lady of Lourdes is a small parish and we average 70 to 75 young people on Sunday mornings. Many of our catechists are parents who have an active interest in passing on their faith to their

own children and to other children. It's extremely edifying to see both moms and dads involved with the faith formation of their children. We have over 35 catechists and helpers who work as a team. Some are in our Faith Centers; others are involved as Catechist Coordinators, VBS coordinators, Safe Environment, Music Ministry, Prayer Catechists, Angel Ministers, Holy Land Patrol, and breakfast planners for

FaithAlive Sundays.

The most challenging part of my ministry can be summed up in the frank words of a priest friend at Notre Dame who said: "Getting people involved is like pushing oil uphill with a rake." Now, that's a challenge!

The happiest moments in this ministry are when I see children dance back to their pews after

their first Reconciliation; when parents bend down and with gentleness and love explain some great truth of our faith to their own child; when catechists share their faith with one another; when I have the opportunity to make a home visit and for a while see what it's like to be in another mom's shoes. And then there are those very special, but few glimpses when it all blends together during Eucharist, and the parish is actually one. That's awesome!

In addition to Generations of Faith, my husband Bob and I are part of the RCIA Team. I am also a lector and eucharistic minister. On the diocesan level, I have worked with Disciples on the Journey, the Catholic Knowledge Bowl, Organization of Catechetical Leaders, and presently am working as a team member of the Diocesan Task Force preparing for the RCIA Institute in August.

Bob and I have been married for 36 wonderful years and we have three great children and six lively and beautiful grandchildren - all under the age of six. Everyone lives out of town, so it's our greatest joy when all of us are together. The whole house erupts with laughter and memories. God is indeed good!



Laurie Bautista

Diocese of Victoria Library & Media Center
361-573-0828 • www.victoriadiocese.org

The books, videos, and dvds listed are just a few that might be used during the Lenten season. Visit the Web site to browse the entire selection.

Books

- **Fasting ... Exploring a Great Spiritual Practice**
- **Cross of Death, Tree of Life**
- **Your Sorrow is My Sorrow**
- **Essentials for Christian Living**
- **EarthTones: Praying the Psalms with all Creation**

VHS/DVDs

- **The Proud Tree** (A story about Jesus' sacrifice and the power of love.)
- **The Spitfire Grill** (A superb tale of hope and healing.)
- **The Passion of Christ** (A profound reflection of God's strength.)


Español

- **Quiero Acompañar a Cristo** (Este descubrimiento te dará satisfacción y comprenderás el gran amor que Cristo tiene por ti.)
- **El Arbol Orgulloso** (Cuenta a los niños la historia de la crucifixión.)

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.

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Have Fun Learning more about Your Faith
Enter the 2010 Catholic Knowledge Bowl

The 3rd Annual Catholic Knowledge Bowl will be held at Holy Family Catholic Church in Victoria on Sunday, February 28, 2010, from 1:30 to 4:30 p.m. Prizes will be awarded to 1st, 2nd, 3rd place in each division.

You can have a lot of fun and at the same time learn more about your Catholic faith. Study questions are available at www.victoriadiocese.org. Invite friends, family, co-workers, or neighbors to take the challenge! Everyone will have fun while learning. You'll be surprised at how much you already know. All persons interested in forming a team are invited to do so.

Adult teams can be made up of catechists, members of the Knights of Columbus, Catholic Daughters, ACTS participants, or any adult who wants to compete.

Teen teams can be made up of any group of CCD or Catholic school students, youth group members, or individual teens.

Family teams can be made up of parents, children, grandparents, aunts, etc. (Family teams must include one or more children.)

The procedure for the bowl will consist of three rounds of 50 multiple choice questions per round. Registration is \$20 per team of four persons. Forms are available on the diocesan Web site www.victoriadiocese.org or at the catechetical office. Call 361-573-0828 for more information. Early registration is encouraged due to limited space.

All are invited to come and cheer your favorite team. Refreshments will be available.

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GIVING BACK—For the past five years, members of the St. Paul High School class of 1989 have been ‘giving back’ to the Sisters of IWBS who gave so much to them. The former students purchase strudels from the Sts. Cyril & Methodius Parish strudel bake and donate them to the sisters. This year they presented 40 strudels to them. Pictured, bottom row: Sister George Vasek, Charlie, Gracie and Hallie Pilat, Kade Leist and Sister Genevive Zavrel; top row: Sister Adalade Popp, Sister Marcella Srubar, Philip Pilat, Denise Leist, Noah Leist, Sister Marietta Hajdik, Sister Anna Marie Popp and Bobby Kneifel.



FEAST DAY OF THE HOLY INNOCENTS CELEBRATED AT RAPHAEL'S REFUGE—Worshippers from all directions – Austin, Victoria, Sealy, New Ulm, Yoakum . . . even Seattle – joined to celebrate the feast day of the Holy Innocents at the Chapel of the Monument to the Innocents in Flatonia. Christmas carols resounded from the circular glass walls, filling the small chapel with joyful praise. After the Mass and prayers of the Chaplet of Divine Mercy, many stayed to visit and enjoy refreshments. This is an annual event; next year the feast day will fall on a Tuesday. Pictured are Rev. Joe Hybner, Flatonia, and Rev. Msgr. Edward C. Bartsch, Praha, offering Mass in the Chapel of the Monument to the Innocents at Raphael's Refuge. Work on the mural of Archangel Raphael, shown behind the priests, continues slowly but steadily. For more information, please go to: www.raphaelsrefuge.org



EL CAMPO/GANADO 4TH DEGREE KC'S CELEBRATE MIDNIGHT MASS—4th Degree Knights of Columbus of St. Philip the Apostle in El Campo and Assumption Parish in Ganado participated in Midnight Mass Friday, December 25, 2009. The 4th Degree served as honor guards. The participation in Midnight Mass is volunteer and 4th Degree Knights are invited to attend the Mass or parish of their choice in full regalia. This was the first fall-out for new members Randy Hilderbrand, Mike Couvillion and Ed Polasek of El Campo. Pictured with Father Gary Janak are the 4th Degree from St. Philip's in El Campo. They are, from l. to r., front row: Roy Smaistrila, Ed Polasek, Mike Couvillion, Randy Hilderbrand; back row: Dennis Edwards, Gerry Mikeska, Blair Couey, Donald Warschak, Kenneth Socha and not pictured, Fred Cswaykus. 4th Degrees who attended Assumption of the Blessed Virgin Mary in Ganado were Rick Rosalez, Jesse Rosalez, Matt Pena, Amado Reyes, Phillip Webernick, Syl Hajovsky, Joe Verver, Bubba Toman and David Muegge.



SOCIETY DONATES TO MANNA FOOD PANTRY—Catholic Family Fraternal of Texas (KJZT) Society #53 in Wied presented Manna Food Pantry / LAMB (Lavaca Assistance Ministry Body) with a check for \$1,413.75. The funds were from a recent bake sale and matching funds from the KJZT state office. Pictured from the society are, l. to r., Margaret Dornak, Helen (Dornak) Janak, Jackie Robertson, Manna Food Pantry / LAMB representative; Bea Butschek and Helen Janak.

Discovering God's Call

Continued from p. 5

call through the sacrament of marriage. Others are called by God to live the single, ordained or consecrated life as a religious brother or sister. Most people discover their call by listening to the deepest desire of their hearts. For instance, some have a deep longing to share their lives with one special person and to raise a family. Others have a passion to give their entire lives to the Lord through prayer, community and service to the people of God. Then there are those who are conflicted between the two. They feel a pull between marriage and a church vocation.

It is important to be aware of the many ways God reveals his call to us. One essential way is through prayer, taking quality time to actively listen to God and by seriously taking into account what others say to us about our lives. For example, maybe several people have asked you if you have ever thought of considering priesthood or religious life, or observed that you would make a wonderful mother or father. Very often those comments are planting seeds and should give us pause to reflect on what we hear.

When I was in high school one of my teachers — a sister — asked me what my plans were after graduation. She said she thought I should consider religious life. At first it was a shock but then I began to seriously reflect and pray about that possibility, and here I am many years later. I often have wondered if my life would have been different had I just ignored her.

Most of the time the discernment of God's will is not easy because it is usually a choice between two or more good options. It would be much easier if one were

good and the other definitely not for us. For instance, valuing marriage and loving children doesn't automatically count one out of religious life or priesthood. The ministers of God's Church must be warm and loving as was Jesus. And many lay people have a deep spirituality and do great service in the Church and the world. That doesn't necessarily mean they are called to religious life or priesthood.

There are some things a person can do to make the right choice. A good way to start is to list the pros and cons of each option, pray about them and listen to which one draws you the most. See what feels right and gives you a clear sense of peace. I remember one of my professors, during a class in graduate school at Boston College, saying that the deepest desire of our hearts is usually God's will for our lives. Listen to what your heart tells you.

Finally, recently I was viewing videotape about community life and the presenter offered this advice: She said the key to discovering one's vocation in life is to discern which lifestyle will make a person happy, healthy and holy. To be happy really means having inner joy and loving my life (most of the time!). A spiritually healthy life is one that enables me to use my gifts and grow into the person God wants me to be. A holy life is one that gives God an important place in my life as I spend time growing in relationship with God.

My prayer for each of us is that we will discover what will best help us to live happy, healthy and holy Christian lives.

As disciples of Christ we all have the same mission. The key is to discover the best way for us to carry it out.

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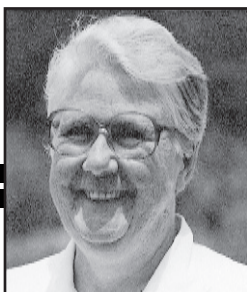
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SISTERLY THOUGHTS

By Sister Mildred Truchard, IWBS

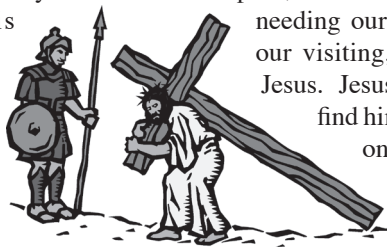


“You Must Climb Calvary to Find Me”

“You must climb Calvary to find me” is one of my favorite quotes, especially during Lent, from the message of Jesus to the foundress of the Incarnate Word Sisters. Jeanne Chezard de Matel had a life-long quest to find Jesus, the Incarnate Word. Much of her searching – and writing – focused on his Passion, including his struggle to climb Calvary.

Now where is this Calvary that we must climb to find Jesus? Jesus himself tells us that we can find him by feeding the hungry and giving drink to the thirsty; hence, Calvary is the anguish of the parent who is unable to feed his or her children. It is the bewilderment of those who cannot find meaning in existence and in the longing of those who are spiritually starving. What can we do to assuage this physical and spiritual hunger of these neighbors and in so doing, find Jesus?

We can also find Jesus on the Calvary of those who have been deprived of housing and the necessities of life through natural disaster, political strife, or economic misfortune. How can we help to provide shelter and clothing for these victims, and consequently find Jesus?



Jesus goes on to tell us that we can also find him in the stranger, in the sick, and in the imprisoned. Who are these strangers who find themselves on the Calvary of unfamiliar surroundings, bereft of friends, in need of someone to welcome them, and thereby, welcome Jesus? And we also see the sick stumbling along their journey of pain, loneliness, and discouragement, needing our prayers, our caring, and our visiting. These are the suffering Jesus. Jesus also tells us that we will find him in those who are imprisoned and in need our visits and our support. How can we help him by our friendship – thereby finding him – in such circumstances?

Let us, therefore, journey with and – as much as possible – alleviate the sufferings of the hungry, the thirsty, the homeless, the naked, the stranger, the sick and the imprisoned. Then, after accompanying them on their climb to Calvary, we will encounter Jesus. May all of us find him this Lent!

Editor's Note: This column is a repeat of Sister Mildred's Lent column from 2005.

Victoria and Moulton Catholic Churches Vandalized

Continued from p. 1

chapel doors were not locked, apparently the vandals did not enter it as nothing was damaged inside.

A hammer was thrown through the glass above the (unlocked) door to the main sanctuary, but nothing else in the sanctuary was damaged. No stained-glass windows, pews or statues were broken.

Except for the copper cross, Easter candle, and framed pictures being thrown to the floor and framed glass broken, it appears nothing else sacred (tabernacle, altar, pictures of Jesus or the Holy Family), was destroyed.

Father Greg told his parishioners that they were going to clean up and keep on going. “We weren’t going to cancel anything,” he told *The Catholic Lighthouse* in a later interview.

Parishioners did most of the cleanup, but the business community also helped, he said. Rainbow cleaned the fire extinguisher mess; Texas Glass and Tinting, owned by parishioner Donald Day, replaced the broken glass; and Alan Roby who works in construction and remodeling repaired the holes in the wall and hung the copper cross. Only the office doors still need to be repaired and/or replaced.

As far as what the total damages were, Father Greg said he couldn’t say. “We keep finding stuff, and our initial guesses were way off, from what we estimated.”

Reaction from parishioners has been across the board, Father Greg said. “Some are very upset, some know it happens, others think the vandal’s should go to prison, others say you can’t send them to prison, you have to forgive.”

The Victoria police department caught the vandals the same day the police were contacted.

Victoria police detective Jeff Lehnert, a Holy Family parishioner whose mother, Carol, is the parish catechetical leader, said the report came in at 5:50 a.m. and after patrolling, the police picked up four suspects around 3:00 p.m.

Two nineteen-year-old and two 16-year-old suspects have been arrested. According to arrest reports, Michael Ray Clark, 19, of Huffman, Texas, and Donald Hutcheson, also 19, of Humble, were each charged with one count of engaging in organized criminal activity.

“The next step for the two adults in Victoria County Jail is indictment by the D.A. office, which must occur within 90 days of the arrest,” Detective Lehnert said.

“The 16-year-olds are being held in the Victoria County Juvenile Detention Center,” he said.

It is believed that the suspects, one of whom confessed to the crime, were involved in both the Victoria and the Moulton cases. Because racial profanity was written on items left at both scenes, the suspects could be tried for hate crimes.

I mentioned to Father Greg that it was odd that the vandals didn’t do any harm to the chapel or church sanctuary.

He said that there were riots at the prison in Santa Fe, New Mexico, when he was in the seminary, but the rioting prisoners left the (prison) chapel alone.

“Here, they attacked every office; cash was stolen,” Father Greg said. “It was extremely ugly, but it could have been worse.”

Mary Lou of St. Joseph’s in Moulton sums up the oddity, “It was strange to see the things they did do and the things they did not do,” she said. “It could have been much worse.”



Cathy Rojas, Gabriel Project president, presents a plaque to Sister Amata Hollas and Sister Ann Meletio, IWBS, in recognition of the blessing and dedication of the St. Agnes Annex as the “home base” for the Gabriel Project ministry. The annex is located behind Nazareth Academy and is owned by the Incarnate Word and Blessed Sacrament Sisters. This step adds to the next chapter of the use of St. Agnes Annex as the Sisters continue to remain faithful to their mission by proclaiming that the Word has become flesh and dwells among us.

Blessing of Gabriel Project Location

By Sister Amata Hollas, IWBS

There is a three room building owned by the Sisters of the Incarnate Word and Blessed Sacrament that was built in 1945. It cradled grades 3, 4, and 5 at Nazareth Academy until 1951. Since then it has been home to the Latin-American children of Our Lady of Guadalupe School, many outreach ministries, such as Birthright, Inc. in the 1970’s; and Nazareth Academy Day Care. In 2006 it was remodeled to be used for infants in the day care. It was vacated in 2008 when Nazareth Academy became a Pre-K through 8th grade school.

For more than 60 years St. Agnes Annex had lovingly supported the mission of the Sisters of the Incarnate Word and Blessed Sacrament – “To adore the Incarnate Word and to become living reminders of His Love through our lives, our prayer, and our apostolic work in the Church.”

I prayed, “Lord, what are your plans now for this empty building? How do you wish your Love to become Incarnate and dwell here today? Mary, you carried your Son, Jesus, within you; be with us as we keep our hearts open to His plans.”

In July 2009 I received a letter from Emily Yeary concerning the need for space for housing the diocesan Gabriel Project. She noted in her letter that it was the Sisters who in the 1970’s “became the first area champion of the unborn in ministry form.” That was when we opened the doors of St. Agnes Annex to Birthright, Inc.

There was so much I did not know about the Gabriel Project. In August, Sisters Geraldine Pavlik, Charlene Machala and I attended their annual Angel Appreciation Banquet at Holy Family Church. It was there that we were introduced to the

officers and angels of the Gabriel Project. We learned that Msgr. James Brunner is the director of Pro-life Activities for the Victoria Diocese. The guest speaker that night was Dr. Marcella Colbert who is the Respect Life director for the Galveston-Houston Archdiocese. We learned that the Gabriel Project began in 1990 in the archdiocese and that it is now the headquarters for the project.

As members of the Nazareth Academy corporate board, Sister Ann and I began to journey with the Gabriel Project officers, and on November 25, 2009, Cathy Rojas, president of the Gabriel Project, and I (the vice-president of NA, Inc.) signed the papers to officially make our journey together an official one.

The more I learned about the Gabriel Project, the more I realized that this ministry is at the heart of our Incarnational Spirituality. It was on December 15, when Sister Ann and I were present for their Christmas party/general meeting, that I shared this reality with the group. At the Annunciation, our Blessed Mother gave her “Fiat” to the Angel Gabriel and the Word became flesh and dwelt among us. There are angels among us today who journey with moms and help them to say “Yes” to giving birth to the child within their wombs.

The Feast of Mary, the Mother of God, January 1, 2010, became a day of blessing for us all as St. Agnes Annex was blessed and dedicated as “the home base” for the Gabriel Project. Among those present were Msgr. James Brunner and Father Celestino Say, pastor of Our Lady of Lourdes Parish. Father Say was so willing and open to shepherd two women of his flock, Barbara McCain and Emily Yeary, to start the Gabriel Project in his parish in 2002. This apostolate has grown from his parish to another eighteen parishes within the diocese.

Sister Evelyn Korenek, general superior of the Sisters of the Incarnate Word and Blessed Sacrament was present for the dedication along with other Sisters from Incarnate Word Convent and Nazareth Convent. Among the officers and hotline members present were Cathy Rojas, Barbara McCain, Paul Tasin, Rebecca Innocenti, the Angel trainer; Stephani Spears, Hot-Line coordinator; and Diane Faxlanger and Myra Schulze, storage.

The presence and presents (baby gifts) of the little Girl Scouts working on their Marian medals and their leader and spiritual model was a true blessing. Mrs. Denise Andrus, Emma, Natalie, and Sarah and several other Gabriel Project volunteers and their family and friends were present.

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Catholic Schools

Special Supplement

Diocese of Victoria

February 2010

Holy Cross - Bay City
St. Anthony - Columbus
St. Michael - Cuero
St. Philip - El Campo
Sacred Heart - Hallettsville
Our Lady of the Gulf - Port Lavaca

St. Rose of Lima - Schulenburg
St. Ludmila Academy - Shiner
Nazareth Academy - Victoria
Our Lady of Victory - Victoria
St. Michael - Weimar
St. Joseph - Yoakum

Sacred Heart High - Hallettsville
St. Paul High - Shiner
St. Joseph High - Victoria

From the Superintendent:

As you may have already heard, our annual observance of Catholic Schools Week began Sunday, January 31. Many students look forward to the CSW each year because it includes enjoyable events and special treats. But it's also a time for us to celebrate the enduring value of Catholic education and focus on the gift that it provides to America's young people. During Catholic Schools Week, we reach out to the entire community to build awareness of what our schools offer. And we thank those who work hard every day to make our schools excellent: students, families, faculties, staffs, volunteers, community supporters and local and national leaders.

One of the most important roles of families is preparing young people for fulfilling lives of love and service to their families, their communities and the Lord. That is why the 2010 Catholic Schools Week theme is particularly fitting. "Catholic Schools: Dividends for Life" underscores the long-standing tradition of Catholic education to instill in students the faith, knowledge, morals and discipline that will enable them to fulfill their future roles in life. All of these principles are of utmost importance in building a life worthy to be a follower of Christ. However, if one had to choose the bedrock on which the others find their support, one would probably choose faith. According to St. Augustine, "Faith is to believe what you do not yet see; the reward for this faith is to see what you believe." Now, more than ever, a Catholic education is truly an investment in the future that is worth the consideration of every family.

Our 3,000 students in the thirteen schools of the Diocese of Victoria will be joining millions of students, parents, supporters and school families around the nation to celebrate this 35-year tradition established by our National Catholic Educational Association. Our diocesan schools have planned special Masses, fun activities, themed days, family luncheons, service projects, and so much more to tell our communities about the incredible dividends that a Catholic education provides.

Join me in saying "thank you" to our teachers, staffs, administrators, board members, volunteers, parents and everyone else involved in Catholic education. Through their dedication and commitment, they make our Diocese of Victoria an example of how Catholic schools provide "dividends for life."

If you know of any youngsters who have not yet enrolled in one of our diocesan schools, but would like to, please contact your local Catholic school and find out how they can receive a "First-class education ... for life!"

We are also found on the web at www.victoriadiocese.org.



John Quarry
 Diocese of Victoria Catholic Schools Superintendent

"Education is simply the soul of a society as it passes from one generation to another."—G.K. Chesterton

Holy Cross School — Bay City

Holy Cross Catholic School in Bay City celebrated Catholic Schools Week beginning Sunday, January 31, to Friday, February 5, 2010. The theme this year was "Catholic Schools: Dividends for life." Some of the highlights that the school family participated in during Catholic Schools Week were the family dance held at the KC Hall. The theme was "Eagles Got Talent." This was a great time for all of our Holy Cross Family members to get together with one another and watch their children perform dances that they had worked on in P.E. We also invited the students to actively participate in the Parish Liturgy on Sunday morning where the students acted as readers, altar servers and greeters-ushers. Immediately after Mass we hosted our annual open house. Unique family projects were displayed in the gym. Decorated doors and halls, as well as the Book Fair, encouraged many families, prospective families and parishioners to spend time at Holy Cross Catholic School. As the week went on, we held a prayer service, invited parents to lunch, muffins for moms, donuts for dads, popcorn and a movie treat for the students, and our special project was to raise money for the Heifer International Program.

There are many activities that our faculty and staff do throughout the year that promote and extend our Catholic-Christian values. They bring faith into every part of the school day and place a great emphasis on our personal relationship with God and with others. The students not only learn how to acquire information to related subjects but also learn the necessary skills needed in order to achieve their goals and dreams that they will carry with them for life.



St. Rose School — Schulenburg

St. Rose of Lima Catholic School Celebrates 120 Years and Catholic Schools Week 2010

Catholic Schools Week is a time to celebrate the enduring value of Catholic education. The annual celebration was especially exciting for students, faculty, staff and supporters of St. Rose of Lima Catholic School because this year also marks its 120th anniversary. This year's theme, "Catholic Schools: Dividends for Life," underscores the commitment of Catholic schools to continue that tradition.

Families and faith communities can count on Catholic Schools to instill in students the faith, knowledge, morals and discipline that will enable them to fulfill their future roles as committed citizens, productive employees and effective leaders. It reminds us that there is no better investment than a Catholic education.

Established in 1889, the first one-room school was made possible through the very special and personal investment of Rev. John Kirch. He used his own personal funds to create the school to insure that students would be educated in the faith. The school was later acquired by the Sisters of Divine Providence who reimbursed father with a sum of \$800.

There were twenty students enrolled the day the school opened. The school's current enrollment is 165 students and St. Rose of Lima has seen a 32 percent growth in enrollment over the past four years.

The investment Father Kirch made in Catholic Education is still paying off today as the faculty and staff at St. Rose continue to provide a top quality education, faith formation and "Dividends for Life" for all students enrolled.

Each year during Catholic Schools Week, we focus on the gift that Catholic education provides to America's young people and its contributions to our Church, our communities and our nation. We also honor those who contribute to the success of Catholic Schools—students, families, faculty, staff, volunteers, community supporters and local, state and national leaders.

As a special part of the national celebration, every student and staff member gathered for a symbolic anniversary group photo in the formation of 120 for the 120th anniversary. Students then listened to a description of the significance of Catholic Schools Week and each dividend provided by a Catholic education. At the conclusion, five birds were released; four represented the four dividends: Faith, Discipline, Knowledge and Morals. The last bird represented the spirit of celebration of the school's 120th anniversary.

Particularly during times of change and challenge, it is great to take time to reflect on our Catholic Schools, celebrate what they stand for and remember that they provide long-term benefit to the nation's youth: a high-quality, faith-based education that will continue to pay dividends for years to come. Catholic Schools do indeed provide Dividends for Life!



First grader Morgan Marburger



St. Joseph School – Yoakum

Sunday, Dividends for Life in Our Parish – St. Joseph School family celebrated a special Liturgy at 9:00 a.m. with the student body singing and the 8th grade participating in the parts of the Mass. An Open House of the school followed Mass and students' work was displayed. The Catholic Daughters of America's turkey and dressing dinner was served at the Family Center after Mass and Open House. All 4th - 8th grade students had written essays about how SJS celebrates service.

Monday, Dividends for Life in Our Community – Bracelets were passed out and worn by students throughout the week. Brown paper bags were decorated by Pre-k-8th grade students to promote St. Joseph School and were distributed by H.E.B. to the community during CSW. Valentine cards were presented to local nursing home residents and 8th grade students helped residents with Bingo and other fun games.

Tuesday, Dividends for Life in Our Students - Kindergarten through Third grade students watched movies at school and were treated to popcorn and drinks. Fourth through eighth grade students went bowling in Schulenburg and there was a "No Homework Night."

Wednesday, Dividends for Life in Our Nation – Students wore red, white and blue to show patriotism to our great nation and met at the flagpole after Mass for a prayer service for our nation. Students sang "America the Beautiful." Student Council members took Thank-you cards made by the classes to the Yoakum police, firefighters and hospital to show thanks for their service. Two 7th graders spoke on the local radio station about the CSW activities and the significance of a Catholic education at St. Joseph's. Endowment Fund Stew Supper was held at the Family Center from 5:00 to 7:30 that evening.

Thursday, Dividends for Life in Our Vocations – Students wore blue and gold Spirit shirts and took a picture in a cross formation. Parents and grandparents ate lunch with their children in the cafeteria beginning at 11:00 a.m. with the decorations displayed on the tables made by the students. Sister Louise Marie, IWBS, visited St. Joseph School and gave students a personal view of her everyday life with Religious Vocations.

Friday, Dividends for Life in Our Faculty, Staff and Volunteers – 8th Graders honored the teachers by teaching their classes in the morning and by providing snacks for all. A small token of appreciation was passed out to teachers with an early dismissal at 1:00 p.m.



(above) St. Joseph 2nd grade students work on their project banner for CSW.

(left) 8th grade students make a clay rosary to sell at the auction for the PTC Gala.

St. Michael School – Weimar

St. Michael Catholic School in Weimar celebrated Catholic Schools Week with many activities that stressed its importance within the community as well as teaching students the importance of service to others. Throughout the week, students collected canned goods for the local food pantry, by building a large pyramid in the office hallway area. Students also visited local rest homes, served at a meal for St. Michael School volunteers and supporters, made care packages for military serving overseas and created valentines for Veterans who are hospitalized.

St. Michael Catholic School is proud of its rich tradition in Weimar. Students excel in academics with numerous students participating in local contests, academic meets and spelling bees. Taking part in PSIA (Private School Interscholastic Association) has allowed many of our students the opportunity to qualify for the state academic meet.

Students from St. Michael School are also part of the Diocese of Victoria Athletic League. Our students have the opportunity to play and compete in volleyball, football, basketball, soccer, track and softball games. This year our eight-man football team was the diocesan champion.

All at St. Michael Catholic School are called to be friendly, respectful, responsible – Christlike! This is our mission! Throughout the day – in class, in the hallways, on the playground, during weekly Mass and daily prayers – students are challenged to live out this mission statement in order that it may become intrinsic in their daily lives.

St. Michael Catholic School provides its students with many dividends that they can carry with them throughout their lives.



St. Ludmila Elementary and St. Paul High – Shiner

Shiner Catholic School was excited about celebrating Catholic Schools Week! The following agenda details the many activities that our school observed on this special occasion. We were happy to share these activities with our existing families and new families who are interested in our school. For more information about Shiner Catholic School, please visit our Web site at www.shiner Catholicschool.org or call us at (361) 594-3843.

Sunday, January 31: Catholic Schools Appreciation Day!

~Mass followed by a Pancake Breakfast

~Open House – parents, grandparents, parishioners and friends were invited to visit the classrooms

Monday, February 1: Parent Appreciation Day!

~Pastries for Parents

~Prayer & Flag-Raising Ceremony

~Eco-Friendly Balloon Launch with live radio broadcast on Texas Thunder Radio 92.5 FM

Tuesday, February 2: Teacher/Staff Appreciation Day!

~Teacher Appreciation Luncheon - All teachers and staff were treated to a luncheon provided by our Home & School Association. They showed their teachers how much they mean to them!

Wednesday, February 3: Student Appreciation Day!

~Teachers show their appreciation to our students

~Science STARtacular – Mrs. Sengelmann's science students visited classrooms in grades K-5 to present various astronomy activities. At night, a Stargazing Party at Shiner Catholic School took place.

Thursday, February 4: Family/Community Appreciation Day!

~Mass

~All students were asked to bring a canned food item to donate to the local food pantry

~Individual Student Talent Show

~Chicken Noodle Soup Supper

~School Wide Talent Show Theme: Countries Around The World

Friday, February 5: Student Holiday/Teacher Workday

~Thank you for a wonderful week!





St. Philip School – El Campo

“Dividends for Life” was the theme heard throughout the halls of Catholic schools during Catholic Schools Week. Starting on Sunday with opening Mass through Friday, our students had the opportunity to show appreciation for all the special people with whom God has blessed them.

In El Campo, at St. Philip School, the theme rang especially true throughout our week. Being the 60th year anniversary of our school doors opening, we recognized and honored our alumni. On “Alumni Day” our students were blessed with alumni visits in the classrooms. The students had the chance to hear what makes St. Philip School so special for them and how those years impacted their lives. The students and teachers enjoyed listening to all the fun stories of how life at SPS was in the past.

The students also showed appreciation to their parents and grandparents by inviting them to share a special lunch with them. The students and faculty went out of their way to make sure the parents and grandparents felt welcomed.

Our PTC and School Advisory Board made sure the faculty and staff were recognized for all the hard work they do for St. Philip School by providing meals throughout the week. We are so fortunate that our school is blessed with such strong Christian leaders who provide our students with spiritual guidance which prepares them for life’s lessons they will face in their future.

As we all know, our Catholic schools depend upon our wonderful volunteers, who dedicate so much time and effort to make life easier for the teachers and staff, as well as for the students. We recognized them at our closing Mass and had the opportunity to visit with them in the parish hall with refreshments.

Of course the week had fun for the kids. They not only played games like bingo, but each day, the students had a different theme by which to dress. Crazy hair day was a favorite by many, except for maybe the teachers who had to try and teach without laughing throughout the lesson. The students also wore “camo” shirts one day and pink another, in honor of moms and dads.

We at St. Philip Catholic School are thankful for all the “dividends” bestowed upon us as Christian people of God. Our alumni are examples of those dividends, and we pray that we will continue to grow in our love for our school and our God.



(top left) St. Philip Pre-k students share a Thanksgiving feast!



(bottom left) St. Philip Cheerleaders cheer students on to READ, READ, READ at the Read-A-Thon kick-off rally!



Sacred Heart School and Sacred Heart High – Hallettsville

Sacred Heart Catholic School has a total enrollment of 323 students in grades Pre-k-12. There are 25 students in grade Pre-k, 186 in K – 8, and 112 in high school. There has been a 26 percent overall increase in enrollment since 1999. Students from 18 different communities, including Hallettsville, attend Sacred Heart Catholic School. Bus transportation is provided for students from the Schulenburg and Weimar communities.

The mission of Sacred Heart Catholic School is to teach Gospel values that will foster the spiritual, moral, academic, social, and physical growth of the students according to Catholic tradition and the spirit of the Sisters of the Incarnate Word and the Blessed Sacrament.

Service is an integral part of the curriculum here at Sacred Heart. Recently, over 600 gifts, including \$1,500.00 in cash, were collected by the students in grades 8-12 for the Christmas Adopt A Family Project. The kindergarten class collected money for purchasing gifts for the Lavaca County Sheriff’s Department Deputy Santa Program. Students in grades K-12 were very generous in giving to the special African Mission collection to assist the missions served by Sister Rebecca Janacek of the IWBS Sisters.

Other service projects included a school-wide food collection to assist the local Manna Food Pantry; volunteering for the Hallettsville Rehabilitation and Nursing Center and the St. Nicholas Ministry; and students sold chocolate made in Ghana, and donated the proceeds to the Gabriel Project and the Perpetual Help Home in conjunction with Catholic Relief Services Fair Trade Project.

SHCS also incorporates many social programs into its schools’ curriculum to help shape its students’ awareness of the greater world. International students representing 12 different countries visited Sacred Heart Catholic High School Nov. 20, and presented a touch of their world to the students. Ranging from Italy, Russia, China, and many points in between, the students were here during International Education Week (IEW). According to SHCHS counselor Anna Henke, the exchanges are critical in developing mutual understanding and respect, building leadership abroad, fostering an appreciation for the United States, and investing in the future relationship between Americans and people around the world. Rachel’s Challenge, a non-violence school program, was presented to SHCS students Oct. 30. The program’s goal is to encourage students to live a life with purpose, kindness, and compassion, and stems from the life of Rachel Scott, the first person killed in the April 20, 1999, Columbine High School tragedy. The program challenges students to make a permanent, positive, cultural change in their schools and communities. “I have this theory, that if one person can go out of their way to show compassion, then it will start a chain reaction of the same. People will never know how far a little kindness can go,” wrote Scott in an English essay one month prior to that dreadful day.

Please visit our Web site at www.schschool.org and view our new promotional video.



Sacred Heart Catholic High School participated in International Education Week by welcoming a dozen international students to the school on November 20. Photo by Jimmy Appelt



Rachel’s Challenge teaches compassion.

St. Anthony School – Columbus

St. Anthony School Celebrates Catholic Schools Week

St. Anthony students had a faith-and fun-filled week as they celebrated and carried out the theme of Dividends for Life. The students opened the week on Sunday by celebrating Mass and welcomed visitors to an open house after Mass.

The focus of the week was strengthening our Catholic faith. The students of SAS were divided into teams and points were accumulated for fulfilling the Dividends for Life theme during the week. The events of the week were as follows:

Monday - SAS teams celebrated service in the community by cleaning up the campus and area around the school. Students wore crazy socks and brought canned goods for the local food pantry.

Tuesday - Students celebrated life dividends in school by taking time to clean classrooms, lockers, closets and other areas of need. This day was a day to dress up and celebrate what “I Would Rather Be.” Students participated in the Annual Spelling Bee.

Wednesday - This was the day for the students to give service to our military. Each student wore red, white and blue in honor of our military and brought \$1.00 to contribute toward a care package for our military. Students also brought items to be sent to the Ronald McDonald House. At the end of the day, students participated in a talent show.

Thursday - Students celebrated St. Anthony’s annual field day. The day began with a campus rosary and ended with the 8th grade class playing the faculty and staff in a volleyball game.

Friday - The week was brought to a close with Mass and a team lunch and movie. Team points were tallied and awards were given for each team. The week ended with an early dismissal and students went home with a renewed spirit in our Catholic faith.





Our Lady of the Gulf School — Port Lavaca

A Note from the Principal (Theresa Dent)

I have to smile when a student comes up to me and states, “I wish I had your job and was in charge!” I have the same smile when a parent comes up to me and says with compassion, “I wouldn’t want your job for anything.” Some days being the principal is the greatest job in the world when I see a parent, teacher and student all work together to help the student succeed. Other days are filled with paperwork, budget concerns, computer glitches, etc., and I wonder why God is punishing me.

I have come to accept that I will not always like being the principal, BUT, I love the place. I love the staff, the students, the parents, and I love our mission to grow in Christ’s Light. Love makes the burdens of the hard days easier to bear. Love makes all our accomplishments more joyous.

Catholic Schools Week reminds all of us that our schools are God’s schools and those called to be a part of Catholic education each have an important role to play. So I am grateful that God allows me to serve Him at Our Lady of the Gulf Catholic School – from the strategic planning to the bandaging of a student’s scraped knee. And each day when I leave, I can honestly pray – “God...I love this place!”



OLG Principal, Theresa Dent, demonstrates just one of the many ways Catholic educators go above, ‘below’ and beyond to support their students.

St. Michael School — Cuero



(above) 1st and 2nd grade St. Michael students learn art techniques from Kathy Leske the art teacher.

(right) The representatives of the 2009-2010 Student Council at St. Michael School were elected from grades 1-6, with officers chosen from grades 4-6. Gina Haun is the Student Council sponsor.

St. Michael’s School in Cuero joined the over 7,000 Catholic schools throughout the United States as they celebrated “Catholic Schools: Dividends for Life.” Catholic Schools Week began with a Mass celebrated at St. Michael’s Church. Students participated as lectors, cantors, greeters, and more. Students handed out St. Michael the Archangel Prayer Cards that they themselves had drawn. The theme of the Mass was “Love Is . . .” based on St. Paul’s Letter to the Corinthians. Following the Mass, an Open House was held at the school. The Family Projects, “Top 5 Reasons To Send Your Child To St. Michael’s School,” were on display. The Scholastic Book Fair was also held throughout the week.

On Monday, community leaders and supporters of the school were invited to a special breakfast reception to thank them for their help and support throughout the year. A “Baby Shower” to benefit the Gabriel Project began and lasted throughout the week. This involved students donating baby items, such as diapers and baby clothing.

Parents volunteered on Tuesday to teach the students hobbies or crafts that would benefit them for years to come. Students were treated to a fruit snack before and during the “Jump Rope for Heart” to support the American Heart Association.

Wednesday began with a prayer service for peace in our nation and abroad. Later, students made valentines to send to the military stationed overseas.

On Thursday, students participated in activities to celebrate “Year for Priests.” That evening, the school’s annual covered dish supper was held. The evening ended with a Variety Show featuring students in Grades 3K – 6.

The faculty and staff were treated to a special luncheon hosted by the St. Michael’s Home and School Association on Friday.

This Catholic Schools Week was an aspiring week in which we focused on the faith, knowledge, morals and discipline that will enable our students to fulfill their future roles as committed citizens, productive employees, and effective leaders.



St. Joseph High School — Victoria

St. Joseph High School Mission

St. Joseph High School, inspired by the life of Saint Joseph, protector and nurturer of the Holy Family, is a Catholic educational community that cultivates a peaceful, challenging and loving atmosphere, fostering spiritual growth and academic excellence for our school family.

School Philosophy and Beliefs

“You shall love the Lord, with all your heart, with all your being, with all of your strength, and with all your mind, and your neighbor as yourself.” - Luke 10:27

We believe the most important outcome for each member of the St. Joseph High School community is a personal relationship with Jesus Christ, which results in the continuous formation of the whole person, the development of God-given talents, and a commitment to a lifetime of service. Together, students, parents and faculty build a community, and as one, we serve God.

We believe that the qualities our patron Saint Joseph embodied—guardian of Jesus, devoted husband to Mary, model worker, faithful servant, righteous man—inspire the St. Joseph High School family to be a community of faith, hope and love.

We believe in academic excellence and intellectual challenge for all students.

We believe that it is the responsibility of the entire educating community—parents, faculty, students and collaborators—to prepare our students for life and to be active in the improvement of society, according to Gospel principles.

We believe that by embracing a diverse population of individual differences and abilities, we create an environment in which the students can prepare for the immediate challenges of college, the workplace, and a life-long commitment to faith, education, leadership and service in a multicultural society.

We believe in the educational principles and learning experiences that extend beyond the classroom, in order to foster the spiritual, moral, intellectual, emotional, and physical growth of the whole person to his or her fullest potential.



Our Lady of Victory School — Victoria

Coming Home

By: Mary Sumbera, 5th Grade Teacher

Returning to teach at Our Lady of Victory School, after 17 years, has been like going home again. Everything is basically just as I remember it – dedicated teachers, involved parents, and eager students. Some of those parents were once my students. It’s so much fun to see that the apple does not fall far from the tree. These boys seem to be just miniatures of their fathers, and the girls are just slightly younger versions of their lovely moms.

In a homily to the students given by Msgr. Harrold many years ago, he said that our students would be faced with the same problems and challenges that any other young person would encounter. However, our students would have the advantage of being prepared for that world at Our Lady of Victory. He said that our children would make some of the same mistakes. But, they would have the tools to deal with any wrong decisions and emerge unscathed. Having reared four children who are graduates of Our Lady of Victory, St. Joseph High School, Texas A&M and the University of Texas, I can vouch for the validity of his statements.

Parents, you are doing great. You have made the right choices for your children. Take a deep breath and then, relax. Your child is getting the education and care that he/she deserves. Someday, you will pat yourself on the back. People will comment on the success of your children and your obvious skill in parenting. You are allowed to take all the credit. But, like me, you will know that you also owe this school a huge debt of gratitude



Mary Sumbera teaching her 5th grade class.



EXTRA EXTRA EXTRA

In the EXTRA EXTRA EXTRA section of "The Catholic Lighthouse" page on the diocesan Web site at www.victoriadiocese.org/lighthouse/lighthouse.htm:

Right or Wrong?

Evaluation of the strong points, and limitations, of the recent pro-life, pro-family "Manhattan Declaration."

Catholic by Grace columns by Denise Bossert

At www.victoriadiocese.org/lighthouse/lighthouse.htm

Weekly Updates from the United States Conference of Catholic Bishops

Catholic By Grace

By Denise E. Bossert
catholicbygrace.blogspot.com

Lenten Sacrifices

Non-Catholics don't always understand Catholic faith practices. One Catholic tradition that sometimes perplexes non-Catholics is our Lenten sacrifices. Many years ago, I worked in a restaurant. The owner and all the waitresses were Catholic. My sister and I were the only non-Catholic employees – and we were both the daughters of a Protestant minister. For us, Lent was a time of watching Catholics . . . and wondering.

We served a fair amount of fish during Lent, rather than our usual orders of sandwiches and fried chicken. And our boss and the other waitresses, as well as the patrons, ate the perch, pike and shellfish on Fridays.

The topic of Lenten sacrifice came up every shift I worked. The other waitresses would poll one another. "What did you give up for Lent?" The answers varied. Some said candy, or Pauline's homemade pies, or soda. I have to say, I didn't get it back then. I thought that Catholics did those things so that they would feel holy. I used to think it was a waste of time and effort. I knew there was little gained from feeling holy. One had to be holy.

I didn't realize that faithful Catholics have a simple reason for everything that they do. They know they are not yet holy, but they want to become holy. Their number one desire is to be a saint. And that's what Lent is all about.

We die to ourselves, remembering our baptismal promises, and we hope to rise with Jesus Christ when Lent comes to an end. Every prayer, sacrifice, Mass, devotion and offering we make is to embrace the journey of faith that leads to holiness. These things that we do as

Sunday Readings from Feb. 14 to March 7

February 14 — Sixth Sunday in Ordinary Time	Jeremiah 17:5-8 Psalms 1:1-2, 3, 4, 6 1 Corinthians 15:12, 16-20 Luke 6:17, 20-26
February 17 — Ash Wednesday	Joel 2:12-18 Psalms 51:3-4, 5-6ab, 12-13, 14, 17 2 Corinthians 5:20 — 6:2 Matthew 6:1-6, 16-18
February 21 — First Sunday of Lent	Deuteronomy 26:4-10 Psalms 91:1-2, 10-11, 12-13, 14-15 Romans 10:8-13 Luke 4:1-13
February 28 — Second Sunday of Lent	Genesis 15:5-12, 17-18 Psalms 27:1, 7-8, 8-9, 13-14 Philippians 3:17 — 4:1 Luke 9:28b-36
March 7 — Third Sunday of Lent	Exodus 17:3-7 Psalms 95:1-2, 6-7, 8-9 Romans 5:1-2, 5-8 John 4:5-42

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

www.usccb.org/nab/



"How to Inherit the Earth"

"How to Inherit the Earth ~ Submitting Ourselves to a Servant Savior," by Scott A. Bessenecker and published by InterVarsity Press, will be the February Family Puzzle Contest prize.

I know, every book I read becomes one of my favorites, but this one is truly one of the best. Scott Bessenecker has written "How to Inherit the Earth" in a way that makes one feel they're hearing Jesus' Gospel, his "Good News," for the first time. He teaches us how to live the Gospel today, even with all of today's materialistic temptations to do the opposite. It really turns the "Health and Wealth gospel" message, taught by some non-denominational churches, upside down. I wish every reader of *The Catholic Lighthouse* could purchase, read and share "How to Inherit the Earth."

Other Reviews & Endorsements:

"Many Christian writers bounce from theme to theme, looking for one that will generate big sales, and so their work never ventures far from the surface. Scott Bessenecker is not one of them. In both his life and his writing, he keeps pursuing the same question: What does it mean to follow Jesus in a broken world full of needy people? His answers keep going deeper and deeper . . . and farther and farther away from the material values and power politics that have come to dominate the evangelical community in North America. I don't know how many books he'll sell this time, but then, I don't know how many books his Teacher [Jesus] would be selling these days either. What I do know is that, in the right hands, this is the kind of book that can make someone dangerous to the status quo."

—Bart Campolo, urban min-

SCRIPTURE SEARCH

Gospel for Ash Wednesday, 2010

Matthew 6:1-6; 16-18

Following is a word search based on the Gospel reading for Ash Wednesday, CycleS ABC: a lesson in Lenten practices. The words can be found in all directions in the puzzle.

IN ORDER ALMS HYPOCRITES LEFT HAND IN SECRET CORNERS OTHERS	FATHER DO NOT SYNAGOGUES RIGHT PRAY ROOM YOUR HEAD	YOU GIVE TRUMPET THEIR REWARD DOING STREET FAST WASH
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IN SECRET

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A H J O I N S E C R E T
L Y Y O U G I V E G H R
M O A P K C M W D E F U
S U R D O N O T I A A M
R R P G H C O R S N T P
E H T H G I R T N A H E
H E K W L E D I Y E E T
T A J O W A S H T H R D
O D N A H T F E L E O S
J F R E D R O N I I S D
F D S T R E E T N A N A
F G S E U G O G A N Y S

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



Family Puzzle Contest

The Family Puzzle Contest Winner will win "How to Inherit the Earth – Submitting Ourselves to a Servant Savior" by Scott A. Bessenecker, author of "The New Friars" in next month's contest. See book review on this page.

The winner of the January Family Puzzle Contest and "Bead by Bead Rosary Prayer Book, Joyful Mysteries" by Sandra Rosetter and Stacey LeNeave, is Aurora E. Sanchez-Garza of Our Lady of Sorrows in Victoria. We had many contestants for this prize; thank you to all who participated. The book may be purchased online at <http://www.beadbybeadrosarybooks.com/>.

The winner of the youth puzzle contest in the under-10 age group is Cale Chambers of St. Philip in El Campo. Cale will receive a gift from the Incarnate Word Gift Shop. The winner of the 10 and over group is Breana Hidalgo of St. Philip in El Campo. She will win a copy of Frank McKinney's "Dead Fred, Flying Lunchboxes, and the Good Luck Circle"

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 February 25 for a chance to win "How to Inherit the Earth" 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).

REMINDER: Proceeds from the purchase of any of Mr. Frank McKinney's books (featured in Dec./Jan. issues) go to the author's non-profit Caring House Project Foundation (CHPF) that provides a self-sustaining existence for desperately poor and homeless families in Haiti. Please see his Web site at www.frank-mckinney.com.

ister
"Bessenecker casts out some demons from the Pentagon and Wall Street. He names some popular



idols like security and independence, and calls us to a simple faith rooted in our love of God and neighbor, which means interdependence and vulnerability and all sorts of countercultural values. Scott offers a simple and scandalous invitation into the upside-down kingdom of God... Bessenecker

offers a message that drips with Jesus – and the kingdom vision is just as offensive and revolutionary and fascinating and timely today as it was thousands of years ago. Beware . . . it could get you in a little trouble or cost you your job – but it will certainly set you free."

—Shane Claiborne, author, activist, recovering sinner (www.thesimpleway.org)

Play the Family Puzzle Contest for a chance to win a copy. Or the book may be purchased from its publisher for \$12 at <http://www.ivpress.com/cgi-ivpress/book.pl/code=3728>. It is a 159-page paperback.



Obispo Auxiliar De Galveston-Houston Joe S. Vasquez Nombrado Obispo De Austin, Texas

WASHINGTON—El Papa Benedicto XVI ha nombrado obispo de Austin, Texas, al hasta ahora obispo auxiliar de Galveston-Houston Joe S. Vasquez, de 52 años. El Obispo Vasquez sucederá al Arzobispo Gregory Aymond, quien fue nombrado Arzobispo de Nueva Orleans el 12 de junio de 2009.

El nombramiento fue publicado en Washington el 26 de enero por el Arzobispo Pietro Sambi, nuncio apostólico para los Estados Unidos.

Joe S. Vasquez nació en Stamford, Texas, el 9 de julio de 1957. Estudió en la Universidad de St. Thomas en Houston donde obtuvo un bachiller en teología y en la Universidad Gregoriana en Roma donde

obtuvo una licenciatura en teología. Fue ordenado sacerdote para la diócesis de San Angelo, Texas, en 1984.

Tras ser ordenado sacerdote, el Obispo Vasquez sirvió durante 12 años, 1985-1997, en la iglesia de St. Joseph en Fort Stockton, Texas, los dos primeros años como vicario parroquial y los diez restantes como párroco. En 1997 fue nombrado párroco de la iglesia St. Joseph en San Angelo.

En 2001 fue nombrado obispo auxiliar de Galveston-Houston. La Diócesis de Austin comprende 19.511 millas cuadradas. Tiene una población de 2.629.192 personas, de las cuales 458.612, o el 18 por ciento, son católicas.



Dr. Chávez of MACC honored

SAN ANTONIO—Catholic Charities USA and its 170 agencies, along with Catholic Charities of the Archdiocese of Washington, has chosen Dr. Arturo Chávez, Ph.D., president and CEO of the Mexican American Catholic College in San Antonio, as one of its first honorees of the “Keep the Dream Alive” award.

Upon notification, he commented: “I am honored to accept this award on behalf of the Mexican American Catholic College. MACC’s mission mirrors the dream of Dr. Martin Luther King Jr., ...



a Mass celebrated by Bishop Martin Holley, DD, of the Archdiocese of Washington, DC. The ceremony was held Monday, Jan.

18, at St. Aloysius Church in Washington, DC. Catholic Charities USA recognizes its 10-year history of working to reduce poverty by honoring the Rev. Dr. King and others for their leadership in poverty reduction and social justice. CUSA will present this award annually to recognize national figures, like Dr. Chávez, who inspire the nation to keep the dream alive by their actions and enduring commitment to reduce poverty.

to empower and educate leaders in a culturally diverse Church and Society...’. We are honored to be a national partner with Catholic Charities USA in the work of addressing the systemic barriers that keep millions of people poor, helpless, and excluded. Dr. King believed in a dream of inclusion even in the midst of violent exclusion. We too dare to dream his persistent vision of a world of love, peace, and justice.”

The prestigious award will be given to three national champions of the poor during

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Sus contribuciones a Operación Plato de Arroz financian proyectos de CRS para aliviar el hambre en todas partes del mundo:

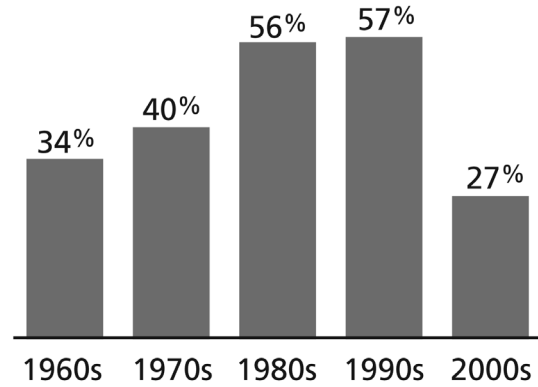
- Agricultura, que enseñan técnicas sostenibles y ecológicas para mejorar las cosechas y aumentar la seguridad alimentaria.
- Agua que llevan agua potable a las comunidades y mejoran la salud de las comunidades.
- Microfinanzas que enseñan sobre el crédito y promueven el crecimiento de negocios pequeños.
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- VIH y sida que apoyan a la Iglesia Católica en comunidades por todo el mundo para que ayuden a la gente afectada por esta enfermedad.

Para más información visite orb.crs.org/espanol

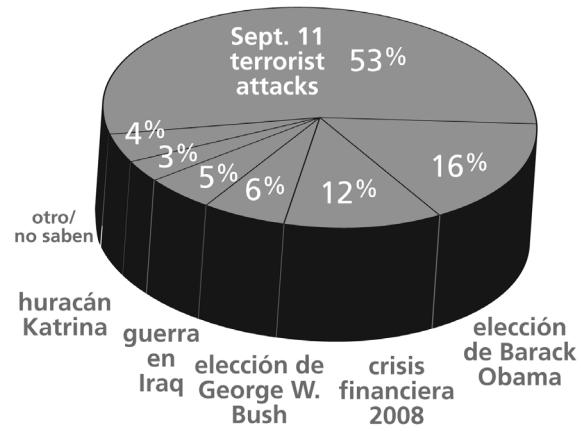
Opiniones sobre la década

Pocos adultos tienen cosas positivas que decir sobre la década de los 2000 y fijan, más bien, su atención en la nueva década.

Porcentaje de los que tienen una impresión positiva de los...



El evento más importante de la década



Los porcentajes son el resultado de entrevistas telefónicas hechas a 1.504 adultos de dic. 9-13, 2009.

Fuente: Pew Research Center for the People & the Press

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Operación Plato de Arroz de Catholic Relief Services

La presencia de Cristo en la Eucaristía nos permite vincularnos en solidaridad con nuestros hermanos y hermanas de todo el mundo. Operación Plato de Arroz nos ofrece una manera de poner en práctica estos vínculos durante la Cuaresma. Nos reunimos para rezar en comunidad; ayunar en solidaridad con los que sufren hambre; aprender sobre los retos del hambre y la pobreza en el extranjero; y donar el fruto de nuestros sacrificios para ayudar a los necesitados.

Para conocer nuestro mundo

¿Cuánto sabes acerca de los retos que enfrentan nuestros hermanos y hermanas en otras partes del mundo? Las respuestas están al reverso.

- Hoy, casi el _____ de la población del mundo sufre de hambre y desnutrición crónicas.
 - 15 por ciento
 - 2 por ciento
 - 10 por ciento
- Las enfermedades causadas por la falta de agua potable y la falta de instalaciones sanitarias se cobran la vida de _____ niños al año.
 - 156,000
 - 1.8 millones
 - 10,000
- ¿Qué puedo hacer para responder a los retos que enfrentan mis hermanos y hermanas de todo el mundo?
 - Participar en Operación Plato de Arroz
 - Apuntarme en Los Católicos Combaten la Pobreza Mundial
 - Ambas

Catholic Relief Services es la agencia oficial de la comunidad católica de EE.UU. para ayuda humanitaria internacional. CRS es motivada por el ejemplo de Jesucristo al asistir a los pobres y a los que sufren, en más de 100 países, sobre la base de necesidades, sin importar raza, religión u origen nacional.

Oración de Cuaresma

*Oh Dios de todos los pueblos,
escucha esta oración que te hacemos unidos
a nuestros hermanos y hermanas necesitados.
Bendícenos al ayunar, aprender y donar
durante esta Cuaresma.
Que tu generoso amor por todo tu pueblo
sea nuestra guía al acercarnos a todos los que
viven con hambre y pobreza.
Amén.*

Respuestas al cuestionario

1. (a) La crisis financiera y económica... está llevando a un aumento alarmante en la inseguridad de alimento en todo el mundo. Hoy, casi mil millones de seres humanos, o el 15 por ciento de la población del mundo, sufren del hambre y la desnutrición crónica. (Las Naciones Unidas; www.un.org)

2. (b) Las enfermedades causadas por falta de agua potable y de instalaciones sanitarias cobran la vida de 1.8 millones de niños al año, y dañan gravemente la salud y el desarrollo de millones más. (UNICEF; www.unicef.org)

3. (c) Ambas. Visite orb.crs.org/espanol para más información sobre cómo la oración, el ayuno, el aprendizaje y las limosnas por medio de la Operación Plato de Arroz mejoran la vida de nuestros hermanos y hermanas necesitados. Únete a 1 millón de católicos como parte de Los Católicos Combaten la Pobreza Mundial. Visita crs.org/ccgp para aprender más.

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Ash Wednesday Collection February 17

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More theology needed for national security

Continued from p. 6

leader, al Madhi (the Twelfth Imam), who will establish peace just before the final judgment. This sounds harmless. But he is also part of a sect that believes he will only come to set things right at a time when the world is in total chaos, and that he, himself, is appointed to prepare the way for al Madhi. He has said he was “directed by Allah to pave the way for the glorious appearance of the Mahdi.” He even prayed aloud while addressing the UN, “Oh, god, hasten the arrival of Imam fit-Mahdi.” If you don’t grasp how powerful religion is in human history, you won’t know just how dangerous it is that this man wants nuclear power.

Our former Marxist enemies over the past 70 years (the USSR and similar), who didn’t have any hope in an afterlife, were restrained by a fear of retribution from other nations. Akhmadenijad won’t be. There is truly no negotiating with some people.

The motive of our enemies from Sept. 11, 2001 to Dec. 25, 2009, isn’t political, economic, or psychotic, it’s religious. They are all motivated by a misguided and violent version of Islam. And they’re not alone. According to an extensive Gallup Poll, 7 percent of Muslims thought the 9/11 attacks were “completely justified.” The good news is that this is a small minority of the world’s

more than 1 billion Muslims—most of whom are peace-loving people from a great faith tradition. Let me emphasize—most Muslims are not jihadists and, sadly, the chief victims of jihadist violence are fellow-Muslims. However, the bad news is that 7 percent of 1 billion is still enough to fill a medium-sized nation and to put us in danger for a long, long time.

When the archbishop of Smyrna addressed European bishops in 1999, he gave an eye-opening reminder of the threat militant, expansionist Islam poses to the West. He quoted the bold comments of a Muslim leader at a conference for Christian-Muslim dialogue: “Thanks to your democratic laws we will invade you; thanks to our religious laws we will dominate you.” I think the cleric is wrong. It’s not tolerance that puts western civilization at risk, it’s total ignorance.

Perhaps after enough disasters we’ll realize that a firm grasp on theology is as important for national security as is a firm grasp on political science. Then respect for religious faith will take its rightful place in high school and college text books, so that the next generation can understand our enemies, and ourselves.

Speaker and author Christopher Stefanick is director of Youth, Young Adult and Campus Ministry for the Denver Archdiocese. Visit chris-stefanick.com.

Oberammergau – Passion Play July 11 - 22, 2010

Poland (Warsaw; Czestochowa: Black Madonna “Queen of Poland;” Auschwitz: St. Maximilian Kolbe; Wadowice: birthplace of Pope John Paul II; Krakow: St. Faustina, Shrine of Divine Mercy) – Czech Republic (Prague) – Germany (Munich, Ettal, Oberammergau, Heidelberg).

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

Few seats remaining

Medjugorje — September 2010 Holy Land – November 7, 2010

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

THE POPE SPEAKS

Pope
Benedict XVI



CNS photo from Reuters

Christians must pray for unity as they tackle new problems, pope says

By Cindy Wooden
Catholic News Service

VATICAN CITY (CNS) — The search for Christian unity “is not a linear process,” because as churches resolve their past differences, differing approaches to new questions create new difficulties, Pope Benedict XVI said.

During his weekly general audience Jan. 20 — in the middle of the Week of Prayer for Christian Unity — the pope said the unity that Jesus wants for his disciples will require human effort and conversion, but ultimately it will be a gift of God for which people must pray.

Discussing the ecumenical landscape, the pope said, “we must be aware, on the one hand, of how much real progress has been made in Christian collaboration and fraternity over the past 50 years, but at the same time, we know that ecumenical work is not a linear process. Old problems, born in the context of another age, lose their weight, while in our own context new problems and difficulties are born.”

Pope Benedict did not list the new problems, but in the past he has noted how the approach of different Christian communities to modern moral and social sensitivities has created new divisions, for instance when they have led some churches to ordain women or to recognize homosexual unions.

The new divisions, he said, call on all Christians “to be always ready for a process of purification, through which the Lord will make us ready to be united.”

Christians will never be able to give a united witness to the world until each of them is united to Christ, he said.

Ecumenism does require intellectual effort and theological dialogue, but even more it requires Christians who know and experience the love of God through Jesus and are prepared to share the Gospel with the world, he said.

The commitment to dialogue, despite

new problems and tensions, is a sign of Christians’ intense desire for unity, he said, but it is not enough.

A new, united church constructed with human hands and minds, the pope said, “would be something human, while we want the church of God, made by God. God will create unity when he wills, when we are prepared.”

Pope Benedict asked God to listen to all Christians, who plead especially intensely for unity during the Jan. 18-25 Week of Prayer.

Participating in the audience were members of the Continuation Committee of Ecumenism in the 21st Century, a body convoked by the World Council of Churches and made up of representatives of 15 Christian communities, including the Catholic Church. The committee is working to help the ecumenical movement evaluate its past achievements and identify paths forward in the search for unity.

Pope Benedict XVI Intentions

February 2010

General: For all scholars and intellectuals, that by means of sincere search for the truth they may arrive at an understanding of the one true God.

Missionary: That the Church, aware of its own missionary identity, may strive to follow Christ faithfully and to proclaim his Gospel to all peoples.



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Noel Goemanne, former Victoria parish organist, noted church musician and composer, dies at age 83

By Catholic News Service

DALLAS (CNS) — Noel Goemanne, a noted Catholic church musician and composer of many pieces of music and Masses performed by choirs and organists throughout the world, died Jan. 12 in Dallas from complications of colon cancer. He was 83.

A native of Belgium, Goemanne had lived in Dallas since 1972. He had directed the choir at Christ the King Church until this past summer.

A funeral Mass for him was celebrated Jan. 16 at Christ the King.

He is credited with creating more than 200 sacred compositions and about 15 Masses. He received the Pro Ecclesia et Pontifice Cross from Pope Paul VI in 1977. He composed the processional for Pope John Paul II's visit to San Antonio during his 1987 multicity tour in the United States.

According to a Jan. 15 obituary in the Dallas Morning News, Goemanne was always an outspoken advocate of the importance of music, even as a youth. During World War II he was arrested for publicly playing the music of the Jewish composer Felix Mendelssohn during the Nazi occupation of Belgium, the paper said.

In 1952, he and his wife, Janine, came to the United States and settled in Victoria, Texas, where he was church organist at St. Mary's Church.

In response to the liturgical changes in the church brought about by the Second Vatican Council, he was quick to adapt his music, composing the first English Masses

in the spirit of the council. During that same period he traveled to college campuses, giving workshops on sacred music. He established the sacred music program at St. Joseph College in Rensselaer, Ind.



Goemanne held organist and choirmaster positions at St. Rita Parish in Detroit and Our Lady Queen of Martyrs Parish in Beverly Hills, Mich. He also held those positions in Dallas, first at St. Monica's Parish and Holy Trinity Seminary, then Christ the King.

At the suggestion of a choir member, he arranged a version of Johann Pachelbel's

"Canon in D" for singers; up to then the composition had been arranged for every instrument but voice. His arrangement was used in several scenes in the 1980 Oscar-winning movie "Ordinary People."

Among his many honors were numerous awards from the American Society of Composers, Authors and Publishers; an award from the Institute of Sacred Music in Manila, Philippines (1974); and honorary doctorates from St. Joseph College in Rensselaer (1980) and Madonna University in Livonia, Mich. (1999).

He was born Dec. 10, 1926, in Poperinge, Belgium, and was a graduate of the Lemmens Institute of Belgium. He pursued postgraduate study of organ and improvisation with the celebrated composer-performer Flor Peeters and at the Royal Conservatory of Liege.

Professional recognition for Goemanne came when the Belgian National Radio Network signed him on as a regular piano recitalist. What followed were ap-

pearances as recitalist and guest conductor in North America, Europe and Asia.

Some of his most popular choral works include "I Have Touched the Face Of God," "Jubilate Deo," "Joyfully We Sing Your Praise," and "Lead Us Safely Home."

Goemanne was a member of the American Society of Composers, Authors and Publishers, the American Guild of Organists, the American Choral Directors Association and the National Association of Pastoral Musicians. He is mentioned in the International Who's Who in Music, "Organ Preludes" by Jean Slater Edson, "The History of Catholic Church Music" by Karl Gustav Fellerer, and Vlaanderen, a publication on art and culture in the Netherlands.

In addition to his wife, he is survived by a daughter, a son and three grandchildren.

Local Note: Ms. Grace Rigamonti of Victoria reported that in the early 1950s while Mr. Goemanne was in Victoria, he was also the organist at Our Lady of Lourdes and taught at St. Joseph School in Victoria when it was a 2nd to 12th grade school for boys. Ms. Rigamonti and her four sisters sang in his choir at Our Lady of Lourdes.



Did you know that Catholic elementary and high schools offer:

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Pope names Galveston-Houston auxiliary bishop to head Austin Diocese

WASHINGTON (CNS) — Pope Benedict XVI has appointed Auxiliary Bishop Joe S. Vasquez of Galveston-Houston, 52, to be bishop of Austin, Texas, succeeding Archbishop Gregory M. Aymond, who was named archbishop of New Orleans last June.



Bishop Joe S. Vasquez (CNS photo/Shelley Metcalf, Catholic Spirit)

The appointment was announced in Washington Jan. 26 by Archbishop Pietro Sambi, apostolic nuncio to the United States.

Bishop Vasquez has been an auxiliary for Galveston-Houston since 2002. At the time of his episcopal

ordination, he was the youngest bishop in the United States.

His installation has been set for March 8 at St. William Church in Round Rock, which is just north of Austin.

The eldest of six children, Joe S. Vasquez was born in Stamford, Texas, July 9, 1957. He attended the University of St. Thomas in Houston, where he earned a bachelor's degree in theology, and the Pontifical Gregorian University in Rome, where he earned a licentiate in sacred theology. He was ordained a priest for the Diocese of San Angelo, Texas, in 1984.

In 2001, he was named auxiliary bishop of Galveston-Houston and ordained early the following year. He was the first priest of the Diocese of San Angelo to be named a bishop. He is one of 27 active Hispanic Catholic bishops in the U.S.

He chose as his episcopal motto "Sigueme," Spanish for "Follow me," in reference to Jesus' words to Peter in the Gospel of St. John.

Since 2006 Bishop Vasquez has been archdiocesan vicar general and chancellor. He also has served as episcopal vicar for Hispanics and archdiocesan liaison for youths during his years in Galveston-Houston.

"Serving in this diocese has a special importance as Austin is the capital of the Lone Star State and the home of the Texas

See Pope names Galveston-Houston, p. 17

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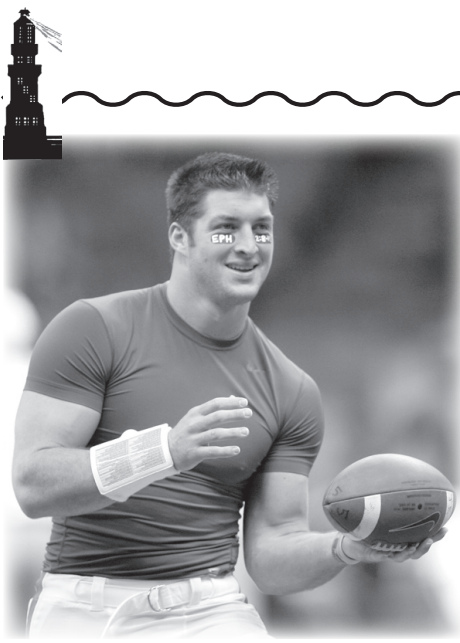
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QUARTERBACK TIMTEBOW TO AIR SUPERBOWL PRO-LIFE AD—University of Florida quarterback Tim Tebow warms up before his team takes on Cincinnati during the NCAA Sugar Bowl football game in New Orleans Jan. 1. Focus on the Family said it has purchased a 30-second spot on CBS during the Super Bowl to air a pro-life ad featuring Tebow

and his mother, Pam, who decided against medical advice to abort him. Pam suffered from a dangerous infection during a mission trip to the Philippines, and doctors recommended that she terminate her pregnancy, fearing she might die in childbirth or the child might be stillborn. NOW and other women's groups, such as the Women's Media Center, have called the ad divisive and inappropriate for the setting. (CNS photo/Sean Gardner, Reuters)

Bishops Urge Congress to Resume Work on Health Care

WASHINGTON—The U.S. bishops called on Congress to continue to work on health care reform to provide access for everyone, protection of life at all stages and conscience rights. The call came in a January 26 letter signed by Cardinal Daniel DiNardo of Galveston-Houston, chair of the Committee on Pro-Life Activities; Bishop William Murphy of Rockville Centre, New York, chair of the Committee on Domestic Justice and Human Development; and Bishop John Wester of Salt Lake City, chair of the Committee on Migration. The entire letter can be found at <http://www.usccb.org/healthcare/HC-Letter-to-Congress-012610.pdf>. The bishops said that the need for reform remains despite a new political climate. "Although political contexts have changed, the moral and policy failure that leaves tens of millions of our sisters and brothers without access to health care still remains," they said. "We encourage Congress to begin working in a bipartisan manner providing political courage, vision and leadership. We must all continue to work towards a solution that protects everyone's lives and respects their dignity."

org/healthcare/HC-Letter-to-Congress-012610.pdf. The bishops said that the need for reform remains despite a new political climate. "Although political contexts have changed, the moral and policy failure that leaves tens of millions of our sisters and brothers without access to health care still remains," they said. "We encourage Congress to begin working in a bipartisan manner providing political courage, vision and leadership. We must all continue to work towards a solution that protects everyone's lives and respects their dignity."

Pope asks priests to get online, spread the Gospel

VATICAN CITY (CNS) -- In a message embracing the evangelizing potential of digital media, Pope Benedict XVI asked priests around the world to use Web sites, videos and blogs as tools of pastoral ministry. "The world of digital communication, with its almost limitless expressive capacity, makes us appreciate all the more St. Paul's exclamation: 'Woe to me if I do not preach the Gospel,'" the pope said in his message for the 2010 celebration of World Communications Day. "Priests stand at the threshold of a new era: as new technologies create deeper forms of relationship across greater distances, they are called to respond pastorally by putting the media ever more effectively at the service of the Word," he said. The pope's message, released at the Vatican Jan. 23, was tailored to the current Year for Priests, focusing on the theme: "The priest and pastoral ministry in a digital world: New media at the service of the Word." World Communications Day will be celebrated May 16 in most dioceses. The pope said that while priests should not abandon traditional methods of pastoral interaction, they cannot afford to pass up the opportunities offered by digital media. He said "the recent, explosive growth and greater social impact of these media make them all the more important for a fruitful priestly ministry."

Quake leaves Haitian church mourning loss of religious young and old

Continued from p. 20

part of the Montfort guest house crumbled.

The Montfort Missionaries have been in Haiti since 1871 and had a dozen communities with about 50 priests and more than 20 seminarians.

The Daughters of Wisdom, a religious order that is part of the Montfort family, confirmed that three of its sisters died in the collapse of the Spiritan-run center's building. Vatican Radio reported Jan. 18. Another three sisters remained under the rubble and were believed dead.

Holy Cross Father Michel Eugene, provincial superior of the Haiti province of the Congregation of Holy Cross, said in a report to the congregation that

Pope names Galveston-Houston auxiliary bishop to head Austin Diocese

Continued from p. 16

Catholic Conference. I ask for your prayers and your patience as I assume the duties and responsibilities given to me as the shepherd of this local church," Bishop Vasquez said.

Bishop Vasquez is the first Mexican-American to lead the Austin Diocese, which he said is a heartwarming sign from Rome.

"This tells me that Rome is mindful of the growing Hispanic population in this state," he said.

World Youth Day 2011 launches English version of official Web site

VATICAN CITY (CNS) — Organizers of the 2011 World Youth Day celebration in Spain launched an English-language Web page offering registration information, schedules and social networks to help spread word about the event. The Web site, www.madridwyd2011.com, created by and for young people. It counts down to the Aug. 16-21, 2011, World Youth Day international gathering in Madrid. The Web site introduces multimedia resources including videos, audio, and social networking tools that allow young people from all over the world to stay connected and updated via Facebook, YouTube and Twitter. Members and fans are encouraged to post pictures, video clips and comments, and to share experiences from past World Youth Day celebrations. The site also offers a detailed schedule of the 2011 World Youth Day week including events with Pope Benedict XVI, religious activities, catechesis sessions and cultural programs. Six possible registration plans are offered to young pilgrims, with different options for housing and meals.



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Bishop Carmody retires; Austin administrator named to succeed him

WASHINGTON (CNS) — Pope Benedict XVI has accepted the resignation of Bishop Edmond Carmody of Corpus Christi, Texas, and named Msgr. W. Michael Mulvey, administrator of the Diocese of Austin, Texas, to succeed him.

The changes were announced in Washington Jan. 18 by Archbishop Pietro Sambi, apostolic nuncio to the United States.

Bishop Carmody, a 76-year-old native of Ireland, has been a bishop since 1988 and head of the Corpus Christi Diocese since 2000. Bishop-designate Mulvey, 60, has administered the Austin Diocese since Bishop Gregory M. Aymond left in August to become archbishop of New Orleans.

Bishop-designate Mulvey will be ordained to the episcopacy and installed as bishop of Corpus Christi March 25 at Corpus Christi Cathedral.

At a Jan. 18 press conference in Corpus Christi, Bishop-designate Mulvey spoke in Spanish and English, with special greetings for the priests, deacons, seminarians and young people of the diocese.

The bishop-designate told young people that they are "essential to the vitality of the church" and said he looked forward "to sitting down with you and your pastors to reinforce our commitment to you and your faith."

Born Aug. 23, 1949, in Houston, William Michael Mulvey was the second of six children; he has 12 nieces and nephews.

One of 359 priests ordained by Pope Paul VI in 1975 in St. Peter's Square, he was ordained

for the Diocese of Austin. In addition to a number of parish posts, Bishop-designate Mulvey served as a high school chaplain; director of spiritual formation at St. Mary's Seminary in Houston; associate director of the Center for Spirituality of Diocesan Priests of the Focolare Move-



Msgr. Michael Mulvey (CNS photo/Paula Beaton, South Texas Catholic)

ment in Florence, Italy, and director of a similar center in Hyde Park, N.Y.; vice rector of St. Mary's Seminary; and chancellor and vicar general of the Austin Diocese.

Bishop-designate Mulvey chose as his episcopal motto, "Your attitude must be that of Christ," from chapter 2, verse 5 of Philippians. He said it has been a philosophy he has strived to live by throughout his life and priesthood. "It reflects service," he said. "To serve you must be empty of self."

Bishop Carmody told Bishop-designate Mulvey at the press conference, "You have come to a place where people will love you."

Bishop Carmody, the second of 13 children, was born in Moyvane, County Kerry, Ireland, and was ordained to the priesthood for the Archdiocese of San Antonio on June 8, 1957, following studies at St. Patrick Seminary in Carlow. He was named to head the Diocese of Tyler, Texas, in 1992 and the Diocese of Corpus Christi in 2000.

Contributing to this story was Paula Beaton in Corpus Christi.

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P091006



Operation Rice Bowl Starts Ash Wednesday, Feb. 17 National Program Raises Awareness of Global Hunger, Poverty

Baltimore, MD—Every year, millions of Catholics in the United States participate in Operation Rice Bowl, Catholic Relief Services' annual Lenten program that starts on Ash Wednesday, Feb. 17. Each Lent, Catholic parishes and schools form more than 13,000 communities and use symbolic rice bowls as the focal point for their prayer, fasting and learning. Getting involved in the program is a tangible way to help people

living in poverty around the world.

Participants in Operation Rice Bowl (ORB) make the small sacrifice of preparing simple, meatless recipes each week and putting the money they otherwise would have spent on a big meal into symbolic rice bowls. That money goes to support CRS' mission to fight global hunger and poverty.

Last year, Catholics raised more than \$6 million through ORB, 75 percent of which is used to fund hunger and poverty projects in 40 countries; the remaining 25 percent stays in U.S. dioceses to support food pantries and soup kitchens.

Since its beginning in 1975, ORB has raised more than \$173 million to fund CRS' development projects.

Interested parishes/teachers/families/individuals may find ORB educational resources, prayer intentions, calendars, recipes and more at <http://orb.crs.org/>.



Your contributions to Operation Rice Bowl help provide food for the hungry through Catholic Relief Services' development projects around the world.

- Agriculture projects teach farmers sustainable and ecologically sensitive farming techniques to improve crop yields and increase food security.

- Water projects provide access to clean water and improve the health of communities.

- Microfinance projects provide credit training and encourage the growth of small businesses.

- Mother and Child Health projects provide basic health and nutrition resources for families.

- Education projects provide participants with resources and training to improve their livelihoods.

- HIV and AIDS projects support the local Catholic Church in communities around the world to assist people affected by this disease.

For more information visit www.orb.crs.org.



JCDA HONOR MOTHERS—On January 11, 2010, the Junior Catholic Daughters of the Americas, Court #206, had a meeting and activity in which they learned about the Pro-Life movement by honoring new mothers this month with a single rose, thanking them for choosing the gift of life. Pictured are the attending JCDA members and honorary guest, Mary Mika, director of the Labor and Delivery Department at the Yoakum Community Hospital.

Catholic aid agencies accept donations for Haitian quake relief

WASHINGTON (CNS) — The following international aid agencies are working with partner agencies and local religious leaders in Haiti and are accepting donations for victims of the Jan. 12 earthquake.

- Catholic Relief Services, the U.S. bishops' international relief and development agency, is accepting donations by phone at (800) 736-3467; online at www.crs.org; or by mail to CRS, P.O. Box 17090, Baltimore, MD 21203-7090.

- The Salesians are accepting donations by phone at (914) 633-8344; online at www.salesianmissions.org; or by mail to Salesian Disaster Relief, Salesian Missions, P.O. Box 30, New Rochelle, NY 10802-0030.

- The Archdiocese of Miami, which has a large Haitian population, has set up a place to donate online at www.newmiamiarch.org.

- Caritas Internationalis is accepting donations for Haiti at www.caritas.org.

- Food for the Poor is also accepting donations at www.foodforthepeople.org.

- Catholic Medical Mission Board is

accepting monetary donations by mail to CMMB, 10 W. 17th St., New York, NY 10011; by phone at (800) 678-5659; or online at <http://support.cmmb.org/Haiti>. Medicines and medical supplies may be donated by calling CMMB's Kathy Tebbett at (212) 242 7757.

- Jesuit Refugee Service is accepting donations at www.jrsusa.org; click on "Donate Now" box on right of page.

- The Pontifical Mission Societies have established a long-term solidarity fund to help Haiti. Contributions may be directed to: Pontifical Mission Societies, Haitian Solidarity Fund, 70 W. 36th St., New York, NY 10018. Credit card donations can be made at www.onefamilyinmission.org.

- The Vincentians have set up an online donation forum at www.camonline.org.

- Cross International Catholic Outreach is accepting donations online at www.crosscatholic.org/relief; by mail at 600 SW 3rd Street, Suite 2201, Pompano Beach, FL 33060; or by phone at (800) 391-8545.

- Contributions for Haiti disaster relief and recovery can be made via the national Web site of the Society of St. Vincent de Paul at www.svdpusa.org, or by mail to: Haiti Earthquake, Society of St Vincent de Paul USA, 58 Progress Parkway, St Louis, MO 63043.

- To help rebuild the church's structures and ministries in Haiti, checks or money orders payable to Collection for the Church in Latin America may be sent to: Help the Church in Haiti, USCCB Office of National Collections, 3211 Fourth Street NE, Washington, DC 20017. The Web site is www.usccb.org/nationalcollections/helphaiti/index.shtml.

- The Federal Association of the Order of Malta, which operates a hospital, medical clinics and social service organizations in Haiti, is accepting donations at its Web site, www.orderofmalta-federal.org.



Candlelight March

(left) Jim Sedlak, vice president of American Life League Magazine in Virginia and director and founder of STOPP (Society To Outlaw Planned Parenthood) spoke at St. Mary Parish in Victoria at the 24th Candlelight March.



(above) St. Joseph High students and Gabriel Project members carry their Pro Life banners in the march.

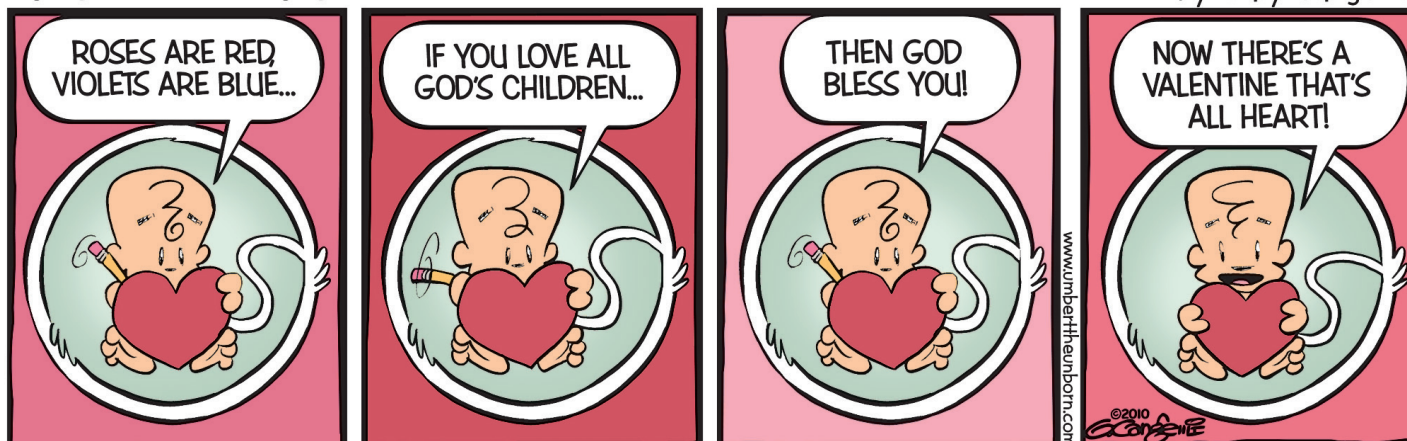


The Hallettsville Deanery held a Pro-Life Rally and Vigil service at the Hallettsville KC Hall on the eve of the 37th Anniversary of Roe v. Wade decision. The vigil began with exposition of the Blessed Sacrament and the singing of the Chaplet of Divine Mercy. It was concluded with a Eucharistic Procession around the hall with the Blessed Sacrament leading the way. Those in attendance recited the rosary and carried the signs (pictured) provided by Silent No More Awareness Campaign.

Operation Rice Bowl Recipes

Go to <http://orb.crs.org/recipes/> for the 2010 Featured Country Recipes from Lesotho, Bolivia, Afghanistan, Nicaragua, and Ethiopia. More recipes from Middle Eastern, Latin American and Caribbean, Asian and African countries are also included.

Umbert the Unborn





CRS rep in Haiti says aid distribution is going as quickly as possible

By Dennis Sadowski
Catholic News Service

WASHINGTON (CNS) — Aid distribution under military escort is proceeding as quickly as possible around Port-au-Prince, given that many roads remain blocked by debris and thousands of people are pressing aid agencies for assistance, said the head of operations for Catholic Relief Services in Haiti.

“It may look to many in the rest of the world that those in need are not receiving any aid,” said Karel Zelenka, CRS Haiti Country Representative, “but actually thousands here in Port-au-Prince have gotten help. It must be understood that the apocalypse occurred in a place where there was hardly any infrastructure before—hence the huge logistical challenges.”

The Vatican has designated CRS as the lead agency to coordinate aid from the global Catholic Church.

“It has become impossible to do any distribution without a military escort,” Zelenka told Catholic News Service Jan. 21. “That puts stress on other parts of life here.”

Driving the security concerns, according to Zelenka, is the escape of up to 5,000 inmates from the city’s prison. Haitian President Rene Preval said many of the escaped prisoners have resorted to looting and armed robbery in several Port-au-Prince neighborhoods.

Zelenka, who arrived in Haiti in October from Zimbabwe, said CRS staff members are working to distribute goods from two warehouses in the capital as well as from a large ship that was able to dock at the city’s devastated port.

Despite enormous logistical challenges, one week after the devastating earthquake

CRS staff unloaded 120 containers (2100 metric tons) of vegetable oil and grains from the U.S. government onto the only

operating wharf in Port-au-Prince.

“We’re doing our utmost in terms of distribution,” he said.

“People ask why are we so slow. On the contrary, I say it’s almost a miracle that we’ve been able to move so much, thousands of metric tons. ... Given the congestion, even the confusion, this is inhuman,” Zelenka added.

He said the round-the-clock assistance that CRS staff members have provided for some of the estimated 3 million injured and homeless Haitians since the Jan. 12 quake cannot be sustained indefinitely. He said he and others fear that strong aftershocks, such as the magnitude 5.9

tremor that shook the region Jan. 20, could raise the level of panic again.

The United Nations asked CRS to lead the response at one of the first formally organized camps on a hillside overlooking the capital where 20,000 people had gathered shortly after the quake. CRS opened the camp — located on a golf course in Petionville, just outside Port-au-Prince — with the help of the U.S. military and the U.N. The camp houses as many as 50,000 people at night, Zelenka said. Distribution of aid at the camp, for the most part, has been orderly, he said.

CRS has formed six medical teams to provide health care at shelters and area hospitals and CRS teams have already distributed medical supplies and drugs. In addition, Project C.U.R.E. has donated 3000 pounds of additional medical supplies.

Three operating rooms at St. Francois de Sales Hospital—which withstood the quake — are now running, and surgeries are being performed on the most critically injured patients. Food, water and medical supplies have also been provided to the hospital, an AIDSRelief site. This is one of Haiti’s oldest hospitals and one that CRS helped build. Its mission is to provide free care and treatment for the poor.

“The critical needs now are food, food, food and second are medical supplies,” he added. “There are so many people who have been injured. Amputations are going on 24 hours a day. But there is not enough medical materials and not enough trained doctors.”

Earthquake relief efforts are nothing new to Zelenka. In a 23-year career at CRS, Zelenka worked in Turkey and Indonesia following major earthquakes.

“But this is unprecedented,” he said of the situation in Haiti.

CRS is planning an emergency response with an expectation of raising \$25 million from its generous supporters. To date, CRS has already received more than \$6 million in cash and commitments, including a \$1-million disaster response donation from the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation and a \$225,000 gift from the New York Yankees baseball team. As of Feb. 2, 2010, the Diocese of Victoria has raised over \$84,000 for its CRS Haiti Collection, and Bishop David E. Fellhauer said the money is still coming in.

Editor’s note: CNS story with additions from CRS

Rebuilding Haiti church infrastructure to take years, says U.S. bishop

WASHINGTON (CNS) — Replacing and repairing the infrastructure of the church in Haiti will take years, according to Archbishop Jose H. Gomez of San Antonio, head of the U.S. bishops’ Subcommittee for the Church in Latin America. “The beleaguered church in Haiti will remain a primary focus of our work in the months and years to come” within the committee, he said. Special collections for Haitian earthquake relief were taken up in most U.S. dioceses the two weekends after the Jan. 12 quake. In a Jan. 22 letter to his fellow U.S. bishops, Archbishop Gomez listed some of the damage done to the church in the impoverished Caribbean nation, including total destruction of the cathedrals in Port-au-Prince and Jacmel as well as the destruction of “at least five” other major churches, many smaller church buildings, two major seminaries, many convents and schools, and a Catholic radio station. Moreover, the archbishop said, “the reported tragic loss of so many priests, sisters, seminarians and laity is irreplaceable.” The bishops’ annual Collection for the Church in Latin America was taken up the weekend of Jan. 23-24 in many diocese.



(above) Destroyed houses are seen in a view of the Canape-Vert area Jan. 13 after a massive earthquake struck Port-au-Prince, Haiti. The Red Cross said one-third of Haiti’s population will require aid following the devastating quake. (CNS photo/Eduardo Munoz, Reuters) (inset) Children walk among tents in a makeshift camp at a golf course in Port-au-Prince, Haiti, Jan. 24. The Haitian government said as many as 1.5 million people were left homeless by the catastrophic Jan. 12 earthquake. (CNS photo/Marco Dormino, United Nations via Reuters)

Quake leaves Haitian church mourning loss of religious young and old

By Catholic News Service

WASHINGTON (CNS) — As they help Haitians rebuild destroyed homes and mourn lost relatives, Catholic Church workers in Haiti are grieving for members of their own “families” killed or severely injured in the magnitude 7 earthquake Jan. 12.

Although Archbishop Serge Miot of Port-au-Prince was the best-known Haitian Catholic leader killed in the quake, the losses also included some of the oldest and youngest members of the church community.

Salesian Brother Hubert Sanon, 85, the first Haitian to become a Salesian brother, died in the Salesian compound that houses the National

School of Arts and Trade, along with as many as 500 students at the school.

The Salesians also reported Jan. 15 that they had lost two of their young members in formation when the St. Francis de Sales Institute in Port-au-Prince was destroyed.

The Inter-Institute Center for Religious Formation in Port-au-Prince, known by its French initials CIFOR, also collapsed, killing seminarians and novices from several religious orders.

The Spiritan Fathers and Brothers, who run the center, said Jan. 15 that they did not know exactly how many students were inside when the quake hit or how many students had died, but the Oblates of Mary Immaculate informed them that one Spiritan student was dead. One Oblate also was killed.

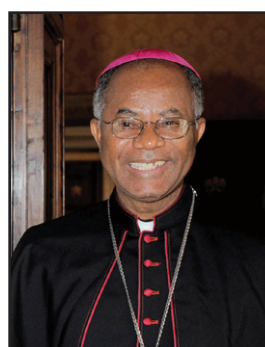
The Montfort Missionaries reported that eight of their students died at the religious formation center and that Montfort Father Jean Baptiste Henri, the novice master, died when

See *Quake*, p. 17

Amid cathedral rubble, Haitians celebrate church leaders’ funerals

PORT-AU-PRINCE, Haiti (CNS) — Amid the rubble of the Cathedral of Our Lady of the Assumption, Haitians celebrated the lives of the archbishop and vicar general of Port-au-Prince, both of whom were killed in the country’s earthquake. Church officials — including some from the United States — joined Haitians Jan. 23

for the funerals of Archbishop Joseph Serge Miot, who died when the impact of the Jan. 12 quake hurled him from a balcony, and Msgr. Charles Benoit, the vicar general whose body was pulled from the cathedral debris. They were among more than 150,000 Haitians killed in the magnitude 7 quake; U.N. officials have said the final death toll might never be known. In a message read on behalf of Chicago Cardinal Francis E. George, the U.S. bishops’ conference president told Haitians, “The church in the United States stands with you.” New York Archbishop Timothy M. Dolan, chairman of the board of Catholic Relief Services, represented the U.S. bishops’ conference at the funeral. He was accompanied by Msgr. David Malloy, general secretary of the conference. Bishop Thomas G. Wenski of Orlando, Fla., and Oblate Father Andrew Small, director of the Church in Latin America office of the U.S. bishops.



Archbishop Joseph Serge Miot



The remains of the Catholic cathedral of Port-au-Prince, Haiti, is seen in a Jan. 15 handout photo provided by the United Nations. Officials with the Catholic aid agency Caritas in Haiti reported that most of the churches in Port-au-Prince had been destroyed in the Jan. 12 earthquake that rocked the capital. (CNS photo/Marco Dormino, United Nations) (inset) A crucifix amidst the rubble in Port-au-Prince Jan. 13. (CNS photo/Eduardo Munoz, Reuters)