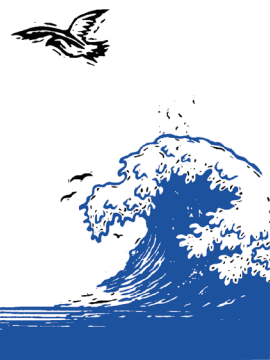


The Catholic Lighthouse

The Cradle of Texas Immigration



VOL. 23, NO. 11

OFFICIAL PUBLICATION OF THE DIOCESE OF VICTORIA IN TEXAS

March 2010

Clinton, Obama reflect on faith at prayer breakfast

By Patricia Zapor
Catholic News Service

WASHINGTON (CNS) — In an address to the Feb. 4 National Prayer Breakfast, Secretary of State Hillary Clinton recalled how her relationship with Mother Teresa began with conversations during the 1994 breakfast, when the founder of the Missionaries of Charity was keynote speaker and Clinton attended as first lady.

That discussion behind the stage curtains led to a collaboration between Clinton and the Missionaries of Charity to open the Mother Teresa Home for Infant Children in Washington just over a year later, Clinton said as keynote speaker for this year's breakfast.

President Barack Obama also spoke at the breakfast, continuing a long-standing presidential tradition for the annual gathering. The several-day event draws thousands of people from around the world, including a broad representation from Washington's political and diplomatic circles, but little of the proceedings are open to reporters.

Noting that she has attended the breakfast as first lady, as a senator and now as secretary of state, through three presidential administrations, Clinton said her own heart "has been touched and occasionally pierced by the words I've heard."

Also, she said, "during difficult and painful times, my faith has been strengthened by the personal connections that I have experienced with people who, by the calculus of politics, were on the opposite side of me on the basis of issues or partisanship."

Clinton also talked about the role of religion in the world's diplomatic realm, noting that each of the world's major religions "got the same talking points and the same marching orders" to love one another and care for those who have the least.

Yet, she said, "across the world, we see organized religion standing in the way of faith, perverting love, undermining that message." In various places, religion is used to justify horrific violence, to deny human rights and to enshrine intolerance in law, she said. "It seems to be a rather dramatic

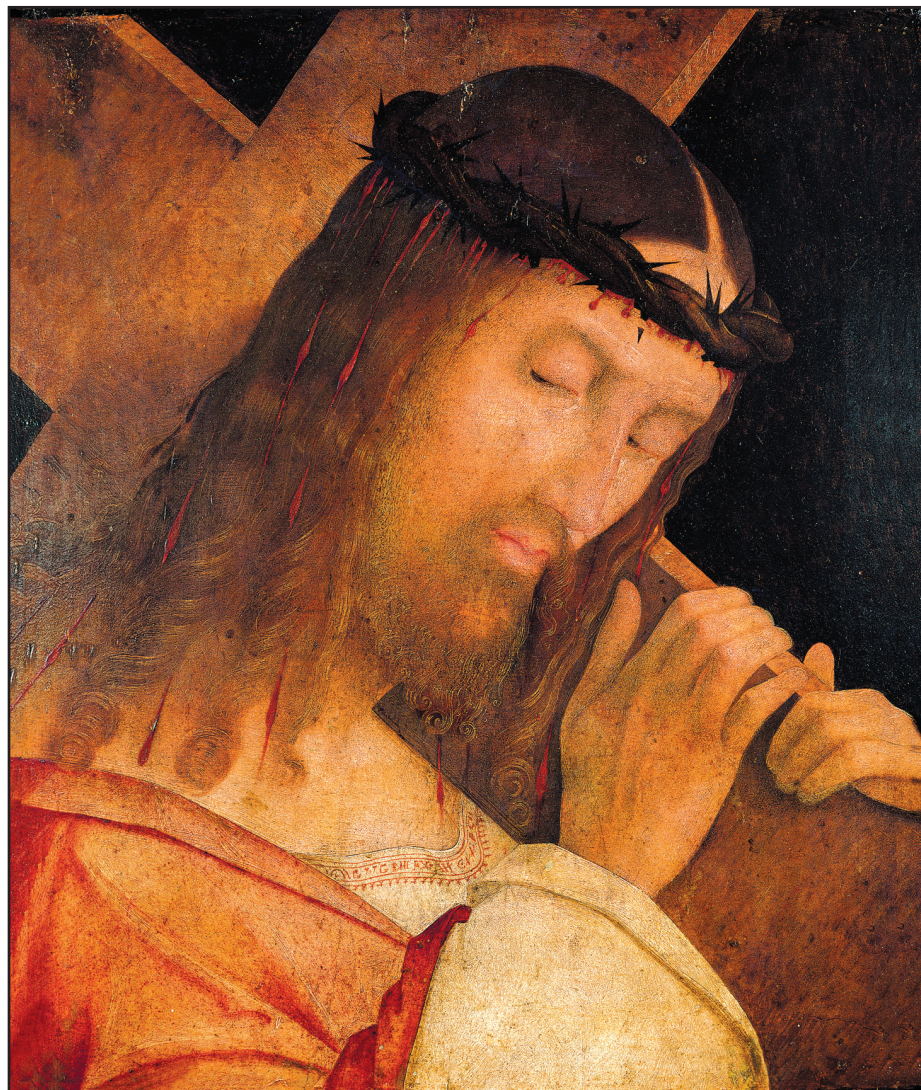
See Clinton, p. 17

New Diocesan Directories Available

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

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

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



PAINTING OF CHRIST BEARING HIS CROSS—Christ is shown carrying his cross in a painting by Italian Bernardino Zaganelli of the early Renaissance period. Good Friday, April 2 this year, commemorates the passion and death of Jesus Christ. (CNS photo/Photoservice Electa Mondadori/Art Resource)

Religious attacks by the media must be rejected, say officials

By Carol Glatz

VATICAN CITY (CNS) — Anti-religious commentary distributed by media outlets can create tensions and incite violence and therefore must be rejected, said Vatican and Muslim representatives.

Attacking religion in the mass media especially via satellite television channels must be opposed considering "the dangerous effect" that these broadcasts can have on social cohesion and on peace between religious communities, said a statement issued after the annual meeting of officials from the Pontifical Council for Interreligious Dialogue and from al-Azhar University in Cairo, Egypt.

The Feb. 23-24 meeting in Cairo focused on the role religions can play in either causing or preventing religious violence.

The al-Azhar meeting was chaired by Cardinal Jean-Louis Tauran, president of the pontifical council, and by Sheik Mohammed Abd al-Aziz Wasil, president of al-Azhar.

The meeting called for ending discrimination on the basis of religious identity and said that if laws are to be just they should guarantee the "fundamental equality" of all people regardless of religious affiliation. The ideals of justice, solidarity and cooperation between all people must be promoted so as to foster peace and prosperity, it said.

Good Friday Collection

Helping Christians in the Holy Land

Interview with Father Jeremy Harrington, OFM, commissary of the Holy Land Franciscan Monastery in Washington, DC.

The Good Friday collection is taken up to assist Christians in the Holy Land. Parishes all over the world are being asked to participate by the Pope. *Why is this collection mandated by Pope Benedict XVI?*

Because the Holy Land Christians need help! It is difficult to get precise figures but all Christians together in Israel, the West Bank, the Gaza strip and East Jerusalem are between one and two percent of the total population. To preserve the Holy Places and keep them vibrant Christian communities, they need the support of the whole Church. Catholics there are our representatives in preserving the holy places and helping the needy. In mandating the Good Friday collection for the Holy Land, Pope Benedict is doing what Pope John Paul II, Pope Paul VI and their predecessors for hundreds of years have done.

The Pope has called a Special Synod of Bishops for the Middle East. *Why is the Pope focusing so much attention on issues there?*

Pope Benedict has used the analogy that the Catholic Church in the East and the West are two lungs of the one Body of Christ. The Church needs both. To bring all the Church into full communion has been an important goal for the Pope. He has also reached out to the Jewish people and to Muslims.

What is the role of the Franciscans in the Holy Land?

St. Francis loved the Holy Land and went there in 1219 during the Crusades and met with the Sultan in Damietta, Egypt. The Franciscan Friars have maintained some presence there since that time, almost 800 years. In 1342 Pope Clement VI entrusted the care of the Holy Places to the Franciscans, made them the Custodians of the Shrines, so our province is called the "Custody of the Holy Land."

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Bishop Fellhauer's Schedule

March	
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
12	8:05 a.m., School Mass, St. Michael Church, Cuero 12:30 p.m., golf tournament benefiting St. Michael School, Cuero
14	9:00 a.m., Mass, Girl Scout Religious recognition awards, Our Lady of Victory Cathedral
16	6:30 p.m., Clergy Appreciation dinner, Catholic Daughters Court 369 and Knights of Columbus Council 1329, Knights of Columbus Hall, Victoria
17	4:30 p.m., Diocesan Building Board meeting, Chancery Office
21	11:00 a.m., Confirmation Mass, Holy Cross Church, East Bernard
24	11:30 a.m., Mass, appreciation luncheon for DSA Volunteers, Chancery Office
25	2:00 p.m., Ordination and installation of Msgr. Michael Mulvey as the new Bishop of the Diocese of Corpus Christi
27	5:30 p.m., Reception, candlelight tour, etc., preceding Living History program Presidio La Bahia, Goliad
28	9:00 a.m., Mass of the Lord's Passion, Our Lady of Victory Cathedral 11:00 a.m., Memorial Service, Fannin Monument (Living History Program — Presidio La Bahia)
30	10:00 a.m., Chrism Mass, Our Lady of Victory Cathedral
April	
1	6:30 p.m., Mass of the Lord's Supper, Our Lady of Victory Cathedral
2	12:15 p.m., Way of the Cross, Holy Trinity Chapel, Silver City
3	8:00 p.m., Easter Vigil, Our Lady of Victory Cathedral
7	7:00 p.m., Confirmation Mass, St. John Nepomucene Church, New Taiton, including St. Mary Church, Nada
9	6:30 a.m., Mass, ACTS retreat, Spiritual Renewal Center, Victoria
10	6:30 p.m., Confirmation Mass, Our Lady of Guadalupe Church, Bay City

Thank You Letters

Jan. 6, 2010
Dear Bishop Fellhauer,
Thank you for your diocesan check for \$20,692.10, which has been deposited in the Retirement Fund for Religious account. This brings your total diocesan contributions for all of the years of the collection to \$471,804.59. The money has been recorded as part of Appeal XXII for 2009.

Your generosity surely helps religious address the many challenges religious face as they age. Religious today, as always, continue to make an impact on our society. Even as they age, their commitment to the ministry of their community, their prayer and spiritual life are vibrant testimony to the faithfulness they promised so many years ago. Your commitment to them is a heartfelt testimony to their faithfulness. Each religious, young and old, are grateful for your support!

Your support and the support of your Retirement Fund for Religious coordinator, pastors, parish priests and deacons are essential to the fund's continued success. We are most grateful for all you do! You can surely rely on the prayers of the over 35,000 religious now over age 70 and the ever increasing numbers of religious who will be retiring very soon. May God bless you as only He can!

Gratefully,
Sister Janice Bader, CPPS
Executive Director of the National Religious Retirement Office

The decline of 43% from last year seems to be a sign of the challenging economic times. Be assured of our prayers for you and your people. We count on your prayers for us as well.

Feb. 8, 2010
Dear Bishop Fellhauer,
I wish to thank you and the people of the Diocese of Victoria for your generous gift of \$40,149.21 to support the growing pastoral activities of the Church in Central and Eastern Europe.

The firm and energetic faith of the Church in the region has encountered severe economic challenges this past year. Reflecting acute needs, the bishops of the 28 countries of Central and Eastern Europe and the former Soviet Union have submitted a record number of worthwhile projects.

Great needs remain. This phrase will form the heart of the 2010 campaign, which will highlight the poorer parts of the region where parish communities still celebrate Mass in bleak apartments, where children and the elderly count on the Church for material sustenance, where catechists long for better training, and where the Catholic media are just beginning their work of spreading the Word of God.

The national collection offers Catholics in the United States an occasion to help build God's Kingdom here and now. Thank you very much for encouraging their generosity.

With sentiments of gratitude and fraternal esteem, I remain

Sincerely in Christ,
Cardinal Justin Rigali
Archbishop of Philadelphia
Chairman, USCCB Subcommittee
To Aid the Church in Central and Eastern Europe

Official Appointments By Most Rev. David E. Fellhauer

Effective immediately, the **Rev. Juan Antonio Perez, O.S.S.T.**, is appointed Parochial Vicar at Our Lady of Sorrows Church, Victoria, at the request of the Very Rev. J. Edward Owens, O.S.S.T., Minister Provincial of the Trinitarians.



Over a foot of snow fell in Dallas at Holy Trinity Seminary on February 11 and 12, 2010. Seminarians at Holy Trinity, including Matthew Soto (bottom right) and Kristopher Fuchs (top left) from the Diocese of Victoria, made sure to enjoy every minute of it. The days included the seminarians sliding down hills, snowball fights, making snowmen, and even playing a football game.

Seminarians Enjoy Snow in Dallas

DALLAS—On the morning of February 11 the seminarians at Holy Trinity Seminary found everything covered in snow as they looked out of their windows before going to the chapel at 6:30 a.m. for Morning Prayer and Mass. Following Mass, the seminarians ate a quick breakfast and then managed to find a large mixing bowl, cooking sheets, and food trays so they could have a little fun in the snow before their first class. The seminarians used these kitchen objects to slide down the steep hills on the seminary grounds. They also made a snowman that was close to ten feet tall. When it was time to head to class, it was almost impossible to walk up the hill to the University of Dallas (UD) campus without getting covered in snow by the snowballs being thrown to one another. Once they arrived at the main part of the campus, they found that they were not the only ones having fun in the snow. Many UD students were having snowball

fights of their own and made walking to class quite an experience. The fun continued well into the afternoon while the snow kept falling all during the day.

By the next day, over a foot of snow had fallen, causing the university to cancel classes that started before 10:00 a.m. This, of course, was of much joy to the students who used the extra time to enjoy this rare occasion while it lasted. In addition to the activities enjoyed the day before, some of the seminarians decided to play a football game in the foot of snow. The soft, but very cold, snow made for an interesting game. (By the way, the Holy Trinity Seminarians were the intramural flag football champions this year!) The seminarians again played until late in the afternoon. This, however, would be their last day to play in the snow. Although some snow stayed for about a week, by the next day it started to melt and became too slushy to play in.

KC FAMILY AND KNIGHT OF THE YEAR FROM SAME FAMILY—A month after Holy Family KC Council 9088 elected Eddie and Janet Huse as Family of the Quarter for the fourth quarter of 2009, they elected them as Family of the Year at the annual awards banquet January 19. To make it doubly special, Eddie was also elected Knight of the Year. Although a recent convert to the Church, Janet is very active in Holy Family Parish. Eddie and Janet are very involved in the activities of the parish, including ACTS and Disciples on the Journey. Eddie serves as a lector and an extraordinary minister of the Eucharist, and is involved in almost every aspect of the council, recently serving as past secretary and now as chancellor of the council. He is a member of the Tuesday Morning Men's Prayer Group, an altar server for daily Mass, a member of the Victoria Serra Club and helps with ACTS and Teen ACTS and co-chaired Holy Family's 28th annual festival. Congratulations to Eddie and Janet Huse for representing Council 9088 so well.



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DEADLINE IS THE THIRD TUESDAY OF THE PRECEDING MONTH.



Diocese of Victoria Reflection of Faith Capital Campaign update

Thank you for your on-going support of the Diocese of Victoria Capital Campaign. Your generosity has allowed the diocese to complete the renovation of the chapel and the Hermes Multipurpose building at the Spiritual Renewal Center. In addition, your generosity has supported the Priest Retirement Fund, Religious Education and the Catholic Education Fund.

Parish Totals as of December 31, 2009

Parish Name	Parish City	Pledge Goal	Total Contributions as of 12-31-2009	Grand Total Rebate	
St. John the Baptist Church	Ammansville	\$ 19,947.00	\$ 15,813.16	\$ 3,162.63	
Holy Cross Church	Bay City	\$ 326,976.00	\$ 228,299.74	\$ 45,659.95	
Our Lady of Guadalupe Church	Bay City	\$ 144,438.00	\$ 60,136.81	\$ 12,027.36	
St. Peter Church	Blessing	\$ 56,384.00	\$ 54,953.38	\$ 10,990.68	
St. Patrick Church	Bloomington	\$ 90,000.00	\$ 25,329.14	Guarantee: No Rebate	
St. Joseph Church	Boling	\$ 48,652.00	\$ 39,485.64	\$ 7,897.13	
St. Anthony Church	Columbus	\$ 237,050.00	\$ 172,020.68	\$ 34,404.14	
Our Lady of Guadalupe Church	Cuero	\$ 85,269.00	\$ 7,307.64	\$ 1,461.53	
St. Michael Church	Cuero	\$ 211,802.00	\$ 107,945.51	\$ 21,589.10	
Sts. Cyril and Methodius	Dubina	\$ 20,060.00	\$ 21,152.25	\$ 4,558.13	•
Parish of the Nativity	Eagle Lake	\$ 106,677.00	\$ 52,969.89	\$ 10,593.98	
Holy Cross Church	East Bernard	\$ 306,499.00	\$ 218,944.04	\$ 43,788.81	
St. Agnes Church	Edna	\$ 222,893.00	\$ 168,780.25	\$ 33,756.05	
St. John Nepomucene	El Campo	\$ 73,075.00	\$ 114,857.83	\$ 35,506.42	•
St. Philip the Apostle Church	El Campo	\$ 593,919.00	\$ 410,372.35	\$ 82,074.47	
St. Procopius (Louise)	El Campo	\$ 51,838.00	\$ 16,199.40	Guarantee: No Rebate	
St. Robert Bellarmine Church	El Campo	\$ 166,422.00	\$ 33,866.72	\$ 6,773.34	
Sacred Heart Church	Flatonina	\$ 95,047.00	\$ 57,145.60	\$ 11,429.12	
Sts. Cyril and Methodius	Flatonina	\$ 39,932.00	\$ 17,975.50	\$ 3,595.10	
Sts. Peter and Paul Church	Frelsburg	\$ 150,767.00	\$ 111,807.35	\$ 22,361.47	
Assumption of the Blessed Virgin Mary Church	Ganado	\$ 165,228.00	\$ 75,764.92	\$ 15,152.98	
Immaculate Conception Church	Goliad	\$ 58,300.00	\$ 62,021.11	\$ 13,520.56	•
Immaculate Conception (St. Mary Church)	Hallettsville	\$ 28,698.00	\$ 27,243.75	\$ 5,448.75	
Sacred Heart Church	Hallettsville	\$ 293,582.00	\$ 279,989.52	\$ 55,997.90	
St. John the Baptist Church	Hallettsville	\$ 21,607.00	\$ 21,323.01	\$ 4,264.60	
Nativity of the Blessed Virgin Mary (St. Mary Church)	High Hill	\$ 43,057.00	\$ 35,395.00	\$ 7,079.00	
St. Andrew Church	Hillje	\$ 90,925.00	\$ 30,580.71	Guarantee: No Rebate	
St. Ann Mission Church	Hochheim	\$ 17,276.00	\$ 11,976.25	\$ 2,395.25	
St. John the Baptist Church	Hungerford	\$ 123,823.00	\$ 144,678.64	\$ 35,192.42	•
St. Joseph Church	Inez	\$ 63,647.00	\$ 52,625.16	\$ 10,525.03	
St. John the Baptist Parish	Koerth	\$ 39,751.00	\$ 41,285.50	\$ 8,717.45	•
Queen of the Holy Rosary Church, Hostyn	LaGrange	\$ 113,194.00	\$ 111,916.08	\$ 22,383.22	
St. Wenceslaus, Holman	LaGrange	\$ 13,440.00	\$ 9,575.00	\$ 1,915.00	
St. Theresa	LaSalle	\$ 22,644.00	\$ 7,563.47	\$ 1,512.69	
St. Robert Church	Markham	\$ 23,793.00	\$ 24,377.00	\$ 5,050.60	•
St. Roch Church	Mentz	\$ 108,456.00	\$ 72,270.96	\$ 14,454.19	
Sts. Peter and Paul Church	Meyersville	\$ 62,670.00	\$ 48,405.04	\$ 9,681.01	
Ascension of Our Lord	Moravia	\$ 27,666.00	\$ 18,659.57	\$ 3,731.91	
St. Joseph Church	Moulton	\$ 87,194.00	\$ 51,588.25	\$ 10,317.65	
Nativity of the Blessed Virgin Mary (St. Mary Church)	Nada	\$ 88,854.00	\$ 65,247.70	\$ 13,049.54	
St. Anthony of Padua	Palacios	\$ 142,729.00	\$ 72,638.92	\$ 14,527.78	
Sts. Peter and Paul Church	Plum	\$ 54,742.00	\$ 52,619.21	\$ 10,523.84	
St. Ann Church	Point Comfort	\$ 26,299.00	\$ 24,255.23	\$ 4,851.05	
Our Lady of the Gulf Church	Port Lavaca	\$ 286,245.00	\$ 96,139.47	\$ 19,227.89	
St. Joseph Church	Port O'Connor	\$ 28,221.00	\$ 9,136.22	\$ 1,827.24	
Assumption of the Blessed Virgin Mary Parish	Praha	\$ 25,474.00	\$ 17,657.50	Guarantee: No Rebate	
St. Rose of Lima Church	Schulenburg	\$ 247,191.00	\$ 124,288.82	\$ 24,857.76	
St. Patrick Church	Seadrift	\$ 17,116.00	\$ 9,267.50	\$ 1,853.50	
Sts. Cyril and Methodius	Shiner	\$ 413,481.00	\$ 239,532.80	\$ 47,906.56	
Queen of Peace Church	Sweet Home	\$ 66,045.00	\$ 48,274.00	\$ 9,654.80	
St. John Bosco Church	Vanderbilt	\$ 37,186.00	\$ 11,456.02	\$ 2,291.20	
Diocese of Victoria	Victoria	\$ -	\$ 14,183.15	No Rebate	
Holy Family of Joseph, Mary and Jesus Parish	Victoria	\$ 757,222.00	\$ 729,608.42	\$ 145,921.68	
Our Lady of Lourdes Church	Victoria	\$ 163,782.00	\$ 238,960.34	\$ 70,345.57	•
Our Lady of Sorrows Church	Victoria	\$ 417,057.00	\$ 76,705.20	\$ 15,341.04	
Our Lady of Victory Cathedral	Victoria	\$ 639,747.00	\$ 847,334.91	\$ 231,743.36	•
St. Mary Church	Victoria	\$ 270,965.00	\$ 426,214.27	\$ 131,817.64	•
Sacred Heart	Wadsworth	\$ -	\$ 1,740.00	\$ 870.00	•
St. Michael Church	Weimar	\$ 157,733.00	\$ 224,203.54	\$ 64,781.87	•
St. Aloysius	Westhoff	\$ 17,730.00	\$ 8,640.00	\$ 1,728.00	
Holy Family Church	Wharton	\$ 177,803.00	\$ 275,827.85	\$ 84,573.03	•
Our Lady of Mt. Carmel Church	Wharton	\$ 130,087.00	\$ 43,516.83	\$ 8,703.37	
St. Joseph Church	Yoakum	\$ 132,486.00	\$ 158,871.05	\$ 39,689.73	•
Holy Cross Church	Yorktown	\$ 97,988.00	\$ 61,459.62	\$ 12,291.92	
San Luis Mission	Yorktown	\$ 27,360.00	\$ 4,922.19	\$ 984.44	
St. Ann, Nordheim	Yorktown	\$ 3,220.00	\$ 950.00	\$ 190.00	
	TOTALS	#####	\$ 6,946,252.58	\$ 1,578,522.42	

• Parishes 50% above goal

Built into the Capital Campaign is a financial rebate for each parish. Parishes receive a 20 percent rebate for contributions up to their parish goal. Once contributions exceed their parish goal, parishes receive a 50 percent rebate for all contributions received. To date, \$1,578,522.42 has been rebated back to the parishes for their needs. Congratulations to the following 13 parishes: Sts. Cyril and Methodius (Dubina), St. John Nepomucene (New Taiton), Immaculate Conception (Goliad), St. John the Baptist (Hungerford), St. John the Baptist (Koerth), St. Robert (Markham), Our Lady of Lourdes (Victoria), Our Lady of Victory (Victoria), St. Mary (Victoria), Sacred Heart (Wadsworth), St. Michael (Weimar), Holy Family (Wharton) and St. Joseph (Yoakum), whose contributions have exceeded their parish goal and thus these parishes are receiving a rebate of 50 percent of all contributions received.

The business office continues to monitor all pledge activity (Capital Campaign and Diocesan Services Appeal) within the Diocese of Victoria. If you would like to pay off your pledge, restructure your payment plan or create automatic payments (through your checking account or credit card), please contact Mr. René Garcia at the business office in the chancery of the Diocese of Victoria at (361) 573-0828 ext. 20 or at rgarcia@victoriadiocese.org.

JOB OPENINGS School Principals

• 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!

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

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

• St. Michael Catholic School (Weimar, TX), a 2006 Blue Ribbon recipient, is accepting applications for principal. Current enrollment is 140 students from 4K-8th Grade. To qualify for this position, one must be an active Catholic in their Parish, have a masters degree in education with at least 18 hours in school administration, and have a minimum experience of five years teaching and/or administrative experience, preferably in a Catholic School.

• Shiner Catholic School (St. Ludmila Elementary/St. Paul High School), a rural 3K-12th parish school with 325 students in the Diocese of Victoria, seeks an exceptional academic, spiritual and visionary principal who will advance the mission and goals of both a Catholic elementary and high school. The candidate must be a practicing Catholic in good standing with the Church. Other qualities desired: must possess well-developed and refined interpersonal skills, a collaborative leadership style, competency in professional staff development, expertise in budgeting and financial management, and eager to engage a seasoned faculty with a diverse student body. The candidate must possess a master's degree in education with certification in mid-management and at least five years of administrative experience (Catholic school preferred). To learn more about Shiner Catholic School, see their Web site at www.shinercatholicsschool.org.

Deadline for submission of applications and accompanying paperwork for St. Michael and Shiner School is March 19, 2010.

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

(361) 573-0828 [phone]

Or applications may be downloaded from the diocesan Web site (www.victoriadiocese.org)

2009 DSA & Reflection of Faith Capital Campaign Updates

2009 DSA

Diocesan Goal:	\$1,282,100.00
Parish Pledge Totals:	\$771,928.85
Parish Contribution Totals:	\$765,922.68
Number of Parish Families Participating:	4,009

Reflection of Faith Capital Campaign

Diocesan Goal:	\$9,000,000.00
Parish Pledge Totals:	\$13,672,029.17
Parish Contribution Totals:	\$7,200,567.77
Number of Parish Families Participating:	6,749



Seminary Burses

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

As of February 26, 2010

TOTALS	
— General Seminary Burse	
Previously reported	\$ 95,534.00
In memory of Mary Stella Davis by	
M/M Fred Fischer Jr.	25.00
In memory of Brandon Dru Fischer by	
M/M Fred Fischer Jr.	25.00
In memory of Margaret L. Ballow by	
M/M Fred Fischer Jr.	25.00
In memory of Elizabeth Taylor by	
M/M Robert Bochat	25.00
Total	\$95,634.00

— Rev. Msgr. Edward C. Bartsch Seminary Burse	
Previously reported	\$1,980.00
Gift to burse by Mildred C. Elam	100.00
Total	\$2,080.00

— Rev. Sean Donohue Seminary Burse #2	
Previously reported	\$4,199.36
In memory of Dorothy Zampini by	
Ira and Rose Kunkel	10.00
In memory of Dorothy Zampini by	
Mary Kay Beard	10.00
Total	\$4,219.36

— Mr & Mrs Nicholas A. Grahmann Seminary Burse#2	
Previously reported	\$10,045.00
In memory of Nicholas and	
Annie Grahmann by	
Nicholas Grahmann Jr.	100.00
Total	\$10,145.00

— Rev. Msgr. Albert Henkes Seminary Burse	
Previously reported	\$2,740.00
In memory of Herman A. Henkes, Jr. by	
Elizabeth Henkes Loos and	
Alois Henkes	25.00
In memory of Herman Henkes Jr. by	
M/M Derwood Brandstetter and	
Mrs. Dorothy Schaffner	20.00
Total	\$2,785.00

— Knights of Columbus Victoria Council #1329 Seminary Burse #3	
Previously reported	\$9,357.50
In memory of Otto J. Kalischko by	
Mrs. Evelyn Kalischko & Family	100.00
Total	\$9,457.50

— Rev. Roman M. Janak & Rev. Msgr. Hubert J. Janak Seminary Burse	
Previously reported	\$14,104.84
In honor of Milton and Annie Wagner by	
M/M S.E. Golsch	20.00
Total	\$14,124.84

— Rev. John C. Peters Seminary Burse #4	
Previously reported	\$9,424.00
In memory of Dorothy Zampini by	
Father John Peters	25.00
Total	\$9,449.00

— Rev. Theophil Okruhlik & Rev. Vincent Verdarame Seminary Burse	
Previously reported	\$9,870.44
In memory of Randy Shafer by	
M/M Elroy Brogger	25.00
Total	\$9,895.44

— Rev. Joseph A. Koebel Seminary Burse	
Previously reported	\$6,478.00
In memory of Fr. Joe Koebel by	
Ernestine Bubela Family	20.00
Total	\$6,498.00

— Rev. Msgr. Benton A. Thurmond Seminary Burse	
Previously reported	\$1,775.00
Gift to burse by M/M Joseph Neskora	
Family	200.00
Total	\$1,975.00

— Mrs. Elorine Tumlinson Seminary Burse	
Previously reported	\$1,390.00
In memory of Florine Tumlinson by	
Olivia McDonald	50.00
In memory of Otto Bluntzer by	
Olivia McDonald	50.00
Total	\$1,490.00

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

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

Happy Birthday!

Matthew Soto is in Pre-Theology I at Holy Trinity Seminary in Irving, Texas. His home parish is Sts. Cyril and Methodius, in Shiner, and his birthday is March 29. Please show your support for our seminarian by writing to: Matthew Soto, Holy Trinity Seminary, P O Box 140309, Irving, TX 75014-0309



LENTEN RACE ON AGAIN—The Lenten Weight Race in Hallettsville is on again this year, but with one change. Father John was traded for Deacon Joey Targac. Father Michael challenged Deacon Joey to weight loss to benefit the youth of the various parishes (Sacred Heart, St. Mary, Moravia, and St. John). Deacon Joey upped the ante. In addition, they are putting their good looks on the line. A loss by Father Michael would add a full beard to his face, while a loss by Deacon Joey would take his beard away.

Year for Priests Interviews with priests in the Diocese of Victoria

Father Joseph Louis Vrana ~ Nada

Father Joe Vrana is pastor of Nativity of the Blessed Virgin Mary (St. Mary) in Nada near El Campo. Below is his "Year for Priests" interview.

Date and place of birth: December 21, 1939, in Sheldon, Texas.

Parents' names and home: Joe L. Vrana and Helen Cyva (deceased)

Names of siblings: None; single child

Home parish: Sacred Heart, Crosby, Texas

Schools attended and degrees received: Crosby High School, class of '57; St. Mary's Seminary, Houston

Date ordained and by whom?: May 29, 1965, at Sacred Heart Co-Cathedral, Houston, by Bishop John L. Morkovsky

Assignments: June 19, 1965 – Aug. 1966, parochial vicar, St. Mary's Cathedral, Galveston; Aug. 1966 – Feb. 1971, parochial vicar, Holy Cross, Bay City; Feb. 1971 – June 1971, parochial vicar, St. Mary's, Texas City; June 23, 1971 – July 1975, parochial vicar, Holy Family, Wharton, and St. Joseph's mission, Boling; July 1, 1975 – Jan. 1977, administrator, Holy Cross, East Bernard; Jan. 1, 1977 – June 1988, pastor, Holy Cross, East Bernard; June 8, 1988 – June 2006, pastor, Holy Family, Wharton, and St. Joseph's mission, Boling; June 28, 2006 – July 1, 2009, pastor, St. Mary's, Nada, and St. John's, New Taiton; July 1, 2009 – present, pastor (relieved of St. John's, New Taiton) St. Mary's, Nada.



Receipt and date of papal dignities: Still waiting ...

Your hobbies or special interests: Hunting, fishing and goofing off

When was the first time you thought of priesthood?: Sometime in grade school

Who influenced or inspired you?: My mother and other priests

What would people be surprised to know about you?: While I was assistant in Bay City (Holy Cross), I was also Juvenile Probation Officer and Special Deputy Sheriff (Pistol Packing Padre)

What is your favorite Scripture passage?: When Christ told Peter "Satan, get yourself behind me" (Mt. 16:23).

How did you come to know Jesus?: Through being an altar server

Please share a little about your calling to the priesthood - how, when, you knew it was time to join the seminary?: Final decision came in high school, senior year

What are some of your favorite experiences/joys/surprises since becoming a priest?: Being personal friends with Bishop Yanta and Bishop Grahmann and hunting and fishing with them

What was the last book you read?: "God is for Real, Man," by Carl F. Burke, juvenile delinquents interpretation of the Parables

What is your favorite spiritual book?: The Bible; it teaches me the right way to eternal salvation

Who is a hero to you?: St. Peter

Father John C. Bily ~ Weimar

Father John C. Bily is pastor at St. Michael Parish and Elementary School in Weimar and its mission, Sts. Cyril and Methodius in Dubina. Below is his "Year for Priests" interview.

Date and place of birth: June 2, 1933, in Praha (Fayette Co.), Texas

Parents' names and home: Frank and Rosie Bily (both deceased)

Names of siblings: Msgr. Edward F. Bily (deceased); Sister Rita Rose Bily, Our Lady of the Lake Convent, San Antonio; Lucy Lednicki, Ammannsville, Texas; and Monica Melnar, Hungerford, Texas

Home parish: St. Mary's Church in Praha

Schools attended and degrees received: Elementary – St. Mary's School, Praha; High School – St. John's Seminary, San Antonio; College and Seminary – St. John's and Assumption Seminaries, San Antonio, Texas

Date ordained and by whom?: May 24, 1958, at St. Mary's Church in Praha by Archbishop Robert E. Lucey

If ordained in another diocese, when did you become a priest of the Diocese of Victoria?: Ordained for the Archdiocese of San Antonio. I became a priest of the Diocese of Victoria when it was established. I was in Ganado when the Diocese of Victoria was established.

Assignments: 1958 - 62, associate pas-



tor, Blessed Sacrament, St. Peter Prince, St. Joseph (downtown), Espada Mission, Holy Name, all in San Antonio; 1962 - 66, associate pastor, St. Michael, Weimar, and 1966 - 67, St. Paul, San Antonio; 1967 - 76 pastor, St. Philip of Jesus, San Antonio; 1976 - 88 pastor, Assumption of the Blessed Virgin Mary, Ganado; 1988 - to present, pastor, St. Michael, Weimar

Receipt and date of papal dignities: N/A

Your hobbies or special interests: Light, general maintenance and lawn manicure

When was the first time you thought of the priesthood?: During elementary grade school

Who influenced or inspired you?: The priests and the sisters in elementary grade school

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Prayer for Vocations

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



Twenty Something

By Christina Capecchi
E-mail: Christina@ReadChristina.com



Eventual motherhood: waiting on God's perfect timing

This month brings a milestone for my social circle: for the first time, a childhood friend will become a mother.

As Sara's belly swells, the rest of us are helping prepare for the baby who will catapult us into our next stage. It will provide the surest sign we have reached adulthood, which, up to this point, has felt far less established than it once appeared.

At 15, 25 looked like an elixir to every adolescent woe, the perfect mix of freedom and purpose, objectives that now feel farther apart.

We have enjoyed a certain latitude, slipping in and out of majors and dates and jobs. This baby will be the most real and non-refundable commitment we have seen, heartwarming when he sleeps, head-splitting when he shrieks at 1 a.m. and again at 4 a.m.

We decided to help Sara paint the nursery. A trip to Lowe's forced one of those imperative pre-labor decisions, which our heroine made with ease. That Saturday we cracked open a gallon of sky blue paint named after the first time a baby sleeps through the night: Cloud Nine.

As we turned our blank canvas from beige to blue, we reminisced about the dramas of high school, how impossible it seemed to manage a formal dance: whom to ask, what to wear, where to eat, whom to eat with.

Then talk jumped to good grade schools, and Libby pointed out, "Ten years ago we never would've been having this discussion."

Indeed, we are largely transformed from our high-school selves, and now, eventual mothers — one, much sooner than the others.

That is the jarring part: Though our friendships are deeper today, growing up does involve some growing apart, and the milestones that once arrived in sync splinter into different tempos.

It is a wonder that adulthoods charted in the same sandbox can diverge so widely. Children's names determined in the same tree house are privately amended, and the one you gave half of your heart-shaped "best friends" pendant is now shipping a wedding gift from China.

Ten-year-old girlfriends imagine double weddings, betrothed children and joint summer vacations — a neat correspondence of life events. Yet soon the kids who shared a baseball diamond face a million choices that lead to vastly different fields.

It's hard to not feel behind when you are standing behind an old friend, a bride at the altar. It's hard not to do your own baby math when next year she calls with her good news. It's hard to shake the timeline you once set even when it no longer fits. There is that creeping sense of urgency and absolutes: a timeline, a bottom line, a deadline, a finish line.

But there is no such thing as behind or ahead; we are each on track with our separate paths. God's timing is perfect because it is custom-designed.

The Scripture writers had an abiding respect for the proper season and time. The prophet Habakkuk describes God's plan with patience and perspective, two hallmarks of the Lenten journey. "For the vision still has its time, presses on to fulfillment and will not disappoint; if it delays, wait for it, it will surely come, it will not be late."

The blessings that come later are not late; they are right on time and they are sweeter.

Meanwhile, God gives us special synchronicities: husbands who become good friends, college roommates who become godparents, moments when it all circles back, and we see his infinite wisdom a little more clearly.

Christina Capecchi is a freelance writer from Inver Grove Heights, Minn.

Anti-Death Penalty Alternative Spring Break

Join the Texas Moratorium Network (TMN) March 15-19, 2010, in Austin, Texas, for the award-winning Anti-Death Penalty Alternative Spring Break.

Special guests will be six innocent death row exonerees: Shujaa Graham, Curtis McCarty, Ron Keine, Derrick Jamison, Perry Cobb and Juan Melendez. They are attending alternative spring break to speak with participants about how innocent people can end up on death row. Altogether, the six exonerees attending the alternative spring break spent a total of about 65 years on death row for crimes they did not commit.

It's free, except for a \$25 housing fee for those who need the TMN to arrange housing for them. They will house you in a

shared room with other spring breakers in either a hotel or dorm. You are responsible for your travel, food and other expenses, but the program and most of the housing costs are on them. The \$25 housing fee is all you pay.

Alternative Spring Break isn't just for high school and college students — but also for all those who consider themselves students of the world, community, peace and justice. Please look at the schedule and consider attending. Youth under 18 need a permission form.

All events are open to the public, but please register. To learn more or to register, please go to: <http://springbreakalternative.org/deathpenalty/>

Body Language:

"I See You:" From Augustine to Avatar Commentary on the Intersection of Faith, Sex, & Culture

By Christopher West

When *Avatar* recently became the top grossing movie of all time, I thought I should see what all the hype was about. Reluctantly, I went. And I was pleasantly surprised.

Yes, I agree with much of what has been said about its unoriginal plot (*Dances with Wolves* in space). And there's certainly plenty to criticize from a theological point of view (besides the overt eco-religion it espouses, the plot itself rests on a dangerous body-soul dualism that imagines one's "consciousness" can be transferred to another body).

Still, I think there is much to like about this film. Beyond its breath-taking visuals and awe-inspiring special effects (it's as much a game-changer as *Star Wars* was in its day), I was especially taken in by the three simple words with which the Na'vi people greet one another: *I see you*. As the movie explains, it means more than seeing the other physically with your eyes. It means seeing *into* the other, understanding the other, embracing the other. It means seeing the other person's heart, the other person's person.

And here James Cameron, the movie's writer and director, may well be drawing directly from St. Augustine (in the film, Sigourney Weaver's character is named

Grace Augustine — hmmm). It was the Catholic "Doctor of Grace" who said that the deepest desire of the human heart is to *see* another and *be seen* by that other's loving look (see *Sermon* 69, c. 2, 3).

This yearning to see and be seen, like the beauty of the distant planet Pandora itself, harkens back to Eden, to the original way of "seeing" upon which John Paul II reflected in his *Theology of the Body* (for more on how *Avatar* points to Eden, see Bill Donaghy's excellent article on catholicexchange.com). As the late Pope expressed it, the first man and the woman "*see each other more fully and clearly* than through the sense of sight itself." They see each other with an "interior gaze" (see TOB 13:1) — a gaze that sees "into" the other, creating a profound bond of peace and intimacy (or shall we say "in-to-me-see"?).

An "interior gaze" is precisely what the Na'vi express when they say, "I see you." And *that*, I believe, is one of the appeals of *Avatar*: it calls us to a different way of seeing one another, and the world around us. Unfortunately, *Avatar*'s green agenda pushes the limits of honoring creation over the edge into a kind of nature worship, as if creation itself were a goddess. But isn't this error simply the twisting of a truth? What is the truth that "nature worship"

See "I See You," p. 13

University of Dallas announces 2010 Summer Abroad Programs

IRVING—The public is invited to join renowned University of Dallas (UD) faculty members on one of three summer abroad programs scheduled for June and July. Participants will experience the influence of Western cultural traditions by exploring the inexhaustible riches of Italy. This year's tours include:

- Eternal Cities
June 16-29, 2010

College students, teachers and families are invited to a study tour of significant moments in art and architecture led by well-known art professor Lyle Novinski. The cohesive tour includes magnificent Rome, elegant Siena, holy Assisi, and visits the incredibly varied sites and wonderful food and wine of Southern Italy, Magna Graecia.

- Shakespeare's Baroque Rome
June 24-July 3, 2010

Teachers and other adults can participate in an intense look at Shakespeare as a Baroque artist. Participants will reside at UD's beautiful Rome Campus. Directed

by UD English professors Gregory Roper and Andrew Moran, the program will reveal how Baroque Rome enhances our understanding of the Bard.

- Shakespeare in Italy
July 6-23, 2010

High school students may earn college credit at the Rome Campus while they discover Shakespeare's fascination with the peninsula through a careful reading of his plays and visiting related sites in Rome and Venice. The program is directed by UD English professors Gregory Roper and Andrew Moran.

For details on these programs visit <http://www.udallas.edu/travel>, call 972-721-5181, e-mail udsummer@udallas.edu, or write University of Dallas Rome and Summer Programs, 1845 E. Northgate Dr., Irving, Texas 75062-4736. Teachers, alumni, and family groups qualify for discounts. Credit at the appropriate level may also be earned.

The University of Dallas is a Catholic, co-educational university.

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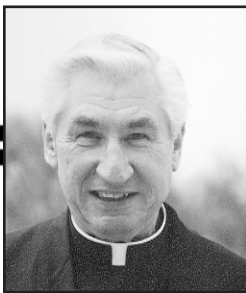
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FAITH POINT

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

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



“Evidence-Based” Sex Education

For about two decades there has been a quarrel about the merits of abstinence sex education and “comprehensive” sex education where abstinence may or may not be mentioned but emphasis is on “safe” sex. Recently California public schools have forbidden abstinence education and the Obama administration has cut federal funding for it. Secularists have targeted abstinence education for a long time because they consider it naïve at best and dangerous at the worst. Besides it is totally at variance with their ideology.

The stated objection to abstinence education is that it is ineffective. The judgment is based on a study by Mathematica Policy Research, Inc. which quickly became a media darling. The headlines following the issue of the report read “Abstinence Education Proven Ineffective.” Out of dozens of programs four were selected as representative of abstinence education. All four evaluated programs served African-American youth from poor single parent households. The sample obviously did not represent all abstinence programs nor all American youth. Some of the programs reached 4th and 5th graders and ceased. There was no further contact with students during the 9th, 10th, and 11th grades when transition to sexual activity typically occurs. Why did Mathematica pick doomed-from-the-start programs that did not cover students when sexual behavior typically begins? On the basis of this one very flawed study abstinence education was cut from funding under Title V.

There is an abundance of evidence proving that abstinence education is effective in reducing teen pregnancy. In Georgia, abstinence education lowered the teen pregnancy rate by 46%. The decline began in 1995 when Georgia made abstinence its statewide policy.

A 2008 Heritage Foundation report found that of 21 different studies on abstinence-based education programs, 16 found a delay in early sexual activity and initiation. Why did Mathematica not find these?

Most recently a randomized controlled trial conducted by Drs. John and Loretta Jemmott from the University of Pennsylvania showed that abstinence education was superior to the “safe sex” approaches. After 6th and 7th graders received eight hours of abstinence only education, 66.5% of the students avoided sexual intercourse for two years. By contrast, nearly half of students who received classes combining both abstinence and safe sex said that they had had sex within the two-year period.

The Guttmacher Institute reported that for the first time since the early 1990s teen pregnancy and abortion increased from 2005 to 2006, the latest year for which data are available. Pregnancy rates rose from 69.5 per hundred to 71.5 for girls aged 15 to 19. The Guttmacher Institute attributed the cause in part to the increase of abstinence only programs, which received major funding under the Bush administra-

tion. The report said, “A strong body of research shows that these programs do not work.” Actually it was one flawed study by Mathematica.

Speaking of programs failing programs, it is odd that from 1972 to 1990 when the safe-sex model which received millions in federal funds and had the field to itself, the teen pregnancy rate climbed from 95.1 per thousand to 116.9. The rate declined beginning in 1990 when abstinence only programs were becoming popular. The teen pregnancy rate declined from 116.9 per thousand in 1990 to 68.5 per thousand in 2005. Unfortunately it turned up in 2006 to 71.5. This may be a temporary glitch or the beginning of a surge in teenage pregnancy.

One thing is certain, comprehensive programs proved to be an 18-year failure. If the message to teens is that sex is no big deal as long as you wear a condom, why should it surprise anyone that teens will decide to have sex?

Teens are assured that “protected” sex is all about fun with no downside. Only 9% of parents agree with that. Sexual activity without a binding commitment (which teens are generally not in a position to make) is a dead-end. The consequences range from hurt feelings to pregnancies, sexually transmitted diseases, and abortions, which sometimes make later childbearing impossible. Teen single parenting is the biggest generator of poverty in the US.

The Utah Institute for Research and Evaluation in Salt Lake surveyed many studies that followed the education and behavior of over 400,000 adolescents in 30 different states for 15 years. The study highlighted failures of comprehensive sex education to remedy teen pregnancy, STDs, and poor emotional health. They also failed to explain the limitation of condoms and that many consequences of teen sex are not prevented by condom use. The Utah Institute also found that “comprehensive” sex education programs had little impact on the behavior of teens during their education and no long-term effects whatever. Of 50 rigorous studies spanning 15 years, only one of them reported an improvement in consistent condom use after a period of at least one year.

Here are two important findings of the Utah study:

The most successful programs emphasized the risk of premarital sex. They showed that abstinence fully protects a young person from STDs, teen pregnancy, and emotional trauma. They underlined the benefits of self-control and gave students the future positive goal of a stable and committed marriage towards which to work:

“Well-designed and well-implemented abstinence education programs can reduce teen sexual activity by as much as one half for periods of one to two years, substantially increasing the number of adolescents who avoid the full range of problems related to teen sexual activity. Abandoning

... abstinence fully protects a young person from STDs, teen pregnancy, and emotional trauma.

... abstinence education programs can reduce teen sexual activity by as much as one half for periods of one to two years ...

the strategy... would appear to be a policy driven by politics rather than by a desire to protect American teens.”

Actually it is not so much politics as ideology that drives secular politicians to abandon abstinence education. Planned Parenthood wants to teach children as young as ten about the joys of sex, and a UN report in August said children as young as five should be taught to masturbate. Secularists believe that sex should be seen as a positive force for change and development as well as an “embodiment of human rights and an expression of self.” Secularists say young people should have the right to contraceptives and be fully informed about sexuality. They look upon young people as sexual animals who cannot remain chaste and need not.

The Obama administration has vowed to fund “evidence-based” programs. Don’t expect them to reverse their cancellation of funding for abstinence education and have it supplant “comprehensive” education just because there is evidence that the former works and the latter does not. Mere facts and science are not allowed to trump secularist dogma. That is true

not just in the matter of sex education but also in other areas. Secular climatologists with icicles hanging from their noses rant about global warming. Secularists promote homosexuality in spite of the horrific consequences of premature deaths and spread of STDs, particularly AIDS. Despite advances in embryology, secularists still call a fetus (Latin for “young one”) a clump of tissue that can be killed even when sonograms display a baby in the womb sucking its thumb.

Secularists spin an appealing tale of fun for persons who violate moral norms. However, they are notably absent when immoral behavior inevitably brings on undesired results such as disease, teen pregnancy, premature death, and social pathology. It requires no strenuous brain activity to realize that only abstinence can eliminate these things. Acting morally may be more difficult but it produces beneficial results. Religious morality brings happiness and secular immorality brings unhappiness not just in the hereafter but in the here and now. Sound morality is good medicine and good social policy.

Planned Parenthood Rips Catholicism

By Susan A. Fani
Director of Communications
Catholic League for Religious
and Civil Rights

Catholic League president Bill Donohue comments on a new report by the International Planned Parenthood Federation (IPPF) on sex education:

The goal of IPPF is to sexually engineer society, and one way to accomplish this feat is to smear religious conservatives, especially Catholics. This new report not only substantiates this charge, it makes it clear that Planned Parenthood wants to bring its irresponsible ideas to bear on kids.

“IPPF uses the terms young people, youth and adolescents interchangeably to refer to people who are between 10 and 24.” In other words, 5th graders should

be treated the same way graduate students are when it comes to their “sexual and reproductive health and rights.”

The entire program is based on a faulty assumption. IPPF says that “The taboo on youth sexuality is one of the key forces driving the AIDS epidemic and high rates of teenage pregnancy and maternal mortality.” Nonsense. In the 1950s, there was no sex education in the schools, the pill was not commercially available and AIDS didn’t exist. Yet the out-of-wedlock birth rate was comparatively minuscule and sexually transmitted diseases were relatively rare. All because of taboos.

According to IPPF, it’s those Catholics—who are indistinguishable from radical Islamists—who are the problem. “Fundamentalist and other religious groups—the Catholic Church and madrasas (Islamic schools) for example—have imposed tremendous barriers that prevent young people, particularly, from obtaining information and services related to sex and reproduction.”

So the kids in Sister Mary’s class who learn about responsible sex are analogous to Imam Mohammad’s kids who are either denied sex education or are told that homosexuality is punishable by death. Finally, why is it that public school students, who know so much more about sex than those dunces in the parochial schools, are precisely the ones walking around with the highest rates of illegitimacy, abortion and herpes?

Father Bob’s hand-made rosaries

SHINER—A wide variety (styles and prices) of hand-made rosaries for all occasions are available at the Sts. Cyril and Methodius Church Rectory. Father Bob Knippenberg will also take special orders for weddings, anniversaries, first holy communions, confirmations, etc. Four weeks notice is required for special orders. Engraving (of crucifix) is also available. You may call the rectory at (361) 594-3836.

Sacred Heart School receives grant

HALLETTSVILLE—Sacred Heart Catholic School is the recipient of a grant in the amount of \$100,000 from the Dickson-Allen Foundation. This contribution was authorized for the purchase of technology equipment and general operating expenses for the school.

The school family thanked the trustees of the Dickson-Allen Foundation for their kindness and generosity. The foundation has been very generous to Sacred Heart in the past several years. They basically have funded all of the technology equipment on campus, the new activity center, the high school and elementary library renovation projects, and the science lab renovation.

Lenten Sacrifice



ABSTINENCE

No meat can be taken by those 14 and older on Ash Wednesday and all Fridays.



FASTING

A limit of one full meatless meal by those 18-59 on Ash Wednesday and Good Friday.



SELF-DENIAL

Voluntary acts of self-denial are recommended on weekdays during Lent.



PRAYER AND CHARITY

Can include daily Mass, Scripture study, Stations of the Cross, almsgiving and showing mercy and kindness to others.



Ganado Catechetical Leader honored

The diocesan catechetical office has chosen Mike Sablatura of Assumption of the Blessed Virgin Parish in Ganado as the March Parish Catechetical Leader (PCL). Below is his story.

How long have you been the PCL in Ganado?

Although I had volunteered for several years as a catechist both in the Edna and Ganado parishes, I had never really thought of doing any more than that until one day Monsignor Michael O'Shaughnessy of St. Agnes Parish in Edna asked me about being a youth minister.

Shortly after that, Father Michael Lyons of Assumption Parish in Ganado, asked me if I would be interested in being a full-time youth minister and getting the *Life Teen* program at Assumption Parish in Ganado going. I was very excited about what was offered through the *Life Teen* program and humbly accepted the position.

At the time I took this position in June of 2005, Sister Marietta Hajdik, IWBS, was the overall catechetical leader at Assumption parish. It was a year later, when she left the parish, that I assumed the role of PCL.

What catechetical programs does your parish offer its children?

At the time that I came to Assumption Parish in Ganado there were some catechetical transitions taking place. The typical Wednesday CCD program was being set aside and the *Generations of Faith* program was being implemented. At the same time this was taking place, the *Life Teen* program for high school was also being implemented.

A year later, the parish began a program for the junior high youth called the *EDGE*. Then following that, was a re-introduction of the Wednesday evening model of CCD classes for the elementary-age youth, which we now call *Stepping Stones*.

As of today our *Stepping Stones* program goes from 5:15 - 6:45 p.m. on Wednesdays. We have approximately 100 youth from Kinder to 5th grade registered.

The *Edge* program, which includes 6th to 8th grade, is held on Wednesday evenings, from 7-9 p.m. There are approximately 60 youth attending this program.

Our high school program, which has around 40 registered teens, has three different elements to it. We have a *Theology of the Body for Teens (TOB4teens)* on

Wednesday evening from 7-9 p.m., and we have *Life Nights* on Sunday afternoons from 4-6 p.m. In addition to these programs we have the *Rite of Confirmation (ROC)* class,



Mike Sablatura and son, Colton

which is held one Sunday a month from October to May. These are called Super Sundays because the class goes from 12:30 - 5:30 p.m. and ends with the 6:00 p.m. Sunday Mass.

To assist with these programs in our parish, we have 25 amazing volunteer cat-

echists. Some of these catechists pull double duty serving in both the junior high and the high school ministry. There are specific volunteers who are the main leaders for the different levels of ministry such as a K-5th leader, and a 6-8th leader, and a ROC leader. I myself serve as the youth leader for the high school *Life Nights* and TOB classes.

What is most challenging about your ministry?

The most challenging part of ministry is not whether or not there will be enough volunteers or what curriculum to use. The most challenging part of ministry in general is breaking through the barriers of indifference and secularism. The world is full of distractions and sometimes it seems that the Church and faith journey get put in second place.

What are some of your most happy moments concerning your ministry?

The best moments of ministry are when a young person who has no one pushing them to grow in their faith continues coming to Mass and catechetical programs because they desire it. There have been specific times when a young person has sought to join the Church or get confirmed when there was no one in the home pushing them to make that decision; it was their desire.

Are you in any other church/community ministries?

I am in the Knights of Columbus, and I am also a lector and extraordinary minister of the Eucharist.

Are you married/number of children?

My wife, Rebecca, and I will be married for 20 years this year on August 4. We have four beautiful children: Kayla 18, Brooke 15, Colton 9, and Elizabeth 4. I can't imagine life without the beautiful gift of children.

Diocese Sponsors Workshop on Families and the Bible

On February 18, 2010, over 40 parish catechetical leaders, youth ministers, and others from the Victoria and San Antonio dioceses met at St. Mary's Hall in Victoria for a national workshop on connecting Catholic families with the Bible. Attendees were from twenty parishes. The Center for Ministry Development (CMD) and the Diocese of Victoria Organization of Catechetical Leadership (OCL) co-sponsored this workshop, one of 49 such workshops being held across the United States.

Joan Weber, the CMD presenter, came from Omaha, Neb., to offer practical strategies for making the Bible a vital part of the everyday life of families. The workshop packet provided resources, which can be used in

numerous settings to equip families to share the Word of God at home.

The Center for Ministry Development has published a *Catholic Faith & Family Bible*, which was created to make the Bible



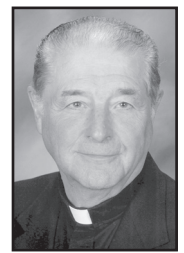
Joan Weber

easier to read and understand for ordinary Catholic families, draw readers into the power of God's Word, and help Catholic families grow in faith together. Most important, Catholic families will discover God's message for their lives today! This Bible has some unique text articles woven throughout each book to aid in family discussion and to highlight

key passages in the Bible. For more information about this Bible go to www.cmdnet.org or stop by the Diocesan Catechetical Office at the chancery in Victoria.

Question Corner

By Father John Dietzen
Catholic News Service



How Long Was Jesus on the Cross?

Q. I'm reminded each Lent of a question about Jesus' death. According to St. Mark's account of the passion, Jesus was crucified at 9 in the morning (the third hour) and died at the ninth hour. This means he hung on the cross for six hours, rather than the three hours we usually assume and the other Gospels say. How is this explained? (New York)

A. Some differences in the Gospels' chronology of Good Friday are traceable to the various themes and theologies of the evangelists who wrote them. But the problem you raise isn't that complicated.

All three synoptic Gospels note the "darkness" over the land from noon to the ninth hour, 3 in the afternoon, after which Jesus died. Neither Matthew nor Luke indicates a time for the crucifixion, but they describe several events after the crucifixion but before the darkness, implying that the time on the cross was somewhat more than three hours.

As he does so often, John makes the whole picture much less neat. The core of Hebrew faith through the centuries had been that God is their only king, a belief reaffirmed every Passover. Significantly then, John tells us (19:14-15) that, at the sixth hour, when Pilate presents Jesus to the Jewish leaders as king, the "chief priests" reject the ancient adherence to God as their only king by declaring, "We have no king but Caesar."

There seems little question that this chronology was adopted by John to connect that rejection of God and Jesus to the sixth hour, the hour when Passover regulations went into effect for the Jews.

John's timing of the crucifixion and death of Jesus would thus be quite different than in the synoptics, but he makes no attempt to provide any further chronology.

In any case, of course, Jesus would have remained on the cross a considerable time after his death while Joseph of Arimathea made arrangements with the authorities to assume responsibility for his body.

Q. When does Lent officially end now? In preparing our Holy Week programs, we are told Holy Thursday, not Holy Saturday, is the last day of Lent. Is that true? (Texas)

A. Yes. Lent concludes on Holy Thursday. Those of us who are older will recall

that for a long time Lent ended at noon on Holy Saturday. This happened because the great liturgies of Holy Thursday, Good Friday and Holy Saturday were all twisted out of shape, and were "celebrated" in relatively brief and informal ceremonies on the morning of those days.

The earlier, long tradition of the church, however, was that the sacred triduum (literally the sacred three days) formed a separate holy time between Lent and the beginning of the Easter season.

Now, therefore, the Mass celebrating the institution of the Eucharist again takes place on Holy Thursday night, and the Easter Vigil liturgy is back where it traditionally belongs, during the night between Holy Saturday and Easter Sunday.

The General Norms for the Liturgical Year and Calendar, promulgated by Pope Paul VI in 1969, states, "Lent lasts from Ash Wednesday to the Mass of the Lord's Supper exclusive" (28).

In other words, Lent ends before the Mass on Holy Thursday evening. The triduum itself begins with the evening Mass on Holy Thursday and reaches its high point in the Easter Vigil, which begins the Easter season.

(A free brochure describing basic Catholic prayers, beliefs and moral precepts is available by sending a stamped, self-addressed envelope to Father John Dietzen, Box 325, Peoria, IL 61651.

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



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Reporting Abuse

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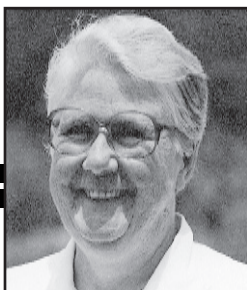
- Call the Chancery at (361) 573-0828 and ask to speak with the bishop or the chancellor;
- Call Rev. Gary Janak (979) 543-3770 or Sr. Emilie Eilers (361) 575-7111, Coordinators of Pastoral Care and Outreach;
- Write to: Most Rev. David E. Fellhauer
Diocese of Victoria
P.O. Box 4070
Victoria, TX 77903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

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

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



SISTERLY THOUGHTS



By Sister Mildred Truchard, IWBS

Go for the Gold during this Lenten Season!

As I write this, I'm surrounded with news of some of the world's finest young athletes vying with one another for coveted gold medals. All of them have made great sacrifices to develop their skills, even leaving their homes or native lands to live near their coaches and training facilities. Many of them have persevered in their training and performance in spite of severe pain, injury and personal setbacks. Families often have made major adaptations in their lifestyle to support and follow their youngsters' participation in training and performances.

One has to admire the dedication of these young people who have worked so hard to prepare for such an event. Every one of them has earned the right to represent his or her native land in the world arena of the Olympic Games. Each one is among the best in his or her chosen field. They are truly to be admired as they attempt to bring home that gold.

As these athletes enter the arena, they know that they must give it all they've got; there's no such thing as playing it safe and putting on a mediocre performance, if they want to win. Yet when they give their all, they're likely to make that mistake or take that fall that will knock them out of contention for the gold. Too bad! We all sympathize with them as they tumble, even though we realize that there can be only one first-place winner!

We can learn a lot from these dedicated

young people as we watch them and imitate their dedication.

Saint Paul, too, must have watched the Olympics of his day and learned from them. He tells us, "Do you not know that the runners in the stadium all run in the race, but only one wins the prize? Run so as to win. Every athlete exercises discipline in every way. They do it to win a perishable crown, but we an imperishable one. Thus I do not run aimlessly; I do not fight as if I were shadowboxing. No, I drive my body and train it for fear that, after having preached to others, I myself should be disqualified." (1 Corinthians 9:24-27)

We have a challenge ahead of us as we strive for spiritual gold during this Lenten season. Let us persevere in our training in the pursuit of virtue. Let us be willing to make sacrifices in order to achieve our goal of greater union with God and greater service to our neighbor. Let us be an example of faith in God, even when we are suffering pain, illness, injury or personal distress. Let us "give it all we've got" in our daily struggle to keep mindful of God's loving presence. When we stumble, let us get up, dust ourselves off, and get back into the race; at the same time, let us reach out a supporting hand to help others who may have stumbled! If we can persevere, we'll be able to capture the spiritual "gold" in the race of life! We can and should ALL be winners!

Catholic Schools continue to progress in technology

Nazareth Academy has taken delivery of four Dual Touch SMART boards (bringing the total to five SMART boards at Nazareth Academy) to utilize in teaching their students. The new Dual Touch technology allows for two students and/or student and teacher to use the board at the same time. The original boards only allow for one person to "touch" the board at a time.

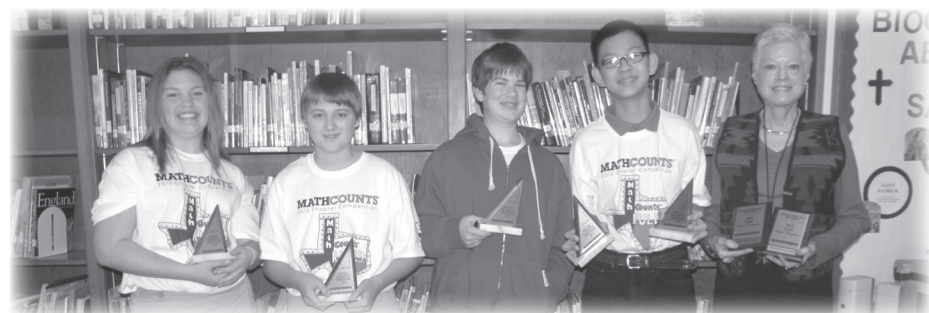
Data Projections is the largest distributor of SMART boards in the state of Texas, and according to Mr. Gary Teeter, director of training from Data Projections, Nazareth Academy is only the second school in the state of Texas (the first being in Dallas ISD) to take delivery of this latest smart board technology from SMART, Inc.

"Nazareth is dedicated to having the best and most cutting edge technology for our teachers and students," said Scott Kloesel, principal of NA.

To implement this technology, it takes dedicated teachers willing to learn it even on their day off. Nazareth Academy teachers Dana Howard, Sherry Kainer,

Debby Chen, Christina Martin, Julie Jan-
ecka, Vanessa Garza, Rose Burkett, Lark
Pesek, Gail Bragg, Kathy Villafranca,
Roseanna Villafranca, Judy Korenek,
Assistant Principal Sr. Bernarda Bludau,
and Principal Scott Kloesel forewent their
day off on Friday, February 5, in order to
attend the training session for SMART
boards. It was an incredible session
as these SMART boards are AMAZ-
ING. The teachers are looking forward to
using this incredible tool in the classroom.
The school currently has one Smart Board
installed and the Dual-Touch Smart Boards
will be installed in the next few weeks.

The Diocese of Victoria Catholic
Schools always strives to be first in
technology. St. Anthony Elementary in
Columbus was the first Catholic School in
the diocese to install SMART boards for
each grade level. They installed interactive,
electronic white boards, one for each
grade, 1st through 8th, in the 2008-2009
school year.



NA TAKES 1ST IN VICTORIA CHAPTER MATH COUNTS—Nazareth Academy (NA) has won the Victoria Chapter MathCounts competition held Saturday, February 13, 2010, at the Our Lady of Victory Gymnasium. The team, coached by NA Jr. High math teacher Mrs. Rose Burkett (r.), consisted of 8th grader David Du and 7th graders Jake Smitherman (c.), Richard McCleon (c. l.), and Shelbie VanBeveren (l.); they took 1st place. David Du won the Individual Title. The school receives \$200 due to the accomplishment, and the team advances to the State Competition to be held in Austin on March 26.

El Campo Life Advocates Support the Sanctity of Life

El Campo Life Advocates' Annual Sanctity of Human Life Program was held the evening of Jan. 27, at St. Philip the Apostle Catholic Church. Paul Tsika II, executive director of Restoration Ranch in Midfield, was the guest speaker. The evening began with the welcome and introduction by Denise Couey, coordinating director of El Campo Life Advocates and the Sanctity of Life Celebration.



Paul Tsika II, executive director of Restoration Ranch in Midfield

The Rev. Otha Edison Jr., president, gave the opening prayer. Tarilyn Shelton did the honor of lighting the "Candle of Life." Music was then performed by a group of ECHS students, "Left of Centre." The group includes Anthony Cruz, Travis

Deiss, Gerard Marcaurele and Michael Van Gorp. Also, "A Baby's Prayer" was sung by Tiffany Taylor, an ECHS sophomore. She was accompanied on piano by Vicky Brooks. Father Gary Janak, gave the closing prayer, followed by refreshments in the parish hall.

Some of the organizations El Campo Life Advocates support are Alliance for Life Ministries, American Life League, National Right to Life Committee Inc., Pregnancy Help Center, Priest's for Life and Texas Right to Life. They also plan to organize a new project this year. That project will be hosting baby showers periodically to collect designated items, such as Pampers, baby cribs and whatever items are most needed. These items will be taken to the Gabriel Project Warehouse in Victoria or perhaps shared with the Blessing Cup for those desperately in need of infant items.

El Campo Life Advocates, a non-profit organization, also hosts Life Chain once a year, which will be held in October this year.



KJT CONTRIBUTES TO SHINER BUS FUND—KJT Society #20, Shiner, held a Matching Grant Raffle for the Shiner Catholic School New Bus Fund. During the annual Catholic School Fall Festival, prizes were awarded from the raffle. With the proceeds from the raffle and a \$300 matching grant from the State KJT Office, a check for \$1,466 was presented recently to Robert Whitworth, principal of Shiner Catholic Schools. Pictured are Glen Kloesel, society secretary; Edwin Machacek, society vice-president; Mr. Whitworth, David Wagner, society president; and Elizabeth Wagner, society treasurer.

Shiner Heritage Quilters present "The Supper Quilt"

SHINER—The "Supper Quilt," a monumental masterpiece modeled on Leonardo da Vinci's famous work, "The Last Supper," will be on exhibit at the First United Methodist Church Activity Center in Shiner.

Exhibit days and times are Friday, March 19, 10 a.m. – 4 p.m., and Saturday, March 20, 9:30 a.m. – noon.

This quilt, made by Dr. Don Locke of Waxahachie, Texas, contains 51,816 half-inch squares of 350 different fabrics, some hand-dyed by the artist to obtain the correct color. It is 15.3-foot wide and 5.6-foot high. While working full time as a dentist, Dr. Locke took 2.5 years to sew the pieces together. He estimates that there are 1200 hours of work in this effort.

Dr. Locke will be present during the entire exhibit to visit with the attendees. He will give two formal lectures, one at 3:00 p.m., Friday, on the spiritual aspects of the quilt and one at 9:45 a.m., Saturday, on making the quilt.

This exhibit is sponsored by the Shiner Heritage Quilters as a "gift" to the community. There is no charge, however a free-will offering will be appreciated. We welcome groups as well as individu-

als. Come to see this magnificent work of art that is inspiring to both quilters and people of faith.

For more information, please visit www.shinerheritagequilters.org; www.thesupper.net; or call Irene Cerny at (361) 594-3185.

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Sweet 16 Says “No” to Gifts, Asks for Donations Instead

COCONUT CREEK, Fla. — Just nine miles west of Atlantic City in Linwood, New Jersey, lives a very generous teenager. Her name is Vanessa Agovida and she just celebrated her 16th birthday on Dec. 27, 2009.

Instead of planning a big bash and receiving a pile of gifts, Vanessa wanted to make her sweet 16 even sweeter. And she wanted to do that, not for herself, but for others who have a greater need. So, in lieu of presents, she asked her guests for cash donations to *Food For The Poor*.

“I realized I have a lot of things,” said Vanessa, just a few days after her birthday party. “I have a cell phone, I have a computer, I have an iPod, I have all these things I don’t need, and there are so many people who need a lot more.”

The 16-year-old heard about the millions around the world who are hungry and poor, and struggling to survive through Father Tony Palazzolo. He travels around the country speaking on behalf of *Food For The Poor*. He also travels with the organization, helping to lead mission trips and to personally help and minister to those who are poverty-stricken.

Several weeks ago, he visited St. Joseph’s Parish where Vanessa and her family are parishioners. Father Palazzolo’s homily moved and inspired the teen and as she walked out of the church she said she couldn’t stop asking herself, “What can I do to make a difference? How can I help?”

“Your heart was touched by the Holy Spirit,” Palazzolo said to Vanessa in response to an e-mail she sent him inquiring about how she could help. “As I talked about extreme poverty in Haiti and Jamaica, you got the message, and acted on it. I am so very proud of you.”

Vanessa remembers the exact moment inside the church when she realized she had

to help break the cycle of poverty.

“I remember the part of Father Tony’s homily when he told a story about the children looking at him in awe when he used a Band-Aid to patch up a child in one of the countries he was working in,” she said. “The children had never even seen a Band-Aid. Hearing all of this, I felt I have so much that I just take for granted.”

Vanessa didn’t take her guests’ gifts for granted. She hopes many children will benefit from her donation. She raised more than \$1,000 for *Food For The Poor* that evening, and donations are still coming. She also said she does not want to stop there. Vanessa plans on enlisting the help of her youth group, “Couples for Christ Youth for Family and Life,” to continue raising money for *Food For The Poor* and all those it serves, especially the children.

Vanessa Agovida



“Deep down,” the teen added, “this feels more rewarding than any gift I could have received.”

To support Vanessa Agovida’s effort, please make checks out to *Food For The Poor*, include “SC# 70156” in the memo area of your personal check and your donations will be tracked to the teen’s initiative. All gifts are tax-deductible.

Food For The Poor, the largest international relief and development organization in the United States, does much more than feed millions of hungry poor in 17 countries of the Caribbean and Latin America. This interdenominational Christian agency provides emergency relief assistance, clean water, medicines, educational materials, homes, support for orphans and the aged, skills training and micro-enterprise development assistance, with more than 96 percent of all donations going directly to programs that help the poor. For more information please visit, www.foodforthepoor.org.

STUDENTS RECOGNIZED

Four freshmen students at Sacred Heart Catholic School in Hallettsville have been recognized for their performance on the National Educational Development Tests (NEDT). The students are Kristen Henke, daughter of Joe and Ana Henke; Adrienne Klimitchek, daughter of Richard and Sheila Klimitchek; Mary Kossa, daughter of Michael and Linda Kossa; and Christopher Kunz, son of Darren and Donna Kunz. The students were awarded national certificates indicating their composite score is at or above the 90th percentile, according to national norms. The four areas that are tested are English Usage, Mathematics Usage, Natural Sciences Reading and Social Studies Reading. The questions are designed to test students’ ability to understand the kinds of material they might encounter later in their education.



• Position Available • Executive Director Texas Catholic Conference

The Executive Director of the Texas Catholic Conference is responsible for advocacy with the Texas Legislature, state and federal agencies that affect the ministries of the Church in Texas, and the Texas State Delegation in Congress.

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Must be a practicing Catholic in good standing.

Resumes will be accepted until March 31. A more comprehensive job description is available on the TCC Web site: www.txcatholic.org

Submit resume to: Victoria Esparza, Director of Human Resources, Archdiocese of San Antonio, 2718 West Woodlawn Avenue, San Antonio, TX 78228

Youth Calendar of Events

- 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

Jr. High Fiesta held in Hallettsville

HALLETTSVILLE—The Diocese of Victoria’s annual Jr. High Fiesta took place on Sunday, January 31, 2010, at the Knights of Columbus Hall in Hallettsville. Over 350 junior high school youth took part in the fun and faith-filled day! Gene Monterastelli and Brad Farmer, of APeX Ministries, led the young people with their captivating storytelling, juggling, and personal faith experiences. Many

ship Team, made up of high school youth from throughout the diocese. The day was concluded with Bishop David Fellhauer and seven priests from the diocese concelebrating Mass for the young people.



(above) Participants take some time to get to know each other. (left) APeX Ministries bring audience members up for presentation.



of the young people had a chance to go on stage and take part in APeX’s interactive sessions. The LIFE TEEN Music Ministry from Our Lady of Sorrows in Victoria led the youth in upbeat songs of praise. Also leading the young people was the Youth Leader-



(above) Bishop Fellhauer and seven priests concelebrate Liturgy during Fiesta. (left) The OLS Music Ministry and YLT members lead participants in praise and worship.



Joseph Wenske becomes Eagle Scout

On January 31, 2010, Joseph Benedict Wenske received his Eagle Scout Award. This award represents another step forward by the scout toward the BSA's goals of developing citizenship, of imparting character development and enhancing personal fitness. While the Eagle Scout Badge is one of seven badges that the scout earns, the achievement of the Eagle Scout Badge is indeed the highest honor that a scout may achieve.

Moulton Scoutmaster of Troop 220, Marlon Novosod, presided over the court of honor held at the Moulton Luther Hall. Also present was Mava Jalufka, his Cub Scout leader and fellow Eagle Scouts Joel Novosod, Jacob Novosad and Bradley Roznovsky.

For his Eagle Scout project, Joseph cleaned and restored the historical Old Moulton Cemetery. He removed trash, pulled weeds, cut small trees and shrubs, and mowed. Additionally, he replaced over 120 rusty, bent and fallen metal rods with permanent grave markers using leftover granite pieces donated by Pesek-Hermes



Memorial from Hallettsville.

Before placing these granite markers over the gravesites, Joseph was also required to score and cut the stone. He was able to do this after learning the skill from Pesek-Hermes Memorial. Old Moulton Cemetery is now a clean and renewed resting place for deceased members of the Moulton community.

This cemetery has an interesting history. Isaac D. Hamilton, a survivor of the Goliad Massacre, is buried there. He died in 1859. Many other early Moulton inhabitants are also laid to rest in this cemetery.

Joseph is the son of Benedict and Elizabeth Wenske. He is the grandson of Paul and Johnine Leininger of Shiner and Mary Wenske and the late Roman Wenske of Moulton. He is a senior at St. Paul High School in Shiner. Joseph is Student Council Historian, active in the Moulton Live Oak 4-H Club, and plays football, tennis and track. Joseph is also a member of the Third Degree Knights of Columbus, Shiner.

Pro-Life Stands Continue at Local Churches and Schools

Several members of Sts. Peter and Paul Parish in Frelsburg recently attended the 2010 Right to Life March and Rally in Austin. Those attending were l. to r.: Jackie Schramm, Cece-

lia Schramm, Michelle Kubicek, Adam Kozel, Rachel Schertz, Carol Schertz, Jim Kubicek and Derek Bahner. Also traveling with the group but not pictured were David and Norma Zatopek of St. Mary's Parish in Ellinger.



On January 20, 2010, a group of 39 students and adults from St. Paul High in Shiner traveled to Washington, DC, for the National March For Life. The trip was amazing and will not be forgotten. On behalf of the youth of our community, a huge "THANK YOU" is extended to everyone who made this trip possible: supporters of the fundraisers, organizers, parents, chaperones, and the students. Thank you also to Sisters Catherine, Ann, and Mary Anthony, Father Tommy for his spiritual guidance during the trip, and to Father Bob for his support and for planting the seed of this trip five years ago. The group's sign reads "Americans are born to be free, If only they were free to be born."



SHINER RESIDENTS GATHER TO MARK 37TH ANNIVERSARY OF ROE V. WADE—Approximately 70 adults and youth gathered for a candlelight vigil at Welhausen Park on January 22, 2010. The service began with a song, and then Scripture passages and prayers were offered for an end to the horror of abortion. Since the legalization of abortion in the United States,

millions of Americans have had their lives violently terminated. Father Bob Knippenberg offered a stirring talk in which he gave his own personal testimony of how his grandmother years ago adopted his own mother and uncle. Finally, Deacon Joseph Machacek led the assembly in prayers of petition for our leaders, for women in difficult pregnancies, for children in danger of having their lives terminated and for a change in our nation's heart to "choose life" and shun the culture of death. (Photo by Kathleen Leininger Photography)

Boy Scouts hold activities in Victoria

Our Lady of Victory Cathedral was presented a plaque in appreciation for their generosity in allowing the DeLeon District of the Boy Scouts of America the use of OLV facilities for scouting functions. David Kouba, district advancement committee,

presented the plaque to Father Charles Otsiwah, OLS parochial vicar, on behalf of OLV at a banquet held at Trinity Lutheran Church January 22, 2010. Father Charles also provided the invocation and benediction. Pictured also is Charles Kutchka of OLV.



(right) At the February 6, 2010, award banquet, the Catholic Committee on Scouting for the Diocese of Victoria presented Father Greg Korenek, pastor of Holy Family Catholic Church, with a plaque acknowledging the parish's support of the Boy Scouts throughout the years. Mrs. Ann Martin presented the plaque to Father Greg on behalf of the Catholic Committee on Scouting for the Diocese of Victoria of which she is a member.



The Bronze Pelican and St. George adult emblems were presented at the Catholic Committee on Scouting Adult Awards Banquet in Victoria February 6, 2010. Bishop David E. Fellhauer stands with the recipients for the 2010 adult awards. The Bronze Pelican emblem was awarded to Dr. Frank Parma (center right) of Troop 364 in Victoria. The St. George emblem was awarded to Mark Westerman (left) of Troop 368 in Victoria and Donnie Tegeler (right) of Troop 135 in Ganado.



Catholic Committee on Scouting holds adult awards banquet

By Cynthia Brewer

The Catholic Committee on Scouting for the Victoria Diocese held its annual adult awards banquet at Holy Family Catholic Church in Victoria Saturday, February 6, 2010.

The afternoon began with Mass at the church for all deceased scouts of the Diocese of Victoria. The Mass was concelebrated with Bishop David Fellhauer and Rev. Greg Korenek, pastor of Holy Family.

Catholic Committee on Scouting members, David Kouba and David Wearden, presented the Bronze Pelican and St. George Adult emblems. The Bronze Pelican was presented to Dr. Frank S. Parma, a family physician and member of Our Lady of Victory Parish in Victoria. Dr. Parma is an Eagle Scout and has been active in scouting for the past 23 years, with 13 years in the Diocese of Victoria. He became a committee member for Troop 364 in May 2005, served as assistant scoutmaster for Troop 364 from 2005 to 2007, and served as scoutmaster from 2007 to 2009. He received the Scoutmaster Award of Merit in 2009. Currently, he is serving as assistant scoutmaster and district committee member and is a facilitator for the Pope Pius XII religious award. Dr. Parma is a member of the Texas and American Medical Associations, is a 3rd degree Knight of Columbus, has received several Army Medals, and has been Aviation Medical Examiner from 1993 to present.

Receiving the St. George emblem were Donnie Gene Tegeler of Troop 135 in Ganado and Mark Westerman of Troop 368 in Victoria.

Mr. Donnie Tegeler has been involved in scouting for the past 34 years. Twenty-eight of those years have been served in the Diocese of Victoria. He has been the scoutmaster of Troop 135 for several years, Venturing Crew 135 Advisor and

Den Leader in Pack 105. He has served his church, community, the Diocese of Victoria Catholic Committee on Scouting and the youth of his community as a teacher and Boy Scout leader. Mr. Tegeler teaches speech therapy at Industrial School District and is a St. James Lutheran Church parishioner who also serves on the church council and is the Sunday school director. He has helped the Catholic Committee on Scouting with its annual retreat, which his troop always attends. Mr. Tegeler also serves on the Ganado School Board and was selected the Jackson County Citizen of the Year in 1996. His work in scouting has made available to many boys and young men opportunities that they would not have had without his dedication.

Mr. Mark Westerman is a Certified Public Accountant and a member of Holy Family Parish in Victoria. He has been in service to scouting for the past 13 years, all in the Diocese of Victoria. Serving Troop 368 Committee since 1996, he is also the Chartered Organization Rep. for the Kiwanis Club of Victoria and a merit badge counselor. He and his wife, Laura, have served as the "married couple" for the Pope Pius XII retreat for two years. He is a member of KC council 9088, the Serra Club of Victoria, the Victoria Diocesan Financial Board and the St. Joseph School Board. Mr. Westerman has served his diocese, his parish, Our Lady of Victory and St. Joseph Catholic schools, and many community organizations, such as Victoria Little League, VCAM, Texas A&M Former Students Assoc. and Kiwanis Club of Victoria, for many years.

Bishop Fellhauer gave his remarks, explaining the background and meaning of the scouting religious emblems. He thanked the CCS and all the adults who work so hard and put so much time into the religious side of scouting. He then gave the benediction and final blessing.



YOUTH KEEP BUSY—Members of the Holy Rosary Youth Group of Hostyn gathered to decorate Valentine cards for one of their visits to the nursing home. The residents always enjoy seeing and visiting with the children. Hostyn parish residents were also tickled to have their pictures taken with the youth. Their annual Valentine bake sale was just held and deemed to be a success. This group recently sponsored the Souper Bowl of Caring and are currently soliciting prizes for their May raffle, which is their primary fundraiser of the year. The support of the parish and community enable this group to support their nursing home projects, Relay for Life, La Grange Volunteer Fire Department, school supplies for the needy, Christian Foundation for Children and Aging and other causes throughout the year. Pictured are some of the youth, who brought valentines to the nursing home, with resident Carrie Hrachovy. Youth participating were Marissa Rubio, Avery Behrens, Sterling Behrens, Bethany Kallus, Blane Heinrich, Brook Rauch, Amy Rackley, Audrey Cernoch, Ariel Svec, Emily Rubio, Aric Svec, Coy Heinrich and Carlos Rubio.



Members of Knights of Columbus Barnabas Held Council No. 3371 of Nada contributed a generous donation of \$25,000 to Father Edward Schoellmann, a Maryknoll Missionary, to help build a church in the Bukundi Mission in Africa. The KCs presented the check to his family recently. Knights presenting the check (right) are Father Joe Vrana, chaplain and pastor of St. Mary in Nada; Stephen Spanihel, grand knight; and Tom Gold, deputy grand knight. Receiving the check are (l-r) Leo and Jean (sister) Leopold, Beatrice and Walter (brother) Schoellmann, James (brother) and Connie Schoellmann and Edward and Ernestine Schneider, friends. *Contributed Photo*

Nada KCs support Father Schoellmann's African mission

Reprinted from
El Campo Leader-News

NADA—With the help of St. Mary's Catholic Church in Nada and other individuals, along with a \$25,000 donation from the Nada Knights of Columbus, Father Edward Schoellmann will be able to begin the building of a church in Africa.

Father Schoellmann, a native of St. Mary's, has dedicated his life to the Maryknoll Mission in different areas of Africa. He is presently doing his mission work in the Bukundi area, a town situated in the northern part of Tanzania south of the Serengeti Plains.

Rainfall in this area is just above desert conditions, yet the local people living in this area engage in agriculture, such as farming cotton, maize, corn and keeping extensive herds of goats, sheep and cattle.

According to Father Schoellmann, Bukundi is rapidly growing with Catholics moving in from surrounding areas, and so there is a growing interest in religion and a full fledged parish. Depending on support, they hope to build a church, parish house and small adjacent buildings for teaching and catechetical staff. An initial church

structure for about 400 parishioners is the beginning stage for the proposed parish of Bukundi. Bishop Balina of Shinyanago Diocese has given Father Schoellmann support in starting this project.

Father Schoellmann has been a Maryknoll missionary for more than 44 years. His first 25 years were spent in Africa in the Ndooleji – Shinyanago, Tanzania area, and Russia for some years.

Father Schoellmann's desire has always been to help the poor and needy in the African countries and to help these people find God in their lives.

If you'd like to make a donation to Father Schoellmann's mission, please send checks, made out to Maryknoll Mission, to Ernestine Schneider, 2545 CR 116, Garwood, TX 77442, (979) 758-3459, or to Rev. Richard Callahan, MM, Treasurer General, P. O. Box 305, Maryknoll, NY 10545, and put Fr. Schoellmann Mission Account in the MEMO area of the check.

The KCs raise the majority of their funds from two annual fundraisers, the Lenten Fish Fry and the October "Test of the Best" BBQ Cook Off and Raffle and other donations.



Diocesan Task Force Committee members with Spiritual Renewal Center director, Ron Friedel. Pictured from left: Cynthia Goerig (director, Diocesan Liturgical Commission), Dick Scheibelhut, Mary Lupita Reyes (Diocesan NAFC coordinator), Ron Friedel, Christella Alvarez and Laurie Bautista.

Planning for the North American Forum on the Catechumenate

Members of the Diocesan Task Force Committee for the North American Forum on the Catechumenate (NAFC) met at the Spiritual Renewal Center in February to work out some of the details for the four-day Institute, The Initiation Experience: Beginnings Plus. The Institute will be held at the Spiritual Renewal Center from August 19-22, 2010.

Ron Friedel, director of the Spiritual Renewal Center, noted that the center will be able to accommodate 100 participants. The large, state-of-the-art multi-purpose building will be the site for the talks and breakout meetings, as well as the full breakfasts, lunches, dinners and snacks. The chapel will serve as the center for experiencing the Rites of Initiation, and the cabins will be available for overnight lodging.

The Rite of Christian Initiation of Adults (RCIA) has been adopted by many diocesan parishes as the norm of entrance for adults into the faith community of the Catholic Church. The Church's document the Constitution on the Sacred Liturgy, which flowed from the Second Vatican Council in the mid 1960s, gave specific directives to restore the rites of adult initiation in the Church, and it decreed that the RCIA process be implemented as closely

as possible in all parishes and missions.

This institute is the ideal opportunity for clergy, RCIA team members, musicians and all who are involved with RCIA, to expand their understanding of the Rite, as well as to gain a more thorough vision of the RCIA process.

Clergy and parish leaders who do not have the RCIA in their parishes will have the opportunity to learn how to begin the RCIA process and effectively implement it in their own parishes.

Traditionally, those entering the Church through RCIA come into a welcoming community of believers with a strong and lasting understanding of the Catholic faith and become active and energizing members of the Church.

Registration for the Institute has already begun. Early registration is through June 18, 2010. Deadline for registration is July 22, 2010. This institute is offered nationwide and draws mainly from the local and regional areas. If your parish is interested, it is recommended to begin planning now.

For more information, please contact Mary Lupita Reyes (m.reyes0707@yahoo.com -361.482.9932) or the NAFC Web site www.naforum.org.



PHANTOM BAKE SALE HELPS SCHOOL—Officers of Catholic Family Fraternal of Texas (KJZT) Society 100 Our Lady of Snows, Bay City, present Rev. Casimir Jarzombek of Holy Cross Church and Stephanie Kucera, principal of Holy Cross School, each with a check for \$594 from funds generated from the 2009 Phantom Bake Sale. Society Officers pictured with "Father Casey" and Principal Kucera are Karen Owen (l.), secretary, and Mildred Babik (c.r.), treasurer.



SHINER MAYOR PROCLAIMS JCDA SUNDAY—On February 10, JCDA Court St. Paul #1604, Shiner, met with Mayor Henry Hilscher to sign the proclamation for JCDA Sunday on February 21, 2010. Pictured are, front row, l. to r.: Sydney Hermann, 2nd Vice-President Mary Adamek, Taylor Wenske, 1st Vice President Jill McElroy, Mayor Henry Hilscher, Macy Grabarkievtz, President Kyla Schacherl, Mallory Grabarkievtz; second row: Katarina Leist, Delynn Pesek, Ashlyn Patek, Gracey Novosad, Hope Kapavik, Bailey Machacek, Bethany Nevlud, Samantha Siegel, Sydney Grabarkievtz and Kristin Schacherl.



www.wordgamesforcatholics.com

10 Things to Consider for the RCIA

By Father Rick Hilgartner, assistant director of the Secretariat of Divine Worship at the USCCB

During Lent in parishes nationwide and around the world, candidates for the sacraments of initiation (Baptism, Confirmation, and Eucharist) experience final preparation to become members of the Catholic Church. The “Elect,” as they are called, depend on the support and the encouragement of the whole Church to both welcome them and join with them in following Christ. Here are ten things Catholics can do to help them on their way:

1. Pray

Parishes post the names, and often times photos, of those preparing for baptism and reception into the full communion of the Catholic Church, so that the community can offer support. Parishioners can commit to pray for a particular member of the elect and let them know of this gift of prayer as they prepare for Baptism.

2. Listen

The journey of those in the Rite of Christian Initiation of Adults (RCIA) can be an example for all, as the Elect listen intently to the Word of God and take concrete steps to follow him. Their steps can inspire, especially during Lent as Christians strive to follow the Lord more closely. Time spent hearing their stories and experiences can move listeners’ hearts.

3. Participate

The RCIA process includes a number of public rituals in Lent: the Rite of Election, the Scrutinies, and the Preparation Rites. Many of these take place at Sunday Masses in parishes. Attending those Masses is a way to show support for the Elect.

4. Attend the Easter Vigil

The Great Vigil of Easter is the “night of nights,” the liturgy for Holy Saturday declares. It is the night during which the Church keeps vigil for the resurrection of Jesus. It is during the Easter Vigil that the Sacraments of Baptism and Confirmation are celebrated and new members are welcomed into the Church. This “most blessed of all nights,” as the Exsultet on Holy Saturday proclaims, celebrates in ancient rituals the central mysteries of the faith. This celebration is long, but it is the heart of the Church’s worship and speaks clearly to fill participants with the joy of the Resurrection.

5. Have a welcoming spirit

In the weeks after their initiation, the newly baptized, now called “neophytes,” look for their place in the Church community. Parishioners can make them feel welcome by encouraging them to be part of an activity, a group, or a ministry.

6. Witness

The RCIA reminds people that God is present and active, that He continues to speak to all. It is a reminder that how you act, what you say, and what you do can reflect the presence of Christ. Being “witnesses” (see Acts of the Apostles 1:8) of what Christ is doing in one’s life speaks to others.

7. Invite

As witnesses, Christians are called to share their faith in some way. Sometimes it means noticing others who are searching, who might benefit from encouragement or an invitation to learn more about the Catholic faith. Evangelization calls for a member of the Church to share one’s faith. Just inviting a friend or neighbor to Mass

can be a powerful statement that allows the Lord to reach out through this gesture.

8. Get Involved

The RCIA has many facets. Each depends on dedicated parishioners (along with the clergy, catechists, and other staff members) to facilitate, teach, lead, and serve as sponsors. There are many ways to share one’s faith and gifts to become involved.

9. Ongoing Conversion

In addition to those preparing for Baptism, the RCIA also includes those already baptized Christians who are preparing for reception into the full communion of the Catholic Church. This can be celebrated any time. Those preparing for reception (and Confirmation and first reception the Eucharist) remind Christians that all are called to follow the Lord, who is always speaking and calling people to repentance— ongoing conversion and a change of heart— resulting in more authentic disciples.

10. Know that Mystagogy is for all

After celebrating the Sacraments of Baptism, Confirmation, and Eucharist, the newly initiated continue their formation in the faith in the period called Mystagogy (which means “interpretation of mystery”), when they reflect on their encounter with Christ in the sacraments and learn more about their faith. This period is ongoing and essentially what all members of the Church do throughout our lives: grow deeper in faith and relationship with Christ, constantly discerning his will.

NEW TESTAMENT EVENTS

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

ANNUNCIATION	EPIPHANY	PENTECOST
ASCENSION	LAST SUPPER	RESURRECTION
BAPTISM	MARTYRDOM	SERMON
CONVERSION	MIRACLES	TEMPTATION
CRUCIFIXION	NATIVITY	TRIAL

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



Family Puzzle Contest Prize: A Maryknoll Book of Prayer

A Maryknoll Book of Prayer, edited by Michael Leach and Susan Perry and published by Orbis Books, will be the March Family Puzzle Contest Prize.

It features a few poems from Catherine J. Buchta of Garwood, Texas, one of which is printed below with her permission:

The Body of Christ

The Lord has given us eyes to see
The wonders He has made,
From smallest leaf to tallest tree
His majesty displayed.

The Lord has given us ears to hear
His message loud and clear:
If we love God and our fellow man,
His kingdom will be near.

The Lord has given us lips to speak
His truth to all we meet.
Let us bring His peace and love
To everyone we greet.

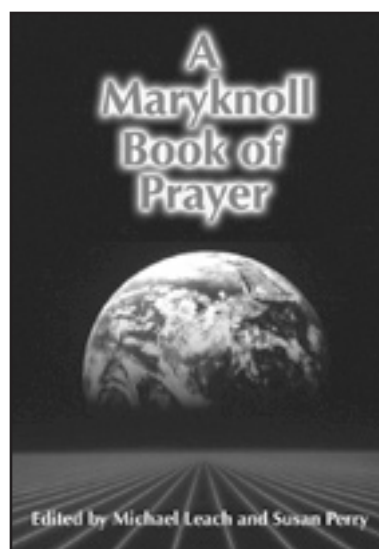
The Lord has given us hands to do
His work which must be done.
Let us serve our fellow man
As taught by His own Son.

The Lord has given us feet to walk
The path Christ walked before.
The Christian path is hard to walk,
But it leads to Heaven’s door.

By Catherine J. Buchta
Garwood, Texas

We offer this book at this time to honor Father Edward Schoellmann, a Maryknoll Missionary from Nada, Texas (see story on page 11). He is currently working to build up a parish in Bukundi, in the Diocese of Shinyanga, Tanzania, Africa.

Play the Family Puzzle Contest for a chance to win this book of prayers. To purchase this book or other Maryknoll books, please go to: <http://www.orbis-books.com/>



Chrism Mass

Chrism Mass
(Blessing of Holy Oils)
Tuesday, March 30, at 10 a.m.
at Our Lady of
Victory Cathedral

Webinar

Don’t know what a Webinar is? It is a class Father Bob Knippenberg hosts from the convenience of your own home and computer; you will be able to log on to the Webinar and both see and hear Father Bob’s presentations. The latest ones have been “Liturgical Changes.” Go to www.sscmshiner.org for log on information.

Family Puzzle Contest

The next Family Puzzle Contest Winner will win “A Maryknoll Book of Prayer” by Orbis Books. See book review on this page.

The winner of the February Family Puzzle Contest and “How to Inherit the Earth” by Scott A. Bessenecker, is Elaine Janak of Sacred Heart Parish in Hallettsville. The book may be purchased, at the price of \$12, online at <http://ivpress.com/cgi-ivpress/book.pl/code=3728>.

The winner of the youth puzzle contest in the under-10-age group is Katherine Gubbels (8) of St. Philip in El Campo. She will receive a gift from the Incarnate Word Gift Shop. The final winners of Frank McKinney’s “Dead Fred, Flying Lunchboxes, and the Good Luck Circle” are Joshua Morris (13) of St. Rose of Lima, Schulenburg, and Stacie Garcia (18) of Our Lady of Sorrows, Victoria.

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 March 25 for a chance to win “A Maryknoll Book of Prayer.” Youth 18 years of age and younger will have the opportunity to receive a gift from the Incarnate Word Gift Shop (youth, please state age).

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“I See You:” From Augustine to Avatar

Commentary on the Intersection of Faith, Sex, & Culture

Continued from p. 5

distorts?

As I was pondering this question, I was reminded of a remarkable statement of St. Louis de Montfort's in *True Devotion to the Blessed Virgin*. There he writes of how St. Denis was so taken by the “wondrous charms” and “incomparable beauty” of the Blessed Virgin that “he would have taken her for a goddess . . . had not his well-grounded faith taught him otherwise” (*True Devotion* 49).

I'm speculating here, but I wonder if it just might be that some of the goddess worship of various cultures throughout history is a universal sense of the mystery of Mary, or even a kind of Marian encounter – but they mistake her “incomparable beauty” for a goddess because they don't know the true faith. And perhaps rather than dismissing such goddess worshipers as “pagans” we should show such people the same compassion that St. Paul showed the Athenians with their famous altar “To an Unknown God.” Instead of dismissing them, Paul yearned to tell them who this unknown God really was (see Acts 17:22-23).

In this same spirit, shouldn't we say to all the “earth-goddess” worshipers of history: “Let me tell you the name of this mysterious

and beautiful feminine presence you feel. She is *not* divine, she is one of us. But she is so beautiful, and we are indeed tempted to mistake her for a goddess, because she has been *divinized* by God. And this is a testimony of what the true God wants to do with each and every one of us (see *Catechism* 460). Do not worship

her! But *do* let her beauty awaken the hope in you of participating in the divine life which is the source of her beauty.”

In this way, rather than condemning those misguided by nature worship and eco-religion, we would be lovingly leading them to true worship. And at the same time, we'd be saying, “I see you.”

Umbert the Unborn by Gary Cangemi



(right) Third grade 1st place winner Alex Bonorden poses with master of ceremonies Grand Knight Dennis Lockstedt. Alex was also one of four students who scored 100 points on the written test.

(below) Holy Family and the Knights of Columbus Fifth Annual Catechism Contest judges were, from left, Betty Migura, Melicent Bryarly and Bob Bryarly.



Holy Family Catechism Contest Report Results

The finals of the Fifth Annual Catechism Contest sponsored by Knights of Columbus Council 9088 were held in the auditorium of the Holy Family Parish in Victoria on Saturday, February 20, 2010. Master of ceremonies of the event was Grand Knight Dennis Lockstedt. The judges were Betty Migura, Melicent Bryarly and Bob Bryarly. Ray Beth Sills operated the power point and Eddie Huse manned the controls of the Jeopardy Board. Thanks to the generosity of the K.C. Council, the following prizes were awarded to each of the winners in Grades 1-8: First Place: \$100; Second Place: \$30; Third Place: \$20; Fourth Place: \$10.

Winners were as follows: Grade 1: 1st Emma Pratka, 2nd Stefanie Trevino, 3rd Vanessa Oubre, 4th Christine Wenske; Grade 2: 1st Kesli Pratka, 2nd Jayden Kueker, 3rd Haley Carroll, 4th Jenna Carville; Grade 3: 1st Alex Bonorden, 2nd Wyatt

King, 3rd, Marcus Hermes, 4th Kagan Migl; Grade 4: 1st Myah Mallory, 2nd Nicolas Carville, 3rd James DeBord, 4th Caleb Hayden; Grade 5: 1st Nathan Carville, 2nd Chelsea Carroll, 3rd Andrew Moore, 4th Jerrett Faires; Grade 6: 1st Samuel Bonorden, 2nd Bryan Sturm, 3rd Reid Goodwine, 4th Jayson Rodriguez; Grade 7: 1st Hannah Mallory 2nd Ian Moore, 3rd Gennavieve Uresti, 4th Austin Smolik; Grade 8: 1st Breanna Takacs, 2nd Jordan Guajardo, 3rd Jacalyn Leggett, 4th Heather Pawlik.

To qualify for the finals, the students took a written test in the classroom and made one of the four top scores in each grade. The students were given a “question-answer” type booklet during the year and encouraged to study ten minutes each night. Comments heard from the parents during the finals were that they studied with their children and learned along with them.

The following students scored the highest in their grades on the written test but were unable to participate in the finals: Sawyer Broughton, Xavier Moore, Nicholas Hilscher, Michael DiSanto, Brenna Sestak, and Lillie Raybon. Doing exceptionally well on the written tests by scoring 100 were Nicholas Hilscher, Emma Pratka, Alexander Bonorden and Samuel Bonorden.

The Catechism Contest originated in Holy Family's CCD Program in response to Pope John Paul II in “Catechesis in Our Time” when he said: “A certain memorization of the words of Jesus, of important Bible passages, of the Ten Commandments, of the essential prayers, of key doctrinal ideas, etc. far from being opposed to the dignity of young Christians, or constituting an obstacle to personal dialogue with the Lord, is a real need, as the synod fathers forcefully recalled.”

Sunday Readings from March 7 to April 11

March 7 — Third Sunday of Lent	Exodus 3:1-8a, 13-15 Psalms 103:1-2, 3-4, 6-7, 8, 11 1 Corinthians 10:1-6, 10-12 Luke 13:1-9
March 14 — Fourth Sunday of Lent	Joshua 5:9a, 10-12 Psalms 23:1-3a, 3b-4, 5, 6 2 Corinthians 5:17-21 Luke 15:1-3, 11-32
March 21 — Fifth Sunday of Lent	Isaiah 43:16-21 Psalms 126:1-2, 2-3, 4-5, 6 Philippians 3:8-14 John 8:1-11
March 28 — Palm Sunday of the Lord's Passion	Isaiah 50:4-7 Psalms 22:8-9, 17-18, 19-20, 23-24 Philippians 2:6-11 Luke 22:14 — 23:56
Chrim Mass	Isaiah 61:1-3a, 6a, 8b-9 Psalms 89:21-22, 25, 27 Revelation 1:5-8 Luke 4:16-21
April 1 — Holy Thursday Evening Mass of the Lord's Supper	Exodus 12:1-8, 11-14 Psalms 116:12-13, 15-16bc, 17-18 1 Corinthians 11:23-26 John 13:1-15
April 2 — Good Friday of the Lord's Passion	Isaiah 52:13 — 53:12 Psalms 31:2, 6, 12-13, 15-16, 17, 25 Hebrews 4:4-16; 5:7-9 John 18:1 — 19:42
April 3 — The Resurrection of the Lord At the Easter Vigil in the Holy Night of Easter	Genesis 1:1 — 2:2 (Reading 1) Psalms 104:1-2, 5-6, 10, 12, 13-14, 24, 35 Genesis 22:1-18 (Reading 2) Psalms 16:5, 8, 9-10, 11 Exodus 14:15 — 15:1 (Reading 3) Exodus 15:1-2, 3-4, 5-6, 17-18 Isaiah 54:5-14 (Reading 4) Psalms 30:2, 4, 5-6, 11-12, 13 Isaiah 55:1-11 (Reading 5) Isaiah 12:2-3, 4, 5-6 Baruch 3:9-15, 32 — 4:4 (Rd. 6) Psalms 30:2, 4, 5-6, 11-12, 13 Ezekiel 36:16-17a, 18-28 (Rd. 7) Isaiah 12:2-3, 4bcd, 5-6 Romans 6:3-11 (Epistle) Psalms 118:1-2, 16-17, 22-23 Luke 24:1-12 (Gospel)
April 11 — Second Sunday of Easter	Acts 5:12-16 Psalms 118:2-4, 13-15, 22-24 Revelation 1:9-11a, 12-13, 17-19 John 20:19-31

All daily and Sunday readings, as well as a reflection video, are available in text or audio at:
www.usccb.org/nab/

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MACC ofrece Títulos para el Ministerio Multicultural en el siglo XXI

Por el Rvmo. José H. Gomez, S.T.D., Arzobispo de San Antonio y miembro ex-officio de la Mesa Directiva de MACC Y el Rvmo. Michael D. Pfeifer, OMI, Obispo de San Angelo, y Coordinador de la Mesa Directiva de MACC

La Iglesia en los Estados Unidos es el grupo de católicos más diverso culturalmente en el mundo, ¡reflejando los rostros de toda raza y cultura! Históricamente, esto siempre ha sido así, y como lo indican las tendencias presentes, así será nuestro futuro. Como Obispos en Texas, vemos y experimentamos diariamente los dones y los retos de la diversidad cultural, especialmente en el número siempre creciente de católicos hispanos. Nos regocijamos por los valores firmes y las expresiones de fe que los hispanos traen a nuestras parroquias de San Antonio y de San Angelo. También vemos las grandes necesidades espirituales y pastorales que con frecuencia no son atendidas porque no tenemos suficientes sacerdotes ni otros líderes pastorales que puedan hablar en español y proclamar el mensaje evangélico dentro de sus realidades culturales. Es por esto que estamos felices de ver que el Colegio Católico México Americano (MACC) se está convirtiendo en una institución de estudios superiores precisamente ¡para preparar a los seminaristas y a líderes pastorales laicos para que respondan con eficiencia y fidelidad a las necesidades de la Iglesia en el siglo XXI!

Con su origen como el Centro Cultural México Americano, MACC empezó su misión en 1972, y pronto llegó a ser un centro pastoral nacional para el desarrollo del Ministerio Hispano en todo el país. Como Miembros de la Mesa Directiva, nos sentimos muy orgullosos de los logros de MACC durante las décadas pasadas, y nos entusiasma ver que nuestra misión se amplía ofreciendo cursos bilingües que llevan a obtener un B.A. en el Ministerio Pastoral, con especialidades en el Liderazgo católico y en filosofía. Pronto, los estudiantes podrán tener también una especialización en catequesis y empezar un programa para la Maestría. Esta dirección nueva es el resultado de un planeamiento estratégico orante y de reforzar nuestra asociación con el Seminario de la Asunción, la Universidad del Verbo Encarnado y la Escuela de Teología de los Oblatos.

Nuestra visión es crear un ambiente centrado en Cristo donde los estudiantes puedan seguir sus estudios en su primer idioma al mismo tiempo que adquieren el idioma y las habilidades que necesitan para servir en las diversas comunidades de hoy día. Esta forma única hace que MACC sea diferente de otras instituciones de estudios superiores y fomenta un ambiente de

respeto profundo. Bajo la protección de Nuestra Señora de Guadalupe, la “Estrella de la Evangelización”, MACC prepara a los estudiantes para ser evangelizadores de Cristo. En las palabras del Arzobispo Timothy Dolan of New York, quien estudió español recientemente aquí, “MACC es una escuela profundamente católica, y esa fe es vivida y compartida entre todos los que están en su campus bien sea en la Misa diaria, en las horas santas, o en la conversación dentro y fuera del salón de clase”.

Nuestro profesorado excelente incluye a sacerdotes del Seminario de la Asunción, religiosas y profesores laicos que son bilingües, tienen títulos académicos avanzados y están comprometidos profundamente con la misión de la Iglesia de enseñar. El programa nuevo para obtener un título académico está bajo la dirección del Coordinador Académico de MACC, David Delaney, quien obtuvo su doctorado en Teología Sistemática en la Universidad Católica de América. “Somos diferentes de otras instituciones porque ofrecemos un programa universitario plenamente biliterato en español y en inglés. Como trabajamos muy de cerca con el Seminario de la Asunción, los cursos también cumplen los requisitos para la formación académica de los seminaristas según la Conferencia de los Obispos Católicos de los Estados

Unidos. Esto es muy importante para las diócesis de todo el país al ver la bendición de más y más vocaciones para el sacerdocio” dice el Dr. Delaney.

Al empezar nuestro segundo semestre, estamos recibiendo comentarios muy positivos de los estudiantes sobre su experiencia en MACC. “Vengo de un pasado de tecnología de computadoras y todo esto es nuevo para mí, pero siento que he sido llamado a servir a Dios específicamente en el ministerio hispano. Deseaba algo que me ayudara a profundizar mi fe y a obtener una formación en el liderazgo pastoral y me sentí muy entusiasmado al ver los cursos que se ofrecen. MACC es una institución muy hermosa con administradores y profesores de mucho talento. Me siento verdaderamente privilegiado de trabajar para obtener mi título en liderazgo para el ministerio”, comentó el estudiante Ed Watkins que trabaja como ministro laico.

Haciendo eco a este sentimiento, José Cadena, un seminarista de la Diócesis de Laredo, está feliz de haber transferido sus estudios a MACC. “Estaba en otra universidad y me dieron a escoger el quedarme allí o cambiar. Cuando miré lo que MACC ofrecía me sentí atraído a venir aquí; me gusta estudiar en una institución donde es evidente que el programa de estudios está encaminado hacia personas que quieren ser-

vir en la Iglesia. Me siento increíblemente feliz con los cursos que estudié el primer semestre; me ofrecieron una conexión clara entre filosofía y teología y como se entretejen hacia el ministerio”.

Nosotros, junto con el cuerpo docente, el personal y los miembros de la Mesa Directiva, estamos comprometidos a continuar la misión de MACC ahora que crea nuevos caminos para ofrecer estudios superiores y promover nuestra fe e identidad católica. Nuestro presidente con visión para el futuro, el Dr. Arturo Chávez, expresa muy bien las aspiraciones que todos tenemos para el crecimiento continuo y éxito: “Nuestra esperanza es que los Obispos y otros líderes eclesiales hagan de MACC su “Universidad preferida” cuando piensen a dónde enviar a hombres y mujeres que servirán en comunidades hispanas. Conforme la Iglesia se hace crecientemente más multilingüe y diversa culturalmente, los programas de MACC – basados en la Palabra Viva de Dios y en su relación dinámica con la realidad de nuestro pueblo – pueden ofrecer un recurso único a los Obispos que tratan de responder a las necesidades pastorales de los católicos hispanos”. ¡Estamos totalmente de acuerdo!

Visite www.maccsa.org para más información sobre los programas de MACC

Diez ideas para todos sobre el RICA

Durante la Cuaresma, en parroquias de todo el país y de todo el mundo, los candidatos para recibir los sacramentos de iniciación (Bautismo, Confirmación y Eucaristía) experimentan los preparativos finales para convertirse en miembros de la Iglesia Católica. Los “elegidos”, como se les denomina, dependen del apoyo y del aliento de toda la Iglesia tanto para darles la bienvenida como para unirse a ellos en seguir a Cristo. A continuación se ofrecen diez ideas de cosas que los católicos pueden hacer para ayudarlos en su caminar.

1. Rezar

Las parroquias cuelgan o publican los nombres, y a menudo las fotos, de los que se preparan para el Bautismo y para su recepción en la comunión plena de la Iglesia Católica para que la comunidad pueda ofrecerles su apoyo. Los miembros de la parroquia pueden comprometerse a rezar por alguno de los elegidos en particular y dejarles saber de este regalo de oración por ellos mientras se preparan para el Bautismo.

2. Escuchar

El camino de los que participan en el Rito de Iniciación Cristiana de Adultos (RICA) puede ser un ejemplo para todos, pues los “elegidos” escuchan con intensidad la Palabra de Dios y dan pasos concretos para seguir a Cristo. Sus pasos pueden inspirar, especialmente durante la Cuaresma, a los cristianos que se esfuerzan por seguir al Señor de una manera más cercana. Pasar tiempo escuchando sus historias y experiencias puede conmover el corazón de quien escucha.

3. Participar

El proceso del RICA incluye una serie de ritos públicos durante la Cuaresma: el Rito de Elección, los Escrutinios, y los Ritos de Preparación. La mayoría de éstos tiene lugar durante las misas dominicales en las parroquias. Asistir a esas misas es una forma de mostrar apoyo a los elegidos.

4. Asistir a la Vigilia Pascual

La Gran Vigilia de Pascua es “la noche de las noches”, dice la liturgia del Sábado Santo. Es la noche durante la cual la Iglesia se mantiene en vela por la resurrección de Cristo. Durante la Vigilia de Pascua se celebran los sacramentos del Bautismo y la Confirmación y se da la bienvenida a la Iglesia a los nuevos miembros. Ésta, “la más bendecida de todas las noches”, como proclama el Exultet en el Sábado Santo, celebra con rituales antiquísimos los misterios

centrales de la fe. Esta celebración es larga pero es el corazón del culto de la Iglesia y habla con claridad para llenar a los participantes con el gozo de la Resurrección.

5. Mantener un espíritu de bienvenido

En las semanas que siguen a su iniciación, los recién bautizados, ahora conocidos como “neófitos”, buscan su lugar en la comunidad de la Iglesia. Los miembros de la parroquia pueden hacerles sentir bienvenidos al invitarlos a ser parte de alguna actividad, grupo o ministerio.

6. Dar testimonio

El RICA recuerda a las personas que Dios está presente y activo, que continua hablando a todos. Es un recordatorio de que la manera en como actuamos, lo que decimos y lo que hacemos, pueden reflejar la presencia de Cristo. Ser “testigos” (ver Hechos de los Apóstoles 1, 8) de cómo Cristo actúa en la vida de uno envía un mensaje a los demás.

7. Invitar

Como testigos, los cristianos están llamados a compartir su fe de alguna manera. A veces eso significa estar pendientes cuando otros están buscando algo y de quién puede beneficiarse de recibir aliento o una invitación a aprender más de la fe católica. La evangelización llama a los miembros de la Iglesia a compartir la propia fe. El mero hecho de invitar a un amigo o a un vecino a la Misa puede ser un testimonio poderoso que permite al Señor llegar a ellos a través de este gesto.

8. Involucrarse

El RICA tiene muchas facetas. Cada una de ellas depende de feligreses dedicados (junto con el clero, los catequistas y otros miembros del personal parroquial) que faciliten, enseñen, guíen y apadrinen. Existen muchas maneras de compartir la fe y los dones que uno tiene para involucrarse.

9. Conversión continua

Además de aquellos que se preparan para el Bautismo, el RICA también incluye a aquellos cristianos ya bautizados que se están preparando para ser recibidos en la plena comunión de la Iglesia. Esto puede celebrarse en cualquier momento. Aquellos que se preparan para ser recibidos (y para la Confirmación y la recepción de la Eucaristía) recuerdan a los cristianos que todos están llamados a seguir al Señor, quien siempre está hablando y llamando las personas al arrepentimiento — a la conversión continua y a un cambio del corazón — resultando así en un cambio más

auténtico.

10. Saber que la mistagogía es para todos

Tras celebrar los sacramentos del Bautismo, la Confirmación y la Eucaristía, los recién iniciados continúan su formación en la fe en el periodo llamado “mistagogía” (que significa “interpretación del misterio”), durante el cual reflexionan sobre su encuentro con Cristo en los sacramentos y aprenden más sobre su fe. Este periodo es continuo y consiste esencialmente en aquello que todos los miembros de la Iglesia deben hacer a lo largo de su vida: profundizar en la fe y en la relación con Cristo, constantemente discerniendo su voluntad.

Mexican church officials call for change of strategy in Ciudad Juarez

MEXICO CITY (CNS) — The Archdiocese of Mexico City has called on the federal government to change its strategy in the ongoing crackdown on organized crime as the death toll nationwide accelerates and increasing numbers of innocent bystanders fall victim to the violence. The admonishment, published Feb. 7 in the archdiocese’s publication, *Desde la Fe*, came in response to the massacre of at least 15 individuals — mostly teenagers — at a party Jan. 31 in Ciudad Juarez, where a turf war between rival cartels has turned the city that neighbors El Paso, Texas, into one of the world’s most dangerous urban areas. “Violence in Mexico has reached ... dramatic and disturbing limits, particularly in Ciudad Juarez,” the editorial read. “The decomposition of the social fabric doesn’t just respond to government decisions, nor does its solution simply lie in anti-crime strategies. Global crime prevention programs are urgently needed that range from morals to religion to civics.” Father Hesiquio Trevizo, spokesman for the Diocese of Ciudad Juarez, echoed those remarks, telling Catholic News Service a change of strategy is necessary due to the increasing allegations of human rights abuses against the soldiers and police officers patrolling the streets. “The number of deaths hasn’t decreased, but instead has increased,” Father Trevizo told CNS in a telephone interview.

Penitencia cuaresmal



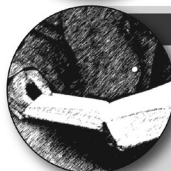
ABSTINENCIA

No pueden comer carne, los mayores de 14, el Miércoles de Ceniza y todos los viernes.



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SACRIFICIO

Actos voluntarios de privarse de las cosas que a uno le gustan, se recomiendan durante los días de la cuaresma.



ORACIÓN Y CARIDAD

Puede incluir misas diarias, estudio de la Biblia, vía crucis, caridad y mostrar misericordia y bondad a los demás.



The Piercing

By Brother Bernard (Jeff) Keele of the Pecos Benedictine Community
www.pecosmonastery.org

Love has wounded my courage dear
like the arrow striking my heart too near.
The deer fainting to the ground ... life surely lost,
my wound, oh my wound ... what strength has cost?

Oh bleed, oh bleed this heart of mine,
forever punctured and lost in time.
I gaze at the thorns breaking ever more deep,
I collapse at the thought of this journey so steep.

Will I ever again know a healing from pain?
Will I ever again find the road back to gain?
What warning had I for this new found love?
Struck mortally down am I, like a falling dove.

O Bleed, oh bleed this heart of mine...
Can you not see my escape this time?
Sunk deep this arrow my lover has meant;
the aim so true, and now my life is spent.

Sainthood cause opens for Venezuelan mystic who died in US

METUCHEN, N.J. (CNS) — The sainthood cause has formally opened for Maria Esperanza Medrano de Bianchini, a Venezuelan woman believed to have seen 31 apparitions of Mary, who spread worldwide a message of family reconciliation and fraternal unity that she said Mary relayed to her. “We gather together as a people filled



A portrait of Maria Esperanza Medrano de Bianchini is displayed at St. Francis Cathedral in Metuchen, N.J., during a ceremony opening her cause for sainthood Jan. 31. (CNS photo/Patrick J. Carroll, The Catholic Spirit)

with faith believing in the gift of God,” said Bishop Paul G. Bootkoski, who presided at the ceremony at St. Francis of Assisi Cathedral in Metuchen, NJ, Jan. 31. “We believe God gives us men and women of fine example who show us the way to Jesus Christ. Today, we begin the cause for Maria Esperanza, a woman of faith, and we pray as this faith community that God will recognize her through his church as one of his saints,” he said. The Mass, which was concelebrated by 29 priests, drew more than 1,400 people, including family members, a 60-member choir and others from Bianchini’s native Venezuela. Bianchini reportedly first saw an apparition of Mary in 1976, but she became a world-renowned figure after Mary reportedly appeared to her and 150 others at a farm named Finca Betania in Venezuela on March 25, 1984. Mary is said to have appeared under the title “Mary, virgin and mother, reconciler of all people and nations.” Bianchini died in New Jersey in 2004 after a long illness.

Get out of that comfort zone

By Father Ruffino Ezama, MCCJ
www.combonimissionaries.org

The LORD had said to Abram, “Leave your country, your people and your father’s household and go to the land I will show you” (Genesis 12:1).

In my early seminary years I studied in different places, but always within my home country of Uganda. During my first mission experience in



Father Ruffino Ezama, MCCJ

West Africa, I began coming to terms with what it meant to leave my homeland. Africa is a continent, not a single country with one president, and it is huge. Where the USA has 50 states, Africa has at least that many countries, and travel between and among them can be interesting.

One day I was driving from Togo to Benin in West Africa. When the soldier at the check point saw my Ugandan passport, he called his buddies to come see the “foreigner.” They looked at me like I was some rare exotic specimen from a strange, faraway land.

A missionary now for 22 years, I have been called out and away from what is familial and familiar. I’ve experienced what it means to leave one’s own culture. I’ve seen others doing things differently, eating different food, having different dress codes, and I’ve had to immerse myself. Learning a language other than mine demands a lot of humility. In West Africa, kids would ask me how come I (African like them) could

not speak their language. I needed a lot of courage to begin like a child and learn to pronounce “a, e, i, o, u.” It’s hard work, but once I could speak the language, I could truly embrace that culture and become one with the people.

Here in the United States people often ask, “Do you feel homesick? Do you miss Uganda?” And the answer is, of course, yes, but I add, “I feel at home here.” The Lord makes this happen. He took me out of my comfort zone, out of my country, away from my family, but he has made me part of the people wherever I’ve gone.

My mom has always been a support to me in my missionary travels. Each time I talk with her, she assures me that she prays for the people to whom God has sent me. My father died 39 years ago, but she never insisted that I remain by her side. Rather, she has always blessed me with the freedom to go where God calls.

Every baptized person is a missionary by their very nature of belonging to Christ’s Church. Not every person is called to go physically from their homeland, but every person is called to mission. The earthquake in Haiti called all of us to reach out to our brothers and sisters, to leave our comfort zone in one form or another, and countless numbers answered that call with little or no thought to the sacrifice it demanded. Just as many people – or more – support frontline missionaries through prayers, letters, donations, encouragement and volunteer work. I consider my mom as much of a missionary as I am, she who has never left her village or even gone to school.

God’s challenge for us is the same as his challenge to Abraham. It’s up to us to hear and to answer - or not.

THE POPE SPEAKS

Pope Benedict XVI



CNS photo from Reuters

At Lenten Retreat Pope expresses sorrow over murder of Iraqi Christians

By John Thavis and Cindy Wooden
Catholic News Service

VATICAN CITY (CNS) — Pope Benedict XVI encouraged Catholics around the world to practice prayer and penitence in the weeks leading up to Easter.

The entire period of Lent should be like “a long ‘retreat’ during which people can return inside themselves and listen to the voice of God, in order to overcome the temptations of the Evil One,” the pope said at his noon blessing Feb. 21.

He described Lent as a time of spiritual training, undertaken not with an attitude of pride, but in an effort to live more closely with Jesus through prayerful reflection and penitential practices.

The importance of spiritual fortification in order to resist temptation was illustrated by the Gospel account of Christ’s own temptations by Satan in the desert, the pope said.

“Christ came into the world to free us from sin and from the ambiguous fascination of designing our lives without God. He did so not with high-sounding proclamations, but by fighting personally against the tempter, right up to the cross,” he said.

“This example is valid for everyone: the world is made better beginning with oneself, by changing, with the grace of God, whatever is wrong in one’s own life,” he said.

Later in the day, the pope began his weeklong retreat, which was being led this year by Salesian Father Enrico dal Covolo, an expert in early Christianity. Father dal Covolo was to offer 17 talks and meditations on the priesthood.

Vatican Radio and the Vatican newspaper, L’Osservatore Romano, reported Feb. 24 that although the pope is on retreat and not speaking publicly, he expressed his deep concern and sorrow that “in the area of Mosul, the killing of Christians continues.”

Earlier that day, funerals were celebrated for the murdered father and two brothers of a Syrian Catholic priest, Father Mazen Ishoa, who himself had been kidnapped and released in 2007.

Murdered in their home Feb. 23, the three deaths brought to seven the number of Christians murdered in Mosul in a 10-

day period.

Publishing the pope’s reaction to the murders, the Vatican newspaper also published for the first time a letter sent in January to Iraqi Prime Minister Nouri al-Maliki by Cardinal Tarcisio Bertone, Vatican secretary of state.

The cardinal told the prime minister that the pope had asked him to write and express his “sincere solidarity” with al-Maliki and other leaders after a series of attacks on government buildings and on places of worship, both Muslim and Christian.

“He prays with fervor for an end to the violence and asks the government to do everything possible to increase security around all places of worship throughout the country,” Cardinal Bertone wrote.

Syrian Catholic Archbishop Georges Casmoussa of Mosul told Vatican Radio Feb. 24 that the region’s Catholic and Orthodox bishops have met together and have scheduled a series of special prayer services for March 7, the date of scheduled parliamentary elections in Iraq.

In addition, he said, “as a protest, the following Sunday we will not celebrate Masses in the city of Mosul and, in this way, we will send a message to the government.”

“In every election there are some troubles,” Archbishop Casmoussa said, “but not to the point of killing people, particularly Christians. The Christians were killed not because of their politics, but because they are Christians.”

The Vatican nuncio to Iraq, Archbishop Francis Chullikatt, told Vatican Radio Feb. 25 that Christians have been in Iraq for 2,000 years, so “any attempt to decrease the Christian presence or, worse, to destroy the Christian presence in Iraq would mean destroying the history of the Iraqi nation.”

The archbishop said all the Christian churches and Christian leaders in the country are involved in interreligious dialogue and are in constant contact with Muslim leaders.

“I have just received a delegation of Sunni and Shiite leaders who came to the nunciature to express their solidarity in these difficult times for Christians, especially in Mosul,” he said.

Pope Benedict XVI Intentions — March 2011

General Intention: That the nations of Latin America may walk in fidelity to the Gospel and be bountiful in social justice and peace.

Missionary Intention: That the Holy Spirit may give light and strength to the Christian communities and the faithful who are persecuted or discriminated against because of the Gospel.



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MACC offers Degrees for Multicultural Ministry

By Most Rev. José H. Gomez, S.T.D., Archbishop of San Antonio and ex-officio member of the MACC Board and Most Rev. Michael D. Pfeifer, OMI, Bishop of San Angelo, and chair of the MACC Board

SAN ANTONIO—The Church in the United States is the most culturally diverse group of Catholics in the world, reflecting faces of every race and culture! Historically, this has always been, and as current trends indicate, it will be our future. As bishops in Texas, we see and experience the gifts and challenges of cultural diversity daily, especially in the ever-growing number of Hispanic Catholics. We rejoice in the strong values and faith expressions that Hispanics bring to our parishes in San Antonio and San Angelo. We also see the great spiritual and pastoral needs that often go unmet because we do not have enough priests and other pastoral leaders who can speak Spanish and proclaim the Gospel message within their cultural realities. This is why we are so happy to see the Mexican American Catholic College (MACC) evolving into an institution of higher education precisely to prepare seminarians and lay pastoral leaders to respond effectively and faithfully to the needs of the Church in the 21st century!

With its origins as the Mexican American Cultural Center, MACC began its mission in 1972, and quickly became a national pastoral center for the development of Hispanic Ministry throughout the country. As board members, we are very proud of MACC's accomplishments over the past decades, and we are excited to see our mission expand to offer bilingual courses that lead to a B.A. in Pastoral Ministry, with majors in Catholic Leadership

and Philosophy. Soon, students can also major in Catechetics and begin a Masters Degree program. This new direction is the result of prayerful, strategic planning and a strengthening of our partnerships with Assumption Seminary, the University of the Incarnate Word, and Oblate School of Theology.

Our vision is to create a Christ-centered environment where students will further their education in their native language while also developing the language and cultural competencies they need to minister in today's diverse communities. This unique approach sets MACC apart from other institutions of higher learning and fosters an environment of deep respect. Under the patronage of Our Lady of Guadalupe, the "Star of Evangelization," MACC prepares students to be evangelizers for Christ. In the words of Archbishop Timothy Dolan of New York, who recently studied Spanish here, "MACC is a profoundly Catholic school, and that faith is lived and shared among everyone on campus whether in daily Mass, the holy hours, or conversation in and outside the classroom."

Our excellent faculty includes priests from Assumption Seminary, religious, and lay professors who are bilingual, hold advanced degrees, and have a deep commitment to the Church's teaching mission. The new degree program is under the experienced direction of MACC's Academic Dean, David Delaney who holds a Ph.D. in Systematic Theology from the Catholic University of America. "We differ from other institutions by offering an undergraduate program that is fully biliterate in

Spanish and English. By working closely with Assumption Seminary, the courses also meet the USCCB's academic formation requirements for collegiate seminarians. This is very important for the dioceses across the country as we see the blessing of more and more vocations to the priesthood," Dr. Delaney commented.

As we begin our second semester, we are receiving very positive comments from our students about their experiences at MACC. "I come from a computer technology background and all this is new to me, but I feel I was called to serve God specifically in Hispanic ministry. I wanted something that would help me deepen my faith

and education in pastoral leadership and was very excited to see the courses offered. MACC is a very beautiful institution and with such talented administrators and professors, I feel truly privileged to be working towards my degree in ministry leadership," commented student Ed Watkins who works as a lay minister.

Echoing this sentiment, Jose Cadena, a seminarian from the Diocese of Laredo, is happy he transferred his studies to MACC. "I was at another university and was given the choice to remain there or switch. I looked into MACC and I was drawn to what they have to offer; I like taking courses at an institution where it is evident the curriculum is geared toward people wanting to minister in the Church. I am incredibly happy with the courses I took the first semester; they provided a clear connection between philosophy and theology and how it weaves into ministry."

We, along with the faculty, staff and

the board of directors are committed to continuing the mission of MACC as it creates new pathways for attaining higher education and promoting our Catholic faith and identity. Our visionary president, Dr. Arturo Chavez, articulates best the aspirations we all have for continued growth and success. "Our hope is that Bishops and other Church leaders will make MACC their 'college of choice' when considering where to send men and women who will minister in Hispanic communities. As the Church becomes increasingly culturally diverse and multilingual, MACC's programs—based on the Living Word of God and its dynamic relationship to the reality of our people—can offer a very unique resource to Bishops who are struggling to meet the pastoral needs of Hispanic Catholics." We wholeheartedly agree!

Visit www.maccsa.org for more information on the MACC's programs.

Catholic Extension Commits Nearly \$4 Million to Hispanic Ministries in U.S.

Chicago, Ill. — Catholic Extension announced in February that it is awarding \$3,752,416 in grants this year to 41 dioceses to help support Hispanic programs, particularly leadership development, including \$85,000 for the Mexican American Catholic College (MACC) in San Antonio to help launch and support its new bilingual BA and MA programs. The grants will help address needs and opportunities created by the increasing number of Hispanics in the United States and the Catholic Church. By 2020, it is estimated that Hispanics will comprise the majority of the Catholic population in the U.S., contributing 71% of the growth of the Catholic Church since 1960, according to the United States Conference of Catholic Bishops. The funds will be particularly helpful for developing Hispanic leaders in the Church. Currently, Hispanic/Latino bishops only make up 9% of all Catholic bishops in the US. "As the Hispanic Catholic population grows, it is important that we help Hispanics become leaders, not just of other Hispanics, but in the Church as a whole," said Dr. Arturo Chavez, president and CEO of MACC.

Makeshift studio in the back of van keeps Haiti's Radio Soleil on air

PETIONVILLE, Haiti (CNS) — Radio Soleil, Catholic radio in Haiti, is on the air—broadcasting from the back of an immobilized van. Father Desinord Jean, station director and general manager, said outside of the equipment in the van, the station has nothing. Radio Soleil broadcasts the daily Mass at St. Peter Church in Petionville on tape delay each morning at 7 o'clock, the Angelus at noon, the rosary and devotions at 3 p.m. The station is primarily funded by the station conducting an on-air fundraising campaign, similar to those of public and nonprofit radio stations in the United States. This year, Father Jean is not sure how Radio Soleil will raise the funds because, due to the earthquake, the drive has been canceled. Information about Radio Soleil can be found online at www.radiosoleil.org.

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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Cardinal: Group's support of gay marriage not authentic church teaching

WASHINGTON (CNS)— The president of the U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops has denounced a Maryland-based organization for its criticism of Catholic efforts to defend marriage as the union of one man and one woman and said it does not offer “an authentic interpretation of Catholic teaching.” Cardinal Francis E. George of Chicago said in a Feb. 5 statement that “no one should be misled by the claim that New Ways Ministry provides an authentic interpretation of Catholic teaching and an authentic Catholic pastoral practice.” He added that “New Ways Ministry has no approval or recognition from the Catholic Church and ... cannot speak on behalf of the Catholic faithful in the United States.” New Ways Ministry, based in Mount Rainier, Md., describes itself as a “gay-positive ministry of advocacy and justice for lesbian and gay Catholics and reconciliation within the larger Christian and civil communities.” Francis DeBernardo, executive director of New Ways Ministry, said in a statement posted on his organization's Web site that the cardinal's words “will not impede or slow us in our efforts to work for justice for lesbian/gay people in the church and society.”

Editor's note: With the endorsement of the Holy See, the *Courage Apostolate*, at <http://couragerc.net/>, helps individuals who have homosexual desires gain a greater understanding and appreciation of the Church's teachings, especially in the area of chastity.

Collaboration the key as Haitian church begins to rebuild, nuncio says

PORT-AU-PRINCE, Haiti (CNS) -- The loss of key leadership and the destruction of up to 70 parishes during the Jan. 12 earthquake exposed weaknesses in the

structure of the Catholic Church in Haiti, said the papal nuncio to the beleaguered Caribbean nation. At the same time the disaster offers Catholic leaders the opportunity to identify new leaders to carry the church into the future, the 50-year-old Philippine-born Archbishop Bernardito Auza told Catholic News Service in early February. Three Port-au-Prince archdiocesan leaders – Archbishop Joseph Serge Miot, Msgr. Charles Benoit, vicar general, and Father Arnoux Chery, chancellor – were killed in the quake. The Vatican has appointed Auxiliary Bishop Joseph Lafontant of Port-au-Prince as apostolic administrator of the archdiocese. Archbishop Auza confirmed Feb. 9 that seven priests, 31 seminarians and 31 men and women religious died in the archdiocese. In addition, 60 parishes were destroyed. In the neighboring Jacmel Diocese, the archbishop said the diocesan administrator reported that the cathedral is “very seriously damaged,” 10 parishes have been destroyed or seriously damaged and 30 chapels and mission stations must be rebuilt.

CHRISTUS Medical Team departs for Haiti

DALLAS—CHRISTUS Health's Task Force on Haitian Relief has sent a 20-member team and medical supplies to Port-au-Prince to provide clinical and spiritual care from Feb. 20-27 in partnership with the University of Miami Miller School of Medicine. The team, comprised of clinical specialists from across the CHRISTUS system, includes anesthesiologists, surgeons from a wide range of medical specialties, certified registered nurse anesthetists, registered nurses with operating room expertise and two spiritual care providers, and will be led by CHRISTUS Health CEO Dr. Thomas Royer, a general surgeon. CHRISTUS Health includes more than 40 hospitals and other health care ministries in over 60 communities in Texas, Louisiana, Arkansas, Utah, Oklahoma, Missouri, Georgia, and Mexico. The team hopes to



RESIDENTS RECOVER BELONGINGS AFTER MAJOR EARTHQUAKE IN CHILE—Residents recover their belongings from their house destroyed by a major earthquake, near the epicenter in Pelluhue, Chile, Feb. 28. A magnitude 8.8 earthquake, one of the biggest in centuries, struck Chile Feb. 27, killing at least 700 people and destroyed or badly damaged 500,000 homes. (CNS photo/Ivan Alvarado, Reuters)

provide reports on Dr. Royer's blog, www.wiresidechatwithdrtom.blogspot.com. Please check there for regular updates.

Salesian Missions still provide relief in Haiti

PORT-AU-PRINCE, Haiti –Humanitarian organizations such as Salesian Missions, which were already working in Haiti before the quake, took action to save lives even before the dust settled from the magnitude 7 earthquake in Haiti. Salesian Missions lost 85 percent of its schools and buildings in Port-au-Prince when the earthquake struck, killing hundreds of

students. Father Mark Hyde, director of Salesian Missions in New Rochelle, NY – who toured Haiti last year and is there now helping with relief efforts – is quick to remind everyone that many of the problems that exist today were there before the quake. “Severe poverty, homelessness and lack of clean water and food were daily realities even before the earthquake,” he says. “We have been in Haiti since 1936, helping the poorest children and families,” says Father Hyde. Those interested in learning more or making a donation to support Salesian Missions' work in Haiti, should go to www.FindYourMission.org.

The Time is Now

Sister Jan Barthel, OSB Catholic Committee of the South

In a report to members of Congress (June 10, 2009), Lake Research Partners submitted poll data from around the country showing that the time for comprehensive immigration reform is now. In fact, their tracking shows that the current economic situation has actually increased the desire for quick action on immigration reform.

Voters see that the broken immigration system is a problem that has been neglected far too long. And their consistent choice is comprehensive reform that restores control and order, expands the tax base, and is practical, fair and consistent with American values.

In addition to securing the border and stopping illegal hiring, we need to require illegal immigrants to register, pass background, pay taxes, and study English in order to be eligible to apply for citizenship. This comprehensive approach will secure our borders, level the playing field, and stop dishonest business from gaining an unfair advantage. It will make illegal immigrants into legal taxpayers and bring needed money into the federal budget.

Persons have the right to immigrate, especially to feed their families and to flee persecution. However, the host nation has the right to protect its borders and to limit the number of immigrants. How can this conflict be resolved? To deport 12 million

illegal immigrants, is simply not viable. To continue the status quo with their living in the shadows is simply unacceptable. Comprehensive immigration reform holds the key.

What are the benefits of immigration reform?

- It is a common sense proposal that is fair, balanced and practical.
- It would secure the border and crack down on employers that illegally hire the undocumented.
- It would secure the future flow of immigrants.
- It would require illegal immigrants to register for legal immigration status, pay back taxes, and learn English to be eligible for citizenship.
- It would restore order and control the flow of immigrants.
- The Congressional budget office estimates it would add \$66 billion in revenue over ten (10) years in requiring more employers and more workers pay their fair share in taxes.
- It would add, over the next fifty (50) years, \$407 billion to the struggling Social Security system.

To learn more about the bishops' call for comprehensive immigration reform, please go to: <http://www.justiceforimmigrants.org/>.

Clinton, Obama reflect on faith at prayer breakfast

Continued from p. 1

identity crisis.”

Clinton spoke at length about her relationship with Mother Teresa, describing getting a firm directive from the nun to work on the home for babies.

“I know that we often picture, as we're growing up, God as a man with a white beard,” said Clinton, according to a text released by the State Department. “But that day, I felt like I had been ordered, and that the message was coming not just through this diminutive woman but from someplace far beyond.”

In his comments, Obama talked about seeing examples of God's grace amid the tragedy of Haiti's Jan. 12 earthquake.

“It was heard in prayers and hymns that broke the silence of an earthquake's wake,” he said. “It was witnessed among parishioners of churches that stood no more, a roadside congregation, holding Bibles in their laps. It was felt in the presence of relief workers and medics; translators; servicemen and women, bringing water and food and aid to the injured.”

He cited the work being done in Haiti by military personnel, by Catholic Relief Services, World Relief, American Jewish World Service; and by Hindu temples, mainline Protestants, African-American churches, Sikhs and “by Americans of every faith, and no faith, uniting around a common purpose, a higher purpose.”

“It's inspiring,” said Obama, according to text released by the White House. “This is what we do, as Americans, in times of trouble. We unite, recognizing that such crises call on all of us to act, recognizing that there but for the grace of God go I, recog-

nizing that life's most sacred responsibility ... is to sacrifice something of ourselves for a person in need.”

Too often, however, he continued, “that spirit is missing without the spectacular tragedy, the 9/11 or the Katrina, the earthquake or the tsunami, that can shake us out of complacency. We become numb to the day-to-day crises, the slow-moving tragedies of children without food and men without shelter and families without health care. We become absorbed with our abstract arguments, our ideological disputes, our contests for power. And in this tower of Babel, we lose the sound of God's voice.”

Obama said that “empowered by faith, consistently, prayerfully, we need to find our way back to civility.”

He said that should begin with “stepping out of our comfort zones in an effort to bridge divisions. We see that in many conservative pastors who are helping lead the way to fix our broken immigration system. It's not what would be expected from them, and yet they recognize, in those immigrant families, the face of God.

“We see that in the evangelical leaders who are rallying their congregations to protect our planet,” he added. “We see it in the increasing recognition among progressives that government can't solve all of our problems, and that talking about values like responsible fatherhood and healthy marriage are integral to any anti-poverty agenda. Stretching out of our dogmas, our prescribed roles along the political spectrum, that can help us regain a sense of civility.”

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Capital Comments

By Jennifer Allmon
Associate Director
Texas Catholic conference



St. Patrick: An Unidentified Human Trafficking Victim

As we celebrate Saint Patrick's Day this year you will hear about St. Patrick bringing Christianity to Ireland. You may hear tales of snakes, shamrocks, and the luck of the Irish, although Saint Patrick wasn't Irish. You will probably not hear that St. Patrick was a human trafficking victim who then devoted his life to saving his captors. But he was.

The son of a Roman-British army officer, St. Patrick was born in Scotland. He and several other boys were kidnapped by Irish pirates in South Wales. After spending six years enslaved in Ireland, he was inspired by a dream in which God told him to escape. He escaped and went to France to study for the priesthood. Eventually, he was named a bishop, but his heart called him to go back to Ireland and minister to his captors. The pope sent him to Ireland to preach the Gospel, converting druids and traffickers. In his Confession he writes about his sadness at the converts he baptized being captured and enslaved, "I am at a loss to know whether to weep more for those they [the traffickers] killed or for those they captured: or indeed for these men themselves whom the devil has taken for his slaves." He was arrested many more times as a bishop and managed to escape each time.

The thousands of human trafficking victims in Texas also pray for escape and need our help to do so. Victims of human trafficking are subjected to force, fraud, or coercion for the purpose of sexual exploitation or forced labor. "Texas is considered a major hub for human trafficking into the U.S. According to recent estimates, one

out of every five U.S. trafficking victims travels through Texas along Interstate 10. Nearly 20 percent of human trafficking victims found nationwide have been in Texas." (The Texas Response to Human Trafficking, Office of the Attorney General, Report to the 81st Legislature)

During the last legislative session the Texas Legislature passed HB 4009, a bill that creates an assistance program for domestic victims of trafficking, including children, to help them access necessary services. The Texas Catholic Conference (TCC) supported this bill, reiterating that human trafficking directly affronts the dignity of the victims' lives. But more is needed. In the 2011 legislative session the TCC will look for legislative initiatives to end human trafficking, particularly efforts to train law enforcement and service providers in victim identification.

There are victims among us and we don't recognize the signs of their enslavement, much like so many of us were not aware of St. Patrick's trafficking history. If you are a victim or suspect someone you know is a victim of human trafficking, call the national hotline at 1-888-3737-888 to get help.

St. Patrick may be known most for bringing Christianity to Ireland, but he also spent his life as a bishop seeking to end trafficking. As we work to end this modern-day slavery, we seek the intercession of St. Patrick for all trafficking victims. St. Patrick, Pray for us.

The history of St. Patrick taken from his confession, "The Confession of Saint Patrick" translated by John Skinner.

Chilean Maternal Mortality Study Undercuts Pro-Abortion Claims

By Susan Yoshihara, Ph.D. and Piero A. Tozzi, J.D. - From Catholic Family & Human Rights Institute

NEW YORK (C-FAM)— Preliminary findings by a prominent biomedical researcher examining the dramatic decrease in maternal mortality, over the past fifty years in the Latin American nation of Chile, appear to undercut claims by global abortion lobbyists that liberal abortion laws are necessary to reduce maternal mortality rates.

According to Dr. Elard Koch, an epidemiologist on the faculty of medicine at the University of Chile, Chile's promotion of "safe pregnancy" measures such as "prenatal detection" and accessibility to professional birth attendants in a hospital setting are primarily responsible for the decrease in maternal mortality. The maternal mortality rate declined from 275 maternal deaths per 100,000 live births in 1960 to 18.7 deaths in 2000, the largest reduction in any Latin country.

Because Chile is a nation that protects unborn life in its penal laws and constitution, the decline is therefore not attributable to access to legal abortion. In fact, the preliminary study shows, maternal mortality in Chile declined over the last century regardless of whether abortion was legal or illegal. Chile tightened its restrictions on abortion in the late 1980s.

According to Dr. Koch, "From 1960 onwards, there has been a breakthrough in the public health system and primary care" in Chile, with resources devoted to the development of "highly trained personnel, the construction of many primary health centers and the increase of schooling of

the population." Education appeared to be a primary factor in the country's improved maternal health. Chile today touts a maternal health record comparable to those of developed nations.

Maternal health experts such as noted obstetrician Donna Harrison, MD, point out that introducing abortion in a developing world setting without first improving basic maternal health care increases the risk of maternal death since health systems cannot adequately respond to complications from invasive surgical procedures such as abortion. Indeed, nations such as South Africa, which has one of the continent's most liberal abortion regimes, has seen an increase in maternal deaths attributable in part to complications arising from legal abortion.

Dr. Koch presented his initial findings at the inaugural meeting of the International Working Group for Global Women's Health Research last month in Washington, DC.

To read full story please see: http://www.c-fam.org/publications/id.1571/pub_detail.asp

Haiti and the Theodicy Question

Continued from p. 20

and drinks in their grief, he sits down and begins to cry. He enters and shares their grief. Only afterwards does he raise up the body of his dead friend.

Where was God when the earthquake hit Haiti? He was weeping with its people, grieving outside its mass graves, sitting in sadness beside its collapsed buildings. He was there, though he provided no Hollywood or Superman-type rescue. Moreover

we can be sure he will redeem what was lost. In God's time, eventually, not a single life or single dream that died in Haiti will remain unredeemed. In the end, all will be well, and all will be well, and every manner of being will be well.

Father Ron has been writing his column for over 25 years; currently it is carried by more than 80 papers worldwide.

Catholic Health Care

The church runs nearly 40,000 health facilities around the globe.

	WORLD	U.S.
HOSPITALS	5,378	573
GENERAL CLINICS	18,378	264
LEPROSY CLINICS	521	--
CARE HOMES	15,448	1,185

Homes include those caring for the aged, chronically ill and disabled
Source: Vatican ©2010 CNS

Making A Difference

By Tony Magliano
Catholic News Service



A Catholic state of the union address

My fellow Americans:

The greatness of a nation is not based on its affluence and military might. Rather, greatness is measured by an enduring commitment to the Gospel's central teaching of love for all and a determination to fully apply the principles of Catholic social teaching to every aspect of political, economic and social life.

With this unflinching moral map from the Almighty as our guide, let us always protect life and affirm its dignity!

A civilized nation does not permit the murderous dismembering of 1.2 million babies by abortion every year.

I call on this Congress and the states to pass a constitutional amendment fully protecting the life of every single human being from conception to natural death.

In some ways we act no different than our Neanderthal predecessors in dealing with conflict, except that today instead of clubs we use M-16 rifles, B-1 bombers, unmanned drones, cruise missiles and nuclear weapons of mass destruction against our enemies — killing countless innocent civilians in the process.

Jesus taught us to love our enemies, not annihilate them! Waging war — with all its death and destruction — is contrary to reason, logic and the God who gives life.

In this world there is no perfect way, but there is a better way: Let's wage peace!

To that end, I have ordered a total withdrawal of military forces from both Iraq and Afghanistan before Christmas. Untiring, comprehensive negotiations with all willing parties, along with the rebuilding of both

countries, will be our objectives.

Pope John Paul II taught that "if 'development is the new name for peace,' war and military preparations are the major enemy of the integral development of peoples."

It is estimated that with an additional \$100 billion in poverty-focused aid per year, extreme poverty throughout the world could be eliminated.

For the sake of the common good, and in solidarity with the world's suffering masses, I urge Congress to transfer \$100 billion from the astronomical \$708 billion military budget and appropriate it for the purpose of raising the world's 1 billion hungry human beings out of extreme poverty!

Here at home, 40 million Americans — one in every five children — are poor. I ask this Congress to embark on a massive green-jobs creation program that will help protect our fragile environment and put millions of Americans to work.

Killing people who kill people is both hypocritical and immoral. It is my hope that Congress will pass legislation outlawing the vengeful practice of capital punishment.

Our country is benefiting from the hard work of millions of undocumented workers who are forced to live a largely underground existence. Send me legislation that legalizes their status and unites their families, and I will proudly sign it into law.

As the only industrialized nation without universal health insurance, and with more than 46 million Americans uninsured, I urge Congress to pass a quality health care bill that covers every single person in the U.S. No one should be excluded from this human right.

Since abortion is not health care, I will veto legislation that includes any form of abortion coverage! And I insist that full conscience protection be provided to all insurers, hospitals and related personnel.

Let us ask God for the courage to put our Gospel-based faith into action. Let us be guided by the wise principles of Catholic social teaching and, thus, consistently do what is morally right for all.

God bless America and everyone on planet earth!



Special Collections

Operation Rice Bowl — Through Easter Sunday

Catholic Relief Services — March 14

Holy Land (Good Friday) — April 2

Ongoing Events

Mini-Life-Chain—In Victoria every Wednesday before the 2nd Thursday of each month. Call (361) 578-2506 or (361) 578-2002 for time and intersection location.

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

Our Lady of the Rosary Fraternity Emerging/Secular Franciscans— meets every other Wednesday from 7:00-9:00 p.m. For dates and location call Jay Howard at (361) 574-8487.

Marriage Encounter—Marriage Encounter weekend is held at the Spiritual Renewal Center. For more information or to register, write or call Milton and Diane Rejcek, 2512 Hillcrest, Bay City, Texas 77414; (979) 245-0323; register@mevictoria.org www.mevictoria.org

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

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

Singles — Catholic Singles, 40 and over, meet every second and fourth Thursday of the month at Holy Family Education Building at 7:00 p.m. Call Georgia (361) 573-9435, or Jean at (361) 578-8760, or Sue at (361) 578-3106.

Young Adults—Between the ages of 21 and 45 meet for an evening of fellowship and good company every 1st and 3rd Thursday at Holy Family at 7:00 p.m. Call Jim Wearden at (361) 579-9737 or (361) 649-9157.

ACTS Retreats—For information on ACTS retreats, please go to ACTS Web site at www.actsmiissions.org. For more information about the ACTS community movement in the El Campo Deanery, to download an upcoming ACTS retreat application, or to submit/view the prayer requests across the El Campo Deanery, please visit their site at <http://ecdeaneryacts.org/>.

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

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

presidiolabaha.org.

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

Picnics, Activities, etc.

Lent Events

East Bernard—Fish Fry every Friday night through April 2, serving from 5:30-7:30 p.m. at Riverside Hall. The meal will be fresh catfish fillets, fries, hush puppies, cole slaw, pinto beans and tea for \$9 p/p all you can eat; children 6 -11 years-old \$4 p/p. Drive-thru and plates-to-go \$8 p/p. Sponsored by the Knights of Columbus Council 2500 with proceeds to benefit local scholarships and charities.

Victoria—Our Lady of Victory Youth Ministry Fish Fry will be held on March 5 and March 26. The menu consists of catfish, hush puppies, cole slaw, green beans, garlic bread and tea. The cost is \$6.50 for either dining in the cafeteria or take out. Serving times will be from 5:00 - 7:00 p.m. in the school cafeteria. Thank you for your support of this ministry.

Victoria—Holy Family KC Fish Fry Friday, March 26. Catfish plates served from 5:00 to 8:00 p.m. at parish hall. The cost is \$7 p/p.

March

Hillje—St. Procopius Spring Festival March 7 at the parish hall. A fried-chicken dinner will be served starting at 11:00 a.m. with dine-in or drive through plates-to-go available at \$7 p/p. There will also be a bake sale and raffle.

Hungerford—KJT Society #79 and KJZT Society #57 will be hosting their Annual Barbecue-Chicken and Sausage Dinner, March 7 at the community center. Serving begins at 10:30 a.m., dine-in or plates-to-go will be available. There will be an auction, free dance until 5:00 p.m. with music by The Texas Legacy Czech Band.

Cuero—The Knights of Columbus Council #1682 will be hosting its Annual Lent Shrimp Dinner on March 14, from 11:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m., at St. Michael's Hall. The meal will include fried shrimp, rice, cole slaw, and hushpuppies. Tea or coffee will be available at the hall only. Plates-to-go will be available. Advance tickets and at the door for \$7 p/p available from any KC member. Proceeds from the meal are used for scholarships and various other charities of the Knights of Columbus.

Victoria—Knights of Columbus Council 1329 chicken-barbecue fund-raiser March 21 at the KC Hall. The price is \$6 per chicken. Beans and Spanish rice available for \$1.50 per pint. Sale starts at 8:30 a.m. Proceeds benefit council's projects.

Upcoming Events

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

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

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

Victoria—Holy Family Parish Festival May 2 at the community center with a barbecue-beef and sausage dinner starting with plates-to-go from 10:30 a.m.-1:00 and dine-in from 11:00

a.m.-2:00 p.m. There will be a cake wheel, children's games, country store, plant booth, estate booth and more. Entertainment will be Rusty Steins in the dome and DJ Chris Hessler in the annex from 11:00 a.m.-1:00 p.m. A live auction begins at 1:00 p.m.

Masses • Retreats • Conferences

Victoria — The Sisters of the Incarnate Word and Blessed Sacrament Amor Meus Spirituality Center invites the public to Lenten Vespers from 5:00 p.m. to 6:00 p.m. on the remaining Sundays of Lent: March 7, 14, 21 28. Vespers is held at the convent chapel at 1101 N.E. Water Street, Victoria. For more information, please call (361) 575-7111.

Lenten and Holy Week programming highlights

Here is a partial list of EWTN's special programming for the Lenten season. Please consult the EWTN Web site at www.ewtn.com/ for more details and last-minute updates. Below listed times are Central Time.

• Rome's Hidden Churches: A Lenten Pilgrimage

Explore the great station churches of Rome on a Lenten Pilgrimage with Dr. Timothy O'Donnell, Sundays, Mondays, Wednesdays & Fridays through Easter at 2:20 p.m.

• Lenten Reflections

Each week during Lent, priests from Irish parishes share messages on the meaning of the season. Sundays and Thursdays

• Lenten Parish Mission

From the Shrine of the Blessed Sacrament in Hanceville, Alabama, the Very Reverend William Casey, C.P.M., superior general of the Fathers of Mercy, discusses the sacraments, the Holy Mass and devotion to the Blessed Mother, 9 p.m. Sundays; 1 p.m. Tuesdays through Easter

• Feasts & Seasons (Lent & Easter)

In her unique and engaging style, British Journalist Joanna Bogle shows you how the kitchen can become a springboard for diving into wonderful Catholic Lenten traditions, 12:30 p.m. Thursdays through April 8

• Holy Week Retreat

Filmed at the historic St. James Roman Catholic Church in London, priests from cities throughout England share daily reflections during Holy Week on the passion, death and resurrection of Jesus; 9 p.m. March 29 - April 2

• The Seven Last Words of Our Savior on the Cross

Filmed on location in Spain, this unique musical program presents the Seven Last Words that Jesus Christ spoke from the Cross on Mount Calvary, 12:30 p.m. March 21; 2 a.m. March 27; 10 p.m. March 30; and 12:30 p.m. April 2

• Holy week programming from Vatican City and Rome:

- Solemn Mass of Palm Sunday - 2:30 a.m. March 28
- Chrism Mass - 2:30 a.m. April 1
- Solemn Mass of the Lord's Supper - 10:30 a.m.

April 1

- Way of the Cross - 7 p.m. April 2
- Easter Vigil Mass - 2 p.m. April 3
- Solemn Mass of Easter Sunday - 3:30 a.m. April 4
- Urbi Et Orbi Message and Blessing - 5 a.m. April 4

Catholic Men's Conference — March 20

SAN ANTONIO—The 5th Annual Catholic Men's Conference will be held Saturday, March 20, 2010, at St. Peter - St. Joseph Children's Home (St. PJ's) Conference Center in San Antonio.

Come learn about Catholic Relationships, the Holy Spirit, the Eucharist, Spiritual Combat and Sexual Integrity for men today. Meet other men who Share your Values and Struggles. Enjoy Great Speakers, Great Food, Live Music, Reconciliation,

Healing, Dialogue and Mass with Archbishop Jose Gomez - and all for only \$35. Included in the price is a free CD by Dan Duet with his new production of the Men's conference Theme Song, as well as other music from the conference.

St. PJ's is located at 919 Mission Road, just south of Highway 90 and just West of IH-37/Hwy 281 in San Antonio.

The Conference is limited to the first 600 men, so sign up now. To register, call (210) 521-3377 or go to: www.pilgrimcenterofhope.org/cmc.html.

Childcare and school workers are usually the first non-family member to see children outside the home on a regular basis. This exposes them to children who are potential victims of child abuse and as such must be trained to recognize abuse and what to do if it is suspected.

Every 11 seconds a U.S. child is reported as abused or neglected. Child Abuse and Neglect has been cited by the Center for Disease Control as a priority health problem. The U.S. Department of Health and Human Services has called violence toward children a public health crisis. In the words of Dr. Bruce Perry, a nationally renowned researcher on child abuse, "If 20 million people were infected by a virus that caused anxiety, impulsivity, aggression, sleep problems, depression, respiratory and heart problems, vulnerability to substance abuse, antisocial and criminal behavior, retardation and school failure, we would consider it an urgent public health crisis. Yet, in the United States alone, there are more than 20 million abused, neglected and traumatized children vulnerable to

these problems. Our society has yet to recognize this epidemic, let alone develop an immunization strategy.

There were 67,737 child abuse/neglect victims in 2006 in Texas. Child abuse is a cylindrical problem. Parents abused as children are more than six times as likely to abuse their children as parents who were not abused. Approximately 50% of these victims were pre-school age. Furthermore,

approximately 93% of the children were abused by their own family, thereby increasing the need for training.

Your presence at this program indicates that a need exists in the area of child abuse in child cares/schools. We hope to fill that need by providing this program.

A certificate of attendance will be provided for six-hour credit to each participant.

CHILD ABUSE & NEGLECT It's Everyone's Problem

A Professional Development Workshop For Child Care & School Personnel Presented by Prevent Child Abuse Texas

• Columbus Daycare Conference, March 27, at Columbus High School cafeteria, 103 Cardinal Lane, Columbus, Texas 78934.

• San Antonio Daycare Conference, May 1, 8:30 a.m. - 3:30 p.m. at Family Service Association of San Antonio, Inc., The Neighborhood Place, 3014 Rivas Street, San Antonio, Texas 78228

• Victoria Daycare Conference, June 26, 8:30 a.m. - 3:30 p.m. at Devereux-Victoria, 120 David Wade Drive (Highway 59 South), Victoria TX 77905

For more information, cost, or to register, please go to: <http://www.preventchildabusetexas.org/trainings.html>

Child Abuse Prevention Workshops for Child Care / School Personnel



LOCAL RESTAURANT PROVIDES BENEFIT FOR HAITIAN VICTIMS—

Mrs. Beatrice Treviño and family, Siesta Restaurant employees and several generous purveyors, held a benefit meal at Siesta Restaurant January 25 on behalf of the Haitian earthquake victims. Mrs. Treviño, along with her pastor, Father Stan DeBoe of Our Lady of Sorrows Parish, presented the raised funds of \$3,743.51 to Bishop David E. Fellhauer to add to the diocesan's generous donation to the Catholic Relief Services. Siesta Restaurant staff and many community members volunteered their time and services by holding the benefit meal, which was blessed by Father DeBoe. Major contributors helping to defray expenses were La Original Tortilla Company, Hartman Distributing, Victoria Produce, Wells Fargo and Ben E. Keith Foodservice. Organizations such as the Knights of Columbus, OLS Altar Society, Target, and Walgreen's also provided great help in setting up and serving at the fundraiser.

Haiti and the Theodicy Question

By Rev. Ron Rolheiser, OMI, president of the Oblate School of Theology in San Antonio

Where is God in the countless tragedies that happen in our world? Where is God when bad things happen to good people? Where was God during the Holocaust?

These are timeless questions and, taken together, constitute what is often called the theodicy question, the question of God and human suffering.

Every so often this question hits us with a particular poignancy, as it did with the earthquake in Haiti. Somewhere between a quarter of a million and half a million people are dead, thousands are injured, hundreds of thousands are homeless, thousands more now face the possibility of disease from lack of proper water, food, housing, and hygiene, its capital city has been almost completely destroyed, and virtually everyone in the country has lost loved ones. And all of this happened to one of the poorest nations in the world - and to a people who have a deep faith in God.

Where is God in all this? How does one find a faith perspective within which to understand this? Not easily.

When we search Scripture for answers, we find that neither the Jewish Scriptures nor Jesus try to tackle the question philosophically, namely, in the type of way that Christian and Jewish apologetic writers have tried to answer it. Scripture and Jesus, instead, do two things: First, they place suffering and tragedy into a larger perspective within which God is understood more as redeeming suffering rather than as rescuing us from it. Second, they assure us that God is with us, a fellow-sufferer, in any tragedy.

For example, anyone who follows the daily readings for the Church's liturgy, cannot not have noticed, that on the very day after the earthquake, there was a haunting parallel between what happened in Haiti and what was described in that day's Epistle taken from the Book of Samuel. Here is an excerpt from the Epistle for the liturgy the day after the earthquake:

"So the people went to Shiloh, and brought with them the Ark of the Covenant of the Lord of hosts, who is enthroned on the cherubim. The two sons of Eli, Hophni and Phinehas, were there with the Ark of the Covenant. When the Ark of the Covenant of the Lord was brought into the camp, all Israel gave a mighty shout, so that the whole

earth resounded. ... [And with that faith and confidence, Israel marched into battle, but] ... Israel was defeated, and everyone fled, each to his own house. There was a great slaughter and thirty thousand of her foot-soldiers fell. The Ark of the Covenant was captured; and the two sons of Eli died."

One doesn't have to strain the imagination to write a haunting parallel:

"So the people in Haiti practiced their Christian faith with piety and confidence.



People pray in front of destroyed Cathedral of Our Lady of the Assumption in Port-Au-Prince, Haiti, one month after deadly earthquake. (CNS photos by Ivan Alvarado, Reuters)

They went to their churches, received the Eucharist, and lit vigil candles to their God. And they trusted that their God would protect them. But there came a great earthquake. Hundreds of thousands of its people died, its great buildings were all leveled, all its churches were destroyed, its beloved cathedral fell to the ground, and the Archbishop was killed."

So where was God in all of this?

The Book of Samuel doesn't try to write an apologetics to explain what happened that day when a people who had just

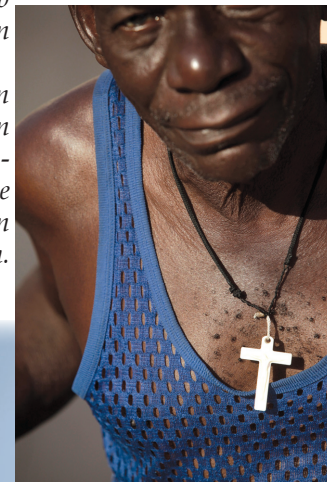
KC DONATION EARMARKED TO RESTORE HAITIAN CHURCH INFRASTRUCTURE—

Mr. Leonard Buxkemper, a 4th Degree Knight of the KC Weimar Assembly 1527, which comprises Flatonia, Schulenburg and Weimar, presents a check for \$2,000 to Bishop David E. Fellhauer on behalf of the Church in Haiti. "While we have personally and privately given to Red Cross, etc.," said Mr. Buxkemper, "we do not want to forget the Church - the archbishop, the vicar general, the unknown number of priests, and the destruction of churches, including the cathedral." It is the KC's plan that this donation go to the papal nuncio to help rebuild the infrastructure of the Church in Haiti. "This is just the beginning," Mr. Buxkemper said.



(above) Earthquake survivors hold up their arms as they pray in downtown Port-au-Prince, Haiti, Feb. 12.

(right) A crucifix is worn by a man waiting at a food distribution site in Port-au-Prince, Haiti, Feb. 9. Frustration and hunger continued to be felt by some of the more than 1 million people left homeless after Haiti's Jan. 12 earthquake.



celebrated its faith and confidence in God were utterly crushed in battle. It doesn't try to explain where God was when this happened. It simply continues to tell its story and, eventually, we see how God redeems a tragedy from which he didn't rescue its victims. It also makes clear that God was with the people of Israel, even as they were being routed.

Jesus gives us essentially the same perspective: When his friend, Lazarus, lay dying, he didn't rush to his side to rescue him. He waited until Lazarus was dead

and only then went to his home. He was met there by the sisters of Lazarus, Martha and Mary, who each asked him the painful question: Where were you when our brother was dying? Why didn't you come and cure him?

Jesus, for his part, doesn't meet their question head-on. Instead he simply asks: "Where have you put him?" They answer: "Come, we'll show you!" They take him to the grave and when Jesus sees the tomb