

The Catholic Lighthouse

The Cradle of Texas Immigration



VOL. 24, NO. 1

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May 2010

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Three Schools say Farewell to Principals

Three schools in the Diocese of Victoria will be saying goodbye to their current principals at the end of this school year. Our Lady of Victory in Victoria; St Michael in Weimar; and Shiner Catholic Schools in Shiner will begin the 2010 – 2011 school session under new leadership.

Our Lady of Victory, of Victoria, is saying goodbye to Sister Leonita Barron, IWBS, its principal of 30 years. Sr. Leonita has decided to resign her post at the end of this school term. We are grateful to Sr. Leonita for the many years of dedicated service to the parents, students, and staff of Our Lady of Victory and were certainly saddened by her announcement. Sr. Leonita is expected to take a much needed sabbatical to New Mexico; visit her brother, Father Barron, in Rome; and listen to the call of the Lord for her next assignment. Sr. Leonita has been a familiar face and steadfast servant of OLV for 30 years, four as a teacher and 26 as its principal. During Sr. Leonita's



Sister Leonita Barron, IWBS

See *Farewell to principals*, p. 9

Strong Catholic Families – Strong Catholic Teens

By Cynthia Brewer and Debbie Vanelli

The research on teens and faith cannot be clearer: parents matter... a lot, taught Dr. Greg "Dobie" Moser, D. Min., at an April 8 and 9 faith formation in-service program held in Victoria. Dr. Moser is executive director of the Youth and Young Adult Ministry and CYO office for the Diocese of Cleveland, Ohio.

The Office of Youth and Young Adult Ministry of the Diocese of Victoria hosted his program titled "Strong Catholic Families – Strong Catholic Teens," which was developed by the National Federation of Catholic Youth Ministry (NFCYM), at Our Lady of Victory on Thursday evening, for parents, and all day Friday at the chancery for trainers.

Dr. Moser encouraged the participants to engage and partner with parents to support them in their rightful roles as primary "formators of faith" for their family and to show how they can take ownership for leading their children toward a vibrant faith.

The two-hour evening program in which more than 40 parents participated was used as a model for local leaders (diocesan, parish, school, trainers) to replicate in their own communities.

The expected outcome of these sessions is to communicate the reality of current religious beliefs, attitudes and activities of today's teens and to highlight the critical impact of the parents' faith, beliefs and actions on that of their children and teens.

At the parents' meeting, Dr. Moser asked what they've observed and what they feel many people are looking for in a church. The answers included things such as speed (Mass should never be more than an hour, certainly less is better) and no commitment or demands on them.

So it would seem that rather than being a place to worship, build community and the moral fibers of our life, and find the support our families need, for many, church is seen more in a consumerist light.

"Thus the church of Wal-mart is developing."
 See *Strong Catholic Families*, p. 9

Rallies in Phoenix, across nation take aim at Arizona immigration law

By J.D. Long-Garcia
 Catholic News Service

PHOENIX (CNS) — About 10,000 protesters rallied May 1 at the Arizona State Capitol to demonstrate against the state's new immigration enforcement law.

Bigger rallies took place the same day in states not affected by the law. In Los Angeles, an estimated 50,000 gathered, while a reported 20,000 assembled in Dallas. Two rallies took place in New York City.

Other cities holding rallies included St. Louis; Oakland, San Jose, San Mateo, Berkeley and Gilroy, Calif.; Wichita, Kan.; Columbus, Ohio; and Lancaster, Pa.

The law, which sets into place tough new standards, has galvanized immigrant rights groups around the United States.

It also resulted in a late-night April 29 session of the Arizona Legislature to limit the bill's scope. Whereas the original bill, signed into law April 23, previously required law enforcement to make a "reasonable attempt" to determine legal status during "any lawful contact," it now limits the reach to any lawful "stop, detention or arrest."

Another revision states that law enforcement "may not consider race, color or national origin," striking the word "solely" that many of the bill's opponents took issue with.

Before the revisions, immigrant rights groups vowed to challenge the bill in court. Those speaking at a news conference where the vow was voiced included Dolores Huerta, sister-in-law of the late United Farm Workers union founder Cesar Chavez, and singer Linda Ronstadt, an Arizona native with both German and Mexican ancestry.

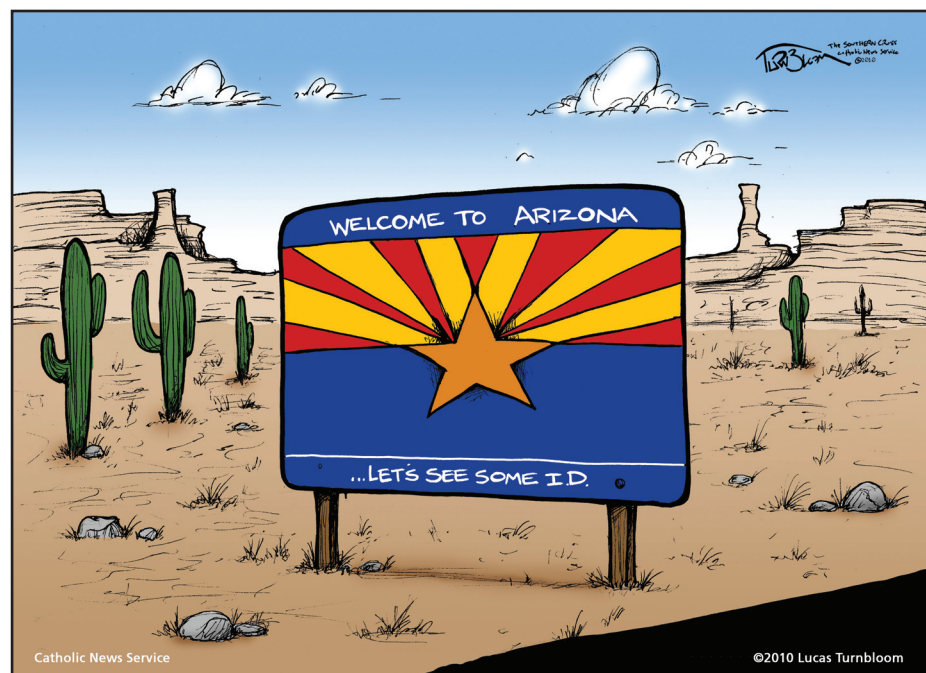
Frank Perez brought a group of traditional Mexican dancers from St. Catherine Parish in Phoenix to the May 1 rally. He said he turned out to support immigrant customs.

"We need to help each other in both the good and the bad times," Perez said. "This is a hard time for Hispanic culture. With the help of our Lord and the Virgin Mary, we can pull through and build a bridge. We must live as one, as human beings."

Juan Carlos Tapia, a member of St. Anne Parish in Gilbert, said he lives every day with the fear of being deported. He and his wife — who is also undocumented — have eight children, all born in the United States.

"We live with the fear of being separated from our children," he said. "But through this demonstration, we can testify that God is with us. God can change the hearts of our legislators. I hope God will bring them clarity of thought so they can see how we are suffering."

Nelson Severino of Casa Grande, while



a legal immigrant from the Dominican Republic, fears the new law will lead to discrimination against all Hispanic immigrants.

"We come to work," Severino said, adding that his children were born in the United States. "There's a lot of criminals, but there's also a lot of good people."

"People need to be calm," said Ron Johnson, executive director of the Arizona Catholic Conference, April 29, noting that the law had not yet taken effect. "The local church is concerned with how this will be enforced."

Ignacio Rodriguez, associate director of ethnic ministries for the Diocese of Phoenix, said his office was receiving lots of calls from concerned parishioners.

"They don't know if they're just going to get pulled over in the street," Rodriguez said. "People are already looking to move back to Mexico or to other states like New Mexico and Texas."

Jose Robles, director of diocesan Hispanic ministry, said he was pleased to see legal challenges to "this punitive law."

He encouraged Catholics to turn to prayer. "There's been a lot of emotion and media reporting on this," he noted. "We're asking our parishioners to remain calm, not to overreact to the situation. Don't be paranoid."

Bishop John C. Wester of Salt Lake City, chairman of the U.S. bishops' Committee on Migration, did not cite the Arizona law specifically in an April 29 statement urging federal measures to reform U.S. immigration policy.

"Over the past several years, the United States has poured billions of dollars into immigration enforcement, which has not only not solved the problem but in some cases led to the abuse of migrants," Bishop Wester said.

"We urge members of both parties to begin a process toward introducing and enacting bipartisan legislation which affirms the rule of law and basic human rights," he added. "Our immigration system is badly broken and is in need of immediate repair."

More *Immigration Stories*, p. 18



Bishop Fellhauer's Schedule

May	
7	6:00 p.m., Confirmation Mass, St. Anthony Church, Palacios
8	5:00 p.m., Confirmation Mass, Holy Rosary Church, Hostyn
9	10:00 a.m., Confirmation Mass, St. Rose of Lima Church, Schulenburg
10	5:00 p.m., Diocesan Liturgical Commission meeting, Chancery Office
12	7:00 p.m., Confirmation Mass, Parish of the Nativity, Eagle Lake
13	12 noon, Liturgy of the Hours, meal, for all priests in the diocese, celebrating "Year for Priests," Chancery Office
14	3:45 p.m., Reconciliation service, Spiritual Renewal Center, Victoria
15	5:00 p.m., Confirmation Mass, St. Joseph Church, Yoakum
16	10:30 a.m., Confirmation Mass, St. Agnes Church, Edna 6:00 p.m., Confirmation Mass, Assumption Church, Ganado
18	5:00 p.m., Year for Priests' appreciation dinner, Incarnate Word and Blessed Sacrament Convent, Victoria
19	7:00 p.m., Confirmation Mass, St. Joseph Church, Inez
22	6:00 p.m., Confirmation Mass, Immaculate Conception Church, Goliad
23	10:00 a.m., Confirmation Mass, St. Michael Church, Cuero, includes Our Lady of Guadalupe 3:00 p.m., Anniversary and birthday Mass for Father Henry Rachunek, St. John Church, Hungerford 6:00 p.m., Confirmation Mass, St. Philip the Apostle Church, El Campo
29	11:00 a.m., Serra Club Sisters' Cookout, Incarnate Word and Blessed Sacrament Convent, Victoria 5:00 p.m., Confirmation Mass, Holy Cross Church, Yorktown
30	9:30 a.m., Confirmation Mass, St. Peter Church, Blessing
June	
3	6:30 p.m., Priests' Cookout, Serra Club NW, St. Mary Church, St. Mary (Hallettsville)
6	10:00 a.m., Confirmation Mass, St. John Bosco Church, Vanderbilt

In memory of Father Johnson's mother

Abena Kwabna Agyare, the mother of Rev. Johnson Owusu-Boateng, passed away in Ghana, West Africa, on March 30, 2010. Father Johnson is the pastor of St. John Bosco in Vanderbilt and its mission church, St. Theresa in LaSalle. We offer Father Johnson many condolences and pray for his healing and comfort.

Eternal rest grant unto them, O Lord, and let perpetual light shine upon them. May they rest in peace. Amen.

Renovation Update for St. Joseph, Yoakum

Renovation of St. Joseph Parish in Yoakum is moving into its final weeks. The floor is in the process of being finished and the exterior framing on the windows is progressing along as well, and the pulpit is in place on the right side of the sanctuary, in its original location.

Apart from the floor work, there will be little else done the week of May 2 to allow the floor to cure and be ready for traffic in the next few days. The week of May 10 will see the arrival of the pews, the organ, the altars and the lighting.

See pictures of the renovations at: www.stjatholicchurch.com/renovations.htm.

Thank You Letter

March 15, 2010

Dear Bishop Fellhauer,

Please accept my deepest appreciation for your diocese's contribution of \$15,731.65 from your 2009 Catholic Home Missions Appeal. The generosity of your parishioners is needed greatly by our US mission dioceses.

Contributions to the appeal go directly to our brother bishops who cannot offer their people even basic pastoral services without outside help. In these difficult times, small dioceses without significant reserves are in increasing danger and need a helping hand to evangelize, to catechize, and especially to train future priests and lay leaders to sustain and strengthen the faith. Currently, the subcommittee on the Home Missions is assisting 87 mission bishops.

I am grateful for all you do to support home mission dioceses and wish you a blessed remainder of the Lenten season.

Sincerely yours in Christ,
Most Rev. Michael W. Warfel
Bishop of Great Falls-Billings
Chairman, USCCB Subcommittee on Catholic Home Missions



Holy Cross Catholic Church

Requests the honor of your presence

at

Father Casey Jarzombek's

Golden Jubilee Mass Celebration of the Priesthood

& Year of the Priest

Come Celebrate and Rejoice!

Sunday, May twenty-third, two thousand ten

At three in the afternoon

Holy Cross Catholic Church

2001 Katy Avenue

Bay City, Texas

Reception and Dinner to follow
Knights of Columbus Hall
63 County Road 316
Bay City, Texas
RSVP to 979-245-6379

Your presence is gift enough.



DSA & Reflection of Faith Capital Campaign Updates

2010 DSA

Diocesan Goal:	\$1,349,808.00
Parish Pledge Totals:	\$481,742.25
Parish Contribution Totals:	\$381,529.75
Number of Parish Families Participating:	2,920

Reflection of Faith Capital Campaign

Diocesan Goal:	\$ 9,000,000.00
Parish Pledge Totals:	\$12,991,862.82
Parish Contribution Totals:	\$ 7,482,236.09
Number of Parish Families Participating:	6,751

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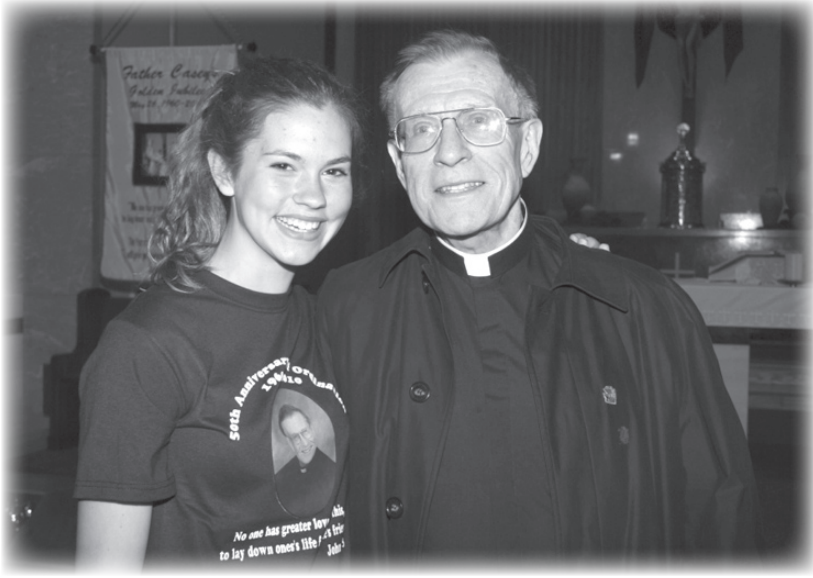
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DEADLINE IS THE THIRD TUESDAY OF THE PRECEDING MONTH.



In Memory of ...



While sporting her Father Casey appreciation t-shirt, Jessica Koether, a teen in the Life Teen Ministry, thanks her pastor for his dedication and the way he shares the love of Christ with the teens and the entire parish.

Year for Priests Celebration at Holy Cross Parish

By Terri Busha

BAY CITY—Hoping to reinvigorate the priesthood, Pope Benedict XVI announced a Jubilee Year for Priests, which began June 19, 2009. In highlighting the "Year for Priests," Pope Benedict called upon the example of St. John Vianney. The humble French diocesan priest was assigned to the rural and spiritually dying town of Ars in central France. Through his example of personal holiness and attention to the sacraments, St. John was able to transform his parish.

The words used to describe St. John were recently echoed at Holy Cross. On Sunday, March 21, 2010, Holy Cross Life Teen had a special "Life Night" called "A-Priest-iation." The goal for this Life Night was to affirm, support and pray for our parish priests during this very special year. It was a surprise celebration for Father Casey to celebrate the Year for Priests, as well as his upcoming Golden Jubilee. Yes, that's right, Father Casey will be celebrating 50 years in the priesthood on May 26, 2010.

The Life Night started in the Life House with the teens wearing their new t-shirts with a picture of Father Casey on the front. Father Casey joined us in the Life House for the big surprise and then we went to the church to find out that this would be our biggest Life Night ever as many parishioners joined us for the celebration!! There was a lot of music, a lot of praise and thanksgiving for a man who has dedicated his life to Christ and his parish. A video presentation provided a lot of laughs as we were able to look back over the years and remember all the good times!! The video counted down the top 50 reasons we have to celebrate Father Casey this year, a few included ... his love for Mary, being a great role model, and the number one reason, of course, is that Father Casey leads us to Jesus!!

After the video presentation several parishioners spoke about the impact Father Casey has made in their lives. Mike Allison spoke of how he has transformed our parish through ACTS, That Man is You, Life Teen, and other parish ministries. Allen Green spoke of Father Casey's love for the Eucharist and his love for his parishioners

as he gives us Communion each Sunday. Marsha Petter spoke of how Father Casey has taught her obedience and how she truly looks to him for spiritual guidance. Jake Schulz, a relatively new parishioner of Holy Cross, spoke of how welcome he feels at the parish and how he attributes that to Father Casey.

Joe Koliba said he has often wondered about Father Casey's hobbies. Joe said, "I don't see him at the golf course, or in the bay fishing. I don't know what his hobbies are, then I realized, the place I always see Father Casey is in front of the Blessed Sacrament, praying." And the last speakers for the night were two young Altar Servers, Andrew and Brooke Richards. They talked about how they serve with him every week and how he teaches them about the Mass each week. They mentioned how they loved his jokes and shared a poem they wrote especially for Father Casey.

We ended our Life Night watching a great video about the priesthood, "Fishers of Men." It is a must-see video to get a deeper understanding and appreciation of the priesthood. Deacon Walley spoke to the teens about being open to truly discern their vocation and to not be afraid. He led us in prayer for Father Casey and all priests during this very special Year for Priests.

Holy Cross is looking forward to the official celebration of Father Casey's Golden Jubilee on Sunday, May 23, 2010. Please join us for the Golden Jubilee Celebration Mass at 3:00 p.m. at Holy Cross with a reception and dinner following at the Knights of Columbus Hall. Please RSVP to the church office at (979) 245-6379.

Editor's note: A copy of "Fishers of Men" (DVD) may be checked out from the chancery library.

Answer to #787: Sacraments

Answer to #819: Original Sin

Answer to #837: Baptism, Confirmation and Holy Orders

Answer to #844: Aspersion (sprinkling), infusion (pouring), and immersion (dipping or plunging)

Amador G. Amador

Amador G. Amador, 72, of Victoria, passed away Wednesday, March 24, 2010.

Amador and his wife, Connie, worked for the Diocese of Victoria at its Spiritual Renewal Center on property along San Antonio River that his family once owned. They became employees when the SRC opened in 1988 and became the center's administrators in 1991. Both retired 18 years later on December 31, 2006.

Amador was born Dec. 31, 1937, in Victoria, to the late Charlie Amador and Ynocente De La Garza Amador. Besides directing the SRC, he was also a farmer and rancher. He was a descendent of Don Carlos De La Garza.

He is survived by his wife, Consuelo

Garza Amador of Victoria; daughters, Roseanna Flores, Diana Sanchez and husband Jose Jesus, and Julia Amador, all of Victoria; sisters, Amelia Gutierrez of Corpus Christi and Jesusa Villarreal of Victoria; one special granddaughter named Leigh Ann Flores and honorary grandchildren Angie Flores, Shannon Flores, Richard Flores, Everado Torres, Jose Torres and Christina Torres; and 32 nieces and nephews, whom he loved very much.

He was preceded in death by his parents; sister, Inocente Garcia; brother, Charlie Amador Jr.; and son-in-law, Ruben C. Flores.

Funeral Mass was celebrated on Saturday, March 27, at Our Lady of Sorrows Church with Father Stan De Boe officiating. Interment followed at De La Garza Cemetery.



Clara L. Munsch Hawes

~ mother of Father Roger Hawes

PORT O'CONNOR - Clara L. Munsch Hawes, 89, of Port O'Connor passed away April 11, 2010. She was born July 29, 1920, in Port O'Connor to the late Michael and Clara Johanna Barre Munsch.

Clara enjoyed many activities and was a member of St. Joseph Church, Port O'Connor, Service Club, Port O'Connor Chamber of Commerce, lifetime member of PTA, Associate of Incarnate Word, took care of the altar linens until her death, and was active in the local and church community. She was a dedicated wife, mother, grandmother and sister.

She is survived by her sister, Agnes Valigura; daughters, Clara Marie Paulk, Johanna (Missy) Deckert (Blue), Marian Stevenson (John), Madeline Bourg (Danny), Sally Hersey (John); sons, Alfred W. (Freddie) Hawes Jr. (Chantal), Leslie Hawes (RoseMary), Michael Hawes (Mary), Teddy Hawes, Mark Hawes (Maxine), Paul Hawes, Father Roger

Hawes, Phillip Hawes (Mary), and Forrest Hawes (Joyce); 40 grandchildren; 52 great-grandchildren; and nine great-great-grandchildren.

She was preceded in death by her husband, Alfred W. (Pat) Hawes Sr.; sister, Hilda Harris; brothers, Edgar, William, Emile, Clarence, Pete, Michael and Henry Munsch; grandson, Stephen Paulk; great-grandchildren, Gabriel Goode and Sara Holt; daughter-in-law, Linda Hawes; and son-in-law, Fisher B. Paulk.

A visitation was held Thursday, April 15, 2010, with a rosary at St. Joseph Church in Port O'Connor. Funeral Mass was held Friday, April 16, 2010, at Our Lady of the Gulf Church in Port Lavaca. Interment followed in Port O'Connor Cemetery.

Pallbearers were her sons.

Memorial donations may be made to St. Joseph Church in Port O'Connor, Incarnate Word Convent in Victoria, POC Fire Department and Perpetual Help Home in Victoria.

Words of comfort may be shared with the family at www.colonialfuneralhome-portlavaca.com.



Sister Enriqueta Salgado

Sister Enriqueta Salgado has gone home on April 14, 2010.

Sister Enriqueta was born in Olinala, Guerrero, Mexico, on July 19, 1924. She entered the religious community of the Missionary Catechists of the Sacred Hearts of Jesus and Mary at the age of 19. During her 65 years of religious life, she served as general superior for 12 years. Throughout her life she showed great love for her vocation and developed a deep spiritual life.

As a missionary called to proclaim the merciful love of God, she served in Mexico, but the majority of her religious life was spent in various missions throughout Texas, where she learned to love and embrace all

of God's people. Everyone will miss her humor, simplicity, joy of life, and beautiful smile that welcomed everyone.

She is survived by her sister, Rufina Salgado, and brother, Josaf Salgado.

She was preceded in death by her parents, Casildo and Maria Salgado; her sister, Eustorgia Andrea; and brother, Eduardo Salgado.

Memorials in her name may be sent to the Missionary Catechists of the Sacred Hearts of Jesus and Mary (MCSH) at 203 East Sabine Street, Victoria, Texas 77901.

Funeral Mass was celebrated on April 16 at Our Lady of Sorrows Catholic Church.

Visitation resumed at Our Lady of Guadalupe Church in Rosenberg on Friday. A rosary was recited and the funeral Mass was celebrated that evening. Burial will follow at a later date in Mexico.



Sister M. George Vasek, IWBS

Sister M. George Vasek, age 97, died Wednesday, April 21, 2010. She was born April 13, 1913, in East Bernard to the late August and Mary Srubar Vasek. She was a member of the Sisters of the Incarnate Word and Blessed Sacrament.

Sister George received her elementary education at Lawson Public School in Wharton and earned her high school diploma from St. Ludmila Academy in Shiner. Sister attended Victoria College and Incarnate Word College from which she received

a BA degree with a major in English and a minor in Spanish. She was awarded a teacher's high school certificate and a provisional librarian certification.

Sister entered St. Ludmila Convent as a postulant on Oct. 5, 1932, and became a novice on July 24, 1933. She made her first profession of vows on Sept. 5, 1934, and pronounced her final vows on Sept. 5, 1937.

Sister George ministered as a teacher, librarian and/or administrator in St. Ludmila Academy and St. Paul High School in Shiner, Marak Public School, Hostyn

See Sister M. George Vasek, IWBS, p. 4



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Seminary Burses

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

As of April 27, 2010

	TOTALS
— General Seminary Burse	
Previously reported	\$ 96,659.00
In memory of Amador Amador by M/M A.R. Wearden	50.00
In memory of Debbie Bowden by M/M Fred Fischer Jr.	25.00
Total	\$96,734.00

— Catholic Daughters of America Our Lady Queen of Peace Court #1374	
Previously reported	\$4,637.72
In memory of the 14th anniversary of Carl Priesmeyer Jr., Dr. William Hand and Ellen Vickery by M/M Carl Priesmeyer	50.00
Total	\$4,687.72

— Rev. Msgr. Edward C. Bartsch Seminary Burse	
Previously reported	\$2,080.00
In memory of Martha Kutac by Gary & Denise Grieve Family	25.00
In memory of Steven Kubenka by Gary & Denise Grieve Family	25.00
Gift by Serra Club of Victoria NW	50.00

In memory of Rev. Msgr. Edward Bartsch by:	
M/M Robert Bochat	25.00
Gary & Denise Grieve Family	100.00
Stazy Hajek	25.00
Georgia Cerny	100.00
Frank & Sireta Michalak	25.00
Mary C. Jasek Family	50.00
Allan & Cynthia Stryk	25.00
M/M Dennis Kutach	25.00
KJZT #4 Praha	100.00
M/M Alphonse Kubenka	30.00
Martha Sitka	20.00
Ollie Pospisil & Tim	20.00
M/M Louis Barta	20.00
Agnes Olsovsky	10.00
Patricia Masek	15.00
Tracy Lev	5.00
Della Mae Urban	5.00
M/M Ernest Chaloupka	15.00
Joyce Janecka	10.00
M/M Ronald Berkenhoff	15.00
M/M Henry Jalufka	10.00
Robert Lev	20.00
M/M James Daughtry	20.00
Elsie Farek	5.00
M/M Art Klekor	30.00
M/M George Jasek	10.00
Marie Venklarek	10.00
Michael Fishbeck	10.00
M/M Ken Stryk	10.00
M/M Ernie Surman	10.00
Celine Kalina	20.00
The Cerny Family	5.00
M/M John Laetsch	50.00
Julia Stryk	10.00
Charlie Bartos Family	20.00
M/M Dennis Stryk	10.00
Louis Stryk	20.00
Stanley & Daniel Stryk	20.00
M/M Bill Psencik	20.00
M/M Robert Schaefer	20.00
M/M Charles Klimitschek	20.00
Evelyn Okruhlik	50.00
M/M Leo Janak & Barbara	25.00
Praha Altar Society	200.00
M/M Dennis Tousek	25.00
Josephine Mikulik	10.00
Neil Goertz	50.00
Albert & Rita Kozel and Family	45.00
Sts. Peter & Paul Altar Society	100.00
Total	\$3,685.00

— Knights of Columbus Holy Family Victoria Council #9088 Seminary Burse	
Previously reported	\$820.00
In memory of Andrew C. Nozer Jr. by KC Council #9088	100.00
In memory of Herman Salinas by KC Council #9088	100.00
In memory of Lance Alkek by KC Council #9088	100.00
Total	\$1,120.00

— Rev. John C. Peters Seminary Burse #4	
Previously reported	\$9,649.00
Gift in memory of Joe & Benita Pavlu	3,000.00
In memory of Edward James Cinadr by Willie E. Barborak	10.00
Total	\$12,659.00

— Rev. Jerome J. Stryk Seminary	
Previously reported	\$11,684.50
In memory of Dorothy Zampini by M/M Richard Allums	25.00
In honor of 25th wedding anniversary of Kim & Tony Nguyen by M/M Richard Allums	25.00
Total	\$11,734.50

— St. John the Baptist Church, St. John In Memory of Rev. Brian Crookes Seminary Burse #2	
Previously reported	\$4,491.00
In memory of Patrick Hrcir by Willie E. Barborak	10.00
In memory of Kenneth Setzny by Willie E. Barborak	10.00
In memory of George Shimek by Alfred & Anna Marie Schwartz	5.00
In memory of Patrick Hrcir by Ervin & Bernice Neskora	10.00
In memory of George Shimek by Ervin & Bernice Neskora	10.00
In memory of Kenneth Besetzny by: Ervin & Bernice Neskora	10.00
James & Dana Daughtry	25.00
Bruce & Karen Bludau	10.00
Arnold & Dorothy Berger	20.00
Forrest & Ann Dittrich	10.00
Robert & Pam Besetzny	20.00
Leo & Joyce Janda	20.00
Alphonse Besetzny	10.00
Marcella Janak	10.00
In memory of Anton Orsak by Roland & Heather Vacek	20.00
In memory of Anton Orsak by Lillian Besetzny	10.00
In memory of Anton Orsak by Albert & Dorothy Olsovsky	10.00
Total	\$4,711.00

— Rev. Celestino Say Seminary Burse (Catholic Life Ins.)	
Previously reported	\$3,659.71
In honor of Rev. Celestino Say's birthday by Emily Yeary	100.00
Total	\$3,759.71

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

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

For the Year of the Priests
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- Rev. John C. Peters Burse #4
- Rev. Msgr. Stanley Petru
- Rev. Celestino Say (Catholic Life Ins.)
- Rev. John C. Bily
- Knights of Columbus Council #3204 — Ganado Rev. Joseph Hybner
- Rev. Msgr. Michael Harrold
- Rev. Msgr. Thomas C. McLaughlin

Year for Priests Interviews with priests in the Diocese of Victoria

Rev. Msgr. Stanley J. Petru — Hostyn and Plum

Msgr. Stanley J. Petru is pastor at Queen of the Holy Rosary Parish, Hostyn and Sts. Peter & Paul Parish, Plum. Below is his "Year for Priests" interview.

What is the date and place of your birth? November 22, 1922, in Shiner, Texas

What are your parents' names? Frank and Johanna Petru (deceased)

What are your siblings' names and where do they live? Frank Petru, Houston; Robert Petru, Houston; Rev. Gus Petru, OMI, Mexico City, Mexico; and deceased: Charlie, Jim, Louis, Joseph, Mary and Rev. Msgr. Julius Petru

What is the name and location of your home parish? St. Anthony, Raymondville, Texas

What schools did you attend and when? Elementary School: West Point Elementary School near Corpus Christi; High School: St. John Seminary, San Antonio; College: St. John Seminary; and Seminary: St. John Seminary

Date and place ordained and by whom: May 27, 1948, at San Fernando Cathedral in San Antonio by Archbishop Robert E. Lucey

If ordained in another diocese, when were you incardinated into the Diocese of Victoria: 1992

Assignments: 1949-1952, assistant pastor, St. Philip the Apostle, El Campo; 1952-1956, assistant pastor, Sts. Cyril & Methodius, Shiner; 1956-1968, assistant pastor, St. Rose of Lima, Schulenburg; 1958-1964, pastor, St. Cornelius, Karnes City; 1964-1968, pastor, St. Agnes, Edna; 1968-1980, pastor, Sacred Heart, Hallettsville; 1980-1992, pastor, St. Gregory the Great, San Antonio; 1992-present, pastor, Queen of the Holy Rosary in Hostyn along with Sts. Cyril & Methodius in Cistern from 1992 to 1998; and then from 1998 to the present as pastor at Sts. Peter & Paul



Parish in Plum

Receipt and date of papal dignities: 1979 Domestic Prelate by Pope John Paul II with the title of Rev. Monsignor

Published works: n/a

What are your hobbies or special interests: golf and bird watching

When was the first time you thought of the priesthood? When I was a child and started serving at the Mass at Sts. Cyril & Methodius Church in Corpus Christi.

Who influenced or inspired you? My brother, Msgr. Julius Petru

What is your favorite Scripture passage? "You are the light of the world" (Mt 5:14).

How did you come to know Jesus? By my grandmother; she taught us our prayers.

What was your background before the seminary (things you did, jobs, etc.)? I was a child, raising chickens for 4-H.

What are some of your favorite experiences/ joys/ surprises since becoming a priest? Shortly after I was ordained, I was sent to visit a very sick man, who had not been to church for 20 years. My pastor told me he would probably not even open the door, but to try to visit him anyway. When I got there, he asked me my name, and then asked if I was Frank Petru's son. When he found out I was, he told me that Frank was a good friend of his, so he let me in his house. I heard his confession, and he received the sacraments.

Another time, I was visiting nursing home residents, and a nurse told me not to go into one room, as the lady there hated priests. I skipped the room that day, but the next time I was at the nursing home the lady called out to me as I passed her door, and asked if I was Johanna Petru's son. When I told her I was, she asked me into the room, and told me that my mother had been a friend of hers. She too then received the sacraments for the first time in a long time.

These are two of my favorite and most joyful experiences as a priest.

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

Who is a hero to you? Archbishop Fulton Sheen

Sister M. George Vasek, IWBS

Continued from p. 3

Public School and Radhost Public School near La Grange, St. Jerome School in Plum, Our Lady of Perpetual Help in Selma, Sacred Heart School in Crosby, and St. Mary School in Nada. Sister George also served as treasurer at Burns Hospital in Cuero from 1942-1946.

In 1993 Sister George moved to Incarnate Word Convent where she assisted in various household duties and served as portress when needed. She crocheted articles for the annual crafts sale and loved to play cards and work crossword puzzles. Her sense of humor and kindness reaped her a host of friends.

Sister George is survived by her brother, John Vasek of China Spring; sister, Frances Vasek Volding (Don) of Dallas; sisters-in-law, Mrs. Joseph Vasek of Conroe and Mrs. Joan Restenwald of Waco; and nieces and nephews.

She was preceded in death by her parents; brothers, Louis Vasek, Peter Vasek, William Vasek, Paul Vasek, Joseph Vasek, and Steve Vasek; and sister, Mary Vasek Duckett.

A rosary was recited April 23, 2010, at Incarnate Word Convent. A wake service with evening praise and sharing of memories was held at the convent also, April 23, 2010. Funeral services were held at

the convent on Saturday, April 24, 2010, with Rev. Phi Nguyen presiding. Burial followed at Catholic Cemetery No. 3.

Pallbearers were family members and friends: Martin Luchak, Raymond Luchak, Steve Luchak, John Vasek, Kenneth Stock, Bobby Kneifel and Phil Pilat.

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

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Seminary Burses Near Completion

• Mr & Mrs Nicholas A. Grahmann Seminary Burse #2	Total	\$10,145.00
• Rev. Roman M. Janak & Rev. Msgr. Hubert J. Janak Seminary Burse	Total	\$14,124.84
• Rev. Theophil Okruhlik & Rev. Vincent Verdarama Seminary Burse	Total	\$9,920.40



Bay City to Send Missionary to Honduras

BAY CITY, Texas—My name is Sean Breeden. My home parish is Holy Cross Church in Bay City, and I was a seminarian with the Diocese of Victoria for a year-and-a-half until this past December. I was so impressed by the support for vocations in our area! The many members of the Knights of Columbus, the Catholic Daughters, KJZT, and the Serra Club are a huge blessing to our diocese! It is their prayers and support that form the backbone of our faith community. I would not trade my time as a seminarian for anything. It was a unique time of real growth and dependence on the Lord. I truly learned how to discern and follow God's will, and the importance of daily prayer and humble service was ingrained in me in a powerful way.

However, last semester, I began to feel a lack of peace about continuing on to major seminary. I felt that the Lord was calling me to step out in service during an extended time of ministry. After much prayer and spiritual direction, I decided to apply to do long-term mission work with a lay organization called the Missioners of Christ in Comayagua, Honduras.

After a four-month-long application process including dozens of pages of documents to fill out, a background check, a ten-day mission trip to Comayagua, and three phone interviews, I was finally accepted in March. I will be in Comayagua this upcoming August to December, which is the discernment period during which the decision is mutually made whether God is calling me to stay in Honduras for the full two years. While in Honduras, I will primarily be involved in evangelization and discipleship of youth, but will also be helping with other corporal and spiritual works of mercy as well.

What attracted me to the missioners, besides my desire to teach the faith in Spanish, was their four pillars of life: the Eucharist, Marian devotion, fidelity to the Magisterium, and the power and gifts of the Holy Spirit. Also, the Missioners were invited to Comayagua to help the Franciscan Friars of the Renewal (or the CFR's) with youth ministry. This was so impressive to me because the CFR's are so dynamically

orthodox and faithful to the Church. Father Benedict Groeschel from EWTN's Sunday Night Live is one of their founders.

At a time when most college grads are busy with job searches, resumes, and



Photos from my 10-day mission over Christmas (2009) break to the mountain village called "Santa Elena" in the "La Paz" region of southern Honduras. This is a picture of myself sharing with Norman, a 22-year-old Honduran seminarian and Omar, a 17-year old Honduran missionary.

happiness and fulfillment, according to the world. But, as Catholic Christians, we know that living our faith many times involves being counter-cultural. We know that only in the will of the Lord is our peace. Our faith tells us that true freedom is not the ability to do whatever we please. Rather, freedom is perfected in choosing to do God's will for us—that which is genuinely true, good, and beautiful.

It is not enough to stand at a comfortable distance when our brothers and sisters across the world are suffering. Christ exhorts us to, "Go therefore and make disciples of all nations..." (Matt 28:19). This is a quote of what is commonly known as the "The Great Commission." Notice it is not "The Great Suggestion." As followers of Christ, we are called to love in a supernatural way that requires us to step out of our comfort zones and into the unfamiliar, trusting in the Lord to provide the means for the work to which he calls us. At the same time, there are different ways of responding to this call.

own homes and families, we must strive to bring Christ to one another on a daily basis. To be Catholic is to evangelize—in prayer, in word and in deed.

Few are called to be foreign missionaries for life. Some are called to be foreign missionaries for a time. But, all of us are called to unite ourselves in prayer and solidarity to the poor, the suffering and the forgotten of the world in which we live. God has given me a deep desire to serve the Honduran people at this time in my life. The total cost of the mission, including transportation, room and board, and training is around \$5,500. I can probably cover most if not all of

this amount by myself. After all, St. Paul reminds us in 2 Thessalonians 3:10, "If anyone will not work, let him not eat." But, we are the Body of Christ, and I have a moral obligation to allow you the opportunity to help me in letting the people of Honduras know that they are loved, and that they have not been forgotten—by God or by us.

Your support of me, the Missioners of Christ, and the people of Honduras will truly echo into eternity. Can you imagine entering the pearly gates to find hundreds of people rushing up to hug you? You may think to yourself that you have no idea who all of these overly-friendly strangers are! But, they will respond, "Your prayers and your love are the reason I made it up here!" What a wonderful surprise and an inexplicable joy that will be when the veil is lifted, and we are able to see the infinite fruits that God worked through our small contributions to help build His Kingdom on this earth.

For more information on Sean's mission work, or to make a donation, please contact: Sean Breeden, 3416 Meadow Lane, Bay City, TX 77414; phone (979) 240-969; or seanmichaelvitus@gmail.com

For more detailed information regarding mission trips to Honduras with the Missioners of Christ, please visit <http://www.missioners.org/Honduras.html>. For information on how to sponsor a child or university student in Honduras, please visit <http://www.missioners.org/Sponsorship-Scholarships.html>, or e-mail sponsorship@missioners.org.



Inside the church with participants of our youth retreat at the mission, from left, are Darlin, Rachel Vessell (a Franciscan University student with me), Iris-Xiomara, me and a young retreatant.

interviews, it seems to be totally illogical to even consider going to Honduras to do mission work. The world's wisdom says I should go out, get a good job, make more money than I need, and buy a house full of things I don't need. That is where I'll find

St. Therese of Lisieux is the patron saint of missions, and she never even went on a mission trip. The reason given for her patronage in this area was that she had a heart for the foreign missions. Every Christian is a missionary. Especially in our

Finding a job, keeping the faith

By Christina Capecchi
Twenty Something

It is a curious thing to receive bad news from a chipper person. There's a point at which the facts crack the cheery façade, and no degree of optimism or exclamation points can keep it from crumbling.

The other day, for example, a twenty-something couple e-mailed an update on their job search. "We're now applying to jobs nationally," the wife wrote. "So wherever you are, we're open to relocating for full-time positions!"

The jovial upside — "We might just move to your town!" — didn't mask the unwritten downside — "that's how badly we need work...any work, anywhere."

What a job market, that a highly-educated, hard-working twosome must cast their net from sea to shining sea, that all the other factors influencing where they'd like to live are now being trumped by the promise of a paycheck. Imagine them Googling towns they've never heard of, looking for a flicker of familiarity, a hint of connection, something to grab onto.

As 2010 has marched on, the number of Americans who have been unemployed for at least half a year has steadily climbed,

now reaching 6.5 million. They've faced fierce competition, job seekers outnumbering job openings five to one. Technically, that means you have better odds of getting into Northwestern University, where the average freshman's ACT score exceeds 30.

Then again, it's no longer clear that a prestigious education will pay off. A good friend of mine who earned her master's at Northwestern has moved back in with her parents and has been temping for more than a year — which, she confided over discounted mojitos — means she's been slowly going insane. This is a woman who's been networking and volunteering up the wazoo, praying to St. Joseph with every submitted resumé.

I know what it's like to feel butterflies when you click send. As a freelance writer, I cast a steady stream of pitches and bids into the cyber abyss, which feels vast and soundless.

It may be the special lot of the recessionary twenty something to keep putting herself out there, to have much to prove and to begin each day at what feels like square one. So we blog and tweet and reach out, sending out mass e-mails that are white flags, pleas wrapped in pleasantries. You

don't have to dig deep to pick up on the urgency behind the courtesy — when "thank you for your consideration" means "pretty please with sugar on top" and "at your convenience" slides into "at your earliest convenience," a pinched kind of polite panic.

When your life's achievements, polished and bulleted, don't merit so much as a "got it, thanks," it's easy to feel very, very small.

The Holy Father has a message for that particular instance. He urged young adults gathered in Rome last month to draw strength from this truth: "My life has been willed by God since eternity. I am loved, I

am necessary. God has a plan for me in the totality of history: He has a plan specifically for me."

It is a dramatic paradigm shift for the job seeker, rightfully concerned about cell-phone and car-insurance bills that can't quite be shelved to eternity. But it is a mantra to keep you plugging away: "I am loved, I am necessary." And it is pretty amazing that God's plan for you, though it doesn't match your timeline, stands to be noticed in "the totality of history."

So take a deep breath and the long view. The master's plan is unfolding right now.

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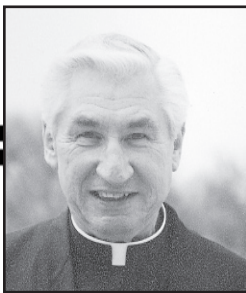
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FAITH POINT

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

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



Should the Pope Resign?

Pope Benedict XVI is being accused of a criminal cover-up of the sex abuse scandal within the Church. There are many calls for his resignation. Two atheist authors, Christopher Hitchens and Richard Dawkins, want the pope arrested for crimes against humanity when he visits England later this year, and UN Judge, Geoffrey Robertson, wants him to appear before the International Criminal Court (ICC) for the same reason.

The basis for all this venom against the pope is a series of news stories alleging that the pope tried to cover up sexual abuse cases. The stories are examples of abysmally bad journalism by what some call the lame-stream media. One such story that appeared in *The New York Times*, charged a cover-up of Father Lawrence Murphy who allegedly sexually abused some 200 deaf students in a school where he was principal. Two lawyers, Jeff Anderson and Mike Finnegan who boasted of “suing the s—t out of them [Catholic dioceses] everywhere,” accused the pope of not defrocking the priest when he had an opportunity to do so. The *Times* apparently considers contingency-fee lawyers as the best possible news source, so it did not bother to check with the priest who was conducting the canonical trial of Father Murphy.

The case of Father Murphy did not come to then Cardinal Ratzinger’s office until 1996. He could not defrock the priest until a canonical trial had taken place. One was in progress but the defendant died before its completion. A further slime by the *Times* is that Father Murphy was not disciplined in any way by the Church. In fact he was stripped of his priestly faculties, which is equivalent to taking away a doctor’s medical license.

Another story was issued by the *Associated Press* about supposed resistance on the part of Cardinal Ratzinger to remove a Father Stephen Kiesle accused of sexual misconduct from the priesthood. The AP did not contact the Diocese of Oakland for confirmation, a quaint practice that existed in days before journalism degenerated into propaganda dissemination. The article implied that Father Kiesle maintained priestly ministry after his charge of misconduct. Actually he was removed immediately from active ministry in the diocese by Bishop Cummins. The question of laicization is separate from the practice of ministry. The essential thing is that he was no longer in any position to re-offend.

A third story concerns a Father Hullerman in Munich supposedly assigned by Joseph Ratzinger, then Archbishop of Munich, to a parish in Munich. Father Hullerman was from the Essen Diocese in Germany and Archbishop Ratzinger, at the request of the Essen Bishop, gave permission for Father Hullerman to reside in a Munich parish where he could receive treatment and diagnosis by a psychiatrist and where he would have no priestly ministry. In 1981 Ratzinger was

appointed prefect of the Congregation of Divine Faith (CDF) and the assignment of Father Hullerman, admittedly a grave error, was done by the vicar-general of the Archdiocese of Munich, a Father Gruber, in 1982. Ratzinger had nothing to do with the appointment.

The truth is that Joseph Ratzinger, both as cardinal and pope, has done more than anyone else to get the Vatican involved in combating aggressively the scandal and to remove what he calls the “filth” from the Church.

We will mention one more charge (though the media will bring up others), the case of Father Marcial Maciel Degollado, founder of the Legionaries of Christ, accused of sexual impropriety. Cardinal Ratzinger purportedly covered up this case. Vatican spokesman, Father Federico Lombardi, stated that it was ridiculous to attribute to Cardinal Ratzinger concealment of this case. He promoted the canonical investigation until the certainty of Father Maciel’s culpability was established. The CDF then imposed on Father Maciel retirement from every public activity and this was communicated by the Vatican Press Office. Issuing a press release scarcely qualifies as a cover-up.

The truth is that Joseph Ratzinger, both as cardinal and pope, has done more than anyone else to get the Vatican involved in combating aggressively the scandal and to remove what he calls the “filth” from the Church. It was he who brought about standardization in the way the Church dealt with offending priests. He was the first to summon an entire Bishops’ Conference—Ireland’s—to take action at a national level. In New York he met personally with victims of sexual abuse and apologized for the sins of priests.

It is easy to imagine the motivation for the resignation frenzy. The pope is opposed to many favorite secularist vices: abortion, embryonic stem cell research, same-sex marriage, contraception, divorce, and ordination of women priests. It would be advantageous to remove or discredit this icon of morality.

It is doubtful that the media with its sloppy or deliberately distorted stories has the youthful victims in mind so much as sliming the Church. Nobody is seeking the removal of Ban Ki-moon for sexual atrocities committed by UN peacekeeping troops. Hollywood, which delights in picturing priests as predatory, recently gave a prize and a standing ovation to accused sex offender Roman Polanski. Nobody in the media seems to be spending resources covering the much higher incidence of sexual abuse in public schools.

Apart from erroneous stories, the media fails to put clerical sex abuse in perspective. Horrible and disgraceful as it has been, sexual abuse is not a characteristic or monopoly of Catholic clergy. Despite what you read, the Catholic Church is the place that you likely find the least of it. Penn State professor, Philip Jenkins, (not a Catholic) wrote a book on the subject of abuse and here are some of his findings:

- Celibacy is not the root of the problem. Married men are more likely to abuse than unmarried.
- All religious groups have pedophile scandals, and Catholics are at the bottom

of the list statistically. (When did you last read a story about a pedophile parson or minister?)

- Child abuse is prevalent in all areas of society: schools, youth organizations, sports, etc.

- Of all professions, Christian clergy are least likely to offend. Doctors, farmers, and teachers are most likely to abuse children—not clergy.

- Most of the cases (about 80%) of Catholic clergy abuse are homosexual in nature.

Dr. Jenkins cites a 1990 study of 2,200 priests of the Archdiocese of Chicago over the previous 40 years. The survey found 40 priests who were probably guilty of misconduct with minors. Most of this activity was with adolescents 16 or 17 years of age. Since 80% of misconduct was homosexual in nature that meant that only 8 priests were guilty of heterosexual misconduct, one out of every 275 or about 0.36%. Pope Benedict has banned the ordination of known homosexuals for which

he was criticized by persons who think that homosexuality is normal, the same group that is currently seeking his head. Had the rule been in place, the archdiocese would be apologizing for only 8 priests instead of 40.

It is impossible to guarantee that clerical sex abuse will not occur again, however, no group is doing more to prevent it than the Catholic Church. In our own diocese, and all dioceses across the United States, there is a Safe Environment Office with the sole responsibility of checking the backgrounds of all who come into contact with young people and mandatory training for them. All are retrained every three years. Charges against clergy will be reported to authorities immediately. A program of this sort is badly needed in our public schools.

The pope is not likely to resign and he deserves to remain the beacon of sound morality. He is no more responsible for the misconduct of a few sinning priests than Jesus was for the betrayal of Judas.

Papal letter on sex abuse emphasizes spiritual rebuilding in Ireland

By John Thavis
Catholic News Service

VATICAN CITY (CNS) — Pope Benedict XVI’s letter to Irish Catholics was a pastoral not a disciplinary document, aimed more at spiritual rebuilding than establishing a chain of accountability for the priestly sex abuse scandal.

In a letter to Irish Catholics, Pope Benedict XVI personally apologized to victims of priestly sexual abuse and announced new steps to heal the wounds of the scandal, including a Vatican investigation and a year of penitential reparation.

“You have suffered grievously and I am truly sorry. I know that nothing can undo the wrong you have endured. Your trust has been betrayed and your dignity has been violated,” he told victims in his letter, released March 20 at the Vatican.

The pope told priest abusers that they would answer to God for their sins. He said bishops had made serious mistakes in responding to allegations of sexual abuse,

and he encouraged them to implement new church norms against abuse and cooperate with civil authorities in such cases.

“Only decisive action carried out with complete honesty and transparency will restore the respect and good will of the Irish people toward the Church,” he said.

The 4,600-word letter came in response to the disclosure last fall that Irish church leaders had often protected abusive priests over the last 35 years. Similar allegations have since come to light in Germany, the Netherlands, Austria and Switzerland.

To see full text of letter, go to ABUSE OF MINORS. THE CHURCH’S RESPONSE on the Vatican Web site at http://www.vatican.va/resources/index_en.htm and click on Pastoral Letter of His Holiness Benedict XVI to the Catholics of Ireland (March 19, 2010). One may also go to <http://www.victoriadiocese.org/lighthouse/lighthouse.htm>, click on May issue, go to p. 6, and then click on the address in this story.



APPRECIATION DINNER FOR DSA VOLUNTEERS—In March, diocesan staff prepared a meal in appreciation for the Diocesan Services Appeal volunteers who had recently stuffed, sealed and sorted the nearly 25,000 DSA brochures that were sent out to parishioners throughout the diocese. Martha Pearson, the chancery receptionist, was honored with an appreciation gift for preparing over 2,500 envelopes herself, and Jeri Joseph, business office administrative assistant, was honored for her efforts in printing the brochures and coordinating the nearly 50 volunteers. The DSA supports the operations of the Diocese of Victoria.

ABUSE OF MINORS. THE CHURCH’S RESPONSE on the Vatican Web site at http://www.vatican.va/resources/index_en.htm



Landmark Study of U.S. Catholic Parishes Continues

WASHINGTON, D.C. — In February, the *Emerging Models of Pastoral Leadership Project*, working with the Center for Applied Research in the Apostolate (CARA) at Georgetown University, began conducting a study of the organizational life and ministries of Roman Catholic parishes in the United States. Mailed to 3,500 randomly selected parishes, the survey is the most comprehensive investigation of its kind in 30 years, and will offer a much-needed snapshot of the new forms and structures for ministry that are growing from the ground up.

The first phase will be followed by an in-depth study of parish leaders and parishioners at approximately 60 of the responding parishes, including a sample of 35 parishes that reflects the diversity of geographic region, demography, and size of U.S. parishes. There will also be a focus on Canon 517.2 parishes, multi-cultural parishes, and parishes using multiple-parish ministry. The research will provide pastoral leaders with a comprehensive overview of

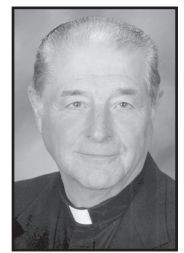
Catholic parishes and a detailed picture of emerging trends in areas such as:

- Opportunities and challenges in multicultural parishes
- Engagement of young adults in parish life and pastoral leadership
- Changing patterns in parish staffing and compensation
- Ministry in parishes that share a pastor and/or staff
- The roles of business managers and finance councils
- Experiences of parishioners in parishes administered by Parish Life Coordinators

The Emerging Models of Pastoral Ministry Project vision is for a more fully collaborative, competent, and mission-focused pastoral leadership for the Church. Prior research has included uncovering the “marks of excellence” in vibrant parishes. Findings have been published in six books and multiple reports and news releases. For more information, visit www.emergingmodels.org.

Question Corner

By Father John Dietzen
Catholic News Service



Practicing the faith after divorce

Q. I've been Catholic all my life, Catholic schools and a Catholic marriage that lasted 13 years, after which we divorced. Our children were raised Catholic. I still attend Mass regularly and never remarried. Since my marriage was never annulled, does that mean I cannot go to confession, receive Communion or have a Catholic funeral when I die? That's what several friends in similar situations tell me, and they have now joined other churches. (Illinois)

A. Your friends are all mixed up. There is nothing preventing your living a full Catholic life, including the sacraments. An annulment of your previous marriage would be required only if you contemplate a new marriage, which apparently you do not.

Whatever moral failings may have been the cause of the divorce should be confessed, as any other sins. In spite of the sad collapse of your marriage, however, you are still a full member of the Catholic faith. You don't need to hold back in the practice of that faith in any way.

Q. I sometimes send the family of a deceased friend a card promising a Mass intention. Someone died recently who was not Catholic, but a good Christian and friend. Is it all right to send a Mass card for him, or would it offend the family or be in poor taste? (Louisiana)

A. It is permitted to offer Mass for non-

Catholic Christians. The Congregation for the Doctrine of the Faith liberalized the law in this matter in 1976, following requests in several countries for priests to celebrate Mass for deceased persons baptized in other denominations. The Masses may be announced publicly, in the parish bulletin, for example.

This happens especially when the deceased person showed special respect for the Catholic faith or held public office in service to the whole community. These Masses are not only permitted, said the decree, they are encouraged for reasons of patriotism, friendship or gratitude, and have in fact become rather common.

Only two conditions apply. The family of the deceased must request it or at least not be opposed. And there should be no scandal resulting either for Catholics or those of other faiths because of the announced intention for the Mass.

Dear Father Dietzen: Your column recently discussed older widows and widowers who were reluctant to marry because they thought they would lose their Social Security benefits. They should know that the Social Security Act now allows remarriage after age 60 without endangering their benefit checks. (New York)

A. I'm grateful to the reader for this information. It may be verified by calling the Social Security Administration at 1-800-772-1213.

Happy Birthday!

Kristopher Fuchs is in Pre-Theology I at Holy Trinity Seminary in Irving, Texas. His home parish is St. Michael the Archangel, in Needville, and his birthday is May 13. Please show your support for our seminarian by writing to: Kristopher Fuchs, Holy Trinity Seminary, P.O. Box 140309, Irving, TX 75014-0309



Bishops Launch Vocations Web site 'ForYourVocation.org' offers resources for people in discernment

WASHINGTON—The U.S. Bishops' Secretariat of Clergy, Consecrated Life and Vocations initiated a new Web site April 25 to be a resource for both laity and clergy in the promotion of vocations. The launch date coincided with the World Day of Prayer for Vocations and Good Shepherd Sunday.

Site elements include discernment resources for men and women, respectively, aids for promoting a vocation culture within the home, and a range of tools for educators, youth leaders and vocation directors including prayers, videos, best practices, lesson plans and vocation awareness programs.

In response to Pope Benedict XVI's 2010 Theme for the World Day of Prayer for Vocations, Witness Awakens Vocations, the site also hosts videos of priests and religious men and women giving witness to their vocations, as well as testimonies from family members.

ForYourVocation.org exemplifies the Vatican's embrace of new communications media. In his message for the 44th World Day of Communications, Pope Benedict XVI challenges clergy to employ the “latest generation of audiovisual resources (images, videos, animated features, blogs, websites)” to put the media “ever more effectively at the service of the Word.”

The vocations' Web site can be found at www.ForYourVocation.org. A Spanish-language site will be available this fall at www.PorTuVocacion.org.

The launch of the site will be promoted through social media forums. Facebook users can become “eVangelizers” for the cause. By becoming an eVangelizer, one can connect others to the Web site's blog posts. Organizations may link to ForYourVocation.org by following the instructions at <http://foryourvocation.org/web-resources.cfm>.

Parents in USCCB-commissioned poll express concern over media content

WASHINGTON (CNS) — Parents are concerned about the content of the media to which their children are exposed and are eager to exert more control over that exposure. Those are two principal findings in a national survey commissioned by the U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops. Parents are right to express concern about their children's exposure to media but have not historically displayed a willingness to follow through, according to Emory Woodard, an associate professor of communication at Villanova University in Pennsylvania. In the USCCB survey, dated March 2010 but not released until April 15, more than 80 percent of those who responded said they wanted to be able to control access to media content depicting sex, violence, illegal drug use, alcohol abuse and profane language. The survey, “Parents' Hopes & Concerns About the Impact of Media on Their Children,” found that three-fourths of respondents say makers of media products should do more to help protect children from inappropriate media content, while 58 percent say government also should do more. Parents surveyed were asked about TV programs, TV ads, Internet sites in general, social networking sites, video games and cell phones. Seventy-two percent of respondents cited TV programs as something they were either “concerned” or “very concerned” about, followed by Internet sites (67 percent), TV ads (62 percent), social networking sites (59 percent), video games (57 percent), music (54 percent) and cell phones (43 percent).

Reporting Abuse

If you or someone you know has been sexually abused by a member of the clergy or other church personnel, you can register a complaint.

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

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

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

St. Mary's Parish Picnic

St. Mary's Parish Hall
Hallettsville, Texas

Sunday, June 13

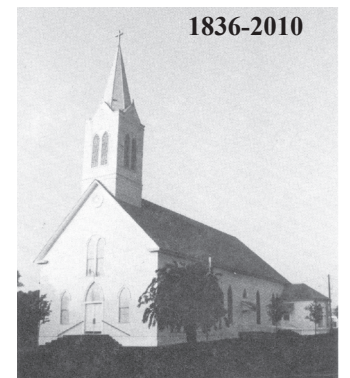
Beer • Popcorn • Soda
Water • Snow cones
• Hamburgers •
Ice Cream and
More



Games

Bingo • Ball Throw • Ring
Toss • Cake & Plant Walk
• Train Ride • Fish Pond
• Country Store w/Arts
& Crafts, Canned Goods
Kolaches, etc.

Music 10:30 a.m.-9:00 p.m.
Texas Sound Czech (10:30-2)
Tony Janak (2-5:30)
Red Ravens (5:30-9)



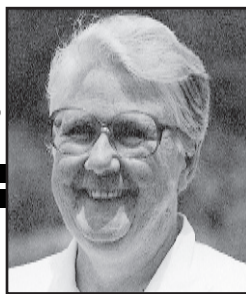
1836-2010

Mass 9:15 a.m.
Meal Begins at 10:30 a.m.
Featuring Special St. Mary's Stew &
Sausage & all the Trimmings
PLATES: Adult: \$7
Children: \$4 (dine-in only)
Dine-in or Drive-thru

Auction @ 1:00 p.m.



SISTERLY THOUGHTS



By Sister Mildred Truchard, IWBS

Body Work –Striving for that Gold!

Last month we looked at ways that we can strive for spiritual gold – the prize that we hope to claim as we come to the finish line of earthly life. We saw the effect that good example has on our training and on that of those about us. Now let us look at some exercises through which we can tone up our spiritual muscles.

Or we could look at our need for spiritual exercise in another way. Twice in one day I came across the term “religiously (or spiritually) tone-deaf” – meaning that one does not find or experience God in his or her daily life. Are some of these tone-deaf persons the ones in Saint Matthew’s description of the Last Judgment who said, “When did we see you hungry, or thirsty, or ...?” And what about each of us? Do we realize that when we are meeting the bodily needs of others, we are really ministering to Jesus?

How many meals do you prepare for your families day after day? Perhaps you’re tired after being up all night with a sick child, yet you get breakfast for the rest of the family. Or you have really had a long trying day but you muster the energy to get a meal together. Or you overcome your exasperation when your child is a fussy or messy eater? How many times do you share the food you have? How many times do you deprive yourself of some of your “wants” so that you can contribute to meeting “needs” of others? Are you aware that you are really giving food and drink to the hungry and thirsty Jesus? This awareness certainly adds a grace-filled dimension to everyday living.

The list of tone-up exercises continues. Providing clothing and shelter for our families and for the needy can drastically tax our resources; how consoling it can be to know that through these exercises, we are actually serving the naked and homeless Jesus. Welcoming the stranger can prove to be a challenge. Can we see Jesus in those who are “different” from us? Can we see him in the new-comer, in the immigrant, or in the troublesome?

The list goes on. We are called to visit Jesus in the sick and in those who are imprisoned. Can we see him in the shut-ins and in those in hospitals and nursing homes? Can we see him in those who are imprisoned, not only in jails, but through destructive habits or unfortunate circumstances which inhibit their freedom to become the persons that they were created to be? Can our example and support help

liberate them?

Now we come to the final exercise in this series – that of burying the dead. Let us keep in mind that every time we attend a funeral and pay final respect to one of our brothers or sisters we’re also doing it for Jesus.

So, let us pray and strive for the awareness that everything that we do for the bodily needs of our brothers and sisters, is done for Jesus. If we perform these body works – corporal works of mercy – we too will hear that we have achieved that spiritual gold – expressed in the words of Jesus, “Come into my kingdom... for when I was hungry... ”

Now, you may hear some people say, “If Jesus saved us by dying on the cross, why do we have to do anything to be invited into the kingdom? Isn’t his death enough?” Well it’s certainly true that Jesus died to save every human being who ever lived or will live on earth. However, if we really believe that Jesus saved us, we will want to exemplify our love and gratitude through our response to his command to love God and our neighbor. One way we demonstrate that love is through these body (corporal) works.

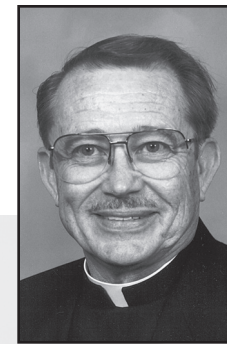
Next month we’ll look at some soul (spiritual) works! In the meantime, let us keep training for the gold!

During this month of May, let us salute all mothers who perform so many of these body works. Happy Mothers’ Day!

Year for Priests Interviews with priests in the Diocese of Victoria

Rev. Daniel Paul Kahlich – Columbus

Rev. Daniel Paul Kahlich is pastor at St. Anthony Parish and Elementary School in Columbus. Below is his “Year for Priests” interview.



What is the date of your birth? June 30, 1940

What are your parents’ names? Leo V. Kahlich and Martha E. Polk (deceased)

What are your siblings’ names and where do they live: Leroy J. Kahlich, Schulenburg; James L. Kahlich, Houston; Leo V. Kahlich Jr., Raleigh, NC; and Clarice Ann Zmeskal, Lewisville, Texas

What is the name and location of your home parish? St. Rose of Lima, Schulenburg

What schools did you attend and when?
Elementary School: St. Mary, High Hill, Texas, and St. Rose of Lima, Schulenburg;
High School: St. John Minor Seminary, San Antonio; **College:** Assumption Major Seminary, San Antonio; and **Seminary:** St. John and Assumption Seminaries; **Graduate of further studies:** Oblate College of Southwest, San Antonio, for continuing education in Canon Law and Scripture; U.S. Army & Air Force Chaplain School for Career and Advanced Courses; U.S. Air Force War College Seminar Course, Maxwell AFB, Alabama

Date and place ordained and by whom: May 28, 1966, by Bishop Stephen A. Leven at St. Rose of Lima Church, Schulenburg

If ordained in another diocese, when were you incardinated into the Diocese of Victoria: 1994 from the Archdiocese of San Antonio

Assignments: 1966 to 1967, parochial vicar, St. Louise Church, Castroville; 1967 to 1972, parochial vicar, St. Vincent de Paul, San Antonio; 1972 to 1975, parochial vicar, Holy Spirit, San Antonio; 1975, pastor, Our Lady of Peace, Kenedy; 1975 to 1988 served as Pro-Synodal Judge for the Archdiocese of San Antonio Tribunal; 1976 to 1978, parochial vicar, St. Thomas More, San Antonio; 1978 to 1988, pastor, St. Paul, San Antonio; 1988 to 1992, Director of Reserve Chaplain Activities, Active Duty Air Force Chaplain at HQ Air Force Reserve, Robins AFB, Georgia; in 1992 transferred to the Diocese of Victoria; October 1992 to August 1994, priest in residence at Holy Cross in Yorktown and its mission churches, San Luis in Yorktown and St. Ann in Nordheim; August 1994 to present, pastor, St. Anthony Parish and Elementary School in Columbus.

Receipt and date of papal dignities: n/a

Published works: n/a
What are your hobbies or special interests? boating and outdoors

When was the first time you thought of the priesthood? When I was in 7th and 8th grades at St. Rose School

Who influenced or inspired you? Msgr. Roy Rihn and my uncle, Rev. Oswald Kahlich

What is your favorite Scripture passage? “To the weak I became weak, to win over the weak. I have become all things to all, to save at least some” (1 Cor. 9:22).

How did you come to know Jesus? Through my parents and parochial school
What was your background before the seminary (things you did, jobs, etc.)? I held summer jobs with Stanzel Model Airplane Factory in Schulenburg.

Please share a little about your calling to the priesthood – how, when you knew it was time to join the seminary? Through vocation talks by Redemptorist Missionary and Archdiocesan Vocations Director, Father Roy Rihn, visiting St. Rose School while I was in the 7th and 8th grades at St. Rose

What are some of your favorite experiences/ joys/ surprises since becoming a priest? Being able to expand my interest in serving our country through the military chaplaincy. I joined the U.S. Army Reserves as a chaplain in July 1971, then transferred to the U.S. Air Force Reserve in 1974, served on Active Duty at the USAF Reserve Headquarters in Robins Air force, Georgia. Retired from the Military Chaplaincy in July 2000 having served 29 years achieving the rank of Colonel

What was the last book you read? “Have a Little Faith” by Mitch Albom

What is your favorite spiritual book? “Lift Your Sails” by Vincent Dwyer, OCSO

What is your favorite movie? “South Pacific”

Who is a hero to you? All Service oriented people

SHINER CATHOLIC CHURCH 24th ANNUAL SPRING PICNIC SUN, MAY 30, 2010 LEGION PARK, SHINER, TX



Masses:

Saturday – 5:00 p.m. (Polka Mass)
Sunday – 7:30 & 9:30 a.m.
Traditional Latin Mass - 11:00 a.m.

❖ MEMORIAL TRIBUTE AT NOON ❖

--- DINNER ---

10:30 a.m. – 2:00 p.m.
Dine in Air Conditioned Dining Room

Plate Includes THREE MEATS –
Shiner Picnic Stew | Fried Chicken |
Country Sausage | Trimmings |

\$7.50/Plate

Drive thru “Plates to Go” from
10:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. at
Shiner KC Hall on Hwy 90A East

COUNTRY STORE

Canned and Baked Goods
Kolaches | Pigs-in-Blanket
Served from 8 a.m. until ...

BIG COUNTRY AUCTION

12 Noon
Cattle Auction: 3:00 p.m.

Drawing

Prizes given away at 10 p.m.

ARTS & CRAFTS

Booth Spaces: \$50
Call (361) 594-2024

MUSIC & DANCING FOURTEEN HOURS OF MUSIC Inside AIR CONDITIONED Hall Free Admission

□□□□□□□□□□□□

11 a.m. – 2 p.m.

Accordion Music
By Pat Janak, Hank Novak
and Ed Caka

2 - 4 p.m.
Shiner Hobo Band
4 – 8 p.m.

Battle Dance with
Texas Legacy Czech Band
And Los Kolaches

□□□□□□□□□□□□

Keg Beer Available inside Hall

5 - 9 p.m. OUTSIDE BIER GARDEN MUSIC By Chris Rybak

Bring your lawn chairs for your listening pleasure

DANCE

9 p.m. to 1 a.m.
EMOTIONS

\$8.00 Admission charged inside hall
beginning at 8 p.m.

FREE Dance for the Children
8-9:30 p.m. - Ages: 3-11
Inside the old dining hall

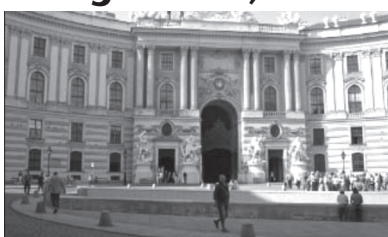
❖ 1-5 p.m. – Bingo with
Merchandise or Cash Prizes
❖ 5-8 p.m. – Grocery Wheel

- Hamburgers & Hot Dogs
- Cake & Plant Wheels
- Shiner Picnic Tee Shirts
- Souvenir Photo Booth
- Water Slide & Kiddie Rides

Fun for the Whole Family!!!
For more information call: (361) 594-3836
Website: www.sscmshiner.org

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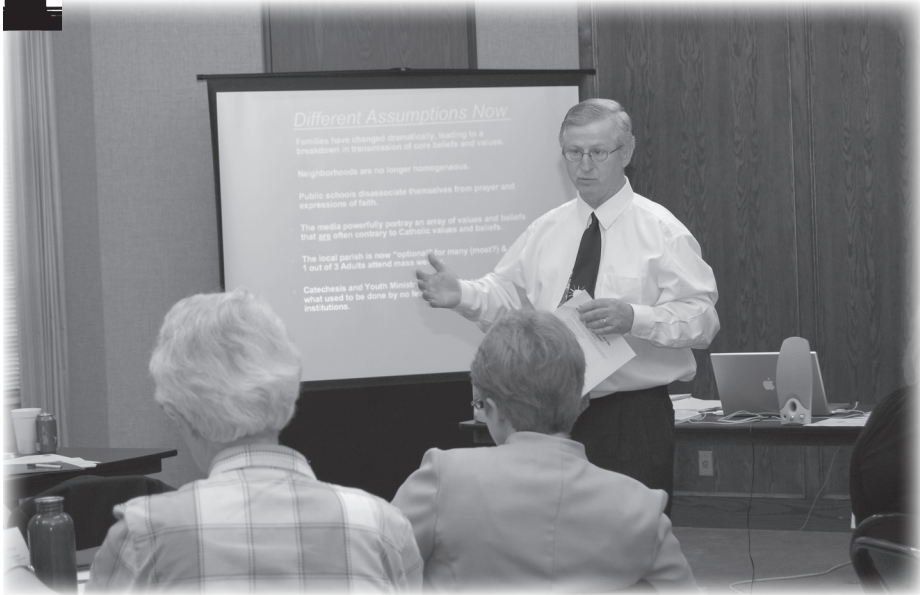


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At a training in April for religious education leaders in the Diocese of Victoria, Dr. Greg "Dobie" Moser discusses the different assumptions society has about families and religion.

Strong Catholic Families – Strong Catholic Teens

Continued from p. 1

oped," he said, "where we get in and out fast, no commitments and no demands."

Dr. Moser went on to say that in large cities with multiple Catholic churches, he has actually seen churches decrease Mass lengths and requirements for sacraments in an effort to attract numbers – much like the Dollar Store and Wal-Mart in a consumer society.

Farewell to Principals

Continued from p. 1

tenure, the school has received numerous awards, including its coveted National Blue Ribbon School designation for 2008.

The new principal for next year is Sister Laura Toman, who is presently the assistant principal of St. Patrick's in Dallas, Texas. Sr. Laura is also a past principal of St. Michael, Weimar.

St. Michael School, of Weimar, is bidding farewell to Sister Kathleen Goike, IWBS, its principal for the past five years. Sr. Kathleen will be moving, July 1, to her new post as Novice Directress for the IWBS religious order here in Victoria. Sr. Kathleen was surprised and humbled to receive the offer from her order to serve in this capacity. Though she has been very pleased to serve at St. Michael School, Sr. Kathleen is excited about the new position, which will have her working directly with young women who are interested in pursuing God's call to the religious life.



Sister Kathleen Goike, IWBS

The new principal for next year is Ms. Kim Patek, who is presently the principal of Sacred Heart Elementary of Floresville, Texas.

Shiner Catholic School, of Shiner, is also bidding adieu to Robert Whitworth, its principal for the past five years. Mr. Whitworth tendered his resignation and plans to relocate to another Catholic school in an administrative capacity. At press time, his decision had not yet been finalized. During Mr. Whitworth's tenure at Shiner, the school has made great strides, including its recent accreditation by the Texas Catholic Conference. We are also very appreciative to Mr. Whitworth for his years of service to the Diocese of Victoria as both teacher and administrator.



Robert Whitworth

The new principal for next year is Mrs. Neely Yackel, who is presently the assistant principal of Shiner Catholic School.

Dr. Moser also explained the "stop, drop and roll" mentality that many have. We "stop" at church, "drop" the kids off at CCD, and then "roll" off to do what we want and yet still expect our kids to grow up as faithful Catholics.

By our actions, we're teaching our kids to get in and out of church as quickly as possible, and then when nothing is requested of them, once they're confirmed, just stop going to Mass altogether.

"Rather than assuming the roll of primary educator of their child's faith formation as the church says, parents have become comfortable with others forming it," he said.

He challenged religious education teachers to look at the purpose of the Church and the message our religious ed. programs are sending if they attempt to assume the role of primary educators of faith development rather than supporting and journeying with parents in faith formation. If they don't, they'll usually end up lamenting when attempts to educate fail miserably.

Eighteen parish leaders from throughout the diocese attended the Friday, all-day 'training of trainers' session in order to take this training to their parishes and help parents regain their primary religious educator roles.

Dr. Moser has given keynotes, training and consultations in more than 40 states and internationally. He is a writer, leader, and trainer in education, family life, and coaching and sports formation for youth and families and received the 2004 National Federation of Catholic Youth Ministry National Excellence in Training Award. He recently accepted an appointment to serve on the United States Olympic Committee.

In the near future, the diocese will meet with those recently trained in order to identify and implement ways to support and journey with families to help them become the primary educators of their children. For more information, please contact Debbie Vanelli, director of the Office of Youth and Young Adult Ministry of the Diocese of Victoria, at dvanelli@victoriadiocese.org, or (361) 573-0828 ext. 32.

Diocesan Vocation Camp for young men

The 4th annual vocation camp for young men ages 15-21 (or those who will be sophomores in high school) will be held Sunday, July 18-21, at the Spiritual Renewal Center near Victoria.

Registration forms are available through your parish or at www.victoriadiocese.org/vocation/vocation_main1.htm. The cost of this camp is \$50. If you need assistance with the fee, scholarships are available.

Youth Calendar of Events

- June 6 — Rocky Mountain High parent/ participants meeting - 3:00 p.m at the Chancery in Victoria
- June 13-15 — 1st Session - Camp David Junior High Camp
- June 16 — Camp David Elementary Camp
- June 16 - 18 — 2nd Session - Camp David Junior High Camp
- June 28 - July 1 — Discipleship Week
- July 3-11 — Rocky Mountain High, Colorado
- July 18-21 — Diocesan Vocation Camp for Young Men ages 15-21 (or those who will be sophomores in high school) will be held July 18-21.

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



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



St. Joseph Varsity Treble Contest Choir is pictured with their Concert & Sightreading trophy. The choir members are, (front l. to r.), Teresa Vincent-chaplain, Jolynn Hoang-president, Megan Joy-vice president, & Hilary Kristynik-quartermaster/ librarian. Jolynn Hoang and Hilary Kristynik also won gold medals for the State Solo Contest.

STJ Chorale Wins State Trophy – Two Soloists Win Gold

The St. Joseph High School Varsity Treble Chorale won a Texas Private School Music Educators Association (TPSMEA) Concert & Sightreading Trophy for the third consecutive year on Friday, March 26, 2010. The choir contest was held at the First Christian Church, and hosted by St. Agnus Academy of Houston. Each choir was judged by a panel of three judges in two separate areas of musical competition. A Concert & Sightreading Trophy is awarded to a choral organization that receives 1st division (Superior) ratings in both Concert Singing and Sightreading.

The STJ Varsity Treble Chorale sang "O Come, O Come, Emmanuel" by Felciano,

Church announces beatification date for Italian teen

VATICAN CITY (CNS) — Chiara Badano, an Italian who died of bone cancer just before her 19th birthday, will be beatified Sept. 25 at a shrine outside of Rome. Born Oct. 29, 1971, in northern Italy, she was diagnosed with osteosarcoma, a bone malignancy, when she was 17. When she was given the news, she vowed to accept it as God's will. "If you want it, Jesus, so do I," she was reported to have said during a painful therapy session, adding that "embraced pain makes one free." She also reportedly declined to take the morphine doctors offered because, she said, "I want to share as much as possible the pain of Jesus on the cross." "I feel that God is asking me for something more, something greater," she said, according to her official biography. "... I'm only interested in God's will, doing that well in the present moment: playing God's game," she said.

"Lift Thine Eyes to the Mountains" by Mendelssohn and "Banks of Doon" by Schultz. Comments from the judging panel included, "Nice tone – good attention to line... Very Musical. Well Done. This is really good work. What a joy to hear you today."

The choral program also celebrated two of its members winning Gold Solo Medals at the 2010 Texas State Solo Contest for private schools. The gold medalists were Jolynn Hoang and Hilary Kristynik. Sandra Glenn accompanied the students.

Director for the St. Joseph High School Choirs is Michael Petrisky and was accompanied by Mrs. Sandra Glenn-piano, and Mrs. Lynn Coffman-Violin. Mr. Petrisky commented, "The students were just superb. It is no accident they received the top trophy in both concert and sightreading for the third straight year! We also want to thank our wonderful accompanists for making 'The Banks of Doon' so special. These are great people to work with!"

The STJ Choirs are preparing for their Spring Dinner & Concert on May 6, 2010, which will be held at Our Saviour's Lutheran Church 7:30 p.m.

Correction: Andy Polasek, was listed in two articles in the April issue (pp. 10 and 11) of The Catholic Lighthouse as a sophomore. He is actually a junior at St. Joseph High School in Victoria. Congratulations to Andy on his many accomplishments.



Congratulating Kodi Dvorak (center) on his acceptance into the rank of Eagle Scout are Wayne Knox (left), council/district board representative, and Alfonso Sirilo Sr., scoutmaster. *Sticker Photo By Lisa Mederos*

New Eagle Scout

SCHULENBURG—Kodi Alan Dvorak, 16, of Schulenburg, was recognized for his achievements at his Eagle Board of Review on March 9 and was approved for the rank of Eagle Scout. Eagle Scout is the highest rank attainable in the Boy Scouting program of the Boy Scouts of America. Since its introduction in 1911, the Eagle Scout rank has been earned by more than two million young men. Requirements include earning at least 21 merit badges and demonstrating Scout Spirit through the Boy Scout Oath and Law, service and leadership. This includes an extensive service project that the Scout plans, organizes, leads and manages. Kodi advanced to the level of Boy Scout on Feb. 8, 2004, and has served in various leadership positions while earning 43

merit badges. Special awards he received were World Conservation Badge, Honor Camper, Arrow of Light, and Order of the Arrow. Four religion medals he earned were Agnus Dei, Light of Christ, Parvuli Dei, and Ad Altare Dei. He also earned patches for his knowledge of the Rosary. Board members were: Wayne Knox, council/district representative; Alan Herzik, D.D.S., board chairman; and Byron Eckhardt and Roy Saffel, Lions Club members. Kodi is the son of Kimberly Dvorak of Schulenburg and Keith Dvorak of Hallettsville and the grandson of Helen Koncaba of Schulenburg and the late Oscar Koncaba and Jack and Ellen Dvorak of Hallettsville. He is also the great-grandson of Regina Eschenburg of Schulenburg and Esther Raindl of Shiner.



JCDA COMMUNITY SERVICE—Yoakum Junior Catholic Daughters of the Americas #206 planted an oak tree in front of the new mausoleum in St. Joseph's Cemetery on March 27, 2010. Earlier in the week the members learned about "Going Green" and beautifying God's creation. Also at the meeting, the members learned about and tasted herbs which they then planted into originally decorated flowerpots.



WEIGHT-LOSS RACE ENDS—The Lenten Weight Race lasted six long weeks for Deacon Joey Targac and Father Michael Rother. The pressure from the race was finally relieved 9:00 a.m. Holy Saturday with a victorious shout from Deacon Joey who edged out Father Michael by 1 pound on the last weigh-in. Never squelching on a bet, Father Michael has allowed his beard to grow for the last 2 weeks and will keep it until Pentecost Sunday, May 23. However, truth be told; the youth are the true winners because the 65-total pounds lost earned the youth of the various parishes a total of \$4,500.



GIRL SCOUTS RECEIVE RELIGIOUS MEDALS—Bishop David Fellhauer and the Girl Scout Religious Committee presented Catholic Girl Scouts their Religious Medals at Our Lady of Victory Cathedral recently. Girls work with their families, other Girl Scouts, and Adult Advisors to complete a workbook of various activities, which lead them to a deeper knowledge of their faith and a closer relationship with God and their families, as well as service to others to earn their medals. Medals received were: "Family of God" by the Brownies, "I Live My Faith" by the Juniors, "Mary, the First Disciple" by the Cadettes, and "St. Elizabeth Ann Seton Medal" by Adult Advisors: Frances Cervantes, LeeAnn Hathaway and Veronica Walsh. Pictured are those who participated in the ceremony. Back row: Emma Andruss - Cadette (Troop 9557), Iris Young - Cadette (Troop 9557), Danielle Malik - Cadette (Troop 9579), Kimberlee Hathaway - Junior (Troop 9579), Emily Schoener - Junior (Troop 9579), Bishop Fellhauer, Aubry Williams - Junior (Troop 9440), Faith Barton - Cadette (Troop 9557), Christa Schoener - Junior (Troop 9579), Natalie Brown - Cadette (Troop 9557), Isabella Aparicio - Cadette (Troop 9557), Barbara Wilcox (Troop 95012); middle row: Sandy Munoz (Troop 9579), Veronica Walsh (Troop 9579), Dana Malik - Brownie (Troop 9579), Mary Grace Konarik - Junior (Troop 9579), Baylee Young - Junior (Troop 9579), Caitlin Walsh - Junior (Troop 9579), Kyra Williams - Junior (Troop 9440), and Angelica DeLaGarza (Troop 9440); and front row: Sarah Andruss - Cadette (Troop 9557), Frances Cervantes (Troop 95026), Syndey Hermann - Brownie (Troop 9501), Madison Oaks - Brownie (Troop 95012), Rachel Goodwine - Daisy (Troop 95012), Kendall Kabela - Brownie (Troop 95012), Emma Pratka - Daisy (Troop 95012) and LeeAnn Hathaway (Troop 9579).



CUERO STUDENTS WATCH BISHOP PUTT ON GREENS THEY CREATED—Bishop David Fellhauer prepared himself for the St. Michael School Annual Benefit Golf Tournament in Cuero held March 12 by practicing his putting on a miniature golf course created by the school's 3rd and 4th graders. The students used recycled materials to produce each of the holes on the course. Bishop Fellhauer and his team placed fourth in their flight in the 8th Annual St. Michael's School Benefit Golf Tournament.



ST. ROSE PSIA STATE QUALIFIERS—St. Rose of Lima School in Schulenburg honors its qualifiers for PSIA State. The District Meet was held in Weimar March 27. Qualifiers from all grades were Justin Stang, Elizabeth Seyl, Sarah Vecera, Hannah Fogle, Jillian Ransom, Haley Olsovsky, Miles Marburger, Marc Raphael, Jacob Rehak and Wyatt Fogle. They will compete at the State Meet that will be held at T.C.U. in Fort Worth on May 1.



HOLY THURSDAY – WASHING OF THE FEET—Our Lady of the Gulf Catholic School celebrated Holy Thursday by having the 7th grade perform a foot washing ceremony with the Pre-Kindergarten students, and then Deacon Al Cazada led a foot washing service with grades K5-8th. The 4th and 5th grades also led the Stations of the Cross combined with the Divine Mercy Chaplet on



Holy Week



STATIONS OF THE CROSS PORTRAYED BY STUDENTS—The 8th graders at St. Philip School in El Campo reenacted the Stations of the Cross during Holy Week in 2010. Students in group photo are, front row: Austin Kelly; first row: Hunter Tupa, Koy Kresta, Michaela Thorton, Brooke Wallace, Hunter Winkleman, Taylor Fuechec; second row: Matthew Graff, Katelyn Baros, Kari Wilkins, Shelby Stary, Alexis Crowell, Kacey Knesek, Jordan Limmer; and top row: Brandon Naiser, Nick Jasek. Judgment of Jesus Inset: Nick Jasek, Austin Kelly, Hunter Tupa, and Koy Kresta.

Our Lady of the Gulf receives 23 at Easter Vigil

Continued from p. 20

Robbie Vega: “I feel more confident and more alive. The way I carry myself is in a much more positive way.”

Sally Martinez: “I was happy and nervous. My thoughts when I received my sacraments were very complete because I felt the presence of God guiding me.”

How do you think this experience will affect your life?

Jon Adame: “I always wanted God in my life and now finally I have him. It makes me feel very good and happy to have God and prayer in my daily life now. I feel so good knowing that now I am a child of God. I really thought that getting baptized was going to be the most exciting sacrament for me, but I really couldn't wait to get the body and the blood of Christ in me. It's been so great for me. In the past it was like I had to go to church, now I can't wait to get to church. I want to learn as much as possible about God and the Catholic Faith from these days on.”

Liz McDaniel: “I had the unique privilege of experiencing the three Sacraments of Initiation (baptism, Communion and confirmation) in one fell swoop! I will forever remember this Easter 2010 as vividly and fondly as I remember my wedding day. It can be likened to a wedding; I, and several others, became members of the one, true, Holy, Catholic and Apostolic Church—the Bride of Christ! ...”

Irene Martinez: I have my faith to make life more balanced. I thought my faith was strong before, but now I am a part of the Church family and know that good things will happen if I believe in His promises.”

Maria Dybala: “I look at life differently; what I am feeling is so wonderful that I just want to share with everyone. I just want to tell everyone how having Christ with you makes a huge difference in your life and the way you see things.”

Robbie Vega: I think this experience will and has led me in the right direction: following in the grace of God and living my life in his will.”

Sally Martinez: “I think (it) has made my faith stronger, and I cherish each day the Lord gives me and just continue the Lord's work.”

Congratulations to Our Lady of the Gulf Parish for being available to God to receive 23 new members into the Christian faith.

“Whoever eats my flesh and drinks my blood has eternal life . . .”

—John 6:54



Jon Adame, who joined the Church with his wife, Mary, said he couldn't wait to receive the Body and Blood of Christ.

Holy Communion Photos

First Holy Communion pictures may be viewed at *The Catholic Lighthouse* Web site at www.victoriadiocese.org/lighthouse/lighthouse.htm. Parishes, if you'd like your First Holy Communion and/or confirmation pictures placed on *The Catholic Lighthouse* Web site, please e-mail them to cbrewer@victoriadiocese.org.

Parents, please have parishes send in photos, so the editor knows they are not spam mail and so she doesn't get inundated with photos from each parent. Thank you.

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Guadalupañas from St. Theresa in Woodsboro, Texas, prepare to board a plane for Mexico City, in the 1970s, to visit and pay homage to Our Lady of Guadalupe. Felipa Deases, the organizer of the local Guadalupañas and the mother of Hector, is third from left.

Our Lady ~ “She’ll be There”

By Hector Deases
Edited by Cynthia Brewer

This story is about a man, his dog and Our Lady of Guadalupe: the man, born and raised Catholic, and the dog, raised by the love, caring and understanding of his master.

This story actually began in 1971 when my mother, Felipa Deases, began to establish an organization dedicated to honor “Our Virgin de Guadalupe,” the patron saint of Mexico, and of all the Americas. The effects and the outcome you’ll come to piece together, as you continue.

My mother was raised with a good Catholic education and her faith guided her to approach her pastor, Father Gregory Dean, with the idea of starting an organization of Guadalupañas at St. Theresa Parish in Woodsboro in the Diocese of Corpus Christi for ladies to show their devotion to Our Lady.

It was her goal to make this a reality, and who better to do it with than her group of ladies who were like sisters.

I remember her approaching Father Dean with the idea and being rejected on her first try. Mom, being one who never stopped on her first rejection, continued her efforts, led by her Hispanic stubbornness.

She addressed this issue every time she had an opportunity, and

being one that was active in her church, she had many an opportunity. Every time she spoke with Father Dean, she’d say, “We want,” and he’d say, “We don’t need.”

After what seemed to be more than 100 attempts, Father Dean said to her, “Felipa, if I don’t go ahead and say yes and give you my blessing, you’ll never stop will you?” She replied with a smile because she knew at that moment she was about to get what she’d been lobbying for all this time. She simply said, “No, I’ll never stop.” So she finally received permission with his blessing.

On that day, the Guadalupañas were born at St. Theresa Parish, and it was never the same.

Every 12th of December, they would celebrate the Blessed Mother’s day, holding Mass and a party for her, never forgetting what she stood for and what their calling was. Because my birthday happened to be on Dec. 11 and I was out of school, my mom, who was president of the organization, made me an honorary Guadalupaña.

One day, the Guadalupaña ladies decided that it would be a momentous occasion for them to go to Mexico City and visit the

Shrine of Our Lady, “their Lady.” So with that in mind, they began to have all kinds of fund-raisers in order help fund this trip. And as the honorary member, whenever there was manual work to be done, it was a given, I was assigned to do it.

At times I’d get so frustrated with this, and I’d ask Mom, “Why me?” She’d always have the same answer, “One day you’ll need her and she will remember what you did for her today, and she’ll be there for you tomorrow.”

Eventually “that tomorrow” came and it involved that previously mentioned little dog.

Twenty-six years later, I had moved to Victoria, Texas, to reside near one of my brothers and his family for medical reasons. One day his wife brought a dog home for

me, a little Pekingese. At this point I was 43 years old and had not been around an animal in 30 years.

I explained the situation to them and assured them that I respected their dog, but I didn’t think that I could get to really care for him. They said they understood, but asked me to try the best I could.

That very night, as I sat on my bed watching TV, this four-footed beast jumped up on my bed, placed his head on my lap and proceeded to go to sleep. I looked down at him and said,

“Dog, this ain’t going to work.”

Later in the week after work as I approached my bed with a sandwich in my hand, I realized I had nothing to drink with my dinner, so I placed the plate on the bed and went back to the kitchen to get something. As I turned the corner of the hall to come back to my room, I couldn’t believe what I saw. This beast was on my bed eating half of my sandwich. I stopped, threw my hands in the air, and all I could say was,

“OK, Dog you win; I’m yours.”

With that, a relationship like no other began.

When I was a young’n, my favorite TV show was “Deputy Dog,” so I always said that if I ever had a dog that I truly felt a love for, I’d name him just that. But “Deputy Dog” just didn’t sound right. So one day I attempted to find a unique name for this “son” of mine. With Deases being our last name, I wanted something special and would show the character of him. So I came up with the name D-dawg Deases. What I didn’t know then, as I do now, D-dawg Deases would grow up to be more



Hector’s prayer altar in honor of Our Lady of Guadalupe: it’s always set with a candle, two red roses and a picture of D-dawg Deases.

See “She’ll Be There,” p. 13

MOTHER’S DAY BIBLICAL MOTHERS

www.wordgamesfor Catholics.com

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

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Family Puzzle Contest

The next Family Puzzle Contest winner will win “A Spiritual Companion to Infertility” by Julie Irwin Zimmerman and published by acta Publications. See book review on this page.

The winner of the April Family Puzzle Contest and “Brother Andre – Friend of the Suffering, Apostle of Saint Joseph” by Jean-Guy Dubuc is Fidel Garcia of Our Lady of Sorrows in Victoria.

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

If you have not won the puzzle contest within the past six months, please send completed puzzle and contest form to *The Catholic Lighthouse*, P. O. Box 4070, Victoria, TX 77903, by May 25 for a chance to win “A Spiritual Companion to Infertility.” Youth 18 years of age and under will have the opportunity to receive a gift from the Incarnate Word Gift Shop (youth, please state age).

A Spiritual Companion to Infertility – Puzzle Contest Prize

The May Puzzle Contest prize will be “A Spiritual Companion to Infertility” written to assist “When the Inability to Conceive Challenges Our Faith.”

For many, parenthood is a lifelong dream. But for an estimated 10 percent of married couples around the world, the dream is not so easily achieved. And for some, parenthood never becomes a reality.

In “A Spiritual Companion to Infertility,” author Julie Irwin Zimmerman views the challenge of infertility not only as a physical condition, but as an opportunity for spiritual growth. This book addresses issues such as: Infertility, Miscarriages, Secondary Infertility, Step-parenting, The Morality of Treatment; Moving On; Adoption; and Deciding to Live “Childfree.”

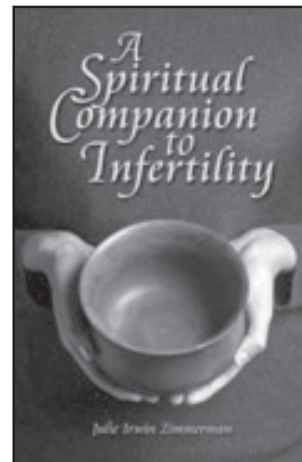
Zimmerman walks readers through the sometimes overwhelming array of options

available to infertile couples, and weighs the opinions of the Catholic Church and other Christian denominations against varying points of view on modern methods of conception. And if a couple decides

treatment is not for them, there are chapters devoted to the adoption process – which Zimmerman has been through as well – and to those couples who, in the end being unable to conceive, decide to live not “childless” but “childfree.”

Each chapter concludes with Scripture quotations and prayers for reflection. “A Spiritual Companion to Infertility” also includes a bibliography and an excellent list of infertility resources, making this book ideal for support groups or for anyone on the spiritual journey of infertility.

Purchases for this 192-page paperback at \$12.95, may be made by going to www.actapublications.com.





than a pet or a friend, he'd be a blessing.

Between 1980 and 1987, I lost both of my parents. I began to experience such loneliness from having lost the two most important people in the world to me. In 1997, I experienced such a low that I wanted to end my life. I took 100 pills and spent time in the "psych" ward at Citizens' Hospital in Victoria.

One day as I was lying on my bed at home, crying and feeling sorry for myself, I suddenly opened my eyes and noticed D-dawg lying next to me, and he had tears in his eyes, too.

He gave me a look that said, "You're not alone; I'm here and you're not going out on my watch, not if I can help it."

At this point I suddenly realized, if anything, this beast, my beast, was actually going to be my guardian angel.

Then came 1998; it was at this time that I was told I would be losing my right leg. My first thought was the care of my D-dawg. As I was trying to figure out what to do, I could feel him trying to say, "Don't worry about me; I'll be fine."

He's been through a lot with me; now it was my turn to return the favor. In the summer of 2007, the veterinarian had told me that D-dawg had cataracts and he was going blind. He told me that in time I would have to be his eyes. I told him that I didn't believe I had the strength nor the ability to do that. Then he made a very strong statement to me. He said, "With all the pictures you have of him in your house, with the way I've seen the kind of love you have for him, you want me to believe that?" I looked down at D-dawg, and all I could say was, "I know I can do it."

In 2008, my other leg had to be amputated, and once again D-dawg was there with me. While I knew that this was to be a life-altering situation, it wouldn't be a life ending one.

During my recuperation, I had a lot of time to think. One of the things that came to mind was the acknowledgement that I had lost my self-esteem somewhere along the way and I wasn't sure if I had the strength or confidence to once again walk. In time, I came to believe that if D-dawg had been with me the past two times I had needed him, then I knew he'd be with me once again. After six months of therapy, I was walking again with the help of two prosthetics. This is a hard thing to accomplish, but possible if you have someone who believes in you, as I knew then that D-dawg did.

Tomorrow arrives ...

On New Years Eve of this year, my neighbor accidentally ran over D-dawg. After x-rays, it was determined that his only hope was surgery. It came to be that surgery was going to be expensive

"She'll be There"

Continued from p. 12

and I wasn't able to afford it.

The vet looked at me. All he could say was, "The best thing would be to put him to sleep, so that he won't suffer."

This was a Thursday of a holiday weekend and I had a medical trip to San Antonio planned for the past month. I asked if D-dawg could be kept alive in comfort until Monday so that I could spend some time saying goodbye to "my son" and companion



Hector Deases holds his precious D-dawg Deases.

of thirteen and a half years, before he had to be put to sleep. The doctor said he could do that.

As I entered my house after returning from Doc's, I saw my Bible and suddenly got into a rage and started to blame God for what had happened.

In distress, I decided that D-dawg would have as close to a human burial

as possible, so before leaving for my trip, I had my friend dig a grave, we fixed a headstone and ordered a casket piece, then I went to my doctor's appointment.

While in San Antonio, I went to the store to buy a religious candle to light at D-dawg's funeral. Remembering that St. Francis of Assisi is the patron saint of all pets, I proceeded to look for this saint's candle. With three long rows of candles, there was not one for St. Francis. I couldn't believe this, but what could I do?

Then my eyes suddenly focused on one for "Our Lady of Guadalupe," and I thought, "If Mom believed in her, I know I could."

Monday morning as I was getting ready to leave town, I decided to light my candle. Although I hadn't prayed or read my Bible in over a year, I thought, well why not, and I gave it a try. I asked Mom and Our Lady to give D-dawg the strength to accept what I was about to do and to give me the strength to do it.

Thirty-minutes before I was supposed to leave to return home, I received a call from Doc. His voice sounded a little strange, as if he were about to tell me something he wasn't sure I would believe. What he said was a bit more than a shock.

He said, "Hector, I don't know what's going on, but D-dawg is drinking water, he's eating and he's even walking."

All I could do at that moment was to scream into the phone, and in that instant I remembered the one thing Mom had told me years before, "If you do for her today, she'll do for you tomorrow." I cried all the way from San Antonio to home; the road was too long for me to wait and see D-dawg.

Although D-dawg is old, blind and going deaf, he's as fit as he was before his accident. We are both very happy, but most of all, we are indebted to my ladies and "Our Lady of Guadalupe."

This piece is dedicated to Mom (Felipa), Angelita, Celsa, Fela, Wally, Elvira, Ramona and the others, whom I may have omitted. These are my ladies. I love you and thank you.

Sunday Readings from May 9 to June 13

May 9 — Sixth Sunday of Easter	Acts 15:1-2, 22-29 Psalms 67:2-3, 5, 6, 8 Revelation 21:10-14, 22-23 John 14:23-29
May 16 — Seventh Sunday of Easter	Acts 7:55-60 Psalms 97:1-2, 6-7, 9 Revelation 22:12-14, 16-17, 20 John 17:20-26
May 22 — Vigil Mass Pentecost Sunday	Acts 11:1-9 Psalms 104:1-2, 24, 35, 27-28, 29, 30 Romans 8:22-27 John 7:37-39
May 23 — During the Day Pentecost Sunday	Acts 2:1-11 Psalms 104:1, 24, 29-30, 31, 34 1 Corinthians 12:3b-7, 12-13 John 20:19-23
May 30 — The Solemnity of the Most Holy Trinity	Proverbs 8:22-31 Psalms 8:4-5, 6-7, 8-9 Romans 5:1-5 John 16:12-15
June 6 — The Solemnity of the Most Holy Body and Blood of Christ	Genesis 14:18-20 Psalms 110:1, 2, 3, 4 1 Corinthians 11:23-26 Luke 9:11b-17
June 13 — Eleventh Sunday in Ordinary Time	2 Samuel 12:7-10, 13 Psalms 32:1-2, 5, 7, 11 Galatians 2:16, 19-21 Luke 7:36—8:3

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

www.usccb.org/nab/

Pope's Intentions – May 2011

General: Human Trafficking – That the shameful and monstrous commerce in human beings, which sadly involves millions of women and children, may be ended.

Missionary: Priests, Religious and Committed Lay People – That ordained ministers, religious women and men, and lay people involved in apostolic work may understand how to infuse missionary enthusiasm into the communities entrusted to their care.

On The Cutting Edge

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

The Vocation of Motherhood

May is traditionally dedicated to Mary, the mother of Jesus. Besides honoring Mary in May, we also single out and thank our own mothers on Mothers Day. It might be a good time to reflect on what it means to be a mother.

First of all, the biological conceiving and birthing of a child doesn't automatically make a woman a mother in the true sense of the word. Like our Blessed Mother Mary, a mother is someone who says yes to the call to raise her children in love.

The primary role or vocation of a mother is to nurture and protect her children. She helps to form their values and is a major influence on their emotional and spiritual development. The instruction in the rite of baptism tells parents that they are the first and primary educators of their children in the faith. Being a parent, a mother, is an enormous gift and responsibility.

When I was growing up I remember my mother being very involved in our parish. She belonged to the Sodality and the Altar and Rosary societies. She did everything from washing altar linens to becoming a Eucharistic minister, when the laity began dis-

tributing Communion. Even into her late 70s she still brought Communion to patients in the hospital. She often went to daily Mass and took us to special services like novenas. There is no doubt in my mind that her devotion and dedication was a great influence on my formation in the faith and ultimately my becoming a Sister of the Holy Cross.

Another attribute of motherhood is their lifetime concern for their children. Even though a component of motherhood is letting go of their grown children, mothers never cease to love and support them in good times and in bad.

Sometimes a mother can do everything right and a child may not respond well. There are families who have one child with problems and another who enters religious life, yet both were brought up the same way. Children can cause much sorrow and discouragement, but parents, especially mothers, continue to bestow faithful love. Consider Saint Monica who prayed many years for the conversion of her wayward son who eventually became Saint Augustine and a doctor of the Church.

And there are those who are spiritual mothers. They may not give physical birth to children but serve as important mentors. These are often those who step in when a mother dies or is ill, or they can be women who befriend children who lack mothering in their own families.

Often we take our mothers for granted and neglect to show them our gratitude. It is important to show our thanks every day, not

just once a year. The vocation of motherhood is not always easy and often mothers make great sacrifices for their children. Flowers and candy are nice, but most mothers would just like a thank you once in awhile throughout the year. There are many ways to show our appreciation.

And if you never knew your mother or she is deceased, remember that Mary is also your mother and loves you very much.

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Entre Amigos – Columna de opinión

Por Mar Muñoz-Visoso
Relaciones de medios
USCCB



Unidad en diversidad, interesante concepto

No puedo creer que hayan pasado diez años. Las palabras de bienvenida del cardenal Mahony aún resuenan en mis oídos: “Si quieren saber cómo se verá el cielo, ¡simplemente miren a su alrededor!” Más de 4,000 personas, católicos de todas las vocaciones en la vida, originarios de todos los continentes, representando a todas las razas y grupos étnicos en los Estados Unidos, nos habíamos congregado en el Centro de Convenciones de Los Ángeles para participar durante cuatro días en el Encuentro 2000, una celebración de fe y unidad en la diversidad convocada por los obispos estadounidenses.

Las palabras del cardenal me trajeron recuerdos de la Semana Santa en Roma unos once años atrás. Fue allí, durante la Vigilia Pascual en la Basílica de San Pedro, donde me di cuenta de repente de lo que la palabra “católica” realmente significa. Al escuchar la Palabra de Dios y las oraciones de los fieles proclamadas en muchos idiomas diferentes y al ver al papa Juan Pablo II bautizar a unos 20 adultos y niños procedentes de diferentes partes de mundo, finalmente entendí: la Iglesia es universal, todos están invitados, y su misión es evangelizar a todos los pueblos. Me llené de admiración.

En Los Ángeles, al escuchar a las personas rezar el Padre Nuestro cada uno en su lengua materna y al ver las diferentes imágenes de María provenientes de todas partes del mundo, volví a recordar lo que había entendido unos años antes. En ninguna otra parte del planeta, excepto quizá en Roma, podemos encontrar la diversidad y la riqueza de experiencias y tradiciones que se concentran en la Iglesia Católica en Estados Unidos.

El legado del Encuentro 2000 continúa. Convocados por los obispos, unos 300 líderes católicos, quienes reflejan la rica diversidad cultural, racial y generacional de la Iglesia, se reunirán en la Convocatoria de la Red Católica de Diversidad Cultural, del 6 al 8 de mayo en Notre Dame, para profundizar en el diálogo sobre cómo continuar construyendo unidad en la diversidad.

Desde luego, este diálogo no comenzó en el Encuentro. Se ha dado y se da en cada parroquia sujeta a cambios de población o que ha de enfrentar la realidad de reunir a varias comunidades. En realidad, la conversación se remonta al primer concilio en Jerusalén: ¿estaba la salvación abierta a los gentiles? ¿Era requerido que éstos observaran todos los rituales judíos?

Dos mil años después, todavía nos cuesta a veces diferenciar qué es esencial a la fe cristiana y qué son legítimas diferencias en la manera de expresar y vivir nuestra fe que no sólo no amenazan a la Iglesia sino que la fortalecen. Y no es porque no hayamos aprendido nada, sino porque la naturaleza encarnada de la evangelización hace este diálogo necesario en cada tiempo y lugar.

En una Iglesia tan diversa como la de Estados Unidos este diálogo se complica a veces. Eso no significa que debemos abandonarlo. Por el contrario, es aún más razón para aferrarse a las lecciones aprendidas del pasado. Para construir unidad en la diversidad en la Iglesia se necesita una clara identidad católica en cada miembro. Esta identidad se forma por el conocimiento de la fe y por el compromiso de vida con ella. Pero unidad no es uniformidad. La parte “católica” de esta identidad también requiere de un espíritu misionero (“Vayan y hagan discípulos de todas las naciones”) — esto es, una disposición a salir de lo que

me es familiar, a establecer un diálogo con aquellos que son diferentes — y de aptitudes interculturales y habilidades que nos permitan ser efectivos en la transmisión del mensaje del evangelio. También se requiere la voluntad de salir al encuentro de la gente donde ellos están, como Jesús en el camino de Emaús, adaptando ministerios y apóstolados a las necesidades particulares de grupos y poblaciones para fortalecerlos en la fe y que ellos a su vez hagan fuerte a la Iglesia. Asimismo se necesita la humildad de reconocer que también yo y muchos aspectos de mi cultura necesitan ser evangelizados constantemente.

Para que nuestros esfuerzos se asemejen más a Pentecostés que a Babel, también (no en lugar de lo dicho anteriormente) tenemos que rezar para que el espíritu haga surgir de entre nosotros líderes que dispuestos a dar el salto, a ir más allá del liderazgo en sus propios grupos étnicos y culturales; líderes capaces y dispuestos a servir a toda la Iglesia, que puedan hablar el lenguaje de la gente a la cual se les envía; líderes que nos recuerden constantemente que hay un solo Señor, una sola fe, pero muchos dones.

Reto a mis hermanos y hermanas latinos a aceptar el desafío. Los números nos llaman al liderazgo. Nuestra propia diversidad ya nos ha preparado para esto.

Unidad en diversidad: un concepto muy trinitario. ¡Me siento orgullosa de ser católica!

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

New UHV literary center helps Texas teachers bring Mexican-American stories into classrooms

Award-winning journalist Macarena Hernández saw the look of boredom on the faces of her students while teaching remedial English classes at La Joya High School in the late '90s and wanted to do something to reach them.

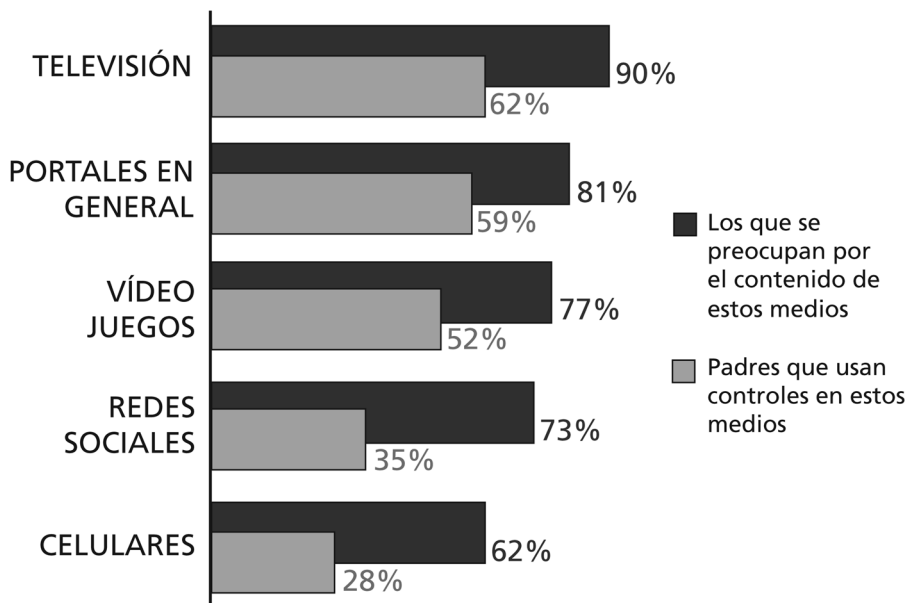
“You can’t engage students in school if none of the stories they’re reading reflect any of their experiences,” said Hernández, the Victoria Advocate Endowed Professor of the Humanities at the University of Houston-Victoria. “You’ve got to provide a little bit of everything to reach all your students or they’ll slip through the cracks.”

She started bringing in her own books written by Mexican-American authors for her students to read and saw what a difference it could make with their interest in school. This idea has blossomed into Centro Victoria, a literary center based in UHV’s School of Arts and Sciences.

Coordinated by acclaimed Mexican-American author Dagoberto Gilb as the executive director and Hernández as the managing director, Centro Victoria is a key addition to UHV’s growing array of nationally recognized, literary-based initiatives.

“When I first discussed this initiative with Professors Gilb and Hernández, I could not believe that there were no other centers in the U.S. dedicated to the kinds of projects we were discussing,” said Jeffrey Di Leo, dean of the UHV School of Arts & Sciences. “I’m proud that our school has quickly become a leader in bringing literature to high school students

EL CONTENIDO INAPROPIADO en los medios preocupa a la mayoría de los padres, pero muchos dicen que aún no controlan el uso que hacen sus niños de estos medios.



Los resultados están basados en una encuesta telefónica nacional al azar realizada, del 16-20 de febrero del 2010, a 500 padres con niños de 2 a 14 años. Con un margen del error de más o menos 4.5 por ciento. Fuente: Conferencia de Obispos Católicos de EE.UU. ©2010 CNS

“Sólo el Amor de Una Madre”

Sólo el amor de una Madre apoyará,
Cuando todo el mundo deja de hacerlo.

Sólo el amor de una Madre confiará,
Cuando nadie otro cree.

Sólo el amor de una Madre perdonará,
Cuando ninguno otro entenderá.

Sólo el amor de una Madre honrará,
No importa en qué pruebas haz estado.

Sólo el amor de una Madre resistirá,
Por cualquier tiempo de prueba.

No hay ningún otro amor terrenal,
Más grande que el de una Madre.



Feliz Día de la Madres

9 de mayo

Intenciones del Santo Padre Benedicto XVI – Mayo

El tráfico humano: Para que se ponga fin al vergonzoso e inicuo comercio de seres humanos, que tristemente involucra a millones de mujeres y niños.

Los sacerdotes, religiosas y laicos comprometidos: Para que los sacerdotes, las religiosas, religiosos, y los laicos comprometidos en el apostolado, sepan infundir entusiasmo misionero a las comunidades que sirven.

and teachers.”

Gilb and Hernández have been busy sponsoring workshops for high school English teachers across the state and discussing “Made in Texas,” a bound guide to help teachers incorporate more Mexican-American authors into their lessons.

The workshops have taken off this semester with one already held in El Paso and events scheduled in La Joya, Mission and Edinburg in May. The workshops are designed for high school English teachers, but English as a Second Language and social studies middle and high school teachers also have attended.

“We have just begun, and the response has been overwhelming,” said Gilb, who also is a writer-in-residence at UHV.

“Made in Texas” features six weeks of material – everything from poetry, fiction, nonfiction, memoir and lyrics – to teach students who Mexican-Americans are, why they are here, what their literary descendants and contemporaries have written about, and why, Gilb said.

“We’re hitting a nerve because these stories are not just about being Mexican-American; they’re also the stories of Texas,” he said.

Robbin Alexander, an English and speech teacher at Kenedy High School, where about 90 percent of the students are Hispanic, heard about “Made in Texas” from a friend who works at UHV.

She already has used an excerpt from “The Three Wars of Roy Benavidez” by Roy Benavidez, who was born in Cuero and received the Congressional Medal of

Honor for his valor in the Vietnam War before he died. Alexander used the material in her Communication Application class during a unit on leadership.

“We’re going to work ‘Made in Texas’ into our curriculum next year at my school,” she said. “I’ve been looking for more books written by Latino authors to incorporate into my classroom for years. It’s really going to be good for my students to see surnames that they recognize. I want them to think, ‘I can be a writer too.’”

Both Gilb and Hernández want teachers to know that “Made in Texas” is a guide that teachers can use to teach all students, not just Mexican-American students. Teachers are being asked to give their feedback about “Made in Texas” before a final version is printed along with a book that will have all the stories for students.

“This is English literature,” Hernández said. “It’s not just about border issues, and it’s not written in Spanish. At the end of the day, these stories are universal.”

“With the growing Hispanic population in Texas and throughout the U.S., this is the right time for ventures such as Centro Victoria that promote respect of people of all races and encourage more students to graduate and go on to obtain a higher education,” UHV President Tim Hudson said.

For more information about Centro Victoria or any of the workshops, e-mail centrovictoria@uhv.edu or call (361) 570-4101.



San Bernardino priest to host first-ever Vatican-affiliated iPhone app show

By David Olson
Reprinted from *The Press-Enterprise*
(February 28, 2010)

The Vatican is launching an iPhone application, and it chose a San Bernardino priest to deliver the app's inspirational message.

The Rev. Michael Manning, 69, host of a longtime show on Trinity Broadcasting Network, author of several books and recipient of a 2006 papal award, will deliver daily inspirational video messages on the app.

The app's release is expected in early April. The app, sponsored by the Vatican Observatory Foundation, is apparently the first from a Vatican-affiliated institution. The Rev. Paul Tighe, secretary of the Pontifical Council for Social Communications, said from his Vatican office that he is unaware of any other.

The potential audience is huge. More than 75 million iPhones and iPod Touches have been sold since 2007, according to their manufacturer, Apple Inc. Users download and install apps — which are software programs — onto their devices. There are about 140,000 iPhone-compatible apps.

Most of the Observatory Foundation shows will be filmed in the San Bernardino studios of Wordnet Productions, a Catholic television ministry that Manning founded. Others will be filmed in Rome and other locations, said Robert Thorne, CEO of The Robert Thorne Co., a Beverly Hills firm that co-manages global licensing and media for the foundation.

The foundation chose Manning for the app because of his ability to effectively convey the church's message, Thorne said.

"He's very good at what he does, and he's a very clear and concise communicator," Thorne said. "And he is a compelling presence on screen, with a meaningful depth of message."

The foundation raises money for the Vatican Observatory, which has telescopes near Rome and in the Arizona desert. The observatory was founded in 1891 as a bridge between the Catholic Church and science.

The app will help fund the observatory's research and education efforts, Thorne said. Its price has not been determined. Like other iPhone apps, it will be sold through the Apple Web site.

Pittsburgh-based Wizzard Media, the world's largest podcasting network, is developing the app and will distribute it. A companion Web series will include highlights from the app and behind-the-scenes production footage.

The app is the latest effort by the Catholic Church to use rapidly changing technology. The Vatican inaugurated a YouTube channel last year, and many dioceses — including San Bernardino — have Facebook pages.

Although the foundation app is apparently the first developed by a Vatican

institution, the Vatican has worked with an Italian priest on an app that includes the daily prayer of the church. Pope Benedict XVI has encouraged priests to use new technology.

The message

Other Catholic apps, without formal Vatican collaboration, have also been launched. iConfess offers prayers of contrition and an explanation of the seven deadly sins. iRosary allows users to move Rosary beads on a touchscreen and includes prayers for each bead.

The Rev. Mark Morozowich, a professor of liturgy at The Catholic University of America in Washington, D.C., said the Church has adapted to new technology since the invention of the printing press.

"The message is what's important, not the medium," he said.

Morozowich said brief iPhone videos like Manning's can lead to a more thorough exploration of Jesus' teachings.

"As people's intellect gets touched, they will have deeper questions, and they will want to pursue and develop those ideas," Morozowich said. "It gives you a taste of what's to come."

John Andrews, spokesman for the Diocese of San Bernardino, which serves 1.2 million Catholics in Riverside and San Bernardino counties, said Manning is on the cutting edge of church outreach.

Evangelizing's 'future'

"It is increasingly evident that this is the future of evangelization," he said.

Manning said he hopes his audience will include Catholics wanting a spiritual connection during the week and non-Catholics wanting to find out more about the Church. The show will likely last about four minutes.

"This is for the person with an iPhone who is in a rush and trying to look at it for a few minutes at lunch," said Manning, a member of the Society of the Divine Word missionary community who has a ready smile and often wears cardigan sweaters over his priestly garb.

The show will include biblical readings and a reflection on those verses to connect them to people's everyday lives, Manning said. Viewers will be able to submit questions, which Manning will answer in later app videos.

Topics Manning said he might discuss range from the meaning of biblical verses to women's ordination. There will be a special emphasis on connecting science to Church teaching, because of the Vatican Observatory Foundation's sponsorship, he said.

"This will offer a wonderful chance to expose the goodness of Christ to many people who would ordinarily not receive this message," Manning said.

ON THE WEB

To view the Rev. Michael Manning's television shows, go to www.wordnet.tv and click "Watch the Show."

THE POPE SPEAKS

Pope Benedict XVI
CNS photo from Reuters



Pope praises two Italian saint-priests for their great charity

By Sarah Delaney
Catholic News Service

VATICAN CITY (CNS) — Anticipating his upcoming visit to Turin, Pope Benedict XVI highlighted the lives of two saints from the northern Italian city who as priests devoted their lives to the care of the people who most needed their help.

The two 19th-century priests were "outstanding for their love of God and their devotion to Christ and the Church," the pope said during the general audience in St. Peter's Square.

The pope has been devoting his weekly audiences to a series of talks about the unique mission, duties and responsibilities of priests.

He spoke at the April 28 audience about St. Leonard Murialdo, the founder of the Congregation of St. Joseph, and St. Joseph Cottolengo. The pope said the two men were "outstanding examples of charity" for their generosity and energetic dedication to the poor.

St. Leonard, who lived from 1828 to 1900, "saw his priestly vocation as a gracious gift of God's love," and devoted much of his life to the care and education of orphans by founding the Congregation of St. Joseph, the pope said.

St. Leonard "encouraged his confreres to unite contemplation and apostolic zeal, and to confirm their preaching by the ex-

ample of their lives," he said.

St. Joseph, who lived from 1786 to 1842, set up schools, orphanages, hospitals and other institutions in which he could help the poor and disadvantaged. He founded the Little House of Divine Providence, an organization the pope called "a great charitable outreach which continues today."

St. Joseph was able to involve many volunteers to help form his family-style communities that helped the most needy, the pope said.

The pope said the two priests lived their ministry "giving their lives totally to the poorest, neediest, and the last ... with the profound conviction that it is not possible to practice charity without living in Christ and in the Church."

He said he hoped their example would "continue to inspire and sustain the many priests today who generously devote their lives to God and to the service of our brothers and sisters in need."

Pope Benedict was scheduled to travel May 2 to see the Shroud of Turin, the cloth that tradition holds to be the burial shroud of Christ. The shroud is on public display for the first time since it underwent restoration in 2002. It was previously shown 10 years ago, when more than one million people lined up to catch a glimpse of the cloth imprinted with the negative image of a man.

"The Power of LOVE" with Rev. Mike Manning

Interviews, Teachings, Ministry Mini-Docs



On TV ~

- TBN (Trinity) Wednesday 10:30 a.m. CDT (TiVo: Father Michael Manning)
- TCC (The Church Channel) Saturday 9:30 p.m. / Monday 1:00 p.m. CDT
- American Forces Network: U.S. bases & ships

On the Net ~ 24/7

- Video at www.wordnet.tv/videos.htm & www.wordnet.tv/videos-mass.htm

- May 12 **TEACHING — Passing the Torch** (SP467) ~ Fr. Mike takes us back to Jesus' Ascension and forward to his continuing presence in the world in us through the Spirit!
- 19 **TEACHING---Gratitude Attitude** (SP445) ~ Fr. Mike encourages us to be more and more aware of all the gifts that surround us.
- 26 **Your Higher Power** (PL656) ~ Dr. Judith E. Turian, Clinical Psychologist, Author: Her own struggles to relate to God helped her become instrumental in helping others.
- Jun 2 **Rock to Rock** (PL657) ~ Joe Escalante, Musician, Radio Host, Lawyer, you name it! Versatile punk rocker ("The Vandals") turns toward Jesus, the Rock of Salvation.
- 9 **MINI-DOC — Stolen Lives Regained** (PL658) ~ Coalition to Abolish Slavery/Trafficking Meet dedicated workers helping to rescue and restore lives of victims of human trafficking.

Oberammergau – Passion Play

July 11 - 22

– Performed only once every ten years –

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

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

Holy Land - November 7

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

Medjugorje/Dubrovnik – September 5-14

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

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Jeff Durst, (left) THC Archeologist, presents an Historic Texas Lands Plaque to Newton Warzecha, director of the 261-year-old Presidio La Bahia (Fort of the Bay) National Historic Landmark in Goliad on the Texas Independence Trail. The fort and chapel, seen in the background, have flown under nine different flags. (Photo by L. J. Cohen)

Texas Historical Commission Recognizes Presidio La Bahia in Goliad

GOLIAD — A Historic Texas Lands Plaque was unveiled today at the site of historic Presidio La Bahia (Fort of the Bay) National Historic Landmark in Goliad County. The plaque was presented to Newton Warzecha, director of the Presidio and a representative of the Catholic Diocese of Victoria, which owns the property.

The plaque is awarded to landowners who have taken the necessary steps to identify archeological sites on their property designated as a State Archeological Landmark and are permitting major research or have established a conservation easement preventing unwanted development on the property.

"This plaque serves the purpose of thanking participating landowners as well as encouraging others to take notice of sites on their land and to take pride in their role of stewardship," said Jim Bruseth, Director of the THC's Archeology Division. "Sites like this one help tell the real stories of Texas and preserve them for future generations."

As a representative of the diocese, Warzecha has worked to protect and preserve the archeological integrity of the site and has helped document, conserve and curate the important collection of material remains resulting from the archeological excavations that took place during the 1960s restoration. Recently, Warzecha helped orchestrate the complete renovation of the museum's interior — 3½ years at a cost of \$500,000. In 2008, he encouraged the diocese to acquire a State Archeological Landmark designation on the property.

"We are very excited about what has been achieved here at Presidio La Bahia through the efforts of the Presidio La Bahia Advisory Board and The Presidio La Bahia Foundation," Warzecha said. "We are now better able to educate Texans and visitors to this prestigious National Historic Landmark about the important place this historic fort and Goliad have in the story of Texas."

Presidio La Bahia, located in Goliad, is the third and final location for the Spanish presidios bearing this name. Established

in 1721 in Victoria County and moved to its present location in Goliad in 1749, the third location of Presidio La Bahia, along with its accompanying mission, Our Lady of Loreto Chapel, served to establish a strong Spanish presence in an area considered Spanish frontier territory.

The Presidio's significance to Texas history began on the night of Oct. 9, 1835, when a group of Texas citizens, led by Capt. George Collinsworth, captured Presidio La Bahia from the Mexicans in what was one of the first offensive actions in the Texas Revolution. The first Texas Declaration of Independence was signed in the chapel at Presidio La Bahia, which still stands today and is one of the oldest continually functioning churches in America.

Presidio La Bahia is also the location of the historic 1836 execution of Col. James W. Fannin and 341 of his men at the order of Mexican Gen. Santa Anna. Set on a high point against the majestic south Texas skies, Presidio La Bahia stands as one of the state's most poignant shrines to the struggle for Texas independence.

The state of Texas contains more than two million archeological sites, with more than 90 percent on privately owned land. The THC's Historic Texas Lands Plaque recognizes private landowners who preserve important archeological sites on their land.

To learn more about protecting archeological sites throughout Texas contact the THC's Archeology Division at 512.463.6096 or visit <http://www.presidiolabahia.org/>. To learn more about the Presidio La Bahia, school tours, annual reenactments or overnight stays at "The Quarters," please visit <http://www.presidiolabahia.org/>.

CONTACTS:

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Preston F. Kirk, APR, Kirk Public Relations, Austin, TX, 830.693.4447, kirk@tstar.net

Newton Warzecha, Director, Presidio La Bahia Foundation, Goliad, TX, presidiolabahia@goliad.net

Suspicious Insurance Solicitors Claim Connections to Health Care Reform

AUSTIN—Consumers nationwide report to the Better Business Bureau (BBB) that they have been contacted by solicitors claiming to offer health insurance affiliated with recent health care reform legislation. Reports to BBB state sales representatives use high-pressure sales tactics, claiming the policies have a limited enrollment period and asking consumers for personal information.

"Consumers need to be aware that today's top stories become tomorrow's top scams," said Carrie A. Hurt, president and CEO of BBB serving Central, Coastal and Southwest Texas. "Many changes in health care do not take effect until 2014, so consumers do not need to feel pressured into buying a new policy right now."

Consumers report to BBB that scammers contacted them by phone, fax and in person and asked for personal bank account numbers. BBB offers the following advice to avoid being a victim of a health

care scam:

Review any insurance company's BBB Reliability Report™ at www.bbb.org before signing up for a policy.

Don't give out personal information such as social security and bank account numbers. Beware of any sales representative that asks for current insurance policy or ID numbers.

Review a contract carefully before signing.

Be wary of anyone offering free medical services or equipment.

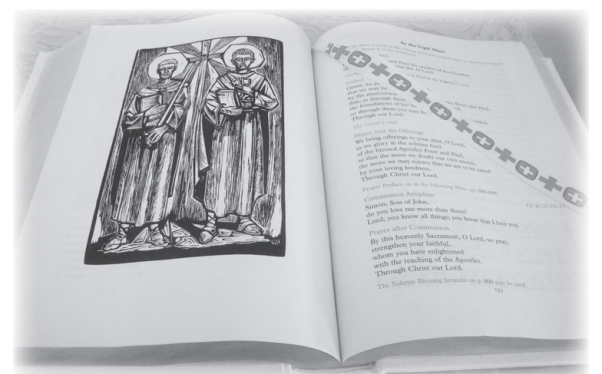
Beware of high-pressure sales tactics claiming big savings by paying immediately. If an offer sounds too good to be true, it probably is.

To check the reliability of a company and find trustworthy businesses, visit BBB or Contact BBB serving Central, Coastal and Southwest Texas by telephone at (512) 445-4748.

Pope receives copy of complete English translation of Roman Missal

VATICAN CITY (CNS) — After nine years of work involving Vatican officials, English-speaking bishops around the world and hundreds of consultants, Pope Benedict XVI received a complete version of the English translation of the Roman Missal. The white-bound, gold-edged missal, which contains all of the prayers used at Mass, was given to the pope during a luncheon April 28 with members of the Vox Clara Committee, an international group of bishops who advise the Congregation for Divine Worship and the Sacraments about English liturgical translations. "Soon the fruits of your labors will be made available to English-speaking congregations everywhere," the pope told the Vox Clara members. "Many will find it hard to adjust to unfamiliar texts after nearly 40 years of continuous use of the previous translations," the pope said, which is why "the change will need to be introduced with due sensitivity."

The pope thanked the Vox Clara members and all those who contributed to the translation process because "through these sacred texts and the actions that accompany them, Christ will be made present and active in the midst of his people." The new English-language Missal is a translation of the Latin edition officially promulgated by Pope John Paul II in 2000 and released in 2002.



View Of New English Translation Of Roman Missal presented to pope. (CNS photo/Archbishop Terrence Prendergast)

SACRED HEART PARISH SPRING PICNIC

128 Years

Sunday, May 30, 2010

at the K.C. Hall in Hallettsville, Texas

Dinner: Serving from 10:30 a.m. - 1:30 p.m.

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

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

Adults \$7.00

Children \$4.00

AUCTION at 1:00 p.m.

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



Kiddie Rides & Games all afternoon!!!

Tractor-churned homemade ice cream



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



Pig-Plop sponsored by the Sacred Heart Youth

Music on the Main Pavilion

J & S Playboys 11:00 a.m. - 1:00 p.m.



Free Dance on the Polka Pavilion/Biergarten

Red Ravens

- and -

Jodie Mikula Orchestra 1:00 p.m. - 9:00 p.m.



Delicious hamburgers, french fries, nachos, popcorn, funnel cakes, snowcones, lemonade & sodawater all afternoon!!!



ABUSE OF MINORS. THE CHURCH'S RESPONSE on the Vatican Web site at http://www.vatican.va/resources/index_en.htm

Knowing signs of potential abuser helps with prevention, says journal

ROME (CNS) — An important part of preventing the sexual abuse of minors by clergy involves knowing what some of the “red flags” for potential child sex offenders are, said an influential Jesuit journal. The church needs to recognize the seriousness of the sex abuse crisis “not just by punishing abusers, but above all by asking itself how to prepare healthy priests,” said La Civiltà Cattolica. The May 1 article, released to journalists April 29, examined the social and psychological characteristics of sex offenders. The Rome-based biweekly magazine is reviewed by the Vatican Secretariat of State before publication. The article, titled “Psychological Observations of the Problem of Pedophilia,” was written by two professors of psychology at Rome’s Pontifical Gregorian University: Jesuit Fathers Giandomenico Mucci and Hans Zollner, who is also a licensed psychologist and psychotherapist. In the wake of revelations of abuse by a clergy member, it is often asked how this person was ever allowed to become a priest, the article said. “In reality, it is still very difficult even today to single out with precision a future potential pedophile because many characteristics remain unknown and demand further study and research,” it said.

Bishops’ Expert Offers Ten Points for Protecting Children

- Sexual molestation is about the victim
- Child sexual abuse can be prevented
- Warning signs of abuse can be spotted

WASHINGTON—The Catholic bishops’ expert on preventing clergy abuse of minors, Teresa Kettelkamp, offered ten tips for child safety to mark Child Abuse Prevention Month.

During April, child protection staff in dioceses nationwide reexamined and publicized efforts for child protection. This has been a key effort of the church since 2002, when the U.S. bishops adopted the Charter for the Protection of Children and Young People, in response to clergy sexual abuse of children.

Kettelkamp, executive director of the U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops (USCCB) Secretariat for Children and Young People, developed the list after reviewing what the Catholic Church has learned in facing the clergy sexual abuse problem.

The ten points follow.

- **Sexual molestation is about the victim.** Many people are affected when a priest abuses a minor, but the individual most impacted is the victim who has suffered a violation of trust that can affect his or her entire life. The abuser, the family of the abused, and the parish community are all affected by this sin and crime, but the primary person of concern must be the victim.

- **No one has the right to have access to children.** If people wish to volunteer for the church, for example, in a parish or school, they must follow diocesan guidelines on background checks, safe environment training, policies and procedures, and codes of conduct. No one, no matter who they are, has an automatic right to be around children or young people who are in the care of the church without proper screening and without following the rules.

- **Common sense is not all that common.** It is naive to presume that people

automatically know boundaries so organizations and families have to spell them out. For example, no youth minister, cleric or other adult leader should be in a child’s bedroom, alone with the child.

- **Child sexual abuse can be prevented.** Awareness that child sexual abuse exists and can exist anywhere is a start. It is then critical to build safety barriers around children and young people to keep them from harm. These barriers come in the form of protective guardians, codes of conduct, background evaluations, policies and procedures, and safety training programs.

- **The residual effects of having been abused can last a lifetime.** Those who have been abused seldom “just get over it.” The sense of violation goes deep into a person’s psyche and feelings of anger, shame, hurt and betrayal can build long after the abuse has taken place. Some have even described the feeling as if it has “scarred their soul.”

- **Feeling heard leads toward healing.** Relief from hurt and anger often comes when one feels heard, when one’s pain and concerns are taken seriously, and a victim/survivor’s appropriate sense of rage and indignation are acknowledged. Not being acknowledged contributes to a victim’s sense of being invisible, unimportant and unworthy; they are in some way “revictimized.”

- **You cannot always predict who will be an abuser.** Experience shows that most abuse is at the hands of someone who has gained the trust of a victim/survivor and his/her family. Most abuse also occurs in the family setting. Sometimes the “nicest person in the world” is an abuser, and this “niceness” enables a false sense of trust to be created between abuser and abused.

- **There are behavioral warning signs of child abusers.** Training and education help adults recognize grooming techniques

that are precursors to abuse. Some abusers isolate a potential victim by giving him or her undue attention or lavish gifts. Another common grooming technique is to allow young people to participate in activities which their parents or guardians would not approve, such as watching pornography, drinking alcohol, using drugs, and excessive touching, which includes wrestling and tickling. It is also critical to be wary of age-inappropriate relationships, seen, for example, in the adult who is more comfortable with children than fellow adults. Parishes can set up rules to guide interaction between adults and children.

- **People can be taught to identify grooming behavior** — which are the actions which abusers take to project the image that they are kind, generous, caring people, while their intent is to lure a minor into an inappropriate relationship. An abuser may develop a relationship with the family to increase his credibility. Abusers might show attention to the child by talking to him/her, being friendly, sharing alcohol with a minor and giving the child “status” by insinuating that the child is their favorite or “special person.” Offenders can be patient and may “groom” their victim, his or her family, or community for years.

- **Background checks work.** Background checks in churches, schools and other organizations keep predators away from children both because they scare off some predators and because they uncover past actions which should ban an adult from working or volunteering with children. If an adult has had difficulty with some boundaries that society sets, such as not driving while intoxicated or not disturbing the public peace, he or she may have difficulties with other boundaries, such as not hurting a child. Never forget that offenders lie.

Pope sets example in meeting with abuse victims, cardinal says

VATICAN CITY (CNS) — Bishops worldwide are encouraged to meet with victims of clerical sex abuse, just as Pope Benedict XVI has done, said the prefect of the Congregation for the Doctrine of the Faith. “There is nothing that helps bishops or priests learn about this problem better than meeting with the victims and hearing their stories,” U.S. Cardinal William J. Levada said in a televised interview April 27. Pope Benedict XVI has met with victims several times, and “that’s an example to bishops,” he said. The interview, which took place in the cardinal’s Vatican office, aired on PBS’ “The NewsHour with Jim Lehrer,” and was to be one of a series of reports from the Vatican. In the 14-minute interview, Cardinal Levada said he didn’t want to “scapegoat anybody or have a conspiracy theory,” but he thought there has been “a certain media bias” in the way media outlets have covered the sex abuse scandals. Reports, especially by U.S. media, have largely relied on information coming from attorneys representing alleged abuse victims and, because of that, “have not been fair in giving a balanced picture, a picture in context,” he said.

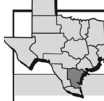
Two longtime Dallas priests ordained as auxiliaries of diocese

DALLAS (CNS) — With Catholic Church dignitaries, friends and family watching in a packed Cathedral Shrine of the Virgin of Guadalupe, two longtime Dallas priests were ordained bishops April 27. Rev. J. Douglas Deshotel and Rev. Mark J. Seitz became auxiliary bishops of Dallas and will assist Bishop Kevin J. Farrell in ministering to a growing diocese that exceeds more than 1 million people and stretches across nine counties of North Texas. Because of the limited seating at the cathedral, the ordination was broadcast via TexasCatholicTV.com and simulcast to the parish communities of St. Monica and St. Rita, where hundreds of people, including schoolchildren, watched the Mass. Eighteen bishops, about 150 priests, dozens of deacons and more than 50 seminarians attended the ordination Mass. Bishop Farrell thanked them and also thanked the families of the two men, including Janet Seitz, mother of Bishop Seitz. “The mother of a priest is a very special person, so I want to thank you for being here,” he said.

Bishops ramp up efforts to mobilize church to support new arms pact

WASHINGTON (CNS) — Senate ratification of the new Strategic Arms Reduction Treaty is a moral imperative and a necessary step toward the eventual goal of total nuclear disarmament, Archbishop Edwin F. O’Brien of Baltimore said. Speaking during an April 26 panel discussion on the ethics of President Barack Obama’s nuclear weapons policy hosted by The Catholic University of America, Archbishop O’Brien urged senators to cast aside partisan differences and approve the START agreement, which calls for what he described as “modest reductions” in American and Russian nuclear arsenals. Signed April 8 in Prague, Czech Republic, by Obama and Russian President Dmitry Medvedev, the START “follow-on” treaty calls for both countries to reduce their strategic arsenals — weapons deployed on long-range missiles,

bombers and submarines — to 1,550 each. Under the previous START pact, which expired in December, both countries reduced their strategic arsenals to 2,200 weapons each. The Russian Duma also must approve the treaty, and from that point, both countries will have seven years to reach the agreement’s targets. The archbishop’s call is the most recent public step by the U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops and church leaders to build support for the new round of nuclear disarmament among Catholics in church pews as well as across the wide gap separating Senate Democrats and Republicans.



South Texas Catholic

Job Opening Editor

The Diocese of Corpus Christi is seeking an Editor for the *South Texas Catholic* Newspaper. The editor will manage operations, as well as, coordinate and contribute stories and photos to the diocesan newspaper.

The ideal candidate will have the following responsibilities:

- Formulating editorial policy; planning, coordinating and directing editorial activities
- Overseeing lead stories for each issue
- Excellent reporting, writing and photography skills and experience filing stories on deadline
- Managing staff and budgets
- At least two years of experience writing and editing in English
- A bachelor’s degree in journalism/communications or equivalent experience
- Excellent communication skills
- Knowledge and respect of the Catholic faith and hierarchical structure
- Familiarity with layout design (InDesign, Photoshop and Illustrator or equivalent preferred)
- Bilingual preferred

This full-time position includes medical insurance and 403(b) retirement benefits and requires working from the *South Texas Catholic* office at the Chancery.

Qualified applicants please send resume to Chancery Office, Attention: Diana Sanchez, 620 Lipan, Corpus Christi, TX 78401 or email: DSanchez@DioceseCC.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.

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



Mexican advocates say U.S. officials don't care about tales of violence

By David Agren
Catholic News Service

EL PASO, Texas (CNS) — An unidentified Mexican man and his wife, fearful to reveal their true identities, spoke recently to a group of reporters and immigration advocates in this border city about the violence that forced them to seek refuge in the United States.

The husband tearfully described how carloads of thugs arrived at their home in neighboring Ciudad Juarez, Mexico, burst onto their property, murdered four family members and shot at another two children in the neighborhood.

The family subsequently fled across the border to El Paso.

"All I want is security for my family," the man said.

The family's long-term safety is anything but assured, however, because of the complexities of the U.S. immigration system and, advocates say, an unfavorable bias toward asylum seekers from Mexico, whose requests are granted at a rate of only 2 percent.

"There is no legal recourse for us to stay here," said the man, whose family has not requested asylum. "Legally speaking, I'm practically in hiding."

Such stories have become common in El Paso, where the local police department estimates 30,000 Ciudad

Juarez residents have abandoned the city of 1.3 million inhabitants and have settled directly across the Rio Grande.

In Ciudad Juarez, stories of extortion and kidnapping are common, and a turf war between narcotics-trafficking cartels and gangs affiliated with the cartels has claimed an estimated 750 lives this year. Many of the city's residents simply cross the border by brandishing identification cards that range from U.S. passports to 10-year visas to temporary crossing permits.

Advocates in El Paso said U.S. border and immigration officials are not interested in the stories of violence, threats and extortion told by asylum seekers.

"We are now aware that Mexican nationals, fleeing the violence in Mexico, crossing into the United States and seeking and needing protection are finding that the door has been closed," said Ruben Garcia, director of Annunciation House, a Catholic organization in El Paso that has supported asylum seekers for 32 years.

"To petition for political asylum implies being detained, denied and running the risk of being sent back to the same violence from which they fled," he said.

The arrival of asylum seekers is nothing new in El Paso, which Garcia says has long been a gateway to the United States for those fleeing violence further to the south in places such as Central America and Colombia.

The nature of those asylum seekers changed in early 2008, when violence erupted in Ciudad Juarez and the Mexican military and federal police were sent to the border region -- part of a crackdown on the cartels that has claimed nearly 23,000 lives since President Felipe Calderon took office in December 2006.

Since then, asylum advocates in El Paso say they've been swamped with requests from Mexican nationals.

"I have received 432 calls requesting consultations for asylum since January. Every day I get four or five calls," said Sergio Saenz, a paralegal and intake specialist with Las Americas Immigrant Advocacy Center in El Paso.

"People come to my office saying their sister or brother has been killed, mothers

crying, grandmothers crying, children crying because they lost a dad," he said.

Numbers from the Justice Department's Executive Office for Immigration Review that were provided by Annunciation House say that 12,100 asylum requests from Mexico have been submitted since the cartel crackdown began in 2006. Only 232 of those requests have been granted. In comparison, Colombian nationals submitted nearly 5,900 claims over that same period -- 40 percent of which were granted.

"You see the process and you see the antagonism and you see the hindrance from the moment they're received to the moment they're detained to the moment they're taken to the camp," said Carlos Spector, an El Paso immigration attorney who works with Mexicans.

Spector associated the hostile treatment and low approval rate of asylum claims to U.S. support for the cartel crackdown in Mexico, which has been supported with technical support, law enforcement consulting and military equipment provisions through an initiative known as Plan Merida.

"To admit that there's persecution and that the government of Mexico is unable or unwilling to protect its own citizens is to admit that the war on drugs and the millions of (U.S.) taxpayers' dollars that we're funneling to Mexico are going into a hole and we're losing that war and we're having no impact," he said.

"It's a recognition once the courts start granting asylum to Mexicans that in fact there is corruption ... there is violence and there is no end to it."

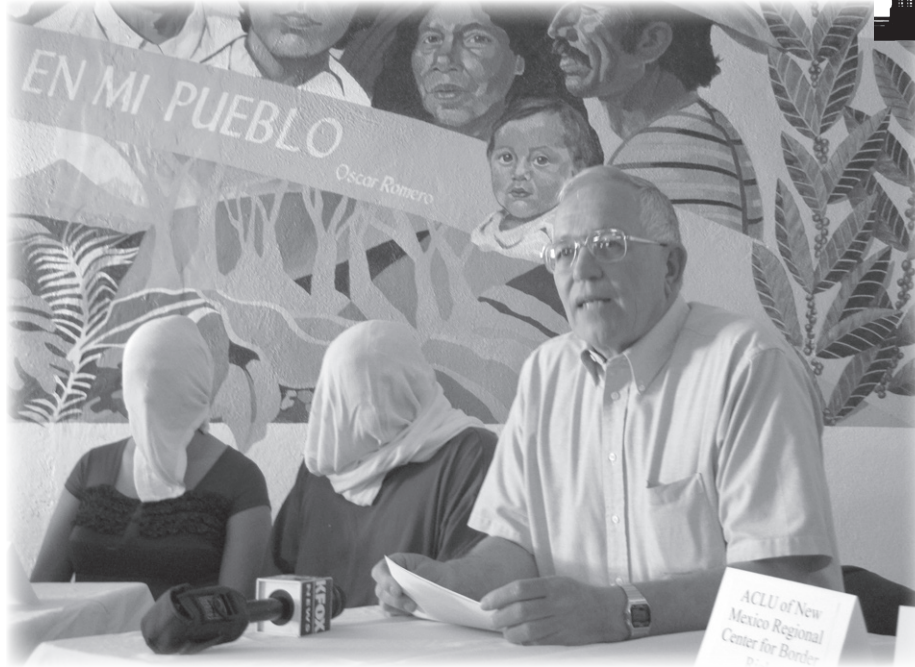
Messages left with the Dallas office of the U.S. Bureau of Citizenship and Immigration Services were not returned.

The couple fleeing Ciudad Juarez, who spoke with heads covered during a recent news conference in El Paso, said there would be no protection from the violence if they returned home.

"We don't want to return to Juarez. We were traumatized. My family suffered terribly: 20 years of work and savings were lost in 10 seconds," the man said. "I want to tell the U.S. government that there are Mexicans who need their help."

Pro-life 'freedom rides' set to begin this summer in Birmingham

BIRMINGHAM, Ala. (CNS) — Calling for an end to the nation's "enslavement to legal abortion," Father Frank Pavone of Priests for Life announced April 27 that a series of "freedom rides" for the unborn would begin this summer. The rides will be nonpartisan, interdenominational and nonviolent and will involve a diverse cross-section of people, Father Pavone said at a news conference in Birmingham's Kelly Ingram Park. "Like the freedom rides of five decades ago, these freedom rides symbolize the principle ... that justice and equal protection of human rights belong to each and every human being, regardless of size or age or any other condition," he said. Among those joining Father Pavone in the announcement was Alveda King, director of African-American outreach at Priests for Life and niece of the late civil rights leader, the Rev. Martin Luther King Jr. Her father, the Rev. A.D. King, is depicted in a statue of praying ministers at Kelly Ingram Park. Father Pavone said the rides would be preceded by a period of intense prayer to end abortion, beginning on Pentecost Sunday, May 23, and continuing until July 4.



Ruben Garcia, director of Annunciation House in El Paso, Texas, speaks April 24 on the subject of asylum for those fleeing the violence directly across the border in Ciudad Juarez, Mexico. The couple, heads covered, had four family members murdered in Ciudad Juarez and fled to El Paso, where they seek asylum. (CNS photo/David Agren)

Religious leaders denounce Arizona immigration bill, urge its veto

WASHINGTON (CNS) — Arizona's three bishops and Los Angeles Cardinal Roger M. Mahony have joined those urging Arizona Gov. Jan Brewer to veto legislation that the cardinal called "the country's most retrogressive, mean-spirited and useless anti-immigrant law." The Arizona Legislature on April 19 sent Brewer a bill that would require police to ask people they encounter in routine activities for immigration documents. It also would, in Arizona at least, make it a crime to be in the country illegally; whereas, federal law considers it a violation of civil codes, not a crime. The bishops joined in a letter from a dozen religious leaders urging Brewer to veto the bill that they said "may

actually scare off potential employers and employees looking to come to Arizona," and threaten public safety by making immigrants afraid to have contact with police, even to report crimes. It was signed by Bishops Gerald F. Kicanas of Tucson, Thomas J. Olmsted of Phoenix and James S. Wall of Gallup, N.M., whose diocese includes parts of northern Arizona, as well as the Rev. Jan Olav Flaaten, a Lutheran minister who is executive director of the Arizona Ecumenical Council. Also signing the letter were leaders of Arizona Presbyterian, Episcopal, Disciples of Christ, United Church of Christ, Methodist and Jewish organizations.

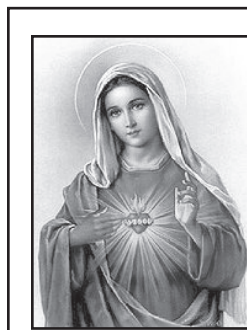
Living in the Shadows

Mexicans leave farms for U.S. as NAFTA makes it more expensive to grow corn than to buy it from U.S.

Catholic Committee of the South
Sister Jan Barthel, OSB

Juan Carlos is one of the more than 12 million people who are living in the shadows across the continental USA. Juan was raised on a small farm in the Chiapas region of southern Mexico. Each year his family managed to survive on the annual corn crop. Then, disaster struck. NAFTA, an international trade agreement among Mexico, Canada and the US, changed everything. Corn grown in the USA, heavily subsidized, could no longer have an added tariff when exported to Mexico. Now it was cheaper to buy imported corn than what one's family grew locally.

Juan and thousands of farmers like him left their farms and trekked north. He still had to feed his family and the promise of work in the USA seemed the only option. He crossed the border near Laredo, Texas. Since he had no papers, he broke the law. This violation is a misdemeanor, nothing more and nothing less. Likewise, when we overstay our time limit on a parking meter, we break the law. Our violation is easily remedied by the payment of a small fine. However, Juan's challenge to citizenship is monumental.



Happy
Mother's
Day
May
9

Since Juan is undocumented, he is listed as one of the 12 million "illegal aliens." He and his family live in the shadows, just beyond the law. Two of his children have been born in the USA and, therefore, are full citizens. But his spouse and two older children are "illegal aliens."

People have a right to immigrate, especially to feed their families or to flee persecution. But the host nation has a right to protect its borders and to limit the number of immigrants within its bounds. How can this conflict be resolved in a way that benefits everyone? Comprehensive immigration reform holds the key.

Scripture provides a moving example in Paul the apostle. Saul was raised up as a rigorous follower of the Torah. He experienced the upstart "followers of the Way" as misguided and even a threat to the Chosen People. So he persecuted, and even killed, them. But on the way to Damascus, he was thrown from his horse. And the Lord appeared in a blaze of light. A voice called, "It is I whom you are persecuting."

Paul, now proclaiming the Good News, soon found himself in jail again and again. A co-worker, Philemon, sent his educated slave Onesimus, to minister to Paul while he was in prison. Later, Paul sent Onesimus back to the slave-owner with a brief message: "Make welcome Onesimus as your brother, not because I say so, but because he is." Following in the footsteps of Paul, the bishops call for comprehensive immigration reform. Add your voice: <http://www.justiceforimmigrants.org/> Click on the "Action" button.



Special Collection
Black and Native American, Catholic
Communications Campaign and Catholic
University of America (all three combined) - June 6
Ongoing Events

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

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

Natural Family Planning—For English or bilingual sessions of the Sympto-Thermal Method (S-TM) in Palacios, call Rene and Wilma Galvan at (361) 972-5030. Available for counseling and classes. For information about the Sympto-Thermal Method in the Victoria area, contact David and Annie Coffey at zoukoda@yahoo.com. Introductory presentations on the Creighton Model Ovulation Method are offered in Wharton at Our Lady of Mount Carmel Church and in East Bernard at Holy Cross Catholic Church. Please contact Melissa Morse at (979) 335-7306 for more information. To learn more about Natural Family Planning, please go to Natural Family Planning Outreach at: www.nfpoutreach.org. Natural Family Planning is the only church approved form of family planning. If unable to connect with any of these trainers, please contact Father David Berger at Our Lady of Victory Cathedral at frdvbrgr@gmail.com or (361) 575-4741.

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

Victoria—The Gabriel Project Ministry will hold its monthly meeting on Tuesday, May, 11, at 6:30 p.m. in the educational building at Holy Family, 704 Mallette Dr. The Gabriel Project Ministry serves women and their families during crisis pregnancies. All are welcomed. For more info., please call 1-866-627-9243 (MARY AID).

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

Victoria—The Gabriel Project Ministry Volunteer Workshop will be held Tuesday, May 25, at 6:30 p.m. in the educational building at Holy Family, 704 Mallette Dr. Come find out how

you can volunteer to help women and their families during crisis pregnancies. Please RSVP by calling Martha (361-571-7130) or Becca (361-564-3887).

Hallettsville— Sacred Heart Parish Spring Festival May 30 at the KC Hall. A fried-chicken and stew dinner will be served from 10:30 a.m. to 1:30 p.m. at \$7 p/p. with plates-to-go available. There will be music, auction, games, entertainment and kiddie rides all afternoon. Washer pitching (5:00 p.m.) contest will be held. See page 16 for more information.

Shiner—Sts. Cyril and Methodius Spring Picnic May 30 at the American Legion Park. A stew, fried-chicken and sausage dinner will be served from 10:30 a.m. to 2:00 p.m. at \$7.50 p/p. The auction begins at 12:00 p.m. There will be a country store, cake wheel, plant wheel, kiddie rides and games. Music day and night. See page 8 for more information.

Houston—The Lettermen in Concert to benefit the Divine Mercy Monastery of the Carmelite Nuns of the Holy Trinity on May 30 at 7:00 p.m. The Lettermen – one of the greatest vocal groups of all time – bring back the best of memories with their instantly recognizable sound. They will be at the Arena Theatre - Houston's home for live music in-the-round – performing all their hits such as “I Only Have Eyes For You,” “Theme From A Summer Place,” “Goin’ Out of My Head/Can’t Take My Eyes Off of You,” “The Way You Look Tonight,” and many, many, more. The concert will benefit the Divine Mercy Monastery of the Carmelite Nuns of the Holy Trinity in their efforts in building the Divine Mercy Shrine and Monastery with Columbarium in Liago City, Philippines. The shrine will be significant to youth and adult faith building, transcending distinctions of economic status, educational attainment, or cultural bias to focus on the essentials of spiritual growth. Arena Theatre is located at 7326 Southwest Freeway (between Bellaire and Fondren), Houston. Concert tickets are \$39, \$49 and \$69, and can be purchased online at <http://www.ticketmaster.com/> or by calling TicketMaster at (713) 629-3700 or Mrs. Ray Tapia at (832) 677-1599.

Upcoming Events

Port Lavaca—CDA Court #2267 of Our Lady of the Gulf Parish is hosting its annual games party from 1:00 to 5:00 p.m. June 6, at St. Jude's Hall. For table reservations, please call 552-6844, 552-3233 or 987-2387.

East Bernard—Annual Czech Kolache-Klobase Festival June 12 from 10:30 a.m. to 8:00 p.m. at Riverside Hall sponsored by KJT Society #40. Admission is \$7 p/p and children 12 and under free. There will be entertainment indoors and under pavillion with water-fan cooled comfort. Starting at 11:00 a.m. there will be sausage/barbecue-chicken plate lunches available with food available throughout the day; and arts/crafts, kiddie games, cakewalk and much more family fun. For more information go to www.kkfest.com or call (979) 335-7907.

Bay City—Our Lady of Guadalupe Annual Jamaica/Bazaar June 13 held on church grounds (Avenue D & 12th Street) from 11:00 a.m. to dark. Fun for all ages: live music, children's games and rides, children's ferris wheel, cakewalk and more; food booths (some open at 9:00 a.m.), Mexican food and more. Bring your chair and enjoy the day!!!!

Schulenburg—St. Rose of Lima will hold its annual parish picnic on June 13 at KC Hall. Masses will be held Sunday at 7:30 and 10 a.m. A meal featuring fried-chicken, sausage and all the trimmings will be served from 11 a.m. to 1 p.m. at the KC Hall. Adult plates \$7.50 p/p, children under 12, \$4.00 p/p. Drive-through adult plates will be available. Hamburgers, iced tea and other food and refreshments will be served all afternoon and evening. The biergarten will open at noon. The Shiner Hobo Band will be featured from 11 a.m.-1 p.m. and from 1:30-3:30 p.m. (outside); Mark Halata and Texavia will play from 4-8 p.m. in the hall. One of the highlights of the picnic will be the big auction starting at 1 p.m. featuring cattle, quilts, antiques and much more. Other activities at this year's picnic will include bingo in the hall, as well as amusements and games, including a country store, cakewalk, country walk, rides for children, and pull tab bingo. The sweepstakes drawing will be at 8 p.m.

St. Mary—St. Mary Parish Picnic June 13 at the parish hall. Mass will be celebrated at the church at 9:15 a.m. A stew and sausage dinner begins at 10:30 a.m. at \$7 p/p with dine-in or drive-thru available. There will be games, plants, cakewalk, train ride and country store. Hamburgers will be sold in the afternoon. Auction begins at 1:00 p.m. Dance to live music from 10:30 a.m. to 9:00 p.m. with Texas Sound Czech, Tony Janak and Red Ravens.

Victoria—Knights of Columbus Council 1329 chicken-barbecue fund-raiser June 20 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.

St. John—St. John Annual Parish 4th of July Picnic on the parish grounds (7026 FM 957 - 6 miles SW of Schulenburg). Mass at 9:30 a.m. followed by flag raising ceremonies at 10:30 a.m. A stew and fried-chicken dinner begins at 11:00 a.m. More information to come.

Dubina—Sts. Cyril and Methodius Parish Picnic July 4

Moravia—Ascension of Our Lord Parish Picnic July 11

Frelsburg—Sts. Peter and Paul Annual Festival Aug. 1

Yoakum—St. Joseph Parish Picnic Aug. 1

Palacios—St. Anthony Shrimporee Aug. 1

Weimar—St. Michael Harvest Feast Aug. 8

Praha—St. Mary Parish Picnic Aug. 15

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

Cuero—Our Lady of Guadalupe Jamaica Sept. 5

Shiner—Sts. Cyril and Methodius Picnic Sept. 5

Hallettsville—Sacred Heart Festival Sept. 5

Nada—St. Mary Picnic Sept. 5

Vanderbilt — St. John Bosco Parish Picnic Sept. 5

Inez — St. Joseph Parish Picnic Sept. 12

Yorktown — Holy Cross Festival Sept. 12

Masses • Retreats • Conferences

San Antonio—Jeff Cavins, well-known Catholic Bible teacher, speaker and trainer, TV and radio host and author of “The Great Adventure Bible” series, will hold a Bible Seminar May 14 and 15 at St. Matthew Church, 10703 Wurzbach Rd., San Antonio, TX 78230, hosted by the Office of Evangelization of the Archdiocese of San Antonio. Friday 7 – 9 p.m. is free; Saturday from 8:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. costs \$35 p/p, which includes lunch and materials. Limited scholarships available for those in need and in ministry, including priests, religious and seminarians. To register, contact (210) 734-1990 or evangelization@archsa.org.

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

Nada—Parish Mission with Fr. Angelus, formerly with EWTN, June 5 – 9. He will speak at Masses June 5 and 6 and celebrate Mass at 9 a.m. Monday thru Wednesday. Mission talks to be held 7 p.m. Sunday – Wednesday. He will hear confessions after morning Masses on Monday, Tuesday and Wednesday; at 3:00 p.m.; and after the services in the evening. For more information and topics, please call parish at (979) 758-3218.

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

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

Houston—Coming Events at Holocaust Museum Houston – Education Center and Memorial: www.hmh.org/pc_home.asp.

Pilgrimages, Tours, etc.

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

Summer Events

Summer Camps for Girls - Make plans now for Camp Marian, summer camp filled with fun, food, fire and friends. The camp for girls who are currently in 5-6th grade is June 7-9 and the camp for girls who are currently in 7-8th grade is June 10-12. Camps take place by Lake Marian at the Benedictine Monastery in Ferdinand, Indiana. Call Sister Agnes Marie at 812-367-1411. ext. 2831, or e-mail vocation@thedome.org. Cost: \$40. Deposit: \$10. Camps are limited to 44 campers. Register online at www.thedome.org.

Father Angelus of EWTN to hold mission in Nada

NADA—Father Angelus, national executive director of the Archconfraternity of Christian Mothers, will hold a parish mission at Nada June 5 – 9. There are 14 Christian Mothers groups in the Victoria Diocese; they, as well as everyone, are invited to attend. Please see information in calendar of events.

Matthew Edmund Shaughnessy was born November 16, 1929, in Rochester, Pa. A talented and capable athlete in his youth, Father Angelus turned down an offer to play professional baseball as a left-handed pitcher for the Cleveland Indians to enter the Capuchin Novitiate in Cumberland, Maryland. On July 14, 1953, Father solemnly professed his perpetual vows as a Capuchin Friar, taking the name Angelus.

In October of 1966, Father Angelus volunteered to work as a missionary in Papua New Guinea (P.N.G.) where he was spiritual director and teacher in the Pontifical Seminary of Madang for eleven years. As a major part of

his parochial ministry, he and his parishioners built eleven permanent churches and three bush churches.

While ministering to the needs of the people of Papua New Guinea, Father was privileged to baptize 1,227 men, women and children. It was there also that his fondness for swimming led to his mastery of walking in deep water for any distance – an unmatched record that was submitted to the Guinness Book of Records in London.

Results of his physical examination revealed that his cardiogram was unsatisfactory and in the summer of 1980, he was reassigned to Western Pennsylvania.

From 2001-2007, Father Angelus was stationed at EWTN in Birmingham, Alabama. There he served as Minister General to the Franciscan Missionaries of the Eternal Word. Father Angelus was happy to be a part of the apostolate of the Eternal Word Television Network where he was able to preach to 128 million households throughout the world.



Our Lady of the Gulf receives 23 at Easter Vigil

By Cynthia Brewer

Of the 136 people who entered the Catholic Church in the Diocese of Victoria this past Easter, 23 of them were adults from one parish, Our Lady of the Gulf in Port Lavaca and its three missions.

The only parish with more conversions was Our Lady of Sorrows in Victoria with 30 and a church population nearly four times Our Lady of the Gulf.

“The Holy Spirit is truly moving in our community and I know a lot is due to Father Dan’s guidance,” said OLG RCIA director Mary Lupita Reyes. “We are truly blessed.”

Father Dan Morales is the pastor of Our Lady of the Gulf, its elementary school and its missions in Point Comfort, Port O’Connor and Seadrift. He is assisted by Father Bryan Heyer and Father Robert Fisher, SVD.

Being the priest he is, besides the Holy Spirit, Father Dan gave the credit for the parish’s success to Mary Reyes, saying, “Much of our success rests with Mary, our director, and the team she has put together.”

Of the 23 entering the church, five received baptism, confirmation and first Eucharist (the sacraments of initiation), Mary said.

“Four adults were coming to us from other religions,” she said, “and 14 were Catholics who, for one reason or another, had never received their sacrament of confirmation or first Eucharist.”

Below are some quotes from a few who spoke of their journey of faith.

“What prompted you to look more seriously at becoming a Catholic/or receiving all the sacraments?”

Jon Adame: “My wife and I had been visiting local churches trying to find one we liked and could join. I had not been baptized yet and once we found out more about the sacraments of the Catholic

Church, like receiving the body and the blood of Christ, we knew this was the church we wanted to join.”

Elizabeth McDaniel: “I had been attending Mass with my Catholic husband for years. As someone who was raised a Protestant, I didn’t fully understand the necessity of making my (now Catholic) faith ‘official.’ It wasn’t until we attended baptism classes for my infant daughter that I realized how important it was for me to receive full communion with the Church.”

Irene Martinez: “I had been going to church for over 30+ years, but never was able to receive the Eucharist because I had not finished my sacraments.”

Maria Dybala: “Thinking that I had everything in my life, (family, friends, job, house, car, etc.) something was still missing; I wasn’t completely happy. I realized that I didn’t have God in my life. I believed and had faith, but I wasn’t following him.”

Robbie Vega’s reasons: “I am 28 years old and just getting back to my roots since I went to Catholic school; my car accident where I nearly lost my life; getting married through the church; and possibly becoming a godfather.”

“Who do you feel God used (the most) to create your conversion?”

Jon Adame: “My sister, Rachael Nichols, and her husband, Michael; my mother, Dora Adame; my Aunt Mary Moreno; and all the RCIA instructors.”

Liz McDaniel: “... the most influential person has to be my infant daughter, Alison. I want to be a good example for her, to be able to teach her about the Catholic faith—to truly model the kind of woman I want her to be someday.”

Irene Martinez: “My daughter, grandson and sponsor all believed in me, that I was worthy to be complete and receive the Holy Eucharist. They knew that it was



(left) Sally Martinez receives the sacrament of confirmation. Father Bryan Heyer lays hands on her, while her sponsor, Becky Robles, lays her hand on her shoulder.



(right) Robbie Vega completes his sacraments of initiation.

time and that I was ready.”

Maria Dybala: “My family; we had been attending church on a regular basis for some time now and I have seen a change in all of us. It is very important to me that my children continue to be involved in church and I feel that it is up to me and my husband to keep that relationship with Christ going.”

Robbie Vega: “All my family and friends that surround me ... I was not forced, it was and always will be my choice to regain my faith and follow in Jesus’ footsteps.”

How do you feel since receiving these sacraments for the first time, or what are some of your thoughts about receiving the sacraments for the first time?”

Jon Adame: “My first great feeling that I got was when my RCIA instructor, Mary Reyes, asked me if I would participate in the washing of the feet ceremony (at Holy Thursday Mass), and I said yes. ... When I stood at the altar for the first time, I could feel something good come over my whole body, and when Father Bryan washed my

foot, my whole leg felt cool for the next few days, which also was exciting.”

Liz McDaniel: “I feel complete ...”

Irene Martinez: “Nervous, but then calm, cool and peaceful. It made me feel complete, whole and peaceful, and very loved.”

Maria Dybala: “I feel so spiritual and complete that I have Christ within me. I had been longing for him for so long that now that I have completed all my sacraments I feel that he is standing with me every moment.”

See *Our Lady of the Gulf*, p. 11

Trivia

Look for answers to trivia questions in this issue. Questions and answers provided by “Ultimate Catholic Trivia” by Scott Paul Frush, published by Marshall Rand Publishing.

Question #787: What are best described as outward signs of inward grace, instituted by Christ for our sanctification?

Question #819: What sin does the Sacrament of Baptism remove?

Question # 837: What three Sacraments cannot be repeated as they impart an indelible spiritual mark?

Question # 844: What are the three valid methods for administering the Sacrament of Baptism?

Jesuits say Haitians themselves give country best chance for recovery

By Dennis Sadowski
Catholic News Service

WASHINGTON (CNS) — The development and reconstruction of Haiti will succeed only if the Haitian government, with involvement of the wider society, takes on a broader decision-making role in international bodies such as the United Nations and the World Bank, said two of the country’s leading Jesuit priests.

In an April 15 interview with Catholic News Service during a visit to the nation’s capital, Father Kawas Francois and Father Wismith Lazard said access to education and literacy training will give Haitians the ability to become involved in decisions directing their future as the country recovers from the ruinous Jan. 12 earthquake.

“If you want people to participate, then education and people learning how to read and write, that would be a good challenge at schools and even in the church,” said Father Lazard, director of Jesuit Refugee Service in Haiti, which assists Haitians along the border with the Dominican Republic in the northeastern part of the country.

The agency has expanded its work to the earthquake zone in southern Haiti, assisting some of the 1.1 million people who were left homeless by the magnitude 7 trembler. Overall, the program works in seven camps containing an estimated 21,000 people.

The two Jesuits were in Washington April 13-16 in cooperation with Jesuit Ref-

ugee Service/USA to meet with congressional staff members, State Department officials, aid agencies and Haitian diaspora who have settled in the Washington region to plead their case for additional support of earthquake recovery efforts.

Father Lazard said the country’s reconstruction will best be managed by Haitians as long as the process is transparent, decision-making is decentralized, decision-makers are held accountable and projects are sustainable. He said centralized decision making in Haiti’s past led to corruption and the siphoning off of aid by government officials.

“Before the earthquake we had international cooperation, but people did not see the results,” he explained. “They are afraid the millions of dollars (of redevelopment) aid will go to the pockets of the experts and the government and not to the people of Haiti.”

“We want the civil society to participate,” Father Lazard said.

The Jesuits also are promoting the need for increased security for the country, especially for people remaining in hundreds of makeshift tent camps in the earthquake zone. Women are particularly vulnerable, said Father Francois, president of the Jesuit Interprovincial Committee for the Reconstruction of Haiti.

Under the National Committee for Reflection and Action started by Father Francois, the needs of women are stressed to men of all ages. Discussions at weekly

meetings in the camps focus on privacy concerns, gender equality issues and gainful employment for women to move them along the road to financial independence.

The meetings also help displaced people develop their own recovery and redevelopment plans.

In addition, camp residents experience random violence, crime and assaults, the priests said. The lack of adequate food and clean water, nonexistent sanitation facilities and the unending accumulation of trash, which attracts pests and is a

breeding ground for disease, compound the difficulties facing people who lost their homes in the earthquake.

By bringing such tragic stories to the United States, Father Francois and Father Lazard said they are hopeful that the Caribbean nation will begin to see significant changes sooner rather than later.

“We want Americans to keep Haiti on the agenda,” Father Francois said. “It’s good as the country rebuilds for Americans to know what is going on.”



U.N. PEACEKEEPER PATROLS IN HAITI—A U.N. peacekeeper patrols a street market in the neighborhood of Cite-Soleil, Port-au-Prince, Haiti, April 14. At least five people died during a week of violence in which U.N. troops battled demonstrators rioting over soaring food prices. (CNS photo/Eduardo Munoz, Reuters)