

# The Catholic Lighthouse

The Cradle of Texas Immigration



VOL. 24, NO. 8

OFFICIAL PUBLICATION OF THE DIOCESE OF VICTORIA IN TEXAS

November 2010

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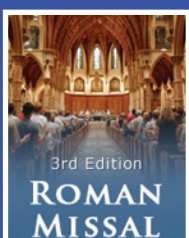
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Pope Benedict XVI has named Chicago Auxiliary Bishop Gustavo Garcia-Siller to head the Archdiocese of San Antonio. He is pictured at the U.S. bishops general meeting in Baltimore in 2008. (CNS photo/Nancy Wiechec)

## Pope names Chicago auxiliary bishop to head San Antonio Archdiocese

By Catholic News Service

WASHINGTON (CNS) — Pope Benedict XVI has named Auxiliary Bishop Gustavo Garcia-Siller of Chicago to head the Archdiocese of San Antonio.

His appointment was publicized in Washington Oct. 14 by Archbishop Pietro Sambi, apostolic nuncio to the United States.

Archbishop Garcia-Siller succeeds Archbishop Jose H. Gomez, who was named coadjutor archbishop of Los Angeles in April. His installation as archbishop of San Antonio is scheduled for Nov. 23.

A native of Mexico, the new archbishop is one of 26 active Hispanic Catholic bishops in the United States. He has been an auxiliary bishop for Chicago since 2003.

A member of the Congregation of the Missionaries of the Holy Spirit, he also is a former superior of his order's Christ the Priest Province, which covers the United States and Canada.

When he was told he would be appointed to San Antonio, Archbishop Garcia-Siller said, he "felt a sense of gratitude for the opportunity to serve the people of the archdiocese."

"I felt real happiness and joy tempered by a deep awareness of the great responsibility I had been asked to embrace," he said in a statement. "From the moment I said yes, I felt, in faith, a deep affection for the people of the Archdiocese of San Antonio."

Archbishop Gomez called his successor

See Pope names, p. 16



Residents place Iraqi national flags on coffins during a funeral at the Syrian Catholic cathedral in Baghdad, Iraq. Dozens of hostages and police were killed when security forces raided the cathedral Oct. 31 to free worshippers being held by gunmen wearing explosives. (CNS photo/Thaier al-Sudani, Reuters)

## Dozens dead, 56 wounded after savage attack at Iraq Catholic Cathedral

By Carol Glatz  
 Catholic News Service

VATICAN CITY (CNS) — A deadly militant siege of a Catholic cathedral in Baghdad, Iraq, was a "savage" act of "absurd violence," Pope Benedict XVI said.

The pope urged international and national authorities and all people of good will to work together to end the "heinous episodes of violence that continue to ravage the people of the Middle East."

"In a very grave attack on the Syrian Catholic cathedral of Baghdad, dozens of people were killed and injured, among them two priests and a group of faithful gathered for Sunday Mass," the pope said of the Oct. 31 incident.

"I pray for the victims of this absurd violence, which is even more savage because it struck defenseless people, gathered in God's house, which is a house of love and reconciliation," he said after praying the Angelus with pilgrims in St. Peter's Square Nov. 1, the feast of All Saints.

He expressed his closeness to Iraqi Christians, who have suffered another attack in their homeland, and he encouraged the nation's priests and lay faithful "to be strong and steady in hope."

Pope Benedict renewed his urgent call for peace in the Middle East.

While peace may be a gift of God, "it is also the result of efforts by people of good will and national and international institutions," he said.

"May everyone unite their efforts so as to end all violence," he said.

Armed militants wearing explosives stormed the cathedral Oct. 31 while an estimated 100 faithful were celebrating evening Mass, news reports said.

The terrorists first set off a car bomb across the street in front of the Baghdad

Stock Exchange, which left at least two people dead. Then they stormed the church, killing another two people, according to reports.

The militants, who said they were part of the Islamic State of Iraq — a group with suspected ties to al-Qaida — held parishioners and priests hostage in the hopes of leveraging the release of prisoners from their network.

The terrorists demanded prisoners linked to al-Qaida be set free from detention in Iraq and Egypt and they threatened to blow up the church if military forces attempted to break the siege, according to Italian state media RAI.

Iraqi security forces ringed the church and U.S. military flew overhead in helicopters.

After a standoff that lasted hours, Iraqi forces stormed the cathedral and the ensuing firefight and a series of explosions left a large number of people dead and injured.

The Associated Press reported Nov. 1 that at least 39 people were killed, which included hostages, Iraqi security forces and suspected militants. Other agencies were reporting 52 people dead and 56 people wounded.

One report said Iraqi church sources included three young priests among those dead.

Syrian Catholic Patriarch Ignace Joseph III Younan was in Canada when the blasts occurred. In an e-mail to Catholic News Service Nov. 1 while he was en route to Baghdad, he criticized the lack of security for Christian places of worship and called on "Iraqi parties to overcome their personal and confessional interests

See Dozens dead, p. 15





## Bishop Fellhauer's Schedule

### November

- 7 9:30 a.m., Mass and Memorial Service for Veterans, St. Mary Church, Praha
- 8 5:00 p.m., Diocesan Liturgical Commission meeting, Chancery
- 9 11:00 a.m., Mass, Texas Catholic Correctional Ministers, Spiritual Renewal Center
- 11 8:10 a.m., School Mass, St. Rose of Lima Church, Schulenburg  
5:00 p.m., Mass, Teen ACTS retreat, Spiritual Renewal Center
- 12 8:30 a.m., National Readers Week, Nazareth Academy, Victoria
- 14-18 United States Conference of Catholic Bishops General Meeting, Baltimore, MD
- 23 2:00 p.m., Installation of Most Rev. Gustavo Garcia-Siller, M.Sp.S., as the new Archbishop of San Antonio
- 27 4:00 p.m., Mass, St. Ann's Church, Hochheim
- 30 12 noon, Catechetical Conference Volunteers appreciation luncheon, Chancery Office

### December

- 2 6:30 p.m., Knights of St. Gregory Christmas gathering, Colony Creek Country Club, Victoria
- 3 12 noon, Serra Club presentation, Colony Creek Country Club, Victoria
- 5 6:00 p.m., Fourth Degree Knights of Columbus Christmas gathering, Holy Family Church, Victoria
- 8 8:15 a.m., Mass, Nazareth Academy School Gym, Victoria
- 9 6:30 p.m., Holy Sepulchre Christmas gathering, Victoria Country Club, Victoria
- 10 6:00 p.m., Celebration of Archbishop Drossaerts Assembly #1131 Knights of Columbus 60th anniversary, Knights of Columbus Hall, El Campo
- 11 5:00 p.m., Mass, Incarnate Word Chapel, Spiritual Renewal Center, followed by 6:00 p.m., social and Bishop's Christmas Dinner, Spiritual Renewal Center

**CHANCERY OFFICE WELCOMES NEW STAFF**—The chancery office of the Diocese of Victoria has three new employees. Pictured from left are Tanya Starnes, who fills the catechetical office secretary position; Melissa Gutierrez, who fills the catechetical office part-time secretary position; and Ryan Sprinkle, who fills the new chancery Information Technology staff position and is the business office's part-time bookkeeper. After serving the diocese for 22 years, Sharon Jones will retire from the chancery bookkeeping position in December of this year. Ryan will take over her bookkeeping duties. Both Tanya and Melissa are married and each live in Victoria. Melissa has three wonderful children, ages 11, 10 and five. Ryan lives in Meyersville and is engaged to be married in July 2011.



## Best Fest Winners!

**And the Winner is ... Sts. Cyril & Methodius in Shiner ... Best Meal, Best Entertainment and Best Overall Festival!**

**Thank you to all who sent in their choice for favorite festival. The top three winners in each category follow:**

- Best Meal: 1. Shiner; 2. St. Joseph, Moulton; 3. St. John, St. John**
- Best Entertainment: 1. Shiner; 2. TIE: St. Mary, Praha, and Sacred Heart, Hallettsville; 3. TIE: St. John, St. John, and St. Joseph, Moulton**
- Best Overall Festival: 1. Shiner; 2. St. John, St. John; 3. Sacred Heart, Hallettsville**

**CONGRATULATIONS!**

## Catholic Cemetery Sunday - November 7

### The importance of continued prayer in remembering our departed loved ones

Cemetery Sunday will be observed this year on November 7, 2010. It is entirely appropriate that the Church observes the first Sunday of the month of November as a special day to remind all of us of the importance of continued prayer for our beloved dead and to also remember those faithful departed who may have no one to pray for them. Catholic cemeteries encourage visitation and prayerful meditation throughout the year, but November provides Catholic cemeterians an opportunity to remind our brethren of the importance of the sacred space created by Catholic cemeteries. They are visible reminders of our Catholic faith in the resurrection; they hold the mortal remains of the Communion of Saints who have lived among us.

The living are invited to come and pray for those who have gone before, just as those yet to come will be invited to pray for us in the future. By burying the remains

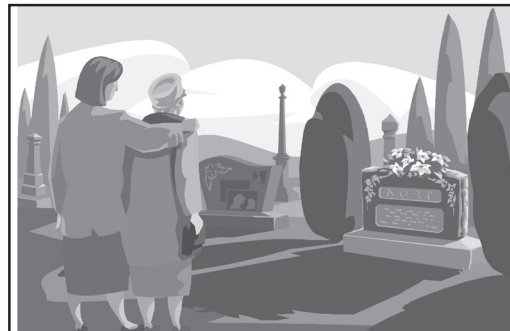
of our loved ones in Catholic cemeteries, including their cremated remains – if this is the option chosen, and by continued prayer for them, we fulfill both the Spiritual and Corporal Works of Mercy.

Cemetery Sunday provides a tangible reminder to all of us of the importance of Catholic cemeteries and the value of prayer. You are invited to take time out of your busy days during the

month of November, or any time during the year for that matter, to stop by and visit the Catholic cemetery, say a prayer for your loved ones and remember.

“Grant eternal rest unto them, O Lord, and let perpetual light shine upon them. May they rest in peace; may they and all the faithful departed, rest in peace. Amen”

Dennis B. Fairbank  
Executive Director  
National Catholic  
Cemetery Conference



## Thank You Letter

### Your Excellency:

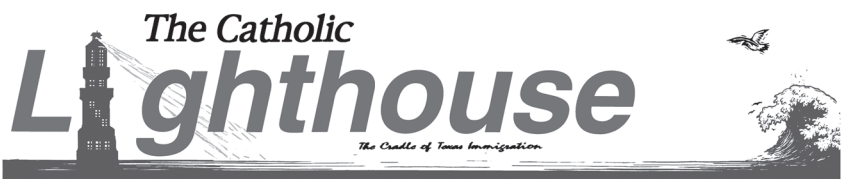
The year 2009 National Black and Indian Collection had the theme, “Evangelization – strengthening one’s own faith and those around us.” I want to thank you for the check in the amount of \$6,248.10 that arrived as your part in helping bring this theme alive.

The Collection was established by the bishops to assist their brother bishops who need financial assistance with evangelization programs. It was the reason for mandating the National Black and Indian Collection during the Third Plenary Council and has proven itself over and over again through the years, ever since 1884, one hundred and twenty-four years.

It is the grace of the Holy Spirit and the witness of the people by their charity and good works that we are able to accomplish so much in our Native and Black American communities.

I wholeheartedly express my appreciation to you on behalf of your brother bishops who seek the commission’s help to provide apostolic service to the evangelization programs of the Black and Native American communities. Your commitment and personal witness are essential to the success of the National Black and Indian Mission Collection. Thank you!

With assurances of my prayers for you and your diocesan family, I am,  
Sincerely Yours in Christ,  
Reverend Wayne C. Paysse, Executive Director  
Black – Indian Mission Office



OFFICIAL PUBLICATION OF THE DIOCESE OF VICTORIA IN TEXAS

Published monthly (1st Wednesday) at 1505 E. Mesquite Lane — Victoria, TX 77901  
(361) 573-0828 — FAX (361) 573-5725 — www.victoriadiocese.org

**Publisher**  
The Most Rev. David E. Fellhauer

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**Production/Advertising**  
Regina Matus-Janak — e-mail: janakr@victoriadiocese.org

Subscription Price Per Year Is \$7/\$10 outside the diocese

**Periodical postage paid at Victoria, Texas, USPS-001015 (ISSN 0894-7740)**

**POSTMASTER: Send address changes to**

**The Catholic Lighthouse - P.O. Box 4070 - Victoria, Texas 77903**

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**DEADLINE IS THE THIRD TUESDAY OF THE PRECEDING MONTH.**

## DSA & Reflection of Faith Capital Campaign Updates

### 2010 DSA

Diocesan Goal:	\$1,349,808.00
Parish Pledge Totals:	\$ 598,246.62
Parish Contribution Totals:	\$ 567,837.26
Number of Parish Families Participating:	3,513

### Reflection of Faith Capital Campaign

Diocesan Goal:	\$ 9,000,000.00
Parish Pledge Totals:	\$12,973,458.19
Parish Contribution Totals:	\$ 8,145,616.53
Number of Parish Families Participating:	6,757





## New translation is a plus for Catholics

By James Breig

Microsoft Vista and “New Coke” have proven that not every change is for the better. Furthermore, when change comes to important elements of life, it is often resisted with the cry of “we never did it that way before.”

However, experts who are enthusiastic about the changes to the Roman Missal – the book that contains the prayers for the Mass – think the alterations are improvements that will lead to a deeper spiritual experience.

“Because a new edition of the Latin Roman Missal was issued in 2002, it is necessary for all the countries of the world to translate this missal into the vernacular (spoken language of the people),” says Msgr. Anthony Sherman, executive director of the U.S. bishops’ Secretariat of Divine Worship, in explaining why the changes are being made.

But translation is not something easy to accomplish, concedes Msgr. Kevin Irwin, dean of the School of Theology and Religious Studies at The Catholic University of America in Washington. “We all bring our own prejudices and ideas to translation,” he says. “It is hoped that the new texts will be more accurate so that our faith and our statements of faith are reliable.”

Msgr. Irwin says changes to the Roman Missal are rare. “The previous Roman Missal (in Latin) was published in 1570, with minor adjustments [being made] in editions through 1962,” he says. “After the Second Vatican Council, the new [Roman Missal] was published in 1970, followed by a 1975 edition with minor adjustments and then the third edition in 2002 with additional prayers for new saints’ feasts etc.”

Father Paul Turner of the Diocese of Kansas City-St. Joseph in Missouri elaborated on the latter point, saying that the missal “includes additional saints’ days that are now on the calendar, as well as some Masses for other circumstances. In addition, the rubrics in Holy Week have many small emendations.”

What makes the translation of the 2002 edition of the Roman Missal different is that this translation is carried out under the latest Vatican guidelines for translating the Mass into vernacular languages. This new guideline, *Liturgiam Authenticam*, published in 2001, urges a stronger adherence to Latin wording and structure than earlier directives.

The results have led to some concern, voiced even by bishops, that the new English translations of the missal are not user-friendly. In the words of one critic,

the language “tends to be elitist and remote from everyday speech and frequently not understandable. The vast majority of God’s people in the assembly are not familiar with words ‘ineffable,’ ‘consubstantial’ and ‘inviolable.’”

Msgr. Sherman counters that “in the United States today, people are almost daily learning new vocabulary, and sometimes it is quite technical. The words in our liturgical prayers can afford celebrants the opportunity to reflect on the broader context of those words and so lead the faithful in a deeper understanding of the beliefs being explained.”

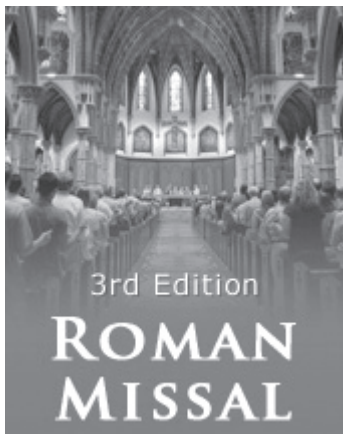
He grants that “the new translation is not perfect because, in a certain sense, no translation can be perfect. The differences of opinion on the translation will be wide. At some future date, the Holy See may substitute a different prayer for what we now have. On the other hand, some have already expressed the opinion that this translation sometimes captures with a greater

eloquence the content of the particular prayers.”

Msgr. Irwin says that the Church uses technical words in its vocabulary sometimes because those words capture concepts of the faith that would not be easy to understand without using a lot of other words. “For example, since the 13th century, we have used the term ‘transubstantiation’ to describe the change that occurs in the bread and wine at Mass. Before the change, it is bread and wine. After the change, it looks like, smells like and tastes like bread and wine, but now it is something totally different.”

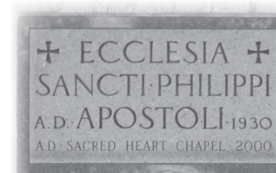
In Father Turner’s view, vocabulary is not a major problem. “People will readily understand the texts,” he says. “The reason the missal includes such words is that the vocabulary in the Latin originals is so broad. Latin uses a variety of synonyms for words like ‘sacrifice,’ ‘love,’ ‘mercy’ and ‘wonderful.’ In order to represent that diversity and to provide variety among the prayers in English, a broad vocabulary is being used in the translation.”

In recognition of the disturbance change can bring, he adds that bishops’ conferences around the world have repeatedly stressed that these translations should not be used without prior and significant explanation. “One of the things we did not do 40 years ago, when the liturgy was first put into the vernacular, was to explain the changes fully,” he says. “We need several layers of education and instruction about the translations, but even more importantly about the Mass itself.”



**GUARDIAN ANGELS HONORED**—The feast day of the Guardian Angels was celebrated at Raphael’s Refuge Chapel of the Monument to the Innocents near Flatonia Oct. 1 and 2 in honor of the guardian angels of the souls of babies lost through abortion, miscarriage and infant death. Twenty-two persons attended adoration at the candlelight vigil, which was celebrated by Deacon John McCourt of Hostyn and planned by Elizabeth Bishop. About 19 persons attended the rosary and Mass the following day. The Mass was concelebrated by Father Joe Hybner of Sacred Heart Parish in Flatonia and Father Tommy Chen of Sacred Heart Parish in Hallettsville. More information may be obtained at [www.raphaelsrefuge.org](http://www.raphaelsrefuge.org).

**CDA COOKBOOK SALES SUPPORT CHURCH BUILDING FUND**—Catholic Daughters, Court Our Lady Queen of Peace, #1374, recently presented Father Gary Janak with a \$ 3,300 check for the funding of the construction under way at St. Philip the Apostle Parish in El Campo. St. Philip is building a new parish hall for the church community and the local CDA court has pledged to help with expenses. In addition to the pledge, the Catholic Daughters are donating all the profits from sales of their newly released cookbook to the building fund. Seen here making the presentation to Father Gary are Shebra Adler and Renee Beery, cookbook committee members, and Regent Donna Merta. Anyone interested in purchasing a cookbook at \$15 each, may contact the regent at [dmattm@hotmail.com](mailto:dmattm@hotmail.com) or (979) 543-1059.



Ready, Set, Build! Pictured above are Habitat for Humanity home owners, Martin and Linda Sanchez; CDA State Regent Sheila Martinka; Immediate Past National Regent Libby Ramirez; Reverend Donald Ruppert, state chaplain; Christine Moore, state Habitat chair.

## CDA – Raise that Wall!

**EAGLE LAKE**—Catholic Daughters of the Americas (CDA) throughout Texas are working on the fourth Habitat for Humanity state build. The blessing ceremony was officiated by CDA state chaplain, Father Donald Ruppert of East Bernard on Saturday, October 2, at the building site, 711 East A Street, Eagle Lake. Also attending was Father Robert Guerra, pastor at Parish of the Nativity in Eagle Lake, who also shared a message from 1 Corinthians on the Master Builder. Charlie Novosad, deacon at St. Anthony Parish in Columbus and Habitat director and construction manager, added “It’s about building one home at a time.”

Mayor Mike Morales offered warm greetings from the City of Eagle Lake. Scott Mattingly, Colorado County HFH board president told the enthusiastic gathering that “No specific skills are required. We are to make straight the way of the Lord. Even this can be accomplished by clearing away rocks and debris from the site!”

CDA State Regent Sheila Martinka presented the history of CDA and Habitat for Humanity partnerships from the first National build in Oklahoma City 1995 to the first Texas build in Corpus Christi 2003, followed by Wichita Falls 2007 and the Texas blitz build in Mexico 2008. Ms. Martinka added, “This is a day of new beginnings, new friendships and a true witness of the CDA motto of ‘Unity and Charity.’”

Eighty-seven volunteers, equipped with hammers and determination assembled and raised the walls with new homeowners Martin, Linda and Samantha

Sanchez. From now to the dedication, scheduled for late March, CDA members from the various 231 Texas courts, headed by CDA State Habitat Chairman Christine Moore, will be making road trips each Friday and Saturday in support of the habitat project. Scott Mattingly said, “If we have a turnout like this each weekend, the Sanchez family will celebrate Christmas here!” Working with her own hammer used on many Habitat builds was Immediate Past National Regent Libby Ramirez, Victoria, Texas.

Monetary donations are welcomed and may be mailed to Texas CDA Builds with Habitat, P.O. Box 1148, Columbus, TX 78934. Project Manager Lorraine Novosad may be reached at (979) 732-6336 or [novosad@swbell.net](mailto:novosad@swbell.net). Construction Volunteering can be arranged with Nika Saenz, (936) 321-0588 or [nas@consolidated.net](mailto:nas@consolidated.net). Meals for volunteers may be arranged by contacting Carolyn Gertson, (979) 532-2971 or [bcgertson@elc.net](mailto:bcgertson@elc.net).

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**ALUMNI GATHER** — Alumni from the St. John's-Assumption Seminary, San Antonio, classes of 1955 and earlier gathered at the seminary Oct. 5 for a luncheon and to begin preliminary planning for the institution's centennial in 2015. Pictured are, bottom row from left: Msgr. Joseph P. Petsch from the Archdiocese of San Antonio, class of 1950; Msgr. Thomas Weinzapfel of the Diocese of Dallas, class of 1946; Msgr. Ramon V. Garcia of the Archdiocese of San Antonio, class of 1955; Msgr. John L. Matocha of the Archdiocese of San Antonio, class of 1947; Msgr. Eustace A. Hermes of the Diocese of Victoria, class of 1941; Msgr. Stanley Petru of the Diocese of Victoria, class of 1948; Msgr. Roy Rihn of the Archdiocese of San Antonio, class of 1942; Msgr. Michael O'Shaughnessy of the Diocese of Victoria, class of 1950; and Father Bernard Goertz of the Diocese of Austin, class of 1952. Shown on the top row from left are Msgr. Lawrence J. Stuebben of the Archdiocese of San Antonio, class of 1955; Bishop Emeritus John W. Yanta of the Diocese of Amarillo; Bishop Emeritus Charles V. Grahmann of the Diocese of Dallas; Msgr. Albert H. Hubertus of the Archdiocese of San Antonio, class of 1950; Msgr. Victor Goertz of the Diocese of Austin, class of 1952; Msgr. Alois J. Goertz of the Archdiocese of San Antonio, class of 1948; Msgr. Arnold Anders of the Diocese of Victoria, class of 1950, and Msgr. John Wagner of the Archdiocese of San Antonio, class of 1949. Those unable to attend the celebration and sending their regrets were Msgr. Robert Johnson of the Diocese of Fort Worth, class of 1951; Msgr. Hubert Neu of the Diocese of Fort Worth, class of 1951; Msgr. Joseph Kolb of the Archdiocese of Oklahoma City, class of 1953; Msgr. William Thompson of the Diocese of Corpus Christi, class of 1954; Msgr. Edward Thome of the Diocese of Gaylord, Mich., class of 1954; Msgr. Joseph Burger of the Archdiocese of Oklahoma City, class of 1955; Msgr. Norbert Kuehler of the Diocese of Amarillo, class of 1955; Msgr. Joseph Montalbano of the Diocese of Alexandria, La., class of 1955; Msgr. Sherrill Smith of the Archdiocese of San Antonio, class of 1955; retired Auxiliary Bishop Bernard F. Popp of the Archdiocese of San Antonio, class of 1943; Msgr. Robert C. Rehkemper of the Diocese of Dallas, class of 1949; Msgr. William H. Ryan of the Diocese of El Paso, class of 1949; and Msgr. Michael Harrold of the Diocese of Victoria, class of 1950.

## The call, the response, our fiat

By Sister Kathleen Goike, IWBS  
Vocation Director

Incarinate Word Convent bustled with excitement during the month of September as the Sisters welcomed a new novice and a postulant, and celebrated the renewal of annual vows of its temporary professed sister, Sister Louise Marie Jones. The Sisters rejoiced with these three as they each, responding to God's call, pronounced their "fiat."

Patti Lohre (from Dallas) was accepted into the novitiate program on Saturday, September 11. The ceremony began with a special vespers (evening prayer) in honor of Venerable Jeanne Chezard De Matel. To signify this special occasion, Patti was given the name Sister Patricia Marie (her baptismal name). She also received the modified traditional habit and white veil and the rule, constitution and directory of the Sisters of the Incarnate Word and Blessed Sacrament. The novitiate program has two phases — the canonical year and the apostolic year. The canonical year is spent at Incarnate Word Convent in study, reflection, prayer and observation as she lives community life among the Sisters being imbued with their charism and mission. The apostolic year allows the novice to be sent to one of our missions where our sisters are ministering.

See *The call*, p. 11

## Pope tells seminarians abuse crisis cannot discredit priestly mission

VATICAN CITY (CNS) — In a letter to the world's seminarians, Pope Benedict XVI said that in the face of widespread religious indifference and the recent moral failings of clergy, the world needs priests and pastors who can serve God and bring God to others. The pope encouraged seminarians to overcome any doubts about the value of the priesthood and priestly celibacy that may have been prompted by priests who "disfigured" their ministry by sexually abusing children. He said that "even the most reprehensible abuse cannot discredit the priestly mission." The papal letter, released at the Vatican Oct. 18, was an unexpected postscript to the Year for Priests, which ended in June. The text began on a remarkably personal note, with the pope recalling the development of his own vocation during World War II.

"When in December 1944 I was drafted for military service, the company commander asked each of us what we planned to do in the future. I answered that I wanted to become a Catholic priest. The lieutenant replied: 'Then you ought to look for something else. In the new Germany priests are no longer needed,'" the pope recalled. "I knew that this 'new Germany' was already coming to an end, and that, after the enormous devastation which that madness had brought upon the country, priests would be needed more than ever," he wrote. Today, he said, many people are no longer aware of God and instead seek escape in euphoria and violence. The priesthood is again viewed as outmoded, yet priestly ministry is crucial in helping people see God's presence in the world, he said.



**Patrick Knippenberg** (l.) is a Theology III student at St. Mary Seminary in Houston. His home parish is Sts. Cyril and Methodius in Shiner, and his birthday is December 3. Please show your support for our seminarian by writing to: Patrick Knippenberg, St. Mary Seminary, 9845 Memorial Dr., Houston, TX 77024-3407

*Happy Birthday!*



**John Dougharty** (r.) is a College I student at Holy Trinity Seminary in Irving. His home parish is Holy Cross, Bay City, and his birthday is November 6. Please show your support for our seminarian by writing to: John Dougharty, Holy Trinity Seminary, P. O. Box 140309, Irving, TX 75014-0309

The Chancery Office will be closed for the Holy Day of Obligation Immaculate Conception December 8

## Pray for Vocations!

## 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 October 18, 2010

	TOTALS
<b>— General Seminary Burse</b>	
Previously reported	\$97,264.00
In memory of Rosie Steffie Kosarek by M/M Elroy Brogger	25.00
In memory of Eugene B. Krejci by M/M Robert Bochat	25.00
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$97,314.00</b>
<b>— Rev. Msgr. James Brunner Seminary Burse</b>	
Previously reported	\$300.00
In memory of Rev. Msgr. James Brunner by M/M Dick Wearden Family	50.00
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$350.00</b>
<b>— Catholic Daughters Court of St. Ann #369 Seminary Burse #2</b>	
Previously reported	\$7,668.99
In memory of Leonita Ulman by CDA Ct St. Ann #369	100.00
In memory of Leonita Ulman by M/M Joe Morris	25.00
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$7,793.99</b>
<b>— Rev. John C. Peters Seminary Burse #4</b>	
Previously reported	\$14,181.00
In memory of Henrietta Janak by KJZT of Texas	5.00
In memory of Helen Etzler by KJZT of Texas	5.00
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$14,191.00</b>
<b>— Josephat R. Janak Seminary Burse #2</b>	
Previously reported	\$1,708.77
In memory of Joe Janak on the twelfth anniversary of his death by Rose Marie Janak & Family	20.00
In memory of Evelyn Fikac by Rose Marie Janak & Family	20.00
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$1,748.77</b>
<b>— Rev. Jerome J. Stryk Seminary Burse</b>	
Previously reported	\$13,479.50
In memory of Sr. M. Bernard Stryk IWBS by George and Margaret Boedeker	20.00
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$13,499.50</b>

<b>— Rev. Charles Kolek, OSB, and John and Mary Kolek Seminary Burse</b>	
Previously reported	\$3,150.00
Gift to burse by Charles and Mary Kozel Family Reunion	200.00
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$3,350.00</b>
<b>— Rev. Michael Rother Seminary Burse</b>	
Previously reported	\$3,940.00
To honor Father Michael Rother by Ronnie and Debi Sevcik	25.00
In memory of Thomas M. Huston Jr. by M/M John Krchnak	30.00
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$3,995.00</b>
<b>— Rev. John C. Bily Seminary Burse</b>	
Previously reported	\$8,479.00
In memory of Ruth Ann Barton by Johnny Barton Family	100.00
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$8,579.00</b>
<b>— St. John the Baptist Church, St. John In Memory of Rev. Brian Crookes Seminary Burse #2</b>	
Previously reported	\$4,786.00
In memory of Gladys Mendel Chaloupka by: M/M Forrest Dittrich	10.00
M/M Wm Brossman Dujka	10.00
In memory of Alma Jurena by: M/M Ervin Neskora	10.00
M/M Forrest Dittrich	10.00
M/M Albert Olsovsky	10.00
M/M Larry Berger	5.00
Alphonse Besetzny	10.00
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$4,851.00</b>

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

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





## Holy Cross young adult to go on mission

BAY CITY — Blake Chadwick Sparks, a parishioner of Holy Cross Church in Bay City and the son of David and Tena Sparks and Paul and Tereana K. Ottis, has been accepted as a Life Teen Missionary and will spend a year in Germany on mission.

He began his faith formation on September 13, 2010, in Tiger, Ga., and will leave for Germany in November. He has committed to one year with the option to stay for two.

Blake attended Holy Cross Catholic Elementary and was active in Life Teen while in high school and after graduating from Bay City ISD in 2007. He is now 19 years of age.

“The Life Teen organization has brought me closer to Christ on my spiritual journey,” Blake said. “Now I have a chance to share and give back, to serve others as Christ has asked us to do.”

As God calls all of us to be his missionaries, Blake is asking for Mission Partners to join him by praying for the mission, for those he meets, and to ask God to allow people to see Christ and feel Christ’s love.

“I am giving one year of my life to serve God and his people,” Blake said. “I can only ask that you would join me. Help me deliver his message and serve all people. Help me be who God is calling me to be.”

“Mission Partners are important for our spiritual journey in order to help oth-

ers,” he said.

If one would like to make a tax-deductible, monetary donation, it may be sent payable to Life Teen Missions with Blake Sparks’ name written in the Memo and sent to: Life Teen Missions; 25 Falls Drive; Tiger, GA 30576. He thanks his donors by asking them to include their prayer requests, so that he may pray for their intentions.

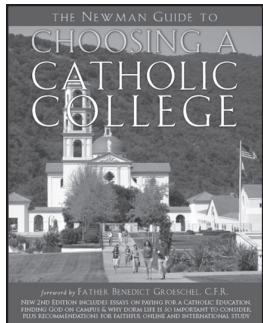


Father Casey Jarzombek, pastor of Holy Cross Parish in Bay City, poses with Blake Sparks, who will go on mission to Germany with Life Teen ministries.

## College Changes Name, after 37 Years, to Honor St. Mary Magdalen

WARNER, NH — Magdalen College ([www.magdalen.edu](http://www.magdalen.edu)) announces a bold new step forward with the unveiling of a new name and new college crest. The college will now be called, “The College of Saint Mary Magdalen.” The changes reflect the college’s desire to clearly proclaim its Catholic identity, to bring

greater honor to its patroness, Saint Mary Magdalen, and to bring about a renewal to the college that has been in existence since 1973. The College of Saint Mary Magdalen is one of only twenty colleges in the United States to be listed in The Newman Guide to Choosing a Catholic College ([www.TheNewmanGuide.com](http://www.TheNewmanGuide.com)).



## Catholic College Guide published

NORTH HAVEN, CONN. — The National Catholic Register just released an expanded version of its annual Catholic Identity College List as a convenient, durable, 192-page book titled *The National Catholic Register’s 2010 COLLEGE GUIDE*.

Legion of Christ Father Owen Kearns, the National Catholic Register’s publisher, explains the guide’s genesis and growth from periodical section to influential publication:

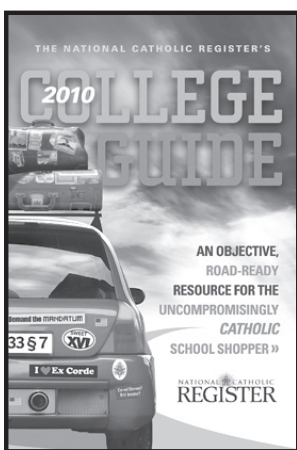
“The project first came

together five years ago. Archbishop Michael Miller, who was then secretary of the Vatican’s Congregation for Catholic Education, had noted the need for objective measures of Catholicity in Catholic academia. Our editors came up with 10 essential markers of basic Catholic identity and composed a straightforward Yes or No question for each.” Next, the Register invited all Catholic colleges and universities to answer the questionnaire.

“The results,” adds Father Kearns, “help guide students and their parents onto campuses that take their Catholic identity seriously enough to fulfill the basic requirements of Pope John Paul’s landmark document on Catholic higher education, *Ex Corde Ecclesiae* (*From the Heart of the Church*).

Along with answers from 32 schools to the 10 questions related to basic Catholic identity, the book provides hard data on costs and financing, degrees and curricula, religious and extracurricular activities, and more.

Read more at <http://www.ncregister.com/site/article/16007/>. The guide may be purchased from Circle Press at [www.circlepress.org](http://www.circlepress.org); cover price is \$9.95.



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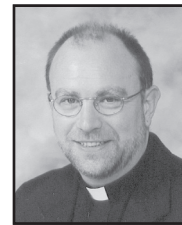


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## From The Pastor’s Desk

By Father Bob Knippenberg  
Pastor of Sts. Cyril and  
Methodius, Shiner



Often we are ungrateful to God. Although we receive so much from him, we often take it for granted without appreciating his gifts. We allow the negatives of our lives to hide the blessings we have received, minor negatives like some health problems, financial worries, conflict with a neighbor or co-worker or spouse.

Besides, we are often thankful only when we compare ourselves with less fortunate people. In times of need, we pray with desperate intensity; but as time passes we forget God. Many of us fail to offer a grace before meals or allot a few minutes of the day for family prayer. God gave us

his only Son, but we seldom give him a word of thanks. Often we are ungrateful to our parents and consider them a nuisance, although in the past we were dependent on them for literally everything. Similarly, we owe a great debt of gratitude to our friends, teachers, doctors — but we often fail to thank them.

Hence, in the future, let us be filled with daily thanksgiving to God and to others for the countless gifts we have received. Let us show our gratitude to our forgiving God by forgiving others and to a loving God by radiating his love, mercy and compassion to others.

## Vocation directors see increased inquiries fourth year in a row

CHICAGO, Ill. — Catholics considering a vocation as a sister, brother or priest and Catholic vocation directors report little impact on vocations from the new revelations in the European church’s sexual-abuse scandal or the Vatican investigations of women’s religious communities, according to a recent survey sponsored by VISION Vocation Guide.

However, other recent events have reported as having positive impact on vocation recruitment, among both men and women; they include the Year for Priests, the Pope’s call for atonement for the Church’s failings, and the canonization of a particular saint. The majority of vocation directors (61 percent) have seen an increase in inquiries for the fourth straight year.

“The fact that Church events have little impact on a person’s exploration of a religious life says a lot about the depth and seriousness of the call,” says Patrice Tuohy, executive editor of VISION Vocation Guide and [VocationMatch.com](http://VocationMatch.com).

The survey, conducted Aug. 30-Sept. 23, 2010, received responses from 431 vocation inquirers and 175 Catholic vocation directors. The vocation inquirers come from a pool of those who have completed profiles in VISION’s online Vocation Match or Community Search services, and the majority are under 40 and very serious about choosing religious life — 18 percent plan on entering a religious community in the next year.

Other notable trends among those inquiring about religious life:

- Desire to live faith-filled lives: Seventy-four percent of responding seekers rank the opportunity to live a life of faithfulness to the Church and its teachings as the most essential reason they are attracted to religious life and a particular religious community. Other factors that draw them to a particular congregation are the community’s prayer life, mission, and communal living. Vocation directors report that justice and peace outreach is also a significant draw among the inquirers with whom they’ve worked. Devotional prayer is of particular interest to those under 40.

- Clothes of distinction: Twenty-five percent of men and 25 percent of male and female respondents over 40 find wearing a religious habit essential; among women and respondents under 40 the percentage increases to nearly 37 percent.

- Please introduce yourself: Personal contact with someone in religious life is reported by respondents of all ages to be the most essential resource for gathering information about vocations (53 percent) with retreats and teachers ranked very important as well.

- Prayer is most essential and most challenging: Nearly 84 percent of respondents

ranked prayer as the most essential element in making a decision about religious life. The majority also listed as essential spiritual direction, greater knowledge of what would be a good fit, and opportunities to experience community life. Seekers found living with others not their age the least challenging aspect of religious life and the discipline of prayer the most.

- E-mails and phone calls welcome: Despite a high usage of Facebook and text messages among seekers, all, including the youngest respondents, prefer an e-mail or a telephone call from vocation directors.

- Unexpected: Religious can be young — and fun! Echoing a common sentiment among respondents about the sisters, brothers, and priests they’ve met, one young woman said: “It surprises me how much fun that they have.” Another man observed: “I thought that there were less people looking into religious life, but now I have met a lot of people finding their place within the church and many of these people are young.”

Common fears among vocation seekers are missing family members, choosing the wrong community, or basic unknowns: “Right now I am only 19 so I have many anxieties about life in general when it comes to my plans for the future.” With nearly 32 percent of respondents over 50, another listed fear was not being accepted into religious life because of age.

Vocation directors expressed concern about the older age of some inquirers and the lack of basic knowledge of the faith among many inquirers.

*Vision Vocation Guide*, in print and online at [www.Vocation-Network.org](http://www.Vocation-Network.org), is published by TrueQuest Communications, LLC, [www.truequest.biz](http://www.truequest.biz), on behalf of the National Religious Vocation Conference, [www.nrvn.net](http://www.nrvn.net). With its unique multimedia and interactive features, including [www.VocationMatch.com](http://www.VocationMatch.com), VISION is the most comprehensive resource available for those pursuing a religious vocation in the Catholic Church or interested in learning more about religious orders, religious life, or vocation-related opportunities.



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## Sacred Heart celebrates improvements and 50 year anniversaries

HALLETTSVILLE—Bishop David Fellhauer celebrated the children's Mass and blessed Sister Emiliana Grafe, IWBS, on her 50th anniversary of her religious profession at Sacred Heart Catholic Church in Hallettsville Friday, September 17, before blessing a host of completed school renovations.

Following the Mass, he blessed the High School Art Center, a house purchased and renovated this past summer through parishioners' and others' donations; the addition to the Vocational Shop and the sprinkler system on the football field, both donated by Mr. Vic Roeber; and the renovations of the old convent, on the top floor of the school, into two new classrooms.

The bishop also blessed the Bishop Forest Annex (junior high) and the Sacred Heart rectory, both of which are 50-years old this year.



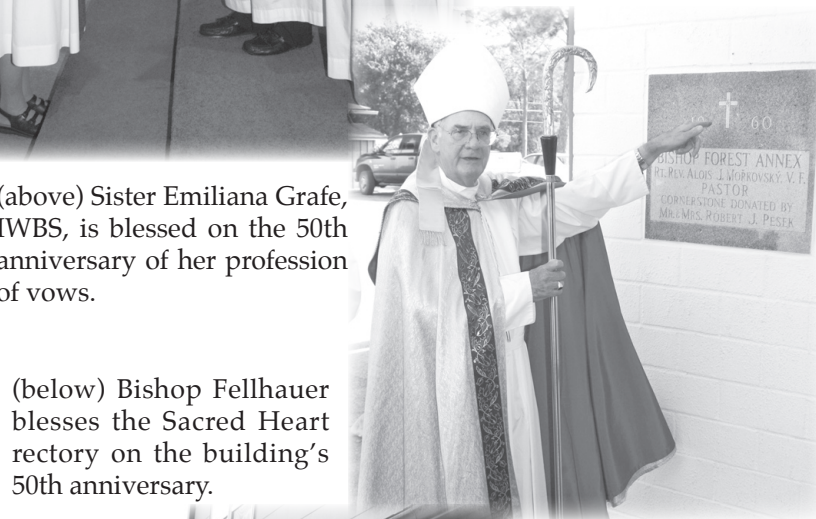
(above) Sister Emiliana Grafe, IWBS, is blessed on the 50th anniversary of her profession of vows.



Blessing of renovated classrooms: from left, Ashlan Bujnoch, Bishop Fellhauer, Father Peters, Roger Janak and Principal David Smolik.



Sacred Heart Art Center: from left, Father Peters, Bishop Fellhauer and Ashlan Bujnoch.



(below) Bishop Fellhauer blesses the Sacred Heart rectory on the building's 50th anniversary.

(above) Bishop Forest Annex (junior high) is blessed for the 50th anniversary of the building.



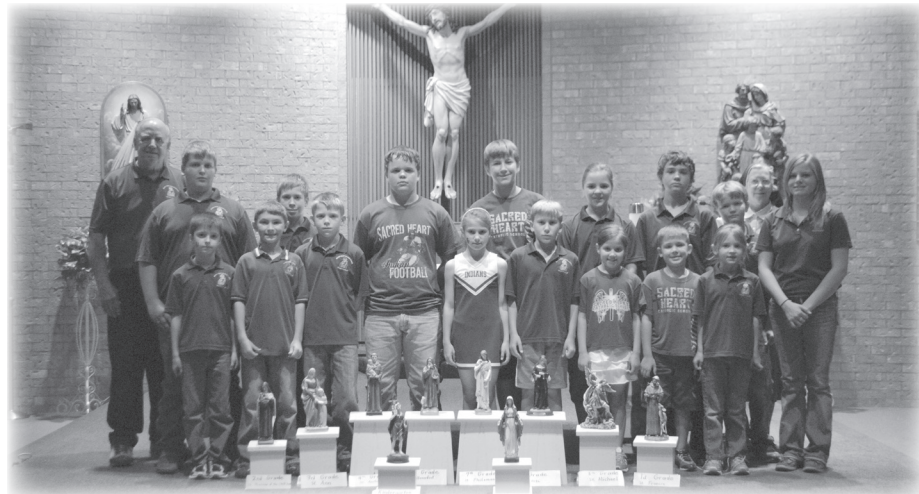
Blessing of the sprinkler system for the football field: from left, Principal David Smolik, Vic Roeber, Bishop Fellhauer, Father Peters, Coach Pat Henke and Ashlan Bujnoch.



Vocational building addition blessing: from left are pictured Father John Peters, pastor; Bishop Fellhauer, Ashlan Bujnoch, and Vic Roeber, donor.



**BLESSING IN PREPARATION OF NEW BUILDING PROJECT—** The student body of St. Philip the Apostle School in El Campo and their pastor, Father Gary Janak, bless the site where their new gym will be built. Ground has been broken and it is hoped St. Philip teams will be playing in it next school year. The old gym will be turned into pre-k and kindergarten classrooms, which are badly needed, as the current classrooms are "busting at the seams" and their waiting list continues to get longer.



Each class at Sacred Heart Catholic School has adopted a saint to study throughout the school year. Pictured with class representatives are Principal David Smolik (l.) and Sister Colette Kouba (r.), project coordinator.

### Sacred Heart Adopt-a-Saint classroom project

HALLETTSVILLE—The Sacred Heart Catholic School teachers and students will incorporate the study of the saints into their daily lessons in a special way this school year. Saints were ordinary people who lived their lives in such a way as to become signs of HOPE for us who follow Christ.

Each class in grades K-8 has adopted a special saint. They will research the life of their adopted saint and challenge themselves to live like that saint and help make the world God gave us a better place for all.

Each class received a statue of their

adopted saint to be displayed as a reminder of the saint's life. The following is a list of classes and their particular saint:

Pre-Kindergarten – The Blessed Virgin Mary; Kindergarten – St. Christopher; First Grade – St. Francis of Assisi; Second Grade – St. Theresa of the Child Jesus; Third Grade – St. Ann; Fourth Grade – St. Anthony of Padua; Fifth Grade – St. Michael, the archangel; Sixth Grade – St. Rita; Seventh Grade – St. Philomena; Eighth Grade – St. Benedict

Thanks go to Sr. Colette Kouba who coordinated the Adopt-a-Saint classroom project.

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Fred Kubesch





Bishop David E. Fellhauer welcomes hundreds of participants and celebrates the opening prayer at the diocesan catechetical conference at Holy Family Parish in Victoria.



"Parents: The Primary Educators of Our Faith, Right?" by Mrs. Debbie Vanelli, asks if parents know this and then shows ways parents can assume this crucial role in their family.

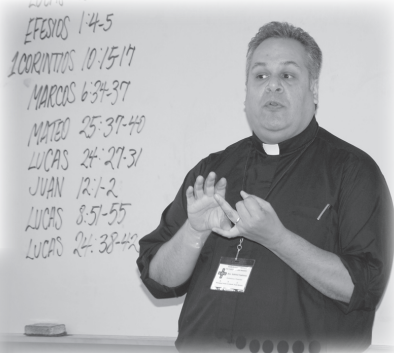


(left) Using multi-sensory learning, Mrs. Irma Betty Hall shows how to engage every child while helping them learn about their faith.



Bob McCarty, the keynote speaker for the 23rd Annual Catechetical Conference

Padre Gabriel Espinosa of Wharton explains how Jesus offers himself in Mass and how we can imitate him in "Bendito, Partido Y Compartido."



In "Renewed Passion for Every Marriage," Mr. Adrian Herrera invites participants to reflect on the theological and Biblical foundations of marriage – the sacrament of the covenant between God and the Church. He taught the course in both English and Spanish.



Those attending the conference had an opportunity to visit vendors throughout the day.



Msgr. Thomas McLaughlin reflects on marriage as a sacramental grace-giving reality and a holy vocation to be shared by parents and children in "Marriage – The Rock on Which the Family is Built."

**If you missed this great conference come next year to have this great experience!**

## Teens, family, marriage – focus of 23rd Annual Catechetical Conference

By Cynthia Brewer

"Community and belonging is critical to fostering belief (for teens and all) in this post modern world," said Mr. Bob McCarty, the keynote speaker for the 23rd Annual Catechetical Conference. "Most denominations are failing in how they engage and educate their young people in the life of their faith community," he said, "and young people are mirrors of our families and society." His presentation

identified critical factors impacting youth ministry, such as millennial spirituality – a feel good spirituality, and gave elements of a new map to effectively respond to youth in their faith journey, such as welcoming them and offering them a challenging faith that requires sacrifice, commitment, the Paschal Mystery – Jesus. Mr. McCarty is the executive director for the National Federation for Catholic Youth Ministry and comes from Fulton, Maryland.



Nativity scene from [www.catholicsupply.org](http://www.catholicsupply.org)

## Proclaiming Christ at Christmas

By Sister Digna Vela, IWBS

If Jesus, Mary or Joseph came to Victoria or to the other towns in our diocese this Christmas season, would they have any idea of what we Christians are celebrating? What signs would they see that point to the greatest event in the history of mankind, the birth of the Word Incarnate, God himself becoming one of us?

As they go up and down the streets of towns in our diocese, what would they think when they saw deer, snowmen, a big fat man in a red suit, toys and other such things in the different yards? Finally, after going all around the city, they see a nativity set in a yard and an angel in another yard. Could it be that these Christians are celebrating the Incarnation, the birth of Jesus? Why then are they putting these other things up as decorations? How do deer and snowmen point to Jesus' birth?

We invite each of you to examine your preparation and celebration of Christmas this year? If every Catholic in our diocese, or at least 50 percent of them, would use religious symbols to decorate their yards this year, what a catechizing (teaching)

tool it would be for all their neighbors, Christians and non-Christians alike, of what the true meaning of Christmas is. It would emphasize who is at the center of our celebrations, God himself.



## Bishop Fellhauer Christmas Dinner

Save this date

Saturday, December 11

Mass 5: 30 p.m. with social and dinner to follow

Spiritual Renewal Center  
718 Gussie Schmidt Road  
Victoria, Texas

More information to follow .....

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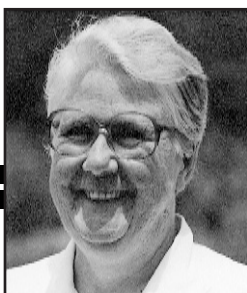
New Brochures for  
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## SISTERLY THOUGHTS



By Sister Mildred Truchard, IWBS

### God's Awesome Action

As I continue to enjoy the beautiful autumn colors and weather, I cannot help but be amazed at the power and providence of God. I'm reminded of a statement I recently read in the *-Compendium of the Social Doctrine of the Church*, "The world presents itself before our eyes as evidence of God, the place where God's creative, providential and redemptive power unfolds." (#487)

Sometimes I wonder how a person can not have faith in God when they contemplate the wonders of creation. Furthermore, we may know some people who express the notion that science does not support the presence of God. How can this be, since faith and science both seek the truth?

Do I believe that God created the universe and everything in it? Definitely! Do I believe in some of the scientific theories of creation such as the "Big Bang" theory and the theory of evolution that might be taught in our schools? Since they are theories and not proven facts, I can't say for sure; but I think that, if they are true, they could explain HOW God created the universe and everything in it.

The Bible begins with the words, "In the beginning, when God created the heavens and the earth, ..." (Genesis 1:1) Now we know that the Bible is a faith story and not a science book; however, I think that science can help us unlock some of the secrets of God's creation. For example, some scientists theorize that the universe was begun with a "Big Bang" as long ago as 14 billion years. Couldn't God have

used such phenomenon as a means of creation? I should think so.

Another area of difficulty for some Bible readers is the mention of "days" of creation while scientists speak of billions of years of the existence of the universe. We may have to look at how time is expressed to see how science reinforces our understanding of creation. How many times have we heard our grandparents say, "In my day, ..." ? Are they speaking of a 24-hour day or a period in their lives? I think that it was the latter meaning that the Bible writers had in mind when they wrote the story of creation in a way that would be understood. How can one describe God's divine action in a way that our limited human minds can comprehend?

And especially challenging is the story of creation of the first man. We read, "the Lord God formed man out of the clay of the ground and blew into his nostrils the breath of life, and so man became a living being." We might have an image of God molding the body of man out of clay; while scientists say that modern man and other animals were formed through eons of gradual development from tiny one-celled organisms into the wide diversity of creatures that exist today. It is interesting to think of a loving God carefully orchestrating the unfolding of the being into whom He would breathe the immortal soul that would make this special creature fully human.

If we believe that God was the mastermind behind evolution, we can be reassured that this theory does not conflict with the Bible's version of creation. In 1996, Pope John Paul II issued a message to the Pontifical Academy of Science quoting and reaffirming Pope Pius' Encyclical *Humani generis* (1950) stating that there was no opposition between evolution and the doctrine of the faith about man's origin on the condition that we remember that God is the source of all creation and has the power to make us into God's "image and likeness." So let us give God credit for all the wonders of creation.

Therefore, let us enjoy and look upon God's awesome action with gratitude.



### KJT makes donation to St. Joseph School

YOAKUM—Through a grant from the KJT home office, Society #13 in Yoakum was able to present to St. Joseph School in Yoakum a \$500 donation at the recent member appreciation dinner.

Making the presentation, were state directors Margaret Holik and Margaret Hanslik; accepting was St. Joseph School Principal Susan Kelley; others present were officers of Society #13: Vice President Henry Zabransky, Secretary Dorothy Zabransky, and Treasurer John Kengle, and KJT Insurance Representative Lois Jirkovsky.

### Reporting Abuse

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

• Contact the bishop or the chancellor of the Diocese of Victoria at (361) 573-0828

or

• Call Father Gary Janak (979) 543-3770 or Sister Emilie Eilers (361) 575-7111, Coordinators of Pastoral Care and Outreach;

or

• Write to: Bishop David E. Fellhauer, Diocese of Victoria, P.O. Box 4070, Victoria, TX 77903

Mark your letter "Personal and Confidential"

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

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

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

## SUICIDE

### There is someone who can heal our pain—Jesus

By Bishop Michael Pfeifer, OMI  
San Angelo, Texas

#### WHY?

The loss of a loved one to suicide is one of the greatest tragedies life can bring. We often react with shock, guilt, anger and depression. Family members often feel profound guilt and responsibility. Our reaction is why, why, why did this happen? What could we have done better? What did we fail to see? Suicide of a son or daughter can feel like the ultimate failure of parenting.

When someone dies of suicide, the shock and confusion it causes has a severity all its own. Dying by one's own hands has different implications than dying of natural causes, and the grief that follows a suicide is one of the most traumatic experiences in life. The survivors may blame either their loved one or themselves.

It is difficult to know what really went on in the mind and heart of a person before suicide. To generalize is not helpful because each suicide is individual. Some who committed suicide may simply have felt trapped, perceiving themselves as victims in a hopeless situation. They saw death as a way out of unbearable pain.

Amidst grave suffering, there will always be a tendency to want to know why such tragedies occur. If there were a suicide note, it might shed some light on the motives. If the person had a troubled past or had been receiving mental health services, questions about the appropriateness of the medication and the quality of the services may become obsessive.

#### INFLUENCE OF MENTAL DISORDERS

Veterans' suicides account for a fifth of the some 33,000 suicides each year due to the war conflicts they have experienced and the number is increasing. Everyday, roughly 85 people in the United States take their own lives. Mental illness and suicide among youth are serious problems in the United State. According to the National Institute of Mental Health (NIMH), half of all cases of mental illness begin by age fourteen. The American Academy of Child and Adolescent Psychiatry states that suicide is the third leading cause of death for 15 to 24 year olds.

Recent studies show that more than 95 percent of young people who took their own lives had been diagnosed with a mental disorder. Severe depression is the most prevalent of these disorders. Other psychological diagnoses that increase the risk of suicide among teens include bi-polar disorder and addiction to alcohol and/or drugs. Often, other contributing or precipitating factors are physical illness along with mental illness, disintegrating family relationships, a sense of not belonging, bullying, personal or economic failures, grief over the loss of a loved one, overwhelming social pressures. These conditions often cause people, especially the young, distress, irritability, agitation, hopelessness and feelings of worthlessness. One just does not wake up one day and want to die. There are events in life that make some people more vulnerable to suicide.

Given the strong correlation between psychological conditions and suicide, it is important to recognize the early symptoms in order to seek professional help that could make a significant impact.

The American Academy of Child and Adolescent Psychiatry lists the following warning signs for parents concerning the

risk for suicide in adolescents:

- Change in eating and sleeping habits
- Withdrawal from friends, family, and regular activities
- Violent actions towards self and others
- Rebellious behavior or running away
- Drug and alcohol use
- Unusual neglect of personal appearance
- Marked personality change
- Persistent boredom, difficulty concentrating, or a decline in the quality of schoolwork
- Frequent complaints about physical symptoms such as stomachaches, headaches, or fatigue, often related to emotions
- Loss of interest in pleasurable activities
- Not tolerating praise or rewards
- Complaining of being a bad person or feeling rotten inside
- Giving verbal hints with statements such as "Nothing matters. It's no use" or "I won't see you again"

It is important to note that most teenagers who killed themselves had been in treatment for these psychological conditions. Even for families who have lived with mental illness, the actual death still comes as a profound shock.

#### WHAT PARENTS AND OTHERS CAN DO

When the above signs are observed, parents or other family members should talk to their children or family members and seek help from their priests, religious, counselors and other trusted professionals to assist their children or any person showing the above signs. Community hotlines offering access to concerned counselors can thwart suicidal plans because caring undermines intent. This is also a time for more prayer and encouraging those who feel hopeless to trust in God's mercy and love, and to receive Jesus often in the Eucharist.

One thinking of suicide needs a person of trust with whom to share. Remind those thinking of suicide to especially entrust themselves to Jesus who loves them and will guide them as a Good Shepherd, and who invites us to come to him with our burdens and sorrow to receive grace, strength and comfort, and that they have a caring mother in Mary. Parents who see danger signs should not be afraid to ask, "Are you thinking of suicide?" Most teens tell another young person that they are considering suicide, but often that young person does not know what to do with that information. It is important that teens know how to reach adults and that adults know where to get help. All need to be aware that sadly there are many Web sites that encourage and describe ways to commit suicide. To counteract this diabolical information, there is a need to stress the sacredness of each human life and that only God is the master of each and every human being.

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To be continued in the December issue of *The Catholic Lighthouse* will be topics: Culpability, Compassion, and Decide to Live.





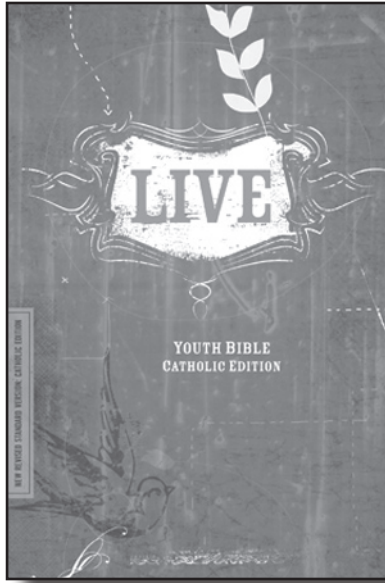
## Bible Created by Teens for Teens – LIVE

Harper Catholic Bibles recently announced the release of LIVE, a Catholic Edition Youth Bible (NRSV) that offers an interactive space for Catholic teens to not just read, but to live and respond to Scripture in a new and dynamic way. Featuring content created by teens for teens, as well as space for them to reflect, doodle and interact with Scripture, the LIVE Bible also offers study notes to help them dive in and dig deeper in their reading of the Bible and an opportunity for teens to join the biblical conversation online. Most youth bibles are just teen versions of adult Bibles. LIVE takes an all-new, teen-centered approach by including thought-provoking questions and activities that help teens discover surprising things about God, how God is involved in their lives, and how they can live out their faith in their house, community, school, and parish and express their faith creatively—both in the pages of the Bible and online. Containing art, photos, and other creative forms of self-expression from youth, this new youth Bible takes “interactive” to an entirely new level. Teenagers who use the LIVE Bible will find:

- Student art, poems, and photography that encourage teens to interact with what they read in the Bible
- “Try This” and other features that en-

courage teens to live out Catholic teaching, with quotes and profiles of Catholic saints and other men and women of faith

- Creative space for teens to express their thoughts, feelings, or questions by writing right on the pages of the Bible, doodling, pasting pictures, and more



• An invitation to join the community of other teens reading the LIVE Bible online. Published in partnership with Our Sunday Visitor Curriculum Division, the LIVE Bible invites youth to not just read, but to LIVE and respond to scripture in a new and dynamic way. The New Revised Standard Version (NRSV) is recognized in scholarly circles as the most accurate translation into English of the original

Hebrew and Greek texts. The LIVE Bible is fully approved for study by the United States Conference of Catholic Bishops. For more information about NRSV Bibles visit [www.nrsv.net](http://www.nrsv.net). LIVE Harper Catholic Bibles; Paperback: 1600 pages, 8.5 x 5.4 x 2.6 inches; \$25.99.

Teens, 13 to 19 years of age, have a chance to win this Bible by playing *The Catholic Lighthouse* Puzzle Contest on page 12 of this issue. Send in completed puzzle and form by November 24 for a chance to win a copy – or add the LIVE Bible to your Christmas wish list.

## Youth Calendar of Events

- November 12 — Theology at the Well at Chili’s in Victoria
- November 12-14 — Region 10 Youth Conference in Little Rock, Arkansas
- November 20 — Foundations Youth Ministry Class
- December 5 — Youth Leadership Training
- December 9-12 — National Conference on Catholic Youth Ministry in New Orleans
- January 8-9, 2011 — Youth Leadership Retreat at the SRC
- January 22, 2011 — Pro-life Rally in Austin
- February 6, 2011 — Souper Bowl of Caring
- February 20, 2011 — Youth Spectacular
- February 24-March 6, 2011 — NET in our diocese
- February 26, 2011 — Foundations Youth Ministry Class
- March 6, 2011 — Catholic Knowledge Bowl
- March 12, 2011 — Foundations Youth Ministry Class
- March 14, 2011 — Our Lady of Guadalupe Confirmation Retreat at SRC
- March 27, 2011 — Diocesan Confirmation Retreat at St. Michael’s in Cuero



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 [dvaneli@victoriadiocese.org](mailto:dvaneli@victoriadiocese.org) or [jortega@victoriadiocese.org](mailto:jortega@victoriadiocese.org) Web site: [www.victoriadiocese.org/youthoffice](http://www.victoriadiocese.org/youthoffice)



**YLT STANDS FOR LIFE**—The Diocesan Youth Leadership Team, with youth from throughout the Diocese of Victoria, participated in the National Life Chain, which was held in Victoria on October 3.

## St. Anthony - Sts. Peter and Paul - St. Roch – Catholic Youth Ministry *The Idea of Catholicism*

By Timothy Bricker, youth director

The Idea of Catholicism is one that is not as elusive as some may believe it to be, it is one that is part of every human person’s fiber. This is the faith of God, communicated to us through Jesus Christ and his Church and our very being calls out for this good in our lives. Discovering Catholicism is a self discovery, one that is made throughout a lifetime when listening and responding to the Gospel. This faith is one that transcends time and points to our full end, which no matter your age touches the very core of your existence. There is a savior that came to set you free from your sins and the chains of slavery. In this statement, we find longing being met and discover that this is Jesus Christ meeting us where we need him most.

Teenagers today are looking for something concrete in their lives. In a world full of drudgery, hate and despair, the longing of a soul never ceases to search out the good. We are all looking for this good, one that will give a “peace beyond all understanding.” These young people are our Church today. This is not a faith reserved for only those who meet a certain age requirement or look and dress a certain way. You need no special pass to gain a Catholic Identity, only a resounding yes to the Gospel of Christ. With all this being said, being Catholic is something to be proud of and something to partake in. It is something that must be talked about with the teens without fear of any kind. If Truth is Truth, and this is what we are all seeking, where does fear come in when

preaching it? Believe in Jesus Christ and believe in his Church. Present the truth and it will defend itself while touching the hearts of God’s Children.

Here in the combined parish communities of St. Anthony in Columbus, Sts. Peter and Paul in Frelsburg and St. Roch in Mentz we are doing just that. Preaching the truth and leaving it in God’s hands. Teenagers are responding. This year after six youth meetings the average number of teenagers attending is 75, up from last year’s average of 35. This is contributed to by the commitment of Father Dan Kahlich, pastor of St. Anthony’s; Father Wayne Flagg, pastor of Sts. Peter & Paul and St. Roch’s; orthodox catechists and parishioners who want to see the faith alive, thriving and passed to the next generation

so that all might hear the Gospel, partake of the sacraments and grow in the grace of Jesus Christ. The enthusiasm here in the Columbus area has generated interest enough to gain the attention of another town’s parish. Eagle Lake’s Church of the Nativity began meeting with us on September 29 for our movie night and has since been actively participating within our group, making it their own as we lovingly invite them.

Over the past year this group has become part of the Adopt-A-Hwy program, served in cleaning church grounds and property, gone paintballing, bowling, laser-tagging, participated in the Diocesan Catholic Knowledge Bowl, took a trip to the Steubenville South Conference, sent teens on Teen ACTS retreats, as well as participated in numerous diocesan sponsored events. Fellowshiping is a large part of the human experience and to fellowship together with those of like-mindedness adds a priceless value to the growth of an individual’s formation.

This year we have adopted new curriculums for our pre-teens in junior high with the Edge Program, high school has adopted the Life Teen Program, and confirmation has adopted the Oneight Program. These programs are solidly based on the Eucharist and a devotion to our Blessed Mother, Mary, covering things such as “The Trinity” and the “The Hypostatic Union.” With these two elements as the foundation for the program and good solid catechesis behind them, Christ’s message is resonating into the hearts and minds of all the teens.

May God continue to bless the Diocese of Victoria so that we may continue to come to see Christ alive in all those around us. Amen.



Teens from four parishes met at St. Anthony Catholic School auditorium in Columbus for movie night, Sept. 29 where they watched “To Save a Life.” The following week, on a regular Life Teen night, they broke the record for most participants, with 90 participating. Above, they are making the sign language sign for “I love you.”





**YOAKUM JCDA LEARNS ABOUT THE ROSARY**—The Junior Catholic Daughters of the Americas (JCDA) #206 in Yoakum learned to pray the rosary at their September meeting. They also learned how this prayer tool is used to pray for their needs and the needs of others. Father Matthew Huehlefeld, pastor of St. Joseph Parish, blessed all 55 rosaries. The members will use them at each meeting to pray for individuals, the community and the world.



**ST. ROBERT YOUTH PROMOTE LIFE**—Youth from St. Robert Belarmine Parish in El Campo support community's Pro-Life Chain. Pictured are teen supporters of life. Front row, l. to r.: Jacob Gonzalez, Ismael Gonzalez, Daisy Gonzalez and Fatima Torres; middle row: Michelle Martinez, Elizabeth Herrera, Julia Ontiveros and Janette Velasquez; back row: Mark Garza and Hondo Garcia. Not pictured, but participating: Raphela Garcia, Elena Pullin and baby Michael Pullin, Senae Davidson, Carmon Gomez, Christian Gomez and Elisa Garcia. Inset: Ismael Gonzalez on his skateboard.



**BOOKS FOR AFRICA FROM SCHULENBURG**—St. Rose of Lima Catholic School in Schulenburg donated all of their used Kindergarten – 8th-grade reading and literature textbooks and supplies to "Books for Africa" Thursday, September 23. Books for Africa is the world's largest shipper of donated books to the African continent. Since 1988, Books For Africa has shipped over 22 million high-quality text and library books to children and adults in 45 African countries. St. Rose is glad to be a part of this mission. In all, 56 boxes were donated. Pictured loading the truck are (top) Dawson Dittrich and Clinton Mican, and on the ground are Ray Thompson and Marc Raphael.



**HOLY CROSS TEENS THIRST FOR CHANGE**—Holy Cross Life Teen in Bay City joined the world-wide Life Teen family for the third Global Life Night and service project. This year they are focusing on the corporal work of mercy of "giving drink to the thirsty." September 26 was the date set aside for all parishes to join together for "Thirst for Change," a Life Night designed to give teens an awareness of the lack of clean water to millions of people in the world. Through a change drive, the global Life Teen community worked together to raise money to build and maintain four water wells in Africa. Holy Cross Life Teen raised \$800 and sent in their collections to W.A.T.E.R. Internationally, Life Teen has collected over \$105,000 for the water wells. Their goal was to reach \$50,000 to build four wells, but now they will be building at least eight wells, with money still coming in! If you would like to join in the efforts, donations may be sent to W.A.T.E.R.; 212 Xanadu, #507; Wisconsin Dells, WI 53965.



**ELCAMPO SCOUTS EARN RELIGIOUS AWARD**

Scouts from El Campo Boy Scout Troops 33, 226 and 1251 were presented their Ad Altare Dei Religious Awards following Mass at St. Philip's Church October 3, 2010. To earn the award, each scout was required to attend weekly classes for a six-month period and complete a workbook and several projects. Then, each had to go before a board of review to answer questions and reflect on what they had learned. Pictured from l. to r., front row, is Cameron Hicks, Father Gary Janak, pastor; Chase Stary, Layton Ondrias, Joshua Kulhanek and Charles Powers; row 2: Clint Gold, Kyle Thompson, Cody Seaman, Vincent Lutringer and Reid Berglund; row 3: Clay Altenhoff, Hunter Merta, Gerd Conner-Counselor, Ryan Drapela, Michael Orsak, Leslie Bacak-Counselor, Matt Edwards and Jacob Harton.



**ST. JOSEPH, YOAKUM, ACTIVITIES**

—The students of St. Joseph School in Yoakum honored local firefighters during the weekly children's Mass Oct. 6 in recognition of Fire Prevention Week (October 4–8, 2010). Following Mass, the Yoakum Fire Department presented the SJS students with a demonstration of special fire equipment that is used to protect the firemen. Also pictured, above, are some members of the Yoakum Fire Department, Father Matthew Huehlefeld, pastor, and the St. Joseph School Tiger Football team. On Oct. 4, the students were invited to bring their pets to receive God's blessing in memory of St. Francis of Assisi, the patron saint of animals. Shown to the right is Father Huehlefeld with parents, students and their pets.



On Oct. 7 St. Joseph School students in Yoakum participated in a "Living Rosary". Through the Living Rosary a student comes to represent each bead of the rosary, and he/she takes a rose and stands in a circle as each prayer is recited. The month of October is dedicated to the Most Holy Rosary primarily because the liturgical feast of Our Lady of the Rosary is celebrated on Oct. 7. It was instituted to honor the Blessed Virgin Mary in gratitude for the protection that she gives the Church in answer to the praying of the rosary by the faithful.





**ROSARY RALLIES MEET THROUGHOUT DIOCESE**—Many area parishes participated in the “America Needs Fatima Rosary Rally” on Oct. 16 joining in spirit with over 5,963 prayer rallies around the United States. Catholic Daughters San Roberto Bellarmine Court #2275 organized the Rosary Rally at Evans Park in El Campo. They thank Father Albert Yankey, parochial vicar of St. Philip the Apostle Church, for leading the prayer service; Rally Captains: Margaret Anderson, Terri Beltran, Pete Quintana, Ella and Charlie Merta; Mary Lou Winship, Lena Escobar, Sylvia Falcon, Clarice Brockman and Cecilia Krenek for leading the Rosary; Sandra Huvar for loaning her statue of Our Lady of Fatima; and to everyone who brought roses for Our Lady. Her message is prayer and conversion. Pictured are Sylvia Falcon, Lydia Schoellman, Pete Quinatana, Terri Beltran, Mary Anderson, Ella and Charlie Merta and Tina Tamez.



Sister Louise Marie Jones renewed her annual vows at the IWBS Convent Sept. 29 (top).



Patti Lohre receives the name Sister Patricia Marie and the IWBS habit Sept. 11 (below).



Veronica Munoz was accepted into the postulancy program at the IWBS Convent Sept. 26 (l.).

## The call, the response, our fiat

*Continued from p. 4*

Veronica Munoz (from San Antonio) was accepted into the postulancy program in a moving ceremony on Sunday, September 26. Veronica received the miraculous medal and the prayer book of the Sisters of the Incarnate Word and Blessed Sacrament. Her time as a postulant is divided between study, prayer and ministry as she begins her lived experience of Religious Life. Veronica is currently taking care of the three-year-old children in the Nazareth Academy after-school program.

Sister Louise Marie Jones (from Victoria), rejoicing in her commitment to God, renewed her annual vows on Wednesday, September 29, during the morning Eucharistic Liturgy. Sister Louise Marie

continues the dynamic movement of growth begun in the novitiate program as she enters her third year as a Temporary Professed. She is learning to balance her spiritual and apostolic life during this time. Sister Louise Marie is working at Our Lady of Lourdes parish and also helps with our vocation ministry.

These three women of faith have graced our convent with their desire to learn, discern and respond to God’s call in their lives, uttering their “fiat” through each step. Many of you throughout the diocese are praying for vocations. We thank you for those prayers and we ask that you continue to pray, adding these three women to your prayers.



**MAKING MAN’S BEST FRIEND FRIENDLIER**—On Oct. 4, (top photo) St. Rose of Lima School in Schulenburg had the Blessing of the Animals. There were many types of animals, such as cats, dogs, birds, baby chicks and frogs. The eighth grade class read from the book of Genesis. Father Tim Kosler, pastor, then blessed all of the animals, small to large. He had to speak over the rambunctious dogs’ bark and quiet cats’ meow. Father blesses them to make man’s best friend a little bit friendlier. It was a very fun event. People came together to see some of God’s greatest creations. We hope to see more people there next year! (bottom photo) Father Charles Otsiwah, parochial vicar at Our Lady of Victory blesses animals from dogs, to sheep, to a python snake, to even a horse. Those who were unable to bring a pet brought a photo of their pet to be blessed. Students feel like their animals are part of their family, like their brothers and sisters. They love unconditionally and they are just a gift to have. Father Michael Rother, parochial vicar at Our Lady of Victory said, “by doing this, we share in your (God’s) own love for all creation.”

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979-335-4473

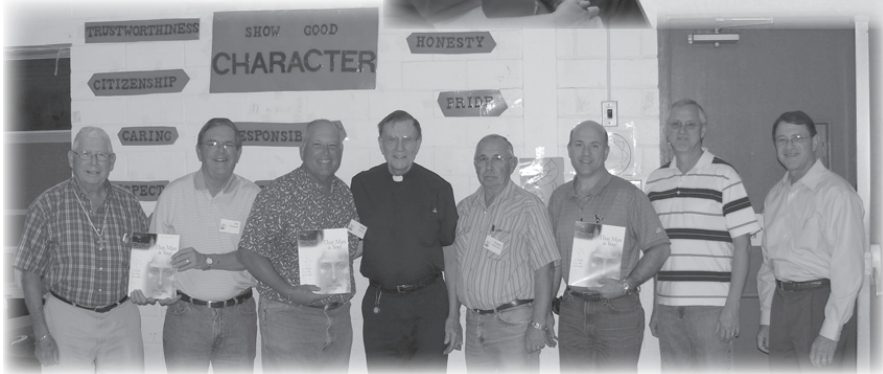
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Providing leadership for Bay City's "That Man is You" program are, from left, Jon Abshier, Jay Kennedy, Mike Allison, Father Casey Jarzombek, Sonny Benavides, Jeff Popp, Michael Trochta and Allen Green. (right) After watching the "That Man is You" interactive, multimedia programming, men break into group discussions.



## ~ That Man is You ~

By Fr. Michael Lyons, pastor  
ABVM Parish in Ganado

BAY CITY – Fully illuminated a couple of hours before Friday dawn, the Holy Cross School Cafeteria contained the aroma of freshly brewed coffee, the flicker of old-time football highlights on the big screen that hung from the stage ceiling, the taste of pig-in-a-blanket and donuts and orange juice, and the chatter of men of varying ages and backgrounds.

The reason for this 5:45 a.m. gathering? A catechetical program called *That Man Is You*, now in its second year at Holy Cross Parish.

Mike Allison, the Holy Cross coordinator for *That Man Is You*, said the program was launched after Youth Minister Terry Bushee handed him the promotional envelope that had come in the mail to the Holy Cross Parish office.

"We have 35 and more every Friday," said Allison, a husband, father, and grandfather. "This program is presented in a simple way, yet with some depth, and it's attractive to men."

Those attending on this crisp early October Friday included men of various ages and professions ... and religions. "I'm not Catholic," said one man. "But this is feeding me with what I need right now."

One Catholic who did attend was the pastor of Holy Cross Parish, the Rev. Casey Jarzombek. "I'm not here every single week, but I am most weeks," said Father Jarzombek while sipping some coffee. "This has made a big difference in the lives of families. This is our second year, and we look forward to it growing."

The deacons from Holy Cross and Our Lady of Guadalupe parishes were among

See *That Man is You*, p. 13

## MAN-UP or Parish says Catholic Priest to Other Men

Father Larry Richards releases new book on  
"Becoming the Man You Were Meant to Be"

Men are rediscovering the importance of the spiritual life. And Father Larry Richards is helping them do it. While some writers apply a one-size-fits-all approach to the Christian life, Father Richards draws on his many years of ministry and his own experience as a man to inspire other men as men.

In *Be a Man!*, he recounts his struggles to learn true manhood, as well as the inspiring stories of others he has served in his decades as a priest. He tells men how to focus on the right goal, how to live as a beloved son of God, of the need to acknowledge one's faults and to live according to the Holy Spirit, to be a man of true love and of wisdom, to appreciate properly the differences between men and women, to pursue holiness, and to make a difference in the world. Not preachy but direct, Father Richards challenges men to be strong, without putting on a mask of false strength or machismo. He calls men to admit their weaknesses and limitations, while urging them to find strength in faith and genuine love to overcome their sins and faults.

Although a celibate priest, he minces no words when it comes to the place of sexuality—for the unmarried man as well as for the married man. He shows that true manliness is not opposed to love but thrives on it. Father Richards stresses that a relationship with Christ reveals the meaning of a man's life and his identity as a man. He inspires men to become the true heroes they long to be—men of authentic courage, compassion and integrity. This is a highly readable book for men by a man who knows how to talk to men about the things that matter most.

Father Larry Richards, a popular speak-

er at men's conferences around the country, is the pastor of an inner city parish in Erie, Pa. He hosts his own daily national radio show on Relevant Radio, and is the founder of The Reason for Our Hope Foundation.

"Father Larry talks straight to men in his own manly style. He pulls no spiritual punches – I don't think he knows how to! He pokes, pushes, sometimes verbally slaps men into being God's men, all with an obvious love for them and faith in their ability to persevere to heaven." — Dr. Ray Guarendi, radio host and author

"Be a Man is a must-read for all men who are serious about strengthening their relationship with God. This exceptional book speaks clearly and directly, challenging men to live their faith with courage and conviction. *Be a Man* is a spiritual wake-up call that offers a refreshingly honest presentation of what it means to be a man of God. With a unique blend of humor, passion, and frankness that has become his trademark style, Father Larry Richards explores how a Christ-centered male spirituality fosters growth in holiness and inspires men to become loving servants of their wives, families, and the Church." — Deacon Harold Burke-Sivers

*Be a Man* will be the November puzzle contest prize. To be sure to receive a copy of *Be a Man*, please purchase it through the publisher's Web site at: [www.ignatius.com](http://www.ignatius.com). Type the title under SEARCH. Price: \$14.95; sale price is \$12.71 or \$9.72 as an E-book. Also available as a Downloadable Audio. This book also has bulk rate discounts. To receive the discount, please call 1-888-615-3186 or e-mail [ignatiuspress@intrepidgroup.com](mailto:ignatiuspress@intrepidgroup.com). Great idea for Christmas!

## SAINTS AND HOLY MEN

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### Family Puzzle Contest Winners!

Vernell Macik of Sacred Heart Parish in Hallettsville is the winner of the October Family Puzzle Contest and "*Walking with God ~ A Journey Through the Bible*" by Tim Gray and Jeff Cavins and published by Ascension Press.

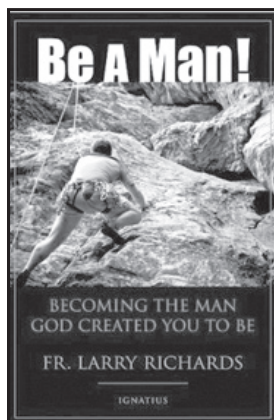
The winner of the youth contest is Tony Cisneros (8) of St. Philip School in El Campo. He will receive a gift from the Incarnate Word Gift Shop.

CCD and school teachers, remember, you may make copies of the puzzle and have your students complete them and then send them in as a group.

The next (adult) Family Puzzle Contest winner will win "*Be a Man! ~ Becoming the Man God Created You to Be*" by Father Larry Richards and published by Ignatius Press. See book review on this page.

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 November 24 (new date) for a chance to win "*Be a Man!*"

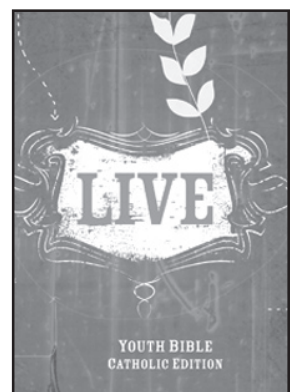
Youth 13 to 19 years of age have a chance at winning the LIVE Teen Bible; ages 12 and under will have a chance to receive a gift from the Incarnate Word Gift Shop (all youth, please state age).



In thanksgiving for the blessings God has bestowed on your family this Thanksgiving and Christmas, please consider donating non-perishable food items to your local parish St. Vincent de Paul Society.

### Puzzle Contest offers teens chance to win LIVE Teen Bible

Teens, 13 to 19 years of age, have a chance to win the Teen LIVE Bible, created by teens for teens, by playing *The Catholic Lighthouse* Puzzle Contest. See review of the Teen LIVE Bible on page 9, and send in completed puzzle and form by November 24 for a chance to win a copy – or add the LIVE Bible to your Christmas wish list.



For more information about NRSV Bibles visit [www.nrsv.net](http://www.nrsv.net). LIVE Harper Catholic Bibles; Paperback: 1600 pages, 8.5 x 5.4 x 2.6 inches; \$25.99.





## Men's ACTS ministers to prisoners

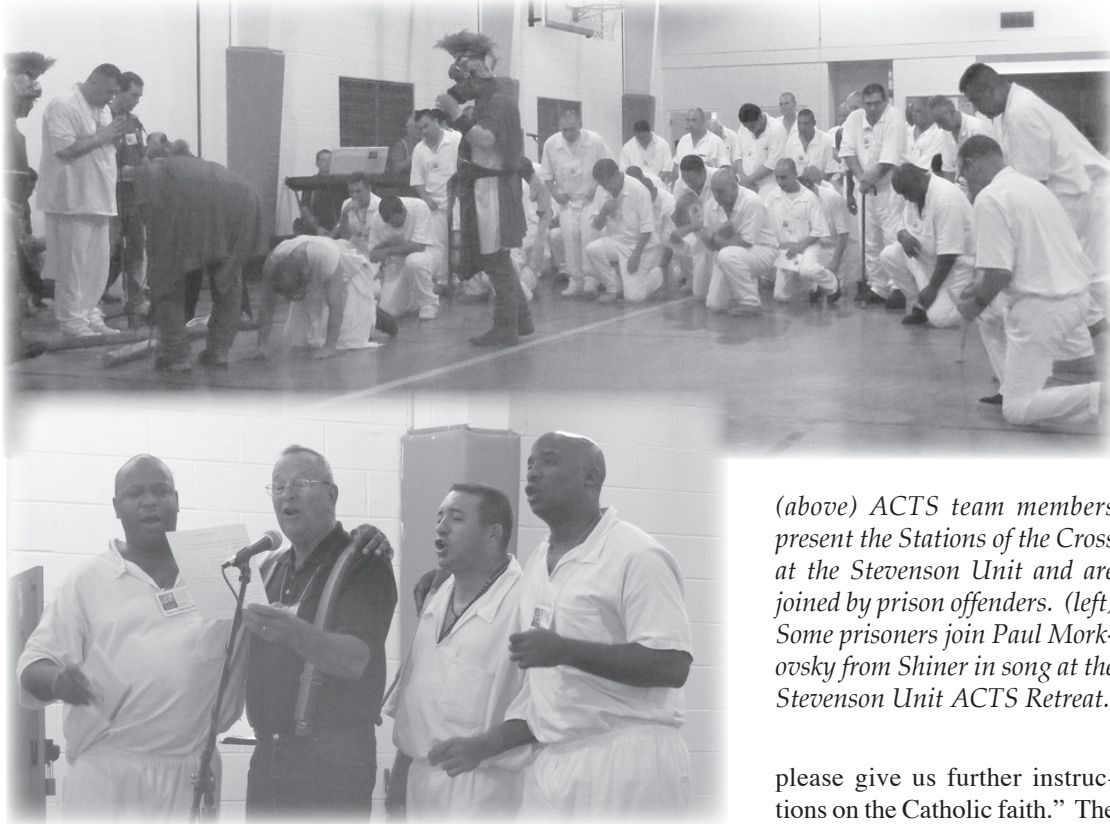
By Cynthia Brewer

After having completed their third ACTS retreat, ACTS III, at the Connally Prison Unit in Kenedy, Texas, the Fredericksburg ACTS community invited Victoria Diocese men's ACTS team members to combine with

ACTS team. "We can plan a retreat in a matter of hours, but it takes that much time to spiritually prepare for a retreat."

"Not just any prisoner could choose to go to the retreat; some may wish to go, just to get out of their cell," said Mr. Morkovsky.

"Those men are so spiritually hungry," said Mr. Morkovsky. One of the men said he was baptized a Catholic as a baby, but then later baptized a second time as a Baptist, then was involved as a Presbyterian. He pleaded, "I want to be Catholic! Will you



(above) ACTS team members present the Stations of the Cross at the Stevenson Unit and are joined by prison offenders. (left) Some prisoners join Paul Morkovsky from Shiner in song at the Stevenson Unit ACTS Retreat.

them to put on a retreat at the prison in Cuero.

Prison ACTS #1 retreat ministered to 73 offenders at the Stevenson Unit at Cuero, September 22-26, 2010, under the directorship of Ed Smith from St. Mary's Church in Fredericksburg.

To prepare for the ACTS retreat, 22 members from the Fredericksburg area ACTS community and 11 members from ACTS teams in the Victoria Diocese met in San Antonio five times (every other week) for four hours each time.

"It doesn't take that much time to prepare for a retreat," said John Morkovsky of the Victoria

"The prison chaplain was the one who chose the men who could participate."

On Friday evening, the sacrament of reconciliation was provided to the offenders by Bishop David Fellhauer, Msgr. Enda McKenna of Fredericksburg, Father Joseph Varghese, chaplain from the Connally Prison, Father Michael Lyons of Ganado, Father Greg Korenek of Victoria and Father Kirby Hlavaty of Cuero. Many of the men took advantage of receiving the sacrament.

"I thought it was well received," said Bishop Fellhauer, of the reconciliation service.

please give us further instructions on the Catholic faith." The men at the unit all chimed in together in agreement.

"Since the three ACTS retreats at the Connally Unit, Mass has gone from 20 to standing room only in the prison chapel," said Ed Smith.

ACTS team members from the Fredericksburg area go to the unit twice a week (Wednesday and Sunday) to teach RCIA. There are now over 100 in the program.

"Auxiliary Bishop Oscar

## Search on for longest married couples in United States

SAN BERNARDINO, CA – The search is on for the longest married couple in the United States announced the U.S. leaders of Worldwide Marriage Encounter, the original faith-based marriage enrichment program in this country.

"We want to honor the longest married couple on Feb. 14, 2011," explained Scott and Karen Seaborn and Father Tom Griffith, SVD, the United States Ecclesial Team for WWME.

"It is an appropriate time in our marriage enrichment ministry to recognize a husband and wife who have been married for many, many years," the ecclesial team explained.

In addition to the longest married couple for the entire United States, recognition will also be given to a couple from each state who has achieved that distinction for their area.

In the case of the United States couple, appropriate gifts will be presented to them at a ceremony to be held at their location on Valentine's Day. The state winners will receive a special certificate of achievement from the Worldwide Marriage Encounter movement.

Nominations, which are open to all husband and wife couples regardless of faith expression, may be submitted by e-mail, regular mail or by calling a special phone number. The process

## Sunday Readings from Nov. 14 to Dec. 12

November 14 — Thirty-third Sunday in Ordinary Time	Malachi 3:19-20a Psalms 98:5-6, 7-8, 9 2 Thessalonians 3:7-12 Luke 21:5-19
November 22 — The Solemnity of Christ the King	2 Samuel 5:1-3 Psalms 122:1-2, 3-4, 4-5 Colossians 1:12-20 Luke 23:35-43
November 28 — First Sunday of Advent	Isaiah 2:1-5 Psalms 122:1-2, 3-4, 4-5, 6-7, 8-9 Romans 13:11-14 Matthew 24:37-44
December 5 — Second Sunday of Advent	Isaiah 11:1-10 Psalms 72:1-2, 7-8, 12-13, 17 Romans 15:4-9 Matthew 3:1-12
December 12 — Third Sunday of Advent	Isaiah 35:1-6a, 10 Psalms 146:6-7, 8-9, 9-10 James 5:7-10 Matthew 11:2-11

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

[www.usccb.org/nab/](http://www.usccb.org/nab/)

Brought to you by the Catholic Communications Campaign — please be generous.

Cantú (San Antonio) recently confirmed 10 from the Connally unit who attended the RCIA program," said Mr. Smith.

Mr. Morkovsky envisions that if five to eight ACTS teams organized to provide a weekly core CCD or RCIA lesson plan to the prisoners at the Cuero Stevenson Unit, each team would be called on less than once a month.

Paul Morkovsky of Shiner, John's brother, has been selected to be the ACTS director for the next ACTS retreat to be scheduled at the Stevenson Unit in Cuero, February 17-20, 2011. Please pray that his team has as much success as the Sept. retreat.

## Pope Benedict's Monthly Intentions NOVEMBER 2010

**General:** Drug Addicts and Victims of Every Form of Dependence — That victims of drugs or of other dependence may, thanks to the support of the Christian community, find in the power of our Saving God strength for a radical life-change.

**Missionary:** The Continent-wide Mission in Latin America — That the Churches of Latin America may move ahead with the continent-wide mission proposed by their bishops, making it part of the universal missionary task of the People of God.

## ~ That Man is You ~

Continued from p. 13

those who got out of bed early to head to the Holy Cross Cafeteria that morning.

So what is *That Man Is You*?

After the football highlights DVD ended, promptly at 6:15 a.m., Allison introduced the program and asked Father Jarzombek to lead a prayer. Then the *That Man is You* DVD was inserted, and participants heard and saw *That Man Is You* founder Steve Bollman deliver a thoroughly developed yet engaging lecture that explored the theology, science, and sociology, and practical applications relating to family life, especially to men. The gem quote from the DVD is when Bollman quoted St. Benedict, "Prefer nothing to the love of Christ."

Bollman and his wife are parishioners of St. Cecilia Parish in Houston. In 2003, along with others, Bollman founded Paradisus Dei Web site and programs and developed *That Man Is You*. After a year piloting the program in a few parishes in the Archdiocese of Galveston-Houston and the dioceses of Dallas and Fort Worth, Bollman took the

program statewide and then national. In program literature and on the Paradisus Dei Web site, Bollman said three aspects of the delivery package of TMIY are the evangelical approach of many Protestant denominations, the multimedia approach of the corporate world, and undergirded by solid Catholic theology.

*That Man is You* is packaged as a five-year program laid out in 13-week semesters. Participants pay for a book to study and to catch up when they are unable to attend a session.

After the DVD, attendees break into small groups with a couple of questions that build from the lecture and lead into faith-sharing. Then, promptly at 7:10 a.m., the closing prayer is said, the men head out refreshed into the rising sun to be Christ-centered husbands and fathers and priests.

For more information on *That Man Is You*, visit the Web site at [www.thatmanisyou.org](http://www.thatmanisyou.org), and call Mike Allison at (979) 479-1370 or Allen Green at (979) 245-2598.

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## Catholic By Grace

By Denise E. Bossert  
catholicbygrace.blogspot.com



### Mary ~ The Missing Link

I was nearing my ninth birthday, and it was the time in childhood when seemingly insignificant experiences begin coalescing into memories that will stay with us for the rest of our lives – like the sweltering summer day when my best friend and I sat on the sidewalk in front of the parsonage where my family lived. After trial and error, we found a limestone rock, and we practiced drawing stars on the concrete. We had learned a new method, two inverted triangles rather than the star formed by an unbroken sequence of five lines. A lady came up the sidewalk and smiled at our work. She was older than my mother, a member of that indefinable period of womanhood that exists somewhere between the age of mothers and grandmothers. “Are you Jewish?” She asked the two of us. We stared at her blankly. “That’s the Star of David,” she explained. “The Star of my faith.”

I looked at my friend. I could see that she didn’t know any more about Jewish faith than I did. So we sat in silence. The lady shrugged her shoulders and kept walking.

There was a missing link in the chain. We were connected to the lady who paused to talk to us, but we didn’t quite know how we were related.

The woman stopped because she wanted to know if we shared a common bond. When we didn’t reply in the way she expected, she just kept walking. She didn’t recognize anything familiar or familial about us either.

We were strangers.

She went off to live her life. We kept playing on the sidewalk in front of Faith Wesleyan Church and the pastor’s house on the corner of 2nd and Walnut Street.

Today, I know what the missing link is in the chain that connects me to that woman. In the fullness of time, God’s Son entered the world, born of a virgin. The Blessed Virgin Mary is the link. From the House of David, God raised up a poor and

humble girl. And she became the Mother of God himself! And then she became the Mother of the Redeemed as well.

Every Advent, I haul the boxes up from the basement, and we begin trimming the Christmas tree. Many years ago, I bought a handmade Star of David from a Jewish glass artisan in Atlanta, Georgia. The Star is cobalt blue. It’s stunningly beautiful, yet simple and unadorned.

I carefully open the tissue and find a place on my tree for the Star, with its two triangles – bearing the same image of the star my friend and I scratched into the sidewalk so long ago. And I think of the woman who paused and asked, “Do you know what you are drawing?”

Each Advent, I glance at the figures on my mantel shelf, and I see a young woman peering over an empty manger. She’s waiting for something. She’s waiting for God’s promised Son. And then my eyes go to the Christmas tree, where my blue Star of David hangs on a branch. The string of Christmas lights plays off the smooth handcrafted glasswork. And I realize that I have an answer for that woman who paused to talk to me on the sidewalk in front of my dad’s church in Cedar Falls, Iowa.

“Yes, I know what I’m drawing. I am connected to you, dear-lady-with-no-name. And you are connected to me. Your daughter has become my mother.”

Like two triangles intersecting.

The Lord himself will give you this sign: the virgin shall be with child, and bear a son, and shall name him Immanuel. Isaiah 7:14

*Mrs. Bossert is the mother of four children. She lives with her husband in New Melle, Missouri, where she is a member of Immaculate Heart of Mary Catholic Church. She is a featured writer for “One Bread” Lay Apostolate and diocesan papers throughout the United States. Read other articles by Bossert at <http://1bread.catholic.org/index.html>*

### Remembering Children Who Have Died

The Compassionate Friends, a self-help support organization that in its own words “offers friendship, understanding and hope to bereaved parents, grandparents and siblings” is asking once again that communities and families pause on Sunday, Dec. 12, to remember children who have died.

Its annual Worldwide Candle Lighting is always the second Sunday in December at 7 p.m., local time, for one hour in each time zone around the globe. The Compassionate Friends says hundreds of community ceremonies will be held at public gatherings and thousands more will take place informally in homes.

As the organization explains, “We do this ... that their light may always shine!”

For more information, visit The Compassionate Friends’ Web site, [www.compassionatefriends.org](http://www.compassionatefriends.org) or call the organization toll-free at 1-877-969-0010.

#### Catholic Bereavement Web site:

The Web site of the National Catholic Ministry to the Bereaved is [www.grief-work.org](http://www.grief-work.org).

**Local bereavement sharing group:** Meets at Holy Family Catholic Church all-purpose room at 704 Mallette Dr., Victoria, the 1st and 3rd Thursday of every month

at 7:00 p.m. For more information, please call Sharon at (361) 578-7572.

#### Helping a loved one:

The Christophers News Note titled “When Someone You Love Dies” includes suggestions for helping a loved one who is grieving:

- Listen. Be there without feeling you must constantly offer advice or good cheer.
- Give your friend the freedom to cry.
- Share memories of the person who died.
- Avoid clichés like, “I know just how you feel.” No one knows another’s grief.

- Visit, call and write regularly.
- Provide support but let the grieving person make decisions.

- Accept changes in your friend. Grief can be an emotional roller coaster.

- Pray for your friend.

For the complete pamphlet call The Christophers toll-free at 1-888-298-4050.

*Information was obtained from a past column by CNS columnists Bill and Monica Dodds, the editors of “My Daily Visitor” magazine. Bill is the author of “Your Grieving Child: Answers to Questions on Death and Dying” (Our Sunday Visitor).*



### THE POPE SPEAKS

Pope Benedict XVI



CNS photo from Reuters

### Pope praises women who give Christian inspiration to their families

By Cindy Wooden  
Catholic News Service

VATICAN CITY (CNS) — Pope Benedict XVI praised the millions of Catholic women in the world who inspire their husbands and children to live truly Christian lives.

At his weekly general audience Oct. 27, the pope said he wanted to recognize “the many women who, day after day, enlighten their families with their witness of Christian life.”

“May the Spirit of the Lord raise up holy Christian spouses today to show the world the beauty of marriage lived according to the Gospel values: love, tenderness, mutual help, fruitfulness in generating and educating children, openness and solidarity with the world, and participation in the life of the church,” he said.

The pope’s remarks about women in the church and in family life were part of his main audience address about the life and influence of St. Bridget of Sweden, who lived in the 14th century.

Bridget and her husband, Ulf, were the parents of eight children and were models of “an authentic conjugal spirituality,” the pope said.

“Often, as happened in the life of St. Bridget and Ulf, it is the woman who, with her religious sensitivity, delicacy and sweetness, is able to make her husband mature in the faith journey,” he said.

After Ulf died, Bridget sold her possessions and dedicated her life to prayer and good works, which makes her a model for

Christian widows, the pope said.

St. Bridget also received divine revelations, many of which were addressed, “even in the form of harsh admonitions, to believers in her time, including religious and political authorities so that they would correctly live their Christian life,” Pope Benedict said.

But, he said, she always shared the revelations “with an attitude of respect and full fidelity to the magisterium of the church, particularly to the successor of the Apostle Peter,” Pope Urban V, whom she urged to return to Rome at a time when the papacy was based in Avignon, France.

Pope Benedict said that St. Bridget, founder of the Brigittine Sisters, had hoped to establish a monastic order with branches for both men and women.

“This should not surprise us: In the Middle Ages, there were monastic foundations with a male and female branch that followed the same monastic rule under the direction of an abbess. In fact, the great Christian tradition recognizes that women have their own dignity and — following the example of Mary, queen of the Apostles — their own place in the church, which without involving ordained priesthood, is just as important for the spiritual growth of the church,” he said.

At the end of the audience, Pope Benedict offered his prayers for the people of Indonesia, suffering the effects of an earthquake, tsunami and volcanic eruption; and for the people of Benin, thousands of whom were left homeless because of flooding.



**ALL SOULS DAY**—Parishes throughout the Diocese of Victoria celebrated All Souls Day Nov. 2. At Resurrection Cemetery in Victoria, Bishop David Fellhauer concelebrates Mass with Father John Kollannur, parochial vicar at Our Lady of Lourdes. In his homily, the bishop spoke about the communion of saints and the hope of the resurrection.

#### Como reportar un abuso.

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

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

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

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





## Peace is possible in Middle East, pope says at synod's closing Mass

By Cindy Wooden  
Catholic News Service

VATICAN CITY (CNS) — Closing the Synod of Bishops for the Middle East, Pope Benedict XVI said, “We must never resign ourselves to the absence of peace.”

“Peace is possible. Peace is urgent,” the pope said Oct. 24 during his homily at the Mass closing the two-week synod.

Peace is what will stop Christians from emigrating, he said.

Pope Benedict also urged Christians to promote respect for freedom of religion and conscience, “one of the fundamental human rights that each state should always respect.”

Synod members released a message Oct. 23 to their own faithful, their government leaders, Catholics around the world, the international community and to all people of goodwill. The Vatican also released the 44 propositions adopted by synod members as recommendations for Pope Benedict to consider in writing his post-synodal apostolic exhortation.

Although the bishops said the main point of the synod was to find pastoral responses to the challenges facing their people, they said the biggest challenges are caused by political and social injustice and war and conflict.

“We have taken account of the impact of the Israeli-Palestinian conflict on the whole region, especially on the Palestinians who are suffering the consequences of the Israeli occupation: the lack of freedom of movement, the wall of separation and the military checkpoints, the political prisoners, the demolition of homes, the disturbance of socio-economic life and the thousands of refugees,” they said in one of the strongest sentences in the message.

They called for continued Catholic-Jewish dialogue, condemned anti-Semitism and anti-Judaism and affirmed Israel's right to live at peace within its “internationally recognized borders.”

Although relations between Christians and Jews in the region often are colored by Israeli-Palestinian tensions, the bishops said the Catholic Church affirms the Old Testament — the Hebrew Scriptures — is the word of God and that God's promises to the Jewish people, beginning with Abraham, are still valid.

However, they said, “recourse to theological and biblical positions which use the word of God to wrongly justify injustices is not acceptable. On the contrary, recourse to religion must lead every person to see the face of God in others.”

Addressing the synod's final news conference Oct. 23, Melkite Bishop Cyrille S. Bustros of Newton, Mass., said, “For us Christians, you can no longer speak of a land promised to the Jewish people,” because Christ's coming into the world demonstrated that God's chosen people are all men and women and that their promised land would be the kingdom of God established throughout the world.

The bishops' point in criticizing some people's use of Scripture was intended to say “one cannot use the theme of the Promised Land to justify the return of Jews to Israel and the expatriation of Palestinians,” Bishop Bustros said.

In their message, the bishops expressed particular concern over the future of Jerusalem, particularly given Israeli “unilateral initiatives” that threaten the composition and demographic profile of the city through construction and buying up the property of Christians and other Arabs.

They also offered words of support for the suffering Iraqi people, both Christians and Muslims, and for those forced to flee the country.

The synod members said they talked extensively about Christian-Muslim relations and about the fact that they both are long-standing citizens of the same countries

and should be working together for the good of all.

“We say to our Muslim fellow-citizens: We are brothers and sisters; God wishes us to be together, united by one faith in God and by the dual commandment of love of God and neighbor,” they said.

But Christians must be given their full rights as citizens and the future peace and prosperity of the region require civil societies built “on the basis of citizenship, religious freedom and freedom of conscience.”

Throughout the synod, members said that while religious freedom and freedom of worship are recognized in most of the region's constitutions, freedom of conscience — particularly the freedom to change religious affiliation — is not respected in many places.

The synod propositions called for educating Christians in the beliefs of their Muslim and Jewish neighbors and for strengthening dialogue programs that would help the region's people “accept one another in spite of their differences, working to build a new society in which fanaticism and extremism have no place.”

Much of the synod's discussion focused on the fact that many Christians are emigrating because of ongoing conflicts, a lack of security and equality and a lack of economic opportunities at home.

They praised those who have remained despite hardship and thanked them for their contributions to church and society.

While they did not call on emigrants to return home, they did ask them to consider it eventually and to think twice before selling their property in their homelands. Several bishops had told the synod that Christians selling off their property was turning previously Christian-Muslim neighborhoods and towns into totally Muslim areas.

One of the synod propositions said, “We exhort our faithful and our church communities not to give in to the temptation to sell off their real estate,” and they pledged to set up micro-finance and other projects

to help people retain their property and make it prosper.

The synod members affirmed their commitment to efforts to promote full Christian unity and promised to strengthen cooperative efforts with other Christian churches in the region because “we share the same journey” and unity is necessary for effectively sharing the Gospel.

The bishops at the synod also recognized their own failures in not promoting greater communion between Catholics of different rites, with other Christians and with the Jewish and Muslim majorities of their homelands.

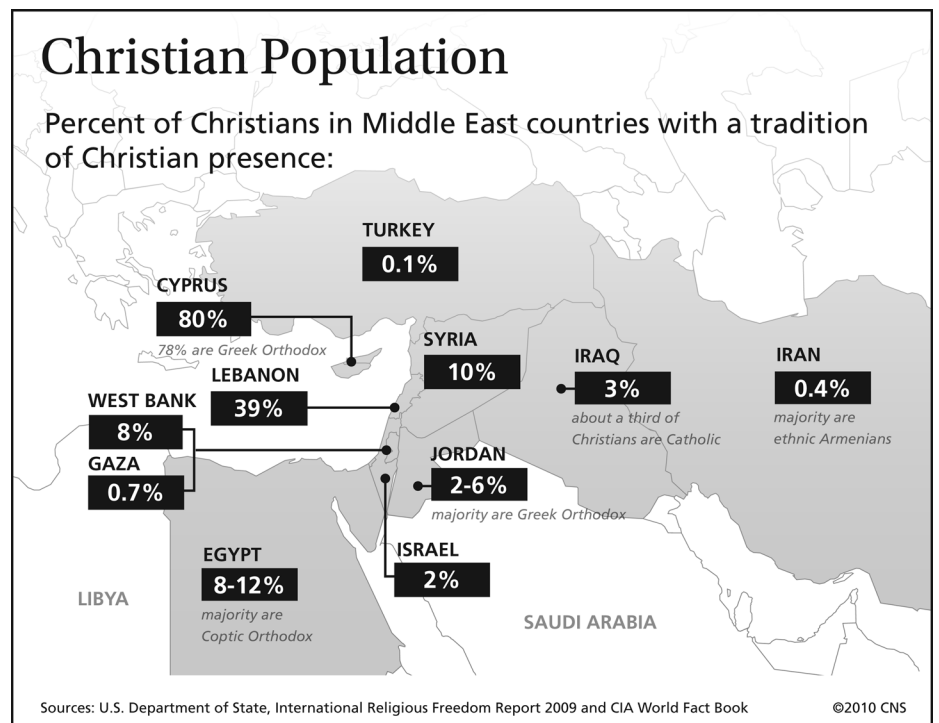
And they told their lay faithful, “We have not done everything possible to confirm you in your faith and to give you the spiritual nourishment you need in your difficulties.”

All Christians, including the bishops, are called to conversion, they said.

The propositions called for creation of a “commission of cooperation” between church leaders of different rites, the sharing of material resources and establishment of a program to share priests.

They also echoed a repeated call in the synod for the pope to study ways to expand the jurisdiction of Eastern Catholic patriarchs and major archbishops to allow them greater power in providing for their faithful who live outside the traditional territory of their churches and to consider dropping restrictions on ordaining married men to the priesthood outside the traditional homeland of the particular church.

Maronite Archbishop Joseph Soueif of Cyprus told reporters, “The synod is not a medical prescription or a cure” for the problems Christians face in the Middle East, “it's a journey that is just beginning” and will have to be implemented by the region's Catholics.



**CHRISTIAN POPULATION IN MIDDLE EAST**—In the predominantly Muslim region of the Middle East, most countries have a Christian population of less than 10 percent. (CNS graphic/Emily Thompson)

## Dozens dead, 56 wounded after savage attack at Iraq Catholic Cathedral

Continued from p. 1

and look for the good of the Iraqi people who have elected them.”

“There are a few churches and Christian institutions left in Baghdad, not so great a number that it is not unreasonable for them to be protected, security-wise,” he said, noting that the security being provided by the government is “far less than what we have hoped for and requested.”

“Christians are slaughtered in Iraq, in their homes and churches, and the so-called ‘free’ world is watching in complete indifference, interested only in responding in a way that is politically correct and economically opportune, but in reality is hypocritical,” said the patriarch, who served as bishop of the New Jersey-based Syrian-rite diocese in the United States and Canada from 1995 until his election as patriarch in 2009.

The patriarch demanded “that the U.S. Congress, the United Nations, the International Commission for Civil Rights and the League of Arab States” condemn the actions at the church and “take the appropriate action to defend innocent Christians brutally singled out because of their religion, in Iraq and some other Middle Eastern countries.”

Chaldean Auxiliary Bishop Shlemon Warduni of Baghdad told Vatican Radio Oct. 31 that at least one child was killed in the incident.

During the siege, he asked people to pray that God would give the hostage-takers the grace to take into consideration

the women, children and all the innocent who were threatened by their actions.

Vatican spokesman Jesuit Father Federico Lombardi told reporters at the time of the siege that “it's a very sad situation, which confirms the difficult situation in which Christians live in the country.”

“Christians live with great insecurity and we express our solidarity with them,” he said.


Iraqi bishops had just participated in a special Synod of Bishops Oct. 10-24 with the pope at the Vatican; the synod drew attention to the challenges facing Christians in the Middle East.

During the synod, Iraqi bishops said

kidnappings for ransom, bombings of churches and other Christian buildings and a general lack of security have made life so precarious for the vulnerable Christian community that about half have left their homeland for safer destinations in the past seven years.

At least one bishop raised the question of systematic attacks as part of a “plan” to drive all Christians from the Middle East.

The cathedral and four other churches were the target of a string of bombings Aug. 1, 2004, when parishioners were leaving Sunday Mass; 15 people were killed in those attacks.



**The Chancery Office will be closed for the Thanksgiving Holidays, November 25 and 26. Have a Blessed Holiday with family and friends.**



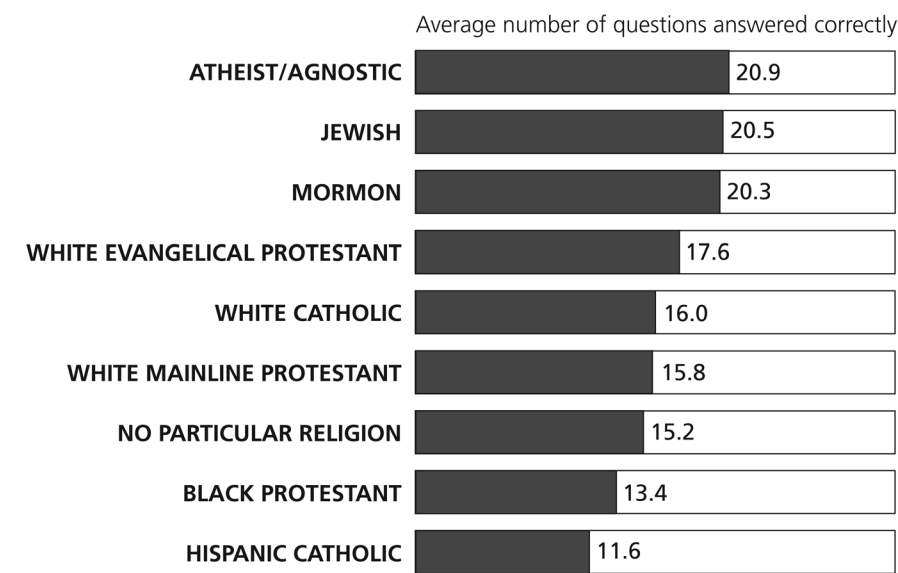
**Sunday, November 14**  
**Our Lady of Lourdes Fall Festival at the Victoria Community Center**  
**Serving Turkey and Dressing \$7.50 p/p from 11-1:30**  
**Live Auction - 12:30**  
**Silent Auction 10-3**  
**Country Store Booths - Games**





## Correct Answers on Religion

Atheists and agnostics, Jews and Mormons are among the highest-scoring groups when asked 32 questions about religion.



Source: U.S. Religious Knowledge Survey, Pew Forum on Religion & Public Life

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(CNS graphic/Nancy Wiechec)

### In Respect Life message, cardinal promotes world vigil for life Nov. 27

WASHINGTON (CNS) — In a message marking Respect Life Month in October, the chairman of the U.S. bishops' Committee on Pro-Life Activities called on U.S. Catholics to join Pope Benedict XVI in a worldwide vigil "for all nascent human life" on the Saturday evening of Thanksgiving weekend. Cardinal Daniel N. DiNardo of Galveston-Houston also encouraged Catholics to demonstrate their commitment to life "through a loving concern for the good of others" and to work to ensure that health care reform, in its implementation, "is not misused to promote abortion or to trample on rights of conscience. "With each passing year, the need for personal and public witness grounded in God's boundless love for each and every human being grows more urgent," he said in a statement for Respect Life Month released Sept. 28. The cardinal cited three particular risks in today's society — abortion, embryonic stem-cell research and "a renewed campaign for legalizing physician-assisted suicide. Instead of addressing (seriously ill) patients'

real problems by providing love, support and relief of suffering, this agenda urges us to eliminate the patient as though he or she is the problem," Cardinal DiNardo said. "While critics want to portray the Church's witness as a narrow and negative ideology, it is just the opposite: a positive vision of the dignity of each and every human being without exception, each loved equally by God and so equally deserving of our love and our nation's respect."

### For pro-life cause, opposing death penalty comes down to God's mercy

WASHINGTON (CNS) — As the 2010 edition of Respect Life Month drew to a close, the issue of capital punishment was once again in the world spotlight as the Vatican called on Iraq not to execute former Deputy Prime Minister Tariq Aziz. It might not be easy to advocate for the life of a convicted murderer or for someone like Aziz, sentenced to death by hanging for persecuting Shiite Muslims, but it is important to the pro-life cause, said Deirdre A. McQuade, assistant director for policy and communications in the U.S. bishops' Secretariat for Pro-Life Activities. "It

demeans our culture to use violence to answer violence, and it can only further undermine respect for innocent life," McQuade told Catholic News Service Oct. 27. "If the state can protect us without committing additional violence, that is the way we are called to go." Bishop Robert W. Finn of Kansas City-St. Joseph, Mo., made that point in one of the articles for this year's Respect Life program, linking the death penalty issue to the Catholic belief in divine mercy. "God did not abolish justice. Rather, he intended by the offering of his Son to purge human justice of any sense of wrath or revenge," he wrote. "As we seek a reason to put aside the practice of the death penalty, perhaps the best motive is our desire to imitate God in his mercy toward those for whom Jesus died." Bishop Finn's call came at a time when many others — including members of law enforcement — were calling for an end to or curtailing of the use of capital punishment.

### Michigan religious order set to buy Pope John Paul II Cultural Center

WASHINGTON (CNS) — A Michigan religious order experiencing rapid growth since its formation in 1997 is planning to buy the 10-year-old Pope John Paul II Cultural Center across the street from The Catholic University of America. The Ann Arbor-based Dominican Sisters of Mary, Mother of the Eucharist signed a purchase agreement with the Archdiocese of Detroit to buy the 100,000-square-foot center in Washington and use it as a house of study for its members. No purchase price for the 12-acre property was disclosed. The property was valued at \$37.3 million for the 2011 tax year during the most recent real estate appraisal. Its proximity to the well-established Dominican House of Studies and the Basilica of the National Shrine of the Immaculate Conception makes it an attractive site, said a spokeswoman for the order. Sister Maria Gemma Martek, superior of the motherhouse in Ann Arbor, said the hope is that the center can be developed

into a house of studies for sisters. "This is an exciting possibility," she told Catholic News Service. "The idea of being able to potentially have a presence in our nation's capital in such a great location in proximity to Catholic University, the Dominican House of Studies and the basilica."

### Scalia says committed Christians should not be afraid to embrace faith

ANNAPOLIS, Md. (CNS) — Although the sophisticated may deride them as simple-minded, U.S. Supreme Court Justice Antonin Scalia said committed Christians should have the courage to embrace their faith. Scalia spoke to members of the St. Thomas More Society of Maryland who gathered Oct. 21 at the Westin Hotel in Annapolis following the 52nd annual Red Mass, held at nearby St. Mary Church. The liturgy, celebrated by Baltimore Archbishop Edwin F. O'Brien, marked the beginning of the judicial year. During a hotel banquet, the St. Thomas More Society honored Scalia with its "Man for All Seasons Award," given to members of the legal profession who embody the ideals of St. Thomas More. Scalia outlined a long list of Christian beliefs that he said are greeted with derision by the worldly — dogmas including Christ's divinity, the virgin birth and Christ's resurrection. "Surely those who adhere to all or most of these traditional Christian beliefs are regarded in the educated circles that you and I travel in as, well, simple-minded," Scalia asserted. The Catholic justice cited a story in The Washington Post that described Christian fundamentalists as "poorly educated and easily led. The same attitude applies, of course, to traditional Catholics," Scalia said, "who do such positively peasantlike things as saying the rosary, kneeling in adoration before the Eucharist, going on pilgrimages to Lourdes or Medjugorje and — worst of all — following indiscriminately, rather than in smorgasbord fashion, the teachings of the pope."

## Pope names Chicago auxiliary bishop to head San Antonio Archdiocese

Continued from p. 1

in San Antonio "a wonderful bishop, priest and friend, and the people of the archdiocese will soon discover that they have a new shepherd who is a man of great faith and extraordinary pastoral sensitivity."

The Los Angeles coadjutor said in a statement that the appointment was noteworthy for his own archdiocese because Archbishop Garcia-Siller received his theological training at St. John's Seminary there. He also lived in the archdiocese for several years as rector of the house of studies for the Missionaries of the Holy Spirit.

Gustavo Garcia-Siller was born Dec. 21, 1956, in the Mexican state of San Luis Potosi to Gustavo Garcia Suarez and Maria Cristina Siller de Garcia. He is the oldest of 15 children. His brother Eugene is also a priest.

Young Gustavo entered the Missionaries of the Holy Spirit in 1973 in Mexico City, where the order's general headquarters are located. He was ordained in Guadalajara, Mexico, June 22, 1984, after his studies at St. John's Seminary in Camarillo, Calif.

After serving at St. Joseph Parish in Selma, Calif., 1984-88, he did graduate studies at Western Jesuit University in Guadalajara and the Pontifical Gregorian University in Rome. He has degrees in divinity and psychology.

From 1994 to 1999, he served as rector of houses of studies operated by his order in Lynwood and Long Beach, Calif., and in

Portland, Ore. From 1999 to 2002, he was rector of the order's theologate in Oxnard, Calif., and served in three parishes of the Los Angeles Archdiocese. In 2002, he was named provincial superior for his religious congregation.

As an auxiliary bishop, he was Chicago Cardinal Francis E. George's liaison to the Hispanic community, overseeing the vicariate that covers the South Side of Chicago and its southwest suburbs. The vicariate has 79 culturally diverse parishes, and Mass is celebrated in 12 languages, including English, Spanish, Polish, Cantonese, Slovak, Mandarin, Croatian, Latin, Indonesian, Italian and Lithuanian.

Archbishop Garcia-Siller can celebrate Mass and preach in English, Spanish and Polish.

On the national level, he has been a member of U.S. bishops' subcommittees on African-American affairs and Hispanic affairs.

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

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

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**Cuero, Texas 77954, 361/277-3854, www.stmichael-cuero.org**





**MINER PRAYS AFTER BEING RESCUED IN CHILE**—Miner Mario Gomez, 63, the oldest of the 33 trapped miners, prays as he arrives on the surface after being rescued in Copiapo, Chile, Oct. 13. Chile's 33 trapped miners are traveling nearly half a mile through solid rock in a shaft just wider than a man's shoulders as their two-month ordeal after a cave-in draws to an end. (CNS photo/Hugo Infante-Government of Chile via Reuters)

## Responsible mining bill's defeat disappoints Canadian bishops' group

OTTAWA, Ontario (CNS) — Citing concerns about pollution and continued environmental abuse, the Canadian bishops' international development agency expressed disappointment that a responsible mining bill was defeated in the House of Commons. "It is a very disturbing outcome," said Michael Casey, executive director of the Canadian Catholic Organization for Development and Peace in a statement released Oct. 28. The organization had supported the legislation after its introduction in 2009. Development and Peace had mounted a five-year campaign to ensure Canadian mining companies operating in the developing world would exercise corporate social responsibility. "Our 11,500 members are deeply disappointed, as are our partners in the global South, who really welcomed the bill," Casey said. "For years, we have listened to their stories about how Canadian mining companies are taking over their land, polluting their water sources, destroying their environment, and often without consulting the affected communities or listening to their concerns." Supported by the New Democratic Party, the Bloc Quebecois and liberal members of the House of Commons, the bill had squeaked through close votes to get to committee. But it was defeated in a 140-134 vote Oct. 27. Twenty-four members of Parliament were absent. Mining companies and the Conservative Party vigorously opposed the bill.

## Pope names 24 new cardinals, including two from United States

VATICAN CITY (CNS) — Pope Benedict XVI named 24 new cardinals, including two from the United States: Archbishop Raymond L. Burke, head of the Vatican's highest tribunal, and Archbishop Donald W. Wuerl of Washington. The pope announced the names at the end of his weekly general audience Oct. 20 and said he would formally install the cardinals during a special consistory at the Vatican

Nov. 20. "The universality of the church is reflected in the list of new cardinals. In fact, they come from various parts of the world and fulfill different tasks in the service of the Holy See or in direct contact with the people of God as fathers and pastors of particular churches," the pope said. The new cardinals come from 13 countries on five continents, and their number included 10 Italians. The pope named 10 Roman Curia officials -- a higher number than expected -- along with 10 residential archbishops and four prelates over the age of 80. One unusual aspect of the pope's list was that two of the residential archbishops were retired. The November ceremony will mark the third time Pope Benedict has created cardinals since his election in April 2005. After the consistory, he will have appointed about 40 percent of the cardinals currently under the age of 80 and therefore eligible to vote in a conclave to elect a new pope. The elevation of Cardinals-designate Burke and Wuerl will bring the number of U.S. cardinals to 18. Of that number, 13 are voting-age and matching a historically high number for the United States.

## Canadians celebrate their newest saint with prayer, cheers, symbols

MONTREAL (CNS) — Olympic Stadium, usually home to football games and trade shows, was converted into the largest place of worship in the country as Canadians celebrated their newest saint. More than 48,000 people — including religious and political leaders — from across the country and the United States gathered in the stadium Oct. 30 for a more than two-hour Mass packed with elements significant to the life and mission of St. Brother Andre, Alfred Bessette.

Brother Andre, the Holy Cross brother who founded St. Joseph's Oratory in Montreal, was canonized by Pope Benedict XVI in Rome Oct. 17, but Canadians delayed their local celebration.

The offertory procession

## Catholic reporter says Chilean miners' families kept faith in God

By Barb Frazee  
Catholic News Service

WASHINGTON (CNS) — A reporter who covered the Chilean mine rescue for The Associated Press said the miners' families always believed their loved ones were alive, and that belief was based on faith.

"Many of these families had faith when much of the rest of Chile probably didn't, from the Aug. 5 collapse until authorities discovered (the miners) were alive on Aug. 23," said the reporter, Peter Prengaman, 35, a member of the Basilica of the Sacred Heart of Jesus in Atlanta.

Prengaman traveled to Copiapo, Chile, in late August and early September, and then returned again to cover the October rescue. In an e-mail interview with Catholic News Service, he said family members often spoke of their faith and "of a belief that they would see their loved ones again."

"The Catholic presence, and faith in general, was everywhere," he told CNS. "The family members wore crosses and had religious altars dedicated to their trapped family members. They prayed constantly, and attended Masses that were given at the mine on Sundays."

Prengaman said he had more of a chance to get to know the miners' families when he went to Copiapo in August, before the media descended on the town for the rescue.

In the summer, "you could actually sit down around a campfire, drink tea and shoot the bull," he said, adding that "getting to know the families was enriching."

"These are mining families that live with the reality that their loved ones could be killed or injured," he said. They had "a very salt-of-the-earth quality about them. They were patient, open to letting reporters into their lives, and had a deep faith in God."

In October, when he returned, "there must have been like 50 re-

porters for each family member, which made it tough to get in-depth interviews with people," he said.

Prengaman currently works as AP's interactive editor for the South, overseeing interactive, graphic and video content for 13 states. He said he was a natural choice for the New York editors to send to Chile, because he had lived and studied in Chile in 2001-2002 and married a Chilean. He worked as AP's Caribbean correspondent, 2003-2005, and has traveled extensively.

"Covering the rescue was a sort of magical, mystical experience that I will never forget," Prengaman said. He added that he often prayed during the ordeal, but he prayed privately, because "faith is a deeply personal thing."

"Probably the most spiritual (event) for me was seeing the rescuer get out of the capsule underground and get mobbed by jubilant miners," he said. "Why was it spiritual? Because for more than two months, the miners, their families, Chile and many people in the world were waiting and praying for that moment. So to see it happen, and know it was then just a question of time until all 33 were saved, was really moving."

## Death toll mounts from double disasters in separate parts of Indonesia

WASHINGTON (CNS) — A double dose of natural disasters led Catholic agencies working in Indonesia to mount several efforts to provide emergency services to victims. The disasters -- a magnitude 7.7 undersea earthquake Oct. 25 that triggered a tsunami that swamped coastal villages in the remote Mentawai Islands off the west coast of Sumatra and the eruption of a volcano on Java beginning Oct. 26 — claimed more than 400 lives and displaced thousands of people. Authorities reported the tsunami killed 408 people and that at least 400 people remained missing Oct. 29, four days after 10-foot waves washed away homes and other structures up to 2,000 feet inland. "Entire villages were swept away," Xaverian Father Silvano Zulian, a missionary priest who has lived in the Mentawai Islands for more than 30 years, told MISNA, the missionary news service. "The toll is destined to rise by the hour." Local priests and women religious were among the first to reach the affected communities, reported the Asian church news agency UCA News. "We came (to the villages) with whatever we had, especially medicine because there was no hospital," said Father Fransiskus Xaverius Wuhrint Pei from the Assumption of Mary Church in Sikakap.

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\*\* Funerals: A Consumers Guide", June 2000

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## When leaving a paper wish in a tree can help heal a heart

Released this September by Penguin Publishing, John Shors' latest book, *The Wishing Trees*, is a story of honor, commitment and love of that special person we hold dear in our hearts and for whom we grieve long after they have left our lives.

It is almost a year after the death of his beloved wife, Kate, when Ian, a former high-tech executive, finds a letter that will forever change his life. It is a final wish from Kate; a plea for him to take their ten year-old daughter, Mattie, on a trip across Asia — a trip they had planned to take to celebrate their fifteenth anniversary but were never able to do.

Eager to honor the wife and mother they adored, Ian and Mattie set out on an epic journey that retraces the early days of Ian's relationship with Kate. Along the way, the two of them leave paper 'wishes' in ancient trees as symbols of their connection to Kate and their dreams for the future. Through incredible landscapes and inspiring people, Ian and Mattie are greeted with miracles large and small. As they each celebrate what Kate meant to them, they not only begin to find their way back to each other but they discover that healing is possible and that love endures — which is exactly what Kate hoped to show them all along.

### Editor's note:

Although I thoroughly enjoyed this wonderful story, as a Catholic it caused me hurt that the main character in the book, Ian, often emphasized the positive nature of the Eastern religions

over "Western" churches and religious ceremonies "back home in the states."

I felt sorrow that the fictional character didn't seem to be aware of all the hope that the Christian faith offers to those who have lost their loved ones in death. Particularly in Catholic Christianity, the dead are prayed for in every Mass, and the faithful enjoy unity with the saints in the reception of the body and blood of Christ in Holy Communion. What greater joy can one experience this side of heaven? I wonder if we Catholic Christians sometimes forget to be a witness to this great hope?

However, readers will be reminded of Catholic Social Teaching in the author's use of world social issues, such as child labor in poor countries, like Nepal; the devastation caused by the 2004 Tsunami; the child sex trade in Thailand; and street children in India, to create opportunities of healing in both Ian's and Mattie's journey.

Part of the proceeds from sales of John Shors' books are contributed to charity; "Dragon House" sales have helped purchase schoolbooks for 800 Vietnamese street children, and "The Wishing Trees" will help support the Arbor Day Foundation.

For more information, please visit his Web site at: [www.johnshors.com](http://www.johnshors.com)

Latest Movie reviews by Catholic News Service (as well as from the former Office for Film and Broadcasting of the U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops) go to:

[www.catholicnews.com/movies.htm](http://www.catholicnews.com/movies.htm)



Hilary Swank and Sam Rockwell star in a scene from the movie "Conviction." The Catholic News Service classification is L — limited adult audience, films whose problematic content many adults would find troubling.

## Woman who got imprisoned brother freed still helps prisoners

By Mark Pattison  
Catholic News Service

WASHINGTON (CNS) — The Catholic woman whose efforts to free her wrongly imprisoned brother became the inspiration for the new motion picture "Conviction" still advocates for the cause of prisoners whenever she gets a chance.

Betty Anne Waters, who runs a bar in Bristol, R.I., got her high school diploma, a college degree, and a law degree so she could represent her brother Kenny in the appeal of his murder conviction.

Waters no longer practices law, but she pitches in wherever she can.

Speaking a mile a minute in the thick New England accent that

reflects her upbringing in nearby Ayer, Mass., she said, "I help the New England Innocence Project with cases. And I go into New York to help change (criminal justice) policies and go to legislatures to get statutes changed and to get DNA preserved, and I speak against the death penalty. Things like that."

Waters spelled out what it took just to get a law degree.

"(Kenny) was convicted in 1983. I didn't go back to school until 1986; he had lawyers at that time," she said. "I started part time in 1986, I had two little children. It took 12 years, but I graduated."

By the time Waters got her sheepskin, DNA testing had grown more commonplace — and reliable. DNA evidence was what overturned Kenny's conviction for murder and robbery. He was serving a life sentence with no possibility of parole.

Waters, 56, said her expectation was that, within a few days of Kenny's release from prison, "I thought we'd get back to my house and settle down and lead a normal life."

But the calls kept coming in, she told Catholic News Service in an Oct. 22 telephone interview from Bristol. As a result, Waters said, "the one person I called, and trust most, was Barry Scheck from the Innocence Project. He knows some people in Hollywood."

The Innocence Project is a nonprofit organization dedicated to proving the innocence of wrongly convicted people through the use of DNA testing.

She said Scheck told her, "Betty Anne, you know they're going to make a movie about you." They resolved to make a deal to tell their story rather than have their story told without Waters' input. A Hollywood friend of Scheck's bought the rights to it.

The film project itself took nine years from start to screen — an education nearly as long as the 12 years Waters spent back in school — and after all that time, Waters said, "it took 35 days to make the movie."

Hollywood being Hollywood, some liberties had to be taken with the story to condense

17 years into a couple of hours.

Regarding her Catholic faith, Waters admitted, "I don't practice (the faith) as much as I probably should. ... But I think it's especially important to start out with a foundation of religion."

Waters said it was a high point for her when she met Sister Helen Prejean, a Sister of St. Joseph who is a well-known death penalty opponent and author of "Dead Man Walking." "I helped get a lot of petitions signed against the death penalty for her. It was after Kenny was released," added Waters.

Something the movie "Conviction" doesn't say is that Kenny died six months after his release. "But he had a lot of life. It was the best six months in his life," Waters said. "We were on the morning shows in New York. He was on 'Oprah.' ... The most important thing was that he died free."

CNS film critic John Mulderig called "Conviction" "a gritty yet touching drama" in his review. Despite plenty of foul language and some gruesome crime-scene images, "Conviction" ultimately acquits itself with generally positive, though certainly not unmixed, underlying messages about courage, perseverance and family solidarity," Mulderig said.

## 12th person in Texas to be wrongfully convicted and released from death row

Brenham, Texas, resident Anthony Graves, 45 years of age, was released from jail Oct. 27 after spending 18 years, 12 of which were on Death Row, for a crime he did not commit. Thanks to the University of Houston Law Center Texas Innocence Network, years of investigation by St. Thomas University journalism class and the exoneration by the prosecutors preparing for a retrial. Those prosecutors followed the dismissal with an angry denunciation of the former district attorney, Charles Sebesta, whom they claim fabricated evidence and intimidated witnesses.

## Nov. 20 — CCHD Collection

**Fight Poverty.  
Defend Human Dignity.**

Support the  
**Catholic Campaign for Human Development.**

[www.usccb.org/cchd](http://www.usccb.org/cchd)

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Photos: top left, Dave Yougher/CCHD; top right, Peter Howard; bottom center, Maria Pope.

The Catholic Campaign for Human Development is dedicated to breaking the cycle of poverty by funding community programs that encourage independence. You are essential to its success. Your generous donations will give those in poverty the support they need to make lasting changes. Please donate prayerfully and generously.

## CCHD adopts stronger policy to ensure used funds match church teaching

WASHINGTON (CNS) — Under persistent criticism from a small but vocal group of activists as well as questions from some bishops, leaders of the Catholic Campaign for Human Development have established "stronger policies and clearer mechanisms" to guide how grants are awarded to poverty-fighting groups and strengthen oversight of how funds are spent. Made public Oct. 26, the plan places greater emphasis on the Catholic identity of the 41-year-old program and renews the U.S. bishops' commitment to fight poverty in all its forms, said Bishop Roger P. Morin of Biloxi, Miss., chairman of the bishops' CCHD subcommittee. A 15-page document outlining the changes, "The Review and Renewal of the Catholic Campaign for Human Development," provides a "road map for the renewal" of the program. Editor's Note: The full text of "The Review and Renewal of The Catholic Campaign for Human Development" will be published in the Nov. 4 issue of Origins. It is also available at [www.usccb.org/cchd/](http://www.usccb.org/cchd/).





## Special Collection Campaign for Human Development November 20-21

### Ongoing Events

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

**St. Francis and St. Clare Fraternity/Secular Franciscans**—For more information, please go to their Web site at [www.lostrescompaneros-sfo.org](http://www.lostrescompaneros-sfo.org). For meeting dates, please 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.wvme.org](http://www.wvme.org); or for upcoming weekends, please contact Milton and Diane Rejcek at (979) 245-0323 or at: [register@mevictoria.org](mailto:register@mevictoria.org).

**Retrouvaille** — The word Retrouvaille means ‘rediscovery.’ Retrouvaille is a program that offers the chance to rediscover yourself, your spouse and a loving relationship in your marriage. Tens of thousands headed for divorce have successfully saved their marriages by attending. Go to <http://www.retrouvaille.org> for more information, or to register for the upcoming Victoria Retrouvaille, please go to: <http://www.retrouvaille.org/dates.php> or contact Gerd and Linda Conner at [lbconner@sbcglobal.net](mailto:lbconner@sbcglobal.net), (979) 543-3493. Other contacts are at (800) 470-2230 and [www.helpourmarriage.org](http://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](http://www.beginningexperience.org); e-mail: [sanantoniobe@yahoo.com](mailto:sanantoniobe@yahoo.com); phone: (210) 734-2146.

**Natural Family Planning**—For information about the Symptothermal Method in the Victoria area, contact David and Annie Coffey at [victorianfpteachers@yahoo.com](mailto:victorianfpteachers@yahoo.com). Fall classes will be held on Sunday, Nov 14; and Sunday, Dec 12, at 4 p.m. in the Our Lady of Victory Library. Class fee is \$60/couple. Financial assistance is available. Some great links: <http://learn-nfp.org/nfpmyths.html>; [www.onemoresoul.com](http://www.onemoresoul.com); and [www.priestsforlife.com](http://www.priestsforlife.com)

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

**Engaged Encounter**—Register as soon as you have contacted your pastor due to limited space. *It is strongly recommended that you attend an encounter weekend four to six months prior to your wedding date.* For a registration form, contact your pastor, visit the Web site at [www.victoriadiocese.org/family/ee.htm](http://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 2011 are: Feb. 25-27, April 15-17, June 24-26, Sept. 8-11 and Nov. 11-13. For more info., call (361) 573-0828 ext. 30. All registrations are on a first come, first serve basis. Fee must accompany registration form.

### Picnics, Activities, etc.

#### November

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

**Port Lavaca**—Our Lady of the Gulf Altar Society Turkey Dinner, catered by Werner’s of Shiner, will be held at the KC Hall Nov. 7, from 11:00 a.m. to 1:30 p.m., at \$7 p/p (dine in or carry out available). Delicious baked goods and a raffle, with many great prizes, are also available. Proceeds allow the altar society to continue providing service to the church; your support will be greatly appreciated. The KC Hall is located across from the Calhoun County airport.

**Hallettsville**—Holy Land Olive Wood Sale and Child Sponsorship following Masses at Sacred Heart Parish, Nov. 13 and 14. Please come and support the Holy Land Christians.

**Victoria**—The St. Mary’s Altar Society’s 20th Annual Harvest Bazaar will be held on Saturday, Nov. 13 at 401 S. Liberty Street, from 9:00 a.m. – 5:00 p.m. There will be many unique hand crafted items for sale including blessed prayer blankets, quilts, pillow cases, cup towels, quilted items, baby items, wood crafts, cookbooks, holiday gifts and decorations, decorated fall foliage, and much, much more. All items are reasonably priced. The Country Store will be brimming over with home-baked goods, canned goods and more. Snack Shack opens at 9:00 a.m. serving sausage and cinnamon rolls, cake, nachos, Frito pie, coffee, drinks.

**Hungerford**—KJT Society #79 and KJZT Society #57 will be hosting their annual turkey and dressing dinner Nov. 14 at the community center. Serving begins at 10:30 a.m. with drive-thru plates-to-go or dine inside. Pastry items will be available.

**Victoria**—Our Lady of Lourdes Fall Festival Nov. 14 at the community center. A turkey and dressing dinner will be served, with dine-in or plates-to-go available.

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

### Upcoming Events

**Cuero**—St. Michael’s Home and School Association presents

Santa’s Arts and Crafts Show Saturday, Dec. 4 at the parish hall. The event begins at 8:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m. For more information see the ad on page 17 or contact St. Michael School at (361) 277-3854 or [www.stmichael-cuero.org](http://www.stmichael-cuero.org).

**Edna**—“A Celebration of Life” program will be held at the Jackson County Services Building, 411 N. Wells St., Jan. 19, 2011, 7 – 8 p.m., sponsored by the Catholic Daughters of the Americas, #1350, St. Agnes Parish. All church ministers, youth, parents, laity from all denominations, and the general public are invited to attend. No admission will be charged and refreshments will be served. More information will be printed in the December issue of *The Catholic Lighthouse*.

### Masses • Retreats • Conferences

**San Antonio**—Divine Mercy Conference, Nov. 19 and 20, at Henry B. Gonzalez Convention Center. More information at [www.divinemercy.eentbrite.com](http://www.divinemercy.eentbrite.com) or (830) 388-3009.

**San Antonio**—Prayer Brunch featuring guest speaker Patrick Madrid speaking on “Why be Catholic when you can be anything else?” benefiting the Pilgrim Center of Hope, Saturday, Nov. 20, from 10:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m. at Omni Hotel, 9821 Colonnade Blvd. The cost is \$50 p/p; also tables for 10 people available. For ticket information contact the Pilgrim Center of Hope at (210) 521-3377 or you can register on-line at: [www.pilgrimcenterofhope.org](http://www.pilgrimcenterofhope.org).

**Victoria**—Taizé Prayer Experience – Come to the Incarnate Word and Blessed Sacrament Sisters’ Amor Meus Spirituality Center on Nov. 16, from 7:00-8:00 p.m., in the convent auditorium at Incarnate Word Convent (1101 N.E. Water Street) Taizé prayer service held in a candle-light atmosphere consists of music, song, chant, scriptural reading, meditation and prayers of intercession.

**Victoria**—Solemn Vespers – Please join the IWBS Sisters on the following Sundays during Advent: Nov. 28, Dec. 5, Dec. 12 and Dec. 19, from 5:00-6:00 p.m. in the Convent Chapel, at Incarnate Word Convent, (1101 N.E. Water Street) for solemn vespers. This Evening Prayer Service, a gift from our Jewish brothers and sisters, focuses on the Psalms and readings. These prayers give thanks and praise to God for His blessings throughout our day.

**Victoria**—Healing Mass. Come join us at Our Lady of Lourdes Church, 105 N. William Street, as Father Phi Nguyen, chaplain of IWBS convent, celebrates Mass and Healing Prayer on the first Saturday of each month at 10:00 a.m. Mark your calendars now for next month. If you have been touched or moved by this ministry and you would like to share or inform Father Phi, you may do so by contacting Sister Louise Marie Jones at [iwbsvoc2@yahoo.com](mailto:iwbsvoc2@yahoo.com). She will convey your message.

**Bay City**—Weekly Men’s Group, “That Man is You! ~ A Light to the Nations,” meets at Holy Cross School cafeteria each Friday morning beginning with breakfast at 5:45 a.m. Pro-

gram ends by 7:10 a.m. All men are welcome. That Man is You! is transforming men, families and society as it presents the vision of man fully alive! Combining the teachings of the Church and wisdom of the saints with the best research from modern science in an interactive, multimedia format, That Man is You! puts this vision within the grasp of every man ([www.thatmanisyou.org](http://www.thatmanisyou.org)). Questions? Call Mike Allison at (979) 479-1370 or Allen Green at (979) 245-2598.

**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. Mark your calendars now for next month. Mass is followed by praise and worship/adoration, healing prayers, praying over, etc. Counseling available. Please come; bring your family and friends; and experience the healing touch of the Lord! For more information, please contact Rev. Gabriel P. Coelho at (361) 286-3349.

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

### Pilgrimages, Tours, etc.

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

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

## Mormon Church promotes Catholics News Service movie reviews

By Sister Mary Ann Walsh

A former Catholic bishop of Salt Lake City once facetiously boasted that he headed the second largest church in Utah. There, Catholics comprise nine percent of the population. Well known, of course, is that most people in the state belong to the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter Day Saints, the Mormons.

The two churches differ significantly. However, in one area, that of family values, they hold much in common. That becomes clear in a recent article in the Mormon-owned daily newspaper, the Deseret News (<http://www.deseretnews.com/article/700068020/The-Catholic-perspective-on-film.html>).

The Deseret News is now promoting the movie reviews of Catholic News Service, reviews that boast a 74-year history in the Catholic Church. A Sept. 23 article from The Deseret News explains the daily’s rationale.

The CNS reviews stand as a “unique voice in a noisy lobby,” the article noted.

Reviews offer both a moral and artistic analysis. Written primarily with families in mind, they offer guidance to filmgoers of any age. They’ve offered guidance to Catholics for almost 75 years. But obviously more than Catholics recognize their great value.

“The CNS reviews concentrate particularly on how a character’s negative behavior and ethical choices, such as crime and abortion, are presented: and depictions of human sexuality, including premarital sexual encounters, nonmarital cohabitation and adulterous relationships,” the article notes.

Given the popularity of movies, both on the big screen, video, CD and television, one has to be proud of this Catholic Church contribution to modern society. Adult moviegoers benefit by checking the CNS reviews before heading off to the cinema. The guidance makes for both more intelligent viewing and a warning that some movies aren’t worth your ten bucks. The reviews are a perfect resource for parents who must make decisions about what their offspring will view.

The Mormon Church has steadily supported family values, and the TV spots they’ve run over the years in this regard are the envy of other churches. Their promotion of the CNS movie reviews is one more proof of this.

## Shiner strudel bake set for November 13

SHINER—The Annual Homemade Apple Strudel Bake sponsored by Sts. Cyril & Methodius Catholic Church is scheduled for Saturday, Nov. 13, at the Shiner Catholic Parish gymnasium.

This project, now in its 24th year, turns out strudels by the thousands, with more than 2,800 made at last year’s event.

To be sure your strudel order is filled; orders must be placed by Thursday, Nov. 11. For pick-up in Shiner, place your order by calling: Marjorie Kresta, 361-594-2361, or Quality Pharmacy, 361-594-2262. Orders may also be sent by e-mail to: [aduke@sscsmshiner.org](mailto:aduke@sscsmshiner.org) or by using the church Web site at [www.sscsmshiner.org](http://www.sscsmshiner.org). Pick up time in Shiner is 10:00 a.m. to 6:00 p.m. at the parish gym on Sat., Nov. 13.

For the convenience of customers throughout South Texas, the strudels will be delivered to several area cities. Customers in Yoakum are asked to call: 361-293-7789; Gonzales, 830-672-7954; Flatonia, 361-594-8468; Victoria, 361-573-5283 or e-mail [karen.pustka@yahoo.com](mailto:karen.pustka@yahoo.com); Ganado and Edna, 361-649-4248 or e-mail [bmko-sler@sbdglobal.net](mailto:bmko-sler@sbdglobal.net); El Campo, 979-543-8605; Wharton, 979-533-1209; Weimar, 979-725-8461. For delivery to area cities, ask for the place and time of pick-up when ordering.

Prices are \$13 for unbaked and \$15 for a baked strudel. Either keep for several months in the freezer. Proceeds from this project are used to supplement operating expenses at Sts. Cyril and Methodius Church.



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## Walking in the Footsteps of Pope John Paul II

~ *Sabbatical Journey with Father Joseph Hybner* ~

By Cynthia Brewer

What happens when you plan on attending a sabbatical in Rome, a renewal program for priests, and they tell you it's full? You plan your own.

That's what happened to Father Joe Hybner, pastor of Sacred Heart in Flatonina and Sts. Cyril and Methodius in Cistern, this past winter/spring. He was hoping to go a second time on a sabbatical at the North American College in Rome, but after waiting some time for confirmation, he found out that it was full.

So instead of studying the latest encyclicals and proclamations of the Church and sharing with the 30 or so other American priests studying with you, Father Joe had to devise his own sabbatical.

After much studying and preparation, he went to Bishop David Fellhauer with his proposal: to go on a walk in the footsteps of Pope John Paul II – to travel to Poland, the Czech Republic and Rome, using the countries and city as his library and classroom to study the extraordinary life of Pope John Paul II, from his birth, to being chosen the Vicar of Jesus Christ here on earth, to his death.

"I remember very clearly the words Pope John Paul II gave us in the year 2000 for the millennium, 'Open Wide the Doors to Christ!'" said Father Joe. "I am most grateful to the Holy Spirit that the doors opened wide for me to make a journey in the footsteps of John Paul." Father Joe

### Poland

"The city of Wadowice, Poland, was most impressive to me because of the birth and baptism of John Paul II. To be in the room where he was born and the church where he was baptized, The Presentation of our Lady, touched my heart. When I went to the baptismal font and touched it, tears of joy started to flow. I knelt in a pew with prayers of thanksgiving and was overcome with the presence of the Holy Spirit.

"After visiting Wadowice, I traveled to Kraków, to the convent church of Saint Faustina – where she lived and died. The original painting of Divine Mercy is in this church. I made a visit to the church many times during the day and night, and the church was always filled with people. Close by is the new Basilica dedicated in 2002 by John Paul II. It holds over one thousand people. It was there that I had a chance meeting with Cardinal Stanislaw Dziwisz, Pope John Paul II's personal secretary.

"One Friday, Susan Johnson, a native of Flatonina, Texas, who now lives in Poland, and I decided to attend the 4 p.m. Mass and what a surprise we had! The Basilica was full. In procession came thirty priests, ten bishops and Cardinal Dziwisz. We waited after the Mass, and I bowed and greeted the cardinal giving my name and saying, 'I am from the Victoria Diocese in Texas.' In English, the cardinal said, 'God bless Texas and God bless America.' I was overjoyed to meet and greet him. In thanksgiving I prayed: 'Jesus, I trust in you.'"

"This year, while again staying at the chancery, Father Peter said he had a gift for me. He said, 'We believe in dreams coming true, like in the Bible. My gift to you is a relic of Pope John Paul II.' The gift was a second-class relic, a piece of the alb that Pope John Paul II wore



Father Joe standing in the square in Kromeriz, Czech Republic. He stayed here (r.), at his friend Vit Pestuka's home in Kromeriz.



and each morning said with them the 7 a.m. Mass for the groups of travelers, many of whom were young teens and college-age youth traveling with priests.

"I went to a lot of churches, in particular, the Divine Mercy Church in Rome, Holy Spirit in Sassia. I went many times, for I have a very great devotion to the Divine Mercy. I had the devotion before, but since my sabbatical, my devotion is even stronger. It is very timely in this age."

After the canonization of St. Faustina in 2000, Pope John Paul II presented to the church a reliquary with her relics, as well as a large painting of the Divine Mercy image, blessed by him on April 23, 1995.

### Milestones of a three and one-half month journey:

Of all the Masses Father Joe said while on sabbatical, only three were said in English; the others were in Polish, Czech, Italian or Latin. He also sent what turned out to be as many postcards as days of his sabbatical – 111. The postcards that

were sent to folks in Flatonina and Cistern were reprinted in the parish bulletins, as he had included beside the personal address, "and to all." Father Joe had told Bishop Fellhauer that he would like to do this sabbatical while he could still walk and talk. That is why he named the sabbatical 'In the Footsteps of John Paul II.' And walking

as he traveled and prayed with people all over the world, encased in a picture of the pope kneeling in prayer with a statue of Our Lady of Fatima behind him. I have since had the relic set in a wooden frame that parishioner Buddy Borel built. I was overjoyed to receive this gift; it was the crowning event of all my encounters on my sabbatical."

### Rome

Although Father Joe had not originally planned to go to Rome last, at the advice of his travel agent he did so. That turned out to be a fabulous blessing, for he was able to spend the whole Easter season in Rome, including Holy Week, Divine Mercy Sunday and the fifth anniversary of Pope John Paul's death.

"I attended all the Holy Week services at the Vatican," Father Joe said, "and every Wednesday, I went to the Papal Audience."

He did as most Czech pilgrims do in Rome and stayed just three blocks from the Vatican at the Velehrad Pilgrimage House, built over 50 years ago by Czechoslovakian cardinals, Josef Beran and Thomas Spitik. Each week, from 50 to 70 people from the Czech Republic and Slovakia stay at the pilgrimage house.

"I lived with the two residential priests,

is what he did. He walked so much, that he lost 12 pounds – just one of the many added benefits.

"This sabbatical was a holy time of prayer where I was able to look into the heart and soul of our dearly beloved Pope John Paul II. To me, he was a living saint, not of a long time ago, but during our own lifetime. I have truly been blessed."



An image Father Joe saw weekly at the Vatican in Rome: Pope Benedict XVI's papal audience.



A picture of Pope John Paul II praying at the baptismal font in Wadowice. New Divine Mercy Basilica in Kraków (top r.). Father Joe greets Cardinal Dziwisz in Kraków. Above, Father Joe stands outside in the cold in Wadowice by a statue of Pope John Paul II.

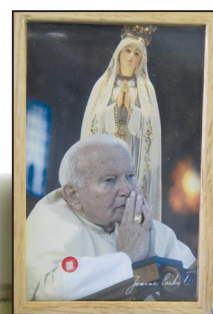
was also very thankful for the blessing of Bishop Fellhauer and to Father Eddie Winkler, who cared for his parishes while he was away.

From January 27 to May 18, 2010, Father Joe traced the great pope's footsteps, beginning in Poland with the birth and young life of Karol Józef Wojtyła to his priestly ordination, selection as archbishop of Kraków, and to promotion to the sacred college of cardinals; to the Czech Republic to visit the three pilgrimage sites of the pope; and then to Rome, where he spent his last 26 years as the Vicar of Christ.

### The Czech Republic

"During my sabbatical, the journey took me to the Czech Republic because Pope John Paul made three pilgrimages there. While staying with friends, Vit and Eva Pestuka and their 'maminka' in Kromeriz, one week was spent in the Archdiocese of Olomouc with Archbishop Jan Graubner.

"I received a great 'blessing' from Archbishop Graubner and his secretary, Father Peter Gaetner. I had stayed at the residence of the archbishop in 2002, in a room just two doors from where the pope had stayed. That night I dreamt that I unlocked the door and with scissors cut a piece of the sheet from the pope's bed for a relic! I shared my dream at the breakfast table with the archbishop and Father Peter.



Old boots: to commemorate all the walking Father Joe did on his sabbatical!

In the office of The Catholic Lighthouse's editor, Father Joe shows Pope John Paul's relic, along with his sabbatical memorabilia.