

# The Catholic Lighthouse

The Cradle of Texas Immigration

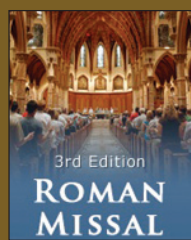


VOL. 24, NO. 7

OFFICIAL PUBLICATION OF THE DIOCESE OF VICTORIA IN TEXAS

October 2010

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Eagle Scout Eric Mansker created the outdoor Stations of the Cross at the diocesan Spiritual Renewal Center for his Eagle Scout project this past summer. The first station, “Jesus Condemned to Death,” begins at the old live-oak tree below the chapel.

## Texas Catholic Conference announces Texas state news

AUSTIN—The Texas Bishops’ 82nd Session Legislative Agenda are now available. The updated Texas Catholic Conference 82nd Legislative Agenda and Policy Papers are now available on the Conference Web site, <http://www.TXcatholic.org>.

The Legislative Agenda includes a statement on the Texas budget shortfall as well as 48 specific priorities in the areas of Life and Family Life Issues, Immigration, Education, Health & Human Services, and Criminal Justice Reform. While the Legislative Agenda is broad and spans a multitude of issues, the conference will monitor and respond to any relevant matters before the Texas Legislature, even if the issue is not specifically listed on the agenda.

In addition to the Agenda, updated policy papers for all 49 agenda priorities are also available on the Agenda Web page listed above. Policy papers are two-page documents that provide Catholic teaching and other information on the legislative priorities. Simply visit the Legislative Agenda Web page listed above and click on a priority name to open its policy paper.

### — Action Alert: Catholic Week of Action for the Dream Act

If enacted, the DREAM Act would create a pathway through which undocumented immigrant students could obtain conditional permanent residency and, ultimately, American citizenship. The DREAM Act would make a difference in the lives of undocumented youth who were brought to the United States by their parents and now, because of their lack of legal status, face obstacles to their future. By removing such barriers, the DREAM Act permits immigrant students to pursue a promising future through college education

See *Texas Catholic Conference*, p. 16

## Eagle Scout builds Stations of the Cross at SRC

By Cynthia Brewer, editor

A beautiful, outdoor spiritual walking of the Stations of the Cross may be made at the diocesan Spiritual Renewal Center (SRC), thanks to 16-year-old Eric Mansker who created the stations for his Eagle Scout project.

“This is a real asset to the SRC grounds,” said Dave Kouba, district advancement chairman for the Boy Scouts’ De Leon District, South Texas Council. “I

See *Eagle Scout builds*, p. 20



## Infertility, sex trafficking, death penalty among Respect Life topics

By Catholic News Service

WASHINGTON (CNS) — Pro-life concerns ranging from infertility treatments to sexual trafficking and from population control to the death penalty are part of the U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops’ Respect Life program for 2010-11.

Materials in English and Spanish, including posters, fliers, liturgy guides, recommended resources, bulletin inserts and artwork, are available to help parishes, organizations and individual Catholics participate in the yearlong program that begins Oct. 3, Respect Life Sunday.

The theme of this year’s observance is “The measure of love is to love without measure.”

A brochure for this year’s program offers vignettes from the experiences of Catholic families dealing with a teen’s unexpected pregnancy, an elderly relative’s persistent vegetative state and the impending birth of a special-needs child.

“There are no easy answers to challenges like these that families face every day, but there are clear answers, and we know deep down which answers are right and which are wrong,” the brochure says.

“Without trying to minimize the enormous sacrifices facing each of these families, the question comes down to this: Is it morally permissible to have a member of our family killed to avoid the tremendous personal sacrifice his or her care requires of us? The answer should be obvious: no.”

The Respect Life package also specifically includes among pro-life concerns — for the first time since 2006 — opposition to capital punishment. Members of Catholics Against Capital Punishment had asked Cardinal Daniel N. DiNardo of Galveston-Houston, chairman of the USCCB Committee on Pro-Life Activities, to include the issue this year.

“We are concerned that by disregarding the issue of the death penalty, ... the pro-life committee may be ignoring the wise counsel offered three decades ago by the U.S. bishops in their historic 1980 statement on capital punishment,” the organization said in a Dec. 2 letter to the cardinal. “In it, the bishops affirmed that in voicing their opposition to the death penalty, they sought to remove a ‘certain ambiguity’ about our

See *Infertility*, p. 16



Art conservator Robert Alden Marshall explains to Juanita Bertsch the renovations he and his crew made to St. Mary’s in High Hill in preparation for their 150th anniversary. See more on page 11.





## Bishop Fellhauer's Schedule

### October

- 9 11:30 a.m., Mass, Permanent Deacons' retreat, Spiritual Renewal Center, Victoria
- 11-14 Canon Law Society Convention, Buffalo, New York
- 15 8:00 a.m., School Mass, St. Michael Church, Weimar  
4:00 p.m., Blessing of new retirement home of the Missionary Catechists of the Sacred Hearts of Jesus and Mary, Victoria
- 17 2:00 p.m., Blessing of the new Stations of the Cross, Spiritual Renewal Center
- 22 6:00 p.m., Reconciliation service, Spiritual Renewal Center, Victoria
- 26 6:00 p.m., Mass, Serra Club dinner for Deacons, Holy Family Church, Victoria
- 27 9:30 a.m., Lay Employees' and Priests' Pension Boards meeting, Chancery Office
- 28-29 Roman Missal Workshop, Topicano Hotel, San Antonio

### November

- 3 10:00 a.m., Diocesan Presbyteral Council meeting, Chancery Office
- 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 5:00 p.m., Mass, Teen ACTS retreat, Spiritual Renewal Center

*Official Appointments By*  
**Most Rev. David E. Fellhauer**

Effective September 8, 2010, the **Rev. Joby Thomas**, a member of the Missionary Congregation of the Blessed Sacrament, Kerala, India, is appointed Parochial Vicar at Holy Family Church, Wharton.

Effective September 15, 2010, the **Rev. John Kollannur** is appointed Parochial Vicar at Our Lady of Lourdes Church, Victoria. Father Kollannur is on a sabbatical leave from his Archdiocese of Trichur, Kerala, India.



**Don't Forget To Change Your Clocks Back One Hour**

**November 7 @ 2:00 a.m.**

**The Catholic Lighthouse**  
*The Cradle of Texas Immigration*

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**KJT 75-YEAR MEMBER HONORED**—Hostyn KJT Society No. 3 member Bernard Mozisek of Hostyn received a 75-Year membership pin from KJT State President Christopher Urban. Family members present were his wife, Margie Mozisek; sons, Brian Mozisek and Bruce Mozisek; grandsons Wade and Weston Mozisek; the Hostyn Society officers, Ralph Goerig, Benedict Kallus, Ted Hoffmann and Theo Svec.



**KC COUNCIL # 1862 PRESENTS DONATIONS TO CUERO'S CATHOLIC COMMUNITY**— KC Treasurer Bryan Hahn and Grand Knight Arlen Gobel present Father Kirby Hlavaty with three checks: \$1,000 for the recently completed school roof, \$500 for Guardian Angel Assistance for any student wishing a Catholic education at St. Michael's School and \$100 for Our Lady of Guadalupe's Jamaica.

## Thank You Letter

From the Vatican, 3 July 2010

Your Excellency,  
The Holy Father has asked me to acknowledge the offering of \$10,000 which you sent through the Apostolic Nunciature as a contribution from the Diocese of Victoria for the support of the Holy See.

His Holiness is grateful for this donation and for the devoted sentiments that inspired it. He very much appreciates the support which you and your people have given to him in his service to the universal Church.

I am pleased to assure you of the Holy Father's prayers for you and for those entrusted to your pastoral care. Invoking upon all of you joy and peace in our Lord Jesus Christ, he cordially imparts his Apostolic Blessing.

With personal good wishes, I am  
Yours sincerely in Christ,  
Tarcisio Cardinal Bertone  
Secretary of State  
The Vatican

## DSA & Reflection of Faith Capital Campaign Updates

### 2010 DSA

Diocesan Goal:	\$1,349,808.00
Parish Pledge Totals:	\$ 586,135.81
Parish Contribution Totals:	\$ 546,593.95
Number of Parish Families Participating:	3,456

### Reflection of Faith Capital Campaign

Diocesan Goal:	\$ 9,000,000.00
Parish Pledge Totals:	\$12,974,376.36
Parish Contribution Totals:	\$ 8,040,552.95
Number of Parish Families Participating:	6,756

**Have You Moved? Address Changed?**  
Call 361-573-0828 with the change in your address.  
**Saves Money!**





## In Memory of ...

### Sister Aline Hrcir

SAN ANTONIO—Sister Aline Hrcir, 98, a Sister of Divine Providence, entered eternal life on Friday, August 20, 2010.

Born in Moulton on August 9, 1912, she made her first profession as a Sister of Divine Providence at 27 years of age. Sister Aline began her ministerial life in 1937 as a teacher at St. Joseph' School, San Antonio. A surgical procedure in 1942 left her with a weak voice so that she was no longer able to teach. Consequently, for over 40 years, she served in various capacities as business manager, personnel director or in related services at hospitals in Abilene, Denison and Floresville and at Our Lady of the Lake Convent in San Antonio. She completed her active ministry with 16 years of pastoral work at St. Rose Parish in Schulenburg. In 2000, Sister Aline retired to Our Lady of the

Lake Convent Center.

She is survived by her brother, Gene Hrcir and wife Ann; three sisters-in-law, Helen, Carolyn and Louise Hrcir; and numerous nieces and nephews.

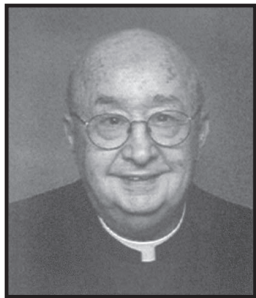
She was preceded in death by her parents, Frank and Frances Hrcir; four brothers, Vladik, Julius, Manuel and Daniel; and two sisters, Edith and Helen.

Rosary was recited and a wake was held, August 23. A Mass of Resurrection was celebrated on Tuesday, August 24. All services were held in Annunciation Chapel at Our Lady of the Lake Convent Center in San Antonio.

In lieu of flowers, memorial contributions can be made to the Sisters of Divine Providence, 515 S.W. 24th St., San Antonio, TX 78207-4619.

### Father Alfred Lavoie, OMI

SAN ANTONIO—Rev. Alfred Lavoie, OMI, 94, died September 12, 2010, at the Oblate Madonna Residence in San Antonio.



He was preceded in death by his parents, Alfred J. and Valeda Lavoie and a sister Jeanne Lavoie, from Quebec, Canada. He is survived by a nephew, Claude Lavoie, of Chambly, Quebec, Canada.

He was born March 15, 1916, in Richelieu, Quebec, Canada, and attended grammar school and Saint Huacinthe Seminary in Richelieu.

Father Lavoie began his novitiate in July 1934, at Ville LaSalle, Quebec and professed his first vows on July 21, 1935. He was ordained a priest on June 15, 1940, in Richelieu by Richard Cardinal Cushing, archbishop of Boston, Massachusetts.

In 1941, he was assigned to Our Lady of Lourdes in Lowell, Mass., and in 1945, he served at St. Jeanne d'Arc in Lowell. In 1949, he went to Haiti where he was assigned different duties and remained in Haiti until 1969. In 1969, he was assigned to the U.S. Southern Province and served at St. Patrick's Church in Houston, Our Lady of the Gulf in Port Lavaca and later assigned to Immaculate Conception Church in Houston. From 1971 to 1977, he served at the Mercy Hospital in Laredo, Texas as chaplain. He served as chaplain at Santa Rosa Medical Center in San Antonio and later at Medical Center in Brownsville, Texas.

While in Brownsville, he also served as chaplain for the Incarnate Word Sisters. He retired at the Oblate Madonna Residence in San Antonio in 1997.

A rosary was held on September 15, and a Mass of Christian Burial was held on September 16, both at the Oblate Madonna Residence Chapel. Burial followed at the Oblate Cemetery.



**KJT SOCIETY HOSTS YOUTH DAY**—KJT Society #115 in Victoria hosted a bowling outing recently for the KJT Juniors at Woodlawn Bowling Lanes. They enjoyed the evening, and after the games they were treated with refreshments. Pictured at the bowling alley are, back row l-r, Jillian Strauss, Kristin Janecek, Josh Guerra, Brittany Hermes, Taylor Janak, Sarah Hermes and Emma Andruss; front row l-r, Melanie Hermes, Monica Brown, Natalie Brown and Sarah Andruss.

## Roman Missal: An Educational Journey

By Sister Mary Ann Walsh

We're about to embark on a great, broad-based education campaign in the Catholic Church. It involves the introduction of the English-language translation of the third edition of the Roman Missal.

The church has 14 months to get priests and people in the United States ready to

pray reverently, intelligently and together at Mass. Those most affected will be the priests, who have to learn new words and cadences. People in the pews will learn new responses and hear new phrases, closer to the Latin original meaning.

The last major liturgical change was in the mid-Sixties, when Roman Catholics went from the Mass in Latin to Mass in the vernacular (their own language – English – for most in the United States), with words and phrases common to our ears. For many, it was the first time they knew exactly what they and the priest were praying. While the Mass in English-speaking countries was essentially the same, the

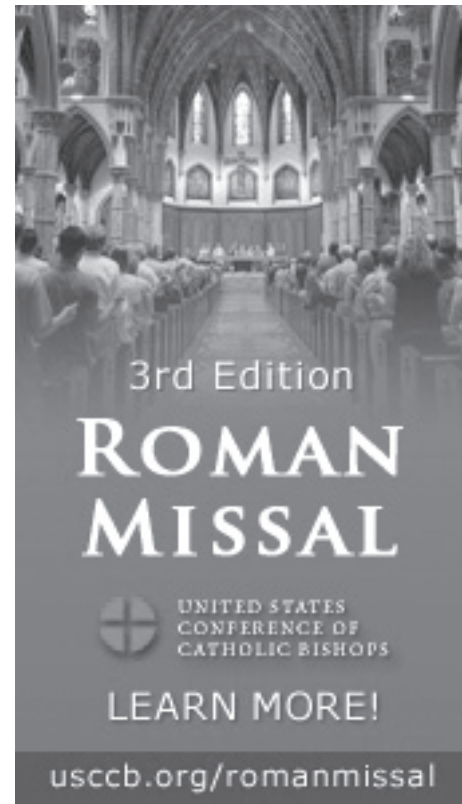
United States had one version, Great Britain another, Australia still another. Now we have a text that is the same for all the English-speaking nations. Seems appropriate as the world grows closer together.

We'll also have language that is less commonplace, which will sound like church language, certainly not inappropriate given that this is for church. It's not unusual for us to have different language styles in different parts of our lives. How we speak in the ballpark isn't how we speak in the classroom or how we speak in oratory from a stage. Why not a different language style for church? Processing up to Communion isn't sliding into home plate. "Give me five" on the basketball court isn't the same as "Peace be with you" at Mass.

There have been jokes about words as scholars worked out the translation. One word church pundits laughed about is "ineffable," a description of God. "Ineffable," Merriam-Webster says, means 1. Too great or extreme to be expressed or described in words, or 2. Too sacred to be uttered. As texts were being edited, the word became less popular with translators and now it is in the Roman Missal just once, in the opening prayer for Mass on December 20.

The word has captured my imagination, however. In prayer it is one of my favorites, my excuse for not quite understanding God, the reasons why God does something, or how God does anything. When I ponder "What does God want," I realize that I have to live with the fact that I'll never completely understand the "ineffable" God. It's not lack of prayer that keeps me from knowing exactly what to do; it's that the ineffable God holds his absolute knowledge from me. It takes the pressure off.

We Catholics are about to embark on an educational journey. We'll learn a more exact language for prayer, we'll deepen our theological roots, and we'll gain a greater sense of the sacred. And if parishes do it right, we'll learn this together.



Watch for this logo (or something similar) for teachings about the new Roman Missal. The first use of the new text of the new Roman Missal will begin on the First Sunday of Advent, November 27, 2011.

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## 22<sup>nd</sup> Annual HOLY FAMILY CATHOLIC CHURCH Fall Festival

**Oct. 17, 2010**

Join in the fun at the  
KNIGHTS OF COLUMBUS HALL  
2820 N. Fulton

**WHARTON**

**MASSES:**  
SATURDAY: 5:30 P.M.  
SUNDAY: 10:00 A.M.

**DINNER MENU**  
BAR-B-QUE CHICKEN & SAUSAGE  
\*Butter & Onion Potatoes  
\*Green Beans \$8  
\*Sauer Kraut per plate  
\*Ice Tea  
Serving starts 11:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m.  
Seating available or plates to go  
Drive thru for plates to go (11:00 to 1:00 p.m.)

**Auction Begins 11:30 AM**

**Handmade Quilts  
Other Valuable Items**

**Raffle  
Silent Auction  
Rainbow The Clown**

**COUNTRY STORE**  
HOMEMADE BREAD, NOODLES, COOKIES  
CRAFT ITEMS, CAKE WALK, PLANT WALK

Various Children's Games

**Hope You Can Come & Join Us!**

**St. Theresa Annual Parish Picnic**  
in La Salle at the Parish Hall  
County Road 325 & Hwy 616  
**Sunday, October 17**  
**Turkey Dressing Dinner**  
(Catered by Robert Werner of Shiner, Texas)  
Serving: 11:00 a.m.-2:00 p.m. • \$7 • Dine-in or Plates-to-go

**Auction at 12:30 p.m.**

Raffle  
Games  
Plant Sale  
Cakewalk  
Country Store  
Craftery





## 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 September 29, 2010

<b>— General Seminary Burse</b>	
Previously reported	\$96,984.00
In honor of Mary Ann Kucera's 80th birthday by Edmund and Lucille Zissa	80.00
In honor of Fr. Wayne Flagg's 22nd anniversary of priesthood by M/M DeWayne Dvorak	100.00
In memory of Rev. Msgr. Benton Thurmond by CDA Court #2475	100.00
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$97,264.00</b>

<b>— Rev. Msgr. Edward C. Bartsch Seminary Burse</b>	
Previously reported	\$4,375.00
In memory of Vaclav "Jim" Kalina by:	
Bill and Delores Michalke	25.00
Allan and Cyndi Stryk	15.00
J.D. and Irene Bartek	30.00
Arthur and Rose Klekar	30.00
M/M Emil Lev	10.00
M/M Raymond Arnold	30.00
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$4,515.00</b>

<b>— Catholic Daughters of America Our Lady Queen of Peace Court #1374</b>	
Previously reported	\$5,092.72
Gift to burse by CDA Court #1374	25.00
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$5,117.72</b>

<b>— Catholic Daughters Court of St. Ann #369 Seminary Burse #2</b>	
Previously reported	\$7,548.99
In memory of Dorothy Jordan by CDA Court St. Ann #369	20.00
In memory of Irene Lazerin by CDA Court St. Ann #369	100.00
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$7,668.99</b>

<b>— Holy Rosary Parish – Hostyn Seminary Burse #2</b>	
Previously reported	\$205.00
In memory of Bernadette Janda by Sandy and John Janda	20.00
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$225.00</b>

<b>— Knights of Columbus Council #2971, Weimar, Seminary Burse</b>	
Previously Reported	\$50.00
In memory of Nadia Hill by M/M Fred Fischer Jr.	25.00
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$75.00</b>

<b>— Knights of Columbus Victoria Council #1329 Seminary Burse #3</b>	
Previously reported	\$10,057.50
In memory of Clinton Klare by Imogene Klare	50.00
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$10,107.50</b>

<b>— Knights of Columbus Holy Family Victoria Council #9088 Seminary Burse</b>	
Previously reported	\$1,120.00
In memory of Mike Martinak by KC Holy Family Council #9088	100.00
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$1,220.00</b>

<b>— Rev. Roman M. Janak &amp; Rev. Msgr. Hubert J. Janak Seminary Burse</b>	
Previously reported	\$14,124.84
In honor of Frankie and Lucille Klekar's 60th anniversary by Victor and Doris Janak	20.00
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$14,144.84</b>

**TOTALS**

<b>— Rev. John C. Peters Seminary Burse #4</b>	
Previously reported	\$14,131.00
Gift to burse in memory of John, Jr. and Tillie Peters	25.00
Gift to burse in memory of Ray and Leona Sizemore	25.00
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$14,181.00</b>
<b>— Rev. Jerome J. Stryk Seminary</b>	
Previously reported	\$13,459.50
In memory of Sr. M. Bernard Stryk, IWBS by George and Margaret Boedeker	20.00
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$13,479.50</b>

<b>— Rev. Theophil Okruhlik &amp; Rev. Vincent Verdaramme Seminary Burse</b>	
Previously reported	\$10,065.44
Gift to burse by St. Ann Catholic Church in Pt. Comfort	122.45
In memory of Rosie Kosarek by Mrs. Ervin Hermes	15.00
In memory of Thomas Huston by Mrs. Ervin Hermes	15.00
In memory of Rosie Kosarek by Tina Hubenak	20.00
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$10,237.89</b>

<b>— Rev. Msgr. Julius Petru Seminary Burse #2</b>	
Previously reported	\$835.00
In honor of Mary Ann Kucera's 80th birthday by M/M Hubert Novak	20.00
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$855.00</b>

<b>— Rev. Michael Rother Seminary Burse</b>	
Previously reported	\$3,840.00
In memory of Thomas M. Huston Jr. by:	
M/M Bernard Rother	25.00
John F. Rother Jr.	25.00
James A. Rother	25.00
M/M James Gibson	25.00
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$3,940.00</b>

### Additional Burses for donations:

- Rev. Msgr. Julius Petru Burse #2
- Rev. Joe Levya
- Rev. Marcus Valenta
- Rev. Godfrey F. Kuratko
- Rev. Msgr. John Hanacek
- Sophie Schmidt
- Rev. Sean Donohue Burse #2
- St. Mary's Church – Praha
- St. Mary's Church – High Hill
- Holy Rosary Church – Hostyn Burse #2

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



**FOUR WOMEN MAKE PERPETUAL COMMITMENT TO IWBS**—Four women from throughout the diocese made their perpetual commitment as Associates of the Incarnate Word on Sunday, Sept. 12, 2010, at the IWBS Convent. They are pictured with Bishop David E. Fellhauer and religious sisters. Front row, from left: Carole J. Nowak, of Needville; Sophie Molina and Shirley Welker of Victoria; back row, l. to r.: Sister Emiliana Grafe, director of associates; Sister Evelyn Korenek, superior; Benita Bordovsky of Hallettsville and Bishop Fellhauer.



**VICTORIA WOMEN MAKE FIRST CONSECRATION**—Five women from Victoria made their first consecration as Associates of the Incarnate Word on Sunday, Sept. 12, 2010, at the Incarnate Word Convent. They are pictured with IWBS Sisters and the bishop, and are, front, l. to r.: Debbie Escalante, Joyce Kubala and Sandy Hausman; back row, l. to r.: Sister Evelyn Korenek, superior; Carmelia Guerra, Sister Emiliana Grafe, director of associates; Valerie Jurica and Bishop David E. Fellhauer.



### What is "Priesthood Sunday"?

Priesthood Sunday, the last Sunday of October, is a special day set aside to honor the priesthood in the United States. It is a day to reflect upon and affirm the role of the priesthood in the life of the Church as a central one.

In the wake of the clergy sex abuse scandal, there has been concern that the image of all priests has been tainted by the actions of a few. Priesthood Sunday sends a message to all that the sins of a few do not reflect the innocent majority, and that the parish priest, as the instrument of Christ's ministry on earth, is loved and respected by those in the parish community.

This nationwide event is coordinated by the USA Council of Serra International. It is sponsored by the USA Council of Serra International and the Serra International Foundation.

### What happens on Priesthood Sunday?

The lay faithful of all parishes in the country develop their own special way of marking the day and honoring their parish priests both at Mass and other parish events, such as social celebrations and school activities.

Priesthood Sunday was designed to be an event led by the laity, but your parish priest can participate by talking about how he experienced and answered his own calling, the need for vocations to keep the priesthood vital, and about priests who have inspired him.

Priesthood Sunday will also offer an opportunity for priests and their parishioners to build a stronger working relationship for the future. Together, they can dialogue to take an honest look at the challenges of the future and how they can collaborate to meet those challenges as a united force.

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## RCIA institute – 79 hours of intense training

By Cynthia Brewer

Seventy-eight catechists, including pastors, participated in the North American Forum on the Catechumenate (NAFC) Institute “The Initiation Experience: Beginnings Plus” at the Spiritual Renewal Center August 19-22, 2010.

The participants, mostly from the Diocese of Victoria and throughout Texas, but also a few from California, Arizona and Canada, attended the four-day training on the Rite of Christian Initiation of Adults (RCIA), which was sponsored by the Diocese of Victoria. Thanks to a \$5,000 grant from the Kenedy Foundation, scholarship assistance was made available to participants attending from the diocese.

Diocesan Task Force Committee members who were responsible for organizing the institute were Mary Lupita Reyes, diocesan NAFC

“When the task force and I started planning for the institute, we knew many of the parishes in our diocese either were not doing RCIA, or if they were, did not totally understand the rite,” said Mary Reyes of Our Lady of the Gulf Parish in Port Lavaca.

“The task force came up with several goals we hoped could be accomplished, and I believe the goals were met,” she continued.

“The objectives were to: experience the flow of the steps and periods of the rite; understand more fully the process of the conversion journey; learn skills and techniques to implement the rite; deepen the faith life of participants; and explore the connection between good liturgy and



Father Dennis Chriszt from Cincinnati, Ohio, presents the institute's opening session, “Forming a Community of Disciples for the Life of the World” (top). Linda Licata, of Charlotte, N.C., presents, “The Initiating Community,” to a break-out session.

coordinator; Cynthia Goerig, director of the diocesan Liturgical Commission; Dick Scheibelhut, Christella Alvarez and Laurie Bautista.

The Constitution on the Sacred Liturgy, which flowed from the Second Vatican Council in the mid 1960s, gave specific directives to restore the rites of adult initiation in the Church, and it decreed that the RCIA process be implemented as closely as possible in all parishes and missions; thus, RCIA has been implemented by many diocesan parishes as the norm of entrance for adults into the faith community of the Catholic Church.

would include 79-hours of intense immersion into the rite.

“Everyday is going to focus on one period, a different part, of the process,” she said. “Today, the precatechumenate, tomorrow, the catechumenate, then Lent, Triduum and Mystagogy.” It would be as though the participants went through the whole RCIA process in just four days.

From reporting on the forum, there was one thing about which I was most enlightened. One of the directives of the RCIA document states that the process used for recognizing and understanding

good catechesis,” she said.

At the opening of the institute, the forum team coordinator, Linda Licata of Charlotte, N.C., announced to the participants that the four-day training

See RCIA institute, p. 17

## Parish Diary

By Father Peter J. Daly  
Catholic News Service



## RCIA has begun, again

RCIA – the Rite of Christian Initiation of Adults – has begun again. I'm glad.

RCIA is the process by which non-baptized people come into the Catholic Church. In our parish we call it the “Journey in Faith.” This will be my 25th time “on the journey.”

In the past 30 years, the way adults “convert” to the Catholic Church has changed.

When I was a kid, adults would probably go to the rectory for a few private lessons with a priest. They might be given a book to read. After a few sessions, the adult would be privately baptized. Then he or she would just start coming to church.

No one outside the convert's family would know anything about it. There would be no introduction to the parish.

The parishioners would never be asked to invite anyone to become a Catholic. There would be no call each year to invite adults to come into the Church, no sense that we are all evangelists.

Then, in 1951, Pope Pius XII reinstated the Easter Vigil. Before the late-1950s, the Easter Vigil had almost disappeared. It was celebrated almost privately by the priests of the parish on Holy Saturday morning. There was no congregation present. I can remember helping with this “hidden vigil” as a boy.

So Pope Pius XII restored the Easter Vigil to parish life. It was celebrated in Latin. We blessed the Easter water and lit the Easter candle.

But there were still no baptisms of adults. That did not come until after Vatican II.

In the early 1970s, the Church declared a revival of the “rites” of initiation that had been practiced in the ancient Church.



### URGENT Adorers and Substitutes Needed

St. Mary's Adoration Chapel in Victoria is in need of adorers of the eucharistic Jesus and always in need of substitutes.

Openings: Mon. 7-8 a.m.;  
Wed. 4-5 p.m.; and Fri. 5-6 p.m.

If you would like to commit to one of these hours or to fill in when an adorer needs a substitute, please call Cleo Boldt at 573-6161 or St. Mary Rectory at 573-4328.

We brought back the rites of “Catechumens” and of “Election” (or enrollment of names).

But it was not until the 1980s that parishes really began the RCIA. My parish began in 1984, two years before I was ordained.

The important thing about the “Journey in Faith” is that it is a process, not a program. We do it in stages. And we do it in communion with the Church.

First, there is the period of “evangelization” or the precatechumenate. This can go for a few weeks or years. In this time people are known as “inquirers.”

When these inquirers are ready, they declare their desire to enter the Catholic Church and become known as “catechumens.”

In the Rite of Catechumens the first week of Advent, they stand before the parish and say they want to become Catholics.

Catechumens are “hearers.” In the ancient Church, they could listen to the Scripture and the homily, but they had to leave before the Eucharist.

Then, at the beginning of Lent, there is the Rite of Election. Now the Church says, “Come join us.” The bishop calls catechumens to the sacraments of baptism, confirmation and Eucharist.

Finally, at the Easter Vigil, they receive these sacraments in a public celebration. It is the high point of the year for the parish.

After Easter, they unpack all that has happened in a time called the mystagogia, the study of the mystery.

What I like about this “Journey in Faith” is that it unfolds gradually. We get to tell our individual stories. The Church gets to welcome them to the faith little by little.

Since every life and every story is different, the process never gets old.

Candidates come to know the Church not as a series of intellectual concepts to be learned but as a faith community to be part of and a life to be lived.

It is a journey worth taking, even for the 25th time.

**Strong Catholic Families: Strong Catholic Youth**  
Sponsored by the Diocese of Victoria  
Organization of Catechetical Leadership  
6:30 p.m. – 9:00 p.m.  
Thursday, Oct. 12, at Holy Rosary, Hostyn  
Tuesday, Oct. 19, at Our Lady of Victory, Victoria  
Thursday, Oct. 21, at St. Robert, El Campo  
All are invited!

### 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.**

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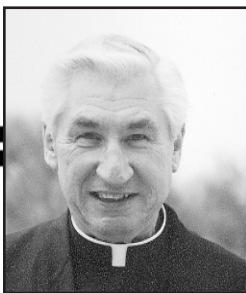
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If you suspect a child has been abused or mistreated, you are required to report it to the Texas Department of Protective and Regulatory Services or to a law enforcement agency within 48 hours of the time you suspect the child had been or may be abused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





## FAITH POINT “CLASSIC”



By the late Rev. Msgr. James C. Brunner

### Planned Un-Parenthood

This is an undated Faith Point article.

**T**he largest enterprise in the culture of death is Planned Parenthood. Yet 57 percent of those who call themselves pro-life approve of the organization. This is puzzling. Read the facts below and judge whether the approbation is justified.

Its founder, Margaret Sanger, was a confirmed eugenicist and racist. Her motto was “More children from the fit, less from the unfit—that is the chief issue in Birth Control.” She openly stated the aim of “Birth Control...is nothing more or less than the facilitation of the process of weeding out the unfit, of preventing the birth of defectives or those who will become defectives.” Sanger urged birth control for those with presumed heredity ailments like insanity and epilepsy. In the 1920’s she advocated sterilization of the unfit and the feebleminded. Sanger sought to control the reproduction of certain groups: the poor, immigrants (especially people of color), and religious groups (primarily Catholics and fundamentalists). She considered these groups as reckless breeders who were “unceasingly spawning a class of human beings who never should have been born at all.”

Sanger’s publication, the *Birth Control Review*, espoused replication in the U.S. of the Nazi Society for Racial Hygiene and the Nazi race purification program. It featured articles by Ernst Rudin, Hitler’s director of genetic sterilization. After Nazi concentration camp atrocities came to light, Sanger changed the name of her organization to Planned Parenthood in hopes that people would forget her cozy relationship with the Nazi racial programs.

In spite of her nasty philosophy, immoral personal life and programs, Margaret Sanger is held up as a liberal saint. If this vile person represents an ideal, spare us from those in her entourage who fall short of her standards of holiness.

PP has as a stated goal a world in which choice will prevail. Its choice. It is opposed to parental choice when it tries to repeal laws requiring parental notification of abortions of minors. PP opposes the choice of a father to try to save his unborn child. It combats laws designed to let pregnant women know how the children they are carrying look. PP’s choice for pregnant women is ignorance. It opposes maternal choice when it endorses the brutal Chinese one-child policy and lobbies for tax funds to support the program in spite of its documented human rights atrocities. The organization allows for no choice in U.S. Aid programs that have adopted PP methods of population control. Recipient countries are compelled to meet quotas in population reduction as a condition of aid even when the methods violate local mores.

PP is opposed to freedom of choice in the exercise of First Amendment rights by pickets at their abortuaries. They are opposed to the choice of medical personnel to follow their consciences in refusing to participate in contraceptive and abortion procedures. They even want to compel Catholic medical institutions to furnish contraceptive and abortion services in contravention of their religious tenets.

PP opposes the choice of parents in inculcating their standards for sexual morality. In programs used by many public school districts and in a Web site designed for teenagers, it presents a hedonistic view of sex to replace traditional morality. One PP pamphlet tells teenagers, “There are only two kinds of sex: sex with victims and sex without. Sex with victims is always wrong. Sex without is always right.” In *Boys and Sex*, a book recommended by PP, Wardell Pomeroy, Ph.D., assures boys who practice bestiality that they are not monsters and whether or not the practice is immoral depends on one’s point of view.

PP claims to be for minorities, but it is closer to the mark that they are for their elimination. African-Americans enjoy special attention from PP. Sanger’s Negro Project report stated, “The mass of Negroes still breed carelessly and disastrously with the result that the increase among Negroes...is from that portion of the population least intelligent and fit.” African-Americans make up about 12 percent of the U.S. population but account for nearly 33 percent of abortions. They are being offered dead children as a substitute for addressing real needs of education, employment and housing. Abortion for the African-American community is a quiescent genocide in which the victims willingly concur and also support with their finances. It is estimated that 13 million unborn black children have been aborted, many more than were ever killed by the Ku Klux Klan. PP’s clientele is 74 percent white and 26 percent minority, but 43 percent of all abortions in 1991 were performed on minorities.

There is more than suspicion that PP is evading statutory requirements to report sexual abuse of minors by adults. As many as 60 percent-80 percent of minors are impregnated by adult males. In calls to PP clinics made by minor girls pretending to seek abortions, there was a pattern of knowing concealment on the part of PP personnel of unquestionable adult abuse. The girls were sometimes coached on how to escape detection: give false names, ages, or addresses to hide the abuse. One PP clinic worker said, “If she comes in with cash she can be any age she wants to be.” PP cannot afford to scare away the person who will likely pay for the abortion. If one can sue Catholic prelates for allegedly not reporting sexual abuse of minors by clergy, PP personnel can be sued for a similar cover-up.

PP has not been successful in preventing unwanted pregnancies in spite of the fact that 95 percent of women of reproductive age use some form of contraception. Sex education with much material supplied by PP is mandatory in 75 percent of school districts. Concomitant with the growth of these programs, illegitimacy has increased from 15 percent in 1970 to 51 percent today. PP’s type of sex education is not the solution and is a likely cause of the problem. PP has also failed to stem the tide of venereal diseases. A *New York Times* report declared that one in every five people or 56 million Americans have sexually transmitted viral disease with 12 million new sexually transmitted infections each year. PP suggests wider use of condoms, which are ineffective in prevent-

ing the spread of Human Papilloma Virus and Chlamydia. Condoms, according to PP’s own figures, fail 18 percent of the time to prevent pregnancy. How can they prevent a viral transfer that is not dependent on ovulation? If condoms represent “safe sex,” Russian roulette exemplifies safe gun handling.

One of the things at which PP excels is in killing unborn babies. It is the largest provider of abortions in the world. In 1998 PP performed 167,928 abortions on women, which was 10 times more than were given prenatal care (16,065) and 34 times the number referred for adoption

(4,892). The numbers tell you where its heart lies.

PP also has the best propaganda machine in the world. People have swallowed more than the pill. It promotes sexual immorality, changes family planning to family banning, birth control to elimination of births and control, and choice to killing and still remains respectable.

Christians should be as simple as doves, but not dumber. Most doves know who their enemies are. Are Christians that clever about PP, which was conceived in iniquity and grew into an abomination that totally rejects the gospel?

### Sacred Heart Indians and St. Paul Cardinals UNITE for LIFE before the big rivalry game

**HALLETTSVILLE**—Before the great annual battle on the football field between the Sacred Heart Indians and the St. Paul Cardinals, which occurs this year on Friday, October 29, in Shiner at 7:30 p.m., the two schools are uniting their spiritual efforts in the battle for life by praying for an end to abortion.

This year, the senior classes from the two Catholic high schools in the Diocese of Victoria, along with parishioners from the two parishes, will participate together in the international pro-life campaign called 40 Days for Life by going to the Planned Parenthood abortion clinic in Houston on the morning of October 25. They will peacefully stand outside in prayerful protest of the atrocious killing of innocent babies that happens daily at that facility.

After having been reassigned as parochial vicar from Sts. Cyril & Methodius Parish in Shiner to Sacred Heart Parish in Hallettsville by Bishop David Fellhauer in July, Father Tommy Chen thought that the students from the two schools might consolidate their efforts to provide a greater witness on behalf of the Church’s pro-life effort. “What stronger witness could there be than when the students from ‘rival schools’ join forces in solidarity with the unborn to pray for the safety of their lives?” asked Father Chen.

40 Days for Life began in 2004 in College Station when the members of the Coalition for Life at Texas A&M wanted a unique way to make the voices of the unborn babies heard. So they decided to commit 40 consecutive days per semester to standing outside the Planned Parenthood abortion facility in College Station to pray for an end to abortion and to offer counsel to any woman who is considering having an abortion. They chose “40” days because of its biblical significance, i.e. Noah and the Great Flood, Moses and the Israelites wandering in the desert, and Christ’s prayer and fasting in the wilderness. The idea caught on. And now over 257 cities throughout the world participate in this campaign for life. Joining in this campaign in 2006, the Houston Coalition for Life will sponsor its seventh 40 Days for Life this fall, which will run from September 22 through October 31.

The prayers are especially urgent in Houston, because just in May of this year,

Planned Parenthood in Houston moved its operations into a new and better equipped building making it now the largest abortion facility in the entire Western Hemisphere. A new law in Texas came into effect in 2004 requiring that any abortions attempted after 16 weeks of pregnancy had to be procured in an ambulatory surgical center (like an “out patient” medical facility). Because of this law, Planned Parenthood in Houston purchased a building in 2006 right off the Gulf Freeway and began renovations in it to make it conform to the 2004 law. “[Planned Parenthood] will be equipped in this building to do abortions through 25 weeks of pregnancy. That’s six months!” said Christine Melchor, executive director of the Houston Coalition for Life. It is for this very reason that the Planned Parenthood facility in Houston should be the prime recipient of the outpouring of prayer and sacrifices offered on behalf of the unborn and their mothers and fathers who seek out abortions at this facility.

Melchor said, “The value of people praying outside the [Planned Parenthood] facility, coupled with the grace of God, really changes lives.” She has personally witnessed women who had arrived at the Planned Parenthood facility intending to procure an abortion actually experience a change of heart and decide to carry their babies to full term because of the witness and care of the people who pray outside the facility during the 40 Days for Life campaign. Even people who worked for Planned Parenthood have been touched by the grace of God through the power of prayer and have walked off the property leaving their jobs, never looking back. More details about the 40 Days for Life and how you can participate can be obtained through the Web site of the Houston Coalition for Life at [www.houstoncoalition.com](http://www.houstoncoalition.com).

During the month of October, which is observed as Respect Life Month in the Catholic Church in America (with October 3 being Respect Life Sunday), let us join our efforts across this country to promote the dignity of human life from the moment of conception to natural death. Promoting the sanctity of human life as a gift from God is not only the responsibility of the Church and her members, but also of all human beings.

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**Fred Kubesch**





## 13th Annual Catholic School Seminar

### “Engaging the Mind, Body and Spirit”

By Cynthia Brewer

The 13th annual Catholic School Seminar was held at the diocesan Spiritual Renewal Center September 3, 2010, providing refreshment and renewal for 253 Catholic school administrators, faculty and staff.

After opening remarks and a prayer service led by Bishop David E. Fellhauer, Superintendent John Quarry, and Mark Zepeda, OLS musician; the school participants welcomed keynote speaker Dr. Joseph White who spoke on the subject of School Bullying.

Dr. White, a clinical psychologist and director of Family Counseling and Family Life in the Diocese of Austin, is also the author of the new “Allelu!” early childhood series from Our Sunday Visitor Publishing, and has authored a number of other titles on topics such as multi-sensory methods, behavior management and catechetical methodology.

“Bullying is a serious issue with serious consequences,” said Dr. White at the opening of his keynote address when he gave some bullying statistics.

One out of seven school students is a bullying victim and the rate is higher in rural schools, one out of six, he said. In 4th – 8th grades, 24 percent have been bullied; and in 8th – 12th, 14 percent have been bullied. Bullying can include sexual harassment, cause more sick absences, and in ignored cases, can lead to suicide of the bullied victim.

• **WHO ARE BULLIES?** Most bullies are boys, but some are girls, both of whom need to feel powerful; some have been bullied themselves. Bullying begins to heat up in 5th grade (upper grades in elementary with girls) and continues up to 8th and 9th grades. Children are coming to terms with their development; they start a pecking order to make self look better; they target younger grades.

• **ENVIRONMENTAL FACTORS OF BULLIES:** Most receive too little supervision at home; view aggressive behavior at home; have abusive parents; receive constant negative feedback; respond negatively/take things the wrong way. School environment is often in larger schools where principal is viewed as invisible.

• **RISK FACTORS OF VICTIMS:** Bullying victim risk factors include a.) appearing different from other students either physically, culturally or behaviorally; have low social skills; family has less money; or student is anxious or insecure; b.) Some victims purposefully shock for attention, but don't realize this attracts negative attention from peers; c.) Some are “provocative victims” – they have hot tempers and are easily provoked. Teach them not to allow others to have so much control over them – don't give others “your remote control;” d.) Some students are chronic scapegoats and victims; teach insecure students how to walk more confidently.

Don't blame the victim; they are at greater risk of depression, which has led to suicide.

• **PREVENTION:** Some things that seem to help is when students believe discipline is fair; make sure discipline

consequences are connected logically and timely; smaller class sizes are better; principals need to be effective and visible and supported by staff; they receive this support when they allow teachers and others to be involved in decision making. Examples of making a principal more visible is to say to class, “There's Mr. Smith (principal), let's show him how well we can walk to class.”

Research says certain things work well, such as starting prevention early, from 5th to 8th grade and beyond:

Have a well-defined definition of bullying. Mention what won't be tolerated. Have an agreement of discipline/what are the consequences

Have an empathetic environment with responsive classrooms where it is understood that people have different (special) gifts and talents. Have collaboration, so everyone feels valuable.

Connect students who need help with those who have more knowledge.

Have an anti-bullying strategy: posters, buttons, pledges.

• **INTERVENTION**

Employ the Common Concern Method, now widely used in U.S. science and psychology, and is proven to work:

– Hold a series of interviews with bully and victim, get them talking to each other and follow up

– Get daily reports from both, so bully knows principal/teacher/facilitator is watching/aware of situation

– Have a contingency contract: this is what we expect; this will happen if there's no change

– Keep parents in the loop: “we discussed this and your child agreed, but did it anyway”

– Encourage self monitoring – of both the victim and the bully

– Referral to counselors if needed

– Form Safe School Committee with students and parents

– Train anger management

– Zero tolerance for weapons and physical violence

Dr. White closed his keynote address by covering Cyberbullying, where a bully can bully in front of thousands of people with social networks. He suggests: [www.stopcyberbullying.org](http://www.stopcyberbullying.org), which provides resources and helps one to Stop bullying; Block – others from access; and Tell to Web site and parents.

He emphasized that both school bullying and cyberbullying are serious issues that must not be ignored. Resources, which Dr. White suggested for teachers and administrators were “Bully-Free Classroom” and the “Bullying Prevention Handbook.”

Following his keynote address he held two breakout sessions, one titled “Stop and Think! The Psychology of Self Regulation”



Bishop David E. Fellhauer addresses Catholic school participants at the opening prayer service.



Dr. Joseph White presents on classroom bullying.



(left) Teachers and administrators learn about Criterion.

(right) On the topic of “Theology of the Body,” Father Bob Knippenberg teaches that everything we need to know about humanity is found in the first three chapters of Genesis.



and the other titled “Engaging Every Student: How to Use Multisensory Learning Strategies.”

Other presenters included Father Bob Knippenberg: “Theology of the Body: Human Nature from a Biblical Perspective;” Ron Friedel: “Overview of Church History;” Joann Gawlik: “Would Jesus text, tweet, Facebook or Youtube?;” Lupina Vela: Q & A Focusing on the Iowa Test of Basic Skills Results; and Gwen Edwards: “Helpful Hints on Criterion.”

### Weekend of Discernment in Houston

HOUSTON—The Sisters of the Incarnate Word and Blessed Sacrament are holding Days of Discernment for Women expressing an interest in Religious Life Saturday, October 23, (8:45 a.m. - 4:00 p.m.) and Sunday, December 5, (8:30 a.m. - 1:00 p.m.) at their motherhouse, 3400 Bradford, Houston, 77025. Interested women are also welcome each Saturday evening to join in Scripture Sharing (in preparation for Sunday's readings) from 7:00 - 8:00 p.m. and each first Sunday to attend Mass followed by Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament, beginning at 8:30 a.m. and closing with noon lunch. Please contact Sister Scholastica (sscholastica@yahoo.com) at (713) 668-0423 for more information. You may also check our Web site at [www.incarnatewordssisters.org](http://www.incarnatewordssisters.org).

### Holy Spirit Sisters host “Come and See” Weekend Oct. 22 – 24

SAN ANTONIO—Have you ever wondered what life in a convent is like and how Sisters live, work and spread the Gospel? The Sisters of the Holy Spirit and Mary Immaculate would like to give you an opportunity to get an inside view of their life in the convent.

The Sisters live and work among the people to whom they have ministered since their founding in 1893. These ministries are in Texas, Louisiana, Mississippi, Mexico and Zambia, Africa.

In an effort to increase vocations to the religious life and to their community, the Sisters are hosting a “Come and See” weekend at their motherhouse, 300 Yucca St., San Antonio 78203-2399 on October 22 – 24, to give discerning young women (ages 18 – 45) an opportunity to experience life in a convent setting. During the weekend, the participants enjoy community prayer, small group sharing, discernment themes, personal reflection, an Emmaus Walk, recreation, meals and other activities with the Sisters.

Registration for the “Come and See” weekend is available online at: [www.shsp.org](http://www.shsp.org) under “What's New?” or by contacting Sister Gabriel Hession, SHSp, at [sghesion@hotmail.com](mailto:sghesion@hotmail.com) or (210) 533-5149.

### Come & See Event

The Sisters of St. Benedict in Ferdinand, Indiana, will hold a Come and See event October 15-17, 2010, for single, Catholic women between the ages of 18 to 40. Get to know our Benedictine Sisters, share in our community life and prayer, and meet other women who are considering religious life - no pressure, no commitment! For more information or to register online, visit <http://www.thedome.org/vocations>, call Sister Michelle Sinkhorn at 800-734-9999, or e-mail [vocation@thedome.org](mailto:vocation@thedome.org).

### Umbert the Unborn

by Gary Cangemi

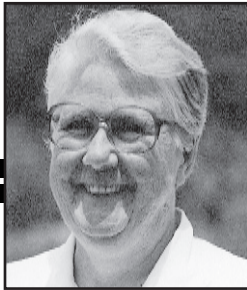






## SISTERLY THOUGHTS

By Sister Mildred Truchard, IWBS



### And God Said . . .

It is interesting to note that Genesis, the first book of the Bible, begins with the story of creation – the beginning of the many temporal gifts that we know and appreciate. The narration elaborates on the variety of God’s creative actions, and after each action, we are reassured that God saw it and declared, “It was good.” Also, as we recite the Creed, the prayer that lists our beliefs as Catholics, which begins: “I believe in God the Father Almighty, Creator of Heaven and Earth, . . .” we are reminded of this awesome work of God.

I think that autumn is the perfect time to reflect on the wonders that God has created. It’s cool enough that one can spend more reflection time outdoors. As we breathe in the fresh breeze, we can wonder at the marvels of the atmosphere, which is composed of just the right amount of various gases to safely sustain oxygen-requiring creatures, including humans. Adding to the marvel is the way oxygen users can produce the carbon dioxide that is required by the plants and, in turn, reciprocate by providing oxygen. We can look around us and enjoy the great variety of organisms and see how they support one another. Each one seems to play a part in sustaining some form of life. As the Catechism of the Catholic Church states: “Each of the various creatures, willed in its own being, reflects in its own way a ray

of God’s infinite wisdom and goodness. – CCC #339 (This may be true; however, I still am trying to find out why God created so many mosquitoes.)

There are so many aspects of God’s creation that can nourish our souls if we allow ourselves to be aware: the colors of autumn; the evaporation and rainfall of water, which nature has been recycling through the ages; the stars which represent a universe that is beyond human comprehension; our own bodies, which are composed of millions of cells and systems that work together; . . . The list could go on and on, but I’m sure that you are able to see and wonder at the beauty about you.

As we enjoy the fruits of creation, we realize that these are gifts that need to be safeguarded. As good stewards continue to do that which we are being called to by Pope John Paul II who proclaimed: “To care for creation is a moral duty for all [human beings] as the will of the Creator is that [human beings may] be worthy of [their] vocation governing nature as a responsible administrator and not as a merciless exploiter.”

So, as we praise our Creator for the bountiful gifts, let us be mindful that we are responsible for protecting and preserving these gifts. Let us accept and enjoy them as grateful stewards.



Catholic War Veterans and Auxiliary honor deceased Catholic War Veterans and Auxiliary members at a memorial service held August 17, 2010, at the National Convention in Buffalo, New York. Pictured above are National Commander Fred Schwally and National President Lupita Martinez of Victoria (far right), with past national commander and past national president and state department commanders and presidents.

## Catholic War Veterans 75th Annual National Convention

BUFFALO, N.Y.—The Catholic War Veterans 75th and Catholic War Veterans Auxiliary 62nd National Convention was held in Buffalo, New York, August 15–22, 2010.

The Catholic War Veterans and Auxiliary of the Department of Texas had good representation with 48 delegates attending. Those attending from St. John’s Post 1269, Victoria, Texas, were National President Lupita Martinez, National Welfare Officer Daniel Martinez, National Historian Cecilia R. Garcia, Department of Texas President Selina Driscoll, and Department of Texas Liaison Officer Jim Driscoll.

The convention was filled with many activities. It included Holy Mass at the beginning of each day at St. Joseph Cathedral. A memorial service was held on August 17, 2010, honoring all the deceased Catholic War Veterans and Auxiliary members from all posts and units throughout the United States.

Lupita Martinez was commended on a job well done on her first year as national president. She was honored with a President’s Luncheon on August 19 at Adam’s Mark Hotel. Her husband, Daniel Martinez was a special guest at the luncheon.

St. John’s Post 1269, Victoria, received national awards for participation in auxiliary programs. Cecilia R. Garcia received a second place award in Americanism and Civics. Estella Dominguez received a first place award in Welfare Program. Cecilia R. Garcia also received recognition for her Publicity and Public Relations reports.

On the department level, Texas CWV Auxiliary received the first place award in Americanism and Civics, with Cecilia R. Garcia as the officer. Also Mary D. Rosales of Austin, Texas, received first place award in Welfare Program and VAVS Program.

Mrs. Martinez was honored to be re-elected as Catholic War Veterans Auxiliary National President for a second term. Cecilia R. Garcia was re-elected as National Auxiliary Historian and also appointed Chairlady for Publicity and Public Relations.


Daniel Martinez was elected National Catholic War Veterans Historian.

To finalize convention activities, a Convention Mass was held on Saturday, August 21, 2010, at St. Joseph Cathedral. The principal celebrant was the Most Reverend Timothy P. Broglio, archbishop for the Military Services, USA, with the Most Rev. Edward U. Kmiec, bishop of Buffalo, the Most Rev. Richard B. Higgins, auxiliary bishop for the Military Services, USA; Rev. Msgr. James F. Campbell, cathedral rector; Rev. George Boyle, CWV Auxiliary national chaplain; Rev. Anthony Dell’Anno, CWV national chaplain; Rev. Joseph Porpiglia, CHC, LCDR, USNR; and Rev. Emeric Szlezak, OFM, past CWV and CWVA chaplain, concelebrating. After the Mass, the most prestigious CWV award, the St. Sebastian Medal, and CWV Auxiliary award, the St. Agnes Medal, were presented. The state of Texas was honored to have Mr. Jose M. Garcia from Austin, Texas, Post 1805, as one of the recipients of the St. Sebastian Award. The Mass was followed by a banquet.

The 2011 CWV and Auxiliary National Convention will be held on August 7-14, 2011, in Orlando, Florida.



**ST. MICHAEL’S CATHOLIC SCHOOL FALL FESTIVAL**  
SUNDAY, OCTOBER 24, 2010  
St. Michael’s Parish Hall, 104 McLeod Street, Cuero, Texas 77954



**1<sup>st</sup> Annual 5K Run**

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**Country Music Artist**  
Clay Crockett  
in the Hall 10:30 – 12:30

**Raffle Drawing**  
Prizes given away following the auction

Country Store

Silent Auction

Cake Walk

Bingo Begins at Noon

**Tournaments**

Horseshoes      Washers      Dominoes

Call 361/277-3854 for details and registration or visit our website  
[www.stmichaels-cuero.org](http://www.stmichaels-cuero.org)


*Fall*

**DINNER**  
11:00 a.m. – 1:00 p.m.

Home-style Chicken Fried Steak  
Buttered Potatoes, Green Beans,  
Dessert

\$8.00 per plate  
Eat in and enjoy the festivities  
or drive-thru available

**LIVE AUCTION**  
**Begins at 12:30**  
Furniture, Trips,  
Food items,  
and much, much more



Children’s Game Booths  
Noon - 3:00 p.m.

Children’s Costume  
Contest at 3:00 p.m.

Children’s Movie  
4:00 p.m.

**Immaculate Conception  
Fall Festival**  
Goliad

**October 17**  
Church Grounds

**Mass • 10 a.m.**

**Ballet Folklorico  
12 p.m.**

**11:00 a.m. Barbecue Beef (Buffet Style) Dinner**

**1 p.m.: Auction**

**Music by Rusty Steins**

Lots of kids games, clowns and moonwalks





STJ cheerleaders volunteered at Victoria's Texas Zoo designing, painting and renovating the Cacomistle animal habitat display on Sept. 3. STJ cheerleaders are pictured at the Texas Zoo sign in Riverside Park, and four of the cheerleaders are pictured getting ready to paint — they are, top row, Clara Allen; bottom row, from left, Jillian Strauss, Ashley Kolar and Shayla Marshall.

## ~St. Joseph High School Cheerleaders Share Their Spirit ... Through Service~

St. Joseph High School cheerleaders are filled with spirit, the "Holy" spirit!

While attending the Fellowship of Christian Cheerleader's camp at Houston Baptist University this summer, the STJ cheer squad captured first place as camp champions, thus qualifying the squad to compete in the FCC National Cheerleading finals competition in Orlando, Florida.

Although excited about this wonderful competitive honor, the STJ cheer squad is most appreciative for recognition in their school and community for outstanding service to others. Throughout the school year and into the summer, the STJ cheerleaders focus on spirited service, searching for ways to truly make a difference.

On Friday, September 3, 2010, the STJ cheerleaders met at the Texas Zoo in Victoria to design, paint and renovate the Cacomistle animal habitat display. For several weeks the girls researched the natural habitat of the Cacomistle, a furry animal resembling a small raccoon, in order to

make a plan for the creature's new home. An animated wall mural was designed from a rough sketch and paint mixing was mastered in order to match the Cacomistle's natural rocky landscape environment using National Geographic magazine as their guide. The girls also painted a wonderful waterfall and beautiful animated skyline. Atop the Cacomistle's new habitat, artificial vegetation, with variegated vines and tufts of grass, set the tone for a tropical rain forest. The Cacomistle will indeed enjoy its new habitat.

STJ varsity cheerleaders for 2010-2011, under the direction of Ms. Norma Gutierrez, include: Vicki Foladoyin, Danielle Hill, Kaitlyn Reithmeier, Sarah Hermes, Kristene Yahagi, Liz Gonzales, Hannah Garza, Clara Allen, Jillian Strauss, Kristin Janecek, Ashley Kolar, Sarah Eaves, Shayla Marshall, Kaley Bitterley, Katie DeGand, Olivia Chapa, Ashley Mutchler, Anastasia Monroy and Morgan Delagarza.

## ~ Have No Fear ~

**By Camille Mica, a senior at East Bernard High School and parishioner of Holy Cross Catholic Church**

As a new school year approaches, I'm feeling many emotions. But only one tightens my stomach and threatens my happiness, and that is anxiety. We all know how crazy the school year gets and how sometimes fear creeps in. What are we so afraid of? After a little thought I came up with several fears that seem to control everyone at some point:

- What will everybody else think?
- This is way too much work!
- I'm not ready.
- Nothing I do will make a difference anyway.

• It's not good enough if I'm not perfect at it.

We are told it's okay to be afraid of the unknown, but what happens when we stop stepping out, doing the right thing, or living out our calling because we get too scared? Last year I felt called to start a pro-life club at school. After a year of procrastinating and being afraid that I couldn't possibly know enough to start a group, I finally mustered the courage to do something. I attended a week-long pro-life camp called Joshua Leadership Institute in Louisiana where I learned all about the pro-life movement, met amazing people and participated in real activism. It was awesome! And it helped me realize that although all my fears are legitimate, God has answers.

• Maybe we don't know what everyone else thinks, but we know that God thinks we are wonderful.

• Yes, this is a lot of work, but God will never give us anything we can't handle.

• We are not ready, but he will take care of everything.

• Our difference may be small, but every big change takes small steps.

• And God doesn't ask us to be perfect; he knows we never will be. He just tells us to follow.

The truth is, we DON'T have what it takes, but God does.

Finally, I discovered that God's work is about him, not us! After all he has done for us, how can we turn down his requests out of fear? Jesus, too, felt fear in the garden before his death. "He was in such agony and he prayed so fervently that his sweat became like drops of blood falling on the ground" (Luke 22:44). But he loved us, and he could not turn us down.

I still get terrified when I think of all the work this new school year will take and believe the lie that everything must be perfect. But whatever our fears — walking away from gossip, saying no to alcohol, or trying something new — if we stay close to God and persevere, he will never let us down. In Matthew 11:28 Jesus says, "Come to me, all you that are weary and are carrying heavy burdens, and I will give you rest."

So, let's give our fears up to God and live!

## Youth Calendar of Events

**October 16** — Foundations Youth Ministry Class at the Chancery

**October 21** — Theology at the Well at Chili's in Victoria

**November 4** — Theology at the Well at Chili's in Victoria

**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** — Prolife Rally in Austin



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)



**CUERO STUDENT RECEIVES KC SCHOLARSHIP**—Cuero graduate, Shane Harryman, receives Knights of Columbus Council #1862 annual \$500 scholarship award. Pictured are KC Treasurer Bryan Hahn, Shane Harryman and Grand Knight Arlen Goebel. Shane is the son of Ricky and Shawnee Harryman and is a parishioner of St. Michael's Parish in Cuero. He will be attending Victoria College.

## The trick for happy costuming this Halloween

**By Karen Osborne**  
**Coming of Age Column**  
**Catholic News Service**

I just returned from my first big pop culture convention in Atlanta. It was pretty awesome.

One of the things I loved best about the convention was the costumes, which reminded me of a massive, weekend-long Halloween party. Convention attendees often come as Jedi knights, robots, anime girls, Star Trek officers, zombies, pirates and superheroes. People spend a lot of time perfecting these costumes, and some of them are so good they wouldn't be out of place on a feature film set.

There were so many people in costume that I was asked once or twice why I wasn't dressed in one myself!

It can be fun to wear a costume, to slip into your favorite character's skin and live an entirely different life for a little while.

But while I love dressing up in costumes, I haven't been doing much of it lately. In fact, last year, I went to my Halloween parties wearing regular clothes; I felt that wearing any of the costumes I found in the store would just make me look ridiculous.

Here's the reason: I just couldn't find a girl's costume in the store that didn't play up sexiness to an extreme. Guys could be pirates or vampires or Iron Man, but few costumes allow girls to be anything more than a sexy fill-in-the-blank: sexy nurse, sexy soldier, sexy knight, sexy pirate wench. Even the zombie costumes were arguably "sexy," with every bloody schoolgirl shirt knotted above the midriff like a Britney Spears video.

Trying to do something creative and authentic with your costumes can be tough when you don't have any options besides "sexy" and "sexy."

In this way, the convention was like a

fun house mirror to the real world, reflecting a skewed, stretched view that nevertheless has a grain of truth: that society would have us believe that appearances and being sexy are the most important things, whether we're attending a rockin' Halloween party or just going to school.

We dress in costumes of a sort every single morning of our lives, choosing our clothing, makeup and more to influence how the world sees us.

That, in effect, is what style really is. It's a shame that style is so often equated only with being sexy, causing some women and girls to always worry about their body image when they go shopping. This notion so bombards guys with sexy language and visuals in movies and advertisements that it's hard for them to look past appearances to the real person underneath.

It's a vicious cycle — one that can be tough for teens to travel.

This year, shopping for a Halloween costume might be a good time to think about what teens are doing when they open their closets in the morning.

Do their clothes really say what they want them to say? Do they reflect their self-confidence, morals and values, or are teens disrespecting their dreams and selves by trying to be something the world wants them to be rather than who they truly are?

Is the character teens project every day when they get dressed a character they can admire? If not, how can they change their selections so that the person inside the costume is as awesome as the costume itself?

This is the trick for happy costuming that I'd share with teens: When you put something on, whether it's for Halloween or for tomorrow morning, be yourself first, and know who you really are and where you're starting from.

Once that happens, you can go anywhere and be anything!





**GABRIEL PROJECT BABY SHOWER SPONSORED**—The Matagorda County Gabriel Project volunteers are pictured with the St. Vincent de Paul Society (Our Lady of Guadalupe conference) during the baby shower that was sponsored by the St. Vincent de Paul members on August 29, 2010. The Gabriel Project received many generous donations from the wonderful supporters who attended. If you are pregnant and need help, call the Gabriel Project at 1-866-Mary Aid.



OLG Mariner group: Principal Theresa Dent, Leonard Pokluda, Kathy Holdgraf, Karen Lyssy, Shannon Armstrong, Marcy King, Susan De La Garza, Sister Kim Chau Huynh, OP; Rhonda Cummins, Ashley Waghorne, Patricia Weaver, Lydia Pena, Kathy Joines, Richard Chen, Lillie Menchaca, Greg Low, and Sister Francesca Bui, OP. Inset: Ashley Waghorne (3rd grade) and Patricia Weaver (middle school language arts) play bumper boats.

## First, Row a Little Boat

PORT LAVACA—The faculty of Our Lady of the Gulf Catholic School got first hand practice at rowing boats during their fall in-service on August 16. The teachers are studying “First You Have to Row a Little Boat” by Richard Bode and had a team-building exercise to do just that. Calhoun County Marine Extension Agent Rhonda Cummins and Game Warden Philip Bird assisted with the exercise supplying the boats and their own ‘expertise.’ The exercise took place at Little Chocolate Bayou Park.

There were many life lessons learned and analogies made to the classroom. The teachers experienced that not all boats row the same way; they are each designed differently just like the students in their classrooms. They also discovered that just like in the classroom, finding a balance within the boat and steady rowing were key elements to moving forward—otherwise “you just go in circles.” They also noted that actually rowing was very different from

just talking about it or watching someone else—hands on experience is critical to the learning process.

With these same concepts in mind, last year the OLG 7th-grade class built and sailed a Puddle Duck Racer – The Mariner I. They will continue to learn to sail again this year as 8th graders, but first they too will need to learn to row a little boat. The faculty will also continue their voyage through Bode’s book allowing his words of wisdom to help them find balance and gain perspective throughout the school year.

“We really appreciate all the assistance provided by the Sea Grant Office and the game warden,” stated Theresa Dent, OLG principal. “Utilizing boats on the water provides so many life lessons for children and adults. It just seemed a natural fit for us. After all, over half of Calhoun County is under water and we are the ‘Mariners.’”

## Victoria Boy Wins 1st Place at CDA Nationals

Logan Rivera, now a 6th grader at Our Lady of Victory School, won the first place award at the Catholic Daughters of the Americas State and National Education Awards in Computer Art, Division 1, earlier this year. He received \$100 for the national award. Logan is the son of Dr. David and Mary Rivera of Victoria.

The contest was sponsored by the CDA Court St. Ann #369 of Victoria. Three other youth placed at the state level in the CDA Education Contest.

Hannah Adams won first place in computer art, Division II. She is the daughter of Paul and Molly Adams of Victoria and is

now a freshman at St. Joseph High School in Victoria.

Kristen Jurica won second place for photography in Division III. She is now a sophomore at Industrial Consolidated High School and is the daughter of Gerald and Jean Jurica.

From Nazareth Academy, Dylan Pollard won first place for photography in Division II. He is the son of Randy and Laura Ann Pollard and is in 8th grade this year.

Seth Hawes won second place for essay in Division III. He is the son of Forrest and Joyce Hawes and is now a freshman at St. Joseph High School.



**BEAUTIFUL CHAPEL MURAL ALMOST COMPLETE**—New Ulm resident Michael Fuller volunteered to help with finishing the symbolic stars and rainbow in Raphael’s Refuge chapel after the muralist was temporarily grounded. “It is hoped that the rainbow will be completed by October, in time for the Guardian Angels’ feast day celebrations Oct. 2. The rainbow,” explained Midge Elam, director at the Refuge, “is closely related to pro-life issues. Genesis 9:1-17 explains it all.” “God blessed Noah and his sons and said to them: ‘Be fertile and multiply and fill the earth. ... For your own lifeblood, too, I will demand an accounting ... For in the image of God has man been made...’ God added: ‘This is the sign that I am giving for all ages to come, of the covenant between me and you and every living creature with you: I set my bow in the clouds to serve as a sign of the covenant between me and the earth. When I bring clouds over the earth, and the bow appears in the clouds, I will recall the covenant I have made between me and you and all living beings, so that the waters shall never again become a flood to destroy all mortal beings. As the bow appears in the clouds, I will see it and recall the everlasting covenant that I have established between God and all living beings – all mortal creatures that are on earth.’” (Gen. 9:1-16). Raphael’s Refuge Monument to the Innocents is located outside of Flatonia. Learn more at <http://www.raphaelsrefuge.org/>.



Pictured is cabinetmaker Buddy Borel who donated his labor to build the altar.

## New Activity at Raphael’s Refuge

FLATONIA — Thanks to the kindness of Father Joseph Hybner, pastor at Sacred Heart Church in Flatonia, combined with the talent and generosity of Buddy Borel, a fine altar now stands in the Chapel of the Holy Innocents at Raphael’s Refuge. Also thanks to a grant from the Texas Women’s League of LaGrange, sand now fills open areas of the prayer garden that surrounds the chapel. The sand provides safety from falls until donations come in

for the finished surface.

The chapel is open to the public during the day, seven days a week. For directions, for information about using the chapel for services related to infant death, or for information about memorializing a baby at the monument, contact Midge Elam at 361-865-3812 (office) or 361-865-3021 (hm) or at [raphaelsrefuge@att.net](mailto:raphaelsrefuge@att.net). The Web site address is [www.raphaelsrefuge.org](http://www.raphaelsrefuge.org).



Geraldine Jurica, chairperson of education for Court St. Ann #369 of Victoria, presents the CDA State and National Education Contest Awards to Logan Rivera for first place in computer art while his principal, Sister Laura Toman, IWBS, looks on.





Following the flag raising ceremony, Mass was celebrated by Bishop David E. Fellhauer and concelebrated with the church's pastor, Father Tim Kosler; visiting priest, Father John Carville of Baton Rouge, La.; Msgr. Lawrence Stuebben of San Antonio; and Father Frank Lenz, former parochial vicar of St. Rose of Lima and its missions. The altar servers were sisters Taylor and Haley Olsovsky.



The beautiful, stenciled arch indicates the beginning of the sanctuary. When art conservator Robert Alden Marshall, of LaGrange, Texas, began work on the arch, he discovered that water had damaged it so much so that it had to be completely rebuilt and re-stenciled. He and his assistants covered every inch of the church, touching up or re-stenciling each stencil.



The Sisters of Divine Providence opened St. Mary's School in High Hill in 1880 and taught there until it closed in 1959. Seven of the sisters came to celebrate St. Mary's 150th anniversary; they are, back row, left to right: Sister Rosalie Karstedt, Sister Jane Ann Slater, superior general; Sister Alma Rose Booty, and Sister Charlene Wedelich; front row, left to right: the following Sisters were from High Hill and were taught by the Sisters of Divine Providence in St. Mary's School before entering the CDP's congregation themselves: Sister Beatrice Ann Kainer, Sister Denise Demel and Sister Dianne Heinrich.



The Knights of Columbus Fourth Degree, Weimar Assembly #1527, served as honor guard for Most Rev. Bishop David Fellhauer, who celebrated Mass at the 150-year-anniversary celebration of St. Mary's Catholic Church in High Hill. Front row left: Frankie Joe Cernoch, George Janik, Teb Bratton, Bishop Fellhauer, Dennis Olsovsky, Henry Migl; back row, from left: Leonard Bartos, Martin Luchak, Jimmie Bertsch, David Fike, Allen Barta and David Kahlich.

*The San Antonio Liederkrantz choir sang at St. Mary's Mass, as well as performed at the following festival. The choir was established in the summer of 1892 by the German Catholic immigrant congregation that had built St. Joseph's Church in San Antonio. Its first choir director was Father Henry Pfefferkorn, the third priest to minister to parishioners of St. Mary's (1875.)*



## St. Mary's at High Hill ~ 150-year Anniversary

By Cynthia Brewer

HIGH HILL—St. Mary's in High Hill, a mission of St. Rose of Lima Parish in Schulenburg, celebrated its Sesquicentennial Parish Picnic Sunday, September 5, 2010.

The anniversary celebration began with a flag raising ceremony by the local American Legion and VFW post, followed by Mass presided by Bishop David E. Fellhauer and concelebrated by St. Mary's pastor, Father Timothy Kosler; former parochial vicar, Father Frank Lenz; and other visiting priests.

The San Antonio Liederkrantz Choir sang at Mass and at the following festival. Other music was provided by Texas Sound Czech and Mark Halata/Texasvia. The evening closed with a fireworks' show donated by Mr. B. Fireworks and a free dance, with music from Texas Dream.

St. Mary's is known as the "Queen of the Painted Churches" and has recently had all its "painted" stenciling restored by art conservator Robert Alden Marshall.

"We had excellent weather, cool temperatures and the largest crowd ever," said Leo Kainer, a parishioner and a member of the church finance council. "We also exceeded all expectations in revenues and the best fireworks show that evening ever. God was surely looking down on us, and I think he must have been pleased."

Please see the August issue of *The Catholic Lighthouse* for the history of St. Mary's or see St. Mary's new Web site at <http://www.stmary-highhill.com/>.

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## The Bottom Line

By Antoinette Bosco  
Catholic News Service



### A grieving mother's compassionate journey

*Editor's Note: This column was originally written in 2006*

It is almost impossible to comprehend the horror that shattered Elaine Stillwell's life in 1986. In her own words, she tells what happened: "In an instant my life changed forever when my two oldest children, 21-year-old Denis and 19-year-old Peggy, were killed in a freak car accident Aug. 2, 1986, not far from our home on Long Island."

I could relate, having suffered the sudden deaths of two sons myself less than three years apart. Small wonder that I would want to read what Stillwell wrote about her new "journey" in a book titled simply *The Death of a Child, Reflections for Grieving Parents* (ACTA). Like her, my immediate reaction to this unbearable loss was to ask as she asks: "Where do we go from here? How do we get up in the morning?"

But unexpected healing and learning was to come from her grief, bringing her to live a "meaningful life" again. This happened because she had a faith in the Lord that would, as she says, "light up" her life. This trust led her to see the work she now could do precisely because of what grief had taught her.

"I was armed with three solid reasons to get up each day. I didn't want my children to be erased from peoples' minds. I wanted to keep doing everything I could to make them proud of me. And I didn't want to waste the special love I had for them," she said. She "re-entered the world," asking the Lord to design a new path that would lead her to live a "meaningful life" again.

The work Stillwell has done since then is astounding. She began to work with Compassionate Friends, a self-help group for bereaved parents and siblings, and

founded a chapter of this organization in her own Rockville Centre Diocese on Long Island. She then became New York state regional coordinator for the group, serving on the board of the National Catholic Ministry to the Bereaved. She has chaired grief seminars and conferences, written for national magazines and authored books and pamphlets for the bereaved.

All this work is in the name of her children, and all royalties and stipends she receives go to the "Peggy and Denis O'Connor Memorial Scholarship," established at the University of Dayton, Ohio. This summer (2006) marks the 20th anniversary of their deaths, and Stillwell planned a "big Aug. 5 affair" for the scholarship fund on the grounds of Bishop Kellenberg High School on Long Island.

"This is one of the ways I share Peggy and Denis with the world," she said, acknowledging that everything she does "is connected with them," giving her energy and keeping her feeling "really close to them."

Yet, she also has met people "who can't let go of their pain and are stuck" in their agony and anger. "I think they just crumble because they have no anchor in a religion," Stillwell writes. "I could never have imagined the array of joys that would light up my life after suffering the deaths of Peggy and Denis. I did not have a master plan, but the Lord did!"

A truly God-connected woman, she can say, "When I envision heaven, I see Peggy's and Denis' beaming faces and the faces of my babies lost through miscarriage. My heart is overwhelmed with tears of joy as I patiently await our glorious reunion. Every day we are one day closer!"

See p.19 *Catholic Family Services for grieving ministries.*

### Ascension Press donates "Walking with God: A Journey through the Bible" for Puzzle Contest

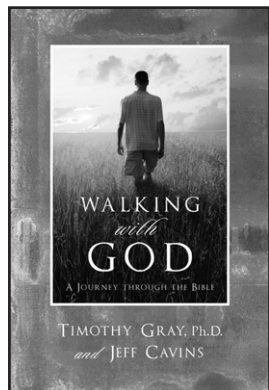
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West Chester, Pa. — The Bible provides a remarkable gift. For Scripture, written by men under the Inspiration of the Holy Spirit, truly is the word of God. Through it, God chose to reveal himself to man and communicate his loving plan for our lives. As Tim Gray says, "The Scriptures give us a story in which we can meet God himself, come to know his infinite love for each of us, and respond to his invitation to enter into communion with him." The Bible is a means of great spiritual nourishment and enrichment for the people of God.

Reading the Bible, however, can be a frustrating task for many. In "Walking with God," co-authors Jeff Cavins and Tim Gray present the biblical narrative in one continuous and captivating story. The book arranges the story woven throughout the pages of the Bible in an easy-to-read and concise way, offering readers a panoramic view of God's glorious plan of salvation.

"As modern readers," Cavins says, "we open a book and expect to read it cover-to-cover. But the Bible is not written that way. It is not a novel. It is not a scientific textbook. It is a library." The Bible is a collection of 73 books, written by different cultures over the course of millennia, and compiled almost 2,000 years ago. "If we cannot understand the plot of Scripture,"

Cavins says, "we get lost in endless genealogies, names, and battles; we close the book and leave the Bible on the shelf, never learning of God's story and our place in it." Finding the story in Scripture is the key to reading it.



"With keen insight and a genius for making the complex simple, Gray and Cavins help us see the big picture of God's Word by guiding us through the depths and compelling details of the biblical narrative. This book is an invaluable guide to the mystery and meaning of Sacred Scripture," says Charles Chaput, Archbishop of Denver.

"In 'Walking with God,' readers will see that the Bible is much more than an ancient book written for an ancient people. You will see how Scripture is truly the Living Word of God, it is written for us, and we are called to be a part of its amazing story," Cavins says. "We hope that 'Walking with God' will help you taste and see God's word anew and how enriching it is to explore the deep mysteries of Sacred Scripture."

"Walking with God: A Journey through the Bible" is available from Ascension Press at [www.AscensionPress.com](http://www.AscensionPress.com), or by calling 1-800-376-0520. For a chance to win the book, please complete the Family Puzzle Contest and mail it to *The Catholic Lighthouse* by Oct. 25.

### VESSELS AND LINENS

[www.wordgamesforcatholics.com](http://www.wordgamesforcatholics.com)

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ALTAR CLOTH	CRUETS	PALL
BURSE	CUP	PATEN
CHALICE	LUNA	PURIFICATOR
CIBORIUM	LUNETTE	PYX
CORPORAL	MONSTRANCE	VEIL

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 Phone number: \_\_\_\_\_  
 Parish: \_\_\_\_\_  
 Age if 18 or under: \_\_\_\_\_



### Family Puzzle Contest Winners!

Frances Posada of The Parish of the Nativity in Eagle Lake is the winner of the September Family Puzzle Contest and *Jesus the Word to be Spoken ~ Prayer and Meditations for Every Day of the Year* by Mother Teresa, compiled by Brother Angelo Devananda and published by Servant Books. This contest and book were, by far, the most popular; we had the most contestants ever for the contest. Thank you.

Also, thank you, youth for playing the contest this month. The winner of the youth contest was Allison Capak, 7, of St. Philip in El Campo. She will receive a gift from the Incarnate Word Gift Shop.

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

The next Family Puzzle Contest winner will win "Walking with God ~ A Journey Through the Bible" by Tim Gray and Jeff Cavins and published by Ascension 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 October 25 for a chance to win "Walking with God ~ A Journey Through the Bible." Youth 18 years of age and under will have the opportunity to receive a gift from the Incarnate Word Gift Shop (youth, please state age).

### ~ The Best Fest ~

#### Who do you say has the best parish festival?

Because we neglected to include a notice in the September Catholic Lighthouse about the August and September "Best Fest" contest, we have extended it through October. The "Best Fest" will be announced in the November issue.

Please nominate your favorite parish festivals. We have three categories: 1. Best Meal; 2. Best Entertainment for both young and old; and 3. Best Overall Festival. You may list your top three church festivals in each category.

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

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

Best Parish Festival Form

Best Meal:  
 1st \_\_\_\_\_ 2nd \_\_\_\_\_ 3rd \_\_\_\_\_  
 Best Overall Entertainment:  
 1st \_\_\_\_\_ 2nd \_\_\_\_\_ 3rd \_\_\_\_\_  
 Best Overall Festival:  
 1st \_\_\_\_\_ 2nd \_\_\_\_\_ 3rd \_\_\_\_\_  
 Your name and town: \_\_\_\_\_

Don't worry, if you don't vote for your parish, we won't tell.





## “Divorce-Proof” Your Marriage

By Annie Coffey  
Our Lady of Victory Parish

Anyone who is married knows that it can at times be very difficult. You only have to look around you to see that almost half of all marriages in our country end in divorce, many within the first five to ten years. Divorce is an overwhelming epidemic in our nation. However, I may have stumbled across the cure!

I ran across an article a few weeks back written by Dr. Edward Peters, one of the most widely-known lay canon lawyers in North America. He was reflecting on the annulment cases he has been a part of and brought to light some very interesting facts. He cited various studies which show that “the lowest reasonable estimate of contraceptive use among Americans seems to be around 85%, with Catholics being statistically indistinguishable from the population at large.” He then pointed out that among divorced persons appearing before a diocesan tribunal for an annulment, his estimate is that “some form of contraception was used during all or a significant part of the failed marriage in 99% of the cases.”

That didn’t impress me too much because if the majority of Americans are using contraception, then it follows that the

majority of divorced Americans would also have used contraception. His next disclosure was the amazing part:

“After a decade of working on annulment cases, I have studied some 1,500 marriage and divorce histories, probably more. Yet, I can only recall one, maybe two, cases where Natural Family Planning (NFP), as opposed to some form of artificial contraception, was seriously tried by the parties prior to their divorce, and at most one or two other cases where it was even considered. This kind of figure, of which I am very confident, should be read in light of numerous studies published by the Couple to Couple League and others, which demonstrate that regular practitioners of NFP have remarkably, some might say astoundingly, low divorce rates. If a correlation between contraceptive use and eventual divorce is not beginning to emerge here, I don’t know where it would.”

Natural Family Planning refers to the practice of avoiding or achieving pregnancy according to an informed awareness of a woman’s fertility. Unlike contraception, NFP embraces the full meaning of the marital act. There are no dangerous side effects and it doesn’t cause lack of sex drive! Not only does it have no negative

effects, it provides some overwhelmingly positive effects.

We cannot underestimate the positive effects that come from practicing NFP. Couples who use NFP typically grow in “patience, self-control, openness to God’s will, self-sacrifice” (Couple to Couple League). All of these are virtues that can practically ensure a happy, fulfilling marriage.

Gregory Popcak, a well-known Catholic psychotherapist, and author of “Holy Sex!,” has this to say, “As I am fond of reminding people, NFP is not, in my view, primarily a means of spacing children. It is, in my view, primarily a spiritual exercise that allows couples to accomplish three ends: (1) to facilitate the communication and prayer life of the couple (2) to help the couple prayerfully discern their family size and, on an ongoing basis, continue to both balance and expand all the virtues associated with the unity and procreativity of marriage, and (3) help the couple achieve holiness, freedom, and true love through self-mastery and self-control.”

Father David Berger has witnessed this firsthand. “I have discovered that couples who sincerely practice NFP have a lively faith, contagious joy, profound trust in God’s providence and a strong desire to want what God chooses to give,” he said. “Is this not the invitation that we encounter in Jesus’ words, ‘Come follow me.’ And they left their nets behind and they went from making a living to making a life open to God’s guiding hand.”

According to Dr. Ty Meyer and his wife Gabriela, of Victoria, “We have been using NFP for over eight years now. As with anything worthwhile in life, it took practice and diligence at the beginning. Through God’s grace, it has become an integral part of our marriage and family life. NFP helps married couples to continuously evaluate God’s plan for their marriage and family, and this leads to open communication about finances, raising children and goals for the future.”

The late Pope John Paul II entreated couples, saying, “The Church and the world today more than ever need married couples and families who generously let themselves be schooled by Christ.”

So, if I told you that there was something you could do that would decrease your chances of divorce drastically, would you do it? What if it involved some sacrifice? Would you still do it? The happiest couples I know all have one thing in common: the practice of NFP.

If you have any questions, or if you and your spouse or fiancé are interested in learning NFP, please contact Annie and David Coffey at victorianfpteachers@yahoo.com. Fall classes will be held on Sunday, Oct 17; 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/nfp-myths.html>

[www.onemoresoul.com](http://www.onemoresoul.com)  
[www.priestsforlife.com](http://www.priestsforlife.com)

## The Mass: Source of Strength for Daily Life

By María de Lourdes Ruiz Scaperlanda

Catholics believe that in the celebration of the Mass, they join the sacrifice of everyday life to the sacrifice of Christ, says Msgr. Joseph DeGrocco, professor of Liturgy at Immaculate Conception Seminary in Huntington, New York. “The offering and self-emptying we do at Mass, in union with Christ, is the offering and self-emptying we are supposed to be living every moment of every day—that is what the Christian life is!”

The relationship between the Mass and everyday life is a reciprocal relationship, an active experience. At every Mass Catholics bring the offering of what’s going on in their lives—and offer that in union with Jesus. It is that union, culminating in the Holy Communion, that strengthens them for everyday life, explains Msgr. DeGrocco. “We do liturgy in order to try to do Christian life right. What we do at Mass is a summation or a ‘microcosm,’ if you will, of the way we are supposed to be living Christian life.”

According to Msgr. DeGrocco, this awareness of what takes place at every Mass is precisely why Catholics should invest themselves into appreciating the Mass. “We cannot be Catholic without it,” he says. “We cannot be fully united to Jesus without sacramental communion with Him in the Eucharist.”

Not only is daily life about the Mass, says liturgy Professor Sister Janet Baxendale, SC of New York City’s St. Joseph’s Seminary, but the Mass also “offers extraordinary help in my efforts to live my life well” through Scripture, the

Word of God, the Prayers of the Faithful, and most powerfully, by receiving the Eucharist.

In Holy Communion, “Christ comes to us to nourish us; to be food for our souls as we struggle to fulfill our Baptismal call to be like Christ, to be His presence in our world,” notes Sister Baxendale.

Distractions can make participation and appreciation of the Mass discouraging, notes Sister Baxendale. “Our thoughts stray; we find ourselves trying to solve problems of home, of office, of life in general. The people around us distract us: a crying child; someone with an annoying habit sharing ‘my’ pew; the choir is off-key; the readings can’t be heard—and on and on.”

Sister Baxendale says there are strategies to reduce the impact of these distractions:

Prepare for Mass. Read over that day’s Scriptures. “In this way you will have done the ‘ground work,’ tilling the soil so that the seed of God’s Word may find ready soil in you.”

Participate in Mass. Sing the hymns, pray the responses, listen to the readings and to the prayers said by the priest on our behalf: the opening prayer, the prayer over the gifts, the prayer after Communion, the Eucharistic prayer. “Work at doing this well, and there will be less time for distractions.”

Learn about the Mass. Check online sources provided by the United States Conference of Catholic Bishops and printed materials in your own parish for resources to “enhance your understanding and appreciation of

See *The Mass*, p. 15

## Sunday Readings from Oct. 10 to Nov. 14

October 10 — Twenty-eighth Sunday in Ordinary Time	2 Kings 5:14-17 Psalms 98:1, 2-3, 3-4 2 Timothy 2:13-18 Luke 17:11-19
October 17 — Twenty-ninth Sunday in Ordinary Time	Exodus 17:8-13 Psalms 121:1-2, 3-4, 5-6, 7-8 2 Timothy 3:14; 4:2 Luke 18:1-8
October 24 — Thirtieth Sunday in Ordinary Time	Sirach 35:12-14, 16-18 Psalms 34:2-3, 17-18, 19, 23 2 Timothy 4:6-8, 16-18 Luke 18:9-14
October 31 — Thirty-first Sunday in Ordinary Time	Wisdom 11:22 — 12:2 Psalms 145:1-2, 8-9, 10-11, 13, 14 2 Thessalonians 1:11 — 2:2 Luke 19:1-10
November 7 — Thirty-second Sunday in Ordinary Time	2 Maccabees 7:1-2, 9-14 Psalms 17:1, 5-6, 8, 15 2 Thessalonians 2:16 — 3:5 Luke 20:27-38
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

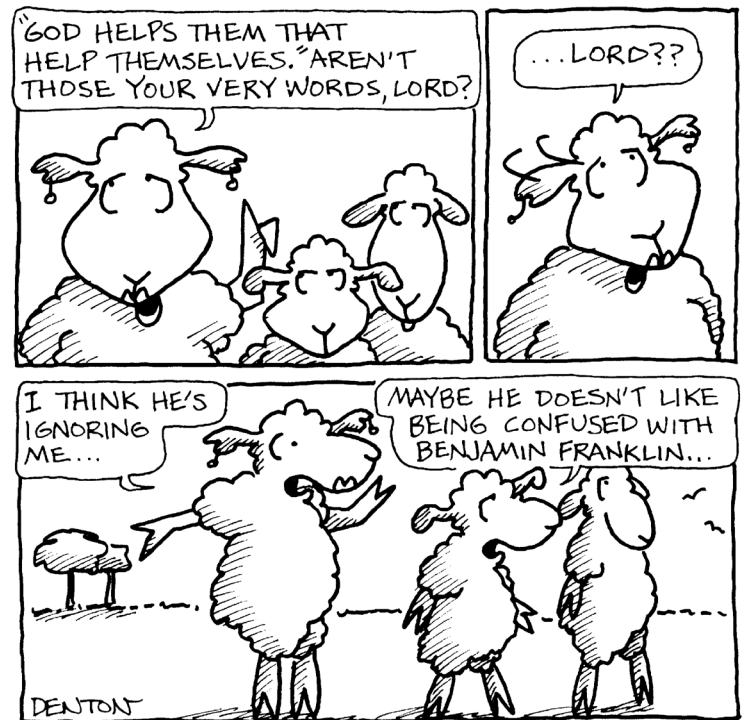
~ First Sunday of Advent November 28 ~

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/)  
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By Jean Denton

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## Breaking the cycle: Study shows Latin American poverty follows patterns

By Barbara J. Fraser  
Catholic News Service

QUITOS, Peru (CNS) — Cesar Mashingash Alban, a 23-year-old Wampis indigenous youth, was studying education at a local university until this semester, when his funds ran out and he had to return home to a tiny community several days away by river.

A fellow student, 22-year-old Ferny Medina, was even farther from home — 45 minutes on a prohibitively expensive small plane, or 23 days by river. Medina, a medical student, was also worried about money. The local government had suspended a dollar-a-day food subsidy for indigenous students, and the youths had run out of rice, cooking oil and other staples.

Struggling for an education after growing up in remote communities without electricity and with few school books or supplies, Mashingash

and Medina face the double bind of poverty in Latin America: Indigenous people and rural dwellers are more likely to be poor than city dwellers and people of European descent. The problem is even more acute for women and children.

Even more insidiously, poverty is likely to pass from generation to generation in the same households, according to a new U.N. Development Program report on human development in Latin America and the Caribbean. If countries really want to break the cycle of poverty, experts say, they must change their policies to address internal inequalities.

In Guatemala, 49 percent of children under age 5 suffer from chronic malnutrition, a rate that rises to 59 percent among indigenous children, Bishop Alvaro Ramazzini Imeri of San Marcos told Catholic News Service.

“Indigenous people in Guatemala have always been the most excluded from social development in the country,” he said. “That dates back to colonial times, when indigenous people were merely considered cheap labor. And the same is true today.”

Despite economic growth during much of the past decade, distribution of per capita income in Latin America is nearly as inequitable now as it was 20 years ago. According to the index used to rank income distribution, Latin America is the most unequal region in the world, with an inequality index 18 percent higher than that of sub-Saharan Africa and 65 percent higher than the world’s highest-income countries.

Within countries, poverty rates are higher among indigenous people, those of African descent, women and people in rural areas than those in cities and people of European descent.

In Ecuador, 60 percent of indigenous people live on less than a dollar a day, twice the poverty rate for non-indigenous Ecuadorians. Only 9.3 percent of Panama’s non-indigenous population is poor, but more than half of indigenous Panamanians and those of African descent live in poverty. Disparities are similarly high in countries such as Mexico, Bolivia, Guatemala, Paraguay, Brazil and Peru.

Guatemala has not made structural changes “that would create a society in which there is equality in access to the basic goods that people need — adequate housing; nutritious and abundant food; stable, decent and well-paid employment; access to health care,” Bishop Ramazzini said. “We have huge deficits in health and education.”

The U.N. study found that poverty tends to persist in households from one generation to the next, partly because a

lack of education limits future employment opportunities.

Children whose parents have little formal education are less likely to complete a higher education and run the risk of perpetuating poverty.

In households where parents did not finish elementary school, 85.5 percent of the children finish primary school, but only 32.7 percent finish high school and 3.1 percent go on to college, the study found. If parents have not completed secondary school, slightly more than half their children finish high school, but only 6 percent get a college education.

In contrast, when parents have a college education, almost all their children finish high school and almost three-fourths finish college.

“It is possible to reduce inequality by breaking the vicious circle of inequality that is passed from generation to generation,” said Rebecca Arias,

UNDP representative in Peru, where the human development report was presented Sept. 9.

In poor urban neighborhoods, lack of jobs sometimes pushes women into illegal activities such as prostitution or the drug trade that can lead to prison time, said Heidi Cerneka, a Maryknoll lay missionary who works with prisoners in Sao Paulo.

“I think if we had something closer to equity, we wouldn’t have as many people in our prisons,” she said.

Once the women leave prison, it is even more difficult for them to find work, she said. While men with little formal education can find unskilled work in construction or other trades, women without job skills are often relegated to the informal economy, selling small items or working as domestic employees, Cerneka said.

“But you’re more likely to hire a former inmate to repair your roof than to clean your house,” she said.

Isidro Soloaga, a coordinator of the U.N. study, said most government policies promote economic growth but do not reduce inequality within countries, although several countries are distributing cash or vouchers to poor families who agree to keep their children in school and ensure they get health care.

Governments must not only increase social spending, he said, but target it better with policies that respond to underlying causes of inequality. Parents may send their children to work instead of to school, for example, because they do not believe an education “pays off.” The challenge is to ensure that families see a tangible benefit to educating their children.

Poverty and inequality are linked to issues that affect the United States. High poverty rates in the mostly indigenous highlands of Peru have spurred an exodus of working-age adults to cities, leaving elderly people and children behind, Archbishop Pedro Barreto Jimeno of Huancayo told CNS.

And although illegal migration to the United States has decreased with the recent economic downturn, low-wage jobs in “El Norte” still pay more than unskilled work in most migrants’ home countries.

Because of the cross-border links in poverty and inequality, Catholics in both Latin America and the United States should seek solutions, Bishop Ramazzini said.

He called for U.S. Catholics to work for immigration reform, just economic relationships with developing countries, and enforcement of free-trade agreement provisions protecting workers and the environment. They can also help monitor

mining, petroleum, timber and other companies that extract natural resources from Latin American countries, he said.

The U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops has also focused on those issues.

“Catholics throughout the world are supposed to live in solidarity with one another,” said Father Juan Molina, the

bishops’ foreign policy adviser for Latin America and global trade.

Recent economic hardship might have brought that lesson home.

“People are realizing that poverty sometimes can sneak into a society if we are not careful about making sure that our laws and our governments take equitable distribution



**Bishop Raul Vera will speak about violence on the border at MACC, San Antonio, Oct. 14, 6:30 to 9:00 p.m. Register at 210-732-2156 ext. 7110.**

**BISHOP RAUL VERA AWARDED INTERNATIONAL HUMAN RIGHTS PRIZE**—Bishop Raul Vera Lopez of Saltillo, Coahuila State, Mexico, left, celebrates Mass in 2009 in Mexico City. Bishop Vera was awarded an international human rights prize Sept. 23, 2010, for his tireless opposition to the rampant impunity in Mexico’s political and legal systems and work in defense of vulnerable and oppressed groups. (CNS photo/David Agren)

## New book: Latino City Catholicism

SAN ANTONIO — Are Catholic schools in San Antonio different from those in New York, Cincinnati, and Los Angeles? Steve Neiheisel, Ph.D., professor and director of the undergraduate political science program at St. Mary’s University, says yes! Neiheisel was asked to write a chapter on San Antonio for inclusion in *Urban Catholic Education: Tales of Twelve American Cities*, a newly published book by the Alliance for Catholic Education Press at the University of Notre Dame.

Neiheisel is one of twelve scholars who contributed to *Urban Catholic Education* by writing about the unique qualities of parochial education in the countries largest, and arguably very diverse, archdioceses: Boston, New York, Philadelphia and Baltimore in the East; Cincinnati, St. Louis, Detroit and Chicago in the Midwest; and New Orleans, San Antonio, Los Angeles and San Francisco in the South and West.

Neiheisel’s chapter “*Latino City Catholicism: Catholic Education in San Antonio*” examines the past and current parochial school system in San Antonio by placing it in a historical and cultural context. Why do San Antonio’s Catholic churches and schools have strong Mexican cultural ties? And what does this have to do with the “rise, fall, and resurgence of the Mexican Catholic community?” It may seem unrelated, but Neiheisel’s chapter

also explores the impact of San Antonio being left out of the industrial revolution and the impact that had on the parochial schools. Yet thanks to some religious orders like the Society of Mary (Marianist), who established St. Mary’s University, higher education has flourished in San Antonio.

Neiheisel’s examination is in-depth and provides a good background for those hoping to understand more thoroughly not only on how San Antonio’s Catholic schools were formed, but why. His chapter, like the other eleven in the book, uniquely discusses the impact of Catholic immigration, the size and growth of the cities’ Catholic population and the attitudes of the local bishops towards education. Jay Dolan, author of *The American Catholic Experience* and professor of history emeritus at the University of Notre Dame, says the book provides an “invaluable resource for anyone interested in the history of education in urban America.”

Neiheisel has taught political science at St. Mary’s for 20 years. He is a professor of Public Leadership and chairman of the Political Science Department at Saint Mary’s University, adjunct graduate professor of Nonprofit Leadership at the University of Dayton, and adjunct graduate professor of Organizational Leadership at the College of Mount Saint Joseph in Cincinnati.

### 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.

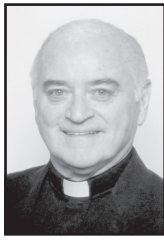
Si no se encuentra seguro de proceder con la queja o necesita más información, por favor comuníquese con el Rev. Gary Janak al (979)543-3770.





## Spirituality for Today

By Father John Catoir  
Catholic News Service



### Mental health is spiritual health

St. Paul said, "Rejoice always, and be grateful in all circumstances." To do this you have to learn to repeat self-affirming thoughts; think through your faith, and control the thoughts you think.

Happy people do what they have to do to lift up their spirit. They avoid self-pity and self-defeating thoughts. They follow the Gospel.

As a Christian, it is important to remember the words of Jesus, "I have told you all these things that my joy may be in you and your joy may be complete."

God wants you to be happy. You can do this. There are plenty of choices you can make that will lead to a happier frame of mind.

This commitment doesn't cancel the cross. There is much unavoidable suffering that is a normal part of human life. You will have to carry your cross, but mental discipline will enable you to cope better with the inevitable darkness of the human condition.

Here, in alphabetical order, are some positive affirmations that you can repeat to yourself. This is based on the alphabet. You can make up other words to fill in the blanks: A, B, C, D, etc.

I am Astonishing; I am Blessed; I am Chosen; I am Delighted; I am Energetic; I am Friendly; I am Grateful; I am Happy; I am Intelligent; I am Joyful; I am Kind; I am Loved.

Fill in the rest of the alphabet to suit yourself. The only one I have trouble with is X.

By focusing on positive thoughts, you eliminate the many toxic thoughts that lurk in the shadows and need to be rejected right away.

Believe it or not, many people say these things to themselves every day: "I don't

deserve to be happy; God must not like me; I will never amount to anything; there must be something wrong with me; I never seem to get people to like me; I can't control my feelings; I have to make myself feel guilty all the time because I don't trust myself; my happiness depends on someone else's approval; I'm probably going to die a miserable death; I will never be happy."

These are thoughts straight from the devil. Don't believe one word of it. God is love, and Jesus died so that you may have life and have it in abundance.

Faith tells us that God loved us so much that he gave his only begotten son that we might live. Jesus told us to come to him if we are burdened and he will give us rest. He said when your emotions become upsetting, do not be afraid. Fear is useless, he said; what you need is trust.

Do the math. Read the signs. Choose joy over fear and sorrow.

How do you do this?

It is all in the will. The will has only one function; the will says yes or no. Put on the will to bear discomfort. Endure all things for the Lord, and be grateful in all circumstances.

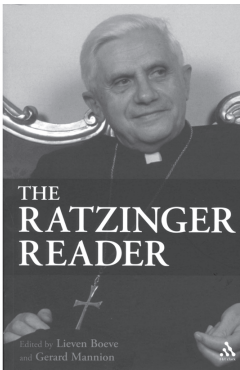
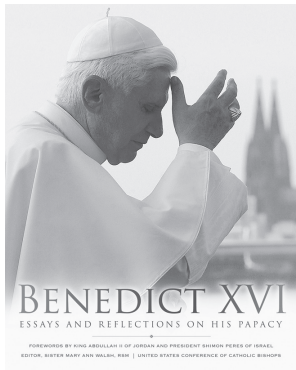
This is what we call Christian discipline.

Self-pity, fear and doubt are the enemies of a vibrant faith. Reject them. You have the power, and with the help of God you can do all things through Christ who strengthens you.

Once again, my favorite quote from Jesus, "I have told you all these things that my joy may be in you and your joy may be complete."

**Editor's note:** If you suffer severe depression, do not neglect to see a physician.

**BOOKS ON POPE BENEDICT**—(CNS) Below are covers of "Benedict XVI: Essays and Reflections on His Papacy," edited by Sister Mary Ann Walsh, RSM, and "The Ratzinger Reader: Mapping a Theological Journey" by Joseph Ratzinger, edited by Lieven Boeve and Gerard Mannion. They are reviewed by Brian Welter. In the books, one will learn that while Pope Benedict XVI is undoubtedly a much different pope than John Paul II was, the depth of the current pontiff's pastoral concerns are, surprisingly to some, as deep as his predecessor's. Few would have foreseen that such a brilliant, often polemical man could possess these qualities.



### The Mass: Source of Strength for Daily Life

Continued from p. 13

the great gift God has given to His people in the Mass."

Take daily time to be silent and to listen. The self-discipline of a regular period of quiet reflection teaches us to "empty our minds of the cares, ideas and distracting thoughts that press on us—and to concentrate on God, on His incredible love for me [personally], and His presence to me. Our perseverance can bear fruit in the ability to concentrate more fully when we are at Mass."

Don't get discouraged. "It is the effort that counts. The results are in the hands of God."

Christ is present at Mass in many ways, explains Msgr. DeGrocco, "in the gathered assembly, in the Word, in the priest and

most especially in the Real Presence of the Eucharist... The person in the pew who does nothing 'more' than being internally attentive and bringing the sacrifice of his/her life, and who does all the external participation (sitting, standing, kneeling, responding, singing) is nonetheless participating fully."

He notes, "The best way to improve one's appreciation of the Mass is to improve one's living of the sacrifice of one's life."

*María de Lourdes Ruiz Scaperlanda is a frequent contributor to the Catholic press. She is an award winning journalist and the author of five books. See [www.mymaria.net](http://www.mymaria.net)*

### THE POPE SPEAKS

Pope Benedict XVI



CNS photo from Reuters

### Pope asks young people to learn from beatified Focolarina

CASTEL GANDOLFO, Italy—(CNS) — Blessed Chiara Badano, an Italian who died of bone cancer just before her 19th birthday, witnessed to the world the fact that God's love is stronger than suffering and death, Pope Benedict XVI said.

"Only Love with a capital L gives true happiness," and that's what Blessed Badano showed her family, her friends and her fellow members of the Focolare movement, the pope said Sept. 26 during his midday Angelus address.

At Rome's Shrine of Divine Love Sept. 25, Archbishop Angelo Amato, prefect of the Congregation for Saints' Causes, presided over the beatification of the young Italian who died in 1990.

Pope Benedict said young people can find in Blessed Badano "an example of Christian consistency," because she was certain of God's love and trusted in that love even as she was dying.

"We give praise to God because his love is stronger than evil and death; and we give thanks to the Virgin Mary who leads young people, even in the midst of difficulty and suffering, to fall in love with Jesus and discover the beauty of life," the pope said.

At the beatification Mass, Archbishop

Amato called Blessed Badano a missionary of Jesus, "who invites us to rediscover the freshness and enthusiasm of the faith."

Even as she lost the use of her legs and was dying, she shared her faith and God's love with the dozens of people who would visit her each day, he said.

"Her last gift was her corneas, the only organs that were still transplantable" because they were not damaged by the cancer that had spread throughout her body, the archbishop said. "They were given to two young people who can see today thanks to her."

After the beatification, about 8,000 young members of the Focolare movement gathered in the Vatican audience hall for a nighttime celebration of Blessed Badano's life with readings and singing.

Blessed Badano's parents were joined by 600 of the young people from 42 countries at Pope Benedict's weekly general audience Sept. 29 in St. Peter's Square.

The Italian teen's parents went to thank the pope, but it was Pope Benedict who thanked them for making Blessed Badano's life and witness possible, the Vatican newspaper, *L'Osservatore Romano*, reported.

The Badanos told the newspaper that the beatification of their only child has given them a direct experience of the love of God, which she felt so strongly.

The Badanos gave the pope a note their daughter had written in which she entrusted herself to Mary, asking for "the necessary strength to never give up."



## PARISH OF THE NATIVITY

545 S. Austin Rd - Eagle Lake, TX  
Pavilion Across from the Hospital

## Annual Fall Festival

Sunday, October 17, 2010

Eucharist

310 N Stevenson St.

Spanish 8:00 am

English 10:00 am

\* Barbecue Beef & Sausage

with all the trimmings \*

\$8 per plate

Serving from 11:00 am until 1:00 pm

CURB SERVICE WILL BE AVAILABLE

Live Auction 1:00 pm

RAFFLE DRAWING (AFTER THE AUCTION)

FIRST PRIZE \$1000.00 GIFT CARD

SECOND PRIZE \$500.00 GIFT CARD

Booths & Games

Food Booths, Cake & Plant Walk, Country Store, Kids Games  
Soccer Tournament, Horseshoe Tournament

Come Enjoy the Day!

Something for Everyone!

LIVE MUSIC WITH DJ





## “God in America,” Oct. 11-13, PBS

NEW YORK (CNS) — “Americans,” observed Alexis de Tocqueville, writing in the early days of the Republic, “combine the notions of religion and liberty so intimately in their minds that it is impossible to make them conceive of one without the other.”

The crucial influence of faith in shaping U.S. history, and in molding the national character, receives a searching analysis in the six-hour miniseries “God in America.” The documentary — a joint presentation of “Frontline” and “American Experience” directed by David Belton — premieres on PBS stations Monday, Oct. 11, 8-10 p.m. CDT (check local listings).

Through interviews with scholars, archival images and dramatizations, the initial episode screened recounts how the religious heritage of the Old World — first brought to the future United States by Catholic missionaries moving north from Mexico — was radically reshaped by a series of all-too-worldly conflicts among believers of various stripes.

While its neutral perspective, which carries with it the assumption that all religions are either equally true or equally

false, may rankle with believers, the historical value of “God in America” is undeniable, informatively tracing as it does the complex process by which the steady irritant of dissent and disagreement gave birth to the pearl of religious liberty.

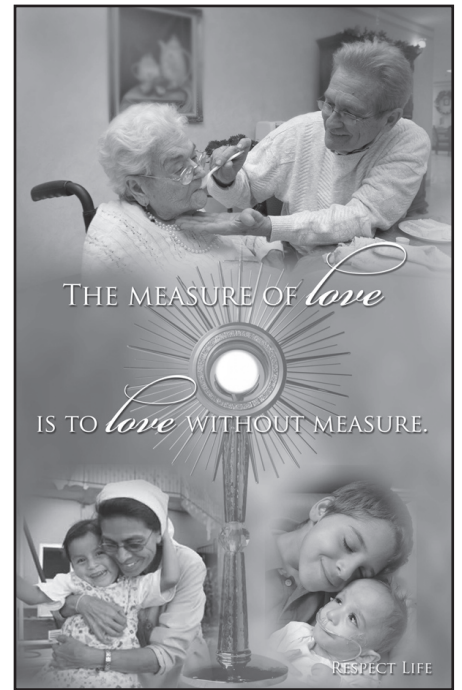
The sophisticated issues under study, and the maturity required to sort through



them — together with briefly seen artwork featuring Adam and Eve sans fig leaves — mark this as best for religiously well-grounded adults.

The program, which is rated TV-PG — parental guidance suggested, continues Tuesday, Oct. 12, and concludes Wednesday, Oct. 13.

*A Franciscan monk is pictured in New Mexico in a scene from the upcoming PBS documentary series “God in America.” (CNS photo/courtesy PBS)*



2010-2011 Respect Life Poster

## Infertility, sex trafficking, death penalty among Respect Life topics

*Continued from p. 1*

church’s affirmation of the sanctity of all human life.”

In an article for the 2010-11 package, Bishop Robert W. Finn of Kansas City-St. Joseph, Mo., linked the issue of capital punishment to God’s divine mercy.

“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,” he wrote.

In addition to Bishop Finn’s article, this year’s Respect Life program packet includes articles on:

- “American Youth and the Culture of Life” by graduate students Megan Breen and Samuel Vasquez.

- “Sex Trafficking: The New Slavery” by Diane Bayly of the USCCB’s Office of Migration and Refugee Services.

- “Hope for Married Couples Who Want to Have a Child” by Dr. John Bruchalski of the Tepeyac Family Center.

- “Caring for Each Other, Even Unto Death” by Marie Hilliard of the National

Catholic Bioethics Center.

- “Make Room for People” by Steven Mosher of the Population Research Institute.

- “Losing a Child to Suicide: Trusting in God’s Mercy” by Gladys Sweeney of the Institute for the Psychological Sciences.

This year’s liturgy guide offers intercessions for life; suggested homily reflections for Respect Life Sunday and Jan. 22, the anniversary of the Supreme Court decisions that legalized abortion; a litany for life; and a prayer, enthronement and novena to Our Lady of Guadalupe.

Begun in 1972, the Respect Life program brings Church teaching on the value and dignity of human life to the Catholic community and the wider public through education, prayer, service and advocacy.

Editor’s Note: Materials for the 2010-11 Respect Life program may be downloaded at [www.usccb.org/prolife/programs/rlp/2010](http://www.usccb.org/prolife/programs/rlp/2010). They also may be ordered by calling (866) 582-0943 or by faxing orders to (301) 779-8596.

## Texas Catholic Conference announces Texas state news

*Continued from p. 1*

or military service. Those benefitting from the DREAM Act are talented, intelligent and dedicated young people who know only the U.S. as their home. Read Full Story and Action Alert at <http://www.TXcatholic.org>. Also See: Support efforts to ensure students who attend Texas public schools have access to in-state college tuition. (TCC Policy Paper)

### — Bishop Mulvey speaks out on Stem Cell Research

Most Reverend Wm. Michael Mulvey, S.T.L., DD, bishop of Corpus Christi, as printed in the “Viewpoints” Section of the September 8, 2010 edition of the *Corpus Christi Caller Times*:

Embryonic stem cell research (ESCR) has been in the news recently. A topic of both religion and politics, it is important for the public to have an understanding that ESCR is not a scientific breakthrough or borderline science-fiction-sounding pursuit, but literally a battle of life and death.

In July, Geron Corporation announced that the U.S. Food and Drug Administration (FDA) lifted the clinical hold placed on the company, allowing it to move forward with the world’s first clinical trial of human embryonic stem cell-based therapy in humans.

Only a month later, a federal court issued an injunction against the Obama administration’s funding of human embryonic stem cell research. Before contemplating the “could” of ESCR, we must consider the “should.” Before we ask, “Could science solve this disease or that disease?” we need to ask, “Should we engage in research

that destroys young human lives in order to improve the lives of older humans?”

Read Full Story on the Diocese of Corpus Christi’s Catholic Communications Network Web site at <http://www.goccn.org/>.

### — September Capitol Comments: Why We Care About Marriage

The decision by the ninth circuit court to overturn proposition 8, the California voter initiative regarding marriage, is on hold until at least December when the ninth circuit court of appeals will consider the controversial ruling. While we wait to see how the legal battle in California unfolds I thought it would be a good time to discuss why we care so much about marriage. Read Full Story at <http://www.TXcatholic.org>.

### — USCCB Media Blog: Repealing Birthright Citizenship Would Create Administrative Havoc (It’s Unconstitutional Too)

Senator Lindsay Graham (R-SC) said recently he is considering introducing a constitutional amendment in Congress that would end “birthright citizenship” for children of illegal aliens. His supporters say this could be part of a compromise to achieve comprehensive immigration reform. Sometimes one gets to wonder who advises congressmen and whether they think things through before they speak. Read Full Story at <http://www.TXcatholic.org>.

**St. Peter’s Church - Blessing  
Barbeque Turkey & Dressing Dinner**  
with green beans, sweet potatoes, cranberry sauce,  
dessert & tea - all for \$8 per plate

**Sunday, October 31**  
**Dine-in or Drive-thru 11:00 a.m.**  
**Auction Begins at 12:30 p.m.**

**Raffle - Children’s Games - And More!**

**Holy Cross Catholic Church Fall Festival**  
&  
**TURKEY DINNER**  
**Sunday, Oct. 24, 2010**  
**Knights of Columbus Hall**  
**Hamman Rd. - Bay City, TX.**

**Turkey & Dressing Dinner**  
**Drive Thru or Dine In 11:00 to 1:00**  
**Turkey • Home-made Dressing • Mashed Potatoes • Green Beans • Cranberry Sauce • Dessert & Tea (tea dine-in only)**  
**\$ 8.00 per plate**

**LIVE & SILENT AUCTION**  
**Starts @ 12:00 p.m.**  
**Country Store & CDA Raffle**

**Children’s Games**  
**Cake Walk**  
**EVERYONE WELCOME**  
**FUN FOR ALL!**





## Organization loses CCHD grant over Planned Parenthood link

PORTLAND, Ore. (CNS) — The Archdiocese of Portland earlier this year asked a local homeless advocacy newspaper to end its link to an abortion provider to continue receiving grants from a Catholic agency. Street Roots refused to remove Planned Parenthood from a resource guide it offers homeless and poor people and so lost funding. The guide lists more than 300 service organizations in addition to Planned Parenthood, which offers some health care but also performs more abortions than any other organization. The grant was from the Catholic Campaign for Human Development, the U.S. bishops' domestic anti-poverty program. The archdiocese's grants of between \$5,000 and \$10,000 per year made up about 4 percent of the Street Roots budget. The newspaper is one of about 50 organizations nationwide that have lost Catholic grants for connections to activity the church considers immoral.

The Catholic Campaign for

Human Development collection will be held in the Diocese of Victoria on the weekend of November 20. Please be generous.

## Pro-euthanasia forces see Quebec as way into North America

OTTAWA, Ontario (CNS) — International campaigners see Quebec as a vulnerable beachhead for legalizing euthanasia in Canada, then the rest of North America, said a prominent Canadian ethicist. Margaret Somerville, founding director of the Centre for Medicine, Ethics and Law at Toronto's McGill University, said she and others are keeping an eye on Quebec, where a legislative committee is holding public hearings on euthanasia. Though many Canadians outside of Quebec were reassured earlier this year by the resounding defeat of a Bloc Quebecois pro-euthanasia and assisted suicide private member's bill, Somerville said pro-euthanasia forces regroup after each defeat. "We used to think that's the end of it, but as soon as that's finished, the next one starts up," she said, noting pro-euthanasia campaigns are happening worldwide.



**RESIDENT SEARCHES FOR SURVIVORS AFTER LANDSLIDE IN MEXICO**—A resident searches for survivors Sept. 29 buried after a landslide in Santa Maria Tlahuitoltepec in the southern state of Oaxaca, Mexico. Catholic dioceses across southern and eastern Mexico are urging generosity in response to widespread flooding and landslides that have claimed dozens of lives in some of the most impoverished pockets of the states of Oaxaca and Chiapas. (CNS photo/Henry Romero, Reuters)

## Report recommends steps to help Haitian recovery

WASHINGTON (CNS) — In a Sept. 27 teleconference, Miami Archbishop Thomas G. Wenski said that international attention has begun to lag with regard to the long-term recovery of Haiti from the Jan. 12 earthquake that devastated the impoverished island nation. A 16-page report, "The Displaced of Haiti: Long-Term Challenges and Needed Solutions," detailed problems and recommendations for dealing with the painfully slow process of rebuilding Haiti and helping its displaced people. "It is vital that the international community renew its efforts to get the country moving again... The situation in Haiti is a desperate one," concluded the report.

## Synod aims to bolster Middle East church presence

VATICAN CITY (CNS) — The Vatican is setting the stage for another Synod of Bishops Oct. 10-24, this one aimed at turning a spotlight on the Christian communities of the Middle East. The problems of the minority Christian churches in the Middle East are well known. A short list would include the massive emigration of Christians, political and military conflict, economic hardship, travel restrictions, discrimination and interreligious tensions. Pope Benedict XVI decided a synod was needed when he visited the Holy Land last year. The papal visit briefly turned the church's attention to the daily struggles of Christian communities there; now the pope wants to bring those struggles to the heart of the universal church for more systematic discussion.

## Vatican official addresses UN

UNITED NATIONS (CNS) — The United Nations might not be perfect, but it has helped humanity move toward a world marked by dialogue, peace and development, the Vatican's for-

eign minister, Archbishop Dominique Mamberti, told the U.N. General Assembly Sept. 29. He said that for the United Nations and its various agencies to continue being effective, its actions and deliberations must make "constant reference to the dignity of all men and women," to the right to life of all people, including the terminally ill and

the unborn, and to religious freedom. He said bilateral and multilateral agreements to reduce nuclear weapons, cluster bombs and land mines are important steps toward ensuring a peaceful future for all people, but many countries' national military spending continues to pose a threat both to peace and to the nations' economic development.

## RCIA institute – 79 hours of intense training

*Continued from p. 5*

those seeking entrance into the Church should have an ongoing initiation process – where a parish is able to welcome and minister to those interested in becoming Catholic no matter the time of year they contact the parish, an that individual's journey of discernment is guided by God and not the parish's school-year schedule.

To do this, additional catechist teams are required to be available throughout the various periods of the rite: pre-catechumenate, catechumenate, purification and enlightenment, and mystagogy (follow up).

In her comments, Christella Alvarez, associate director of the Office of Catechetical Ministry in the Victoria Diocese, seems to reiterate this saying, "Like Jesus, we have to be able to meet people where they are, and share the 'good news' of Jesus with them through the Church's teachings, traditions and by the way we live."

Laurie Bautista of Our Lady of Lourdes Parish explained what she learned, "One thing stressed was that the community is the one who truly 'initiates' the newly baptized. We will have to work getting the community to understand and participate in this."

"Another focal point was Christian initiation of children. This is something with which we are forging ahead and implementing in our own parish," she said.

She learned the RCIA is to be adapted for non-baptized children, between the ages of seven to 17, emphasized that when children enter through the RCIA process, they receive all

sacraments of initiation: baptism, confirmation and Eucharist.

"Even though I am indirectly involved with the RCIA process, I have worked musically with the rites," said Cynthia Goerig of St. Philip the Apostle in El Campo.

"This institute was an eye opener and created a deeper reflection into my own faith. It was great to see that RCIA team members were reaffirmed that they are on the right tract and are able to define and make the rituals their own, which in turn deepens their own faith conversion," she said.

"I have been with the RCIA in some capacity since 1984," said Dick Scheibelhut of Our Lady of Victory Parish. "The idea of bringing the catechumen or candidate into a community, and the community's understanding of their roll, has yet to be fully developed," he said. "The rites of acceptance and election are still not understood by the community, but progress is being made."

"My hope is that the process will continue for many centuries (not years) and invigorate our Church to become the light that Jesus has asked us to be," he continued.

Mrs. Reyes said she was very excited and grateful Bishop Fellhauer gave the task force the opportunity to bring the institute to the Diocese of Victoria.

"I believe everyone left with a much better understanding of the rite and are excited to be embarking on their new journey. It is my hope we will be able to meet in the future to explore and learn from each others' experiences in our respective communities," she said.

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5	\$9.04	\$7.70
10	\$10.00	\$8.68
15	\$11.10	\$10.07
20	\$12.30	\$11.20

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The federal trade commission reports a traditional funeral, including a casket and vault, costs about \$6,000. And with "extras", many funerals run well over \$10,000. Plus, that doesn't include final medical expenses or other unexpected bills. This means that if you haven't adequately prepared for these costs ahead of time, your family may face severe financial problems when you die"

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

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Corpus Christi, TX 78480

Policy form 2004 underwritten by Royal Neighbors of America, Rock Island IL. Policy forms not yet available in all states. Eligibility requirements apply. Face amounts vary by age.





## Don't just find a job – Find your calling!

By Chris Benguhe

Walt Disney was fired from his first job drawing farm animals for a farm journal. John van Hengle, the founder of St. Mary's Food Bank, lost his advertising job and wound up practically homeless before finding his way.

Both of them changed the world.

Have you lost your job? Are you hurting financially, struggling to get back in the game? You are not alone. But your job loss could be the ultimate opportunity to find your true purpose and to realize that losing your job should not mean you have lost your value.

The unemployment rate in the United States is around 9.6 percent. That's a staggering number. But it's what happens after the job is lost that is the real tragedy.

We have been programmed in America over the last few decades to believe that we derive our value as a human being from our ability to make money. The idea we can find our "net worth" by adding up all our debts and assets and arriving at our value as a human being is preposterous.

Your real, innate value was made by God and that's what inspires your economic value, not the other way around. Realizing that is the first step to getting back on your feet.

In fact that's actually how capitalism is supposed to work. It's not predicated on greed and selfishness but actually meant to inspire people to use their God-given gifts, ideas and abilities to provide the world with something it needs. They are then rewarded with what they need. Or in the words of the late Pope John Paul II "the free market is the most efficient instrument for utilizing resources and effectively responding to needs."

Unfortunately capitalism hasn't worked real well over the last few years because too many people were either cheating the system or simply looking to make an easy buck instead. Moral responsibility is an integral and irreplaceable component of both a healthy society and a healthy economy.

But therein lies an amazing opportunity to help set the system straight again. How do we do that? By doing what God put us here to do – to use our gifts to improve the world.

Every one of us has something the world needs, and by learning how to share that gift with the world for all the right reasons, we are rewarded with what we need eventually.

Your desire and ability to reach out to and contribute to the world is a divinely inspired asset that can and will still lead you to long-term and stable career success once you engage it. Finding your mission is finding the job or career that will allow you to do that.

Yes, it doesn't always happen overnight, and it's not always so easy. It took good old Walt a decade of struggling to make ends meet, and after John van Hengle lost his job, he did everything from lifeguard to bus driver to working in a soup kitchen before he found his calling helping

the hungry, only after he came to know and understand hunger himself.

Not to be overly simplistic, but God does work in mysterious ways. Your value is assigned by God, and it is not rooted in how much you earn, but in HOW and WHY you earn.

The world needs you somewhere and somehow right now. Maybe it's through a volunteer organization where you can obtain some of your needs in return or a part-time job or turning a favorite hobby into a freelance job. Get out there and find out how you can help because the world needs a lot of help.

That might not just help you to find a new job but a whole new career and greater happiness than you have ever known.

Chris Benguhe's latest book, "Overcoming Life's 7 Common Tragedies," is available on [Amazon.com](http://Amazon.com). His Web site is [www.OneMoreDayAlive.com](http://www.OneMoreDayAlive.com).

## World Mission Sunday Collection October 24

The Society for the Propagation of the Faith was founded in Lyons, France, in 1822 by a young French laywoman, Pauline Jaricot. Inspired by stories she heard about missionary work in China, she felt called by the Lord to help the Catholic Church's worldwide missionary work. Pauline herself never traveled to the Missions, which, during her lifetime, consisted of the Missions in China — and young dioceses in the United States. Pauline gathered friends and workers in a family silk mill into "circles of ten," asking each person to pray daily for the Missions and



Blessed Pauline Jaricot

## "Flight from the Reich" book

A bold, groundbreaking work that provides the definitive answer to the persistent question: Why didn't more Jews flee Nazi Europe?

*Flight from the Reich* is a story about people at a time of crisis. As persecution, war and deportation savaged their communities, Jews tried to flee Nazi Europe through legal and clandestine routes.

In their multifaceted tale of Jewish refugees during and after the Nazi era, Debórah Dwork and Robert Jan Van Pelt braid the private and public realms, personal memory and official history.

They probe the challenges faced by German Jewish refugees; the dispute among the Swiss on allowing Jews to cross their border; the dangers braved by covert guides who helped the hunted out of occupied France; and the creation of postwar displaced person camps, which have much to tell us about refugee camps today.

Grounded in archival research throughout Europe and America, hundreds of oral histories and thousands of newly discovered letters, *Flight from the Reich* shows how the lives of people thread together to form history.

Debórah Dwork, a renowned historian of the Holocaust, is the Rose Professor of Holocaust History and director of the Strassler Family Center for Holocaust and Genocide Studies at Clark University, Worcester, Mass.

## Bishop Murphy Calls for New Social Contract for Today's Economy in Labor Day Statement

Texas Catholic Conference

With millions unemployed and U.S. workers experiencing tragedies such as mining deaths in West Virginia and the oil rig explosion and subsequent oil spill in the Gulf of Mexico, Americans "must seek to protect the life and dignity of each worker in a renewed and robust economy," said Bishop William Murphy of Rockville Centre, New York. Bishop Murphy addressed these issues in the 2010 Labor Day Statement of the United States Conference of Catholic Bishops (USCCB), titled "A New 'Social Contract' for Today's 'New Things,'" which can be found online (see Web site at the end of this article).

Bishop Murphy, Chairman of the USCCB Committee on Domestic Justice and Human Development, compared the challenges faced by today's workers to the changing society of the Industrial Revolution addressed by Pope Leo XIII in the 1891 encyclical, *Rerum Novarum* (Of New Things).

"America is undergoing a rare economic transformation, shedding jobs and testing safety nets as the nation searches for new ways to govern and grow our economy," said Bishop Murphy. "Workers need a new 'social contract.'" Bishop Murphy said that creating new jobs would require new investments, initiative and creativity in the economy. He also drew on the teachings of Pope Benedict XVI, which call for placing the human person at the center of economic life and emphasize the role of civil society and mediating institutions such as unions in pursuing the common good.

"Workers need to have a real voice and effective protections in economic life," said Bishop Murphy. "The market, the state, and civil society, unions and employers all have roles to play and they must be exercised in creative and fruitful interrelationships. Private action and public policies that strengthen families and reduce poverty are needed. New jobs with just wages and benefits must be created so that all workers can express their dignity through the dignity of work and are able to fulfill God's call to us all to be co-creators. A new social contract, which begins by honoring work and workers, must be forged that ultimately focuses on the common good of the entire human family."

Read more: *Bishop Murphy Calls for New Social Contract for 'New Things' in Today's Economy in Labor Day Statement*, at [www.victoriadiocese.org](http://www.victoriadiocese.org), click on *Lighthouse* Newspaper, then Capital Comments, then on News.

sacrifice a penny-a-week (at that time, quite a large sacrifice!). From this idea emerged the Propagation of the Faith.

Today the General Fund of the Propagation of the Faith, which gathers gifts from Catholics all over the world — a concept that originated with Pauline Jaricot and her desire to help all the world's missions — is the basic means of support for the Catholic Church's worldwide Missions.

Photo reprinted from [www.catholic-tradition.org/Litanies/jaricot-3.jpg](http://www.catholic-tradition.org/Litanies/jaricot-3.jpg)

## The Holy Father's Missionary Prayer Intention

October 2010

That the World Mission Day may afford an occasion for understanding that the task of proclaiming Christ is an absolutely necessary service to which the Church is called for the benefit of humanity.

## Please, Pray For Vocations

You are invited to  
**OUR LADY OF LOURDES  
ANNUAL FALL FESTIVAL**

**Sunday, November 14, 2010**

**Victoria Community Center  
Doors open at 10:00 a.m.**

**Serving Our Traditional  
TURKEY AND DRESSING LUNCH**

**Adults, \$7.50 Children 12 & under \$3.50  
Serving from 11:00 a.m. - 1:30 p.m.**

**Plates to go \$7.50  
Curb service available at 10:30 a.m.**

**Live Auction - Begins at 12:30 p.m.  
Silent Auction - 10:00 a.m. to 3 p.m.**

**Raffle**

**Country Store**

**Quilts \* Antiques \* Crafts \* Collectibles  
Kolaches and baked goods**

**Booths and Games for the entire family**

**B-B-Q on Buns \* Nachos \* Soft Drinks  
Served all day**

## World Day Against Death Penalty dedicated to USA

**ALERT!** "The 8th World Day Against the Death Penalty: USA," which will be held October 10, 2010, will be dedicated to the USA, which executed 52 people and handed down 106 death sentences in 2009. For more information, go to [www.world-coalition.org](http://www.world-coalition.org). The USA was the only country in the Americas and Europe known to have carried out executions last year.







## Special Collection Mission Sunday - Oct. 24 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 Sympto-Thermal 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, Oct 17; 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 2010 are: Nov. 19-21; the dates for 2011 are: Feb. 25-27, April 15-17, June 24-26, Sept. 8-11 and Nov. 11-13. For more info., call (361) 573-0828 ext. 30. All registrations are on a first come, first serve basis. Fee must accompany registration form.

### Picnics, Activities, etc. October

**East Bernard**— Holy Cross Parish Bazaar will be held at Riverside Hall Oct. 10. Dinner will be served starting at 11:00 a.m. The menu will include barbecue beef, chicken and sausage with “homemade dressing” and all the trimmings. Hamburgers will be served starting at 3:00 p.m. Czech pastries, refreshments and country store items may be purchased during the day. The grand auction will begin at 12:30 p.m. All kinds of games will be available from noon -5:00 p.m. Attractions will include a moonwalk, velcro wall, rock climbing wall and pony rides. There will be live music starting at noon provided by the Texas Legacy Czech Band (noon - 3:30 p.m.), the Dujka Brothers (3:30 - 6:00 p.m.) and No Limit (6:00 p.m. till ?). Mass schedule at Holy Cross on Sunday, Oct. 10 will be at 7 a.m. and 9 a.m.

**Columbus**—St. Anthony Fall Festival Oct. 10 at the KC Hall (I-10 West/Glidden Exit). A barbecue-beef and sausage dinner begins at 11:00 a.m. Also serving pit barbecue, Mexican food and hamburgers. There will be lots of booths, auction and something for everyone to enjoy.

**Victoria**—Our Lady of Victory Cathedral Parish Festival Oct. 10 at the community center; doors open at 11:00 a.m. A buffet-style barbecue beef and sausage dinner will be served. There will be booths and games for the entire family to enjoy. See ad on page 3.

**Victoria**—Catholic War Veterans Auxiliary Annual Turkey Dinner Fundraiser will be held on Oct. 17 at the CWV Hall, 1007 S. Main Street. A turkey and dressing plate dinner will be served from 11:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. at \$6 p/p. Auction will be held at 1:00 p.m. Proceeds to benefit auxiliary community projects.

**Eagle Lake**—Parish of the Nativity Picnic Oct. 17 at the pavilion located at 545 South Austin. The meal will be served from 11:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. The auction begins at 1:00 p.m. Food will be served throughout the day along with a variety of booths, games, activities and a dance. See page 16 for more information.

**La Salle**—St. Theresa Annual Parish Picnic Oct. 17. A turkey and dressing dinner, catered by Robert Werner in Shiner, will be served from 11:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m. at \$7 p/p with dine-in

or plates-to-go available. The auction begins at 12:30 p.m. There will be a cakewalk, craft/country store, plant booth, children’s games and more. See ad on page 3.

**Goliad**—Immaculate Conception Fall Festival Oct. 17 will be held on the church grounds starting with Mass at 10:00 a.m. followed by a barbecue-beef, buffet-style dinner. There will be a cakewalk, games, country store, moonwalk, ballet folklorico, music, auction (1:00 p.m.) and much more. See page 8 for ad.

**El Campo**—The Catholic Daughters Annual Turkey Dinner Oct. 17 at the St. Philip Parish Hall. Serving will begin at 11:00 a.m. with plates selling for \$7.50 p/p. Plates-to-go only will be available on Depot Street. There will also be a raffle.

**Wharton**—Holy Family Fall Festival Oct. 17 at the KC Hall (2820 N. Fulton). A barbecue chicken and sausage dinner will be served from 11:00 a.m.-2:00 p.m. for \$8 p/p. Auction begins at 11:30 a.m. For more information see page 3.

**Bay City**—Holy Cross Fall Festival Oct. 24 at the KC Hall (Hamman Rd.). A turkey and dressing dinner will be served from 11:00 a.m.-1:00 p.m. at \$8 p/p with dine-in or drive thru plates available. There will be a live and silent auction starting at 12:00 p.m. A country store, children’s games, cakewalk and more throughout the day. See page 16 for more information.

**Cuero**—St. Michael’s H.S.A. Fall Festival Oct. 24 on the school grounds with a homemade chicken-fried-steak dinner from 11:00 a.m.-1:00 p.m. There will be live and silent auctions, country store, cakewalk and more. The Shiner Hobo Band will play in the hall from 10:30 a.m.-12:30 p.m. See page 8 for more information.

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

**Blessing**—St. Peter barbecue turkey and dressing dinner Oct. 31 with dine-in or drive thru plates available at \$8 p/p. Auction begins at 12:30. For more information see page 16.

**Victoria**—Knights of Columbus Council 1329 chicken-barbecue fund-raiser Oct. 24 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

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

**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. See ad on page 18.

### Masses • Retreats • Conferences

**San Antonio**—“Violence on the Border: Consequences & Pastoral Responses will be presented in English by Bishop José Raúl Vera López, O.P., Diocese of Saltillo, Mexico, on Oct. 14, from 6:30 to 9 p.m., at Mexican American Catholic College, 3115 West Ashby Place. Limited seating/free-will offering/registration required. Register at (210) 732-2156.

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

**Victoria**—A Rosary Rally will be held in front of Our Lady of Victory Cathedral Saturday, Oct. 16, at noon, sponsored by America Needs Fatima and the American Society for the Defense of Tradition, Family and Property (TFP). It is being held on the Saturday closest to Oct. 13 in commemoration of the Blessed Mother and the miracle of the sun in Fatima, Portugal, which occurred on Oct. 13, 1917. The Rally begins at noon with the singing of Immaculate Mary. Go to [www.anf.org](http://www.anf.org) for more information.

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

**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 or table for 10, 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**—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. Program 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 uplift-

ing 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.

## CatholicTV hopeful to go nationwide

CatholicTV is a 24/7 television network that broadcasts local and national religious programming and live events for the Catholic Church in America. It features programming from Archbishop Fulton Sheen, Cardinal Sean O’Malley, and Fr. Robert Reed, director of CatholicTV. A full list of programs can be found at [www.CatholicTV.com](http://www.CatholicTV.com). CatholicTV must ‘prove’ the demand for Catholic television before a distribution contract can be signed by seven of the major national cable carriers. To show support, one may visit <http://www.CatholicTVEverywhere.com> to sign a petition. The signer’s personal information WILL NOT be added to or sold to ANY contact list!

## Sacred Heart ready for annual strudel bake

Hallettsville—The Sacred Heart HS volunteers are gearing up for their 59th annual Apple Strudel Bake scheduled for Saturday, Oct. 30. This tasty fundraiser for the Home and School Association transforms over 4,000 pounds of delicious red apples, along with sugar, butter, cinnamon, pecans, coconut and raisins into more than 2400 strudels. The strudels come ready to eat or unbaked for a fresh treat at a later date. Unbaked strudels sell for \$13 each, and will be available for pickup at the Sacred Heart Family Center on the day of the event. Skip the tricks this Halloween and treat yourself to an apple strudel instead! To order, call Charlene Bradbury 361-798-3224, Annette Henke 361-798-5374, Sharon Wagner 361-576-2060 or e-mail [charlene\\_bradbury@hotmail.com](mailto:charlene_bradbury@hotmail.com). (Advance orders are required to guarantee order fulfillment.) Victoria orders will be available for pickup at the Hobby Lobby parking lot on Navarro on Sunday, Oct. 31, from 11:00 a.m. to noon. Call today!



## HEAVENLY HELPERS

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Dale Schmidt shows the old tiles from the roof of St. Mary's Church, High Hill, that she painted with images from St. Mary's stained-glass windows and donated to the festival auction. The idea to somehow use the tiles replaced in the 70s or 80s came from Linda Schmidt. She and Dale asked parishioners if they'd be interested in painting images of the windows on the 101 available tiles. Twenty-one members and friends of the parish's St. Ann's Altar Society signed up to volunteer, cleaning the tiles and painting the projected photo of each window in St. Mary's onto the tiles. The "painting parishioners" broke into two groups and met twice weekly from May to July 31 to complete the artwork in time for the 150th anniversary. Two tiles were auctioned while the other 99 were sold within two hours of opening the souvenir booth. To see more on St. Mary's Church in High Hill – 150th Anniversary see page 11.



**HOLY ROSARY ALTAR SERVER CROWNED 2010 FAIR QUEEN**—The Labor Day Weekend Fayette County Fair in La Grange crowned Brittany Fietsam as its 2010 Fair Queen. This was accomplished by her hard work at selling more fair admission tickets than any other fair queen contestant. In fact, she sold a new individual record of \$28,500 worth of tickets. This earned her the top scholarship from the fair association, which was \$2,000. Brittany also received the Miss Poise and Beauty Award. She represented the La Grange Knights of Columbus Council #2574 and is a sophomore at La Grange High School where she is also the vice-president of her class and a varsity cheerleader. Her parents are Brenda and Harold Fietsam Jr., and she has a brother, Chase. Brittany and her family, as well as grandparents, Dianna and Benedict Kallus, are members of Holy Rosary Catholic Church in Hostyn, where she is an altar server and a member of the Young Neighbors in Action. Grandparents Earline and Harold Fietsam Sr. are members of St. Rose Catholic Church in Schulenburg. Brittany hopes to attend the University of Texas in the fall of 2013.



It's a family affair framing the Italian-made stations to the crosses. From left are Eric's cousin, Cale Goldman, Eric, his grandfather, Richard Gisler; and his father, Ross.



Eric Mansker



Bracing the crosses: from left are older brother Alex, Alex Heehn, Eric, and his father, Ross.



Pouring cement is something that taught Eric that it would be best to get a college education. From left are Eric's father, Ross Mansker; Eric; and his grandfather, Richard Gisler.

## Eagle Scout builds Stations of the Cross at Spiritual Renewal Center

*Continued from p. 1*

don't know who's more proud of Eric: he, his dad or me."

Eric is a 16-year-old junior at Victoria East High School and is a member of Boy Scout Troop 363 of De Leon District under the direction of Scoutmaster Troy Hardegree. He is the son of Ross and Jacki Mansker of Victoria, and has an older brother, Alex (also an Eagle Scout), and a younger sister, Rachel.

This particular Eagle Scout project became an excellent ecumenical undertaking, as the Stations of the Cross are mostly a Catholic prayer and were erected at the Catholic Spiritual Renewal Center; the First United Methodist Church in Victoria sponsors the troop to which Eric belongs; and Eric is a Lutheran who attends Zion Lutheran Church in Mission Valley with his family.

An Eagle Project must be a worthy

endeavor, which the scout plans, directs, and leads to completion. Under Eric's direction, family members and friends assisted him to complete his project, which required 236 man-hours. He spent three days framing 15 crosses using treated, 4" by 6" lumber for the "tree" of the cross, and treated, 2" by 6" lumber for the "arms" of the crosses. The tree stands about 9' high and the arms are 7' above the ground. Eric framed the crosses at Tim Locher's cabinet workshop, Locher's Fine Wood Products. He mounted the outdoor weatherproof stations to the crosses, dug the holes for the crosses, braced them, and then poured concrete to set the crosses.

The stations were made in Italy and purchased through the Capital Campaign by the Diocese of Victoria at the cost of \$25,000. Alamo Concrete and Eric's father, Ross Mansker, donated the concrete,

and Ray Smith donated the use of a tractor and power lift to dig holes and place the crosses in the ground.

Dave Kouba said that if you multiply the man-hours by \$15 per hour, Eric saved the SRC \$3,540 in labor and another \$500 for the use of Mr. Smith's tractor. The cost of the materials, other than the cost of the Italian-made Stations, was \$1,067.

Eric's project took place on some of the hottest days in August this year. When asked what he had learned about installing the crosses and pouring concrete, Eric's answer was, "Get a college education, so you don't have to work with concrete. It's hard work."

On a more serious note, Eric said, "This project has been a great experience for me, my family and my fellow scouts. It was great to do a project that meant so much not just to me but to many other

Christians in our society."

"I am glad that this project has pleased God and all the people out at the Spiritual Renewal Center," he continued.

The approximate, half-mile path that leads one along the 15 Stations of the Cross, meanders along knolls on the nearly 200-acre center. One will amble alongside one of the largest live-oak trees in Texas and a pond, which was newly created by the recent construction and addition of buildings at the SRC site.

The public may attend the blessing of the Stations of the Cross by Bishop David E. Fellhauer on Sunday, October 17, at 2 p.m. The renewal center is located on San Antonio River Road off of Highway 77. For directions, please call the center at (361) 572-0836 or see a map at <http://www.victoriadiocese.org/src/renctr/renewalctr.htm>.