

The Catholic Lighthouse

The Cradle of Texas Immigration



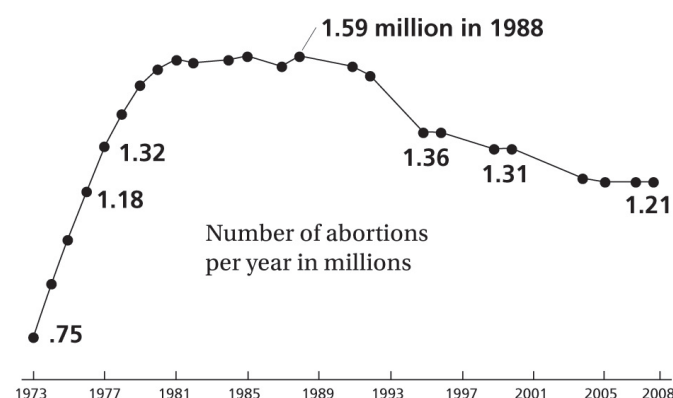
VOL. 26, NO. 9

OFFICIAL PUBLICATION OF THE DIOCESE OF VICTORIA IN TEXAS

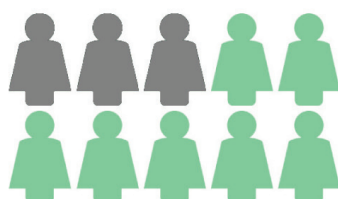
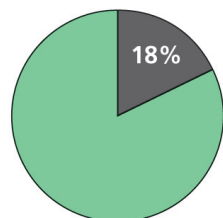
January 2013

Abortion in America

The number of abortions performed annually in the U.S. hit a high point in 1988 and has been on a decline since.



Pregnancies ending in abortion in 2008



At the current rate, three in every 10 women will have an abortion by age 45.

Source: Guttmacher Institute

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Catholics still largest Congressional denomination; 10 percent Jesuit grads

By Patricia Zapor
Catholic News Service

WASHINGTON (CNS) — The 113th Congress includes some slight shifts in religious makeup over the previous session, with a few more Catholics, the first Buddhist in the Senate and the first Hindu to serve in either chamber.

It's a historic high for the number of Catholics in Congress, with 163, although that's just two more seats than the previous high point, when there were 161 Catholics in the 111th Congress

of 2009-10.

That's an increase of seven seats over the 156 Catholics had in the 112th Congress.

Since at least the 1960s, Catholics have been the single largest denomination in Congress. Although when Protestant denominations are counted together, they still constitute the largest number of members, at 56 percent.

Another analysis finds that alumni of Jesuit colleges and universities account for nearly 10

See *Catholics still largest Congressional denomination*, p. 17

Pope completes 'ad limina' visits with world's bishops – almost

By Cindy Wooden
Catholic News Service

VATICAN CITY (CNS) -- The Vatican announced that after more than seven years in office, Pope Benedict XVI had hosted the formal visits of bishops from every country in the world and would begin the cycle all over again by meeting the heads of Italy's 227 dioceses in 2013.

The only problem is the Vatican overlooked the bishops of the Netherlands who made their last visits "ad limina apostolorum" ("to the threshold of the apostles") with Blessed John Paul II in 2004.

Archbishop Lorenzo Baldisseri, secretary of the Congregation for Bishops, which coordinates the visits, said his office was informed by the Prefecture of the Papal Household, which schedules audiences with the pope, that when the last group of

French bishops met Pope Benedict in November "the cycle was complete."

"But now it seems that with the Netherlands, something happened," the archbishop told Catholic News Service Jan. 8.

A spokesman for the Dutch bishops said Jan. 8 that the heads of the seven dioceses of the Netherlands expect to make their visits either late this year or early in 2014.

Also missing from the list of Pope Benedict "ad limina" visits are the bishops of communist-controlled mainland China, but that is because government restrictions prevent them from making the visits. However, the bishops of Hong Kong and Macau had their meetings with Pope Benedict in 2008.

The Code of Canon Law calls for the heads of every diocese in the world to make their "ad

limina" visits every five years, but there are now almost 2,900 dioceses in the world and the 85-year-old pope also has other obligations as well.

Archbishop Baldisseri told CNS, "the firm principle is that the pope must meet the bishops of the whole world regularly." The five-year rhythm set by canon law provides concrete guidance but is not always possible to follow because of the number of bishops in the world, the pope's schedule and the schedules of the bishops.

The order in which bishops' conferences make the visits is not strictly set, which means that although the French bishops were making their first "ad limina" visits with Pope Benedict late in 2012, the bishops of Papua New Guinea already had made two: one in June 2005 and the second in June 2012.

Archbishop Baldisseri told *L'Osservatore Romano*, the Vatican newspaper, that the importance of visiting and consulting with the pope, the successor of St. Peter, goes back to St. Paul's description in the Letter to the Galatians of returning to Jerusalem for consultations with St. Peter.

However, the archbishop said, it wasn't until 743 that Pope Zachary made it a universal rule. The rule was reconfirmed by Pope Sixtus V in 1585.

"The bishops are invited periodically to come to Rome to see Peter, make a pilgrimage to the tombs of the apostles Peter and Paul – founders of the church of Rome – and to express and

See *Pope Benedict*, p. 17



Pope Benedict XVI greets Bishop David E. Fellhauer of Victoria during a March 15, 2012, meeting at the Vatican. Bishops from Texas, Oklahoma and Arkansas were making their "ad limina" visits to the Vatican to report on the status of their dioceses. (CNS photo/L'Osservatore Romano)



Bishop Fellhauer's Schedule

January

- 12** 10:00 a.m., Confirmation Mass, St. Anthony Church, Columbus, including Sts. Peter and Paul Church, Frelsburg, and St. Roch Church, Mentz
- 13-17** First week of Diocesan Priests' Retreat, Spiritual Renewal Center
- 20-24** Second week of Diocesan Priests' Retreat, Spiritual Renewal Center
- 27** 10:00 a.m., Mass, First Holy Communion; and ground-breaking for the new gymnasium, Our Lady of the Gulf Church, Port Lavaca

February

- 2** 5:00 p.m., Mass, Boy Scout Retreat, Catholic Committee on Scouting, Camp Mauritz, Ganado
- 4-7** National Catholic Bioethics Center, Workshop for Bishops, Dallas
- 8** 8:30 a.m., School Mass, St. Philip the Apostle Church, El Campo
- 10** 9:30 a.m., Mass, celebrating 100th Anniversary of Ascension of Our Lord Church, Moravia
- 5:00 p.m., Vespers, blessing of Columbarium, Holy Rosary Church, Hostyn

Official Appointments By Most Rev. David E. Fellhauer

Effective December 11, 2012, the **Rev. Dan Morales** is appointed to the Office of Judge in the Diocesan Tribunal; and the **Rev. Robert E. Knippenberg** is appointed Defender of the Bond in the same Tribunal. The term of appointment for each office is five years.



STJ HELP BRING JOY AND CHEER—St. Joseph High School, Victoria, theology teacher and baseball coach Mike Shimek and his students were of great service at the Health Force Christmas party. St. Joseph High School students were truly at their best as they helped bring joy and cheer to many.

Catholic School Data – U.S. Elementary and Secondary Schools 2011-2012

Enrollment:

- Total Catholic school student enrollment for the current academic year is 2,031,455. 1,440,572 in elementary / middle schools; 590,883 in secondary schools
- Student diversity: 19.3% are racial minorities, 13.9% are Hispanic/Latino and 6.5% were reported as unknown in the racial data collection.
- Non-Catholic enrollment is 312,732 which is 15.4% of the total enrollment.

Thank You Notes

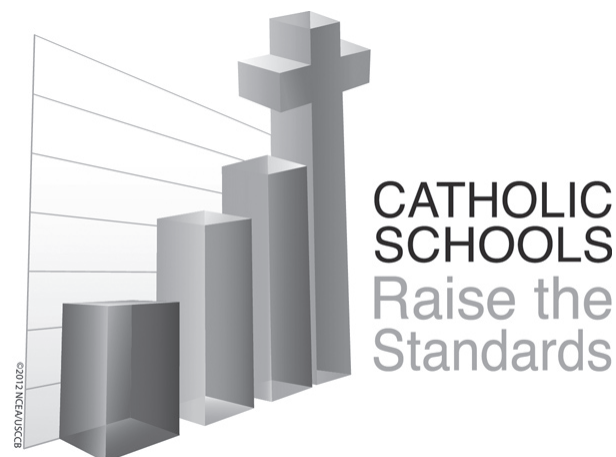
Your Excellency:

As the personal representative of the Holy Father in the United States, I write with gratitude for the check in the amount of \$49,038.05, which you sent to the Apostolic Nunciature as the Peter's Pence contribution from the Diocese of Victoria for 2012.

I assure you that this sum will be transmitted to the Secretariat of State on your behalf.

May God, who is infinitely generous, reward you and continue to bless you and the faithful under your pastoral care.

With prayerful regards, I am
Sincerely yours in Christ,
Archbishop Carlo Maria Viganó
Apostolic Nuncio



**Catholic Schools
Week
Jan. 27 – Feb. 1**

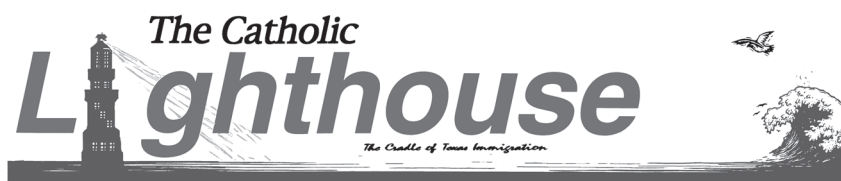
DSA & Reflection of Faith Capital Campaign Updates

2012 DSA

Diocesan Goal:	\$1,623,907.00
Parish Pledge Totals:	\$840,008.08
Parish Contribution Totals:	\$816,278.10
Number of Parish Families Participating:	3,640

Reflection of Faith Capital Campaign

Diocesan Goal:	\$9,000,000.00
Parish Pledge Totals:	\$12,903,812.82
Parish Contribution Totals:	\$10,919,388.83
Number of Parish Families Participating:	6,770



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DEADLINE IS THE FIFTEENTH (15) OF THE PRECEDING MONTH.

Publisher
The Most Rev. David E.
Fellhauer

Editor
Cynthia Brewer — e-mail:
cbrewer@victoriadiocese.org

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



The Row v. Wade Decision

By D. Q. McNery, Ph.D.
Professor of Philosophy
Our Lady of Guadalupe Seminary
Reprinted with permission

Nov. 2012 issue of the *Fraternity Newsletter of the Priestly Fraternity of St. Peter*

How we think is, eventually, how we act. If we reason poorly, then we will act poorly. We can be assured, then, that behind bad behavior there is bad thinking. Usually we have no direct knowledge of the thinking itself, for seldom is it the case that people publically announce the thought that is informing their behavior, be it good or bad. But in any event that is not really necessary, for given the natural connection between the two, we can infer the quality of the thought, though unstated, by the quality of the behavior.

Every once and a while, however, there are instances where the thought behind the behavior is explicitly expressed, and this allows us to see clearly how one, the thought, serves as the explanation for the other, the behavior. We were provided with such an instance in the Roe v. Wade decision, handed down by the U.S. Supreme Court in 1973. This decision, written by Justice Blackmun, represents an attempt to justify the unjustifiable. That the practice of abortion is egregiously a bad behavior, heinous behavior in fact, goes without saying (Or it *should* go without saying, for people whose moral sense has not been entirely corrupted.) It is not surprising, then, that the thought behind the behavior, as found in this decision, constitutes a veritable masterpiece of illogic. I can only focus on a single example of that illogic, but it is central to the decision's argument.

One of the more basic mistakes we can make when we are attempting, through reasoning, to settle an important issue, is simply to skirt the very issue we should be dealing with. Logicians identify this mistake, or fallacy, with the homey and apt phrase, "missing the point" – its more formidable Latin label is *ignoratio elenchi*. The Roe v. Wade decision stands as a five-star example of missing the point. What was the point? What was the issue the court should have been addressing and studiously avoided? It was the issue of abortion itself, in terms of the very nature of the act. What exactly is happening when an abortion takes place?

Instead of addressing that central issue, the entire decision is little more than an

elaborate diversionary tactic, one of the major features of which is a lengthy survey of "the history of abortion." In this survey we are treated with an array of opinions on the subject of abortion, beginning with ancient times and coming right up to the present. Specifically, we are given a number of examples of the diversity of opinions which people have held regarding it as clearly evil. The apparent intention of this exercise was to leave the impression that, because there has been a diversity of opinion on the morality of abortion down through the ages, we are supposedly to conclude that there are no clear standards by which the moral quality of the act can be definitely decided.

But this entire approach is altogether beside the point. It may be interesting from a purely historical or sociological point of view to note that people have held differing opinions on abortion over the years, but that is completely irrelevant as offering any basis for determining the morality of the act, one way or the other. The moral quality of any act is not established by surveying public opinion, but by focusing attention on the act itself, and judging it according to the criteria provided by the natural law. Interestingly, what the decision did in this respect with regard to abortion could also be done with something like slavery. Do your historical survey and you will find that in centuries past people have held differing opinions on the subject of slavery, and that no less an institution than the U.S. Supreme Court has passed down decisions staunchly defending it. On the basis of this information are we to conclude that we are justified in being ambivalent about the moral status of slavery?

We can miss the point of an argument, not because we deliberately intend to do so, but simply because we are not aware of what really is at stake, the issue that needs to be addressed. This can hardly be said of the court that decided Roe v. Wade. They knew what the issue was, and they decided to duck it, but at the same time, by deft

sleight of hand, making a determination which they piously claimed was not within their province to make.

Toward the end of Justice Blackmun's decision he writes: "We need not resolve the difficult question of when life begins." As it happens, there is a sense, unintended by Blackmun, in which that statement is quite uncontroversial. They did not need to resolve that question because (apart from the fact that it was not difficult) it has already

been resolved, definitively, by modern science, a fact Justice Blackmun could not have been ignorant of. Life begins at the moment of conception, when the male and female reproductive cells come together to form a cell which is entirely novel in that its genetic package is not the father's, nor the mother's, but uniquely its own. That tiny cell, the zygote, is unquestionably a living being, and, given its genesis, it could be nothing else but a human being. And if it is a human being, it is a person, for if one is a human being, one is necessarily a person. Those are the plain facts of the matter, facts which were universally known in 1973.

Because it is beyond dispute that human life begins at conception, then the issue that the court studiously avoided can be made explicit without ambiguity: abortion is the deliberate killing of an innocent human being. That is the nature of the act we are talking about. There

is a word for such an act – it is called murder.

The court, of course, ended up doing precisely what it claimed it need not do: it did in fact resolve the question of when life begins, albeit negatively. By legalizing abortion, the judges arbitrarily declared when human life does *not* begin. It does not begin at conception; it does not begin within the first trimester of pregnancy. And today we experience the full legacy of this reckless ruling: a child can now be legally ripped out of the womb and killed at any stage of his or her uterine development. But it is worse than that, for we have now reached the nadir point, where sanction is given even to infanticide. And Rachel weeps for her children.

The abominably bad behavior which is the aborting of babies has become an entrenched feature of our society. Like a poisonous plant, it has sunk deep roots in an accepting soil. Its poison spreads, as witnessed by the kind of confusion, if not downright obtuseness, shown toward other matters about whose moral quality there should be no doubt. Because of the relation between bad thinking and bad behavior, there is only one remedy for the latter: we must change our minds radically. We must begin to think differently; we must begin to think rationally.



YOUNG PEOPLE TAKE PART IN FIRST MARCH FOR LIFE IN WASHINGTON—Young people take part in the first March for Life in 1974 in Washington. Forty years after the U.S. Supreme Court legalized abortions, the pro-life movement hasn't stepped back in its resolve to see the decision reversed. (CNS files)

Candlelight March for Life

The Victoria Candlelight March for Life will be held Thursday, January 24, at 7:00 p.m. Assembly and marching will begin at DeLeon Plaza and continue to Our Lady of Sorrows Church, 208 W. River Street, where a Pro-life speaker will address the assembly.



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 December 20, 2012

	TOTALS
— General Seminary Burse	
Previously reported	\$101,464.00
In honor of Rev. Msgr. John C. Bily, Rev. Msgr. Gerry Cernoch, Rev. Msgr. Joseph Hybner, Rev. Msgr. Larry Matula, Rev. Msgr. John C. Peters, Rev. Msgr. Celestino Say, Rev. Msgr. Casey Jarzombek on their appointment as Monsignor by M/M Bob Bochat	<u>100.00</u>
Total	\$101,564.00

— Rev. Msgr. John C. Bily	
Previously reported	\$10,579.00
In honor of Rev. Msgr. John C. Bily's appointment as Monsignor by: Rita and Frank Zaruba	100.00
Leona Hoelscher	50.00
Henry and Bernice Schoenfeld	25.00
Jean Trefny	20.00
Steve and Evelyn Luchak	50.00
Catholic Life Insurance	
Branch #5 - Weimar	50.00
Henrietta Cernosek	50.00
Total	\$10,924.00

— Catholic Daughters of America Our Lady Queen of Peace Court #1374	
Previously reported	\$3,042.12
In honor of B.G. and Betty Parma (Godparents) by Justin Turner	20.00
In honor of Chris Goerig (Confirmation Sponsor) by Justin Turner	20.00
In honor of Kimberly Hailey (Godchild) by Tommy and Carol Turner	20.00
In honor of Cody Witcher (Godchild) by Tommy and Carol Turner	20.00
In honor of Lindsey Riha by Carol Turner (Confirmation Sponsor)	20.00
In honor of Troy Riha (Godchild) by Carol Turner	20.00
In honor of Toby Riha (Godchild) by Tommy and Carol Turner	20.00
In honor of Lee Orr (Godchild) by Tommy Turner	20.00
In honor of Will Orr by Tommy Turner (Confirmation Sponsor)	20.00
In honor of Lee Orr by Tommy Turner (Confirmation Sponsor)	20.00
In honor of Scott Kulcak by Tommy Turner (Confirmation Sponsor)	20.00
In memory of Marvin and Mary Frances Turner by Tommy, Carol and Justin Turner	40.00
In memory of Louis and Joyce Riha by Tommy, Carol and Justin Turner	<u>40.00</u>
Total	\$6,342.12

— St. John the Baptist Church, St. John In Memory of Rev. Brian Crookes Burse #2	
Previously reported	\$5,336.00
In memory of Sylvia Bartosch by William and Mary Lou Dujka	20.00
Total	\$5,356.00

— Knights of Columbus Ganado Council #3204 Rev. Msgr. Joseph Hybner	
Previously reported	\$2,996.00
In honor of Rev. Msgr. Joseph Hybner's appointment as Monsignor by Rita Janak	200.00
Total	\$3,196.00

— Sr. M. Perpetua Hawes, IWBS	
Previously reported	\$1,720.00
In memory of Alfred (Pat) and Clara Hawes by John and Marian Stevenson	<u>500.00</u>
Total	\$2,220.00

— Knights of Columbus Victoria Council #1329, Victoria Burse #3	
Previously reported	\$12,432.50
In memory of James Jurica by K of C Victoria Council #1329	100.00
In memory of Kenneth Warren by K of C Victoria Council #1329	<u>100.00</u>
Total	\$12,632.50
— Sr. M. Barbara Konvicka	
Previously reported	\$190.00
In memory of Rev. Peter Higgins by BJ and Helen Lempa	<u>20.00</u>
Total	\$210.00

— Rev. Msgr. John C. Peters Burse #5	
Previously reported	\$8,959.00
Merry Christmas Blessings from Margaret Dornak	100.00
In honor of Rev. Msgr. John C. Peters' birthday by: Dorothy Jansky	40.00
Carol Bludau	30.00
Harry and Linda Cull	15.00
In honor of Rev. Msgr. John C. Peters for his appointment as Monsignor by: Rita Janak	100.00
Andrew and Jane Pesek	20.00
David and Mary Polasek	50.00
Leon and Margaret Steffek	10.00
M/M Lawrence Grubert, Jr	20.00
Richard Grahmann	15.00
Loretta Hardcastle	25.00
Edna Bludau	20.00
Emil and Joyce Hermes	20.00
Arthur and Rose Mary Etzler	100.00
Ella Mae Bludau	30.00
M/M Wilton Hrnair	20.00
M/M R. G. Schaefer	15.00
Phillip and Evelyn Bujnoch	160.00
Lillian Gohlke	100.00
Beatrice Butschek	25.00
Mr & Mrs. Anton Sary	50.00
James and Mary Lee Honish	30.00
Frank and Bernadette Bludau	25.00
Margaret Bludau and family	25.00
Sidney and Barbara Jasek	50.00
Chris, Melanie, Aaron, Kelly and Margaret Molnoskey	25.00
Leo and Joyce Janda	25.00

Joseph and Elizabeth Zarsky	25.00
Forrest and Ann Dittrich	20.00
Madeline Migura	100.00
Franklin and Leona Sedlar	20.00
CDA Court Sacred Heart #797	50.00
K of C Council #2433	500.00
Leonard Ebner	20.00
Jerry Mikeska	50.00
Terry and Jan Tuttle	50.00
Felipa Rodriguez	50.00
Louise Waligura	20.00
John and LaVerne Trojcek	50.00
Dennis and Gerardette Haas	25.00
Daniel and Mathilda Melnar	25.00
Eddie and Catherine Kosh	100.00
Mary Ann Pavliska	20.00
Bill and LaMorris Thompson	50.00
Arnold and Dorothy Berger	50.00
Evelyn Pavliska	25.00
Harvey and Evelyn Hermis	50.00
Paul and Theresa Voelkel	20.00
James and Agnes Chomout	20.00
Melvin and Joyce Janak	20.00
Arthur W. Spies Jr.	20.00
Mike and Helen Technik	50.00
Joyce Brewer	10.00
Gilbert and Agnes Adamek	100.00
Ronnie and Maurine Adamek	100.00
James and Tonie Brooks	40.00
St. John Altar Society, St. John	250.00
Liz Keepers	100.00
Kenneth and Annie Mae Henneke	50.00
Johnnie and Alene Steffek	10.00
Alvin and Bernice Havel	25.00
Joe and Ann Machalec	100.00
Rosalie Tobola	5.00
Lloyd and Anita Tschirhart	50.00
Rob and Jane Lewis	25.00
Josie Zappe	50.00
Walter and Josie Hermis and Dylan Goldberg	50.00
Charles and Geralyn Klimitchek	50.00
Frances Holley	15.00
Allen, Arlene, Ashley and Joshua Becan	20.00
Bob and Maggie Pustka	20.00
Georgia Bujnoch	25.00
Richard and Rita Wachel	40.00
Darrell, Mieko and Reese Wachel	20.00
Frank Forestier and Barbara Appelt	50.00
Margaret Kutac, Adella Kutac and Louis F. Kutac	50.00
Johnnie and Aileen Kasper	50.00
Jerry and Margaret Kallus	50.00
Frank and Elrose Migl	50.00
Gus Janak Family and Chuck Pavliska Family	20.00
Bob Kubena	100.00
Pete and Glenda Tricek	100.00
Debra Smirak and Bob Technik	100.00
Joe and Joyce Morris	50.00
Daniel and JoAnn Jalufka	50.00
Jimmie and Pete Mikulenka	100.00
Kenneth and Lorrie Adamek	100.00
Chris and Patty Parma	50.00
Donald, Lorna and Janna Dusek	20.00
Presentation Sisters	50.00
Kim and James Lofland	20.00
James and Dana Daughtry	100.00
Mary Grahmann	5.00
Thomas and Georgia Schneider	100.00
Theresa Hemmi	20.00

Melvin and Ann Pavlicek	20.00
Lillian M. Haas	25.00
Jimmy and Lorene Roznovsky	25.00
Lawrence and Kathy Korenek	50.00
Rev. Msgr. Doug Fater	50.00
Allan and Evelyn Lanik & Family	100.00
Bob and Louise Pesek	100.00
Patrick and Carol Steffek	25.00
John and Frances Bock	50.00
Raymond and Helen Janak	25.00
Doris Opela	25.00
Theo and Gail Kocian	100.00
Charles and Kathy Haas	40.00
Irene Szwarc	50.00
In honor of Ed and Peggy Sherer's 50th Wedding Anniversary by Vic and Katherine Kahanek	25.00
In memory of Angela Hermes by: Georgia Bujnoch	10.00
Frank and Rita Zaruba	<u>25.00</u>
Total	\$14,669.00

— Rev. Michael Rother	
Previously reported	\$4,535.00
In memory of Odell White by Bernard and Madeline Rother	<u>25.00</u>
Total	\$4,560.00

— Rev. Msgr. Celestino Say	
Previously reported	\$6,645.00
In honor of Rev. Msgr. Celestino Say's appointment as Monsignor by: James and Mary Hornish	25.00
Andrew and Jane Pesek	20.00
David and Mary Polasek	50.00
Leon and Margaret Steffek	10.00
M/M Lawrence Grubert Jr.	20.00
Richard Grahmann	15.00
Loretta Hardcastle	25.00
Arthur and Rose Mary Etzler	100.00
Ella Mae Bludau	20.00
M/M Wilton Hrnair	20.00
M/M R. G. Schaefer	15.00
Phillip and Evelyn Bujnoch	50.00
Lillian Gohlke	100.00
Sidney and Barbara Jasek	50.00
Madeline Migura	100.00
Franklin and Leona Sedlar	20.00
Arthur Spies, Jr.	20.00
Bob and Louise Pesek	50.00
Patrick and Carol Steffek	25.00
Frances Holley	15.00
Raymond and Helen Janak	25.00
Merry Christmas Blessings by Phillip and Evelyn Bujnoch	<u>25.00</u>
Total	\$7,445.00

— Rev. Jerome J. Stryk Burse #2	
Previously reported	\$179.50
In memory of Irene Orsak by: M/M Louis Polasek, Jr.	100.00
M/M Andrew Stryk	100.00
Daniel Stryk	100.00
Jim and Doris Orsak Family	100.00
Perry Muras	20.00
Stephen and Bernadette Muras	20.00
Stanley Stryk and Family	<u>100.00</u>
Total	\$719.50



ASSISTING SEMINARIAN—KJT St. Wenceslaus Society #40 from East Bernard donates funds to seminarian Stephen Vacek. The funds were raised from a pastry raffle during the month of September. The State KJT matched funds in the amount of \$250. The presentation took place recently with front row, l-r, Stephen's parents Donna and Tommy Vacek, Stephen, receiving the check from Carolyn Pilcik, pastry raffle chairman; back row, l-r, Sandy Logan society vice president; Edwin C. Marik, president; Mark Dujka, society secretary; Father Don Ruppert, chaplain; and Dennis Viktorin, society treasurer.

Running good for 'mind, body and spirit,' but also can promote a cause

By Catherine McDonough
Catholic News Service

WASHINGTON (CNS)—Running a marathon is "very healthy for mind, body and spirit," but it is also an excellent way to promote Catholicism, particularly vocations, said Father Rick Nagel of the Indianapolis Archdiocese.

Father Nagel is director of the archdiocesan Office of Young Adult and College Campus Ministry. His office and the archdiocesan Vocations Office sponsor the annual Race for Vocations, which takes place within the Indianapolis One America Festival Mini Marathon and 5K each May in downtown Indianapolis. With about 35,000 runners, it is the largest race in the nation, according to organizers.

The Race for Vocations is an example of how Catholic organizations across the country plug into secular marathons and other runs as well as walks to promote worthy causes and raise money for them by gathering pledges.

For example, Catholic Charities agencies sponsor teams in a lot of major races around the country including the ING New York City Marathon, the Boston Marathon, the Chicago Marathon and the Race for Hope Half Marathon in West Virginia. Charities participants raise funds for the agencies' programs and services.

Elsewhere, races have been used to pro-

mote Catholic education. This October the 40th annual walk/bike two-mile marathon for Catholic education takes place in Wabasso, Minn., in the Diocese of New Ulm. It begins with Mass at St. Anne's Church and is followed by a potluck dinner. The Archdiocese of Galveston-Houston plans to hold its eighth annual Steps for Students 5K Feb. 16, 2013, to help raise funds for area Catholic schools.

One way to keep up to date on the Catholic running world is the blog www.runningcatholic.com, where runners post devotions and stories about their training and race experience.

The team of runners has as its motto: "Priesthood, Religious Life, Marriage, Sacred Single Life. Vocation ... everyone has one. What's yours?" It is emblazoned on their T-shirts.

"It raises awareness. People ask about the shirts. They are interested in what we're doing," Father Nagel said in a telephone interview with Catholic News Service. "If it would spark one person to think about if God is calling them for a vocation, it would be worth it all."

The vocations race has grown over the years; this May it had 350 runners. The dioceses of Lafayette and Evansville, Ind., also participate.

See *Running good*, p. 8



SERRA'S NATIONAL COUNCIL
FOR THE UNITED STATES

Sources for promoting Vocations

The Serra' National Council for the United States is proving links to help in promoting vocations.

The following kits are available for FREE download from www.serraus.org. Click on each link to begin the download:

- January 13-19

National Vocation Awareness Week at [http://serraus.org/resources/vocations/vocation_events/nvaw_english\(2013c\).pdf](http://serraus.org/resources/vocations/vocation_events/nvaw_english(2013c).pdf)

- February 3

World Day of Prayer for Consecrated Life at [http://serraus.org/resources/vocations/vocation_events/wdcl_english\(2013c\).pdf](http://serraus.org/resources/vocations/vocation_events/wdcl_english(2013c).pdf)

- April 21

World Day of Prayer for Vocations at [http://serraus.org/resources/vocations/vocation_events/wdpv_english\(2013c\).pdf](http://serraus.org/resources/vocations/vocation_events/wdpv_english(2013c).pdf)

Spanish-language versions of these kits are on the way. We will notify you when they are available on the website.

In 2014, National Vocation Awareness Week will be observed from Nov. 2-8. Thereafter, the celebration will take place annually in the first week of November.

If you are viewing this as a text-only email, copy and paste this link into your browser to go to the page where you can download the kits: http://serraus.org/serrausa/serra_nccv.htm#top

Happy Birthday!

Philip Brune is in Theology III at St. Mary's Seminary in Houston. His home parish is Sts. Peter and Paul, Frelsburg, and his birthday is Jan. 24. Please show your support for this seminarian by writing to: Philip Brune, St. Mary's Seminary, 9845 Memorial Drive, Houston, TX 77024.



St. Mary Annual Parish Festival Sunday – February 10 Victoria Community Center

FESTIVAL
TIME !!



FESTIVAL
TIME !!



ROAST BEEF MEAL

Served 11:00 a.m. to 1:30 p.m. • \$8.00 PER PLATE

****Plates to Go @ 10:30 – Use Ben Wilson Street Entrance****

LIVE AUCTION at 12:30 p.m.

Antiques – Collectibles – Crafts – Jewelry – Quilts

RAFFLE – TWELVE GREAT PRIZES

TICKETS \$5.00 EACH OR FIVE FOR \$20.00

GAMES, BOOTHS, SILENT AUCTION – FAMILY ENTERTAINMENT



Organization of Catechetical Leadership Workshop offered for Catechetical Leaders

The Organization of Catechetical Leadership (OCL) is an organization for individuals from throughout the Diocese of Victoria who are involved in catechesis. The purpose of the organization is to support and foster leadership for those involved in catechetical ministry. The Organization of Catechetical Leadership meets four times a year at different locations throughout the diocese. These meetings offer Parish Catechetical Leaders and catechists the opportunity to share ideas as to what various religious education programs are doing as well as the chance to learn about new resources that are available for their ministry.

The next Organization of Catechetical Leadership meeting will take place Thursday, January 24, at Sacred Heart in Hallettsville from 9:30 a.m. to 3:30 p.m. This meeting will include a workshop presented by Rick Barnhart, based in

the Archdiocese of St. Louis, who is the sales representative for RCL Benziger, a leader in the publishing of Catholic curriculum and catechetical materials. He has presented and facilitated workshops at the diocesan, parish and school level on various catechetical topics.

The workshop presented by Rick is entitled "The Six Tasks of Catechesis and the Formation of Disciples of Christ." Using humor and storytelling, Rick will speak of the critical importance of evangelization and discipleship, incorporating the Catechism of the Catholic Church, Sacred Scripture and the Catechetical Documents of the Church. While focusing on the Six Tasks of Catechesis, he will also explain the significance of making the faith "real" to the children and their parents.

To attend, register by Friday, January 18 by calling (361) 578-0828 ext. 2224, or e-mail tstarnes@victoriadiocese.org.

Pastoral Institute Courses Offered During the Year of Faith



During the "Year of Faith" Pope Benedict XVI has suggested that we take the opportunity to reflect and learn more about the Catholic faith. The Pastoral Institute is offering several courses in various places throughout the diocese. The cost for each course is \$20.

To register please call (361) 573-0828 ext. 2223 or e-mail mgutierrez@victoriadiocese.org.

Extended Program

"Church"

Jan. 15, 22, 29, Feb. 4, 5 and 11
9:15 – 11:30 a.m. or 7:00 – 9:15 p.m.
Three locations: Chancery, Victoria;
Holy Cross, East Bernard; and St.
Ann, Point Comfort
Instructor: Ron Friedel

Continuing Education

"Catechism of the Catholic Church"

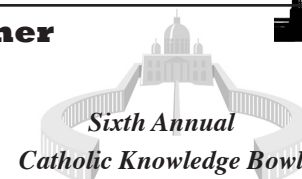
Feb. 28, March 7, 14 and 21
7:00 – 9:15 p.m. Chancery, Victoria
Instructor: Br. Patrick Wildgen,
O.S.S.T.
* *The Catechism of the Catholic Church
Second Edition (paperback) will be avail-
able for purchase.*

IWBS to host Discernment Weekend

The Sisters of Incarnate Word and Blessed Sacrament are hosting a Discernment Weekend for single Catholic women between the ages of 18 and 50 years of age on January 26-27, at Incarnate Word Convent in Victoria. If you are interested in learning more about deepening your prayer life and about religious life or in discovering if God might be calling you to consecrated life, please call (361) 575-7111 or e-mail iwbsvoc@yahoo.com or check www.iwbsvictoria.org for more information about the Sisters.

Catholic Knowledge Bowl Corner

Test your Catholic IQ



1. On his weekly general audience talk on November 28, 2012, Pope Benedict XVI says that the best place to start sharing the faith is in one's:

- a. work-place
- b. family
- c. social club
- d. sports team

2. World Youth Day 2013 will be held in:

- a. Madrid, Spain
- b. London, England
- c. Rio de Janeiro, Brazil
- d. Nairobi, Kenya

Sunday, March 3, 2013
Holy Family Church, Victoria
1:30 – 4:30 p.m.

REGISTRATION INFORMATION: Early registration fee (before Feb. 6) is \$25 per team (four members); \$35 per team beginning Feb. 7 through Feb. 22. Payment and *Permission/Medical Release (Form A) must accompany registration; *Permission/Medical Release (Form A) is required for all minors. It is recommended that adults fill out medical (Part D) form and have it on your person the day of the event. Registrations will not be accepted after Feb. 22. Call (361) 573-0828 or go to www.victoriadiocese.org for more information.

Pope asks Catholics to read Bible, recall history of God's saving love

By Cindy Wooden
Catholic News Service

VATICAN CITY (CNS) — Urging Catholics to "pick up the Bible" and read it during the Year of Faith, Pope Benedict XVI said the Scriptures recount the story of God's love for humanity and the steps he took throughout history to save all men and women.

"That which enlightens and gives full meaning to the history of the world and of the human person began to shine in the grotto of Bethlehem. It is the mystery we soon will contemplate at Christmas: our salvation in Jesus Christ," the pope said Dec. 12 during his weekly general audience.

Pope Benedict said the word "advent," which means "coming" or "presence,"

in ancient times was used to refer to the official visit of the king or emperor to a certain province.

"For us Christians, Advent indicates a wonderful and moving reality: God himself has crossed the threshold of heaven," the pope said. With the birth of Christ, "he is the king who came down to visit this poor province, which is earth, and gave us the gift of his visit, assuming our flesh, becoming human like us."

From the creation of the world to Noah and the flood, from the call of Abraham to the giving of the law on Mount Sinai, the Bible is the story of how God repeatedly has acted in history to demonstrate his presence, his love for humanity and his desire to save all men and women, Pope Benedict said.

"Advent calls us to recall the history of his presence and always remember that God did not cut himself off from the world, he isn't absent and he does not abandon us," but "he comes to meet us in the different ways, which we must learn to discern," the pope said.

"And we, with our faith, hope and charity, are called each day to recognize and give witness to his presence in a world that is often superficial and distracted," he said.

The role of Christians today, he said, is to make sure that "the light that lit up the manger in Bethlehem" shines through their lives.

God's Embrace February Schedule

Saturday, Feb. 2: Hallettsville 9-4 p.m.. Third Year Program (covered dish lunch)
Monday, Feb. 4: Blessing 6:30-9 p.m.. First Year Program, St. Peter Church, Blessing
Tuesday, Feb. 5: Frelsburg 6:30-9 p.m.. First Year Program, Sts. Peter and Paul Parish
Thursday, Feb. 7: Schulenburg 6:30-9 p.m.. First Year Program,
St. Rose of Lima Parish
Friday, Feb. 8: Eagle Lake 7 p.m. Healing Mass at Parish of the Nativity
Saturday, Feb. 9: El Campo 9-4 p.m., Second Year Program (covered dish lunch),
St. Robert Parish
Sunday, Feb. 10: Victoria 6-8:30 p.m., First Year Program, Holy Family Parish
Monday, Feb. 11: Eagle Lake 7-9 p.m., Facilitators' Formation Both Second and
Third Year

For more information please contact Sandy Reese at (979) 541-6881 or sandyreesefoaj@yahoo.com



COME OUT FOR FUN—Holy Family Altar Society in Victoria invites everyone to come out to their annual games party on Feb. 7 at the activity center on 704 Mallette Dr. Admission is \$7 p/p with doors opening at 6:00 p.m. For reservations call Jalayne Tupa at (361) 578-1606; Margaret Beekler (361) 575-4997; or Melicent Bryarly at (361) 573-3736. Pictured above are, seated l-r, JoAnn Jalufka, general chairman; Father Bob Knippenberg, pastor; Neicy Hajek, general chairman; standing l-r are co-chairmen, Mary Ann Ohrt, Melicent Bryarly, Jalayne Tupa and Dorothy Rehak.

Year of Faith — Retreat for Ladies

SHINER—All ladies are invited to a retreat to be held on Saturday, Feb. 2 from 8:30 a.m.-12:00 p.m. in the Sts. Cyril and Methodius Parish Activity Center. Presenter will be Olga Samaniego, National CDA Spiritual Enhancement Chairman and State CDA Retreat Chairman who is from El Paso. She is an experienced retreat presenter, CCD and bible study teacher and comes very qualified.

“Growing in Faith” is the theme with topics being presented are: Mary Our

Model, People of the Covenant, and That Your Joy May be Complete.

Let us strive to grow in our faith during this “Year of Faith” as proclaimed by Pope Benedict XVI.

Registration and breakfast from 8:30-9:00 a.m. with retreat to follow. Please RSVP to Mary Rose Barta at (361) 594-2781 or mrbarata@flash.net by January 30. This retreat is jointly sponsored by the Catholic Daughters Court St. Paul #1604 and Sts. Cyril and Methodius Parish.

*“Jesus said to the woman,
‘Your faith has saved you: go in peace,’”*

Luke 7:50

Reporting Abuse

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

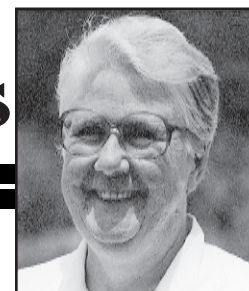
- Call the Chancery at (361) 573-0828 and ask to speak with the bishop or the chancellor;
- or
- Call Rev. Gary Janak (979) 543-3770 or Sr. Emilie Eilers (361) 575-7111, Coordinators of Pastoral Care and Outreach;
- or
- Write to: Most Rev. David E. Fellhauer
Diocese of Victoria
P.O. Box 4070
Victoria,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

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

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

SISTERLY THOUGHTS

By Sister Mildred Truchard, IWBS



Living well now while planning for the future

As I was puzzling over what kind of article I would write for the beginning of a new year, I came across an ad for a Financial Planning Service. The ad said something like: How to live well now while planning for future financial security. The ad reminded me of a newly-retired couple that I knew some years ago. Now that this hard-working couple had some extra time on their hands since they were retired, they developed a love for travel. However, their financial advisor told them to settle down with less expensive hobbies or they would not have any investments left to earn money in the future. I just hope that the recent recession did not minimize their savings (and that of the many retirees who depend on similar resources) too much.

Now, I don’t pretend to have the experience or expertise to give you financial advice. However, this ad had given me some insights about living out our faith now and how that living would play out in the future. Unlike financial resources, the faith to which we’re being challenged during this Year of Faith can be practiced fully now without limiting its availability in the future. Actually, the more fully we develop

this virtue now, the more abundantly it can play out in the future. Like so many personal God-given gifts or talents that we’re endowed with, personal acceptance and practice is necessary to enhance them. For example, athletes, musicians, and all of us who aspire to accomplishment, spend many hours and years developing their potential. We, too, can develop our faith through reading, studying, participating in spiritual activities, and performing works of charity. Yes, works of charity are part of this development. St. James clearly expresses the need for such action when he says, “What good is it, my brothers, if someone says he has faith but does not have works? Can that faith save him? If a brother or sister has nothing to wear and has no food for the day, and one of you says to them, “Go in peace, keep warm, and eat well,” but you do not give them the necessities of the body, what good is it? So also faith of itself, if it does not have works, is dead.”

Therefore, then, during this Year of Faith, let’s actively engage in faith development opportunities offered by our parishes and our diocese; then let’s allow our increasing faith to flow out into action through our good works. Faith and good works done now are investments which will enhance our eternal retirement security.



Band instruments needed for OLV

Our Lady of Victory School in Victoria is still looking for donations of band instruments that might be in your closet or attic that students at OLV could be using. They have extended their band program and are needing instruments for students who cannot afford to rent one. Please consider donating or lending an instrument to OLV, and if you have a friend that has one, please mention this possibility.

For more information, please call OLV School at (361) 575-5391.

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Local couple invited to be keynote speakers in Canada

Matthew and Lupe Schaefer, parishoners at St. Mary's in Victoria, were invited to be the guest keynote speakers last month at an Advent Parish Mission at Christ Our Saviour Catholic Church in Steinbach, Manitoba Canada.

With assistance from their diocese, the parish collected the necessary funding to fly them just days before Advent began. For four back-to-back evenings, they spoke on various topics of faith and the practicalities of living it out. Each night consisted of Mass and one evening of Adoration and the keynote. The first night was presented in separate men and women sessions with the topics being 'Man, Husband, Father' & 'Woman, Wife, Mother'. Keynote two was 'Couples' and session three was 'Family'.

The Diocese of Winnipeg also took the opportunity to have Matthew and Lupe introduce Natural Family Planning to young married couples and single adults, which included a question and answer session. For several years Matthew and Lupe were a certified teacher couple with the Couple To Couple League International and taught Natural Family Planning (NFP) to engaged and married couples in and out

of Texas. They continue to promote NFP as the Church's only approved method of family planning.

One attendee, Paula K., shared a testimony of what she gained at the mission: "Reassurance of how every day we can do little things that make life so much better, and create an ongoing bond with family members. Also, they helped me to consider that church members are our family too

and seek to have peaceful relationships of mutual respect."

Getting to meet many people during their visit was easily accomplished as Matthew and Lupe were housed with a host family and visited several homes for each of their meals. The people were very welcoming and generous and served their best dishes. They said "they ate bison at a fellow homeschooling family's bison farm and had the best homemade Philippino food prepared by an immigrant family."

"One of the most refreshing things we saw is that the people we ministered to were very eager to learn the Truth of the Catholic Faith. Many of us here in the States take our faith for granted and are fine with a watered down Catholicism. What an honor and a blessing it was for us to share our zeal with others and theirs with ours."



Matthew Schaefer, above, speaks to a group of participants at an Advent Parish Mission in Canada. He and his wife, Lupe, spoke on various topics of faith and the practicalities of living it out. Inset, Matthew and Lupe Schaefer.

Running good for 'mind, body and spirit,' but also can promote a cause

Continued from p. 5

"We want to create a culture of vocations in our families and meet people where they're at; in secular settings," the priest said. "We want to create a culture of awareness in the public."

Registering for the event is twofold, he explained.

"We have people independently sign up for the One America race, and then we have a registration form on the website so we know who is coming," Father Nagel said, referring to the website of the archdiocesan Vocations Office, www.HearGodsCall.com. "Then we send out e-letters encouraging them to train and pray for a universal call to holiness. Naturally some start training together. Parish groups or groups of friends begin praying together and training; we have been pleased to see that evolve on its own."

On top of registration fees the runners pay, they are encouraged to gather both prayer and monetary pledges for vocations.

"All financial donations go into a vocations fund in which parishes can apply for money to host vocation fairs and other events that help foster a culture of vocations," Father Nagel said.

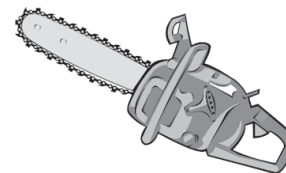
Overall, Father Nagel believes that it is a benefit to have the Race for Vocations as part of a secular race.

"You don't have to create your own (race). You can just plug in," Father Nagel said. "The nice thing about plugging in is that we are amongst so many people who aren't running for our cause. It raises awareness. They are interested in what we're doing."

Spiritual Renewal Center Needs Volunteers

The Spiritual Renewal Center is in need of volunteers who could provide outdoor/landscape-type work, such as cut down some large pecan trees that have died and some that

have fallen on the fence line. The work would take place during the week between Sunday and Wednesday. Deacon Joe will be leading the work but it would be helpful if volunteers could bring their own tools, such as chain saws, tree trimmers, truck with trailers, gloves, etc. The SRC can provide lunch if they know in advance how many will be coming. If you and/or a group can help, please contact Deacon Joe at (361) 894-1699 or jduplan@victoriadiocese.org.



Did You Know ...

The Missionary Diocese of Fairbanks: (Northern Alaska) is 409,849 square miles; it has 5 Urban Road Parishes; 4 Rural Road Parishes; 37 Non-Road Mission Parishes; 1491 children under religious instruction; 1 bishop; 2 brothers; 17 priests; 12 sisters; and 25 deacons.

www.dioceseoffairbanks.org

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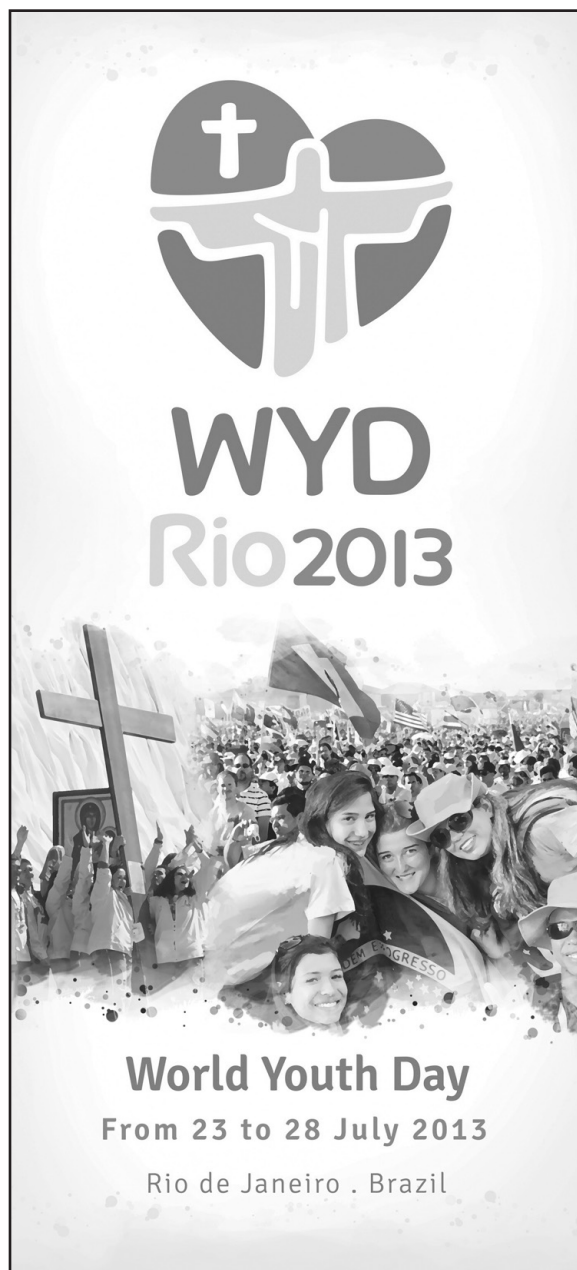
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e-mail: slovakjim@att.net
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SINGERS OFFICERS NAMED—St. Joseph High School in Victoria has named the Singers Officers. They are, l-r, Trevor Reyna - Quartermaster/Librarian; Emily Hoelscher - Vice President; Katherine Dent - President; and Mary Ann Knezek - Chaplain.



BANNER AD FOR WORLD YOUTH DAY IN RIO DE JANEIRO, JULY 23-28—This is a banner ad for World Youth Day to be held in Rio de Janeiro July 23-28. Pope Benedict XVI, who will attend the international Catholic youth gathering, said the city's famous statue of Christ with outstretched arms is a reminder of Christ's desire to embrace all people. In preparation for the international youth gathering July 23-28, Pope Benedict asked young Catholics not to wait to begin the task of sharing their Christian faith with others. "We are links in a great chain of men and women who have transmitted the truth of the faith and who depend on us to pass it on to others," he said in the message released Nov. 16 by the Vatican. The theme of World Youth Day 2013 is: "Go and make disciples of all nations." (CNS/World Youth Day 2013)



World Youth Day vigil, Mass to be in neighborhood known for its beaches

By Lise Alves
Catholic News Service

SAO PAULO (CNS) — World Youth Day organizers have chosen a spot in Rio de Janeiro's Guaratiba neighborhood, nearly 60 miles from the city center, for the vigil and closing Mass July 27-28.

Rio Archbishop Orani Tempesta announced the venue Nov. 28 during a preparatory meeting for World Youth Day, which will run July 23-28. Pope Benedict XVI is expected to attend the closing days of the event in Rio.

Organizers expect more than 2 million young people to gather at the 1.35-square-mile venue.

Rio de Janeiro Mayor Eduardo Paes said the space is three times the size of the venue use at World Youth Day in Madrid in 2010.

Organizers said the area will have

pilgrim service islands that will include restrooms, medical and food tents, tents for worshiping, water fountains and big-screen TVs. Special shuttle transportation to and from Guaratiba is also being discussed.

Guaratiba is an indigenous word that means "location with great quantity of herons." To this day the area, which has some of Rio's most beautiful beaches, is filled with white herons.

According to the Archdiocese of Rio de Janeiro, in 1958, Rio Cardinal Jaime de Barros Camara considered the location to build the city's cathedral. The church eventually decided to build the cathedral in the center of the city.

Editor's Note: The Diocese of Victoria has no trips planned to attend the WYD 2013 in Rio de Janeiro.

Youth Calendar of Events

Sunday, Jan. 20 – Confirmation Retreat/YLT - Wharton
Saturday, Jan. 26 – Pro Life Rally - Austin
Sunday, Feb. 10 - YLT Planning Spectacular
Thursday, Feb. 21 – Renewing the Vision – Holy Family - Victoria
Saturday, Feb. 23 – Foundations
Sunday, Feb. 24 – Spectacular – Holy Family - Victoria
Sunday, March 24 – Confirmation Retreat – St. Mary's - Victoria
Saturday, April 13 – Foundations
Sunday, April 21 – YLT – Camp David Planning



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

For more information contact:

Wendy Eggert at the Office of Youth Ministry at (361) 573-0828 ext. 2232,
e-mail at weggert@victoriadiocese.org,
Cassandra Hybner, administrative assistant, ext. 2250
e-mail at chybner@victoriadiocese.org
new youth office e-mail ym@victoriadiocese.org or
visit our website at www.victoriadiocese.org/youthoffice

2013 Youth Spectacular The Year of Faith: The "Final Four" Death, Judgement, Heaven, and Hell

Scheduled for February 24

The Year of Faith: The Final Four is the theme of the 2013 Youth Spectacular at the Holy Family Gymnasium in Victoria on February 24.

As Catholics, we are called not to simply "bounce" through life, but to be diligent and reflect often on the final four: death, judgment, heaven and hell. As we meditate on these four last things, we are better able to experience the fullness of life and heed the words of Christ, "Be vigilant, for you know not the hour nor the day."

Four amazing guest speakers from our diocese, Father David Berger, Father Tommy Chen, Father Bryan Heyer and Father Michael Rother will be keynotes for the event.

Father David is currently the pastor of St. Michael and Our Lady of Guadalupe in Cuero, Sts. Peter and Paul in Meyersville, and St. Aloysius in Westhoff. He is also responsible for a Catholic school – St. Michael Elementary in Cuero. He was ordained as a priest in 2006.

Father Tommy was ordained in 2008 and is currently associate pastor for Sacred Heart in Hallettsville, St. Mary in St. Mary, Ascension of Our Lord in Moravia and St. John in St. John. He is also very involved in Sacred Heart Elementary and High School.

Father Bryan is currently the pastor for

St. Anthony of Padua in Palacios. He was ordained in 2004. He is active in vocation work for the diocese.

Father Michael was ordained to the priesthood in 2007. He is currently assistant pastor at Our Lady of Victory Cathedral in Victoria. He is involved with the young adults at Victoria College and also at St. Joseph High School in Victoria.

Doors open at 11:00 a.m. and Spectacular begins at 11:30 a.m.; Liturgy will conclude the day at 5:00 p.m. with Bishop David Fellhauer as the main celebrant. Lunch is included in the registration price. There will also be a concession stand where snacks may be purchased. Early registration deadline is Thursday, February 14. For more information call the Office of Youth and Young Adult Ministry at (361) 573-0828 ext. 2250.

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HONOR FOR SERVICE—The annual Christmas party of Court St. Alberta #1381 and Knights of Columbus Council #3204, both from Ganado, was held on December 1, 2012, at the Assumption Church Parish Hall. In the left photo, Martha Rucker (l.) was named Catholic Daughter of the Year by Regent Jan Wooldridge (r.). Martha has portrayed Mother Teresa at the annual Trunk or Treat for the past several years. She has also assisted with all Court Audits and she assists with the Angel Tree. In the photo on the right, Richard Bures (r.) was named Knight of the Year by Grand Knight Michael Roznovsky (l.). Richard was introduced by his son-in-law who is a fellow KC member. Richard was named Knight of the Year for all of his hard work with various fundraisers and activities hosted by the local council.

KJT DONATES TO LOCAL FIRE DEPARTMENT—KJT of Wied #43 sponsored a bakeless bake sale in October-November 2012 to benefit the Hallettsville and Shiner Volunteer Fire Departments. Presenting a check for \$487.50 to Shiner Fire Chief, Mark Panus, is secretary, Rebecca Till. Others present were, left to right, Diane and Hunter Aschen and Derrick Labay. The Wied Society thanks all who donated to this cause and especially the fire department for all their dedication.



BAKELESS SALE BENEFITS FIRE DEPARTMENT—KJT of Wied #43 sponsored a bakeless bake sale in October-November 2012 to benefit the Hallettsville and Shiner Volunteer Fire Departments. Presenting a check for \$487.50 to Hallettsville Fire Chief, Anthony Ludwig, is president, Matthew Motal. Others present were left to right Rebecca Till, Hunter and Diane Aschen and Guntram Janak Jr. The Wied Society thanks all who donated to this cause and especially the fire department for all their dedication.



SHCS ADOPT-A-FAMILY PROJECT SUCCESSFUL—Once again, the Adopt-a-Family project at Sacred Heart Catholic School was a huge success. The Eighth Grade students, with the help of the Fifth Grade through Tenth Grade classes adopted three local families for Christmas. The students and their families helped spread the Christmas cheer by providing gifts to these families. The Eighth Grade class was also in charge of wrapping and delivering these presents to these wonderful families. Thank you to the local food pantry for assisting in the name process as well as the Meadows Foundation for providing grant money to aid in this project and the Sacred Heart School families for all their generosity. God bless everyone with a joyous New Year. (Photo courtesy of the HALLETTSVILLE TRIBUNE-HERALD)



ST. PAUL H.S. STATE CHAMPIONS—St. Paul High School football team under the coaching staff of Head Coach Jake Wachsmuth, Assistant Coaches: Jonathan Pesek, Cole Franco, John Wachsmuth, Weston Barton, and Athletic Trainer Ron Johnson won in the TAPPS 2A Division III game against Legacy Christian Academy, Frisco with a score of 56-43. The game was played in Baylor Stadium on Dec. 7, 2012. St. Paul had a record of 10-4 for the year. (Photo by Lori Raabe)

“...keep in mind the words of the Lord Jesus who himself said, ‘It is more blessed to give than to receive.’” -Acts 20:35



The Virgen de Guadalupe Festival held December 2, 2012 at the George R. Brown Convention Center in Houston included singers from the Diocese of Victoria. Pictured above are three of the dancers from Laredo, they are part of a group called Danza Azteca, from the Parroquia Holy Ghost. Also, above are (l-r) Dolores Wilkes, Maria del Socoro Rodrigues, Elvia Lara, parishioners of St. Rose of Lima, Schulenburg. The picture in the upper right, are dancers parading to the convention center.

Hispanics attend celebration in honor of Our Lady of Guadalupe

HOUSTON— The Virgen de Guadalupe Festival was held December 2, 2012 at the George R. Brown Convention Center in Houston. Singers from Victoria and Schulenburg were invited to join several choirs from the Houston-Galveston Diocese to sing for the Spanish Mass in honor of Our Lady of Guadalupe. The singers of St. Rose of Lima Parish in Schulenburg were, Martha Lara, William and Dolores Wilkes, Maria del Socoro Rodrigues, Miguel and Elvia Lara, Petra Hernandez, Lizbeth Lara and Perfecto Hernandez. The event started at noon with groups of dancers parading from behind the Cathedral in Houston to the George R. Brown Convention Center.

The dancers, singers and others performed until 5:00 p.m. when the Mass was celebrated in Spanish with their group joining other Spanish choirs to sing at the Mass. A group of young children performed a play reenacting the story of the Virgin's appearance to Juan Diego in December 1531.

Cardinal Daniel DiNardo celebrated Mass with Archbishop Jose A. Fiorenza and Auxiliary Bishop George A. Sheltz. After Mass, the dancers continued to dance and entertain the attendees until 9:00 p.m. The event was attended by several thousand Hispanic Americans in honoring the Blessed Mother. . Our Lady of Guadalupe (the patron and protector of the Americas).



"THE TRUE MEANING OF CHRISTMAS"—St. Mary, Nada, Life-Long Catechesis (LLC) students presented a Christmas play to over 150 parishioners on Dec. 16 at the parish hall. The play showed that Jesus is the reason for the season. Following the play a soup and sandwich supper was served. This is the 14th presentation which began when they instituted their Youth Group after their Catholic school closed.



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Novel Celebrates First Native American Saint - Kateri Tekakwitha

TROY, NY — Staff Picks Press has just published “Kateri - Lily of the Mohawks,” by Jack Casey. The publication honors the Catholic Church’s October 21, 2012 canonization of Kateri Tekakwitha as the first Native American saint at the Vatican.

“In her short life, Kateri Tekakwitha surmounted impossible odds to find inner peace in a world torn by white man’s war, liquor and disease,” Publisher Susan Novotny said recently. “As the Catholic Church elevates her to sainthood, Staff Picks Press offers this inspirational story to increase awareness about her.”

“Jack Casey’s fast-paced, exciting novel brings her to life as a child and young woman in the wilderness that was upstate New York,” Novotny said. “It helps us understand why this scarred, nearly blind orphan embraced the religion of her invaders, and then outdistanced even her missionaries for holiness.”

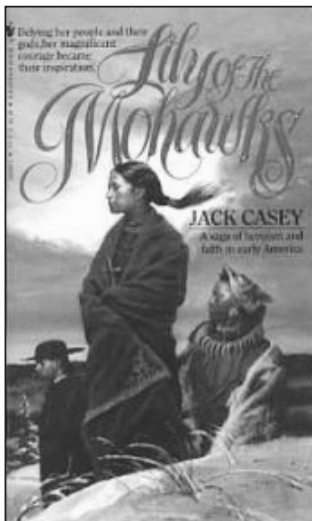
“When I heard the news about her canonization, I knew I had to revisit this story,” Casey said. He first published a novelized biography “Lily of the Mohawks” with Bantam Books in 1984. “Since the early

80s, a lot of new work has been done on the Iroquois culture and on Tekakwitha’s life. Her canonization calls us to reflect upon her spiritual gifts, her time and place in the history of Canada and America, and her growing importance to us today. With these new perspectives, I reworked the story and I offer it now as a truthful and thorough portrayal of her life and times.”

Using primary source material, Casey configured his new work as a “trilogy,” closely following the lives of St. Isaac Jogues, Kateri herself, and her spiritual advisor Father Claude Chauchetiere, who championed her cause after her death and began effecting miracles with her relics. Following her death in 1680, devotion to Tekakwitha grew during the 18th century until the English forced the French out of

Canada in 1763. It wasn’t until the 1840’s that the Jesuits returned and her cause for sainthood was renewed. Casey attended and blogged about Kateri Tekakwitha’s canonization at the Vatican.

The novel is available for purchase through independent booksellers and Amazon. For information, visit: <http://JackCasey.com>



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Celebrate the Year of Faith by taking an exciting journey through the *Catechism of the Catholic Church*! This special year is the perfect time to open up the riches of this amazing resource.

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CHRISTMAS II

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December Puzzle Contest Winners Announced

The winner of the December puzzle contest and the book “Santa & Pete ~ A Novel of Christmas Present and Past” by Christopher Moore and Pamela Johnson is Fidel Garcia of Our Lady of Sorrows in Victoria. The winners of the children’s contest are Ethan Sanchez (11) of Our Lady of Sorrows, Victoria and Trey Lawrence (8) of Our Lady of Victory Cathedral. Thank you to the two youth who entered the contest this past month. They each will receive a gift from Incarnate Word Gift Shop. The winner of the January Puzzle Contest will win “Kateri - Lily of the Mohawks” by Jack Casey. The publication honors the Catholic Church’s Oct. 21, 2012, canonization of Kateri Tekakwitha as the first Native American saint at the Vatican. Please mail completed puzzle forms to arrive in *The Catholic Lighthouse* office, P. O. Box 4070, Victoria, TX 77903 by January 28.

Prayer To St. Kateri Tekakwitha

St. Kateri, Star of Native People and Bright Light for all! We thank God for your heroic courage, constant perseverance and deep love of the Cross. Pray for us that our love for Christ may deepen. And may we imitate you in following God’s Will even when difficulties arise. In Jesus’ name we pray. Amen

from e-Catholic 2000



Catholic By Grace

By Denise Bossert
www.catholicbygrace.blogspot.com



Pilgrimages always teach us something about ourselves

I went on my first pilgrimage last July.

I knew that a pilgrimage was not supposed to be predictable. It's a journey, and journeys take on a life of their own.

My daughter and I began our day with Mass at our parish. I'm usually a morning person, but I couldn't shake the fatigue. That's when I realized that I took my evening medicine (with its soporific side effect) instead of reaching for my over-the-counter allergy pill. Wrong medicine. Definitely the wrong medicine.

I labored through Mass, and we headed back home for some coffee before hitting the road for the Shrine at Starkenburg, Missouri.

We took the scenic route – an hour on the back roads of Missouri. The scenery was beautiful, but there were few bathroom opportunities. Did I mention that I had coffee before this trip?

Finally, we made it to the Shrine.

It was about 11:30, and a number of cars were parked in the lot already. It was the second Tuesday of the month, and that meant a noon Mass at the Shrine.

We were going to step inside, take a few minutes to pray and then slip out before Mass. We had noticed a German shepherd on the front steps, and when we opened the chapel door, he scurried over the threshold and dashed past us. He was half-way down the aisle before I caught him by the collar and coaxed him out the doors. I was mortified. The faithful who were praying raised their heads and stared. I wanted to explain that it wasn't my dog. No, really! I have never seen that dog before!

My daughter and I took a deep breath and finally slipped into the back row. As we prayed, the dog whined so loudly that everyone could hear it.

We prayed for our special intentions, quickly made the Sign of the Cross, and left the chapel.

There he was, waiting for us, his tail wagging joyfully. We walked to the Shrine, and the dog pranced along beside us. I descended the steps and escaped the heat of the July day. The grotto was dim and cool, and I knelt to pray. My daughter

stayed with our new canine companion so that he would not follow me into the holy space. The sign in front of the Shrine reminded visitors to be quiet and reverent. I suspected that meant Fido was not invited inside although there was no front door to keep him from entering.

When I came out of the Shrine and mounted the steps, my daughter informed me that our new friend had been nearly impossible to restrain. I told my daughter to go on ahead and pray in the Shrine. Perhaps the dog would stay with me while she prayed.

The dog jerked out of my hands and bounded down the steps after her.

People were parking and walking to the church in greater numbers. Once again, I wanted to announce that I did not know this dog at all. I've never seen him before! Honest!

We left after that. The dog stayed behind. Our last glimpse of him was from the parking lot.

Later, I took my daughter to lunch. I asked her what her favorite part of the pilgrimage was. Her face brightened.

"When the dog followed us," she said with a smile.

I laughed. I worry too much what people think. Maybe that's what I needed to learn. That's the shortcoming I need to amend. Pilgrimages always teach us something about ourselves.

It doesn't matter if others misunderstand or think they know me when they don't. It doesn't matter if they draw conclusions about me that are far from accurate. I worry too much what people think.

I have only to love God – with as much joy and tenacity as a stray dog for new-found friends.

On a hot July morning, God planted a dog at the Shrine. He permitted that dog to enter into His Holy Place and make it half way to the Tabernacle. He inspired that dog to descend the steps to His Holy Shrine.

I think He did all of this to tell me to lighten up.

I'm with my daughter. The dog following us — that was the best part.

Sunday Readings from Jan. 13 to Feb. 17

Jan. 13 — Feast of the
Baptism of the Lord

Isaiah 42:1-4, 6-7
Psalms 29:1-2, 3-4, 3, 9-10
Acts 10:34-38
Luke 3:15-16, 21-22

Jan. 20 — Second Sunday
in Ordinary Time

Isaiah 62:1-5
Psalms 96:1-2, 2-3, 7-8, 9-10
1 Corinthians 12:4-11
John 2:1-11

Jan. 27 — Third Sunday
in Ordinary Time

Nehemiah 8:2-4A, 5-6, 8-10
Psalms 19:8, 9, 10, 15
1 Corinthians 12:12-30
Luke 1:1-4; 4:14-21

Feb. 3 — Fourth Sunday
in Ordinary Time

Jeremiah 1:4-5, 17-19
Psalms 71:1-2, 3-4, 5-6, 15-17
1 Corinthians 12:31—13:13
Luke 4:21-30

Feb. 10 — Fifth Sunday
in Ordinary Time

Isaiah 6:1-2a, 3-8
Psalms 138:1-2, 2-3, 4-5, 7-8
1 Corinthians 15:1-11
Luke 5:1-11

Feb. 13 — Ash Wednesday

Joel 2:12-18
Psalms 51:3-4, 5-6ab, 12-13, 14 and 17
2 Corinthians 5:20—6:2
Matthew 6:1-6, 16-18

Feb. 17 — First Sunday
of Lent

Deuteronomy 26:4-10
Psalms 91:1-2, 10-11, 12-13, 14-15
Romans 10:8-13
Luke 4:1-13

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

www.usccb.org/bible/readings

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Victoria Natural Family Planning classes schedule

David and Annie Coffey have scheduled four sets of Natural Family Planning classes to be held throughout 2013. The classes will be held once a month on Sundays.

Each set includes an "Intro and Class one", "Class two", and "Class three and completion certificate".

Natural Family Planning is the only Church-approved form of family planning. The schedule is as follows:

- First Class: January 20; Second Class: February 17; Third Class & Completion Certificate: March 17
- First Class: April 21; Second Class: May 19; Third Class & Completion Cer-

tificate: June 23

- First Class: July 21; Second Class: August 18; Third Class & Completion Certificate: September 15

- First Class: October 20; Second Class: November 17; Third Class & Completion Certificate: December 15

All classes are held at Holy Family of JMJ Catholic Church, St. Peter Parish Hall (Building A) located at 704 Mallette Drive, Victoria, Texas 77904.

Please contact David and Annie Coffey, Instructors, at victorianfpteachers@yahoo.com or call them at (361) 579-8464 to register or for more information, location, cost and times.



THE POPE SPEAKS

*Pope
Benedict XVI*



CNS photo from Reuters

Christmas is reminder of God's great power, pope says at audience

By Cindy Wooden
Catholic News Service

VATICAN CITY (CNS) — The annual celebration of Christ's birth fills Christians with hope and joy because it is a reminder that the power of God is always at work, and he does great things even through the weak and the small, Pope Benedict XVI said.

Continuing his Christmas reflections at his weekly general audience Jan. 2, the pope explained why Catholics traditionally bow their heads when, in reciting the creed, they come to the words, "For us men and for our salvation he came down from heaven, and

by the Holy Spirit was incarnate of the Virgin Mary, and became man."

With an estimated 7,000 visitors and pilgrims filling the Vatican audience hall, the pope said Christmas naturally raises the question, "How could that little and weak baby have brought something so radically new that it changed the course of history?"

The answer, the pope said, is that the baby Jesus is God incarnate and savior of the world.

"This proclamation, which continually resounds as something new, gives rise to hope and joy in our hearts because it gives us the certainty that, even if we of-

ten feel weak, poor and incapable in the face of the difficulties and evil of the world, God's power is always active and he works marvels precisely through weakness," the pope said.

With a Christmas tree and Nativity scene still dominating the stage in the audience hall, the pope said awe is the most appropriate response to the great mystery of God becoming human

and being born in a manger.

"When we listen to the Masses composed by the great masters of sacred music -- for example Mozart's Coronation Mass -- notice how they dwell" on the Incarnation phrase of the creed, "as if they were trying to express with the universal language of music that which words cannot explain: the great mystery of God made man," he said.

"Never be lacking in zeal, but keep your spiritual fervor, serving the Lord."

Romans 12:11

Parishes called to welcome, support people with mental illness

By Christine M. Williams
Catholic News Service

FALL RIVER, Mass. (CNS) — When Deacon Tom Lambert's wife was hospitalized for open heart surgery, friends brought unsolicited meals to the family's door.

"For three or four weeks, every day at 6 o'clock, the bell would ring and a different family would bring us dinner," he said.

Those neighbors and fellow parishioners were responding to a need.

But a different illness in his family some years later garnered no response.

"When our daughter was diagnosed with mental illness, no one came to the door," he said.

That was 25 years ago, and Deacon Lambert, who co-chairs the National Catholic Partnership on Disability's Council on Mental Illness, said awareness is essential in overcoming the stigma associated with a disease of the mind.

In the United States, severe or persistent mental illness affects 1 in 17 Americans. The mental illness disability rate has more than doubled since the 1980s and increased six-fold since the 1950s. Some clinicians and researchers believe the increase has been influenced by external factors, including environmental and social causes.

Other experts theorize that a widening set of criteria for diagnosing mental illness — which

was once thought to be a result of chronic or irreversible conditions — has led to a rise in the number of people living with such a disability. Practitioners in the mental health field consider the requirement for a diagnosis before pharmaceutical and insurance companies will dispense treatment as a factor as well.

Unfortunately, treatment plans have long ignored a patient's spiritual needs, said Sacred

Heart Sister Nancy Kehoe, a clinical psychologist. She authored the book "Wrestling with our Inner Angels: Faith, Mental Illness, and the Journey to

Through prayer and turning things over to the Lord, saying we're going to deal with this situation with the strength and hope that comes from God and our faith.

Wholeness."

When she began working with people with mental illness 30 years ago, faith issues were ignored. Because mental health professionals were not trained to adequately respond when a patient spoke about spirituality, she said.

"It was really unheard of in 1981 to have anyone suggest that it would be worthwhile to have a conversation with people with serious mental illness about religion because up until then, it was really just seen as part of their symptoms or a defense," she said. "Either people pathologized it or they ignored it."

Contrary to the prevailing belief that faith was a part of a patient's mental illness, Sister Nancy soon discovered that it was often part of an individual's

inner strength. She then organized a group for people who wanted to talk about mental illness and religion. The group meets monthly at St. Paul Parish in Cambridge, Mass.

When someone struggles with a severe mental illness, they often feel isolated. Their behaviors may put others at a distance, and they may have difficulty holding a job, keeping relationships and living on their own.

Deacon Lambert said that many people at Sunday Mass privately struggle with mental illness and the vast majority are managing their illness well.

"Nobody's going to come up and say, 'Well, I have schizophrenia, but I go to work every day, I hold a job, I have a marriage.' But I guarantee there's a lot of people who are in that situation," he said.

As "people of compassion and justice," Deacon Lambert said, Catholics can help by creating safe havens for people to talk about their mental illness and allow their faith to be part of their healing. Even a prayer intention at Mass may spark hope, he added.

In reaction to his daughter's diagnosis, faith played a significant role, the deacon said.

"(Our faith) was crucial in getting us through that," he explained, "Through prayer and turning things over to the Lord, saying we're going to deal with this situation with the strength and hope that comes from God and our faith. That's really what got us through, quite honestly. It's as simple as that."

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US high court justice denies HHS injunction; lower court grants one

WASHINGTON (CNS)—
Supreme Court Justice Sonia Sotomayor denied two companies' request for an injunction while they challenge part of the Department of Health and Human Services' contraceptive mandate in court. In an order filed Dec. 26, Sotomayor ruled that the owners of the Hobby Lobby craft store and the Mardel Christian bookstore chains did not qualify for an injunction while they challenge requirements of the Affordable Care Act. The law takes effect Jan. 1. On Dec. 30, a federal District Court judge in Michigan granted a temporary restraining order to Tom Monaghan, the founder of Domino's Pizza, allowing him to decline to provide contraceptive coverage to the employees of his current business, Domino's Farms Office Complex. The company's website lists offices for lease, a petting farm, an art gallery, a hair salon, a fitness center, a Catholic chapel and Our Lady of Grace Bookstore among the entities on the property. It's unclear how many people are employees of Domino's Farms. Monaghan no longer has any financial interest in the pizza company. District Court Judge Lawrence P. Zatkoff issued the Dec. 30 temporary restraining order, saying there would be little harm to the government in delaying possible implementation of the law at the company and that there was enough evidence of a possible valid religious rights claim by Domino Farms to justify further court proceedings. At the Supreme Court, Sotomayor ruled on the bookstore chain's petition because she oversees the federal circuit where Hobby Lobby filed suit challenging the HHS mandate. The companies' Oklahoma City-based owners contend that the mandate violates their religious beliefs because some of the drugs they are required to cover can lead to abortion. The family-owned companies have said they have

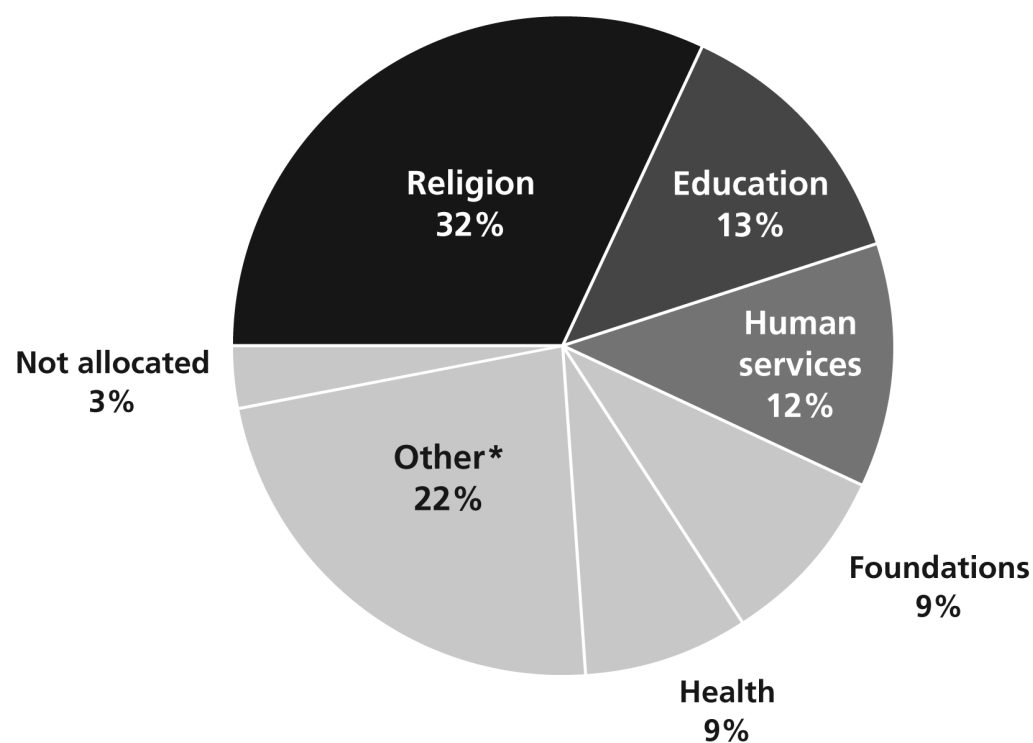
no moral objection to "the use of preventive contraceptives" and will continue to cover those for employees.

Migration Week brings revived interest in letter, push for legislation

WASHINGTON (CNS)—
The Catholic Church's observance of National Migration Week Jan. 6-12 this year comes at a time when the outlook seems promising for improving migrants' legal situations in the United States. The annual observance of Migration Week this year focuses on encouraging Congress to approve comprehensive immigration reform and marking the 10th anniversary of a joint pastoral letter by U.S. and Mexican bishops: "Strangers No Longer: Together on a Journey of Hope." The January 2003 letter said migration policies had created a new underclass in the United States, and called for changes in law and policy in the U.S. and Mexico. The bishops promised to do more themselves to educate Catholics and political leaders about the social justice issues involved in migration and to do more to address migrants' needs. The 50-page letter said the governments of both countries must change policies, including making it easier to legally immigrate to the United States, better protecting the civil rights of migrants in both countries and addressing the root causes of migration — poverty and lack of employment options in Mexico and Central America. It discussed the theological roots of the church's support for immigrants and laid out steps to be taken by church and public authorities. It notes that "mis-perceptions and xenophobic and racist attitudes in both the United States and Mexico contribute to an atmosphere in which undocumented (people) are discriminated against and abused." The letter urged both governments to "abandon the type of (law enforcement) strategies that give rise to smuggling operations and migrant deaths" and to restore due process rights.

Where Donations Go

Each year the religion sector receives the largest share of charitable donations. In 2011 nearly \$300 billion was given to charities in these areas.



*International affairs, 8 percent; public-society benefit, 7 percent; arts, culture and humanities, 4 percent; environment and animals, 3 percent.

Source: Giving USA Foundation, Giving USA 2012

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Work begins on dorms for Catholic students at secular universities

MELBOURNE, Fla. (CNS)—
Catholic students at one secular university in Florida soon will have a dormitory all their own. In a historic collaboration, Bishop John G. Noonan of Orlando, Fla., Anthony J. Catanese, president of Florida Institute of Technology, Matt Zerrusen, president of the Newman Student Housing Fund, and Salvatorian Father Douglas Bailey, chaplain of Catholic campus ministry at the school, participated in the ceremonial groundbreaking for Mary Star of the Sea Catholic Student Residence Dec. 7. The ceremony was the second in as many months at a secular university in which housing specifically designated for Catholic students is being constructed. A similar ceremony took place Oct. 3 at Texas A&M University-Kingsville for St. Thomas Aquinas Newman Center, which includes a dormitory

and chapel. The Newman Student Housing Fund is financing the new residence hall at the Florida school. The dormitory will house 140 students beginning in the fall. Once the dormitory is completed, construction of a chapel will begin. "Fifty percent of students on college campuses lose their faith by the time they graduate," Zerrusen said. "This is unacceptable. It is a huge, huge deal in campus

ministry, and all the Newman Centers want to add dorms. These are the first, the pioneers. We are creating authentic Catholic campuses inside secular ones. If we want a way to change the culture of campus life and affect the future of our country, this is a big way of doing that. We can't sit back and watch these kids go uncatechized. We've got to do something, and we are."

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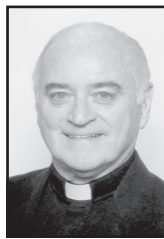
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Spirituality for Today

By Father John Catoir
Catholic News Service



Closer to God's love in moments of tragedy

When you see a beautiful household plant that has not been watered for a week, it will appear to be deformed, even dead. But if you give it a good soaking, it will come back to its full splendor. In the same way, faith is the water of the soul. Without it, people soon wither and become spiritually depleted.

In the aftermath of the Newtown, Conn. tragedy, a producer from Fox News asked me to go on air that afternoon and offer some spiritual advice to the grieving parents. I had to decline because of a conflict, but I thought a lot about that difficult challenge.

I know pious platitudes are wasted on those in shock, and since I couldn't be there to put my arms around them, I thought that, at a later time, I might say something like the following:

In all the great losses and trials of life, we have the supreme law to fall back on. It is not given to us as a consolation, but as a divine command: "You shall love the Lord, your God, with your whole heart, and with your whole being, and with your whole strength."

God is unchanging love. This is a matter of faith. Faith is knowledge. In a time of crisis, it embodies a truth that will never change. The temptation to doubt God or become angry with him might be overpowering at times, but the truth is that God's love never abandons us. Feelings are not facts.

Negative feelings will always lead us into the swamp of fear and doubt, but Jesus said, "Do not be afraid." The Lord always commands us to love God, and be not afraid.

When tragedies hit, all of the explanations in the world are beyond comprehension. We need to fall back on that divine command: Love "your God" and love him "with your whole heart." You are not a poor and helpless creature. When the storms of life rage about, hold on to your faith and hold on to your joy as well.

Joy is not an emotion. It is based in the will, and it is constant. Reject this truth at your own peril. Totally turning yourself over to your upset emotions will get you nowhere. Feelings can mislead you, and

even poison your destiny.

When your faith is being tested as never before, do not give in to self-pity. You can accomplish this by loving your neighbor. Think of others. Do not love them by showering pity upon them. Do it by stirring up their faith. Pity parties are a waste of time. What we all need in times of trial is the faith to rise above the fray. A strong belief in God's loving presence is an act of the will. The will says yes or no.

Evil happens in this world. It is my opinion that the devil poisoned the thoughts of Adam Lanza, the Connecticut shooter.

Like a plant without water, he had no faith to hold on to. Perhaps Adam fell victim to despair. Perhaps he lashed out in pain and outrage, rejecting the world around him, the very world that would have loved and comforted him. But we may never know what truly happened.

Jesus said, "Father, forgive them, they know not what they do."

USCCB committees call for action in response to Newtown tragedy

WASHINGTON (CNS)—The chairmen of three committees of the U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops issued a joint statement Dec. 21 stressing the need for gun control, improved services for the mentally ill and a critical examination of the violence in today's movies, videos and television shows. The statement was released in response to the Dec. 14 shooting at Sandy Hook Elementary School in Newtown, Conn., that left 20 children, the principal and five teachers dead. The bishops said they joined New York Cardinal Timothy M. Dolan, president of the USCCB, who in a Dec. 14 statement expressed his "profound solidarity with and prayers for the families, friends, neighbors, and communities whose hearts have been rent by the loss of a child or loved one. Understandably this tragedy has given rise to discussions about national policies and steps that can be taken to foster a culture that protects the innocent and those most vulnerable among us. It is time for our nation to renew a culture of life in our society," said the committee chair-



GUESTS GREET BISHOP VANN FOLLOWING INSTALLATION MASS IN ORANGE, CALIF.—Guests greet Bishop Kevin W. Vann following his Dec. 10 installation Mass as the new bishop of Orange, Calif. Nearly 4,000 people gathered at the Bren Events Center in Irvine, Calif., to welcome the diocese's fourth bishop, who is the former head of the Diocese of Fort Worth, Texas. (CNS photo/courtesy Diocese of Orange)

Movement on sainthood cause for Dorothy Day met with mix of emotions

NEW YORK (CNS)—Patrick Jordan gazed down at the gravestone of a dear friend who died 32 years ago, a woman the Catholic Church may one day canonize. He squatted in front of the grave, made the sign of the cross and then offered a prayer for Dorothy Day, an American peace activist and co-founder of the Catholic Worker Movement. Jordan's visit to Day's gravesite in the Cemetery of the Resurrection in Staten Island, N.Y., came Nov. 28, the day before the anniversary of her death in 1980 at the age of 83. As he looked down at the simple marker, Jordan noticed the plastic flowers that had been placed by his friend's final resting place. "Dorothy didn't like fake flowers, but she would have appreciated the thought," he said. What would she have thought about the U.S. bishops' endorsement of her sainthood cause by voice vote

during their fall general assembly in Baltimore? Jordan, a former managing editor of The Catholic Worker newspaper Day helped launch in 1933, was not sure how she would have reacted to such overwhelming support from the bishops. Though Jordan has no doubt that Day is a saint — and he's not surprised the votes needed to move the cause forward were garnered — he and others associated with the Catholic Worker Movement did not expect the bishops to give it their full support. "I had an inkling that this was going to happen, so it wasn't terribly surprising, but it is really quite astounding in itself that bishops who are divided on so many issues, in a church that is so polarized, can find something in Dorothy Day," said Deacon Tom Cornell, co-founder of the Catholic Peace Fellowship and a decades-long associate of Day.

men. They are Bishop Stephen E. Blaire of Stockton, Calif., Committee on Domestic Justice and Human Development; Bishop John C. Wester of Salt Lake City, Committee on Communications; and Bishop Kevin C. Rhoades of Fort Wayne-South Bend, Ind., Committee on Laity, Marriage, Family Life and Youth. The bishops called on all Americans and elected leaders in particular to have "faith-filled courage to address the challenges our nation faces, both in our homes and in our national policies." They noted that "guns are too easily accessible"

and cited a 2006 document by the Vatican's Pontifical Council for Justice and Peace that stressed the importance of enacting concrete controls on handguns and noted that "limiting the purchase of such arms would certainly not infringe on the rights of anyone." In responding to the Newtown tragedy, the bishops also urged entertainers, particularly film producers and video game creators, to recognize the extent of violence in movies, television programs and video games, which they said have "desensitized all of us."



Catholics still largest Congressional denomination; 10 percent Jesuit grads

Continued from p. 1

percent of all members of Congress.

According to data compiled by the Pew Forum on Religion & Public Life, Catholics now make up slightly below 31 percent of Congress, while they account for about 22 percent of the U.S. population.

The new Congress, which opened Jan. 3, includes 136 Catholics in the House of Representatives, 75 of whom are Democrats and 61 of whom are Republicans. The 27 Catholic senators are comprised of 18 Democrats and nine Republicans.

The next largest denomination in Congress is Baptists, with 9 percent of freshmen and 15 percent of incumbents. Overall, Baptists account for 14 percent of the 113th Congress, with 73 total seats, up from 68 seats in the previous session.

Fifty-eight members of Congress listed their affiliation as “other” or “unspecified,” the same number as in the 112th Congress, but only one, newly elected Rep. Kyrsten Sinema, D-Ariz., described herself as

“unaffiliated.”

The Pew data notes that Catholics, Protestants and Jews are disproportionately represented in Congress in comparison to their percentage of the overall adult population. But even with fewer than five members in Congress, Buddhists, Muslims, Hindus and Orthodox are represented in about equal proportion to their number in the country. The same goes for Mormons, who have 15 members in Congress, just under 3 percent, and represent about 2 percent of the U.S. population.

Data compiled by the Association of Jesuit Colleges and Universities counted nearly 10 percent of Congress as having attended Jesuit higher education institutions. That includes 11 senators and 41 members of the House, who collectively attended 14 different Jesuit schools.

Georgetown University has the most alumni in Congress, with 21, followed by Boston College with seven and Fordham University with five, the College of the Holy Cross with four and Creighton University with three, the association reported. Loyola University Chicago, St. Peter's University and University of Detroit Mercy each has two alumni in Congress. Loyola University Maryland, Marquette University, St. Joseph's University, Santa Clara University, Wheeling Jesuit University and Xavier University each has one.

Nine Jesuit alumni were elected in 2012, including Sen. Mazie Hirono, D-Hawaii, who is the first Buddhist elected to the Senate (she served as a member of the House since 2007); and Rep. Hakeem Jeffries, D-N.Y., a Baptist, who both hold advanced degrees from Georgetown.

Pope completes ‘ad limina’ visits with world’s bishops – almost

Continued from p. 1

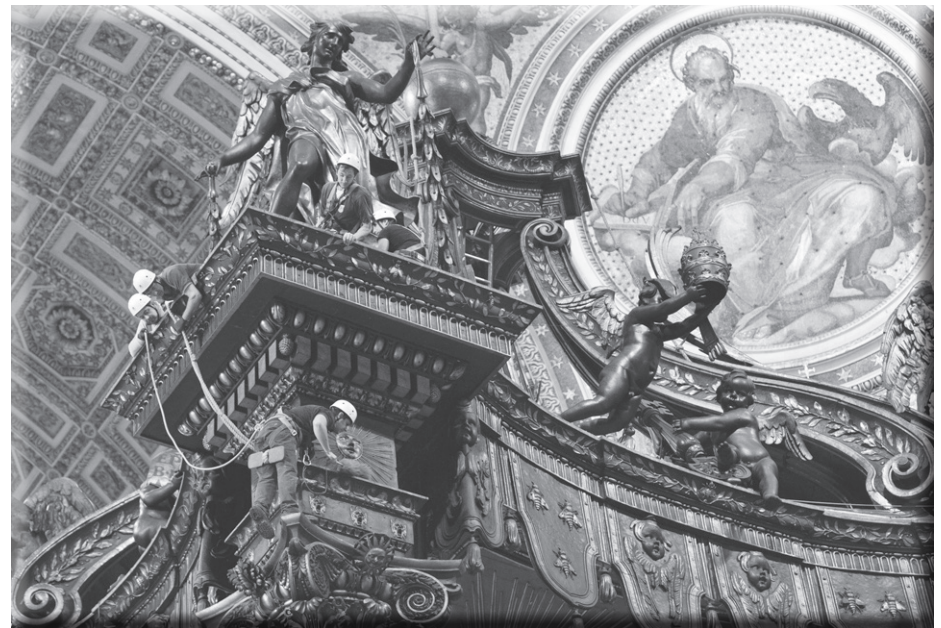
reinforce the unity and collegiality of the church,” he said.

The visits are not just “a simple juridical-administrative exercise,” he said, but “an experience of pastoral communion, participating in the concerns and hopes” of the church on the local and universal levels.

The relationship between the bishops and the pope, he said, “cannot simply be sporadic or spontaneous, but must be regular and ordered because we are dealing with the life of the church in its universal and particular dimensions.”

The Italian bishops made their first and only “ad limina” visits with Pope Benedict from November 2006 to April 2007, which means their second visits are coming six or seven years later. Bishops from Mexico, Austria, Poland and other countries that had “ad limina” visits in 2005, the first year of Pope Benedict's pontificate, will have to wait until 2014 or beyond.

The special Year of Faith calendars of Pope Benedict and of local bishops, together with the size of the Italian bishops' conference, “will not permit the visits of other episcopal conferences” this year, Archbishop Baldisseri said.



VATICAN WORKER DUSTS BALDACCHINO IN ST. PETER'S BASILICA— Other workers watch over Emanuele Roncaccia as he dusts hard-to-reach areas of the baldacchino over the main altar in St. Peter's Basilica Dec. 18 at the Vatican. The baldacchino is cleaned by Vatican workmen twice a year, typically before Christmas and Easter, using a mix of ancient and modern techniques. (CNS photo/Paul Haring)

Vatican says 2.3 million people joined pope for Vatican events in 2012

By Catholic News Service

VATICAN CITY -- More than 2.3 million pilgrims and visitors joined Pope Benedict XVI for an audience, liturgy or prayer at the Vatican or Castel Gandolfo in 2012, the Vatican said.

The Prefecture of the Papal Household, the Vatican office that coordinates the audiences and distributes the free tickets to papal audiences and liturgies, said its figures were calculations based on the number of tickets requested and estimates of crowd size.

The total of 2,351,200 people at papal events included those attending the pope's 43 weekly general audiences at the Vatican or at the papal summer villa in Castel Gandolfo; special audiences for particular groups; Masses and other liturgies; and a rough estimate of the size of the crowds in St. Peter's Square or the courtyard of the papal villa for the pope's recitation of the Angelus or “Regina Coeli” prayer on Sundays and major feast days.

The 2012 total was down by about 200,000 from the number of visitors reported in 2011.

In a statistical table distributed Jan. 4 by the Vatican press office, the prefecture estimated that between Pope Benedict's election in April 2005 and the end of 2012, more than 20.5 million visitors and pilgrims had joined the pope for an event at the Vatican or in Castel Gandolfo.

The figures released by the prefecture — headed until recently by U.S. Cardinal James M. Harvey — do not include numbers from papal events in the city of Rome, in Italian dioceses or on the pope's foreign trips.

Vatican official thanks mothers of priests, asks for their prayers

VATICAN CITY (CNS) — The mothers of priests and seminarians deserve the thanks of the whole church for raising their sons in the faith and supporting them in their vocations, said Cardinal Mauro Piacenza, prefect of the Congregation for Clergy. Writing on the Jan. 1 feast of Mary, Mother of God, the cardinal said having a priest-son requires a new form of motherhood, one that involves a “discreet, but very effective and invaluable precious accompaniment in prayer.” Cardinal Piacenza's letter was posted, in Italian, on the website of the clergy congregation. When a man becomes a priest, he said, everyone in his family is touched and is called to a deeper

conversion, but “unique and special are the spiritual consolations that come from having carried in your womb one who becomes a priest in Christ.” Obviously, he said, seminary studies and priestly ministry often take a man further from home and from regular family life, but the physical separation is replaced by a closer spiritual bond, he said. “The experience of the church teaches that the mother ‘receives’ her priest-son in a completely new and unexpected way, so much so that by the will of God she is called to recognize in the fruit of her womb a ‘father,’ who is called to generate a multitude of brothers and sisters and accompany them to eternal life,” the cardinal wrote.

Lent Begins on Ash Wednesday, Feb. 13



Children's books: Space, saints, humor and more

Reviewed by Barb Frazee
Catholic News Service

WASHINGTON (CNS)—The following children's books are suitable for gift giving:

"Legendary Journeys: Space," by Mike Goldsmith. Kingfisher (New York, 2012). 32 pp., \$19.99.

After reviewing children's books for more than 25 years, I would have to say this book would make the Top 10 of my "way cool" booklist. It is chock full of information about the history of the space program, the science behind key elements of space, how the equipment works and bios of important people. Photographs from NASA and ITAR-TASS news agency fill its pages. But what makes this book amazing is its design: not just the normal pop-up or peer-behind tabs, but whole cardboard pages that pull out to three times the original size to illustrate things like space spiders. This book promises hours of fun and learning. Ages 9-up.

"Glamorous Glasses," by Barbara Johansen Newman. Boyds Mills Press (Honesdale, Penn., 2012). 29 pp., \$16.95.

When Bobbie's cousin Joanie needed glasses, Bobbie decided she wanted a pair, too. Her eyeglass envy even had her faking not being able to see the board in class. Humorous, colorful illustrations add to this picture book with a twist, and a lesson. Ages 4-8.

"My First Hymn Book," by Clare Simpson. Paraclete Press (Brewster, Mass.,

2012). 64 pp., \$14.99.

Know a child who likes to sing? This seven-inch long hardback has illustrations and lyrics to 11 different hymns, ranging from songs preschoolers can sing, such as "He's Got the Whole World in His Hands," to hymns more appropriate for a young elementary school student. What the book does NOT have is the music, but all the hymns I did not know I found on YouTube. Ages 3-7.

"The Herd Boy," written and illustrated by Niki Daly. Eerdmans Books for Young Readers (Grand Rapids, Mich., 2012). 32 pp., \$17.

This book is the whole package! Beautiful color illustrations depicting South Africa span two-thirds of each set of facing pages. In the tale, the herd boy watches his family's sheep and dreams and plays as he does — until a baboon threatens the herd. Daly's story captures many cultural aspects of rural South Africa, and the young herdsman even gets a surprise visit from a famous South African who had humble beginnings. Ages 6-10.

"Juan Diego: Mary's Humble Messenger," "Kateri Tekakwitha, Model of Bravery," by Barbara Yoffie, illustrated by Katherine A. Borgatti. Liguori Publications (Liguori, Mo., 2012). 32 pp. each, \$4.99 each.

These two small paperbacks, designed for early readers, are the first two titles of Liguori's Saints of North America series. The saints' basic stories are told in simple language. Colorful illustrations should engage young readers, who normally would not notice that indigenous Americans are lacking indigenous facial features. Pre-readers will enjoy having these read to them. Ages 4-8.

"Hope and Tears," by Gwenyth Swain. Calkins Creek (Honesdale, Penn., 2012). 115 pp., \$17.95.

This book is a treasure! Swain has researched Ellis Island — not just immigrants, but workers and inhabitants even before it became the gateway to the United States — and has written short, personal essays about many of them. The essays are fiction, but are based on true accounts. Photographs illustrating the person's situation accompany each of the essays. This book puts a very human face on many of the millions who have passed through this island. Ages 8-up.

Note: Frazee, who reads to her granddaughter, is a CNS international editor.



SCENE FROM MOVIE 'SILVER LININGS PLAYBOOK'—Jacki Weaver and Robert DeNiro star in a scene from the movie "Silver Linings Playbook." Off-kilter romantic comedy that manages to address mental illness with fresh sensitivity while delivering laughs and uplifting emotion. Eight months after catching his wife (Brea Bee) cheating on him, and being confined to a psychiatric hospital because of his violent reaction, a Philadelphia man (Bradley Cooper) checks out of the institution and moves in with his parents (Robert De Niro and Jacki Weaver). He meets — and is drawn to — one of their neighbors, a widow (Jennifer Lawrence) who has psychological issues of her own. Writer-director David O. Russell doesn't shy away from awkwardness or feel-good sentiment as he guides a superb ensemble through a character-driven story about hope — and the sometimes fine line between normal and crazy. Brief glimpses of a violent assault, fleeting rear and partial female nudity, some profane language, frequent crude and crass terms, sexual innuendo. The Catholic News Service classification is A-III — adults. The Motion Picture Association of America rating is R — restricted. Under 17 requires accompanying parent or adult guardian. (CNS photo/Weinstein)

Cinema in the Year of Faith: What makes a movie Catholic?

By John P. McCarthy
Catholic News Service

NEW YORK (CNS)—In "Porta Fidei" ("The Door of Faith"), an apostolic letter announcing the current Year of Faith, Pope Benedict XVI urges us to study the history of Catholicism, which he describes as "marked by the unfathomable mystery of the interweaving of holiness and sin."

This striking observation also can apply to the medium of film. All too often in movies, however, sin dominates and holiness is difficult to recognize.

In the spirit of the new evangelization, the Year of Faith, which runs through Nov. 24, is an appropriate time to ask what constitutes a faithful and, more specifically, a Catholic movie. If the definitions are too narrow, few films will make the grade; if too broad, the designations themselves will become meaningless.

Movies seeking to embody the tenets of a particular religious tradition, explain one of its sacred texts, or profile a key prophet are the easiest to classify in this way. Admiring portraits of clerics, converts, laypeople or other believing pro-

tagonists are also strong candidates, as are films that use storytelling techniques, such as allegory, to impart an article of faith.

Turning to Catholic films, there are many reasons a picture might be deemed Catholic. But the dynamic between those who create a work, the work itself, and the audience beholding it is a useful shortcut. A movie may qualify as Catholic if the filmmaker has a Catholic sensibility, if the subject matter — plot, personae or setting — involves Catholicism, and/or if a viewer offers a plausible Catholic interpretation.

Adducing meaning in a film by reference to the filmmaker's intentions and outlook is problematic because cinema is such a collaborative medium. Still, provided they are manifested on screen, a filmmaker's aims and sensibility are a rich source of interpretive material.

When assessing subject matter, movies blatantly hostile to religion, patently heretical or obviously anti-Catholic are readily disqualified. Those that merely pay lip service to religious faith or peddle watered-down beliefs are nearly as easy to dismiss.

*Dollywood and
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EVENTS

The Catholic Lighthouse
Page 19 — January 2013

Special Collections
Church in Latin America - Jan. 27
Aid to Church in Europe -
Feb. 13 (Ash Wednesday)
Operation Rice Bowl -
Sundays of Lent and Easter Sunday

Ongoing Events

That Man Is You—This men's group transforms men, families, and society as it presents the vision of man fully alive; see www.thatmanisyou.org. It is held at Holy Cross, Bay City, Fri., 5:45-7:15 a.m.; Holy Family, Victoria, Wed., 5:45-7:00 a.m., St. Peter Parish Hall; and Assumption, Ganado, Wed., 5:30-7:15 a.m., JPII Family Center.

Grief Group—Meetings held the 1st and 3rd Thursday of each month at 7:00 p.m. in conference/brides' room at Holy Family Church in Victoria. Before attending, please call Sharon at (361) 578-7572.

The Beginning Experience—This is an international ministry that helps divorced, separated, and widowed individuals resolve their grief surrounding the loss of a marriage partner. San Antonio contact is (210) 734-2146 or sanantonio@ yahoo.com; or see: www.beginningexperience.org.

Catholic Family Services—To find listings of e-mail/Websites of Catholic organizations that focus on the family, please go to the Catholic Association of Catholic Family Life Ministers at www.nacflm.org.

St. Francis and St. Clare Fraternity/Secular Franciscans—For information, please go to www.lostrescompaneros-sfo.org. For Victoria meeting dates, contact Mary Ann LeBlanc at (361) 575-1858.

Natural Family Planning—NFP is the only Church-approved form of family planning. To learn about the Sympto-Thermal Method in the Victoria area and the NFP class schedules, contact David and Annie Coffey victorianfpteachers@yahoo.com. Classes: 1st Class - Jan. 20, Feb. 17 and March 17; 2nd Class - April 21, May 19 and June 23; 3rd Class - July 21, Aug. 18 and Sept. 15; Last Class offered for 2013 - Oct. 20; Nov. 17 and Dec. 15.

Gabriel Project—A ministry providing help to women experiencing a crisis pregnancy – an alternative to abortion – holds monthly meetings for all interested. Victoria meetings, 2nd Tuesday, 101 W. Convent, 6:30 p.m., includes light supper; Angel Workshop, meets 101 W. Convent, 3rd Saturday, 9:00 a.m.-1:00 p.m.; contact Barbara (361) 649-1612 or Linda (361) 655-3008. Holy Family, Wharton, meets 4th Tuesday at 6:30 p.m.; contact (979) 532-3593, M-F, 9:00 a.m.-4:30 p.m. See: www.victoriadiocese.org/lighthouse/gp.htm

Raphael's Refuge—The mission of Raphael's Refuge is to build and maintain a memorial in honor of babies, born and unborn. It is a 501(c)(3) non-profit organization located in Flatonia that also provides peer counseling and spiritual direction for those suffering a loss of a baby due to miscarriage, stillbirth, infant death, or abortion. Learn more at www.raphaelsrefuge.org/

Engaged Encounter—Register as soon as possible due to limited space. For a registration form, contact your pastor, visit the website at www.victoriadiocese.org/family/ee.htm. The weekend is held at the Spiritual Renewal Center. The 2013 dates are: April 19-21 and Sept. 27-29. For more info., call (361) 573-0828 ext. 2230. All registrations are on a first come, first serve basis. Fee must accompany registration form. TAKE NOTE ONLY 2 weekends for 2013.

Retrouvaille—Retrouvaille, meaning rediscovery, is a marriage-healing ministry offered in the diocese to couples in difficult marriages. Go to www.retrouvaille.org; contact John and Jennifer Vincent at jbvjov@sbcglobal.net or (361) 580-2770; (800) 470-2230; or www.helpourmarriage.org.

Marriage Encounter—This program is no longer offered in the Diocese of Victoria; Retrouvaille (see above) has replaced it. To find a Marriage Encounter weekend outside of the diocese, go to www.wmce.org.

Courage—This is a ministry for those experiencing same-sex attraction and looking for answers. It is a Roman Catholic Apostolate endorsed by the Pontifical Council for the Family. EnCourage ministers to family and friends of persons with same-sex attraction. Learn more at couragec.net/.

Presidio La Bahia Museum and Visitor Center—The Presidio, located in Goliad, is the only Spanish fort in the possession of the Catholic Church in North America and is a National Historic Landmark. It and its museum are open daily from 9:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m.; closed on major holidays. The Quarters, a two-bedroom guest quarter, is available for overnight stays. For rates and more information, contact (361) 645-3752 or see www.presidiolabahia.org.

Picnics, Activities, etc.

January

Edna—The CDA, Court St. Theresa of the Little Flower, #1350 from St. Agnes Church will host a "celebration of life" program, an ecumenical event for all of Jackson County and the general public on Wednesday, Jan. 16 at the Jackson County Services Building, 411 N. Wells St., from 7:00-8:00 p.m. The program will show the importance of life from conception to natural death and the need for respect, dignity, and justice for all of human life. Admission is free; refreshments will be served.

Victoria—Benefit dinner for the Missionary Catechist of the Sacred Hearts of Jesus and Mary Jan. 20 at the CWV Hall (1007 S. Main). A brisket dinner will be served at \$8 p/p from 10:00 a.m.-2:00 p.m. There will be Mariachi music, a auction at noon and more.

East Bernard—CDA chicken noodle soup and sandwich supper and raffle on Wednesday, Jan. 30 at the American Legion Hall (Hwy. 60). Serving begins at 5:00 p.m. A large variety of pastries will be available. Entertainment by Keller Academy of Performing Arts.

Upcoming Events

Hallettsville—Sacred Heart School "A Black & White Masquerade" Saturday, Feb. 2; includes a social, dinner and dance. Call (361) 798-4251 or (361) 798-5888 for more information.

Victoria—Holy Family Altar Society Games Party Feb. 7 at the activity center. Door opens at 6:00 p.m. with a \$7 admission. There will be food, door prizes, silent auction and fun. For reservations contact: Jalayne Tupa at (361) 578-1606; Margaret Beekler at (361) 575-4997; or Melicent Bryarly at (361) 573-3736.

Vanderbilt—St. John Bosco Spring Raffle/Dinner/Dance on Feb. 9 at St. Theresa's Hall in LaSalle. With each \$25 raffle ticket you get a complimentary grilled chicken dinner catered by Werner's of Shiner (5:00-6:30 p.m.) and a dance from 8:00-midnight with Scorpion DJ Sounds by L.T.M. Mardi Gras Mask is optional attire! There will also be a St. John Bosco Baker's auction at 6:30 p.m. and more.

Victoria—St. Mary Parish Festival Feb. 10 at the community center. A roast beef dinner served from 11:00 a.m.-1:30 p.m. at \$8 p/p with dine-in or plates-to-go available. A live auction begins at 12:30 p.m. There will be games, booths and more.

Shiner—Taste of Texas Gala Feb. 16 - for tickets or more information call Lindsey Morkovsky at (361) 772-1885.

Schulenburg—St. Rose of Lima School Fundraiser featuring The Original Triumphs Feb. 16, at Swiss Alp Hall. Please contact Laura Fogle at l.fogle@strosecardinals.org for tickets.

Hungerford—KJT Society #79 and KJZT Society #57 Annual Barbecue and Sausage Dinner March 3 at the community center. Serving begins at 10:30 a.m. with dine-in or plates-to-go available. There will also be an auction and a free dance with the music by the Red Ravens until 5:00 p.m.

Hostyn—Holy Rosary Mayfest May 5

Shiner—Sts. Cyril and Methodius Spring Picnic May 26

Hallettsville—Sacred Heart Parish Spring Picnic May 26

Masses • Retreats • Conferences

Victoria—Amor Meus Spirituality Center invites all (men and

women):

~to a day retreat; January 26, from 9:30 a.m. - 3:30 p.m. A love offering is accepted for the day. You may purchase a lunch or bring your own. Call to register.

~Incarnate Word Prayer Group invites you to Praise and Worship on Mondays at 7:30-9:00 p.m. in the auditorium.

Events are held at Incarnate Word Convent, 1101 N.E. Water Street. FMI on any event, contact Sr. Louise Marie Jones at (361) 575-7111, or amormeus@yahoo.com.

Victoria—The Sisters of Incarnate Word and Blessed Sacrament are hosting a Discernment Weekend for single Catholic women between the ages of 18 and 50 years of age on Jan. 26-27, at Incarnate Word Convent. If you are interested in learning more about deepening your prayer life and about religious life or in discovering if God might be calling you to consecrated life, please call (361) 575-7111 or e-mail iwbsvoc@yahoo.com or check www.iwbsvictoria.org for more information about the Sisters.

Victoria—Holy Family Church is sponsoring a women's ACTS retreat at the Spiritual Renewal Center from Jan. 24-27. For an unforgettable experience, please contact Retreat Director Janet Charbula (361) 550-2327, Assistant Director Margie Ramirez (361) 571-0026, Assistant Director Janet Huse (361) 550-4764, or Spiritual Adviser Mary Jeansonne (361) 935-0122.

Eagle Lake—Come and Experience the Healing Power of Our Lord Jesus Christ! with Father Robert Guerra and God's Embrace Renewal Center. You and your family and friends are invited to attend their Healing Mass, Friday, Feb. 8 at 7:00 p.m. at the Parish of the Nativity, 308 Stevenson St. For more information contact Parish of the Nativity: (979) 234-2842 or Sandy Reese: sandyreesefoaj@yahoo.com or (979) 541-6881.

Victoria—Holy Family will offer a mini-retreat for Lent on Feb. 9, registration begins at 8:30 a.m. Call the church office for more information at (361) 573-5304.

Victoria—Healing Mass and Prayer at Our Lady of Lourdes Church, 105 N. William St., on the first Saturday of the month at 10:00 a.m. with Father Phi Nguyen, chaplain of IWBS Convent. Mark your calendars now for next month. For more information, please contact Sister Louise Marie Jones at iwbsvoc2@yahoo.com.

Shiner—Latin Masses will be celebrated by Father Bob Knippenberg at Sts. Cyril and Methodius Church every 1st & 3rd Sunday of the month at 11:00 a.m.

Tivoli—First Friday Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament at 6 p.m. at Our Lady of Guadalupe Church, 501B William Street, Mass follows at 7:00 p.m., with Rev. Paulson Panakal. Mark your calendars for Feb. 1, the first Friday of February. Call for more information: (361) 237-3634

ACTS Retreats—For information on ACTS retreats, please go to ACTS Web site at www.actsmiissions.org.

Have an event???

Contact us ASAP by

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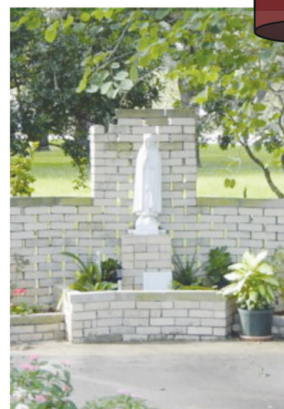
Mission Statement

AMOR MEUS SPIRITUALITY CENTER is a ministry of the Sisters of the Incarnate Word and Blessed Sacrament of Victoria, Texas.

The Center seeks to extend the Sisters' charism of Incarnational Spirituality to individuals and groups who desire to deepen their spiritual growth and love of God.

Amor Meus Spirituality Center offers a place for silent retreats, experiences of prayer, personal reflection and solitude in an atmosphere of quiet contemplation, nature's beauty and the peace of a sacred space.

Amor Meus Spirituality Center also seeks to expand its community outreach ministry through educational experiences and opportunities.



Spiritual Direction

Spiritual Direction is a sacred time to talk with a spiritual guide or director about your relationship with God, self, and others. In spiritual direction one is invited to become aware of God's presence in ordinary daily events and to pay attention to God's communication as one strives to grow more intimately in love with God through daily prayer. Call us for more information.



AMOR MEUS
Spirituality Center
2013

Prayer Circles

You may not be able to get away for a day...or a week.

Perhaps joining a Prayer Circle could help you grow in your spiritual life. Prayer Circles are different groups of people joining together in prayer on a regular basis, about an hour, praying with different forms of prayer. These prayer forms may include reading and reflecting on Scripture, praying the rosary, Lectio Divina, Centering Prayer, Faith Sharing or others. Each Circle is facilitated by a leader.

Call us for more information.

Silent Individually Directed or Private Retreat

Renew, reflect and relax! Delight in God's presence in nature and in prayer. Enjoy the peaceful accommodations at the Amor Meus Spirituality Center. Whether you prefer one day or a few days overnight, an individual retreat can be created to fit your needs.

A spiritual director will be available to provide support and companionship.



Silent Guided Retreats

January 26, 2013

April 13, 2013

September 21, 2013

November 9, 2013

9:30 am-3:30 pm

A silent day of listening to the *voice of God* speaking in the stillness of your heart. Women and men are welcomed. The day is guided by a retreat director.



Taizé Prayer

**February 28,
May 2, August 29
October 15, December 5**

7:00 pm—8:00 pm

A Taizé Prayer Service consists of music, song, chant, scriptural readings, meditation, and prayers of praise and intercession.



Solemn Vespers

Lenten

**February 17, 24
March 3, 10, 17, 24**

Advent

**December 1, 8, 15, 22
5:00 pm—5:45 pm**

Evening Prayer (or Vespers) is patterned on an ancient Jewish prayer form that predates the Church.

**Sisters of the Incarnate Word
and Blessed Sacrament**

1101 N.E. WATER ST.

VICTORIA, TEXAS 77901

361-575-7111

AMORMEUS@YAHOO.COM

WWW.IWBSVICTORIA.ORG

