Don’t wait to fill Rice Bowl to help Japan

Catholic News Service

Bishop Marcellino Da Ji Tani of Saita-ma, one of the dioceses hit hardest by Japan’s earthquake and tsunami disaster, said the catastrophe is a reminder that “life is in the hands of God and that life is a gift from God.” He further described the tragedy as a challenge for Christians during Lent “to practice and witness to the commandment of love and brotherly love.”

During Lent in the United States, many Catholic families take part in Operation Rice Bowl, which supports Catholic Relief Services. Families are encouraged to put savings from their Lenten fasting into a cardboard bowl.

Catholic Relief Services is among the organizations responding to the continuing disaster in Japan. After seeing the scope of the need in Japan, how could we not accept Bishop Tani’s challenge? Let’s remember the victims and their continuing struggles in our Lenten practices of prayer, fasting and almsgiving.

There is no need to wait to fill the cardboard Rice Bowl to witness to the commandment of love. Donations are being accepted by phone at 1-877-HELP-CKS, online at crs.org or by mail to Catholic Relief Services, PO Box 17090, Baltimore, MD 21203-7090. In the memo of the check, mark “SE Asia and Pacific Rim Emergency Fund.”

Presidio La Bahia celebrates 175th Texas Revolution anniversary

Presidio La Bahia, p. 20

The 26th Annual Living History Weekend at the Presidio La Bahia (Fort of the Bay) National Historic Landmark in Goliad, March 26-27, drew almost 5,000 persons for the battle and massacre re-enactments. The emotionally charged candlelight vigil, the lectures, book sign-

Bobby Rendon (l.) of Victoria and John Tyler of Austin have volun-
teed for the Crossroads of Texas Living History Assn. at Presidio La Bahia for the past 25 and 26 years respectively. This year they are Mexican soldiers; in the past they’ve been Texans. “It’s more than good guys/bad guys; it’s politics, policies and loyalty to countries,” said Mr. Tyler. “This weekend allows us to educate the public in perspective of history. Perspectives – that’s the point. There’s more than one.”

K. R. Wood and the “Gone To Texas Band” perform to a standing-room-only crowd in Our Lady of Loreto Chapel.
**Bishop Fellhauer’s Schedule**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Event</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>April</td>
<td>2 6:00 p.m., Confirmation Mass, Holy Family Church, Victoria</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>3 11:00 a.m., Confirmation Mass, Holy Cross Church, East Bernard</td>
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<td></td>
<td>7 12:00 noon, Diocesan Services Appeal Volunteers, Appreciation Luncheon, Chancery Office</td>
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<td></td>
<td>8 Knights of Columbus Council #9068 Bishop’s Charity Golf Tournament, Colony Creek Country Club, Victoria</td>
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<td></td>
<td>9 8:00 a.m., Mass, Teen ACTS retreat, Spiritual Renewal Center</td>
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<td>2:00 p.m., Mass, DeLeon Family reunion, St. Mary Church, Victoria</td>
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<td></td>
<td>6:30 p.m., Confirmation Mass, Our Lady of Guadalupe Church, Bay City</td>
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<td></td>
<td>10 10:00 a.m., Confirmation Mass, Our Lady of Lourdes Church, Victoria</td>
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<td></td>
<td>2:00 p.m., Confirmation Mass, Our Lady of Victory Cathedral, Victoria</td>
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<td></td>
<td>6:00 p.m., Confirmation Mass, Holy Cross Church, Bay City</td>
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<td></td>
<td>11 10:00 a.m., Texas Bishops’ meeting, Obispo Renewal Center, San Antonio</td>
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<td></td>
<td>13 7:00 p.m., Confirmation Mass, St. Michael Church, Weimar</td>
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<td>14 6:30 p.m., Mother Elizabeth A. Seton Awards Banquet, Knights of Columbus Hall, Shiner</td>
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<td>17 9:00 a.m., Mass, Palm Sunday of the Lord’s Passion, Our Lady of Victory Cathedral, Victoria</td>
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<td>18 6:00 p.m., Confirmation Mass, St. Andrew Church, Hilje</td>
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<td></td>
<td>19 10:00 a.m., Chrism Mass, Our Lady of Victory Cathedral, Victoria</td>
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<td>20 4:00 p.m., Diocesan Building Board meeting, Chancery Office</td>
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<td></td>
<td>21 6:30 p.m., Mass of the Lord’s Supper, Our Lady of Victory Cathedral, Victoria</td>
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<td>22 12:15 p.m., Way of the Cross, Holy Trinity Chapel, Silver City</td>
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<td>23 8:00 p.m., Easter Vigil, Our Lady of Victory Cathedral, Victoria</td>
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<td></td>
<td>29 7:00 a.m., Mass, Spanish ACTS retreat, Spiritual Renewal Center, Victoria</td>
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<td>7:00 p.m., Confirmation Mass, St. Robert Church, El Campo</td>
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<td>30 5:00 p.m., Confirmation Mass, St. Joseph Church, Yoakum</td>
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<tr>
<td>May</td>
<td>1 9:00 a.m., Confirmation Mass, St. Joseph Church, Inez</td>
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<td>11:30 a.m., Mass, celebrating Brother Patrick Wiggins’s 30th Anniversary of Solemn Profession, Our Lady of Sorrows Church, Victoria</td>
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<td>3:00 p.m., Mass, blessing of new altar and restorations, Our Lady of Lourdes, Victoria</td>
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<td>6:00 p.m., Confirmation Mass, Our Lady of the Gulf Church, Port Lavaca</td>
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<td>4 10:00 a.m., Diocesan Presbyteral Council meeting, Chancery Office</td>
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<td>7:00 p.m., Confirmation Mass, Parish of the Nativity, Eagle Lake</td>
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<td>5 7:00 p.m., Eighth Grade Religion Awards, Our Lady of Victory Cathedral, Victoria</td>
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<td>6 6:30 p.m., Confirmation Mass, St. Anthony Church, Palacios</td>
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<td>7 5:00 p.m., Confirmation Mass, Holy Cross Church, Yorktown</td>
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Effective March 5, 2011, the Rev. Thu Van Nguyen is excardinated from the Diocese of Victoria in Texas and incardinated in the Diocese of Fort Worth.

Forty-nine catechumens from 15 parishes in the Diocese of Victoria are planning to enter the Catholic Church. Here they are pictured with their godparents at the Rite of Election, held the first Sunday of Lent, March 6, 2011.

In 15 parishes within the Diocese of Victoria, 98 candidates plan to join the Catholic Church. They are pictured above with their sponsors at the Rite of Election, held the first Sunday of Lent, March 6, 2011.

**Catechumens and Candidates to enter the Church this Easter**

**By Cindy Brewer**

The Rite of Election and Call to Continuing Conversion was celebrated on the first Sunday of Lent, March 6, at Our Lady of Victory Cathedral with Bishop David E. Fellhauer presiding.

Forty-nine Catechumens and 88 candidates were presented to Bishop Fellhauer and affirmed by their sponsors and the present Catholic assembly. Following the rite, participants were invited to tour the chancery building.

Catechumens are those who wish to enter the Church and will receive the three rites of initiation: baptism, confirmation, and the Eucharist, on Easter Vigil. Candidates are those who have been baptized into the Christian faith, but are awaiting acceptance into the fullness of the faith by receiving confirmation and the Eucharist on Holy Saturday evening (Easter Vigil). A special thanks goes to those who assisted in the rite: Father Ty Bazar, master of ceremonies and creator of worship aid; Cynthia Guoigt, organist; Janice Cox, cantor; Sister Digna Vela, IWBS, coordinator of the chancery reception; and St. Agnes CDA Court #1550 of Edna, reception hosts.

Please make any new members of your parish feel very welcomed and loved.

---

**Thank You Letter**

**Dear Bishop Fellhauer:**

On behalf of Archbishop Timothy M. Dolan, president of the United States Conference of Catholic Bishops, I extend my gratitude for your contribution of $27,541.84 from the 2010 Catholic Relief Services Collection in your diocese.

The Collection supports six Catholic agencies whose programs help families suffering from war, famine, extreme poverty and natural disasters; victims of human trafficking; unaccompanied minors; and immigrants trying to reunite with family members.

Our next Collection is scheduled in most dioceses the weekend of April 2-3, 2011. The millions of people that benefit from this collection continue to rely on our prayers and financial support.

Please convey to your priests and parishioners our heartfelt gratitude for their commitment and generosity to The Catholic Relief Services Collection. They demonstrate genuine love and compassion for all who are helped by the collection — those who are truly Jesus in disguise.

Gratefully yours in Christ,

Most Rev. Kevin J. Farrell, D.D.
Bishop of Dallas
Chairman, Committee on National Collections

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**DSA & Reflection of Faith Capital Campaign Updates**

**2011 DSA**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Diocesan Goal:</th>
<th>Parish Pledge Totals:</th>
<th>Parish Contribution Totals:</th>
<th>Number of Parish Families Participating:</th>
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<tr>
<td>$1,471,384.00</td>
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**Reflection of Faith Capital Campaign**

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<tr>
<th>Diocesan Goal:</th>
<th>Parish Pledge Totals:</th>
<th>Parish Contribution Totals:</th>
<th>Number of Parish Families Participating:</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>$9,000,000.00</td>
<td>$12,960,696.09</td>
<td>$8,964,210.66</td>
<td>6,766</td>
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</tbody>
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**Have You Moved? Address Changed?**

Call 361-573-0828 with the change in your address.

Saves Money!
I felt the Spirit was calling me here."

"I'm very grateful to Bishop Fellhauer," Father Albert said. "He has been a father to me."

He learned about the Diocese of Victoria from Father Dominic Antwi-Boasiako, pastor of Holy Family Parish in Wharton and its missions. "He is a very good friend and a Catholic. I felt the Spirit was calling me here."

Another batch of graduates is nearing the finish line, and preparations are under way – planning and robe ordering, i dotting and t crossing. And speech writing, of course. That’s my favorite part of the pomp and circumstance: the prospect of a send-off speech that summarizes the past four years and prepares all the remaining ones. An address that wipes away distractions – sweetening heat, stiff stiltedness, stiff and aching – and makes the soul feel promising and a bodacious life manual. My hope is to be surprised, to be challenged and delighted by something original, free of cliché and the standard quote recipe (JKF + MLK + Helen Keller).

I’ve collected my favorite commencement addresses, stored in hardback books and YouTube clips, and I turn to them on foggy days.

"When I revisited what may be the best one, Dr. Seuss’s rollicking speech turned book, “Oh, The Places You’ll Go!” It was published in 1990, the year before he died, and has enjoyed one of the longest stays on The New York Times bestseller list, landing there 178 weeks – nearly three and half years.

It was nothing like I had remembered. I remembered the rhyming fanfare, the mountain moving and “banner flip-flapping.” The part about my success being 96 ½ percent guaranteed. I suppose that’s what I wanted to hear. But reading it again, I saw it more clearly, not as a celebratory book but a cautionary one.

"Wherever you fly, you’ll be the best of the best. Wherever you go, you will top all the rest. Except when you don’t. Because sometimes you won’t do so well. So don’t be sorry to say so, but, sadly, it’s true that Bang-ups and Hang-ups can happen to you."

The box is a tour through pitfalls and potholes, which makes it a valuable read for the post-graduate, those of us who have tried though too many preparations.

Dr. Seuss doesn’t sugar coat, noting that life’s detours are lengthy, that you’ll “grind on for miles” and “like fake” and you’ll “row up many a frightening creek, though your arms may get sore and your sneakers may leak.”

The two-page spread that struck me most illustrates “The Waiting Place,” which looks like one big, drawn-out star shape, consisting of long lines, long years and 10 expressions. There, people wait for ‘the mail to come, or the rain to go, or the phone to ring, or the snow to snow or wait around for a Yes or No or for their hair to grow.”

It’s a wake-up call for 20-somethings like me, caught in the dragnet between graduation and The Rest Of My Life, floating between the milestones of 21 and 30, setting the Good Enough For Me.

“Somewhere along the line, the important and the urgent are divorced. A bad job market takes the blame. Grad school slows our pace. And hoy juguemos masquerades as meaningful and purpose.

Suddenly, we’re in ‘The Waiting Place,’ sitting on stories and leads and invitations, holding the keys but afraid to unlock the door.

“NO!” Dr. Seuss screams out. “That’s not you! You'll escape all that waiting and staying.”

So join me today: stop waiting, start doing.

We walk the path of the saints, who turned dreams into deeds — whether there was a language, whether there was no. We heed God’s call to action, his summons to use our talents and not bury them. And we hold the banner high, with a Seuss fainting, so the new graduates can see where to go.

Christina Caprecci is a freelance writer from River Heights, Minn. She can be reached at www.ReadChristina.com.

I immediately bought a ticket."

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Christina Caprecci is a freelance writer from River Heights, Minn. She can be reached at www.ReadChristina.com.
**Seminary Burses**

Seminary burses are a permanent fund used for the education of future priests for the Diocese of Victoria. The goal of each bursary 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 March 28, 2011

**—Diocese Of Victoria General Seminary Burses**

Previously Reported: $97,714.00
Donation by CDA Court # 797
Sacred Heart, Hallettsville

Total: $97,714.00

**— K of C #908 Holy Family, Victoria**

Seminary Burse

Previously Reported: $1,220.00
In memory of Stanley Friedly by: Monroe and Mary Rieger
Arnold, Rosemary, Jennifer and Barbara Riske
James E. Gaith
M/M Toby Ohlil
Alan, Jane, Christin and Kent Culberson
Vincent & Patricia Bianchi
Marlene W. Eise
Harry & Mary Kocien
Richard & Cathy Bonkaup
Chancery and Spiritual Renewal
Center staff

Total: $1,219.00

**—KJZT, Catholic Family Fraternal Of Texas Bourse**

Previously Reported: $9,273.98
In Memory of Mary L. Butschke, Genevieve Schulte and Milard Netardus
In Honor of Jesus and Edith Poncik by J. Holub

Total: $9,273.98

**See Seminary Burse, p. 11**

**Happy Birthday!**

Kristopher Fuchs is in Pre-Theology II at Holy Trinity Seminary in Irving. His home parish is St. Michael the Archangel in Needville, and his birthday is May 13. Please show your support for our seminarian by writing to: Kristopher Fuchs, Holy Trinity Seminary, P. O. Box 14099, Irving, TX 75014

**VICTORIA SERRA CLUB CHARTER MEMBER HONORED—Dr. Rufus Stevenson was presented a plaque by the Serra Club of Victoria honoring him as the last charter member still active in the club. The presentation was made at the regular monthly meeting, March 4, 2011, at Colony Creek Country Club. Dr. Stevenson helped to found the club, chartered November 2, 1956, and also held several offices, including club president, district governor and Serra International board secretary. He and his wife, Betty, just recently moved to The Village at Incarnate Word in San Antonio. The retirement community is run by the Sisters of Charity of the Incarnate Word. Dr. Stevenson indicated he was very happy at the community because he is able to attend Mass and eucharistic adoration daily. He is pictured above with Bishop David Jollhauer.**

Did you know……

1. Pray for our seminarians; they need your prayers and support.
2. Financially support them through events like the Serra Car-Give-Away.
3. Remember the seminarian education fund in your estate planning.
4. If you are interested in supporting the seminarians and possibly winning a NEW 2010 Toyota Corolla Sport, please contact your parish office or George Wenzel at (361) 649-7707. One hundred percent of the proceeds will benefit the vocations efforts of the diocese.

**Support a Seminarian and possibly Win a Car!**

Catholics. I am sure you are asking now, “How can I help?” There are some very tangible ways you can help.

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3. Remember the seminarian education fund in your estate planning.
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**Please Pray For Vocations!**

**Diocesan Directory Updates**

Page 56
St. Michael, Weimar add e-mail: smichaelweir@yahoo.com

Page 66
Remove Rev. Thu Van Nguyen

Page 68
Add Rev. Mgr. Stanley J Petti, Oblate Madonnna Residence, 5722 Blanco Road, San Antonio, TX 78216

Page 88
District #146 - Philip C. Webernick, District Deputy

Page 90
Fourth Degree Knights of Columbus
Columbus Assembly #1136
Faithful Navigator
Faithful Navigator
Fourth Degree Knights of Columbus
Columbus Assembly #1136
Faultful Navigator
Faithful Navigator
Ray Sykowsla
Columbus Assembly #1136
Faithful Navigator
Ray Sykowsla
Columbus Assembly #1136
Page 90
Faithful Navigator of Assembly 1131
The correct spelling is Gerry Mikelsen and the correct phone number is 979-541-3502 (cell phone)
The Triumphs, an eight-piece band, has roots that go back to the early days of rock ‘n roll and also launched the career of five-time Grammy award winner B.J. Thomas. They had several #1 hits on Houston’s KILT top 40 Survey in the early 60’s (“Lazy Man”, “I Know It’s Wrong”, “I’ve Got a Feeling” – “Billie and Sue”), recorded the still popular (and still played nightly at the Gamer dance pavilions)”Garner State Park” and, of course, recorded the #1 song in the nation in 1966 – “I’m So Lonesome I Could Cry” – just prior to B.J. beginning his solo career.

The band (which began in 1959 in a garage in Rosenberg), continued to perform until 1980. In 1992 the original members, minus B.J. reunited and began the “Bring Back the Times” reunion tour, which continues to delight “Baby Boomers” to date.

Since their reunion in 1992 they have appeared on “Alvin at Night” and “Good Morning Houston,” have been featured on the front cover of the 1995 Richmond-Rosenberg Yellow Pages, made a guest appearance at the “Lovin’ Feelings Concert” in 1993, have been featured on Oldies 94.5, and worked in concert with their morning jocks, performed in concert with B.J. Thomas for the first time in 27 years and have performed in many of the historic dance halls frequented in the 60’s and 70’s.

They have a true understanding of all the nostalgia behind music because they were an important part of the era that launched Old Time Rock ‘n’ Roll.
Changes to the peoples’ part at the Gospel and of the Nicene Creed

FROM: http://www.usccb.org/romanmissal/samples-people.shtml

The use of the new Roman Missal begins the First Sunday of Advent 2011. By Peter Feuerherd

A translator is a traitor.

Father Paul Turner, a priest of the Diocese of Kansas City-St. Joseph, knows the saying as an inside joke among those who move words, phrases and meanings from one language to another. He points out that the joke works better in Italian, where the words for traitor and translator are almost the same.

“But in any language the phrase points to a greater truth,” says Father Turner, a Latin scholar who worked for the International Commission on English in the Liturgy (ICEL) that developed the translation of the new Roman Missal.

“Anytime you translate you are doing your best. But it is nearly impossible to capture all the nuances and bring them into a new language,” he says.

At the ICEL commission meetings Father Turner served as a recorder of the proceedings held by 11 bishops from the English-speaking world. Led by Bishop Arthur Roche of Leeds, England, the group reviewed liturgical translations.

Those who want to take part in this initiative, are asked to add their name to the list by sending an e-mail to: tipi@tipiloschi.com. Those in other countries who are unable to participate in this initiative, are asked to add their name to the Web site of the Tipi Loschi (www.tipiloschi.com) where you can also download, in various languages, for your use, the text of the novena.

Happy Birthday, Pier Giorgio!

The challenges of the Roman Missal

The ultimate goal will be English-speaking Catholics reciting prayers that more precisely render their original Latin meanings, making the prayer in translation as unobjectionable as possible.

St. Michael Family Center

spring festival

Sunday, April 17

Fried Chicken & Sausage Dinner

at 11:00 a.m. - Adults $8.00 – Children $4

Drive-Thru Plates & Plates-To-Go $8.00

Bingo - 1:30-5:30 p.m.

And Much More!

Music By: Czechaholics & Red Ravens

at 6:00 p.m.

Veterans Memorial Park

Drive-Thru Take-Home Plates will be available at St. Michael Family Center Only.
2011 Catholic Knowledge Bowl Winners

The 4th Annual Catholic Knowledge Bowl was held March 6 at Holy Family Parish in Victoria with 22 teams competing in three divisions for first, second and third-place prizes. This year the categories were Adult – with 12 competing teams, Family – with three teams, and Teens – with an increase of four teams this year to make seven teen teams. Prizes and certificates were awarded to all winners.

Adult category first-place winners were “Belle’s of St. Mary’s” from St. Mary Parish in Victoria with Mary Sue Cotton, Ann Sala, Bertha McDowell and Shirley Kloesel. They won a dinner with Bishop David Fellenhauser and a trophy.

Second place was tied, with Knowledge Seekers (four Victoria parishioners), with Joyce Kubala, Diana Faxlanger, Ana Congdon, and Theresa Anderson, and the Rowdy Remnant from St. Joseph in Moulton with Hannah Hines, Emily Kossa, Mary Kossa and Emily Seyl. The first-place prize was an Olympic-type medal. Second place winners were Columbus Catechist Catholics from St. Anthony in Columbus with Lexxus Mayorga, Andrew Alten, Brandon Theut and Taylor Holliman. Third place winners were The Crusaders from Sts. Cyril & Methodius in Shiner with Dustin Adamak, Devin Preek, Brandon Scibua and Kyle Wallace. Second and third place winners received ribbons.

The Catholic Knowledge Bowl held three rounds of 40 multiple-choice questions. Questions were available to study at the cathedralseater′s Web site at www.victoriadiocese.org and were taken, with permission, from the USCCB Catechism Web site as well as the “What’s Your Catholic IQ” page from Catechist magazine.

Karen Klaus of Ganado won the CKB logo contest with her logo shown here.

The first-place winners of the Family category were Hallettsville’s Sacred Heart High School teen group Blue Albatrosses, for the second year in a row, with Hannah Hines, Emily Kossa, Mary Kossa and Emily Seyl. The first-place prize was an Olympic-type medal. Second place winners were Columbus Catechist Catholics from St. Anthony in Columbus with Lexxus Mayorga, Andrew Alten, Brandon Theut and Taylor Holliman. Third place winners were The Crusaders from Sts. Cyril & Methodius in Shiner with Dustin Adamak, Devin Preek, Brandon Scibua and Kyle Wallace. Second and third place winners received ribbons.

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Karen Klaus, the administrative assistant at Assumption of the Blessed Virgin Mary Church in Ganado for the past 27 years, won the Catholic Knowledge Bowl Logo Contest with her entry.

Catholics finding new home online

WOODSTOCK, Ga.—The new “Catholic Lane” Web site is unique in a variety of ways.

“It’s a breath of fresh air. I love it!”

This has been the reaction of an average reader after he or she discovered the Web site. “A Web site like this connects the world of Catholics finding new home online

Editor-in-chief of Catholic Lane, Mary Kochan points out that “What works for marriage prep?” Kochan added, “We can’t keep what works confined to a single parish, school, or diocese – we all need to know! So the resources page is linked both to material archived on Catholic Lane and to other online resources. We have only just begun to build it, but over time we anticipate that it will be a useful resource for Catholics all over the country.”

Catechetical learning

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

Q. Where does Lent officially end now?

In preparing our Holy Week programs, we are told Holy Thursday, not Holy Saturday, is the last day of Lent. Is that true?

A. Yes. Lent concludes on Holy Thursday, March 24, 2011. It began on Ash Wednesday, March 2, and was extended for that long a time until Lent ended at noon on Holy Saturday. This happened because the great liturgies of Holy Thursday, Holy Friday and Holy Saturday were all stretched out of shape and were “celebrated” in relatively brief and informal ceremonies on the mornings of those days.

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

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

The General Norms for the Liturgical Year and Calendar, promulgated by Pope Paul VI in 1969, states, “Lent lasts from Ash Wednesday to the Mass of the Lord’s Supper on Holy Thursday, and embraces the entire Good Friday.”

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

How long was Jesus on the cross and when does Lent end?

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

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

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

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

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

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

Catholic News Service
Jesus – on the Cross

By Cynthia Brewer
Reprinted from August 2008 issue under the title “Why I Love the Crucifix"

Recently I had heard that a Catholic who had visited a nondenominational church in Victoria was told by the pastor not to wear her crucifix next time she came. I was appalled when I heard this, which led me to ponder the crucifix.

Later I was meditating upon the large crucifix in St. Mary’s adoration chapel in Victoria. I thought of Christ’s words, “Whoever you receive me, you receive me, and whoever receives me receives the One who sent me.”

It has always been difficult for me to understand how we could see Jesus in the least of our brethren (and sisters): the poor, the hungry, the naked, the imprisoned, Jesus is the One, one, not the sick, the hungry, the weak one.

It dawned upon me then that I was thinking like this nondenominational pastor. It was hard for me to see Jesus in humanity at its weakest; apparently it was also hard for this pastor to see Jesus in a weak, human state.

But right then and there it was revealed to me that I could see Jesus in my neighbor. First through Jesus on the cross – broken, weakened and wounded – for that is our human state. Now, we know Christ as One who is from the dead, for if he hadn’t, our faith would be in vain, but through the crucifix we are reminded of the price paid for our salvation, and we are given the vision of Jesus in the poor, lame and desperate. We are able to see Jesus in them; therefore, we have the opportunity to see God daily. On Calvary, Jesus shows us our vocation to love, to care, to unite all our sufferings to his (Col. 1:24).

For on the Cross, Jesus is the hungry, having not eaten since his Last Supper. On the Cross, Jesus is the lame, unable to move. On the Cross, Jesus is the blind, with eyes swollen shut from the blows of the cross. On the Cross, Jesus is the weak, all his strength has left him melting was. On the Cross, Jesus is the mute, whose tongue cleaves to the roof of his mouth like baked clay.

On the Cross, Jesus is the sorrowful and lonely, having been abandoned by most all.

DIOCESE

Jesus – on the Cross

On the Cross, Jesus is the humiliated, with the powerful and religious jeering at him. On the Cross, Jesus is the poor, with no earthly possessions. On the Cross, Jesus is the guilty, taking upon himself our sins. On the Cross, Jesus is the persecuted, for our sake. On the Cross, Jesus is the bruised and broken. On the Cross, Jesus is the disabled, unable to do for himself. On the Cross, Jesus is the mentally ill, being tormented to come down and free himself.

ALTAR SOCIETY LENTEN MINI RETREAT HELD—Holy Family Parish in Victoria hosted a mini Lenten retreat March 5, 2011, presented by Father Greg Korenek, pastor. The parish chapel was filled with 84 congregants who began their Lent with a retreat titled “Union with God,” which was an expansion of St. Augustine’s Catechism. The retreat leader, Father Greg Korenek (c.), and Altar Society President Betty Frederick (center) for the ninth year in a row. Also pictured is Holy Family pastor and retreat presenter, Father Greg Korenek (c.), and Altar Society President Betty Frederick (far right).
ACTS men hold second retreat at Stevenson Prison Unit

The men’s ACTS team from the Diocese of Victoria held their second ACTS retreat in Stevenson Prison in Cuero on the weekend of March 10-13, 2011, ministering to 67 retreatants with the help of 14 prison-furnished stewards.

Father John Kollannur, parochial vicar at Our Lady of Lourdes Parish, was the retreat’s spiritual director. Bishop David Fellhauer celebrated Mass Sunday morning at the prison. The offenders are very impressed that a bishop serves them.

The retreat was very successful. Retreatants from the August ACTS retreat were able to attend the Mass with this ACTS retreat group. It was a real treat for them.

Gene Jeansonne, an ACTS team member and parishioner of Holy Family in Victoria, wrote the poem that follows from his experience at the retreat.

Bars And Scars

By Gene Jeansonne

I looked through the bars,
At the tattoos and the scars,
The awful sight was frightful.
This is not the place,
To take up space,
I pondered a notion so dreadful.

For those that reside,
All puffed up with pride,
And I knew this would not do.
I feared for their souls,
They had the wrong goals,
Twas the things they misconstrue.

Such confusion and woe,
With no place to go,
I barely could comprehend.
What trouble and sorrow,
With no hope for tomorrow,
How could they even pretend?

They all dress in white,
But it did not seem right,
I saw the tears,
They all were made of iron or steel.

And it made my blood run cold.
I witnessed tonight,
But it did not seem right,
I looked passed the bars,
And all of the scars.
I saw the men in white.

What a pitiful sight,
I witnessed tonight,
It is this anyone can do.

I thought to myself,
Put pride on the shelf,
Let Jesus make you all new.
With a little foresight,
You can light up the night,
It is this anyone can do.

I looked passed the bars,
And all of the scars,
I saw the men in white.
Thank you, Jesus,
You do so please us,
For souls that shone so bright.
Amen.

The effort was made,
We talked and we prayed,
We tried like never before.
This is your chance,
To do the dance,
To make the Lord your Savior.

It was down to the wire,
It was heaven or fire,
It was time to make a choice.
They threw in the towel,
And made Jesus their Pal,
With the sounds of their praising voice.

It tugged at my heart,
To see such a start,
For this I can only say.
I saw the tears,
Wash away the tears,
For Jesus saved the day.

I thought to myself,
Put pride on the shelf,
Let Jesus make you all new.
With a little foresight,
You can light up the night,
It is this anyone can do.

I looked passed the bars,
And all of the scars,
I saw the men in white.
Thank you, Jesus,
You do so please us,
For souls that shone so bright.
Amen.

Very few of the children to whom Sister Rebecca Janacek, IWBS, ministers own their own shoes. In an effort to help Sister Rebecca obtain shoes for the children in the Kenyan bush, the Catholic schools in the Diocese of Victoria are holding a Lenten fundraiser called “Fill the Shoes.”

2011 Lenten Project: “Fill the Shoes”

The Diocese of Victoria - Office of Catholic Schools and the Catholic Schools - want to help some children in Africa own a pair of shoes. Please donate a $1.00 or whatever you can and help Sister Rebecca Janacek, IWBS, purchase shoes for these children.

Sister Rebecca is a member of the congregation of the Sisters of the Incarnate Word and Blessed Sacrament in Victoria, Texas.
She is a registered nurse who has been ministering to the Pokot people of the Pokot district in northwest Kenya since 1987. Her home base is in Bumpealo, El, Pokot, Kenya, where she works with seven other religious, two priests and five sisters.

To help Sister Rebecca financially, please “Fill the Shoes” at any of the Catholic schools in the diocese or at the chancery building. The funds will be collected at the end of Lent and will be earmarked for “Shoes for Sr. Rebecca’s Children in Africa.”

Amen.

Church Expands

~ St. Joseph, Inez ~

fast-growing rural church

St. Joseph Parish in Inez has been charged with meeting the spiritual needs of the community and now is given the challenge of expansion of the church to continue to meet those needs.

They have established a capital campaign titled “Growing our Family of Faith.” This campaign will help offset the cost to expand the facilities to meet the growing number of church families that are finding strength in faith at St. Joseph Church.

The expansion of St. Joseph’s will cost approximately $1.55 million. The funding is coming from the campaign, savings, sale of ranch property, grants, friends of St. Joseph and a long-term loan.

In the past year, there has been an increase of 23 percent in Mass attendance with 60 percent of the parish family being young families. St. Joseph is the fastest growing rural church in the Diocese of Victoria.

Insufficient seating capacity has become a problem despite the increase in the number of Masses on weekends from one to three. On special occasions, such as the Christmas Children’s Mass, Easter, First Communion, Confirmation, weddings, anniversaries and funerals, the seating situation is inadequate.

Present seating capacity is 180-200. The expansion project will increase this capacity to 400 with much needed stor age space. The need is simple; they need more room!

In addition, it brings the church into compliance with Vatican II and makes the building more safe, ADA compliant and efficient.

More about their expansion in a future issue of The Catholic Lighthouse.

Those wanting to make a donation to this project may do so by sending their tax-deductible contribution to: St. Joseph Church, Building Fund, P. O. Box 337, Inez, TX 77968. For additional information you may call the church office at (361) 782-3181

El Campo K of C Spring Picnic

Sunday, April 17

at the K of C Hall located at Hwy. 71 and Armory Road • 1458 CR 406

Children Games

A Chicken-Barbecue Dinner $7 p/p
Dine-in or Drive-thru
Serving from 11:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m.

Antique Tractor Show

Free Dance! Music provided by The Legacy Band

Serving Food

Amen.
By Kayla Bell — The Victoria Advocate

As soon as Andrew Bernhard heard the word, he said he knew he had the Regional Spelling Bee champ title in the backpack.

Cool and collected, the seventh-grader at Our Lady of Victory rattled off the spelling to an auditorium on the edge of their seats.

"K-a-b-u-k-i," Andrew would later explain, is a form of Japanese theater.

“When I heard (‘kabuki’), I was just kinda happy that I knew what the word was and how to spell it,” he said. “I was nervous on the inside,” he finally admitted.

But it surely didn’t show throughout the 12 rounds, which were held in Victoria East High School in a competition sponsored by the Advocate.

The soft-spoken student said his mom, Melissa, helped him study words by calling them out for him to spell.

“I don’t know if kabuki was on there,” Andrew’s mom said. “I figured, oh he knows it. He knows it.”

While Andrew shook hand after hand offering congratulations, his dad, Randall, bragged for him.

“He’s really modest,” Andrew’s dad said. “He sets a very high bar for himself.”

The proud father said his son is highly academic and will be competing in another academic competition the next weekend.

Looking at his son juggle the two spelling bee trophies from Tuesday night, he joked to his wife, “Melissa, we’re going to have to get another shelf.”

For beating out 11 competitors to win the Regional Spelling Bee, Andrew won an all-expense-paid trip to the national competition in Washington, D.C.

Andrew will soon be competing in the state geography competition, which will also offer the chance to win a trip to the national competition the next weekend.

For beating out 11 competitors to win the Regional Spelling Bee, Andrew won an all-expense-paid trip to the national competition in Washington, D.C.

Andrew will soon be competing in the state geography competition, which will also offer the chance to win a trip to the national competition the next weekend.

Just then, Andrew’s dad offered him a backpack.

“Maybe not tonight,” Andrew replied.

Andrew is a student at Our Lady of Victory School in Victoria.

St. Joseph High School band members compete at TPSMEA in Addison, Texas, winning five gold medals. Pictured, front row, l. to r.: Steven Sudheimer, Josh Guerra, Clara Allen, Katie Gray, Bianca Gonzales and Michael Pettrash II; back row, l. to r.: Nathaniel Hawes, Leslie Zepeda, Abigail Schneider, Regina Woods, Spencer Driver and Andrew Stewart.

St. Joseph Band wins five 1st place awards

Students of the St. Joseph High School Band program were awarded five first division medals on Saturday, March 5, 2011, at the Regional Solo & Ensemble Contest sponsored by the Texas Private Schools Music Educators Association (TPSMEA). The contest was hosted by The Greenhill School in Addison, Texas. Class III soloists are Bianca Gonzales on snare drum, Abigail Schneider on oboe and Andrew Stewart on French horn.

First Division Gold Medalists for their performances of a Class II solo are Clara Allen on bass clarinet, Spencer Driver on clarinet, Wyatt Fraga on trumpet, Katie Gray on flute, Josh Guerra on alto saxophone, Steven Sudheimer on snare drum and Regina Woods on alto saxophone. Advancing to the state competition for a gold medal performance on a Class I solo are Nathaniel Hawes on baritone horn, Michael Pettrash II on electric bass and Leslie Zepeda on clarinet.

St. Joseph High School band members compete at TPSMEA in Addison, Texas, winning five gold medals. Pictured, front row, l. to r.: Steven Sudheimer, Josh Guerra, Clara Allen, Katie Gray, Bianca Gonzales and Michael Pettrash II; back row, l. to r.: Nathaniel Hawes, Leslie Zepeda, Abigail Schneider, Regina Woods, Spencer Driver and Andrew Stewart.

FUNDRAISER HELPS FOOD PANTRY AND PUTS PIE IN THE FACE OF TEACHER—Mrs. Rosanne Gallia, principal of St. Rose School, presents a check for $1,251.13 to Mrs. Rita Brossmann, representing the Schulenburg Food Pantry. The money was collected by St. Rose of Lima Catholic School and Parish and the surrounding parishes of High Hill, Ammannsville, Holman, St. John and Moravia in conjunction with the National Souper Bowl of Caring. St. Rose School also collected “pennies for pies” and the teacher receiving the most pennies was Father David Berger seen here getting a pie in the face by April Brossmann. Thank you to everyone who donated to a very worthy cause.
God’s Planning System - 2011 Youth Spectacular was Spectacular!

Amazing, incredible, one of the best ever, those are just a few of the comments received following the 2011 Youth Spectacular that was held at the El Campo Civic Center February 20, 2011.

Two of our own priests, Father Dan Morales, pastor of St. Mary’s in Victoria and vocation director of the Diocese of Victoria, and Father Kirby Hlavaty, pastor of St. Michael and Our Lady of Guadalupe parishes in Cuero, as well as St. Michael School, gave dynamic presentations on God’s plan for our lives. With the assistance of the audience and the youth leadership team, the speakers utilized skits, games and personal stories that kept the audience mesmerized during the daylong event.

The audience enjoyed the inspiring praise and worship music led by Our Lady of Sorrows Life Teen Band from Victoria. Liturgy, celebrated by Bishop David Fellhauer, concluded the day. Ten priests from throughout the diocese concelebrated at this event. They included Fathers Kirby Hlavaty, Dan Morales, David Berger, Michael Petering, Samuel Appiasi, Gary Janak, Charles Dwomoh, Michael Rother, Augustine Nsiash Asante and Gabriel Odoru Tawiah.

St. Joseph High School choir members performed at the Regional TPSMEA Solo & Ensemble Contest in February, winning 20 first division medals. Front row, l. to r.: Johanna Hoang, Teresa Vincent, Jaclyn Boozalis, Kayla Janecek and Kristin Janecek; back row, l. to r.: Megan Joy, Tori Haynes, Andy Polasek, Theo Boozialis, Katie Streeter and Madison Herman.

Students of the St. Joseph High School Choral program were awarded 20 first division medals on Saturday, February 26, 2011, at the Regional Texas Private Schools Music Educators Association (TPSMEA) Solo & Ensemble Contest, held at Providence High School in San Antonio. Class III Solo gold medal winners are Theo Boozalis, Madison Herman and Kristin Janecek. STJ Choir members awarded gold medals for a superior rating on their Class II Solo and 20 first division medals. Front row, l. to r.: Johanna Hoang, Teresa Vincent, Jaclyn Boozalis, Kayla Janecek and Kristin Janecek; back row, l. to r.: Megan Joy, Tori Haynes, Andy Polasek, Theo Boozalis, Katie Streeter and Madison Herman.

The message is titled “The search for a Life Truly Greater” and may be found at http://www.ewtn.com/library/TPSMEA/sprices.html.
SCOUTS HONORED BY KC #1131—Fourth Degree Assembly #1131 in El Campo held a Scout Sunday on Sunday evening Mass at St. Philip’s in El Campo Feb. 27, 2011. Scouts and leaders present are, pictured front row, l. to r., Nicholas O’Canas, Kolby Korenek, Mason Fuechec, Miles Svatek, Zach Socha, Jess Gold, Trevor Hoolescher, Blake Korenek, Dustin Roberts, Kevin Krutleik, Carter Haeflinva, Jeb Zalman, and not pictured but present was Christian Wagner; 2nd row, Ashley O’Canas, Bear Den Leader, knights, Father Gary Janak, Deacon Jerome Grauman, and Rachel Krutleik, Wolves Assistant Den Leader; 3rd row, Koulton Krutleik, Den Chief; Tria Svatek, Wolves Den Leader; and Jason Zalma, Cubmaster. Fourteen Sir Knights were in attendance honoring the scouts. Sir Knights falling out were Blair Cosary, Mike Couvillion, Dennis Edwards, James Fowler, Leonard Goerig, Hector Gutierrez, James Kocurek, Darrell Nohavitza, Ron Price, Richard Ran, Larry Staff, Joe Verver and Greg Witcher. The KC’s thank Father Janak, Deacon Grauman and all the scouts and their leaders.

Knights of Columbus Diocese Free Throw Champs

The Knights of Columbus Diocese Free Throw Championship was held Sunday, February 20, at Sacred Heart High School in East Bernard. The Knights were in charge of timing the contest. Thanks to the generosity of the K.C. Council, the following prizes were awarded each of the winners in Grades 1-8. First Place: $100; Second Place: $50; Third Place: $20; Fourth Place: $10.

Written test in the contest scores based upon the best of 25 free-throw attempts. First place winners advanced to the district competitions sponsored by eight Diocese-wide event. Each participant was

Diocese of Victoria Free Throw Champs

The Knights of Columbus Diocese Free Throw Championship was held Sunday, February 20, at Sacred Heart High School in East Bernard, hosted by the Knights of Columbus Diocese District. First-place winners from the district competitions sponsored by eight local area KC councils qualifie

25-YEAR MEMBERS HONORED DURING LADIES NIGHT—Fourth Degree Knights of Columbus Assembly #1131 held their Ladies Night Sunday March 6, 2011, at Mikeska’s Banquet Room in El Campo. This event is held once a year and usually in February around Valentines Day to honor the spouses of the 4th Degree Knights for helping the 4th Degree be an even better organization than it already is, said Faithful Navigator of Assembly 1131 Gerry Mikeska. Because it was held in March, the evening had a Mardi Gras theme. Also during the evening, Fourth Degree members with over 25 years of service received pins. Those receiving pins were Sir Knights Joe Verver, Andrew Swoboda, Greg Witcher, George Legler and Deacon Jarrel Nohavitza. Also pictured are special guest Texas State Deputy Tony Herreth and Gerry Mikeska. Sir Knights recognized for over 25 years of service but not present were Frank Bubela, John Drozd, Harry Isenberger, Lee Boy Krauskopf, Deacon Patrick Kubala, Nat Longoria Jr. and Ramon Guertero Jr.

OAKUM JCD #206 ACTIVITIES HELD—Oakum’s Junior Catholic Daugh
ters #206 took time to pay tribute to their moms and dads recently. In honor of the Pro-Life Movement in January, members made treat bags with a flower, magnet and card to present to their moms thanking them for choosing life. February was spent creating unique photo frames to present to their dads at the upcoming, first-annual Daddy-Daughter Dance. JCD #206 also helped the CDA’s with their delicious, roast-dinner fundraiser that was held January 30, 2011. The girls performed duties, which included cleaning tables, filling tea cups, handing out to-go plates and cleaning up at the end of the dinner.

Pictured above from front row, l. to r., are the winners of the diocesan-wide KC Free-throw Champions held March 5, 2011. First place winners advanced to state competition held in San Antonio March 5. Congratulations to state winners: Kaitlin Nieto, 1st place – 10-yr.-division; Jacob Galvan, 2nd place – 11-yr.-division; Taylor Janak, 3rd place – 13-yr.-division; and Kendall Kristynik, 3rd place – 14-yr.-division.

Holy Family Catechism Contest Report

The finals of Victoria’s Holy Family Parish Fifth Annual Catechism Contest, held in the auditorium of the parish education building on February 26, 2011, was sponsored by the Knights of Columbus Council #9088. Master of Ceremonies of the event was Grand Knight Charles Bluntzer. The judges were Betty McGura and Melissa and Bob Bryan, Ray Beth Silili and Benben Petrus, were in charge of timing the contest. Thanks to the generosity of the K.C. Council, the following prizes were awarded each of the winners in Grades 1-8. First Place: $100; Second Place: $50; Third Place: $20; Fourth Place: $10.


The following students scored the highest in their grades on the written test but were unable to participate in the finals: Kylie Rodgers, Kieran Grones, Xavier Moore, Nicholas Hilscher, Alexander Bonorden, Brandon Tristan, Samuel Bonorden and Ian Moore. Doi

The Catholic Lighthouse

Page 12 — April 2011
Mr. Raul Bustillo of Bay City displays the “Three-way Slat” print of the Sacred Heart of Jesus, the Blessed Mother and Jesus above Purgatory and the Infant Jesus of Prague, that he spent months cleaning and repairing. The artwork was apparently produced in the 1800s.

Mr. Bustillo said. He has experience working with lithographs, as he was a printer 35-40 years ago. "I really believe it was American made and that it was mass produced," Mr. Bustillo said. He sprayed it clean with condensed air and continued cleaning it with warm water, cotton rags and Q-tips.

"I really believed it was American made and that it was mass produced," Mr. Bustillo said. He has experience working with lithographs, as he was a printer 35-40 years ago. He has been cleaning and repairing the artwork as a labor of love for the past six months.

The picture had been kept in a closet for 10 years. Inside the frame were spider webs, dead cockroaches and rat droppings. "It was embarrassing that it was in such bad condition," Mr. Bustillo said. He cleaned it with warm water, cotton rags and Q-tips.

BAY CITY — Recently I received a phone call from Mr. Raul Bustillo of Bay City asking me if I’d like to do a story on a picture of the Sacred Heart of Jesus that he had been cleaning and repairing.

He told me what he knew about the piece he was restoring for the cousin of his wife, Odelia. The cousin, who lives in Odem, told him that his grandmother purchased it over the counter at a very expensive store at least 170 years ago and then gave it to his mother, Teresita Cordova Hernandez.

On the back of the artwork the words “Sacred Heart of Jesus” is printed in English, Spanish, German, Italian and French. The yellowed, Maverick label on the back of the picture states: “This picture is 170 years old. It is owned by Teresita Cordova. Mrs. Hernandez was born in 1908 and died in 1987, so the mentioning of “170 years old” means 170 years before and between the dates of 1908 and 1987.

I decided to drive to Bay City and see the art. Was I surprised? It is actually a combination of three pieces of artwork in one frame — one print in the back facing forward and two more to back prints cut into ½ inch slats and set perpendicularly against the first print.

The main print is of the Sacred Heart of Jesus, and one of the perpendicular prints is of the Infant Jesus of Prague and the other is of the Blessed Virgin Mary and baby Jesus holding a white scapular and helping to release people from purgatory.

Mr. Bustillo especially likes the artwork because of the print of purgatory. He said now-a-days people just don’t believe in purgatory.

He has been cleaning and repairing the artwork as a labor of love for the past six months.

The picture had been kept in a closet for 10 years. Inside the frame were spider webs, dead cockroaches and rat droppings. "It was embarrassing that it was in such bad condition," Mr. Bustillo said. He cleaned it with warm water, cotton rags and Q-tips.

"I really believed it was American made and that it was mass produced," Mr. Bustillo said. He has experience working with lithographs, as he was a printer 35-40 years ago.

As neither Mr. Bustillo nor I knew much more about the piece of art, I knew I’d have to investigate on the Web. While searching on the Internet to find out what this type of artwork is called, I found everything from window blinds to slatted fences and outdoor furniture.

April 25 to have a chance at winning this book from a random drawing. April 25 to have a chance at winning this book from a random drawing. April 25 to have a chance at winning this book from a random drawing. April 25 to have a chance at winning this book from a random drawing. April 25 to have a chance at winning this book from a random drawing. April 25 to have a chance at winning this book from a random drawing. April 25 to have a chance at winning this book from a random drawing. April 25 to have a chance at winning this book from a random drawing. April 25 to have a chance at winning this book from a random drawing. April 25 to have a chance at winning this book from a random drawing. April 25 to have a chance at winning this book from a random drawing. April 25 to have a chance at winning this book from a random drawing. April 25 to have a chance at winning this book from a random drawing. April 25 to have a chance at winning this book from a random drawing. April 25 to have a chance at winning this book from a random drawing. April 25 to have a chance at winning this book from a random drawing. April 25 to have a chance at winning this book from a random drawing. April 25 to have a chance at winning this book from a random drawing. April 25 to have a chance at winning this book from a random drawing. April 25 to have a chance at winning this book from a random drawing. April 25 to have a chance at winning this book from a random drawing. April 25 to have a chance at winning this book from a random drawing. April 25 to have a chance at winning this book from a random drawing. April 25 to have a chance at winning this book from a random drawing. April 25 to have a chance at winning this book from a random drawing. April 25 to have a chance at winning this book from a random drawing. April 25 to have a chance at winning this book from a random drawing. April 25 to have a chance at winning this book from a random drawing. April 25 to have a chance at winning this book from a random drawing. April 25 to have a chance at winning this book from a random drawing. April 25 to have a chance at winning this book from a random drawing. April 25 to have a chance at winning this book from a random drawing. April 25 to have a chance at winning this book from a random drawing. April 25 to have a chance at winning this book from a random drawing. April 25 to have a chance at winning this book from a random drawing. April 25 to have a chance at winning this book from a random drawing.
Putting Mom in a nursing home

We put my mother in a nursing home in mid-March. It may only be temporary, but it was painful. As our parents live into their 80s and 90s, it is a common experience. But that doesn't make it any less painful.

Mom turns 91 in April. She has had a full life. She raised eight children. She was married for nearly 60 years. Mom has two master’s degrees, and served in the Army in World War II. She once had a TV talk show in Baltimore. She taught art.

Last month, Mom went to the hospital to have a pacemaker put into her chest. Her heart was gradually slowing down. At Mom’s age, any surgery is serious, and the surgery to install the pacemaker knocked her out.

In the recovery room after the operation, she was in pain and disoriented. This made her emotionally fragile. She learned that she was very low on potassium. It was more than a scream about physical pain though. It was a protest about life at 90. It was a primal scream, saying, “I don’t like old age or the way I am.”

It was a cry of the heart, saying, “Help me.” And it brought to mind the Book of Lamentations (2:18), where it says, “Cry out to the Lord; mom, O daughter Zion.”

Eventually, Mom grew calm. I stroked her hair. I held her hand. I talked to her. I prayed with her.

Over the next couple of days, she was weak and tired; she hardly talked. She could not remember the operation or where she was.

When it came time for her to leave the hospital, I agreed with the social workers that she should be discharged to the rehabilitation and nursing facility that is close to Mom’s apartment. It is a beautiful place, bright and clean. But it is still a nursing home.

Mom once made me promise that I would never put her in a nursing home. “I had eight children, so I don’t have to go into a nursing home,” she told me.

I took consolation in the thought that this was temporary. “Just for two or three weeks, Mom, until you get your strength back,” I told her. I hoped I was speaking the truth.

No matter how nice a nursing home is, it is not your own place. You must depend on the kindness of strangers.

I’m sure the staff is trained to speak loudly and clearly. Most of the residents are at least partially deaf. But it sounded like staff members were speaking to idiots or children.

“DO YOU WANT SOME ICE CREAM?” they shouted.

Mom answered, “You don’t have to shout.”

The dayroom on her floor had half a dozen people sitting in the sun. Some were slumped over in their wheelchairs, sleeping. One was on a gurney. The TV was on, but no one was watching.

I wondered, “What kind of lives have they led? Were they former ship captains, school teachers, army officers, housewives, mothers and fathers?”

Probably they all had lives of accomplishment. But now they were surrounded it all.

I stayed with Mom until visiting hours were over. At 9 p.m., I got up to leave and kiss her.

She said, “Don’t go. Don’t leave me.”

It was like a bullet to the heart.

“I’ve got to go, Mom,” I said.

“But I’ll be back.”

I held it together until I reached the car. But when I got behind the wheel, I just sat there in the parking lot and cried. Actually, I screamed.

The next is there for one reason: to help us pray the Mass with reverence and great devotion. And the homily doesn’t mimic the message of a self-help guru. The priest or deacon can’t just pick a text at random and run with it. He is called to help us enter into Sacred Scripture and come to a fuller understanding of 2000 years of Church teaching.

In a word, the cantors and musicians, servers and lectors, deacons and priests are all servants. They are not performers.

One would think that a person might have to sacrifice a lot to be Catholic. One might expect the Mass to be extremely boring – stripped of all the hype. One might wonder why there aren’t more Catholics seeking out mega-churches and claiming their own seats in the auditorium.

For that matter, why would those born and raised beyond the embrace of Mother Church – those who believe they are free to choose any place of worship without guilt – why would they ever deliberately walk away from the performance-style worship of the Mass. Although the cantors are as gifted as any I encountered in my previous walk as an Evangelical, Catholic cantors don’t even try to play by the same rules as their Protestant counterparts. You don’t get the feeling that you are at a concert. You never feel like you should have paid for a ticket and surrendered it at the door.

The cantor is there for one reason: to help us pray the Mass with reverence and great devotion. And the homily doesn’t mimic the message of a self-help guru. The priest or deacon can’t just pick a text at random and run with it. He is called to help us enter into Sacred Scripture and come to a fuller understanding of 2000 years of Church teaching.

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The dayroom on her floor had half a dozen people sitting in the sun. Some were slumped over in their wheelchairs, sleeping. One was on a gurney. The TV was on, but no one was watching.

I wondered, “What kind of lives have they led? Were they former ship captains, school teachers, army officers, housewives, mothers and fathers?”

Probably they all had lives of accomplishment. But now they were surrounded it all.

I stayed with Mom until visiting hours were over. At 9 p.m., I got up to leave and kiss her.

She said, “Don’t go. Don’t leave me.”

It was like a bullet to the heart.

“I’ve got to go, Mom,” I said.

“But I’ll be back.”

I held it together until I reached the car. But when I got behind the wheel, I just sat there in the parking lot and cried. Actually, I screamed.

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Books re-released for the beatification of Pope John Paul II

The Encyclicals in Everyday Language

Edited by Joseph G. Donders

This third and final edition of the book, originally published just before John Paul’s death in May 2001, includes all 14 of his encyclicals and delivers the essence of his influential theology. With a new epilogue, Father Joseph G. Donders reflects on Pope John Paul II’s legacy for millions of Christians and non-Christians. Father Donders, professor emeritus of mission and cross-cultural studies at the Washington Theological Union in Washington, DC, offers complex religious thoughts of Pope John Paul II in a form that can be understood by non-theologians. It is published by Orbis Books – Maryknoll Fathers and Brothers.

400 pp. paperback
978-1-57075-631-3
$28.00

The following books are published by Liguori Publications and may be purchased at your local bookstore, at 1-800-325-9231, or at www.liguori.org.


40 páginas; libro
978-1-56407-969-2
$9.99

Mysteries of Light - Meditations on the Mysteries of the Rosary with Pope John Paul II

By Pope John Paul II

This book offers simple meditations written by Pope John Paul II on each of the 20 Mysteries of the Rosary.

40-page paperback
978-0-7648-1574-4
$14.99

“The Stations of the Cross With Pope John Paul II”

By Father Joseph M. Champlin

The Stations of the Cross used by Pope John Paul II on Good Friday 1991. Includes Gospel readings and prayers.

40-page booklet
978-0-8924-3679-8
$2.99

Also available in Spanish...

The Feast of Divine Mercy will be held at St. Mary’s Parish in Victoria Sunday, May 1, from 2:00 to 5:00 p.m. The celebrant for the Mass will be Father Dan Morales, pastor of St. Mary’s Parish, assisted by Deacon A. R. Wearden. All participants are encouraged to recite the Divine Mercy Novena (on their own or with their own group) beginning on Good Friday, April 22, in preparation for the feast. Prayer booklets may be purchased at the Incarnate Word Gift Shop at 1101 N. Water St. in Victoria or at Heavenly Helpers at 1406-B N. Mechanic in El Campo.

The Feast of Divine Mercy will also be held at other parishes in the diocese as well. Please check with your local parish.

See Pope John Paul II, p. 21

See Vatican creates online presence, p. 21

Pope John Paul II: Intended for TV

By Sister Mary Ann Walsh, director of Media Relations, USCCB

The beatification of Pope John Paul II on May 1 will bring lots of TV cameras to St. Peter’s Square. That’s only right, for if there ever was a pope made for television it was John Paul II.

With television as an actor in his story, he was comfortable on any stage, including that of the world. He made almost 130 trips to far and near corners of the earth and greeted all strata of society. Wherever he went, he brought with him a media entourage which might never have focused on the desperately poor in African and Latin American countries and in India, nor covered his message to remember the poor amongst us.

One knew that journalists, especially TV cameramen, gave him entre into millions of homes. In a visit to one nation, for instance, the pope draped in a waving crowd. The crowd stood on the left cheering and waving, and the pope responded. Then he turned to the lone cameraman on the right and waved at him, as if enthusiastically to an unseen crowd of perhaps millions more. John Paul welcomed media for he knew their power in preaching to the modern world.

When he was 58, he was a vigorous, handsome man with a message and a natural fit on the cover of news magazines. In 1994, he was Time magazine’s “Man of the Year.” He was made for photo ops, whether hugging a child in Angola or holding a kosa bean in Brisbane, Australia. He wore native dress, including a unique straw hat called an aloha, delighting both the local people and the paparazzi.

But his respect for modern media went far deeper than a photo. Even before the current social media took root, Pope John Paul recognized media’s impact on society. In his 1990 encyclical, Redemptor Hominis, he compared the world of media to the Apostles’ Areopagus in Athens, where the Apostles to the Gentiles, the pope said, “proclaimed the Gospel in language appropriate to and understandable in those surroundings (cf. Acts 17:22-31).”

At that time the Areopagus represented the cultural center of the learned people of Athens,” the pope said, “and today it can be taken as a symbol of the new sectors in which the Gospel must be proclaimed.”

“First Areopagus of the modern age is the world of communications, which is

“Testimony of the Cross - Meditations and Prayers of John Paul II”

Written by Pope John Paul II

Photographs by Grzegorz Galarka

A stunning photographic and textual reflection written by Pope John Paul II for the Vía Crucis (The Way of the Cross) journey which he made to the Colosseum in Rome, Italy, on Good Friday, April 2000, expressing the richness of his own spirituality, as it is related to the Cross, to Faith, to Life, and to Love. This book is a wonderful keepsake and also makes an excellent gift-giving idea.

80-page paperback
978-0-7448-0882-1
$15.95

“Pope John Paul II in My Own Words”

Compiled by Anthony F. Cifollo

From the Pope’s writings and speeches, this book invites readers to spend time with the man whose words and insights have touched the hearts of millions.

126-page paperback
978-0-7648-1377-1
$7.99

“The Stations of the Cross With Pope John Paul II”

By Father Joseph M. Champlin

The Stations of the Cross used by Pope John Paul II on Good Friday 1991. Includes Gospel readings and prayers.

40-page booklet
978-0-8924-3679-8
$2.99

POPE JOHN PAUL II

The Catholic Lighthouse Page 16 — April 2011
By Catholic News Service

LOS ANGELES (CNS) — The new archbishop of Los Angeles, in his first written message to Catholics since taking over stewardship of the nation’s largest diocese, urged Catholics to go to confession during Lent.

“I encourage you to make a good confession before Easter, even if it has been a long time,” said Cardinal Roger M. Mahony, who announced in a Lenten message released March 8, the day before Ash Wednesday.

“Many people have told me they have not gone to confession for years and they dread the loss of heaven and the pains of hell. But most of all because I have offended God and I want to be sorry for my sins. We need the grace of this sacrament to grow in virtue.”

Archbishop Dolan related that one priest told him that “after six months in the confessional, he announced to the people that he was asking the bishop for a transfer. ‘You don’t need me. I’ve sat in the confessional for half a year, and nobody has come. You must all be saints. I want to serve sinners.’”

“In the early church, they called confession the ‘second conversion in tears.’ St. Peter went in sorrow after denying Jesus, and in his mercy Christ spoke to him the tender words, ‘But forgive me, Lord, for I have sinned against you, my God, who are all good and deserving of all my love. I firmly resolve with the help of your grace to confess my sins, to do penance and to amend my life. Amen.”

At the End of Confession

Listen to the words of absolution, the sacramental forgiveness of the Church through the ordained priest. As you listen to the words of forgiveness you may make the sign of the cross with the priest. If it closes by saying, “Give thanks to the Lord for He is good,” answer, “For His mercies endure forever.”

There are many Catholic Web sites that will help one go back to confession. In Google, just type in “How to go to Confession.”

**SPIRITUALITY**

Bishops use Lenten messages to promote greater use of penance

By James Breig

Catholic News Service

ALBANY, N.Y. (CNS) — Msgr. Kevin Ireland says that hearing confessions is “one of the most humbling experiences of my priesthood.”

In his St. Patrick’s Day message, the dean of the School of Theology and Religious Studies at The Catholic University of America in Washington, he recently reflected on the current state of the sacrament of penance. For years, surveys have shown infrequent – if any – use of the sacrament by Catholics. One recent survey found that 45 percent of Catholics who attend Mass weekly never go to confession.

Msgr. Ireland told Catholic News Service he suspects there are several reasons for that, including “fear of what the priest might say and shame at what one has done or failed to do.”

Father Rick Hilgartner, executive director of the U.S. bishops’ Secretariat of Divine Worship, believes that some Catholics stay away because of “fear of embarrassment about a particular sin.”

Both priests see many reasons people should take advantage of confession. For one thing, Msgr. Ireland pointed out, it provides the opportunity “to assess where one is before God and each other” through an examination of conscience.

Other pluses of confessing, he said, include “naming what is good and wrong in one’s life,” and the opportunity of “gaining insight into the ways one should look at life and live.”

Because they believe that priests are key factors in reviving the use of the sacrament, the two clergymen have advice for the faithful.

“We need to reassure the faithful that the point of the sacrament is not to be chastised or punished,” Father Hilgartner told CNS, “but to experience the healing love and forgiveness of Jesus. We need to be inviting and encouraging.”

Likewise, Msgr. Ireland encourages that Catholics “go regularly to the same priest so that the rapport is easier, and the knowledge of failings and their severity can be assessed more adequately. When priests ask penitents confession might be entertained at penance, then what the penitent is asked to do fits their particular need.”

During Confession

After examining your conscience and telling God of your sins, you must take advantage of confession. For Catholics who have been away from the sacrament in recent years, Msgr. Ireland added, “there is no substitute for the experience of penance.”

Archbishop Timothy M. Dolan of New York, president of the U.S. bishops, urged Catholics to return to the sacramental professional in a St. Patrick’s Day message.

“My fervent prayer for the Catholics of the Archdiocese of New York is that they will be in the church in New York,” he added. “We love you, our brethren. I love this story for its drama and emotion, and because it rings true.”

Archbishop Dolan added, “It is God who rejoices in the parable: ‘My son was dead and is alive again. When he gives his sons and sisters and brothers in the white garment we are clothed in with Baptism. When he offers a feast, thanksgiving, it signifies the Eucharist. My sisters and brothers, the pilgrimage of the prodigal son is the story of our lives.”

“This Lent, let us seek to deepen our awareness of our baptisterian identity.”

“From Matthew 7:1, you will recall the parable of the prodigal son was ‘one of the favorite Scriptures. ... I love this story for its drama and emotion, and because it rings true.”

Father Hilgartner told CNS, “I firmly believe the good news! ’” the bishop said.

“We have to be frank, though. Those words are not heard as often as they should be heard.”

Consider the profound words of absolution pronounced in the confessional,“Archbishop Dolan said March 8.

“Repeating and believing the good news!” the bishop said.

“We are simply amazed, sometimes saddened, but always heartened that you can help to unburden them.”

From http://www.catholic.org/prayers/confession.php

The basic requirement for a good confession is the intention of returning to God like the “prodigal son” and to acknowledge our sins with true sorrow before the priest.

Remember

If you need help – especially if you have been away for some time – simply ask the priest and he will help you by “walking” you through the steps to make a good confession.

During Confession

After examining your conscience and telling God of your sins, you must take advantage of confession.

1. Say the sins that you remember. Start with the one(s) that is most difficult to say. (In one thing, Msgr. Irwin pointed out, it provides a way for Catholics who have been away from the sacrament of penance to experience the ‘second conversion in tears.’ St. Thomas Aquinas hears a confessor during a local pilgrimage in Manitoba, Ind., in this 2010 file photo. To Catholics who return to confession my surprise, the archbishop-togian is astonished at the great work of dispensing the Lord’s mercy! Keep the Sacrament of Penance at the heart of Catholic life.

“Lent is perhaps the only religious season yet to find a secular parallel,” said Bishop Paul D. Sirba of Duluth, Minn., in a Lenten message published in March. “Yet on Ash Wednesday, even though it is not a holy day of obligation, more Catholics return to church to receive those ashes on the forehead than perhaps on any other day except Christmas and Easter. Refreshing, isn’t it?”

Lent, he added, “speaks to a truth about human nature.”

“Penance, then what the penitent is asked to do.”

Similarly, Msgr. Irwin urges priests to “actively minister,” but also to be “significantly relationships – with God, with others and with self – in order to identify what actions or inactions have been hurtful or sinful.”

Confessors, he continued, “should listen attentively and respond as Jesus would, and also to take advice or encouragement.”

“Sometimes we are simply amazed, sometimes saddened, but always heartened that you can help to unburden them.”

**PEACE**

HEARS CONFESSION OUTDOORS DURING LOCAL PILGRIMAGE — Father Tomasz Ludwicki hears a confession during a local pilgrimage in Manitoba, Ind., in this 2010 file photo. To Catholics who return to confession my surprise, the archbishop-togian is astonished at the great work of dispensing the Lord’s mercy! Keep the Sacrament of Penance at the heart of Catholic life.

“Do not judge, or you too will be judged.”

Matthew 7:1

Tomasz Ludwicki
By Cindy Wooden

Catholic News Service

VATICAN CITY (CNS) — The world needs peace and reconciliation among peoples, Pope Benedict XVI said.

During his weekly general audience at the Vatican March 23, the pope continued his series of talks about the doctors of the Church, focusing on St. Lawrence of Brindisi, an Italian Capuchin and famed preacher.

Pope Benedict said the priest, who served as a military chaplain at the beginning of the 1600s, “applied himself heroically to efforts toward peace and reconciliation between the nations and peoples of Europe.”

“The moral authority he enjoyed made him an adviser who was much sought after and listened to,” the pope said.

“This Sunday, just as in the time of St. Lawrence, the world needs peace, it needs peaceful and pacifying men and women. All those who believe in God must always be sources of peace and peacemakers,” Pope Benedict told an estimated 10,000 people gathered in St. Peter’s Square for the first outdoor audience of the spring.

“One man who knew about him. It is about helping the people trade all my albums, tapes, and CDs just to Mass that pierces my soul. I would willingly be the most Holy Sacrifice of the Mass. I believe they could match the beauty and glory of the Divine Liturgy. Even with the proper preparation, worship is the key to his success in politics and in evangelization, the pope said.

Although he held positions of great importance and had a heavy workload, “Lawrence of Brindisi did a spiritual work, which often would last for hours.”

The pope said St. Lawrence knew large sections of the Bible by heart and would spend hours each day praying with the Scriptures.

He was convinced that “listening to and accepting the word of God would produce an interior transformation that would lead to holiness,” Pope Benedict said.

“Today, too, the Church needs well-prepared, zealous and courageous apostles for the new evangelization so that the light and beauty of the Gospel would prevail over the cultural currents of ethical relativism and religious indifference,” the pope said.

The Mass – Extremely Boring or Pinnacle Moment for Christians?

“Jesus of Nazareth: Holy Week” debuts among world’s best-selling books

SAN FRANCISCO—Pope Benedict XVI’s second volume on Christ’s life debuts at No. 1 on the New York Times Bestseller List. Released March 10 worldwide, the new volume covers the last week of Jesus’ earthly life – from his entrance into Jerusalem to his resurrection and appearances to his disciples and other followers.

“We’re delighted that Jesus of Nazareth: Holy Week is an instant New York Times bestseller. It means that many people across the country are discovering Pope Benedict’s insights into the life of Jesus Christ,” said Mark Brumley, president of Ignatius Press reacting to the announcement. “In this way, more and more people will encounter the real Jesus, which was the Holy Father’s goal in writing the book. It would be great if Jesus of Nazareth: Holy Week became the number one book in America!”

Global reaction to the book makes it clear that Benedict XVI has contributed a wealth of knowledge on Jesus that is as important and historically significant as it is well-written and thorough.

“It’s a remarkable achievement,” said Protestant scholar Dr. Craig A. Evans of Acadia Divinity College, Acadia University, in Wolfville, N.S., Canada. “It’s the best book I’ve read in years. This is a book that I think all Christians should read, be they Protestant or Catholic.”

“(The Pope) asked for the union of theology and critical history, a response to the failure of critical historical scholar-
Equal educational opportunity for all………at last?

In January, I was alarmed to read the story of an Ohio woman who was compelled to leave her residence, and her daughters, to get her daughters into a better school district. She spent nine days in jail. “It’s overwhelming. I’m exhausted.” she said. “I did it for them, so there it is. I did it for them.” School officials said that she was expelled because her daughters received a quality education without paying taxes to fund it. While no one concedes lying, this story gives us a glimpse into the measures that some parents will go to in order to facilitate their children having a good education. Should a child’s educational success be used to justify or oppose the residential zip code in which he or she resides? This is not only a social justice issue but one involving civil rights.

Since the stock markets and housing markets implored a couple of years ago, people around the world have been experiencing the result of loss of jobs and business opportunities as well as retirement benefits. Here in Texas some are projecting a budget shortfall between fifteen and twenty seven billion dollars for the next biennium (two years). Nevertheless, in the midst of this economic downturn we have detected what could potentially be a silver lining. Across the country there is a growing recognition of the value for low-income families who moved at risk of dropping out of school. Another goal of the program would enable children to achieve a greater level of excellence in their education, thus reducing the dropout rate by an anticipated one third. The savings to the state budget comes from the difference between what a student presently costs the state versus the student’s cost to the state under the scholarship program. This difference, which could range from $1400 to $6000 per student in the program, is a direct savings to the state each year (average annual estimated savings: $150 million). Any corporation or insurance carrier that has a tax liability to the state by virtue or either their franchise or insurance premium taxes would be eligible to participate.

If the dropout rate in Texas was measured in terms of tsunamis or earth-quakes we would be declaring a state of emergency. Now is the time to act and do what is expected of us for the good of our children.

Guidelines for Pastors and Parishes on Advocacy and Political Participation

INTRODUCTION

The Catholic Bishops of Texas recognize the need to distribute guidelines for parishes concerning advocacy and elections in election years. The Church speaks often to issues that are both moral and political, but it directs its attention to politics, not to political parties or candidates. The United States Conference of Catholic Bishops has addressed this issue. We Bishops have the primary responsibility to hand on the Church’s moral and social teaching. Together with priests and deacons, and the lay leaders of the Church, we are to teach fundamental moral principles that help Catholics form their consciences correctly, to provide guidance on the moral dimensions of public decisions, and to encourage the faithful to carry out their responsibilities in public life. Now is the time to act and do what is expected of us for the good of our children.

As Catholics we are single-issue voters. Our cause is the defense of human life and dignity and the protection of the weak and vulnerable. Catholic voters should use the framework of Catholic teaching to examine candidates’ positions on issues affecting human life integrity as well as issues of justice and peace, and they should consider candidates’ integrity, philosophy and track record.

The Vatican Congregation for the Doctrine of the Faith iterates:

“In everyone’s mind that education in the United States is as a crossroads and decisions need to be made about opportunities being equal and fair for all students in order for them to succeed. HB 2353, filed by Representative Madden, and SB 1847, filed by Senator Lucio, are the bills that the Texas Catholic Conference will strongly be supporting during this legislative session. If successful, these bills will permit corporations and insurance companies to contribute money to qualifying nonprofit educational assistance organizations that award PreK-12 scholarships to students from needy families who moved at risk of dropping out of school. Another goal of the program would enable children to achieve a greater level of excellence in their education, thus reducing the dropout rate by an anticipated one third. The savings to the state budget comes from the difference between what a student presently costs the state versus the student’s cost to the state under the scholarship program. This difference, which could range from $1400 to $6000 per student in the program, is a direct savings to the state each year (average annual estimated savings: $150 million). Any corporation or insurance carrier that has a tax liability to the state by virtue or either their franchise or insurance premium taxes would be eligible to participate.

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Guidelines for Pastors, p. 20

Catholic Faith in Action Advocacy Day

Promoting Life, Justice and Peace

April 6, 2011

The Catholic Faith in Action Advocacy Day is just a few days away. Join Cardinal DiNardo, Archbishop Garcia-Siller, Bishop Flores, Bishop Mulvey, Bishop Rodriguez, Bishop Seitz, Bishop Vann, Bishop Vásquez, and fellow Texas Catholics at the Capitol on Wednesday, April 6, 2011, to advocate for the Texas Catholic Bishops’ public policy concerns.

Participants are invited to visit the State Capitol and advocate for the Texas Bishops’ Legislative Agenda. There are many ways to get involved. You can participate through your prayers, through phone calls and e-mailing your legislators prior to our day to let them know that you support the Catholics who will be visiting them on April 6, and/or by coming to the Capitol and the Action Advocacy Day.

Most importantly, please PRAY for the success of the day!

Support our Texas bishops by going to their Web site at http://www.txcatholic.org/
The Catholic Lighthouse
Page 20 — April 2011

By Catholic News Service
CORPUS CHRISTI, Texas (CNS) — Father John Corapi, a popular author and preacher who has had speaking engagements all over the world, has been placed on administrative leave from priestly ministry over an accusation of misconduct.

“We have received an allegation that Father Corapi has behaved in a manner unbecoming of a priest and are duty-bound to conduct an investigation into this accusation,” said Father James J. McGing, a spokesman for Father Corapi’s community, the Texas-based Society of Our Lady of Most Holy Trinity.

Father Sheehan, who has the title “region priest servant,” issued the statement March 18 on behalf of the community.

“It is important to keep in mind that this action in no way implies Father Corapi is guilty of the allegation,” Father Sheehan said. “It is equally important to know that, based on the information we have received thus far, the claim of misconduct does not involve minors and does not arise to the level of criminal conduct.”

The matter will be “investigated internally,” he said. Father Sheehan did not reveal the exact nature of the allegation.

In a March 19 statement, Father Corapi said, “All of the allegations in the complaint are false, and I ask you to pray for all concerned.” His statement was posted on his Web site, www.fathercorapi.com.

He said he learned on Ash Wednesday, March 9, that a former employee “sent a three-page letter to several bishops accusing me of everything from drug addiction to multiple sexual exploits with her and several other adult women.”

Father Sheehan told Catholic News Service that Bishop Mark J. Seitz of El Paso, Texas, an award-winning seven-grade social studies teacher, developed a lesson plan to help teachers convey the key elements of the civil war that led to the annexation of Texas.

The “preservation and education are what this particular unrest was all about,” said Neeley. “In the end, this is a decision to be made by each Catholic community, and I am not alone in this assessment, as many canon lawyers and civil and criminal attorneys have stated publicly that the procedure does grave damage to the accused from the outset, regardless of rhetoric denying this, and has little regard for any form of meaningful due process.”

In a March 21 statement, the bishop of the Montana diocese in which Father Corapi resides urged people to “accept Father Corapi’s principles of due process, including the presumption of innocence, until a full investigation is carried out by his superiors.”

Guidelines for Pastors and Parishes on Advocacy and Political Participation

Continued from p. 19

acts has a special claim on our consciences and our actions. These decisions should take into account a candidate’s commitment, character, integrity and ability to serve on behalf of life. In the end, this is a decision to be made by each Catholic community, guided by a conscience formed by Catholic moral teaching.

Building a world of respect for human life and dignity, where justice and peace prevail, requires more than just political

Commitment.

Individuals, families, businesses, community organizations and government all have a role to play. Catholic teaching challenges voters and candidates, citizens and elected officials, to consider the moral and ethical dimensions of public issues. Participation in political life in light of our faith and this principle is an essential duty for every Catholic and all people of good will.

“Faithful Citizenship: A Call to Political Responsibility,” United States Conference of Catholic Bishops, November 2007; Learn more about Faithful Citizenship online at www.usccb.org. For a complete text of the 2007 Political Activity Guidelines for Catholic Organizations from the United States Conference of Catholic Bishops, go to www.USCCB.org/ogc/guidelines.shtml. Questions that might arise from these guidelines should be referred to the Texas Catholic Conference at (512) 396-9882 or at www.TXCatholic.org
A Libyan mourner places a flower in the soil March 24 at the martyrs’ cemetery in Tripoli during the funeral for people killed after airstrikes by coalition forces March 23. (CNS photo/Ahmed Jadallah, Reuters)

Pope appeals for suspension of fighting in Libya

VATICAN CITY (CNS) — Pope Benedict XVI appealed for a suspension of fighting in Libya and the immediate start of a serious dialogue aimed at restoring peace to the North African country.

Speaking at his weekly blessing March 27, the pope said he was increasingly concerned at the news from Libya, where rebels supported by U.S. and European airmasters have battled the forces of Libyan leader Moammar Gadhafi. “My fear for the safety and well-being of the civilian population is growing, as is my appreciation of the situation developing with the use of arms,” he said.

The pope said that in moments of great international tension, there was more urgency for diplomatic efforts that take advantage of “even the weakest sign of openness to reconciliation” among the parties in conflict. Solutions should be “peaceful and lasting,” he said. The pope offered a prayer for “the return of harmony in Libya” and throughout North Africa.

Rome expecting at least 300,000 pilgrims for John Paul’s beatification

Continued from p. 1

basket to large Italian companies to come up with at least $1.7 million to cover the costs of handling 300,000 pilgrims for the beatification, Msgr. Andrea Totta said.

Although the city of Rome and its hotels, restaurants and shops will benefit financially from the pilgrims, Msgr. Andrea Totta said the financial crisis still weighs on Italy and made the diocese look to donors instead of the local government for funding.

The money will cover building a stage and installing a sound system and lighting at the Circus Maximus, running extra buses, covering the cost of the bus and subway tickets included in the pilgrims’ package, renting and erecting crowd-control barriers and renting dozens of large video screens.

The screens will be placed in the squares around the Vatican and in most of the churches in the historic center of Rome so that people who cannot get close to St. Peter’s Square or prefer to stay away from the crowds can still follow the Mass, he said.

An Italian beverage company has donated 1 million bottles of mineral water; he said, and a restaurant chain has donated the ingredients for thousands of box lunches.

Father Aturo said that as of March 29, the largest numbers of pilgrims were coming from Italy, then Pope John Paul’s native Poland, followed by Spain and the United States.

Opera Romana Pellegrinaggi has launched a special Web site — www.jpiibeatrice.org — to assist pilgrims with reservations and information. The information is available in five languages, including English.

Pope John Paul II: Intended for TV

Continued from p. 16

unifying humanity and turning it into what is known as a ‘global village,’” the pope said. “The means of social communication, which allow for the circulation of the most important news of the day, are open to everyone, despite any national boundary. There exist new ways of communicating, with new languages, new techniques and a new psychology.

Pope John Paul II saw how the media was an integral part of a changing world. He embraced modern media and they, in return, embraced him.

Pray for Peace on Earth!

Vatican’s YouTube sites that recount various milestones on Pope John Paul’s path to beatification, including the Jan. 14 announcement of the upcoming ceremony in Rome.

According to a statement from the Vatican, the projects carry the seal of the Vatican and has the objective of “accom- companying the faithful on the route to the May 1 beatification. Through the initial initiative, they hope to make a part of the ‘vast documentary patrimony’ of the Vatican television and radio archives available for greater access.”

Father Federico Lombardi, SJ, Vatican spokesperson and director of both the radio and television centers, told Vatican Radio on March 14 that the Web pages were created to put people back in contact with John Paul II through images and words.

For him, the memory of the late-pope lives on with youth today, but social networks do even more to make his presence more easily accessible in a multimedia format.

The new pages, located at www.you- tube.com/giannipapadoil and www. facebook.com/vatican.johnpaul2, are now available online.
There’s a story circulating around the Internet that goes something like this: A union member, a tea partyer and a CEO sit down to share a dozen cookies. The CEO promptly takes 11 of them, looks at the tea party guy and says, “Watch that union guy. He probably won’t share that cookie with you.”

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The Right to Life used to be self-evident. But what has happened? We live in a time when the culture of abortion has not only surpassed the proper ordering of these Rights upon which our nation was founded, but also has redefined the very meaning of ‘Pro-Life’ itself. The pursuit of pleasure and instant gratification is moving, at this time, the relationship between the individual and the state. The human embryo to be used as a laboratory animal whose lives are disposable and whose purpose is only temporal.

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South African woman finds help in South Texas for unborn baby

By Erica Rodriguez

The Victoria Advocate • Originally published January 1, 2011

EZZELL — It’s high noon, 100 degrees, in the middle of a South Texas summer. Megan Baylis, a leggy, upbeat South African, splashes water alongside mosquitoes in an inflatable pool beneath a tree grove.

She’s 23 years old, sweating and very pregnant. “I’ve never felt heat like that, and we live in Africa,” she recalled recently.

Baylis, a single-mom-to-be, was six months pregnant, homeless, living in a tent when she found God again.

“The whole journey to this point, I feel like I fell into believing there is a God, and he is out there looking for us,” she said.

Last year, jobless and single in Africa, shepacked away her entire life and joined her father to live the back-to-the-basics style in Ezzell in rural Lavaca County.

“A DARK TIME”

Her father, Mark Baylis, moved to the U.S. to marry and dream of farming, raising animals, building a home and living a bare-bones life on terrain that brings back memories of South Africa.

“The way I look at it, it was an incredible adventure,” he said. “It was an amazing experience. It was pretty cool to be able to look back now and say we actually survived living in a tent for months.

Baylis planned the move to re-connect with her father, who is now a citizen, and make a home in the U.S. Instead, she spent most of it finding strength.

Mark Baylis modernized the family’s 20-by-10 foot tent. He installed air conditioning and Internet. Megan Baylis lived in the tent in Ezzell, rural Lavaca County, with her father and his wife for three months during her pregnancy. Photo contributed by Mark Baylis

Baylis grinned and occasionally giggled as she told of living through torrential rains, flash floods, torrential rains, and making a home in the U.S. Instead, she spent most of it finding strength.

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“A DARK TIME”

Baylis and her father, who lost his job, passed the days driving to find air-conditioned areas. Megan Baylis — with no job, no money and no friends — focused on creating something for her baby. She snatched paint swatches from hardware stores, snapped and pasted together dozens of bright-colored butterflies.

Then the “angels” arrived.

“ANGELS”

Gabriel Project brings help

Megan Baylis had only one pair of shoes and pants when she found the Gabriel Project, a Christian crisis pregnancy group.

“We volunteered, called angels, brought her back to family home, which was finally installed in September. Leah has a crib, onesies and a bed decorated with her mother’s paper butterflies. The room is furnished with packs of toys donated by the angels, who Megan Baylis now calls ‘angels.’ “Their kindness and their willingness to help — I felt like they were like my gran —”

Mark Baylis plans on building a home next year. Megan Baylis, who entered the country on visa, must return to South Africa to be with friends and family; and the angels, well, they’ll keep in touch through the Internet.

“It’s almost like all of this almost happened so that I could have her,” Megan Baylis said, watching Leah coo. “If I had been in South Africa, there is no way that I could have her. We don’t have any organizations in South Africa that could help me because we have so many other problems. I’m very lucky. Very blessed.

Megan Baylis, a trained graphic designer, plans to design a book for all their memories.

“It’ll be a quite a story to tell this one, one day we went through to get her here,” Megan Baylis said, curling her fingers around Leah’s pink fists. “But definitely worth it.”

Editor’s note: The Gabriel Project is always in desperate need of volunteers! Be a mentor to a young woman in a crisis pregnancy; work the Telephone Hotline; wash baby clothes (contact Diane at 361-649-1612 or e-mail her at barbramccain85@yahoo.com).

New printer for The Catholic Lighthouse

Since the closing of Adigraphs, the printer of The Catholic Lighthouse since its beginning 24 years ago, the Diocese of Victoria staff began searching for a new printer that could meet the diocesan communications needs: printing of a newspaper at low cost and able to deliver it to Victoria Pre-Scott for sorting and shipping to the Victoria Post office.

For convenience and to support local businesses, the editor, Cynthia Brewer, was hoping to keep the printer of the paper in the Diocese of Victoria. She and the staff have been successful.

The Catholic Lighthouse will now be printed by The Wave in Port Lavaca. The Wave also prints the Palacios Beacon, the Rockport Pilot, and Wingspan (the Corpus Christi Naval Air Station paper), to name a few. And The Catholic Lighthouse will actually save money going with The Wave.

The staff hopes for a long relationship with The Wave.