In This Issue . . .

Roman Missal column and Order of the Mass changes, p. 3
Pope John Paul II named patron of WYD, p. 5
Exciting catechetical events, p. 6
Catholic Daughters of the Americas complete Habitat Home in record time, p. 7
Diocesan Youth Office makes Safe Environment film, p. 8
Why is the Church so Massive?, p. 13
Noticias en Español and When & Where, p. 18
Abortion/Pro-life news and events, pp. 19-20.

CATHOLIC SCHOOLS WEEK CELEBRATED
SEE SPECIAL PULL-OUT SECTION PAGES 9-12

A+ For America CATHOLIC SCHOOLS

A woman in St. Peter’s Square holds photos with the words, “Blessed Pope John Paul II,” written in Italian as Pope Benedict XVI leads the Angelus prayer at the Vatican Jan. 16. The words and photos celebrate the Vatican’s Jan. 14 announcement that Pope John Paul II will be beatified May 1. (CNS photo/Paul Haring)

May 1 beatification set for Pope John Paul II after miracle approved

By John Thavis
Catholic News Service
VATICAN CITY (CNS) — Pope Benedict XVI approved a miracle attributed to Pope John Paul II’s intercession, clearing the way for the late pope’s beatification on May 1, Divine Mercy Sunday.

Pope Benedict’s action Jan. 14 followed more than five years of investigation into the life and writings of the Polish pontiff, who died in April 2005 after more than 26 years as pope.

The Vatican said it took special care with verification of the miracle, the spontaneous cure of a French nun from Parkinson’s disease — the same illness that afflicted Pope John Paul in his final years.

Three separate Vatican panels approved the May 1 beatification set for Pope John Paul II after miracle, including medical and theological experts, before Pope Benedict signed the official decree.

“There were no concessions given here in procedural severity and thoroughness,” said Cardinal Angelo Amato, head of the Congregation for Saints’ Causes. On the contrary, he said, Pope John Paul’s cause was subject to “particularly careful scrutiny, to remove any doubt.”

The Vatican said it would begin looking at logistical arrangements for the massive crowds expected for the beatification liturgy, which will be celebrated by Pope Benedict at the Vatican. Divine Mercy Sunday had special significance for Pope John Paul.

See May 1 beatification set, p. 17

By Cynthia Brewer
Father Alfonso Serna, O.Ss.T., who was ordained at Our Lady of Sorrows Church in Victoria June 20, 2009, was immediately sent on assignment to Cairo, Egypt, to serve the Trinitarian’s mission at Saint Bakhita Centre (SBCC), in the district known as Haggana—Kilo Arbaa wy Nus, one of the poorest areas of Cairo.

Several months have passed since his return to the states, and he is very concerned for the people of Egypt. He is now ministering at St. Joseph’s Hospital near Hanover, Md., where he and Father Victor Sococo, O.Ss.T., serve together at St. Lawrence Martyr Parish.

Father Alfonso spent about a year in Cairo ministering to over 500 Latin Rite Sudanese Catholic refugee families who had escaped the civil war in Sudan.

See Watching from afar, p. 17

On Trinity Sunday, May 30, 2010, Fathers Alberto Rodriguez and Alfonso Serna (r.), both Trinitarians, concelebrated Mass with the Sudanese refugees at Saint Bakhita Centre in Cairo, Egypt. Father Alfonso was in Egypt for about a year, while Father Alberto resided there for about six months.
By Cynthia Brewer

The staff at the Diocese of Victoria chancery office held a luncheon on Jan. 20 for Msgr. Eustace Hermes in honor of his 94th birthday.

At the luncheon, Msgr. Hermes thanked the employees for their birthday wishes and shared some of his memories. He remembered being appointed to Our Lady of Lourdes, the German National Parish in Victoria County, in 1946 by Archbishop Robert E. Lucey.

“I was required to say a homily in German at least once a month,” Msgr. Hermes said. And although he spoke German, coming from a German-speaking family, he wasn’t so fluent in it that he was completely comfortable saying the homilies in German. He said he was very relieved when it was no longer required of him.

Msgr. Hermes still comes to his office at the chancery daily and spends about an hour a day updating diocesan property records (deeds and leases: oil, gas and mineral).

The rest of his day is spent keeping in touch with the employees for their birthday wishes.

Msgr. Hermes celebrates 94th birthday

On January 11 and 12, 2011, some 240 fifth graders from the Catholic Schools in the Diocese of Victoria attended Church Vocation Awareness Days at Incarnate Word and Blessed Sacrament Convent in Victoria. The students heard a number of talks about religious life and the priesthood. They visited the Gift Shop and the Hall of Memories at the convent. The day culminated in a Prayer Service that highlighted the gifts of the Holy Spirit. These Vocation Awareness Days are sponsored by the Vocations Office of the Diocese of Victoria, the Serra Club of Victoria, Knights of Columbus Council #1329, the Catholic Daughters of Court St. Ann #369 and the Sisters of the Incarnate Word and Blessed Sacrament.

Learn more about the Incarnate Word and Blessed Sacrament Sisters at www.iwbsvictoria.org. They will be holding “Come and See” Days for single Catholic women (18 to 50 years of age) on March 5-6 and April 9-10. High school students and single Catholic women, please contact Vocation Ministers at Incarnate Word Convent, 1101 NE Water St., Victoria, TX 77901, or call (361) 575-7111.

Vocation Awareness Days 2011

Annual Pilgrim Reunion – Mar. 6

EL CAMPO—Everyone is invited to the Annual Pilgrim Reunion that will be held Sunday, March 6, 2011, at St. Philip Parish Hall, 304 W. Church Street, El Campo. Registration will begin at 9:30 a.m. with coffee, juice and doughnuts. Mass with Most Rev. David Fellhauer will be at 11:15 a.m. in the church. A covered-dish lunch will follow. For more information, please contact Betty Urbanovsky at (361) 543-2333 or at barurbanovsky@sbcglobal.net.

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DSA & Reflection of Faith Updates

2010 DSA

Parish Pledge Totals: $726,065.34
Parish Contribution Totals: $713,025.48
Number of Parish Families Participating: 3,776

Reflection of Faith Capital Campaign

Parish Pledge Totals: $9,000,000.00
Parish Contribution Totals: $12,961,570.62
Number of Parish Families Participating: 6,763

DIOCESE

February

5 10:00 a.m., Mass, Vietnamese New Year, Assumption Chapel, Palacios
4:00 p.m., Mass, Deacon Candidates retreat, Spiritual Renewal Center

11 12:00 p.m., Mass, Violettes’ Community Celebration, Missionary Catechists of the Sacred Heart of Jesus and Mary, Provincial House, Victoria

14 5:00 p.m., Liturgical Commission meeting, Chancery Office

16 4:00 p.m., Diocesan Building Board meeting, Chancery Office

18 2:00 p.m., Prison ACTS retreat, Stevenson Unit, Cuero

19 9:30 a.m., RCIA Forum and reception, Chancery Office

20 8:00 a.m., Mass, Stevenson Unit, Cuero

5:00 p.m., Mass, Youth Spectacular, Civic Center, El Campo

27 8:00 a.m., Mass, Holy Rosary Church, Hostyn, and farewell breakfast for Rev. Msgr. Stanley Petru on his retirement

March

2 10:00 a.m., Presbyteral Council meeting, Chancery Office

6 11:15 a.m., Pilgrims’ Mass, St. Philip Church, El Campo

1:30-4:30 p.m., Catholic Knowledge Bowl, Holy Family Church, Victoria

5:00 p.m., Liturgical Commission meeting, Chancery Office

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5:00 p.m., Mass, Youth Spectacular, Civic Center, El Campo

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Maryknoll Fathers and Brothers is the overseen mission outreach of the Roman Catholic Church in the United States, following Jesus in serving the poor and others in need. All Catholics are called to mission through baptism, and Maryknoll’s mission education outreach in parishes and schools be through vocations. During 2011, Maryknoll Fathers and Brothers will commemorate its centennial with a theme of “The Gift of Mission – The Maryknoll Journey.” These missionaries will celebrate as they continue their journey into the next 100 years to share God’s love and the Gospel in combat poverty, providing healthcare, and building communities and promoting human rights. Thank you for your support during 2011, highlighting the history of Maryknoll for the year 2010.

Use of the New Roman Missal begins the First Sunday of Advent, November 27, 2011. Below are the changes in the people’s part in the Order of the Mass for the Greeting and the Penitential Acts. Greeting: Present Text: Priest: The Lord be with you. People: And also with you. New Text: Priest: The Lord be with you. People: And with your spirit. Penitential Act, Form A (Confiteor) Present Text: I confess to almighty God, and to you, my brothers and sisters, that I have sinned through my own fault, in my thoughts, in my words, in what I have done and in what I have failed to do; and I ask blessed Mary ever Virgin, all the angels and saints, and you, my brothers and sisters, to pray for me to the Lord our God. New Text: I confess to almighty God and to you, my brothers and sisters, that I have sinned, in my thoughts and in my words, in what I have done and in what I have failed to do. through my fault, through my own fault; therefore I ask blessed Mary ever Virgin, all the angels and saints, and you, my brothers and sisters, to pray for me to the Lord our God.

Dear Bishop Fellhauer: On behalf of the Subcommittee for the Church in Latin America, I’d like to express my heartfelt thanks to you and your faithful and your contribution of $27,088.34 to the 2010 Collection for the Church in Latin America.

2010 was a particularly trying time for the Church in the hemisphere, torn by two major conflicts in quick succession. However, we were able to award $7.3 million dollars to 406 different projects. These projects included the training of catechists, formation of seminarians, the promotion of youth ministry as well as support for the many thousands of priests, sisters and lay people who provide the Gospel in some of the remotest areas of the hemisphere. Sincerely yours in Christ, Most Rev. Jose H. Gomez, Chairman, USCCB Subcommittee on the Church in Latin America
Sisters Louise Marie(e) and Patricia Marie(e) help Veronica(I) make “musical instruments” for her three-year-old students at Nazareth Academy.

How Does One Know If One Has a Vocation?

By Sister Mildred Truchard, IBWS

“How does one know if one has a voca-
tion?” I asked our three women in initial
formation, Sister Louise Marie Jones, Sister Patricia Marie Lohre and Veronica Munoz, to give me some insights which I summarized below.

A person may have a vocation if:

• One has a deep love of God and desires a more in-depth and closer relationship with God.
• One is drawn to daily Eucharist and prayer.
• One has a desire to serve in the parish
community.
• One is hungry for God’s word and wishes to read the Scriptures and the lives of saints.
• One is drawn to daily Eucharist and prayer.
• One senses a deep peace and accep-
tance from God in the quiet of the chapel
of the chosen convent.
• One feels a yearning or tug in one’s
heart for something more.
• One finds oneself repeatedly looking
at religious congregations’ websites.
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World Day for Consecrated Life – Feb. 6

WASHINGTON – The 15th celebra-
tion of the annual World Day for Consec-
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the United States the weekend of February
6-7. World Day for Consecrated Life, tra-
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For many, beatification announcement confirms long-held sentiment
Pope John Paul II named patron of World Youth Day

By Carol Zimmermann
Catholic News Service
WASHINGTON (CNS) — The news of bringing John the Icon Catering the beatifica-
tion was welcomed by many as a con-
firmation of something they already felt the need to do, "achieve the subito!" ("Sainthood now!") reverberated through St. Peter's Square at the pontiff's funeral.

Many in the crowd were young people who had a special affinity to Pope John Paul II, whose pontificate started and ended with a special greeting to young people. During his installation ceremony in 1978, the newly named pope told youths: "You are the future of the world, you are the hope of the church, you are my hope."

And his last words, reportedly deliv-
ered hours before his death, were also to youths, in response to the thousands of young people praying and singing in St. Peter's Square.

"I sought you and now you have come to me ... I thank you," said the pontiff, who died April 2, 2005 at age 84.

Basilian Father Thomas Rosica, found-
er and CEO of Canada's Salt and Light Television, said it was no coincidence that he heard the news of the pontiff's beatifi-
cation while attending a meeting in Spain in the upcoming World Youth Day.

"A thunderous, sustained, standing ovation followed the announcement," he said in a Jan. 14 statement. The priest, national director for World Youth Day 2002 in Toronto, said the date for the beatification, May 1, is also no coincidence. Not only is it Divine Mercy Sunday, but it is also the feast of St. Joseph the Worker, known as "May Day" on secular calendars.

"Communists and socialists around the world commemorate May Day with marches, speeches and festivals," he said, adding that it was fitting that "the man who was a unique instrument and messenger in bringing down the Iron Curtain and the deadly reign of communism and godless-
ness will be declared blessed" that day.

Father Rosica said the announcement is "the formal confirmation of what many of us always knew as we experienced the Holy Father in action throughout his pontificate" particularly among youths, noting that one of the pope's gifts to the church was his establishment of World Youth Day.

The first and Blessed Pope John Paul II will be the official spiritual patron of World Youth Day 2011, which will be Aug. 16-21 in Madrid.

Archbishop Dennis M. Schnurr of Cincinnati said that as national execu-
tive director of World Youth Day 1993, which was in Denver, and later as general secretary of the U.S. bishops' conference in Washington, he had "the opportunity to get to know Pope John Paul II from many vantage points."

"His love for God and God's people was evident in every aspect of his life. His confidence in the power of prayer was inspiring, the archbishop said. "His life was completely given over to the will of God. For those who followed his papacy closely, it was never a question of whether he would be beatified but rather when."

"But ultimately, he is being beatified because he was loved throughout the world and is recognized iconically as a holy person," he added.

Tony Melendez, the armless guitarist whose embrace by Pope John Paul II electrified an audience during the pope's 1987 visit to Los Angeles, said he had always considered his encounters with the pontiff "like I got to meet a living saint."

Melendez, in a phone interview with CNS while en route to his Missouri home, said he got to see Pope John Paul six more times, including a private audience at the Vatican about a year and a half after the 1987 U.S. pastoral visit.

"He remembered me," Melendez remarked. "And he said, 'Oh! My friend from Los Angeles!' without me saying anything. He hugged my head after I was (done) playing a song. ... To me, he was a wonderful man who did great things."

By Carol Zimmermann
Catholic News Service
WASHINGTON (CNS) — In an ad-
dress to Catholic college and university presidents Jan. 29 in Washington, Bishop Gerald F. Kicanas of Tucson, Ariz., praised them for making "Christ’s mission come alive and flourish" and challenged them to renew and strengthen their mission using guidelines established by the 1990 Vatican document on Catholic higher education.

The bishop, who gave a keynote address during the Jan. 29-31 annual meeting of the Association of Colleges and Universities, noted that much has changed in the 20 years since Pope John Paul II issued "Ex Corde Ecclesiae" ("From the Heart of the Church").

Bishop Kicanas said the initial concerns about the document "have lessened as uni-
versities and colleges learned that bishops seek communication and desire cooperation and collaboration."

He praised Catholic colleges for making efforts to strengthen their "Catholic iden-
tity and incorporate church teachings into student life -- especially through "pro-life groups, mission interactions, prayer and retreat opportunities, ethical and moral education in all fields."

But the bishop noted that there are areas of "Ex Corde" that still need to be more fully implemented, most notably, the need for teachers of Catholic theology to teach "from the mandate, from church authorization, from their local bishop."

He said some Catholic colleges and universities have sought this mandate, but others have not. This inconsistency, he said, "could reflect some distrust or concern about undue interference or not seeing the importance of doing so."

Bishop Kicanas stressed that involv-
ing the faculty with bishops who teach Catholic theology is "critical to true commu-
nication in the church."

"His love for God and God's people was evident in every aspect of his life. His confidence in the power of prayer was inspiring," he said. "His life was completely given over to the will of God. For those who followed his papacy closely, it was never a question of whether he would be beatified but rather when."

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The Diocese of Victoria
Catholic Knowledge Bowl

Everyone is getting excited about the fourth annual Catholic Knowledge Bowl, which will be held at Holy Family Parish in Victoria, Sunday, March 6, 2011, from 9:15-11:30 a.m. and repeated in the evenings from 7:00 – 9:15 p.m. beginning on February 21 through March 28, 2011. There is a $15 fee for this six-week course, which can be paid on the first day of class.

For more information, please go to www.victoriadiocese.org, or to register, please call (361) 573-0828 or e-mail registerevents@victoriadiocese.org.

By Father John Dietzen, CNS

Q. My husband was unable to attend Mass this past Sunday. He watched it on television, answered all of the responses, and then stated it was the same as going to Mass. Our daughter disagreed, but he insisted. Why isn’t watching Mass on TV as good as being there? (Iowa)

A. Watching Mass on TV is basically rather simple. The Mass is not a private devotion. It is essentially a communal action, something that, by its very nature, we do together as a community. The Mass is a Catholic Church celebration of Jesus Christ, not by ourselves in our own little corner.

Many Catholics still do not realize this. The obligation to participate in the Sunday Eucharist, which Christians have observed from the beginning, is not to hear or watch someone else do something, but to be present to do it oneself along with the other Christians assembled with us.

Thus, the Eucharist is an action, a celebration of the Catholic community and cannot be substituted for by watching, even reverently, a television program.

Sometimes, of course, illness or other reasons prevent one from being present at Mass when this occurs, a Mass on television or radio may assist in uniting oneself in spirit with those who have a desire for union with our Lord in the Eucharist. But such listening or viewing does not substitute for being there.

Q. When our grandson received first Communion, the parish booklet printed guidelines for receiving Communion. If I read it correctly, members of the Orthodox churches may now receive Communion in the Catholic Church.

A. I am a Roman Catholic but was not aware of this. Our daughter’s husband is Greek Orthodox. May he receive Communion in the Catholic Church? May we receive Communion in his church? I was taught that we do not have intercommunion with this or other non-Catholic churches.

New Jersey

A. Intercommunion policies are more lenient now than in the past, at least from the Catholic standpoint. The guidelines you read are those approved by the American bishops for inclusion in missals and other similar publications.

The Orthodox churches, not in full communion with the Catholic Church, still “possess true sacraments, above all — by apostolic succession — the priesthood and the Eucharist.” This fact gives foundation for “allowing, and even encouraging, some sharing in liturgical worship, even of the Eucharist, with these churches.”

Whenever it is possible, some genuine spiritual advantage suggests it, is lawful for any Catholic who cannot approach a Catholic minister, to receive the sacraments, including the Eucharist, from a priest of an Orthodox Church.

Many Orthodox churches, however, are severely restrictive in their acceptance of other Christians, even Catholics, to share Communion in their churches. We have an obligation to respect those restrictions.

Similar freedom exists for members of Orthodox churches to receive Communion in a Catholic church, again without prejudice to the regulations placed on them by their own faiths.

The above quotations and policies are from the 1993 Norms on Ecumenism of the Pontifical Council for Promoting Christian Unity.

A free brochure on ecumenism, including questions on intercommunion and other ways of sharing worship, is available by sending a stamped, self-addressed envelope to Father John Dietzen, Box 3315, Peoria, IL 61612.

The Diocese of Victoria Library and Media Center
361-573-0828 • victoriadiocese.org

Open Monday - Friday 8:30 a.m. - 4:30 p.m.

Books by Rev. Ron Rolheiser, OMI
• Against an Infinite Horizon: The Finish of God in Our Everyday Lives
• Forgetting Among the Lillies: Learning to Love Beyond Our Fears
• The Holy Longing: The Search for a Christian Spiritualty
• The Restrless Heart: Finding Our Spiritual Home in Times of Loneliness
• Secularity and the Gospel: Being Missionaries to Our Children’s Lives
• The Shattered Lantern: Rediscovering a Felt Presence of God

Libros En Español
• El Hombro de Cristo
• La Caridad de Cristo
• El Prisionero de la Luz
• Y la Fuerza de Dios

Other Videos/DVDs
• Journey Toward Forgiveness (DVD)
• When Did I See You Hungry? (DVD)
• Celebrating the Season of Lent (DVD)
• Lent a Time to Forgive (DVD)

DVDs by Rev. Ron Rolheiser, OMI
• The Cross of Christ
• Eucharist: God’s Way of Embracing Us
• Disciples on the Journey: Generative Discipleship: The Deeper Invitation of Jesus
• Spirituality and the Two Halves of Life

Videos En Español
• La Semana de Abril
• Encuentro a Maria
• Corazon Atonmetrado
SISTERLY
THOUGHTS
By Sister Mildred Truchard, IBRS
Stars of Our Lives

A s a new year arrived, we were reminded of what had happened in the previous year. Of the media headlines near the top of the list, were articles referring to the number of “stars” who had died the previous year. Among these “stars” were actors, singers, business persons, athletes, and numerous varieties of persons whose names had been predominant in the news.

Then as we celebrated the Feast of the Epiphany, we remembered the “Star of Bethlehem” which led the Magi to the newborn Jesus. As we packed away the stars, which had been a part of our Christmas decorations, I thought that this would be the end of stars until next Christmas; that is — until I ran across the following reference to “stars” in one of Pope Benedict’s writings. This reference is so well written that I want to quote it directly:

“Life is like a voyage on the sea of history, often dark and stormy, a voyage in which we watch for the stars that indicate the route. The true stars of our life are the people who have lived good lives. They are lights of hope. Certainly, Jesus Christ is the true light, the sun that has risen above all the shadows of history. But to reach him we also need lights close by — people who shine with his light and so guide us in along our way.” — Benedict XVI, Spe Salvi, 49.

We have all had human stars that we followed. Let us pause and try to name some of these true stars in our lives who inspire and guide us through the way they live. Sometimes we take those about us, who help shape our lives and support us in our weaker moments, for granted. We may fail to recognize them as “stars” because we only think of them as parents, grandparents, aunts and uncles, teachers, neighbors, friends, classmates, or co-workers. We also may forget that we can be stars to others without realizing it. So let us appreciate those “stars” who show us the way to the true light, Jesus, and at the same time, through our prayers, works, and actions, let us be “stars” to those about us. Happy shining!

RCIA leaders invited to workshop Feb. 19
Bishop Fellhauer and the diocesan RCIA Task Force Committee invite parish leaders to “The Dynamics and Direction of the RCIA” Saturday, Feb. 19, at the diocesan chancery office in Victoria.
Participate in a day of learning more about:
The vision of the RCIA:
• a process rather than a school-year model
• a review of the catechumenate using #75 Mystagogy
• what it is and why it must begin in the pre-catechumenate
• understanding mystagogy as a phase in the RCIA and how it can be implemented Discernment:
• The initial interview
• a model of a discernment session before the Rite of Acceptance
• discernment before initiation
Using the Rites’ book:
• a review of each of the stages in the catechumenate
Breaking Open the Word:
• a model of “breaking open the Word” session
Q & A — opportunity to ask questions concerning the implementation of the RCIA in your parish.
The presentation will be led by Linda Knoche, RCIA director at St. Theresa Parish in Sugar Land, and will be held at the chancery office, 1505 E. Mesquite Lane, Victoria, from 9:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m. The cost is $10 per person and includes lunch. Register by Feb. 15 by sending name, address, parish, phone and e-mail address with a $10 check, made out to the Diocese of Victoria, to Mary Reyes, 1303 Algee, Port Lavaca, TX 77979, or contact Mary at (361) 482-9932, or gereyes707@yahoo.com for more information.

KJT YOUTH GROUP MAKES PRESENTATION—The Louise-Hillje Catholic Union of Texas, KJT Society #48 Youth Group, presented Father Clement Quainoo, pastor of St. Procopius, with a $500 check from their fundraiser and a matching grant from the KJT Home Office. The funds will be used for youth activities for the parish. Pictured above, l-r, are Ashley Lutringer, president; Michelle Holik, treasurer; Father Clement, Amber Lutringer, secretary; Amber Koudela, treasurer; Margaret Holik, youth leader and KJT state director. Not pictured Arlene Koudela, youth leader.

“Fight the good fight of the faith...” 1 Timothy 6:12

Catholic Lighthouse Page 7 — February 2011
DIOCESE

Catholic Diocese of Victoria
1505 E. Mesquite Lane
Victoria, TX 77901
Office: (361) 575-7111
Fax: (361) 573-0828
www.victoriadiocese.org

Chancery Office
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“If we are wise in what we do with the grace given to us, God will show himself as a father to us, in mercy and love.” — St. John Chrysostom

If you or someone you know has been sexually or physically abused by a member of the clergy or other church personnel:
• Contact the bishop or the chancellor of the Diocese of Victoria at (361) 573-0828
• Call Father Gary Janak (979) 543-3770 or Sister Emilie Eilers (361) 575-7111, Coordinators of Pastoral Care and Outreach;
• Write to: Bishop David E. Fellhauer, Diocese of Victoria, 1303 Algee, Port Lavaca, TX 77979

We will also help you bring your concerns to Church officials outside the diocese if the abuse occurred elsewhere and you now reside in the Diocese of Victoria.
If you are unsure about bringing a complaint or would like further information, please contact: Father Gary Janak at (979) 543-3770.

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

June 17-26 - $1,535
Port Lavaca, TX 77979
361.552.2695 or 361.920.3216

June 11-20 - $1,585
Port Lavaca, TX 77979
361.552.2695 or 361.920.3216

KJT YOUTH GROUP MAKES PRESENTATION—The Louise-Hillje Catholic Union of Texas, KJT Society #48 Youth Group, presented Father Clement Quainoo, pastor of St. Procopius, with a $500 check from their fundraiser and a matching grant from the KJT Home Office. The funds will be used for youth activities for the parish. Pictured above, l-r, are Ashley Lutringer, president; Michelle Holik, treasurer; Father Clement, Amber Lutringer, secretary; Amber Koudela, treasurer; Margaret Holik, youth leader and KJT state director. Not pictured Arlene Koudela, youth leader.

“If we are wise in what we do with the grace given to us, God will show himself as a father to us, in mercy and love.” — St. John Chrysostom

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The Diocese of Victoria Youth Ministry and Safe Environment offices collaborated prior to the Christmas holiday to make a second film for the use of youth who vol-
unteer at diocesan and parish sponsored events.

The first training film for the Safe En-
vironment office was created for all youth volunteers, but the offices, as well as some adults in the parish communities, felt that the film was too strong for some young junior high kids; therefore, a training film was produced specifically for junior high school youth leaders. It was written and directed by Debbie Vanelli, director of the Office of Youth and Young Adult Ministry, and produced by the office’s associate di-
rector, José Ortega.

Prior to writing, Melissa A. Perales, director of the diocesan Safe Environment office, prepared the volunteer high school actors for the task.

“Please know that you are speaking about a very difficult subject matter. Abuse is not something that is easy for anyone to talk about,” she said. “You are reaching out to a very special group of children and youth; some of them have been abused or are suffering abuse at this time. We want them to know that this is not the kind of life God intended for them and that they can reach out to someone for help.”

“Not only are you helping our young people, you are also helping the bishop, our pastors, our principals and all the people of our diocese who work so hard each and every day to create a safe, heal-
ing and holy environment,” Mrs. Perales concluded.

The spiritual themes of the film came from Genesis: “God made us in his image and likeness, we are very good,” said Mrs. Perales. Following the first film, the Diocese of Victoria Youth Ministry offices collaborated on the production of the second film. The second film for the use of youth who vol-
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By Cynthia Brewer

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Here’s a film trailer from the first Safe Environment film:

Youth Calendar of Events

By Debbie Vanelli, director of Youth and Young Adult Ministry

The youth who “starred” in the produc-
tion were members of the diocesan Youth Leadership Team and included Alex Pagel of St. Mary’s, Jory Stevens of Our Lady of Lourdes, Layton Frederick, Sarah Hermes and Kendra Hammond of Our Lady of Vic-
tory, Collin Bednorz of Holy Family and Dominic Schafer of Our Lady of Sorrows – all in Victoria.

The film is still undergoing editing, but will be released upon its completion and the approval of Bishop David Fellhauer.

2011 Youth Spectacular

February 20

GPS, Gods Planning System, is the theme of the 2011 Youth Spectacular at the El Camino Civic Center on February 20, 2011.

Two amazing speakers from our diocese, Father Dan Morales and Father Kirby Hlavaty, will keynote the event. For more information on these two speakers, see the January 2011 Catholic Lighthouse.

Doors open at 11:00 a.m. and Lit-
urgy will be celebrated at 5:00 p.m. with Bishop Fellhauer as the main celebrant. Lunch is included in the registration price.

Come out for a wonderful day of fun and fellowship! Registration information is available online at www.victoriadiocese.org click on youth ministry.

Also there will be Confirmation Re-
treat, March 27 at St. Michael in Cuero and April 10 at St. Mary in Victoria. For more information go to the above Web site.

New Year - New Retreat Location - New Adventure

By Debbie Vanelli, director of Youth and Young Adult Ministry

The Youth Leadership Team of the Diocese of Victoria gathered for their an-
nual retreat for the first time at Coopers Farm near La Grange. Despite the constant threat of impending “coldest storm of the season,” God provided us with gorgeous weather for the retreat.

Community building, teamwork and communication were the first order of the day as the retreat began on the high and low ropes course. The high ropes course at Coopers Farm is touted as the highest ropes course in Texas, and I must say, standing on the ground and looking up at the spot about a hundred feet in the air where the zip line starts, I believe their assessment is right. Of course it has always been the policy of the youth office to not ask our young people to do anything we wouldn’t do, so we psyched ourselves up for this adventure.

If you are not familiar with a zip line, let me give my own Wikipedia-type descrip-
tion. You essentially are given a bicycle harness to harness to a lanyard that is connected to the actual wired zip line. The handler is very kind and assures you that the line can hold the weight from the large cinnamon roll that I was peer pressured into consuming on the way up to camp so I could cause the cable to snap. At this point you are above the tree lines and they are very tall trees! The ideal is to hurl your body off the “shoe box” and zip along the line, which is about the width of your thumb. I like to think that I am pretty adventurous, but I knew that hurting myself was not going to happen, so I asked John to just push me. I found out a lot about faith that day. I think a lot of us are standing at the edge of something amazing, scared to take that step into the unknown and need a little nudge. A lot of fears were conquered that day, but we all agreed that it was an amazing experience.

The sessions at the retreat focused on keeping the main thing the main thing and how that is achieved in our lives. That involved learning to live our life according to God’s plan one decision at a time even in the midst of struggles, joys and fears. It was a wonderful weekend, filled with time for reflection and growth, delicious food, fun and great hospitality. And that brings me to the worry about – it blew in about 2:00 a.m., as we slept. God is good, all the time.
St. Joseph High School is a Catholic school committed to the educational ministry of the Catholic Church in the Diocese of Victoria. Our school community is inspired by the life of St. Joseph, protector and patron of the Holy Family, we provide a peaceful, Christ-centered education that fosters spiritual growth and academic excellence for our families of students. Founded in 1868 by Reverend Augustin Hartman, St. Joseph High School has a rich heritage of providing the highest standard of Catholic education for generations of families in Victoria and the surrounding area. We operate a private co-ed school governed by the authority of our board of directors.

St. Joseph’s professional faculty of dedicated teachers, with an average of 20 years of teaching experience, small class sizes, and a century of educational excellence provides our students with an opportunity to receive the highest quality of education. Our students come from diverse backgrounds, each bringing a different view to the academic curriculum. We prepare our students for college and careers, including technical, vocational, and professional schools.

St. Joseph’s courses are designed to meet a wide range of student abilities and needs and include a challenging advanced placement and dual-credit programs. We offer state-of-the-art facilities and technology to our students.

St. Joseph High School is accredited by the Texas Catholic Conference and the Southern Association of Colleges and Schools. St. Joseph’s graduation rate is 100%, and 98% of the 2010 graduates were recognized by scholarship programs. One hundred percent of the 2010 graduates have students entered into college, with many scholarship opportunities.
St. Michael School Appreciates its Supporters

CUERO—St. Michael’s Catholic School in Cuero celebrated its Catholic Schools Week with an opening Mass January 29. Students from Pre-K 3 through the 6th grade participated as lectors, presenters and ushers. An Open House at the school followed the Mass.

On Monday, students walked to nearby locations and presented Certificates of Appreciation to area businesses, organizations and individuals who have shown “A+” support to the school.

Tuesday was a day of fun activities for the students, including games and dance presentations. The school community participated in a living rosary on Wednesday to pray for our nation and for the future success of our school. Students wrote letters to students at their grade level at St. Michael’s schools across the United States.

Thursday’s focus was on vocations, centering on seminarians and novices. Students also created Spiritual Bouquets for the clergy of the parish.

The faculty and staff were treated to a special lunch presented by the St. Michael’s H.S.A. The students’ grandparents were invited to attend that morning’s Mass and to visit the school afterwards. They were treated to a small reception.

Family projects were on display throughout the week. The project this year was for parents to present their own report card for St. Michael’s School. It was titled, “St. Michael’s School receives A+ in . . .”

The eightieth grade class is pictured here, making the cuts needed for the younger students to knot the blanket edges.

so the students at St. Michael’s chose to offer one to each child as a gift of love this Christmas.

St. Michael School students are called to be friendly, respectful, responsible – Christ-like! This is the school’s mission! Along with the guidance the students receive in class, in hallways, on the playground, weekly Mass and daily prayers, these service projects are another way St. Michael Catholic School provides its students with A+ opportunities to live out its mission.

By 8th Graders: Sam Howard, Sarah Dodson, Bruce Eaves, MaryBeth Ellis and Erika Gainman

To teach, to build, to serve in the spirit of Christ – Nazareth Academy students, faculty and staff live this mission through daily achievements and activities. Nazareth Academy is an exceptional Catholic school because we have the latest technology, excellent academic and athletic programs, and a history steeped in religion, values and tradition.

We students are fortunate to be here at Nazareth, where the latest technology provides students with opportunities to actually enjoy learning. Some of the new technologies that we have are Smart Boards, a Web site and computers with the Internet. In those years, students had to learn by rote. Today, we learn. Having a computer with the Internet enables us to research and explore through CASA and other wonderful projects.

Students are also called to spiritual living. Finally, the history of Nazareth Academy is very special to all students, present and past. In 1867, Nazareth started with 55 students. Though our school has grown and changed over the years, our tradition and pride have remained. Today there are over 500 students attending Nazareth Academy.

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Full-time professional staff: 154,316
Lay: 96.3%
Religious/denominational: 3.7%
Student/teacher ratio: 14:1
Average Tuition: Elementary: $3,383
Secondary: $8,182

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Family projects were on display throughout the week. The project this year was for parents to present their own report card for St. Michael’s School. It was titled, “St. Michael’s School receives A+ in . . .”

The eightieth grade class is pictured here, making the cuts needed for the younger students to knot the blanket edges.

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COLUMBUS—St. Anthony students had a faith and fun-filled week as they celebrated and carried out the theme of A+ For America Catholic Schools. The students opened the week on Sunday by celebrating Mass and welcoming visitors to an open house after Mass. The focus of the week was strengthening our Catholic faith and celebrating the students of 4K - 8th grade. Students formed a band with their team members as they worked collaboratively throughout the week. SAS scored an A+ by bringing food to help fill the food pantry; students could come to school wearing crazy socks if they brought an item for the pantry.

Continuing with the theme A+ For America Catholic Schools, the SAS students brought money or items to send to our military. We are very fortunate to be in a free country. The school family was very proud to give a little something back to those men and women who give so much in order to keep our country safe.

Students cleaned surrounding areas of their school to show their love and support for the community. St. Anthony Catholic School reaches out to everyone. The students continued with the theme by including God in their daily activities. The entire school prayer party rosary together then began their field day activities where each child played together with his/her team.

The week ended as it had begun – with Mass. After a very busy week, students and faculty went home with a renewed spirit in our Catholic faith and the ever abiding belief in our Catholic Schools of America.

EL CAMPO—“A+ for America Catholic Schools” was the theme heard throughout the halls of St. Philip Catholic School during Catholic School’s Week. Starting on Sunday, January 30, with opening Mass, through Friday, February 4, the students had the opportunity to show appreciation for all the special people in our lives. Since 1949, St. Philip Catholic School has remained a bright, shining star for the children of El Campo and surrounding communities. Their student enrollment begins at age three in their pre-kindergarten program providing children the foundation of personal spirituality, faith development, and a strong academic program.

The St. Philip campus also includes grades kindergarten through eighth. There are many activities across the grade levels offering opportunity for growth and enrichment. Many forms of technology are integrated across the curriculum in all grade levels to promote higher-level thinking. Students begin as early as kindergarten by leading the Liturgy of the Word, playing musical instruments and engaging in buddy programs. Elementary and junior high students participate in theater, academic and athletic competitions. These activities provide opportunities to build new skills and to practice good sportsmanship.

Highlights of the fall semester included the popular PTC Halloween Carnival that was enjoyed by children “of all ages,” the educational Saint’s Parade, performed by the students of Father Hermes, Our Lady of Victory’s PE teacher, I started the first girls’ sports program. We had no gymnasium. After a few years as Little did I know that this would probably be my lifetime position. Little did I know that this would probably be my lifetime position.

Times were a bit different in those days. We had no gymnasium. After a few years as history teacher, science teacher, and co-ed PE teacher, I started the first girls’ sports program. With no gym, our practices were

Holy Cross Catholic School celebrates Catholic Schools Week

BAY CITY—Holy Cross Catholic School celebrated Catholic Schools Week from Sunday, January 31-February 5. The theme this year was “A+ for America Catholic Schools.” Catholic schools emphasize faith in action by reaching out to others. Jesus wants us to be of service to others. Saint Paul reached out to many communities as we reach out. Holy Cross students collected food for the needy, made donations to St. Vincent de Paul Society, Heifer International and on the Mesquite parking lot. We had nets set up for volleyball and places marked off for basketball. Our practices were early in the morning before school. We competed with surrounding Catholic Schools. When we finally got a gym, we thought we won the Lotto. It was inside, comfortable and we were able to host our own games. Lots of changes have occurred since my first year at Our Lady of Victory School, but my love of teaching and my dedication to Catholic Education has only grown stronger. I feel my experiences as a student and as a teacher at Our Lady of Victory has been undeniably a gift from above. I have watched many beautiful students become successful and dedicated business people and parents, and have been privileged to teach their children. I am even blessed for that. The Catholic School system has always been at the top of the list in my family. My family believed in Catholic education and I certainly would not be where I am today if I did not hold it close to my heart.

I attended Catholic Schools all of my school years and was part of the first 8th grade class to graduate from Our Lady of Victory School. I graduated from Nazareth Academy and received my degree in education from Southwest Texas State University.

In 1970 at the age of 21, with the help of Father Hermes, Our Lady of Victory’s pastor, and Sister Emile Eders, principal, I was hired for my first teaching position. Little did I know that this would probably be my lifetime position.

Times were a bit different in those days. We had no gymnasium. After a few years as history teacher, science teacher, and co-ed PE teacher, I started the first girls’ sports program. With no gym, our practices were
Sacred Heart Catholic School –
Honor and Service, Academics and Athletics

~History of the Shiner Catholic School~
St. Ludmila Elementary and St. Paul High School

SHINER – In 1897, Mother Saint Claire, foundress of the Incarnate Word and Blessed Sacrument (IWBS) Congregation in the Americas, was asked by Bishop Anthony Forest for a sixth IWBS foundation to be built in Texas. On February 18, she accompanied four other sisters to Shiner where the sixth order was created. The new Incarnate Word Academy later became known as St. Ludmila Academy. The history of St. Ludmila Academy dates back to February 24, 1897, when the school was named in honor of a Slavic saint and opened with an enrollment of 57 students. The school taught the basics with an emphasis in religious education; the English, German, Czech and Bohemian languages; and musical instruments – violin, viola and mandolin.

Only elementary grades were taught until 1902, when two years of high school were added. In 1928, a four-year high school was incorporated, and the school received the designation of an academy and became fully accredited by 1929. To meet the educational needs of the high school students, the parish constructed a modern two-story, red brick building in 1963 for $112,000 which became the home of St. Paul High School. In 1986, St. Ludmila Academy became a parish-supported elementary school, and the name was changed to St. Ludmila Elementary. The building was generously gifted to Sts. Cyril & Methodian Parish in 1990. Since the parish now owned both schools, the educational complex became known as the Shiner Catholic School in 1987.

The mission of the Shiner Catholic School is “Preparing the children of God for the Kingdom of God.” In curriculum and other areas of decision-making, the focus of the Shiner Catholic School is on the growth of the students’ spiritual, moral, intellectual and physical abilities and their fidelity to God’s call. Thus the students will be able to spread the Good News to all people whose lives they touch.

HALLETSVILLE – Sacred Heart Catholic School takes great pride in the accomplishments of its students and faculty each year in academics, music, art and athletics, as well as service. For the sixth consecutive year, the school was named the 2010 TAPPS 2A Overall State Champion for outstanding achievements in academic, music and art competitions during the 2009-10 school year. This is the 10th year since 1989 that Sacred Heart Catholic High School has received

Center of Victoria recognized Sacred Heart Catholic High School as one of the top schools in their service area in terms of number of blood donors and highest percentage of participants. The school was presented with two checks in the amount of $1,000 each for this recognition. Seven students from the 2010 class-Chance Rath, Trentin Pilat, Amy Klimitchek, Kayla Harmon, Brady Etzler, Rebekah Krischke and Ethan Svetlik were recognized as Red Cord Honorees for donating a minimum of six times during their high school years.

ACADEMICS, ART and MUSIC
Sacred Heart Catholic School placed 1st overall in the TAPPS 2A 2010 elementary district meet and 3rd overall in the TAPPS 2A 2010 district art meet. Ethan Svetlik was named the TAPPS 2A 2010 Fine Arts Student of the Year. Mr. William Harrison, Sacred Heart Catholic School Band Director, was named TAPPS 2A Fine Arts Teacher of the Year 2009-2010. He led and directed the band to its 3rd straight TAPPS Instrumental Music State Championship.

ATHLETICS
Athletic Director and Head Football Coach Pat Henke was inducted into the Texas Private School Coaches Association (TPSCA) 2010 Hall of Honor. Coach Henke has recorded over 200 wins and was named TAPPS Coach of the Decade 1990-99. Under the direction of Coach Joe Cash, the Sacred Heart Indian boys track team won the TAPPS 2A 2010 State Championship for the first time in the school’s history. Coach Cash was recognized at the 2010 UIL State Track and Field Meet for his part in leading the Refugio High School track team to the school’s first three state track and field championships in 1981, 1982 and 1983. The Sacred Heart Indianettes softball team, coached by Virgil Gutierrez, Rich and Klimitchek and Randy Foyt, won the TAPPS 2A 2010 State Championship for the 4th year in a row.

We are the Mariners

PORT LAVACA – Located in Calhoun County, Our Lady of the Gulf Parish in Port Lavaca has long been a part of a seafaring community. Surrounded by over 500 square miles of water, Our Lady of the Gulf is unique in many ways. Thus it was only natural for the school to pick the “Mariner” as their mascot. But being the Mariners is more than just a ship’s wheel logo and a name. The school has developed strong partnerships with local agencies such as the Calhoun County AgriLife Extension and Texas Sea Grant Extension office. As a result, middle school students are learning basic boating and sailing skills that enhance and enrich the curriculum in mathematics, computer literacy, art, language arts and even physical education. The building of boats provides the students an opportunity to apply the skills (both academic and social) they are learning in the classroom, to real life activities. This hands-on learning involves parents and parish volunteers, as well as other community partners. After building boats, the students then learn basic boating and water safety skills.

This collaborative program helps fulfill the school’s goal to develop deductive reasoning, critical and creative thinking skills, and communication skills. The program has succeeded academically. The program also teaches life-long lessons that build successful futures. Students learn how to work as part of a team to accomplish a common goal, how to find solutions to difficult problems and develop strong bonds with their elders through working with the adult volunteers.

From the port, located three blocks from the school, a person can sail to any other port in the world. In a similar way, the A+ Catholic Education received at Our Lady of the Gulf Catholic School, Mariner students are given a solid foundation and the tools they need to reach any life goal they set.

Nazareth Academy School (serving Pre-K through 8th Grades) has openings at all levels and is accepting new student applications. Registration will be held on March 8th. Contact the school at 573-6651 or go to www.nazarethacademy.org

Catholic Schools represent nearly half of all private schools in the U.S.

PIEDMONT 31.5%

Catholic 44.4%
called by name

When I was a substitute teacher, I had a trick. I set aside precisely three minutes to familiarize myself with the seating chart. As the students were filing in and finding seats, I committed to memory the names of the students. As a form of encouragement, I addressed him by name. He would stare at me in shock. Did I know him well enough to call him by name? Suddenly, things were different. Everything changed in a personal level. Anonymity — gone. Incognito, no longer. I could see him thinking: How does she know me? Does she know my parents? Hey, she could write me up with little notice. A name is like a target. It gains access to the person. It changes everything.

God disclosed his name to us. He gave it freely. We didn’t wrestle it out of him, or crack the code, or lift the name from a seating chart. He gave it to us. God knew that, in giving his name, we could draw closer. Our relationship could get personal. As paragraph 203 of the Catholic catechism says, “To disclose one’s name is to make oneself known to others; in a way it is to hand oneself over by becoming accessible. . . .”

Recently, I traveled to Alabama and shared my conversion story. When I arrived, one of the first things I was asked was how I pronounce my name. “It’s bah — as in ‘bah-humbug’ — and cert — as in the breath mints. Bossert,” I could tell that they felt a little embarrassed that they did not know how to pronounce my name automatically. Then certainly didn’t need to feel bad about it. Even before our first date, I asked John, “So how do you pronounce that last name anyway?” Now it is my name, and I give the same answer to others that my husband gave to me.

There was a time when we did not know the names of our God. Once, we were strangers. We were very far from the One who made us. In ancient days, he offered his name to Moses, but for each of us, this name rests in one name. My name. I am. The I Am is sending you. This Creator has known your name from the moment you were conceived in the womb. He knows you by name because he made you. It is a lesson I share with confirmation students. The One who made you has also called you by name. When you were baptized, you were given a new name. Every time you have entered the church, from the moment you were old enough to reach the holy water font, you have blessed yourself in that name. But when you are confirmed, you will stand before God and before his shepherd, the bishop, and you will renew your baptismal commitment. At your baptism, God called you by his name. He gave you his name and he asked you to claim that name — now and for ever. He is preparing to send you into the world, as he did Moses, and he asks, “What do you want to be?”

At your confirmation, he asked you to be “God’s captive and share his good news with others. It is time for you to wear your name as your badge.” It is time for you to become Christ to the world. When God gave us his name, he gave us a mission. He reached out to the created ones and the Creator said draw close to me, I love you. And I have called you by name. Go and bear witness to the name you have received.

To view the television shows featuring Denise Bossert, please go to http://www.womenofgrace.com/vtv/layered_embedded.

Guest Commentary

Why is the Catholic Church so physically massive?

By Joel Davidson, editor of the Catholic By Grace

Archdiocese of Anchorage

To the average observer, the Catholic Church appears to be a physically impressive and historically ancient institution. Ten years into the start of her third millennium, she now embraces nearly 1.2 billion followers who are found in full union with the bishop of Rome — the pope. Additionally, more than 700,000 women religious serve the Church. In the case of sheer real estate, the Catholic Church encompasses 3,500-plus dioceses that control more than 7,500 parishes, as well as schools, hospitals, clinics, orphanages and other outreaches.

Adding to this the museums, precious artifacts, archives and cemeteries and one might begin to ponder how the simple Gospel of Christ led to such a material splendor.

This seemingly expansive edifice of the Catholic Church is only legitimate so long as the structure rests on a single cornerstone: The truth, the inerrant God whose hands touched the world and carved a doorway to eternal life. He then handed the keys of this doorway to his Church and issued the command to “Go and make disciples.”

This is the only reason for the Church to be so physically and institutionally manifest. She does not exist for her own sake or self-preservation. She does not chart an independent course or serve interests outside of the Gospel. Rather, the Church is the continual proclamation and manifestation of the Gospel of Christ to the earth.

She only exists that men and women might discover that they are known by and can enter into union with the Creator of their souls. This knowledge radically reorders the lives of those who embrace it — both now and for eternity.

The Archdiocese of Anchorage, Alaska, reveals but a tiny slice of the global Catholic Church. They are but a slice of a slice. The archdiocese encapsulates a total of 32 parishes and missions, five schools, 10 major outreaches of Catholic Social Services, a spiritual retreat center, a Catholic hospital and several medical centers, along with scores of youth groups, programs and other outreaches. At their best, these, too, are physical evidence of the Church’s underlaying mission — to proclaim Christ to the world.

All of this comes to mind when I was a substitute teacher, I had a trick. I set aside precisely three minutes to familiarize myself with the seating chart. As the students were filing in and finding seats, I committed to memory the names of the students. As a form of encouragement, I addressed him by name. He would stare at me in shock. Did I know him well enough to call him by name? Suddenly, things were different. Everything changed in a personal level. Anonymity — gone. Incognito, no longer. I could see him thinking: How does she know me? Does she know my parents? Hey, she could write me up with little notice. A name is like a target. It gains access to the person. It changes everything.

God disclosed his name to us. He gave it freely. We didn’t wrestle it out of him, or crack the code, or lift the name from a seating chart. He gave it to us. God knew that, in giving his name, we could draw closer. Our relationship could get personal.

As paragraph 203 of the Catholic catechism says, “To disclose one’s name is to make oneself known to others; in a way it is to hand oneself over by becoming accessible. . . .”

Recently, I traveled to Alabama and shared my conversion story. When I arrived, one of the first things I was asked was how I pronounce my name. “It’s bah — as in ‘bah-humbug’ — and cert — as in the breath mints. Bossert,” I could tell that they felt a little embarrassed that they did not know how to pronounce my name automatically. Then certainly didn’t need to feel bad about it. Even before our first date, I asked John, “So how do you pronounce that last name anyway?” Now it is my name, and I give the same answer to others that my husband gave to me.

There was a time when we did not know the names of our God. Once, we were strangers. We were very far from the One who made us. In ancient days, he offered his name to Moses, but for each of us, this name rests in one name. My name. I am. The I Am is sending you. This Creator has known your name from the moment you were conceived in the womb. He knows you by name because he made you. It is a lesson I share with confirmation students. The One who made you has also called you by name. When you were baptized, you were given a new name. Every time you have entered the church, from the moment you were old enough to reach the holy water font, you have blessed yourself in that name. But when you are confirmed, you will stand before God and before his shepherd, the bishop, and you will renew your baptismal commitment. At your baptism, God called you by his name. He gave you his name and he asked you to claim that name — now and for ever.

He is preparing to send you into the world, as he did Moses, and he asks, “What do you want to be?”

At your confirmation, he asked you to be “God’s captive and share his good news with others. It is time for you to wear your name as your badge.” It is time for you to become Christ to the world.

When God gave us his name, he gave us a mission. He reached out to the created ones and the Creator said draw close to me, I love you. And I have called you by name.

Go and bear witness to the name you have received.

To view the television shows featuring Denise Bossert, please go to http://www.womenofgrace.com/vtv/shows-online.html and click on Program 14583 Blogging for Jesus with Denise Bossert. To watch her on Jan. 10 showing Journey Home, go to http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=exXxNeDy5aq. To see features on layer_embedded.

Holy Father’s Messages

Pope Benedict XVI Messages can be found on the Vatican Web site at https://www.vatican.va/holy_father/benedict_xvi/index.htm or just http://www.vatican.va, go to the desired language, click on the picture of the pope and then click on Messages.

Available messages so far this year:

Jan. 1: 44th World Day of Peace 2011 — Religious Freedom, the Path to Peace
Jan. 19: Pontifical Messages: Message on the occasion of the first anniversary of the earthquake in Haiti
Jan. 24: 45th World Communications Day — “Truth, Proclama- tion and Authenticity of Life in the Digital Age (celebrated June 5, but released Jan. 24, the feast of St. Francis de Sales, patron saint of journalists, writers)
Feb. 2: 15th World Day of Consecrated Life 2011
Feb. 11: 19th World Day of the Sick 2011 — “By his wounds you will be healed” (Ps 2:23)

Amor Meus Events

Amor Meus Spirituality Center invites you to a Taizé Prayer Experience, which will be offered Tuesday, February 15, from 7:8 p.m. in the auditorium, at Incarnate Word College, (1101 N.E. Water Street, Victoria). Taizé prayer, held in a candle-light atmosphere, consists of music, song, chant, scriptural reading, meditation and prayers of intercession. Also, the Sisters will hold a silent retreat titled “Our Lenten Journey to Surrender” on Saturday, March 5, from 9:30 a.m. to 3:30 p.m., at the center. Church may be purchased at S5 or bring your own. Bring your Bible if you have one. Pre-registration is preferred.

For more information on either event or to register for the retreat, please call (361) 575-7111 and ask for Sister Louise Marie or Cris.
Below is a list with a short description of a few books published by GIA Publications, known for Quality Music and Music Education Resources:

Several books are sent to The Catholic Lighthouse each year from GIA Publications, Inc. Here are a few titles Catholics may be interested in:

- **The Hope Prayer - Words to Nourish the Soul** by Liam Lawton will be the Table Talk Family Puzzle Contest prize. Liam Lawton is an award-winning, critically acclaimed Irish singer-songwriter and Roman Catholic priest.

- **Creating the Special World: A Collection of Lectures that epitomize the teaching of Weston Noble** by Father Liam Lawton. See book review on this page.

Katherine Kahane of St. Mary’s mission near Hallettsville is the winner of the January Family Puzzle Contest and “The Archbishop Wore Combat Boots” by Archbishop Philip Hannan and published by Our Sunday Visitor. Congratulations! The winners of the youth contest are Delaine Valenzuela (11) and Myles Svatek (7), both of St. Philip in El Campo. Each will receive a gift from the Incarnate Word Gift Shop. The next Family Puzzle Contest prize is “Looking for Jesus in All the Wrong Places,” “Pentecostal Crackles and Pops,” and “1970 New American Bible Revised Edition.”

For more information on these items or to purchase any of them, please go to www.giamusic.com.

### Revised Bible provides more clarity, more detail for today’s Catholic

By Patricia Zapor

**Catholic News Service**

WASHINGTON (CNS) — The revised New American Bible that will be released on Ash Wednesday, March 9, may seem most notably different to casual readers for its efforts at providing context and clarity in how the passages fit together, according to the coordinator of its publication.

“It will be like going from regular TV to high-definition,” said Mary Elizabeth Sperry, associate director of New American Bible utilization for the U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops. “You’ll have the same work emanates from the pages, providing insight into his artistry. A palpable energy positively leaps from each page.

- **Table Talk** celebrates 45 years of collected wisdom from award-winning author, GIA Quarterly editor and veteran teacher, Dr. Fred Moleck. Table Talk relates the insights and conversations and experiences of this seasoned church musician from the best of his weekly columns at gliamusic.com. Table Talk is filled with titles as “Looking for Jesus in All the Wrong Places,” “Pentecostal Crackles and Pops,” and “1970 New American Bible Revised Edition.”


- **The Singer’s Ego is a groundbreaking book** that explores the issues that singers face, issues with profound implications for both singer and their teachers. From the psychological to the physical, anything that can or will affect a singer’s performance is included in this book. The author, a graduate of the Curtis Institute of Music and voice instructor at the University of North Texas, draws from her experience as a professional singer and the wisdom gained from her many years of teaching voice.

- **Other items musicians may also be interested in include:**
  - Song of My People $18.50 (G-5858)
  - In the Quiet $16.95 (CD-324)
  - Sacred Land $16.95 (CD-662)

- **For more information on these items** or to purchase any of them, please go to www.giamusic.com.

**Books for the musician ... or anyone**

**PRAYERS**

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

**Family Puzzle Contest Winners**

Katherine Kahane of St. Mary’s mission near Hallettsville is the winner of the January Family Puzzle Contest and “The Archbishop Wore Combat Boots” by Archbishop Philip Hannan and published by Our Sunday Visitor. Congratulations! The winners of the youth contest are Delaine Valenzuela (11) and Myles Svatek (7), both of St. Philip in El Campo. Each will receive a gift from the Incarnate Word Gift Shop. The next Family Puzzle Contest winner will win “The Hope Prayer” by Father Liam Lawton. See book review on this page.

If you have not won the puzzle contest within the past six months, please send completed puzzle and contest form to The Catholic Lighthouse, P. O. Box 4070, Victoria, TX 77903, by February 25 for a chance to win “The Hope Prayer.”
The Catholic Lighthouse  
Page 15 — February 2011

NIK CORBIS/STF
U.S. Marshal John Cox, right, talks about the investigation into the shooting of Rep. Gabrielle Giffords, St. Elizabeth Ann Seton Church in Tucson, Ariz., Jan. 13. Christina was killed in the Jan. 8 shootings that left six dead and 14 others wounded, including Rep. Gabrielle Giffords. The day after the 9-year-old was killed in Tucson, Ariz., during a public gathering where Christina was killed, Christina Capecchi is a freelance writer and a “one less.”

Bishop promotes marriage day

WASHINGTON (CNS) — Two initiatives in February focus on marriage, one in line with the U.S. bishops’ priority interest: to strengthen marriage, in line with the Church’s teaching about the sanctity and dignity of marriage. Bishop Kevin C. Rhoades of Fort Wayne-South Bend, Ind., told his fellow bishops.

Bishop Rhoades, chairman of the bishops’ Committee on Laity, Marriage, Family and Life, said, “They are supported by events like ‘Con- gress on your Corner,’ the public gathering where Christina was killed. The observance received Pope John Paul II’s apostolic blessing in 1993, and “has continued to grow and spread among many countries and faith expressions ever since,” Bishop Rhoades said. National Marriage Week USA is sponsored by the Let’s Strengthen Marriage Campaign. First observed in the United Kingdom in 1996, it has since spread to other countries.

“The project — now in its second year (in the United States) — is a collaborative effort to influence the culture by faith communities, business, media, education and nonprofit organizations,” Rhoades said. National Marriage Week USA is promoted by Worldwide Marriage Campaign.

“The right to religious freedom is rooted in the very dignity of the human person, whose transcendent nature must not be ignored or overlooked,” he says. To read the full World Day of Peace message, go to http://www.vatican.va/holy_father/benedict_xvi and click on Messages.

A short life bookended by tragedy

The youth choir Christina Green be- longed to performing just once a month, on the Sunday at the 9 o’clock Mass. And sure enough, the day after the 9-year-old was killed in Tucson, Ariz., the youngest victim of the shooting targeting Rep. Gabrielle Giffords, St. Odilia’s youth choir sang. It was Jan. 9, the feast of the baptism of the Lord, and there was just one baptism at that Mass, a 9-year-old girl.

That wasn’t lost on Fa- ther Richard Troutman, pas- tor of St. Odilia’s.

“You realize how small they are,” he told me, “how much potential they have, how much really want to protect a 9-year-old.”

Father Troutman has been a priest since 1968, yet he approached that Mass as if it were his first, putting in extra prayer and still feeling a bit unprepared, like “a work in progress” pastor. He had heard the gun shots the day before and he was just as shocked as everyone else.

The first reading was done by a child, and the second reading was sung by the children. “Thus says the Lord: Here is my servant, whom I uphold...He shall bring forth justice to the nations, not crying out, not shouting, but saying, ‘Peace be with you’...’”

The older I get the more I accept the contradictions of this world, understanding how tears and laughter can mingle, springing from what feels like the same origin. Life’s contrasts bring meaning, just as a sym- phony has crescendos and decrescendos, rests and triplets.

I’m also coming to appreciate the richness and rhythm of the liturgical calendar. Sometimes we fall into stride with it, naturally matching its tenor. Sometimes its melody feels miles away, but we hear the invitation and jump in at a key change, singing out or humming along.

This short month is hinged on Valen- tine’s Day, and in Christina’s honor we should interpret it broadly, to gather all the rest and triplets.

Today’s Day, and in Christina’s honor we should interpret it broadly, to gather all the sadness and rhythm of the liturgical calendar.

Christina Capecchi is a freelance writer from Inver Grove Heights, Minn.

Why is the Catholic Church so physically massive?

Continued from p. 13

RHODES

Sunday Readings from Feb. 13 to March 13

February 13 — Sixth Sunday in Ordinary Time

Strach 15:15-20
Psalms 109:1-2, 4-5, 17-18, 33-34
1 Corinthians 2:6-10
Matthew 5:17-24

February 20 — Seventh Sunday in Ordinary Time

Leviticus 19:1-2, 17-18
Psalms 103:1-2, 4-5, 10, 12-13
1 Corinthians 3:16-23
Matthew 5:38-48

February 27 — Eighth Sunday in Ordinary Time

Isaiah 49:14-15
Psalms 62:2-5, 6-7, 8-9
1 Corinthians 4:1-5
Matthew 6:24-34

March 6 — Ninth Sunday in Ordinary Time

Deuteronomy 11:18, 26-28, 32
Psalms 31:2-3, 4-5, 7-8, 22
Romans 3:21-25, 28
Matthew 7:21-27

March 9 — Ash Wednesday

Joel 2:12-18
Psalms 51:3-4, 5-6ab, 12-13, 14 & 17
2 Corinthians 5:20, 6:2
Matthew 6:1-6, 18-19

March 13 — First Sunday of Lent

Genesis 2:4-6, 7-9
Psalms 51:3-4, 5-6, 12-13, 17
Romans 5:12-19
Matthew 4:1-11

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

www.usccb.org/nab/

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Twenty Something

By Christina Capecchi
E-mail: Christina@ReadChristina.com

The Catholic wedding must mean couple knows church teaching, pope says

VATICAN CITY (CNS) — Men and women have a natural right to marriage, but it does not mean they have a right to a Catholic wedding, Pope Benedict XVI said. For the Catholic Church, marriage is a sacrament that is witnessed by a priest or deacon, but performed by the couple who pledge their union will be forever and that they will be open to having and educating children, the pope said. “The right to contract marriage presupposes that one is able to and intends to truly celebrate it, that is, in the truth of its essence as taught by the Church,” Pope Benedict said Jan. 22 when he met with members of the Roman Rota, a Vatican-based tribunal that deals mainly with marriage cases.

See Catholic wedding, p. 16

Immunity from coercion, but even more fundamentally as an ability to order one’s own choices in accordance with truth,” the pope added.

Throughout his message, Pope Benedict makes clear that the ability to “order one’s choices in accordance with truth” will include the right to build Churches, schools, hospitals and other institutions that physically manifest the love of God.

In short, the Holy Father makes clear that outward works of the Church exist — and have a right to continue — because of the fundamental nature of humanity. “The right to religious freedom is rooted in the very dignity of the human person, whose transcendent nature must not be ignored or overlooked,” he says.

To read the full World Day of Peace message, go to http://www.vatican.va/holy_father/benedict_xvi and click on Messages.

John and Roxanna Green sit with their son, Dallas, during the funereal Mass for their daugh- ter, Christina Tay- lor Green, at St. Elizabeth Ann Seton Church in Tucson, Ariz., Jan. 13. Christina was killed in the Jan. 8 shootings that left six dead and 14 others wounded, including Rep. Gabrielle Giffords.

(NNS photo/Greg Bryan, Arizona Daily Star pool via Reuters)

RHODES

World Marriage Day is Feb. 13

See Catholic wedding, p. 16

John and Roxanna Green sit with their son, Dallas, during the funereal Mass for their daughter, Christina Taylor Green, at St. Elizabeth Ann Seton Church in Tucson, Ariz., Jan. 13. Christina was killed in the Jan. 8 shootings that left six dead and 14 others wounded, including Rep. Gabrielle Giffords. (CNS photo/Greg Bryan, Arizona Daily Star pool via Reuters)

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Packer’s chaplain exponent record Super Bowl crowd – at pre-game Mass

ALLOUZE, Wis. – (CNS) – If the Super Bowl is anything like the National Football Conference championship game that Norbertine Father Baraniani said he expected an overflow crowd. The Packers’ Catholic chaplain wasn’t referring to the attendance at Lambeau Field, but rather the Mass to be celebrated before the big game Feb. 6. In Chicago, before the Packers beat the Bears Jan. 23, “everybody showed up. We maxed out the room,” said Father Baraniani. “It was just unbeliev- able,” he added. “The Mass was full of energy. I felt nervous during the homily.”

Father Baraniani, now in his 14th year with the team, has enjoyed an up-close view of the regular season and the playoff run. When the Packers play on the road, he watches the action from the visiting owner’s box before making his way onto the field for the fourth quarter. In addition to his ministerial duties, he as- sists in the locker room. Father Baraniani, pastor at St. Norbert College Parish in De Pere, is responsible for returning players’ valuables from safety keeping after the game. The job was tougher this season with all of the injuries. “Even at the end of the season, I had a hard time with all the new faces,” he said. “I know the names, but I don’t know who the Green Bay PACKERS of the Green Bay Diocese, “Usually, after the preservice, by the first game, I know everyone. It was a guessing game at times this year.”

He also serves as the chaplain for the University of Notre Dame in South Bend, Indiana, and the Study of American Democracy at the University of Virginia, nonprofit research institution he said he greatly enjoys. “The Mass was full of energy. I felt nervous during the homily.”

Shifting religious landscape and signs of how religion unites

WASHINGTON (CNS) – The rate at which Latinx make up the regular U.S. religious life is “sudden and dramatic,” according to the co-author of a recently published book chronicling trends in the U.S. religious life. But, said David Campbell, who co- wrote “American Grace: How Religion shapes conversation organized by the Catholic Lighthouse Knights of Columbus. The event is developed, with the first national edi- tion on Nov. 8, 1927.

The Catholic wedding must mean couple knows church teaching, pope says

Pope Francis said that for a Catholic marriage to be valid, the couple must know church teaching, that the sacrament can be exercised only if they formally consent to marry, that there can be no other marital relationship and that both parties hold only to their union.

Because the church has a very specific re- ligious understanding of what marriage is, “no one can claim the right to a marriage ceremony” in the church, the pope said. In his annual meeting with the tribunal offi- cials, Pope Benedict said he wanted to focus on the legal or juridical aspect of Catholic marriage preparation programs, because too often engaged couples — and even those preparing for them to marry — consider the courses simply a bureaucratic hurdle to overcome before the wedding. “In fact, often it is assumed that the priest must act with largesse, since the natural right of per- sons to marry is at stake,” the pope said, but for the Catholic Church, there exists only one kind of marriage — sacramental — and the right of Catholic couples to celebrate the sacrament can be exercised only if they fully understand what they are doing.

EWTN acquires National Catholic Register; newspaper launched in 1927

BROOKLYN, Ala. – (CNS) – The Er- nal Word Television Network has signed a letter of intent to acquire the National Catholic Register, which describes itself as “the nation’s leading Catholic newspaper.” Effective Feb. 1, EWTN will take full control and ownership of the Register, now under Catholic Register News, Inc., a subsidiary of the Diocese of Dallas. “Immigration reform must include a viable path to permanent residency for the undocumented popula- tion; a new worker program that includes appropriate worker protections, wage lev- els and an opportunity to earn permanent residency; reductions in family reunifica- tion backlogs, and the restoration of due process protections lost in the 1996 Illegal Immigration Reform and Immigrant Re- sponsibility Act.”

Root causes of migration must also be addressed. The Texas Bishops called atten- tion to this clear immigration reform measure.

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**Watching from afar, Father Alfonso puts the Egyptian people in God's hands**

Continued from p. 1

"The Trinitarians helped to integrate them into the society of the host nation and prepare them for return to the Sudan or for emigration to other countries," Father Alfonso said in an e-mail interview with The Catholic Lighthouse. While helping to integrate them they also assist them in maintaining their cultural and religious identities.

"It was a blessing to spend time in Cairo with such a great people," he said. "My heart is broken with all that is happening, but I have the faith and hope that God will help His Creation in one way or another. It was a great joy and also a great sorrow."

Father Alfonso said that out of respect for the other faiths, they did not wear their clerical garb, except when celebrating Mass.

Concluding, I then asked, "With a new regime change, do you think things will improve or be worse for Christians in Egypt?"

"This is a very difficult question to answer," he said. "I hope and pray that the change will bring a better situation for our fellow Christian brothers. However, much, or very little, might happen."

Father Alfonso then stated, "Pope Benedict XVI has been promoting freedom of religion. I add myself to such an important right and principle. My contribution has been the minimization of presence and support among the persecuted Church. I hope and pray that a positive impact for the Christian Community in Egypt may be an outcome of this current situation."

"I am very hopeful that the Egyptian people will overcome the difficult time they are currently experiencing. I am not sure what the outcomes will be; however, knowing their passion for life and willingness to grow as a nation, they will be able to support each other and become what they are hoping for."

"Please do not stop praying for the Egyptian nation, so that they can achieve what they are hoping for," he said.

**Bishop promotes marriage day**

Continued from p. 15

groups," Bishop Rhoades said. He said it "enables new efforts for marriage educa-

tion and crisis intervention," as well as promoting "a message about the benefits of marriage."

He also urged use of the online res-

sourc es on marriage at the U.S. Confer-
ence of Catholic Bishops' Web site www.

domestic violence.

F or Your Marriage Web site re-

ported that the need for articles on pre-

paring for a Catholic wedding were espe-

cially popular. The site offers information about wedding readings, music, ceremony options, interchurch marriages and tips for planning a memorable wedding.

**Church leaders follow Egyptian upset with interest, concern**

Continued from the front page

Church leaders were watching the unfolding political drama in Egypt with a mixture of hope for reform and concern over potential violence, said the head of the Franciscan Custody of the Holy Land. Father Pierbattista Pizzaballa told Vatican Radio that he was "worried" that the widespread Egyptian protests against President Hosni Mubarak came as a surprise to Catholics in the region. "We all sense that these are epochal changes. None of us would have imagined these kinds of developments a few months ago," he said. "This means that there are currents, especially in the Arab world, that now have found visible expression. This is certainly a positive sign; it's also worrying because we don't know how all this will end — we hope with the least possible amount of violence and bloodshed," he said. Father Pizzaballa said he hoped that "respect for religious minorities will be preserved" in Egypt. He appeared concerned to note the fact that Mubarak's opponents include both radical and moderate Muslim groups, and it was unclear who might assume power if the president resigns. Father Pizzaballa spoke on a church-sponsored dedication for peace in the region. "The Vaticano稁n a le Rogerian St. XVI marked the day with a prayer to "lead minds and hearts toward concrete projects of peace." He did not specifically mention the unrest in Egypt.

**Vatican did not tell bishops to cover up abuse cases, spokesman says**

VATICAN CITY (CNS) — A Vatican official downplayed a 1997 Vatican letter to Irish bishops about handling cases of clerical sex abuse, saying the letter did not tell bishops to keep the cases secret. Jesuit Father Vatican spokesman, said the letter aimed at ensuring the bishops fully followed Church law for dealing with accusations in order to avoid a situation in which an abusive priest could return to ministry on the technicality of a misunderstood procedure. The letter, brought public attention Jan. 17 by Ireland's RTE radio and written by the then-nuncio to Ireland, Archbishop Luciano Sterno, was written by Archbishop Luciano Sterno, then-nuncio to Ireland. The letter summarized the concerns of the Congregation for Clergy regarding proposed Irish norms for dealing with the sex abuse scandal. Anonymh, the letter said, would be a situation of "mandatory reporting" gives rise to serious reservations of both a moral and a canonical nature." Father Lombardi said, "One must note that the letter in no way says that the country's laws must not be followed. "He told Catholic News Service Jan. 19 that the Vatican "does not have a universal, specific position on mandatory reporting because the laws and situations are so different from country to country."

**May 1 beatification set for Pope John Paul II**

John Paul, who made it a church-wide feast day to be celebrated a week after Easter. The pope died on the vigil of Divine Mercy Sunday in 2005. With beatification, Pope John Paul will be declared "blessed" and thus worthy of restricted liturgical honor. Another miracle is needed for canonization, by which the church declares a person to be a saint and worthy of universal veneration.

In November 2009, a team of theologians of saints congregation beatified the 2,000-page "positive," the document that made the case for Pope John Paul's beatification. After their favorable judgment, the cardinal and bishop members of the sainthood congregation met in late 2009 and voted to advance the cause.

On Dec. 21, 2009, Pope Benedict declared that Pope John Paul had lived a life of heroic virtue, and that there could be beatified once a miracle had been approved.

The reported cure of the French nun was carefully investigated by the Vatican's medical experts over the last year after questions were raised about the original diagnosis. Vatican sources said that, in the end, the experts were satisfied that it was Parkinson's, and that there was no scientific explanation for the cure.

In 2007, the nun, Sister Marie-Simon-Pierre, spoke to reporters about her experi-

ence. A member of the Little Sisters of the Catholic Motherhood in France, she said that Parkinson's had worsened, all the members of the Little Sisters of Catholic Motherhood in France and in Senegal began to pray to Pope John Paul II for her recovery.

By June 2, two months after the pope died, she was struggling to walk, to walk and to function normally. But she said she was able to get to bed that night and woke up early the next morning feeling completely differently.

"I was sure I was healed," she said. Not long afterward, she had recovered enough to return to work in Paris at a maternity hospital run by her order.

"I was sure I was healed," she said. Not long afterward, she had recovered enough to return to work in Paris at a maternity hospital run by her order.
**Victoria—Holy Family Church will sponsor a James Parade March 3 at the activity center (704 Mallette Dr.). Doors open at 6:00 p.m. with admission of $7. There will be door prizes, fun, food and a silent auction. For more information, contact Mark Hessler in the annex from 11:00 a.m.-12:30 p.m. or by phone at (572) 612-2313.**

**Victoria—The Blessing of the Knights of Columbus Council #4907 will sponsor their annual fish fry, auction and raffle Sunday, March 6, with proceeds benefiting scholarships and charities. Fried catfish with potatoes will be served from 10:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. at St. Peter parish hall. Plates - $8 p/p includes dessert and drink. Raffle tickets are available from any #4907 Knights of Columbus member.**

**Engaged Encounter**

The Beginning Experience—Engaged Encounter is an international retreat program for engaged and widowed individuals. retired, a program that offers the chance to reconnect with yourself, your spouse and a loving relationship in your marriage. The program consists of a 13-week video curriculum (taught by financial expert Dave Ramsey) that incorporates small groups and workshops. Our Lady of Guadalupe Church and Wisdom of the Saints with the best research from modern science in an interactive, multimedia format. That Man is You! is a spiritual journey to help men live a life of love, service and excellence. For more information, please contact Mike Allison at (361) 572-5757 or at iwbenvycom2@yahoo.com or call (361) 742-5246. All registrations are on a first come, first basis. All retreats are open to the public. For further details, brochure and registration information, please contact The Pilgrim Center of Hope at (210) 521-3377, dfmsgul@pilgrimcenterofhope.org or www.pilgrimcenterofhope.org.

**St. Francis and St. Clare Fraternity/Secular Franciscans**

For more information, please go to their Web site at www.sfb الكبير.org for upcoming events and dates, or call Mary Ann LeBlanc at (361) 575-1858.

**Marriage Encounter**
The Marriage Encounter Weekend is open to married couples, Catholic and non-Catholic. Worldwide Marriage Encounter is designed to make good marriages even better. For more information, see www.wmenc.org or for upcoming events in Victoria, call Greg at (979) 425-0332 or at register@marriagemission.org.

**Retrouvaille**

Retrouvaille is a program that offers the chance to reconnect with yourself, your wife and a loving relationship in your marriage. The program consists of a 7-week video curriculum (taught by licensed counselors) followed by praise and worship/adoration, healing prayers, and fellowship with other couples. Dates are announced when the groups are canceled. To receive further information, please contact Karen at (572) 612-2313 or at karenv@retrouvaille.org.

**San Antonio—Men’s Group, “That Man is You!”**

A Little to the Point: A Video of Philip Pau, 1024 Church St. Registration will begin at 9:00 a.m. with coffee, juice and doughnuts. Mass with Most Rev. David Fehlauer will be at 11:15 a.m. in the chapel. A covered lunch will follow. For more information, please contact Betty Urbansky at (979) 534-2333 or at hurbarznaszk@utexas.net. A light lunch will be served. Admission is $4 (ages 12-59); $3.50 for (60 and older and military personnel) and $1 (ages 6-11), with children five and under admitted free. Group rates are available with advance registration.

**The Catholic Lighthouse**

The word Retrouvaille means 'rediscovery.' If you would like to commit to one of these hours or to the one-hour prayer hour each week, please contact Michael Urbanovsky at (979) 543-2333 or at grimcenterofhope.org afterward, you will be contacted to set the date for your commitment. The Incarnate Word and Blessed Sacrament Sisters are hosting “Come and See” visits for single Catholic women (high school graduates through age 30) on March 5-6 and April 9-10, 2011, at Incarnate Word Convention in Victoria. If you are interested, please check out the Web site at www.ftrv.org or call (361) 575-7111 or e-mail info@retrouvaille. org or www.retrouvaille.com

**El Campo—**

Everyone is invited to the Annual Pilgrimage Reunion that will be held on the grounds of Our Lady of Guadalupe, 304 Church St. Registration will begin at 9:00 a.m. with coffee, juice and doughnuts. Mass with Most Rev. David Fehlauer will be at 11:15 a.m. in the chapel. A covered lunch will follow. For more information, please contact Betty Urbansky at (979) 534-2333 or at hurbarznaszk@utexas.net.

Hungerford—KJT Society #70 and KZT Society #57 will be social hour at noon and lunch at 1:00 p.m. To purchase registration tickets, call at (409) 541-6187 or e-mail: sanantonibe@yahoo.com; www.retrouvaille.org.

**Victoria—Our Lady of Sorrows Fish Fry will be held on Friday, March 11, from 5:00 to 9:00 p.m. Take-out or dine-in at Trinity Hall, 208 W. River. Plates will be $7/p/p and include fried shrimp, cole slaw, hush puppies and corn on the cob. For more information, please call (361) 920-2911.

**New Taunton—Jewish Altar Society Annual Chicken Dinner March 13 at Our Lady of Guadalupe Church will begin at 4:30 p.m. with fried-chicken, homemade dressing and all the trimmings (dine-in or take-out available). There will also be a silent auction and country store. For more information, contact the Jewish Altar Society.**

**Victoria—Bishop David Fehlauer Invitational Golf Tournament, Friday, April 8, at Colonial Creek Country Club, benefiting the Youth and Vocational Scholarship Fund of the Diocese of Victoria and sponsored by the Knights of Columbus Council #9088. For more information, please contact Monroe Rieger at 757-6155 or e-mail: mrieberg@att.net or phone Ivy Video at (361) 757-0356.**

**San Antonio — “Fiesta” Luncheon and Style Show with Fashion by Julian Gold, benefiting various charities of St. Matthew Cathedral Church. Tickets are $40/p/p and are available from St. Matthew Cathedral Church and the Friendship Club. For more information, please call (210) 838-2965 or visit www.catholicrecreation.com or www.priestsofdifoover.com.**

**St. Antonio—“Fiesta” Lunchen and Style Show with Fashion by Julian Gold, benefiting various charities of St. Matthew Cathedral Church and the Friendship Club. For more information, please call (210) 838-2965 or visit www.catholicrecreation.com or www.priestsofdifoover.com.**

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Our Lady of Guadalupe Church invites you to a Heal Mass and Prayer Service every First Friday of the month at 7:00 p.m. in the chapel of Our Lady of Guadalupe Church. Your Mass is followed by praise and worship/adoration, healing prayers, praying over, etc. Counseling available. Please come; bring your family and friends, it’s a blessing and a healing touch of the Lord! For more information, please contact Rev. Gabriel Alvarado, P.C. at (210) 539-6352.

ACTS Retreats—For information on ACTS retreats, please go to www.ACTSweb site at www.actmission.org. For more information on the ACTS Retreats, please call Bishop Santa in Cody, WY at (307) 635-7199. For further details, contact Sister Louise Urbanovsky at (979) 543-2333 or at grimcenterofhope.org; or call (361) 576-5757 or to Sr. Louise Marie at (318) 575-6720. For more information, please contact Mike Allison at (361) 572-8888 or at iwbenvycom2@yahoo.com or call (361) 742-5246.

Troll—Our Lady of Guadalupe Church invites you to a Healing Mass and Prayer Service every First Friday of the month at 7:00 p.m. in the chapel of Our Lady of Guadalupe Church. Your Mass is followed by praise and worship/adoration, healing prayers, praying over, etc. Counseling available. Please come; bring your family and friends, it’s a blessing and a healing touch of the Lord! For more information, please contact Rev. Gabriel Alvarado, P.C. at (210) 539-6352.

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WASHINGTON (CNS) — Three pieces of pro-life legislation supported by the U.S. bishops face “a very positive out-look” in the House, but their prospects remain in question in the Senate, Cardinal Daniel N. DiNardo of Galveston-Houston and chairman of the U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops’ Committee on Pro-Life Activities said Jan. 25. The three bills backed by the USCCB — all introduced in the days preceding the Jan. 22 anniversary of Roe v. Wade, the U.S. Supreme Court decision that legal-ized abortion nationwide — are:

• Protect Life Act, H.R. 358, which would amend the health reform law to prohibit the use of any federal funds for abortion or for health plans that cover abortions; guarantee conscience protec-tions for health care providers and insti-tutions; and “close a loophole” that could allow the federal health reform law to override existing state laws.

• Abortion Non-Discrimination Act, H.R. 361, which would “protect the civil rights of health professionals and other health care entities” by affirming that “no health care entity should be forced by government to perform or participate in abortion,” the cardinal said.

• No Taxpayer Funding for Abortion Act, H.R. 3, which would write into per-mmanent law the long-standing prohibition on the use of federal funds to promote or support elective abortion.

**USCCB committee explains direct abortion, legitimate medical procedure**

WASHINGTON (CNS) — The U.S. bishops’ Committee on Doctrine in a June 23, 2010, statement discussed the distinc-tion between the Church’s definitions of a direct abortion and a legitimate medical procedure that could result in an indirect abortion.

The statement came in response to an evolving debate among ethicists and theologians over the excommunication of Mercy Sister Margaret Mary McBride and her subsequent reassignment at a Phoenix Catholic hospital after news surfaced about her role in a decision to let an abortion take place in late 2009.

Below are excerpts from the statement.

Catholic institutions are guided in making decisions by the “Ethical and Religions Directives for Catholic Health Care Services,” and the doctrine committee cited two directives — No. 45 and No. 47 — that guide medical decisions regarding direct abortion and legitimate medical procedures that might end the life of an unborn child through an indirect abortion.

The committee’s statement quoted di-rective 45: “Abortion (that is, the directly intended termination of pregnancy before viability or the directly intended destruc-tion of a viable fetus) is never permitted. Every procedure whose sole immediate effect is the termination of pregnancy before viability is an abortion, which, in its moral context, includes the interval between conception and implantation of the embryo.” Therefore, the committee’s state-ment said, “Direct abortion is never morally permissible. One may never directly kill an innocent human being, no matter what the reason.”

The committee’s statement also quoted directive 47: “Operations, treatments and medications that have as their direct purpose the cure of a proportionately seri-ous pathological condition of a pregnant woman are permitted when they cannot be safely postponed until the unborn child is viable, even if they will result in the death of the unborn child.”

In explaining the distinction, the com-mittee offered two examples involving an unborn child not old enough to survive outside the womb.

The first involves a pregnant woman who is experiencing problems with one or more of her organs, apparently because of the added burden of pregnancy. In this case, the doctor recommends an abortion to prevent the cancer from spreading. Removing the uterus also will result in the death of the unborn child. The surgery directly addresses the woman’s health problem by removing a malfunctioning organ and, the committee’s statement con-tinued, “does not directly target the life of the unborn child. The death of the child is an unintended and unavoidable side effect and not the aim of the surgery.”

“There is nothing intrinsically wrong with surgery to remove a malfunctioning organ,” the doctrine committee’s state-ment said. “It is morally justified when the continued presence of the organ causes problems for the rest of the body.”

“Surgery to terminate the life of an innocent person, however, is intrinsically wrong. There are no situations in which it can be justified,” the committee added.

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**SOCIAL ISSUES**

**Cardinal outlines rationale behind three pro-life bills before House**

Every year, millions of Catholics in the United States participate in Operation Rice Bowl, Catholic Relief Services’ annual Lenten program. Each Lent, Catholic parishes and schools from more than 12,000 communities use symbolic rice bowls as the focal point for their prayer and fasting. Getting involved in the program is a tangible way to help people living in poverty around the world; see orb.crs.org.

**CRS’ Operation Rice Bowl Starts Ash Wednesday — March 9**

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**CHA president affirms bishop’s role in interpreting health directives**

WASHINGTON (CNS) — In an exchange of letters with the president of the U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops, the head of the Catholic Health Association has affirmed that the local bishop is the “authoritative interpreter” of the ethical and religious directives that guide Catholic health care. Sister Carol Keehan, a Daughter of Charity who is CHA president and CEO, said her organization “has a sincere desire to work with the church and individual bishops to understand as clearly as possible critical issues and bring the majority of the church’s teaching to that.” In response to the letter, Archbishop Timothy M. Dolan of New York, USCCB president, said the church must “speak with one voice” against the “increasing political and social pressures that are trying to force the church to compromise her principles,” including “the problem of illegitimate government intrusion in our health care ministries.” The letters followed telephone conversations among Sister Carol, Archbishop Dolan and Bishop Robert N. Lynch of St. Petersburg, Fla.

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FAITHFUL PROCESS FOR LIFE IN HALLETTSVILLE AND SHINER—On the anniversary of Roe vs. Wade, Jan. 22, following a nine-day novena in reparation for the sin of abortion, Sacred Heart Parish in Hallettsville held a Eucharistic Procession of the Blessed Sacrament from the church to the Lavaca County Courthouse. Father Tommy Chen, director of Diocesan Pro-life Concerns, led the procession of nearly 200 people. A Eucharistic Procession for Life was also held in Shiner on Sunday, January 23.

“DONATE DIRECTLY TO CANCER RESEARCH”—Eve Sanchez Silva, formerly a representative of the Susan G. Komen Foundation, gave the keynote address at the Jan. 27, 2011, Victoria Candlelight March for Life, which ended at Fellowship Bible Church. Now a cancer research analyst in New Jersey specializing in the relationship between abortion and breast cancer, Mrs. Sanchez Silva presented “The Susan G. Komen Foundation Race for the Cure’s Affair with Planned Parenthood.” She has spoken at the UN Conference on Women, sharing that abortion is violence against women and desires that everyone speak out about the evil that Planned Parenthood spreads. She suggests people go to her Web site at www.cocolife.org and download and share the available information. She suggests that rather than participate in “Race for the Cure,” donate instead to places that actually do breast cancer research, several of which are in Texas.

LOCAL PARISHIONERS PARTICIPATE IN NATIONAL MARCH FOR LIFE—Youth from the Assumption of the Blessed Virgin Mary Catholic Church in Ganado and their chaparones participated in the 38th Annual March for Life in Washington, D.C., on January 24, 2011. Brooke Sablatura, Cale Hollas and Allyson Genzner, along with their chaparones, Mike Sablatura (c.) and Brittany Hollas (r.), traveled to Washington for the activities associated with the march. “The march was amazing,” said Allyson Genzner who is a member of the Teens for Life program at Assumption Parish. “We were able to march with tens of thousands of people, mainly youth, to let our lawmakers know that abortion is morally and spiritually wrong.” The march was the first for Assumption Parish to attend. The group shadowed parishioners from Our Lady of Victory Cathedral in Victoria. Together both parishes sent twenty-two teens and adults to participate in the March for Life events.

“ONE NEVER KNOWS WHO ONE WILL RUN INTO ON A DC METRO”—Youth from Our Lady of Victory Parish in Victoria, who attended the National March for Life in Washington, DC, ran into two Victoria Diocese seminarians, Matthew Soto and Kristopher Fuchs, following the March for Life Vigil Mass at the National Basilica of the Immaculate Conception January 23. Pictured from left is Normalinda Cantu, David Coffey, Kaitlyn Cantu, Father Michael Rother, parochial vicar at OLV; Matthew Soto, Maddy Buhler, Kristopher Fuchs and Dina Poland. Youth from Assumption Parish in Ganado also attended with the OLV group.

TEXAS RALLY FOR LIFE—Youth from the Diocese of Victoria attended Texas Rally for Life on the steps of the State Capitol in Austin on Saturday, January 22, the 38th anniversary of the infamous Roe vs. Wade case, which allowed the legalization of abortion in all U.S. states in early months of pregnancy without restrictions and throughout full pregnancy (originally) with restrictions. One hundred-seventy youth from the following parishes participated: St. Mary, Our Lady of Victory and Our Lady of Lourdes, Victoria; St. Anthony of Padua and Assumption Chapel, Palacios; St. Michael, Cuero; St. Andrew, Hillje/Louise; Our Lady of the Gulf, Port Lavaca; St. Agnes, Edna; and Queen of the Holy Rosary, Hostyn. The diocesan Office of Youth Ministry sponsored the trip.

Umbert the Unborn

YES, IT’S ME, UMBERT.

MOM AND I ARE GOING TO THE MARCH FOR LIFE IN WASHINGTON.

IT GETS PRETTY COLD IN OUR NATION’S CAPITAL, BUT NOT TO WORRY...

...A FEW HUNDRED THOUSAND PRO-LIFERS CAN REALLY HEAT THINGS UP.

by Gary Cangemi