WASHINGTON, D.C.—While auto manufacturers, secondary mortgage lenders and investment bankers are reaping billions of dollars in federal funds, there is one entity that is saving the nation billions – the network of almost 7,400 Catholic schools across the country. According to Karen Ristau, president of the National Catholic Educational Association (NCEA), Catholic schools provide $19.8 billion in savings each year for the nation. The figure is based on the average public school per pupil cost of $8,701 and the total Catholic school enrollment of more than 2.2 million students.

“Catholic schools are a gift to the church – and to the nation,” said Dr. Ristau. “The enormity of this gift is more striking during these challenging economic times.”

In addition to the monetary rewards, the nation also gains in other ways. Catholic school students excel academically on standardized tests, more than 99% graduate and 94% go on to college. Studies show that graduates of Catholic schools are reliable workers, good citizens and more likely to attend church.

“Our graduates have a strong commitment to community service because that is a foundation of our schools,” added Dr. Ristau. “In fact, this past year Catholic school students performed 2.2 million hours of public service in honor of Pope Benedict’s visit. That kind of involvement is also a gift to the country – and one that cannot be measured in dollars alone.”

Catholic school effectiveness
Research on school effectiveness in the last 10 years has continued to focus on academic outcomes of students. The outcomes include standardized test scores, graduation rates, post-secondary aspirations and college attendance. Catholic schools, while they aspire to academic success, include among their primary objectives an understanding of the Catholic faith, a commitment to the

See A multi-billion dollar gift, p. 16

22nd Candlelight March ~ Jan. 22

Life and Family Advocates is sponsoring the 22nd Candlelight March for Life, Thursday, January 22, at 7:00 p.m. Carrying candles or flashlights, participants will begin the march at Holy Family Catholic Church, 704 Mallette Dr. and end at Grace Lutheran Church at 9806 Zac Lentz Parkway. Candles will be available and transportation will be provided back to the starting place. Come and show your support for those too little to defend themselves.

Father Stan De Boe, pastor of Our Lady of Sorrows Catholic Church will be the principal speaker.

Photos clockwise from top left: The mosaic indicating the chapel is named in honor of the Incarnate Word and Blessed Sacrament Sisters – the mosaic itself was created in honor of artist Madeline F. O’Connor; stained-glass window of the Eucharist at the entrance to the chapel; the renovated chapel; interior of chapel, facing entrance and tabernacle; Bishop Fellhauer’s 10th annual Christmas party held at the SRC; youth help move furnishings into the chapel on Youth Leadership Training day, Dec. 7; window of Moses and burning bush representing the Law and dedicated to Msgr. Thomas C. McLaughlin, diocesan chancellor.

In This Issue
Milburn Kram’s Journey to the Diaconate, p. 3
What God Put Asunder Let No Man Join Together Faith Point, p. 4
Teen Events, p. 9
New Family Contest, p. 12
Hope For Our Civilization, p. 12
Holy Land Appreciation and Needs, p. 20

The renovation of the chapel at the Diocese of Victoria’s Spiritual Renewal Center has been completed and has already been put to use several times during the Christmas holidays.

According to Mike Brown, the financial officer of the diocese, the generosity of the faithful to the Capital Campaign has allowed the diocese to complete the renovation of the chapel, as well as begin the construction of the new multi-purpose building at the renewal center.

The chapel, newly named the Incarnate Word Chapel, has had both sides extended to provide more seating than the original chapel and many beautiful stained-glass windows.

See Capital Campaign, p. 7
In Memory of …

Sister Euphrosine Honc


She was born in Yoakum on April 29, 1916, and became a Sister of Divine Providence at 17 years of age. Sister Euphrosine began her ministerial life at Guardian Angel School in Wallis in 1938.

In the 63 years that followed, she taught in various schools in Oklahoma, Louisiana and Texas. During this time, she taught elementary and middle school and served as principal at many schools in Texas. Some of her most treasured memories were in creating books and writing songs for the children she loved. In 2006, Sister Euphrosine retired to Our Lady of the Lake Convent Center.

She is survived by her brother, Valentín Honc and numerous nieces and nephews. She was preceded in death by her parents and six siblings.

Mass of Christian Burial was held on Nov. 28. All services were held at Annunciation Chapel at Our Lady of the Lake Convent Center.

In lieu of flowers, you may wish to make a memorial contribution to the Sisters of Divine Providence, 515 S.W. 24th Street, San Antonio, TX 78207-4619.

Father Richard Filice

Rev. Richard Filice, 63, pastor of St. Anthony Catholic Church in Violet, Texas, passed away December 19, 2008. He was ordained in Philadelphia, Penn., in 1976 by Bishop Murphy, and at the age of 40 joined the Diocese of Corpus Christi. He has served most recently in the Diocese of Corpus Christi as pastor of St. Andrew by the Sea Catholic Church and St. Anthony Catholic Church.

He served in the Diocese of Victoria at Our Lady of Victory in Victoria and St. Rose of Lima in Schulenburg during the 1980s. Father Filice was the son of the late Charles and Shirley Filice. Surviving are his sister, Donna Jean Vitas, and brothers Randy Filice and Daryl Filice, and five nieces and nephews.

Funeral Mass was celebrated on December 22, at St. Anthony Church in Violet with Bishop Edmond Carney as celebrant and burial was at Holy Sepulchre Cemetery in Worth, Illinois.

Seminarists and religious honored

By Joann Bleier

The Serra Club of Victoria held their annual Christmas party at Holy Family Catholic Church on December 30, 2008, honoring six seminarists and Sister Louise Marie Jones, in formation at Incarnate Word Convent. Approximately 150 Serrans and guests were in attendance.

The evening began with a Mass celebrated by Bishop David E. Fellhauer and concelebrated by Msgr. Eustace Hermes, chaplain of the Victoria Club; Father Greg Korenec, pastor of Holy Family; Father Bob Knippenberg, Shiner; Father Casey Jarzembske, Bay City; Father Dan Morales, diocesan vocation director, Port Lavaca; Father John Peters, chaplain for the Northwest Serra Club, Hallettsville; Father Michael Rother, Hallettsville; and Father Don Hayden, chaplain at Incarnate Word Convent.

The seminarists provided the music, served as cantors, lectors, and Mass servers. After Mass, a short social time was followed by a covered-dish meal hosted by the Victoria Serra Club.

Serra Club of Victoria honored its charter members at the 2008 Serra Club Christmas Party at Holy Family Parish in Victoria. Otto Bleier, president of Serra Club of Victoria, presented 50-year pins to Gladys Vrazel, wife of the late Ervin Vrazel, who accepted the pin on behalf of her husband, and Dr. R. A. Stevenson. Pictured are Bishop Fellhauer, Otto Bleier, Gladys Vrazel, Dr. Stevenson, Msgr. Eustace Hermes and District Deputy Joann Bleier.

Diocese of Victoria 2008 Diocesan Services Appeal (DSA) Update as of 12-31-2008

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Activity</th>
<th>Amount</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Diocesan Goal</td>
<td>$1,282,100.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Number of Parishes Participating</td>
<td>66</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Number of Potential Donors</td>
<td>23,248</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Number of Donors Participating</td>
<td>3,796</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total Amount Pledged</td>
<td>$741,504.97</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total Amount Contributed</td>
<td>$732,196.69</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Percent of Diocesan Goal</td>
<td>57%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Percent of Diocesan Goal Contributed</td>
<td>16%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Average Gift</td>
<td>$192</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Congratulations to the 13 parishes who met or exceeded their goal; the money exceeding their goal will be returned to them. Parishes that did not reach their goal through their parishioner’s contributions will make up the difference from their parish funds. Thank you for your support of this yearly financial appeal which supports the works and activities of the diocese that directly serves you.

The business office continues to monitor all pledge activity (Capital Campaign and Diocesan Services Appeal) within the Diocese of Victoria. If you would like to pay off your pledge, restructure your payment plan or create automatic payments (through your checking account or credit card), please contact Sue Ellen Galvan at the Diocese of Victoria (361-573-0828 ext. 20).
Seminary Burses

Seminary burses are a permanent fund used for the education of future priests for the Diocese of Victoria. The goal of each burse is $15,000. The interest from this amount is applied yearly to the education of seminarians. The burses are in memory of or in honor of an individual priest or lay person who has passed or deceased. Publication of the burses will appear periodically when new contributions are received.

As of December 31, 2008

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>BURSE STATED</th>
<th>TOTALS</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>General Burse</td>
<td>$9,234.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Previously reported</td>
<td>$5,478.72</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>In honor of Sylvia Duskey by Rita and Franklin Addicks</td>
<td>$20.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>In memory of Gene Vacek by Annette &amp; Richard Coever</td>
<td>$580.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Catholic Daughters of America Our Lady Queen of Peace Council #1374</td>
<td>$6,308.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Previously reported</td>
<td>$5,478.72</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>In honor of Goddaughter Kimberly Whiter by Tommi &amp; Carol Turner</td>
<td>$20.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>In honor of Godson Kody Whiter by Tommi &amp; Carol Turner</td>
<td>$20.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>In honor of Godson Troy Rhy by Carol Turner</td>
<td>$20.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>In honor of Godson Troy Rhy by Tommi &amp; Carol Turner</td>
<td>$20.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>In honor of Scott Kulkcy by Tommi Turner</td>
<td>$20.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>In honor of Will Ortiz by Tommi Turner</td>
<td>$20.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>In honor of Lithia Rhy by Carol Turner</td>
<td>$20.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>In honor of Jeremy Frey by Justin Turner</td>
<td>$20.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total</td>
<td>$5,698.62</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Catholic Daughters Court of St. Ann #369 Southeast No. 2</td>
<td>$6,283.99</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Previously reported</td>
<td>$4,074.36</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>In memory of Vlasta Kovar by Bernard &amp; Madeline Rother</td>
<td>$25.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Rev. Sean Donohue Seminary Burse #2</td>
<td>$6,099.36</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Previously reported</td>
<td>$4,074.36</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Knights of Columbus Victoria Council #3129 Burse #3</td>
<td>$8,107.50</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Previously reported</td>
<td>$520.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>In memory of M/M Frank A. Styk and St. Robert Lev by Dan Stryk</td>
<td>$100.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>In memory of Joe R. Svatek by Tom &amp; Carol Turner</td>
<td>$25.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>In memory of M/M Frank A. Stryk and St. Robert Lev by Dan Stryk</td>
<td>$100.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>In memory of M/M V. T. Richter</td>
<td>$25.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>In memory of M/M V. T. Richter</td>
<td>$25.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>M/M Robert B. Kallus</td>
<td>$60.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>M/M Robert B. Kallus</td>
<td>$60.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>M/M M. F. Muras</td>
<td>$50.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>M/M Harold Pietras</td>
<td>$15.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>M/M V. T. Richter</td>
<td>$25.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>M/M Clarence Faldyn</td>
<td>$30.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>M/M Lad V. Muras</td>
<td>$15.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Rev. Joseph J. Stryk Burse</td>
<td>$3,478.72</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Previously reported</td>
<td>$6,298.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>In honor of Fr. John Peters’ 60th birthday by Gene &amp; Irene Cierny</td>
<td>$1,000.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Best wishes for a joyous Christmas season and blessed new year from Angela Hermens</td>
<td>$25.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>In memory of M/M Ralph J. Goerig</td>
<td>$25.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>In memory of Timothy Kostelnik by KJZT Society No. 2</td>
<td>$10.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total</td>
<td>$3,879.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Rev. John C. Peters Seminary Burse #4</td>
<td>$6,293.99</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Previously reported</td>
<td>$6,293.99</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>In honor of M/M Frank O. Fox</td>
<td>$580.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Donation from KC Holy Family</td>
<td>$200.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total</td>
<td>$720.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Rev. John C. Peters Seminary Burse #4</td>
<td>$6,293.99</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Previously reported</td>
<td>$6,293.99</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>In memory of M/M V. T. Richter</td>
<td>$25.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>In memory of M/M Robert B. Kallus</td>
<td>$60.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>M/M M. F. Muras</td>
<td>$50.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>M/M Harold Pietras</td>
<td>$15.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>M/M V. T. Richter</td>
<td>$25.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>M/M Clarence Faldyn</td>
<td>$30.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>M/M Lad V. Muras</td>
<td>$15.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Rev. Joseph A. Kooch Seminary Burse</td>
<td>$6,298.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Previously reported</td>
<td>$6,298.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Donation to burse by Ervin &amp; Catherine Bucba</td>
<td>$580.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total</td>
<td>$6,878.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Rev. Msgr. Stanley Petru Burse</td>
<td>$6,298.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Previously reported</td>
<td>$6,298.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>To honor Mgr. Stanley Petru by:</td>
<td>$3,478.72</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>M/M Robert B. Kallus</td>
<td>$60.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>M/M Robert B. Kallus</td>
<td>$60.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>M/M M. F. Muras</td>
<td>$50.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>M/M Harold Pietras</td>
<td>$15.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>M/M V. T. Richter</td>
<td>$25.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>M/M Clarence Faldyn</td>
<td>$30.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>KTJ No. 3</td>
<td>$100.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total</td>
<td>$580.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Willing those to begin a burse or to contribute to an existing seminary burse may do so by sending their contributions with the appropriate burse designation:</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**SEMINARY BURESSES**

**DIOCESE OF VICTORIA**

P. O. BOX 4070

VICTORIA, TX 77903

---

**A rancher’s journey to the diaconate**

Milburn Kram, and his wife, Marian, are parishioners of St. Joseph Parish in Moulton. They have three adult sons and two grandchildren. He has the youngest son have been self-employed ranchers for the past 24 years. Milburn will be ordained to the permanent diaconate in 2009. He was inter-

**Milburn and Marian Kram**

viewed by The Catholic Lighthouse in December 2008.

When did you first think about becoming a deacon for the church, and how did you go about looking further into the possibility?

Only God knows the plan of life for each of us. I have been very involved in several ministries of the church since 1972 when I returned to the rural area of Moulton from which my family came. My first serious thoughts of entering the diaconate were about five and one-half years ago when Father Gabriel, my pastor and the diocesan director, spoke to me regarding the diaconate. He explained the requirements of entering the program, the recommendation required, and a letter stating my interest in the program.

When did your journey begin?

Our Catholic faith is filled with beauti-

ful ritual and prayer, which touch people’s hearts to great depth. Over the years, being involved in the ministries of lector, extraordinary minister of Communion and the Eucharist at Mass and with the homebound, and performing vigil services and rosaries for the deceased have made it very clear to me as to how well the guidance of the church serves humankind. One of the most rewarding ministries for me has been performing the Communion Service outside of Mass for our local nursing home. As I look back, it seems that the Holy Spirit was moving me step by step to this point without my knowledge of it, also creating in me a desire for a deeper knowledge of my faith and service to God. The question that always seemed to lurk in my mind was: Would I be worthy of this position in our Church? I have come to realize that the answer is to be left to God’s judgment and that I need only to have faith in Jesus, his son, and follow his ways to the best of my ability in my day to day ordinary life.

How has Father Gabriel Maison helped you?

Father Gabriel is the type of person who believes that if something is worth doing, you do it to the best of your ability. He has helped me in numerous ways through the guidance of the Church and the Holy Spirit. Through my studies and spiritual formation, I have come to under-

stand that this is just the beginning of the learning process that is before me. One of the duties of the deacon is to proclaim the Gospel. At ordination, the bishop hands the candidates the Book of Gospels and says: “Receive the Gospel of Christ, whose heralds we now are, and thus teach the people that you read, teach what you believe, and practice what you teach.” With the help of the Holy Spirit, I pray that I may fulfill this duty.

What advice would you give to someone thinking about the diaconate?

The talents we use in our occupation and life are many. They are God’s gift to us, and sometimes we fail to recognize their presence for many years, or God brings about a situation or time in our life that will bring these talents out. I would encourage anyone with an interest to write to the Church to contact his pastor, or the diocesan director for information regarding the program. This may be one of the
Desires are irrelevant in making laws. We enact all kinds of law that conflict with some people’s desires, e.g., against rape, stealing, etc. The desires of some are precisely why laws are necessary. Behaviors and not desires are what matter in making laws. Homosexuals are not in the law to promote their behavior. If they can get the government to call their deviation “marriage” they can force approval of it on others. Heterosexuality and homosexual- ity are both marriage, then they are equally ac- ceptable. They can also use the law as a club to beat homosexual values into our school children, businesses, charities, practice of medicine, and even our religious pronouncements. The debate on same-sex marriage has nothing to do with civil rights, hatred, or bigotry but whether it would be good or bad for the country. The media are allies in the gay pro- paganda campaign. Recently Newsweek magazine published a cover story, “The Religious Case for Gay Marriage,” in which it is completely inexplicable that the Bible is not a good guide to marriage. Newsweek says the Bible has many forms of marriage. True, but marriage is procreative and unambiguously heterosexual. The writer, Lisa Miller, says that the Bible does not explicitly define marriage as between one man and one woman. Perhaps she should read Genesis 2:24-25 and Matthew 19:1- 8 which make no sense unless marriage between one man and one woman is nor- mative. Miller quotes the Anchor Bible as maintaining that nowhere in the Bible is there a reference to sex between women. How about Romans 1:26-27? For someone to comment on the Bible should not read- ing it be a minimum requirement? Gay activists ask, “How can legalizing homosexual marriage do any harm? Let’s see the Bible says. It is fifty times greater than in heterosexual marriage. Redefining marriage to accommodate homosexuals would mean that sex has no meaning beyond pleasure. If marriage is stripped of its openness to children there will be more illegitimate births with their attendant social pathol- ogy.

Healthy households are found mainly where children live with their biological parents in a low-conflict marriage, not in gay households. Domestic violence among heterosexual marriage is rampant. Ho- mosexuals have double and triple the rate of drug abuse, alcoholism, and depression of heterosexuals. Gays are fourteen times more likely to commit suicide. The risk of sexual abuse in homosexual households is fifty times greater than in heterosexual households. Homosexuals maintain that they were “born that way” and therefore God wants them to be gay. No genetic component for homosexuality has been found and some gays have changed. But even if persons are “born that way” it should have no impact on marriage laws. Everyone is born a unique person. Whether a homosexual follows their desires rather than their gender which is stamped into their being at the DNA level?

The movement to legalize gay mar- riage is an attempt to put a cosmetic face on an abnormal and destructive lifestyle. Homosexual acts are sterile and make no sense to nature and are therefore rightly called unnatural. Gay marriage should be banned not only because of a health disaster that often leads to disease and death. It is more dangerous than a lifetime of chain smoking. Life expectancy at age 20 years for gay and bisexual men is eight to 20 years less than for all men. It is more a “deathstyle” than a “lifestyle.” Although self-identified homosexuals are less than one percent of the population they are carriers of over 50 percent of HIV/ AIDS. It is insane to argue that homo- sexuality is a healthy alternative sexual orientation. Gays have astronomically higher rates of STDs than the rest of the population. The Hepatitis B virus is about five to six times more prevalent among gays and Hepatitis C is twice as common. Gays who may be only two percent of the population account for 64 percent of all syphilis cases. Perhaps homophobia should be redefined to mean the very rational fear that homosexuality will be a hate crime.

The taxpayer burden for medical care of homosexuals runs into the billions of dollars. A typical homosexual male in San Francisco County costs about $60,000 annually in public funds. Not only do gays want us to accept their depraved lifestyle, they also want us to pay for the completely avoidable diseases that they contract. The US spends millions of dollars to dissuade people from smoking and yet spends billions promoting and subsidiz- ing homosexuality, which is far more dangerous. Secularists never allow reality to intrude on their ideology.

Agitating and celebrating homo- sexuality is nothing short of educa- tional and governmental malpractice. It is not an act of tolerance to promote homosexuality by giving it marital status. It is love to dissolve ho- mosexuals from their destructive behavior.

What God Has Put Asunder
Let No Man Join Together

C alifornia has recently passed a constitutional amendment banning gay marriages. Gay activists who lost the election, in an outbreak of the tolerance they cry for, went ballistic. An event that is a metaphor for the nastiness of gay reaction involved an old lady peacefully demonstrating while carrying a large Sty- rofoam cross. Gays ripped the cross from her hands and stomped it into tiny pieces. Gays have made threats against the Mormon church with signs calling Mormons “hate- ful” and “big- oted” although many Christian, Jewish, and pre- sumably Muslim groups supported the ban. By luck many blacks who voted 96% for Barack Obama for President also voted 70% in favor of the ban. It is likely that these votes were decisive for the outcome. Oddly, little gay venon has been directed against them.

Gays are eaging a effective pro- paganda war trying to show same-sex marriage is a civil right. They eate the ban as a veiled ban on intercal mar- riage. The analogy trivializes the black struggle against real discrimination. “Don’t compare the two. This is not the same as the African-American munta.” Race is irrelevant to marriage whereas gender is essential to it. Our laws should be color blind but not gender blind.

Lisa Miller, says that the Bible does not unequivocally heterosexual. The writer, Kenneth J. French, Sr., 1501 E Mockingbird, Suite 102, Victoria, TX 77901 PH 361/576-0178 www.edwardjones.com St. Mary’s Adoration Chapel in Victoria is always in need of sub- stitutes. There is an opening for Thursdays from 9:00-10:00 a.m. and 4:00-5:30 p.m. If you are a person willing to be an adorar or to fill in when an adorar needs a substitute, please call Cleo Boldt at 573-4616 or St. Mary’s Rec- oming on 573-4328.
A knight of Texas history

By Madeline Lewis - The Victoria Advocate / mlewis@vicad.com

GOLIAD — For many years, Newton Warzecha wasn’t that interested in Texas history. “When I was a child studying it, I did like so many others do and I didn’t study it enough,” he said.

This changed about 17 years ago when Mr. Warzecha agreed to take over as director of the national historic landmark, the Presidio La Bahía.

“Now, he is an avid history buff who received the knighthood of the Knights of the Order of San Jacinto on December 6, 2008. This is the highest honor bestowed by the Sons of the Republic of Texas. (Inset) Newly Knighted Newton Warzecha stands with Bishop David E. Feltzaufer.

“One of the reasons that we made him an honorary member is all the work he has done preserving history at the Presidio,” said Scott Dunbar, an order member. Dunbar nominated Mr. Warzecha at the December meeting of the Sons of the Republic of Texas. Three-fourths of the membership must vote to knight a fellow member. In April, members voted unanimously in his favor.

Fewer than 230 men have been knighted in the order during its more than 160 years of existence, Dunbar said. Sam Houston founded it when Texas was still an independent republic.

“At the time, Texas had nothing,” Dunbar said. “We were trying something new. When Mr. Warzecha heard about the Sons of the Republic’s decision, he felt honored.

“It is recognition for the work that I have done in preserving and keeping the history of Texas,” he said. A Cuero native, Mr. Warzecha spent much of his professional life as a financial advisor in Corpus Christi. In 1988, he returned to the Crossroads area to work as a general manager at KAVU-TV in Victoria, but left this position a few years later when the television station was sold.

“Then I had time,” he said. He volunteered to help the Catholic Diocese in Victoria come up with a plan to run the Presidio affordably. In May 1991, the diocese asked him to accept the directorship of the historic site until it found a permanent replacement.

“In 17 years, they haven’t found someone else - so I’m stuck here,” he said, laughing.

Warzecha worked on making the Presidio self-supporting and adding to and improving its programs.

When he took the job, 800 people attended the annual Goliad Massacre Fort Defiance Living History Weekend in March. Now, about 5,000 go to the event, which generates as much as 12 percent of the Presidio’s yearly operating income. There are several goals Mr. Warzecha plans to accomplish before he leaves the Presidio. He wants to publish a detailed report of the site’s archeology and artifact collection in time for the Living History Weekend. This collection contains about 16,000 items that go as far back as 1749, when the Presidio was first established.

Later on, he plans to digitize objects, so that Internet browsers can view them on the Web, and redesign the museum at the Presidio. Both efforts will require a lot of fundraising.

“We’re looking at something under a million dollars,” he said.

To assist in this effort, the Presidio La Bahía Foundation was created more than a year ago. Mr. Warzecha is president of this organization.

His knighting ceremony took place on Saturday, December 6, 2008, in Our Lady of Loreto Chapel at the Presidio. It coincided with the Presidio La Bahía Award ceremony, an annual event during which the Sons of the Republic recognize two works about Texas history.

Mr. Warzecha won the award in 2001 for his 54-minute video, “Presidio La Bahía and Its Place in the History of Texas.”

“We all need to understand what happens when a dictator runs amok,” he said.

This year, both prize-winning entries were also about Goliad - Dr. Malcolm McLean’s translation of the minutes of the town council meetings of La Bahía and Goliad between 1821 and 1835, “Voices from the Goliad Frontier,” and Jay Stout’s history, “Slaughter at Goliad.”

OLV Junior Scouts earn highest award

At an awards ceremony December 13, 2008, each member of the 2007-2008 Our Lady of Victory Girl Scout Troop 9557 from Victoria received the Junior Girl Scouts highest award, the Girl Scout Bronze Award.

The Girl Scout Bronze Award was introduced in the year 2000 in an effort to challenge girls to fully live out the Girl Scout Promise and Law. The Bronze Award recognizes a girl’s commitment to excellence as she develops new skills in leadership and service. It is a note-worthy accomplishment that the entire Our Lady of Victory troop completed the requirements to earn this award. The girls performed a combined total of over 150 service hours in order to earn this award.

The troop began planning for this award in February of 2008. To earn the award, each girl had to complete two Girl Scout badges related to their chosen project, spend many hours developing their leadership skills, and earn a Girl Scout sign based on the goals of Girl Scouting.

OLV Junior Scouts earn highest award

At an awards ceremony December 13, 2008, each member of the 2007-2008 Our Lady of Victory Girl Scout Troop 9557 from Victoria received the Junior Girl Scouts highest award, the Girl Scout Bronze Award.

The Girl Scout Bronze Award was introduced in the year 2000 in an effort to challenge girls to fully live out the Girl Scout Promise and Law. The Bronze Award recognizes a girl’s commitment to excellence as she develops new skills in leadership and service. It is a note-worthy accomplishment that the entire Our Lady of Victory troop completed the requirements to earn this award. The girls performed a combined total of over 150 service hours in order to earn this award.

The troop began planning for this award in February of 2008. To earn the award, each girl had to complete two Girl Scout badges related to their chosen project, spend many hours developing their leadership skills, and earn a Girl Scout sign based on the goals of Girl Scouting.

Each member of the 2007-2008 Our Lady of Victory Girl Scout Troop 9557 from Victoria received the Junior Girl Scouts highest award, the Girl Scout Bronze Award, December 13. The junior scouts are, left to right, back row: Isabella Apapriaco, Emma Andruass, Haley van Soolten, Iris Young, Danielle Malik, Olivia Creager, Emily Olemski; kneeling in front: Natalie Brown, Faith Barton and Sarah Andruass.

The final requirement for the award was to design and carry out a community service project demonstrating a Girl Scout’s promise to help others, improve the community, and to do her best.

For their project, the girls planned, designed, and hosted a sports and drama field day on September 6 for younger Girl Scouts. The field day included activities, such as obstacle courses, relay races, karaoke, face painting, and charades. A special highlight of the event was a demonstration on how to apply clown make up.

Our Lady of Victory Troop 9557 members receiving the Girl Scout Bronze Award included the following young ladies: Our Lady of Victory students Natalie Brown, Olivia Creager, Danielle Malik, Emily Olemski, Haley van Soolten, Iris Young; and Immaculate Heart Home School Students: Emma Andruass, Sarah Andruass, Isabella Apapriaco, and Faith Barton.

About The Sons of the Republic of Texas

The Sons of the Republic of Texas is a perpetually chartered Texas non-profit corporation with more than 4,000 members in 58 chartered chapters in Texas. One chapter is in Santa Fe, N.M.

The first Sons of the Republic of Texas was formed on April 21, 1893, at Rich- mond by several sons and grandsons of veterans of the Texas Revolution. Their main purpose was to accompany the Texas Veterans Association members to their annual reunions.

The Texas Veterans Association ceased to exist when its last member, Alphonso Steele, died in 1911. With the demise of the Texas Veterans Association, the Sons of the Republic of Texas slowly became inactive.

On March 2, 1922, the group was reorganized. Its revitalization was due in a large part by the realization that Texas heritage would not be remembered without constant reminders to the community.

Membership requirements for the group were broadened to include any male being a direct descendant of a resident of the Republic of Texas.

Some of the group’s accomplishments include:

1936, instrumental in the design and construction of the San Jacinto Monument and museum.

1957, influenced the Texas legislature to fund the construction of the Texas State Library and Archive Building.

2003, worked with other historical organizations and legislature to designate March as Texas History Month.

2005, led the movement for the Texas Legislature to designate the third Saturday in September as Texian Navy Day.

Source: Sons of the Republic of Texas (http://www.srttexas.org)
February 17 — March 31

This Lent, walk in the footsteps of Jesus as you study, reflect upon, and discuss the Synoptic Gospels: Mark, Matthew, and Luke.

Sister Digna Vela, IWBS, will introduce the New Testament and explore how the Gospels came to be written and what the Scriptures have to say for our lives today.

Classes will be offered at the chancery in Victoria and at Holy Rosary in Hostyn by means of distant learning on Tuesdays from 1:30-4:30 p.m. and from 7:00 p.m. to 9:15 p.m. Registration is $15.00. Bibles are available for $35.00. For more information call 361-573-0828 or visit www.victoriadiocese.org.

SAN ANTONIO — The Office of Marriage and Family Life and Natural Family Planning of the Archdiocese of San Antonio will be hosting a four-day Master Teacher Institute Training February 5 — 8, 2009.

Mercedes Arzú Wilson, founder of the Family of the Americas Foundation and one of the most experienced instructors, nationally and internationally, in the field of Natural Family Planning will be conducting the training in both Spanish and English. This training is for women and couples committed to becoming Master Teachers at the parish, deanery or diocesan level.

The Ovation Method of Natural Family Planning is not the old “rhythm method” or the temperature method. It is based on the sixth sense of natural signs of fertility that appear for a few days during the woman’s cycle. God placed these signs in the woman’s body to enable her and her husband to knowingly choose to bring new life into the world or to postpone pregnancy while respecting God’s Natural Law and Divine Law.

The Ovation Method of Natural Family Planning is practiced in over 100 countries because it is:
- Completely natural
- Easy to learn and follow
- 98-99% effective in postponing a pregnancy
- Effective for women with regular or irregular cycles
- Helpful for couples struggling with infertility to conceive
- Strengthening marriages
- Ideal in helping women discontinue the use of contraception
- Teaching women to know and recognize their short period of fertility – approx. 100 hours in each cycle
- Giving knowledge and understanding to married couples about the wisdom of the teachings of the Catholic Church

This form of family planning is the only positive form especially now that artificial methods of birth control, sterilization and abortion have demonstrated how harmful – physically, morally and spiritually – they have been to women, marriages and family life.

To register please contact the Office of Marriage and Family Life at (210) 734-2620 or go to www.arch-sanantonio.org/familylife/ and click on Natural Family Planning.

“...the work of educating in the service of life involves the training of married couples in responsible procreation. In its true meaning, responsible procreation requires couples to be obedient to the Lord’s call to ‘act as faithful interpreters of His plan.’”

Evangelium Vitae (The Gospel of Life) Pope John Paul II 1995

**A rancher’s journey to the diaconate (Continued from p.3)**

I am a self-employed rancher in part-time ministry. What is your profession/job? How many years have you been in this profession/job?

I am a self-employed rancher in part-time ministry. What is your profession/job? How many years have you been in this profession/job?

I am a self-employed rancher in part-time ministry. What is your profession/job? How many years have you been in this profession/job?

I am a self-employed rancher in part-time ministry. What is your profession/job? How many years have you been in this profession/job?

I am a self-employed rancher in part-time ministry. What is your profession/job? How many years have you been in this profession/job?

I am a self-employed rancher in part-time ministry. What is your profession/job? How many years have you been in this profession/job?

I am a self-employed rancher in part-time ministry. What is your profession/job? How many years have you been in this profession/job?

I am a self-employed rancher in part-time ministry. What is your profession/job? How many years have you been in this profession/job?

I am a self-employed rancher in part-time ministry. What is your profession/job? How many years have you been in this profession/job?
Diocese of Victoria
Reflection of Faith Capital Campaign Update as of 12-31-2008

Thank you for your ongoing support of the Diocese of Victoria Capital Campaign. Your generosity has allowed the Diocese of Victoria to complete the renovation of the Chapel at the Spiritual Renewal Center as well as begin the new construction of the multi-purpose building. To attest to your generosity, you have supported the Priest Retirement Fund, Religious Education, and the Catholic Education Endowment Fund.

As of December 31, 2007:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Parish Name</th>
<th>Parish Goal</th>
<th>Contributions Rebate</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>St. John the Baptist - Ammanville</td>
<td>$19,947.00</td>
<td>$2,029.71</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Holy Cross - Buy City</td>
<td>$25,936.75</td>
<td>$2,721.45</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Our Lady of Guadalupe - Buy City</td>
<td>$14,438.00</td>
<td>$1,588.22</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>St. Peter - Blessing</td>
<td>$56,384.00</td>
<td>$6,201.60</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>St. Joseph - Mathis</td>
<td>$48,652.00</td>
<td>$5,341.20</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>St. Anthony - Columbus</td>
<td>$27,050.00</td>
<td>$2,942.39</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Our Lady of Guadalupe - Cuero</td>
<td>$85,208.00</td>
<td>$9,051.22</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>St. Michael - Cuero</td>
<td>$21,802.00</td>
<td>$2,292.70</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sts. Cyril and Methodius - Dalhart</td>
<td>$20,060.00</td>
<td>$2,106.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Parish of Christ the King - El Llano</td>
<td>$16,670.00</td>
<td>$1,782.87</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Holy Cross - East Bernard</td>
<td>$35,049.00</td>
<td>$3,715.23</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>St. Agnes - Eula</td>
<td>$22,935.00</td>
<td>$2,435.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>St. John Nepomucene - New Ulm</td>
<td>$77,073.00</td>
<td>$8,153.84</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>St. Philip the Apostle - El Campo</td>
<td>$93,919.00</td>
<td>$9,627.71</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>St. Robert Bellarmine - El Campo</td>
<td>$14,640.00</td>
<td>$1,560.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sacred Heart - Falfurrias</td>
<td>$95,047.00</td>
<td>$10,099.94</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sts. Cyril and Methodius - Cistern</td>
<td>$33,930.00</td>
<td>$3,526.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sts. Peter and Paul - Frelighsburg</td>
<td>$15,107.00</td>
<td>$1,620.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Assumption of the BVM - Ganado</td>
<td>$135,226.00</td>
<td>$14,018.19</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Immaculate Conception - Gonzales</td>
<td>$38,300.00</td>
<td>$3,970.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>St. Mary - Maryville</td>
<td>$28,698.00</td>
<td>$3,007.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sacred Heart - Weimar</td>
<td>$29,802.00</td>
<td>$3,108.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>St. John the Baptist - St. John</td>
<td>$21,607.00</td>
<td>$2,227.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Nativity of St. Mary - High Hill</td>
<td>$28,990.00</td>
<td>$3,009.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>St Ann Mission - Hoehn</td>
<td>$17,320.00</td>
<td>$1,853.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>St. John the Baptist - Hungerford</td>
<td>$23,722.00</td>
<td>$2,504.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>St Joseph - Inez</td>
<td>$63,047.00</td>
<td>$6,746.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>St John the Baptist - Kermit</td>
<td>$39,751.00</td>
<td>$4,241.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Queen of the Holy Rosary - Hallettsville</td>
<td>$131,040.00</td>
<td>$13,284.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>St Wenceslaus - Holman</td>
<td>$13,440.00</td>
<td>$1,459.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>St. Thomas - Leona</td>
<td>$22,344.00</td>
<td>$2,356.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Robert - Matank</td>
<td>$21,793.00</td>
<td>$2,283.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>St. Roch - Mante</td>
<td>$10,438.00</td>
<td>$1,104.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sts. Peter and Paul - Meyersville</td>
<td>$62,870.00</td>
<td>$6,694.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ascension of our Lord - Mertzon</td>
<td>$27,666.00</td>
<td>$2,942.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>St Joseph - Mathis</td>
<td>$163,811.00</td>
<td>$17,022.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Nativity of the BVM (St. Mary) - Nada</td>
<td>$84,854.00</td>
<td>$8,665.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>St. Anthony of Padua - Palacios</td>
<td>$54,742.00</td>
<td>$5,775.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>St. Peter and Paul - Pearsall</td>
<td>$35,775.00</td>
<td>$3,775.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>St. Ann - Point Comfort</td>
<td>$16,262.00</td>
<td>$1,715.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>St Joseph - Port O'Connor</td>
<td>$22,821.00</td>
<td>$2,335.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Rose of Lima - Schulenburg</td>
<td>$247,310.00</td>
<td>$26,454.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>St. Patrick - Seadrift</td>
<td>$13,716.00</td>
<td>$1,371.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sts. Cyril and Methodius - Shiner</td>
<td>$84,431.00</td>
<td>$8,651.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Queen of Peace - Sinton</td>
<td>$66,048.00</td>
<td>$6,870.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>St John Bosco - Vanderbilt</td>
<td>$64,408.00</td>
<td>$6,694.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Holy Family - Victoria</td>
<td>$75,186.00</td>
<td>$7,694.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Our Lady of Guadalupe - Victoria</td>
<td>$153,722.00</td>
<td>$13,101.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Our Lady of Our Lady of Guadalupe - Victoria</td>
<td>$163,782.00</td>
<td>$14,372.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Our Lady of Guadalupe - Victoria</td>
<td>$157,077.00</td>
<td>$14,372.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Our Lady of Guadalupe - Victoria</td>
<td>$69,977.00</td>
<td>$6,694.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>St. Mary - Victoria</td>
<td>$270,960.00</td>
<td>$26,452.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sacred Heart - Waterloo</td>
<td>$56,160.00</td>
<td>$5,794.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>St. Michael - Victoria</td>
<td>$17,730.00</td>
<td>$1,853.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sacred Heart - Wharton</td>
<td>$40,660.00</td>
<td>$4,251.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sts. Simon and Jude - Wharton</td>
<td>$33,924.00</td>
<td>$3,551.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>St. Joseph - Yoakum</td>
<td>$132,486.00</td>
<td>$13,942.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>St John Nepomucene - Schulenburg</td>
<td>$24,051.00</td>
<td>$2,604.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>St. Ann Mission - Victoria</td>
<td>$27,360.00</td>
<td>$2,942.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Attendance Total</td>
<td>$8,879,361.00</td>
<td>$937,222.00</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

The standard testing program for the entire church, as well as junior high academic high meets.

Our Lady of Guadalupe - Victoria

Sixth Sacred Heart teacher awarded Teacher of the Year

By Jimmy Appelt

Hallettsville—Sacred Heart teacher Doris Fenner was recently selected as the 2008 Wal-Mart Teacher of the Year from Lavaca County. Mrs. Fenner has been teaching junior high math at SHCS in Hallettsville for 27 years and marks the sixth Sacred Heart teacher to receive this honor.

The award was presented by the Hallettsville Wal-Mart to mark a Lavaca County public or private school teacher each year and has been the store’s practice for over 15 years. Mrs. Fenner, who was nominated by fellow teachers, as well as students and parents, handles a number of responsibilities at the school.

Besides teaching math to 5th-grade students and serving as the 5th grade homeroom teacher, she also coordinates the Catholic Education Fund.

The winter meeting of the Province of Galveston-Houston National Council of Catholic Women (NCCW) will be held Saturday, February 7, at the Holy Family Catholic Church Annex in Victoria. The theme for the event will be Faith, Women of Action. Registration will begin at 8:30 a.m.

Father David Berger will be the keynote speaker for the event. Father James Stembler, province moderator; Father Michael Peters, Victoria Diocesan moderator; and Eunice Washa, National Region II vice president, will be special guests in attendance.

There will be a silent auction to raise funds for the province. Archdiocesan presidents will give reports about events held in parishes that address the commissions of the Council of Catholic Women.

Answers to the Quiz on page 12: 1-1, 2-3, 4-5, 6-7, 8-9, 10-11, 12-13, 14-15, 16-17, 18-19, 20-20.

The event will end at 4:30 p.m. with the celebration of the Holy Sacrifce of the Mass by Most Reverend David Fellhauer, Charlotte Boudreaux, provincial director Galveston-Houston, invites all women of the Diocese of Victoria to attend.

Registration/fee will be $25. Please send your check to Treasurer Kathy Strader, P.O. Box 1391, LaPorte, TX 77572 by January 30. For more information about this event, please contact Janice Ohrt, Victoria Diocese CCW president at 775/72. The National Council of Catholic Women consists of more than 5,000 affiliated Catholic women’s organizations in parishes and dioceses throughout the U.S., representing hundreds of thousands of Catholic women. NCCW acts through membership to support, empower, and educate all Catholic women in spirituality, leadership and service. NCCW programs respond with Gospel values to the needs of the Church and society in the modern world.

DIOCESE OF VICTORIA

Our Lady of Victory School National Blue Ribbon School of Excellence 2008

Open House for Pre-K through 8th Monday, January 26, at 6:30 p.m. School Cafeteria - 1311 E. Mesquite Lane Prospective families have an opportunity to learn what OLV has to offer. For more information, call the school office at 575-5391.

The Catholic Lighthouse Page 7 — January 2009

Don’t hesitate to contact Sue Ellen Galvan at the Diocese of Victoria or the Catholic Education Endowment Fund. For more information, call the school office at 575-5391.
A New Year Brings New Hopes and New Challenges

By Sister Mildred Truchard, IWBS

The Catholic Lighthouse (361) 580-2794

Hopes and New Challenges

By Cynthia Brewer

NEW YORK, NY—The Christophers are announcing their Twenty-Second Annual Video Contest for College Students, a competition that challenges students to interpret the theme, “One Person Can Make a Difference,” in a short film of five minutes or less. Cash prizes totaling $6,000 will be awarded, including a first prize of $3,000.

Past winning films have included narratives, documentaries, animation and even music videos. Entrants represent diverse fields of study and national origins. This is a wonderful opportunity for students to use their creativity to show how individuals can positively influence the world around them,” said Mary Ellen Robinson, vice-president of The Christophers, in announcing the competition.

The contest is open to all students currently enrolled in undergraduate or graduate programs at colleges or universities worldwide. Entries will be judged on overall impact, effectiveness in conveying the theme, artistic merit and technical proficiency. The deadline for entries is June 8, 2009. Winners will be announced in September 2009. Videos become the property of The Christophers and will not be returned.

Official entry forms are available by writing to: College Video Contest, The Christophers, 5 Hanover Square, New York, NY 10004; by calling the Youth Department at 212-759-4008; or online at www.christophers.org/videocontest

The Christophers, a non-profit organization founded in 1945 by Father James Keller, uses print and electronic media to encourage all individuals to use their God-given talents to make a positive difference in the world. The Christopher motto is: “It’s better to light one candle than to curse the darkness.”

Catholic Schools
Week Jan. 25-31

The Christophers invite college students to enter video contest

Friend of Father Say to assist in translation of new Spanish language Bible

By Cynthia Brewer

When I went to Mass at Our Lady of Lourdes in Victoria last month, I met such a fascinating person.

Msgr. Juan A. Alfaro, a longtime friend of Father Celestino Say, came to Victoria for a visit and to say the daily Mass for Father Say who said Mass at Nazareth Academy. Msgr. Alfaro also hoped to find a peaceful place to catch up on some work.

Msgr. Alfaro and Father Say attended the same seminary in Manila, the Philippines, although Msgr. Alfaro was a native of Spain and was 10 years behind Father Say in age. They met again in San Antonio in 1973 after having left the Philippines, which was under martial law. They became U.S. citizens on the same day in 1980.

Besides having such a diverse background as having been born in Spain, attending seminary in the Philippines and now serving as pastor at St. Rose of Lima in the Archdiocese of San Antonio, Msgr. Alfaro has spent the past three years assisting the Church in making a new Spanish translation of the Bible, La Biblia de la Iglesia en America.

The central committee on translation is this task is made up of eight theologians from various American countries and is presided over by Bishop Santiago Silva, Auxiliary Bishop of Valparaiso, Chile. Both the United States Conference of Catholic Bishops (USCCB) and the Conferencia Episcopal Latino Americana (CELAM) sponsor the project.

Msgr. Alfaro said that the 10-year project expects to create a new Spanish translation of the Bible that will become official for all Spanish-speaking peoples, from Canada to Argentina, and that eventually this translation will be adapted for liturgical use. They expect the four Gospels to be published by the end of 2009. The rest of the Bible will take six more years and should be completed in 2015, he said.

The central committee has chosen 32 translators from different countries in Latin America. Msgr. Alfaro is the representative for the United States and Canada. All the translators are graduates from the Pontifical Biblical Institute.

The new translation will be approved by the two conferences, USCCB and CELAM; and when they adopt it for the Liturgy, it will have to be approved by Rome.

“A special challenge,” Msgr. Alfaro said, “is to reach out to the different Spanish-speaking blocks in Latin America, which often use different verbal forms and vocabulary.”

The four linguistic regions are the United States and Canada; Central America, Mexico and the Caribbean; the Bolivarian countries (Columbia, Venezuela, Ecuador, Peru and Bolivia); and the southern cone of Latin America (Argentina, Chile, Paraguay and Uruguay).

In some areas long words, with three and four syllables, are objectionable. In different regions, some words have different meanings and the committee will have to agree to use another word that will make sense to all the Spanish-speaking people.

“We make the translation directly from original text—from Greek and Hebrew and a few chapters of Aramaic,” he said.

The translators have to decide what the original author meant. “We have to go to the root of the word,” he said, “and we argue a lot about what is the most accurate way of interpreting the original language.”

All of the translators are well versed in several languages. He said his entrance exam into Pontifical Biblical Institute was in English, French, German, Greek and Hebrew; but the classes were in Latin, so he needed to know Latin; and since he had studied in Rome, he also spoke Italian; and because he is from Spain, he also speaks Spanish and Catalan.

“Then we had to study Aramaic, and another oriental language. I chose Arabic because in Spanish we have a lot of Arabic roots and words,” he said.

“The translator is the first interpreter of the Bible,” Msgr. Alfaro said.

“That is why some Protestant translations are considered inaccurate, because the translators pushed for the doctrines of their church.”

Msgr. Alfaro is the verse in John 2:4, Jesus’ response to Mary telling him that the wedding couple was out of wine, as an example. In Greek, the literal interpretation is “What is that to you and to me?”

However, some translations interpret it to say: “Your thoughts are not my thoughts,” or the American Bible Society Contemporary English Version interprets it to say: “Jesus replied ‘Mother, my time hasn’t yet come! You must not tell me what to do.’ Or another, “Jesus is ‘Is that any of our business, Mother—you or mine? This isn’t my time. Don’t push me!’” (The Message Bible).

Msgr. Alfaro said that in the biblical translation program they use, there are 30-plus versions of the Bible in English alone; 11 in German, and many more in other languages.

“We are guided by a double principal of fidelity— to the meaning of the original text and fidelity to the readers who will be using our Bible,” Msgr. Alfaro said. “And we make sure they understand what the author meant.”

Msgr. Alfaro celebrated his 70th birthday while visiting Our Lady of Lourdes.
By Jose Ortega  
Associate Youth Director

Be Bold! Be Proud! Be Catholic! This was the theme for the 2008 Region X Youth Conference, which was held in Amarillo.

Before the break of dawn, on Friday, November 21, 2008, four mini-vans set out from Victoria on a journey to the Pan-handle. Their first stop was at Holy Cross in East Bernard to pick up 13 teen-age girls and two chaperones. The next pick-up was in Columbus at St. Anthony’s Parish where another teen-age girl and one more chaperone were added to the convoy.

Now the real pilgrimage began!! They drove 12 hours across Texas, stopping only for food, fuel, and rest. The road trip went fairly well. The 14 teen-age girls’ singing, chatting, and laughing definitely helped with keeping the drivers alert!! They finally made it to the conference. Over two thousand youth, adult chaperones, priests and religious were greeted by Most Reverend Patrick J. Zurek, Bishop of Victoria. This was the theme for the 2008 Region X Youth Conference, which was held in Amarillo. The house band, “One-Seven,” led the opening prayer in songs of praise and worship. Then keynote Steve Angrisano was that so many young people made the journey once again to Be Bold, Be Proud, Be Catholic! They challenged them to finish the race, to take what has been taught and handed on to them back home to everyone they come across.

On Sunday morning, November 23, the conference concluded with Bishop Zurek celebrating Liturgy on the Feast of Christ the King. Then, it was time to return home. The 12 hours back, was filled with laughter, songs and some sleep. Each one of the girls seemed to be smiling so much, they were glowing. They were filled with something special that God had intended for them to have that weekend. Something that would allow them to BE BOLD, BE PROUD, BE CATHOLIC!

Region X is made up of the dioceses within Texas, Oklahoma, and Arkansas. The Region X Youth Conference is held bi-annually in a city in one of these three states.

By Jimmy Appelt  
Tribune- Herald - Staff Writer

HALLETTSVILLE – Exchange student Terezie Sedlinska, who has been attending Sacred Heart Catholic High School during the first three months of the school year, departed December 21, 2008, returning to her home in Brno, Czech Republic.

She said the idea to come to the United States and Hallettsville resulted from a visit made by her cousin, Vito Pestuka, to a trade school.

“Over there, a public school is more difficult to enter because you have to pass an entrance exam,” Terezie said. “They can also remove you from a public school because you are already considered finished with your required education.”

The course of study is different as well with the Czech Republic requiring a student to take 15 subjects every year.

In addition, Terezie said there is also a difference in sports by saying there are not as many team sports back home and not as many students choose to participate.

She said she could have tried volleyball at Sacred Heart but chose not to simply because she lacked experience in the sport.

When asked what she thought of football played in Texas, Terezie answered by saying that the rules confused her and caused her not to be that interested in the sport.

“To tell you the truth, football is kind of crazy and I don’t understand the rules,” Terezie said. “In football, they fight and then move the ball. They then light again and move the ball again,” Terezie said explaining how football appears to her.

She said volleyball, soccer, and basketball have a lot of movement, which interested her more.

Terezie said she plans to pursue a degree in architecture when she finishes high school but added that getting accepted into the colleges of the Czech Republic are very difficult.

“Many people want to go to college, but not all get to go,” Terezie said. “The colleges only take about 10 percent of the applicants that apply.”

In her two-month stay in Texas, Terezie said she got to see some of the sites by going to the Renaissance Festival, the Rockport Fishing Center, and the Gulf of Mexico at Corpus Christi.

While in Hallettsville, Terezie lived with Evelyn Konvicka and is very grateful with her for the opportunities she provided.

She said she will miss the people and the atmosphere of a small community.

“Here, the people care about you and that made it perfect,” Terezie said complimenting the school and community for their kindness.

When Terezie returns, she will reunite with her parents, Radovan and Iveta, and her younger sister Marie-Anna.

A group of teen-age girls from Holy Cross in East Bernard and St. Anthony in Columbus attended the Region X Youth Conference in Amarillo November 21-23, 2008.

14 teens go to Region X Youth Conference

Czech student enjoys her time in Texas

Time for KC Free-Throw Contest

All boys and girls ages 10 to 14 are invited to participate in the local level of competition for the 2009 Knights of Columbus Free-Throw Contest beginning in January. Age eligibility is determined as of January 1, 2009. Proof of age is required.

Your local Knights of Columbus Council will sponsor a council contest in late January or early February. There is no fee to register or participate; however, all competitors must register using the official Knights of Columbus Free-Throw Championship Entry Form/Score Sheet (KC form #1598). The Entry Form/Score Sheet and proof of age MUST accompany the participants through all levels of competition.

Most councils in the Victoria Diocese will sponsor a Free-Throw Competition. If a local council does not sponsor a council contest, that council’s grand knight can provide an official entry form so a child in that area may still compete but with another council.

Each competitor may participate in only one council competition.

Council winners advance to the district level with district winners advancing to the regional (diocesan). There are four KC districts in the Diocese of Victoria. Regional winners advance to the state competition. Results of state winners from throughout the order are sent to the supreme office in Connecticut where the international winners will be determined.

Check with your local council for competition dates for council level competition and the district competition, which will be held in early February.

January 17 — Youth Ministry Certificate Class – Leadership Development - Planning and Programming
February 1 — Youth Leadership Training, Holy Family, Victoria
February 16 — Youth Leadership Training, Concho
February 22 — High School Spectacular, Holy Family, Victoria
February 24-27 — Region 10 Directors Meeting in Dallas
February 28 — Youth Ministry Certificate Class - Prayer and Worship
March 15 — Confirmation Retreat, Location TBA
March 16 — Confirmation Retreat in Bay City
March 21 — Youth Ministry Certificate Class - Justice and Service
March 24 — Sharing Faith with Adolescents
March 29 — Confirmation Retreat, St. Michael in Cuero
April 18 — Youth Ministry Certificate Class – Ethics and Crisis Management
April 24 — Bishop Fellhauer Benefit Golf Tournament
April 26 — Youth Leadership Training, Charney
May 2 — Youth Ministry Certificate Class - Retreat Formation
June 12-20 — Camp Lincoln
June 22 - 25 — Discipleship Week at the Spiritual Renewal Center

For more information on any of these events, please contact: Debbie Vanelli or José Ortega at the Office of Youth Ministry at (512) 573-0828 ext. 32 / ext. 50 or e-mail at dvanelli@victoriadiocese.org or jortega@victoriadiocese.org

Web site: www.victoriadiocese.org/youthoffice

Czech student enjoys her time in Texas

By Jimmy Appelt  
Tribune-Herald - Staff Writer

HALLETTSVILLE – Exchange student Terezie Sedlinska, who has been attending Sacred Heart Catholic High School during the first three months of the school year, departed December 21, 2008, returning to her home in Brno, Czech Republic.

She said she got to see some of the sites which interested her more.

Terezie said she got to see some of the sites which interested her more.

Terezie Sedlinska from Brno Czech Republic

Time for KC Free-Throw Contest

All boys and girls ages 10 to 14 are invited to participate in the local level of competition for the 2009 Knights of Columbus Free-Throw Contest beginning in January. Age eligibility is determined as of January 1, 2009. Proof of age is required.

Your local Knights of Columbus Council will sponsor a council contest in late January or early February. There is no fee to register or participate; however, all competitors must register using the official Knights of Columbus Free-Throw Championship Entry Form/Score Sheet (KC form #1598). The Entry Form/Score Sheet and proof of age MUST accompany the participants through all levels of competition.

Most councils in the Victoria Diocese will sponsor a Free-Throw Competition. If a local council does not sponsor a council contest, that council’s grand knight can provide an official entry form so a child in that area may still compete but with another council. Each competitor may participate in only one council competition.

Council winners advance to the district level with district winners advancing to the regional (diocesan). There are eight KC districts in the Diocese of Victoria. Regional winners advance to the state competition. Results of state winners from throughout the order are sent to the supreme office in Connecticut where the international winners will be determined.

Check with your local council for competition dates for council level competition and the district competition, which will be held in early February.

Council winners advance to the district level with district winners advancing to the regional (diocesan). There are eight KC districts in the Diocese of Victoria. Regional winners advance to the state competition. Results of state winners from throughout the order are sent to the supreme office in Connecticut where the international winners will be determined.

Check with your local council for competition dates for council level competition and the district competition, which will be held in early February.

Council winners advance to the district level with district winners advancing to the regional (diocesan). There are eight KC districts in the Diocese of Victoria. Regional winners advance to the state competition. Results of state winners from throughout the order are sent to the supreme office in Connecticut where the international winners will be determined.

Check with your local council for competition dates for council level competition and the district competition, which will be held in early February.

Council winners advance to the district level with district winners advancing to the regional (diocesan). There are eight KC districts in the Diocese of Victoria. Regional winners advance to the state competition. Results of state winners from throughout the order are sent to the supreme office in Connecticut where the international winners will be determined.

Check with your local council for competition dates for council level competition and the district competition, which will be held in early February.
Catholic Daughters of the Americas

Catholic Daughters Celebrate 80 Years

EAST BERNARD — Catholic Daughters of the Americas Court St. Bernadette #1108 celebrated the 80th anniversary of its institution on Saturday, November 15, 2008. Pictured were representatives from the state court and national court. The date of the institution was November 4, 1928. The keynote speaker was National Director Duchess Collins of Sugar Land, brought greetings from National. Her husband, State Treasurer Peggy Rosales of Austin, and District Deputy #28 Carolyn Rapsiliver of San Felipe. State Junior Catholic Daughters of the Americas Chairperson Terri Beltran of El Campo presented greetings from the State JCD&A. Liz Sims, local advisor, introduced the local JCD&A officers.

Financial secretary Debbie Guthman introduced the lifetime members who have 50 years of membership in CDA. Local court treasurer Patricia Michulka recognized the past regents of Court #1108, and Carolyn Rapsiliver, district deputy #28, formally received new members in the court.

Greetings were given by the following present state officers: State Regent Carolyn Bachmann of Scotland, First Vice State Regent Sheila Martinka of Houston, Second Vice State Regent Carolyn Malik of Shiner, State Secretary Peggy Rosales of Austin, and District Deputy #28 Carolyn Rapsiliver of San Felipe.

State Junior Catholic Daughters of the Americas Chairperson Terri Beltran of El Campo presented greetings from the State JCD&A. Liz Sims, local advisor, introduced the local JCD&A officers.

National Director Duchess Collins of Sugar Land, brought greetings from National. Her husband, State Treasurer of the Knights of Columbus Jim Collins, accompanied her.

Rev. Donald Ruppert spoke on CDA history and related some humorous stories. The keynote speaker was National Regent Libby Ramirez of Victoria. She spoke on “Challenges in the Future.” During the evening Jan Kopycinski and Janice Polak sang appropriate songs. Door prizes were given before Terrie Vacek thanked many people for their efforts in making the memorable evening. The closing prayer and blessing were given by Rev. Donald Ruppert.

Cafe and our Bake Sale a success. The profits from the sales go to local, state and national charities and our scholar ship fund.

Proceeds from the evening are used to support the court’s projects and activities on the local, state and national levels.

Helen Mica plans to make 150 lbs. of noodles for the supper fund-raiser that will be held at the American Legion Hall, Highway 60, in East Bernard. The soup supper andaffle are the main fund-raisers for Court St. Bernadette #1108.

Helen says the court members start lighting burners at 5:30 a.m. to cook 145 hens. Filling the many pots with hens, water and seasonings would total 1,680 gallons. Husbands of members help in setting up and stiring the hens.

Another group tediously de-bones the cooker hens, more than once. By 4:00 p.m. another group of members is busy making 2,100 chicken-salad sandwiches, using 190 leaves of bread.

Helen not only makes most of the noodles, but she is the chairman of the soup and sandwich portion of the fund-raiser. The raffle, with 71 items, will be at 7 p.m. that evening. Tickets will be available at the hall.

Helen has commented, “Members are very cooperative. They come with a smile and leave with a smile.”

A bowl of chicken-noodle soup is $2.50 and a chicken-salad sandwich is $2.50. Coffee and tea are complementary. Many desserts will be available for sale.

Selling of the food begins at 5:00 p.m. until all is sold. If one plans to take soup home, one must bring a container.

Holy Cross CDA Court #1598 members Theresa Jerdzey, Beth Pokluda, Leona Berkenhoff, JoAnn Hoelscher, Hedwig Jendry, Margie Smith, made a yo-yo quilt for a fund-raiser. Also participating, but not pictured: Lillian Wazzecha, Flo Jacob and Georgia Guzy.

The winner of the yo-yo quilt was Nicholas Brohl. The Christmas ornaments were won by Janet Hadash of San Antonio, Joanie Lytle of Victoria and Irene Ibrom of Westhoff.

The Catholic Daughters of the Americas in Yorktown wish to thank all who came and helped make this raffle, the Santa’s Café and our Bake Sale a success. The profits from the sales go to local, state and national charities and our scholarship fund.

ST. JOSEPH CCD PUTS ON CHRISTMAS PLAYS — The students of the CCD classes of St. Joseph Parish in Yoakum presented “The Birth of Jesus” and “The Reaching for Christmas” during Christmas 2008. Joseph was played by Tyler Kvinta, the Drummer Boy was played by Dean Klesel and Mary was played by Kendell Pekar.

Yorktown CDA holds 3rd annual Christmas Bazaar

YORKTOWN — This beautiful handmade yo-yo quilt, which was made by members of the Catholic Daughters of the Americas of Yorktown, Holy Cross Court #1598, was raffleled December 6, 2008, at the 3rd Annual Christmas Bazaar held at the Yorktown Community Hall.

The quilt was made by Theresa Jerdzey, Beth Pokluda, Leona Berkenhoff, JoAnn Hoelscher, Hedwig Jendry, Margie Smith, Lillian Wazzecha, Flo Jacob and Georgia Guzy.

The Catholic Lighthouse
Diocesan priests attend CAPA meeting

GEORGETOWN, Texas—Priests of Czech descent met at the latest Czech American Priest Association (CAPA) meeting at St. Helen Parish in Georgetown, Texas, November 18, 2008. From the Diocese of Victoria, Father John Peters of Sacred Heart Parish in Halletsville and Father Gary Janak of St. Philip of El Camp, attended the meeting, which included the celebration of Mass and a luncheon.

The objectives of CAPA are to foster fraternity, unity, solidarity and mutual support of Czech-American priests to deepen their self-awareness and understanding of Czech history; to collaborate with Czech bishops for renewal and preservation of liturgical customs, traditions and heritage of the Czech people; to foster understanding and appreciation of the valued traditions and customs of the Czech ancestors in faith; to collaborate with Czech Catholic organizations to promote faith-filled Catholic family life; to promote the Czech language and history through courses in high schools, colleges, universities and cities; to promote and encourage Czech music and song at churches, festivals, family reunions and in the home; to promote the rich, educational and social history of Czech-American communities; to promote religious vocations and lay ministries within the Czech-American communities; and to have an exchange program of priests and seminarians between the Czech Republic and the United States.

Czech-American priests attending the Czech American Priest Association meeting November 18 are pictured from left: Fathers Stephen Duyka of Rusk; John Peters (treasurer) and Under) of Halletsville, Dennis Dartliek (secretary) of Seguin, Louis Pavlicek of Georgetown, Gary Janak of El Campo and Ed Karzasek of West. Missing from the photo are Bishop Patrick Zurek (president) of Amarillo and Father Joe Hybner (vice-president) of Flatonia.

Msgr. Stanley Petru celebrates 60th anniversary and 86th birthday

HOSTYN—In honor of Msgr. Stanley Joseph Petru’s 86th birthday and the diamond (60th) jubilee of his ordination to the priesthood, Bishop David E. Fellner, Bishop Charles V. Gramann, his brother, Rev. Gus Petru, OMI, from Mexico; and over 20 priests, joyously concelebrated a Mass of Thanksgiving at Queen of the Holy Rosary in Hostyn on November 28, 2008.

Parishioners from both Queen of the Holy Rosary and Sts. Peter and Paul in Plum, hosted a reception following the Mass and blessing of Holy Rosary’s new adoration chapel and narthex. Along with the many parishioners, special guests included Msgr. Petru’s brother, Robert and Bernice Petru, many nieces, nephews and friends.

The Knights of Columbus Council 2574 donated $5,000 towards the construction of the new adoration chapel in honor of Msgr. Petru, and KJT #3 donated $250 for a Seminary Bus in Msgr. Petru’s name.

A generous donation toward the chapel was given by Msgr. Petru’s sister, Mary Jackson, in the form of her estate upon her death.

Msgr. Stanislaus Joseph Petru was born on Nov. 22, 1922, in Shiner to Frank and Johanna Petru. He grew up with one sister and eight brothers. Three of the boys became priests: Msgr. Stanley Petru, Rev. Gus Petru and the late Rev. Msgr. Julius Petru.

He entered into St. John’s Seminary in San Antonio in 1937 and was ordained to the priesthood on May 27, 1948, by the late Archbishop Bishop Robert E. Lucey. He celebrated his first Solemn High Mass at Our Lady of Guadalupe Catholic Church in Raynwoodville on Sunday, May 30, 1948, and was assisted by his two brothers, Rev. Julius A. Petru, pastor of St. John Church near Schulenburg, and Brother Gus Petru, OMI, a student in Dr. Mozonod Scholasticate in San Antonio.

His first assignment was at St. Philip the Apostle Parish in El Campo in 1949. In 1952 he was assigned to Sts. Cyril and Methodius Parish in Shiner. From 1956 he served at St. Rose of Lima Parish in Schulenburg, from 1958 at St. Cornelius Parish in Karnes City, and from 1964 he served St. Agnes Parish in Edna. He served at Sacred Heart Parish in Halletsville from 1968 to 1980. In 1979 he was elevated to Domestic Prelate by his Holiness Pope John Paul II with the title Rev. Monsignor. He served another twelve years at St. Gregory the Great Parish in San Antonio from 1980 to 1992.

In 1992 he became pastor of Queen of the Holy Rosary Parish in Hostyn, along with Sts. Cyril and Methodius in Cistern and later Sts. Peter and Paul in Plum. The church in Cistern is now served by Rev. Joseph Hybner.

Msgr. Petru is a member of the Fourth Degree Knights of Columbus; co-chaplain for the KC’s; spiritual director for the KJT; chaplain for the ACTS group; and is a big supporter of the youth – including the Youth Group and the Young Neighbors in Action. He also brought the Christmas pageant to Hostyn. He enjoys giving bulletins to his “bambinos” and they enjoy getting them from him; some practically run to get their copy.

EARNING THEIR ANGEL WINGS—The second-grade class at St. Rose of Lima Catholic School in Schulenburg earned their angel wings December 18, 2008, as they donated presents to the Deputy Santa program. The students held a school-wide bake sale on Dec. 15 in which the student body, teachers and staff generously bought the delicious baked goods. The students shopped for the gifts and wrapped them. The second graders learned the true meaning behind Christmas – to give to others. Pictured with presents, front row, from left: Cory Heger, Brannon Fowler, Madelaine Sommer, Andrew Fogelman, Jasmeen Modhi, and Wesley Liere; second row, from left: Jack Jacobs, Dylan Goddberg, John Corbitt, Rylie Lux, and Allison Micant. Pictured in back is second-grade teacher Pam Wick.
**Faith History Quiz**

(Family Puzzle Contest)

Please match data in column A with answers in column B.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Column A</th>
<th>Column B</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1. This author of Don Quixote fought in the battle of Lepanto.</td>
<td>A. Monks</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2. This man was St. John Bosco’s favorite saint.</td>
<td>B. Baptism</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3. He was the father of John the Baptist.</td>
<td>C. Pius IX</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4. He was the first apostle to see the risen Christ.</td>
<td>D. St. Francis de Sales</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5. This pope placed England under papal inquisition because of King John’s misdeeds and interference in Church affairs.</td>
<td>E. Great Jubilee</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6. The meaning of Paraclete</td>
<td>F. Consoler</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>7. The patron saint for a happy death.</td>
<td>G. Religious freedom</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>8. An estimated one million pilgrims visited Rome during the year 1300 for this spiritual event, the first of its kind celebrated by the Church.</td>
<td>H. St. Athanasius</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>9. This saintly king of Hungary’s wife was Gise la, sister of the Emperor Saint Henry II.</td>
<td>I. Theodotios</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>10. This saintly king of Hungary’s wife was Gise la, sister of the Emperor Saint Henry II.</td>
<td>J. Innocent III</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>11. Latinized form of Greek for chair.</td>
<td>K. Holy Spirit</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>12. Cardinal Newman said of this Bishop of Alexandria, whose steadfastness in defense of the orthodox faith greatly helped combat Arianism, “A principal instrument after the Apocalypse which the sacred truths of Chris- tianity have been secured and conveyed to the world.”</td>
<td>L. St. Martin of Tours</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>13. Classical learning and civilization was preserved in the Dark Ages primarily by the labor of these individuals.</td>
<td>M. Peter</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>14. This Greek title of the Virgin Mary means “God-bearer”.</td>
<td>N. Miguel Cervantes</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>15. This allows the baptized to be forgiven of their sins.</td>
<td>O. Sacrament of Penance</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>16. Dignitatis Humanae, the most controversial document of the Second Vatican Council deals with this topic.</td>
<td>P. Bishops</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>17. This bishop played a major role in bringing Christianity to France in the fourth century.</td>
<td>Q. Cathedra</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>18. As the Roman Empire weakened in the west and the Roman government became increasingly ineffective, these clerics had to assume more secular tasks.</td>
<td>R. Zechariah</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>19. This longest reigning pope in history wrote the Syllabus of Errors and witnessed the dissolution of the Papal States.</td>
<td>S. St. Joseph</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>20. He has spoken through the prophets.</td>
<td>T. St. Stephen</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

This quiz has been prepared by various individuals who share the Knights of Columbus Council 3051’s concern for the importance of children receiving an au-thentic Catholic education at a time when the teaching and values of the Catholic Church that are reflected in this quiz are facing unprecedented challenges of unforeseen consequences for those who hold them. Therefore, we believe the primary value of this quiz is a careful reading of the questions which, with the exception of the few that ask for the identification of biblical figures, contain materials that refer to dogmas and values of the Church and/or how Catholics holding these values have impacted history or have been impacted by it.

**Primary sources for these questions are** from the Catechism of the Catholic Church, the Holy Bible, Church docu-ments, and various books on both Church and secular history and lives of the saints.

**Family Puzzle Contest Winners**

Frances Vesely of Assessment of the Blessed Virgin Mary Parish in Ganado is the December Family Puzzle Contest winner, and has won “Notre Dame Golden Moments” book and DVD. There were a lot of contestants – thank you all for your response.

The youth puzzle contest winner was Bryan Sturm (10) of Holy Family Church in Victoria. He will receive a gift from the Incarnate Word Gift Shop.

If you have not won the puzzle contest within the past six months, please send completed contest, name, address, phone number and parish name by Jan. 20 for a chance to win “The Rosary ~ A Journey to the Beloved” by Gary Jansen. See review on this page. Send to: Family Contest, The Catholic Lighthouse, P.O. Box 4070, Victoria, TX 77903

**Thank you!**

**Umbert the Unborn**

by Gary Cangemi

*Should unborn children be forgotten and never brought to mind?*

*Please take some time to march for our lives and a pro-life sign.*

*A pro-life sign for us, a pro-life sign.*

*Please tell the world you care for us and show your pro-life sign.*

Subject of History May be our First Hope for Restoring our Society

By Cynthia Brewer

Since the turn of the 20th century and particularly since the 1950s, why have United States students’ international test scores declined drastically? Why is the U.S. divorce rate at 50 percent, with a 60 to 75 percent rate in southern California? Why do one in three high school students drop out before graduating? What really caused the 60% sexual revo-lution, the “do your own thing” atti-tude? Why did birth control and abortion become legalized and so easily ac-cepted?

In other words ... what is leading the Western Civili-zation to collapse?

A little pamphlet titled, "Why History Matters and Why Christian History Matters in Particular?" by Ted Byfield, general editor of The Christian History Project, may just provide the answers.

In this short (39-page) pamphlet, Ted Byfield testifies that all previous civilizations have failed and the Western Civilization is nearing the same fate. A copy of “Why History Matters ...” may be purchased for $10 or free copies may be downloaded at: http://thechristians.ca/Search_essay_layout.pdf

The chief cause of a civilizations’ fail-ure is the breakdown of morality – the ero-sion of respect for rules. Rules, values and morals are the glue that holds together the foundation of a society, Byzantine states. He shows how the philosophy of one man, John Dewey, a U.S. educator in the early 1900s, influenced by Rousseau, Hobbes, Darwin and Spencer, influ-enced educators in universities who influenced soon-to-be school teachers, who eventually in-fluenced genera-tions of students because there is no good or evil, there are no right or wrong answers, nor limits or boundaries to their freedom.

"He envisioned a new civilization, liberated from its ancient taboos and enslavement to out-dated creeds and codes of conduct," p. 6.

And once liberated from a culture’s mores, the culture soon falls apart. Here is where history comes in. Hu-mans are instinctively curious, and their curiosities might only be satisfied through history, properly presented. History gives us the answers to: why and how did we get here, how did the U.S. government form, why do we have schools and universities, how did hospitals come to be, etc., etc.? Only by rediscovering the past can we securely direct our future.

And in studying Western Civilization, we must include the study of Christi-

See Subject of History, p. 17

**Puzzle (Quiz) Contest Prize is**

“The Rosary” book

“...The Rosary ~ A Journey to the Be-loved,” written by Gary Jansen and pub-lished by Faith Words, will guide readers to connect with God through prayer in an approachable way. The book explains the history and significance of the Rosary, as well as instructions on how to get the most of the medita-tive and spiritual exercise of repeating prayers.

“The Rosary” walks read-ers through each of the twenty mysteries combining biblical excerpts and reproductions of famous biblical artwork by Tissot, Raphael, Gauguin and many others to illustrate the power of this beloved act of devotion.

The time for prayer is now! We live in a multi-tasking age where we hurry and worry through life, seldom taking the time to be alone with our thoughts and prayers. To many, the idea of praying can be intimidating, and people often wonder, “Can God really hear me?” A better question to ask may be: “Can we slow down long enough to hear God?”

For more than 600 years, worshippers have prayed the Rosary in times of need and times of joy. Though seen by many as a Catholic practice, this devotion, whose primary focus is on the life, death and resurrection of Jesus Christ, can appeal to Christians of all denominations who seek to help you to hear the voice of God in intimate and profound ways.

This is the perfect book for individuals and groups who are seeking a practical and affective way to pray. “Gary Jansen’s book is a godsend,” said Brad Miner, au-thor of “The Complete Gentleman.”

Gary Jansen is an editor at Doubleday Religion. His writing has appeared in USA Today, Newsday and the Chicago Sun-Times. “The Rosary” (Faith Words, ISBN: 978-0-446-53358-4) is his first book. It can be purchased for $11.99 on many Web sites.

For a chance to win “The Rosary ~ A Journey to the Beloved” in a drawing, please send completed QUIZ with your name, address, phone number and your parish name to The Catholic Lighthouse, P.O. Box 4070, Victoria, TX 77903
Dear Mr. President,

A few weeks ago, my ten-year-old daughter sat at the kitchen table and nibbled on a snack. She thumbed through a Christmas catalog and asked me to get her a typewriter for Christmas. She pointed to a picture on the page in front of her. It was a cheap plastic replica of an old typewriter. I told her she didn’t need it. She could use my computer any time she wanted. She explained that a typewriter captures the words immediately and puts them on paper. No printer needed, she said, and she could use my old typewriter on the page in front of her.

Now I was curious. She pointed to a picture that showed the typewriter on the page in front of her. In a matter-of-fact tone, she replied, “The President – about the abortion thing.” She whispered it just part, almost like she was sharing some pro-life fact that she had overheard and found distasteful to serve. It made me want to buy her that plastic typewriter on the spot. It also made me reflect on the twins and turns of the past couple of months.

We’ve had an interesting year in our household. Even though we are a pro-life family, the subject of abortion rarely came up in our home before 2008, but then my older daughter moved back home. She took a job at a shelter for pregnant women. Our Lady’s Inn not only helps women choose life over abortion, but they also give the women a place to live for up to two years. They help them complete a high school, earn a trade, and find employment. We’re a pro-life Catholic family. We were thrilled when our older daughter started working at our Lady’s Inn. But then something happened to make us really pro-life, right down to our DNA.

The twenty-one-year-old daughter became pregnant. She isn’t married. She hasn’t completed college – not even one full year of college. She doesn’t own her own car. She doesn’t have her own place. And now, she doesn’t have a job because she is in almost the same situation as the clients at the women’s shelter. No longer the house monitor, she is now the unmarr- 

Dear Mr. President,

I know you think abortion is okay, but maybe there are a few things you haven’t thought about in awhile. I’d like to tell you what I’ve decided now that my sister is going to have a baby. Even if it doesn’t seem like

Looking Around

By Father William J. Byrnon, SJ

CATHOLIC NEWS SERVICE

Enhancing customer satisfaction in the parish

Parish churches can take a page from the business playbook to make the worship experience more inviting to both parishioners and visitors. All it takes is a bit of planning and not much expense.

Restaurants, retail apparel outlets and even banks are finding ways to become more warm and inviting and “customer friendly.” Low prices alone won’t do it, nor will personal attention without imagination.

But when personal attention is wrapped in a welcoming environment and use of visual display and music, there is a tug on the heart that draws people in and encourages them to return.

Businesses — stores, banks, restaurants, client services — are consciously trying to connect with customer emotions.

Creative pastoral planning can enable the church to do the same.

Go online to the American Customer Satisfaction Index and you will be welcomed by these words from Professor Claes For- nell of the Rosen School of Business at the University of Michi- gan, founder of ACSI: “As long as repeat business is important, and as long as customers have a chance to go somewhere else, employees must deliver high levels of customer satisfaction for a company to be successful.”

Substitute “parish staff” for “employees” and “parish” for “company,” and you have the makings of a good strategic plan for your parish.

An obvious area calling for some measure of “parishioner satisfaction” is the homily. It takes a bit of planning and thought to invite homily evaluations from a parish congregation. But it is happening and should become common place. A one-page questionnaire, used on a random basis several times a year, can invite a check-mark response on a scale of excellent, good, fair or poor, relating to content, organization, ease of hearing, length and timeliness of the homily, and the way the homily is delivered at a given Mass.

The form should invite ad- ditional comments, and respon- dents should be told that there is no need to sign the sheet. If audiability is a problem, respond- ents might be asked to indicate where they were sitting when the homily was delivered.

Any service-rendering agen-

Sunday readings from Jan. 18 to Feb. 22


More income at retirement?

A tax benefit today, plus retirement income you can’t outlive. Let’s talk about the FUTURE INCOME PLUS deferred annuity from State Farm Life Insurance Company.

statefarm.com*

*Current effective annual interest rate for 5-year Interest Rate Guarantee Period based on premiums of $900,000 as of 01/01/09.

A tax benefit today, plus retirement income you can’t outlive. Let’s talk about the FUTURE INCOME PLUS deferred annuity from State Farm Life Insurance Company.

statefarm.com*

*Current effective annual interest rate for 5-year Interest Rate Guarantee Period based on premiums of $900,000 as of 01/01/09.
Sobre La Inmigración ilegal Y El Derecho A La Vida

Por Mar Muñoz-Vissou

Casi me caigo de la silla. Finalmente alguien se atrevió a decirlo alto y claro: “La inmigración es la prueba más importante para los derechos civiles en nuestra generación… Está muy cerca del derecho a la vida.” Y lo dijo con la autoridad que, en la Iglesia, confiere el oficio de ser sacerdote. Sucedió en una reunión de la Conferencia Católica de Missouri donde el Arzobispo José H. Gómez de San Antonio, Texas, ofreció un discurso sobre la necesidad de continuar la lucha por una reforma migratoria integral tan pronto como el nuevo presidente y los miembros del nuevo congreso tomen posesión de sus cargos.

Lo sorprendente no fue tanto la parte de ser “una prueba para los derechos civiles” —acerca de lo cual la campaña Justicia para Inmigrantes de los Obispos Católicos estadounidenses lleva ya varios años creando conciencia— sino el hecho de que pusiera esta tema en la par con el derecho a la vida. Y tiene toda la razón. La inmigración, cualquiera que sea la forma que tome, siempre tiene que ver con el derecho a la vida.

Ya sea que los inmigrantes vengan huyendo de la persecución política o religiosa, del genocidio masivo o del hambre y la pobreza, el espíritu humano de supervivencia y el sentido de responsabilidad por cuidar de los suyos— aunque sea al precio de no verlos nunca más— todo tiene que ver con la búsqueda de la vida, con querer conservar la vida y mejorarlo. Tiene que ver con el derecho a existir y a hacerlo en condiciones humanas dignas.

No voy a hacer un resumen aquí de la conferencia del Arzobispo. Para hacerlo justicia debe leerse completa (una copia en inglés se puede obtener píldonada a www. origenline.org).

En cierto punto de mi vida yo también fui inmigrante. A los largos de los años me he sentido conocida al escuchar la razones convincentes por las cual la mayoría de la gente emigra. Tiene muy poco que ver con el sentido aventurero. Es cierto que, idealmente, la gente debería emigrar legalmente. Pero ¿qué sucede cuando la ventana donde dice “entre por aquí de forma legal” no está casi nunca abierta y a quien quiere pasar se le niega entrada? "Entre por aquí de forma legal" no está casi nunca abierta y en un gran letrero a su lado con bonitos colores se lee “se busca mano de obra..." y ante esa se presenta una grieta en el muro? Esos son exactamente lo que ha estado sucediendo durante décadas con nuestras leyes de inmigración, las cuales han probado ser inadecuadas a las demandas de mano de obra interna, y con las políticas de comercio internacional que liberalizaron el transporte de mercancías pero no la circulación de mano de obra.

Las políticas migratorias restrictivas tienen el efecto de encerrar a los que ya están aquí, no de sacarlos. Han llevado a millones de personas a vivir en los márgenes de nuestra sociedad y han puesto a los empresarios entre la espada y la pared. Mientras viven en Colorado conocí a granjeros y agricultores, dueños de restaurantes, de negocios de construcción y otros empresarios en dificultades. Han llevado a millones de personas a vivir en los márgenes de nuestra sociedad y han puesto a los empresarios entre la espada y la pared. Mientras viven en Colorado conocí a granjeros y agricultores, dueños de restaurantes, de negocios de construcción y otros empresarios en dificultades. Han llevado a millones de personas a vivir en los márgenes de nuestra sociedad y han puesto a los empresarios entre la espada y la pared. Mientras viven en Colorado conocí a granjeros y agricultores, dueños de restaurantes, de negocios de construcción y otros empresarios en dificultades. Han llevado a millones de personas a vivir en los márgenes de nuestra sociedad y han puesto a los empresarios entre la espada y la pared. Mientras viven en Colorado conocí a granjeros y agricultores, dueños de restaurantes, de negocios de construcción y otros empresarios en dificultades. Han llevado a millones de personas a vivir en los márgenes de nuestra sociedad y han puesto a los empresarios entre la espada y la pared. Mientras viven en Colorado conocí a granjeros y agricultores, dueños de restaurantes, de negocios de construcción y otros empresarios en dificultades. Han llevado a millones de personas a vivir en los márgenes de nuestra sociedad y han puesto a los empresarios entre la espada y la pared. Mientras viven en Colorado conocí a granjeros y agricultores, dueños de restaurantes, de negocios de construcción y otros empresarios en dificultades. Han llevado a millones de personas a vivir en los márgenes de nuestra sociedad y han puesto a los empresarios entre la espada y la pared. Mientras viven en Colorado conocí a granjeros y agricultores, dueños de restaurantes, de negocios de construcción y otros empresarios en dificultades. Han llevado a millones de personas a vivir en los márgenes de nuestra sociedad y han puesto a los empresarios entre la espada y la pared. Mientras viven en Colorado conocí a granjeros y agricultores, dueños de restaurantes, de negocios de construcción y otros empresarios en dificultades. Han llevado a millones de personas a vivir en los márgenes de nuestra sociedad y han puesto a los empresarios entre la espada y la pared. Mientras viven en Colorado conocí a granjeros y agricultores, dueños de restaurantes, de negocios de construcción y otros empresarios en dificultades. Han llevado a millones de personas a vivir en los márgenes de nuestra sociedad y han puesto a los empresarios entre la espada y la pared. Mientras viven en Colorado conocí a granjeros y agricultores, dueños de restaurantes, de negocios de construcción y otros empresarios en dificultades. Han llevado a millones de personas a vivir en los márgenes de nuestra sociedad y han puesto a los empresarios entre la espada y la pared. Mientras viven en Colorado conocí a granjeros y agricultores, dueños de restaurantes, de negocios de construcción y otros empresarios en dificultades. Han llevado a millones de personas a vivir en los márgenes de nuestra sociedad y han puesto a los empresarios entre la espada y la pared. Mientras viven en Colorado conocí a granjeros y agricultores, dueños de restaurantes, de negocios de construcción y otros empresarios en dificultades. Han llevado a millones de personas a vivir en los márgenes de nuestra sociedad y han puesto a los empresarios entre la espada y la pared. Mientras viven en Colorado conocí a granjeros y agricultores, dueños de restaurantes, de negocios de construcción y otros empresarios en dificultades. Han llevado a millones de personas a vivir en los márgenes de nuestra sociedad y han puesto a los empresarios entre la espada y la pared. Mientras viven en Colorado conocí a granjeros y agricultores, dueños de restaurantes, de negocios de construcción y otros empresarios en dificultades. Han llevado a millones de personas a vivir en los márgenes de nuestra sociedad y han puesto a los empresarios entre la espada y la pared. Mientras viven en Colorado conocí a granjeros y agricultores, dueños de restaurantes, de negocios de construcción y otros empresarios en dificultades. Han llevado a millones de personas a vivir en los márgenes de nuestra sociedad y han puesto a los empresarios entre la espada y la pared. Mientras viven en Colorado conocí a granjeros y agricultores, dueños de restaurantes, de negocios de construcción y otros empresarios en dificultades. Han llevado a millones de personas a vivir en los márgenes de nuestra sociedad y han puesto a los empresarios entre la espada y la pared. Mientras viven en Colorado conocí a granjeros y agricultores, dueños de restaurantes, de negocios de construcción y otros empresarios en dificultades. Han llevado a millones de personas a vivir en los márgenes de nuestra sociedad y han puesto a los empresarios entre la espada y la pared. Mientras viven en Colorado conocí a granjeros y agricultores, dueños de restaurantes, de negocios de construcción y otros empresarios en dificultades. Han llevado a millones de personas a vivir en los márgenes de nuestra sociedad y han puesto a los empresarios entre la espada y la pared. Mientras viven en Colorado conocí a granjeros y agricultores, dueños de restaurantes, de negocios de construcción y otros empresarios en dificultades. Han llevado a millones de personas a vivir en los márgenes de nuestra sociedad y han puesto a los empresarios entre la espada y la pared. Mientras viven en Colorado conocí a granjeros y agricultores, dueños de restaurantes, de negocios de construcción y otros empresarios en dificultades. Han llevado a millones de personas a vivir en los márgenes de nuestra sociedad y han puesto a los empresarios entre la espada y la pared. Mientras viven en Colorado conocí a granjeros y agricultores, dueños de restaurantes, de negocios de construcción y otros empresarios en dificultades. Han llevado a millones de personas a vivir en los márgenes de nuestra sociedad y han puesto a los empresarios entre la espada y la pared. Mientras viven en Colorado conocí a granjeros y agricultores, dueños de restaurantes, de negocios de construcción y otros empresarios en dificultades. Han llevado a millones de personas a vivir en los márgenes de nuestra sociedad y han puesto a los empresarios entre la espada y la pared. Mientras viven en Colorado conocí a granjeros y agricultores, dueños de restaurantes, de negocios de construcción y otros empresarios en dificultades. Han llevado a millones de personas a vivir en los márgenes de nuestra sociedad y han puesto a los empresarios entre la espada y la pared. Mientras viven en Colorado conocí a granjeros y agricultores, dueños de restaurantes, de negocios de construcción y otros empresarios en dificultades. Han llevado a millones de personas a vivir en los márgenes de nuestra sociedad y han puesto a los empresarios entre la espada y la pared. Mientras viven en Colorado conocí a granjeros y agricultores, dueños de restaurantes, de negocios de construcción y otros empresarios en dificultades. Han llevado a millones de personas a vivir en los márgenes de nuestra sociedad y han puesto a los empresarios entre la espada y la pared. Mientras viven en Colorado conocí a granjeros y agricultores, dueños de restaurantes, de negocios de construcción y otros empresarios en dificultades. Han lev...
Christians can find hope despite evil, danger in world, pope says

By Carol Glatt
Catholic News Service

VATICAN CITY (CNS) — Even though evil and environmental degradation threaten to destroy the world, Christians can always remain hopeful in their efforts to free humanity from sin and destruction, said Pope Benedict XVI.

“Whatever matter how gloomy, there is no darkness that can blot out the light of Christ,” he said.

God’s promises and grace also give people the courage and direction to weather “the great social and economic crises afflicting humanity today,” he said.

Pope made the remarks at a Mass in St. Peter’s Basilica Jan. 6 on the feast of the Epiphany, which marks the manifestation of Jesus as savior to the world.

“Our efforts to liberate human life and the world from the poison and pollution which could destroy the present and the future still have value and meaning” despite the enormity of the challenge, he said in his homily.

Today humanity must face global, economic and social crises and “hated and destructive violence that do not stop spilling blood across many regions of the earth,” he said.

Other dangers are egoism and human pretensions, which can dangerously distort “the divine plan concerning life and human dignity, the family and the harmony of creation,” he said.

Even though it sometimes appears that people of faith have accomplished nothing in their efforts to bring God’s healing power to the world, “or we seem powerless before overwhelming, hostile forces,” Christians will not give up hope, he said.

“It is the great hope based upon God’s promises that gives us courage and directs our action in good times and bad,” he said.

Pope Benedict said St. Paul taught that through Christ people are not slaves to “cosmic forces, forces which are not true and capable of realizing themselves” through their relationship with God, he said.

The universe is not an empty, cold place because “within everything and above everything there is a personal will -- the Spirit of God who in Christ is revealed as love,” he said.

Christ, the new sun who shines upon the whole universe, was born man so he could “again take on himself the earth and heavens, nature and the Creator, flesh and the spirit,” he said.

Jesus “is the center of the cosmos and history because in him the author and his work unmistakably merge,” said the pope.

Christianity’s special view of the cosmos is showing signs of a “new flowering” in the world of science thanks to the many scientists of faith who, “following in the footsteps of Galilei, do not renounce reason or faith,” he said.

These men and women place enormous value on both faith and reason and recognize how they mutually enrich each other, the pope said.

The pope urged the church and today’s Christians to be like the star that drew the three kings to Christ, and to help lead the world’s people to God.

After the Mass, Pope Benedict gave his homily in 40 languages addressed to those gathered in St. Peter’s Square.

From his studio window, the pope asked people to “abandon wicked deeds,” open their hearts to the Gospel of salvation and follow the right path.

May people let themselves be convinced and transformed by the God who “came among us in order to give us the gift of his peace and love,” he said.

The pope also extended a Christmas greeting to Eastern Christians who follow the Julian calendar and were preparing to celebrate the birth of Christ Jan. 7.


Hebrews Chapter 6

1 Therefore, let us leave behind the basic teaching about Christ and advance to maturity, without laying the foundation all over again: repentance from dead works and faith in God, 2 instruction about baptisms and laying on of hands, resurrection of the dead and eternal judgment.

3 And we shall do this, if only God permits. 4 For it is impossible in the case of those who have once been enlightened and tasted the heavenly gift, 5 and shared in the holy Spirit 6 and tasted the good word of God and the powers of the age to come, 6 and then have fallen away, to bring them to repentance again, since they are recrucifying the Son of God for themselves and holding him up to contempt. 7 Ground that has absorbed the rain falling upon it repeatedly and brings forth crops useful to those for whom it is cultivated receives a blessing from God. 8 But if it produces thorns and thistles, it is rejected; it will

Pope calls for Gaza peace talks, deplores violence in Congo

By Carol Glatt Catholic News Service

VATICAN CITY (CNS) — As fighting continued in the Gaza Strip, Pope Benedict XVI urged Israelis and Palestinians to end the violent, armed clashes and start peace talks.

“Hatred and the rejection of dialogue bring nothing but war,” he said after reciting the Angelus Jan. 6 with pilgrims gathered in St. Peter’s Square.

“Today I would like to encourage the initiatives and efforts of all those who, having a heart of peace, are trying to help Israelis and Palestinians agree to sit down together and talk,” he said.

He prayed God would help sustain the dedicated efforts of these “courageous builders of peace.”

The pope also appealed for an end to the “inhumane brutality” unfolding in eastern Congo where some 20 children were abducted over the Christmas period by armed bands who launched attacks against villages, leaving many people dead or injured.

Caritas Congo reported Dec. 29 that the children were abducted as child soldiers for the Lord’s Resistance Army – a Ugandan rebel group. Caritas Congo is the local affiliate of the international Catholic umbrella group Caritas Internationals.

Caritas said violence in the region flared in late December leaving hundreds of people dead. It said 50 bodies were found in the courtyard of a Catholic church in Dorma on Christmas morning.

The pope urged those responsible for such “inhumane brutality to give the (kid- napped) children back to their families” so that the future of these young people may be safe and fruitful.

The pope made the appeals on the feast of the Epiphany, which is a national holiday in Italy and is largely dedicated to children.

He said he was praying for the world’s children, especially those experiencing a troubled childhood.

The violence against children worldwide “appears even more appalling considering that 2009 marks the 20th anniversary of the U.N. Convention on the Rights of the Child,” he said.

He called on world leaders to renew their promises to defend, safeguard and foster the development of the world’s children.

Pope Benedict noted that the Epiphany was dedicated to the Holy Childhood Association, a children-supported missionary organization that works in more than 100 countries.

He thanked young people for their support of works that are designed to aid the world’s needy.

Late ‘Chicken Soup for the Soul’ series is written for Catholics

WASHINGTON (CNS) — The “Chicken Soup for the Soul” series can now add Catholics to the more than 200 groups in its targeted audience. In mid-December, Simon & Schuster published “Chicken Soup for the Soul: Living Catholic Faith,” making it the most recent addition to a series that has sold more than 112 million copies in 40 languages around the world in the past 16 years.

LeAnn Thieman, who co-authored “Living Catholic Faith,” is no stranger to the “Chicken Soup for the Soul” phenomenon. She has co-authored nine other books in the series and is currently working on a new “Chicken Soup Book of Miracles.”

When Thieman, a Catholic, was first approached about working on a “Chicken Soup” book for Catholics, she wasn’t sure such a book was necessary since the series already had a book addressing Christians. She changed her mind in 2005 during the media coverage of Pope John Paul II’s death and funeral Mass, which she said revealed the large number of devout Catholics in the world.

The book’s stories include anecdotes about the sacraments, praying the rosary, growing up Catholic, good role models and challenges in living the faith.

© 2009 CNS

No, we can’t do this without bringing up the past."
Top Newsmakers
1. POPE BENEDICT XVI
   Makes first U.S. visit as pope, travels to France and Australia, opens year of St. Paul, leads world Synod of Bishops on the Bible.
2. PRESIDENT-ELECT BARACK OBAMA
3. CATHOLIC VOTERS
4. ST. PAUL
5. IRAQI CHRISTIANS

Wife of member of EOHSJ Grand Magisterium dies


In lieu of flowers, donations may be made to the Earthman Foundation, 2121 Sage Boulevard, Suite 245, Houston, Texas, 77056.

Cards and correspondence can be sent to: H. E. Michael R. Earthman, 3220 Avalon Place, Houston, TX 77019.

2008

Top Stories
1. ELECTIONS
2. ECONOMIC CRISIS
3. PAPAL VISIT
4. ABORTION
5. GLOBAL TENSIONS

CHANGE

A multi-billion dollar gift given in challenging economic times

Continued from p. 1

NCEA members include elementary schools, high schools, parish religious education programs and seminaries.

Sources:
   National Catholic Educational Association
   Catholic Schools Still Make a Difference/Ten Years of Research, 2004.

Catholic Near East Welfare Association, the University of St. Thomas, Texas Children’s Hospital, Texas Tech University, and San Jose Clinic.

Catholic Charities of the Archdiocese of Galveston-Houston.

Betsy served as vice president of the Earthman Foundation, a private foundation that donated to various charities, including inner City Catholic Schools, Catholic schools provide faith for Catholic schools, 2008: The Annual Statistical Report on Schools, Enrollment and Staffing.

Related topics:
   Catholics, Birth Control
   Catholic Bishops and Birth Control
   Catholic and other religious discourse on abortion, stem-cell research, cloning and social issues contributed greatly to Catholic public discourse on politics and society.

Father Earthman founded First Things, a journal published by the Institute on Religion and Public Life, in 1990. The magazine was established as an ecumenical journal “whose purpose is to advance a religiously informed public philosophy for the ordering of society,” according to its mission statement.

Cardinal Dulles remembered as ‘priest’s priest’ at New York funeral

NEW YORK (CNS) — Cardinal Avery Dulles was remembered as a theologian, mentor, counselor and “a priest’s priest” at his funeral December 18, 2008, at St. Patrick’s Cathedral in New York.

At the request of Pope Benedict XVI, Cardinal Edward M. Egan of New York was the principal celebrant of the Mass. Five other cardinals, 20 archbishops and bishops and more than 125 priests concelebrated.

Among the mourners were Archbishop Demitrius, primate of the Greek Orthodox Church in America, and representatives of ecumenical organizations.

Cardinal Dulles died Dec. 12 at the age of 90. Since 1988, he had been a professor of religion and society at Jesuit-run Fordham University in New York. In 2001, the Jesuit priest was the first American to be named a cardinal without first being a bishop.

Cardinal Egan, who was elevated by Pope John Paul II at the same consistory, said Cardinal Dulles’ life story mixed triumph with suffering. He described a crucifix he saw as a seminarian in Umbria, Italy, that showed Christ’s face as joyful or tortured, depending on the viewer’s position.

He said, “Death will always have two faces and neither should be ignored.”

Cardinal Egan said Cardinal Dulles’ triumphs included an unexcelled career as an acclaimed American Catholic theologian and author of 23 books and more than 800 articles on “every aspect of theology.”

The cardinal was a charter member of the Equestrian Order of the Holy Sepulchre of Jerusalem – southwestern United States, passed away December 29, 2008, in Houston. She was born on November 27, 1947, in Lubbock, Texas. Betsy was a Lady Grand Cross of the Equestrian Order of the Holy Sepulchre of Jerusalem. In 1996, she served as General Co-Chairman of the Annual Meeting and Investigator of the Equestrian Order of the Holy Sepulchre of Jerusalem. She also received the Gold Palm of Jerusalem.

The tradition of her parents and Betsy was serving on the board of directors for Catholic Charities of the Archdiocese of Galveston-Houston.

Betsy served as vice president of the Earthman Foundation, a private foundation that donated to various charities, including inner City Catholic Schools, Catholic Near East Welfare Association, the University of St. Thomas, Texas Children’s Hospital, Texas Tech University, and San Jose Clinic.

Catholic Charities of the Archdiocese of Galveston-Houston.

Betsy served as vice president of the Earthman Foundation, a private foundation that donated to various charities, including inner City Catholic Schools, Catholic Near East Welfare Association, the University of St. Thomas, Texas Chil-
Patriarch Fuad Girumian, general director of the Arab Education Institute in Bethlehem (Shephedis Field). Since Muslim students also attend Catholic schools, their classrooms are the perfect setting for children to learn about concepts such as tolerance and respect, he said.

Christian schools teach “about peace, harmony, tolerance and openness. These are concepts which the Christian schools preach and practice,” he said.

Most Christian schools also include several foreign language classes, such as English, Italian, French and German, and in general demand academic excellence, he said.

Some Christian educators feel that if the possibility of Christians and Muslims learning together in an atmosphere of love and respect is lost, it will be only a matter of time until extremists who have had no contact with other segments of society take full control of Palestinian society.

See Child Sponsorship article on page 20.

Cardinal George pledges to work with Obama

WASHINGTON (CNS) — In a Jan. 13 letter to the president-elect, Chicago Cardinal Francis E. George, the president of the U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops, has pledged to work with the incoming administration of Barack Obama to “advance the common good and defend the life and dignity of all, especially the vulnerable and poor.”

WASHINGTON (CNS) — Thousands of pro-life marchers are expected to rally in Washington Jan. 22 to commemorate the 36th anniversary of the U.S. Supreme Court’s Roe v. Wade decision legalizing abortion.

For families like the Handals, the economic situation can be a great challenge. According to a study undertaken by the Jerusalem Inter-Church Center last year, Jerusalem and the West Bank have 65 Catholic schools. In 2006 the Catholic Church had the largest number, with 45 schools and more than 17,000 students throughout the West Bank and Gaza Strip.

Despite the steep financial burden of running schools without the full tuition being paid, officials’ main concern at the moment is to keep the children in the Catholic schools, he said. School directors and principals seek financial help for their nations, with 45 schools and more than 17,000 students throughout the West Bank and Gaza Strip.

According to the Office of Catholic Schools in the Latin Patriarchate of Jerusalem, which oversees all Catholic schools and kindergartens in the Palestinian territories and Israel, some 60 percent of the families who send their children to Catholic schools in the Palestinian territories need financial assistance.

Franciscan Father Abdul Masia, director of the office, said the situation in the Gaza Strip is worse. Most of the families are working poor. The situation in Israel is better, he said.

Throughout the patriarchate, he said, the average family only pays 40 percent of the cost of tuition per child.

According to a study undertaken by the Jerusalem Inter-Church Center last year, Jerusalem and the West Bank have 65 Christian schools. In 2006 the Catholic Church had the largest number, with 45 schools and more than 17,000 students throughout the West Bank and Gaza Strip.

Despite the steep financial burden of running schools without the full tuition being paid, officials’ main concern at the moment is to keep the children in the Catholic schools, he said. School directors and principals seek financial help for their schools wherever they can.

“It is very rare for children to have to drop out of school. The principals do not permit that to happen,” said Father Masia.

Palestinian public schools are not considered to have the same standard of education as the private Christian schools, and for most Christian families it is important that their children receive proper religious education at school, he said.

For Palestinian Christians, attending Catholic schools is part of their identity, said Fuad Girumian, general director of the Arab Education Institute in Beit Sahour (Shephedis Field). Since Muslim students also attend Catholic schools, their classrooms are the perfect setting for children to learn about concepts such as tolerance and respect, he said.

Christian schools teach “about peace, harmony, tolerance and openness. These are concepts which the Christian schools preach and practice,” he said.

Most Christian schools also include several foreign language classes, such as English, Italian, French and German, and in general demand academic excellence, he said.

Some Christian educators feel that if the possibility of Christians and Muslims learning together in an atmosphere of love and respect is lost, it will be only a matter of time until extremists who have had no contact with other segments of society take full control of Palestinian society.

See Child Sponsorship article on page 20.

Rallies marking abortion anniversary set for days after inauguration

WASHINGTON (CNS) — Thousands of pro-life marchers are expected to rally in Washington Jan. 22 to commemorate the 36th anniversary of the U.S. Supreme Court’s Roe v. Wade decision legalizing abortion.

For families like the Handals, the economic situation can be a great challenge. According to a study undertaken by the Jerusalem Inter-Church Center last year, Jerusalem and the West Bank have 65 Catholic schools. In 2006 the Catholic Church had the largest number, with 45 schools and more than 17,000 students throughout the West Bank and Gaza Strip.

Despite the steep financial burden of running schools without the full tuition being paid, officials’ main concern at the moment is to keep the children in the Catholic schools, he said. School directors and principals seek financial help for their schools wherever they can.

“It is very rare for children to have to drop out of school. The principals do not permit that to happen,” said Father Masia.

Palestinian public schools are not considered to have the same standard of education as the private Christian schools, and for most Christian families it is important that their children receive proper religious education at school, he said.

For Palestinian Christians, attending Catholic schools is part of their identity, said Fuad Girumian, general director of the Arab Education Institute in Beit Sahour (Shephedis Field). Since Muslim students also attend Catholic schools, their classrooms are the perfect setting for children to learn about concepts such as tolerance and respect, he said.

Christian schools teach “about peace, harmony, tolerance and openness. These are concepts which the Christian schools preach and practice,” he said.

Most Christian schools also include several foreign language classes, such as English, Italian, French and German, and in general demand academic excellence, he said.

Some Christian educators feel that if the possibility of Christians and Muslims learning together in an atmosphere of love and respect is lost, it will be only a matter of time until extremists who have had no contact with other segments of society take full control of Palestinian society.

See Child Sponsorship article on page 20.

Subject of History May be our First Hope of Restoring our Society

Continued from p. 20

The economic situation in Bethlehem has been in a constant decline since the outbreak of the second intifada eight years ago, said Handal, and the cost of living has gone up while salaries decreased.

“Just this year the price for a loaf of bread has doubled,” he said.

The only inheritance he can give to his children is a good education, he said, and he is not willing to give up on that.

“The only inheritance he can give to his children is a good education, he said, and he is not willing to give up on that.

Some Christian educators feel that if the possibility of Christians and Muslims learning together in an atmosphere of love and respect is lost, it will be only a matter of time until extremists who have had no contact with other segments of society take full control of Palestinian society.

See Child Sponsorship article on page 20.

Rallies marking abortion anniversary set for days after inauguration

WASHINGTON (CNS) — Thousands of pro-life marchers are expected to rally in Washington Jan. 22 to commemorate the 36th anniversary of the U.S. Supreme Court’s Roe v. Wade decision legalizing abortion.

For families like the Handals, the economic situation can be a great challenge. According to a study undertaken by the Jerusalem Inter-Church Center last year, Jerusalem and the West Bank have 65 Catholic schools. In 2006 the Catholic Church had the largest number, with 45 schools and more than 17,000 students throughout the West Bank and Gaza Strip.

Despite the steep financial burden of running schools without the full tuition being paid, officials’ main concern at the moment is to keep the children in the Catholic schools, he said. School directors and principals seek financial help for their
Catholics on Immigration

Would you support or oppose U.S. government assistance and trade policies that would create jobs abroad in order to prevent immigrants from coming here illegally to seek employment?

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Support</th>
<th>Oppose</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>37%</td>
<td>57%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Would you support or oppose federal legislation to build a wall along the entire U.S.-Mexico border that is intended to stop illegal immigration?

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Support</th>
<th>Oppose</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>38%</td>
<td>60%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Do you agree or disagree that the church has a moral obligation to help provide for the humanitarian needs of immigrants regardless of their legal status?

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Agree</th>
<th>Disagree</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>75%</td>
<td>25%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

What advice would America’s most-renowned black man offer to America’s first black president? If he were alive today, what advice would the Rev. Martin Luther King Jr. offer to President-elect Barack Obama?

A King’s wisdom for the president

By Tony Magliano
Catholic News Service

What advice would America’s most-renowned black man offer to America’s first black president? If he were alive today, what advice would the Rev. Martin Luther King Jr. offer to President-elect Barack Obama?

According to his niece, the Dr. Alveda King, the answer is yes! In an interview with LifeNews.com, she said, “I know in my heart if Uncle Martin were alive today, he would join with me in the greatest civil rights struggle of this generation -- the recognition of the unborn child’s basic right to life.”

So, what wisdom would America’s most-renowned black man share with America’s first black president?

On the basis of the life of the Rev. Martin Luther King Jr., it seems obvious that he would advise a more accelerated withdrawal of U.S. troops from Iraq and the complete rebuilding of that war-torn nation.

He would oppose increasing troop levels in Afghanistan, and instead would support a quick and total withdrawal of all military forces. He would counsel for an energetic diplomatic and humanitarian solution there.

King would always advise diplomacy over military intervention. Understanding the connection between poverty and war, he would urge Obama to transfer hundreds of billions of dollars from the military’s astronomical budget and use it instead to eliminate domestic and global poverty.

He would equally urge Obama to work for an end to nuclear weapons, the arms trade and capital punishment.

And yes, he would call for the total end of abortion.

Let us pray that our new president will totally share King’s dream of speeding up “that day when all of God’s children, black men and white men, Jews and gentiles, Protestants and Catholics will be able to join hands and sing in the words of the old Negro spiritual: ‘Free at last! Free at last! Thank God Almighty, we are free at last!’”

Of illegal immigration and the right to life

By Mar Muñoz-Vizoso, USCBB

I was shocked. Finally someone said it loud and clear: “Immigration is the greatest civil rights test of our generation... It is very close to the right to life.” And he said it with the authority that, in the Church, comes with the teaching office. It happened at a meeting of the Missouri Catholic Conference where Archbishop José Gomez of San Antonio, Texas, delivered a speech on continuing to fight for comprehensive immigration reform as soon as the new president and congress are sworn in.

What was surprising was not so much the “civil rights test” portion of the message—around which the Justice for Immigrants campaign of the U.S. Catholic Bishops has been building awareness for a few years now—but the fact that he put this issue right up there with the right to life. And he is right, migration, whatever form it takes, is always about the right to life. Whether immigrants flee political or religious persecution, mass genocide or hunger and poverty, their human spirit of survival and the sense of responsibility to take care of your own, even if it comes at the price of never seeing them again, is all about seeking life, preserving life and improving life. It is about the right to exist and to do so in dignified human conditions.

I am not going to summarize here the archbishop’s talk. I think it should be read in its entirety (a copy can be obtained at www.originsonline.com).

Over the years I’ve been moved when hearing the compelling reasons why most people emigrate. I was at one point an immigrant myself. It has little to do with a sense of adventure. And yes, indeed, people ought to emigrate legally. But what happens when the “come-here-legally” window is practically closed for business but a big colorful sign that reads “help wanted (lots of it!)” sits right next to it suggesting a crack in the wall? That is what has been happening for decades with our immigration laws, which have proven inadequate to our labor needs, and trade policies that liberalized the movement of merchandise across borders but not the movement of labor.

Restrictionist policies fence people in. They have led to millions of people living in the shadows of our society, and have left employers, as we say in Spanish, entre la espada y la pared (between the sword and the wall). While I lived in Colorado I met farmers, fast food restaurant and construction company owners who struggled after failing to interest enough nationals to work in their trade (some of them were offering more than a decent wage) and were not able to obtain enough visas for foreign workers. The current system was clearly not working for them. The dilemma was to let their crops rot, go into a mere economy of survival, close their businesses and cut off the livelihood of their families, or hire the plentiful immigrant labor at hand, even if illegally.

Clearly our immigrant program is in shambles. Responsible reform offers hope for individuals and our nation. I will feel more secure, and our nation will benefit from, knowing the actual composition of its work force and social fabric. An increase of several million taxpayers almost overnight would bring back badly needed medical care into ailing treasury either. Turning anonymous people into law abiding citizens could benefit the country as a whole.

We are a no-nonsense nation, but on this issue of illegal immigration I have heard enough nonsense already. Don’t expect Catholics to be silent about it anymore.

Comprehensive immigration reform now! Yes we can! Sounds familiar?

Congo Crisis

By Maria L. Rivas
Catholic News Service

1.4 million people displaced in country
250,000 fled homes since August
90,000 displaced in North Kivu region
27,000 fled to Uganda since August
5.4 million died from war, disease and hunger since 1998

VIOLENT CRIMES AGAINST WOMEN AND CHILDREN

Report: UNICEF estimates that 1,000 women and girls are raped per month. The majority of victims are in displaced populations.

Forced Recruitment: An estimated 3,000 displaced children were reported to be in armed groups in the east. Children and adults have been subjected to forced conscription in North Kivu.


National Collection for the Church in Latin America January 24-25
The Catholic Lighthouse
Page 19 — January 2009

EVENTS

Make Reservations for “At Death House Door”
The Victoria College will host Rev. Carroll Pickett, VC alumnus, for a screening of the documentary “At the Death House Door” at 1:00 p.m. on Monday, Jan. 26, in the VC Fine Arts Auditorium. The film is a personal and intimate look at the death penalty in Texas as seen through the eyes of Rev. Pickett, who served 15 years and presided over 95 executions as the death house chaplain to the infamous “Wall of Death” in Huntsville. After each execution, Pickett recorded an audio tour of his trip to the death chamber. The documentary also focuses on the story of Carlos De Luna, a convict Pickett counseled and whose execution we eventually learn, could be used to support an argument that the church for their sake, rather than the culprit, the greedy French king, Philip IV, and despite the glowing presence of one? Join us in this ongoing grief group on the 1st and 3rd Thursday of the month at Holy Family Education Center, 704 Mallette Drive, Victoria. For more information, call Melissa Morse at (979) 335-7306 or (361) 649-9157.

ACTS Retreats—For more information see the ACTS Web site at www.actsusa.com.

Natural Family Planning—For English or bilingual sessions of the Sympto-Thermal Method (STM) in Palacios, call Rene and Wulina Galvan at (361) 972-5030. Available for counseling and classes. For information about the Sympto-Thermal Method call contact Rudy and Lupe Hernandez at (361) 984-6950. Introductory presentations on the Creighton Model Ovulation Method are offered in Wharton at Our Lady of Mount Carmel Church and in East Bernard at Holy Cross Catholic Church. Please contact Melissa Morse at (979) 355-7306 for more information or to register for classes. Natural Family Planning is the only church-approved form of family planning.

Upcoming Events

Victoria—The African Children’s Choir will be performing at St. Mark’s United Methodist Church, 3310 N. Ben Jordan (at corner of Airline and Ben Jordan) on Feb. 4 at 7:00 p.m. This choir has performed at the White House and on American Idol. The specific choir to be here is the St. Mark’s Ben Jordan choir. For more local information call the church at (361) 575-8206 or go to the children’s choir Web site at www.AfricanChildrensChoir.com. Victoria—Bilingual charismatic healing Mass, Wednesday, Feb. 4, at 6:00 p.m. at Our Lady of Sorrows (208 W. River St.) with Father Stan De Boe as celebrant. There will be singing, praying, adoration, rosary (7:00 p.m.) and Mass (7:30 p.m.). Missa de veus and other forms of prayer.

San Antonio—Four-day Natural Family Planning Institute Feb. 5-8 hosted by the Office of Marriage and Family Life and Natural Family Planning with South Texas addictions ministry and taught by nationally and internationally recognized instructor Dr. Larry-Ariz Wilson. For more information go to: http://www.archdioceseofsanantonio.org and click on Natural Family Planning. Read more on page 6.

Halletsville—Night in Ol’ Paris 2009 Extravaganza to benefit Sacred Heart School Feb. 7 at the KC Hall. Only 250 tickets will be sold at $125 each (includes admission for two people and a chance to win up to $1,000). There will be a steak dinner, dancing, silent auction and much much more. For more information or tickets call, (361) 798-4251 or (361) 798-5880.

Victoria—Knights of Columbus 1329 chicken-barbecue fund-raiser Feb. 15 at the KC Hall. The price is $5 per chicken. Beans and Spanish rice available for $1 per plate. Sale starts at 8:30 a.m. Proceeds benefit council’s projects.

Hungerford—Hungerford KJT Society #70 and KJZT Society #275 will be hosting their annual chicken-barbecue and sausage dinner March 1 at the community center. Serving begins at 10:30 a.m. with dine-in or plate-to-go available. There will be a raffle, free dance until 5:00 p.m. by music of The Texas Legacy Bondage Band. Raffle drawing at 5:00 p.m.

Victoria—Bilingual charismatic healing Mass, Saturday, March 7 at Our Lady of Sorrows (208 W River St.) with Father Stan De Boe as celebrant. There will be singing, praying, adoration, confession (4:00 p.m.), rosary (5:15 p.m.) and Mass (6:00 p.m.). Missa de veus and other forms of prayer.

New Tafton—St. John’s Altar Society Annual Chicken Dinner March 8 at Tafton Community Center. Serving fried chicken, homemade desserts, homemade pies, and a chance to win up to $257 at the raffle. There will be an auction, cake walk, country store, kiddy area, raffle drawing, silent auction and much much more.

Do You Have A When & Where Item?
Fax to: (361) 573-9725 E-mail: events@catholiclighthouse.org

Addictions workshop, Monday, Jan. 19

A Drug and Alcohol Addictions Workshop will be held Monday, January 19, from 9 a.m. to 3:30 p.m. at Doubletree Hotel Houston Downtown. It is sponsored by the National Catholic Council on Alcoholism and Addiction and the Catholic Charities of the Archdiocese of Galveston-Houston. This free workshop will provide a full-day training for the Archdiocese of Galveston-Houston and surrounding area and will focus on learning about medical aspects of addiction, Family, Addictions, Spirituality and Recovery from Addictions and Steps to Establish a Parish-based Substance Abuse Direction Ministry. It is open to persons of all faiths and beliefs, Addiction Treatment and Prevention Professionals, persons at work in parish/church addiction ministries, or reps. from parishes/churches wanting to establish a parish ministry. There will be a Spanish Track and an English Track. CEUs credits approved by the National Association of Addiction Professionals (NAAP). Register by January 18 by calling (713) 874-6650.

“Last Templar,” Jan. 25-26 BC

By John Mulderig
Catholic News Service NEW YORK ( CNS)—Although officially disbanded almost 700 years ago, the Knights Templar—a medieval order of Christian military knights and troubadours dedicated to protecting Christian pilgrims to the Holy Land—have survived down the centuries in mysterious, fanciful legend. They figure briefly in the pseudohistorical back story of Dan Brown’s 2003 novel, “The Da Vinci Code,” and provide the basis for Raymond Khoury’s 2005 best-selling adventure tale, “The Last Templar.”

A two-part, four-hour television mini-series based on Khoury’s work (which originally wrote as a screenplay) premieres on NBC Sunday, Jan. 25, and Monday, Jan. 26, 8-10 p.m. CST each night. Directed by Paolo Barzman, this combination of romance and globe-trotting mystery stars Mira Sorvino, Scott Foley and the venerable David Clennon.

Sorvino plays New York-based anthropologist turned stay-at-home mom Tess Chaykin. She crosses paths with Foley’s FBI agent, Sean Murphy, after discovering the bewildering thieves dressing as Templars ride into the opening of a museum exhibit in Manhattan and make off with an ancient decoding device. This delicate set of gears and puzzle wheels, we eventually learn, could be used to decipher a long-buried manuscript with the potential to “destroy the foundation of Christianity.”

Though initially at cross-purposes, free-wheeling, agnostic Tess and By the way, if you want to establish a parish-based substance abuse direction ministry, it is open to persons of all faiths and beliefs, Addiction Treatment and Prevention Professionals, persons at work in parish/church addiction ministries, or reps. from parishes/churches wanting to establish a parish ministry. There will be a Spanish Track and an English Track. CEUs credits approved by the National Association of Addiction Professionals (NAAP). Register by January 18 by calling (713) 874-6650.
By Cynthia Brewer

From October to Christmas, parish organizations within the Diocese of Victoria held olive wood gifts sales at over 25 parishes. Organizations holding the Holy Land Christian Ecumenical Foundation’s olive wood crafts’ sales included the Catholic Daughters of the Americas, the Knights of Columbus, the Diocesan Council of Catholic Women, altar societies, youth groups and groups of parishioners.

Parish ownership has added to the cause to assist the Christians in the Holy Land, in the help of Father Stan DeBlois, OSST, pastor of Our Lady of Sorrows. He has volunteered to be the speaker for Holy Land Days in the Diocese of Victoria.

Father Stan has a special place in his heart for the Holy Land as he was on the board of Churches for Middle East Peace and chaired the board of two years while he was the Justice and Peace director for the Conference of Major Superiors of Men (CMSM).

A Holy Land Day is different than the usual olive wood sale days. On a Holy Land Day someone, in this case Father Stan, applies his homily to the Christians in the Holy Land and speaks on behalf of HCEF’s Child Sponsorship Program.

A Holy Land Day was held at St. Joseph Parish in Inverness, Our Lady of Sorrows Parish and at Trinity Chapel in Victoria, which brought about 16 child sponsorships. Father Stan and Father Gabriel Bentli, pastor of St. Joseph Parish, playedCleanup in the weekend on the screen of Immaculate Heart of Mary, who was the Justice and Peace director for Holy Land Days in the Diocese of Victoria.

Father Stan has a special place in his heart for the Holy Land as he was on the board of Churches for Middle East Peace and chaired the board of two years while he was the Justice and Peace director for the Conference of Major Superiors of Men (CMSM).

A Holy Land Day is different than the usual olive wood sale days. On a Holy Land Day someone, in this case Father Stan, applies his homily to the Christians in the Holy Land and speaks on behalf of HCEF’s Child Sponsorship Program.

A Holy Land Day was held at St. Joseph Parish in Inverness, Our Lady of Sorrows Parish and at Trinity Chapel in Victoria, which brought about 16 child sponsorships. Father Stan and Father Gabriel Bentli, pastor of St. Joseph Parish, played Cleanup in the weekend on the screen of Immaculate Heart of Mary, who was the Justice and Peace director for Holy Land Days in the Diocese of Victoria.

Father Stan has a special place in his heart for the Holy Land as he was on the board of Churches for Middle East Peace and chaired the board of two years while he was the Justice and Peace director for the Conference of Major Superiors of Men (CMSM).

A Holy Land Day is different than the usual olive wood sale days. On a Holy Land Day someone, in this case Father Stan, applies his homily to the Christians in the Holy Land and speaks on behalf of HCEF’s Child Sponsorship Program.

A Holy Land Day was held at St. Joseph Parish in Inverness, Our Lady of Sorrows Parish and at Trinity Chapel in Victoria, which brought about 16 child sponsorships. Father Stan and Father Gabriel Bentli, pastor of St. Joseph Parish, played Cleanup in the weekend on the screen of Immaculate Heart of Mary, who was the Justice and Peace director for Holy Land Days in the Diocese of Victoria.

Father Stan has a special place in his heart for the Holy Land as he was on the board of Churches for Middle East Peace and chaired the board of two years while he was the Justice and Peace director for the Conference of Major Superiors of Men (CMSM).

A Holy Land Day is different than the usual olive wood sale days. On a Holy Land Day someone, in this case Father Stan, applies his homily to the Christians in the Holy Land and speaks on behalf of HCEF’s Child Sponsorship Program.

A Holy Land Day was held at St. Joseph Parish in Inverness, Our Lady of Sorrows Parish and at Trinity Chapel in Victoria, which brought about 16 child sponsorships. Father Stan and Father Gabriel Bentli, pastor of St. Joseph Parish, played Cleanup in the weekend on the screen of Immaculate Heart of Mary, who was the Justice and Peace director for Holy Land Days in the Diocese of Victoria.

Father Stan has a special place in his heart for the Holy Land as he was on the board of Churches for Middle East Peace and chaired the board of two years while he was the Justice and Peace director for the Conference of Major Superiors of Men (CMSM).

A Holy Land Day is different than the usual olive wood sale days. On a Holy Land Day someone, in this case Father Stan, applies his homily to the Christians in the Holy Land and speaks on behalf of HCEF’s Child Sponsorship Program.

A Holy Land Day was held at St. Joseph Parish in Inverness, Our Lady of Sorrows Parish and at Trinity Chapel in Victoria, which brought about 16 child sponsorships. Father Stan and Father Gabriel Bentli, pastor of St. Joseph Parish, played Cleanup in the weekend on the screen of Immaculate Heart of Mary, who was the Justice and Peace director for Holy Land Days in the Diocese of Victoria.

Father Stan has a special place in his heart for the Holy Land as he was on the board of Churches for Middle East Peace and chaired the board of two years while he was the Justice and Peace director for the Conference of Major Superiors of Men (CMSM).

A Holy Land Day is different than the usual olive wood sale days. On a Holy Land Day someone, in this case Father Stan, applies his homily to the Christians in the Holy Land and speaks on behalf of HCEF’s Child Sponsorship Program.

A Holy Land Day was held at St. Joseph Parish in Inverness, Our Lady of Sorrows Parish and at Trinity Chapel in Victoria, which brought about 16 child sponsorships. Father Stan and Father Gabriel Bentli, pastor of St. Joseph Parish, played Cleanup in the weekend on the screen of Immaculate Heart of Mary, who was the Justice and Peace director for Holy Land Days in the Diocese of Victoria.

Father Stan has a special place in his heart for the Holy Land as he was on the board of Churches for Middle East Peace and chaired the board of two years while he was the Justice and Peace director for the Conference of Major Superiors of Men (CMSM).

A Holy Land Day is different than the usual olive wood sale days. On a Holy Land Day someone, in this case Father Stan, applies his homily to the Christians in the Holy Land and speaks on behalf of HCEF’s Child Sponsorship Program.

A Holy Land Day was held at St. Joseph Parish in Inverness, Our Lady of Sorrows Parish and at Trinity Chapel in Victoria, which brought about 16 child sponsorships. Father Stan and Father Gabriel Bentli, pastor of St. Joseph Parish, played Cleanup in the weekend on the screen of Immaculate Heart of Mary, who was the Justice and Peace director for Holy Land Days in the Diocese of Victoria.

Father Stan has a special place in his heart for the Holy Land as he was on the board of Churches for Middle East Peace and chaired the board of two years while he was the Justice and Peace director for the Conference of Major Superiors of Men (CMSM).

A Holy Land Day is different than the usual olive wood sale days. On a Holy Land Day someone, in this case Father Stan, applies his homily to the Christians in the Holy Land and speaks on behalf of HCEF’s Child Sponsorship Program.

A Holy Land Day was held at St. Joseph Parish in Inverness, Our Lady of Sorrows Parish and at Trinity Chapel in Victoria, which brought about 16 child sponsorships. Father Stan and Father Gabriel Bentli, pastor of St. Joseph Parish, played Cleanup in the weekend on the screen of Immaculate Heart of Mary, who was the Justice and Peace director for Holy Land Days in the Diocese of Victoria.

Father Stan has a special place in his heart for the Holy Land as he was on the board of Churches for Middle East Peace and chaired the board of two years while he was the Justice and Peace director for the Conference of Major Superiors of Men (CMSM).

A Holy Land Day is different than the usual olive wood sale days. On a Holy Land Day someone, in this case Father Stan, applies his homily to the Christians in the Holy Land and speaks on behalf of HCEF’s Child Sponsorship Program.

A Holy Land Day was held at St. Joseph Parish in Inverness, Our Lady of Sorrows Parish and at Trinity Chapel in Victoria, which brought about 16 child sponsorships. Father Stan and Father Gabriel Bentli, pastor of St. Joseph Parish, played Cleanup in the weekend on the screen of Immaculate Heart of Mary, who was the Justice and Peace director for Holy Land Days in the Diocese of Victoria.

Father Stan has a special place in his heart for the Holy Land as he was on the board of Churches for Middle East Peace and chaired the board of two years while he was the Justice and Peace director for the Conference of Major Superiors of Men (CMSM).

A Holy Land Day is different than the usual olive wood sale days. On a Holy Land Day someone, in this case Father Stan, applies his homily to the Christians in the Holy Land and speaks on behalf of HCEF’s Child Sponsorship Program.

A Holy Land Day was held at St. Joseph Parish in Inverness, Our Lady of Sorrows Parish and at Trinity Chapel in Victoria, which brought about 16 child sponsorships. Father Stan and Father Gabriel Bentli, pastor of St. Joseph Parish, played Cleanup in the weekend on the screen of Immaculate Heart of Mary, who was the Justice and Peace director for Holy Land Days in the Diocese of Victoria.

Father Stan has a special place in his heart for the Holy Land as he was on the board of Churches for Middle East Peace and chaired the board of two years while he was the Justice and Peace director for the Conference of Major Superiors of Men (CMSM).

A Holy Land Day is different than the usual olive wood sale days. On a Holy Land Day someone, in this case Father Stan, applies his homily to the Christians in the Holy Land and speaks on behalf of HCEF’s Child Sponsorship Program.

A Holy Land Day was held at St. Joseph Parish in Inverness, Our Lady of Sorrows Parish and at Trinity Chapel in Victoria, which brought about 16 child sponsorships. Father Stan and Father Gabriel Bentli, pastor of St. Joseph Parish, played Cleanup in the weekend on the screen of Immaculate Heart of Mary, who was the Justice and Peace director for Holy Land Days in the Diocese of Victoria.

Father Stan has a special place in his heart for the Holy Land as he was on the board of Churches for Middle East Peace and chaired the board of two years while he was the Justice and Peace director for the Conference of Major Superiors of Men (CMSM).

A Holy Land Day is different than the usual olive wood sale days. On a Holy Land Day someone, in this case Father Stan, applies his homily to the Christians in the Holy Land and speaks on behalf of HCEF’s Child Sponsorship Program.

A Holy Land Day was held at St. Joseph Parish in Inverness, Our Lady of Sorrows Parish and at Trinity Chapel in Victoria, which brought about 16 child sponsorships. Father Stan and Father Gabriel Bentli, pastor of St. Joseph Parish, played Cleanup in the weekend on the screen of Immaculate Heart of Mary, who was the Justice and Peace director for Holy Land Days in the Diocese of Victoria.

Father Stan has a special place in his heart for the Holy Land as he was on the board of Churches for Middle East Peace and chaired the board of two years while he was the Justice and Peace director for the Conference of Major Superiors of Men (CMSM).

A Holy Land Day is different than the usual olive wood sale days. On a Holy Land Day someone, in this case Father Stan, applies his homily to the Christians in the Holy Land and speaks on behalf of HCEF’s Child Sponsorship Program.

A Holy Land Day was held at St. Joseph Parish in Inverness, Our Lady of Sorrows Parish and at Trinity Chapel in Victoria, which brought about 16 child sponsorships. Father Stan and Father Gabriel Bentli, pastor of St. Joseph Parish, played Cleanup in the weekend on the screen of Immaculate Heart of Mary, who was the Justice and Peace director for Holy Land Days in the Diocese of Victoria.