Trinitarian Ordination
Deacon Alfonso Serna Ornelas, O.S.S.T. enters Our Lady of Sorrows Church, June 20, 2009, in anticipation of his ordination to the priesthood to follow moments later.

See ordination story, p. 13

Year for Priests
The Year for Priests is focused upon in the July issue of The Catholic Lighthouse through a number of columns, articles and stories, such as:

Local priests:
- Father Edward Bartsch ~ 60th Anniversary to the Priesthood, p. 1
- Father Charles Kram Jr.
- Father Timothy Vakoc ~ Ordination story, p. 13

Priests outside of diocese:
- Father Timothy Yakoc ~ Army chaplain dies from Iraq War wounds, p. 18
- Father Brian Kram, Curé de Ars ~ continued story from National Catholic Register, p. 3
- Bishop Aymond of Austin named Archbishop of New Orleans, p. 17
- African American Father John Raphael says community must unite to pro-life, p. 21

Columns:
- Father Dietzen ~ Question Corner ~ Do Catholics Still Believe in the Eucharist?, p. 11
- Father Catoir, Spirituality for Today ~ Rediscovering the Eucharist, p. 11
- Faith & Family Puzzle Contest ~ Apostles and Disciples, p. 14
- El Papa Habla ~ Año Sacerdotal, p. 16
- Entre Amigos ~ El sacerdote que no tenía alma misionera, p. 16
- The Pope Speaks ~ Priestly ministry, p. 22
- Entre Amigos ~ The priest who did not have a missionary spirit, p. 22

Father Bartsch celebrates 60 years of service
By Cynthia Brewer
PRAHA — The parish of the Assumption of the Blessed Virgin Mary Church in Praha gave their pastor, Father Edward C. Bartsch, a beautiful celebration for the 60th anniversary of his ordination May 28, 2009. He was ordained May 28, 1949.

Following a hot, summer day, the church began to fill for a cooler, evening Mass at 6:30 p.m. in honor of Father Bartsch. The main celebrant of the Mass of Thanksgiving was Bishop David Fellhauer with Father Bartsch and visiting priests concelebrating.

During the homily, Bishop Fellhauer thanked those who had organized the anniversary celebration and expressed his gratitude to Father Bartsch for his service to the Archdiocese of San Antonio and the Diocese of Victoria.

At the altar of the Assumption of the Blessed Virgin Mary Church in Praha, all celebrating priests pose in honor of Father Bartsch’s 60th anniversary. Pictured priests were Fathers Gabriel Maison, Moulton; Dan Kahlbich, Columbus; Joe Flyshner, Flatonia; Bishop David Fellhauer; Fathers Edward Bartsch, Praha; Peter Yeboah-Amanfo, Schulenburg; Michael Rother, Hallettsville; John Bily, Weimar; and James Nischan, who assists throughout the diocese. Inset: Father Edward Bartsch speaks to his congregation on the 60th anniversary of his priesthood.

The Mass closed with “Lord, When You Came to the Sea-shore.” Father Bartsch told the congregation that was his favorite song even though he’d grown up surrounded by cotton patches.

Following Mass, Father Bartsch thanked all those who contributed to the celebration of his 60th anniversary to the priesthood and invited everyone to the anniversary meal in the parish hall prepared by St. Mary’s Parish and the generous help of many volunteers.

According to a program written by Mrs. Alvin Grimsinger Sr. for Father Bartsch’s 25th anniversary in Karnes City, Father Bartsch was born outside the present boundaries of the San Antonio Archdiocese, in Bastrop County. In September 1941, he entered St. John’s Seminary in San Antonio, just months before the bombing of Pearl Harbor. The San Antonio draft board wanted Edward Bartsch in the Army, but Archbishop Lucey reminded him that divinity students were classified 4-D.

Since he was from the Bastrop area, as his ordination day grew closer, Edward Bartsch was unsure if he’d be ordained for the Archdiocese of San Antonio or for the newly formed Diocese of Austin. As the historical program states, Father Bartsch was not given a choice, but was retained by Archbishop Lucey for San Antonio. However, he was ordained by the bishop of the Diocese of Austin, Bishop Reicher, at San Fernando Cathedral May 28, 1949, because Archbishop Lucey was in Rome.

Father Bartsch’s first assignment was at Sts. Peter & Paul, New Braunfels; he was then assigned to St. Mary’s, High Hill; St. Mary’s, Fredericksburg; and St. Michael’s, San Antonio. He

See Father Bartsch, p. 9
Dear Bishop Fellhauer,

Thank you for your leadership and your guidance. I am grateful for the opportunity to assist you in your mission.

Sincerely in His mission,
[Signature]

Rev. Msgr. John E. Kozar
BY TIM DRAKE,
Register Senior Writer
April 12-18, 2009. Issue I Reprinted with permission of the National Catholic Register
Editor’s note: this is the continuation of the story by Mr. Drake, which appeared in the June issue of The Catholic Lighthouse.

Patron of Priests
In highlighting the Year of the Priest, Pope Benedict called upon the example of St. John Vianney. The humble French diocesan priest was assigned to the rural and spiritually dying town of Ars in central France. Through his example of personal holiness and attention to the sacraments, St. John was able to transform his parish. Pilgrims from all over the world came to receive the sacrament of reconciliation from the Curé of Ars, as he became known.

“He is not really well known,” said Father Cihak. “Most parish priests know very little about their patron.”

“In the New Evangelization, we need a renewal of parish life, and that means a renewal of the parish priesthood,” said Father Cihak. “St. Vianney is useful for that because he shows us the parish priesthood is not so much about programs, but about personal holiness and personal witness.

“When you look at St. John Vianney, you don’t see a charismatic, talented sort of individual, but a humble man who knew what it means to get close to Christ — through confession, Mass, personal prayer and works of mercy. He took a fallow parish and made it a hotbed of holiness in about 10 years.”

Father Steffes agreed.

“He was a simple man who opened himself up to the will of the Father,” said Father Steffes. In describing the saint, Father Cihak noted similarities between St. John and the Italian St. Pio of Pietrelcina.

“They both saw the importance of confession, and both had explicit battles with Satan,” said Father Cihak. “The parish priest’s battle against Satan cannot be overlooked. He does this through his priestly ministry, especially confession, and both had explicit battles with Satan.”

“A priest must fight if he’s to be a true spiritual father,” said Father Cihak. “We don’t enter the world on neutral ground.”

Example for Vocations
While it’s too early to know what sort of activities will be planned by the U.S. bishops’ conference to highlight the year, some seminaries, dioceses and individuals already have special plans.

The Diocese of Fall River, Mass., is planning a speaker series to include Father George Rutler, who penned a biography of St. John Vianney. Mount St. Mary’s Seminary is organizing a symposium on St. John Vianney in the fall.

In addition, Catholic actor Leonardo Defilippis has providentially been working on a one-man drama focused on St. John Vianney for the past 2 1/2 years. He plans to launch the drama on the saint’s feast day — Aug. 4, 2009.

Over the past two years, Defilippis has been asking his audiences if they’ve ever heard of the saint.

“And yet an important saint for today, he said. “We’re in an identity crisis — a crisis of ignorance, indifference and lukewarmness, and there’s no other priest like Vianney in the history of the Church.”

Defilippis hopes that his drama might help to create a movement for renewal in each diocese.

“St. Vianney converted everything by creating a movement of adoration within his parish, and then converted sinners through confession,” added Defilippis. “He came at a time following the French Revolution when it looked like the Church might be destroyed.”

“The Curé of Ars is the saint who will inspire all of us, especially young people, with a deeper understanding of the heroic life of the priest,” said Defilippis. “I believe we’ll see a tremendous upsurge in vocations because our youth are seeking a radical choice, a way to make a difference in our world, and John Vianney points the way through his dynamic life of self-sacrifice and his struggle with evil.”

John Vianney
1786-1859
feast – August 4
Born near Lyon, France, this farmer’s son studied for the priesthood for many years, and eventually was ordained more for his devoutness and good will than for other qualities. But he became a model parish priest in Arsen-Dombes, where he served for 40 years. He was devoted to his parishioners, and became famous for rigorous preaching and insights in the confessional. The Cure of Ars, as he was known, spent up to 18 hours a day hearing the confessions of pilgrims who sought him out. He is the patron of parish priests.

To read the Homily of the Holy Father Benedict XVI on the opening of the Year for Priests – Solemnity of the Most Sacred Heart of Jesus – please go to: www.vatican.va/special/anno_sac/index_en.html.

Iconographer Marek Czarnecki of Seraphic Restorations in Meriden, Connecticut, has graciously given the USCCB the rights to use the icon of Christ the Great High Priest during the Year for Priests.

In the Footsteps of Jesus and the Apostles
Join Father David Wathen, O.F.M., an experienced Holy Land guide, on a journey of faith in the lands of God’s Revelation.

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Seminary Burses

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

As of June 26, 2009

TOTALS

— Rev. Msgr. Edward C. Bartsch
Seminary Burse
In honor of Fr. Ed Bartsch’s 60th Anniversary of Ordination by:
Joseph Neskor $100.00
Hattie & Ken Stryk 10.00
Georgia Bujnoch 10.00
Serra Club-Victoria NW 300.00
Allan & Verna Goertz 250.00
Nolan Goertz 50.00
Nathan Goertz 25.00
Eugene & Carolyn Patalik 25.00
Daniel & Jenelle Cerny 10.00
Ollie Pospisil 20.00
Lillie Zimmerhanzel 20.00
Allan & Cynthia Stryk 100.00
Richard & Earlene O’Brien 60.00
Eugene & Betty Patalik 30.00
Rose Klerkar 30.00
Stazy Hajek 10.00
Gary & Denise Grieve and family 60.00
Julia Stryk 20.00
Donna & Gail Stryk 30.00
Robin & Gary Cerny 25.00
Harold & Diane Hiller 20.00
Preston & Roxan Salziger 10.00
Murlene Enke 10.00
Mary Bianchi 25.00
Lee Ann, Mike, Kenneth and Kimberlee Hathaway 100.00
Thomas Orsak 25.00
Michael Bianchi 20.00
M/M Robert Hagel 10.00
Joanne & Tim Bauer 25.00
Charles & Margaret Kuchka 10.00
Catherine Palmer 25.00
M/M L. H. Waida 10.00
Dorris Raska 10.00
Wendy Hrncir 5.00
M/M Joe Morris 25.00
Arthur & Marjorie Jolly 10.00

Total $1,560.00

— Rev. Celestino Say Seminary Burse
(Catholic Life Ins.)
Previously reported $1,945.00

In memory of Wallace Bianchi by:
Vince & Pat Bianchi 50.00
M/M Paul Bittlebrun 25.00
Harold & Diane Hiller 20.00
Preston & Roxan Salziger 10.00
Murlene Enke 10.00
Mary Bianchi 25.00
Lee Ann, Mike, Kenneth and Kimberlee Hathaway 100.00
Thomas Orsak 25.00
Michael Bianchi 20.00
M/M Robert Hagel 10.00
Joanne & Tim Bauer 25.00
Charles & Margaret Kuchka 10.00
Catherine Palmer 25.00
M/M L. H. Waida 10.00
Dorris Raska 10.00
Wendy Hrncir 5.00
M/M Joe Morris 25.00
Arthur & Marjorie Jolly 10.00

Total $2,360.00

— Rev. John C. Peters Seminary Burse
Previously reported $7,274.00

In honor of Fr. John Peters from Sacred Heart School Faculty, Staff & Students for National School Pastor Appreciation Day 50.00
In honor of Fr. John Peters from Catholic Life Branch #2 300.00
In honor of M/M Marcus Janak’s 50th wedding anniversary by M/M Richard Rouse Sr. 40.00

Total $1,514.50

— Rev. Jerome J. Stryk Seminary
Previously reported $11,414.50
In honor of M/M Louis Polasek’s 50th Anniversary by Dan Stryk 50.00
In memory of Agnes Krhovjak by Lad & Helen Muras 20.00
In memory of Agnes Krhovjak by Louis Stryk 20.00

Total $11,504.50

— Rev. John C. Peters Seminary Burse #4
Previously reported $7,274.00

In honor of Fr. John Peters from Sacred Heart School Faculty, Staff & Students for National School Pastor Appreciation Day 50.00
In honor of Fr. John Peters from Catholic Life Branch #2 300.00
In honor of M/M Marcus Janak’s 50th wedding anniversary by M/M Richard Rouse Sr. 40.00

Total $1,514.50

— Rev. Msgr. Julius Petru Seminary Burse #2
Previously reported $610.00
In memory of Ellen Rose Boriskek by Mary Ann Kucera 200.00
In memory of Paul Raus Sr. by Mary Ann Kucera 25.00

Total $835.00

Additional Burses for donations:

• Rev. Joe Leyva
• Rev. Marcus Valenta
• Rev. Godfrey F. Kuratko
• Rev. Msgr. John Hanacek
• Sophie Schmidt
• Rev. Charles Kram
• William L. Schmidt
• Sr. Perpetua Havas, IWBS
• Rev. Sean Donohue Burse #2

Those wishing to begin a burse or to contribute to an existing seminary burse may do so by sending their contributions with the appropriate burse designation to:

SEMINARY BURSES
DIOCESE OF VICTORIA
P. O. BOX 4070
VICTORIA, TX 77903

Prayer for the Beatification of Father Charles W. Kram Jr.

Dear Father in Heaven, we beseech You on behalf of Your priest, Father Charles Kram, who left us a wonderful example of pastoral charity and patient suffering. If it be Your will, grant that he may be numbered among the Blessed in Heaven. We ask this through Christ our Lord. Amen.

By permission of the Most Rev. David E. Fellhauer, Bishop of the Diocese of Victoria in Texas

Story about Father Kram on p. 9.
UHV graduate helps fellow veterans

University of Houston-Victoria graduate Valerie Romans has a special understanding for the veterans she helps when they come home from Iraq and Afghanistan. She’s one of them.

Before she took the job as a veterans’ resource and referral specialist for the Texas Veterans Leadership Program, she spent a decade in the service, including a year in Iraq as part of an Army Reserve unit out of Victoria.

Now she works with the Texas Workforce Solutions in Victoria to help soldiers returning to the Golden Crescent find jobs, education and training opportunities, and sometimes just emotional support.

“I go out and find them and find what they need,” she said. Many returning veterans have needs that go unmet and benefits of which they may not be aware, she said.

These benefits include funds former soldiers can use to get a degree from The Victoria College or UHV.

Many veterans are looking for a new direction in life, she said, a situation similar to the one that drew Romans into the military in the first place.

After graduating from Calhoun High School in 1993, she received a scholarship to pursue a Licensed Vocational Nurse degree but just wasn’t sure if that was the direction she wanted for her life. To find that direction, she signed up for the Army instead.

“I went to Korea, Germany and Washington, D.C.,” she said. In 2000, she returned to Victoria and began taking prerequisite classes to enter the VC nursing program.

But her studies were cut short when she was called up to service in Iraq in April of 2003. She came back a year later with a host of new experiences and a fiancé.

“My husband served with me in the same reserve unit,” she said. Her education was further set back when she became pregnant in 2005 with her first daughter.

But Romans still dreamed of earning her bachelor’s degree to further the associate degree she received while in the service.

So while her husband worked and helped take of their children, Romans took online classes at UHV.

“Going to UHV was very rewarding, and the online classes really made it possible with small children at home,” she said. In 2008, she earned her bachelor’s degree in psychology. In December, she used it along with her military experience to land her current job helping veterans.

“I love what I do,” she said. Her psychology training helps her better understand her clients and what they need to achieve their full potential in civilian life.

She finds veterans wherever she can, be it through phone calls, e-mails, meetings or even visits to area Veterans Affairs clinics.

Once she finds them, she listens to their stories, finds out their needs, and connects them to the resources available.

“One big push for this program is to create opportunities for these veterans to become leaders in their community,” she said.

She is now working to organize student veteran organizations at VC and UHV to further advance the cause of her fellow returning soldiers.

The Texans Veterans Leadership Program was started in November 2008 as a way for the state to help its returning veterans. Specialists like Romans are based at the 28 Texas Workforce Solutions Centers around the state.

For more information about the program, contact Romans at 361-582-6432 or valerie.romans@twc.state.tx.us, or visit www.twc.state.tx.us/lp/vetlp.html.

Valerie grew up in Our Lady of the Gulf Parish in Port Lavaca. She and her husband, Christopher, were married at Our Lady of Sorrows Parish July 30, 2005, and currently live in Yorktown, where they attend San Luis Parish.

MC SH SISTERS CELEBRATE 25TH AND 50TH ANNIVERSARIES—Missionary Catechists of the Sacred Heart of Jesus and Mary (MC SH) Sisters Susanna Islas and Yolanda Pineda were honored by parishioners for their jubilee anniversaries of religious life May 24, 2009. Sister Susanna celebrated her 50th anniversary and Sister Yolanda Pineda celebrated her 25th anniversary. The BBQ celebration was held at the home of Johnny and Cindy Smith, parishioners of Our Lady of Sorrows Parish in Victoria. The two religious sisters were crowned and then escorted by mariachis and guests from the parking area to the BBQ, Sister Miriam Perez offered prayer. It seems everyone enjoyed wonderful fellowship while eating BBQ and celebratory cake. Pictured sitting are Sister Yolanda and Sister Susanna. Standing include MCSH Sisters Asuncion Jimenez, Anna Maria Lozano, Laura Solano, Superior General; Rosa de la Cruz, Manuela Hernandez, Adela Benoit, Juana Jaime, Eufemia Santiago, Miriam Perez, Provincial Superior; Josefa Maldonado and Midory Wu.

TEXAS CDA STATE REGENT HONOURED AT RECEPTION—Catholic Daughters of the Americas State Regent Sheila Martinka of Saint Hyacinth Catholic Church, Deer Park, was honored with a special Mass followed by a reception in Guyot Hall. As a third generation member of CDA, Martinka began her journey joining the Catholic Daughters of the Americas in 1991 as a charter member of Court Our Lady of St. Hyacinth No. 2361, Deer Park. Sheila is the daughter of Sandra Genoway, who has served in the past as a local and state chairman; and granddaughter of the late Ruth Miori (who served as regent for Court St. Ann two separate terms in the late ‘60s and late ‘70s). She is also the niece of Betty and Sharon Miori who are members of Court St. Ann No. 369 in Victoria. In a recent letter, she stated “I feel that I have such a personal connection to Court St. Ann with so many family members as court members. I have truly ‘grown up’ with CDA and so many of you. I have many fond memories but will share one. I can remember when I was a kid visiting in the summers with my grandparents and coming up to the KC Hall on Wednesday nights with my grandmother. She was on one of the teams to make hamburgers.” Sheila served as local Vice Regent and Regent, District Deputy and was appointed as State Secretary in 2003 when she began her journey on the state board. She was elected as State Regent April 2009 at the biennial state convention in McAllen. Pictured from left (back row): Immediate Past State Regent Carolyn Bachmann; officers of Court No. 2361: Recording Secretary Gwen Brown; Regent Phyllis Godby; Vice Regent Susan O’Keefe; Treasurer Margaret Anthony; front row: National Director Duchess Collins; State Secretary Eve Trevino; First Vice State Regent Carolyn Malik; State Regent Sheila Martinka; Second Vice State Regent Peggy Rosales; State Treasurer Minnie Rodgers; and National Regent Libby Ramirez.

St. Joseph Parish Picnic
Yoakum Community Center
Sunday, August 2

Picnic Stew, Sausage & Trimmings
All Plates at $7 p/p dine-in (air conditioned) or drive-thru for plates-to-go — Serving begins at 10:30 a.m.
Soft Drinks & Refreshments Available
Register for Raffle Prizes — Total Value $11,024.95 to be Drawn
Top Prize $2,000 in silver dollars

Auction 12:30 p.m.
• Arts & Crafts • Quilts • Livestock • Many more items •

Mexican Food available in the afternoon.

Annual St. Joseph Alumni Reunion — Sat. Aug. 1
Call the rectory for tickets at (361) 293-3518
Scientific Secularists

Secularists tell us that, unlike religious people, they are very scientific. They are not moved by myths, superstition, or dreams but only by the hard facts of scientific evidence.

For an appreciation of their devotion to science, start with the secular view of fetology. Secularists say that it is permissible to abort fetuses because it is not human but only a collection of undifferentiated cells. But cell differentiation begins in days 18 through 24 after conception. By the end of the fourth week of pregnancy, embryos are already visible to the naked eye, and their brains, spinal cords, hearts, and organs have begun to form. During week 10 of pregnancy, the baby’s brain will produce 250,000 neurons each minute. Maybe that is why abortion providers like “Planned Barenthood” try to block the use of 4D ultrasounds in pregnancy clinics. Mothers might realize that their fetuses aren’t merely a bunch of undifferentiated cells and be reluctant to abort. Whenever science conflicts with secular ideology, science loses.

Secularists tell us that the insecticide DDT diminishes bird populations (Rachel Carson’s “Silent Spring”) and so it must be banned. In fact secularists are opposed to all kinds of chemicals, forgetting that before widespread use of chemicals the average life span was about 35. Contrary to Rachel Carson, bird populations have thrived where DDT was employed. DDT saves lives and thereby enables population controllers. Alexander King, founder of the Malthus Club of Rome, wrote in 1990, “My own doubts came when DDT was introduced. In Guyana, within two years, it had almost eliminated malaria. So my chief quarrel with DDT, in hindsight, is that it has greatly added to the population problem.” Dr. Charles Warster, one of the chief opponents of DDT reportedly said, “People are the cause of all the problems. We need to get rid of some of them, and this [malaria] is as good a way as any.”

Overpopulation is supposedly an imbalance between the number of people and the available food supply. In this context, babies (additional eaters) are a threat. Paul Ehrlich in 1968, on the basis of secularist science, predicted that we would populate ourselves into oblivion, that hundreds of millions including Americans would starve to death, and that there would probably be no England in the year 2000. For these predictions in his Population Bomb, Ehrlich received the prestigious MacArthur Foundation “genius award” and split a Swedish Royal Academy of Science prize. The fact that his bomb turned out to be a dud might incline you to give him the “global idiot” award and look on him as you might members of the Flat Earth Society. Though wrong, his predictions supported secular ideology that there are far too many human beings—many of them of the wrong kind—and for secularists it is not so much the scientific facts but the thought that counts.

Al Gore (the Goracle) and his followers (Gorons) warn us that human activity such as burning gasoline in your car or generating electricity from coal is causing global warming. That will make the polar ice caps melt. The waters will cause the seas to rise and cover such cities as New York. Besides there terrible storms and starvation. To prevent this we will all have to cut back on CO2s by reducing the use of fossil fuels. For the Gorons and other secularists, this is settled science. However, there are some heretics among the scientists. The computer models on which global warming is based are so wildly inaccurate that, according to climatologist Dr. Patrick Michaels, they perform “worse than a table of random numbers when applied to U.S. temperatures.”

Here is what more than 31,000 American scientists say on the matter of man-made global warming:

... secularists accept junk science that agrees with their ideology and ignore science that contradicts it. It is not just a question of ideology trumping over science, but over reality.

**Reporting Abuse**

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

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

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

If you are unsure about bringing a complaint or would like further information, please contact: Rev. Gary Janak at (979) 543-3770.
UHV library project wins award for recording lost history of Vietnam immigrants in Texas

After Saigon fell in 1975, thousands of Vietnamese were brought by churches to the United States. Many found a new home along the Gulf Coast of Texas because it had an environment that reminded them of home. Most went unnoticed by most state residents.

The Victoria College/University of Houston-Victoria Library set out to record the story of these immigrants in their own words. This oral history project, “Never Far From the Sea: The Vietnamese of the Texas Gulf Coast,” has earned the Mary Faye Barnes Award for Exellence for Community History Projects for Sara Massey, the principal investigator on the project.

The Texas Oral History Association initiated the award in 1999 to bring recognition to oral history projects exemplifying distinguished preservation of community history. The award is named for longtime community historian and twice TOHA president Mary Faye Williams-Barnes of Lockhart.

“An important part of the cultural history of Texas,” said Massey, a retired researcher for the Institute of Texan Cultures in San Antonio.

Massey interviewed 48 Vietnamese who settled in Palacios, Port Lavaca, Seadrift and Rockport/Fulton. Their stories were transcribed and placed in notebooks that include photographs of the interviewees. The collection is available for viewing and research in print and audio form at the VC/UHV Library about doing the oral history project. The library helped her secure funding from several area foundations for the project.

In doing the interviews, she began to notice common elements in many of the stories. Some of the older refugees came to the U.S. after immigrating from the north to the south of Vietnam after the defeat of the French colonial government.

“For some of these people, coming to the United States was the second time they were a refugee,” she said.

Most of the men had served time in the military in one capacity or another, and several had been wounded, she noted.

From camps scattered across the U.S., they began working menial jobs and learning to speak English. A large number found their way to Texas as they tried to reunite with families and friends.

In Texas, they found the weather similar to the humid jungle conditions of Vietnam, and the water drew many to the Texas Gulf Coast, she said.

“Many had been shrimpers and fishermen in Vietnam,” she said. “Many are shrimpers now.”

The project was paid for by grants from Trull Foundation of Palacios, the Kathryn O’Connor Foundation and the Albert E. & Myrtle Gunn Trust, both of Victoria.

“The migration of so many Vietnamese to the Texas Gulf Coast is an important part of our history worth preserving,” said Joe Dahlstrom, director of libraries for VC and UHV. “Dr. Massey did an excellent job doing just that. I hope many scholars and students of history will take advantage of this unique resource we now have available.”

“The award is well deserved for all her hard work and excellence on this project,” said Dahlstrom, who nominated Massey for the prize.

Sisterly Thoughts

By Sister Mildred Truchard, IWBS

The Big Picture

I t is important to see the big picture. Now, I’m not talking about a big screen television set, but I guess that can be an advantage for some people. The picture that I’m referring to is much larger than that. Let me explain. Some time ago, an e-mail correspondent of mine wrote that she was sending a picture of her extended family via e-mail attachment. Now it was a very large picture. When I first opened it, all I could see was part of two faces. I scrolled across the picture and more faces came into view. Then I scrolled down and across and slowly some children’s faces came into view. I thought that was it but then discovered that there were more faces hidden in the middle of the picture.

I think that sometimes we look at life in a similar way. We only see what’s right in front of us and are unaware of everything else that is around us. Sometimes we may act or speak without thinking of how our action or our words are affecting others. For example, we may be in a hurry to get somewhere so we try to go a little faster than the law or common sense allows, without realizing that we may be jeopardizing the safety of others on or near the road. We may be thinking only of our well-being when we are careless in safeguarding our natural resources and our environment. I’m sure that you can think of instances in which our actions fail to honor the big picture.

Now, let’s think of ways that we can honor that big picture. Jesus himself told us, “Whatever you do to the least of my brothers and sisters, you do to me.” Perhaps our first step is to try to look at all of our brothers and sisters as God looks at them. God loves all of them and is present in each of them. When I look at God present in others, I hope that I am more careful about how I treat them –because I know that’s the way I am treating God. This realization may prompt me to reflect before I do something that may harm, endanger, or show disrespect for others. So let us try to remember to “see the big picture” which reflects God’s way of looking at our brothers and sisters. May God bless all of us with this grace to see God in and through our brothers and sisters.

Srs. Peter & Paul Catholic Church

Frelsburg

COUNTRY FESTIVAL

SUNDAY, AUGUST 2, 2009

Holy Mass - 8:15 AM

FRIED FISH

Served at 11:00 AM -
with Buttered Potatoes, Hush Puppies, Cole Slaw,
Pinto Beans, Bread, Pickles & Tea

Meal Ticket: Large $8.00 Small $5.00

Drive Thru Line: Plate to go $8.00
(Nembugers, Nachos & Sausage available after 3 PM)

Auction

1:00 PM

Featuring:

Quilts, Handmade Items, Antiques, Home Canned Foods, Plants, Paternies plus many more Unique Items!

For more information on the Country Festival, call 979-735-5420.

Bingo

11 AM - 3 PM

Raffle

Country Store

Scavenger Hunt

Children’s Games

Blue Bell Ice Cream

Silent Auction

Snow Cones

Horseless Pitching

Dunking Stand

Free Dance

Red Ravens

4 - 8 PM

Come join us for a good old-fashioned time!

Srs. Peter & Paul Catholic Church

Frelsburg

COUNTRY FESTIVAL

SUNDAY, AUGUST 2, 2009

Holy Mass - 8:15 AM

FRIED FISH

Served at 11:00 AM -
with Buttered Potatoes, Hush Puppies, Cole Slaw,
Pinto Beans, Bread, Pickles & Tea

Meal Ticket: Large $8.00 Small $5.00

Drive Thru Line: Plate to go $8.00
(Nembugers, Nachos & Sausage available after 3 PM)

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Come join us for a good old-fashioned time!
Hallettsville and Yoakum youth have BBQ Cook-Off

HALLETTSVILLE — Sacred Heart Youth of Hallettsville hosted a Bar-B-Que cook-off for the youth of the Hallettsville Deanery. In conjunction with the cook-off, games and social time was available. Washer boards, Cowboy Golf Racks and a volleyball net were set up for those who had some downtime. Tables were also set up for dominoes and cards.

The event was the brainchild of Greg Hermes, one of Sacred Heart’s youth directors. His hopes are that this can be an event to bring the youth from the surrounding parishes together to have “good, clean fun.”

The cook-off was a successful first time effort in which three teams participated, two from Sacred Heart in Hallettsville and one from St. Joseph in Yoakum. Each team had the opportunity to enter their personal recipes on beans, chicken, pork ribs and sauce. The teams joked about the perk regarding the number of teams. Their confidence in placing in the top three was evident, and they can all say they had “bar-b-que’d” an award-winning product. The judges for the event commented on the difficult task they had because each entry was quite tasty.

The success of the event gives hope for another youth cook-off in the future. So teams, get your pits ready, and start your flames.

Sacred Heart High Guys: Douglas Gray, Dalton Bubela, Roger De La Rosa, Charles Steffek and James Hemmi.

Local student tours Europe performing with “The Sound of America Band”

Hilary Marie Kristynik, 17, daughter of Alan and Lisa Kristynik of Victoria, has been selected to perform with a national performing organization known as “The Sound of America Honor Band and Chorus.”

Hilary is a band student at St. Joseph High School under the direction of Michael Petrisky. She recently participated in the TPSMEA All-State Band this past January. This school year she has also participated in the ATSSB All-Region Band and was a member of All-Area.

She will join other select student musicians chosen from applicants representing nearly every state when “The Sound of America Honor Band and Chorus” begins its 2009 European Concert Tour this July. Selection into “The Sound of America” membership is a distinguished honor for all participants. All applicants are carefully screened and chosen only after a rigid character and musical evaluation.

All student performers met on the campus of Elizabethtown College, Elizabethtown, Pa., on July 3. After four days of intensive rehearsal and orientation, the group departed via jet from the John F. Kennedy International Airport in New York for Frankfurt, Germany. The group is scheduled to present ten performances in some of Europe’s finest concert halls and major cathedrals during its 24-day concert tour.

The students will experience the cultures of six countries: Germany, Austria, Switzerland, Italy, France and Luxembourg. Some of the exciting locations that will be visited during the tour are Paris, Venice, Strasbourg, Innsbruck, Cortina, Stresa, Verona, Rothenburg, Grindelwald and La Chaux-de-Fonds.

Students who have qualified for “The Sound of America” membership are responsible for all costs involved with the trip. Frequently, however, local businesses and civic clubs who have an interest in international acclaim for its exemplary success in achieving outstanding cultural relationships with European countries. “The Sound of America” has been the recipient of letters of commendation from former United States Presidents George W. Bush, Ronald Reagan, George Bush, former Under-Secretary-General to the United Nations Dick Thornburgh, former Governor of Pennsylvania, Tom Ridge, and Secretary of State Hillary Rodham Clinton.

THE SOUND OF AMERICA, Inc. is registered with the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania and The United States Internal Revenue Service as a non-profit, tax exempt corporation.

If you are interested in sponsoring Hilary, she may be contacted at (361) 578-8206.

ST. ROSE STUDENTS HONORED BY DUKE—Two St. Rose 7th grade students, Hannah Fogle (left) and Sarah Walker (right) recently received invitations to one of the State Recognition Ceremonies for the Duke University Talent Identification Program. These two students, along with others from the school, had the opportunity to take either the SAT or ACT with juniors and seniors in high school earlier this year because of their high achievement test scores from previous years. These two young ladies qualified for recognition at the state ceremony because they scored at or above the national average on at least one part of the SAT or ACT. Hannah and Sarah received a certificate and medallion for this outstanding achievement.

AIRCRAFT ART—Commemorating the 10 years of sharing flying and modeling enthusiasm to the world, the Stanzel Model Aircraft Museum sponsored an art contest for kindergarten through 8th-grade students enrolled in Schulenburg and Weimar schools. Art entries depicted a plane or a form of flight. Winners will have their artwork displayed in the museum for one month and later every entry will be on display throughout the year. The students’ enthusiasm was reflected in their art, and every picture deserves to be on display for everyone to enjoy. Pictured are the participants, front row, from left: Jaxon Fietzam, first grade; Jillian Ransom, 4th grade; Branson Fowlkes, 2nd grade; Kate James, 3rd grade; and Alex Lozano, kindergarten; back row, from left: Caitlyn Bennet, 8th grade; Clayton Brossmann, 6th grade; Swannah Flood, 5th grade; Jakob Rehak, 7th grade, and Principal Rosanne Gallia.
Charles Kram was born September 30, 1929, to Charles and Emma Zander Kram in Shiner, Texas, and was reared on the family’s farm as a normal, active boy who had a good sense of humor and a desire to learn as much as he could about everything. He attended local schools until graduation in 1946 and then enrolled at St. John’s Seminary in San Antonio, where he was ordained a sub deacon, but within a few weeks he was stricken with paralytic polio that left him paralyzed from the neck down. He spent many months in an iron lung.

Later he was taken to a rehabilitation center where he spent many more months learning to use the usual devices for feeding himself and for writing, etc., and to control a battery operated wheelchair that was operated by Charles pushing a ball covered in meditation, prayer, practicing great patience, and using his ham radio. He was ordained a deacon and the following day, December 5, 1975, Father Charles Kram was ordained to priesthood at the age of 46 and approximately 23 years as a quadriplegic and totally paralyzed. He celebrated his first Mass the next day.

Father Charles returned home with his father who continued to care for his son, and the son readily accepted his condition as the Will of God for him. Except for celebrating Mass with assistance, life was much like it had been before when his days were spent in meditation, prayer, practicing great patience, and using his ham radio until 1977 when his father died in a tragic accident and Father Charles was moved to Huth Memorial Hospital in Yoakum, Texas, and became the chaplain. This opened up a whole new world for his ministry and he found great joy in being able to visit to hospitals, to console, and bring his special sense of hope and peace to everyone who came into the hospital as a patient, their families or even guests. With assistance, he celebrated daily Mass when he was strong enough even though he was subject to infections, pain and great difficulty in breathing. He never complained or felt sorry for himself but proved that his weakness actually was his strength.

Father Charles Kram died on August 13, 2000, at the age of 70, having spent 47 of those years as a quadriplegic and totally dependent, but whose greatest joy was being able to help everyone he could as his way to give glory to God. So if you have any problems, please ask Father Kram to help you now. If you are blessed to have had a special relationship or have received any favors from Father Kram, please contact:
The Association for the Canonization of Father Kram; c/o SS Cyril & Methodius Catholic Church; 306 S Avenue F; Shiner, TX 77984-8208, (361) 594-3836, phone; (361) 594-2850, fax.
Reprinted from Father Kram prayer card.

**St. Philip takes PSIA**

EL CAMPO—St. Philip School’s one-act play took third place in the State Drama Festival at St. Mary’s in San Antonio May 8-9.

“We did it again,” co-director Ken Graff said. “I am so proud of each one of these students, parents, and friends who were rewarded for the hard work they put in for over nine months. This group really worked well together, and it showed. And of course we could not have done it without the support of our parents. They are terrific.”

Individual awards went to: Matthew Graff for the role of Lucien, all star cast; Isaac Kresta for the role of Arnold, all star cast; Amy Bremer for the role of Jack, honorable mention all star cast; and Audrey Anderson for the role of Norman, honorable mention all star cast.

Six plays were represented from the following cities: Arlington, San Antonio, Houston, Seguin, Lubbock and El Campo.

St. Philip presented “The Boys Next Door.” Intermingled with moments of laughter and seriousness, Tom Griffin’s “The Boys Next Door” centers around the story of four mentally and emotionally challenged men who are exploring their hopes, problems and frustrations.

“I’m amazed by these kids,” co-director Molly Kresta said. “They are so young and so talented. And their parents are great roadies. We could not have accomplished what we did without the support of the parents. They are their kids biggest fans and are willing to help with whatever is needed.”

“We also want to say thank you to Father Gary, the staff and administration of St. Philip, and to the El Campo community for supporting our efforts,” Keri Graff said.

Cast members were Isaac Kresta as Arnold Wiggins, Matthew Graff as Lucien P. Smith, Audrey Anderson as Norman Bulansky, Kyle Kerzer as Barry Klemper and Amy Bremer as Jack Palmer. Jessica Gaines as Shelia, Blaire Anderson as Mr. Klemper, Jennie Ritter as Mrs. Warren, Morgan Sparks as Senator Clarke and Lindsey Jones as Helen and the dancer. Crew includes Kayelyn Korenek, lights; Katelyn Baros, sound; Kaityln Davlin, costumes and makeup; and Colton Krutilek, set design.

**Father Bartsch celebrates 60 years of service**

Continued from p. 1

then served as pastor in Espada Mission in San Antonio; St. John Bosco, Vanderbuilt; St. John’s, St. John; St. Cornelius, Karnes City; Holy Cross, Yorktown; and Sts. Peter & Paul, Meyersville, before being assigned pastor of St. Mary’s in Praha in August 1993.

On May 16, 2001, at Bishop Fellhauer’s request, Pope John Paul II bestowed the title monsignor to him; however, he wishes to remain called Father Bartsch.

Happy 60th Anniversary, Father Bartsch!

O Jesus, Eternal Priest, bless all those who have helped me to Thy Altar.

A Remembrance of my Ordination to the Holy Priesthood May 28, 1949 • San Antonio, Texas • and of my First Solemn Mass • June 5, 1949 • Sacred Heart Church • Rochne, Texas Rev. Edward C. Bartsch OFM, Lady of Fatima, Pray for us.

In 2009, special thanks to our Lord for 60 years in His service.

**International Evangelization calls all faithful to Holiness**

HOUSTON—What a pope, an archbishop, a missionary and a mother have in common? They all said “yes” to God’s Universal Call to Holiness, walking unhesitatingly according to their own gifts and duties in the path of a living faith. The reasons aroused hopes and works of charity among others, thus causing the words of Vatican II bishops to be lived out faithfully.

The “Call to Holiness” conference will offer participants the opportunity to discover their own path of a living faith on September 11 -12, 2009, Friday and Saturday, during a unique and ex citing evangelization conference. The conference will be held at the George R. Brown Conference Center downtown Houston.

On Saturday, the Archdiocese of Galveston-Houston will feature a number of unique and perhaps once in lifetime select individuals from across the globe. From the postulant for the beatification and canonization cause of Pope John Paul II, Monsignor Slawomir Oder, participants will hear of John Paul II’s understanding and response to the “Call to Holiness.” A representative from the Missionaries of Charity from India will witness to the life of Blessed Teresa of Calcutta. Monsignor Ricardo Urioste, former personal secretary to assassinated Archbishop Oscar Romero of El Salvador, will talk about how corresponding to the “Call to Holiness” manifests itself in the course of humanity. Additionally, Mr. Geo Bianchini and his family from Venezuela, will witness to the extraordinary life of Maria Esperanza Bianchini, who, as a lay woman, spoke a “message of reconciliation” from the Blessed Virgin Mary.

This two-day program features three tracks: a theological symposium, a general conference and a youth track. The youth track, a one-day program on September 12 for high school teens emphasizes prayer, mission, charisms and living out their “Call to Holiness” in the world. The youth will have keynotes, break-out opportunities for singing, as well as praise and worship music with Father Stan Fortuna, CFR.

In a letter to pastors, Archbishop Daniel DiNardo encouraged come, see, experience the life-changing grace of the Holy Spirit as we gather to deepen our faith and give praise to God. It is my hope that this conference will help transform our hearts and enlighten our minds to answer God’s “Call to Holiness.”

Everyone is welcomed and all are invited to make a commitment now to attend - come individually or in groups. If you would like to register or see our complete list of speakers, theological symposium, workshops and youth track, please refer to the Web site at: www.cth2009.org, call (713) 391-2609, or e-mail questions to conf_info@cth2009.org.

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If you have been a diocesan employee/volunteer for three years, you will need the “Renewal” training. If you have been with the diocese for six or more years, you will need the “Re-Certification” training. Also, postcards have been supplied to each parish/school, which will allow them to notify you if your education is currently due. Not sure or you haven’t received your postcard and know you are due for a training? Please call the Office of Child and Youth Protection at 361-573-0828 x 4. To complete the Online Training, please follow these instructions:

1. Log In to the Diocese of Victoria’s Web-site: www.victoriadiocese.org
2. On the right-hand side of the page click: Safe Environment Program, then, For Existing Employees/volunteers.
3. In the middle of the next page, click:

Alcoholism and Drug Dependence Are America’s Number One Health Problem

According to the Facts section of the National Catholic Council on Alcoholism and Related Drug Problems, Inc., www.nccatoday.org, the cost and consequences of alcoholism and drug dependence place an enormous burden on American society. As the nation’s number one health problem, addiction strains the health care system, the economy, harms family life and threatens public safety. Substance abuse crosses all societal boundaries, affects both genders, every ethnic group, and people in every tax bracket. Scientific documentation defines alcoholism and drug dependence as a disease that has roots in both genetic susceptibility and personal behavior.

But, help is out there! Does someone you know drink too much or have a drug problem? Help is available by calling your local telephone information service. Someone you know drink too much or have a drug problem? Help is available by calling your local telephone information service. If you suspect a child has been abused or mistreated, you are required to report it to the Texas Department of Protective and Regulatory Services or to a law enforcement agency within 48 hours of the time you suspect the child had been or may be abused or neglected.

Reporting Child Abuse • Hotline 1-800-252-5400

Rome
Stay within walking distance of the Vatican, Nov. 3-12, for $1,875, plus taxes and fees • Optional tour to Assisi • You control the balance between personal and group time.

Call Judy Gillespie at (361) 575-8159 for details.

Cynthia Goerig, the director of the Liturgical Commission, will present a workshop titled “Answering the Call to Service,” where she will help participants to better understand the theology and the Real Presence of Jesus Christ in the Eucharist.

There will be numerous catechetical workshops, such as: “Ideas for New and Seasoned Catechists”; “Theology of the Body”; “Spirituality of the Catechist” and “Teaching the Liturgical Year.” General workshops pertaining to the Death Penalty or how to handle being a Caregiver to family members will also be offered. Presentations on Catholic Social Teaching, the Sacrament of Marriage, and the Rite of Christian Initiation of Adults will be part of the thirty workshops from which to choose.

Everyone is invited to attend the XXII Annual Conference for Catechesis and Ministry, Saturday, September 26, 2009, at Holy Family Parish in Victoria. The conference will close with the celebration of the Eucharist with Bishop David E. Fellhauer officiating. Look for more information pertaining to conference workshops at www.victoriadiocese.org or call (361) 573-0828.
Muslim National Loyalty

The general public in these European nations does not think Muslims are loyal to their countries. Muslims differ.

Are Muslims in this country loyal to this country?

- [ ] Yes
- [ ] No

Results from individual countries are based on interviews over various months in 2008. The maximum margin of sampling error for all six populations is plus or minus 5 percentage points. Source: Gallup Poll

(CNS graphic/Emily Thompson)

West Coast Muslim-Catholic dialogue explores migration in lives of Jesus, Muhammad

WASHINGTON — Understanding the experience of “Migration in the Lives of Jesus and Muhammad” and applying it to the contemporary challenges faced by Muslims and Catholics was the topic of the West Coast Dialogue of Catholics and Muslims, May 20-21, in Rancho Palos Verdes, Calif. Presenters were Imam S. Mostafa Qazwini and Msgr. Dennis Mikulanis of the Diocese of San Diego.

The dialogue has been sponsored since March 2000 by the United States Conference of Catholic Bishops (USCCB) and the Islamic Shura Council of California with the cooperation of the Islamic Society of Orange County (an affiliate of the Islamic Society of North America) and the Islamic Education Center of Orange County, which is in the Shia tradition of Islam.

Keynote messages by Dr. Muzammil Siddiqi and Imam Sayed Mostafa Qazwini emphasized the importance of the May visit of Pope Benedict XVI to the Holy Land as a new phase in Muslim-Christian relations. Imam Qazwini urged the group to “examine our five years of work together on our foundational documents in order to prepare a resource that will foster good relations between Catholics and Muslims.”

Father Francis Tiso of the USCCB Secretariat of Ecumenical and Interreligious Affairs conveyed the greetings of Bishop Carlos Sevilla of Yakima, Washington, who was unable to attend due to illness. Bishop Sevilla explicitly supported hopes of the Muslim co-chairs for a publishable, educational resource based on study of scriptural narratives from the dialogue. Father Tiso urged participants to draw up additional contents for such a resource, including study questions and a user-friendly bibliography that would include annotated on-line materials.

Msgr. Mikulanis traced the narratives of migration in the Gospel accounts of the See West Coast Muslim-Catholic, p. 21

Do Catholics Still Believe in the Eucharist?

Q. Several times I have heard speakers tell us that most Catholics don’t believe in the Eucharist anymore. They say it is because priests do not urge old and young parishioners to be reverent and especially because Catholic education classes do not teach true doctrine.

One priest gave the same ideas in a talk just the other night, quoting surveys that he says Catholics do not accept the presence of Jesus in the Eucharist. Is that true? Do surveys really prove that? (Pennsylvania)

A. I’ve heard the same claims, though it seems to me they were more vocal several years ago than they are now. I too find such accusations hard to accept. In my 50 years as a priest, I have certainly experienced nothing to support them.

Schools in every parish I have worked with or known of are clear and thoroughly Catholic in their teaching about the Eucharist. There is always unswerving need for improvement in education, including religious education. These broad accusations, however, undermine and defaming Catholic schools around the country, contribute nothing helpful to the faith and life of Catholic people.

As for the surveys, I’m not at all sure they indicate a decline in eucharistic faith. For one thing, there were no such surveys in earlier times to measure against.

Second, I have read a few of these studies. They prove that, no matter how fair their authors may think them to be, it is impossible to capsulize our beliefs about the Eucharist in a few brief questions that people could answer without leaving room for serious confusions.

It took the church centuries to develop satisfactory eucharistic language. The 16th-century Council of Trent (Session 13) summarized that development in describing the true and substantial eucharistic presence of our Lord. Yet even that language is being refined and clarified to this day, as the Catechism of the Catholic Church, for example, demonstrates.

Our belief in the real presence of Jesus Christ — “body and blood, soul and divinity,” as the older catechisms put it — needs to be carefully understood. It can be, and often has been, misinterpreted. From former times even to the present, people not of our faith sometimes mistook what we mean by eating the body of Christ, seeing it as implying some sort of cannibalism.

Thoughtful Catholics may not know all the technical theological terminology, but they know what they believe. They tend to be cautious of language that could be open to a caricature of our faith. We are, after all, as the church teaches, dealing here with a profound mystery which no human words will ever adequately express.

Finally, it is simple reality that some Catholics feel an urgent need to deprole what they see as a crisis of faith so they can lay the blame on whatever it is they currently dislike in the church: English liturgy, women lectors, Latin Masses, lay eucharistic ministers, celibate priesthood and so on.

Various factors always affect the quality of people’s faith — in the Eucharist as in everything else. Fortunately, the Eucharistic Prayers at Mass express plainly what the Eucharist is and why. From the words of institution (consecration) to the calling down of the Holy Spirit and the many expressions of thanksgiving, these are proclaimed clearly and listened to carefully.

When the faithful make their act of faith at Communion time by saying “Amen” – I affirm it — after being offered “the body of Christ,” they declare quite well what they believe.

- 6% - 36% - 71% - 49% - 82% - 15% - 45% - 39% - 8% - 35% - 80%

Results from individual countries are based on interviews over various months in 2008. The maximum margin of sampling error for all six populations is plus or minus 5 percentage points. Source: Gallup Poll

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Local Court Celebrates 90th Anniversary

By Cynthia Brewer

The Catholic Daughters of Court St. Ann No. 369 celebrated their 90th anniversary at St. Mary’s Catholic Church in Victoria on June 7, 2009.

Current Court St. Ann No. 369 officers pose with the bishop and national officers at St. Mary’s altar. From left Faye Melnar, District Deputy; National Director Duchess Collins, National Regent Libby Ramirez, Bishop Fellhauer, Court St. Ann Regent Grace Brown, Vice Regent JoAnn Bleier, Financial Secretary Donna Wesley and Treasurer LaVerne Klesel.

The celebration began with a Mass officiated by Bishop David E. Fellhauer, concelebrated with Msgr. James Brunner, pastor of St. Mary’s; Father Anthony (Tony) Boateng-Mensah, pastoral vicar of St. Mary’s; and Deacon A.R. (Dick) Wearden, spiritual advisor for Court St. Ann. A reception and dinner followed the Mass at St. Mary’s Activity Center.

“We were most honored to have many state and national CDA dignitaries attend,” said Vice Regent JoAnn Bleier. Those present were: Diocese of Victoria Bishop David Fellhauer, National Chaplain of the CDA; Rev. Donald Ruppert, pastor of Holy Cross in East Bernard, the Texas CDA State Chaplain and also the National Clergy Consultant; National Regent Libby Ramirez, also a member of Court St. Ann; as well as National Director Duchess Collins of Sugar Land, accompanied by her husband Jim Collins, state treasurer of the Knights of Columbus State Council, Catholic Daughters present on the diocesan and state level included newly elected State Regent Sheila Martinka of Houston and other state officers, 1st Vice State Regent Carolyn Malik, 2nd Vice State Regent Peggy Rosales, State Secretary Eve Trevino, State Treasurer Minnie Rodgers, and Immediate Past State Regent Carolyn Bachmann. Six members from Sacred Heart Church No. 797 in Hallettsville attended along with their Regent Margaret Steffek.

JoAnn Bleier, chairman of the event served as Mistress of Ceremonies and Court St. Ann Regent Grace Brown gave the welcoming address. Other guest speakers included Bishop Fellhauer, Rev. Ruppert, Deacon Wearden, National Regent Libby Ramirez, and State Regent Sheila Martinka. Jim Collins brought greetings from the Knights of Columbus. The Catholic Daughters and Knights of Columbus have always worked together for the same purpose... “Unity & Charity,” the motto of the Catholic Daughters.

Immediate Past Regent Margaret Kutchka introduced the past regents who attended the event. Those in attendance included Grace Rigamonti, Dorothy Svreck, Janell Kruppa, Georgie Lee Friedel, Jo Ann Jalufka, JoAnn Bleier, Barbara Respondek, Carolyn Janak and Donna Wesley. Each gave a short talk mentioning the interesting things that happened or were accomplished during their time in office.

There are 35 living members of Court St. Ann who have been members 50 years or longer; of those, the following were present at the anniversary celebration: Ruth Ann Boyd (1945); Clarice Hall, Janell Kruppa, Lillian Ohta and Lois Schindler (1949); Marylene Tagliabue (1950); Lois Smith, Nelda Matchett and Grace Rigamonti (1952); and Betty Migura (1959).

Court St. Ann No. 369 Daughters of St. Isabella was inaugurated by Court Our Lady of Guadalupe from Yoakum on May 4, 1919, under the organizing chairman Mrs. James Welder. The first regent of Court St. Ann was Genevieve Stevenson. At the Ninth Biennial National Convention April 19, 1921, the name Daughters of Isabella was changed to the Catholic Daughters of America. At the 38th Biennial National Convention, the name was changed to Catholic Daughters of the Americas.

Court St. Ann performed the degree and ritualistic work when CDA courts in Ganado, Edna, El Campo, Port Lavaca, Our Lady of Sorrows in Victoria, Goliad, Bloomington and Inez were inaugurated. CDA donations are made to many national and state charitable projects. On the local level, they contribute to the three Victoria Catholic school libraries, Christ’s Kitchen, Crisis Pregnancy Center, the Seminary Burse, Gabriel Project, Perpetual Help Home, Diocesan Catechesis Conference, DSA, Make a Difference Day (for shut-ins and nursing home residents), Bishop’s Charity Banquet, Habitat for Humanity and Our Lady of Victory weekly TV Mass. They also sponsor scholarships to graduating seniors who are related to Court St. Ann members. The Memorial Scholarship fund is also available to qualifying seniors. JoAnn Bleier thanked all of her committee chairmen and helpers; she also gave a big thank you to the Knights of Columbus Council 1329 for their great support through the years. “Our meetings and fund-raisers are held at the KC hall, so we owe them our heartfelt thanks and appreciation,” she said.

Bishop Fellhauer gave the benediction by asking Our Blessed Mother, the Patroness of the Catholic Daughters, to protect its members and the court for many years to come.
By Kristopher Fuchs, Diocese of Victoria seminarian

There was a great emotion of joy in the church of Our Lady of Sorrows (OLS) on Saturday, June 20, 2009, as Deacon Alfonso Serna Ornelas was ordained to the Sacred Order of Priests. Those at the church could see that the hearts of his parents, Carlos Serna and Socorro Ornelas, were filled with this joy as they walked their son to the steps of the altar where he would leave his family and become a total gift to God for the service of His Church. His brothers and much of the family of Father Alfonso Serna came from Mexico and California to witness his ordination.

Also in the procession were altar servers from OLS Church where Father Alfonso had spent the past year while preparing for his priestly ordination, the priests, religious, and lay people who are members of the Order of the Most Holy Trinity (Trinitarians), priests from the Diocese of Victoria, and the Most Reverend David E. Fellhauer, bishop of the Diocese of Victoria, the ordaining bishop. During the procession, the hymn, O Love of God / Amor de Dios was sung in both English and Spanish to witness the presence of the two cultures present at the ordination.

After the reading of the Gospel, Bishop Fellhauer took his place at the front of the altar where Deacon Alfonso was presented to him by the Minister Provincial, Very Reverend Victor Scocco, O.S.S.T., former pastor of OLS. The bishop then officially called him to the Presbyteral Order of the Priesthood and present him to Bishop David E. Fellhauer.

Deacon Alfonso and his mother and father wait for O.S.S.T. Minister Provincial Father Victor Scocco, to officially call him to the Presbyteral Order of the Priesthood and present him to Bishop David E. Fellhauer.

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The bishop then talked about the themes that the liturgy presents and how these themes show what it is to be ordained a priest. He concluded by pointing out that just the day before Pope Benedict XVI opened “The Year of the Priests” and that we should pray for our priests.

After the Promise of Obedience, Deacon Alfonso prostrated himself on the floor and the bishop, priests, and assembly all knelt to pray, invoking the saints by singing the Litany of the Saints and praying for Deacon Alfonso. Upon the completion of the Litany of the Saints, Deacon Alfonso knelt before Bishop Fellhauer who laid hands on him, followed by the laying on of hands by the other priests present. The bishop beseached God to raise Deacon Alfonso to the priestly ordination. He was very impressed with the ordination ceremony and had only wonderful things to say about Father Alfonso.

“Everybody at the hospital just fell in love with Alfonso,” he said.

Father Alfonso’s specialization is in ministering emotional, spiritual and psychological support for people in crisis or trauma. Baylor University Medical Center is a 1,200-bed hospital, 87 of which are in the emergency room, which has four trauma levels. There are on average 200 deaths a month at Baylor, Father Alfonso said.

It seems his training will come in handy, as he has been assigned to Cairo, Egypt, to serve the Sudanese refugees and the persecuted Christians. He said he had no clue that his assignment would be in Egypt. He will depart for Cairo on August 4 and will be there for three months learning Arabic before returning to Baltimore, Md., for a short time for the Provincial Chapter when the Trinitarians will elect officers.

“If there are no changes during that time, I’ll go back for the next three to six years,” he said.

Trinitarian priest, Father Raphael Baidoo, pastor of Immaculate Conception in Goliad, prays over Deacon Alfonso while laying his hands upon him; this is an ancient, apostolic gesture of consecration.

Bishop Fellhauer anoints the hands of Father Alfonso Serna with Sacred Chrism, signifying the sanctifying power of the Holy Spirit.

Father Alfonso's ordination.

Father Alfonso Serna, 39 years old and the fifth of six children, is surrounded by his father, Carlos Serna; mother, Ma. Del Socorro Ornelas; and grandmother, Anita Hernandez and his four brothers, one sister, and three nephews and a niece.

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He decided not to answer the call then (when I was 15 years old) but God insisted for 22 years until I gave up and gave him a chance. It was during my discernment process in Los Angeles at the age of 30 when a friend of mine, Marcos, an ex-seminarian, informed me about the Trinitarians and stated that we were invited to visit at any time. We decided to visit and give it a chance.

During the five-hour trip from Los Angeles to Baltimore, I read the booklet issued by the Trinitarians in their anniversary celebrations - 800 of foundation, 400 of reform and 50 years in the USA. Since then, I knew that this was the order that the Lord had chosen me for. The visit to the provincial headquarters reassured my intention of belonging to them, for I felt like that was my “home” and my “family.”
“A Civilization of Love” to be Family Puzzle Prize

“A Civilization of Love – What Every Catholic Can Do to Transform the World,” updated to include a survey of the Pope’s Statements on Building a “Civilization of Love,” will be the prize for the Family Puzzle Contest for the month of July.

This New York Times best seller, now in paperback form, was the Family Puzzle Contest prize in April ’08. The paperback will be July’s prize.

Author Carl Anderson, Supreme Knight of the Knights of Columbus, explores the history-changing ideas of Pope John Paul II and Pope Benedict XVI and brings a message of inclusion and hope in the midst of a battle between the culture of death and the culture of life.

For a chance to win this book, please send in completed puzzle with form to The Catholic Light-
Volunteers promote international adoptions of Down syndrome babies

By Paul Sanchez
Catholic News Service

WESTERNLY, R.I. (CNS)—A Maryland-based organization is working against the trend of aborting Down syndrome babies by placing those children from around the globe with loving families in the United States.

Reece’s Rainbow (www.reecesrainbow.org) assists couples in adopting Down syndrome children from other countries. Founded in June 2006, Reece’s Rainbow has already helped more than 1,500 families adopt children from more than 32 countries around the world, including Armenia, Haiti, Mexico, Ghana, Russia, Liberia, Vietnam and Korea.

An entirely volunteer organization, Reece’s Rainbow prides itself on the fact that 100 percent of every dollar donated goes to the child, family or fund designated by the donor.

For decades doctors have recommended an amniocentesis test for pregnant women 35 and older because their age dictates a greater risk for chromosomal defects. But that carries a slight chance of miscarriage, it has not been routinely offered to younger women, who end up giving birth to the majority of Down syndrome babies.

But a 2007 recommendation from the American College of Obstetricians and Gynecologists encouraged doctors to offer a new screening procedure to all pregnant women, regardless of age. A sonogram and two blood tests in the first trimester now can detect the extra 21st chromosome that causes Down syndrome.

An estimated 90 percent of all prenatal detections of Down syndrome are said to end in abortion.

Reece’s Rainbow is not an adoption agency, but a non-profit, non-denominational organization that serves as a connecting point for Down syndrome children and potential adoptive families. It focuses on saving the lives of children who might otherwise face life or death in mental institutions abroad.

The organization also works to help birth families who choose to keep their children, and helps them begin their own Down syndrome associations that fight for the rights and inclusion of special-needs children in their own countries.

Reece’s Rainbow was founded by Andrea Roberts, who has a Down syndrome child named Reece who has changed her life. “Yes, my son is the catalyst for Reece’s Rainbow. But I lean on my belief that God has a specific purpose for everyone, and this is his calling for me through Reece,” Roberts said. “Not everyone gets such an obvious call. I spent many years drifting through life, with no idea where I was headed. I love to help others and my love for Reece fuels my passion to defend and protect others like him.”

Shelley Bedford and her husband have adopted two boys from two different countries through Reece’s Rainbow. Their son, Xander, adopted from Ukraine in August 2007, has Down syndrome and bilateral clubbed feet. He has had major foot reconstruction surgery and is learning to walk at age 5.

Their other son, Griflyn, also 5, was adopted from Serbia in April 2008. Griflyn was the first child with Down syndrome to ever be adopted in Serbia. Bedford now volunteers with Reece’s Rainbow to assist other families who are adopting from Serbia.

The Bedfords live in Alabama where Shelley’s husband is in the U.S. Army.

“The most rewarding part is seeing the families meeting their new children,” Bedford said. “It is amazing to watch the journeys that families go through and how God pulls it all together. It is an honor to be a small part of helping unite children with their forever families.”

Bedford said people were surprised when she and her husband announced they were adopting a Down syndrome child.

“No one understood why and they really didn’t understand what to expect,” she said. “Now they see our children and realize that they are just normal kids, with personalities, likes and dislikes just like everyone else. Our boys are loved and accepted by all of our family and friends.”

Roberts said she posed the question, as do many people active with Reece’s Rainbow. However, Reece’s Rainbow does not make a stand on abortion or prenatal testing because its primary focus is to assist with adoptions and foster understanding and acceptance through example.

“I am sure that there are many members of our group who may have varying viewpoints, but Reece’s Rainbow does not have a stated position on abortion,” Roberts said. “Reece’s Rainbow family meets on a regular basis to discuss the issues of prenatal testing because its primary focus is to assist with adoptions and foster understanding and acceptance through example.

“Our group is open to anyone with a love for children and people with Down syndrome. Discussions about such controversial things are discouraged because we want to keep the focus on the life-saving efforts of the ministry,” she said.

Maureen Mulready, a Catholic from Liverpool, England, who has lived in the United States for nearly 20 years, said she thinks Reece’s Rainbow represents the ultimate pro-life expression and applauded the rescuing of Down syndrome babies from institutions where they would likely be mistreated.

“If society does not show compassion for its most vulnerable members, then it is doomed for worse things,” Mulready said.

“In my opinion, the fact that Reece’s Rainbow is helping to secure all of these adoptions of Down syndrome kids conveys to others that children deserve the right to live just like other children,” she said. “They are spreading a pro-life message of compassion and acceptance.”

Vacation Time!

Vacations are times when we can relax, reflect and enter into a new kind of pace that will help us see our lives in a different way. “Come to me, all you who are weary and find life burdensome, and I will refresh you.” Vacation time, wherever it is taken, can and should be a time to be “RE-Created.”

We certainly see it as a time to be renewed physically … how about spiritually? Perhaps we could make a special effort to welcome those people who are attending Mass in our parish as vacationers, visitors or tourists. And if you’re planning to be away, please check www.masstimes.org to locate the nearest Sunday Mass to you.

(Reprinted from Sts. Cyril & Methodius Parish bulletin, Shiner; their new Web address is: www.scsmshiner.org)
**El Papa Hablar**

**Papa Benedict XVI**

CNS foto de Reuters

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**Español**

**Año sacerdotal**

Queridos hermanos y hermanas:

El pasado viernes, solemnidad del Sagrado Corazón de Jesús, tuve la alegría de inaugurar el Año Sacerdotal, con ocasión del ciento cincuenta aniversario de la muerte de san Juan María Vianney, el obispo de este Año, como he escrito en la carta que he enviado a los sacerdotes, es renovar en cada uno de ellos la aspiración a la perfección espiritual, de la que depende en gran medida la eficacia de su ministerio. Asimismo, esta iniciativa servirá para reforzar en todo el Pueblo de Dios la conciencia del don inmenso que supone el ministerio ordenado para quien lo ha recibido, para toda la Iglesia y para el mundo. Espero que este Año Sacerdotal sea un tiempo de abundantes gracias para todos los sacerdotes, en el que pronuncien en su íntima unión con Cristo crucificado y resucitado. Que a imitación de San Juan Bautista, cuya fiesta celebramos hoy, estén dispuestos a “disminuir” para que Él crezca, y así, siguiendo también el ejemplo del Cura de Ars, consideren la enorme responsabilidad de la misión que les ha sido encomendada, que es signo y presencia de la infinita misericordia de Dios.

Saludo cordialmente a los fieles de lengua española aquí presentes. En particular, a los peregrinos de la Arquidiócesis de Tulancingo, con su Arzobispo, Mons. Domingo Díaz Martínez, y de la Diócesis de Alcalá de Henares, con su Obispo, Mons. Juan Antonio Reig Pla, así como a los demás grupos venidos de España, Honduras, México y de otros países latinoamericanos. Os aliento para que en este Año Sacerdotal encomendéis de un modo especial a todos vuestros sacerdotes.

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**La Conferencia de Mujeres Católicas – Español**

SAN ANTONIO—La Conferencia de Mujeres Católicas sea llevada a cabo el 11 y 12 de septiembre 2009 en St. Matthew Catholic Church, 10703 Wurzbach Rd., San Antonio, TX 78230. Traducción Simultánea al Español Auditorios Disponibles. Espacios limitados a las primeras 100 personas! Misa Bilingüe, Sacramento de la Reconciliación, Dirección Espiritual, Temas de Interés para la mujer, Sesiones en grupos y mucho más!

Para más información o preguntas: Sheila Rosario (210) 497-6312.

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**El sacerdote que tenía alma misionera**

En los primeros años de mi anterior vida como directora de pastoral hispana, me encomendaron la tarea de llevar a un sacerdote inmigrante recién llegado a su nuevo puesto en un pueblo de las montañas a dos horas de Denver.

Aparentemente, el hombre, de unos cincuenta años, había escuchado el llamado de nuestro recién instalado arzobispo para que los obispos de Latinoamérica consideraran la arquidiócesis como tierra de misión. El rápido crecimiento de la comunidad hispanohablante estaba desbordando a los pocos sacerdotes hispanos que en aquel entonces había en la diócesis y estaba erosionando la buena voluntad de los que hablaban algo de español.

Al sacerdote se le había informado antes de su llegada sobre su asignación. Sin embargo, pronto resultó evidente que la idea que se había formado de las necesidades pastorales y de cómo desempeñar su ministerio en Estados Unidos estaba lejos de la realidad.

El saludo afable en el aeropuerto se fue tornando rostro de preocupación conforme nos empezamos a alejar de la ciudad y comenzé a explicarle las características de la comunidad donde se le había asignado: una comunidad incipiente con muchos hispanos en el área. Un porcentaje alto eran hombres y la mayoría trabajaba en la construcción y los servicios turísticos. Muchos eran inmigrantes indocumentados y vivían dispersos por pueblos y aldeas del valle. El párroco había hecho lo que podía por aprender español.

Había una necesidad grande de ir a buscar a la gente e invitarlos a la iglesia. Dadas las distancias y que muchos tenían más de un trabajo, la pastoral requería de una buena dosis de empeño y creatividad.

Apenas nos bajamos del auto, el sacerdote se decidió a expresar su incomodidad. Me dijo que él —era párroco en su país— acostumbraba a tener horario de despacho durante el día y que, además, eso de ir tocando en las puertas no era digno de un sacerdote católico.

Recogi mi mandilina del suelo y baldeuceando le respondí: “Pero padre, Jesús caminó por pueblos y aldeas predicando el evangelio y llamando a la gente a seguirlo”. Insistí en que quería ir a una parroquia en Denver. Le animé a que se diera quince días para conocer a la comunidad y hacerse una idea del trabajo a realizar. Si no estaba a gusto siempre podría pedir al arzobispo que lo asignara a otro lugar. Me ofrecí a ayudarle en lo que pudiera.

Aquella fue la última vez que lo vi. Exactamente dos semanas después recibí una llamada urgente del párroco avisándonos que el sacerdote iba de camino al aeropuerto para regresar a México. Ni siquiera dijo adiós.

Todos aprendimos mucho con este episodio. Los procedimientos para admitir y asignar a sacerdotes extranjeros en la diócesis cien años atrás y que no les falten los sacramentos, un buen consejo, una palabra de consuelo o una voz que no les falten los sacramentos; a menudo, también los damos por hecho.
By Catholic News Service

WASHINGTON (CNS) — Pope Benedict XVI has named Bishop Gregory M. Aymond of Austin, Texas, 59, as archbishop of New Orleans. The appointment was announced June 12, 2009, in Washington by Msgr. Alexander Cifuentes Castano, charge d’affaires at the apostolic nunciature.

Archbishop Gregory M. Aymond, the new archbishop of New Orleans, speaks to the media during a news conference at Notre Dame Seminary in New Orleans June 12. Archbishop Aymond, a native of New Orleans, had served as bishop of Austin, Texas, since 2000. He will be installed the 14th archbishop of New Orleans Aug. 20 at St. Louis Cathedral. He succeeds Archbishop Alfred C. Hughes, 96, who served 1965-88.

Aymond, a native of New Orleans, speaks to the media during a news conference at Notre Dame Seminary in New Orleans June 12. Archbishop Aymond, a native of New Orleans, had served as bishop of Austin, Texas, since 2000. He will be installed the 14th archbishop of New Orleans Aug. 20 at St. Louis Cathedral. He succeeds Archbishop Alfred C. Hughes, 96, who served 1965-88.

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Father Timothy Vakoc, a Minnesota priest who was gravely wounded by a roadside bomb in Iraq five years ago, has died, the Archdiocese of St. Paul and Minneapolis said June 21. He was 49. He is pictured in a 2005 photo with Archbishop Harry J. Flynn of St. Paul-Minneapolis, Brenda Simmons, left, a friend of Father Vakoc from Colorado, and Father Vakoc’s mother, Phyllis. (CNS photo by Dave Hrbacek, Catholic Spirit)

Catholic Army chaplain dies from wounds sustained in Iraq

By Catholic News Service

ST. PAUL, Minn. (CNS) — Father H. Timothy Vakoc, a Minnesota priest who was reportedly the first Army chaplain to be gravely injured in the Iraq War, died June 20. He was 49. He died at a nursing home in the suburb of New Hope. No cause of death was released.

According to journal updates by his family on the CaringBridge Web site at www.caringbridge.org/mn/timvakoc, Father Vakoc “was surrounded by family and friends who prayed him into heaven.”

His funeral Mass was celebrated June 26 at St. Paul Cathedral in St. Paul.

Father Vakoc, ordained in 1992 as a priest of the St. Paul and Minneapolis Archdiocese, served in two parishes before joining the Army full time in 1996. The priest held the rank of major.

In May 2004, Father Vakoc’s Humvee was hit by a roadside bomb while he was returning to his barracks after saying Mass for soldiers on the 12th anniversary of his ordination. He suffered severe head injuries, including the loss of his left eye and brain damage.

He was transported in a near-coma to the Veterans Hospitalized for four months. He was reportedly the first Army chaplain to be gravely injured in the Iraq War.

Vatican holds Paulinus relics in Rome for soldiers on the 12th anniversary of his return on June 17-19 for spring meeting. Of special concern are the documents’ “description of the church’s mission and, in particular, what evangelization means with regard to the Jewish people,” the committee said.

By stating that the Jewish people’s “witness to the kingdom…must not be curtailed by seeking the conversion of the Jewish people to Christianity,” the document “could lead some to conclude mistakenly that Jews have an obligation not to become Christian and that the church has a corresponding obligation not to baptize Jews,” they added.

The 2002 document also calls interreligious dialogue a form of evangelization that is “a mutually enriching sharing of gifts devoid of any intention whatsoever to invite the dialogue partner to baptism.” But a June 22 statement by the New York-based Anti-Defamation League said the bishops’ note reflects “an objectionable understanding of Catholic-Jewish relations” and “appears to give a green light for the missionizing of Jews.”

“This document, if taken at face value, reintroduces the notion that Catholics can use interfaith dialogue as a means to invite Jews to Christian baptism,” said Abraham H. Foxman, ADL national director.

“However, it is unacceptable, for such a statement would foster mistrust between Jews and Catholics and undermine years of work building a positive relationship based on mutual trust and respect of our differences in faith.”

Editor’s Note: The full text of the committee’s note is available online at: www.usccb.org/bishops/covernaut09.pdf.

Bishops clarify ‘ambiguities’ in 2002 Catholic-Jewish document

WASHINGTON (CNS) — The “ambiguities” in a 7-year-old document from Catholic and Jewish dialogue partners are continuing to cause confusion, two committees of the U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops said in a June 18 note. The USCCB committee on Doctrine and on Ecumenical and Interreligious Affairs said the Catholic section of a 2002 document, “Reflections on Covenant and Mission,” written by participants in an ongoing dialogue between the National Council of Synagogues and the USCCB interreligious affairs committee, “contains some statements that are insufficiently precise and potentially misleading.”

“Reflections on Covenant and Mission” should not be taken as an authoritative presentation of the teaching of the Catholic Church,” the committee said in a note issued in San Antonio during the bishops’ June 17-19 spring meeting. Of special concern are the documents’ “description of the church’s mission and, in particular, what evangelization means with regard to the Jewish people,” the committee said.

By stating that the Jewish people’s “witness to the kingdom…must not be curtailed by seeking the conversion of the Jewish people to Christianity,” the document “could lead some to conclude mistakenly that Jews have an obligation not to become Christian and that the church has a corresponding obligation not to baptize Jews,” they added.

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Out with a bang: Vatican closes Pauline year with a few surprises

VATICAN CITY (CNS) — Talk about a grand finale! The Vatican waited until the last day of the year of St. Paul to wow the world with two surprising scientific findings: the presumed bones of the apostle and the oldest known portrait of the saint.

During a vespers service at Rome’s Basilica of St. Paul Outside the Walls June 28, Pope Benedict XVI announced that the presumed tomb of St. Paul contains bone fragments from a human who lived between the first and second century.

Then, as if the Apostle of the Gentiles knew his special year was soon coming to an end, he made a surprise appearance before Vatican archeologists restoring a catacomb in Rome, not far from the Pauline basilica.

Restorers with the Pontifical Commission for Sacred Archeology used St. Paul’s feast day to announce in the Vatican newspaper that they had uncovered the oldest known depiction of St. Paul.

While using a laser to blast off limestone encrusting the ceiling in the catacombs of St. Thecla, archeologists made the important discovery June 19. The beauty and detail of the fourth-century portrait was so stunning “it took the restorers’ breath away,” said one article in the two-page newspaper spread devoted to the discovery.

The image of a bald man with a stern expression, a high forehead, large eyes, distinctive nose and a dark tapered beard tipped experts off that this was St. Paul because it matched images of him from later centuries. This portrait is in fact one of “the oldest and most detailed” portraits found in ancient Christian art, the paper said.

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The Tragically Short Life of Michael Jackson

Rabbi Shmuley Boteach reminiscences over the death of his estranged friend, Michael Jackson

BY: Rabbi Shmuley Boteach on Beliefnet.com

Editor’s note: Jews reverence God’s name so much that they do not say it or print it; therefore, it is printed: G-d.

I did not expect to be as saddened by the death of Michael Jackson as I turned out to be. Not exactly an expectation. As a young boy I lived in the constant dread that his death was imminent. When I was close with Michael, there were just too many times that he walked out of a room with a doctor, after explaining that his foot or back or neck hurt him, all light-headed and woozy. There was no way that a body could survive so regular an assault. So after begging him to give up the painkillers and failing, I steeled myself against the inevitable by feeling angry and disillusioned. Was Michael not the man who had squandered so many blessings? Was he not the friend who, after I had invested two years of my life into helping him rehabilitate his treating more people because I dared to push him to fix his shattered existence? I would overcome my feelings of pity with a spirit of defiance. No, I will not cry. He hadn’t earned it. But then the news came that he had died. And I was devastation. Especially when I saw my children’s tears. Michael was accused of pedophilia. But my children and his children were playmates. Yes, I made sure to supervise. But the children did not see him as a monster. Michael brought back visions to those long days. But G-d, was he tortured. And that is no excuse. Because you dare not visit your pain on an innocent party. But did that cancel out the good he tried to inspire in others? He used to watch me tell my children I loved them. He did not approve. Shmuley, when you tell your children you love them, you have to look in their eyes. They have to know that you mean it. You have to focus only on them. You can’t tell them and look elsewhere. And ever since then, I peer in their eyes. After we had given our lecture at Oxford together, I was waiting at Heathrow to travel back to the US. Michael was staying on in London. He called me on my cell phone. ‘Shmuuuleeeey. Did I tell you I love you?’ ‘Yes Michael, you’ve told me many times.’ ‘But I mean it. I love you.’ ‘I love you too, Michael. You’re a dear friend.’ I hung up. I thought he was just being sentimental. But I left the conversation with red eyes. How did I let it come so easy to tell people I loved them? So with all this beauty in your soul, Michael, now that you’re in heaven, I have to ask you. Why? Why aren’t you still here? Why did you screw up your life? Why could you find no happiness without a painkiller? Why did you orphan those beautiful children you loved so much? How could you promise that you would never be alone with kids ever again, only to be arrested a second time on charges of molestation? How could you betray what we tried so hard to build? Why? Why? I didn’t want to feel for him. I wanted to be angry. I never wanted to forgive him. He had everything, but he acted as though he had nothing. He revealed in feeling he was a victim. And even so, there was something very special about him. A superstar who could sit so humbly at Shabbat table and make others feel important. A very busy father who all but refused to travel anywhere without his children. And I’m left with forever vacillating between feelings of pity and feelings of disappointment. Feelings of affection and feelings of fury. And amid that storm of emotions, still I miss him. Amid the darkness that eventually consumed him, still I remember that I once shone with a special measure of light. G-d, I miss you Michael. I always believed that one day we would reconcile. That one day you would call me up and tell me that you regretted not heeding the simple advice to get your life together. That we would have Shabbat dinner together again and our kids would play as friends and we would all laugh. Alas, all we have left is the image. The dark, tragic, sad image. Of the King of Pop. The master of an empty kingdom. Rest in peace, Michael. Perhaps in heaven you will find the acceptance that you never quite found here on earth.

Rabbi Shmuley Boteach, www.shmu-ley.com, is one of the world’s foremost spiritual authorities and relationship experts. He is the author of the as yet unpublished manuscript, "Inside the Soul of Michael Jackson."


St. Joseph Catholic Mission
Boling, Texas

*** 41st Annual Bazaar ***
& Barbeque

Friday, August 26, 2009

Boling Community Center
(County Rd. 162)

Oldest U.S. Women’s Religious Community Celebrates 200 Years
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was attracting daughters of wealthy Catholic and Protestant families from Baltimore, Philadelphia and New York. The sisters accepted orphans at their school and soon started caring for the elderly and infirm, an effort which has grown into many hospitals. Elizabeth Seton died in 1821 of tuberculosis. But the religious sisters she gathered around her, Metz says, “went the hard seed that has produced great abundance for our Church and society over the past 100 years, spreading throughout North America and beyond.”

Report says 10,000 migrants kidnapped in Mexico over six months

MEXICO CITY (CNS) -- A nun who works on migration issues for Mexico’s bishops said she was not surprised by a report from Mexico’s National Human Rights Commission that nearly 10,000 undocumented migrants traveling through Mexico on their way to the United States were kidnapped over a six-month period. “Organized crime groups see in the migrant population a group that is extremely vulnerable for committing these kinds of crimes,” Scalabrini Sister Leticia Gutierrez, executive secretary of the Mexican bishops’ human mobility ministry, told Catholic News Service. She said church officials’ research and interviews with migrants contributed to the report released June 15. The report underscores the changing nature of the challenges facing undocumented migrants -- most of whom are from Central America -- as they travel through Mexico. For decades, migrants have been targeted by corrupt public officials and gangs that would demand bribes and steal their meager possessions. But those working with migrants now report that migrants are being targeted by criminal groups -- including many with ties to powerful narcotics-trafficking cartels -- who kidnap them and demand ransom from relatives living in either the United States or the migrants’ home countries. The human rights report outlined a $25 million industry that was responsible for kidnapping 9,758 migrants between September 2008 and February 2009. Sixty-seven percent of the victims were from Honduras, while nearly 90 percent of the victims were apprehended by “organized groups.”
Iranian-born actress uses film to fight for justice

By Lou Baldwin

Catholic News Service

PHILADELPHIA (CNS) — When Iranian-born actress Shohreh Aghdashloo was asked by co-director Cyrus Nowrasteh to consider the leading role in the movie “The Stoning of Soraya M.,” her immediate reaction was, “I’ve been waiting for this for 20 years.”

The film, which was released June 26, is based on the barbaric 1986 execution of an Iranian mother on false charges of adultery orchestrated by a cruel husband intent on marrying a young girl and assisted by a corrupt mullah. The two whip the men of the village into a frenzy resulting in the graphically depicted execution.

The stoning scene is certainly graphic, but Aghdashloo noted, “It only lasts six minutes. I have seen a tape of a real stoning and it took an hour and a half.”

Aghdashloo plays Zahra, the victim’s courageous aunt who, in a relentless pursuit of justice, gives an account of the case to a French-Iranian journalist, Freidoune Sahebjam (Jim Caviezel, who portrayed Jesus in “The Passion of the Christ”). The journalist wrote a best-selling book of the same title as the movie.

The huge demonstrations against what has been viewed as a rigged presidential election in Iran have changed Aghdashloo’s perception of “The Stoning of Soraya M.”

Up until the June 12 election and the ensuing protests, “my focus was on a woman speaking to a reporter. Now in Iran women are standing up and telling reporters what is going on,” she said. “There are hundreds of thousands protesting, and 40 percent of them are women.”

Aghdashloo began as a successful actress in pre-revolution Iran. With the rise of the Islamic state and harsh religious guidelines, her films were either censored or forbidden and she fled to London.

Although Aghdashloo jumped at the chance to appear in “The Stoning of Soraya M.,” several actors turned down the journalist’s character before Caviezel accepted. They were afraid of possible retribution against their families for appearing in a film that might be seen as critical of radical Islam.

Aghdashloo has had threats made against her life because of her work, she acknowledged, but that will not deter her.

“It’s not about my safety, my image, at the end of the day. There are 10 people in Iran on death row waiting to be stoned. When I think about one woman waiting there, I would rather go with her than with my safety.

“None of this happened in the old regime under the shah. We have been drawn back 1,500 years,” she said. “Women had rights under the shah. This isn’t Islam; it is superstition and tradition.”

“The Stoning of Soraya M.” received a classification of L — limited adult audience, films whose problematic content many adults would find troubling -- from the U.S. bishops’ Office for Film and Broadcast for “a sequence of intense violence, torture, sexual references and one rough and a few crude and crude terms.”

The irony is amazing, how timely and timeless the film is. It is about a woman speaking to a reporter. Now in Iran women are standing up and telling reporters what is going on,” she said. “There are hundreds of thousands protesting, and 40 percent of them are women.”

National Right to Life looks at proposed national health reform

By Catholic News Service

CHARLOTTE, N.C. (CNS) — A Catholic congresswoman, the founder of Priests for Life and a leading pro-life-ethicist were among the speakers and workshop presenters at the National Right to Life convention June 18-20 in Charlotte. The convention, with the theme “Stop the Abortion Agenda,” drew nearly 1,000 participants from 48 states and covered a wide range of topics affecting human life, including concerns raised by the proposed national health reform.

“If this so-called reform bill isn’t reformed to explicitly exclude abortion, we absolutely need to put it on the fast track to the dustbin of history,” said Rep. Chris Smith, R-N.J., a Catholic who is co-chairman of the House Pro-Life Caucus, in a June 20 keynote talk.

“Apart from the estimated $1.6 trillion price tag and a virtual cornucopia of untested policy proposals cobbled together in secret, absent any meaningful scrutiny, the legislation poses huge catastrophic risks for unborn children,” Smith added.

Although there are a half-dozen health-reform proposals before Congress, none specifically from the administration of President Barack Obama, Smith said the “Obama/Kennedy/Waxman legislation creates a benefits advisory council picked by Obama that will mandate services after the bill becomes law.”

Smith said the pro-life movement had “suffered a string of setbacks” since Obama took office but could take encouragement from the fact that recent public opinion polls show that more Americans describe themselves as “pro-life” than “pro-choice” on abortion.

“Your educational initiatives and ultra-sound breakthroughs are having a positive impact,” he said.

Father Tadeusz Picholczyk, director of education for the National Catholic Bioethics Center, kicked off the convention with a presentation on “The Science and Ethics of Stem Cells and Cloning.” He holds a doctorate in neuroscience from Yale University and did postdoctoral research at Massachusetts General Hospital/ Harvard Medical School.

“There are seductive arguments regarding embryonic stem-cell research,” like “These embryos are going to be thrown away anyway, but can we ever throw away another human being? This is not how we treat one another,” said the priest.

There have been no medical cures or therapies yet using human embryonic stem cells, while there are a myriad of cures and therapies using the genetically obtained adult stem cells. Failing to emphasize this key distinction to the general public is “unjust,” according to Father Picholczyk, who said the importance of keeping ethics in modern science cannot be overstated.

Father Frank Pavone of Priests for Life was part of a panel discussion on “The Church, the Media and the State.”

“When we looked at what the church has to say about the state and about the media, you realize the church’s message is one of engagement, not disengagement,” he said. “It is an approach of engagement rooted in the fact that Jesus Christ’s approach was one of engagement with the people to whom he preached and with the sinners and tax collectors with whom he ate.”

Calling the media an information-eating machine, he challenged his audience to get educated, write stories and be available to share the truth with the media so they can do their job in challenging the state.

In the second panel titled “We Are the Sheep ... Where Are the Shepherds,” Father Pavone joined pro-life leaders from several large Christian denominations, each with unique challenges promoting the sanctity of life in their particular faith community.

He said that nowhere in the mission of the church in the modern world is the power of authentic Christian unity expressing itself more visibly, powerfully and practically than in the pro-life work.

Ruling gives religious workers ‘peace of mind,’ CLINIC head says

By Catholic News Service

WASHINGTON (CNS) — A Seattle judge’s order overturning a U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services policy on visas for foreign-born religious workers will give those workers “the peace of mind to continue providing important services in their communities and parishes,” said the head of the Catholic Legal Immigration Network.

Mark Franken, executive director of the agency known as CLINIC, commented in a June 23 statement on U.S. District Court Judge Robert S. Lasnik’s recent order requiring the federal immigration agency to treat immigrant religious workers the same way as other immigrants.

Previously, foreign citizens immigrating on the basis of petitions by family members or employers of those designated as “priority workers” or those having special skills or experience could file concurrent applications for a visa and for permanent residency.

Religious workers were required, however, to wait until the agency had approved separate visa applications by employers before applying for permanent residency.

“The bar discriminated against religious workers and created a burden for hundreds of religious workers,” Franken said.

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Catholic dialogue

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life of Jesus.

“Migration takes place in the birth stories of Jesus, illustrating the climate of danger and risk in the world in which the Word became flesh. Later, the theme of pilgrimage is woven into the itinerary of Jesus’ life and public ministry,” he said. Discussion focused on the theological significance of these travels and comparison of them with the religious aspects of the immigrant experience of Catholics in the United States.

Imam Mostafa Qazwini noted the theme of vulnerability in a number of the stories of early Islam, such as the migration to Abyssinia when the community experienced persecution in Mecca.

The migration of Prophet Muhammad from Mecca to Medina called the Hijra, (622 C.E.) is central to Islamic piety; Islam dates its calendar from this event, which signaled the beginning of the first truly Islamic society,” he said.

Father Alexei Smith, ecumenical officer for the Archdiocese of Los Angeles, noted that “vulnerability remains part of the experience of our communities.”

“In U.S. history, both Catholics and Muslims have been accused of disloyalty because they belong to universal faiths centered outside the territory of America,” he said.

Respondents from both communities described how it is considered obligatory to contribute to the wellbeing, security and prosperity of the nations in which they settle.

Todd Scriber, of the USCCB Migration and Refugee Services, spoke on the current situation of immigration reform in the United States.

“The Bishops are advocating for a comprehensive approach that would enable undocumented immigrants to obtain legal status, to allow family reunification on the basis of a visa system, and to promote economic and civic development in countries of origin so as to diminish the need for migration,” he said.

Muslim respondents noted that their communities in Southern California are serving large numbers of Somali and Iraqi refugees. Imam Taher Hassan of the Islamic Center of San Diego proposed “new forms of USCCB-Muslim collaboration that might be more effective in caring for the urgent needs of immigrants and refugees.

Participants representing the Muslims included Dr. Siddiqi, Imam Sayed Mostafa Qazwini, Sherrel Johnson, Jerrel Abdul Salaam, Dr. Iftekhar A. Hai, Dr. Hussam Qazwini, Sherrel Johnson, Jerrel Abdul Salaam, Dr. Iftekhar A. Hai, Dr. Hussam Qazwini.

Participants representing Catholics included Father Tiso, Father Al Baca, Father Smith, Msgr. Mikulans, Father José Rubio, Father Michael F. Kieran, Scriber, and Father Rafael Luévano.

The next meeting, slated for May 19-20, 2010, will explore the Christian hagiographical account of the “Seven Sleepers of Ephesus” which has a parallel in Surah 18 of the Qur’an, “The Companions of the Cave.” Presenters will be Father Smith and Dr. Siddiqi.

By Catholic News Service

CHARLOTTE, N.C. (CNS) — An African-American priest who graduated from the University of Notre Dame in 1989 told the National Right to Life convention June 19 that he was “heartbroken” when he learned that Notre Dame planned to honor U.S. President Barack Obama at its 2009 commencement.

“I was heartbroken to hear that my alma mater was betraying the church and her bishops and selling her spiritual birthright for a mess of presidential potage,” said Josephite Father John Raphael, principal of St. Augustine High School in New Orleans.

Father Raphael spoke on “The Impact of Notre Dame on the African-American and Pro-Life Communities” at the convention’s prayer breakfast.

As the principal of a predominantly black, all-boys Catholic school, Father Raphael said he felt the tension of being an African-American who celebrated the historical significance of the first African-American president but who as a Catholic was dismayed over the fact that the unborn would not be protected by this president’s policies.

His convictions led him to speak at an alternative commencement ceremony at Notre Dame in May and gave him greater motivation to reconnect African-Americans with their pro-life roots.

His presence at Notre Dame was seen differently among most of the African-American and pro-life communities.

“I was welcomed with open arms by my pro-life brothers and sisters, and I was an enigma at best and a traitor at worst to many of my African-American brothers and sisters,” he said. “I found myself at the intersection of two communities who in many areas, even concerning the sanctity of life, have much more in common than one might imagine.”

Father Raphael said he believes these two communities need to connect because they need each other, as they stand on “different banks of a mighty and destructive river.”

“African-Americans need pro-lifers because African-Americans and minority communities are being systematically targeted by anti-life forces,” he said. “Our future is being destroyed by the genocidal magnitude of legalized abortion.”

Pro-lifers need the African-American community, he said, because blacks with their unique American history provide new energy to the movement.

Father Raphael said the ice needs to be broken and the bridge to be built in a culturally sensitive way that respects the past and future of each community as they fight for the same ideas — the equal rights and protection of all.

By Trista Turley

Catholic News Service

WASHINGTON (CNS) — The board of directors of Public Broadcasting Service voted June 16 to stop its member stations from airing new religious programming, though existing programs on PBS affiliate stations will continue to be broadcast.

“Interpretive” religious programming, such as concerts and journalistic programs, also will be permitted to air.

The decision marks a compromise between PBS and some of its affiliate stations.

The board had been considering an outright ban on “straight” religious programming in accordance with a 1985 policy mandating “noncommercial, nonpolitical and nonsecular” programming on member stations.

PBS conducted the policy review in accordance with its preparations for the switch from analog to digital television.

Currently, fewer than five of the 356 PBS member stations air sectarian programming. Among those stations, three broadcast a Mass for shut-ins.

While the board’s decision permits the broadcast of Mass to continue, Washington-area Catholics accustomed to viewing Mass on PBS affiliate WHUT will be forced to look elsewhere. In February, the station told the Archdiocese of Washington that it will stop airing the Mass for shut-ins after July 23.

WHUT attempted to reverse its decision after the announcement of the board’s vote, but the archdiocese has already agreed to a broadcasting contract with the CW network affiliate.

Susan Gibbs, spokeswoman for the archdiocese, said WHUT made it “very clear” in February that Mass would not be allowed to air on the network. The Mass for Washington-area shut-ins will air on television station WDCW after July 23.

Broadcasts of Mass for shut-ins will continue on WLAE in New Orleans and KBDI in Denver.

Gibbs told Catholic News Service June 17 that while she was happy that the existing religious programs will remain on PBS stations, the board’s decision is ultimately a disappointment. “Going forward,” she said, “religion is being pushed to the side.”
Early in my former life as director of Hispanic ministry, I was entrusted with the task of taking a newly arrived immigrant priest to his assignment at a mountain town two hours from Denver.

The man, about 50, had seemingly heard the call by our newly installed archbishop asking that Latin American bishops consider the archdiocese as mission land. The rapid growth of the Spanish-speaking population was overwhelming for what was then only a few Hispanic priests in the diocese; and it was taking a toll on the goodwill of those who spoke some Spanish.

The priest had been informed before arrival about his new assignment. Upon arrival, however, it was evident the idea he had of pastoral needs and how to go about his ministry had little to do with U.S. reality.

The affirmative greeting at the airport turned into a worrisome face as we started to get away from the city and I began to explain the characteristics of his new flock: an incipient community with a large Hispanic population in the area; a high number of males, who worked mostly in construction and the service industry. Many were undocumented immigrants; they lived dispersed throughout the valley. The local pastor had done his best to learn Spanish.

There was a big need to reach out to them, but the fact that many had more than one job, the pastoral work would require a good dose of determination and creativity.

As we got out of the car, the priest decided to let his discomfort out. He said he was to be the sign and the presence of the infinite mercy of God in the world.

The priest who did not have a missionary spirit

Pope Benedict XVI's Intentions — July 2009

General: That the Christians of the Middle East may live their faith in full freedom and be an instrument of peace and reconciliation.

Mission: That the Church may be the seed and nucleus of a humanity reconciled and reunited in God's one and only family, thanks to the testimony of all the faithful in every country in the world.
Holy Family Victoria KC's Annual 3 R's

In Victoria every Wednesday before the
The Beginning Experience is

ACTS Retreats—

Singles —

Retrouvaille —

Engaged Encounter—

Grief Group —

or

To learn more about Natural Family Planning, please go to
(979) 335-7306 for more information or to register for classes.

El Campo Deanery, please visit their site at
(361) 579-9737 or (361) 649-9157.

Thursday at Holy Family at 7:00 p.m.  Call Jim Wearden at
(361) 578-8760, or Sue at (361) 578-3106.

and fourth Thursday of the month at Holy Family Education
Center.  A picnic stew, sausage dinner will be served starting at
10:30 a.m. with dine-in or drive-thru available at $7 pp.  There
will also be a country store, children's games, cakewalk and
more.  Music during the day and evening.  See pg. 7 for more
information.

Youkum—St. Joseph Parish Picnic Aug. 2 at the community center. It is celebrated every Sunday at Sts. Cyril and
St.Methodius Church, Shiner at 11:00 a.m. For more info, call (361) 594-3836.

Engaged Encounter—Register as soon as you have contacted your pastor due to limited space. It is strongly recommended that you attend an encounter weekend four to six months prior to your wedding date. For a registration form, contact your parish, visit the Web site at www.victoriadiocese.org/fam-
ily/reconciliation/inscription or write: Parishes of the Rio Grande Valley, Victoria, Texas 77903. The weekend is held at the Spiritual
Renewal Center. The dates for 2009 are: Sept. 11-13 and Nov. 20-22. For more info, call (361) 573-0285 ext. 30. All registrations are on a first-come, first-serve basis. Fee must
also register correspondence group.

Marriage Encounter—Marriage Encounter weekend is held at the Spiritual Renewal Center. For more information or to
register, write or call Milton and Diane Rejcek, 2512 Hillcrest,
Bay City, TX 77414; (979) 245-0323; register@miavictoria.org.

Retrovaille — The word Retrovaille means 'rediscove...
HOSTYN AND PLUM PARISH BREAKFAST GROUPS PROVIDE MANY SCHOLARSHIPS—The Scholarship Breakfast groups of Queen of the Holy Rosary, Hostyn, and Sts. Peter & Paul, Plum, awarded scholarships to five high school graduates and eleven college students on Sunday, June 21, 2009. This is the eighth year the Scholarship Breakfast has been able to help students who are continuing their education. These scholarships were first given out in 2002 when a Disciples on a Journey group started the monthly breakfasts. Since then, the breakfasts are hosted by three different groups at Hostyn and a group at Plum and now offer numerous breakfast choices. The money for the scholarships comes from a free-will donation from people who enjoy good food and good fellowship every month. Pictured are scholarship winners, front row: Alisha Keilers, Allison Svee, Hannah Kozelsky, Sinead McCourt, Candace Petras, Katie Kahanek, and Stephanie Antosh; back row: Adam Kozel, Jason Siek, Adam Antosh, Ed Kozel, Aaron Kubesch, Thomas Kozel, Elizabeth Kozel and Kevin Templin. Not pictured is Ryan Henneke.

TRINITARIAN STUDENTS MISSION IN VICTORIA—About 20 juniors and seniors from Trinitarian St. DeMatha Catholic High School in Hyattsville, Md., visited Our Lady of Sorrows Parish in Victoria for about a week beginning June 17 for a service trip. They came to help the parish’s Shut-in Ministry, doing yard work, cleaning up garages, and working with Habitat for Humanity. They also attended the ordination of Alfonso Serna Ornelas, O.S.S.T. June 20. Above, four students are pictured with their Victoria hosts, Paul and Carmelita Guerra; back row from left are Nicholas LeQuang, Patrick Williams, Christopher Frank and Patrick Merkel.

BAY CITY CDA PRESENTS SCHOLARSHIPS—The Catholic Daughters of the Americas Court St. Ann #369 presented scholarships to four graduating seniors at the regular June 1, 2009, meeting. Regent Grace Brown presented the checks and certificates to Lexann King, Luke Atchison, Shaylynn Drozd and Brittany Spong. Grace Rigamonti, court scholarship charwoman, noted the applicants’ qualifications while the presentations were being made. Leeann is a graduate of Calhoun High School, Port Lavaca, who will be studying nursing at the University of Texas in Austin. She is the granddaughter of CDA #369 court member Nelda Matchett and daughter of Pam and Carl King of Port Lavaca. Luke graduated from St. Joseph High School, Victoria, and will be studying business at Texas A&M University in College Station. He is the grandson of court member Adel McAdams and son of Clay III and Cynthia Atchison. Shaylynn is a graduate of Memorial High School in Victoria and will be studying nursing at Texas A&M University – Corpus Christi. She is the granddaughter of court member Dianne Beatty and daughter of Frankie Jr. and Joyzelyn Drozd. Brittany is a graduate of Hays High School in Kyle, Texas, and will be studying music education at Texas Lutheran University in Seguin. She is the granddaughter of Mary Oldmixon and Grace Rigamonti and daughter of Tim and Theresa Spong of Kyle. A reception for all honorees and their families followed the awards program. Anyone related to a CDA Court 369 member is eligible for these scholarships.

EL CAMPO KC 2490 AWARD FOUR NEW EAGLE SCOUT CERTIFICATES—Four young men from St. Philip the Apostle Parish in El Campo and St. John Nepomucene in New Taiton were presented Knights of Columbus Eagle Scout Certificates in the spring of 2009. Steven Drapela, Ty Priesmeyer, Dillon Berglund and Jerrid Allgayer each qualified for the certificate. Steven was also awarded the Knight of the Month for May 2009 for his service to the Church, Council and Community. He and Dillon are members of KC Council 2490 Archbishop Drossaerts and both received scholarships from the council. Ty Priesmeyer and Jerrid Allgayer will soon become members of Council 2490. All four Eagle Scouts are sons of 2490 members. Scout Masters were Tommy Drapela and Daniel Berglund. Pictured from left are Steven Drapela,Ty Priesmeyer, Fr. Gary Janak, chaplain and pastor of St. Philip’s; Dillon Berglund and Jerrid Allgayer.

OLG STUDENTS ARE HEAD-OVER-HEELS FOR KNIGHTS OF COLUMBUS—Pictured is Mr. Vernon Lysy of the Knights of Columbus Council #3253 presenting a check for $2,600 to Mrs. Theresa Dent, principal of Our Lady of the Gulf Catholic School with a group of happy OLG Middle School students. The donation was made possible by the proceeds from the KC Fish Fry Dinner sales during Lent. The OLG Home & School Association assisted the KC’s in serving the dinners each Friday evening while the 8th grade class baked and sold cookies in St. Jude Hall. The KC donation will go toward tuition assistance for qualifying OLG Mariner families. The 8th grade cookie sales of over $600 went toward the 8th grade class retreat, which was held in May.

CDA COURT 369 PRESENTS SCHOLARSHIPS—The Catholic Daughters of the Americas Court St. Ann #369 presented scholarships to four graduating seniors at the regular June 1, 2009, meeting. Regent Grace Brown presented the checks and certificates to Lexann King, Luke Atchison, Shaylynn Drozd and Brittany Spong. Grace Rigamonti, court scholarship charwoman, noted the applicants’ qualifications while the presentations were being made. Leeann is a graduate of Calhoun High School, Port Lavaca, who will be studying nursing at the University of Texas in Austin. She is the granddaughter of CDA #369 court member Nelda Matchett and daughter of Pam and Carl King of Port Lavaca. Luke graduated from St. Joseph High School, Victoria, and will be studying business at Texas A&M University in College Station. He is the grandson of court member Adel McAdams and son of Clay III and Cynthia Atchison. Shaylynn is a graduate of Memorial High School in Victoria and will be studying nursing at Texas A&M University – Corpus Christi. She is the granddaughter of court member Dianne Beatty and daughter of Frankie Jr. and Joyzelyn Drozd. Brittany is a graduate of Hays High School in Kyle, Texas, and will be studying music education at Texas Lutheran University in Seguin. She is the granddaughter of Mary Oldmixon and Grace Rigamonti and daughter of Tim and Theresa Spong of Kyle. A reception for all honorees and their families followed the awards program. Anyone related to a CDA Court 369 member is eligible for these scholarships.