

# The Catholic Lighthouse

The Cradle of Texas Immigration



VOL. 23, NO. 3

OFFICIAL PUBLICATION OF THE DIOCESE OF VICTORIA IN TEXAS

July 2009



## 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



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 Kahlich, Columbus; John Peters, Hallettsville; and Joe Hybner, 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.

## 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 ~ 60<sup>th</sup> Anniversary to the Priesthood, p. 1
- Father Charles Kram Jr. ~ Story of life and prayer for beatification, p. 4, 9
- Father Alfonso Serna, O.S.S.T. ~ Ordination story, p. 13

### Priests outside of diocese:

- Father Timothy Vakoc ~ Army chaplain dies from Iraq War wounds, p. 18
- St. John Vianney, 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 Hablar* ~ 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 E. Fellhauer with Father Bartsch and visiting priests celebrating.

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.

Attending the Mass was Father Bartsch's sister, Margaret Frerich, and numerous nieces

and nephews, including his niece, Verna Goertz, who along with her family, presented the gifts at the altar.

The Mass closed with "Lord, When You Came to the Seashore." 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 it 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



## Bishop Fellhauer's Schedule

<b>July</b>	
<b>11</b>	2:00 p.m., Incarnate Word and Blessed Sacrament Sisters Jubilee, Incarnate Word Convent, Victoria
<b>12</b>	2:00 p.m., Incarnate Word and Blessed Sacrament Sisters Jubilee, Incarnate Word Convent, Victoria
<b>17</b>	8:00 a.m., Mass, Teen ACTS Retreat, Spiritual Renewal Center, Victoria
<b>19</b>	9:00 a.m., Mass, celebration of Father Gabriel Bentil's 25th anniversary of ordination to the priesthood, St. Joseph Church, Inez
	4:00 p.m., Mass, boys Vocation Camp, Spiritual Renewal Center, Victoria
<b>22</b>	4:30 p.m., Diocesan Building Board meeting, Chancery Office
<b>25</b>	9:00 a.m., Our Lady of the Gulf Parish golf tournament, Colony Creek Country Club, Victoria
<b>26</b>	11:00 a.m., Mass, celebrating 100th Anniversary of St. Anne's Society KJZT #30, Holy Cross Church, East Bernard
	4:00 p.m., Mass, beginning of girls Vocation Camp, Incarnate Word Convent, Victoria
<b>29</b>	9:30 a.m., Diocesan Priests' and Lay Pension Board meeting, Chancery Office
<b>August</b>	
<b>10</b>	5:00 p.m., Diocesan Liturgical Commission meeting, Chancery Office
<b>13</b>	6:30 p.m., Mass, Serra Club NW seminarian's hamburger cookout, St. Mary's, St. Mary (Hallettsville)
<b>15</b>	10:00 a.m., Mass, St. Mary Church, Praha, Feast of the Assumption of the B.V.M.

## Thank You

Dear Bishop Fellhauer,  
God give you peace!

I am in receipt of your check in the amount of \$32,564.91 representing the gifts of the people of the Diocese of Victoria to the Jerusalem Mother Church for the 2009 Good Friday collection. This gift will not only assist in the preservation of the Holy Places but will also help the people to whom the Franciscan Friars of the Holy Land Custody minister.

With deep appreciation, much gratitude and a promise of prayer for you and the People of God in the Diocese of Victoria, I am yours,

Sincerely and gratefully,  
Bro. Joe Rogenski, O.F.M.  
Commissary of the Holy Land  
St. Louis Region

Dear Bishop Fellhauer,

I am personally grateful to you for your leadership with your faithful in encouraging them to look beyond their own needs and those of your diocese in sending such support for the world mission of the Church.

Your donations to the Society for the Propagation of the Faith for 2008 totaled \$20,610, and to the Holy Childhood Association, your diocese provided \$644.56 for the evangelization of children around the world.

Sincerely in His mission,  
Rev. Msgr. John E. Kozar  
National Director, Pontifical Mission  
Societies in the United States

*Official Appointments By  
Most Rev. David E. Fellhauer*

Effective July 1, 2009, the **Rev. Gabriel Oduro Tawiah** is appointed Parochial Administrator of St. John Nepomucene Church, New Taiton, and relieved of his duties as Parochial Vicar at St. Mary's Church, Nada.

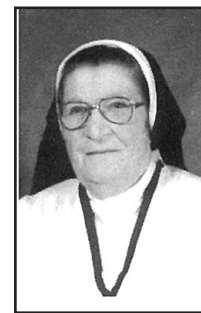
Effective July 1, 2009, the **Rev. Joseph Vrana** is relieved of his responsibility as Pastor of St. John Nepomucene Church, New Taiton; he remains Pastor of St. Mary Church, Nada.

## In Memory of ...

### Sr. M. Dorothy Susil, IWBS

Sister M. Dorothy Susil, 93, of Victoria, died Saturday, June 27, 2009. She was born Oct. 17, 1915, in Ellinger, to the late Charles and Agnes Manak Susil. She was a member of the Sisters of the Incarnate Word and Blessed Sacrament.

Sister received her elementary education at Santa Anna School near Ellinger, St. Mary's School at Hostyn, and Lawson Public School in Wharton County. She completed part of her high school education at Lawson Public High School and received her diploma from St. Ludmila Academy in Shiner. Sister entered St. Ludmila Convent as a postulant on Sept. 13, 1930, and became a novice of the Sisters of the Incarnate Word and Blessed Sacrament on June 30, 1931. She made her final vows on Sept. 5, 1937. Sister Dorothy earned a B.A. degree with a major in English and a minor in Spanish from Incarnate Word College in San Antonio. She received a M. Ed. degree with a major in administration from Our Lady of the Lake College. She was awarded Texas teacher certificates on the elementary and high school levels and in administration. Sister Dorothy ministered as a teacher-principal in St. Ludmila Academy in Shiner, Holy Trinity School in Corn Hill, Nada Public School, Holy Trinity School in Duquesne, Pa., St. John Public School near Schulenburg, Marak Public School near Cameron, Sacred Heart School in Floresville, St. Agnes School in San Antonio, Hostyn Public School near La Grange, Praha Public School, Blessed



Sacrament Academy in San Antonio, Sealy Public School, and Immaculate Conception School in Sealy. Sister also ministered as teacher and/or coordinator of the CCD Programs in Immaculate Parish in Sealy, St. Mary Parish in Praha, St. Joseph Parish in Moulton, Sacred Heart Parish in Flatonia, Holy Cross Parish in East Bernard, St. Basil Parish in Angleton, and Our Lady of Lourdes and Our Lady of Victory parishes in Victoria. When

Sister Dorothy retired to Incarnate Word Convent in 1989, she assisted in household duties and taught piano lessons to many young students and even to former convent Chaplain Leon Rubaj, until this past year when her health began failing.

Sister Dorothy is survived by her sister, Olga Jankowiak of Houston and beloved nieces and nephews.

She was preceded in death by her parents; sisters, Bohumila Sula, Hedwig Becak and Mildred Beran; and brothers, Anthony Susil and Charles Susil.

Funeral Services were held at the convent on Wednesday, July 1, 2009, with Rev. Donald Hayden O.S.S.T., convent chaplain, presiding. Burial followed at Catholic Cemetery No. 3.

Pallbearers were family members: Tony Beran, Michael Susil, Jim Sula, George Petter, John Walla, John Susil and Charlie Becak.

Memorials may be made to Incarnate Word Convent, Hospice of South Texas, or donor's choice.

## 2009 DSA & Reflection of Faith Capital Campaign Updates

### 2009 DIOCESAN SERVICES APPEAL

Diocesan Goal:	\$1,282,100.00
Parish Pledge Totals:	\$ 544,872.99
Parish Contribution Totals:	\$ 463,762.09
Number of Parish Families Participating:	3,402

### REFLECTION OF FAITH CAPITAL CAMPAIGN

Diocesan Goal:	\$ 9,000,000.00
Parish Pledge Totals:	\$13,484,800.45
Parish Contribution Totals:	\$ 5,881,309.12
Number of Parish Families Participating:	6,948

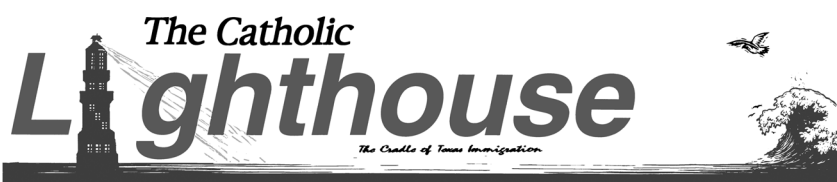
The Business Office continues to monitor all pledge activity (Diocesan Services Appeal and Reflection of Faith Capital Campaign) within the Diocese of Victoria. If you would like to pay off your pledge, restructure your payment plan or create automatic payments (through your checking account or credit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

On behalf of the Diocese of Victoria, thank you to all the families that help make both of these appeals successful.

Sue Ellen Galvan, Coordinator, Diocesan Services Appeal  
Reflection of Faith Capital Campaign

## New encyclical should prompt ethical review, Knights' leader says

ROME (CNS) — When Pope Benedict XVI's social encyclical is released, Catholics shouldn't just ask, "What does the pope say I'm doing right?" but "What should I do to act more morally?" said the head of the Knights of Columbus Supreme Knight Carl A. Anderson in Rome July 1. The Vatican announced that the pope's encyclical, "Caritas in Veritate" (Love in Truth), would be released July 7. Anderson said he would ask the top executives of the organization's insurance program to read the encyclical and look at ways it is calling the Knights to make changes to their business and other programs.



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## Pope Holds Up St. John Vianney as Example for 2009-2010, cont.

BY TIM DRAKE,  
Register Senior Writer

April 12-18, 2009, Issue / 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 helpful 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, where he is pulling souls out of the kingdom of darkness, and also as a spiritual father protecting his flock from evil."

"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.

"About a fourth of the crowd has heard of him," said Defilippis. "He's a forgotten 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 dramatic life of self-sacrifice and his struggle with evil."

*Editor's note: St. John Vianney was born at Dardilly, near Lyon, France, on 8 May, 1786, and died at Ars, 4 August, 1859.*

## John Vianney

1786-1859

*feast – August 4*

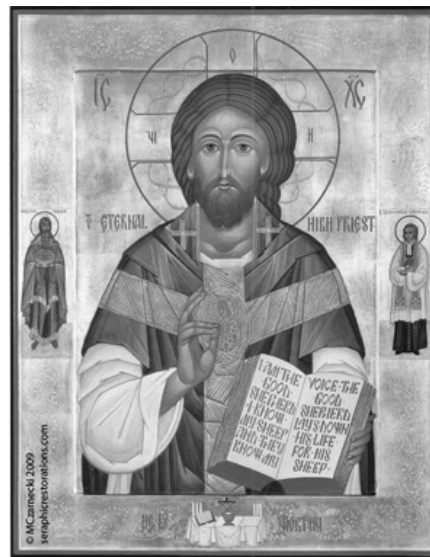
Born near Lyon, France, this farmer's son studied for the priesthood for many years, and eventually was ordained more for his devoutness and good will than for other qualities. But he became a model parish priest in Ars-en-Dombes, where he served for 40 years. He was devoted to his parishioners, and 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.



Saints for Today

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## Year for 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](http://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.*

**Pilgrimage to Rome, Assisi, Italy**  
September 7 – 18 / \$3,242 pp

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November 30 – December 12 / \$3,025 pp

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March 22 – 31, 2010 / \$2,695 pp

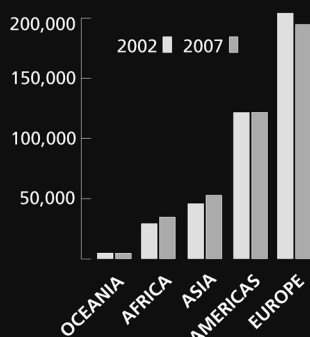
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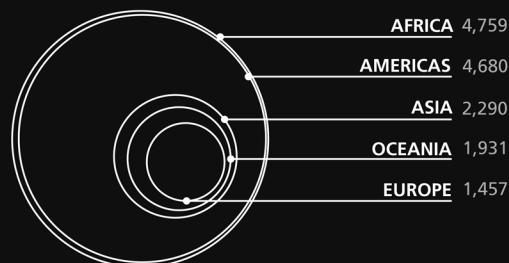
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TOTAL NUMBER OF PRIESTS WORLDWIDE stands at 408,000. That's one priest for about every 2,800 Catholics.

NUMBER OF PRIESTS



CATHOLICS PER PRIEST IN 2007



Source: Statistical Yearbook of the Holy See  
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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
<b>—Rev. Msgr. Edward C. Bartsch Seminary Burse</b>	
In honor of Fr. Ed Bartsch's 60th Anniversary of Ordination by:	
Joseph Neskora	\$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 Klekar	30.00
Stazy Hajek	10.00
Gary & Denise Grieve and family	60.00
Julia Stryk	20.00
Dennis & Gail Stryk	30.00
Robin & Gary Cerny	25.00
Frank & Sireta Michalak	15.00
Mrs. Laddie Okruhlik	50.00
KJZT Praha #4	50.00
Emil & Mary Ann Lev and family	10.00
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$1,560.00</b>

<b>— Rev. Celestino Say Seminary Burse (Catholic Life Ins.)</b>	
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 Kutchka	10.00
Catherine Palmer	25.00
M/M L. H. Waida	10.00
Dorris Raska	10.00
Wendy Hrnir	5.00
M/M Joe Morris	25.00
Arthur & Marjorie Jolly	10.00
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$2,360.00</b>

<b>— Rev. John C. Bily Seminary Burse</b>	
Previously reported	\$7,744.00
In honor of Fr. John Bily by	
St. Ann Society, Weimar	25.00
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$7,769.00</b>

<b>— Msgr. Edward F. Bily Seminary Burse #2</b>	
Previously reported	\$100.00
In memory of Msgr. Edward Bily by	
the Bily Family	5,000.00
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$5,100.00</b>

<b>— Knights of Columbus Ganado Council #3204 Rev. Joseph Hybner Seminary Burse</b>	
Previously reported	\$2076.00
In honor of Rev. Michael Lyons' ordination anniversary by	
KC Council #3204	50.00
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$2,126.00</b>

<b>—Rev. John C. Peters Seminary Burse #4</b>	
Previously reported	\$7,274.00
In honor of Fr. John Peters from	
Sacred Heart School Faculty, Staff & Students for National School Pastor Appreciation Day	500.00
In honor of Fr. John Peters from	
Catholic Life Branch #22	300.00
In honor of M/M Marcus Janak's 50th wedding anniversary by	
M/M Richard Rouse Sr.	40.00
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$8,114.00</b>

<b>— Rev. Jerome J. Stryk Seminary</b>	
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
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$11,504.50</b>

<b>— Rev. Msgr. Julius Petru Seminary Burse #2</b>	
Previously reported	\$610.00
In memory of Ellen Rose Boriskek by	
Mary Ann Kucera	200.00
In memory of Paul Raaz Sr. by	
Mary Ann Kucera	25.00
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$835.00</b>

### Additional Burses for donations:

- Rev. Joe Levya
- Rev. Marcus Valenta
- Rev. Godfrey F. Kuratko
- Rev. Msgr. John Hanacek
- Sophie Schmidt
- Rev. Charles Kram
- William L. Schmidt
- Sr. Perpetua Hawes, 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.

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**Victoria**  
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**Karen Kutac, FIC**  
**Weimar**  
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**Royce Shimek, FIC**  
**Schulenburg**  
**979-743-4313**

**Bert Kenna, FIC**  
**Yoakum**  
**361-293-9657**

**Albert Smaistrila, FIC**  
**East Bernard**  
**979-335-4473**

**Charles Leopold, FIC**  
**Hallettsville**  
**361-798-4311**

**Eugene Rehak, FIC**  
**Victoria**  
**361-575-4982**

**Chris Merta, FIC**  
**Nada-Garwood**  
**979-543-1059**

**Clifton Lau, FIC**  
**Victoria**  
**361-573-3669**

**Calvin Pfeil, FIC**  
**El Campo**  
**979-543-3868**

**Patrick Klozik, FIC**  
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## 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](mailto:valerie.romans@twc.state.tx.us), or visit [www.twc.state.tx.us/tvlp/tvlp.html](http://www.twc.state.tx.us/tvlp/tvlp.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.



Valerie Villarreal Romans, a 2008 UHV graduate, poses in uniform with her husband, Christopher.



## MCSH SISTERS CELEBRATE 25TH AND 50TH ANNIVERSARIES—

Missionary Catechists of the Sacred Heart of Jesus and Mary (MCSH) 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 Jaimes, Eufemia Santiago, Miriam Perez, Provincial Superior; Josefina Maldonado and Midory Wu.



**TEXAS CDA STATE REGENT HONORED 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



Horseshoe Tournament • Country Store •  
Cakewalk • Games • Pantry Wheel and More!

Mexican Food available in the afternoon.

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

Auction 12:30 p.m.

• Arts & Crafts • Quilts •

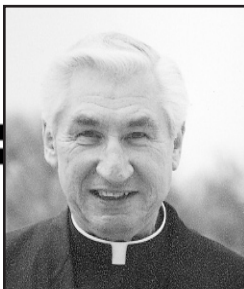
• Livestock •

• Many more items •



## FAITH POINT

By Rev. Msgr. James C. Brunner  
Vicar General, Diocese of Victoria  
For past articles: [www.stmaryvic.com/desk.htm](http://www.stmaryvic.com/desk.htm)



### Scientific Secularists

**S**ecularists 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 a fetus 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 Parenthood" 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 enrages population controllers. Alexander King, founder of the Malthusian 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 Wurster, 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 will be droughts, terrible storms and starvation. To prevent this we will all have to cut back on CO<sub>2</sub>s 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 triumphing over science, but over reality.**

atmospheric carbon dioxide leads to the conclusion that increases during the 20th Century have produced no deleterious effects upon global weather, climate, or temperature. Increased carbon dioxide has, however, markedly increased plant growth rates. Predictions of harmful climatic effects due to future increases in minor greenhouse gases like CO<sub>2</sub> are in error and do not conform to current experimental knowledge.

They say also that far from causing harm, CO<sub>2</sub>s are beneficial. "Human activities are producing part of the rise in CO<sub>2</sub> in the atmosphere. Mankind is moving the carbon in coal, oil, and natural gas from below ground to the atmosphere, where it is available for conversion into living things. We are living in an increasingly lush environment of plants and animals as a result of this CO<sub>2</sub> increase. Our children will therefore enjoy an Earth with far more plant and animal life than that with which we now are blessed."

Secularists who are moved only by evidence should look at all of it. Even if their theory of global warming is true, mankind's contribution to it is infinitesimal. Climatologist John Christy maintains that current plans to diminish CO<sub>2</sub>s are all cost and no gain. "The problem is that the solutions being offered don't provide any detectable relief from this so-called catastrophe. Congress is now discussing an 80% reduction in U.S. greenhouse emissions by 2050. That's basically the equivalent of building 1,000 new nuclear power plants all operating by 2020. Now I'm all in favor of nuclear energy, but that would affect the global temperature by only seven-hundredths of a degree by 2050 and fifteen hundredths by 2100. We wouldn't even notice it." But the economy and your lifestyle would. Christy does not

meet with secularists' favor because his science repudiates the crushing tax increase inherent in the cap and trade scheme that the government is considering. That is why the mythical global warming scenario is important to secularists. It gives government complete control over economic activity and allows for wealth redistribution in accord with secularist dogma.

Want more secularist science? Take the secularist position that men and women are identical and that gender is only a social construct. The differences between men and women are equivalent to the differences, for example, between African-Americans, and Caucasians. If you want to know whether there are differences between men and women, ask any married couple. Scientists have discovered that men and women have different brain structures, which have real effects on behavior and perception. "In mammalian species, numerous sex differences in brain structure and function have now been documented," writes Judy L. Cameron of the University of Pittsburgh Departments of Psychiatry, Neuroscience, and Cell Biology & Physiology. "Behaviors showing documented sex difference include behaviors associated with reproduction (mating and maternal behaviors), aggression, activity and various cognitive functions, including spatial cognition, verbal skills, and various aspects of learning and memory." But this clashes with the secularists' dogma on sexual equality and so they ignore it.

There is not enough space here to discuss other examples of secularist science. In sum, secularists accept junk science that agrees with their ideology and ignore science that contradicts it. It is not just a question of ideology triumphing over science, but over reality.

Secularists want to make the world safe for premarital sex, homosexuality, contraception, abortion, equating humanity with lower life forms, income redistribution, avoiding human intervention in nature (except of course when nature produces an unwanted pregnancy) and elitist population control. Only science that fits their agenda need apply no matter what the evidence.

### Reporting Abuse

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

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

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

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

### ABCATS Polka Cruise

Feb. 14-21, 2010 - Galveston,  
Jamaica, Grand Cayman & Cozumel  
Going Fast - Must Book Through  
ABCATS Travel  
to attend our Exclusive Events

ALSO European Guided Tour  
July 2010  
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## 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 Excellence 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.

"This was an exemplary project, and I'm glad to see it get such prestigious recognition," said Massey, a retired researcher who lives in Austwell and once worked 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 in Victoria by visiting the Victoria Regional History Center on the second floor. The material is not available to be checked out. The collection is also available at the Center for American History at the University of Texas at Austin.

Massey first learned of the Vietnamese people's story when producing books about Texas immigrants at the Institute of Texas Cultures and knew their untold stories were an important part of the cultural history of

Texas.

After she retired and bought a beach house in Austwell, she approached the UHV/VC 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.



Sara Massey

## SISTERLY THOUGHTS

By Sister Mildred Truchard, IWBS



### The Big Picture

It 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, "Whatsoever 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.

## Sts. 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**  
(Hamburgers, Nachos & Snacks available after 3 PM)



**1:00 PM AUCTION**  
Featuring ...  
Quilts, Handmade Items,  
Antiques, Home Canned  
Foods, Plants, Pastries  
plus  
many more Unique Items!

For more information on the Country Festival,  
call 979-732-3430.


**BINGO 11 AM - 3 PM**  
★ Raffle  
★ Country Store  
★ Grocery Walk  
★ Children's Games  
★ Blue Bell Ice Cream  
★ Cake Walk ★ Plant Walk  
★ Silent Auction ★ Snow Cones  
★ Horseshoe Pitching  
★ Dunking Stand

**FREE DANCE**  
**Red Ravens** 4 - 8 PM

Inside  
The Hall

Music during  
the day by  
**DOUGLAS  
POLASEK**

Come join us for a good old-fashioned time!



**Knights of Columbus #9088  
presents:**

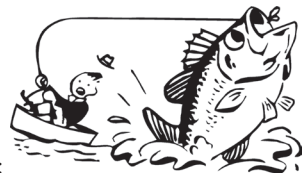
**Readin' — 'Ritin' — Reelin'**  
**7th Annual 3 R's Fishing Tournament**  
**Proceeds to go to Nazareth Academy, Victoria, Texas**

August 7-8, 2009 — Port O'Connor

Fishermen and non-fishermen alike are invited for great fellowship and fun!

Join by either entering a team in the tournament, becoming a sponsor, or donating items for the auction, raffle, or door prizes.

For more information contact:  
Bryan Ellis (361) 578-0877 or Dennis Lockstedt (361) 573-9505





## Youth Calendar of Events

**July 19-22** — Quo Vadis, Boys Vocation Camp at the Spiritual Renewal Center (spots still available)

**July 26-29** — St. Theresa Vocation Camp at Incarnate Word Convent, Victoria (spots still available)

**August 29** — Altar Server Appreciation at Splashway in Sheraton

**October 23-25** — Archdiocesan Conference for Catholic Youth Ministers in Houston

**November 1-12** — NET Team in the Diocese — in parish retreats are available, contact the office for more information

**November 19-22** — National Catholic Youth Conference in Kansas City, Missouri

For more information on any of these events, please contact:  
Debbie Vanelli or José Ortega at the Office of Youth Ministry  
at (361) 573-0828 ext. 32 / ext. 50 or e-mail at  
dvanelli@victoriadiocese.org or jortega@victoriadiocese.org  
Web site: [www.victoriadiocese.org/youthoffice](http://www.victoriadiocese.org/youthoffice)

## 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.



(above) Hot Chili Peppers: Caitlin Orsak, Jaycie Orsak, Blake Hermes, Alyssa Tobola



(left) The Yoakum CRU: Theresa Ferry, Wesley Ferry, Jana Guajardo, Michael Guajardo, Amy Basham, Skye Anderly, Raelly DeBord, Tyler Ferry & Addison Ferry



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

## ST. ROSE STUDENTS HONORED BY DUKE

**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



## 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

helping deserving students, will offer some financial sponsorship to the student representing their community.

"The Sound of America Honor Band and Chorus," celebrating its 33rd year in 2009, is recognized as one of the finest and most successful European Concert Tour programs in existence. It has received



St. Joseph band director, Michael Petrisky, and Hilary Kristynik.

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.



**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 Fietsam, first grade; Jillian Ransom, 4th grade; Branson Fowlkes, 2nd grade; Kate James, 3rd grade; and Alex Lozano, kindergarten; back row, from left: Caitlyn Bennett, 8th grade; Clayton Brossmann, 6th grade; Svannah Flood, 5th grade; Jakob Rehak, 7th grade, and Principal Rosanne Gallia.



## Life Story of Father Kram of Shiner

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 healthy 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. In May of 1952 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 stem with his chin. He also learned to hold a stick in his mouth to type and to operate his ham radio and to turn pages of books. He slept in a rocking bed that helped to keep his lungs clear and make his breathing easier. Later Charles returned to the family's farm and to the care of his parents until his mother's

health forced her to go into the rest home. Then his father single-handedly cared for him. Any hope of ordination to the priesthood seemed impossible.

But, perhaps by Divine Intervention, in 1975 Archbishop Francis Fury decided that Charles could be ordained so he could more effectively continue his ministry of giving advice, encouragement and spiritual direction to visitors as well as to people from all over the world via 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 and a half years after the onset of polio and almost total paralysis. 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 and to console, to counsel, 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 was actually 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.

## Father Bartsch celebrates 60 years of service

*Continued from p. 1*

then served as pastor in Espada Mission in San Antonio; St. John Bosco, Vanderbilt; 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 being 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  
Our 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 do 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 results aroused hopes and works of charity amongst 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 exciting 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 postulator 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 responding to the "Call to Holiness" manifests itself in the courage

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, breakouts and opportunities for sharing, 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](http://www.cth2009.org), call (713) 391-2609, or e-mail questions to: [conf\\_info@cth2009.org](mailto:conf_info@cth2009.org).



## St. Philip takes PSIA 3rd place for one-act play

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

"Well they did it again," co-director Keri Graff said. "I am so proud of each one of these students, particularly because they 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 Bremser 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 Kerzee as Barry Klemper, Amy Bremser as Jack Palmer, Jessica Gaines as Shelia, Blaise 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; Kaitlyn Davlin, costumes and makeup; and Colton Krutilek, set design.

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## Diocese of Victoria Pastoral Institute Summer 2009 Short-Term Classes

DATE	COURSE	TIME	Location
7/7/2009	Sacraments	9:30 a.m. - 4:30 p.m.	Chancery, Victoria
7/7/2009	Sacraments	9:30 a.m. - 4:30 p.m.	St. Joseph, Yoakum
7/7/2009	Sacraments	9:30 a.m. - 4:30 p.m.	St. Anthony, Columbus
7/8/2009	Getting Started	6:30-9:30 p.m.	Holy Cross/East Bernard
7/13/2009	The Scriptures I	6:30-9:30 p.m.	St. John/St. John
7/15/2009	The Scriptures II	6:30-9:30 p.m.	St. John/St. John
7/14/2009	Sacraments Pt. I	6:30 p.m. - 9:30 p.m.	Chancery, Victoria
7/16/2009	Sacraments Pt. II	6:30 p.m. - 9:30 p.m.	Chancery, Victoria
7/14/2009	Sacraments Pt. I	6:30 p.m. - 9:30 p.m.	St. Joseph, Yoakum
7/16/2009	Sacraments Pt. II	6:30 p.m. - 9:30 p.m.	St. Joseph, Yoakum
7/14/2009	Sacraments Pt. I	6:30 p.m. - 9:30 p.m.	St. Anthony, Columbus
7/16/2009	Sacraments Pt. II	6:30 p.m. - 9:30 p.m.	St. Anthony, Columbus
7/15/2009	Roles of Catechist	6:30-9:30 p.m.	Holy Cross/East Bernard
7/22/2009	Person of Catech.	6:30-9:30 p.m.	Holy Cross/East Bernard
7/22/2009	Prayer/Spirituality	6-9 p.m.	St. Michael/Cuero
7/29/2009	Prayer/Spirituality	6-9 p.m.	St. Michael/Cuero
8/4/2009	Getting Started	6:30-9:00 p.m.	OLL/Victoria
8/5/2009	Roles of Catechist	6:30-9:00 p.m.	OLL/Victoria
8/4/2009	The Learner Pt. I	6:30 p.m. - 9:30 p.m.	St. Philip, El Campo
8/6/2009	The Learner Pt. II	6:30 p.m. - 9:30 p.m.	St. Philip, El Campo
8/5/2009	The Learner Pt. I	6:00 - 9:00 p.m.	Sts. Cyril & Methodius, Shiner
8/6/2009	The Learner Pt. II	6:00 - 9:00 p.m.	Sts. Cyril & Methodius, Shiner

You can also call 361-573-0828 or e-mail [bparkan@victoriadiocese.org](mailto:bparkan@victoriadiocese.org) to register. All classes require an Echoes of Faith Plus companion booklet except Church. Books are available at each course site or at the Chancery.

## Varied Workshops Offered at Annual Conference

Participants will have a wide variety of workshops from which to choose at the XXII Annual Conference for Catechesis and Ministry, Saturday, September 26, 2009, at Holy Family Parish in Victoria. Catholic publishers and vendors will exhibit resources and materials for all ages as well as have various religious items for sale.

Careful consideration was taken to assure a wide array of topics would be presented that are relevant and vital in our world and church today.

Sgt. Paul Aleman from the Criminal Investigations Division Cyber Crimes Unit/Southern Texas ICAC in the Office of the Texas Attorney General will be offering two workshops titled "Protecting Children Online," which will include information about "Sexting."



Paul Aleman

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.



Cynthia Goerig

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](http://www.victoriadiocese.org) or call (361) 573-0828.

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**

## Safe Environment Online Training

The new Online Renewal and  
Re-Certification is ready!

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 49.

To complete the Online Training, please follow these instructions:

1. Log In to the Diocese of Victoria's Web-site: [www.victoriadiocese.org](http://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:

Online Renewal Training or scroll down the page to Online Recertification Training and follow the instructions.

If you do not remember your original password from 3-6 years ago, use the Alternate Login method.

Submit the Agreement Page & Confirmation Page to the Office of Child and Youth Protection or to the parish/school. If you misplace your forms, you may log back into the system and reprint both forms at any time.

All background checks are renewed automatically. Therefore, individuals who are unable to continue their ministry at this time are asked to contact the parish/school to avoid unnecessary background check expenses.

Classroom trainings are available and scheduled through the parish/school.

## 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](http://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 number and asking for the number of the local AA (Alcoholics Anonymous) or NA (Narcotics Anonymous), or the number for the local family support group called AL-ANON or NARANON.

Also, a FREE prayer book: "Prayers for Addicted Persons and Their Loved Ones," FREE: "Serenity Prayer Bookmarks," and a FREE pamphlet: "When They Won't (or Can't) Quit Alcohol or Drugs," are available by contacting the National Catholic

Council on Alcoholism and Related Drug Problems; write: NCCA, 1601 Joslyn Rd.; Lake Orion, MI 48360; e-mail: [ncca@guesthouse.org](mailto:ncca@guesthouse.org); phone (800) 626-6910, ext. 1200, or Web site: [www.nccatoday.org](http://www.nccatoday.org).

NCCA is affiliated with the U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops and the Guest House, the world's premier treatment center for clergy and religious, which helps Catholic priests, brothers and women religious overcome an addiction and return to active and productive ministry in the Church. See Web site: [www.nccatoday.org](http://www.nccatoday.org).

### Diocese of Victoria Library & Media Center 361-573-0828 • [www.victoriadiocese.org](http://www.victoriadiocese.org)

Are you looking for a good book to read during your summer vacation? Why don't you come and check out one or more of the books in our diocesan library to enjoy? We'd be happy to mail them to you. Just call 573-0828. Listed below are some of our new books and videos/DVDs.

**Prayer Without Borders** is a collection of prayers, stories, and reflections from people across the world who are served by Catholic Relief Services.



- Living the 10 Commandments as a Catholic Today
- Parenting Your Parents
- The Faith We Profess
- Conversing w/God in Scripture

**The Song of Bernadette** explores



Bernadette's trials and tribulations from her impoverished family to her difficulties at school to the derision her visions bring upon her and at last to her affliction with bone-marrow cancer.

- The Liturgy That Does Justice
- What Do We Do at Mass
- The Angel's Sacrament Lesson
- At the Death House Door

VHS/DVDS

## ROME

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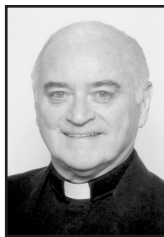
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Call Judy Gillespie at (361) 575-8159 for details.



## Spirituality for Today

By Father John Catoir  
Catholic News Service



## Rediscovering the Eucharist

The blessed Eucharist is called the “bread of angels,” but you don’t have to be an angel to draw strength from this heavenly food. What you have to be, however, is a true believer in the real presence of the risen Christ under the appearances of bread and wine.

Many Catholics are losing their faith in this holy sacrament. Like the secularists all around them, they reason falsely that faith itself no longer needs an actual theological object in order to be personally useful. They go so far as to claim that we don’t need a personal Savior or a belief system in order to be spiritually alive. To me the idea that you can cut the branch off the vine and still hope to produce grapes makes no sense.

Many Catholics who receive holy Communion weekly do not have a clear conviction that the risen Jesus is truly present in the Eucharist. They don’t seem to connect with him on the level of true faith. They miss so much.

In one of Trappist Father Thomas Merton’s final letters, written before his journey to the Orient from which he never returned, he expressed his views on the Eucharist this way:

“As for the topic of the real presence, I am living in a hermitage where I now have the Blessed Sacrament, which is a great blessing, a very great help in prayer and meditation, in fact a quite indescribable privilege. The people who dilute the idea of the real presence, it seems to me, are the ones who have forgotten the meaning of prayer” (The Tablet of London, December

1968).

Pope John Paul II said that “every commitment to holiness, every activity aimed at carrying out the church’s mission, every work of pastoral planning, must draw the strength it needs from the eucharistic mystery.... Were we to disregard the Eucharist, how could we overcome our deficiency?” (“Ecclesia de Eucharistia”).

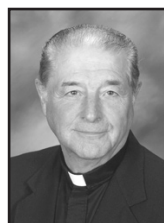
St. Paul saw the Eucharist’s meaning so clearly: “In him we live and breathe and have our being.” The sacrament of the church confirms God’s immanence. With Christ’s presence among us, we learn that the Eucharist is infinitely more than a pious symbol; it is truly the body and blood of Christ under the appearances of bread and wine. Jesus shares his very life with us in a most intimate, life-giving way.

The fathers of the Second Vatican Council back in the 1960s consisted of about 2,000 bishops from all over the world. In union with Pope Paul VI they proclaimed the Eucharist as “the source and summit of the Christian life (“Lumen Gentium”).

We are a truly privileged people. Let us be on guard to profess with courage our true faith in this precious gift.

Jesus Christ helps us to produce rich and abundant good fruit. The next time you receive the holy Eucharist, make a deep act of faith in his real presence, and as you bow before him, love him with your whole heart, mind and soul.

Act as though he came to earth that day just for you.



## Question Corner

By Father John Dietzen  
Catholic News Service

## 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 show 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 unevenness and need

for improvement in education, including religious education. These broad accusations, however, undermining 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.

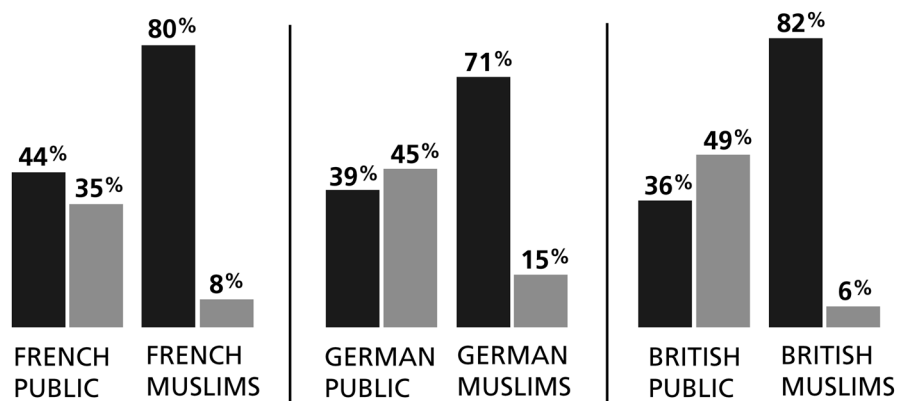
It took the church centuries to develop satisfactory eucharistic language. The 16th-century Council of Trent (Session 13) summarized that development in describing the true and substantial eucharistic presence of our Lord. Yet even that language

## 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

©2009 CNS

(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, California. 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

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 deplore 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, when these are proclaimed clearly and listened to carefully the true faith is present and alive.

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.



## Living Members of Court St. Ann 50 Years +



**Ruth Ann Boyd**  
64 Years



**Clarice Hall**  
60 Years



**Janell Kruppa**  
60 Years



**Lois Schindler**  
60 Years



**Lillian Obst**  
60 Years

## 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.

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



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, parochial 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 Court No. 797 in Hallettsville attended along with their Regent Margaret Steffek.

JoAnn Bleier, chairman of the event served as Mistress

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 Svrcek, 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 Obst 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 Daugh-

ters 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.



**Marylene Tagliabue**  
59 Years



**Nelda Matchett**  
57 Years



**Grace Rigamonti**  
57 Years



**Lois Smith**  
57 Years

## Living Members 50+ Years Not Pictured

Lena Spath  
Dorothy Martin  
Genevieve Hall  
Marie Cory  
Frances Prado  
Lillie Mae Scherer  
Leonita Ulman  
Mary Oldmixon  
Jolene Etzler  
Marjorie Stefka  
Rosemary Dellaurier  
Sophie Hilmers  
Antionette Etlinger

Helen Kriz  
Lavana Bombersbach  
Friederike Truman  
Gladys Vrazel  
Anette Wagner  
Anna Gleinser  
Lillian Smolik  
Leona Bowen  
Willie Kornfuehrer  
Wendy Hrcir  
Julie Jurica  
Rita Heinrich  
Betty Migura



## Victoria Trinitarians welcome new vocation

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 parents 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 everyone stood in applause as approval to his call to the priesthood.

The bishop began the homily thanking and congratulating many people in attendance at the ordination including Father Alfonso's parents and family, the Trinitarians, and even a group of students from St. DeMatha High School near Baltimore.

"This is a special day for the Trinitarians. You have a special place in the heart of the Diocese of Victoria and this parish," the bishop said. And then to Fr. Alfonso, "This liturgy marks a conclusion of this stage in your life and a beginning of another... In Christ's footsteps you will walk."

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 beseeched God to raise Deacon Alfonso to the priest-

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.



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.



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.



Photo above by Marvin Lockhart; all other photos by Cynthia Brewer

Father Alfonso's parents unbind his hands of the cloth on which he will wipe his hands after the anointing. This cloth is presented to his parents and will be buried with his mother upon her death.

### Father Alfonso Serna's Vocation Story

"I received the call when I was eight years old. There is no way to explain it; the only thing I can say is that it was a real mystical moment. It happened during one Mass when I was an altar server in my home parish in Teocaltiche, Jalisco, Mexico. Actually, I often remember the moment and when that happens it seems like it was yesterday and gives me chills.

I decided not to answer the call then (when I was 13 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 try.

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."



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



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.

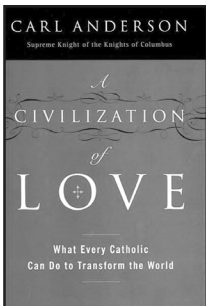


## “A Civilization of Love” to be Family Puzzle Prize

“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.



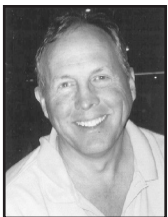
Author Carl Anderson, Supreme Knight of the Knights of Columbus,

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-*

## The Joyful Catholic

© 2009 By Rick Hermann  
E-mail: [RH222@sbcglobal.net](mailto:RH222@sbcglobal.net)



## Making peace with people around you

A little boy wrote this letter to God in Sunday School, “Dear God, I bet it is very hard for you to love everybody in the whole world. There are only four people in our family and I can never do it.”

This boy is learning one of the most noble challenges in life: how to get along with other people, especially those near to you.

All families have difficulties communicating and getting along. This is the result of living in a fallen world in which we each tend to want our own way.

Growing up in my family we were blessed because my parents taught us how to communicate openly and resolve conflicts.

We were not perfect, of course, but we were taught to resolve our differences. Disunity and estrangement were not an option. We were expected to make peace. So instead of brooding over whether or not to reconcile, we tried hard to practice forgiveness and conflict resolution. For example, we were not allowed to give a careless apology. Our mother said, “Now look the other person in the eyes and mean it when you say it.”

Sadly, many people get stuck at a distance from each other and never reconcile. The devil gleefully instigates this disunity and perpetuates it. Once we realize who is fanning the flames of our disunity, we find it easier to come together and tri-

umph over our differences.

I once met a man who attended Mass every day but admitted, “I had a fight with my brother and haven’t spoken to him in forty years.” How sad, I thought, that he had not allowed the love of Jesus to heal his heart. Jesus instructs, “If anyone says ‘I love God’ but hates his brother, he is a liar; for whoever does not love a brother whom he has seen cannot love God whom he has not seen” (I John 4:20). We are created for love, meant for unity, and called to peace.

Remember Jesus said the greatest commandment after loving God is “You shall love your neighbor as yourself” (Matthew 22:36). The world is a marvelously different place when we take this to heart. We get a beautiful reminder to practice this unity at every Mass when the priest says, “Let us offer each other the Sign of Peace.” This is a wonderful opportunity to experience the love of God. He created us to share this divine love.

I know a woman who turns around in her pew, smiling and waving to everyone in all directions. She radiates the way things were in the Garden of Eden. She is helping God’s Kingdom to come and his will to be done, on earth as it is in heaven. Unfortunately it is not always possible to make peace with everyone. Some people do not want to be reconciled and you cannot force them. Love does not force people against their will. Some people frown during the Sign of Peace or look down at the floor. Some are loners who seem to pray “Give ‘me’ this day ‘my’ daily bread” rather than “Give ‘us’ this day ‘our’ daily bread.” Let us pray that Jesus will enter the hearts of these strangers like he entered the locked room where his disciples were hiding in fear. They need to hear his healing words, “Peace be with you.” As we joyfully offer the Sign of Peace to be reconciled into the family of God, may our smiles fill us with the peace and love of Christ. This is a foretaste of our eternal life to come, a welcome glimpse of heaven on earth.

*Hermann is a popular freelance writer and retreat speaker.*

## APOSTLES AND DISCIPLES

[www.wordgamesforcatholics.com](http://www.wordgamesforcatholics.com)



ANDREW

BARTHOLOMEW

JAMES

JOHN

JUDAS

MAGDALENE

MARTHA

MARY

MATTHEW

PAUL

PHILIP

PETER

SIMON

THADDEUS

THOMAS

Name: \_\_\_\_\_  
Address: \_\_\_\_\_  
Phone number: \_\_\_\_\_  
Parish: \_\_\_\_\_  
Age if under 18: \_\_\_\_\_



## Family Puzzle Contest Winner to win “A Civilization of Love”

Kay Potter of St. Roch Parish in Mentz has won the June Family Puzzle Contest drawing and will receive the book “Joshua’s Family” by Joseph Girzone, published by Doubleday.

The winner of the children’s contest is Jacob Janda (9) of Queen of the Holy Rosary in Hostyn. He will receive a gift from the Incarnate Word Gift Shop.

If you have not won the puzzle contest within the past six months, please send completed puzzle and contest form to *The Catholic Lighthouse* by July 29 for a chance to win the July Family Puzzle Contest prize of “A Civilization of Love ~ What Every Catholic Can Do to Transform the World” by Supreme Knight Carl Anderson and published by Harper One.

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# Harvest Feast

Sunday, August 9

Weimar, Texas

## Fried Chicken & Stew Dinner

at 11:00 a.m. - Adults \$7 - Children \$4

Drive-Thru Plates & Plates-To-Go \$7

## Veterans Memorial Park

Drive-Thru Take-Home Plates will be available at  
St. Michael Family Center Only

Auction - 1 p.m.  
Country Store

Cakewalk  
Children's Activities

Bingo - 2-6 p.m.  
Lic. 1-74-1110101-1

And Much More!



Music By:  
**Shiner Hobo Band**

12:00-2:00 p.m.  
**Czechaholics**

2:00-6:00 p.m.  
**Red Ravens**

6:00-10:00 p.m.



## Volunteers promote international adoptions of Down syndrome babies

By Paul Sanchez  
Catholic News Service

WESTERLY, 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](http://www.reecesrainbow.org)) assists couples in adopting Down syndrome children from other countries. Founded in June 2006, Reece's Rainbow has already found families for more than 175 children with Down syndrome from 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 do-

noted 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. Because the test 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, volunteer 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

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 they realize that they are just normal kids, with personalities, likes and dislikes like everyone else. Our boys are loved and accepted by all of our family and friends."

Roberts said she opposes abortion, as do many people active with Reece's Rainbow. However, Reece's Rainbow does not take 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.

"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 lives in 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 these children deserve the right to live just like other children," she said. "They are spreading a pro-life message of compassion and acceptance."



Reece Roberts, 7, who has Down syndrome, poses with his father, Rich Roberts, and grandfather Dick Roberts in an undated photo. Reece's mother, Andrea Roberts, started a Maryland-based organization called Reece's Rainbow, which assists couples in adopting children with Down syndrome from other countries. (CNS photo/courtesy Reece's Rainbow)

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, Grifyn, also 5, was adopted from Serbia in April 2008. Grifyn 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

## Sunday Readings from July 12 to Aug. 9

July 12 — Fifteenth  
Sunday in Ordinary Time  
Amos 7:12-15  
Psalms 85:9-10, 11-12, 13-14  
Ephesians 1:3-14  
Mark 6:7-13

July 19 — Sixteenth  
Sunday in Ordinary Time  
Jeremiah 23:1-6  
Psalms 23:1-3, 3-4, 5-6  
Ephesians 2:13-18  
Mark 6:30-34

July 26 — Seventeenth  
Sunday in Ordinary Time  
2 Kings 4:42-44  
Psalms 145:10-11, 15-16, 17-18  
Ephesians 4:1-6  
John 6:1-15

August 2 — Eighteenth  
Sunday in Ordinary Time  
Exodus 16:2-4, 12-15  
Psalms 78:3-4, 23-24, 25, 54  
Ephesians 4:17, 20-24  
John 6:24-25

August 9 — Nineteenth  
Sunday in Ordinary Time  
1 Kings 19:44-8  
Psalms 34:2-3, 4-5, 6-7, 8-9  
Ephesians 4:30 — 5:2  
John 6:41-51

## Oldest U.S. Women's Religious Community Celebrates 200 Years

CINCINNATI—She was a wife, a mother of five children and a widow, who went on to found a religious community for women, an extraordinary and pioneering move 200 years ago. The life of Elizabeth Ann Seton, the first American-born saint, is told in two articles in the July issue of St. Anthony Messenger, timed for the 200th anniversary celebrations of the Sisters of Charity. These articles, by authors Barkley and Metz, are posted at: [www.americancatholic.org](http://www.americancatholic.org). The daughter of a New York doctor, she married a rich merchant who brought the first Stradivarius violin to America and delighted playing it for his young wife. Elizabeth nearly died in childbirth, delivering the couple's third child in 1789. She also took care of six of her husband's younger siblings. She had to cope with many deaths in her life: In 1801 Elizabeth's beloved father died. Two years later, her husband, William, died in her arms in Italy after they were detained in quarantine. Two of her daughters also died before Elizabeth did. Through the kindness of Antonio

Filicchi, the Italian partner of William's importing business, Elizabeth Seton was introduced to the Catholic Church. Amabilia Filicchi, Antonio's wife, had invited her inside a church where, Barkley says, "she was amazed by worshipers' belief in the Real Presence in the Eucharist, a belief foreign to her experience as an Episcopalian." Metz picks up Seton's story at this point in her life when, at age 30 and back in New York, she decided to join the Catholic Church. She moved her family to Baltimore, the seat of the only Catholic diocese in the United States, to open a school for girls. "It was here that women from various cities around the country began to join her," Metz says. "Gradually, and with the endorsement of Bishop John Carroll, the idea forming a religious congregation began to take hold." Within one year of its July 31, 1809, founding in Emmitsburg, Maryland, the community had grown to 12 women. Soon, the school for poor mountain children

*See Oldest U.S. Women's Religious Community, p. 19*

## 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.

Jesus says: "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](http://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.sscmshiner.org](http://www.sscmshiner.org))





## EL PAPA HABLAR

Papa  
Benedict XVI



CNS foto de Reuters

## 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 objetivo 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 profundicen 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.

## 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 Audifonos 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!

Excelentísimo Mons. José Gómez, STD, Arzobispo de San Antonio; Hna. Rafaela Cavallin, Religiosa de los “Apostoles de la Vida Interior;” Marilisa Carney, Co-Fundadora de 40 Días por la Vida; Susan Selner-Wright, PhD, Profesora Seminario Teológico San Juan Vianney en Denver; Renata Furst, PhD, Profesora Seminario Asunción en San Antonio. Presidirá una de las Sesiones en Grupo sobre la vida de

### El informe dice 10.000 emigrantes raptados en México más de seis meses

México D.F. (CNS) — Una monja que trabaja en asuntos de migración para los obispos de México dijo que ella no fue sorprendida por un informe de Derechos Humanos Nacionales de México Comisionar que casi 10.000 emigrantes sin documentar que viajan por México en su manera a Estados Unidos fueron raptados sobre un período de seis-mes. “Organizó los grupos de crimen ven en la población migratoria un grupo que es muy vulnerable para cometer estas clases de crímenes,” Scalabrini Hermana Leticia Gutierrez, el secretario de dirección del ministerio humano mexicano de la movilidad de obispos, dijo Noticias católicas Atienden a.

soltera.

Espacio limitado. Inscríbase temprano! Pre-inscripción – \$45 hasta el 12 de Agosto, después \$55.

La Conferencia de Mujeres Católicas – Español está auspiciado y organizado por The Pilgrim Center of Hope – un Centro Católico de Evangelización para la Arquidiócesis de San Antonio.

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

## Entre Amigos

Por Mar Muñoz-Visoso  
USCCB



## El sacerdote que no 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 comencé 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.

Recogí mi mandíbula del suelo y balbuceando le respondí: “Pero padre, Jesús caminó por pueblos y aldeas predicando el evangelio y llamando a la gente a seguirlo”. Insistió 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 podía pedir al arzobispo que lo asignara a otro lugar. Me ofrecí a ayudarlo 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 ciertamente cambiaron. Y la actitud de este sacerdote quedó grabada en mi memoria como la antítesis del espíritu misionero, especialmente porque contrastaba con la mayoría de los sacerdotes que conozco —y he trabajado con bastantes.

Son muchos más los que trabajan sin descanso —sin importar las horas o donde tengan que ir a buscar a sus ovejas— para que no les falten los sacramentos, un buen consejo, una palabra de consuelo o una voz que clame justicia.

Sin embargo, también he visto a muchos sacerdotes quemarse por la falta de descanso, de tiempo para la oración, de convivencia fraternal con otros sacerdotes y por causa de la soledad.

Admiramos a nuestros sacerdotes pero, a menudo, también los damos por hecho. En este Año Sacerdotal que comienza, y cuyo tema es precisamente “La identidad misionera del presbítero en la Iglesia”, recordemos por nuestros sacerdotes y busquemos formas de acompañarlos en su camino de fe y en su ministerio.

Benedicto XVI nos recuerda que esta identidad misionera es una “dimensión intrínseca” al desempeño de su llamado. Un sacerdote católico sin espíritu misionero es, por tanto, una contradicción.

*Mar Muñoz-Visoso es subdirectora de prensa y medios en la Conferencia de Obispos Católicos de Estados Unidos*

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Farrah Fawcett  
**Native Texan,  
actress dies**

SANTA MONICA, Ca. — Actress Farrah Fawcett has died after a long battle with anal cancer, she was 62. Born Feb. 2, 1947, in Corpus Christi, Texas, she was named Mary Farrah Leni Fawcett by her mother, who said she added the Farrah because it sounded good with Fawcett.

She was less than a month old when she underwent surgery to remove a digestive tract tumor with which she was born, according to an AP story.

A longtime educator, Sister Patrice Floyd, a Sister of the Incarnate Word and Blessed Sacrament and a former principal of several Catholic schools in the Diocese of Corpus Christi, said the Fawcett family lived across the street from Christ the King School where she attended.

Later Farrah and her older sister, Diane, attended St. Patrick School. Farrah then went to Hamlin Junior High and graduated from Ray High School.

Farrah attended the University of Texas at Austin. Fellow students voted her one of the 10 most beautiful people on the campus and her photos were eventually spotted by movie publicist David Mirisch, who suggested she pursue a film career.

Soon she was appearing in such TV shows as "That Girl," "The Flying Nun," "I Dream of Jeannie" and "The Partridge Family."

Though she was raised a Catholic, her faith never seemed to be a topic of her interviews, but as she battled cancer she spoke about praying to God and hoping for a miracle.

In a documentary about her struggle that she produced and which aired on network television in May, she was often shown holding a rosary during her treatments. Before her death, news reports said a priest came to her hospital room and administered the church's last rites.

Farrah's sister, Diane, died from lung cancer on Oct. 16, 2001, just before her 63rd birthday.

Farrah is survived by her father James, longtime partner Ryan O'Neal, their son, Redmond O'Neal, who has dealt with numerous legal issues over the last few years, including most recently, an arrest for allegedly trying to bring heroin into an LA-area jail facility on April 5.

A private funeral Mass was to be celebrated for her at Our Lady of the Angels Cathedral in Los Angeles June 30.

Contributing to the article Paula Beaton, editor of the South Texas Catholic newspaper from Corpus Christi.

## Pope names Bishop Aymond of Austin to head Archdiocese of New Orleans

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, chargé d'affaires at the apostolic nunciature.

His installation Mass will be Aug. 20 at St. Louis Cathedral. He is the first New Orleans native named to head the Archdiocese of New Orleans in its 216-year history.

The pope has accepted the resignation of Archbishop Alfred C. Hughes, who turned 75 Dec. 2, 2007.

Archbishop Aymond was born in New Orleans Nov. 12, 1949. After grade school and high school, he went to St. Joseph Seminary College in St. Benedict, La., where he graduated in 1971. He earned a master's degree in divinity from Notre Dame Seminary in New Orleans in 1975 and was ordained as a priest of the New Orleans Archdiocese the same year. From 1973 to 1981, he was a professor, business administrator and then rector of St. John Vianney Preparatory Seminary in New Orleans. From 1981 to 1986, he was professor of pastoral theology and homiletics and director of education at Notre Dame Seminary.

The bishop served as president-rector of Notre Dame Seminary from 1986 until the end of the 1999-2000 academic year, longer than any rector in the seminary's 76-year history. He also was a member of the seminary faculty for 18 years. During his tenure, Notre Dame Seminary grew to become the third-largest seminary in the country.

Archbishop-designate Aymond was ordained an auxiliary bishop of New Orleans in 1997, and became coadjutor bishop of Austin in 2000, succeeding to head the Austin Diocese in 2001.

Archbishop Aymond said he would examine the pastoral plan necessitated by Hurricane Katrina and promised to meet with people who have been hurt by the closings of churches and schools. The archdiocese promulgated the final phase of its post-Katrina pastoral plan in April 2008, reducing the number of parishes from 142 to 108, citing a shortage of active priests, declining population and uninsured damage to churches, schools and other institutions.

He said the "reorganization" of the archdiocese "was given a great deal of thought and prayer, and obviously I am not here to

second guess my predecessor and the work that his staff did."

"But I certainly want to be a shepherd who would be willing to meet with people and talk to them and walk with them in a time of hurt . . . to make sure that the Catholic Church in the Archdiocese of New Orleans is reaching out in all areas to care for the people," Archbishop Aymond said.

Archbishop Hughes, who will remain in the Archdiocese of New Orleans and devote much of his time to spiritual direction and retreat work, said he was thrilled that Archbishop Aymond has the distinction of coming home to work with the people he knows best. The archbishop also asked forgiveness of any parishioners hurt by the pastoral decisions he had to make in the wake of Hurricane Katrina.

Archbishop Aymond said he would travel to Rome June 29 to receive the pallium, symbolic of the authority of a metropolitan archbishop, from Pope Benedict XVI.

"Even as I returned to New Orleans for vacations and to visit family and friends, never in my wildest dreams did I ever think I would be back here as archbishop and doing ministry as the shepherd of this church," Archbishop Aymond said. "But I accept that responsibility knowing that I will depend on God and God's help."

The Archdiocese of New Orleans has a population of 1.08 million people, with about 387,000, or 36 percent, of them Catholic, and has the distinction of having three retired archbishops: Archbishop Hughes; Archbishop Francis B. Schulte, 83, who

served 1989-2002; and Archbishop Philip M. Hannan, 96, who served 1965-88.



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. (CNS photo/Frank J. Methe, Clarion Herald)

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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](http://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 from Iraq to Germany and then to Walter Reed Army Medical Center in Washington, where he remained hospitalized for four months. He was transferred in a near-coma to the Veterans Affairs Medical Center in Minneapolis in

October 2004.

He underwent several surgeries and was in a minimally responsive state for several months, but finally regained consciousness. He had speech, physical and occupational therapy, and in the last couple of years had become increasingly more able to speak, recognize people and answer questions.

In April 2007, St. Paul Seminary School of Divinity of the University of St. Thomas in St. Paul awarded Father Vakoc with the 2007 Distinguished Alumnus Award. The seminary has presented the award annually since 1994 as a way to recognize alumni "who have lived their vocation in an extraordinary way." He received a Purple Heart, the Bronze Star Medal and the Combat Action Award.

Before he was injured, Father Vakoc had told the National Catholic Register in an e-mail interview: "I live with (the soldiers), work with them, eat with them, care for them, listen to them, counsel them. The soldiers know if you are real and genuinely care for them or not. The bottom line in helping these soldiers through the grieving process is to be present to them and walk with them."

"I prayed with the soldiers, I prayed for the soldiers who died. I brought the sacraments of the church and the light and love of Christ into the darkness of the situations," he said.

## 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 committees 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 committees said in a note issued in San Antonio during the bishops' June 17-19 spring meeting. Of special concern are the document's "description of the church's mission and, in particular, what evangelization means with regard to the Jewish people," the committees 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. "If so, then 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 committees' note is available online at: [www.usccb.org/bishops/covenant09.pdf](http://www.usccb.org/bishops/covenant09.pdf).*

## 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.

"This seems to confirm the unanimous and uncontested tradition that they are the mortal remains of the apostle Paul," the pope said.

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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## Master of an Empty Kingdom: The Tragically Short Life of Michael Jackson

*Rabbi Shmuley Boteach reminisces 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 that I am cold-hearted, but 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 complaining that his foot or back or neck hurt him, all lightheaded 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, treated me as if I were a nuisance 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 devastated. 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 cartoon videos for his kids and my kids to watch. We sat in my living room on Thanksgiving laughing and joking. And the children missed him. Once, when my son Mendy was eight years old he accompanied Michael and me to a kosher restaurant in Manhattan. Mendy tried to order. The waiter focused on the adults. Mendy felt ignored. He kept on repeating his order. Michael heard him. He interrupted the waiter. 'Excuse me, but this child is trying to order. Can you please listen to him?' It was not something you'd expect from a superstar. They were supposed to be utterly self-absorbed, right? And then there was the incident with my children fighting with the children of another family on the school bus. Michael heard about it. My eldest daughter felt bullied. Michael sprang into action. Enter the peacemaker. He called me, and over several days he planned a peace parley in earnest. Everything down to the name tags of the children. No detail was too miniscule. Kids should not fight. Adults were the corrupt ones. He wanted to see harmony among kids. And while he put hours into planning the summit (which never went ahead because the other family pulled out) he was supposed to be working on his album, "Invincible." No matter. It would wait. Ending altercations between school children took precedence. I did not think I would cry when Michael died. It was only when I went back and listened to the many hours of taped con-

versations that Michael and I conducted so that I would write a book that peered into his soul. Hearing his voice, hearing him say, in his long drawn out way, 'Shm-muuuullleeey,' That did it. The tears flowed. Yes, I was angry at him. Truly. He threw away his life. He had lived recklessly and orphaned his children. He had medicated away the afflictions of the soul as if they were ailments of the body until his body could no longer tolerate the abuse. He had squandered all of G-d's blessings. But he touched me nonetheless. He made me softer and gentler. He was highly imperfect and was perhaps guilty of serious, terrible sins for which there might not be any forgiveness. 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 luuvve 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 somewhere else.' 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. 'Shmuuullleeey. 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 too sentimental. But I left the conversation with red eyes. How did he find it so easy to tell people he 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

### Oldest U.S. Women's Religious Community Celebrates 200 Years

*Continued from p. 15*

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, "were the mustard seed that has produced great abundance for our Church and society over the past 100 years, spreading throughout North America and beyond."

had everything, but he acted as though he had nothing. He reveled 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 he 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.shmuley.com/](http://www.shmuley.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."

Also of interest: Beliefnet's interview with Michael from 2001 titled "My Childhood, My Sabbath, My Freedom": [www.beliefnet.com/Faiths/2000/12/My-Childhood-My-Sabbath-My-Freedom.aspx](http://www.beliefnet.com/Faiths/2000/12/My-Childhood-My-Sabbath-My-Freedom.aspx)

### 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 ransoms 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."

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## 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 lead 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 voiceless woman being stoned. Now it is about the woman who stands up for her rights,” she told The Catholic Standard & Times, Philadelphia’s archdiocesan newspaper, while in town to promote the movie.

“The irony is amazing, how timely and timeless the film is. It has 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 & Broadcasting for “a sequence of intense violence, torture, sexual references and one rough and a few crude and crass terms.”



Iranian-born actress, Shohreh Aghdashloo, talks about movie ‘The Stoning Of Soraya M.’ (CNS photo/Sarah Webb, Catholic Standard and Times)

## National Right to Life looks at proposed national health reform

By Catholic News Service

CHARLOTTE, N.C. (CNS)—A Catholic congressman, the founder of Priests for Life and a leading priest-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 ultrasound breakthroughs are having a positive impact,” he said.

Father Tadeusz Pacholczyk, 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 all 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 ethically obtained adult stem cells. Failing to emphasize this key distinction to the general public is “unjust,” according to Father Pacholczyk, 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.

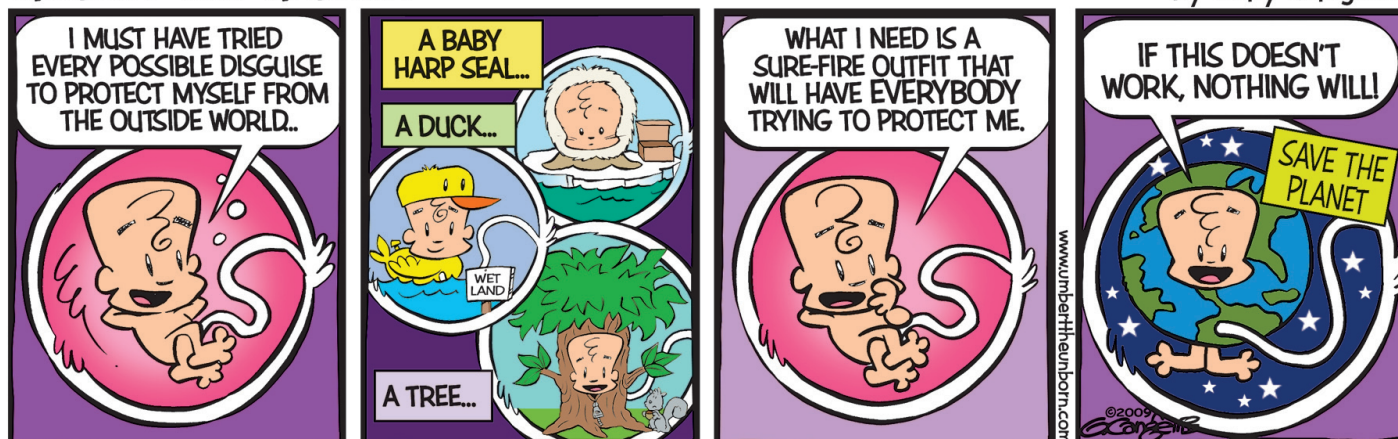
Mark Franken, executive director of the agency known as CLINIC, commented in a June 23 statement on U.S. District Court Judge Robert S. Lasnik’s recent order requiring the federal immigration agency to treat immigrant religious workers the same way as other immigrants.

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.

See Ruling gives, p. 21

## Umbert the Unborn





## West Coast Muslim-Catholic dialogue

*Continued from p. 11*

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 office 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 demonstrated how it is considered obligatory to contribute to the wellbeing, security and prosperity of the nations in which they settle.

Todd Scribner, 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 Taha Hassane 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. Iftexhar A. Hai, Dr. Hussam Ayloush and Imam Taha Hassane.

Participants representing Catholics included Father Tiso, Father Al Baca, Father Smith, Msgr. Mikulanic, Father José Rubio, Father Michael F. Kiernan, Scribner, 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’ān, “The Companions of the Cave.” Presenters will be Father Smith and Dr. Siddiqi.

## Black priest says pro-life, African-American communities must unite

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 pottage,” 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 worse 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.

## Bishop laments high African American abortion rate

Responding to a Guttmacher Institute report that African Americans abort at a rate five times higher than white Americans, Bishop Martin D. Holley, an auxiliary of the Washington archdiocese, called upon the federal government to stop funding Planned Parenthood and lamented the loss of life from abortion. Since 1973, he said, “the number one cause of death in the African American community has been abortion. We have lost over 13 million lives. To put that in perspective, it is one third of our present Black population. Since 1973, twice as many Black Americans have died from abortion than from AIDS, accidents, violent crimes, cancer, and heart disease combined.” Reprinted from an Oct. 20, 2008, news brief from [www.catholicculture.org/news/headlines/index.cfm?storyid=822](http://www.catholicculture.org/news/headlines/index.cfm?storyid=822).

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

*Continued from p. 20*

Because of delays in processing their applications, foreign-born religious workers sometimes would have to leave the United States before applying for permanent residency in order to prevent the accrual of unlawful presence and work.

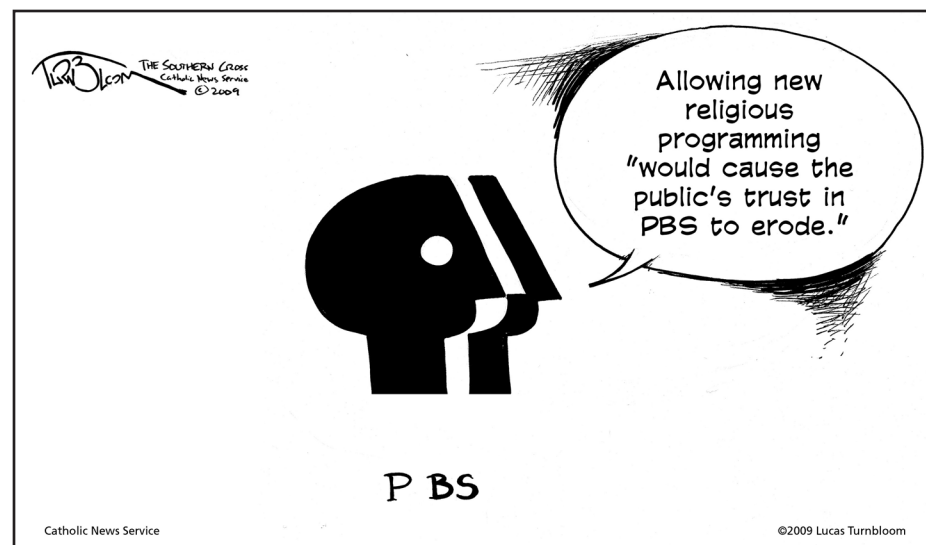
In a March 23 ruling, Lasnik said the government policy was “an unreasonable and impermissible construction of the governing statute” that must be overturned.

He said federal officials do not “have discretion to choose who is eligible to apply for adjustment of status,” which is a determination made by Congress, or “to interpret the same statutory provision in different ways depending on the classification of the applicant, or to waive a statutory requirement.”

His June 11 order in *Gabriel Ruiz-Diaz et al. v. United States of America* directed the agency to process employment authorization applications and special immigrant visa applications for religious workers whose applications had been rejected “as if they had been submitted on their original submission date.”

Anne Marie Gibbons, CLINIC’s director for religious immigration and protection, called Lasnik’s decision “a major accomplishment and great news for hundreds of religious workers across the country.”

Gibbons told Catholic News Service in April that the Seattle ruling could clear the way for about 300 religious workers whose visa cases CLINIC handles to apply for residency without the burdensome process they have had to use. Many dioceses and religious orders apply on their own for their foreign-born employees and also would be covered by a change in the policy, she said.



## PBS won't let stations air new religious programs; current shows stay

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 nonsectarian” programming on member stations.

PBS conducted the policy review in conjunction 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

broadcasts 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.”



## THE POPE SPEAKS

Pope  
Benedict XVI



CNS photo from Reuters

## Priestly ministry requires giving oneself to Christ, pope says

By Cindy Wooden  
Catholic News Service

VATICAN CITY (CNS) — Priests can preach the Gospel effectively only if they give their lives totally to Christ, Pope Benedict XVI said.

At his weekly general audience June 24, the pope said the fact that the new Year for Priests overlapped for 10 days with the concluding year of St. Paul is a useful reminder that priests must be missionaries as well as celebrants of the sacraments.

“Because he belongs to Christ, the priest is radically at the service of men and women. He is the minister of their salvation, their happiness, their authentic liberation,” he told an estimated 11,000 people gathered for the audience in St. Peter’s Square.

Pope Benedict said he hoped the Year for Priests, which began June 19, would help priests “grow toward the spiritual perfection” they need to be effective ministers and would help the faithful “appreciate more fully the great gift of grace which the priesthood is.”

The pope said, “An authentic service of the Word requires that the priest tends toward a denial of self,” so that with St. Paul he can say, “I live, no longer I, but Christ lives in me.”

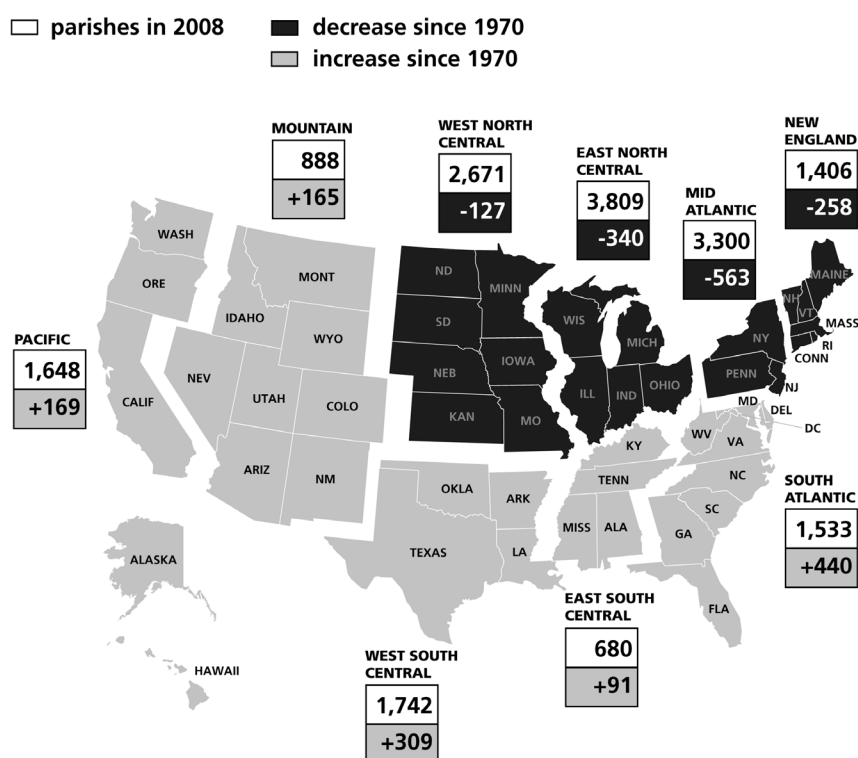
A priest is called not simply to function as the minister of Christ’s grace, but to truly embody Christ’s grace, which “requires that the priest progressively lose himself in Christ, participating in the mystery of his death and resurrection with his entire being -- intelligence, liberty, will and the offering of his own body,” the pope said.

“Only participation in Christ’s sacrifice, his ‘kenosis’ (self-emptying), makes proclamation authentic,” he said.

The pope prayed that the world’s priests always would be aware of “the responsibility of their mission, which is to be the sign and the presence of the infinite mercy of God” in the world.

### PARISH COUNT BY REGION

The northeastern quadrant of the U.S. has seen a decline in the number of parishes since 1970. Parish numbers are up in other regions.



Numbers do not include 564 Eastern-rite parishes in the U.S.

Source: Official Catholic Directory

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## Entre Amigos

By Mar Muñoz-Visoso  
USCCB



## The priest who did not have a missionary spirit

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 affable 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 the people and invite them in. Given the distances, and 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 used to daytime office hours — he was a pastor in his city — and moreover, he did not consider going around knocking on doors worthy of a Catholic priest.

I picked up my jaw from the floor and babbled back: “But Father, Jesus himself walked through the villages and towns preaching the Gospel and calling people

to follow him.” He insisted he wanted an assignment in Denver.

I encouraged him to give it about fifteen days or so, to get to know the congregation and have a feel for the work ahead. If he still was unhappy, he could ask the archbishop for a different assignment. I offered to help him as much as I could.

That was the last time I saw him. Exactly two weeks later, I received an urgent call from the pastor letting us know that the priest was on his way to the airport to return to Mexico. He did not say goodbye.

We learned much with this episode. The protocols to admit and assign foreign priests in the archdiocese certainly changed; and this priest’s attitude remained in my memory as the opposite of a missionary spirit, especially because it contrasted with those of the majority of priests I know — and I’ve worked with a few.

So many more of them, local or imported, work day in and day out — no matter the hours, or where they need to go to find their sheep — so that the people won’t lack access to the sacraments, good advice, a word of consolation, or a voice claiming justice.

However, I have also seen too many priests burn out due to the lack of rest, time for prayer, priestly fraternal bonds and solitude.

We admire our priests, but we often take them for granted too. In this *Year for Priests*, that now begins under the theme “The missionary identity of the priest in the Church,” let us pray for our priests and let us find ways to accompany them in their journey of faith and ministry. Benedict XVI reminds us that this missionary identity of the priest is an “intrinsic dimension” for the exercise of their call. A Catholic priest without a missionary spirit is thus a contradiction in terms.

Mar Muñoz-Visoso is assistant director of Media Relations at the United States Conference of Catholic Bishops

### NUMBER OF CATHOLICS, CLERGY up in U.S. over past year.

	2008	2009	
Catholics	67 million	68 million	+1 million
Priests	41,406	41,489	+83
Deacons	16,408	16,935	+527
Seminarians	5,029	4,973	-56

Source: Kenedy Directory

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### 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.

*Loving Father, through the intercession of our Blessed Mother, Queen of Vocations, may our youth joyfully respond to your call to follow Jesus in the priestly or religious life. Amen.*

Serra International



**Special Collections****Retired and needy priests of the Diocese - Sept. 5-6  
Ongoing Events**

**Grief Group** — Have you experienced the death of a loved one? Join us in this on-going grief group on the 1st and 3rd Thursday of each month at 7:00 p.m. in the conference room at Holy Family Church, 704 Mallette Drive, Victoria. For information, please call (361) 578-7572.

**Mini-Life-Chain**—In Victoria every Wednesday before the 2nd Thursday of each month. Call (361) 578-2506 or (361) 578-2002 for time and intersection location.

**St. Francis and St. Clare Fraternity/Secular Franciscans** — For meeting dates call Mary Ann LeBlanc at (361) 575-1858.

**Our Lady of the Rosary Fraternity Emerging/Secular Franciscans**— meets every other Wednesday from 7:00-9:00 p.m. For dates and location call Jay Howard at (361) 574-8487.

**St. Padre Pio Prayer Group** meets the 2nd Saturday of each month at St. Mary Church Annex in Victoria for a 7:30 a.m. Mass, followed by prayer and light refreshments.

**Extraordinary Form of the Roman Latin Rite (Traditional Latin Mass)** — is celebrated every Sunday at Sts. Cyril and 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 pastor, visit the **Web site at [www.victoriadiocese.org/family/ee.htm](http://www.victoriadiocese.org/family/ee.htm)**, or write to: Engaged Encounter, P.O. Box 4070, 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) 573-0828 ext. 30. All registrations are on a first come, first serve basis. Fee must accompany registration form.

**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, Texas 77414; (979) 245-0323; [register@mevictoria.org](mailto:register@mevictoria.org) [www.mevictoria.org](http://www.mevictoria.org)

**Retrouvaille** — The word Retrouvaille means ‘rediscovery.’ It is a program that offers the chance to rediscover yourself, your spouse and a loving relationship in your marriage. Tens of thousands headed for divorce have successfully saved their marriages by attending. Contact Gerd and Linda Conner (979) 543-3493 or (800) 470-2230 for more information. For dates in Texas, please go to [www.retrouvaille.org](http://www.retrouvaille.org) or [www.helpourmarriage.org](http://www.helpourmarriage.org).

**The Beginning Experience**—The Beginning Experience is an international ministry that helps divorced, separated and widowed individuals resolve their grief surrounding the loss of a marriage partner. It is a ministry of the San Antonio Archdiocese Family Life Office. For more information, go to their Web site: [www.beginningexperience.org](http://www.beginningexperience.org); e-mail: [sanantonio@beginningexperience.org](mailto:sanantonio@beginningexperience.org); phone: (210) 734-2146.

**Sisters of St. Mary Magdalene**— A womens Ex-offender Catholic Ministry meets at Our Lady of Lourdes rectory at 5:00 p.m., 1st and 3rd Mondays.

**Singles** — Catholic Singles, 40 and over, meet every second and fourth Thursday of the month at Holy Family Education Building at 7:00 p.m. Call Georgia (361) 573-9435, or Jean at (361) 578-8760, or Sue at (361) 578-3106.

**Young Adults**—Between the ages of 21 and 45 meet for an evening of fellowship and good company every 1st and 3rd Thursday at Holy Family at 7:00 p.m. Call Jim Wearden at (361) 579-9737 or (361) 649-9157.

**ACTS Retreats**—For information on ACTS retreats, please go to ACTS Web site at [www.actsmissions.org](http://www.actsmissions.org). For more information about the ACTS community movement in the El Campo Deanery, to download an upcoming ACTS retreat application, or to submit/view the prayer requests across the El Campo Deanery, please visit their site at <http://ecdeaneryacts.org/>.

**Natural Family Planning**—For English or bilingual sessions of the **Sympto-Thermal Method (S-TM)** in Palacios, call Rene and Wilma Galvan at (361) 972-5030. Available for counseling and classes. For information about the Sympto-Thermal Method in the Victoria area, contact Rudy and Estella De Los Santos (361) 894-6950. Introductory presentations on the **Creighton Model Ovulation Method** are offered in Wharton at Our Lady of Mount Carmel Church and in East Bernard at Holy Cross Catholic Church. Please contact Melissa Morse at (979) 335-7306 for more information or to register for classes. To learn more about Natural Family Planning, please go to Natural Family Planning Outreach at: [www.nfpoutreach.org](http://www.nfpoutreach.org). *Natural Family Planning is the only church approved form of family planning.*

**Goliad**—Presidio La Bahia Museum and Visitor Center — a National Historic Landmark — is the only Spanish fort in the possession of the Catholic Church in North America. A tour program is available to groups. The Presidio is open

daily from 9:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. and is closed on major holidays. Admission is \$3 for adults and \$1 for children under 12. The fort is handicapped accessible. For more information call (361) 645-3752 or see the Web site at [www.presidiolabahia.org](http://www.presidiolabahia.org).

**Picnics, Activities, etc.****July**

**Moravia**—Ascension of Our Lord Parish Picnic July 19 (located at FM 957 and FM 532) with Mass at 10:00 a.m. A stew and fried-chicken dinner begins at 11:00 a.m. at \$7 p/p for adults and plates-to-go and \$4 for children. There will be a country store, toy walk and cakewalk along with much more. Auction starts at 1:00 p.m. Refreshments and food available throughout the day. Music by the Czechaholics and Mark Halata - Texavia. For more information see ad on pg. 17.

**Victoria**—Knights of Columbus Council 1329 chicken-barbecue fund-raiser July 19 at the KC Hall. The price is \$6 per chicken. Beans and Spanish rice available for \$1.50 per pint. Sale starts at 8:30 a.m. Proceeds benefit council’s projects.

**Shiner**—St’anstny Hácek Fishing Tournament July 24 and 25 sponsored by Sts. Cyril and Methodius Church for the Shiner Catholic School Endowment Fund. For more information see [www.shinerreef.com](http://www.shinerreef.com) for all the details!

**Upcoming Events**

**Boling**—St. Joseph Mission Annual Bazaar and Barbecue Aug. 2 at the community center (County Road 162). A barbecue beef, chicken and sausage dinner will be served from 11:00 a.m.-2:00 p.m. at \$8 p/p. Drive-thru plates available until 1:00 p.m. There will be an auction at 1:00 p.m. There will be games, cakewalk, big water slide and much more. Music by J & S Playboys from Hallettsville from 10:30 a.m.-1:00 p.m. For more information see the ad on pg. 19.

**Frelsburg**—Sts. Peter and Paul Annual Country Festival Aug. 2 beginning with Mass at 8:15 a.m. (located at 1031 Church Lane, at FM Road 109). A fried fish dinner will be served starting at 11:00 a.m. at \$8 for a large plate and \$5 for a small plate and \$8 for plates-to-go (hamburgers, nachos and snacks available after 3:00 p.m.). The auction will begin at 1:00 p.m. 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.

**Yoakum**—St. Joseph Parish Picnic Aug. 2 at the community center. A picnic stew, sausage dinner will be served starting at 10:30 a.m. with dine-in or drive-thru available at \$7 p/p. There will be a country store, cakewalk and other games during the afternoon along with a horseshoe tournament. The auction begins at 12:30 p.m. Mexican food will also be served in the afternoon. See pg. 5 for more information.

**Palacios**—St. Anthony Shrimpooree Aug. 2 starting with the blessing of the fleet at 8:00 a.m. at Turning Basin No. 3 followed by Mass at the amphitheater (across from City Park) at 8:30 a.m. The days events will be held at the Recreation Center and grounds (2401 Perryman). A shrimp, barbecue-beef or chicken (choice of one) dinner will start at 11:00 a.m. for \$7 p/p. The auction begins at 1:00 p.m. There will also be refreshments, boat raffle, games, rides and food booths. Live music by Texas Sound Check and DJ “Rudy C.” For more information or questions, contact Elizabeth Guerra at (361) 972-2446. See pg. 16 for more information.

**Port O’Connor**—Holy Family Victoria KC’s Annual 3 R’s Fishing Tournament Aug. 7 and 8. A fund-raiser for Nazareth Academy School in Victoria. If you would like to purchase a sponsorship please contact Bryan Ellis (361) 578-0877; Dennis Lockstedt (361) 573-9505; or Scott Smejkal (361) 485-1325 with a deadline of July 27 in order to receive tournament recognition. For more information see ad on page ??.

**Weimar**—St. Michael Harvest Feast Aug. 9 at the Veteran’s Memorial Park. A fried-checken and stew dinner begins at 11:00 a.m. at \$7 p/p for adults and plates-to-go and \$4 p/p for children 12 and under. There will be entertainment for all: train ride, country store, cakewalk, ring toss and more. Auction starts at 1:00 p.m. Refreshments and food throughout the day. Music by Shiner Hobo Band 12:00-2:00 p.m.; Czechaholics 2:00-6:00 p.m.; and The Red Ravens 6:00-10:00 p.m. There will be a Men’s Softball tournament Saturday and Sunday, contact Carl Prihoda at (979) 263-5806. For more information see the ad on pg. 14.

**Praha**—St. Mary Parish Picnic Aug. 15 with Mass at 10:00 a.m. (weekend Mass Sat. at 6:00 p.m./Sunday at 8:30 a.m.). A dinner will be served from 11:00 a.m.-2:00 p.m. featuring Praha stew and fried-chicken at \$7 p/p for adults and plates-to-go and \$4 each for children. There will be a cakewalk, country store and much more. The auction begins at 1:00 p.m. Music throughout the day and evening with Praha Brothers from 11:00 a.m.-1:00 p.m. and 3:00-5:00 p.m.; Dujka Brothers from 1:00-3:00 p.m. and 5:00-7:00 p.m.; and Red Ravens from 7:00-11:00 p.m. Food available throughout the afternoon and evening with hamburgers available after 4:00 p.m. For more information go to [www.stmaryspraha.com](http://www.stmaryspraha.com).

**High Hill**—St. Mary Parish Picnic Sept. 6

**Shiner**—Sts. Cyril and Methodius Picnic Sept. 6

**Hallettsville**—Sacred Heart Festival Sept. 6

**Nada**—St. Mary Picnic Sept. 6

**Vanderbilt**—St. John Bosco Annual Parish Picnic Sept. 6, to be held at Trinity Family Center with barbecue brisket and sausage plates at \$7.50 p/p; plates-to-go also available.

**Yorktown**—Holy Cross Festival Sept. 13 at the community hall across from the church, beginning after the 9:30 a.m. Mass at the church, located at 1214 Zorn Rd. Homemade sausage, barbecue plates, games, cakewalk, country store, live auction and many more things to see and do.

**San Antonio**—3rd Annual Pilgrim Center of Hope Golf Tournament, Friday, Sept. 25, at Olympia Hills Golf & Conference Center (Universal City); Time: Registration at 11:00 a.m.; Tee Time at noon; Shotgun Start - 4 Person Scramble. Cost is \$80 per golfer. For more information, contact Rudy Sotelo at (210) 699-9795 or Rene Farias at (210) 493-1913.

**Bloomington**—St. Patrick Turkey Dinner Sept. 27

**Meyersville**—Sts. Peter and Paul Annual Festival Sept. 27

**La Salle**— St. Theresa Annual Parish Picnic Oct. 18

**Praha**—Veterans Memorial Service, Nov. 8 at 9:30 a.m.

**Retreats • Conferences**

**San Antonio**—The Beginning Experience Team of San Antonio is sponsoring a Weekend Retreat to help men and women resolve their grief following the loss of their spouse through divorce, separation or death, July 24-26. Please call (210) 478-0690 for more information, or see [www.beginningexperience.org](http://www.beginningexperience.org) or e-mail: [sanantonio@beginningexperience.org](mailto:sanantonio@beginningexperience.org)

**Victoria**—Spirit Wind Ministry is pleased to present *Sabbath - Finding God and A Sabbath Space in our Lives*, a weekend retreat led by lecturer, columnist, and author Father Ronald Rolheiser, August 14-16, at the Spiritual Renewal Center outside of Victoria. Rev. Rolheiser is currently serving as president of the Oblate School of Theology in San Antonio. The retreat cost is \$170 p/p (\$190 for single occupancy cabin – limited availability). Retreat begins Friday evening and ends with lunch on Sunday. Space is limited and will be reserved in the order of deposits (\$50/non-refundable). Balance due July 1. Refunds (minus the deposit) until July 15; no refunds of any fees after that date. Make checks payable to Spirit Wind Ministry and mail to: Susan Oakley, 103 Woodmere, Victoria, TX 77904. Please include your name, address, telephone number and e-mail address with your deposit. For additional information contact Susan Oakley at (361) 576-1515 / (361)649-6391 or e-mail [smoak53@msn.com](mailto:smoak53@msn.com).

**Irving**—2009 Seminarian Welcome Dinner at Holy Trinity Seminary / Seminary of the Catholic Diocese of Dallas, Oct. 6, at 5 p.m. at the Fairmont Hotels & Resorts. [www.holytrinityseminary.com/wd2009/](http://www.holytrinityseminary.com/wd2009/)

**San Antonio**—Catholic Women’s Conference, Sept. 11 – 12, at St. Matthew Catholic Church, 10703 Wurzbach Rd., 78230. The mission of the CWC is to renew families and society by enriching women’s relationship with God, fostering appreciation for the personal dignity of women and inspiring women to use their feminine gifts for the good of all. Early-registration \$45/Regular reg. (after Aug. 12) \$55. Fee includes box lunch and conf. packet worth \$25. For more information contact Sarah Stravitsch at [cwc@catholic.org](mailto:cwc@catholic.org) or (210) 521-3377.

**Victoria**—St. Mary’s Altar Society Retreat, Sept. 30; Retreat Master: Father Charles Sonnier; Time: from 9:30 a.m. – noon; Ends with Mass and lunch; More information to follow.

**Houston**—Coming Events at Holocaust Museum Houston – Education Center and Memorial: [www.hmh.org/pc\\_home.asp](http://www.hmh.org/pc_home.asp).

**Summer Fun/Vacation Bible School/Family**

**Irondale, Ala.**—EWTN Global Catholic Network will host its 10th free Family Celebration Aug. 8-9 at the Birmingham-Jefferson Convention Complex in Birmingham, Ala., with speakers Raymond Arroyo, Danny Abramowicz and his “Crossing the Goal” team; “Journey Home” Host Marcus Grodi, “Open Line” host Barbara McGuigan, and Father of Mercy Wade Menezes, CPM. Throughout the weekend, children will be entranced by special guest Rob Evans, a.k.a. “The Donut Man,” who, along with Brother Leo of “Hey Brother Leo” fame, will appear at the “EWTN Faith Factory” booth. In addition, “older kids” can line up to “Meet the Author” while browsing the EWTN Religious Catalogue shop. It’s a day no fan of EWTN will want to miss – and, best of all, it’s free! For more information, please visit: [www.ewtn.com/familycelebration/](http://www.ewtn.com/familycelebration/)

**Pilgrimages**

**Pilgrimage to the Holy Land**—Father José Ángel Ortiz of the Diocese of Corpus Christi invites you to follow the footsteps of our Lord Jesus Christ, Pray on the Mount of Beatitudes, renew your marriage vows in Cana, celebrate Mass in the Upper Room, the Church of Nativity, and take a swim in the Dead Sea and much more! Departure and return from Bush Intercontinental from Sept. 8-17. Cost is \$2,350 with only \$200 to reserve your place. For more information call Father Ortiz at (361) 643-4505 or e-mail: [icgregory.org](mailto:icgregory.org).





### 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 Svec, 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.



### 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 Jerriid 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 Jerriid 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 Jerriid Allgayer.



### OLG STUDENTS ARE HEAD-OVER-HEELS FOR KNIGHTS OF COLUMBUS—

Pictured is Mr. Vernon Lyssy 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 in the amount of \$650 each to four graduating seniors at the regular June 1, 2009, meeting. Regent Grace Brown presented the checks and certificates to Leeann King, Luke Atchison, Shaylynn Drozd and Brittany Spong. Grace Rigamonti, court scholarship charman, 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 grandniece 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.



**BAY CITY CDA PRESENTS SCHOLARSHIPS—**The Catholic Daughters of the Americas Court Resurrection #2054 of Bay City presented scholarships to four deserving Bay City High School seniors. The graduates are, left to right, Trevor Seidel, son of Candace Seidel and Ralph Seidel; Kristin Busha, daughter of Terry and Ricky Busha; Travis Tomek, son of Cindy and Gregg Tomek; and Alyssa Dibbern, daughter of Veronica and Wayne Dibbern. Presentations were made to the seniors at the monthly CDA meeting May 20, 2009. The scholarships are funded by food sales at the Knights of Columbus Tuesday night Bingos.

