

The Catholic Lighthouse

The Cradle of Texas Immigration



VOL. 22, NO. 11

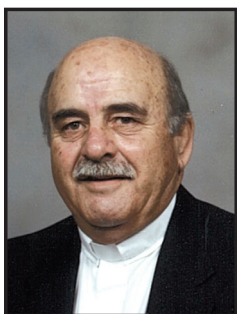
OFFICIAL PUBLICATION OF THE DIOCESE OF VICTORIA IN TEXAS

March 2009

In Memory of . . .

Rev. Jerome "Jerry" Caponi

YOAKUM - Father Jerome "Jerry" Caponi, 83, died in Yoakum Community Hospital on Feb. 27, 2009. He was born in Grove City, Pa., September 15, 1925.



Prior to becoming a priest, Father Jerry served three years in the U.S. Navy during WWII. He was honorably discharged in March 1946 with the rank of Signalman II Class.

He was ordained to the priesthood on June 11, 1960, by Bishop Lambert Hoch, DD, at Blue Cloud Abbey, S.D., and was incardinated into the Corpus Christi Diocese in 1971.

He served from 1965-1982 in the Diocese of Corpus Christi as associate pastor at Sts. Cyril & Methodius, Christ the King and St. Pius X, all in Corpus Christi, and as pastor at Holy Cross in Corpus Christi,

Sacred Heart in Three Rivers and Immaculate Conception in Goliad.

He became a member of the Diocese of Victoria when it was founded in 1982. He then served as pastor of St. Joseph Parish in Yoakum and Sts. Cyril & Methodius Parish in Shiner, until his retirement in 1996.

Father Jerry's hobbies included playing golf, photography, music and playing the organ.

He is survived by three sisters, Mrs. Angie Deaderick, Mrs. Helen Puntureri, and Ms. Josephine Santoro.

He was preceded in death by a sister, Mrs. Louise Tyler.

A vigil service-rosary was held March 2 at St. Joseph Catholic Church in Yoakum. The funeral Mass was held March 3 at Sts. Cyril & Methodius Catholic Church in Shiner with Bishop David Fellhauer officiating. Interment was at Crestview Memorial Park in Grove City, Pa.

Online guest book may be signed at thielecooper.com.



U.S. Speaker of the House Nancy Pelosi, seen with a rosary on her left wrist, kisses Pope Benedict XVI's ring during a welcoming ceremony for the pontiff on the South Lawn of the White House in Washington in this April 16, 2008, file photo. The pope met with Pelosi Feb. 18 at the Vatican and told her that all Catholics, especially lawmakers, must work to protect human life at every stage. Also pictured are first lady Laura Bush, President George W. Bush, U.S. Secretary of State Condoleezza Rice and Pelosi's husband, Paul. (CNS photo/Joshua Roberts)

Through DSA, diocese calls on "laborers to bring in the harvest"

By Cynthia Brewer

The Diocese of Victoria kicks off its 2009 Diocesan Services Appeal (DSA) with the theme "The Harvest is Abundant, but the Laborers are Few." The annual fund-raising campaign provides approximately fifty percent of the funds needed for the operation of the diocese.

With the state of the economy, the

diocese is not increasing the DSA goal for 2009. The goal for 2009 will be \$1,282,100, the same as last year. The money is used to fund the operations of the diocese. Fifty-four percent of the monies go directly to funding programs benefiting members in parishes in the diocese. These activities include *The Catholic*

See Through DSA, p. 2

After 150 years, evolution debate continues among people of faith

By Dennis Sadowski
Catholic News Service

WASHINGTON (CNS) — When scientists, theologians and philosophers gather March 3-7 in Rome for a Vatican-sponsored congress marking the 150th anniversary of the publication of Charles Darwin's theory on evolution, they hope to help Catholic Church officials better understand some of the current thought and research related to evolutionary biology.

"The program is to reorient the conversation between the Catholic Church and modern natural science, to get a new kind of conversation going," explained Phillip Sloan, professor of liberal studies at the University of Notre Dame in Indiana and a congress planner.

"It's establishing a dialogue on science and theology because of the great challenges that modern sciences are presenting to traditional theological understanding," he said.

Sponsored by the Pontifical Council for Culture under its Science, Technology and the Ontological Quest project, the University of Notre Dame and several of Rome's pontifical universities, the gather-

ing of international scholars and Vatican officials is one of a series of events surrounding the publication of Darwin's landmark work.

Darwin's theory, which several popes have accepted as compatible with Catholic teaching, remains a contentious topic in the United States. The arguments have focused on whether the Genesis story of creation should hold the same stature as evolution in the classroom.

The discussion was on an added dimension with the growing movement to promote intelligent design, which accepts that life has evolved over the eons but that because it is so complex its development has been guided by a supreme being or intelligent agent, which some identify as God.

Sloan said that how society sees evolution has been shaped by the popular media, which omits any role for God in creation. Without God somewhere in the equation, it becomes a lot easier for people of faith to reject Darwin's premise about the existence of life.

See After 150 year, p. 16

Archbishop says he's glad pope stressed pro-life teaching to Pelosi

By Catholic News Service

DENVER (CNS) — Pope Benedict XVI's Feb. 18 meeting with House Speaker Nancy Pelosi, D-Calif., was a "gracious act," said Denver Archbishop Charles J. Chaput.

The archbishop, speaking about the meeting during a segment of a show hosted by Neil Cavuto on cable's Fox News Channel Feb. 18, said he was glad the pope "took the occasion" of the official visit to stress the value of human life.

According to a statement from the Vatican, the pope spoke to Pelosi about the "requirements of the natural moral law and the church's consistent teaching on the dignity of human life from conception to natural death."

He stressed that all Catholics, especially those who are lawmakers, must work to protect human life at every stage.

Pelosi's 15-minute private meeting with Pope Benedict took place in a small room in the Vatican audience hall after the pope's weekly general audience. She was on an official visit to Italy to meet members of the U.S. military stationed in the country and to discuss common security concerns with Italian government leaders.

As a publicly practicing Catholic and a public opponent of efforts to make abortion illegal, Pelosi has come under sharp criticism by some bishops and other Catholics who believe that a politician

who supports legalized abortion should not be allowed to receive Communion.

When asked during the television interview if he would give Communion to Pelosi, Archbishop Chaput said he would want to speak to her if she planned to attend Mass in the Denver Archdiocese.

"I'd say to her what I'd say to anyone," he said. "If you don't accept what the church teaches, you shouldn't present yourself for Communion because Communion means you're in agreement with what the church teaches."

The archbishop added that "politicians are required to be both good Americans and good Catholics at the same time and to be convincing when they present the position of the community on basic human rights."

Pelosi angered many bishops and other Catholics last August when she told the television program "Meet the Press" that church leaders for centuries had not been able to agree on when life begins. The speaker has made no secret of her belief that while efforts are needed to reduce the number of abortions in the United States and to help women faced with problem pregnancies, she believes abortion must remain safe and legal.

The chairmen of the U.S. bishops' pro-life and doctrine committees criticized Pelosi, saying she "misrepresented the history and nature of the authentic teaching

See Archbishop says he's glad, p. 16

In This Issue

Sisterly Thoughts — Living the Paschal Mystery, p. 7
Vietnamese Cardinal Tung of Hanoi dies, p. 17
Helpful ideas for the unemployed, p. 18



Bishop Fellhauer's Schedule

March

- 12** 8:10 a.m., School Mass and blessing of renovations, St. Rose of Lima Church, Schulenburg
- 13** 8:00 a.m., School Mass, St. Michael Church, and annual golf tournament benefiting St. Michael's School, Cuero
- 17** 6:30 p.m., Catholic Daughters of the Americas Court 369 and Knights of Columbus Council 1329, Clergy and Religious appreciation dinner, Knights of Columbus Hall, Victoria
- 18** 3:00 p.m., Diocesan Finance Board meeting, Chancery Office
4:30 p.m., Diocesan Building Board meeting, Chancery Office
- 21** 5:30 p.m., Girl Scouts religious recognition awards, Our Lady of Victory Cathedral
- 22** 9:00 a.m., Mass and blessing of statues, Holy Rosary Church, Hostyn
- 28** 5:30 p.m., Reception, candle light tour, Presidio La Bahia, Goliad
- 29** 9:15 a.m., Confirmation Mass, St. Mary's Church, St. Mary (Hallettsville)
6:00 p.m., Confirmation Mass, Holy Cross Church, Bay City

April

- 5** 9:00 a.m., Mass, Palm Sunday of the Lord's Passion, Our Lady of Victory Cathedral
- 7** 10:00 a.m., Chrism Mass, Our Lady of Victory Cathedral
- 8** 7:00 p.m., Confirmation Mass, St. Procopius Church, Louise
- 9** 6:30 p.m., Mass of the Lord's Supper, Our Lady of Victory Cathedral
- 10** 12:15 p.m., Way of the Cross, Holy Trinity Chapel, Silver City (Victoria)
- 11** 8:00 p.m., Easter Vigil, Our Lady of Victory Cathedral

Official Appointments By Most Rev. David E. Fellhauer

Effective February 18, 2009, the **Rev. George Kunnath, MCBS**, is appointed as Parochial Vicar at Holy Family Church, Wharton; St. Joseph Church, Boling; and Our Lady of Mount Carmel Church, Wharton.

Where Are You?

If you've moved to a new location or are in the process of moving, it's important that you furnish your parish with any updated information. Membership in the diocese varies quite often as families move in and out of the area. We want to be able to keep in touch with our households.



Diocese of Victoria
Attn: Martha Pearson-Vela
P O Box 4070
Victoria, TX 77903-4070

(361) 573-0828 M-F 8:30 a.m. - 4:30 p.m.
(361) 573-5725 FAX e-mail: mpearson@victoriadiocese.org

Donate blood and help save lives!

SAN ANTONIO, TX — Accident victims. Cancer patients. They are some of the recipients of the 600 units of blood South Texas Blood and Tissue Center needs to collect every day. Spring into action and give blood to those in need of a second chance.

As spring arrives, thousands of people will, by injury and illness, require the life-saving gift of blood. By donating a pint of blood, you can help save three lives. Every two seconds, someone

needs blood. Please donate to keep our community blood supply at an adequate level for our patients and hospitals.

Spring into action and donate at one of the following Victoria area blood drives:

- Our Lady of Sorrows — Sunday, March 8, 8:30 a.m.- 1:30 p.m. inside Trinity Hall in the Lodge Classroom; 208 West River
- Grace Lutheran Church — Sunday, March 8, 10:00 a.m. - 12:30 p.m., in the parking lot next to the field; 9806 NE Zac Lentz Pkwy



- Citizen Medical Center — Tuesday, March 10, 9:00 a.m. - 4:30 p.m., in the Central Classroom; 2701 Hospital Drive
- Del Papa Distributing — Wednesday, March 11, 1:00 p.m. - 5:00 p.m., in the parking lot outside of the Hospitality Room; 3907 Rio Grande
- First English Lutheran Church — Sunday, March 15, 8:30 a.m. - 12:30 p.m., in the Activities Center Gym; 516 N Main St.

- Compressor Systems Inc — Monday, March 16, 8:30 a.m. - 11:00 a.m., in front parking lot; 11503 US Hwy. 59 N.
- Startek — Wednesday, March 18, 2:30p.m. - 6:30 p.m., in the parking lot at the front door; 1309 E. Red River

- Performance Food Group — Thursday, March 19, 9:00 a.m. - 11:30 a.m., in the employee parking lot by the fence; 204 N. Brownson
- Safety Steel — Thursday, March 19, 1:30 p.m. - 3:30 p.m., in the back parking lot; Skytop Rd. Loop 1758

- Incredible Pizza — Friday, March 20; 11:30 a.m. - 2:00 p.m., in the parking lot by the front door; 3706 N. Navarro St.
- 1st Victoria National Bank — Thursday, March 26, Noon - 5:00 p.m., in the town hall meeting room on Mezzanine; 101 S. Main

- Detar Hospital — Thursday, March 26, 1:00 p.m. - 4:00 p.m.; 506 E. San Antonio
- Detar North — Thursday, March 26, 8:30 a.m. - 10:30 a.m., front entrance parking lot; 101 Medical Drive

- Victoria Builders Association — Saturday, March 28, 10:00 a.m. - 3:00 p.m., in front of the Community Center parking lot; 2905 E. North
- FW Gross Elementary School — Monday, March 30, 1:30 p.m. - 3:30 p.m., at the front entrance of the school; 1208 S. Navarro St.

- Donors must present identification. It is recommended to eat and drink before and after donating. Anyone 16 years old weighing 120 pounds (with parental consent), or at least 17 years old weighing 110 pounds, and in good general health can donate blood. You can learn more about blood, platelet, tissue, cord blood and marrow donation, or print a parental consent form at www.southtexasblood.org.

Principal Opening for 2009-2010 from the Diocese of Victoria

Holy Cross Catholic School, Bay City, Texas, has an opening for an innovative and spiritual leader to serve as principal for the 2009-2010 school session. Holy Cross (PreK-6th with 125 students) has been in existence for almost 70 years in the heart of the Gulf Coast. Candidates must be a practicing Catholic and must have: Master's degree with 18 hours of administration with three years administrative experience preferred. Previous experience in a Catholic school is a plus! Please submit a letter of interest, resume, references and a request for an application packet prior to March 15, 2009 to:

Office of Catholic Schools
Holy Cross Principal Search
1505 E. Mesquite Lane
Victoria, TX 77901

Read All About It!

Know anyone who is not receiving *The Catholic Lighthouse*, the official newspaper of the Diocese of Victoria with over 19,000 readers in 10 counties each month? Every Catholic household in the Diocese of Victoria is entitled to a copy of *The Catholic Lighthouse*. If you are not on our mailing list, you may e-mail: mpearson@victoriadiocese.org or call us: (361) 573-0828.

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Through DSA, diocese calls on laborers to bring in the harvest

Continued from p. 1

Lighthouse, Charities, Catechetical Office, Permanent Diaconate, Education of Seminarians, Youth and Young Adult Ministry, Vocation Office, School Office and the Spiritual Renewal Center.

In the DSA brochure Bishop David E. Fellhauer states, "In our diocese we have many services and ministries that can continue only if the number of 'laborers' increases and the 'laborers' work diligently."

A group of dedicated volunteers processed the 2009 DSA packets, which included pledge cards, and mailed them to every parishioner in the diocese on the weekend of February 28. A pledge may be a one-time gift, or semi-annual, quarterly or monthly payments. Payments may be made by check, credit card or through automatic bank draft. The DSA is a twelve month campaign beginning March 1 of each year and concluding on the last day of the following February.

In addition to those offices listed above, the following offices are also supported through the DSA. They are Annual Appeal, Bishop, Business Office, Chancellor/Tribunal, Liturgical Commission and Safe Environment. Funds are also designated for contingencies, dues and support of the Holy See and support of retired and infirmed priests.


"The DSA is a calling forth of everyone to be generously committed to the mission of the Church," Bishop Fellhauer continued. "Each year I reach out through the DSA and ask that you be mindful of the great task before us, and you always come through!"

The 2008 Diocesan Services Appeal closed out on February 28, 2009. The final amount pledged was \$829,570.88 and the total paid amount was \$823,041.60 contributed by 3,844 households.

Congratulations to the 15 parishes who met or exceeded their goal. Any excess money will be returned to their respective parish. Parishes that did not reach their goal through their parishioner's contributions will make up the difference from the parish funds.

Stewardship Thought:

As we begin Lent, let us make a conscious effort to give God the first fruits of our time, talent and treasure as a gift of gratitude.



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(361) 573-0828 — FAX (361) 573-5725 — www.victoriadiocese.org

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DEADLINE IS THE THIRD TUESDAY OF THE PRECEDING MONTH.
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The Catholic Lighthouse - P.O. Box 4070 - Victoria, Texas 77903



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 February 25, 2009

| | |
|--|---------------|
| | TOTALS |
| — General Seminary Burse | |
| Previously reported | \$94,424.00 |
| In memory of John Acosta by Militia of the Immaculata, St. Anthony Village | <u>100.00</u> |
| Total | \$94,524.00 |

| | |
|---|-------------|
| — Catholic Daughters Court of St. Ann #369 Seminary Burse #2 | |
| Previously reported | \$6,283.99 |
| In memory of Douglas Bludau by Randy, Gina & Taylor Janak | 5.00 |
| In memory of Mary Joseph by Randy, Gina & Taylor Janak | <u>5.00</u> |
| Total | \$6,293.99 |

| | |
|--|--------------|
| — Sr. M. Perpetua Hawes, IWBS Seminary Burse | |
| Previously reported | \$1,670.00 |
| In memory of Sr. Perpetual Hawes by OLV Altar Society | <u>50.00</u> |
| Total | \$1,720.00 |

| | |
|---|---------------|
| — Knights of Columbus Victoria Council #1329 Seminary Burse #3 | |
| Previously reported | \$8,107.50 |
| In memory of Herbert Schoener Sr. by KC Council 1329 | 100.00 |
| In memory of Joseph Lee Waer by KC Council 1329 | 100.00 |
| In memory of Edwin A. Taylor by KC Council 1329 | 100.00 |
| In memory of R. Koehl by KC Council 1329 | <u>100.00</u> |
| Total | \$8,507.50 |

| | |
|--|---------------|
| — Knights of Columbus Holy Family Victoria Council #9088 Seminary Burse | |
| Previously reported | \$520.00 |
| Donation from KC Holy Family Council #9088 | <u>200.00</u> |
| Total | \$720.00 |

| | |
|---|---------------|
| — Rev. Charles Kram Seminary Burse | |
| Previously reported | \$2,185.00 |
| In memory of Mary Chielek by Jim & Margaret Loos | 300.00 |
| In memory of Agnes Chielek by Jim & Margaret Loos | 100.00 |
| In memory of Johana Morisak by Jim & Margaret Loos | <u>100.00</u> |
| Total | \$2,685.00 |

| | |
|--|--------------|
| — Rev. John C. Peters Seminary Burse #4 | |
| Previously reported | \$3,849.00 |
| In memory of Fr. John Edward Kelly by Fr. John Peters | 25.00 |
| In memory of Mary Joseph by Martha Pearson | 20.00 |
| In memory of Leona Haase by Jimmy & Sulvia Steffek | 20.00 |
| In honor of M/M Gene Kutach's 50th wedding anniversary by Richard & Ruth Rouse | <u>50.00</u> |
| Total | \$3,964.00 |

| | |
|---|--------------|
| — Rev. Jerome J. Stryk Seminary (reprint from last month correction) | |
| Previously reported | \$11,404.50 |
| In memory of Florence Bryant by M/M Edwin Stryk | <u>10.00</u> |
| Total | \$11,414.50 |

| | |
|---|--------------|
| — Rev. Theophil Okruhlik & Rev. Vincent Verdame Seminary Burse | |
| Previously reported | \$8,782.89 |
| In memory of Willie Hubenak by M/M Ervin Hermes | 25.00 |
| In memory of Theresa Hartl by M/M Ervin Hermes | 25.00 |
| In memory of Jesus G. Hernandez by Ben & Lydia Pena | <u>25.00</u> |
| Total | \$8,857.89 |

| | |
|--|--------------|
| — Rev. Joseph A. Koebel Seminary Burse | |
| Previously reported | \$6,298.00 |
| Donation to burse by Ervin & Catherine Buchta | <u>10.00</u> |
| Total | \$6,308.00 |

| | |
|---|-----------------|
| — St. Mary's Church – Praha Seminary Burse | |
| Previously reported | \$6,370.00 |
| Annual contribution by St. Mary's Church | <u>1,000.00</u> |
| Total | \$7,370.00 |

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

Divine Mercy Prayer Book: An Ocean of Mercy in a World of Stormy Seas

BLOOMINGDALE, OH—In response to the increasing devotion to Divine Mercy, the Apostolate for Family Consecration presents their new book, "Drawing Down Divine Mercy."

Designed as both a consecration prayer book and an in-depth meditation book, families can be guided in the richness of God's Mercy during these difficult times through 40 days of meditations on Pope John Paul II's encyclical, "Rich in Mercy." Pope John Paul II spoke often of the strength of Divine Mercy. He established the Feast of Mercy on the Sunday after Easter, now known as Divine Mercy Sunday in the liturgical calendar, to show the trust he placed in this devotion. In 2001, John Paul II said in his Divine Mercy Sunday homily, "a simple act of abandonment is enough to overcome the barriers of darkness and sorrow, of doubt and desperation. The rays of Your Divine Mercy restore hope, in a special way, to those who feel overwhelmed by the burden of sin." Following the 40-day meditations, readers will benefit from excerpts from St. Faustina's writings, and spiritual classics by Cardinal Francis Arinze such as "Alone with God" and "Divine Providence,"

Bishop Alvaro del Portillo's work, "Light, Salt, and Leaven," along with St. Louis de Montfort's "Friends of the Cross." All five dimensions of the Divine Mercy devotion are explained: the image, the Chaplet, the Novena, the Feast Day, and the spreading of the message. The prayer book also includes more than 250 pictures. For even deeper spiritual growth, accompanying video and audio commentaries by Fr. George Kosicki, CSB, are also available through the Family Apostolate.

"Drawing Down Divine Mercy" is an excellent way to prepare for Divine Mercy Sunday. Meditations start March 11 (two weeks after Ash Wednesday) and will end on Divine Mercy Sunday, April 19. Books will be available for shipment starting March 2. To order please go to: www.familyland.org; 1800-77-FAMILY (3-2645) ask for Anna; or Apostolate for Family Consecration, 3375 County Rd 36, Bloomington, OH 43910.

Founded in 1975 by Jerry Coniker and late wife Gwen, the Apostolate for Family Consecration is a pontifically approved association striving to consecrate families to the Holy Family and in the truths of our faith in the spirit of Pope John Paul II.

The Value of Being a Serran

1. Serra is the vocations' arm of the Catholic Church
2. A vocation ministry is one of the most important
3. Comradeship with like-minded Catholics
4. Work for common goals
5. Helping ensure the future of the church
6. Interesting meetings and speakers
7. Following Christ's word to go forth and spread the word
8. Introducing religious vocations to our youth
9. Supporting and affirming our priests and religious order members
10. Increasing our knowledge of the universal church
11. Travel opportunities to conventions in the U.S. and foreign countries
12. Working with sisters and seminarians; being inspired by them
13. Joy in seeing results
14. Adding to the long history and traditions of Serra
15. Being an active member of your church; inspiring others
16. Working on the canonization of Father Serra

Reprinted from Serra Club of Victoria February newsletter

Thank You Notes

Dear Bishop Fellhauer,

I thank you and the people of the Diocese of Victoria for your generous gift of \$9,463.96 to build the pastoral capacity of the Catholic Church in Central and Eastern Europe.

The challenges facing the Church in the twenty-eight countries of Central and Eastern Europe as well as the former Soviet Union seem almost as enormous as the vast territory of the region. This past year saw military strife in Georgia, new uncertainties in war-ravaged Kosovo and deep economic hardships virtually everywhere.

Signs of growth and a deep, vigorous faith mark the region as well. The national collection permits Catholics here at home to demonstrate in a wonderfully concrete way their solidarity with the Church in need. Thank you so much for your support of their generosity.

Sincerely in Christ,
Cardinal Justin Rigali
Archbishop of Philadelphia
Chairman, USCCB Committee to
Aid the Church in Central and
Eastern Europe

Dear Bishop Fellhauer:

Thank you for your diocesan check for \$36,506.24 which has been deposited in the Retirement Fund for Religious account. This brings your total diocesan contributions for all of the years of the collection to \$451,112.49. The money has been recorded as part of Appeal XXI for 2008.

Your support and the support of your Retirement Fund for Religious coordinator, pastors, parish priests and deacons are essential to the fund's continued success. We are most grateful for all you do! You can surely rely on the prayers of the over 37,000 religious now over the age 70 and the ever increasing numbers of religious who will be retiring very soon. May God bless you as only he can!

Gratefully,
Sister Janice Bader, CPPS
Executive Director
National Religious
Retirement Office

P.S. Thank you so much for your support. Despite the economy, this year's gift is nearly \$4,000 higher than last year's gift. We are deeply grateful.

Record Numbers Attend Nazareth Pre-School Open House

Nazareth Pre-School held its Open House, February 19, 2009. It was a huge success, with more than eleven families, some with multiple children, in attendance. Registration for the 3K and 4K program is scheduled for March 3 - 4.

A special thanks goes out to all of the local businesses that supported the school's efforts by donating items to give away in the specially prepared gift bags. Chick-Fil-A, L-Ann Imaging, Rodeo Gypsy, The Teacher's Toolbox, Victoria Family

Eyecare, Rain Seal Master, Balloon Banquet, Mac Haik Ford, Victoria Donuts, Brown's Air Conditioning, Office Depot, Vara's Fine Cabinetry, Victoria Dental Associates, Crossroads Family & Kids Magazine, Chamber of Commerce, Hampton Inn, Wells Fargo, Buesing Insurance, YMCA of the Golden Crescent, Diocese of Victoria, King's Party Rentals, Incredible Pizza, PCT's Joyful Jumps, Victoria Karate Academy, Victoria Police Department and the Victoria Fire Department.

El Campo K of C Spring Picnic

Knights of Columbus Council 2490

Sunday, March 22

at the K of C Hall located at Hwy. 71 and Armory Road

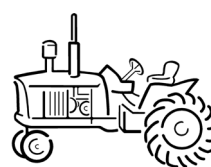
Cakewalk

A Chicken-Barbecue Dinner
Dine-in or Drive-thru

Serving begins at 11:00 a.m.

Food and Entertainment for the family

Antique Tractor
Show
Prizes Will Be
Awarded for Best
Restored Tractor
and more!



Free Dance!
Music provided by
Red Ravens
1:00 to 5:00 p.m.

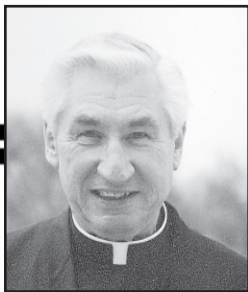




FAITH POINT

By Rev. Msgr. James C. Brunner
Vicar General, Diocese of Victoria

For past articles: www.stmaryvic.com/desk.htm



The Score is 73 to 0

The Obama administration, not content with overturning the Mexico City policy that forbade use of federal funds for abortions in foreign aid programs nor with promoting the so-called Freedom of Choice Act, now talks about lifting restrictions on federal funds for embryonic stem cell research (ESCR) which involves the killing of young human beings to harvest their stem cells. The Culture of Death to which the Democratic Party has committed itself in its platform seeks ever new venues for killing the unborn. The research in ESCR has not produced a single therapy. Their score is zero. Meanwhile Adult Stem Cell Research (ASCR) involving stem cells developed from the patient's bone marrow, skin, fat, etc., has developed 73 useful therapies.

ASCR is a very exciting field, but because it does not fit the secular template of killing the unborn, scarcely anyone knows it exists. Here are some recent developments.

A new study suggests that adult bone marrow (adult) stem cells can be used in the construction of artificial skin. The findings suggest that this advancement in wound healing may also be used for organ reconstruction. And speaking of organ reconstruction, you will surely be interested in viewing the following link on the Internet which describes use of adult stem cells for reconstructing fingers, heart valves, bladders, esophagi, etc.: <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=qxhi4Q8EDTU>. This research is in its infancy and it will be some time before the full potential and the limits of regeneration medicine will be known.

A dose of their own stem cells reversed patients' multiple sclerosis according to Northwestern University in Chicago. Twenty-one patients had the "relapsing-remitting" form of the disease, which makes their symptoms alternately flare up and recede. They were treated with their own cells and three years afterwards 17 patients found that their symptoms had improved. Sixteen experienced no relapse and none deteriorated. Researchers discovered that it is critical to treat the disease early to stop neural degeneration.

Scientists at City of Hope Medical Centre in Duarte, Calif., have claimed a

breakthrough in the fight against AIDS using stem cells. The technique involves isolating genes which curb the spread of HIV inside the body and then introducing these cells into adult stem cells in a laboratory and, finally, transplanting the stem cells into a patient's bone marrow. This seems to protect the immune system from the virus that causes the disease. Around 40 million people worldwide are infected with HIV and an estimated 3 million die of the virus each year. Promising as this is, it will take up to ten years before an effective clinical treatment could be given widespread use. The hope is that with one transplant, the AIDS patient would be protected for life. This might not occur if the virus, once it has been prevented from infecting white blood cells, is able to persist elsewhere in the body.

A boy from Florida was diagnosed with myelomonocytic leukemia (JMML), a rare form of juvenile leukemia, when he was 18 months old. He was given a transplant with cord blood, which is rich in adult stem cells. Seventeen months later the boy has no signs of any leukemia. Children with his condition typically die before reaching the age of three.

The common element in all these new treatments is that they were produced by adult stem cells. Some scientists, who have been unable to produce any therapy in humans or animals from two decades of embryonic stem cell research (ESCR) and have not yet found a way to keep them from producing tumors and other anomalies, insist that ESCR is still essential. They want it supported by tax funds whether from the federal or state governments.

Oddly enough in England where ESCR and hybrid or animal-human embryos are legal, this form of research has trouble finding sponsors. Funding agencies are refusing to finance the research and are instead favoring a new technique called cell reprogramming to make stem cells. Since the legalization of hybrid embryos, scientists have developed a cheap and powerful new technique in which adult skin cells are reprogrammed to create cells that are almost identical to stem cells. They have used the new technique to make so-called induced pluripotent stem (iPS) cells for patients with diabetes, muscular dystrophy and Down's syndrome. Because

of this development, embryonic stem cells need not be considered. The field has moved beyond embryos and the iPS cells are a more important area than hybrid cells now. The British Medical Research Council, which approves grants for research fought for legalization of hybrid research. In spite of that the Council has decided that on the merits iPS cells should get priority over applications featuring hybrid stem cells because they score higher and show more promise. Although the Council had no objections to the use of hybrid embryo cells on moral grounds, as pro-lifers do, on practical grounds it found that there was now no need for such research.

Although President Obama's election was hailed as a victory against discrimination, Father Tadeusz Pacholczyk, education director of the National Catholic Bioethics Center, observes that if Obama funds research on embryos he will be subjecting them to discrimination. The main objection to ESCR is that human beings at the embryonic stage of their lives are destroyed. This is a principled objection to the direct and intentional killing of innocent human beings, which can never be morally justified.

The smart plan for our country's future would be to encourage the myriad of available alternatives, rather than funding the most unethical type of research that relies on a form of discrimination against an entire class of human being — embryonic

humans — being targeted for destruction at the hands of researchers. To object that embryos in excess of the needs for in-vitro fertilization (which is also immoral, but that is a topic for another day) are going to die in any case and we might as well use them to learn from them something that could be of benefit to others, shows a lack of civilization and humanity. It was the same argument offered by the Nazi doctor Josef Mengele who utilized Jews and others in Nazi concentration camps destined for death. He would offer treatment to one identical twin and withhold it from another to see the value of certain therapies. His excuse: both are going to be killed in any case. He exposed concentration camp prisoners nude to freezing temperatures to see how long Nazi pilots might last if their aircraft were shot down over the North Sea. Again he tried to justify this barbarity with the fact that they were marked for death and would die without yielding useful information.

There are certain experiments involving human subjects that must never be done by a society that considers itself civilized. Curiously, the victorious Allies in World War II understood the need for subjecting Mengele and his ilk to trial for crimes against humanity at Nuremberg. Why do scientists of our day who abuse another class of human beings not recognize that they are equally guilty and lacking in civilization?



The Province of Galveston/Houston Council of Catholic Women held their meeting at Holy Family Parish in Victoria February 7. Addressing the meeting, from left, were Parliamentarian Mary Lou Castillo, Father David Berger, Province Director Charlotte Boudreaux, Province Secretary/Treasurer, Kathy Strade, Province Moderator Rev. James G. Stembler and National Region II Vice President Eunice Washa.

Province of Galveston/Houston CCW held in Victoria

Forty-five women from the different dioceses of the Province of Galveston/Houston Council of Catholic Women registered for the winter meeting held at Holy Family Catholic Church in Victoria February 7.

Victoria DCCW moderator, Rev. Michael Petering opened the meeting with a prayer. Father David Berger, the keynote speaker, inspired all attending to be women of faith and women of action using examples of women from Scripture. Reports of arch/diocesan presidents were presented. Eunice Washa, Region II vice president, spoke of National CCW projects and invited all to attend the National Convention to be held in Jacksonville, Florida, September 23-27. The convention theme will be "NCCW — Moving Forward in Faith and Joy."

Martha Orem of the Diocese of Corpus Christi was voted to be the next province director for Galveston/Houston. She will be installed at the national convention in September.

The province fund-raiser was announced by Kathy Strader, secretary/treasurer. Cookbooks will be sold in parishes throughout the province for \$10.00.

A silent auction at the event also provided funds for the province.

A delicious meal was served by Otto Bleier. Province moderator Father James Stembler closed the meeting with words of wisdom. The day ended with Bishop David Fellhauer and Father Stembler celebrating Mass in the chapel.

Youth Minister Position Available

The combined Catholic parishes of St. Anthony, Sts. Peter and Paul and St. Roch in the Columbus, Texas, area (70 miles west of Houston) is accepting applications for a youth minister. Responsibilities will include CCE and Confirmation trainings as well as various youth ministry activities. The primary focus at this time is young people in grades 9th through 12th. The salary for this full-time position is commensurate with applicant's training and experience. Interested applicants may request a job description and/or submit their resumes to kahlichd@catholic.org.

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Twenty Something

By Christina Capecchi



Meeting at Mass: 'our need for one another'

I can count on Elsie to be in the fifth pew, toward the aisle. Her white hair and purple pea coat are just as much a fixture at St. Pat's as the gold Celtic cross. And though she is frail, her smile is bright.

In the front pew to the far right, the handsome couple is watching their daughter serve at the altar. Her red curls as a toddler have softened into a wavy strawberry blond. In a white robe, she is the picture of grace.

The middle-aged mom lectors despite her raspy, damaged voice. She could have chosen another role, but she wants to proclaim the word of God.

There is the blond widower who sings in the choir, who, some Sundays, even claps.

The kid, a few pews behind me, shouts out every song, blissfully unaware of his volume, boyishly confident.

Our state representative, who fields calls and letters from constituents all week, comes on Sunday to absorb their silent prayers.

A TV meteorologist, who gets it right and sometimes wrong, bows his head in deference to the incalculable Creator.

There is Paul, whose mental disability hasn't impeded his rhythm, bursting with pride to play the drums.

The teen who became a mom brings her toddler every Sunday. The grandparents sit with them, enraptured by the unplanned blessing.

And in the last pew, the older parents bring raw grief for their son, killed in a snowmobiling accident. The dad can't bear to make eye contact when I tell him, "Peace be with you." I repeat the prayer in my head as he tearfully hugs his wife.

Inside our church walls, it is all there — the circle of life, overlapping and intersecting: infertility and pregnancy, funeral and baptism, tragedy and triumph.

They keep coming. In spite of it all.

Because of it all.

I don't take that lightly.

More than ever, these flesh-and-blood communities mean something, especially to us young adults, so inclined to turn inward and live our lives online. We can blog and tweet, post and poke, but there is nothing like showing up.

Messages in an inbox, comments on a blog, visitors to a Web site — they are nothing like bodies in a pew.

Our presence carries immeasurable information: heads bowed in prayer; voices thrown in song; wallets opened; hands held. You never know who may be inspired by the simple fact that you showed up. You never know what private gesture will take on new meaning in that public space.

In his last encyclical, Pope John Paul II reflected on the "unifying power of participation in the banquet of the Eucharist," which counters the "seeds of disunity," fostering community and building up the Church.

Our celebration of the Sabbath, our coming together, is at "the very core of the Christian mystery," he wrote.

That's why I keep going: I want to kneel in the core of that mystery.

I decided to make my commitment official, so I finally registered at my parish — as an adult member, not just the daughter of members. Pam, the administrative assistant, sent me a lovely welcoming letter.

"We tend to forget our oneness and our need for one another," she wrote. "Yet our heritage is founded on the fact that God calls us to work together in establishing His Kingdom."

It's an honor being part of that mission, sitting among these people who restore and renew each other in untold ways.

Christina Capecchi is a freelance writer from Inver Grove Heights, Minn. e-mail her at christina@readchristina.com.

Church reaches out to those with same-sex attractions

VILLANOVA, Pa. — Are you or a loved one experiencing same-sex attractions and looking for answers? "Courage," an apostolate of the Roman Catholic Church, ministers to those with same-sex attractions and their loved ones. It has been endorsed by the Pontifical Council for the Family, and our beloved John Paul II said of this ministry, "COURAGE is doing the work of God!" We also have an outreach called Encourage, which ministers to relatives and friends of persons with same-sex attractions.

Persons with same-sex desires have always been with us; however, until recent times, there has been little, if any, formal outreach from the Church in the way of support groups or information for such persons. Most were left to work out their path on their own. As a result, they found themselves listening to and accepting the secular society's perspective and opting to act on their same-sex desires.

His Eminence, the late Terence Cardinal Cooke of New York, was aware of, and troubled by this situation. He knew that the individual dealing with same-sex attractions truly needed to experience the freedom of interior chastity and in that freedom find the steps necessary to living

a fully Christian life in communion with God and others.

From the Courage Web site you will learn about homosexuality and chastity. By developing an interior life of chastity, which is the universal call to all Christians, one can move beyond the confines of the homosexual identity to a more complete identity in Christ.

In Courage you will get to know men and women who share in your concerns, meeting them online through our Listservs, or in person at chapter meetings, conferences, days of recollection, and retreats.

Upcoming events sponsored by Courage include: The Florida Courage Men's Retreat will be held Friday, April 24, from 5:00 p.m. to Sunday, April 26, 12:00 p.m. The cost is \$160.00 for meals and two nights lodging. To receive the full retreat schedule and to register, please contact Amedeo Colucci at 954-778-2101 before March 24, 2009. A Courage/Encourage Conference to be held July 9 -12 at Villanova University in Villanova, Pa.

Learn more about Courage and Encourage at their Web site: www.couragec.net/.

St. Mary's University covers full tuition

SAN ANTONIO — St. Mary's University announces the launch of a new financial aid program, 'Access St. Mary's,' which will enable members of the incoming freshman class of fall 2009 who have excelled in high school, and also have high financial need to have their tuition paid for at St. Mary's University!

Officials at St. Mary's are fully aware that the current economic climate presents considerable challenges to many families considering college. In response, President Charles L. Cotrell, Ph.D., and the St. Mary's Alumni Association approved the financial commitment for a new program to ensure that a quality, private, liberal-arts, Catholic education remains a viable option for students.

"There is the misconception that St. Mary's, as a private, liberal-arts university, is too expensive," said Dr. Cotrell, "when in fact we are very affordable. We don't want to be off the table when students are considering where to go, especially during these tough economic times. When students choose St. Mary's, they are getting a huge return on their investment because

we have one of the highest graduation rates in Texas."

Prospective full-time freshmen for fall 2009 who meet the following qualifications will be awarded the Access St. Mary's program to cover the price of tuition:

- eligible for a federal Pell Grant,
- qualify for a St. Mary's President's or Trustee's Academic Scholarship,
- attend St. Mary's full-time,
- and will live in University housing.

The annual tuition is approximately \$21,000. Access St. Mary's is designed as a four-year commitment for students who meet the requirements for renewal. With the full price of tuition covered through gift assistance, students will be able to apply other aid for which they are eligible toward room, board and other fee charges.

Students must complete the undergraduate admission application and the Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA). "We encourage prospective students and parents to work together to complete the FAFSA," said Suzanne Petrusch, vice president for enrollment management at St. Mary's. "We have a financial aid priority date of March 31, but we will strive to accommodate every incoming freshman who meets the qualifications for Access St. Mary's. Our knowledgeable financial assistance counselors are available to help students through the process."

Access St. Mary's is aligned with the P-16 Council of Greater Bexar County and the Closing The Gaps The Texas Higher Education Plan. These programs work to make accessibility to college a real possibility for students. Providing access to a quality education and helping those in need is an integral part of the St. Mary's mission and President Cotrell is a member of the P-16 Plus Council.

If a student is not Pell Grant eligible and therefore doesn't qualify for the Access St. Mary's program, there are other gift aid packages and academic scholarships available. The majority of St. Mary's students receive a tuition discount upon admission to the university. With a nearly 60 percent graduation rate of all students (including minorities) that is just one of the reasons why St. Mary's University is ranked fourth in the West Region for quality and value in the "Great Schools, Great Prices" category of the U.S. News & World Report's 2009 edition of "America's Best Colleges."

St. Mary's University was founded in 1852 in San Antonio as a Catholic Marianist University whose mission is to foster the formation of people in faith and to educate leaders for the common good through community service, integrated liberal arts and professional education, and academic excellence.

Students interested in applying to St. Mary's and learning more about the Access St. Mary's program, please visit www.stmarytx.edu/admission/?go=accessStMarys

Or contact the Office of Financial Assistance at (210) 436-3141 or (800) 367-7868.

Catholic Young Adults

The Catholic Young Adult group invites all diocesan young adults to join them for a special Disciples on the Journey. As part of our Lenten journey towards Christ, a priest will join the group each week to facilitate a discussion on the readings for the upcoming Sunday. The final Disciples meeting before Easter will include a Passover meal, which will deepen our understanding of the Last Supper.

The Catholic Young Adult group serves the Victoria Diocese young adults, ages 20ish to 40ish, single and married. The group provides a peer community of friends who support each member's growth in faith and share in the journey of life.

This Lent we encourage all Catholic young adults to develop a stronger spiritual life rooted in a personal relationship with Jesus Christ.

The remaining Disciples on the Journey schedule is:

- Thursday, March 12 — Father Dan Morales
- Thursday, March 19 — Father David Berger
- Thursday, March 26 — Father Stan De Boe
- Thursday, April 2 — Passover meal, Deacon Steve Borowicz

Each meeting will begin at 6:45 p.m. in the Holy Family Parish Hall, Victoria, with a casual potluck supper. Please bring a side dish to share! Discussion will begin around 7:15 p.m. and the evening will close at 8:30 p.m. Materials will be provided.

Also, Adoration is available in the Holy Family chapel before or after the D.O.J. sessions.

For additional information, please contact Jim Wearden at (361) 649-9157 or Judy Seiler at (361) 573-5445 or e-mail Elizabeth Corte at eacorte@hotmail.com.

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Catechetical office honors two PCLs in March

By Cynthia Brewer

The Catechetical Office of the Diocese of Victoria has chosen to honor two Parish Catechetical Leaders (PCS) in the month of March. They have chosen Sister Susana Islas Gonzalez, MCSH, of Our Lady of Sorrows, and Mrs. Carol Lehnert of Holy Family Parish, both of Victoria.

Sister Susana has been a PCL for a total of 33 years in the dioceses of Metuchen and Trenton in New Jersey, and in the dioceses of Lubbock and Victoria in Texas, where I am currently a director of the Religious Education at Our Lady of Sorrows Parish.



Sister Susana
Islas Gonzalez,
MCSH

Our Lady of Sorrows Catechetical program offers RCIA for ages 7-17 years, Sacrament Preparation for First Holy Communion and Confirmation for teens, as well as on going continuing Christian Education. There are a total of 900 children and teens in the catechetical program taught by 107 catechists and aides.

Sister Susana's challenge is that the catechetical formation be an ongoing process, "I believe that it will instill solid Christian values in the students and in their families, helping them to participate actively in their parish and become good citizens, making our society a better place to live."

"Throughout my ministry, I have had many happy moments, especially when I am able to see in the eyes of the youngster an understanding of God's love for them," Sister Susana said. Another important moment for her is when the parents are involved in the process with their children.

"God called me to a special vocation as a Missionary Catechist to dedicate myself in God's service by bringing the Good News to others and to share my faith with those who want to know about the love of God, especially with the families," said Sister Susana.

In 1959, Sister Susana entered the congregation of the Missionary Catechists of the Sacred Hearts of Jesus and Mary and came to the United States as a junior sister in 1965. On August of 1967, she took her final vows at the MCSH Mother House in Mexico City, Mexico, making this the happiest day of her life!

"If I were to be born again, I would choose once again to be a Missionary Catechist," said Sister Susana, "because God consecrated me to touch so many people throughout the years."

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Mrs. Carol Lehnert, a member of Holy Family Parish, has been a PCL for 23 years and a catechist for 38. The Holy Family catechetical program serves 437 students through the aid of 72 teachers and aides.

Of becoming a catechist, Carol said the sacrament of confirmation afforded her the opportunity to become a soldier in Christ's army. "I'm ever so thankful that as a young person my religious instruction was from the Baltimore Catechism. I considered the teachings in the Baltimore Catechism as ammunition in the Catholic Faith. Becoming a catechist was my way of passing the ammunition and sharing my faith.

At Holy Family Parish, they use the "Faith and Life Series" curriculum by Ignatius Press.

"It faithfully transmits Catholic teachings using the Bible and the Catechism of the Catholic Church. By the time the students are finished with the eighth grade, they should have a basic knowledge of the Catholic Faith," she said.

The high school program consists of apologetics and an in-depth study of the commandments and sacraments. She said Holy Family added "Theology of the Body" to the eleventh-grade curriculum this year. Other activities, which the catechetical program offers are the Catechism Contest, sponsored by the Knights of Columbus 9088, and the May Crowning.

What Carol finds most challenging in her catechetical ministry are making certain that what's taught is applied to daily living, for example, fulfilling their Sunday Mass obligation and finding time for necessary teacher training, when the teachers in their program are some of the busiest people in the parish and in the community.

"The happy moments keep one coming back," Carol said. Citing a couple of the uppermost is hearing compliments from the students regarding their teachers and how much they got out of class.

"One comment that I will always remember is from a senior who came from out of state to our program. She told me that she had really enjoyed that year because she wasn't used to learning anything in C.C.D.," Carol said. "Another is seeing students who went through our program and are now active in parish life particularly in our C.C.D. program.

Carol is happily married to Ed Lehnert; they will be celebrating their 47th anniversary on July 14, 2009. They have two married children, Marae and Jeff, and nine grandchildren.

Besides being the Parish Catechetical Leader, Carol is also an Extra Ordinary Minister of the Eucharist and a member of the Altar Society, Love for Life, Legion of Mary, and the Rusty Steins (Holy Family's German and Czech Band).

Heavenly Father, if it is your divine will, inspire many of our youth to say "Yes" to your special calling to be priests, sisters and brothers. Amen.

Serra International



Mrs. Carol  
Lehnert

## Life Issues Forum

### Our "Yes" to Life

By Mary E. McClusky

The story of Nadya Suleman's recent delivery of octuplets has released a firestorm of opinions about responsible motherhood and the complications of in vitro fertilization (IVF). Suleman already had six young children at home when she had six more embryos implanted at a fertility clinic. The result — eight babies (some from twinning) and a flurry of media interviews questioning her choices. Some criticize her for indulging her desire for more children despite being unmarried, on disability and living with her mother. Others criticize the doctor for allowing so many embryos to be implanted. No one is getting it quite right. As Catholics, how do we affirm and support the desire for children, yet reject the wrongs inherent in some assisted reproductive technologies?

It helps to understand that these situations are a direct result of our increasing view of human life as a commodity, rather than a gift. Did Nadya Suleman truly act out of selflessness for her children, or was she too blinded by her own desire for a large family to consider that her future children deserve two parents and the greater safety of a natural pregnancy? The modern fertility industry perpetuates the idea that children are a right, instead of a gift, and guarantee "success rates" for infertile couples. Many today want children on their terms, shutting God and natural law out of the process.

Courts are increasingly intolerant of doctors who refuse to perform these procedures. The California state Supreme Court ruled last year in Benitez v. North Coast Women's Care Medical Group that a physician's right to refuse to perform artificial insemination for two lesbians can be

trumped by an anti-discrimination law.

Critics argue that the Church says "no" to modern science and rejects the opportunities presented by new technology. On the contrary, the Church welcomes the incredible power and potential of medicine to assist, not replace, the natural human act of procreation. To distinguish between the two, there is an ongoing need for firm ethical guidelines.

In December 2008 the Vatican released its formal instruction, Dignitas Personae: On Certain Bioethical Questions, as a follow up to the twenty-year-old "Donum Vitae." The document teaches that we can say "yes" to present and future medical interventions that assist the natural God-given function of human procreation while also respecting the intimate bond between husband and wife. Scientific developments "are certainly positive and worthy of support when they serve to overcome or correct pathologies and succeed in re-establishing the normal functioning of human procreation." Couples should be supported in their desire for children, but also gently reminded that even the tiniest embryo has equal human dignity. He or she deserves to be brought into this world through a sexual act of total and committed love between married parents. In vitro fertilization fails that test.

In the face of increasing dangers to human lives manipulated by the fertility industry, we should spread the Church's "yes" to authentic love and life. By promoting moral means that support the bodily and spiritual integrity of all persons, we witness to the truth that even the tiniest human life has dignity and is made in his image.

To read Dignitas Personae, go to: [usccb.org/comm/Dignitaspersonae](http://usccb.org/comm/Dignitaspersonae).

Mary McClusky is Special Projects Coordinator at the Secretariat for Pro-Life Activities, U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops. To learn more about the bishops' pro-life activities, go to [www.usccb.org/prolife](http://www.usccb.org/prolife).

To follow stories on Life, Human Sexuality, Family and Bioethics, go to the Web site of the Culture of Life Foundation: Bringing facts, science and reason to the public square at: <http://culture-of-life.org/>.

*Hope and Trust  
in Life!*

*The Church ... is called to proclaim the gift of life, to serve life, and to promote a culture of life. ... This is the message of hope we are called to proclaim and embody in a world where self-centeredness, greed, violence and cynicism so often seem to choke the fragile growth of grace in people's hearts.*

Pope Benedict XVI, homily,  
Mass at St. Patrick's Cathedral  
(April 19, 2008)

### 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.

### 13-day Shrines of Italy and Rome Tour

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Father Tommy Chen

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For more information, please contact Betty Urbanovsky at [burbanovsky@sbcglobal.net](mailto:burbanovsky@sbcglobal.net) or 979-543-2333



## Nursing industry still short of workers even when economy is unstable

By UHV Staff

At a time when many industries are going through hiring freezes and layoffs, the nursing industry is in dire need of all the graduates the University of Houston-Victoria can produce.

"We just can't keep up with the demand for graduates with the Baby Boomers aging and more nurses retiring," said Kathryn Tart, founding dean of the UHV School of Nursing. "In addition, there's a shortage of qualified nursing faculty who can teach the next generation of nurses."

Texas is short about 22,000 nurses right now, according to the Texas Center for Nursing Workforce Studies. That number could grow to 70,000 by 2020 unless there are major increases in funding for nursing education.

UHV has done its part to help with the shortage. The university surveyed area healthcare agencies and nurses to determine the need for a nursing program and then started one in the fall of 2006. At that time, UHV only offered a Registered Nurse to Bachelor of Science in Nursing program at both the Victoria campus and the University of Houston System at Sugar Land.

The program was so successful that the Texas Higher Education Coordinating Board approved a proposal in December 2007 to create a UHV School of Nursing, which allowed the university to begin offering other nursing programs.

The School of Nursing expanded to add a Master of Science in nursing program a year ago, along with an RN to MSN bridge program. Both programs allow students to select nurse education or nurse administration concentrations on the Victoria or Sugar Land campuses. The nurse education concentration specifically meets the state's need of educating more

people to train future nurses at community colleges and universities, and to teach hospital patients and staff, Tart said.

"There is such a need for this concentration," she said. "Some Texas nursing schools have to turn away qualified applicants because of the shortage of nursing faculty willing to teach at today's salaries. We are fortunate at UHV that we have dedicated faculty and competitive salaries."

The School of Nursing's newest program is the Second Degree BSN, which started in the fall on the Sugar Land campus. It allows someone with a bachelor's degree to earn a second degree in nursing in as little as a year. Eighteen students are registered for the program this spring. The next group of Second Degree BSN students, including those who have graduated from major universities such as the University of Houston, will be admitted in January.

Lynne Voskamp, chief nursing officer at Citizens Medical Center, which employs about 450 RNs and LVNs, said she thinks it is wonderful that UHV now has a School of Nursing. Eighty-three students have graduated from the school so far and provided valuable care in the community.

"It's so important to be able to educate nurses all the way through to the master's level right here in Victoria," she said.

"We have to do everything we can to help solve the nursing shortage," Tart said. "The future of our health care depends on it."

For more information about degrees offered by the School of Nursing, go to [www.uhv.edu/nursing](http://www.uhv.edu/nursing) or contact student recruitment coordinator Tammy Neeley Whatley at (361) 570-4297 or [whatleyt@uhv.edu](mailto:whatleyt@uhv.edu)

## Letter to the Editor

The idea of living a purpose-filled life has attracted much attention in recent years, but what does this actually mean? Some of society's most compassionate, purpose-driven people choose social work as a career because of the countless ways these professionals can make a difference in our community. Giving back to society's most vulnerable is a valuable way to live a life of purpose. Social workers are society's safety net,

providing vital resources and support to those who need it most. From working in hospitals and mental health clinics, to providing at-home care for senior citizens, social workers serve across a range of practice areas to make the greatest impact on the individuals and their families.

The need for social workers is growing rapidly. According to the Bureau of Labor Statistics, the need for social workers is expected to grow twice as fast as any other occupation, especially in gerontology, home healthcare, substance abuse, private social service agencies and school social work. A career in social work provides the perfect fit for someone who wants to help others and has an inherent desire to serve.

March is National Social Work Month, a time to celebrate the more than 600,000 social workers nationwide. This year's theme is Social Work: Purpose & Possibility.

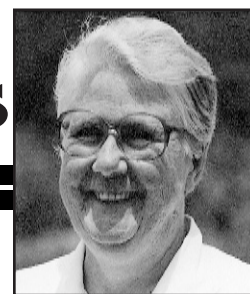
Let us honor all those who have given so much of themselves for others. Today we thank you for making a difference.

Jeff Salter, CEO,  
Caring Senior Service

Caring Senior Service, [www.caring-seniorservice.com](http://www.caring-seniorservice.com), provides non-medical services, such as personal care, meal preparation and grocery shopping, to the elderly and infirm in their place of residence in Victoria, Lavaca, De Witt, Jackson, Refugio, Calhoun and Wharton

## SISTERLY THOUGHTS

By Sister Mildred Truchard, IWBS



### Living the Paschal Mystery

The observance of Lent moves us into reflection on the Paschal Mystery. The Paschal Mystery is the way Jesus attained our salvation through his passion, death and resurrection. It shows us that the path to holiness is through making a gift of self, which often involves our dying to self. The Paschal Mystery portrays death to self as the doorway to greater life and heaven. If we don't unite ourselves with the sufferings and dying of Jesus, we miss many opportunities to build the kingdom of God; we may waste our time and effort by complaining, wallowing in our misery, or maybe even just giving up along the way.

If we accept the suffering involved in dying to self rather than fighting it or wasting effort in trying to avoid it, we can find God on the other side of dying to self. Maybe a story that I heard many years ago will illustrate this.

"There was once a King of Ireland," as narrated by an Irish priest, "who loved Ireland very, very much. He just couldn't envision himself ever leaving his beloved land – not even to go to heaven. In his mind, even heaven could not compare with this paradise on earth. Now the king was a very good king; he ruled with love and justice, and was loved by his people. But the inevitable happened; the king eventually got sick. The doctors told him that the end was near and that he would die very soon. The king was very sad and said that he wanted to take a bit of Ireland with him to heaven as a reminder of his beautiful homeland. He asked those at his deathbed to give him a handful of good old Irish soil so that he could at least have that to take with him. And so, grasping the soil in his hand, he knocked at the door of heaven; St. Peter cracked open the door and peered out at the king. Seeing the soil in the king's hand; St. Peter said, 'Sorry, no dirt allowed in heaven,' and closed the door. This scenario was repeated for days – until the soil in king's hand dried up and crumbled

away. When the last grain of dry soil had dropped from the king's hand, St. Peter finally opened the door and escorted the king into heaven. The king was wide-eyed as he saw grandeur and beauty that eclipsed that of his beloved Ireland. He asked himself, 'Why did I ever doubt and delay my arrival here?'"

The question that we can ask ourselves is, "Why do we doubt and hold onto that which impedes our response to God's call to bring about the Kingdom of God? How are we made aware of our involvement in the Paschal Mystery of Christ?" Well, every time we participate in the Mass, the Mass makes the Paschal Mystery present to us because it is the re-presentation

of what happened on Calvary. By receiving Jesus in Communion, we become one with his saving sacrifice. This sacrifice serves as a pattern of our lives: we are to become what we eat.

The Paschal Mystery stands at the center of the Good News that Jesus' death leads us to heaven. Following Jesus means taking up our cross and dying to whatever hinders our ability to follow; it means entering into the Paschal Mystery so that we may rise with Jesus, not only on the last day, but progressively more and more here on earth.

It is a mystery that is deep with meaning, and although we have only scratched the surface here, the more we endeavor to freely embrace suffering and dying to self, rather than fighting against it, then the more we will find Jesus and the better we will understand this mystery.

As you continue your Lenten reflections, think of times in which you experienced the Paschal Mystery. Ask yourself how you opened yourself to God in the midst of the suffering or the emptiness you were experiencing. Continue to unite yourself to the Suffering Jesus during the remainder of Lent. Next month we will reflect on the Resurrection or the fullness of the Paschal Mystery.



### Heritage Center / Pathways with Patti

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Islands of New England  
August 28 - September 4

Both of these tours have an April 5 deadline because of air fare.

Albuquerque Balloon Festival  
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Motor Coach Tour

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### Our Lady of Victory School

National Blue Ribbon School of Excellence 2008



2009-2010 New Student Registration  
Pre-K3 through 8th Grade

Wednesday, March 11 — OLV Parishioners  
Thursday, March 12 — All Other Students

8:30 a.m. - 3:00 p.m.  
School Office — 1311 E. Mesquite Lane

For more information,  
call the school office at 575-5391

[www.ourladyvictory.org](http://www.ourladyvictory.org)



**KJZT PHANTOM BAKE SALE HELPS TWO CAUSES**—Officers of Catholic Family Fraternal of Texas present Rev. Casimir Jarzombek, pastor of Holy Cross Church, Bay City, with a \$555 check for funds generated from the 2008 Phantom Bake Sale. A check in the same amount was also presented to Sister Geraldine Pavlik, principal of Holy Cross School. Officers pictured with Father Casey are Dorothy Saha, Mildred Babik and Karen Owens.



Pictured above are the first place winners of the KC Diocesan (regional) Free Throw held in Hallettsville February 22, 2009. First place winners, boys, 10 years through 14, seated in front row (l. – r.): Jacob Munoz, Cody Marquardt, Cole Koeppen, Andrew Neuvar and Jacob Novosad; girls, 10 years through 14, standing back row from left: Rhyleigh Johnson, Samantha Gabler, Shelby Hoelscher, Callie Witte and Tasha Zidek.

## KC Free Throw Winners go to State

HALLETTSVILLE—Eighty boys and girls, age 10 through 14, competed in the Knights of Columbus Diocesan (regional) Free Throw Contest held at Sacred Heart High School gymnasium in Hallettsville February 22, 2009. The contestants were the first place winners from each of the diocese's eight KC districts.

The five, first place winners for boys, 10 years through 14, were 10-year-old Jacob Munoz, score: 18, Victoria, Council #1329, 11-year-old Cody Marquardt, score: 20, El Campo, Council 2490; 12-year-old Cole Koeppen, score: 21, East Bernard, Council 2500; 13-year-old Andrew Neuvar, score: 20, Victoria, Council 9088; and 14-year-old Jacob Novosad, score: 23, Moulton, Council 3244.

The five, first place winners for girls, 10 years through 14, were 10-year-old Rhyleigh Johnson, score: 11, Yoakum, Council 1582; 11-year-old Samantha Gabler, score: 21, Schulenburg, Council 2902; 12-year-old Shelby Hoelscher, score: 18, Columbus, Council 2971; 13-year-old Callie Witte, score: 21, Yoakum, Council 1582; and 14-year-old Tasha Zidek, score: 15, Moulton, Council 3244.

These ten first-place regional winners will go to the state championship to be held Saturday, March 7, at Holy Cross High School in San Antonio. The state champions' scores will be sent to the KC Supreme offices and will be compiled in a formula to determine the international winners.

Second place winning girls, in order from 10 years to 14 years, were Julianna

Machac of Schulenburg, Alexis Kurtz of Port Lavaca, Faith Hagan of Yoakum, Megan Mitchon of Moulton and Ashley Anderson of East Bernard. Second place boys were Bruno Castillo of Eagle Lake, Gregory De Los Santos of Victoria, Jaydon Nieto of Moulton, Luke Pflughaupt of Fayetteville and Troy Macha of Sweet Home.

Third place girls were Reagan Dopslauf of Eagle Lake, Malori Mitchon of Moulton, Katie Williams of Bloomington, Danielle Galvan of Blessing and Adriana Gaitan of Port Lavaca. Third place boys were Tanner Janak of Weimar, Wesley Sliva of Inez, Will Maraggia of Inez, Joshua Laslie of Danevang and Christian Wenske of Victoria.

Each contestant is given 25 free throw attempts. The contestant making the most free throws out of the 25 attempts becomes the winner. If a tie occurs among the top three places, a five-shot shoot-off is held until a winner is determined.

The 10 and 11-year-old, boys and girls contestants use a women's regulation-size basketball and shoot from a 12-foot foul line at a 10-foot-high basket. The 12, 13 and 14-year-old contestants shoot from the regulation foul line (15 feet) from a 10-foot-high basket; girls use a regulation-size women's basketball and boys use a men's basketball.

The regional contest was supervised by Diocesan Deputy Alvin Kulcak of Louise. He was assisted by Assistant Diocesan Deputy Robert Stryk and district deputies from throughout the diocese.

## Fifth-graders win free tuition in Black History Month Poster Contest

VICTORIA—A fifth-grader from DeLeon Elementary School in Victoria doesn't have to wonder how he'll pay for college after winning the Fifth Grade Black History Month Poster Contest. Zachary Blevins received two years of tuition at The Victoria College and two years of tuition at the University of Houston-Victoria for winning first place for his poster about Mae C. Jemison, the first black female astronaut. The first- through third-place winners in the contest and four honorable mention recipients were announced Friday night during a public reception in the UHV University Center. About 130 local fifth-graders submitted posters, which were judged on creative use of the theme, accurate information, neatness and overall impact. This year's theme was "African Americans in Computer Science and Technology."

Second-place winner Jade Pena from Smith Magnet School received one year of free tuition from both UHV and VC for his poster about Ronald McNair, an astronaut who died in 1986 during the launch of the Space Shuttle Challenger. Third-place winner Dezirae Garza from Vickers Elementary received one free semester of tuition from both schools for her poster about Annie Easley, a computer scientist who worked for NASA's Lewis Research Center. Four honorable mention winners received prize bags from UHV and the Cultural Council of Victoria. They were Taylor Hamilton, Vickers Elementary; Samantha Salazar, Smith Magnet School; Kelsey Van Pelt, De Leon Elementary; and Ayanna Ellis, Chandler Elementary. UHV and the Cultural Council of Victoria sponsored the event with VC and the Black History Month Steering Committee.

## VBF Handel's Messiah to be performed for Bluebonnet Youth Ranch

The Victoria Bach Festival is pleased to invite you to a special performance of Handel's Messiah in collaboration with Grammy®-nominated choral ensemble Conspirare on March 27. VBF is perpetuating the spirit of the work by performing on instruments true to Handel's time and by honoring the original goal of the concert: to bring help and healing to people in need.

The first performance of Messiah in Dublin in April of 1742 was given as a benefit for orphans, a charity hospital, and for people in debtor's prisons. VBF is celebrating this unique aspect of the history of Handel's work by donating 20% of ticket sales to Bluebonnet Youth Ranch, bringing security and hope to children at risk. From the opening "Comfort ye, my

people" to the "Hallelujah" chorus, Handel's work is a reassuring, joyous setting of Scripture to music. The Most Reverend David E. Fellhauer, bishop of the Diocese of Victoria, will welcome those attending this uplifting event. This Lenten/Easter-season celebration begins at 7:30 p.m. on March 27 at Our Saviour's Lutheran Church. Tickets are \$35 for adults, \$30 for seniors, and \$10 for students. They may be purchased through the Victoria Bach Festival offices at 570-5788, the Cultural Council at 572-ARTS, or online at [www.victoriabachfestival.org](http://www.victoriabachfestival.org). VBF is grateful for the support of Klean Corp International and Robby and Tami Burdge, whose generosity was influential in making this concert possible.

## The 5<sup>th</sup> Annual Sts. Cyril & Methodius Church Gala TASTE OF TEXAS "Coastal Cuisine"

Saturday, April 25, 2009  
American Legion Hall, Shiner, Texas  
\$165/couple or \$100/single  
Includes: Raffle entry, Cocktails,  
Hor d'oeuvres, Seated Dinner, Dance

Texas Hold 'Em  
\$50/seat  
Limited Seating

Silent Auction  
Over 100 great items  
Donations welcome

Raffle Prizes  
1<sup>st</sup> - 42" HD LCD TV  
2<sup>nd</sup> - \$500, 3<sup>rd</sup> - \$250  
10 - \$100 prizes

For more information see [www.shinertasteoftexas.com](http://www.shinertasteoftexas.com)  
or call the rectory at 361-594-3836  
All events/items may be purchased  
using PayPal on the Web site.  
Raffle tickets may be purchased  
separately for \$25 each.  
Table and Corporate sponsorships available.  
Check the Web site or call the  
rectory for more information.



St. Rose of Lima Parish and School in Schulenburg also participated in the Souper Bowl of Caring this year. Pictured are some 6th, 7th and 8th graders from the school with their teacher, pastor and principal. From left are Father Tim Kosler, Mrs. Phyllis Venghaus, Samantha Carter, Seamus Bennett, Jade Bujnoch, Allison Meyer, Kirsten Heger, Samantha Holub, Clayton Brossmann, Principal Rosanne Gallia and Caity Bennett. They collected 142 pounds of food and raised \$879.86 for the 2009 Souper Bowl.

## Souper Bowl of Caring

This year several parishes in our diocese made a huge impact on their community on Super Bowl Sunday. No, they didn't receive any trophies or "priceless" rings for their efforts, but the contributions that were made will have a lasting impact on their very neighbors for some time to come. These parishes participated in the Souper Bowl of Caring. Souper Bowl of Caring started as a simple prayer: "Lord, even as we enjoy the Super Bowl football game, help us be mindful of those who are without a bowl of soup to eat." It is inspiring a youth-led movement to help hungry and hurting people around the world.

This prayer, delivered by Brad Smith, then a seminary intern serving at Spring Valley Presbyterian Church in Columbia, SC, gave birth to an idea. Why not use Super Bowl weekend, a time when people come together for football and fun, to also unify the nation for a higher good: collecting dollars and canned food for the needy? Youth could collect donations at their schools and churches in soup pots, and then send every dollar DIRECTLY to a local charity of THEIR choice.

The senior high youth of Spring Valley Presbyterian liked the idea so much

they decided to invite other area churches to join the team. Twenty-two Columbia churches participated that first year, reporting their results so a total could be determined, and then sending all \$5,700 they had raised to area non-profits.

That was 1990. Since then, ordinary young people have generated an extraordinary \$50 million for soup kitchens, food banks and other charities in communities across the country. In addition, hundreds of thousands of youth have experienced for themselves the joy and satisfaction of giving and serving, inspiring people of all ages to follow their generous example.

In the Diocese of Victoria, the following parishes have reported to date:

Our Lady of Victory Cathedral in Victoria – 5,400 pounds of food

Our Lady of the Gulf in Port Lavaca – 2,900 pounds of food

St. Rose of Lima in Schulenburg - 142 pounds of food and \$879.86

St. Ann in Point Comfort – 58 pounds of food and \$228

Holy Cross in East Bernard - \$518

Queen of the Holy Rosary in Hostyn and Sts. Peter and Paul in Plum - 300 pounds of food and \$242



(clockwise from top left): Tommy Tran of Palacios plays his guitar for the youth leadership team during a break. Tammy Evevard speaks to the teens about God's love through the trials and tribulations of life here on earth. The boys and girls broke out to separate sessions to hear how to be men and women of God in a secular world – above are all the young women listening to Tammy Evevard.

## Youth Spectacular Highlights

**By Debbie Vanelli, Office of Youth and Young Adult Ministry**

The Youth Spectacular really lived up to its name. It truly was a Spectacular day! The brisk morning turned into an exceptionally beautiful day, one of those days that makes us know why we choose to live in South Texas, as 550 high-school-

age young people and adults gathered together to learn about deepening their relationship with God.

The day began with a moving prayer service about solidarity. Each of the parishes were then given lesson plans on the obligation as Catholics to reach out and help all people. The parishes were to

## Youth Calendar of Events

**March 15** — Confirmation Retreat, St. John Nepomucene in New Taiton

**March 16** — Confirmation Retreat, Bay City at the Spiritual Renewal Center

**March 18** — Christopher West at St. Mary's Catholic Center in College Station

**March 21** — Youth Ministry Certificate Class - **Justice and Service**

**March 24** — Sharing Faith with Adolescents

**March 29** — Confirmation Retreat, St. Michael in Cuero

**April 5** — Confirmation Retreat, St. Joseph in Inez

**April 8** — Campus Ministry Association, Mass at 2:00 p.m., Student Center at Victoria College

**April 18** — Youth Ministry Certificate Class – **Ethics and Crisis Management**

**April 24** — Bishop Fellhauer Benefit Golf Tournament

**April 26** — Youth Leadership Training, Chancery

**May 2** — Youth Ministry Certificate Class - **Retreat Formation**

**June 12-20** — Camp David

**June 22 - 25** — Discipleship Week at the Spiritual Renewal Center

**July 4-12** — Rocky Mountain High, Pagosa Springs, Colorado

**July 19-22** — Quo Vadis, Boys Vocation Camp at the Spiritual Renewal Center

**July 26-29** — St. Theresa Vocation Camp at Incarnate Word Convent, Victoria

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

**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](mailto:dvanelli@victoriadiocese.org) or [jortega@victoriadiocese.org](mailto:jortega@victoriadiocese.org)  
Web site: [www.victoriadiocese.org/youthoffice](http://www.victoriadiocese.org/youthoffice)



### ST. JOSEPH BAND STUDENTS PLACE HIGH IN REGION AND STATE—

Hilary Kristynik, a junior at St. Joseph High School, has been named to the Texas Private Schools Music Educators Association (TPSMEA) All-State Band for the 2008-2009 school year. She represented St. Joseph High School at the private school music teachers' annual state conference and music clinic in San Antonio on January 29-31, 2009. A concert performance culminated at Trinity University Laurel Auditorium. Hilary also placed 1st Chair Flute in the Association of Texas Small School Bands Region 13 All-Region Symphonic Band. Two other St. Joseph students also placed in the Symphonic Band; Eric Still (l.), a junior, placed 1st Chair Trumpet, and Jonathan Garza (r.), a senior, placed 5th Chair Trumpet. The Symphonic Band is the premier select band featuring the finest band musicians from Region 13 public and private schools.

take the lesson plans back to their parish communities to continue the conversation with the young people at home.

The featured keynote speaker, Tammy Evevard, spoke to the crowd in an eloquent, honest manner that had the crowd spellbound. Tammy began her journey in youth ministry as a member of the National Evangelization Team in the 80s, and since has never stopped speaking to young people and adults alike about God's love through the trials and tribulations of life here on earth. In addition to Tammy's keynote, three men from our diocese, Froylan Silva, Carlos Longoria and Jose Ortega spoke to all the young men in the audience about what it means to be a man of God in a secular world.

Terri Busha of Holy Cross in Bay City spoke with the young people about a "Red Envelope Anti-abortion Campaign" and provided the supplies that allowed all

550 participants the opportunity to send an empty, red envelope to the president. On the back of the envelope was written, "This envelope represents one child who died in abortion. It is empty because that life was unable to offer anything to the world. Responsibility begins with conception." The front was addressed directly to the president.

In addition to these great keynote presenters, the crowd was also treated to the wonderful praise and worship music led by the Life Teen Band of Our Lady of Sorrows.

The jam-packed day concluded with Mass, celebrated with Bishop Fellhauer. The following priests concelebrated at this liturgy: Rev. Gary Janak, Rev. Michael Petering, Rev. Tim Kosler, Rev. Tony Boateng-Mensa, Rev. Peter Yeboah-Amanfo, Rev. Greg Korenek, and were assisted by Deacon Doug Tromblee.



**OLV STUDENTS MARCH FOR LIFE**—On Friday, January 30, of Catholic Schools week, Our Lady of Victory School had a Eucharistic procession for life. The school gathered in the cathedral for a Liturgy of the Word and a brief homily about the importance of protecting life

from conception to natural death, the very life that Jesus came to redeem. The students and faculty then prayed silently in adoration of the Blessed Sacrament and then processed through the school grounds with the monstrance and Blessed Sacrament. The students had posters depicting prayer and support for life in all its aspects: from conception, to immigrants, to the elderly, to the sick, to those in prison. While we processed with the Blessed Sacrament, a decade of the rosary was recited for each one of those groups. We beseeched God's blessings and protection and a deeper reverence for the gift of life in all circumstances. The procession ended with benediction and reposition. The school enriched its understanding of what it means to be Catholic and how to truly appreciate the gift of the Eucharist as the ultimate means of prayer for life.



**NATIONAL JCDA SCHOLARSHIP WINNER SPEAKS IN SHINER**—The 2007 National Junior CDA Scholarship Winner, Jamie Petru of Shiner, took time during a semester break from college recently to visit the JCDA members in Shiner. She was the speaker at their January 18, 2009, monthly meeting. Her presentation included sharing her experiences as a college student and how her faith and JCDA has helped her meet some of the challenges of college life. She also touched on the pro-life topic and how college students are often challenged to stand up for life. Jamie is a graduate of St. Paul High School, Shiner, and is presently in her second year of college at Texas A & M University in College Station, where she is pursuing a degree in education with majors in math and Science.

## And the winner is .....



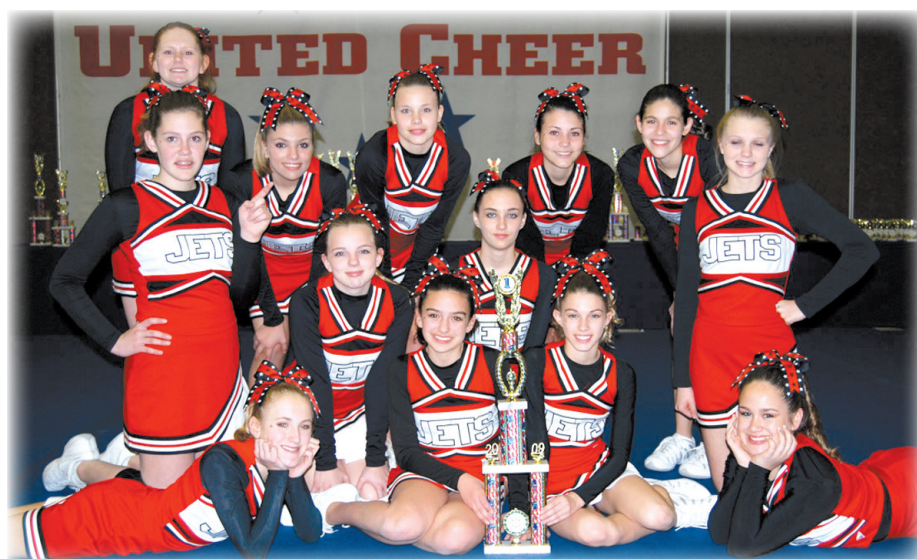
On Ash Wednesday, Father John Peters and Father Michael Rother had their official weigh-in for their weight loss competition. The two priests made a vow to improve their health and to see who could lose the most weight during the 40 days of the Lenten season. They will weigh-in each week at the Lavaca Family Health Clinic, where the official totals will be kept. However, the true winner of the competition will be the Sacred Heart Youth Ministry, for the community may make a per pound pledge as to which priest will lose the most weight. All money raised will go to Youth Ministry. Call the rectory, (361) 798-5888, today to make your pledge. Good Luck to Father John and Father Michael! Photo courtesy of the Hallettsville Tribune-Herald



**SCOUT SUNDAY CELEBRATED**—Yoakum's Boy Scouts Troop 228 and Cub Scouts Pack 224 celebrated Scout Sunday at St. Joseph Catholic Church on Sunday, February 8, 2009. The scouts wore their scout uniforms to symbolize Scout Sunday. Boy Scouts and Cub Scouts served as ushers, altar servers and active participants in the Mass celebration. Pictured above from left are Michael Chomout, Ryan Gearson and Raleigh Chumchal; second row: Travis Beem, Reed Gearson, Clayton Wenske and Mason Talbert; third row: Kenneth Wenske, Colton Wenske, Jeff Tuttle Jr., Jeff Tuttle, Father Matthew Huehlefeld, pastor of St. Joseph; Jeremy Kelley and David Kelley.



**ST. ROSE SECOND GRADERS STUDY FOSSILS**—The second graders at St. Rose of Lima Catholic School studied fossils in their science class during the week of Feb. 8, 2009. The students made fossils as well as brought them for show-n-tell. They were very surprised when the father of student John Corbitt, Mr. Michael Corbitt, brought a fossil of a mastodon's bottom jaw that he found in a gravel pit between Schulenburg and La Grange. "This was a very interesting week learning about fossils," said Pam Wick, the second grade teacher.



The Nazareth Academy competition cheerleading squad took first place in the United Cheer level 2 junior high division final January 30. The team consists of 13 members; they are, front row from left: Shayla Marshall, Ashley Kolar, Erika Ganauser and Blair Butschek; middle row from left: Madalynn Kainer, Ashley Hicks, Alyssa Bennett and Emily Buhler; back row from left: Clara Allen, Kaylee Bitterly, Katie Degand, Hannah Garza and Olivia Chapa.

## Nazareth Academy Cheerleading Takes First Place In Pasadena

The Nazareth Academy competition cheerleading squad traveled to Pasadena, Texas, on Saturday, January 30, 2009, to compete in the United Cheer Cheerleading Competition. They competed with cheerleaders from Beaumont, Tyler, Cypress, Houston, Garland, San Marcos, Pasadena as well as Bossier City, La. The Nazareth Academy cheerleading squad took first place in the level (2) junior

high division final against Pasadena. The team of 13 girls is sponsored and coached by Kim Marshall and Calvin Parker, owners of Sonic Cheer Gym in Houston.

The NA competition cheerleading squad travels to Austin to compete in the Cheer USA Nationals, to be hosted at the Travis County Expo Center on February 21-22, 2009.



## Parish celebrates church secretary's 34 years of service

By Cynthia Brewer

SHINER—On its feast day, February 14, 2009, the parish of Sts. Cyril and Methodius in Shiner celebrated the many years of service Mary Rose Barta provided as church secretary and business manager. A Mass and lunch reception were held in honor of her retirement after 34 years of dedicated service.

The presider of the Saturday morning Mass of Thanksgiving was Bishop David E. Fellhauer, who was assisted by Msgr. Thomas C. McLaughlin, chancellor; Father Bob Knippenberg, pastor of Sts. Cyril and Methodius; Msgr. Michael Harold, Father Michael Rother, Father Gerry Cernoch, Father John Peters, and Father Tommy Chen, who played the organ and led the beautiful sounding choir.

In his homily, Father Bob referred to a story the priests' retreat master had told them at their January priests' retreat, that the "little-bitty dash" on the tombstone between a person's birth date and date of death is what connects us.

"Here we are today to celebrate our connections, ... the things that connect us are always persons; first and foremost we're connected to Jesus who redeemed us," he said.

Mary Rose was the parish's connector. Pastors have come and gone, sisters have come and gone, but Mary Rose was the one who kept parishioners in connection with the parish ... all the bulletins, baptisms, weddings, etc. ... through 34 years, 52 times per year, Father Bob said.

Mary Rose provided primarily a seamless operation, he said, "From oil in our candles to wine at the altars, Mary Rose had her hand in it."

"They say the devil is in the details, but Mary Rose was in the details here at our parish," he said.

"Even though we didn't pay you much for it," he said. "thank you for keeping us connected."

"We're extremely grateful for all she's done."

Mary Rose's grandchildren presented the gifts to the altar, and the 4th Degree Knights of Columbus stood guard.

Those unable to attend were Mary Rose's brother, Msgr. Jim Henke of the Archdiocese of San Antonio who was obliged to celebrate a Funeral Mass in San

service to the parish.

A reception, which included comments from priests and parishioners followed the

Lighthouse, she said, "I consider it a very unique privilege to have worked closely with the five "bosses" (pastors) I worked with over the years. They were all very dedicated priests, each blessed with different talents and gifts with which to serve the Church and its people."

Over the 34 years of service to the parish, the pastors for which Mary Rose worked included Rev. Patrick Fidgeon, Rev. Sean Donohue, Rev. Jerry Caponi, Rev. Gerry Cernoch and Rev. Robert Knippenberg. The bishops to whom she served under were Archbishops Francis Furey and Patrick Flores, of the archdiocese of San Antonio. Then upon Victoria becoming a diocese, she worked under Bishop Charles Grahmann and Bishop Fellhauer.

"One of my greatest joys over the years has been to see the people really get to know their priests, to accept them as they are, to work with them, to respect them and above all to appreciate them," she said.

"Another thought from which I have taken much enjoyment in over the years came from a visiting priest during the early years of my career," she said. "He asked me what I liked best about my job. I don't remember exactly what I told him, but I do remember what he told me, 'Isn't it great to be working for what we really believe so strongly in - our Catholic faith!' And that really sums it up in a few words - it has been a great and rewarding career!"

Mary Rose is married to Clarence Barta, and they have two adult daughters and six grandchildren.



Mary Rose and Clarence Barta stand before the mosaic of the Blessed Mother and Child and the prayer garden Father Bob Knippenberg, the pastoral council and parishioners made in honor of Mary Rose's 34 years of service to the parish. Inset: Bishop David Fellhauer blesses the prayer garden; pictured with Bishop Fellhauer, left, Father Bob and right, Msgr. Thomas McLaughlin.

Antonio, and Fathers Frank Lenz, and Gabriel Espinosa, two priests who had served at Sts. Cyril and Methodius.

Following the Mass, Bishop Fellhauer blessed a prayer garden and mosaic of the Blessed Virgin Mary and baby Jesus, which was made in honor of Mary Rose's

blessing.

"The special day Father Bob, the pastoral council and the parish planned for me was beyond anything I ever imagined could happen to me!" Mary Rose said following her celebration.

In an interview with The Catholic

## El Campo KCs honor members

The Knights Of Columbus Council 2490 in El Campo held their 2009 awards banquet January 31 at the El Campo KC Hall. Awards presented were Knight of the Year, Family of the Year, 25 Year Service Pins, 50 Year Service Pins, Merchant of the Year and the Lone Star award. The merchant of the year went to Gerry Mikeska of Mikeska Bar-B-Que and Catering for their continued service to the church, community and council. Twenty-five year Service Pin awardees were Jerome Winter, Michael Watz, Robert Leopold, Wayne Bard and Greg Witcher.



Family of the Year, from left: Kirby Bubela, Grant Bubela, Kenna Bubela, Lisa Bubela, Greg Bubela and Grand Knight AJ Hlavaty



Knight of the Year, from left: Program Director Greg Witcher; Knight of the Year Anthony J. Ott; and Grand Knight AJ Hlavaty.



Grand Knight A.J. Hlavaty, left, presents 50 Year Service Pins to: Leo Noska, Kermit Horton, Richard Staha, Arthur Priesmeyer and Willis Vickery.



Lone Star Award, from left: Grand Knight AJ Hlavaty and District Deputy Kenneth Trochta. This is the second highest award a council can receive from the Texas State Council for reaching its membership goals, charities goals and providing all required forms on or before time.





## Bishops' "For Your Marriage" Web site Offers Ideas For 'Cheap' Dates

WASHINGTON— With tough economic conditions impacting families, The United States Conference of Catholic Bishops (USCCB) "For Your Marriage" Web site offers ten suggestions for romantic, low-cost dates. From planning an indoor "picnic" to "midnight bowling," the ideas can inspire couples to be creative date planners.

"We came up with these low-cost ideas for time together as well as some articles that focus on family finances, which is a leading cause of marital stress," said Sheila Garcia, associate director of the USCCB Secretariat of Laity, Marriage, Family Life and Youth, and lead staff for the project.

The "For Your Marriage" Web site, located at [www.foryourmarriage.org](http://www.foryourmarriage.org),

stands as a key component of the USCCB's multi-year effort to promote the value of married life. The site was launched in June 2007 and now sports a new look and content. The page also is available on the social networking sites Facebook, YouTube, Twitter and the bookmark site, Delicious.

"The new home page has a clean, uncluttered look with photos and headlines that point to the newest content," Garcia said. "We're also using some of the new social media Web sites that are popular ways that people connect." Radio and television public service ads also are part of the marriage campaign.

The entire "For Your Marriage" project was made possible through a grant from the Catholic Communication Campaign.

## Familycatechism.com Site Unveiled at 6th World Congress of Families

BLOOMINGDALE, OH— The answer to every question in the Catholic Catechism is now available in English and Spanish in the first Web site of its kind in the world, according to Theresa Schmitz, the Apostolate for Family Consecration project spokeswoman. "But it is far more than short answers given in a sentence or two," she said.

The Web site, [www.familycatechism.com](http://www.familycatechism.com), is the fruit of more than 20 years of writing, research, and filming of renowned Catholic teachers and apologists – in both the Internet and catechetical worlds, this tool is unprecedented. A generation of labor is now ready to bear fruit on the Internet; anyone can access this tool for free across the entire globe. The Apostolate for Family Consecration unveiled its Beta version of the [www.familycatechism.com](http://www.familycatechism.com) in Mexico City, during the 6th World Congress of Families January 14-18.

"The Online-Family Catechism is interactive; providing in-depth answers to the 304 questions of the Apostolate's Family Catechism from hundreds of sources. Each question can be studied focusing on Scripture, the Catechism of the Catholic Church, historic Papal documents, Vatican II documents, and a massive TV library with over 15,000 video commentaries with leading Catholic theologians and experts like Cardinal Francis Arinze, Father Pablo Straub, Mother Teresa, Dr. Scott Hahn,

and others.

"In addition, there are over 800 theological illustrations with captions that inspire meditation and vibrant discussions. The answers are searchable by topic, or by question number as listed in the Family Catechism book.

"The four pillars of the Catholic Catechism –the Creed, the Sacraments, Morality, and Prayer, are brought to life with this 'living catechism.' Whether used for family catechesis, school and parish catechesis, or academic research, this resource stands alone as a tool for the anxious parent, the hungry learner, or the casual seeker.

"We invite one and all to experience the beauty and depth of Catholic Truth at [www.familycatechism.com](http://www.familycatechism.com)."

The World Congress of Families, which is held once every three years, was begun by Pope John Paul II to strengthen the value of the family within the Catholic Church and throughout human society. Nearly 800 Catholic bishops were in attendance, as well one million Catholics from around the globe who focus on means and materials that strengthen Catholic families in their faith.

Founded in 1975 by Jerry Coniker and late wife Gwen, the Apostolate for Family Consecration is a pontifically approved association striving to consecrate families

See *Familycatechism.com*, p. 19

## Catholic Digest Online

### Find spiritual renewal in your garden this spring!

NEW LONDON, Conn. — Meet Allan A. Swenson, former U.S. intelligence officer and gardening author of more than 60 books, including his latest from Skyhorse Publishing. In "Foods Jesus Ate and How to Grow Them," Swenson discusses the ancient foods, including many fruits and vegetables that we still eat every day, and how cultivating them this spring will not only help our pocketbooks and the environment, but will refresh and renew our spirit. Recipes too!

Also...

- ONE CONNECTICUT FAMILY FINDS HOPE AFTER DEVASTATING LOSS: After a devastating house fire leaves them homeless, an even more unspeakable tragedy hits a Catholic family of seven. With the help of Ty Pennington's ABC television show, "Extreme Make-

over: Home Edition" and thousands of local volunteers, the family is given a new chance at hope.

- THE JOURNEY THAT CHANGED MY LIFE: Author Larry Levitt describes an unforgettable journey with his wife's family back to the small village they fled during World War II. As they approach the village, dozens of people come running to greet the hero they thought had died 40 years ago.

- KIDS CARE TOO! HOW THE NEXT GENERATION WILL CHANGE THE WORLD: How will children make the world a better place? Take a look at some of these big ideas from America's caring young minds.

Read these stories by visiting The Catholic Digest's Web site: [www.catholic-digest.com](http://www.catholic-digest.com).

## BIBLE STUDY

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

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BIBLE ATLAS  
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CITE  
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COVENANT  
DICTIONARY  
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LITERARY FORM  
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REFERENCE  
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SYNOPSIS  
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### Family Puzzle Contest Winners

Margaret Fehmel of Holy Cross Parish in Bay City has won the February Family Puzzle Contest Drawing and will receive the book "Love is in the Little Things ~ Tales of Family Life."

There were only two child contestants this month, Amanda Briscoe, 13, and Greyson Munsch, 8, both of St. Roch Parish in Mentz. Each will receive a gift from the Incarnate Word Gift Shop.

Many people faithfully send in their completed puzzle, month after month and even year after year, hoping to win the Family Puzzle Contest. A question has arisen from one of the contestants as to how one wins. The honest truth is that it's a drawing. Each of the puzzles are meticulously clipped to be the same size as each other, crumpled up to the same size, and then put in a box, stirred, and one name is pulled from the box. It's all a matter of chance. Often times if someone puts their name/information on a thicker tag-board type of paper and attaches it to the puzzle, we replace the heavy paper with the return address from the envelope, so that one contestant does not have an unfair advantage over another. This month we had over 50 contestants! Thank you so much to all those who entered!

If you have not won the puzzle contest within the past six months, please send completed puzzle, name, address, phone number and parish name by March 25 for a chance to win "The Bible Made Easy." Send to: Family Contest, *The Catholic Lighthouse*, P.O. Box 4070, Victoria, TX 77903. Only youth need to include age.

## "The Bible Made Easy" to be March Puzzle Contest Prize

"Bible Study" is our Faith and Family theme this month as many parishioners are involved in reading Scripture and sharing faith through *Disciples on the Journey*.

The Bible can be intimidating. This is as true for seasoned biblical scholars as it is for first-time readers. In *The Bible Made Easy ~ A Book-by-Book Introduction*, Rev. Timothy P. Schehr recognizes that the Bible is not one monolithic text, but a complete library – seventy-three volumes of poetry, stories, history, imagination and revelation. He offers a quick introduction to each of these books that highlights the main characters, the great themes, the central questions and the spiritual lessons.

With questions for reflection, helpful sidebars and a timeline of biblical events,

this volume is an indispensable roadmap (with a few handy shortcuts) for those embarking on the journey through our most important book.

Rev. Schehr teaches at the Athenaeum of Ohio/Mt. St. Mary's Seminary in Cincinnati, Ohio, and writes a weekly Scripture column for *The Catholic Telegraph*. He is the author of *Finding Your Bible: A Catholic's Guide* (St. Anthony Messenger Press).

*The Bible Made Easy ~ A Book-by-Book Introduction* is published by St. Anthony Messenger Press and sells for \$16.95; ISBN: 978-0-86716-598-2; Item #: B16598. It

can be purchased through St. Anthony Messenger Press, 28 W. Liberty Street, Cincinnati, OH 45202; 1-800-488-0488; or [www.AmericanCatholic.org](http://www.AmericanCatholic.org).





## The Counseling Corner

### Getting Sibling Rivalry Under Control

By the American Counseling Association

Having more than one child in your family almost guarantees disagreements, arguments and competition between the kids, at least sometimes. Your children may love one another, but disagreements between siblings still happen and still drive most parents crazy.

It's called "sibling rivalry" and its roots are probably buried in our prehistoric ancestors when surviving often meant you had to be number one in your parents' eyes. Today, actual survival isn't the issue, but staying number one in the parents' minds still is.

Young children often feel threatened when a sibling is born. They see parental love as limited and finite, but suddenly there's someone new to love, meaning less love for the older child.

It's not an irrational fear. A new baby is usually the center of attention and, out of necessity, takes up more of the parents' time. The older child probably feels he or she is suddenly less important and probably starts to misbehave to win back more attention.

The cure for that problem is to demonstrate to your children that you love them all. Simply saying it has no real affect. But when you set aside some "special time" for the older child, offer your unfocused attention, and give plenty of hugs and reassurances, you're demonstrating your love and overcoming that sense of feeling threatened.

As children get older, being jealous over parental love stops and is replaced by competition for parental attention. Siblings may compete to have better

grades, be better in sports, or demonstrate better musical or artistic skills.

That's often a good thing, leading to higher levels of accomplishment, if kept under control. While you want to praise a higher-achieving child, this shouldn't be at the expense of siblings. If one child is always "winning," you may want to tip the scales slightly and give the other child extra attention and time.

But competition can get out of hand, threatening family peace and harmony, and possibly doing physical or emotional harm to one or the other child. That's when help is needed.

School counselors are often

excellent sources of advice on excessive levels of sibling rivalry. A counseling professional specializing in children and families could also help.

While a little friendly sibling competition can sometimes be a good motivator, don't let it destroy family peace and happiness. As a parent, if you work to be fair with your love and attention, you may find sibling rivalry can disappear.

"The Counseling Corner" is provided as a public service by the American Counseling Association, the nation's largest organization of counseling professionals. Learn more about the counseling profession at the ACA Web site, [www.counseling.org](http://www.counseling.org).

## Your Family

By Bill and Monica Dodds  
Catholic News Service



### Ten things to do before Easter Sunday

It can be hard when Lent seems like something added to your to-do list (or a lot of some-things!). If you're a parent, your everyday list is long.

So what do you bump or put on hold or admit to yourself you're never going to accomplish until the kids grow up and move away?

On the other hand, if you don't bump, put or admit, then Lent can be like any other time of the year, and that would be a shame. Not "shame on you," but a shame your family -- and you -- missed this opportunity.

It's good for your children to know, it's good for their parents

to remember, that sacrificing is possible. More than a few families, no doubt including some in your parish, are already making a number of sacrifices this Lent and beyond because of current economic conditions. They're cutting way back and doing without because they have no other choice.

Lent is about choice. About many choices. About, time and again, deciding to do something more or not to do something you customarily like to do.

And Lent is about focusing. It's looking at what really matters and trimming away what doesn't.

If you'd like some ideas of what you can do from Ash Wednesday through Holy Saturday, here are some suggestions:

1. Donate to the local food bank. These wonderful organizations have been under a lot of stress lately as they try to help more and more families. Can't get over there with a bag of groceries? Send a check. Or go online. Many have ways to donate that way too.

2. As a family, read one complete Gospel. Yes, the first three (Matthew, Mark and Luke) are similar -- synoptic -- but each of them and John is unique.

3. Quit smoking. Yikes, that's a hard one, isn't it? A true sacrifice. Not a smoker? Pray for those who are quitting. Pray for those who are suffering health problems related to smoking. (Looking for help? A few years ago Bill wrote "1440 Reasons to Quit Smoking: One for Every Minute of the Day.")

4. Get to at least one weekday Mass every week.

5. Learn to weave palms. A number of Web sites offer

### Sunday readings from March 8 to April 10

|                                                                |                                                                                                            |
|----------------------------------------------------------------|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| March 15 —<br>Third Sunday of Lent                             | Exodus 20:1-17<br>Psalm 19:8, 9, 10, 11<br>1 Corinthians 1:22-25<br>John 2:13-25                           |
| March 22 —<br>Fourth Sunday of Lent                            | 2 Chronicles 36:14-16, 19-23<br>Psalm 137:1-2, 3, 4-5, 6<br>Ephesians 2:4-10<br>John 3:14-21               |
| March 29 —<br>Fifth Sunday of Lent                             | Jeremiah 31:31-34<br>Psalm 51:3-4, 12-13, 14-15<br>Hebrews 5:7-9<br>John 12:20-33                          |
| April 5 —<br>Palm Sunday of the Lord's Passion                 | Isaiah 50:4-7<br>Psalm 22:8-9, 17-18, 19-20, 23-24<br>Philippians 2:6-11<br>Mark 14:1 — 15:47              |
| April 9 —<br>Holy Thursday - Evening Mass of the Lord's Supper | Exodus 12:1-8, 11-14<br>Psalm 116:12-13, 15-16bc, 17-18<br>1 Corinthians 11:23-26<br>John 13:1-15          |
| April 10 —<br>Good Friday of the Lord's Passion                | Isaiah 52:13 — 53:12<br>Psalm 31:2, 6, 12-13, 15-16, 17, 25<br>Hebrews 4:14-16; 5:7-9<br>John 18:1 — 19:42 |

The complete Easter readings will be in the April issue.

directions, including [www.italiansrus.com/palms/palmpatterns.htm](http://www.italiansrus.com/palms/palmpatterns.htm).

6. Post a prayer request list on the refrigerator. It's an easy way to remind yourself that "I'll pray for you" is a promise that matters. It's an easy way to teach your children how to become people who make those promises.

7. Learn a new recipe for fish. All those meatless Fridays offer the family a chance to try something new. A vegetarian menu could be a good choice. In either case, in keeping with the spirit of Lent, keep it simple.

8. Ask forgiveness from someone you've hurt. Forgive someone who has hurt you. What a difference either can make.

9. Thank God for the gifts of faith, hope and love.

10. Hug your children and kiss your spouse!

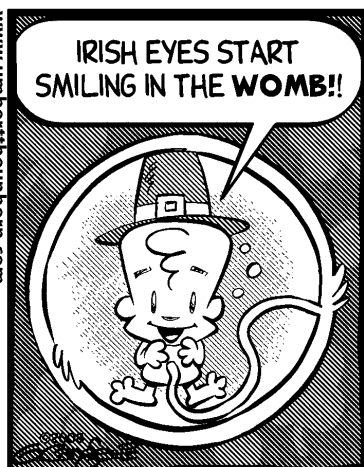
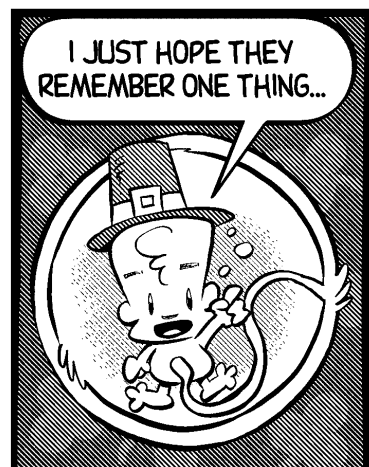
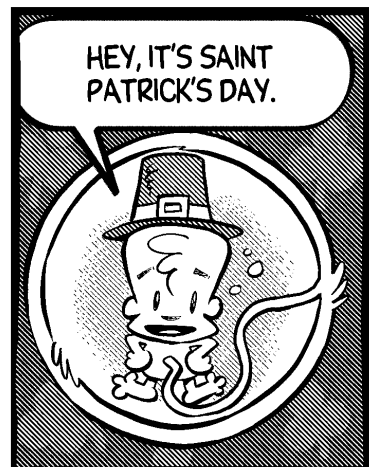
On the Web: Find Your Local Food Bank!

Feeding America (formerly known as America's Second Harvest) has made it easy to find your local food bank. Just type in your ZIP code at [www.feedingamerica.org](http://www.feedingamerica.org). Another way is to call your parish or local St. Vincent de Paul Society.

Bill and Monica Dodds are the founders of the Friends of St. John the Caregiver and editors of My Daily Visitor magazine. Their Web site is [www.FSJC.org](http://www.FSJC.org). They can be contacted at [MonicaDodds@YourAgingParent.com](mailto:MonicaDodds@YourAgingParent.com).

## Umbert the Unborn

by Gary Cangemi



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## Mensaje del Papa refleja los principios centrales de la Operación Plato de Arroz

*La iniciativa nacional de Cuaresma llama a los católicos a ayunar y combatir el hambre*

BALTIMORE, MD– El Mensaje de Cuaresma del Papa Benedicto XVI en el que llama a los cristianos a ayunar y “dar a los pobres lo que, gracias al ayuno, se había recogido” refleja profundamente los principios centrales de la Operación Plato de Arroz, la iniciativa anual de Cuaresma de Catholic Relief Services.

Cada Cuaresma, millones de católicos utilizan simbólicos platos de arroz como puntos focales de su oración comunitaria, ayuno y limosna –y para adoptar la actitud del “Buen Samaritano” –ayudando a la gente que ha sido afectada exponencialmente por los estratosféricos precios de los alimentos y, consecuentemente, del hambre.

A lo largo del pasado año, una Crisis Alimentaria Global se combinó con la crisis económica para generar un salto dramático en los precios de los alimentos en todo el mundo. Aunque los precios de las mercancías han caído, esto no necesariamente se refleja en los mercados locales, y los alimentos siguen fuera del alcance de muchos.

La Operación Plato de Arroz es para los católicos una oportunidad de marcar una diferencia. A los participantes en el programa se les anima a ayunar y hacer un pequeño sacrificio que consiste en preparar una sencilla comida cada semana y donar el dinero ahorrado a los programas de desarrollo para combatir el hambre que ejecuta Catholic Relief Services.

El año pasado, los católicos recaudaron unos \$7 millones mediante la Operación Plato de Arroz, 75% de los cuales se aplicarán a financiar proyectos para combatir el hambre y la pobreza en 40 países. El restante 25% se queda en las diócesis de Estados Unidos para apoyar programas de distribución directa de comida.

El mensaje cuaresmal del Papa resalta los principios fundamentales de la Oper-

ación Plato de Arroz: “Precisamente para mantener viva esta actitud de acogida y atención hacia los hermanos, animo a las parroquias y demás comunidades a intensificar durante la Cuaresma la práctica del ayuno personal y comunitario, cuidando asimismo la escucha de la Palabra de Dios, la oración y la limosna”, exhorta el Papa.

“La Operación Plato de Arroz lleva esperanza a los habitantes de los países en desarrollo, así como la oportunidad de romper el ciclo de la pobreza y el hambre obteniendo ingresos estables, aumentando sus cosechas y conectando los agricultores directamente a los mercados para que reciban precios adecuados por sus productos”, explica el Presidente de CRS, Ken Hackett. “Y eso le da a la gente aquí en Estados Unidos una oportunidad de manifestar su apoyo a los menos afortunados”, agrega Ken. En Egipto, por ejemplo, la Operación Plato de Arroz financió programas de microfinanzas que impulsan los pequeños negocios de manera que la gente pueda tener ingresos y llevar comida a sus mesas. En las Filipinas, esta iniciativa financia programas que ayudan a los agricultores a aumentar sus cosechas y asegurar suficiente alimento para sus comunidades. En Honduras, se utilizan fondos recaudados por la Operación Plato de Arroz para asistir a pequeños agricultores en el mejoramiento de sus cultivos facilitándoles capacitación e intercambio de experiencias con otros agricultores.

Catholic Relief Services es la agencia oficial internacional de carácter humanitario de la comunidad católica de los Estados Unidos. La agencia proporciona ayuda a las personas en más de 100 países y territorios en base a sus necesidades, sin importar la raza, la nacionalidad o la religión. Para más información, favor de visitar [www.crsespanol.org](http://www.crsespanol.org) (en español) y [www.crs.org](http://www.crs.org).

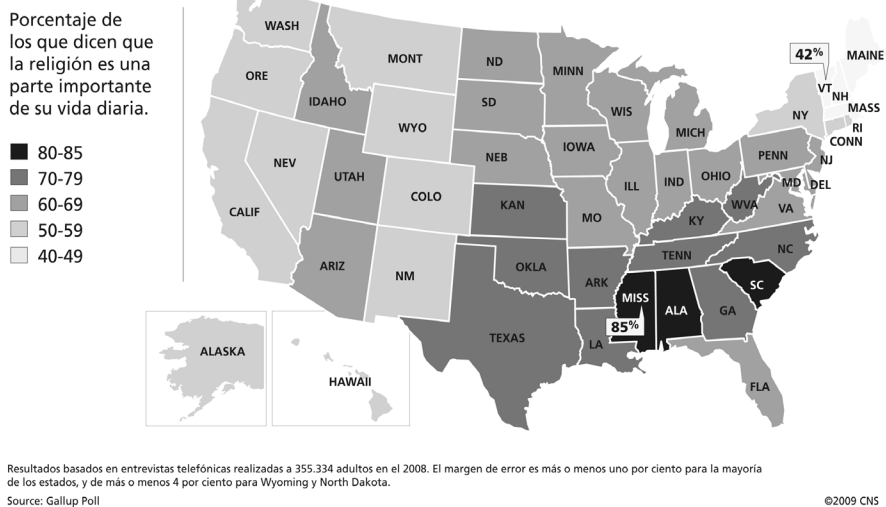


## Oración a Jesús Crucificado

*Mírame, oh mi amado y buen Jesús, que postrado ante tu divina presencia, te ruego con el mayor fervor, que imprimas en mi corazón los sentimientos de fe, de esperanza, y de caridad, dolor de mis pecados y propósito de jamás ofenderte, mientras que yo, con todo el amor y con toda la compasión de que soy capaz, voy considerando tus cinco llagas, comenzando por aquello que dijo de Ti el santo profeta David: “Han taladrado mis manos y mis pies, y se pueden contar todos mis huesos”*

## Importancia de la Religión

Cerca de dos tercios de los norteamericanos dicen que la religión es una parte importante de su vida diaria.



## Tortas de camarón y albóndigas de bacalao

**Por Mar Muñoz-Visoso**



Al pensar en la Cuaresma este año, por alguna razón, lo primero que me vino a la mente fue la comida. Las albóndigas de bacalao y el potaje de garbanzos de mi madre, y las tortas de camarón de mi suegra.

Se podría decir que Cuaresma y Semana Santa tienen en la comunidad hispana una serie de sabores especiales. Posiblemente esto sea cierto de cada pueblo y cultura.

Puede resultar curioso que comience hablando de comida en tiempo de ayuno y abstinencia. Sin embargo, muchas de nuestras tradiciones culturales, entre ellas las gastronómicas, nos ayudan a recordar los valores y costumbres de los tiempos litúrgicos, precisamente porque han nacido de ellos. Nos ayudan a ponernos “en ambiente”.

Pero, como todo, la Cuaresma se convierte en puro ritualismo si no se vive su significado profundo. Por ejemplo, a juzgar por el número de nosotros que asiste a la Iglesia en Miércoles de Ceniza, algunos pudieran pensar que este fuera para los hispanos el día más importante del año litúrgico. Pero ¿de qué sirve que nos impongan la ceniza si luego no hacemos el esfuerzo de acompañar al Maestro en su ascenso a Jerusalén?

La Cuaresma nos recuerda que la existencia humana es la historia de la relación interpersonal entre Dios y el hombre en el contexto de la alianza consagrada por Cristo. Esta alianza supone la superación constante del pecado y la conversión como actitud personal y comunitaria hacia Dios y los hermanos. Esta es la vocación del cristiano.

La conversión es un don de Dios que requiere una respuesta generosa y un esfuerzo de purificación interior por nuestra parte. Los temas recurrentes de las liturgias cuaresmales nos ayudan a recorrer ese itinerario: ayuno, abstinencia, sacrificio, moderación de los deseos, oración y obras

de caridad. Los evangelios dominicales nos presentan a Cristo como protagonista, modelo y maestro. Es un recorrido que invita a la superación del egoísmo y a la búsqueda de la justicia, donde la comunidad cristiana es a la vez signo e instrumento de reconciliación. Es, en definitiva, una invitación a vivir con intensidad la dimensión de bautizados, a recorrer un camino de fe más consciente.

Decía san Pedro Crisólogo: “Tres son, hermanos, los resortes que hacen que la fe se mantenga firme, la devoción constante y la virtud permanente. Estos tres son la oración, el ayuno y la misericordia. Porque la oración llama, el ayuno intercede y la misericordia recibe”. Esto es, la oración nos devuelve la comunión con Dios; la caridad nos reconcilia con los hermanos; y el ayuno, como ejercicio de autodominio, nos libera espiritualmente y nos reconcilia con nosotros mismos.

A menudo buscamos excusas para evitar las cosas que nos incomodan. “No se cae el mundo”, decimos, porque un viernes de Cuaresma coma carne, o porque no me prive de algo que me cueste; “ya buscaré tiempo para Dios más tarde”, mientras Internet, la televisión o el iPod llenan nuestra vida de ruido; “que otro se preocupe, ya tengo bastantes problemas”.

Mientras tanto, nos olvidamos de si el pordiosero al que evitamos dando un rodeo pasó la noche o el anciano que no visitamos murió de soledad; Dios nunca tuvo su minuto de atención; y, en esta sociedad de la abundancia, el cuerpo sigue empacando libras que no necesita. Dios se ha convertido en una voz lejana en nuestro corazón endurecido, un eco distante en nuestra conciencia. Y luego, nos extrañan los males espirituales y físicos que nos aquejan...

Necesitamos silencio. Necesitamos tiempos y espacios que nos permitan escuchar a Dios. Quizá hoy apague la radio de mi auto en el camino a casa. Por cierto, mamá, mándame la receta de las albóndigas. No me salen como a ti. Será el bacalao.

## Pope Benedict XVI Intentions

### March 2009

**General:** That the role of women may be more appreciated and used to good advantage in every country in the world.

**Mission:** That in the light of the letter addressed to them by Pope Benedict XVI, the bishops, priests, consecrated persons, and lay faithful of the Catholic Church in the Popular Republic of China may commit themselves to being the sign and instrument of unity, communion and peace.

<http://www.ewtn.com/faith/popePrayer.htm>

## BENEDICTO XVI AUDIENCIA GENERAL

**ñ Miércoles 11 de febrero de 2009:**

[http://www.vatican.va/holy\\_father/benedict\\_xvi/audiences/2009/documents/hf\\_ben-xvi\\_aud\\_20090211\\_sp.html](http://www.vatican.va/holy_father/benedict_xvi/audiences/2009/documents/hf_ben-xvi_aud_20090211_sp.html)



## The Taste of Lent (Cod meatballs and shrimp patties in tomato sauce)



By Mar  
Muñoz-Visoso

In thinking about Lent this year the first thing that came to mind was food: the albón-digas de bacalao (cod meatballs) and potaje (garbanzo soup) of my mother, and tortas de camarón (dry shrimp patties in tomato sauce) of my mother-in-law. It can be said that Lent and Holy Week have some special flavors in the Hispanic community. That is probably true of every people and culture.

It might seem strange to some that I talk about food in a time of fast and abstinence. Nonetheless, many of our cultural traditions, including the gastronomical, help us to remember values and customs of the liturgical seasons, precisely because they were born of them. They help us to get “in the mood.”

As with everything, however, Lent becomes a mere collection of rituals if not lived in its deepest meaning. For instance, judging by the numbers of us attending Ash Wednesday services, some people might think that for Hispanics this was the most important day in the liturgical calendar! But what is the point of receiving the ashes if later we do not make the effort to accompany the Master in his ascent to Jerusalem?

Lent reminds us that human existence is the story of an interpersonal relationship between man and God in the context of the new covenant sealed by Christ. This covenant makes possible a constant overcoming of sin in which conversion becomes our personal and communal attitude towards God and our brethren. This is the Christian vocation.

Conversion is a gift from God that requires a generous response and an internal purification effort on our part. The recurrent Lenten themes help us along the way:

fast, abstinence, sacrifice, moderation of desires, prayer and works of mercy. The Sunday Gospels present Jesus as protagonist, model and teacher. It is an itinerary that invites us to overcome selfishness and seek justice, and shows how the Christian community is both sign and instrument of reconciliation. It is, simply stated, an invitation to live more intensely our baptismal call, to lead a more conscious faith journey.

Saint Peter Chrysologus used to say, “Three are, brethren, the aids that allow for firm faith, constant devotion and permanent virtue. These three are prayer, fasting and mercy. For prayer calls, fasting intercedes, and mercy receives.” That is, prayer reinstates our communion with God; charity reconciles us with our brothers and sisters; and, fasting, as an exercise of self control, frees us up spiritually and reconciles us with ourselves.

We often find excuses to avoid what makes us uncomfortable. “The world doesn’t come to an end,” we say, just because I eat meat on a Friday of Lent, or don’t give up something; or “I’ll find time for prayer later,” while the Internet, the TV or the iPod fill our lives with noise; or “let someone else worry; I’ve got enough problems of my own.”

Meanwhile, we forget about whether the beggar we intentionally avoided made it through the night or the elder we didn’t visit died of loneliness; God never got his minute of attention; and, in this society of plenty, the body keeps packing up pounds it doesn’t need. God has become a distant voice in our hardened hearts, a remote echo in our conscience. And yet, we are mesmerized by our spiritual and physical ailments.

We need silence. We need times and spaces that allow us to listen to God. Maybe I will turn the radio off today on the drive home. By the way, Mom, send me the fish meatballs recipe. Mine don’t taste the same. It must be the cod.

## THE POPE SPEAKS

Pope  
Benedict XVI



CNS photo from Reuters

## Controlling passions harnesses energy for doing good, pope says

VATICAN CITY (CNS) -- When people control their passions and desires, they can direct their energy toward total love of God and serving others, Pope Benedict XVI said.

“Passions are not bad in themselves” but can lead to bad behavior if they are not controlled, the pope said Feb. 11 during his weekly general audience.

The pope’s talk focused on St. John Climacus, the sixth-century author of “Scala Paradisi” (“Ladder of Paradise”), a step-by-step explanation of how to grow and mature in the spiritual life.

Pope Benedict said St. John Climacus’ work divides the Christian spiritual journey into three phases: cultivating “spiritual infancy,” or the attitude of a child totally dependent on God; “spiritual combat” against human passions through the cultivation of spiritual virtues; and obtaining “Christian perfection” through faith, hope and love.

For St. John Climacus, he said, spiritual combat is not a negative exercise in the sense of ridding one’s life of desires, but rather takes the positive approach of cultivating virtues so that passion becomes a source of energy and of true longing for union with God.

“According to St. John, passions are not bad in themselves. They only become so because of the negative way people with their freedom use them. If they are purified, passions set people energetically on the path toward God,” the pope said.

Pope Benedict said it was legitimate to ask, “Can the writing of a hermit and monk who lived 1,500 years ago say something to us today?”

“At first, it would seem that the answer must be ‘no, he is too far removed from us.’ But if we look more closely we see that his monastic life is simply a great sign for the baptismal life of every Christian written in capital letters while we write each day with lowercase letters,” the pope said.

The pope told the estimated 8,000 people at his audience that, in reading the work of St. John, “For me it is particularly important that the highest point of the ladder, the top rungs, are at the same time the basic, initial, most simple virtues: faith, hope and love. They aren’t virtues that are accessible only to moral heroes. They are virtues that are gifts of God and in which our life grows.”

## Bishops Offer Web Resources for Lent

WASHINGTON—The U.S. Bishops have posted Web resources to help Catholics observe the season of Lent. Video resources include meditations on the crucified Christ and Michelangelo’s Pietà and an excerpt from “Come to the Water,” an hour-long documentary about the Rite of Christian Initiation of Adults (RCIA). Sponsored by the United States Conference of Catholic Bishops (USCCB), the site [www.usccb.org/lent](http://www.usccb.org/lent) is organized around the four pillars of the United States Catholic Catechism for Adults (USCCA). They highlight: What we believe; What we celebrate; How we live; and How we pray. The Web site also includes sample chapters from the U.S. Catechism on prayer, the sacraments and the passion and resurrection of Christ. It

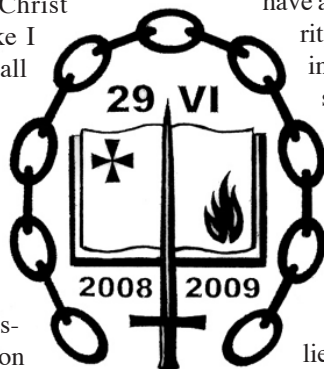
also features a question-and-answer section on the RCIA and the Paschal Triduum, from Holy Thursday through the Easter vigil on the evening of Holy Saturday. Resources for prayer include a tutorial on the rosary, text and audio versions of the Stations of the Cross, and a chapter on Lenten prayer from the 2007 USCCB publication, Catholic Household Blessings & Prayers. The “celebrate” section focuses on the two sacraments emphasized during Lent — Reconciliation and Baptism. The Lent Web site was created by the USCCB Communications Department under the leadership of the Digital Media Office. Funding for the audio-visual resources was provided by the U.S. bishops’ Catholic Communication Campaign at [www.usccb.org/cc](http://www.usccb.org/cc).

## The Good News from St. Paul Year of St. Paul ~ 2008-2009 Jubilee

Philippians 3:8 – 14 (NAB)

8) More than that, I even consider everything as a loss because of the supreme good of knowing Christ Jesus my Lord. For his sake I have accepted the loss of all things and I consider them so much rubbish, that I may gain Christ 9) and be found in him, not having any righteousness of my own based on the law but that which comes through faith in Christ, the righteousness from God, depending on faith 10) to know him and the power of his resurrection and (the) sharing of his sufferings by being conformed

to his death, 11) if somehow I may attain the resurrection from the dead. 12) It is not that I have already taken hold of it or have already attained perfect maturity, but I continue my pursuit in hope that I may possess it, since I have indeed been taken possession of by Christ (Jesus). 13) Brothers, I for my part do not consider myself to have taken possession. Just one thing: forgetting what lies behind but straining forward to what lies ahead, 14) I continue my pursuit toward the goal, the prize of God’s upward calling, in Christ Jesus.



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## Gallup Poll: Most Americans Disapprove Of Mexico City Policy Reversal

WASHINGTON—“Cardinal Justin Rigali, Chairman of the U.S. bishops’ Committee on Pro-Life Activities, has said that the bishops find the recent decision by President Barack Obama to reverse the Mexico City Policy ‘very disappointing.’ Most Americans seem to agree. The January 31-February 1 USA Today/Gallup poll survey shows that only 35 percent of those surveyed approve of the president’s controversial move ‘allowing funding to overseas family planning groups that provide abortions.’ Fifty-eight percent disapproved of this executive order. An administration that wants to reduce abortions should not divert U.S. funds to groups that perform and promote abortion. Our country faces serious national challenges at this time, requiring Americans to unite for the common good of all, especially the poor and vulnerable. This is no time to divide our nation with policies that offend the pro-life values of most Americans,” stated Deirdre McQuade, assistant director for policy and communications for the U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops’ Secretariat of Pro-Life Activities.

## Physicians take legal, educational steps to defend conscience rights

WASHINGTON (CNS) — To combat what they see as threats to the conscience rights of health care professionals who oppose abortion, the Catholic Medical Association and other organizations are taking both legal and educational steps. The Philadelphia-based Catholic Medical Association, which has some 1,100 members nationwide, has joined with the Christian Medical Association and the American Association of Pro-Life Obstetricians and Gynecologists in an effort to intervene legally against lawsuits filed by the attorneys general of eight states, Planned Parenthood of America and the National Family Planning and Reproductive Health Association. The suits seek to overturn a Department of Health and Human Services regulation that codifies several existing federal statutes prohibiting discrimination against health professionals who decline to participate in abortions or other medical procedures because of their religious or other moral objections. Without the regulation, which took effect two days before the inaugura-

tion of President Barack Obama, members of the three groups would be subject to “the imminent threat of being forced ... to perform abortions, assist in abortions, train for abortions and refer individuals for abortions despite their religious, moral and ethical objections to the practice of abortion,” said court papers filed with the U.S. District Court in Hartford, Conn.

## U.S. archbishop expresses grave concerns about Legionaries of Christ

BALTIMORE (CNS) — Concerned that the Legionaries of Christ order stifles the free will of its members and lacks transparency, Archbishop Edwin F. O’Brien of Baltimore told its director general in Rome that he cannot in good conscience recommend that anyone join the Legionaries or Regnum Christi, its affiliated lay movement. In the Archdiocese of Baltimore, the Legionaries of Christ are affiliated with Woodmont Academy in the Baltimore suburb of Cooksville. Regnum Christi is also active in several parishes. The archbishop’s action came in the wake of revelations that the late Father Marciel Maciel Degollado, founder of the Legionaries of Christ, fathered a daughter while serving as leader of the international religious order. Pope Benedict XVI had previously removed the Mexican priest from public ministry in 2006, asking him to lead a life of prayer and penance after Father Maciel faced allegations of sexual abuse of seminarians and financial irregularities. “It seems to me and many others that this was a man with an entrepreneurial genius who, by systematic deception and duplicity, used our faith to manipulate others for his own selfish ends,” Archbishop O’Brien told The Catholic Review, Baltimore archdiocesan newspaper, in a telephone interview following his Feb. 20 Rome meeting with Father Alvaro Corcuera, director general of the Legionaries. Father Maciel died in 2008. Jim Fair, a U.S. spokesman for the order, told the newspaper that revelations about Father Maciel have been a “great shock” and “great disappointment” to members, but that the order has achieved “very positive things” for the church.



Daylight Savings Time Begins March 8

## Vatican says recent apologies from traditionalist bishop aren’t enough

VATICAN CITY (CNS) -- The Vatican said Bishop Richard Williamson’s statement of regret for denying the extent of the Holocaust does not meet the Vatican’s demand that he publicly recant his position. “The declaration of the bishop does not seem to respect the conditions established in the note of the Secretariat of State of Feb. 4, 2009, where it says that he ‘must distance himself in an absolutely unequivocal and public way from his positions regarding the Shoah,’” Jesuit Father Federico Lombardi, the Vatican spokesman, said Feb. 27.

The Vatican had said Bishop Williamson would not be allowed to function as a bishop in the church unless he disavowed his remarks about the Holocaust and publicly apologized. He is one of four traditionalist bishops whose excommunication was lifted in January by Pope Benedict XVI.

On Feb. 26, Bishop Williamson released a statement in London saying his superior, Bishop Bernard Fellay, and the pope “have requested that I reconsider the remarks I made on Swedish television four months ago because their consequences have been so heavy.”

“Observing these consequences I can truthfully say that I regret having made such remarks, and that if I had known beforehand the full harm and hurt to

which they would give rise, especially to the church, but also to survivors and relatives of victims of injustice under the Third Reich, I would not have made them,” he said.

Bishop Williamson said that in an interview broadcast in January by Swedish television he had offered “only the opinion ... of a nonhistorian, an opinion formed 20 years ago on the basis of evidence then available and rarely expressed in public since.”

“However, the events of recent weeks and the advice of senior members of the Society of St. Pius X have persuaded me of my responsibility for much distress caused. To all souls that took honest scandal from what I said, before God I apologize,” he said. “As the Holy Father has said, every act of unjust violence against one man hurts all mankind.”

Bishop Williamson left Argentina Feb. 24 after the government told him he must leave or face expulsion. Argentina’s Interior Ministry said Feb. 19 that Bishop Williamson “has concealed the true motive for his stay in the country” because he said he was an employee of a nongovernmental group when he was serving as rector of the seminary of the Society of St. Pius X in La Reja for the past five years. The bishop was removed as head of the seminary in early February.

## After 150 years, evolution debate continues among people of faith

*Continued from p. 1*

A Gallup Poll released Feb. 12, the 200th anniversary of Darwin’s birth, showed that 39 percent of Americans accept evolutionary theory while 25 percent do not. Another 36 percent of respondents had no opinion.

Popes Pius XII, John Paul II and Benedict XVI in particular have expressed interest in biological evolution. Pope Pius XII wrote in a 1950 encyclical that there was no conflict between evolution and faith, as long as there were certain firm points of faith where no concession can be made.

More than half a century later Pope John Paul II cited the encyclical in offering firm support for Darwin’s work, telling the Pontifical Academy of Sciences in 1996 that “new knowledge leads to recognition of the theory of evolution as more than a hypothesis.”

Despite such public support, Catholics have a shallow understanding of the issues that Darwin’s theory raises, Sloan

explained in announcing the congress in September 2008.

Sloan told Catholic News Service the conference will be a step toward helping interject Catholics into the discussion, but with a focus on the nature of human existence. People of faith do not have to be backed into a corner, forced to choose one or the other, leading Catholic proponents of evolution told CNS.

## SCAM: President signs bill to cut credit card bills in half

HOUSTON—The Better Business Bureau is warning consumers about a new scam promising help to cut their credit card bill. To sound legitimate, they are saying they are with the United States Better Business Bureau, and state that President Obama has just signed a bill allowing the Better Business Bureau to help them. Consumers should be alert to the fact that scam artists will use the change in administration and the talk of stimulating the economy to take advantage of people by stealing their money. Do not be fooled by people who call and say they represent the government or any other legitimate organization and ask for personal information. Never give out bank account numbers, credit card numbers or social security number to anyone who calls you on the phone. Contact your local Better Business Bureau or go to [www.bbb.org](http://www.bbb.org) to check first. Better to be safe rather than sorry. This information was provided by The Better Business Bureau was Education Foundation, Houston, Texas 77027

## Archbishop says he’s glad pope stressed pro-life teaching to Pelosi

*Continued from p. 1*

of the Catholic Church on abortion” in the interview.

Cardinal Justin Rigali of Philadelphia and Bishop William E. Lori of Bridgeport, Conn., said the church since the first century “has affirmed the moral evil of every abortion.”

“The teaching has not changed and remains unchangeable,” their statement said. “Direct abortion, that is to say, abortion willed either as an end or a means, is gravely contrary to the moral law.”

Please pray for Mrs. Pelosi.



## UN statistics reveal extent of world hunger

VATICAN CITY (CNS) -- In his 2009 Lenten message Pope Benedict XVI said the spiritual practice of fasting also should lead to concrete action on behalf of the hungry.

"Fasting is an aid to open our eyes to the situation in which so many of our brothers and sisters live," the pope said in the message released at the Vatican Feb. 3.

The Vatican invited Josette Sheeran, executive director of the World Food Program, to its press conference presenting the message.

The following are statistics on world hunger from the World Food Program and the Office of the U.N. Secretary-General:

— In 2008, the number of undernourished people in the world rose to 963 million (more than the combined populations of the United States, Canada and the European Union), up 40 million from 2007.

— The majority of undernourished people live in developing countries, with about 65 percent of the total living in India, China, Democratic Republic of Congo, Bangladesh, Indonesia, Pakistan and Ethiopia.

— Hunger and malnutrition are the No. 1 risk to health worldwide, greater than AIDS, malaria and tuberculosis combined.

— Hunger does not affect just the individual. Economists estimate that every child whose physical and mental development is stunted by hunger and malnutrition stands to lose 5 percent to 10 percent in lifetime earnings.

— The total food surplus of the United States alone could satisfy every empty stomach in Africa; France's leftovers could feed the hungry in Democratic Republic of Congo and Italy's could feed Ethiopia's undernourished.

— Today 25,000 people will die from hunger. A child dies every six seconds of malnutrition or starvation.

— A number of factors, including high energy and fertilizer costs, sent global food prices soaring to all-time highs in 2008. In March the price of rice hit a 19-year high while wheat climbed to its highest level in 28 years. However the price of staple foods throughout the world has declined over the last few months.

— Food riots erupted in the spring of 2008 in Haiti, Mexico and Senegal. The World Bank estimated that social unrest, as a consequence of the world food crisis, could spread to 33 countries. Although riots have eased in recent months, at a meeting in Madrid, Spain, Jan. 26, Ban Ki-moon, U.N. secretary-general, urged wealthy nations not to ignore the shocking problem of world hunger.

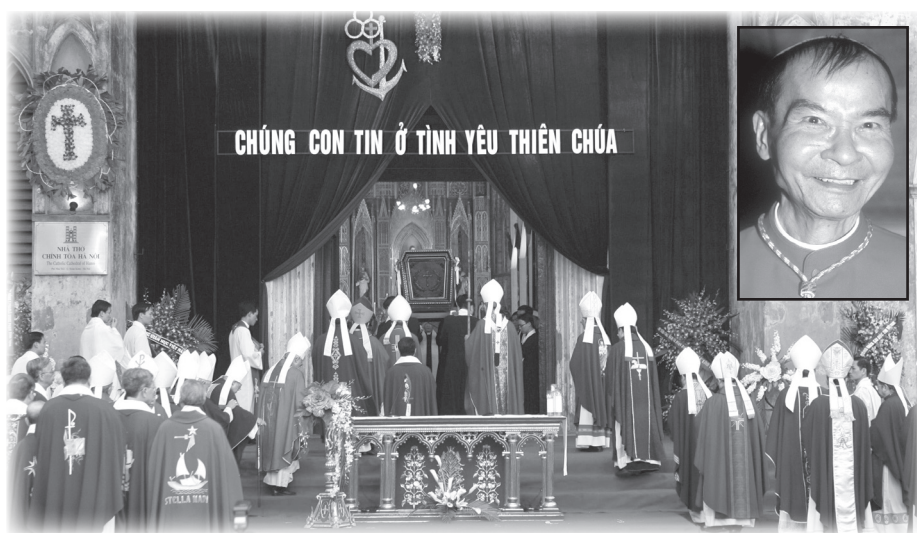
— *There is enough food in the world today for everyone to have the nourishment necessary for a healthy and productive life.*

## Vietnamese cardinal, known for leadership during hard times, dies

HANOI, Vietnam (CNS) — Cardinal Paul Pham Dinh Tung, known for his leadership of Catholics in northern Vietnamese dioceses during difficult times, died at the age of 89 on Feb. 22 at the archbishop's residence in Hanoi, a local church source told the Asian church news agency UCA News. Cardinal Tung's funeral Mass was held Feb. 26 at the cathedral square, and he was buried in the cathedral, the archdiocese announced.

During Cardinal Tung's name-day celebration Jan. 25, 2008, Bishop Minh praised the cardinal for bravely witnessing to the Catholic faith by urging northern dioceses to remain faithful to the church during the 1960s, '70s and '80s, under communist rule and during the Vietnam War. The cardinal founded centers for people displaced by war.

Pope Benedict XVI expressed his sadness over the death of Cardinal Tung and said he was united in prayer with the Archdiocese of Hanoi, the bishops of Vietnam, the relatives of the cardinal and all those touched by his death. The pope called him "a distinguished pastor who, in difficult circumstances, served the church with great courage and great fidelity to the see of Peter, sacrificing himself with generosity to the announcement of the Gospel."



Priests carry the coffin of Cardinal Paul Pham Dinh Tung during his funeral at St. Joseph Cathedral in Hanoi, Vietnam, Feb. 26. Thousands of Vietnamese Catholics wearing white headbands, a tradition of mourning the death of a family member, filled the streets and plaza in front of Hanoi's main cathedral for the funeral of Cardinal Tung who was a father to all Vietnamese Catholics. (CNS photo/Kham, Reuters) INSET: Vietnamese Cardinal Paul Pham Dinh Tung is seen in an undated file photo.

## Papal trip to Holy Land takes shape

VATICAN CITY (CNS) — Pope Benedict XVI's planned trip to the Holy Land was slowly taking shape in February, and the tentative schedule included a number of important pastoral and interreligious events. The proposed itinerary would take the pope to Jordan May 8-11, for a visit to the new King Hussein Mosque in Amman, meetings with Jordanian officials, a Mass for Catholics in a soccer stadium, a stop at Jesus' baptism site at the Jordan River and a pilgrimage to Mount Nebo, where Moses once looked out at the Promised Land. The pope would travel from Jordan to Israel May 11 and visit the Yad Vashem Holocaust memorial in Jerusalem the same day. Over the next three and a half days, he would visit the Western Wall, sacred to Jews; meet with Jewish and Muslim leaders; hold talks with Israeli and Palestinian leaders; visit a Palestinian refugee camp; and celebrate Mass in Bethlehem, Nazareth and Jerusalem. Before returning to Rome May 15, the tentative schedule calls for the pope to hold a brief ecumenical encounter and visit the Church of the Holy Sepulcher. There was talk of a papal stop in war-devastated Gaza, but Vatican sources said there were no firm plans for such an event; instead, a delegation of Gaza residents was expected to attend one of the papal Masses.

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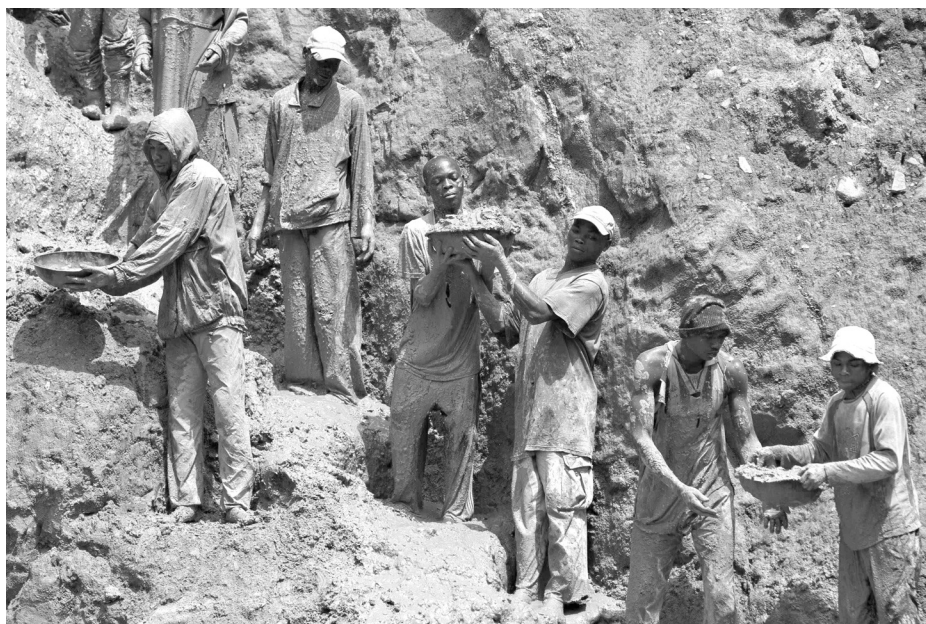
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Gold miners form a human chain while digging an open pit at the Chudja mine near the village of Kobu, 62 miles from Bunia in northeastern Congo, Feb. 23. Civil conflict in Congo has been driven for more than a decade by the violent struggle for control over the country's vast natural resources, including gold, diamonds and timber, most of which is exploited using hard manual labor. (CNS photo/Finbarr O'Reilly, Reuters)

## Capitol Comments:

### Tell Pharaoh, King of Egypt, to Set My People Free: The Old Testament Roots of Political Advocacy

By: Jennifer Carr Allmon, Associate Director of the Texas Catholic Conference

Every week during legislative session, we send out our email newsletter, the Texas Catholic Voice, which includes a weekly report of bills that the conference is supporting or opposing in the Texas legislature. Every week, inevitably we get some version of the same question: "Why do the bishops support/oppose fill-in-the-blank?" If readers agree with our position, they praise the leadership and wisdom of the bishops and the Church. However, when someone does not agree with the position, we hear the refrain: "The Church has no place in politics and needs to stay out of state affairs."

Is there a precedent for the mixing of church and state, scripturally speaking? There is. A short reflection on Scripture shows that the tradition of advocacy, of speaking out before government, goes all the way back to the Old Testament and the story of Moses. In Exodus, Chapters 3-12, the Lord commands Moses to tell Pharaoh to set his people, the Israelites, free. Moses is nervous about such an order and explains to the Lord that he cannot do this because he is a poor speaker, "slow of speech and tongue." God, however, is persistent in his commandment and assigns Aaron to assist Moses in his task. Now, we all know that Pharaoh doesn't immediately jump into action and free the Israelites, to do so would upset his whole

system of work and power. But, Moses and Aaron model God's persistence and after all the plagues, Pharaoh finally allows the Israelites to leave.

Today's injustices are numerous and, like Moses and Aaron, we are compelled by the Lord to cry out to the modern-day Pharaohs. Too often respect for the life and dignity of the human person are overlooked and basic human rights, even the right to life, are disregarded as expensive or inconvenient. The bishops, through their work in the realm of public policy, have provided guidance to us on the moral and social dimensions of today's political questions.

Our foundational principle to protect the life and dignity of all human persons calls us to work to end abortion, euthanasia, destruction of human embryos, cloning and assisted suicide. We recognize the historic and present-day contributions of immigrants in Texas by supporting their ability to work in a healthy environment in order to provide for their families and continue their valuable participation in the community. We recognize parents as the primary educators of their children through supporting parental choice in education. We show God's special concern for the poor and vulnerable by supporting programs that make health care more affordable and accessible, as well as measures that provide for environmental protections and morally appropriate health research. We support fiscal and moral reform in our state's criminal justice system with an emphasis on ending the death penalty and supporting successful rehabilitation and reintegration of those re-entering society.

So, why does the Church enter the public dialogue? Why do the bishops direct the Texas Catholic Conference to take a position on these key issues of human life and dignity? It's simple really. The Lord has spoken and the people of God are not yet free.

To subscribe to the Texas Catholic Voice for weekly updates on the legislative activity of the Texas Catholic Conference, or to learn more about the Conference, visit [www.TXcatholic.org](http://www.TXcatholic.org) or the diocese's Web site.

## Living Well

By Maureen Pratt  
Catholic News Service



### Unemployed or under productive?

In the current economic crisis, hundreds of thousands of people at all levels of the corporate ladder have found themselves unemployed. More will undoubtedly follow in the months ahead. Besides economic hardship, these workers are also experiencing a profound lifestyle change that, if not managed carefully, can put them at risk for developing health and emotional problems, even depression and a sense of worthlessness.

It is very natural to equate worth, skill and productivity with a job. But in reality our value is much more than a paycheck. It transcends the traditional concept of the workplace.

As Christians, we know that the Lord values each of us as precious children, and our workplace is, in truth, the world.

But how can we build upon this knowledge when there is seemingly no immediate, easy solution to daily needs and stresses? By putting Christian principles into practice.

Face reality. Now is not the time to hide under the proverbial covers! Make sure that you are doing all you can to keep afloat financially. Apply for unemployment, determine health insurance possibilities, analyze daily expenses and cut costs where possible, put off unnecessary purchases and communicate with creditors to minimize financial stress.

Keep busy. A new job will not usually fall from the sky. Although there is no work schedule to keep an unemployed person busy, there is still plenty to do: assessing job prospects, networking with referrals given by friends and family, preparing a resume and list of references.

Make a list of things to do and try to accomplish at least three of them each day.

Pray and assess. Perhaps you had the perfect job. Perhaps you thought you did, but you really didn't. Being unemployed allows you unhurried time to pray for God's guidance and wisdom. Take a sober, objective view of your talents and training. Listen for God's whisper urging you to go one way -- his way. Look upon this time as a spiritual and personal adventure, one that will contain good insight and surprises.

Maintain relationships. When we face a crisis, we need others to support us, and we need to support them too. Avoid feelings of jealousy toward those who are still employed. Focus instead on being a good friend, a strong encourager, a brother or sister in Christ.

Consider volunteering. No matter how dire your circumstances, there is always someone in greater need. Through your parish, local schools, shelters or other organizations, there are opportunities for volunteering that will allow you to reach out to others and put your skills to work.

Tend to health. If you've ever used having to work as an excuse not to exercise, now's your chance! Set up a fitness schedule and stick to it. Prepare healthy meals. Allow your vitality to flow into other aspects of your life, especially your job search.

Seek help. The stresses stemming from being unemployed can lead to emotional and physical problems, including depression. These are nothing to be ashamed of, and they can be helped. If you sense that the stress is becoming too much, seek help through your pastor, church family, physician or a trusted family member. Problems can look darkest when we keep them bottled inside.

In Romans 8:28, St. Paul writes: "We know that all things work for good for those who love God, who are called according to his purpose."

As scary as being unemployed can be, in faith we know that God is good, he calls us and we can draw strength from his purpose for our lives even in these troubled times.

(Contact Pratt at [maurpratt@aol.com](mailto:maurpratt@aol.com) or [www.maureenpratt.com](http://www.maureenpratt.com).)

### Legal Immigrant Children, Pregnant Women Included in SCHIP

President Obama signed H.R. 2, a reauthorization of the State Children Health Insurance Program (SCHIP) on Feb. 4, which included provisions that give states the option to cover legal immigrant children and legal immigrant pregnant women. SCHIP is a federal matching-funds program that allows states to provide health insurance to children from low-income families. Since 1996, legal immigrants have had to wait five years after entering the United States to participate in the program. H.R. 2 would remove this restriction and allow states to offer SCHIP and Medicaid health coverage to children of legal permanent residents (LPR's) without a waiting period provided that they meet the programs' income eligibility requirements. The inclusion of LPR children in the Senate-passed SCHIP bill is in keeping with one central request of the USCCB.

## If . . .

9,125,000 people die per year from a disease and 44,000,000 die per year from another disease, and you could only prevent one of the diseases, which one should be addressed most urgently, the first one or the second?

Stupid question??

Both hunger, with 9,125,000 deaths worldwide each year, and abortion, with almost five times more deaths, with 44,000,000 worldwide each year, need to be addressed.

The first happens unintentionally out of ignorance and apathy on the world's part and intentionally by greedy warlords.

The second happens intentionally through fear and ignorance on the part of young men and women and intentionally through law and the greed of the abortion industry.

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## At EWTN, March is “Catholic Warriors” Month Honoring Catholics Who Confronted Nazis, Communists and Other Evils

IRONDALE, AL (EWTN) — They risked their lives to save Jews from the Nazis, infiltrated the USSR to minister to the suffering, lost their lives for the Faith, and changed the world forever: They are the heroes of our Catholic Faith and, during the month of March, EWTN Global Catholic Network will honor some of the best of them. Set your video recorders for the following:

- **A Grave in Perm: The Father Walter Ciszek Story** — Convicted of being a Vatican spy, he spent 23 years of hard labor in Siberia, ministering to fellow prisoners despite his own suffering. Airs 2:00 a.m. CT, Monday, March 9.

- **Assisi in Silence** — A riveting look at the underground network of clergy and religious in Assisi who risked their lives to save Jews during the Nazi occupation. Airs 9:00 p.m. CT, Wednesday, March 11.

- **Tyburn Tree** — Learn about the more than 100 Catholics who were martyred at Tyburn Gallows, one of 17th Century London’s most infamous places of public execution. Airs 5:00 a.m. CT, Tuesday, March 17.

- **Holy Roman Spies: The Vatican’s Secret Agents** — Meet the priests trained by the Vatican to infiltrate the Iron Curtain and minister to people suffering under Communist oppression. Airs 3:30 a.m. CT Wednesday, March 18.

- **The Young John Paul II: Witness to Evil** — Learn how future Pope’s encounters with the evil of Nazism and Communism forged an unyielding commitment to human dignity that changed the course of history. Airs 7:00 p.m. CT, Saturday, March 28. EWTN Global Catholic Network, in its 28th year, is available in over 148 million television households in more than 140 countries and territories. With its direct broadcast satellite television and radio services, AM & FM radio networks, worldwide short-wave radio station, Internet Web site [www.ewtn.com](http://www.ewtn.com) and publishing arm, EWTN, is the largest religious media network in the world.

## Familycatechism.com Site Unveiled at 6th World Congress of Families

*Continued from p. 12*

to the Holy Family and in the truths of our Faith in the spirit of Pope John Paul II. The Family Apostolate reaches families in Asia, Europe, Africa, and North and South America through its Consecration in Truth Catechetical Series, its Internet Media Library, its 24-hour Familyland Television Network and its programs at Catholic Familyland.

**Do You Have A When & Where Item?**

**FAX To: (361) 573-5725**

**E-mail: [janakr@victoriadiocese.org](mailto:janakr@victoriadiocese.org)  
ASAP**

### Special Collections

**Operation Rice Bowl - Sundays of Lent and Easter Sunday, April 12**

**Catholic Relief Services — March 21 and 22**

### 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: June 26-28; 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 or 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@yaho.com](mailto:sanantonio@yaho.com); phone: (210) 734-2146.

**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). **Upcoming events:** The 24th Annual Goliad Massacre — Fort Defiance Living History Program will be held Saturday and Sunday, March 28 – 29. This recreation of the occupation of the fort by Col. Fannin and the Goliad Massacre is the only event of its kind in the state of Texas. Schedule of events: Saturday, 9:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. — recreation of occupation; Saturday, 7:00 to 9:00 p.m. — Candlelight Tours; Sunday — massacre re-enactment at 10:00 a.m. followed by a pilgrimage to the Fannin Memorial for a service.

### Picnics, Activities, etc.

#### Lent Activities

**Weimar** — St. Michael Fish Fry every Friday night during Lent through April 3 at the family center sponsored by KC Council 2153. Fresh fish, wedge fried potatoes, hush puppies, coleslaw and tea all for \$8 p/p (all-you-can eat/dine-in); drive-thru plates \$7.50. Serving from 5:00 - 7:00 p.m.

#### March

**Victoria** — Bilingual charismatic healing Mass, Saturday, March 7, at Our Lady of Sorrows (208 W. River St.) with Father Stan De Boe as celebrant. There will be singing, praising, adoration, confession (4:00 p.m.), rosary (5:15 p.m.) and Mass (6:00 p.m.). Misa de sanacion, Sabado, Marzo 7. Vengan todos!

**Blessing** — Knights of Columbus Council 4307 will sponsor their annual fish fry and raffle March 8 at St. Peter’s Parish Hall. Fried-catfish dinner will be served from 10:30 a.m.-1:00 p.m. at \$7 p/p (includes dessert and drink). There will also be an auction. The proceeds will benefit KC scholarships and charities.

**New Taiton** — St. John’s Altar Society Annual Chicken Dinner March 8 at Taiton Community Center. Fried-chicken and homemade dressing will be served beginning at 11:00 a.m. with dine-in or plates-to-go at \$7 p/p. There will be an auction, cakewalk, country store, kiddy area and much more.

**Schulenburg** — St. Rose Spring Festival March 8 at the KC Hall. A turkey dinner will be served from 10:30 a.m.-1:00 p.m. at \$7 p/p adult and \$3 p/p children with drive-thru available for adult plates only. Live auction at 11:30 a.m. There will be a cakewalk, music and much more.

**Victoria** — KJZT Society 101 will have a bake sale March 14 and 15 at Holy Family Church after all Masses. All proceeds will benefit Community Action Committee.

**Victoria** — Knights of Columbus Council 1329 chicken-barbecue fund-raiser March 15 at the KC Hall. The price is \$6 per chicken. Beans and Spanish rice available for \$1 per pint. Sale starts at 8:30 a.m. Proceeds benefit council’s projects.

**Hallettsville** — John Michael Talbot will be in concert at Sacred Heart Parish Thursday, March 26, at 7:00 p.m.; admission \$10. Call parish office at (361) 798-5888 for more information.

**Corpus Christi** — Fullness of Truth 5th Annual Lenten Catholic Family Conference — Search & Rescue will be held March 28-29 at the American Bank Center in Corpus Christi. For more information or to register go to: [www.FullnessOfTruth.org](http://www.FullnessOfTruth.org) or 1-877-21truth (218-7448).

**Inez** — Catholic Daughters Court 2475 Games Party March 29 at the CCD Center (on Church St.) from 2:00-5:00 p.m. Entrance fee of \$6 p/p includes refreshments. Make reservations to Kathy at (361) 575-3559 or Laura at (361) 935-6918.

### Upcoming Events

**Victoria** — St. Mary’s Altar Society Annual Games Party will be held Tuesday, April 28, from 11:30 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. at St. Mary’s activity center at 401 S. Liberty Street. Lunch and refreshments will be served; admission is \$7 per person. Home-baked goods, sewing and craft items to be sold in Country Store. Raffle prizes include queen-size quilt, wooden rocker and \$100 gift certificates. Play Bridge, Canasta, Skip-Bo, Hand & Foot and dominoes. Make reservations with Ann Carver 575-2050 or Martha Hamel 575-1932.

#### Retreats

**Victoria** — Our Lady of Sorrows is sponsoring a retreat for women March 13-14, at the Incarnate Word Convent. The retreat will begin on Friday evening at 6:00 p.m., ending at 9:00 p.m. (no over-night stay; no need to pack a suitcase). We will resume Saturday morning at 8:15, and conclude with an evening dinner. The Spiritual Director will be Dotty Hernandez of Houston; scheduled speakers will include Nancy Neuman, Houston; Lupe Schaefer, Victoria; Darla Hickman, Houston; and Susan Kristnek, Bay City. Registration is \$25/person to cover the cost of our speakers and meals. Space is limited; must register prior to retreat by calling Sally Palacios at (361) 576-2333 or 676-8286.

**San Antonio** — 2009 4th Annual Catholic Men’s Conference Saturday, March 14, from 8:00 a.m.-6:00 p.m., at St. Matthew Church in San Antonio, sponsored by The Pilgrim Center of Hope (A Catholic Evangelization Center for the Archdiocese of San Antonio). There will be internationally known speakers, Mass with Bishop Oscar Cantu, Eucharistic Healing Service with Father Joseph Mary Marshall, meals and more! **SPEAKERS:** Father Mary David Hoyt, FJ - “Taking Mary, Mother of God Into Your Home;” Patrick Madrid (EWTN) - “Answers to the Lies Society Tells You;” Arland K. Nichols, MDiv - To “Build a Culture of Life and Love;” Christopher J. Stravitsch, MA, LMFT-A - “One Man, One Challenge, One Mission;” Greg Alexander (Alexander House) “Including God in All Relations.” Cost (per person): Pre-registration - \$35; after Wednesday, March 11, \$45 (Includes conference packet, breakfast tacos and Texas barbecue lunch). To register please contact Deacon Tom Fox at (210) 521-3377 or register on-line at: [trust@catholic.org](mailto:trust@catholic.org). St. Matthew is located at McDonald Center 10703 Wurzbach Road, San Antonio, 78230. [www.pilgrimcenterforhope.org](http://www.pilgrimcenterforhope.org).

**Ferdinand, Indiana** — Single Catholic women, ages 18 to 40, who want to experience the Benedictine way of life are invited to attend a Benedictine Life Weekend March 20-22, 2009, at Monastery Immaculate Conception in Ferdinand, Indiana. The weekend, sponsored by the Sisters of St. Benedict of Ferdinand, will focus on the theme “The Spirit of the Rule of Benedict.” Participants will have the opportunity to experience the rhythm of the monastic schedule, pray with the sisters, and participate in community life, as well as meet other women who are considering religious life. There is no charge for the program, which runs from 7 p.m. EDT, Friday to 1 p.m., Sunday. Women wishing to register or obtain more information can call Sister Agnes Marie Dauby or Sister Michelle Sinkhorn at 800-738-9999 or e-mail them at [vocation@thedome.org](mailto:vocation@thedome.org). Registration is also available online at [www.thedome.org](http://www.thedome.org), where there is more information about the vocation program.

**Villanova, Pa.** — Are you or a loved one experiencing homosexual attractions and looking for answers? “Courage,” an apostolate of the Roman Catholic Church and endorsed by the Pontifical Council for the Family, ministers to those with same-sex attractions. They also have an outreach called Encourage, which ministers to relatives and friends of persons with same-sex attractions. Upcoming events sponsored by Courage include: A Courage Men’s Retreat to be held in Winter Park, Florida, Friday, April 24, from 5:00 p.m. to Sunday, April 26, 12:00 p.m. The cost is \$160 for meals and two nights lodging. To receive the full retreat schedule and to register, please contact Amedeo Colucci at 954-778-2101 before March 24, 2009. A Courage/Encourage Conference to be held July 9 - 12 at Villanova University in Villanova, Pa. Learn more about Courage and Encourage at their Web site: [www.couragerc.net/](http://www.couragerc.net/).



# John Michael Talbot

## LIVE IN CONCERT

Wednesday, March 25, 2009 at 7 PM

Trinity Episcopal Church

1501 N Glass St, Victoria TX

Tickets & Information 361-573-3228

Thursday, March 26, 2009 at 7 PM

Sacred Heart Catholic Church

400 E 5th St, Hallettsville TX

Information 361-798-5888

[www.JohnMichaelTalbot.Com](http://www.JohnMichaelTalbot.Com)