Pope Benedict beatifies Pope John Paul ‘because of his faith’

By Cindy Wooden

Catholic News Service

VATICAN CITY (CNS) — “John Paul II is blessed because of his faith — a strong, generous and apostolic faith,” Pope Benedict XVI said May 1 just minutes after formally beatifying his predecessor.

Italian police said that for the Mass more than 1 million people were gathered in and around the Vatican and in front of large video screens in several parts of the city.

Many in the crowd had personal stories about seeing Pope John Paul or even meeting him, and Pope Benedict ended his homily at the Mass sharing his own personal story.

“I would like to thank God for the gift of seeing Pope John Paul II,” the pope said.

The Vatican statement May 2 came in reaction to the news.

Osama bin Laden, as we all know, bore the most serious responsibility for spreading divisions and hatred among populations, causing the deaths of innumerable people, and manipulating religions to this end,” Father Lombardi said.

In the face of a man’s death, a Christian should prompt serious reflection about one’s responsibility before God, not rejoicing.

The Vatican statement May 2 came the day after President Barack Obama announced that U.S. forces had killed bin Laden in an attack on his hideout in northwest Pakistan. In several U.S. cities, the news prompted street demonstrations and expressions of jubilation.

Jesus Father Federico Lombardi, the Vatican spokesman, released a brief written statement reacting to the news.

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“We ask that every event may be the occasion for the further growth of peace and not of hatred,” Father Lombardi said.

The Capital Campaign committee, headed by chairpersons Robby and Tami Burdge, quietly raised $2.6 million dollars since it was established a little over two years ago. And just recently, the O’Connor & Hewitt Foundation gifted St. Joseph School with $1 million in the form of a challenge grant. The challenge grant and the matching donations from generous supporters and benefactors will bring the campaign total to $4.6 million.

~ Large donation comes with a catch ~

The O’Connor & Hewitt Foundation’s grant actually came with two challenges: one, that it would be a matching grant that would match the next million dollars donated to the campaign and two, that the proposed enrichment center/fine arts building would be named after long-time mathematics teacher, Mr. David Pozzi.

Vatican says bin Laden’s death cause for reflection, not rejoicing

By John Thavis

Catholic News Service

VATICAN CITY (CNS) — The Vatican said the killing of al-Qaeda leader Osama bin Laden, a man who sowed division and hatred and who caused “innumerable” deaths, should prompt serious reflection about one’s responsibility before God, not rejoicing.

The Vatican statement May 2 came the day after President Barack Obama announced that U.S. forces had killed bin Laden in an attack on his hideout in northwest Pakistan. In several U.S. cities, the news prompted street demonstrations and expressions of jubilation.

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Women comfort each other at Sept. 11 Memorial in Boston

WOMEN COMFORT EACH OTHER AT SEPT. 11 MEMORIAL IN BOSTON—Carie Lemack holds a photo of her mother Judy Larocque as she and her sister Danielle comfort each other as families of Massachusetts victims of the Sept. 11, 2001, terrorist attacks place 206 white roses on a memorial in the Boston Public Garden May 2.

Al-Qaeda leader Osama bin Laden, mastermind of the 9/11 attacks, was killed in a U.S. helicopter raid on a mansion near the Pakistani capital, Islamabad, May 1, officials said. (CNS photo/Adam Hunger, Reuters)
Bishop Fellhauer’s Schedule

May
5 7:00 p.m., Eighth Grade Religion Awards, Our Lady of Victory Cathedral, Victoria
6 6:30 p.m., Confirmation Mass, St. Anthony Church, Palafox
7 5:00 p.m., Confirmation Mass, Holy Cross Church, Yorktown
8 7:30 a.m., Confirmation Mass, St. Rose of Lima Church, Schulenburg
12 noon, Confirmation Mass, Our Lady of Mount Carmel, Wharton
9 5:00 p.m., Liturgical Commission Meeting, Chancery
11 9:30 a.m., Priest and Lay Pension Boards Meeting, Chancery
13 6:00 p.m., Mass, Dinner and 3-year Pastoral Institute certificate ceremone-
y reception, Chancery
14 7:00 p.m., Confirmation Mass, St. Agnes Church, Edna
15 11:30 a.m., Confirmation Mass, Our Lady of Sorrows Church, Victoria
16 6:00 p.m., Confirmation Mass, St. Philip Church, El Campo
17 6:00 p.m., Evening Prayer, celebrating Father Edward J. Wenker’s 25th anniversary of priestly ordinatio, Sts. Cyril & Methodius Church, Shiner
21 7:00 a.m., Mass, Spanish ACTS retreat, Spiritual Renewal Center
25 7:00 a.m., Confirmation Mass, St. Cyril & Methodius Church, Shiner
29 9:00 a.m., Confirmation Mass, St. Joseph Church, Moulton
29 2:00 p.m., Confirmation Mass, St. Patrick Church, Bloomington
28 12 noon, Sisters’ “Cookout,” Sierra Club, Incarnate Word Convent, Victoria
5:00 p.m., Confirmation Mass, St. Mary’s Church, Victoria
29 9:30 a.m., Confirmation Mass, St. Peter Church, Blessing
5:00 p.m., Confirmation Mass, Immaculate Conception Church, Goliad

June
4 10:00 a.m., Mass, Diaconate Ordination (Transitional Deacon) of Patrick Knippenberg, Our Lady of Victory Cathedral
7:00 p.m., Confirmation Mass, Sts. Peter & Paul Church, Meyersville
5 10:00 a.m., Confirmation Mass, St. Michael, including Our Lady of Guadalupe Church, Cuero

Dioecnest Vicar General and 
Chancellor to turn 80, celebrate 55 years of priesthood

Mgr. Thomas C. McLaughlin will be celebrating his 80th birthday June 10, 2011, and the 55th anniversary of his priestly ordination on June 17.

His coworkers at the chancery office will be holding a private party for him Wednesday evening, June 8. A Mass honoring Mgr. McLaughlin will be held Friday, June 10, at Our Lady of Victory Cathedral at 12 p.m. with a reception immediately following at the chancery building. Everyone is wel-
me to attend the Mass and reception.

Mgr. Thomas Colum-

ba McLaughlin was born in Malin, Co-Donegal, Ireland, on June 10, 1931. He is the youngest of seven children, two girls and five boys. One sister and three brothers have already died.

In 1945 he entered St. Columb’s Col-

lege, in Derry – a combination of high school and minor seminary. He was a boarder there for five years. He joined St. John’s College in Water-
ford, a major seminary, in 1950. He studied philosophy and theology there for six years and was ordained to the priesthood on June 17, 1956.

In September of 1956 he came to the

Archdiocese of San Antonio. After a very short assignment in Schulenburg he was appointed an assistant pastor at St. Cecilia’s and as an advisor on the Archdioces-

An.ttf

tral Tribunal.

After eight great years at St. Cecilia’s he was transferred to Holy Name Parish in San Antonio, where he was assistant pastor for five years when he was appointed Archdioc-

ean Director of Religious Education (CCD). He held this position for more than 14 years. At age 48, he was made a Monsignor by Pope John Paul II.

After his term as CCD director, he was pastor for about four months at Sacred Heart in Hallettsville. He was taken from there to Victoria in 1982 to prepare for the new Diocese of Victoria. He has been Judicial Vicar and chancel-

or of Victoria since 1982 and Vicar General since 1990. In addition to his Chancery duties he served at Our Lady of Lourdes Parish for five years, from 1990 to 1995.

Cards or letters of appreciation for, and congratulations to, Mgr. McLaughlin may be sent to him at the chancery office: 1505 E. Mesquite Lane, Victoria, Texas 77901. Please, no gifts.

Dioconce Youth Ministry

Office openings

Nurse
The Office of Youth Ministry of the Diocese of Victoria is seeking a nurse for its Summer Camp programs. Dates of camp: Friday, June 10 - Friday, June 17, 2011 (Spiritual Renewal Center), Monday, June 27-Thursday, June 30, 2011 (Spiritual Renewal Center) and July 18-20, 2011 (Coopers Farm near LaGrange). Person is required to stay on site for the duration of the camp periods. Position requires nurse to administer medication, provide first aid, and provide related medical treatment as needed. Please e-mail/phone cover letter and completed application to the Office of Youth Ministry, attn. Deanne Vanelli, P.O. Box 4070, Victoria, Texas 77903 or dvaneli@victoriadiocese.org. Ap-

Dioconce Directory Updates

Page 27
The e-mail address for St. Peter Parish in Blessing has changed to: sptpeterblessing@tisd.net

Page 90
Faithful Navigator of Columbus Assembly #1136
The correct spelling is: Ray Sykowsky

DSA & Reflection of Faith Capital Campaign Updates

2011 DSA
Diocese Goal: $1,471,384.00
Parish Pledge Totals: $480,298.00
Parish Contribution Totals: $375,771.00
Number of Parish Families Participating: 2,837

Reflection of Faith Capital Campaign
Diocese Goal: $9,000,000.00
Parish Pledge Totals: $12,950,230.79
Parish Contribution Totals: $9,098,847.41
Number of Parish Families Participating: 6,766

Have You Moved? Address Changed?
Call 361-573-0828 with the change in your address.
Saves Money!

The Catholic Lighthouse
Page 2 — May 2011

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DEADLINE IS THE THIRD TUESDAY OF THE PRECEDING MONTH.

CATHOLIC DAUGHTERS GIVE BACK—The Catholic Daughters of St. Ag-

nes Catholic Church in Edna recently presented checks totaling $4,000 to five separate organizations in Jackson County. From left, front row, are Elsie Myers, committee member; Lance Siga, Southbrooke Manor; Doris Andel, committee member; Hernandez, The Duggar House; Mary Sheblak, committee member; back row: separate organizations in Jackson County. From left, front row, are Elsie Myers, committee member; Lance Siga, Southbrooke Manor; Doris Andel, committee member; Hernandez, The Duggar House; Mary Sheblak, committee member; back row:
**Tran Ordination Announcement**

With Praise and Thanks to God our Loving Father, Deacon and Mrs. Lu An Tran and family joyfully announce the Ordination to the Priesthood of their son, Deacon Timothy M. Thang Viet Tran, CMV through the laying on of hands by Most Reverend James Vann Johnston Jr., JCL, bishop of the Diocese of Springfield-Cape Girardeau.

June 4, 2011, at 10:30 a.m. at Immaculate Heart of Mary Shrine Congregation of the Mother Coredempentrix 1900 Grand Avenue, Carthage, Mo.

His First Mass will be at 7:45 a.m. Sunday, June 5, 2011. Immaculate Heart of Mary Shrine, Carthage, Mo.

**Thanksgiving Masses will be held Saturday, July 9, 2011, at 6:30 p.m. Our Lady of Guadalupe Church, Bay City, Texas**

**Sunday, July 10, 2011, at 10 a.m. Assumption Chapel, 100 Vietnam St., Palacios, Texas**

Reception immediately following the Mass in the parish hall

Timothy Thang Viet Tran attended Holy Cross Elementary School in Bay City, Bay City Junior High and his freshman year at Bay City High. He then boarded at the minor seminary in Carthage, Mo., and graduated from Carthage High. He received his Bachelor's degree in music therapy at the University of Kansas. He entered the Trinitarian novitiate in Baltimore, Md., in 1975, made his first profession in 1976 and his Solemn Profession of Vows as a Trinitarian. Patrick has taught at De Matha Catholic High School, Hyattsville, Md., and St. Joseph High School in Victoria. He has served in many ministries. Patrick has served in many ministries. He received his finance degree from Missouri State University and studied theology at Notre Dame University in New Orleans. Timothy is 34 years of age.

**Diaconate Ordination**

Seminarian Patrick Knippenberg will be ordained to the Transitional Diaconate June 4, 2011, at 10:00 a.m. at Our Lady of Victory Cathedral in Victoria

Congratulations to Patrick!

Brother Patrick Wildgen celebrates 30 years as a Trinitarian

Bishop David F. Oakley presided at the Sunday, May 1, 2011, Mass celebrating the 30th anniversary of Brother Patrick Wildgen’s profession of Solemn Vows as a Trinitarian. Brother Patrick has been pastoral associate at Our Lady of Sorrows since December 2007. He currently conducts the RCA program and assists with the lectors’ and eucharistic ministers’ ministries. In addition, he conducts a Bible Study class in the parish and is the spiritual director for the “Fishermen for Christ” men’s prayer group, the Trinitarian Third Order, at Our Lady of Sorrows and at Christ the King Parish in Corpus Christi. Brother Patrick has been a speaker at the Catechetical Institute Conference for the past many years, has contributed to Disciples on the Journey, and has conducted adult education classes through the Office of Catechetical Ministry (Pastoral Institute) in the diocese. He also conducts retreats for organizations in the parish and the diocese.

Brother Patrick is the son of the late Henry and Marjorie Wildgen. He was born in Hossington, Kun., on December 2, 1952. He received his Bachelor’s degree in music therapy at the University of Kansas. He entered the Trinitarian novitiate in Baltimore, Md., in 1975, made his first profession in 1976 and his Solemn Profession of Vows on April 4, 1981. Through the years Br. Patrick has served in many ministries. He has taught at De Matha Catholic High School, Hyattsville, Md., and St. Joseph High School in Victoria. He has served in parish ministry in Marion, Ill., and at Our Lady of Sorrows and Christ the King Parish in Corpus Christi. Brother Patrick has contributed to Disciples on the Journey and the Catechetical Conference for the past three years, has contributed to Disciples on the Journey and the Catechetical Conference for the past three years, and University, Baltimore, Md. Trinitarian MA in theology at St. Mary’s Seminary and University, Baltimore, Md. He received his finance degree from Missouri State University and studied theology at Notre Dame University in New Orleans. Timothy is 34 years of age.

**Changes to the peoples’ part of the Apostles’ Creed, Suscipiat Dominiue and Preface Language**

The use of the new Roman Missal begins Nov. 27, 2011. Below are the changes in the parts of the Order of the Mass. Text that will change is marked in italics and bold printing. From http://www.usccb.org/romanmissal/samples-people.shtml

The Apostles Creed Present text:

I believe in God, the Father Almighty, Creator of heaven and earth.

I believe in Jesus Christ, his only Son, Lord of Lords, who was conceived by the power of the Holy Spirit and born of the Virgin Mary, who suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, died, and was buried, and rose again from the dead.

On the third day he rose again from the dead; he ascended into heaven, and is seated at the right hand of the Father.

He will come again to judge the living and the dead.

I believe in the Holy Spirit, the holy catholic Church, the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body, and the life everlasting. Amen.

The Apostles’ Creed New text:

I believe in God, the Father almighty, Creator of heaven and earth, and in Jesus Christ, his only Son, Lord of Lords, who was conceived by the power of the Holy Spirit and born of the Virgin Mary, who suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, died, and was buried, and rose again from the dead; he ascended into heaven, and is seated at the right hand of the Father; from there he will come to judge the living and the dead.

I believe in the Holy Spirit, the holy catholic Church, the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body, and life everlasting. Amen.
Seminary Burses

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

As of April 29, 2011
TOTALS

— Diocese Of Victoria General Seminary Burses
Previously Reported $97,814.00
*Correction* Donation to Fr. John Peters $5.00
Burse #5 $2,540.00
Donation to St. Ann’s Society - Highland $500.00
In memory of Stanley Friedly by Martha Pearson $20.00
Donation by CDA Court #1350, Ennis $200.00
TOTAL $96,339.00

— Rev. Mgrd. Edward Bartsch Seminary Burses
Previously Reported $4,515.00
In memory of Mgrd. Bartsch on anniversary of his death by Verna Goertz $1,000.00
TOTAL $5,515.00

— Rev. Jerome Caponi Seminary Burses
Previously Reported $46,200.00
In memory of Rev. Caponi on 2nd anniversary of his death by John Marx $500.00
TOTAL $46,700.00

— CDA #1374 Queen Of Peace Seminary Burs
Previously Reported $5,902.72
In memory of Deoros McDonald by MMM Donald McDonald $250.00
TOTAL $6,152.72

— Elorine Tustinim Seminary Burses
Previously Reported $1,496.00
In memory of Elorine Tuslim by MMM Donald McDonald $200.00
TOTAL $1,696.00

— Frs. Okolofk & Verdanima Seminary Burs
Previously Reported $10,277.89
Donations to Catholic Life Insurance: Branch #53 of P. Lavacca $100.00
TOTAL $10,377.89

— Knights Of Columbus #2971, Weimar
Previously Reported $125.00
In memory of H. L. Crane by MMM FJ. Fischer $20.00
TOTAL $145.00

“College Connection for Catholics” provides a unique graduation gift

Do you know a high school senior who will be going away to college? Picture them in your mind for a moment. Would you like to encourage that person to stay connected to our beautiful Catholic faith? The College Connection for Catholics Web site provides an easy way to do this. Read on and find out how.

College Connection for Catholics (CCC), http://collegeconnectionforcatholics.org, a program of the USA Council of Catholic Sigma Nu, Sigma Nu, unites college students with the Catholic faith on campuses. CCC is designed to connect incoming college freshmen with the Catholic faith on or near their campus, with the goal of helping the students stay active in their faith.

The program, which launched a new Web site in 2010, has become a premier national outreach program for the USA Council of Catholic Sigma Nu and National Ministries. It is a major step in helping promote Catholic campus ministries on college campuses. The CCC Web site features over 1,000 college accounts across the nation; plans include increasing this number to 1,500 this year. CCC has generated positive responses going away to college? Father Stan, and diocesan officials about its goal to reach

The Catholic Lighthouse Page 4 — May 2011

vocations

By Denise E. Bossert

Vocation Gold

For Going for Vocation Gold

It was 1979. Bruce Jenner had won the gold medal almost three years earlier, and everyone had everything to look forward to. He smiled for the Wheaties cereal box and promoted the concept of jog-a-thons as a fundraiser idea. I was the class treasurer that year. Our class gift was two small medals, and the fundraiser sounded like a good way to generate some cash so we would be able to put them in the hands of the seniors that would really want them.

So, we sent away for a jog-a-thon kit and passed out forms. The whole class was going to participate, and we begged friends and family to pledge a couple of bucks for every mile we successfully completed. Our class moderator, Mr. Canterbury, set aside a three-mile route through our hometown and marked off the area with orange cones. The traffic was diverted into order to keep the runners safe. Sixty kids showed up in shorts and tennis shoes, ready to run, jog or walk. Three miles into it, I was done. Some managed to run five or ten miles, repeating the three-mile route over and over again.

Darrin Ripley decided it was a good day to run his first marathon. We were in awe of him.

The folks who had made a per-mile pledge were not as thrilled with Darrin. Five dollars per mile adds up, especially when a freshman boy is trying to prove something to a bunch of freshmen girls – or maybe just trying to prove something to himself.

On Monday morning, the students turned in their earnings. I counted out the money. Darrin’s supporters had paid up. They probably swallowed hard as they did it, but lowans knew how to keep a promise.

I think it must be like that for some parents when their son or daughter discerns a call to religious life. They have one’s children in the faith suddenly has a higher price than expected. It makes eight years of parish religion classes or twelve years of Catholic education seem like a small sacrifice in comparison.

Some parents probably swallow hard as they kick deeply into the work and the promise to give their full support to a child who has discerned a call to the priesthood or religious life.

But I also think that there are some parents like Darrin’s dad. Mr. Ripley didn’t blink an eye when Darrin said that he’d run over twenty-six miles. Mr. Ripley was a coach – and he probably understood his son more in that moment than he ever had.

He probably smiled when he wrote that check to his son’s class at Riceville Community High School. Darrin turned the money in promptly that Monday morning, and we were in awe once again. The newspaper photographer came out to take our picture. I got to be in the picture because I was at the water table. I never figured out why because nobody else had ever come close to running as far as he had. We’d won an award from Bruce Jenner and Wheaties.

All of our class parents had come in third in the nation for jog-a-thons that year.

And we gave the seniors one fantastic present in our senior year.

In reality, though, the people who made good on their promise to pay had something to boss around. No matter how much we ran that day, we needed the support of those who signed our pledge cards.

And there’s a lesson in that as well. The faithful pray that God will send Mother Church more vocations to the priesthood and religious life. We make a pledge to support these vocations, encourage them, and respect them for giving themselves so fully to the Gospel of Jesus Christ.

Moms and Dads, it’s time to encourage our children to follow God completely, even if the price is high. Even if the marathon ends with the Sacrament of Holy Orders.

It’s time for the faithful to sign their pledge cards and give their support. We do this in memory of our loved one. We do it to encourage them, and we do it for the sake of the people who made good on their promise to hold our religious up through prayer. We do this when we make good on our promise to respect them, and we do it for the very opportunity of being in the place of Our Lord … In persona Christi.

We aren’t investing in a junior prom. No, our celebration trumps all celebrations. We are investing in the future of Mother Church. We are doing all that we can to make sure that our Mass is celebrated through out the world and that the laity has access to the Sacramental life.

This is the great spiritual celebration. And it is worth every sacrifice.

God, Our Father, send us holy priests and religious for your Church. For all the Sacred and Eucharistic Heart of Jesus, all for the Sorrowsful and Immaculate Heart of Mary, in union with Saint Joseph.

Brother Patrick Wildgen celebrates
30 years as a Trinitarian

Continued from p. 3

Brother Patrick is a model of how ministry and leadership in the Church is open to all people, no matter the gender. "When I was asked to be pastor at Our Lady of Sorrows, I knew that I wanted Brother Patrick as a member of this pastoral team and he has flourished in his ministry at the parish.

"As a side note," Father Stan continued, "when parishioners learned that there would be a brother coming to Sorrows, I was asked if I was going to ‘get rid of’ the coach. Perplexed at this, I asked them why they thought that. The reason they gave was that it was the work of the brothers to cook and clean. I think our parishioners have come to see that Brother Patrick has gifts and talents that lift him above the old stereotypes of what a religious brother is in the Church today, and they have come to love and appreciate him for all he does."
Pro-life Miss America shows wisdom at 18

Being Miss America is a lot of pressure for an 18-year-old Teresa Scanlan.

But then, when her mom was 18, she faced a lot of pressure too. She was preg-

nate and unwed.

Teresa learned this last September, when the Nebraska native was preparing for

her first Miss America pageant. Her half-brother, Jerod, had called unexpect-

edly. It was his 31st birthday, his mom was expecting his firstborn, and it seemed like

a good time to reach out.

Teresa was working in her basement office when her mom, Janie, came down to

tell her the news. Janie had gone on to

get married and have six children, whom

she had never told about Jerod, assuming

she would never hear from him and that it

would be easier on them that way.

Teresa was stunned.

“It was strange for me to even imagine

that,” she said. “I thought. ‘There’s no

way. This has to be some kind of joke, some

card misunderstanding. All you know of your

family for 17 years has suddenly changed.”

The news offered Teresa insight on her mom.

It hadn’t been easy for Janie be-

coming Catholic, pregnant and 18 in Wil-

kes-Barre, Kan., and the pregnancy was kept a secret, even a

related. With help from a co-

nun

speaking

Janie
to

give

to

the

Catholic Adoption Agency. She wanted him to

have a stable, loving family and every opportunity for success.

When Jerod was born, Janie held his

hand for the first time and

said the chain’s slogan, “you’re family.”

Meeting Jerod changed her. She is a

young woman in her pro-life family who

now has lived it.

Being pro-life is an intimate experience,

one that revolves

families,

homes and hearts – a

shuffling of

the

bedrooms and priorities, a

thundering of

the

engines.

But Jerod’s birth is “found on a

beautiful thing: hope for the future.

When you think of Teresa and her
delicate niece, how can you feel anything

but

“College Connection for Catholics” provides a unique graduation gift

the young Catholic adult that you pictured

in your mind. They are not a statistic; they

are a valued member of your family or parishes.

More than 1.2 million Catholic students

center college life each year. Ninety percent

of them attend a secular campus where

it is difficult for Catholic ministries to reach

them without knowing who they are. Mem-

bers of Serra clubs coordinate with their

local diocese, CATHOLIC YOUTH MINI-

stry, and parishes to obtain the names of

graduating seniors and provide them with

information about the Catholic presence in

their college of choice. The clubs also provide

Catholic campus ministry officials with

these students’ names and information, so

they can invite them to Catholic events and

continuing education.

According to the Center for Applied

Research in the Apostolate at Georgetown

University in Washington, D.C., if campus

ministries reached just 10 percent more of

the nearly five million Catholic college students about the United States and kept

them active in their faith, it would add ap-

proximately 500,000 practicing Catholics
to the U.S. church.

I can’t think of a better way to make an

impact on the Church and the world than by

reaching people who are at the very begin-

ning of their careers and connecting them
deeply to their Catholic faith,” said Father

him in hugs.

Over broccolis and pasta, they talked,

for hours, landing on tidbits from three
decades, studying each other’s faces and

“when he smiles, there are my mom’s
dimples,” Teresa said.

Teresa brought three of her daughters,

and says the chain’s slogan, “you’re family.”

In January Teresa became Nebraska’s

first Miss America, the youngest in decades

to claim the title. “I finally realized that it

is those times when we’re least prepared,

when we’re least ready, when we have

those doubts and fears – that’s when

God uses us,” she said. “He takes our feeble

little attempts and turns them into amaz-
ing things.”

One week after being crowned Miss

America, Teresa became an aunt. Jerod’s

wedding had been set for October 19, the

same day Teresa was crowned Miss America.

Teresa hopes to one day become a
deme

Catholic nun.

The “Know Thy Heritage” team at

HCEF is delighted by the outpouring of

support and interest that our newest pro-

gram has enjoyed both in Palestine and in

the United States. The itinerary is quickly

filling up with exciting cultural and educa-
tional events as well as leisure activities.

We have received so many applications

and that we are considering adding more

delegates from all over the United States.

They are still accepting applications for

this inaugural delegation. If you are

between the ages of 18 and 25 and have at

least one Palestinian parent, you can join

us in making this groundbreaking initia-
tive a great success. We are consid-
ered a priority for applicants who

understanding of the Palestinian

economic environment, political land-
scape, social structures and conditions.

“Visit & Live Palestine” provides them

with the necessary tools and skills to en-

able them to in continuous connection to

their roots, heritage and homeland.

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• Vacations!

• Rain!

• Ravage-torn families from tornadoes and floods!

“College Connection for Catholics” provides a unique graduation gift

Continued from p. 4

David Konderla, director and pastor of St.

Mary’s Catholic Church at Texas A&M.

Rev. James J. Back, who ministers to stu-
dents at Texas A&M and who

is the author of “Empowered by the Spirit,” a

Catholic Campus Ministry program for the U.S.

Bishops in 2006, said getting the names

of Catholic students coming to the university

from Serra clubs is “like gold in our pocket.

It’s a great help in our ministry. These

students are the future leaders of society

and of our Church.”

Robert McCarty, executive director of

the National Federation of Catholic Youth

Ministers, said the College Connection pro-

gram responds to the U.S. Bishops’ goals

for Catholic Youth Ministry: “To call young

people to responsible participation in the

life, work and mission of the faith community.”

Editor’s note: Students may go directly to the CCC Web site to learn more about a

Catholic Connection at the college they will attend. Also, when youth move from

eone home, work or college to another, as is the case when they are in their first apart-

ment, stay connected to the Diocese of Victoria, by sending your new

address to the chancellor at 706-4030, Victoria, TX 77909. You’ll be added to The

Catholic Lighthouse mailing list.
Pastoralist Summer Classes

May 21st 9 a.m. - 3 p.m. Catholic Morality
June 2nd 6:00 - 9:00 p.m. Getting Started as a Catechist
June 2nd 9 a.m.- 12:00 p.m. Person of the Catechist
June 2nd 9 a.m. - 12:00 p.m. Role of the Catechist
June 6th 9 a.m. - 12:00 p.m. Person of the Catechist
June 8th 9 a.m. - 12:00 p.m. Role of the Catechist
June 11th 9:00 a.m. - 12:00 p.m. Getting Started as a Catechist
June 11th 9:00 a.m. - 12:00 p.m. Person of the Catechist
June 13 & 20 6:00 - 9:00 p.m. Getting Started as a Catechist
June 13th 6:30 - 9:30 p.m. Person of the Catechist
June 14th 6:30 - 9:30 p.m. Person of the Catechist
June 16th 6:30 - 9:30 p.m. Role of the Catechist
June 16th 9 a.m. - 3 p.m. Person of the Catechist
June 23rd 9 a.m. - 3:00 p.m. Person of the Catechist
June 30th 6:30 - 8:30 p.m. Methodist Morality

For over 25 years, thousands of Catholics have taken the opportunity to learn more about their faith by taking classes offered through the 23 unit Pastoral Institutes. In the summer, short-term classes will be offered throughout the diocese for catechists, Catholic School religion teachers, liturgical ministers and others interested in learning more about the faith, are encouraged to attend.

The National Directory for Catechesis states, “Like all Christians, catechists are called to continual conversion and growth in their faith and, for this reason … opportunities should be provided for spiritual and pedagogical formation, especially as society, teaching methods, and culture change.”

July and August classes will appear in the June issue of The Catholic Lighthouse. For more information about upcoming classes that will be offered this summer, please go to the diocesan Web site www.victoriadiocese.org or call (361) 573-0828.
Our Lady of Victory School hosted the PSIA District 7AA Meet for the first time Saturday, March 26, with nine schools competing. The competition covers areas of Math, Science, Language Arts, Social Studies and Fine Arts. Our Lady of Victory, Nazareth Academy and Trinity Episcopal from Victoria; St. Joseph, Yoakum; St. Anthony, Columbus; Our Lady of the Golf, Port Lavaca; St. Monica, Converse; Miranda Individual, San Antonio; and Carrillo Home School, San Antonio, competed amongst one another.

Catholic Students go to State PSIA

Our Lady of the Gulf School
Port Lavaca
Thirty-five students from Our Lady of the Gulf Catholic School in Mapleton competed at the PSIA Meet at Our Lady of Victory School on Saturday, March 26. The students from 1st grade to 8th grade, placed in 28 events, and six students are advancing to State Competition in 8 categories. Those proceeding onto State PSIA Competition in Fort Worth on April 30 are Eun Dong – Ready Writing; 1st – Place; 3rd Grade – Sarah Armstrong 1st place in Vocabulary; 7th grade – Claudio Smith, 1st place in On-Site Drawing; and Katherine Dent, 1st place in Ready Writing and 2nd place in On-Site Drawing; and 8th grade – Jasmine Rendon, 3rd place in Calculator Applications.

St. Philip Elementary School
El Campo
St. Philip Catholic School students competed at the PSIA academic competition in San Antonio on February 26, 2011. With 19 contest categories covering a wide range of disciplines the following students qualified for state level competition at Texas Christian University in Fort Worth to be held on May 14, 2011: 1st grade – Anna Birdsong, 1st place in Storytelling; 2nd grade – Sarah Passante, 1st place in Math Memory; 3rd grade – Karyn Russell, 1st place in Prose; 4/5/6 grade – Paige Rasmussen, 2nd place in Art Memory; Tyler Janesmore, 2nd place in Listening Skills and Faith Wagner, 1st place in Art Memory; 4/5/6 grade – Elizabeth Wilson, 1st place in Music Memory; 5th grade – Kaitlyn Marquardt, 1st place in Spelling and Rhys Kennedy, 2nd place in Math; 6th grade – Grace Delgado, 2nd place in Science, Micah McBroom, 1st place in Number Sense and Michelle Sutton, 1st place in Prose; 6/7/8 grades – Elise Raun, 1st place in Dictionary Skills; 7th grade – Elle Raeu, 2nd place in Maps Graphs/Charts; 7/8 grades – Isaac Kresta, 1st place in Prose; and 8th grade – Colton Krutilek, 2nd place in Maps Graphs/Charts and 2nd place in Number Sense.

St. Rose of Lima Elementary School
Schulenburg
On Saturday March 26, St. Rose of Lima Catholic School participated in the district PSIA Meet at St. James Catholic School in Seguin. St. Rose had 56 students from grades 1 through 8 participating in 105 events and was awarded top honors winning District Champs at the Elementary Division and winning 3rd place in the Middle School Division. They had 14 state qualifiers in 18 events and 7 alternate state qualifiers in 9 events and will compete at the National Meet in Dallas on Saturday May 14. They are: 1st grade – Claire Antosh in Alternative Creative Writing; 2nd grade – Morgan Thoma in Storytelling and Julie Guentert in Creative Writing; 3rd grade – Justin Stang in Spelling; 4th grade – Madeline Sommer in Number Sense and Art Memory; 5th grade – Bryn Styx in Mathematics and Number Sense; Sarah Vecera in Art Memory and Ready Writing; 6th grade – Quinna Zhao in Reading, Cailyn Hems in Ready Writing, Blair Guentert in Vocabulary and Alternate Dictionary Skills; 6th/7/8 grades – Wyatt Fogle in Mathematics, Science, and Alternate Number Sense; 7th grade – Marc Raphael in Science, Erin Milick in Calculating Applications and Alternate Mathematics, Haley Herzik in Mathematics and Alternate Improptu Speaking; and 8th grade – Taylor Olsowy in Number Sense.

The following 5th grade students were identified as a select group of students qualified to participate in the Talent Search sponsored by the Duke University Talent Identification Program: April Brossmann, Haley Olsowsky, Kristen Osina, Kate James, Blair Guentert, Seth Pasten, Miles Marburger, Sarah Vecera, Bryn Styx, Syd- ney Thompson and Tyler Allen.

Our Lady of Victory Elementary School
Victoria
Thirty-five students from Our Lady of Victory Catholic School competed in the PSIA Meet on their own campus Saturday, March 26. OLV had students from the 1st through the 8th grades competing. Eight students in 15 categories advanced to State Competition in Fort Worth on April 30. OLV also had 21 students in 15 categories compete in 15 events. The students going to State Competition are 2nd grade – Andres Ramos and Riya Patel in Spelling; 3rd grade – Grace Harnack, Nicholas Soto and Robbie Alcasabas in Spelling, Annabelle Gasaway in Storytelling and Savannah Wharton in Ready Writing; 4th grade – Aliyah Grim in Maps, Graphs & Charts, C.J. Wagner in Mathematics, Pranav Jain in Music Memory, Number Sense and Prose Interp, and Kaitlyn Herman in Spelling; 5th grade – Alex Corpus in Maps, Graphs & Charts and Spelling, Shubham Kathpalia and Jordan Puyat in Mathematics, Kelby Ellett in Number Sense and Ready Writing, Carson Young in Prose Interp., Catherine Ridley in Vocabulary and Tomya Young in Dictionary; 6th grade – Sarah Sabbath in Listening Skills, Music Memory and Spelling, Kevin Nguyen in Maps, Graphs & Charts, Mathematics and Number Sense, Benjamin Boyle in Mathematics, Connor Velasco in Maps, Graphs & Charts, Davey Castoreno in Vocabulary, Jyotirmaya Jain in Spelling and Cameron Lambert in Vo- cabulary; 7th grade – Andrew Bernhard in Calculator Applications, Mathematics, Number Sense and Science, Katie Tim- ply in Science, Sam Ridley in Ready Writing, Emily Thompson and Tyler Allen.

Our Lady of Victory Elementary School
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ST. JOSEPH BAND WINS HONORS FOR FIFTH CONSECUTIVE YEAR—The Concert & Sight-reading competition, sponsored by the Texas Private School Music Educators Association (TPSMEA), was held on April 8, 2011. Each band was judged by a panel of three judges in two separate areas of musical competition. A Concert & Sight-reading Trophy is awarded to an instrumental organization that receives a 1st division (superior) rating in both Concert and Sight-Reading in Texas during the 2010-2011 school year. It is the first STJ Band in school history to achieve this honor for five consecutive years. The Sight-reading competition requires a band to perform a piece they have never seen before, accurately, after only a 10-minute study / instruction period by the director. Director for the St. Joseph High School Band is Michael Petrikys. Pictured with the Concert & Sight Reading Trophy are STJ Band Officers, from l. to r: Nathaniel Havens, Martin Kallus, Steven Sudheimer, Leslie Zepeda, Myles Martiner, Spencer Driver, Michael Petrakis II and Mark Chavez.

KJT SOCIETY PRESENTS PINS—Hostyn Society No. 3 Vice-President Patrick Janda (L) presents a 30-year membership pin to David S. Janacek of Stafford. Also pictured are daughters Julia and Caroline. President Benedict Kallus also presented a 25-year membership pin to Thomas Joseph Kozel of Hostyn.

ST. JOSEPH KJT SOCIETY PLANS FOR YEAR—A meeting of St. Joseph KJT Society #115 was held on March 27 at Our Lady of Victory Cathedral in Victoria to set plans for the coming year. Margaret Holik, District 7 director, was a special guest and addressed the group regarding goals for the year. The officers were introduced to the assembly and former officers honored. Wendy Hirsch was recognized for 10 years of service as secretary, Donald Dusek, for 21 years as vice president, and Leonard Tupac, for 21 years as treasurer. Meeting dates were approved for June 26 at St. Mary’s, Victoria, and September 11 at Holy Family, Victoria. Upcoming events include the society’s participation in Join Hands Day on May 7, Youth Activity Day, date and time to be determined by youth members and Flag Day ceremonies on June 14. Members were reminded of the KJT Sum- mer Youth Camp, July 31-August 3. The family Christmas party will be held in December at a time and place to be determined. The State Family Fun Day was held on April 9 in LaGrange. Pictured are St. Joseph KJT Society #115 officers, from left, KJT Insurance Representative Donald Dusek, President Lawrence Yanta, State Director Margaret Holik, Vice President Robert Stryk, Secretary Barbara Yanta and Treasurer Joe Pustika.

ST. MICHAEL ELEMENTARY SCHOOL

St. Michael Elementary School

St. Michael’s School competed for the first time in the PSIA District Meet on March 26 in Seguin. Overall, the 24 students who competed came home with 14 ribbons. Qualifying for the PSIA State Meet on May 14 are Second Grader Jake Dunton in Ready Writing and Fourth Grader Priscilla Humphreys in Listening.
READ-A-THON RAISES $19,000 PLUS—St. Philip Catholic School in El Campo raised their annual Read-A-Thon with an awards assembly this spring. For 29 of the 61-year history of St. Philip School, the Read-A-Thon has been helping students improve their reading skills and raise money for the school endorsement fund, which supplements the school budget, thus helping to keep tuition as low as possible. Students this year raised $19,579.88 and read 23,048 books! Students being awarded a trophy for the most books read in each grade include: Kindergarten, Anna Rod, 321; First grade, Hannah Sutton, 300; Fourth grade, Sarah Grace Singleton, 638; Third grade, Cassidy Crowell, 564; Second grade, Carissa Kocian, 750; Fifth grade, Kendall Kresta 300, Seventh grade, Hannah Tupa, 87; Eighth grade Colton Krutilek, 360; and Sixth grade Amber Kocian, 1182. The top four moneymakers were: front row: Sky- lar Dornak; middle row: Averi Glaze, Taylor Watz, Hannah Sutton, Jehudiah Zalman; back row: Megann Faas, Michelle Sutton, Melea Socha, Amber Sutton and Michaela Holt.

THANK YOU VOLUNTEERS for All You Do in the Parishes and Schools!

Influential Women – Moms

D uring the month of May, many of us have fond memories of our devotion to Mary, our heavenly Mother. Let us keep that devotion alive through our prayers and practices. At the same time, I would like for us to salute the most influential group of women in the world, today’s mothers. You probably won’t see their names in headlines or on marquees. But you will definitely see them wherever their children are. You will find them teaching their children, through words and example, how to love, to pray and to face life’s challenges. You will see them standing behind their children in times of enjoyment and success and in times of sorrow and trial; you will see them as they whole-heartedly give of themselves through performing all the various duties that mold their children. These valiant and influential women nourish the bodies, minds and spirits of those in their care; they transmit their values and their culture, as well as their family and spiritual heritage.

Theirs is an awesome task! Now and then they may wonder if all the chauffeur duties, the selling of raffle tickets, the candy and cookie sales, the birthday party cupcakes, the hard stadium benches, the loads of laundry, the hot hours in the kitchen, the time spent helping with homework, or the sleepless nights are worth it. However, if they take time to look at Mary and at their own experiences, they will realize that it’s not always easy being a mother and standing behind their children especially when their children are facing trials.

Although there are times when they may not feel appreciated, or they may grow weary from their many efforts, they will realize that it’s the daily little interactions with and for their children that form the fabric of each child’s character. They are aware that neglected stitches could allow this precious fabric to disintegrate; on the other hand, they hope and believe that loving affirmation and discipline will result in the strongest and most beautiful of fabrics.

We salute all the mothers (and proxy moms) who are reading this article: we urge all readers to show your mothers that you love them. If your mother is alive, please express your love for her, and visit or call her if you are not living with her. If she has already gone to her eternal reward, pray for her and tell her that you love her; I feel sure that she will hear you. Also, remember to pray to and imitate Mary, our Mother, who is a role model for all of us!

CHEERFUL JCDA GIVERS—“God loves a cheerful giver.” 2 Cor 9:7 was the Scripture that inspired Yoakum’s JCDA #206 to give back to the community. The members presented Mrs. Susan Kelley (r.), principal of St. Joseph Catholic School, and Mrs. Kim Reeves (l.), director of Bluebonnet Youth Ranch, with a monetary donation at their April 14, 2011, meeting.

CISTERN KJZT SOCIETY SUPPORTS RAPHAEL’S REFUGE—The KJZT St. Elizabeth Society #20 of Cistern, presented a check for $1,000 to Raphael’s Refuge this past April. The donation will be used to continue work on the Monument to the Innocents in Flatonia, a memorial to babies who have died from miscarriage or abortion, were stillborn, or who died in infancy. In acknowledgement of their generous gift, a 12”X12” glass block will be engraved with the name of the society and date of donation. When enough of the large blocks have been engraved, they will be used to construct a 15’ glass and metal cross at the entrance of the monument, in recognition of all who have made a donation of at least $1,000. Pictured at the presentation are (l. to r.) Vice-President Winniford Vinklarek, President Betty Donner, Raphael’s Refuge Board Member Chris Hicks, KJZT State Chaplain, Rev. Joseph Hylbree, Secretary Grace Vinklarek and Edna Migl. The monument’s chapel is available to groups and churches that would like to have meetings or services on related issues. It is opened during the day, seven days a week. For information about Raphael’s Refuge, contact Midge Elam at (361) 865-3021 or raphaelsergueuf@att.net. The Web site is http://www.raphaelsergueuf.org/

VOLUNTEERS HONORED—The Fourteenth Annual Mother Elizabeth Ann Seton Awards were presented recently in Shiner by the Office of Catholic Schools. A dinner was served, followed by the presentation of the awards. Making the presentations were Bishop David E. Fellhauer, John Quary, school superintendent, and Janie Carrales. The recipients of the award for the year 2010 were: front row (l-r): David Spuyns, Our Lady of the Gulf School, Port Lavaca; Roberta Bit- tick, St. Joseph School, Yoakum; Cindy Malatek, St. Ludmila School, Shiner; Jennie Mugli, St. Michael School, Weimar; RoseMary Hemmi, Sacred Heart Elementary School, Hallettsville; Molly Kresta, St. Philip School, El Campo; Carol Berger, St. Rose of Lima School, Schulenburg; top row (l-r): Mr. Quary, Richard Bledau, Nazareth Academy, Victoria; Tim Kresta, St. Paul High School, Shiner; Marcus Rubio, Holy Cross School, Bay City; Deacon Leo Sharron, St. Michael School, Cuero; Bishop Fellhauer, Gerald Durchoer, Our Lady of Victory School, Victoria; Robby Burdge, St. Joseph High School, Victoria; Phillip Hemmi, Sacred Heart High School, Hallettsville; and Karl Hill, St. Anthony School, Columbus.
ST. JOSEPH CHOIRS WIN SUPERIOR AND GOLD—The St. Joseph High School Varsity Treble Chorale won a Texas Private School Music Educators Association (TPSMEA) Concert & Sight-reading Trophy for the third consecutive year March 25, 2011. The choir contest was hosted and held at Oakridge School of Arlington, Texas. Each choir was judged by a panel of three judges in two separate areas of musical competition. A Concert & Sight-reading Trophy is awarded to a choral organization that receives 1st division (Superior) rating in both Concert Singing and Sight-reading. Varsity Honors Choir Officers are Te- resa Vincent-quartermaster /librarian, Megan Joy-president, Jaclyn Bouzalis-vice president, and Kayla Janecek-chaplain. St. Joseph High School Choir Director, Michael Petryski, is also pleased to announce that two of the members of the St. Joseph High School Choral Program, Tori Haynes (l.) and Ofelia Rodriguez (r.), won Gold Solo Medals at the 2011 Texas State Solo Contest for private schools. The students were accompanied by Sandra Glenn.

HALLETTSVILLE—The National Evangelization Team (NET) Ministries recently visited Sacred Heart Catholic Parish and provided three spiritual retreats for the students of Sacred Heart Catholic School in Grades 6 – 12 and the religious education students in Grades 8 – 10, as well as youth from Shiner and St. Mary’s (Hallettsville).

NET Ministries is an international youth ministry that challenges young Catholics to love Christ and embrace the life of the Church. NET Ministries fulfills its mission by conducting over 800 youth retreats across the United States each year.

The format and theme of the retreats vary, but the basic message is always the same. “In Jesus Christ, the Son of God made man, who died and rose from the dead, salvation is offered to all as a gift of God’s grace and mercy.” The retreats were high-energy experiences using large group presentations, small group discussion, music, drama, personal faith sharing and one-on-one prayer.

The following are quotes from some of the Sacred Heart students who participated in the NET retreat: “I was so moved that I am considering to apply for the NET team and I want to live my life for God instead of myself,” by Ariane Kubena. “The NET team made me feel God’s presence in their words and actions,” by Amber Labay.

“The NET team brought me closer to God, changed my life for the better, and made me feel loved,” by Kristen Henke.

The NET consisted of eleven young adults, ages 18-26, from across the United States who served as modern-day disciples. The ten teams to share their faith and invite all they meet to give their lives to Jesus. The ten teams will reach out to over 60,000 youth from September to May.

NET also held retreats at St. Rose of Lima in Schulenburg, Our Lady of Mount Carmel in Wharton, Our Lady of Victory in Victoria, Immaculate Conception in Goliad, St. Joseph’s in Moulton, and two at Our Lady of Sorrows in Victoria.

By Camille Mica, a senior at East Bernard High School and parishioner of Holy Cross Church

Watching the endless television footage of violent waves destroying everything in sight, I shuddered with horror and disbelief. How could something like this happen? As I encountered more news broadcasts and articles, I began to see many- sideds to the devastation in Japan. The massive earthquake and tsunami in Japan not only impacted thousands of Japanese citizens, but millions of people worldwide. When disaster strikes, suddenly we begin to step back from our daily lives and ask ourselves questions. Most of us still remember this feeling after the terrorist attacks on September 11, 2001. All across the nations, we citizens opened our eyes and realized the freedoms and opportunities we enjoy as Americans. Now, as people struggle to recover in Japan, we are reawakened to how many blessings we take for granted, especially our families, and how quickly our lives could be torn away from us. Yet we also see how much importance we place on material things—things that could vanish in an instant. How often do we wake up each morning and thank God for the chance to dress ourselves, to eat breakfast, to go to school or work, to live in safety?

Another incredible aspect of events like Japan’s tragedy is witnessing how human beings react to devastation and come together. Families, communities and nations have united to provide relief for the millions of victims. Despite increasing violence throughout the world, countries have been able to peacefully work together and make a difference. We have begun to pray eagerly, knowing, in the words of Psalm 111:5, that God is “ever-mindful of his covenant.” We have hope that he will redeem his children and save all those who are lost. It is amazing to see so many humans having faith and reaching out to their brothers and sisters in need. But it is also hard to know that it takes something so rare and destructive to bring us together and bring us to our knees.

Acts 22:36 says, “And now why do you delay?” Why do we wait for something to go wrong before opening our eyes? Why do we wait for tragedy to strike before building a better world? Maybe in these difficult times God is providing an avenue for salvation. Maybe, as the earth shook on March 11, God was allowing this tragedy to shake our hearts from their sleep. Psalm 114:7 says, “Tremble O earth, at the presence of the Lord.” As we continue to see the events in Japan unfold, let us feel our tremble before the Lord and move toward holiness. How is the time, without delay, to awaken our souls and make changes—changes that will last.

Reporting Abuse

If you or someone you know has been sexually or physically abused by a member of the clergy or other church personnel:

• Contact the bishop or the chan-cellor of the Diocese of Victoria at (361) 573-0282
• Call Father Gary Janak (979) 543-3770 or Sister Emilie Ellers (361) 573-7111, Coordinators of Pastoral Care and Outreach; or
• Write to Bishop David E. Fellhauser, Diocese of Victoria, PO. Box 4070, Victoria, TX 77903; Mark your letter “Personal and Confidential.”

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

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

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

A Trembling Earth, Our Shaken Souls

“Weep with those who weep and wipe tears away. For your grief is greater than ours that we may have hope.”—Romans 12:15

“You have said,” said the Lord to Zephaniah, “I will remove Israel’s enemy from the face of the land. I will do this in a day of love and compassion, and in a year of grace and kindness. The Lord is a compassionate and gracious God.”—Zephaniah 3:17

May 15—Retreat Formation/Policy and Procedure - Our Lady of Victory, Victoria
May 14—Foundations Youth Ministry Class, Chancery in Victoria
May 15—Retreat Formation/Policy and Procedure - Holy Family, Victoria
May 10—June 3—Youth Challenges Conference in La Grange, Texas
June 5—Rocky Mountain High Parent/ Participant Meeting
June 10—12—Camp David Staff Development
June 12—14—Camp David – Junior High Camp
June 15—Camp David Elementary Camp
June 15—20—D-Week Staff Development
June 27—50—D-Week Staff Development
July 2–10—Rocky Mountain High
July 18-21—Boys Vocation Camp

Youth Calendar of Events

Metadata:

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Youth Calendar of Events

Body:

May 15—Retreat Formation/Policy and Procedure - Our Lady of Victory, Victoria
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July 18-21—Boys Vocation Camp

Find us now on Facebook! At Diocese of Victoria – Youth Ministry

For more information on any of these events, please contact: Debbie Vanelli at the Office of Youth Ministry at (361) 573-0282 ext. 32 or e-mail at dvaneli@victoriadiocese.org

Web site: www.victoriadiocese.org/youthoffice

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The Catholic Lighthouse

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Gabrielle Wenske won the grand prize for her artwork in the General Land Office’s 2011 Treasures of the Texas Coast Children’s Art Contest. Her mother and OLV art teacher, Mary Wenske, also won many fabulous prizes since her student won the contest. (right) Alexandra Corpuz’ artwork is shown above; she also was a finalist from Victoria.

Victorian takes top honors at Treasures of the Texas Coast Children’s Art Contest

AUSTIN — Victoria 11-year-old Gabrielle Wenske’s image of a surf shack on a Texas beach won grand prize in the General Land Office’s 2011 Treasures of the Texas Coast Children’s Art Contest. “The colors in Gabrielle’s art really jump out, and the message ‘Trashing Texas Beaches Isn’t Cool’ comes through loud and clear,” said Texas Land Commissioner Jerry Patterson, who picked the winning entry from more than 6,500 submissions.

Gabrielle’s artwork will soon grace the cover of next year’s Texas General Land Office’s 2011 Treasures of the Texas Coast Children’s Art Contest calendar. The fifth-grader also wins two round-trip coach-class tickets from Continental Air Lines to any Continental destination in the 48 contiguous United States; one 7-night Caribbean cruise from Royal Caribbean Cruise Lines departing out of Galveston, as well as a plaque in recognition of her outstanding service in the field of education from Dean Douglas J. Palmer, the Dean of the Roundtable in the College of Education and Human Development at Texas A&M University.

Currently, Sally teaches at Sacred Heart Catholic School where her sons, Steven and Kevin, went to school. She now teaches English II and III, accounting, and a basic computer class.

Sacred Heart teacher recognized at Texas A&M University

Sally Kolos, OJL, receives a plaque in recognition of her outstanding service in the field of education from Dean Douglas J. Palmer.

JCDAs from St. Joseph Parish in Yoakum went to the Ronald McDonald House in Austin recently to make a large donation. Members are (bottom row, l to r) Haley Pierman, Kylee Quinnney, Ella Boswell, Kylie Vehe, Hannah Boswell, Julia Poit, Abbie Heiman, Constance Chommat, Sophie Jahn and Ava Maemlich; top row: Crystal Sanchez, Chairman Jennifer Jahn, RMH Employee - Abraham, Destiny Garza, Kenzie Coull, Angelica Rojas, Esmeralda Rojas, RMH Employee - Yeraldine and Chairman Desiree Muenich.

JCDAs #206 donates 82 gallons of soda tabs to Ronald McDonald House

AUSTIN — On April 16, 2011, fifteen members from JCDAs #206 from Yoakum took a trip to the Ronald McDonald House in Austin. While there, they presented over 82 gallons of soda tabs that they collected over the past few months. These tabs are recycled to help generate money for operational expenses at this facility. The Ronald McDonald House offers families a place to stay while their children are undergoing treatment for a serious illness.

Sally’s special interests include family gardening, seashell crafts and dramatic presentations. Sally’s husband is a C.P.A. and both her sons are proud Texas Aggies.
The Knights of Columbus #3253 and Columbian Squires #5333 held a Highway Clean up in Port Lavaca recently. Pictured are members, front row (l. to r.), Damian Mesada, Luey Perez, Ruben Garcia and Robert Garcia; back row (l. to r.), Mr. Crain, Marcus Perez, Mr. Cormier, Mr. Bonus, Mr. Garcia and Mr. Thompson.

The Knights of Columbus

OLV State Handwriting Champions

Our Lady of Victory School first grader Adrianna Garcia and eighth grader Madison Hoang were named State Grade Level Winners in the 2011 Zaner-Bloser National Handwriting Contest. Madison was also a State Handwriting Winner in the fifth, sixth and seventh grades. This year more than 220,000 students nationwide in grades one through eight participated in the contest. All State winning entries advanced to the national competition. Principal Sister Laura Toman presented Adrianna and Madison each with an engraved State Winner Medallion during the April PTC Meeting. Adrianna’s and Madison’s teachers received an engraved rosewood box and pen and the school received a gift certificate for Zaner-Bloser learning materials. Our Lady of Victory School has participated in the Zaner-Bloser Handwriting Contest for the past 16 years and has had 23 state champions. Adrianna is the daughter of Mr. & Mrs. David Garcia, and Madison is the daughter of Drs. Paul Hoang and Luci Nguyen.

CONFIRMATION AT ST. JOHN’S IN HUNGERFORD — Bishop David Fellhauer confirmed five young women from St. John’s Parish in Hungerford March 31, 2011; they were escorted by the Fourth Degree Knights of Columbus El Campo Assembly #1131. Those confirmed, from l. to r., were Jessica Burrtschell, Mariela Delgado, Brittany Orsak, Carissa Orsak, and Jenny Possipil. The Sir Knights, from l. to r., are Hector Gutierrez, Ascension Quintanilla, George Legler, Gerry Mikeska, Richard Zahn, Marvin Macek and Joe Kubena. Bishop Fellhauer is in the center. Not shown is Father Charles Dwomoh, pastor of St. John the Baptist Church. (The Catholic Lighthouse editor normally does not print confirmation pictures because there would be too many, but Hungerford and Hillje parishes are rarely in the newspaper, so this one exception has been made.)

ST. ANDREW AND ST. PROCOPIUS YOUTH CONFIRMED — Bishop David E. Fellhauer confirmed 33 youth, in grades nine to 11, from St. Andrew Parish in Hillje and its mission, St. Procopius Parish in Louise, at the 6 p.m. Mass at St. Andrew’s on April 18. The Fourth Degree Knights of Columbus El Campo Assembly #1131 were the honor guard for the youth.

EASTER VIGIL — Bishop David Fellhauer blesses water with the Easter Candle at Our Lady of Victory Cathedral, April 23, 2011. The Holy Water was sprinkled upon the congregation following the renewal of baptismal vows. He is assisted by Deacon Lawrence Rossow and Stephanie Kasper.

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Home Office: San Antonio, Texas. #ASU111
An Invitation to Joy ~ Selections from the writings and speeches of His Holiness John Paul II

By Pope John Paul II, Mejia, Jorge Ma-
riz; and Burke, Greg Format: Hardcover Publisher: Simon & Schuster

John Paul II, the most charismatic re-
ligious leader of our time, is a man whose
actions truly reflect his beliefs.

“An Invitation to Joy” brings together a selection of John Paul II’s messages with the most poignant photographs documenting his papacy, along with those after his election to the papacy. For the first time, here is an illustrated devo-
tional work that distills the essence of his message and shows the intimate connection between his words and his deeds.

Three main sections – The Human Fam-
ily, The People of God, and The Dignity of
the Human Person – encompass the themes
that are most important to the Pontiff.

“Far Greater Than a Secret: The Faith – Love – Eternity: Essays on Interpreting the Bible in Ordinary Time” by Scott Hahn. Congratulations. The winners of the youth contests (school or CCD group or individual) are El Campo and Molly Michalsky (9s).

Why the Commandments are not Burdensome

By Father Charles Van Winkle, CSC

Since God, the Holy Spirit, tells us “The commandments are not burdensome” (1 Thessalonians 5:16), it must be true, despite so much apparent evidence to the contrary.

In simply and clearly stating why the commandments are not burdensome, the recently published English-Spanish booklet, “Far Greater Than a Secret: The Faith – Love – Eternity: Essays on Interpreting the Bible in Ordinary Time” by Scott Hahn. Congratulations. The winners of the youth contests (school or CCD group or individual) are El Campo and Molly Michalsky (9s). Why the Commandments are not Burdensome.

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Bishop’s Team: $600 includes round of golf with Bishop David Fellhauer, photos – from his early days to the present – and a 50-page book of the Pope’s entire life in pictures – from his early childhood to his activities in the Vatican.

“Not my will, but Your will be done,” Jesus said to the Father and to that end he surrendered everything. “Far Greater Than a Secret: The Faith – Love – Eternity: Essays on Interpreting the Bible in Ordinary Time” by Scott Hahn.

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There Be Dragons ~ comes to theaters in May

By John Mulderig Catholic News Service

Editor’s Note: This is a Lim- ited Release film and will only come to select theaters (such as Cinemark in Victoria) if it does well in larger outlets.

NEW YORK (CNS) — What makes a movie out of a book about the Catholic spiritual movement Opus Dei likely comes — un- fortunately from some perversions of the misrepresentations of it lobbed off on the public by author Dan Brown in his 2003 novel “The Da Vinci Code.” Brown’s fallacies, however, were merely rehashed by the 2006 screen version of his fictional feverish ploy, helmed by Ron Howard.

A healthy antidote to such sensationalized misconceptions — a murderous albino monk, you say? — comes with the release of “There Be Dragons” (Samuel Goldwyn), a generally powered but formally factionalized dramatization of passages in the life of Opus Dei founder Josemaria Escriva de Balaguer (1902-75), in- tensely yet appealingly portrayed by Charlie Cox.

As Fictional Spanish-born reporter Robert Torres (Dougray Scott) investigates Escriva’s life, he’s surprised to discover that his own father Manolo (Wes Bentley) — from whom Robert has long been estranged — was the father of the Catholic religious leader in his own right.

Yet when these leftists begin desecrating churches and murder- ing priests in cold blood, Escriva remains uneasily neutral, sympathizing with his adversar- ies’ motivations and aspirations and urging his handful of early sympathizers to react with Christian forbearance.

His method is inspired and charitable approach to the situation belies Escriva’s reputation, in some circles, as an unshaved devote of Franco’s fascist vision.

The striking portrait of any- thing-but-plaster saint that forms the heart of writer-director Robert Joffe’s hybrid tale grippingly conveys his subject’s struggle to discern his vocation and to live out the Christian message of peace, even in the most trying circumstances.

But the impact of these fact-based biographical elements is blunted by the fiveman cast with which Joffe has chosen to surround them, a storytelling device that turns out to be more a burden than enhancement. Thus, imaginary subplots such as the conflict between Robert and Manolo never quite con- vince, and only serve to distract the viewer from a primary story, which is both spiritually valuable and ably depicted.

The significance of that cen- tral chronicle is such, however, as to make “There Be Dragons” probably acceptable for older teens.

The film contains occasion- ally bloody action violence, a few sexual references, a couple of crude and a half-dozen curse words. The Catholic News Service classification is A-II — adults. The Motion Picture Association of America rating is PG-13 — parents strongly cautioned. Some material may be inappropriate for children under 13.

Mulderig is on the staff of Catholic News Service. More reviews are available online at www.usccb.org/features.

May Readings from May 8 - June 12

Week of May 8 — Third Sunday of Easter

Acts 2:14, 34a, 34b

John 1:39-42

Luke 24:36-48

Week of May 15 — Fourth Sunday of Easter

Acts 16:1-10

James 2:13-14

1 Peter 1:21-25

Week of May 22 — Fifth Sunday of Easter

Acts 1:1-11

Acts 2:42-47

Ephesians 1:17-23

Matthew 28:16-20

Week of May 29 — Sixth Sunday of Easter

Acts 8:5-8, 14-17

Acts 6:1-7

Psalms 66:13-4, 4-5, 6, 16, 20

John 14:1-12

Your Family

By Bill and Monica Dodds

Catholic News Service

What mothers “really” want

Looking for some sugges- tions for what to get Mom this Mother’s Day (May 8)? Here are a few ideas:

• Anything the children make themselves. Except a mess.
• A smile. A hug.
• A phone call from a child or a friend.
• Something Dad and the chil- dren prepared.
• Anything.

And on the Receiving End

Like to offer your family a few subtle (or not-so-subtle) sug- gestions for gifts? Tear out this column and stick it on the fridge. Check what you like this year. Don’t see it listed? Write it here:

A Prayer for Mothers

Lord, bless all mothers. Thank you for teaching us about di- vine love; teach us to be a mother’s gentle kiss, about heavenly grace through a mother’s sure hands, about divine mercy through a mother’s forgiving tears. Bless all the women of faith, of hope and of love who have been a part of our lives. Amen.

M-O-T-H-E-R

M is for the mornings she told me to get up and get ready for school because, despite my com- plaints, she just knew “I wasn’t really sick. And I wasn’t.”

O is for other children; she didn’t care what they had or did.

H is for the hat she made me spell “love.”

E is for the evenings she stayed with me when the weather was bad even though it made me look uncool.

R is for the reward she so richly deserves. One that’s so big it can’t possibly fit on this side of heaven.

U is for the hugs she gave me when I was feeling defeated.

M is for the mornings she told me to get up and get ready for school because, despite my complaints, she just knew “I wasn’t really sick. And I wasn’t.”

R is for the reward she so richly deserves. One that’s so big it can’t possibly fit on this side of heaven.

Faith & Family

Page 13 — May 2011

O is for the evenings she stayed with me when the weather was bad even though it made me look uncool.

Catholic News Service
We hold the assumption that if you made a stage of discipleship they find themselves. sus, their Teacher and Lord! These helps to Spirit will make our commitment to Jesus retreats each year, we trust that the Holy Jesus Christ, to be Savior of the world and lives in covenant relationship with God. We truly are in God's eyes, so that we live ouring the faith" and an "authentic text." The Church," which stands, in the words of iarity with the Catechism of the Catholic Assisi, Ignatius of Loyola, Teresa of Avila the great Monastic Orders, and the ineffable the Trinity, the contemplative traditions of through the Desert Fathers and Mothers, the tage of Catholic Spirituality," offered to us the Bible," both Old and New Testaments, Plan of Salvation as fulfilled in Jesus who offers us the awesome privi- age of participating in God's divine nature (2 Peter 1:4), and the gift of living out our discipleship in and with Jesus who is now Emmanuel, God-with-us! The overarching vision in the third year is Being Mentored by the Holy Spirit. The major focus will be to get a proper apprecia- tion of what it means to live our lives with God in the Trinitarian Embrace, to wait on the Holy Spirit to reveal our decisions and to be God’s joyful witness in our local Church. We make several assumptions that we hope will become reality through this program. When each participant is focused on developing communion with the Trin- ity through prayer and consistent spiritual practices, fellowship among the participant gets strongly strengthened. Our observation is that not only is community among the participants strengthened, each one is much more concerned about being sent out to others rather than focusing on feeling good within the group. The best way to teach and experience prayer is to offer many, many hours of it through the program. Consequently, dur- ing the four retreat weekends each year, we devote about fifteen hours to prayer, individual and group retreat direction, the Sacrament of Reconciliation, and Eucharist. Our observation is that these retreat experiences have had a profound bearing in the transformation of participants into disciples. While being made contemplative in prayer and action is a gift that the Holy Spirit wishes passionately to give us, it is necessary that the program help this forma- tion by offering the wisdom of our saints and mystics competently and convinc- ingly; secondly, that the program require accountability from each participant and the team. In our Catholic understanding of disci- pleship, our experience of the Trinity God is inextricably linked with our experience of Church. The Church is the Body of Christ, and therefore we as Church are the collective image of God being brought into likeness with Jesus Christ. Our observation is that this truth is slowly becoming real- ity in the participants’ God’s Embrace. The mystical dimensions of Church as the worship of and union with the Holy Spirit is blossoming into a living truth in their lives. Here are some practical details that you would need to be aware of as you discern your call to this 3-year Program of God’s Embrace Renewal Centers. The First Year will begin on August 27, 2011, at St. Robert's Parish Hall in El Campo with a day-long retreat to give you an overview of the journey of discipleship. We will found the weekend retreats to be crucial in the formation of seasoned disciples. It is after these retreat experiences that several participants have developed a consistent pattern of daily prayer that has made a huge impact on their discipleship. In the second year of the program, the overarching vision is Christian Discipleship. The topics will draw extensively from the teachings of Jesus and the New Testament. The major focus throughout this year will be to get a proper appreciation of who Jesus is as he reveals himself in relation- ship to his Father and the Holy Spirit. We will spend much time in prayer and reflection on the relationship between the God of salvation (Old Testament) and Jesus who is now Emmanuel, God with us! ST. AGNES PARISH CELEBRATES—St. Agnes Parish family of Edna hosted two celebrations on March 8, 2011. Rev. Michael Petering’s birthday was observed and a Mardi Gras dress-up party was held in the beautifully decorated parish center. During the celebrations, Father Petering burned palms for the ashes to be used the following day at Ash Wednesday services. The St. Agnes Children’s Choir sang and the children participated in a Mardi Gras parade. A covered-dish meal was served with many favorite Mardi Gras dishes. A Dutch-decor cake (Father Petering’s favorite) and ice cream were served for dessert to the 100 people in attendance. Bingo, cards, dominos, musical chairs and kick ball were fun-filled games played during the festivities. Many prizes were awarded, and the evening was enjoyed by all. Special guests were Father Petering’s dad, Mr. Edwin Petering, from Bay City, and Kathy Denton, Father Petering’s sister from Houston.
Pope Benedict XVI's Intentions

beckoning at the price of silence and while recognizing that this peace cannot of faith and good will to pursue peace, released April 19. "We call on all peoples of those considered minority in number where freedom of expression, religion that will lead to a modern civil society, ties in the region. "We pray for reforms the need to respect the rights of the minority to the unrest in the Middle East, noting Easter message, the heads of Christian

By John Thavis
Catholic News Service
VATICAN CITY (CNS) — In an Easter blessing to the world, Pope Benedict XVI prayed that Christ’s resurrection may open paths of “freedom, justice and peace” for troubled populations of the Middle East and Africa.

The pope urged an end to violence in Libya and Ivory Coast, assistance to refugees flooding out of North Africa and consolation for the victims of the Japanese earthquake. He prayed for those persecuted for their Christian faith, and praised their courage.

He spoke from the central balcony of St. Peter’s Basilica April 24 in his bless- ing “urbi et orbi” (to the city of Rome and to the world), after celebrating Mass for nearly 100,000 people in St. Peter’s Square. Broadcast to many countries and live-streamed on the Internet, it was the last major event on the 84-year-old pontiff’s heavy Holy Week schedule.

Pope Benedict said the resurrection of Christ must not be viewed as “the fruit of speculation or mystical experience.” It happened in a precise moment and marked history forever, giving human events new strength, new hope and new meaning, he said.

“The entire cosmos is rejoicing today,” and every person open to God has reason to be glad, he said.

But the joy of Easter contrasts with “the cries and laments that arise from so many painful situations: deprivation, hunger, disease, war, violence,” the pope said.

He prayed that “the splendor of Christ reach the peoples of the Middle East, so that the light of peace and of human dignity may overcome the darkness of division, hate and violence.” In Libya, he said, diplomacy and dialogue need to take the place of armed fighting, and the suffering must have access to humanitarian aid.

The pope alluded to the civil unrest that has spread throughout northern Africa and the Middle East, encouraging all citizens there, especially young people, to work for a society where poverty is defeated and where “every political choice is inspired by respect for the human person.” The refu- gees who have fled the conflicts deserve a generous response by other populations, he added.

The pope said the many forms of suf- fering in “this wounded world” make the Easter message all the more meaningful.

“In our hearts there is joy and sorrow, on our faces there are smiles and tears. Such is our earthly reality. But Christ is risen, he is alive and he walks with us,” he said. He then offered Easter greetings in 65 languages, including Chinese, Hindi and Swahili.

Jerusalem’s Christian leaders pray for Mideast reforms, minority rights

JERUSALEM (CNS) — In their joint Easter message, the heads of Christian churches of Jerusalem turned their atten- tion to the unrest in the Middle East, noting the need to respect the rights of the minori- ties in the region. “We pray for reforms that will lead to a modern civil society, where freedom of expression, religion and human rights — including the rights of those considered minority in number are respected,” they said in their message, released April 19. “We call on all peoples of faith and good will to pursue peace, while recognizing that this peace cannot be obtained at the price of silence and submission to corruption and injustice.” They also urged all Christians to “pray for reconciliation among people in the Holy Land,” where they said the “deteriorating situation” was “making peace and justice seem further away than ever before.” The church leaders related Christ’s passion to the current situation. “The violence, when it erupts, reminds us that the cross of Christ is ever present for the faithful followers of the prince of peace. The crucifixion is an ongoing reality for many of our clergy and people who continue to seek to live with mutual understanding and cooperation with their neighbors,” they said.

The Pope Speaks

At Easter, pope prays for peace, freedom in world trouble spots

By Cynthia Brewer

Since printing the story about the Re- ligious Artwork Mystery in The Catholic Lighthouse’s April 11 issue, I’ve re- ceived a couple of calls from people who also happen to have some of the three-way, or slat, artwork. Incarnate Word and Blessed Sacrament Sister Geraldine Pavlik called me within a few days of the paper’s print date and said that the Sisters have a piece of artwork similar to Mr. Bustillo’s three-way, slat picture. It is a smaller picture, about 8 x 10 inches, with Our Lady of Guadalupe as the center piece, the Sacred Heart of Jesus viewed from the left, and Our Lady of Perpetual Help viewed from the right. Since reading the story, Sister Geraldine has resurrected the artwork from storage and it is now displayed in the Mortuary Chapel in the convent in Victoria. Then Patsy Jones of St. Roch Church in Mentz called to tell me that she and her husband, Roy, were given a piece of three-way, slat artwork that had seven pictures.

Photographed above, is the main (center) print, the Last Supper. Looking from the left are three religious pictures of the Blessed Mother, side by side, and three more, side by side, as one looks from the right.

Mrs. Jones said that her brother brought the artwork from Brazil when he was a merchant seaman in the 1950s.

The most recent call I received was from Mr. Edward Moya of Victoria. He buys and sells used items, and in one of his bulk purchases, was an 8 x 10 inch, three-way, slat piece of artwork with Our Lady of Perpetual Help as the front-center picture, a picture of Jesus’ head with the crown of thorns as one looks from the right, and an unidentified bishop saint as one looks from the left. It appeared that the 1/8 inch-wide slats were made of glass so that when looking at the artwork straight on, one’s view of the picture was not impeded. Judging from the frame, Mr. Moya’s picture probably comes from the turn of the 20th century or could be older.

Again, all these pieces contain religious pictures, rather than presidents or national leaders with which the person from the Smithsonian Museum was only familiar. Even as more and more of the three-way, slat artwork is discovered, I still do not know what company or companies manufactured them, and from what country they originated. I do know that they were made as early as the 19th century or could be older. Either way, they’re fascinating pieces of artwork, and I know the owners feel blessed to own one.

Latin Patriarch Fouad Twal of Jerusalem performs the benediction of the Easter Vigil fire in the Church of the Holy Sepulcher in Jerusalem’s Old City April 23.

(CNS photo/Debbie Hill)
Ordination Class of 2011

34 average age of new U.S. priests
69% white
15% Latino
10% Asian/Pacific Islander
8% converted to Catholicism
17% have a graduate degree
21% attended a Catholic high school
39% attended a World Youth Day celebration prior to seminary

Capital Comments

By Jennifer Allmon
Associate Director
Texas Catholic conference

Capitol Comments: First Do No Harm: The Art of Legislative Compromise

The foundational principle of medical ethics is the principle of nonmaleficence, commonly referred to as, “First, Do No Harm.” The second moral principle, beneficence, is to “Do Good.” When the Texas Legislature meets, the Texas Catholic Conference is blessed to be able to offer our full support to some of the proposed legislation and may be asked to oppose. These are usually clear and straightforward positions for us to take.

In other cases, however, the bishops are asked to compromise with other stakeholders in order to achieve an incremental success. This legislative session, there are three crucial compromises that the bishops were asked to make. They accepted one on the sonogram bill, rejected one on advance directive reform, and changed their position on legislation on payday lending. When these dilemmas occur, the directives “First Do No Harm” and “Do Good” are helpful tools to outline our positions on compromise.

Sonogram Compromise (HB 15): The bishops support legislation to require access to a sonogram and improvements to the informed consent process, including requiring a private meeting with the physician 24 hours prior to an abortion. There were not enough votes in the Senate to maintain the private meeting in all cases. Because the bill does no harm, and does good, the bishops agreed to a compromise that ensures that the 24-hour waiting period and private meeting occurs in 95% of the abortions that take place in Texas. The bill is awaiting final vote in the Senate at the time of this writing.

Advance Directives Compromise (HB 3520): The bishops have repeatedly supported legislation that respects autonomy and human dignity, both for patients and providers of end of life care. Legislation on the issue of advance directives is complex and contentious. The bishops support a comprehensive review of the current advance directives act. The bishops oppose indefinite treatment for dying patients, which HB 3520 would require. The committee asked the bishops to accept a revision that would put a 180-day statute of limitation for dying patients. This revision, while possibly allowing a family to find other providers to agree with their wishes, may still make a bad law worse. Because the compromise fails to meet the moral principal, “first do no harm,” the bishops cannot accept it and continue to oppose the bill. The bill has not been voted out of the House committee at the time of this writing.

Payday Lending Compromise (HB 2953): The bishops have called on the legislature to reform the payday lending industry and end 500% annual percentage interest rates. They started out supporting SB 1882, which places a cap on interest and fees, and opposing HB 2953, which does not offer meaningful reform and prohibits a cap on interest and fees. As the bill authors made compromises on the bills, the content changed. The bishops ultimately withdrew their support of SB 1862 due to the lack of a cap on interest rates and fees. However, because the bill still offers some potential for positive reform, they chose not to oppose it. HB 2953 added new protections for consumers, but prohibited a cap on interest and fees. Based on these protections, the bishops withdrew opposition of HB 2953, but could not offer support because of the lack of fee caps. While these bills do no harm since rates and fees are currently unlimited, they do not do enough good to earn the support of the Texas Bishops. If these bills pass, the bishops will work for reasonable rate and fee caps and meaningful enforcement in the future.

Our goals are always to further the dignity of human life at all stages and always to do no harm. We thank all of the faithful advocates who have acted on our alerts, participated in advocacy, and prayed for the success of this legislative session.

Pray for Peace, the Unborn and Abused!

If you suspect a child has been abused or mistreated, you are required to report it to the Texas Department of Protective and Regulatory Services or to a law enforcement agency within 48 hours of the time you suspect the child had been or may be abused or neglected.

Reporting Child Abuse

Hotline
1-800-252-5400

Many Texas bishops attended the 2011 Advocacy Days. From l. to r., front to back, they are Cardinal Daniel DiNardo (Archdiocese of Galveston-Houston), Bishop Kevin Vann (Diocese of Fort Worth), Bishop Joe Vásquez (Diocese of Austin), Bishop Oscar Cantú (Auxiliary, Archdiocese of San Antonio), Bishop Daniel Flores (Diocese of Brownsville), Bishop Wm. Michael Mulvey (Diocese of Corpus Christi), Bishop Plácido Rodríguez (Diocese of Lubbock) and Bishop Mark Seitz (Auxiliary, Diocese of Dallas). Photo: Jeff Dixon, East Texas Catholic

Faithful Citizenship in Action during Advocacy Day

By Chris Pinkalla, Legislative Communication Intern, Texas Catholic Conference

Hundreds of Catholics, from all walks of life, accompanied by nine Catholic Bishops, traveled to Austin from all around Texas to advocate for the legislative priorities of the Texas Bishops for the Catholic Faith at Action Advocacy Day on April 6, 2011.

Kicking off the day, the bishops passionately spoke to the great moral and social challenges facing our state on the hang of it, it was quite exhilarating. The bishops not only gave us a sense of what we do as the foundation of our work, but also shared what we do as the human rights that motivate what we do as the foundation of our Catholic social teaching…” said Cardinal DiNardo.

“违we trained well, we’re delighted in this sun, but we know there might be a rainy day in sight,” said Daniel Cardinal DiNardo, Archbishop of the Archdiocese of Galveston-Houston, referring to the current debate on the state budget and the controversy over the use of the Rainy Day Fund.

“We don’t leave our faith at the doorsteps of our churches, our homes. It also enters into the public square, and together we can make our case known, about the elements of our moral and social teaching that are important in the State of Texas…” because the centerpiece of their teaching is so simple, elegant and profound… the human person, whether that person doesn’t have a voice yet in the womb, whether they are aging and in a nursing home, whether in need of education, whether that person is a frightened immigrant, whatever, it’s the person and their human rights that motivate what we do as the foundation of our Catholic social teaching…” said Cardinal DiNardo.

Editor’s note: This was my first year of participating in Advocacy Days. At first I was bewildered trying to find the offices of all the representatives from the Diocese of Victoria’s 10-county area, but once I got the hang of it, it was quite exhilarating. Next year, I hope to take a few people with me, so we can better represent the Churches views.

Great North American Train Trip AMTRAK
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Aerial view shows entire block in ruins after severe storm

PEORIA, ILL. (CNS) — Father John J. Dietzen, the foremost question-and-answer columnist in the Catholic press for 35 years, whom The Catholic Lighthouse often published, died March 27 at OSF St. Francis Medical Center in Peoria. He was 83.

A priest of the Diocese of Peoria whose weekly “Question Corner” columns have been offered through Catholic News Service since 1975 and were later compiled in book form, Father Dietzen had been hospitalized since suffering a heart attack March 6 at his Peoria residence.

Bishop Daniel R. Jenky of Peoria was a former board member and secretary of the Catholic Press Association of the United States and Canada.

Following the Second Vatican Council, Father Dietzen served as associate editor-tor of The Catholic Post, the newspaper of the Diocese of Peoria, from 1957 — when it was known as The Register — until 1973. He is a former board member and secretary of the Catholic Press Association of the United States and Canada.

The purpose of his column — and book compilations which followed, including “The New Question Box” first published by Guildhall in 1981 and the current 560-page “Catholic Q&A: All You Needed to Know About Catholicism’ — was to help readers “recognize how our faith, in all its living expressions of worship, faith and service, can enhance (our) intimacy with God,” Father Dietzen wrote in 1997.

Father Dietzen has for years been “the most popular and widely circulated columnist in the stable of Catholic News Service,” said Tony Spence, director and editor-in-chief.

“His great and enduring talent was his pastoral response to the thousands of reader questions he answered over the years,” said Spence. “He never compromised the church’s teachings and always encouraged his readers to look to their parishes and the sacraments for solace. He never forgot that, at the end of the day, it was a human being who put a question in his box and that person required a human answer.”

The Catholic Post editor-in-chief.

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Father Dietzen was known as “The Question Box” to help readers understand the changes taking place in the Church.

Letters began coming in on all aspects of Catholic life, ranging from marriage and family issues to eumenism, Scripture, the sacraments and more. After the column was syndicated by CNS, Father Dietzen would regularly receive hundreds of questions each week.

“From Catholic Online (catholic.org)
Sex Trafficking: The New Slavery

By Diane Bayly

Slavery was officially abolished in the United States in 1860. Yet slavery is now flourishing in the U.S. out of public view. Lena, a student from Eastern Europe, had dreams of visiting the United States and improving her English through a study-abroad program. When she arrived at the U.S. airport, she was told that her study place had been changed. She was given a bus ticket to a different city. Upon arrival there, traffickers took her passport and enslavement in the sex industry for almost a year (CNN Opinion, November 25, 2009).

Carter, a coyote (a cross-border smuggler) of prostitution, had a seven-year-old girl, Rosita, as a client. He told her that she was pretty and that he would take care of her. She paid him $150 each. All the money went to her trafficker. She reported that her captors threatened her with an electric shock when she did not follow their orders (Fox News, November 16, 2009).

When Rosita was fifteen years old, a man walked up to her outside her school. He told her that she was pretty and that he wanted to be her boyfriend. He was a pimp. Over the next three years, Rosita endured an average of eight “customers” a day who were charged $150 each. All the money went to her pimp. “I just felt like I was put out to die,” she said (CBS Evening News, July 16, 2009).

These are only three of the stories of the tens of thousands of sex slaves in the United States. Modern-day slavery, now referred to as human trafficking, is not just an evil of bygone years that we read about in history books. It is a present-day reality, an evil of bygone years that we read about in history books. It is a present-day reality, an evil of bygone years that we read about in history books. It is a present-day reality, an evil of bygone years that we read about in history books. It is a present-day reality.

The statistics are staggering. The United States Department of State estimates that 800,000 people are trafficked across international borders each year for commercial sex or forced labor, approximately 80 percent of whom are women and girls (Fox News, May 27, 2009). This figure does not include the tens of thousands trafficked within their own countries. The United Nations Office of Drugs and Crimes reported in 2009 that 10 percent of global trafficking is for sexual exploitation, with increasing numbers of children involved.

Three areas of focus, Vietnam, Ethiopia, and Kenya, with a very specific project in each country. In Vietnam, Women Helping Women is seeking to end sex trafficking and the enslavement of women and young girls. By providing education for these girls, Women Helping Women can help reduce this brutal lifestyle. In Kenya, Women Helping Women is working to build houses and schools so participants can work safe and secure to raise their children.

One of the biggest struggles for women in Kenya is finding a safe and hygienic place to give birth, as the nearest hospital is often miles away. Women Helping Women is providing medical services and equipment for the Cross Catholic mother wing of the St. Raphael Dispensary. “We want to empower poor women and their families, and restore human dignity,” said Jarboe.

A Cross International Catholic Outreach is a Catholic relief and development organization working in more than two dozen developing countries in the world, providing material aid such as food, clothing, shelter, and medicines. Cross Catholic supports ongoing programs that help the poor lift themselves out of poverty and assist the church and the church organizations.
Weimar–

Engaged Encounter—

Natural Family Planning—

Retrouvaille —

Rybak, Battle Dance with the Telstars and The Night Shift

Weekend, May 6-7. There will be Arts & Crafts, BBQ

routes extending from the international border at the Rio

Real de los Tejas National Historic Trail was designated by

and other original remnants along the old route. El Camino

is the photographer who captured outstanding images of trail

Talbot of Stephen F. Austin State University’s School of Art

of the historic resources associated with El Camino Real

College now through May 28. This exhibit of 31 framed pho

accompany registration form.

11-13. For more info., call (361) 573-0828 ext. 2230. All

reservations. A re-enactment will be available for school groups

military personnel and $1 (ages 6-11), with children five and

possession of the Catholic Church in North America. A tour

Coffey

Thermal Method in the Victoria area, contact David and Annie

phone:  (210) 734-2146.

Life Office. For more information, go to their Web site:

ternational ministry that helps divorced, separated and widowed

sbcglobal.ne

org/dates.ph

Tens of thousands headed for divorce have successfully saved

For more information, please go to their Web site at

www.onemoresoul.
m.

Some great links:

www.presidiolabahia.org

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

For more information, please go to their Web site at

www.williamstx.org

El Camino Real de los Tejas National Historic Trail

victorianfpteachers@yahoo.com

The Weimar Gedenke will be held on Mother’s Day

May 8 at the church and the Sacred Heart Parish Hall (708 Main St.)
Shiner.

Register as soon as you have contacted

and sold out. More information and tickets can be purchased

Fiesta—Sacred Heart Parish Spring Festival May 29 at the

KHC.

Shiner—St. Cyril and Methodius Spring Picnic May 29 at the

American Legion Park.

Upcoming Events

Fratlonia—Sacred Heart Parish Spring Festival May 5-6.
A covered-dish reception following.

Our Lady of Guadalupe Church invites you to a Heal

Mass and Prayer Service every first Friday of the month at

9:00 a.m. Please mark your calendars! The event is

followed by praise and worship/adoration, healing prayers,

prayer, etc. Counseling available. Please come; bring

your Bible to read from. For more information, please call

the Rectory at (361) 573-0828 ext. 2230 or visit the website

at www.szlpaschal.org.

Victoria—Mission Project June 2-7. The trip will be

an educational experience? Why not try some PRAISE and WORSHIP.

ing experience? The Pan de Vida prayer group from Our Lady of

Church, 105 N. William St., on the first Saturday of the month

649-5328.

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of having worked for many years with Blessed Pope John Paul II,” he said.

As prefect of the Congregation for the Doctrine of the Faith from 1982 until his election in 2005, Pope Benedict said he worked at the pope’s side “and came to resemble him.

“His example of prayer continually impressed and edified me: he remained deeply united to God even amid the many demands of his ministry,” the pope said.

“Today his name is added to the host of those whom he proclaimed saints and blessed during the almost 27 years of his pontificate,” the pope said in his homily.

Pope John Paul during his pontificate beatified 1,338 people and canonized 482 — more than all of his predecessors combined. The beatification of Pope John Paul II was placed temporarily before the tomb of St. Peter, in an area closed to veneration after his beatification May 1. During a brief ceremony the main altar in St. Peter’s Basilica at the Vatican May 1. Pope John Benedict XVI prays at the casket of Pope John Paul II in front of the main altar in St. Peter’s Basilica at the Vatican May 1. Pope John Paul II’s tomb was opened and his casket removed in preparation for veneration after his beatification May 1. During a brief ceremony April 29, top Vatican officials and a handful of the pope’s former aides sang a litany in the grotto of St. Peter’s Basilica as the pope’s casket was placed temporarily before the tomb of St. Peter, in an area closed off to visitors. The casket, which was covered with an embroidered gold cloth, was moved to a spot in front of the main altar on the basilica’s upper level on the morning of May 1, where over 250,000 people prayed before it after the beatification Mass. Then it will be moved to a new tomb site in the chapel of St. Sebastian, located on the main floor of the basilica. The inscribed marble slab that covered Pope John Paul’s original tomb will be sent to Krakow, Poland, where it will be placed in a new church dedicated to Blessed John Paul, the Vatican said. (CNS photo/L'Osservatore Romano)

People pack St. Peter’s Square and the Via della Conciliazione leading up to the square during the beatifications of Pope John Paul II May 1 at the Vatican. The late Polish pontiff moved a step closer to sainthood during a joyous ceremony that drew more than 1 million people. This aerial view photo provided by the Italian National Police. (CNS photo/Massimo Sestini, Italian National Police via Catholic Press Photo)

Vatican beatifies Pope John Paul ‘because of his faith’