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Pope Benedict XVI has named Chicago Auxiliary Bishop Gustavo Garcia-Siller to head the Archdiocese of San Antonio. His appointment was published in Washington Oct. 14 by Archbishop Pietro Sambi, apostolic nuncio to the United States. Archbishop Garcia-Siller succeeds Archbishop Jose H. Gomez, who was named coadjutor archbishop of Los Angeles in April. His installation as archbishop of San Antonio is scheduled for Nov. 23.

Pope Benedict XVI has named Auxiliary Bishop Gustavo Garcia-Siller of Chicago to head the Archdiocese of San Antonio.

“I felt real happiness and joy tempered by a deep awareness of the great responsibility I had been asked to embrace,” he said in a statement. “From the moment I said yes, I felt, in faith, a deep affection for the people of the Archdiocese of San Antonio.”

Archbishop Gomez called his successor “a very solid man, very humble.”

Residents place Iraqi national flags on coffins during a funeral at the Syrian Catholic cathedral in Baghdad, Iraq. Dozens of hostages and police were killed when security forces RAIDed the cathedral Oct. 31 to free worshippers being held by gunmen wearing explosives. (CNS photo/Thea al-Sudani, Reuters)

Dozens dead, 56 wounded after savage attack at Iraq Catholic Cathedral

By Carol Glatz
Catholic News Service

WATICAN CITY (CNS) — A deadly militant siege of a Catholic cathedral in Baghdad, Iraq, was a “savage” act of “absurd violence,” Pope Benedict XVI said.

The pope urged international and national authorities and all people of good will to work together to end the “heinous episodes of violence that continue to ravage the people of the Middle East.”

“In a very grave attack on the Syrian Catholic cathedral of Baghdad, dozens of people were killed and injured, among them two priests and a group of faithful gathered for Sunday Mass,” the pope said of the Oct. 31 incident.

“I pray for the victims of this absurd violence, which is even more savage because it struck defenseless people, gathered in God’s house, which is a house of love and reconciliation,” he said after praying the Angelus with pilgrims in St. Peter’s Square Nov. 1, the feast of All Saints.

He expressed his closeness to Iraqi Christians, who have suffered another attack in their homeland, and he encouraged the nation’s priests and lay faithful “to be strong and steady in hope.”

Pope Benedict renewed his urgent call “for peace in the Middle East.”

While peace may be a gift of God, “it is also the result of efforts by people of good will and national and international institutions,” he said.

“May everyone unite their efforts so as to end all violence,” he said.

Armed militants wearing explosives stormed the cathedral Oct. 31 while an estimated 100 faithful were celebrating evening Mass, news reports said.

The terrorists first set off a car bomb across the street in front of the Baghdad Stock Exchange, which left at least two people dead. Then they stormed the church, killing another two people, according to reports.

The militants, who said they were part of the Islamic State of Iraq — a group with suspected ties to al-Qaida — held parishioners and priests hostage in the hopes of leveraging the release of prisoners from their network.

The terrorists demanded prisoners linked to al-Qaida be set free from detention in Iraq and Syria and they threatened to blow up the church if military forces attempted to break the siege, according to Italian state media RAI.

Iraqi security forces ringed the church and U.S. military flew overhead in helicopters.

After a standoff that lasted hours, Iraqi forces stormed the cathedral and the ensuing firefight and a series of explosions left a large number of people dead and injured.

The Associated Press reported Nov. 1 that at least 39 people were killed, which included hostages, Iraqi security forces and suspected militants. Other agencies were reporting 52 people dead and 56 people wounded.

One report said Iraqi church sources included three young priests among those dead.

Syrian Catholic Patriarch Ignace Joseph III Younan was in Canada when the blasts occurred. In an e-mail to Catholic News Service Nov. 1 while he was en route to Baghdad, he criticized the lack of security for Christian places of worship and called on “Iraqi parties to overcome their personal and confessional interests

See Dozens dead, p. 15
Thank You Letter

Your Excellency:  
The year 2009 National Black and Indian Collection had the theme, “Evangelization – strengthening one’s own faith and those around us.” I want to thank you for the check in the amount of $6,248.10 that arrived as your part in helping bring this theme alive.

The Collection was established by the bishops to assist their brother bishops who seek financial assistance with evangelization programs. It was the reason for mandating the National Black and Indian Collection during the Third Plenary Council and has proven itself over and over again through the years, ever since 1884, one hundred and twenty-four years.

It is the grace of the Holy Spirit and the witness of the people by their charity and good works that we are able to accomplish so much in our Native and Black American communities.

I wholeheartedly express my appreciation to you on behalf of your brother bishops who seek the commission’s help to provide apostolic service to the evangelization programs of the Black and Native American communities. Your commitment and personal witness are essential to the success of the National Black and Indian Mission Collection. Thank you!

With assurances of my prayers for you and your diocesan family, I am, 
Sincerely Yours in Christ,
Reverend Wayne C. Pyssse, Executive Director
Black – Indian Mission Office

Bishop Fellhauer’s Schedule

November
7 9:30 a.m., Mass and Memorial Service for Veterans, St. Mary Church, Praha
8 5:00 p.m., Diocesan Liturgical Commission meeting, Chancery
9 11:00 a.m., Mass, Texas Catholic Correctional Ministers, Spiritual Renewal Center
11 8:10 a.m., School Mass, St. Rose of Lima Church, Schulenburg
5:00 p.m., Mass, Teen ACTS retreat, Spiritual Renewal Center
12 8:30 a.m., National Readers Week, Nazareth Academy, Victoria
14-18 United States Conference of Catholic Bishops General Meeting, Baltimore, MD
23 2:00 p.m., Installation of Most Rev. Gustavo Garcia-Siller,M.Sp.S., as the new Archbishop of San Antonio
27 4:00 p.m., Mass, St. Ann’s Church, Hochheim
30 12 noon, School Mass of Catechetical Conference Volunteers appreciation luncheon, Chancery Office

December
2 6:30 p.m., Knights of St. Gregory Christmas gathering, Colony Creek Country Club, Victoria
3 12 noon, Serra Club presentation, Colony Creek Country Club, Victoria
5 6:00 p.m., Fourth Degree Knights of Columbus Christmas gathering, Holy Family Church, Victoria
8 8:15 a.m., Mass, Nazareth Academy School Gym, Victoria
9 6:30 p.m., Holy Sepulchre Christmas gathering, Victoria Country Club, Victoria
10 6:00 p.m., Celebration of Archbishop Drossaerts Assembly #1131 Knights of Columbus 60th anniversary, Knights of Columbus Hall, El Campo
11 5:00 p.m., Mass, Incarnate Word Chapel, Spiritual Renewal Center, followed by 6:00 p.m., social and Bishop’s Christmas Dinner, Spiritual Renewal Center

DSA & Reflection of Faith Capital Campaign Updates

2010 DSA
Diocesan Goal: $1,349,808.00
Parish Pledge Totals: $598,246.62
Parish Pledge Total: $567,837.26
Number of Parish Families Participating: 3,513

Reflection of Faith Capital Campaign
Diocesan Goal: $9,000,000.00
Parish Pledge Totals: $12,973,458.19
Parish Pledge Total: $8,145,616.53
Number of Parish Families Participating: 6,757

Catholic Cemetery Sunday - November 7

The importance of continued prayer in remembering our departed loved ones

Cemetery Sunday will be observed this year on November 7, 2010. It is entirely appropriate that the Church observes the first Sunday of the month of November as a special day to remind all of us of the importance of continued prayer for our beloved dead and to also remember those faithful departed who may have no one to pray for them.

Catholic cemeteries encourage visitation and prayerful meditation throughout the year, but November provides Catholic cemeterians an opportunity to remind our brethren of the importance of the sacred space created by Catholic cemeteries. They are visible reminders of our Catholic faith in the resurrection; they hold the mortal remains of the Communion of Saints who have lived among us.

The living are invited to come and pray for those who have gone before, just as those yet to come will be invited to pray for us in the future. By burying the remains of our loved ones in Catholic cemeteries, including their cremated remains – if this is the option chosen, and by continued prayer for them, we fulfill both the Spiritual and Corporal Works of Mercy.

Cemetery Sunday provides a tangible reminder to all of us of the importance of Catholic cemeteries and the value of prayer. You are invited to take time out of your busy days during the month of November, or any time during the year for that matter, to stop by and visit the Catholic cemetery, say a prayer for your loved ones and remember.

“Grant eternal rest unto them, O Lord, and let perpetual light shine upon them. May they rest in peace; may they and all the faithful departed, rest in peace. Amen”

Dennis B. Fairbank
Executive Director
National Catholic Cemetery Conference
New translation is a plus for Catholics

By James Breig

Microsoft Vista and “New Coke” have better. Furthermore, when change comes to important elements of life, it is often resisted with the cry of “we never did it that way before.”

However, experts who are enthusiastic about the changes to the Roman Missal – the book that contains the prayers for the Mass – think the alterations are improve- ments that will lead to a deeper spiritual experience.

“For a new edition of the Latin Ro- man Missal was issued in 2002, it is necessary for all the countries of the world to translate this missal into the vernacular (spoken lan- guage of the people),” says Msgr. Anthony Sherman, executive director of the U.S. bishops’ Secretariat of Divine Worship, in ex- plaining why the changes are being made.

But translation is not something easy to ac- complish, concedes Msgr. Kevin Sullivan of the School of Theology and Religious Studies at The Catholic University of America in Washington. “We all bring our own prejud- ices in translation,” he says. “It is hoped that the new texts will be more accurate so that our faith and our statements of faith reliable.”

Msgr. Irwin says changes to the Roman Missal are rare. “The previous Roman Miss- sal (in Latin) was published in 1570, with minor adjustments [being made] in editions through 1962,” he says. “After the Second Vatican Council, the new (Roman Missal) was published in 1969, followed by a 1975- edition with minor adjustments and then the third edition in 2002 with additional prayers for saints’ feasts.”

Father Paul Turner of the Diocese of Kansas City-St. Joseph in Missouri elabor- ated on the latter point, saying that the missal includes additional saints’ days that are now on the calendar, as well as some Masses for other circumstances. In addi- tion, the rubrics in the Holy Week have many small emendations.

What makes the translation of the 2002 edition of the Roman Missal different is that this translation is carried out under the latest Vatican guidelines for translating the Mass into vernacular languages. This new guideline, Liturgiae Authenticae, pub- lished in 2001, urges a stronger adherence to Latin wording and structure than earlier editions.

The results have led to some concern, voiced even by bishops, that the new English translations of the missal are not user-friendly. In the words of one critic, the language “tends to be elitist and remote from everyday speech and frequently not understand- able. The vast majority of God’s people in the assembly are not familiar with words ‘ineffable,’ ‘substantial’ and ‘invincible.’”

Msgr. Sherman counters that “in the United States today, people are almost daily learning new vocabulary, and sometimes it is quite technical. The words in our li-urgical prayers can afford celebrants the opportunity to reflect on the broader context of those words and so lead the faithful in a deeper understanding of the beliefs being explained.”

He grants that “the new translation is not per- fect because, in a certain sense, no translation can be perfect. The differ- ences of opinion on the translation will be wide. At some future date, the Holy See may substitute a different prayer for what we now have. On the other hand, some have already expressed the opinion that this translation sometimes captures with a greater eloquence the content of the particular prayers.”

Msgr. Irwin says that the Church uses technical words in its vocabulary some- times because those words capture concepts of the faith that would not be easy to un- derstand without using a lot of other words.

“For example, for the 13th century, we have used the term ‘transubstantiation’ to describe the change that occurs in the bread and wine at Mass. Before the change, it is bread and wine. After the change, it looks like, smells like and tastes like bread and wine, but now it is something totally dif- ferent.”

In Father Turner’s view, vocabulary is not a major problem. “People will readily understand the texts,” he says. “The rea- son the missal includes such words is that the vocabulary in the Latin originals is so broad. Latin uses a variety of synonyms for words like ‘sacrifice,’ ‘love,’ ‘mercy’ and ‘wonderful.’”

In recognition of the disturbance change can bring, he adds that bishops’ confer- ences around the world have repeatedly stressed that these translations should not be used without prior and significant ex- planation. “One of the things we did not do 40 years ago, when the liturgy was first put into the vernacular, was to explain the changes fully,” he says. “We need several layers of education and instruction about the translations, but even more importantly about the Mass itself.”

Guardian Angels Honored—The feast day of the Guardian Angels was celebrated at Raphael’s Refuge Chapel of the Monument to the Innocents near Flatonia Oct. 1 and 2 in honor of the guardian angels of the souls of babies lost through abortion, miscarriage and infant death.

Twenty-two persons attended adoration at the candlelight vigil, which was celebrated by Deacon John McCourt of Hostyn and planned by Elizabeth Bishop. About 19 persons attended the rosary and Mass the following day. The Mass was concelebrated by Father Joe Hybner of Sacred Heart Parish in Flatonia and Father Tommy Chen of Sacred Heart Parish in Hallettsville. More information may be obtained at www.raaphaelssrefuge.org.

CDA COOKBOOK SALES SUPPORT CHURCH BUILDING FUND—Catholic Daugh- ters, Court Our Lady Queen of Peace, #11374, recently presented Father Gary Janak with a $5,300 check for the funding of the construction under way at St. Philip the Apostle Parish in El Campo. St. Philip is building a new parish hall for the church community and the local CDA court has pledged to help with expenses.

In addition to the pledge, the Cath- olic Daughters are donating all of the profits from sales of their newly released cookbook to the building fund. Seen here mak- ing the presen- tation to Father Gary are Shebra Adler and Renee Beery, cookbook committee mem- bers, and Regent Donna Merta. Anyone interested in purchasing a cookbook at $15 each may contact the regent at dnmtn@hotmail.com or (979) 543-109.
VATICAN CITY (CNS) — In a letter to the world’s seminarians, Pope Benedict XVI said that in the face of widespread religious indifference and the recent moral failings of clergy, the world needs priests and pastors who can serve God and bring God to others. The pope encouraged seminarians to overcome any doubts about the value of the priesthood and resist celibacy that may have been prompted by priests who “disdained” their ministry by sexually abusing children. He said that “even the most reprehensible abuse cannot discredit the priestly mission.” The letter appeared in Italian and English.

As of October 18, 2010

**General Seminary Burses**

- Previously reported $19,264.00
- In memory of Rosalie Stefl-Kosarik by M/M Elroy Brogly 25.00
- In memory of Eugene B. Krejci by M/M Robert Besch 25.00

**Total** $19,530.00

**Catholic Daughters of Court of St. Ann #600 Seminary Burs**

- Previously reported $7,668.99
- In memory of Leotia Ulman by CDA Ct St. Ann #469 100.00
- In memory of Leotia Ulman by M/M Joe Morris 25.00

**Total** $7,893.99

**Rev. John P. Peters Seminary Burse #4**

- Previously reported $14,181.00
- In memory of Henrietta Janak by KJZT of Texas 50.00
- In memory of Helen Eltzor by KJZT of Texas 50.00

**Total** $14,281.00

**Joseph R. Janak Seminary Burse #2**

- Previously reported $1,708.77
- In memory of Joe Janak on the twelfth anniversary of his death by Rose Marie Janak & Family 20.00
- In memory of Evelyn Fiskas by Rose Marie Janak & Family 20.00

**Total** $1,748.77

**Rev. Jerome J. Styrk Seminary Burse**

- Previously reported $13,479.50
- In memory of St. Bernard Stryk IWBS by George and Margaret Boedecker 20.00

**Total** $13,499.50

**Seminary Burses**

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

- Rev. Charles Kohl, OSB, and John and Mary Kohl Seminary Burse
  - Previously reported $3,150.00
  - Gift to burse by Charles and Mary Kohl 200.00
  **Total** $3,350.00

- Rev. Michael Rother Seminary Burse
  - Previously reported $3,940.00
  - To honor Father Michael Rother by Rose and Deek Sotnik 25.00
  - In memory of Thomas M. Huston Jr. by M/M John Kechman 3,000.00
  **Total** $3,965.00

- Rev. John C. Bily Seminary Burse
  - Previously reported $8,479.00
  - In memory of Ruth Ann Barton by Johnny Barton Family 100.00
  **Total** $8,579.00

- St. John the Baptist Church, St. John
  - In Memory of Rev. Brian Crookse
  - Seminary Burse #2
  - Previously reported $4,786.00
  - In memory of Gladys Mendez Chalopinka by M/M Forest Ditrich 50.00
  - M/M Wm Brosman Dukja 10.00
  - In memory of Alma Jurena by M/M Ervin Nekora 10.00
  - M/M Forest Ditrich 10.00
  - M/M Albert Olosky 10.00
  - M/M Larry Berger 10.00
  - Alphonse Bestany 10.00
  **Total** $4,851.00

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

**SEMINARY BURSES**

DIOCESI OF VICTORIA

P. O. BOX 4070

VICTORIA, T X 77903
BAY CITY — Blake Chadwick Sparks, a parishioner of Holy Cross Church in Bay City and the son of David and Tena Sparks and graduate of Central Michigan University, has been accepted as a Life Teen Missionary and will spend a year in Germany on mission. He began his faith formation on September 13, 2010, in Tiger, Ga., and will leave for Germany in November. He has committed to one year with the option to stay for two.

Blake attended Holy Cross Catholic Elementary and was active in Life Teen while in high school and after graduating from Bay City BID in 2007. He is now 19 years of age.

“The Life Teen organization has brought me closer to Christ on my spiritual journey,” Blake said. “Now I have a chance to share and give back, to serve others as Christ has asked us to do.”

As God calls all of us to be his missionaries, Blake is asking for Mission Partners to join him by praying for the mission, for those he meets, and to ask God to allow people to see Christ and feel Christ’s love.

“I am giving one year of my life to serve God and his people,” Blake said. “I can only ask that you would join me. Help me to share my message with all people. Help me who he is calling me to be.”

“Mission Partners are important for our spiritual journey in order to help others. Please take a moment to introduce yourself to others in your area who may also be called to be a missionary.”

Father Casey Jarzembeck, pastor of Holy Cross Parish in Bay City, poses with Blake Sparks, who will go on mission to Germany with Life Teen missionaries.

 Holy Cross young adult
 to go on mission

**Vocation director sees increased inquiries fourth year in a row**

**From The Pastor's Desk**

By Father Bob Knippenberg
Pastor of Sts. Cyril and Methodius, Shiner

**CHICAGO, Ill. — Catholics considering a vocation as a sister, brother or priest and Catholic vocation directors report little impact on vocations following the revelations in the European church’s sexual-abuse scandal or the Vatican investigations of women’s religious communities, according to a recent survey sponsored by VISION Vocation Guide.**

However, other recent events have reported as having positive impact on vocation recruitment, among both men and women: they include the Year for Priests, the Pope’s call for attention for the Church’s failings, and the canonization of a particular saint. The majority of vocation seekers (61 percent) have increased in inquiries for the fourth straight year.

“The fact that Church events have little impact on a person’s exploration of a religious life says a lot about the depth and seriousness of the call,” says Patrice Foxley, executive editor of VISION Vocation Guide and VocationMatch.com.

The survey, conducted Aug. 30-Sept. 23, 2010, received responses from 431 vocation inquirers and 54 vocational directors. The vocation inquirers come from a pool of those who have completed profiles in VISION’s online Vocation Match or Community Search services, and the majority are under 40 and very serious about choosing religious life—18 percent plan on entering a religious community in the next year.

Other notable trends among those inquiring about religious life:

• Desire to live faith-filled lives: Seventy-four percent of responding seekers rank the opportunity to live a life of faithfulness to the Church and its teachings as the most essential reason they are attracted to religious life and a particular religious community.

• Other factors that draw them to a particular congregation are the community’s prayer life, mission, and communal living.

Vocation directors report that justice and peace outreach is also a significant draw among the inquirers with whom they’ve worked. Devotional prayer is of particular interest to those under 30.

• Clothes of distinction: Twenty-five percent of men and 25 percent of female respondents find wearing a religious habit essential; among women and respondents under 40 the percentage increases to nearly 37 percent.

• Please introduce myself: Personal contact with someone in religious life is reported by respondents of all ages to be the most essential source for gathering information about vocations (53 percent) with retreats and teachers ranked very important as well.

**Prayer is most essential and most challenging:** Nearly 84 percent of respondents ranked prayer as the most essential element in making a decision about religious life. The majority also listed as essential spiritual direction, greater knowledge of what a vocation would be a good fit, and opportunities to experience community life. Seekers found living religious life more important than the least challenging aspect of religious life and the discipline of prayer the most.

**College Changes Name, after 37 Years, to Honor St. Mary Magdalen**

**WARNER, NH — Magdalen College announced a new step forward with the unveiling of a new name and new college crest. The college will now be called, “The College of Saint Mary Magdalen.” The changes reflect the college’s desire to clearly proclaim its Catholic identity, to bring greater honor to its patroness, Saint Mary Magdalen, and to bring about a more direct connection to the college that has been in existence since 1973. The College of Saint Mary Magdalen is one of only twenty-colleges in the United States to be listed in The Newman Guide to Choosing a Catholic college (www.thenewman-guide.com).**

**Catholic College Guide published**

**NORTH HAVEN, CONN. — The National Catholic Register has just released an expanded version of its annual Catholic Identity College List as a convenient, durable, 192-page book titled The National Catholic Register’s 2010 COLLEGE GUIDE.**

Legion of Christ Father Owen Kearns, the National Catholic Register’s publisher, explains the guide’s genesis and growth from periodical section to influential publication:

“The project first came together five years ago. Archbishop Michael Miller, who was then secretary of the Vatican’s Congregation for Catholic Education, had noted the need for objective measurements of Catholicity in Catholic academia. Our editorial came up with 10 essential markers of basic Catholic identity and composed a straightforward Yes or No questionnaire for each. Next, the Register invited all Catholic colleges and universities to answer the questionnaire. The results,” adds Father Kearns, “help guide students and their parents onto campuses that take their Catholic identity seriously enough to fulfill the basic requirements of Pope John Paul’s landmark document on Catholic higher education, Ex Corde Ecclesiae (From the Heart of the Church).”

Along with answers from 32 schools to the 10 questions related to basic Catholic identity, the book provides hard data on costs and financing, degrees and curricula, religious and extracurricular activities, and more.

HALLETTSVILLE—Bishop David Fellhauer celebrated the children’s Mass and blessed Sister Emiliana Grafe, IWBS, on her 50th anniversary of her religious profession at Sacred Heart Catholic Church in Hallettsville Friday, September 17, before blessing a host of completed school renovations.

Following the Mass, he blessed the High School Art Center, a house purchased and renovated this past summer through parishioners’ and others’ donations; the addition to the Vocational Shop and the sprinkler system on the football field, both donated by Mr. Vic Roeber; and the renovations of the old convent, on the top floor of the school, into two new classrooms.

The bishop also blessed the Bishop Forest Annex (junior high) and the Sacred Heart rectory, both of which are 50-years old this year.

Sacred Heart Art Center: from left, Father Peters, Bishop Fellhauer and Ashlan Bujnoch.

Blessing of the sprinkler system for the football field: from left, Principal David Smolik, Vic Roeber, Bishop Fellhauer, Father Peters, Coach Pat Henke and Ashlan Bujnoch.

Vocational building addition blessing: from left are pictured Father John Peters, pastor; Bishop Fellhauer, Ashlan Bujnoch, and Vic Roeber, donor.

HALLETTSVILLE—The Sacred Heart Catholic School teachers and students will incorporate the study of the saints into their daily lessons in a special way this school year. Saints were ordinary people who lived their lives in such a way as to become signs of HOPE for us who follow Christ.

Each class in grades K-8 has adopted a special saint. They will research the life of their adopted saint and challenge themselves to live like that saint and help make the world God gave us a better place for all.

Each class received a statue of their adopted saint to be displayed as a reminder of the saint’s life. The following is a list of classes and their particular saint:

- Pre-Kindergarten – The Blessed Virgin Mary
- Kindergarten – St. Christopher
- First Grade – St. Francis of Assisi
- Second Grade – St. Theresa of the Child Jesus
- Third Grade – St. Ann
- Fourth Grade – St. Anthony of Padua
- Fifth Grade – St. Michael, the archangel
- Sixth Grade – St. Rita
- Seventh Grade – St. Philomena
- Eighth Grade – St. Benedict

Thanks go to Sr. Colette Kouba who coordinated the Adopt-a-Saint classroom project.

Sacred Heart Adopt-a-Saint classroom project
Bishop David E. Fellhauer welcomes hundreds of participants and celebrates the opening prayer at the diocesan catechetical conference at Holy Family Parish in Victoria.

Padre Gabriel Espinosa of Wharton explains how Jesus offers himself in Mass and how we can imitate him in “Bendito, Partido Y Compartido.”

In “Renewed Passion for Every Marriage,” Mr. Adrian Herrera invites participants to reflect on the theological and Biblical foundations of marriage – the sacrament of the covenant between God and the Church. He taught the course in both English and Spanish.

Teens, family, marriage — focus of 23rd Annual Catechetical Conference

By Cynthia Brewer

“Community and belonging is critical to fostering belief (for teens and all) in this post modern world,” said Mr. Bob McCarty, the keynote speaker for the 23rd Annual Catechetical Conference. “Most denominations are failing in how they engage and educate their young people in the life of their faith community,” he said, “and young people are mirrors of our families and society.” His presentation identified critical factors impacting youth ministry, such as millennial spirituality – a feel good spirituality, and gave elements of a new map to effectively respond to youth in their faith journey, such as welcoming them and offering them a challenging faith that requires sacrifice, commitment, the Paschal Mystery – Jesus. Mr. McCarty is the executive director for the National Federation for Catholic Youth Ministry and comes from Fulton, Maryland.

If you missed this great conference come next year to have this great experience!

By Sister Digna Vela, IWBS

If Jesus, Mary or Joseph came to Victoria or to the other towns in our diocese this Christmas season, would they have any idea of what we Christians are celebrating? What signs would they see that point to the greatest event in the history of mankind, the birth of the Word Incarnate, God himself becoming one of us?

As they go up and down the streets of towns in our diocese, what would they think when they saw deer, snowmen, a big fat man in a red suit, toys and other such things in the different yards? Finally, after going all around the city, they see a nativity set in a yard and an angel in another yard. Could it be that these Christians are celebrating the Incarnation, the birth of Jesus? Why then are they putting these other things up as decorations? How do deer and snowmen point to Jesus’ birth?

We invite each of you to examine your preparation and celebration of Christmas this year. If every Catholic in our diocese, or at least 50 percent of them, would use religious symbols to decorate their yards this year, what a catechizing (teaching) tool it would be for all their neighbors, Christians and non-Christians alike, of what the true meaning of Christmas is. It would emphasize who is at the center of our celebrations, God himself.

Proclaiming Christ at Christmas

Bishop Fellhauer Christmas Dinner

Save this date

Saturday, December 11

Mass 5:30 p.m. with social and dinner to follow

Spiritual Renewal Center

718 Gussie Schmidt Road

Victoria, Texas

More information to follow.....
God’s Awesome Action

As I continue to enjoy the beautiful autumn colors and weather, I cannot help but be amazed at the power and providence of God. I’m reminded of a statement I recently read in the Compendium of the Social Doctrine of the Church, “The world presents itself before our eyes as the place where God’s creative, providential and redemptive power unfolds.” *(487)*

Sometimes I wonder how a person can not have faith in God when they contemplate the wonders of creation. Furthermore, we may know some people who express the notion that science does not support the presence of God. How can this be, since faith and science both seek the truth?

Do I believe that God created the universe and everything in it? Definitely! Do I believe in some of the scientific theories of creation such as the “Big Bang” theory and the theory of evolution that might be taught in our schools? Since they are theories and not proven facts, I can’t say for sure; but I think that, if they are true, they could explain how God created the universe and everything in it.

The Bible begins with the words, “In the beginning, when God created the heavens and the earth…” *(Genesis 1:1)*. Now we know that the Bible is a faith story and not a science book; however, I think that science can help us unlock some of the secrets of God’s creative mind. I believe that some scientists theories that the universe was begun with a “Big Bang” as long ago as 14 billion years. Couldn’t God have used such phenomenon as a means of creation? I should think so.

Another area of difficulty for some Bible readers is the mention of “days” of creation while scientists speak of billions of years of the existence of the universe. We may have to look at how time is expressed to see how science reinforces our understanding of creation. How many times have we heard our grandparents say, “In my day…”? Are they speaking of a 24-hour day or a period in their lives? I think that it was the latter meaning that the Bible writers had in mind when they wrote the story of creation in a way that would be understood. How can one describe God’s divine action in a way that our limited human minds can comprehend?

And especially challenging is the story of creation of the first man. We read, “the Lord God formed man out of the clay of the ground and blew into his nostrils the breath of life, and so man became a living being.” We might have an image of God molding the body of man out of clay—while scientists say that modern man and other animals were formed through eons of gradual development from tiny one-celled organizations into the wide diversity of creatures that exist today. It is interesting to think of a loving God carefully orchestrating the building of the being into whom He would breathe the immortal soul that would make this special creature fully human.

If we believe that God was the mastermind behind evolution, we can be reassured that it does not conflict with the Bible’s version of creation. In 1996, Pope John Paul II issued a message to the Pontifical Academy of Science quoting and reaffirming the Pius’ Encyclical *Humani Generis* *(1950)* stating that there was no opposition between evolution and the doctrine of original sin. We are to form our understanding of the Bible’s account of creation with what science tells us about our origins.

Therefore, let us enjoy and look upon God’s awesome action with gratitude.

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**Mental Disorders**

Veterans’ suicides account for a fifth of the some 33,000 suicides each year due to the war conflicts they have experienced. Every day, roughly 85 people in the United States take their own lives. Mental illness and suicide among youth are serious problems in the United States. According to the National Institute of Mental Health *(NIMH)*, half of all mental disorders begin by age fourteen. The American Academy of Child and Adolescent Psychiatry states that suicide is the third leading cause of death for 15 to 24 year olds.

Recent studies show that more than 95 percent of young people who took their own lives had prior diagnosis of a mental disorder. Severe depression is the most prevalent of these disorders. Other psychological diagnoses that increase the risk of suicide among teens include: bi-polar disorder and addiction to alcohol and/or drugs. Often, other contributing or precipitating factors are physical illness along with mental illness, disintegrating family relationships, a sense of not belonging, bullying, depression, or economic failures, grief over the loss of a loved one, overwhelming social pressures. These conditions often cause people, especially the young, distress, irritability, agitation, hopelessness and feelings of worthlessness. One just does not wake up one day and want to die. There are events in life that make some people more vulnerable to suicide.

Given the strong correlation between psychological conditions and suicide, it is important to recognize the early symptoms in order to seek professional help that could make a significant impact.

The American Academy of Child and Adolescent Psychiatry lists the following warning signs for parents concerning the risk for suicide in adolescents:

- Change in interest and sleeping habits
- Withdrawal from friends, family, and regular activities
- Violent actions towards self and others
- Rebellious behavior or running away
- Drug and alcohol use
- Unusual emotional or personal appearance
- Marked personality change
- Persistent boredom, difficulty concentrating
- A decline in quality of schoolwork
- Frequent complaints about physical symptoms such as stomachaches, headaches, or fatigue, often related to emotions
- Loss of interest in pleasurable activities
- Not tolerating praise or rewards
- Complaining of being a bad person or feeling worthless
- Giving verbal hints with statements such as “Nothing matters. It’s no use” or “I won’t see you again”

It is important to note that most teen-agers who killed themselves had been in treatment for some time. Many had counselors and other trusted professionals. Even for families who have lived with mental illness, the actual death still comes as a profound shock.

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**Suicide**

There is someone who can heal our pain—Jesus

By Bishop Michael Pfleger, OMI
San Angelo, Texas

**WHY?**

The loss of a loved one to suicide is perhaps the greatest tragedy that life can bring. We often react with shock, guilt, anger and depression. Family members often feel profound guilt and responsibility. Our reaction is why, why, why did this happen? What could we have done better? What did we fail to see? Suicide of a daughter or a grandchild can make the feeling like the ultimate failure of parenting.

When someone dies of suicide, the shock and confusion surrounding it has a serious impact on all its family. One’s own hands have different implications than dying of natural causes, and the grief that follows is one of the most traumatic experiences in life. The survivors may blame either their loved one or themselves.

It is difficult to know what really went on in the mind and heart of a person before suicide. To generalize is not helpful for all suicides are individual. Some who committed suicide may simply have felt trapped, perceiving themselves as victims in a hopeless situation. They saw death as a way out of a job.

Amidst grave suffering, there will always be a tendency to want to know why, why such tragedies occurred. If there were a suicide note, it might shed some light on the motives. If the person had a troubled past or had been receiving mental health services, questions about the appropriateness of the medication and the quality of the services may become obvious.

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**Influence of Mental Disorders**

In order to seek professional help that could make a significant impact.

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**What Parents and Others Can Do**

When the above signs are observed, parents or other family members should talk with the teen about suicide and seek help from their priests, religious, counselors and other trusted professionals to assist their children or any person showing symptoms of suicide.

We can thwart suicidal plans because caring and sharing individuals can help vulnerable teenagers. By making suicide preventable, we can save a life.

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*Contact the bishop or the chancellor of the Diocese of Victoria at (361) 573-0828 or Call Father Gary Janak (979) 543-3770 or Sister Emilie Eilers (361) 575-7111, Coordinators of Pastoral Care and Outreach or Write to: Bishop David E. Fellehauer, Diocese of Victoria, P.O. Box 4070, Victoria, TX 77903 Mark your letter “Personal and Confidential”*

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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 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 chancellor of the Diocese of Victoria at (361) 573-0828
- Call Father Gary Janak (979) 543-3770 or Sister Emilie Eilers (361) 575-7111, Coordinators of Pastoral Care and Outreach
- Write to: Bishop David E. Fellehauer, Diocese of Victoria, P.O. Box 4070, Victoria, TX 77903

Mark your letter “Personal and Confidential”

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*There is someone who can heal our pain—Jesus*
By Timothy Bricker, youth director

The Idea of Catholicism is one that is not as elusive as some may believe it to be, it is a part that we are all familiar with; the very core of your existence. There is a savior that came to set you free from the chains of slavery. In this new world of水泥, there is a new way to come to see Christ alive in all those around us. Amen.

Teenagers today are looking for something concrete in their lives. In a world full of drudgery, hate and despair, the longing of a soul never ceases to search out the good. We are all looking for this good, one that will give a “peace beyond all understanding.” These young people are our Church today. This is not a faith reserved for only those who meet a certain age requirement or look and dress a certain way. You need no special pass to gain a Catholic Identity, only a resounding yes to fellowship together with those of like-mindness adds a priceless value to the growth of an individual’s formation.

This year we have adopted new curriculums for our pre-teens in junior high with the Edge Program, high school has adopted the Life Teen Program, and confirmation has adopted the Oneight Program. These programs are solidly based on the Eucharist and a devotion to our Blessed Mother, Mary, covering things such as “The Trinity” and the “The Hypostatic Union.” With these two elements as the foundation for the program and good solid catechesis behind them, Christ’s message is resonating into the hearts and minds of all the teens.

May God continue to bless the Diocese of Victoria so that we may continue to come to see Christ alive in all those around us. Amen.
YOAKUM JCDA LEARNS ABOUT THE ROSARY—The Junior Catholic Daughters of the Americas (JCDA) #206 in Yoakum learned to pray the rosary at their September meeting. They also learned how this prayer tool is used to pray for their needs and the needs of others. Father Matthew Huehlefeld, pastor of St. Joseph Parish, blessed all 55 rosaries. The members will use them at each meeting to pray for individuals, the community and the world.

BOOKS FOR AFRICA FROM SCHULENBERG—St. Rose of Lima Catholic School in Schulenburg donated all of their used Kindergarten - 8th grade reading and literature textbooks and supplies to “Books for Africa” Thursday, September 23. Books for Africa is the world’s largest shipper of donated books to the African continent. Since 1988, Books For Africa has shipped over 22 million high-quality text and library books to children and adults in 45 African countries. St. Rose is glad to be a part of this mission. In all, 56 boxes were donated. Pictured loading the truck are (top) Dawson Dittrich and Clinton Mican, and on the ground are Ray Thompson and Marc Raphael.

ST. ROBERT YOUTH PROMOTE LIFE—Youth from St. Bel- larmine Parish in El Campo support community’s Pro-Life Chain. Pictured are teen supporters of life. Front row, l. to r. : Jacob Gonzalez, Ismael Gonzalez, Daisy Gonzalez and Fatima Torres; middle row: Michelle Martinez, Elizabeth Herrera, Julia Ontiveros and Janette Velasquez; back row: Mark Gartza and Hondo Garcia. Not pictured, but participating: Raphela Garcia, Elena Pullin and baby Michael Pullin, Senae Davidson, Carmoen Gomez, Christian Gomez and Elisa Garcia. Inset: Ismael Gonzalez on his skateboard.

HOLY CROSS TEENS THIRST FOR CHANGE—Holy Cross Life Teen in Bay City joined the world-wide Life Teen family for the third Global Life Night and service project. This year they are focusing on the corporal work of mercy of “giving drink to the thirsty.” September 26 was the date set aside for all parishes to join together for “Thirst for Change.” A Life Night designed to give teens an awareness of the lack of clean water to millions of people in the world. Though a change drive, the global Life Teen community worked together to raise money to build and maintain four water wells in Africa. Holy Cross Life Teen raised $800 and sent in their collections to W.A.T.E.R. Internationally, Life Teen has collected over $105,000 for the water wells. Their goal was to reach $50,000 to build four wells, but now they will be building at least eight wells, with money still coming in! If you would like to join in the efforts, donations may be sent to W.A.T.E.R.; 212 Xanadu, #507; Wisconsin Dells, WI 53965.

EL CAMPOS SCOUTS EARN RELIGIOUS AWARD—Scouts from El Campo Boy Scout Troops 33, 226 and 1251 were presented their Ad Altare Dei Religious Awards following Mass at St. Philip’s Church October 3, 2010. To earn the award, each scout was required to attend weekly classes for a six-month period and complete a workbook and several projects. Then, each had to go before a board of review to answer questions and reflect on what they had learned. Pictured from l. to r., front row, is Cameron Hicks, Father Gary Janak, pastor; Chase Stary, Layton Onsdrias, Joshua Kulfanek and Charles Powers; row 2: Clint Gold, Kyle Thompson, Cody Seaman, Vincent Lutringer and Reid Berglund; row 3: Clay Altenhoff, Hunter Merta, Gerd Conner-Counselor, Ryan Drapela, Michael Orsak, Leslie Bacak-Counselor, Matt Edwards and Jacob Harton.

On Oct. 7 St. Joseph School students in Yoakum participated in a “Living Rosary.” Through the Living Rosary a student comes to represent each bead of the rosary, and he/she takes a rose and stands in a circle as each prayer is recited. The month of October is dedicated to the Most Holy Rosary primarily because the liturgical feast of Our Lady of the Rosary is celebrated on Oct. 7. It was instituted to honor the Blessed Virgin Mary in gratitude for the protection that she gives the Church in answer to the praying of the rosary by the faithful.
Veronica Munoz (from San Antonio) was accepted into the postulancy program in a moving ceremony on Sunday, September 26. Veronica received the miraculous medal and the prayer book of the Sisters of the Incarnate Word and Blessed Sacrament. Her time as a postulant is divided between study, prayer and ministry as she begins her lived experience of Religious Life. Veronica is currently taking care of the three-year-old children in the Nazareth Academy after-school program.

Sister Louise Marie Jones (from Victoria), rejoicing in her commitment to God, renewed her annual vows on Wednesday, September 29, during the morning Eucharistic Liturgy. Sister Louise Marie continues the dynamic movement of growth begun in the novitiate program as she enters her third year as a Temporary Professed. She is learning to balance her spiritual and apostolic life during this time. Sister Louise Marie is working at Our Lady of Lourdes parish and also helps with our vocation ministry.

These three women of faith have graced our convent with their desire to learn, discern and respond to God’s call in their lives, uttering their “fiat” through each step. Many of you throughout the diocese are praying for vocations. We thank you for those prayers and we ask that you continue to pray, adding these three women to your prayers.

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Veronica Munoz was accepted into the postulancy program at the IWBS Convent Sept. 26 (l.).

Sister Louise Marie Jones renewed her annual vows at the IWBS Convent Sept. 29 (top).

Patti Lohre receives the name Sister Patricia Marie and the IWBS habit Sept. 11 (below).

The call, the response, our fiat

Continued from p. 4

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  El Campo
- **Eugene Rehak**, FIC
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By Fr. Michael Lyons, pastor
ABVM Parish in Ganado

BAY CITY — Fully illuminated a couple of hours before Friday dawn, the Holy Cross School Cafeteria contained the aroma of freshly brewed coffee, the flicker of old-fashioned lightbulbs, the taste of pig-in-a-blanket and donuts and orange juice, and the chatter of men of various ages — and backgrounds.

The reason for this 5:45 a.m. gathering? A catechetical program called That Man Is You, now in its second year at Holy Cross Parish.

Father Mike Allison, the Holy Cross coordinator for That Man Is You, said the program was launched after Youth Minister Terry Bushee heard him deliver the promotional envelope that had come in the mail to the Holy Cross Parish office.

MAN-UP or Perish says Catholic Priest to Other Men

Father Larry Richards releases new book on “Be a Man! We Need You!”

Men are rediscovering the importance of Catholic life. And Father Larry Richards is helping them do it. While some writers apply a one-size-fits-all approach to spirituality, Father Richards adapts his message on the many years of ministry and his own experience as a man to inspire other men as well.

In Be a Man!, he recounts his struggles to learn true manhood, as well as the inspiriting stories of others he has served in his role as a priest to help men to focus on the right goal, how to live as a beloved son of God, of the need to know oneself and to live according to the Holy Spirit, to be a true man of true love and of wisdom, to appreciate properly the differences between men and women, to pursue holiness, and to make a difference in the world. Not preachy but direct, Father Richards challenges men to be strong, to put on a mask of false strength or machismo. He calls men to admit their weaknesses and limitations, while urging them to find strength in faith and genuine love to overcome their sins and faults. Although a celibate priest, he minces no words when it comes to the place of sexuality — for the unmarried man as well as for the married man. He shows that true manliness is not opposed to love but thrives on it. Father Richards stresses that a relationship with Christ reveals the meaning of a man’s life and his identity as a man. He implores men to become the true heroes they long to be — men of authentic courage, compassion and integrity. This is a highly readable book for men by a man who knows how to talk to men about the things that matter most.

“You have 35 and more every Friday,” said Allison, a husband, father, and grand-father. “This program is presented in a simple way, yet with some depth, and it’s attractive to men.”

Those attending on this crisp early Oct-ober Friday included men of various ages and professions — and religions. “I’m not Catholic,” said one man. “But this is feeding me with what I need right now.”

One Catholic who did attend was the pastor of Holy Cross Parish, the Rev. Casey Jarzombek. “I’m not here every single week, but I am most weeks,” said Father Jarzombek while sipping some coffee. “This has made a big difference in the lives of families. This is our second year, and we look forward to it growing.”

The deacons from Holy Cross and Our Lady of Guadalupe parishes were among those attending.

See That Man Is You, p. 13

Family Puzzle Contest Winners!

Vernell Mack of Sacred Heart Parish in Hallettsville is the winner of the October Family Puzzle Contest and “Walking with God — A Journey Through the Bible” by Tim Gray and Jeff Cavins and published by Ascension Press.

The winner of the youth contest is Tony Cintus (8) of St. Philip School in El Campo. He will receive a gift from the Incarnate Word Gift Shop. CCD and school teachers, remember, you may make copies of the puzzle and have your students complete them and then send them in as a group.

The next (adult) Family Puzzle Contest winner will win “Be a Man! — Becoming the Man God Created You to Be” by Father Larry Richards and published by Ignatius Press. See book review on this page.

If you have not won the puzzle contest within the past six months, please send completed puzzle and contest form to The Catholic Lighthouse, P. O. Box 4070, Victoria, TX 77901, by November 24 (new date) for a chance to win “Be a Man!”

Youth 13 to 19 years of age have a chance at winning the LIVE Teen Bible; ages 12 and under will have a chance to receive a gift from the Incarnate Word Gift Shop (all youth, please state age).

Puzzle Contest offers teens chance to win LIVE Teen Bible

Teens, 13 to 19 years of age, have a chance to win the Teen LIVE Bible, created by teens for teens, by playing The Catholic Lighthouse Puzzle Contest. See review of the Teen LIVE Bible on page 9, and send in completed puzzle and form by November 24 for a chance to win a copy — or add the LIVE Bible to your Christmas wish list.

For more information about NRSV Bibles visit www.nrsv.net. LIVE Harper Catholic Bibles; Paperback: 1600 pages, 8.5 x 3.4 x 2.6 inches; $25.99.
Men’s ACTS ministers to prisoners

By Cynthia Brewer

After having completed their third ACTS retreat, ACTS III, at the Connolly Prison Unit in Kemel, Texas, the Fredericksburg ACTS community invited Victoria Diocese men’s ACTS team members to combine with them to put on a retreat at the prison in Cuero.

Prison ACTS #1 retreat ministered to 73 offenders at the Stevenson Unit at Cuero, September 22-26, 2010, under the direction of Ed Smith from St. Mary’s Church in Fredericksburg.

To prepare for the ACTS retreat, 22 members from the Fredericksburg area ACTS community and 11 members from ACTS teams in the Victoria Diocese met in San Antonio five times (every other week) for four hours each time.

“They didn’t think that much time to prepare for a retreat,” said John Morkovsky of the Victoria ACTS team. “We can plan a retreat in a matter of hours, but it takes that much time to spiritually prepare for a retreat.”

“No just any prisoner could choose to go to the retreat; some may wish to go, just to get out of their cell,” said Mr. Morkovsky.

“That the prison chaplain was the one who chose the men who could participate,” said Ed Smith.

On Friday evening, the sacrament of reconciliation was provided to the offenders by Bishop David Fellhauer, Mgr. Enda McKenna of Fredericksburg, Father Joseph Varghese, chaplain from the Connolly Prison, Father Michael Lyons of Ganado, Father Greg Korenek of Victoria and Father Kirby Hlavaty of Cuero. Many of the men took advantage of receiving the sacrament.

“Toward the end, I thought it well received,” said Bishop Fellhauer, of the reconciliation service. He received a special certificate of recognition from the Worldwide Marriage Encounter Ministry.

Search on for longest married couples in United States

SAN BERNARDINO, CA – The search is on for the longest married couple in the United States announced the U.S. bishops of Worldwide Marriage Encounter, the original faith-based marriage enrichment program in this country.

“We want to honor the longest married couple on Feb. 14, 2011,” said Seaborn and Father Tom Griffith, the leaders of Worldwide Marriage Encounter.

“We are looking for couples who have been married for many, many years,” the ecclesial team explained.

In addition to the longest married couple for the entire United States, recognition will also be given to a couple from each state who has achieved that distinction for their area.

In the case of the United States couple, appropriate gifts will be presented to them at a ceremony to be held at their location on Valentine’s Day. The state winners will receive a special certificate of achievement from the Worldwide Marriage Encounter movement.

Nominations, which are open to all husband and wife couples regardless of faith expression, may be submitted by e-mail, regular mail or by calling a special phone number. The process will be overseen by Dick and Diane Baumbach and Father Dick Morse, who serve as the North American Weekend Pillar for the WME movement.

The contact information for sending in a nomination, which simply requires the name of the couple, their wedding date and where they currently reside plus a phone or email address, is as follows: e-mail dickanddiannobaug@gmail.com & Diane Baumbach 1430 Scorpio C., Merritt Island, FL 32953 and special phone number 321-453-2475. Nominations must be received by January 10, 2011.
I was nearing my ninth birthday, and it was the time in childhood when seemingly insignificant experiences can become memories that will stay with us for the rest of our lives—like the swelling summer day when my best friend and I sat on the sidewalk in front of the parsonage where my family lived. After trial and error, we found a limestone rock, and we practiced drawing stars on the concrete. We had learned a new method, two inverted triangles rather than the star formed by an unfinished sequence of five lines. A lady came up the sidewalk and smiled at our work. She was older than my mother, a member of that indefatigable period of womanhood that exists somewhere between the age of mothers and grandmothers.

“Are you Jewish?” She asked the two of us. We stared at her blankly. “That’s the Star of David,” she explained. “The Star of my faith.”

“May I sit at your friend. I could see that she didn’t know any more about Jewish faith than I did. So we sat in silence. The lady shrugged her shoulders and kept walking.

There was a missing link in the chain. We were connected to the lady who passed to us in silence, but we didn’t quite know how we were related.

The woman stopped because she wanted to know if we shared a common bond. When we didn’t reply in the way she expected, she just kept walking. She didn’t recognize anything familiar or familial about us.

We were strangers. She went off to live her life. We kept playing on the sidewalk in front ofa Wesleyan Church and the pastor’s house on the corner of 2nd and Walnut Street.

Today, I know what the missing link in the chain that connects me to that woman. In the fullness of time, God’s Son entered the world, born of a virgin. The Blessed Virgin Mary is the link. From the Blessed Virgin’s name. And you are connected to me. Your name. And you are connected to me. Your connection to me.

The woman peering over an empty manger. I realize that I have an answer for that question. “that woman is drawing. I am not as the world, and participation in the life of the Church,” he said.

The pope’s remarks about women in the church and in family life were part of his main audience address about the life and influence of St. Bridget of Sweden, who lived in the 14th century.

Bridget and her husband, Ulf, were the parents of eight children and were models of “an authentic conjugal spirituality,” the pope said.

“Often, as happened in the life of St. Bridget and Ulf, it is the woman who, with her virginity, sensuality, and sweetness, is able to make her husband mature in the faith journey,” he said.

After Ulf died, Bridget sold her possessions and dedicated her life to prayer and good works, which makes her a model for Christian widows, the pope said.

St. Bridget also received divine revelations, many of which were addressed, “with an attitude of respect and full fidelity to the magisterium of the church, particularly to the successor of the Apostles Peter,” Pope Peter Urbano, whom she urged to return to Rome at a time when the papacy was based in Avignon, France.

Pope Benedict said that St. Bridget, founder of the Bridgettine Sisters, had hoped to establish a monastic order with branches for both men and women.

“This should not surprise us: In the Middle Ages, there were monastic foundations for a male and female branch that followed the same monastic rule under the direction of an abbes. In fact, the great Christian tradition recognizes that women have their own dignity and — following the example of Mary, queen of the Apostles — their own place in the church, which will be harmonizing ordained priesthood, is just as important for the spiritual growth of the church,” he said.

At the end of the audience, Pope Benedict offered his prayers for the people of Indonesia, suffering the effects of an earthquake, tsunami and volcanic eruption; and for the people of Benin, thousands of whom were left homeless because of flooding.

**Remembering Children Who Have Died**

The Compassionate Friends, a self-help support organization that in its own words “offers friendship, understanding and the chance to bereaved parents, grandparents and siblings” is asking once again that communities and families pause on Sunday, Dec. 12, to remember children who have died.

Its annual Worldwide Candle Lighting is always the second Saturday of Advent at 7 p.m., local time, for one hour in each time zone around the globe. The Compassionate Friends, says hundreds of communities will be held at public gatherings and thousands more will take place informally in homes.

As the organization explains, “We do this ... that their light may always shine.”

For more information, visit The Compassionate Friends’ website, www.compassionatefriends.org or call the organization toll free at 1-877-586-0010.

Catholic Bereavement Web site:

The Web site of the National Catholic Diocese of the Bereaved is www.grief-work.org.

Local bereavement sharing group: Mary of Holy Family Catholic Church—all-purpose room at 704 Mallette Dr, Victoria, the 1st and 3rd Thursday of every month at 7:00 p.m. For more information, please contact Sharon at (361) 578-7572.

Helping a loved one:

• Give your friend the free advice and good cheer.

• Listen. Be there without offering advice or goods.

• Accept change in your friend. Grievance can be an emotional roller coaster.

• Pray for your friend.

For the complete pamphlet call The Compassionists at 1-888-299-4090.

Information was obtained from a past column by CNS columnists Bill and Monica Dodds, the editors of “My Daily Visitor” magazine. Bill is the author of “Your Grieving Child: Answers to Questions on Dealing with Dying” (Guideposts, New York Visitor).
Peace is possible in Middle East, pope says at synod’s closing Mass

By Cindy Wooden
Catholic News Service

VATICAN CITY (CNS) — Closing the Synod of Bishops for the Middle East, Pope Benedict XVI said, “We never resign ourselves to the absence of peace.”

“Peace is possible. Peace is urgent,” the pope said Oct. 24 during his homily at the Mass marking the synod’s two-week session.

Peace is what will stop Christians from emigrating, he said.

Pope Benedict also urged Christians to promote respect for freedom of religion and conscience, “one of the fundamental human rights that each state should always respect.”

Synod members released a message Oct. 23 to their own faithful, their governments, the United States, the world, the international community and to all people of goodwill. The Vatican also released a synthesis of the synod’s work as a part of the synod apostolic exhortation.

The bishops had told the synod that Christians are still valid.

“They are an authentic and vigorous witness to the Gospel and to the word of God and that God’s promises are economically opportune, but in reality what we have hoped for and requested.”

One of the synod propositions said, “We exhort our faithful and our church communities not to give in to the temptation to sell off their real estate, and they pledged to set up micro-finance and other projects to help people retain their property and make it prosper.”

The synod members affirmed their commitment to efforts to promote full Christian unity and “promised to strengthen cooperative efforts with other Christian churches in the region because “we share the same journey” and unity is necessary for effectively sharing the Gospel.”

The bishops at the synod also recognized their own failures in not promoting greater communion between Catholics of different rites, with other Christians and with the Jewish and Muslim majorities of their homelands.

And they told their lay faithful, “We have not done everything possible to confirm you in your faith and to give you the spiritual nourishment you need in your difficulties.”

All Christians, including the bishops, are called to conversion, they said.

Dozens dead, 56 wounded after savage attack at Iraq Catholic Cathedral

The Chancery Office will be closed for the Thanksgiving Holidays, November 25 and 26.

Have a Blessed Holiday with family and friends.

The propositions called for a “commission of cooperation” between church leaders of different rites, the sharing of material resources and establishment of a program to share priestates.

They also echoed a repeated call in the synod for the pope to study ways to extend the jurisdiction of Eastern Catholic patriarchs and major archbishops to allow them greater power in providing for their faithful who live outside the traditional territory of their churches and to consider dropping restrictions on ordaining married men to the priesthood outside the traditional homeland of the particular church.

Meanwhile, Cardinal Bechara Boutros al-Rai of Cyprus told reporters, “The synod is not a medical prescription or a cure” for the problems Christians face in the Middle East, “it’s a journey that is just beginning” and will have to be implemented by the region’s Catholics.

CHRISTIAN POPULATION IN MIDDLE EAST—In the predominantly Muslim region of the Middle East, most countries have a Christian population of less than 10 percent. (CNS graphic/Emily Thompson)

 Continued from p. 1

Christian Population

Percent of Christians in Middle East countries with a tradition of Christian presence:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Country</th>
<th>Christian Population</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Turkey</td>
<td>1.4%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Egypt</td>
<td>10.5%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Israel</td>
<td>2%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Jordan</td>
<td>2%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Lebanon</td>
<td>5.5%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>


Serving Turkey and Dressing

$7.50 p/p from 11-1:30

Our Lady of Lourdes Fall Festival at the Victoria Community Center

Sunday, November 14

Live Auction - 5:30

Silent Auction 10-5

Country Store - Games
In Respect Life message, cardinal promotes world vigil for life Nov. 27

WASHINGTON (CNS) — In a message marking Respect Life Month in October, the chairman of the U.S. bishops’ Committee on Pro-Life Activities called on U.S. Catholics to join Pope Benedict XVI in a worldwide vigil “for the defense of human life” on the Saturday evening of Thanksgiving weekend.

Cardinal Daniel N. DiNardo of Galveston-Houston also encouraged Catholics to demonstrate their commitment to life “through a loving concern for the good of others” and to work to ensure that health care reform, in its implementation, “is not misused to undermine the pro-life cause, opposing death penalty comes down to God’s mercy

WASHINGTON (CNS) — In the 2010 edition of Respect Life Month drew to a close, the issue of capital punishment was once again in the world spotlight as the Vatican called on Iraq not to execute former Deputy Prime Minister Tariq Aziz. It might not be easy to advocate for the life of a convicted murderer or for someone like Aziz, sentenced to death by hanging for persecuting Shiite Muslims, but it is important to the pro-life cause, said Deirdre A. McQuade, assistant director for policy and communications in the U.S. bishops’ Secretariat for Pro-Life Activities. “It demeans our culture to use violence to answer violence, and it can only further undermine respect for innocent life,” McQuade told Catholic News Service Oct. 27. “If the state can protect us without committing additional violence, that is the way we are called to go.” Bishop Robert W. Finn of Kansas City-St. Joseph, Mo., made that point in one of the articles for this year’s Respect Life program, linking the death penalty issue to the Catholic belief in divine mercy. “God did not abolish justice. Rather, he intended by the offering of his Son to purge human justice of any sense of wrath or revenge,” he wrote. “As we seek a reason to put aside the practice of the death penalty, perhaps the best motive is our desire to imitate God in his mercy toward those for whom Jesus died.” Bishop Finn’s call came at a time when many others, including members of law enforcement — were calling for an end to or curtailing of the use of capital punishment.

Michigan religious order set to buy Pope John Paul II Cultural Center

WASHINGTON (CNS) — A Michigan religious order experiencing rapid growth since its formation in 1997 is planning to acquire the 10-year-old John Paul II Cultural Center across the street from The Catholic University of America. The Ann Arbor-based Dominican Sisters of Mary, Mother of the Eucharist, reached a purchase agreement with the Archdiocese of Detroit to buy the 100,000-square-foot center in Washington and use it as a house of study for its members. No purchase price for the 12-acre property was disclosed. The property was valued at $37.3 million for the 2011 tax year during the most recent real estate appraisal. Its proximity to the well-established Dominican House of Studies and the Basilica of the National Shrine of the Immaculate Conception makes it an attractive site, said a spokeswoman for the Western Sister Maria Gemma Martek, superior of the motherhouse in Ann Arbor, said, the hope is that the center can be developed into a house of studies for sisters. “This is an exciting possibility,” she told Catholic News Service. “The idea of being able to potentially have a presence in our nation’s capital in such a great location in proxim- ity to our university, the Dominican House of Studies and the basilica.”

Scalia says committed Christians should not be afraid to embrace faith

ANNAPOLIS, Md. (CNS) — Although the sophisticated may deride them as simply minded, U.S. Supreme Court Justice Antonin Scalia said committed Christians should have the courage to embrace their faith. Scalia spoke to members of the St. Thomas More Society of Maryland who gathered Oct. 21 at the Westin Hotel in Annapolis following the 52nd annual Red Mass, held at nearby St. Mary Church. The liturgy, celebrated by Baltimore Archbishop Edwin F. O’Brien, marked the beginning of the judicial year.

During a hotel banquet, the St. Thomas More Society honored Scalia with its “Man for All Seasons Award,” given to members of the legal profession it regards as embodying the ideals of St. Thomas More. Scalia outlined a long list of Christian beliefs that he said are greeted with derision by the worldly — dogmas including Christ’s divinity, the virgin birth and Christ’s resurrection. “Surely those who adhere to all or most of these traditional Christian beliefs are regarded in the educated circles that you and I travel in as, well, simple-minded,” Scalia asserted. The Catholic justice cited a story in The Washington Post that described Christians fundamental to Catholic University, the Dominican House of Studies or to a law 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

If you suspect a child has been abused or neglected, 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.

Pope names Chicago auxiliary bishop to head San Antonio Archdiocese

Continued from p. 1

in San Antonio “a wonderful bishop, priest and friend, and the people of the archdio- cese will soon discover that they have a new shepherd who is a man of great faith and extraordinary pastoral sensitivity.” The Los Angeles coadjutor said in a statement that the appointment was note-worthy for his own archdiocese because Archbishop Garcia-Siller received his theological training at St. John’s Seminary. There he also lived in the archdiocese for several years as rectory of the house of studies for the Missionaries of the Holy Spirit.

Gustavo Garcia-Siller was born Dec. 21, 1956, in the Mexican state of San Luis Potosi to Gustavo Garcia Suarez and Maria Cristina Siller de Garcia. He is the oldest of 15 children. His brother Eugene is a priest.

Young Gustavo entered the Missionaries of the Holy Spirit in 1973 in Mexico City, where the order’s general headquarters are located. He was ordained in Guadalajara, Mexico, June 22, 1984, after his studies at St. John’s Seminary in Camarillo, Calif.

After serving at St. Joseph Parish in Selma, Calif., 1984-88, he did graduate studies at Western Jesuit University in Guadalajara and the Pontifical Gregorian University in Rome. He has degrees in divinity and psychology.

From 1994 to 1999, he served as rector of houses of studies operated by his order in Lynnwood and Long Beach, Calif., and in Portland, Ore. From 1999 to 2002, he was rector of the order’s theologate in Los Angeles, Calif., and served in three parishes of the Los Angeles Archdiocese. In 2002, he was named prefect and superior for his religious congregation.

As an auxiliary bishop, he was Chicago Cardinal Francis E. George’s liaison to the Hispanic community, oversaw the vicariate that covers the South Side of Chicago and its southwest suburbs. The vicariate has 79 culturally diverse parishes, and Mass is celebrated in 12 languages, including Eng- lish, Spanish, Polish, Cantonese, Slovak, Mandarin, Croatian, Latin, Indonesian, Italian, and Lithuanian.

Archbishop Garcia-Siller can celebrate Mass and preach in English, Spanish and Polish.

On the national level, he has been a member of U.S. bishops’ subcommittees on African-American affairs and Hispanic affairs.

Correct Answers on Religion

Atheists and agnostics, Jews and Mormons are among the highest-scoring groups when asked 32 questions about religion.

Average number of questions answered correctly

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>RELIGION</th>
<th>NUMBER</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
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</tr>
<tr>
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<td>80.2</td>
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<td>55.0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>HISPANIC CATHOLIC</td>
<td>11.6</td>
<td>46.0</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
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(CNS graphic/Nancy Wiechec)
Catholic reporter says Chilean miners’ families kept faith in God

By Barb Fraze

Catholic News Service

WASHINGTON (CNS) — A reporter who covered the Chilean mine rescue for The Associated Press said the miners’ families always believed their loved ones were alive and that belief was based on faith.

“Many of these families had faith that their loved ones were alive. The rest of Chile probably didn’t, from the Aug. 5 collapse until authorities discovered (the miners) were alive on Aug. 23,” said the reporter, Peter Prengaman, 35, a member of the Basiliac of the Sac- re-Coeur in Atlanta.

Prengaman traveled to Copiapo, Chile, in late August and early September, and then returned again to cover the October rescue. In an e-mail interview with Catholic News Service, he said family members spoke of their faith and “of a belief that they would see their loved ones again.”

“The Catholic presence, and faith in general, was everywhere,” he told CNS. “The fam- ily members were crosses and had religious altars dedicated to their trapped family members. They pruned the gardens, and attended Masses that were given at the mine on Sundays.”

Prengaman said he had more of a chance to get to know the miners’ families when he went to Copiapo in August, before the media descended on the town for the rescue.

In the summer, “you could actually sit around a camp- fire, drink tea and shoot the bull,” he said, adding that “getting to know the families was enriching.”

“These are mining families that live with the reality that their loved ones could be killed or injured,” he said. They had a “very salt-of-the-earth quality about them. They were patient, or injured,” he said. They had “a very salt-of-the-earth quality about them. They were patient, or injured,” he said. They had “a very salt-of-the-earth quality about them. They were patient,” he said. “A very salt-of-the-earth quality about them. They were patient,” he said. “A very salt-of-the-earth quality about them. They were patient,” he said. “A very salt-of-the-earth quality about them. They were patient,” he said. “A very salt-of-the-earth quality about them. They were patient,” he said. “A very salt-of-the-earth quality about them. They were patient,” he said. “A very salt-of-the-earth quality about them. They were patient,” he said. “A very salt-of-the-earth quality about them. They were patient,” he said. “A very salt-of-the-earth quality about them. They were patient,” he said. “A very salt-of-the-earth quality about them. They were patient,” he said. “A very salt-of-the-earth quality about them. They were patient,” he said. “A very salt-of-the-earth quality about them. They were patient,” he said. “A very salt-of-the-earth quality about them. They were patient,” he said. “A very salt-of-the-earth quality about them. They were patient,” he said. “A very salt-of-the-earth quality about them. They were patient,” he said. “A very salt-of-the-earth quality about them. They were patient,” he said. “A very salt-of-the-earth quality about them. They were patient,” he said. “A very salt-of-the-earth quality about them. They were patient,” he said. “A very salt-of-the-earth quality about them. They were patient,” he said. “A very salt-of-the-earth quality about them. They were patient,” he said.
When leaving a paper wish in a tree can help heal a heart

Hilary Swank and Sam Rockwell star in a scene from the movie “Conviction.” The Catholic News Service classification is L—limited adult audience, films whose problematic content many adults would find troubling.

Editor's note:

CATHOLIC LABOR

WASHINGTON (CNS) — In the wake of the年中国共产党，工人阶级的先锋队，同时是中国人民和中华民族的先锋队。这表明中国共产党是中国工人阶级、中国人民和中华民族的先锋队，体现了中国共产党作为工人阶级和中华民族先锋队的本质属性和领导地位。

CANDIDATES

WASHINGTON (CNS) — The Catholic Campaign for Human Development (CCHD) has adopted a stronger policy to ensure used funds match church teaching.

WASHINGTON (CNS) — Under persistent criticism from a small but vocal group of activists as well as questions from some bishops, leaders of the Catholic Campaign for Human Development have established “stronger policies and clearer mechanisms” to guide how grants are awarded to poverty-fighting groups and strengthen oversight of how funds are spent.

The program, which was launched in 1977, is a 41-year-old program and renews the U.S. bishops’ commitment to fight poverty in all its forms, said Bishop Roger P. Morin of Biloxi, Miss., chairman of the bishops’ CCHD subcommittee. A 15-page document outlines the changes.

“With the Review and Renewal of the Catholic Campaign for Human Development,” provides a “road map for the renewal” of the program. Editor’s Note: The full text of “The Review and Renewal of The Catholic Campaign for Human Development” will be published in the Nov. 4 issue of Origins. It is also available at www.naschc.org/cchd/.

By Mark Pattison

Catholic News Service

WASHINGTON (CNS) — The Catholic woman whose efforts to free her wrongly imprisoned brother became the inspiration for the new motion picture “Conviction” still advocates for the cause of prisoners whenever she gets a chance.

Betty Anne Waters, who runs a bar in Bristol, R.I., got her high school diploma, a college degree, and a law degree so she could represent her brother Kenny in the appeal of his murder conviction.

Waters no longer practices law, but she pitches in wherever she can.

Speaking a mile a minute in the thick New England accent that reflects her upbringing in nearby Ayer, Mass., she said, “I help the New England Innocence Project with cases. And I go into New York to help change (criminal justice) policies and go to legislatures to get statutes changed and to get DNA preserved, and I speak against the death penalty. Things like that.”

Waters spelled out what it took just to get a low degree.

“(Kenny) was convicted in 1983. I didn’t go back to school until 1986; he had lawyers at that time,” she said. “I started part time in 1986, I had two little children. It took 12 years, but I graduated.”

By the time Waters got her sheepskin, DNA testing had grown more commonplace — and reliable. DNA evidence was what overturned Kenny’s conviction for murder and robbery. She was serving a life sentence with no possibility of parole.

Waters, 56, said her expectation was that, within a few days of Kenny’s release from prison, she would get her house and settle down and lead a normal life.

But the calls kept coming in, she told Catholic News Service in an Oct. 22 telephone interview from Bristol. As a result, Waters said, “the one person I called, and trust most, was Barry Scheck from the Innocence Project. He knows some people in Hollywood.”

The Innocence Project is a nonprofit organization dedicated to proving the innocence of wrongly convicted people through the use of DNA testing.

She said Scheck told her, “Betty Anne, you know they’re going to make a movie about you.” They resolved to make a deal to tell their story rather than have their story told without Waters’ input. A Hollywood friend of Scheck’s bought the rights to it.

The film project itself took nine years from start to screen — an education nearly as long as that 12 years Waters spent behind bars. And after all that time, Waters said, “it took 35 days to make the movie.”

Waters, a native of Hollywood, some liberties had to be taken with the story to condense 17 years into a couple of hours. Regarding her Catholic faith, Waters admitted, “I don’t practice the faith as much as I probably should. ... But I think it’s especially important to start out with a foundation of religion.”

Waters said it was a high point for her when she met Sister Helen Prejean, a Sister of St. Joseph who is a well-known death penalty opponent and author of “Dead Man Walking.” “I helped get a lot of petitions signed against the death penalty for her,” it was after Kenny was released, “added Waters.”

Something the movie “Conviction” doesn’t say is that Kenny paid six months after his release. “But he had a lot of life. It was the best six months in his life.” Waters said. “We were on the morning shows in New York. He was on ‘Oprah.’ ... The most important thing was that he died free.”

CNS film critic John Mulderig called “Conviction” “a gritty yet tender love story” in his review. Despite plenty of foul language and some gruesome crime-scene images, “Conviction” ultimately acquires itself with generally positive, though underlining messages about courage, perseverance and family solidarity,” Mulderig said.

12th person in Texas to be wrongly convicted and released from death row

Brenham, Texas, resident Anthony Graves, 45 years of age, was released from jail Oct. 27 after spending 18 years, 12 of which were on Death Row, for a crime he did not commit. Thanks to the University of Houston Law Center Texas Innocence Network, years of investigation by St. Thomas University journalism class and the exoneration by the prosecutors preparing for a retrial. Those prosecutors followed the dismissal with an angry denunciation of the former district attorney, Charles Sebesta, whom they claim fabricated evidence and intimidated witnesses.

WASHINGTON (CNS) — The Wishing Trees, sponsored by the Arbor Day Foundation, are a final wish from the wife and mother they adored, a plea for change his life. It is almost a year after the anniversary but were never able to do.

Eager to honor the wishes that they admired, lan and Mattie set out on an epic journey that retraces the early life of Ian's wife and mother, Mattie, on a trip across Asia – a trip they had planned to take to celebrate their fifteenth anniversary but were never able to do.

Editor’s note:

WASHINGTON (CNS) — The Catholic Campaign for Human Development (CCHD) adopts a stronger policy to ensure used funds match church teaching. After years of criticism from a small but vocal group of activists as well as questions from some bishops, leaders of the Catholic Campaign for Human Development have established “stronger policies and clearer mechanisms” to guide how grants are awarded to poverty-fighting groups and strengthen oversight of how funds are spent.

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WASHINGTON (CNS) — The Catholic Campaign for Human Development is dedicated to breaking the cycle of poverty by funding community programs that encourage independence. You are essential to its success. Your generous donations will give those in poverty the support they need to make lasting changes. Please donate prayerfully and generously.

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Special Collection Campaign for Human Development November 20-21

Ongoing Events
Catholic Family Services—Visit their e-mail and Web sites of Catholic organizations that focus on the family from marriage preparation to enrichment, fatherhood, parenting, and separation and divorce. Please go to the Catholic Association of Catholic Family Life Ministries—San Antonio.
St. Francis and St. Clare Fraternity/Secular Franciscans—For more information, please go to their site at www.brotherhoodofstfrancis.org, or call Mary Ann LeBillon at (361) 575-1858.

Marriage Encounter—the Marriage Encounter Weekend is one of the shortest and most highly effective programs to prepare couples for their marriages by attending. Go to http://www.retrouvaille.org for more information, or to register for the upcoming Victoria Retreat, please go to http://www.retrouvaille.org/dates.php or call Gisella and Linda Conner at (512) 378-1144.

The Beginning Experience—The Beginning Experience is an information session for those preparing for marriage and who desire to explore what marriage means together with other individuals involved. For more information, see www.begins.org or for upcoming weekends please call Cheryl and Diane Regal at (979) 243-0332 or at register@neovictoria.org.

Retreats: For more information regarding spiritual retreats, visit: Retreats are a program that offers the chance to rediscover yourself, your spouse and a loving relationship in your marriage. This program offers unique experiences of prayer, meditation and instruction designed to strengthen your marriages by attending. Go to http://www.retreatsuits.org for more information, or to register for the upcoming Victoria Retreat, please go to http://www.retreatsuits.org/dates.php or contact Gisella and Linda Conner at (512) 378-1144.

The Beginning Experience—Please join the IWBS Council on Nov. 28, Dec. 12 and Dec. 19, from 5:00-6:00 p.m. in the Church Chapel, at Incarnate Word Convent, (1011 N. Water Street) for a螺旋 vesicles prayer service. These prayer services are open to all married couples and their families. For more information contact the Iglesia del Pueblo Center of Hope at (512) 521-3377 or you can register on-line at www. iglesiacentrodelahope.org.

Victoria—Taoist Prayer Service—Come to the Incarnate Word and Blessed Sacrament Sisters’ Amor Meus Spiritualidad Center on Nov. 16, from 7:00-8:00 p.m. in the convent auditorium at Incarnate Word Convent (1101 N. Water Street) Taoist prayer service held in a light-candle atmosphere consists of music, chant, scriptural reading, and prayers of intercession.

Victoria—Solena Vespers—Please join the IWBS Sisters on the following dates:
Nov. 13 and 14, at Sacred Heart Parish, 1010 N. Alamo Street, from 9:00 a.m. – 5:00 p.m. and is closed on major holidays.

Victoria—Healing Mass come out as Our Lady of Lourdes Church, 105 N. William Street, as Father Phi Nguyen, chaplain of IWBS council, celebrates Mass and Healing Prayer on the first Saturday of each month at 10:00 a.m. Mark your calendars now for next month. You and your family are invited to this event and your ministry and you would like to share or inform Father Phi, you may do so by contacting Sister Louise Marie Jones at 830-292-0998 or by e-mail at LouiseMarieJ@gmail.com.


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Mormon Church promotes Catholic News Service movie reviews

By Sister Mary Ann Walsh

A former Catholic bishop of Salt Lake City once facetiously boasted that he headed the second largest church in the world. There are about 13.9 million members of the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter Day Saints, the largest one being the Catholic Church, with a membership of about 574 million people. The two churches differ significantly. However, in one area, that of family values, they hold much in common.

The Deseret News is now promoting the movie reviews of Catholic News Service, reviews that boast a 74-year movie history in the Catholic Church. A Sept. 23 article from The Deseret News explains the daily’s rationale.

“The CNS reviews concentrate particularly on how a character’s negative behavior and ethical choices, such as crime and abortion, are presented: and depictions of human behavior related sexual prenatal encounters, nonmarital cohabitation and adulterous relationships,” the article notes.

“Given the popularity of the movies, both on the big screen, video and television, they have one to be proud of this Catholic Church contribution to modern society. Adult moviegoers benefit by checking the CNS reviews before they go off to the cinema. The guidance makes for both more intelligent viewing and a warning that some movies aren’t worth your ten bucks. The reviews are a perfect way for parents as well as their offspring will view.”

The Mormon Church has steadily supported family values, and the TV spots they’ve run over the years in this regard are the envy of other churches. Their promotion of the CNS movie reviews is one more proof of this.

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The Catholic Lighthouse
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Shiner sturgeon bake set for November 13

SHINER—The Annual Homemade Apple Strudel Bake sponsored by the St. Stephen Catholic Church is scheduled for Saturday, Nov. 13, at the Shiner Catholic Parish gym at 704 South Main St.

This project, now in its fourth year, turns out strudels by the thousands, with more than 2,800 made last year’s event.

To be sure your strudel order is filled; orders must be placed by Thursday, Nov. 11, 12 p.m., to place your order by calling: Marjorie Kest, 564-2931, or Quality Pharmacy, 564-2262. Orders may also be sent by e-mail to: aduke@sscmshiner.org or by using the church Web site at www.shinerوقف. Pick up time in Shiner is 10:00 a.m. to 6:00 p.m. at the parish gym on Sat., Nov. 13.

For the convenience of customers throughout South Texas, the strudels will be delivered to several area cities.

Customers in Yoakum are asked to call: 361-293-7733; Gonzales, 830-764-6293; Edna, 361-573-2947; Victoria, 833-573-2833; or by e-mail to: bkester@gmail.com.

For information on ACTS retreats, please go to www.actsmissions.org. Pick up time in Shiner is 10:00 a.m. to 6:00 p.m. at the parish gym on Sat., Nov. 13.

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By Cynthia Brewer

What happens when you plan on attending a sabbatical in Rome, a renewal program for priests, and they tell you it’s full? You plan your own.

That’s what happened to Father Joe Hybner, pastor of Sacred Heart in Flatonia and Sts. Cyril and Methodius in Cistern, this past winterspring. He was hoping to go a second time on a sabbatical at the North American College in Rome, but after waiting some time for confirmation, he found out that it was full.

So instead of studying the latest encyclicals and proclamations of the Church and sharing with the 30 or so other American priests studying with you, Father Joe had to devise his own sabbatical.

After much studying and preparation, he went to Bishop David Fellhauer with his proposal: to go on a walk in the footsteps of Pope John Paul II – to travel to Poland, the Czech Republic and Rome, using the countries and city as his library and classroom to study the extraordinary life of Pope John Paul II, from his birth, to being chosen the Vicar of Christ here on earth, to his death.

“I remember very clearly the words Pope John Paul II gave us in the year 2000 for the millennium, ‘Open Wide the Doors to Christ!’” said Father Joe. “I am most grateful to the Holy Spirit that the doors to Christ!‘” said Father Joe. “I am most grateful to the Holy Spirit that the doors to Christ!” said Father Joe. “I am most grateful to the Holy Spirit that the doors to Christ!’” said Father Joe. “I am most grateful to the Holy Spirit that the doors to Christ.’”

He stayed here (r.), Father Joe saw weekly at the Vatican in Rome: a picture of Pope John Paul II praying at the baptismal font in Wadowice. New Divine Mercy Basilica in Kraków

The Catholic Lighthouse’s editor, Father Peter said he had a gift for me. He said, “We believe in dreams coming true, like in the Bible. My gift to you is a relic of Pope John Paul II.” The gift was a second-class relic, a piece of the alb that Pope John Paul II wore, and each morning said with them the 7 a.m. Mass for the groups of travelers, many of whom were young teens and college-age youth traveling with priests.

“Toward a lot of churches, in particular, the Divine Mercy Church in Rome. Holy Spirit in Sassi. I went many times, for I have a very great devotion to the Divine Mercy. I had the devotion before, but since my sabbatical, my devotion is even stronger. It is very timely in this age.”

After the canonization of St. Faustina in 2000, Pope John Paul II presented to the church a relic of her relics, as well as a large painting of the Divine Mercy image, blessed by him on April 23, 1995.

“During my sabbatical, the journey took me to the Czech Republic because Pope John Paul made three pilgrimages there. While staying with friends, Vit and Eva Pestuka and their ‘maminka’ in Kroneritz, one week was spent in the Archdiocese of Olomouc with Archbishop Jan Graubner.

I received a great ‘blessing’ from Archbishop Graubner and his secretary, Father Peter Guettner. I had stayed at the residence of the archbishop in 2002, in a room just two doors from where the pope had stayed. That night I dreamed that I unlocked the door and with scissors cut a piece of the sheet from the pope’s bed for a relic! I shared my dream at the breakfast table with the archbishop and Father Peter.

Father Joe standing in the square in Kroneritz, Czech Republic. (Photo: Courtesy, at his friend Vit Pestuka’s home in Kroneritz.

An image Father Joe saw weekly at the Vatican in Rome: Pope Benedict XVI’s papal audience.

Father Joe also was very thankful for the blessing of Bishop Fellhauer and to Father Eddie Winkler, who cared for his parish while he was away.

From January 27 to May 18, 2010, Father Joe traced the great pope’s footsteps, beginning in his childhood and young life of Karol Józef Wojtyła to his priesthood, ordination, selection as archbishop of Kraków, and to promotion to the sacred college of cardinals; to the Czech Republic pilgrimage sites of the college of cardinals; to the Czech Republic pilgrimage sites.

I attended all the Holy Week services at the Vatican, Father Joe said, “and every Wednesday, I went to the Papal Audience.”

The Most Holy Body and Blood of the Eucharist.  Three and one-half years ago, I made a visit to the church many times during the day and night, and the church was always filled with people. Close by is the new Basilica dedicated in 2002 by John Paul II. It holds over one thousand people. It was there that I had a chance meeting with Cardinal Stanislaw Dziwisz, Pope John Paul II’s personal secretary.

One Friday, Susan Johnson, a native of Flatonia, Texas, who now lives in Poland, and I decided to attend the 4 p.m. Mass and what a surprise we had! The Basilica was full. In procession came thirty priests, ten bishops and Cardinal Dziwisz. We waited after the Mass, and we bowed and greeted the cardinal giving my name and saying, ‘I am from the Victo- ria Diocese in Texas.’ In English, the cardinal said, ‘God bless Texas and God bless America.’ I was overjoyed to meet and greet him. In thanksgiving I prayed: ‘Jesus, I trust in you.”

Walk in the footsteps of Pope John Paul II ~ Sabbatical Journey with Father Joseph Hybner ~

Walking in the Footsteps of John Paul II
~ Sabbatical Journey with Father Joseph Hybner ~

The Czech Republic

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This year, while again staying at the chancery, Father Peter said he had a gift for me. He said, “We believe in dreams coming true, like in the Bible. My gift to you is a relic of Pope John Paul II.” The gift was a second-class relic, a piece of the alb that Pope John Paul II wore, and each morning said with them the 7 a.m. Mass for the groups of travelers, many of whom were young teens and college-age youth traveling with priests.

“I went to a lot of churches, in particular, the Divine Mercy Church in Rome. Holy Spirit in Sassi. I went many times, for I have a very great devotion to the Divine Mercy. I had the devotion before, but since my sabbatical, my devotion is even stronger. It is very timely in this age.”

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Milestones of a three and one-half month journey:

Of all the Masses Father Joe said while on sabbatical, only three were said in English; the others were in Polish, Czech, Italian or Latin. He also sent what turned out to be as many postcards as days of his sabbatical – as all the postcards that were sent to folks in Flatonia and Cistern were reprinted in the parish bulletins, as he traveled and prayed with people all over the world, encased in a picture of the pope kneeling in prayer with a statue of Our Lady of Fatima behind him. I have since had the relic set in a wooden frame that parishioner Buddy Borel built. I was overjoyed to receive this gift; it was the crowning event of all my encounters on my sabbatical.”

Rome

Although Father Joe had not originally planned to go to Rome last, at the advice of his travel agent he did so. That turned out to be a fabulous blessing, for he was able to spend the whole Easter season in Rome, including Holy Week, Divine Mercy Sunday and the first anniversary of Pope John Paul II’s death.

“I attended all the Holy Week services at the Vati- can,” Father Joe said, “and every Wednesday, I went to the Papal Audience.”

He did as most Czech pilgrims do in Rome and stayed just three blocks from the Vatican at the Velehrad Pilgrimage House, built over 50 years ago by Czechoslovakian cardinals, Josef Beran and Thomas Spolík. Each week, from 50 to 70 people from the Czech Republic and Slovakia stay at the pilgrimage house.

“I lived with two residential priests, each morning said with them the 7 a.m. Mass for the groups of travelers, many of whom were young teens and college-age youth traveling with priests.

This sabbatical was a holy time of prayer where I was able to look into the heart and soul of our dearly beloved Pope John Paul II. To me, he was a living saint, not of a long time ago, but during our own lifetime. I have truly been blessed.”