Sister Elizabeth Riebschlaeger, CCVI, joined environmental activist Sha- ron Wilson and others from the Barnett Shale area of North Texas and citizens from the Haynesville Shale area of East Texas, to testify before a hearing of the U.S. Environ- mental Protection Agency (EPA). Held at City Hall in Arlington, Texas, where 15,000 oil and gas wells and installations exist within the city limits, the hearing focused on proposed new EPA regulations regarding hydraulic fracturing or “frack- ing” in combination with a new technology regarding hydraulic fracturing or “frack- ing” in the Haynesville Shale area of East Texas, to testify before a hearing of the U.S. Environ- mental Protection Agency (EPA). Held at City Hall in Arlington, Texas, where 15,000 oil and gas wells and installations exist within the city limits, the hearing focused on proposed new EPA regulations regarding hydraulic fracturing or “frack- ing” in combination with a new technology.

Sister Elizabeth Riebschlaeger Testifies at EPA Hearing

ARLINGTON—On September 29, 2011, Sister Elizabeth Riebschlaeger, CCVI, joined environmental activist Sha- ron Wilson and others from the Barnett Shale area of North Texas and citizens from the Haynesville Shale area of East Texas, to testify before a hearing of the U.S. Environ- mental Protection Agency (EPA). Held at City Hall in Arlington, Texas, where 15,000 oil and gas wells and installations exist within the city limits, the hearing focused on proposed new EPA regulations regarding hydraulic fracturing or “frack- ing” in combination with a new technology called “horizontal” or “directional” drilling. This practice has been in use for at least 10 years across the United States for the purpose of recovering microscopic stores of oil and gas held under high pressure in geological formations called shale rock. Authorized by her congregation to speak on behalf of the congregation, Sisters of Charity of the Incarnate Word, Sister Elizabeth testified: “The statement that I am making here today represents the com- mitment of our congregation of religious women. As co-signers with millions around the world of the Earth Charter, we have committed ourselves to work for a more life-sustaining environment for all the hu- man family. Out of that commitment, and in the face of the frantic pace of new gas fracking activities in Texas today, we join our voices with those here today, who come to ask the Environmental Protec- tion Agency for immediate action toward regulating these activities.”

The fracking process involves perpen- dicular drilling to depths (in South Texas) of 12,000 to 15,000 feet, then turning at a right angle to drill horizontally up to an additional 3,000 feet. Once secured, the pipeline is used to inject a mixture of water, special sand and toxic chemicals under extremely high pressure at different points, fracturing the shale rock and forc- ing the sand into the fractures. Held open by the sand, the gas and oil are released to be recovered at the surface. This procedure has become more controversial with the growing incidence of: contamination of water wells in the areas surrounding drilling sites, of residents’ exposure to airborne con- taminants, and of accidents at well sites. In addition, there is considerable uncertainty regarding the long-term effects of fracking on the environment, effects, which may be irreversible.

Sister Elizabeth was born and raised in Cuero, Texas, and has ministered in the Diocese of Victoria since 1985. Cuero now finds itself at the heart of the Eagle Ford Shale, a formation rich in oil and gas deposits, located beneath several counties in South Texas. Hydro-fracturing activity by several companies “...can only be described as frantic and furious,” according to the Diocese of Victoria Web site: www.victoriadiocese.org ~ Twitter also at: www.twitter.com/TheCatholicLH

Roman Missal, Third Edition

On November 27, the First Sunday of Advent, the Roman Missal, Third Edition, the ritual text containing prayers and in- structions for the celebration of the Mass, will be implemented in the United States of America. If you have been hearing the buzz but are not completely up to speed on the new Roman Missal, here are ten things you need to know:

1. It is not a new Mass, it is a new translation for a new edition of the Missal. Because a new edition of the Missale Romanum, the Latin Roman Missal, was promulgated by Pope John Paul II in 2000, it was necessary for all the countries of the world to translate this missal into the vari- ous local languages. The new missal has added features: prayers for the celebration of recently canonized saints, additional prefaces for the Eucharistic Prayers, ad- ditional Masses and Prayers for Various Needs and Intentions, and some updated and revised rubrics (instructions) for the celebration of the Mass. In the case of the English-speaking world, a common transla- tion of the common text was sought through the International Commission for English in the Liturgy (ICEL) to ensure uniformity.

2. Vatican guidelines for transla- tion. The translation of the new Roman Missal was carried out under the newest Vatican guidelines for translating prayers into modern local (i.e., vernacular) lan- guages. These were given in the instruc- tion Liturgiam Authenticam, published in 2001, urging a stronger adherence to the original Latin wording and structure than earlier directives. In the new translation, the unique style of the Roman Rite is closely maintained. The texts are marked by a heightened style of English speech and a grammatical structure that follows closely the Latin text. In addition, many biblical and poetic images such as “Lord, I am not worthy that you should enter under...”

DELEGATES JOIN POPE AT INTERFAITH MEETING FOR PEACE IN ASSISI—Pope Benedict XVI leads an interfaith peace meeting in the Basilica of St. Mary of the Angels in Assisi, Italy, Oct. 27. Story is on page 15. Pictured from left are: Julia Kristeva, Bulgarian-born philosopher and psychanalyst; the Rev. Olav Fykse Tveit, general secretary of the World Council of Churches; Archbishop Norvan Zakarian of the Armenian Apostolic Church; Anglican Archbishop Rowan Williams of Canterbury; Ecumenical Patriarch Bartholomew of Constantinople; Pope Benedict; Rabbi David Rosen, representing the chief rabbinate of Israel; Wande Abimbola, president of a Nigerian institute that promotes the study of the culture and traditional religion of the Yoruba people; Shirvatsa Goswami, a Hindu delegate; Ja Seung, head of South Korea’s Buddhist Jogye order; and Kya I Haji Hasyim Muzadi, a Muslim delegate. (CNS photos/ Giampiero Sposito, Reuters)

See Roman Missal, p. 3
Thank You Notes

October 10, 2011
Your Excellency,
I write to convey the prayerful thanks of this Congregation to you and the faithful of the Diocese of Victoria for the gifts and sacrifices offered during the year 2010 for the benefit of the mission churches served by the Pontifical Mission Societies.
You have provided a total support of $26,933 to the Pontifical Mission Societies. Your support for the Society of St. Peter Apostle educates the next generation of priests, brothers and sisters as they go through the various stages of first formation. And your support for the Society of the Immaculate Conception brings the light of the Gospel to children in some of the poorest and most remote parts of our world.
We have tremendous needs in educating and sustaining religious, missionaries and priests in our ecclesiastical circumscriptions that span more than half the globe. In this light, there is one particular group with whom I would ask you to convey my prayerful good wishes: your retired priests. Dispensed from full-time assignments, they occupy a unique place among God’s faithful. Many continue to be pastoral guides and beloved ministers to the faithful of all ages. While they too must take rest from their labors, I would urge them not to relent in their prayers and sacrifices for the missions. In a special way, I urge you to encourage them to forge a special bond with the Society of St. Peter Apostle and thereby with the upcoming generation of priests, religious and missionaries in mission countries. Your pastoral leadership and example inspires the holy generosity of so many who support the Church in the developing world. This Congregation has long recognized and appreciated the missionary spirit of Catholics in the United States of America. With respect and fraternal encouragement I ask you to urge the faithful to even greater solidarity and sacrifice to meet the increasing and urgent needs of the missions’ goal.
As you lead your diocese to active support and solidarity with the missionary work of the Church, it is my prayer that God will bless you in your episcopal vocation and bless also your generous people.
Fraternally yours in Christ,
Most Rev. Fernando Fioni
Prefect Congregatio Gentium Evangelizanda, Vatican

Updated Diocesan Directories are available now

Loose-page diocesan directory fillers are available for $6 if picked up at the chancery office; $10 if mailed. If a full directory, with the diocesan binder, is needed, they are $8 if picked up at chancery office; $15 if mailed.
Call 361-573-0828 ext. 2230 or e-mail janakr@victoriadiocese.org to place an order.

Official Appointments By Most Rev. David E. Fellhauer

Effective October 14, 2011, the Rev. William J. Moorman, O.S.S.T. is appointed Parochial Vicar of Our Lady of Sorrows Church, Victoria, and its mission, Santisima Trinidad.

Effective October 21, 2011, the Rev. Gabriel J. Mensah, a priest of the Archdiocese of Cape Coast, Ghana, is appointed Parochial Vicar at Our Lady of Sorrows Church, Victoria.

November
6 9:30 a.m., Mass, Veterans Day, St. Mary Church, Pharr
7 8:15 a.m., National Young Readers Week, Nazareth Academy
5:00 p.m., Liturgical Commission meeting, Chancery Office
10:00 a.m., Diocesan Pastoral Council Chancery Office
1 1:30 p.m., United States Conference of Catholic Bishops’ meeting, Baltimore, Maryland
18 4:00 p.m., reconciliation service, Spiritual Renewal Center
20 11:00 a.m., Mass, Installation of Acolytes, St. Mary Seminary Chapel, Houston
23 11:00 a.m., Mass, St. Michael Church, Weimar

Pray for Peace!

Thank you for your continued support of the Catholic Lighthouse.

Support Christians in Holy Land by purchasing Olive Wood crafts

The Diocese of Victoria has been supporting the Christians in the Holy Land by holding Olive Wood Sales prior to the Christmas season for the past seven years.

After coordinating these sales since 2007, Cynthia Brewer, the editor of The Catholic Lighthouse newspaper, has asked Ms. Lorraine Novosad, the wife of Deacon Charlie Novosad of Columbus, to take over the coordination of these sales. She has graciously taken up this service.

Sales that have been scheduled include St. Agnes Church in Edna from Nov. 5 through 20; St. Rose of Lima, 10014 lions Avenue in Schulenburg, Nov 19-20; Holy Cross Church, 893 Church Street in East Bernard Dec 3-4; Our Lady of Sorrows in Victoria, Nov 13 and 20; Capilla de la Santisima Trinidad, 2901 Pleasant Green Drive in Victoria Dec 4 and 11; St. Robert Bellarmine in El Campo, Dec. 4; and St. Mary’s in Victoria, Dec 10-11.

Please come out and support the Christians in the Holy Land, as well as the organizations that are volunteering to put these sales on.

If your parish would still like to set up a sale or a child sponsorship, please check with your pastor and then please contact Lorraine at lnnovosad@swbell.net.

Family Prayer for Purity

Dearest Jesus, help me and each member of my family thoughtfully consider the moral and spiritual harm of inappropriate television, movies, magazines, e-mails and internet. Give us the courage to remove ourselves from the occasions of sin. Preserve us from the evil around us and turn our eyes to you, for you have promised that the pure of heart will see God. Send your Holy Spirit upon us to fill us with your grace, and keep us pure of heart. In Jesus’ name we pray. Amen.


DSA & Reflection of Faith Capital Campaign Updates

2011 DSA
Diocesan Goal: $1,471,384.00
Parish Pledge Totals: $1,456,204.52
Parish Contribution Totals: $1,415,202.50
Number of Parish Families Participating: 3,538

Reflection of Faith Capital Campaign
Diocesan Goal: $9,000,000.00
Parish Pledge Totals: $12,939,559.15
Parish Contribution Totals: $6,868,129.86
Number of Parish Families Participating: 6,768

Please Support Those Who Advertise in “The Catholic Lighthouse”!

Lorraine Novosad

The Catholic Lighthouse
Page 2 —November 2011
A rosary for Sister Adelaide was recited and a wake service with evening praise and sharing of memories was held at the Incarnate Word Convent on October 3. The Mass of the Resurrection was celebrated on October 4 at the conven with Rev. Phu Nguyen presiding. The homily was given by Bishop Bernard Popp.

Burial followed at Catholic Cemetery No. 3. Pallbearers were family members: Andrew Swoboda, Wayne Popp, George Gerberman Jr., William Gerberman, James Gerberman, Ben Gerberman, Koby Gerberman and Greg Swoboda.

Memorials may be made to Incarnate Word Convent, Hospice of South Texas, or Donor’s Choice. Words of comfort may be shared with the family at www.colonialfuneralhomevictoria.com.

Sister Adelaide was received into the Novitiate of the Sisters of the Incarnate Word and Blessed Sacrament on July 27, 1942. She made first profession of vows on July 28, 1943, and pronounced her final vows on September 1, 1946.

During her years of active ministry, Sister Adelaide taught at St. Michael School in Weimar, Holy Cross School in Bay City, Sacred Heart School in La Grange, Sts. Peter and Paul School in Freiburg, St. Ludmila Academy in Shiner, Nazareth Academy and Our Lady of Victory School in Victoria, and St. Leo School in San Antonio.

Sister Adelaide loved small children and was an excellent elementary teacher. She also taught CCD classes in many of the parishes where she ministered.

Some of her hobbies were making rosaries, crocheting, crafting bookmarks, embroidery, writing letters and being a pen pal. She enjoyed reading, playing cards and dominoes, and visiting the elderly as well as spending time with family and friends.

She is survived by her brother, Bishop Bernard Popp; sister, Sister Anna Marie Popp; sisters-in-law Bernice Popp and Clara Breumrumer; numerous nephews and nieces, and great-grand nephews and nieces.

She was preceded in death by her parents, brothers Joseph Lawrence Popp (Bernice) and Lawrence John Popp (Clara); sisters Margaret Popp Swoboda (Gustav) and Augusta Popp Gerberman (George).

The Catholic Lighthouse Page 3 – November 2011

Roman Missal, Third Edition

Continued from p. 1

8. What’s not changing, The structure and rite of the Mass itself is not changing, so the Mass will look and feel the same. Some texts of the Mass are not changing, including “The Lord’s Prayer,” the Lord’s Supper and the Our Father.

3. Partial adaptations to the U.S. are included. The new English-language translation (both oral and written) is based on adaptations requested by the Bishops of the United States as well as texts for observance that are proper to the United States (such as the prayers for the Memorial of St. Elizabeth Ann Seton, and prayers for Independence Day and Thanksgiving Day).

4. “And with your spirit.” The translation of several phrases in the Order of Mass had been previously decided by the Vatican in the instruction Liturgiam authenticam.

Among these are “certain expressions that belong to the heritage of the whole or a great part of the ancient Church, as well as others that have become customary in the current human patrimony…” Such is the case of the response “Ec sum spiritus tua.” What had previously been translated in 1973 as “And also with you” becomes now “And with your spirit.” This places the English translation in line with the text that has always been translated in most other languages, including Spanish, French, German, and Italian.

Chances in the people’s parts. In addition to the response to the greeting “The Lord be with you,” people are going to say a number of other changes in the translation of common prayers throughout. This includes the various parts of the Penitential Act (“Confiteor a me, propter peccata mea,” “and also with you” becomes now “And with your spirit.” This places the English translation in line with the text that has always been translated in most other languages, including Spanish, French, German, and Italian.

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6. “For many.” One of the points that has generated more discussion is the translation of qui pro eis et pro multis effundat... remissionem peccatorum (which was translated “shall be for you and for all so that sins may be forgiven.” In the new translation of the Roman Missal, “for all” will be changed to “for many.” There are several reasons for this change. First, “for many” is a more accurate translation of the Latin phrase pro multis than the present translation. This is also the wording used in the Biblical narrative account of the Last Supper found in the Gospel of Matthew and Mark. Even though it is a dogmatic teaching of the Church that Christ died on the Cross for all men and women, the expression “for many” is reflective also of the fact that this salvation is not brought automatically, without one’s own will in participation, but rather is a gift to be accepted. Also, in the context of the Last Supper, Jesus was speaking to the Twelve, expressing the reach of his sacrifice beyond the boundary of his closest disciples. In the context of the celebration of the Eucharist, the phrase “for you and for many” connects the particular gathered assembly with the larger sense of the Church in every time and place, as if to say “not only you gathered here, but many more than you can see.”

7. Gradual implementation for Musical Settings. Though official implementation set for the First Sunday of Advent 2011, Diocesan bishops may permit the gradual implementation of various musical settings of the people’s parts in the Order of Mass starting in September to allow the congregation time to learn them. This applies only to the Glories to God, the Holy, Holy, Holy, and the Liturgical Acclamations. Composers have redrafted previous musical settings and new compositions are also being prepared. New musical settings of the Amen and the Lamb of God, the texts of which are not changing, can be introduced at any time.

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Two men are nearing the completion of their journey to become ordained clergy of the Church in the Diocese of Victoria. On Saturday, December 17, 2011, Larry Koettner of Holy Cross Church in Bay City and Kenneth Fishbeck of St. Joseph’s Church in Moulton will be ordained deacons to the Diocese of Victoria. The Ordination Mass will be celebrated at Our Lady of Victory Cathedral at 10 a.m.

Both “deacons-to-be” responded to questions from Cynthia Brewer, editor, for an interview story for The Catholic Light. Their personal stories follow...

Larry Koettner and wife, Lynn
Holy Cross Church in Bay City

What first drew you to the decision to pursue the diaconate? I wanted to serve God, but the question was: how and to what extent? Fortunately, I belong to an incredible parish family and they all helped me throughout this experience. It began when Deacon Walley Rodriguez saw something in me and suggested that I consider the diaconate. It continued with the encouragement from my pastor, Father Casey Jarzombek, who served as my role model as a true servant of Christ. Father Casey has since retired but still offers me support when he see and now Father Greg Korenek is helping me through the final stretch. Deacon Walley and Father Casey were instrumental in my starting the diaconate but my immediate and parish family have kept me going. I believe their acceptance of me as a diaconal candidate has been tremendous. There were so many times that I was filled with self-doubt and wondering: who am I to attempt such an accomplishment? However, it has been the acceptance, words of encouragement, and prayers from my fellow parishioners that has kept me going.

What has the formation process meant to you? What was it like for you and for your family?

The formation process has been a life-changing event for both me and Lynn. Most importantly, it helped us grow into a closer relationship with Our Lord. Additionally, it gave us a better understanding of ourselves, the world around us, the Church, and our relationship with God.

The formation is not a program where the husband goes off by himself to become a deacon. Our wives are there beside us throughout this whole experience, helping us and growing along with us.

Has it impacted your family in any way? Yes, this experience has improved our family in many ways. The formation process has helped us change our old selfish way of thinking and replaced it with a more loving and understanding attitude about life. This attitudinal change has improved our relationships as husband and wife, parents, and ministers to those around us.

What is the content/structure of the classes; what classes did you especially like? Did any in particular help you to discern your journey to becoming a deacon?

Our classes occurred as any school year from fall to spring. Each month we met one Sunday for spiritual formation. In addition, two to three Saturdays each month we would meet for various academic courses broadcasted to us from St. Mary’s Seminary in Houston. These interactive broadcasts last for six hours and covered subjects such as: Biblical studies, Church history, liturgy, homiletics, philosophy, psychology, counseling, Catholic morals, and numerous theological classes.

The emphasis placed on spiritual formation helped me greatly. All of the classes were very valuable and some were demanding. I do not think it would have been possible to get through them without a strong grounding in spirituality.

What is the specificity of your calling: How do you see yourself serving the Church?

There is no one thing that I feel I am being called to do. I know there are some things that I will feel comfortable doing and others where I am not. All I can do is stay open to any situation that comes up in the future and let the Lord guide me.

Kenneth Fishbeck and wife, Kathy
St. Joseph’s Church in Moulton

What first drew you to the decision to pursue the diaconate? I retired from the Moulton ISD after having spent forty years as a coach, teacher, and administrator. I thought I had made my retirement plans pretty much in place, but sometimes things change, and in this case, it did.

I attended an ACTS Retreat and found that the experience led me to a point where I felt there was still something I was being called to. At this time in my life. Father Gabriel Mason my pastor at Our Lady of Victory Church, invited me to try one class… “To come and taste, so he put it. After that class I decided to do an silent retreat with Kenneth Fishbeck and Kathy. The program director Michael Fonseca, there was no turning back.

What has the formation process meant to you? What was it like for you, and for your family?

The formation process has been so much more than what I had expected. There are strong ties and bonds of love and friendship that now exist as a result of our journey together… a journey shared with program leaders, instructors, and other groups at different levels in the program. Most surprisingly was how the process really brought me to a better understanding of myself. I see myself in a new light

**Vocations**

Seminary Burses

Seminary burses are a permanent fund used for the education of future priests for the Diocese of Victoria. The goal of each bure is $15,000. The interest from this amount is applied yearly to the education of seminarians. The burses are in memory of or in honor of an individual priest or lay persons, or any other person, persons, organization, corporation, corporation group, or foundation.

**As of October 31, 2011**

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**LISTEN TO YOUR HEART. GOD MAY BE CALLING YOU TO BE A PERMANENT DEACON**

A new formation class will begin soon.

For further information contact: The Director of Formation, Permanent Diaconate Office, C/O St. Joseph’s Church, Post Office Box 399, Moulton, Texas 77975 Phone (361) 596-4674

**SEMINARY BURESSES**

DIOCESE OF VICTORIA

P.O. BOX 4073

VICTORIA, TX 77903

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Two to be ordained to the diaconate December 17:

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

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**DO YOU FIT THIS PROFILE?**

A Ministry of Service to the Church

• A person of faith. He must be a prayerful and spiritual person who is open to further spiritual formation.
• A person who is a leader and an enabler. He should be able to animate, facilitate and motivate people into action.
• A person who functions well in a collaborative setting for ministry and service in the parish.
• He must have a demonstrated history of service to people, be open-minded and should be able to work well with others in ministry.
• A person who has the ability to honor commitments and would approach the diaconate as “permanent.”
• A person with a stable background who has surplus time and energy to give to formation, service and ministry.
• He should be in a stable marriage/family. If married, he should realize he may not remain married if he is called to the diaconate. If not married, he should realize he must make a commitment to celibacy prior to ordination.
• A person who has the ability to handle academic studies. He must have the ability to learn and complete college-level studies. The academic part of the program is more than is expected in the preparation of a Master Catechist and analogous to the priestly formation program.
• A person who is known and respected and is already involved in ministry in the parish.
• He and his wife should be able to represent the Church with dignity and intelligent service.

**LISTEN TO YOUR HEART. GOD MAY BE CALLING YOU TO BE A PERMANENT DEACON**

A new formation class will begin soon.

For further information contact: The Director of Formation, Permanent Diaconate Office, C/O St. Joseph’s Church, Post Office Box 399, Moulton, Texas 77975 Phone (361) 596-4674

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The Catholic Lighthouse
Page 4 — November 2011
By Mary Anne Moresco, reprinted with permission from Catholic Exchange January 15, 2012

Hormonal contraception is a carcinogenic and potent drug. High doses of these drugs are needed to mimic pregnancy in the body and thus prevent pregnancy. They are normal for the body to function with such high levels of these hormones, especially over a prolonged period of time spanning many years.[10]

What Can We Do?
The Food and Drug Administration (FDA), doctors, and the culture must work to solve these problems.

FDA: The big business of birth control has overpowered truth. But business is not about profit alone. It is about serving the good of the society. Drug companies should run their businesses in ways that help human beings, not in ways that exploit them. The FDA should mandate the following:
• Drug companies should be banned from using advertising to lure otherwise healthy people into using carcinogenic hormonal drugs.
• Labeling should clearly communicate hazards. The FDA is about to mandate graphics and cigarette-like cigarettes. It ought to do the same for the pill. In a recent article in the Washington Times, Jenn Giroux, R.N. stated the FDA should mandate that images of young girls, cancer-stricken cancer patients and college-age stroke victims be placed on pill labels.

Pharmaceutical companies should call the pill what it is—not a “contraceptive” pill but a “contraceptive-abortive” pill.

TOROS: Dr. Lanfranchi was symptom-pathetic towards doctors. The carcinogenic information about the pill is itself a bitter pill for doctors to swallow. Dr. Lanfranchi heard that I’ve been handing out a Group 1 pill for doctors to swallow. Dr. Lanfranchi said he worry that I was also giving the pill to doctors in a similar fashion. He said that the pill is a “poison” that is killing people.

Defending Morality: It’s important not just to protect morality, but to defend morality. portfolio. It must come from schools, from families, and from the media through music, television and the internet. Society lived by this moral code for thousands of years just fine until the pill came along.

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Does the Catholic Church allow cremation?

Yes, as long as certain rules are followed. When the Church decided to allow cremation, she knew how the secular world operates. Today, even with rules in place, the secular world, liberal media and politics often treat the truth of the Church’s ruling with contempt.

Cremation is used more often today in society and families have many questions because of what they see, hear, and read in the secular world, which portrays the wrong information as far as the Church is concerned.

The Diocese of Victoria Cemetery Office at the cathedral has a simple but detailed pamphlet that explains cremation and the Church’s rules for cremation. It is titled “The Church and Cremation.”

An example of the information one will receive from the pamphlet is “Must cremated remains be buried/entombed?”

Yes. Respectful final disposition of cremated remains involves interment or entombment. Burial options include a family grave in a cemetery marked with a special section in a cemetery with small, pre-dug graves for urns. “Is the child to be entombed?”

No. The practice of scattering cremated remains on the sea, from the air, or on the ground, or keeping cremated remains in the home of a relative or friend of the deceased are not the reverence that the Church requires. “Burial at sea of cremated remains differs from scattering. An appropriate and worthy container, heavy enough to be sent to its final resting place, may be dropped into the sea. Please consult your local government for environmental regulations.”

The chancery cemetery office keeps some pamphlets on hand and are distributed free of charge. If you or the parish office would like some in English or Spanish, please let the cemetery office staff know and they will mail them to you, or better yet, they can reserve some for you and when someone from the parish comes to the chancery, they can pick them up. Since they are inexpensive, every parish should keep some on hand and order their own when the need arises.

If questions should arise, please contact Gary Rangnow in the cemetery office at the chancery, 361-573-0282 ext. 2233.

LOCATE INTERMENTS

The Diocesan Cemetery of the Victoria Catholic Cemeteries by visiting the on-line database: http://www.vcssms.org. Check the alphabetical listing of interments to print a location map and check for available gravestones by using the plot table link.
DIOCESE

SISTERLY THOUGHTS

~ Thanksgiving ~

The “In-Between” Holiday

By Sister Mildred Truchrad, IBRS

W

When November rolls around each year, I think of Thanksgiving as the forgotten “in-between” holiday. It seems that our society makes a big deal of Halloween. For months the stores had been displaying costumes and yard decorations. Porches and yards had sported all kinds of scary objects. Even the media often got into the act of highlighting Halloween activities. Crowds of all ages threatened “Trick or Treat” and gloated over their hauls of goodies.

Then, as soon as Halloween was over, the mercantile world immediately shifted into the black of a high gear promoting the material aspects of preparing for Christmas. As I wander through the carefully stacked shelves, I can almost hear items that I definitely do not need calling “Buy me, buy me!” I often wonder how extravagant the abundantly stocked shelves of attractively packaged merchandise must seem to the poor and unemployed people who enter the store to buy bare essentials with their SNAP funds. Yet, many of them – the poor and the unemployed – can maintain a sense of what is most important – not the trappings of the holiday day – but gratitude for the reason for it!

That’s where Thanksgiving, our “in-between” holiday, comes in; it shifts our attention from the superficiality of Halloween to a spirit of gratitude. Hopefully an attitude that we maintain throughout the year and which undergirds our preparation for the feast of the greatest gift that God could give – His Son.

Fortunately, our country has a legacy of, at least occasionally, publicly expressing gratitude to God for His protection and care. We all know the Thanksgiving story of the surviving settlers of Plymouth sharing a Thanksgiving meal with the Native Americans who had saved them from starvation during their first winter in America. Many of their number had died from hunger and illness, a misfortune that could have taken all of them. Today, many of us have suffered from the drought, from sickness, from unemployment, and from financial hardship. Like those settlers at Plymouth, we join with our families and friends to give thanks for God’s long-term care and protection.

There were many other people who joyfully and vividly expressed their thanks for God’s protection during difficult times. Early Spanish and French explorers to our part of the country brought missionaries with them. The first event at a new site would be a Mass, the Eucharist, of Thanksgiving. Catholic immigrants who followed them would celebrate the Eucharist under a tree or near a river upon arrival at their destination. These Masses that were celebrated in thanksgiving and the Masses that will be celebrated for the Thanksgiving Holiday are the greatest act of Thanksgiving that we can offer. In fact, the word “Eucharist” is the Greek word meaning “Thanksgiving.” In the Eucharist, we give thanks and praise for all that God had done and is doing.

Therefore, let us try to celebrate the “in-between” holiday of Thanksgiving by participating in the Eucharist with the same sense of gratitude that our early immigrant ancestors expressed. The turkey and the football games won’t mind being relegated to (second and third) place!

~ Two to be ordained to the diaconate December 17 ~

Continued from p. 4

Our classes meet at St. Anthony’s Catholic School in Columbus, and we are taught by instructors from St. Thomas University in Houston. We share the same teachers who instruct the seminarians at St. Mary’s School of Theology. Once a month we meet in Moulton with Michael Furneaux, our director.

There have been many interesting classes, and in one way or another, they have all helped prepare us for our role as deacons in the Church. However, the aca demics would have been lacking without the spirituality we received. Our sessions with Michael and his silent retreats were most helpful during our discernment process and journey toward the diaconate. He has helped me so much with our prayer life and has been an inspiration to us.

What is the essence of your calling? How do you see yourself serving the Church?

I don’t really feel myself being called to one special ministry over all others. I simply feel that I am answering a call to serve my Bishop, my Pastor, my Church, and my Community.

ST. ROBERT BELLARMINE, EL CAMPO—Over 50 attended this year’s rally at San Roberto Bellarmine Parish Gazebo. One of the highlights of the retreats is the music ministry. The ACTS community volunteers, as well as the unit inmates, play the music.

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ST. ANNE’S SOCIETY IN SCHULENBURG—On Saturday, Oct. 15, the St. Anne’s Society of High Hill met at the gazebo in downtown Schu lenburg to pray the rosary in response to the decline in numbers and the encroachment of secularism in America. Society members sang hymns and chanted the Litany of the Blessed Virgin. Those present included, front row, from left: Jan Ripper, Dorothy Meyer, Kathy Kucar, Janet Muras, Albert Muras, Mildred Hollas and Carolyn Priddle; second row, from left: James Brown, Nancy Winkler, Frances Ripper, Joy Phillips, Charles Phillips, Lawrence Herzik, Mary Ann Muras, Osthla Cykala, Cecilia Pavlovan, Violet Kucar, Frances Anderle, Alvin Anders and James Priddle; third row, from left: Janice Kutac, Joyce Dittrich, Lea Mulshieh, Rudy Fabian and Patrick Fabian; back row, from left: Dennis Muras, Elmer Meyer and Fred Muras. Not shown: Marie Fajkus, Flo Boehm, Kenneth Berger and Sylvia Berger. (Sticker Photo By Andy Behlen)
By Joseph McAleer, guest reviewer for the Catholic News Service

NEW YORK (CNS) — “The Mighty Macs” (Freestyle) is the fact-based story of a women’s basketball team from a Catholic college who, through the grit and determination of their rookie coach, got a shot at the national title.

This old-fashioned, family-friendly film is “Sister Act” without the singing. “Rocky” with basketballs, and “The Trouble with Angels” with Ellen Burstyn in the Rosalind Russell role of the mother superior.

The year is 1972, the feminist movement is picking up steam, and change is in the air. For Cathy Rush (Carla Gugino), 23 and newly married, this means searching for a role to play beyond that of dutiful housewife to her husband, Ed (David Boreanaz). A star basketball player herself, Cathy missed out on her own chance for glory, as her college eliminated the sport.

Against Ed’s wishes, Cathy takes a job at Pennsylvania’s Immaculata College (now University), run by the Congregation of the Sisters, Servants of the Immaculate Heart of Mary. The stem mother superior, Mother St. John (Burstyn), has no time for sports; she’s trying to keep the school afloat, firing off appeals from the board and the church to close its doors. Impatient and irritable, she gives Cathy free rein to build a team from scratch.

Against all odds, the “Macs” of Immaculata College make their way to their sport’s first-ever national championship game. Cathy not only saves herself and her marriage, but the fortunes of the college — melting the cold heart of Mother St. John in the process.

Directed by newcomer Tim Chambers, “The Mighty Macs” is a feel-good movie offering lessons in friendship, teamwork, trust and perseverance. For the most part, Catholicism is treated with respect, but it serves more as a colorful backdrop than a source for commentary.

Sister Sunday becomes the assistant coach, drawing out the older nuns to cheer the team on games. Cathy not only saves herself and her marriage, but the fortunes of the college — melting the cold heart of Mother St. John in the process.

St. Joseph High School received a visit from “Debbie” the Pink Fire Truck, owned by the Guardians of The Ribbon South Texas Chapter on October 12, 2011. Dave Graybill, a Glendale, Arizona, firefighter, founded the Guardians of The Ribbon, Inc. in September of 2007.

His noble and gallant efforts of supporting women with all forms of cancer and raising awareness is a sight to behold for any that are fortunate enough to witness these pink fire trucks and other emergency response vehicles and to be able to place signatures, as a Cancer Survivor, or to write loving tributes to those who have lost their battle, is a life moving experience. You can truly witness where your money goes with this non-profit organization! The sales of T-Shirts and merchandise help keep these pink trucks on their mission spreading Love, Hope and Awareness as it takes to fight for their lives. Surrounding women in their color - PINK - is a truly moving tribute to honor these women. Learn more at: http://www.pinkfiretrucks.org/

DICTIONARIES FOR 3RD GRADERS—The 3rd grade class at St Rose of Lima School in Shenclenburg was excited to accept dictionaries from the Fayette County Republican Women. Pictured, standing, Mrs. Windi Raphael (teacher), Bryce Wilson, Becca Wagner, Jalen Wilson, Lupita Torres, Shana Jacobs, Colton Flood, Morgan Marburger, Alex Lozano, Kai Collins, Luis Lopez, Ethan Jacobs, Will Hooper and Mrs. Stephanie Steinhauser, representing the Fayette County Republican Women. Kneeling: Dustin Anders, Gavin Kubala, Renee Mazoch, Annie Stoner, Regan Lux and Julie Guentert.

BLESSING OF PETS CELEBRATED—St. Joseph School students of Yoakum, along with parents and faculty, gathered around the school for a special ceremony of the blessing of the animals. This custom is conducted in remembrance of St. Francis of Assisi’s love for all creatures; his feast day is October 4. Pictured is Father Matthew Huchlefeld with various students and parents at St. Joseph School.
Giving it Away Now: Oh Baby!!—In 2008, the Life Teen family collected and donated over 450,000 pounds of clothing in its first-ever global Life Night. In 2009, the Life Teen parish stockpiled food pantry shelves everywhere with a global total of 205,000 non-perishable food items. In 2010, the Life Teen family came together again and with teens’ spare change raised over $200,000 to build and maintain 18 wells in Ghana. In 2011, we were challenged to come together once again for “Giving It Away Now: Oh Baby!!” This year we turn our attention, prayer, and service to some of the most vulnerable in society: the unborn. Our goal is to collect 150,000 baby items to support local pregnancy resource centers. Holy Cross Life Teen asked parishioners to join us in this effort and we collected over 235 items for our local Gabriel Project. We are so very thankful and their babies.

LADY FLYER SOFTBALL TEAM MEMBERS RECEIVE CHAMPIONSHIP RINGS—St. Joseph High School recognized the 2011 TAAPS 5A State Champion Lady Flyer softball team and presented them with their State championship rings during halftime of the Flyer football game on September 30, 2011. The Lady Flyers defeated St. Agnes Academy Tigers (Houston) 3-2 in extra innings in the championship game held May 14, 2011. They had a season record of 28 and 12. The Lady Flyers finished their season with 17 consecutive wins. The STJ Lady Flyers have made the state tournament eight out of the past nine years. St. Joseph High School has had 17 first-team all-state players, 12 second-team all-state players and six all-tournament players during this time span. Pictured is the 5A State Champion St. Joseph High Lady Flyer Softball Team, Sept. 30, 2011. Back row, l. – r., is Assistant Coach Walter Hamilton, Kate Tedder, Spenser Strnad, Holly Parenica, Brianna Shimk, Kelsey Hempel, Emily Conit, Bailey Knappa, and Assistant Coach Bob Leach; front row, l. – r.: Co-Head Coach Rudy Dize, Hannah Bigham, Mariah Clay, Sarah Sizor, Paige Terrell, Peyton Caillier, Co-Head Coach Craig Lauger. Not Pictured: Fabiola Chinea, Stephanie Kasper and Jenny Galvan.

Members of Boy Scout Troop 228 Receive Religious Award—Six Weimar scouts earned their Ad Altare Dei religious medal during this past year. These scouts have worked as a group studying the seven Sacraments of the Catholic faith. The purpose of the Ad Altare Dei (to the altar of God) program is to help Catholic Boy Scouts of the Roman Rite develop a fully Christian way of life in the faith community. The program is organized in chapters based on the seven Sacraments. The seven Sacraments are a primary means toward spiritual growth. Bill Biscoe, the scouts religious advisor, along with Father Bily, pastor of St. Michael Parish in Weimar, and scout leader Mark Meysembourg, presented the scouts with their religious award after Communion at the October 30, 2011, Mass at St. Michael Catholic Church. Pictured from left to right: Father Bily, Austin Pardy, Tanner Janak, Clay Firkins, Lane Hesse, Michael Mason, John Michael Blaha and Bill Biscoe.

“Will you seek me and find me when you seek me with all your heart.” Jeremiah 29:13

Youth Calendar of Events

November 12 — Foundations Youth Ministry Class - 9:00 a.m. - 12:00 noon at the Chancery in Victoria
November 15 — Retreat Formation/Policy and Procedure Session
November 17 — No Apologies, Just Apologetics at Holy Family in Victoria (7:00 - 8:30 p.m.) sponsored by Youth Adult Ministry
November 17-20 — National Catholic Youth Conference in Indianapolis, Indiana
December 4 — Youth Leadership Training at the Chancery in Victoria
December 6 — Retreat Formation/Policy and Procedure Session

Find us now on Facebook! At Diocese of Victoria — Youth Ministry
For more information contact
Debbie Vanelli or Wendy Eggert at the Office of Youth Ministry at (361) 573-0828 ext. 2222/ ext. 2225 or e-mail at dvaneli@victoriadiocese.org or weggert@victoriadiocese.org or visit our Web site at www.victoriadiocese.org/youthoffice

Waiting to be old enough can wait

We spend a lot of time waiting to be “old enough,” don’t we? Old enough to drive. Old enough to date. Old enough to wear makeup or a miniskirt, to drink, to graduate, to go to college. Old enough to be taken seriously. Old enough for the restrictions to fall off and life to begin.

Many teens look toward their 18th birthday with anticipation normally reserved for Christmas morning.

Eighteen is when they’re finally old enough to smoke, join the armed forces, live apart from their parents, buy their own car, get a full-time job, go to college, get married or date whoever they want.

Eighteen is the age when teens are finally adults.

But many teens feel that they are old enough to make these big decisions before they’re 18. It charges when adults tell them, “You’re not ready” and “you’re not old enough.”

It can be annoying, too, when adults ask for proof that a teen is mature and responsible enough to handle driving, a job or going to a party. After all, countless teens know that they can do it, and they wonder why they have to prove this by finishing chores and homework.

Being “old enough,” however, is rarely as easy as turning a page on the calendar; it’s a completely subjective condition that depends on the person involved.

I know some 18-year-olds who are mature enough to handle marriage and kids. I also know some 40-year-olds who aren’t even ready to move past one-night-stands.

Teens, when your parents and teachers use the words “old enough,” they don’t really mean the age on your learner’s permit. They mean the age that you are inside of yourself. They wonder if you are maturing, spending time making yourself a better person and growing up or if you are squandering the time that you have on stuff that doesn’t really matter and wallowing in immaturity.

If you don’t spend much time doing your homework, you won’t be ready or “old enough” for college even after your 18th birthday passes.

If you start dating just because all of your friends are, you may get hurt, especially if you are not ready for that kind of commitment.

If you are not ready to face the very real consequences of doing drugs, you will most certainly get hurt.

As people get older, the responsibilities start piling on.

If the big “1” “8” hasn’t yet crossed your calendar, it’s perfectly all right to avoid the “adult” things you want to do if you don’t feel that you are ready. You don’t have to have sex, drink, wear clothes you don’t like just to fit in or do anything that you are not yet comfortable doing.

Feeling this way doesn’t make you a coward or an outsider; it makes you perfectly normal!

Your teenage years are a time to work toward being “old enough.” And as you do, you will still have enough freedom and backup from friends, family and teachers to recover from poor judgment now and again and to learn what it’s really like to tackle life after your 18th birthday.

So enjoy being a teenager while you can. Use this time to learn what you really want out of life. Don’t push yourself into a tiny box that may not be where you want to end up! Responsibilities will come soon enough with the turning of the calendar.

And one day, when you’re “old enough,” you’ll happily look back to your carefree days with very few regrets.

Coming of Age

By Karen Osborne

Catholic News Service

November 2011

The Catholic Lighthouse

The 5th Annual Catholic Knowledge Bowl
March 11, 2012
Sacred Heart Indians & St. Paul Cardinals “Unite for Life” before the big, rivalry game

For the second year in a row, St. Paul Cardinals and Sacred Heart Indians have united spiritual forces in the battle for life by taking a trip to pray in front of the largest abortion center in the Western Hemisphere, Planned Parenthood in Houston. This is becoming an annual event that takes place a couple of weeks before the two Catholic schools compete in their big, rivalry football game. Above are students, school faculty, parents and chaperones. Planned Parenthood is the large building in the background. (Photo by Kathleen Leininger)

The parishes of Holy Cross in Bay City and Sacred Heart in Hallettsville are excited to bring Abby Johnson to the Victoria Diocese to share her message of conversion, love, and the power of prayer.

Who is Abby Johnson?

Abby Johnson joined Planned Parenthood in 2001 as a college student because she wanted to help women in crisis – a goal she believed the organization shared. As she rose through the ranks to become a clinic director, she became increasingly upset about what she was being asked to do. But it wasn’t until she helped perform an ultrasound-guided abortion procedure that Abby fully realized what she had been a part of all those years.

In 2009, she left Planned Parenthood and joined the pro-life movement as a volunteer. Abby now works full time in the pro-life movement. She continues her volunteer activities, works as chief research strategist for Live Action Films, works on projects with the National 40 Days for Life campaign, and works on both federal and state pro-life legislation.

The true-life account of her experiences with Planned Parenthood are detailed in her best-selling book, “unPlanned.” Abby’s story has been featured on Fox News, the O’Reilly Factor, Huckabee, ABC News, and many other national news outlets.

There will be two opportunities to hear her powerful message, as she will be speaking at Holy Cross in Bay City on Sunday, February 26, 2012, at 7:30 p.m. and Sacred Heart Church in Hallettsville on Monday, February 27, at 7:00 p.m.

A Day of Prayer was celebrated at Raphael’s Refuge Chapel of the Holy Innocents near Flatonia to remember, to pray, and to heal the loss of one’s baby on the feast day of the archangels Sept. 29.

Day of Prayer held for the unborn and for babies who have died

A Day of Prayer was held by the Mobile Crisis Pregnancy Bus has experienced a 98 percent turn-around rate of mothers who initially intended on aborting their children, but who then chose life after receiving help in the bus. It takes about $250.00 to daily run the mobile pregnancy center and all this comes from private donations. If you are able to contribute to this life-saving cause, please go to the Web site: www.houstoncoalition.com to make a donation.
75-YEAR KJT PIN PRESENTED—Joseph Kokes of Houston, formerly of Hostyn, received his 75-year membership pin from Hostyn KJT Society #3. State Treasurer/Secretary Kevin Kana presented Mr. Kokes his 75-year pin on October 2, 2011, at the Holy Rosary Catholic Church in Hostyn. Joseph and his wife Mary Ann of 54 years are members of St. Theresa Catholic Church in Houston. Congratulating the honoree are pictured left to right: Hostyn KJT Chaplain Deacon John McCourt, President Benedict Kallus, Treasurer Theo Svec, Vice-President Patrick Janda, Father Daniel Kahlisch (pastor of Holy Rosary Church), Secretary Ted Hoffmann, State Treasurer/Secretary Kevin Kana, son Patrick Kokes, honoree Joseph Kokes, and grandchildren: Matthew, Christine and Jason Kokes. All members of the Kokes family pictured are members of Hostyn KJT Society #3. Congratulations, Joseph Kokes!

ST. PHILIP STUDENTS HONORED—Nine 8th graders at St. Philip the Apostle School in El Campo were inducted into the National Junior Honor Society on Oct. 7, 2011. Each member was selected based upon the student’s outstanding performance in the areas of: Scholarship, Service, Leadership, Character and Citizenship. From l. to r., the inductees are Jerald Krenek, Emily Strnabel, Laura Dornak, Helena Triska, Noah Jasek, Matthew Wilkins, Elise Raun, Hannah Tupa and Clayton Bruton. Congratulations, students!

CUERO STUDENTS INVOLVED IN CHARITY—Students at St. Michael’s School in Cuero recently joined with the parishioners of St. Michael’s Parish and Our Lady of Guadalupe Parish to collect items for the victims of the Bastrop fires. Here, the fifth graders are shown loading some of the items that were transported. From l. to r. are Ariana Diaz, Hannah Weber, Jacob Catton, Kerstyn Saenz, Joseph Hernandez, Jared Sauer and Trey Moore.

The Sacred Heart JCDA Court #797 new members are pictured, front row, l.-r.: Jules Janak, Kylie Graham, Lilly Machick, Bailey Schindler, Bailey Haas, Lani Pilat, Emma Baucom and Melea Henke; middle row, l.-r.: Kenna Kubenka, Elizabeth Graham, Erin Favveah, Briahna Mayfield, Savannah Filip, Emma Nieto and Elise Lackey; and back row, l.-r.: Mrs. Shanna Clark, JCDA counselor; Hannah Bludau, Sarah Bludau, Jyllian Hicks, Kaitlyn Nieto, Corrina Lackey, Stacie Sykora and Father John Peters, JCDA state chaplain.

HALLETTSVILLE—The Junior Catholic Daughters Court #797 from Sacred Heart Parish in Hallettsville held its first meeting of the 2011-2012 school year on August 31, 2011. A total of 68 girls were in attendance making it a record number of attendees.

Officers were elected for the new school year. They are as follows: president – McKenzie Bludau; 1st vice president – Ellen Machiek; secretary – Callie Bludau; reporter – Hailey Steffek; and chaplain – Elizabeth Wysocki. An induction of 21 new members was held on September 21, 2011.

At each meeting, as well as everyday, the girls strive to reach these four JCDA goals: develop yourself as a good Christian; learn to work for the good of others; grow spiritually; and be creative and flexible.

Baptism when parents are not practicing Catholics

Continued from p. 6

like this can dictate a family’s relationship to a parish — and even to the church — for years down the line. Baptisms are the ideal occasion for evangelization, for blessing marriages in the church, for lifting lost sheep onto your shoulders and bringing them back.

(Quotes may be sent to Father Kenneth Doyle at askfatherdoyle@gmail.com and 40 Hopewell St., Albany, N.Y. 12208.)
Twenty Something

By Christina Capecchi
E-mail: Christina@ReadChristina.com

Giving thanks for 'all things in good plenty'

When Mary Chilton first spotted the New World in November 1620, the 13-year-old had been aboard the Mayflower for 10 weeks, stuck in the same clothes and cramped in dark, damp quarters among seaick passengers and dying goats. Each family was allotted one storage trunk for all their possessions.

Imagine the terror and thrill of squatting at Cape Cod’s thickets. Mary earned the distinction of being the first European woman to set foot on Plymouth Rock.

The week before Christmas, her father died three weeks after Christmas, the illness they called “the general sickness” had claimed her mother. Only half of the Mayflower’s 102 passengers lived to see spring in Massachusetts.

Mary marked her 14th birthday as an orphan, grasping the ways of a foreign land, where the Wampanoag Indians offered guideposts: how to grow corn, catch fish, extract maple sap and identify poisonous plants.

She was present at what we consider the first Thanksgiving, a three-day feast called for by Governor William Bradford to celebrate a successful corn harvest. The Plymouth colonists were joined by their teachers, the Wampanoag, who arrived with five deer. They cooked wild duck over an open flame, feasted on seasoned potatoes with five deer. They cooked wild duck over an open flame, feasting on seasoned potatoes.

The Wampanoag offered guideposts: how to grow corn, catch fish, extract maple sap and identify poisonous plants. They cooked wild duck, seasoned potatoes and five deer.

Their faith, intact. It was hard and strength and had all things in good plenty.

They began now to gather in all their ways and to bless the Lord with them in all their ways and to bless what was hot, their faith, intact. It was hard and strength and had all things in good plenty.

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It was, to him, “all things for him to fathom what more they could possibly want. It was, to him, “all things for him to fathom what more they could possibly want. It was, to him, “all things for him to fathom what more they could possibly want.

“First and principally, I commend my soul into the hands of Almighty God, wrote. “First and principally, I commend my soul into the hands of Almighty God, wrote. “First and principally, I commend my soul into the hands of Almighty God, wrote. “First and principally, I commend my soul into the hands of Almighty God, wrote.

I’m giving thanks while hoping for a life as full and rich as Mary Chilton’s, who married and then delivered 10 children. She died an old lady who had raised a family, welcomed grandparents and written a will. In it, she accounted for six white aprons, three pocket handkerchiefs, two leather chairs and a brass candlestick.

Mary understood what really counted.

“Knowing the uncertainty of this present life and being desirous to settle that outward estate the Lord hath lent me, I do make my last will and testament,” she wrote. “First and principally, I commend my soul into the hands of Almighty God, my Creator.”

Here’s to putting first things first.

Christina Capecchi is a freelance writer from Inver Grove Heights, Minn. She can be reached at www.ReadChristina.com.

Longest Married Contest

Do you know of a couple you think might be the longest married couple in the Diocese of Victoria? If so, please send their names, their parish, the number of years they’ve been married, and the date of their sacramental wedding to The Catholic Lighthouse by January 10, 2012. We’ll make the announcement in the February issue of The Catholic Lighthouse. Include submitter’s contact information.

Prominent European Baptist says Christianity Essential to West’s Survival. Why We Should Call Ourselves Christians: The Religious Roots of Free Societies by Marcello Pera will be the November Puzzle Contest Prize.

“The very liberties that we enjoy are based on which liberal societies have come to cherish and the ideas on which liberal societies have come to cherish and the ideas on which liberal societies have come to cherish and the ideas on which liberal societies have come to cherish and the ideas.” — Pope Benedict XVI

October Puzzle Contest Winners Announced

The winner of the October contest and the book The Fox, the Foetus (Fetish) and the Fatal Injection by Rabbi Daniel Levy is Vic Kahanek of St. Mary’s Parish in Hallettsville.

The winner of the children’s contest is Angelica Belman (9) of Parish of the Nativity in Eagle Lake. She will receive a gift from the Incarnate Word Gift Shop. The winner of the November Puzzle Contest will win Why We Should Call Ourselves Christians — The Religious Roots of Free Societies by Marcello Pera with a preface by Pope Benedict XVI.

Please mail all completed November puzzle forms to arrive in The Catholic Lighthouse office, P.O. Box 4070, Victoria, TX 77903 by Nov. 28.
The elderly deserve dignity, not hurried care

I want caregivers who know I’m made in the image and likeness of God.

My first encounter with the elderly and dying came when I was eighteen. I was a nurse’s aide for about five months. That’s how long it took me to realize I was not meant to be a nurse.

In my mind, I had visions to go into nursing, but the memories of the people I met in that Nebraska nursing home stuck with me for nearly three decades.

I remember the stroke victims. The woman who spent each day repeating the same mantra: “Remember me said this isn’t right.”

Another woman reminded me of Edith from All in the Fam-ily. She would nervously apply red lipstick when her handsome husband visited. I remember how much I disliked him as he stood there with his arm around his girlfriend and urged his adolescent daughters to give their invalid mother a hug.

I remember the woman named Mary who said she’d never had a day without her lipstick. Did “Edith” really spend all day with his arm around his girl?

The residents of that Omaha nursing home fascinated me. I wanted to sit with these people. Talk to them. Find out their sto-ries. Was Mary a saint, or was her husband just easy to get along with? Had the man who wore blue streaks been a swearer before his stroke? Did “Edith” really think her husband would be impressed by her blue streak? Did it kill her spirit to see him with a mistress, both of them standing near her bed and keeping her company.

The one who spends all day saying mama, mama, or a string of profanity. The one who thinks about her deceased hus-bond all day, every day.

I have decided that I want to go to a Catholic nursing home when I’m old. I want to spend my final hours and minutes in a place where I can go to Mass, where a nurse can wheel me into an Adoration Chapel, where I will be surrounded by rosaries and crucifixes and images of Our Lady. I want to pass from here to there with the faith and the faith-ful all around me.

As Catholics, we believe in the dignity of the human person. I plan to spend my final days in a place where the caretakers know that I am made in the image and likeness of God. And maybe, I will share a few words with a young nurse’s aide, and perhaps she will remember me with a smile.

November is National Hospice Month — providing quality care at the end of life

By Hillary Lucas, director of Communications, Relation with Hospice of South Texas

When recalling end-of-life ex-periences of those we love, many of us have different recollections. These memories may include the hurt on the face of a loved one in pain, the sorrow on the face of a family member who did not get the opportunity to say goodbye, the stress on the faces of those making difficult decisions at end-of-life choices without guid-ance. We can carry these difficult memories with us for a lifetime.

However, there are people work-ing in our community who bring hope, dignity and love when they are needed most.

November is National Hos-pice/Palliative Care Month, a time to celebrate those who pro-vide hospice and palliative care in our community and a time to help raise awareness of quality care at the end of life.

An important thing to be aware of is that this journey should not begin at the final stages of dying. Early referrals to Hospice allow the patient and family to establish a relationship with their Hospice team and, by so doing, they maximize the qual-ity of care. This early connection prepares them for what they can expect throughout the stages of their illness and informs them about how to properly react if unforeseen events occur.

The sooner the referral takes place, the easier the support systems are put into place ready to respond before the need arises.

Hospice of South Texas, a non-profit hospice organization, has been offering end of life care services throughout the Diocese of Victoria for over 25 years and is fortunate to have experienced staff, which includes a full-time medical director, Dr. Ty Meyer, and trained volunteers who offer care and support during one of life’s most challenging journeys.

With a special emphasis on family bereavement support, Hospice of South Texas’ specialized team of professionals and vol-unteers provide compassionate care by focusing on the physical, spiritual, and emotional needs of patients and their families.

Hospice care is not about waving a white flag or giving up hope – it is in fact a “redefining of hope.” Hospice of South Texas is about making the most out of life, reframing hope for a cure into hope of making every mo-ment count.

This November, I encourage all those in our community to thank these dedicated individuals and support the ongoing work of Hospice of South Texas.
Following the death of his granddaughter, country music star Collin Raye releases new inspirational album

By Nancy Frazier O’Brien
Catholic News Service

WASHINGTON (CNS) — Recent “grace-giving music” album, “I Get What I Need” by Collin Raye, serves as a well of hope during these troubled times for the broken-hearted and empower those of us who have no doubt she went to God’s will for Haley be realized. Raye’s heartache has been shared by all, including the world. Others offer inspiring stories of great human spirit at its best.

“Haley was the most perfect human being we ever encountered and I have no doubt she went straight to heaven,” said Raye. “I’ve always wanted to do a spiritual album, and I hope that this will serve to inspire the broken-hearted and empower those of faith to stay determined and persevere.”

Dedicated to Haley, the album is a mix of traditional inspirational tunes that show-case Raye’s incredible vocal abilities. In addition, the CD includes a song specifically written by Collin and his daughter, Brittany after the passing of Haley, called “Underneath”.

“Equally moving is the ballad, “I Get What I Need”,” Raye said. “This song so expresses what we painfully have lived through as a family over the past few years, says Raye. “Almost everything we prayed for, God said ‘no’.” Please help her to swallow, He said ‘no’. Please, just let her stop getting fevers every other day. He said ‘no’ to taking the heartbreak 2010, death of his ten-year-old granddaughter, Haley Raye, who converted to Catholicism at age 23. He said ‘no’ to taking from that experience into his music, coming with a new album titled Through It All, His Love Remains.

“Haley was the most perfect human being we ever encountered and I have no doubt she went straight to heaven,” said Raye. “I’ve always wanted to do a spiritual album, and I hope that this will serve to inspire the broken-hearted and empower those of faith to stay determined and persevere.”

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Believers must oppose violence to promote peace, true faith, pope says

The Pope Speaks

Pope Benedict XVI

Believers must oppose violence to promote peace, true faith, pope says

By Cindy Wooden

Catholic News Service

ASSISI, Italy (CNS) — Taking 300 religious leaders with him on pilgrimage to Assisi, Pope Benedict XVI said they are often blamed for questioning God's existence when they see believers use religion to justify violence.

“They all struggling and questioning is, in part, an appeal to believers to purify their faith so that God, the true God, becomes accessible,” the pope said Oct. 27 during an interfaith gathering in the Basilica of St. Mary of the Angels. 

Marking the 25th anniversary of the first Assisi interfaith gathering for peace, hosted by Blessed Pope John Paul II in 1986, Pope Benedict brought together the religious leaders and — for the first time — four philosophers who describe themselves as humanists or seekers who do not identify with any single religion.

After a rain of almost two hours from the Vatican, Pope Benedict and his guests arrived in Assisi and were driven to the Basilica of St. Mary of the Angels for the morning gathering focused on “testimo- nios for peace.”

Entering the basilica before the pope, the delegates created an unusually colorful congre- gation: They wore white, black or crimson robes or business suits; on their heads were skullcaps, turbans, scarves or veils.

The pope condemned the use of religion to excuse violence and the use of violence to impose a religion, as well as the growing sense of “the loss of human- ity” that comes from denying the existence of God and of objective moral standards.

“As a Christian, I want to say at this point, Yes, it is true, in the course of history, force has also been used in the name of the Christian faith. We acknowledge it with great shame,” Pope Benedict said.

Christian leaders, like all religious leaders, he said, must work constantly to help their followers purify their faith and be “an instrument of God’s peace in the world, despite the fallibility of humans.”

But a lack of religion isn’t the answer to world peace, he said.

The Nazi death camps clearly proved “the denial of God corrupts man, rob- him of his criteria (for judging right and wrong) and leads him to violence,” the pope said.

On the other hand, he said, those who have not found faith, but are seeking, also are “pilgrims of truth, pilgrims of peace.”

“These people are seeking the truth, they are seeking the true God, whose image is frequently concealed in the religions because of the ways in which they are often practiced. Their inability to find God is partly the responsibility of believers with a twisted or even falsified image of God,” he said.

“They challenge the followers of reli- gions not to consider God as their own property, as if he belonged to them, in such a way that they feel vindicated in using force against others,” the pope said.

Sitting to the pope’s right were Ortho- dox Ecumenical Patriarch Bartholomew of Constantinople and Anglican Archbishop Rowan Williams of Canterbury, and to his left were Rabbi David Rosen, representing the chief rabbinate of Israel, and Wande Abimbola, president of a Nigerian institute that promotes the study of the culture and traditional religion of the Yoruba people.

He chanted a poem, shaking a rattle made of African instruments.

The Rev. Olav Fykse Tveit, a Lutheran minister and secretary-general of the World Council of Churches, urged the leaders to do more to assist and guide their young people, who can be the source of new energy for change — like with the Arab Spring — or can express their frustrations through violence.

He also pleaded with all the religious leaders present to pray and work for peace and reconciliation in a world populated by Jews, Chris- tians and Muslims and a symbol of ongoing struggle against the foolishness of a world obsessed with fear and suspicion, still in love with the idea of a security based on defensive hostility, and still capable of demoralizing or igniting massive loss of life among the poorest through war and disease.

The cost for the two-night/three- night retreat, directed by Sister Shrivatsa Goswami, said the leaders needed “the presence of Islamic Scholars, could not attend, since space is limited, reservations are required: therefore, please call (361) 894-1699.

The Spiritual Renewal Center will offer a two-weekend retreat.

The Spiritual Renewal Center will be offering a two-night retreat, directed by Ron Friedl, on the campus of St. Mark from Monday, November 7, to Wednesday, November 9, 2011.

The Church is about to enter into a new liturgical year where the Sunday Scripture readings will be primarily from the Gospel of Mark. This retreat will focus solely on the Gospel of Mark, offering insight on its many themes.

The cost for the two-night/three- night retreat, which includes all meals, is $180.00. As space is limited, reservations are required: therefore, please call (361) 894-1699.

Believers must oppose violence to promote peace, true faith, pope says

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Annual search begins for the couple married the longest in the United States

San Bernardino, CA – The annual search is on for the couple married the longest in the United States, the U.S. leaders of Worldwide Marriage Encounter (WWME) recently announced.

This is the second consecutive year for the historic annual program recognizing couples for their long marriages. This past February, Marshall and Winnie Kuykendall of New Mexico were honored nationally for their 72 years of marriage. There were also 50 state winners recognized for their longest marriages at the same time. There were over 350 couples nominated for the honors during the last event.

Once again we want to honor the longest married couple in the United States and the world, as well as in each of the 50 states of marriage. This year’s search is “a call to know this people, this country in the Lord, who asks me to set out again” Pope Benedict for entrusting him with the United States is an “important, vast and urgent” mission, said Archbishop Vigano.

Anybody But Catholics

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Seven Billion People: Cause to Celebrate?

By John Thavis

Catholic News Service

VATICAN CITY (CNS)—The Vatican said the death of Libyan strongman Mouammar Qadhafi marked the end of a "harsh and oppressive regime" that was based on human dignity. The Vatican said it would work in favor of the Libyan people in the international diplomatic arena.

The statement said the Vatican considers the transitional government as the legitimate representative of the Libyan people. The Vatican, it said, has already had various contacts with the new authorities in Libya, through the Libyan Embassy to the Vatican, at the United Nations and in Libya.

It said the apostolic nunciature to Libya, which resides in Malta, had gone to Libya for talks in early October with the provisional prime minister, Mahmoud Jibril, and other officials.

In these diverse encounters, both sides underlined the importance of the diplomatic relations between the Holy See and Libya. The Holy See had the opportunity to reaffirm its support for the Libyan people and its support for the "transition," the Vatican said.

The officials of Libya's new government have expressed appreciation for the humanitarian appeals of Pope Benedict XVI and for the church's service in Libya, in particular the work of 13 religious centers.

For its part, the minority Catholic community in Libya will continue to offer "its witness and its unsullished service, especially in the areas of charity and health care," it said.

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Vatican: Gadhafi’s death marks end of ‘harsh and oppressive regime’

Bishops visit U.S.-Mexico border, hear migrants’ stories of violence

By Andy Sparker

Catholic News Service

EL PASO, Texas (CNS)—Thousands of African citizens are fleeing the violence that continues to plague the border city of Ciudad Juarez, Mexico. That was the message from college professors, the director of a refuge for refugees and the migrants themselves to members of the U.S. bishops’ subcommittee on Catholic Home Missions during a recent visit to El Paso.

Ruben Garcia, director of Annunciation House in El Paso, told the eight bishops on the subcommittee Oct. 20 that there is a "steady stream" of refugees trying to escape their country’s "police, military and government," as well as the nation’s drug cartels.

Howard Campbell, professor of anthropology, and Kathleen Staudt, professor of political science, both at the University of Texas at El Paso, also addressed the bishops about the violence in Juarez.

El Paso and Ciudad Juarez, Mexico, are twin cities joined by four bridges along the Rio Grande.

The home missions subcommittee met in El Paso for their regular meeting to allocate assistance to the 87 mission dioceses in the United States. They chose to meet in El Paso to get a first-hand look at immigration and border violence issues that confront the church in the United States.

The visit was led by Cardinal William J. Levada, a former archbishop of San Francisco who resides in Malta, had gone to Libya for talks in early October with the provisional prime minister, Mahmoud Jibril, and other officials.

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For more information contact St. Michael’s Catholic School, 3000 God Street, Cuero, TX 77954 • (361) 277-3854 • www.stmichaelscuero.org
by Stephen Kent

Catholic News Service
By Stephen Kent

Catholic Lighthouse

Sister Elizabeth Riebschlaeger Testifies at EPA Hearing

With a statewide concern about water, exacerbated by the recent record-breaking drought in Texas, Sister Elizabeth testified, “In Dewoitne County alone, an average of 1.7 million gallons of water per fracking job is being taken from our aquifer and destroyed, never to be returned to Nature’s replenishing cycle for the Earth...”

Sister Elizabeth began her presentation by saying, “The Church’s moral acceptance of nuclear deterrence was always conditioned on progress toward their elimination.”

A few years ago, we seem to have moved from a theme of nuclear arms reduction to the destruction in undeveloped warheads, but they lamented the misguided efforts to make our nuclear arsenal “certified reliable” for the next 100 years.

“...was overwhelmed by the toxic fumes coming from a compressor station across the county from the family member was hospitalized intermittently over the course of a year.” After a lawsuit settlement with Occidental Petroleum’s ambassador to the United Nations, Elizabeth’s testimony, Sister Elizabeth ended her presentation to the hearing panel by saying, “As the late Pope John Paul II said, ‘To care for creation is a moral duty for all human beings. We are called to be good stewards responsible for the good governance of the resources that God has placed in our care.’ And in Dewoitne County, Irresponsible actions occur, such as placing a rig immediately opposite a high school, exposing students, faculty, and staff to toxic emissions during drilling and fracking, the residents are left in the dark.

The environmental house is on fire, and the US cannot sit around discussing what to do next year for example. Absolutely, all these new sources of emissions should be covered under the new rules.”

Sister Elizabeth went on to say, “...we join our voices with those here today, who come to the Environmental Protection Agency for immediate action toward par

The Chancery will be closed Dec. 8 for the Holy Day of Obligation - Immaculate Conception

Reporting Abuse

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

- Call the Chancery at (361) 573-0828 and ask to speak with the bishop or the chancellor;
- Call Rev. Gary Janak (979) 543-3701 or Sr. Emilie Eilers (361) 575-7111, Coordinators of Pastoral Care and Outreach;
- Write to: Most Rev. David E. Fellhauer, Diocese of Victoria P.O. Box 4070 Victoria, TX 77903;
- Email to: jessen@dove.org (You may contact us at: consci.ere@gmail.com)

by Father John S. Rausch

By Father John S. Rausch

by Sister Mary Dennis Lentsch, recently released from jail for her civil disobedience at the Y-12 National Security Complex near Oak Ridge, she knows that besides the immediate destruction of human life, a nuclear explosion would produce radioactive fallout contaminating the ground and water supply causing the collapse of food production that would result in rampant disease and widespread starvation.

“My years of nonviolent resistance and acts of conscience have their roots in my Catholic faith and the message of Jesus: Resist and resist evil,” she said. “And, nuclear weapons are evil.”

Today throughout the world there remain approximately 20,000 nuclear weapons located at 111 sites in 14 countries. More than half the world’s population lives in a nuclear armed country, and nations spend $100 billion each year on maintaining and modernizing their nuclear arsenals.

At a time of budget cuts and debt reduction, modernizing nuclear weapons offers a line item that should be reconsidered.

Archbishop-Francis Chullikkat, the Vatican’s ambassador to the United Nations, recently recognized that nuclear weapons once acted as a deterrent during the Cold War, but today the moral issues they pose all humans to contemplate a world without them.

“The Church’s condemnation of any use of nuclear weapons has always been grounded in the respect for human life and the dignity of the human person,” Chullikkat said.

“...is the world’s moral acceptance of nuclear deterrence was always conditioned on progress toward their elimination.”

A few years ago, we seem to have moved from a theme of nuclear arms reduction to the destruction in undeveloped warheads, but they lamented the misguided efforts to make our nuclear arsenal “certified reliable” for the next 100 years.

“In Confidence Men,” he tells of government attempts to make the country’s business free of political and the fiscal miscreants’ lack of a firm purpose of amendment after receiving millions of dollars to pull them out of the mess.

“This once the sort of thing starts, it takes some real toughness to stop it,” former Federal Reserve chairman Paul Volcker told Suskind. “But someone should have. Because having paid people tens of millions for activities that have no social or economic value – or, as the crash shows, negative value – just tears a society apart.”

What the Occiput Wall Street people seem to want is economic justice - a central point of Catholic belief and social teaching. “Economic Justice for All,” the landmark pastoral on Catholic social teaching and the U.S. bishops that was published by U.S. Catholic bishops a quarter-century ago, puts it most succinctly: “The economy should serve people, not the other way around.”

In 1986, the bishops called for a “new American experiment” to implement economic rights and broaden the sharing of economic power and to make economic decisions more accountable to the common good.

Had such an experiment been undertaken 25 years ago, we might not have heard of bailouts and derivatives and credit swaps.

In “Occupy Wall Street may turn out to be a flash in the pan, as its critics say, only symbolic and most likely futile. Placing a flower in the barrel of a soldier’s rifle, taking a seat at a protest counter or in front of a bus were symbolic in their time but hardly futile. They showed racial injustice and war in front of the public until the tide turned against it.

It is still not too late to try again for a new American experiment. (Kent, now retired, was editor of archdiocesan newspapers in Omaha and lions. He may be contacted at: consci.ere@gmail.com)
**Sts. Cyril & Methodius celebrates 25th year of Strudel Bake**

SHINER—Father Kirby Hlavaty, pastor of Sts. Cyril & Methodius, is gearing up for his first Strudel Bake in Shiner, which is scheduled for Saturday, November 12, 2011. He is surrounded by the “bakers” of the make apple strudels, including flour from Pioneer, one of the sponsors of the Shiner Strudel Bake.

Father Kirby said he is ready to try his hand with the rolling pin, however, he did admit he would much rather be on the tasting end of the strudel making.

Father Kirby is wearing one of the special aprons designed and promenaded the 25th Anniversary of the Shiner Strudel Bakes, these aprons, as well as strudel teeshirts, will be available at the Strudel Bake.

Strudels are $15 for a baked strudel and $13 for unbaked; place all orders by Friday, Nov. 11. Orders for pick-up in Shiner on November 12 can be placed at 361-594-2361. Delivery is also available for other areas by contacting any of the following: Victoria, 361-573-5283 (Victoria customers can pick up their strudels at the OLV parking lot on Sun., Nov. 13, from 1 to 2 p.m.); Yoakum, 361-283-7799; Gonzales, 830-672-7954; Goliad/Edna, 361-449-2428; The Campos, 979-534-8605; Moulton/Ftuna, 361-594-4868; Weimar, 979-725-8461; Wharton, 979-533-1209; and East Bernard, 979-335-7551. Ask for delivery times and locations when placing the order. To assure delivery, all orders must be placed by Friday, November 11, 2011.

"Lives for Sale" documentary on NBC

Immigration & Human Trafficking, a one-hour investigative documentary that exposes the painful and rarely seen human side of illegal immigration, has been made available to all NBC affiliated stations for broadcast beginning September 25 through November 24, 2011. Viewers interested in this growing social issue should contact their local NBC station for specific dates and time. The documentary was co-produced by Maryland Productions and Lifesight Films. Maryland is the foreign mission society of the U.S. Catholic Church. For more information, visit http://www.livesforsale.com.

TV program notes — week of Nov. 13

Sunday, Nov. 13, 9-10 p.m. CST (ETWN) “The New Translation of the Roman Missal, Part Two”: Colin Donovan and the EWTN liturgy staff discuss the imminent implementation of the new English translation of the Roman Missal. Part of the series “EWTN Theology Roundtable.”

Monday, Nov. 14, 8-11 a.m. CST (Televangel, EWTN and others) “USCCH Full General Assembly.” The annual fall general assembly of the U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops live from the Baltimore Marriot Waterfront Hotel. Coverage of the gathering’s public sessions continues Tuesday, Nov. 15, noon-4 p.m. and Wednesday, Nov. 16, 9 a.m. CST, concluding Wednesday, Nov. 16, 1-2:30 p.m. CST.
Eucharist,” he said. “The Eucharist is not a luxury, but a necessity, for without it, in the spiritual sense, we’d starve to death.”

In his presentation, Bishop Malone near his conclusion, retold a story told by the Preacher to the Papal Household, Father Cantalamusa, that a non-believer in the presence of Christ in the Eucharist said, “If I believed that (that believer in the presence of Christ in the Eucharist), I think I’d fall on my knees and stay forever.” To which Bishop Malone said, “We can’t fall and stay there forever; we’ve got a mission. We’re going to be sent forth in a mission at the end of Mass. We’ve been nourished, and we go out. We’re sent out, scattered like seed.”

Near the end of his address, Bishop Malone quoted many great thinkers of the Church, including Blessed John Paul II, Dorothy Day, Cardinal Avery Dulles, and others often to Father Robert Barron’s book, “Eucharist”.

Dorothy Day was attracted to the Catholic Church, in blessing John Paul II, Dorothy Day, Cardinal Avery Dulles, the Preacher to the Papal Household, Capuchin Father Raniero Canta lamessa; St. Ambrose, and St. Thomas Aquinas; and referenced often to Father Robert Barron’s book, “Eucharist”.

“Eucharist”

Dorothy Day was attracted to the Catholic faith, he said, when seeing everyone welcomed at the Eucharistic table: the rich and poor, educated and uneducated, the housekeeper and the owner of the mansion.

The Eucharistic Prayer is the heart of our Catholic Faith; Christ becomes really, truly transubstantiated; no longer bread and wine. Something! Happens! Realities changes although the appearance stays the same.

Too many have forgotten that Jesus is truly present in the Eucharist.”

“The Eucharist affirms Christ’s intention to always feed us because he knows we are hungry for something,” he continued.

He advised, “Don’t go by the tabernacle without genuflecting or bowing, otherwise we’ve lost the wonder, the awe.”

By Cynthia Brewer

“We sometimes have a creeping amnesia about our Catholic faith and the profound gift of the Eucharist,” opened Bishop Richard J. Malone, the keynote speaker for the Annual Conference for Catechesis and Ministry for the Diocese of Victoria. “It’s important that we grasp this,” he emphasized. “We are not ‘the forgotten’, we have to be the ‘rememberers’ – and not have amnesia!”

On Saturday, September 24, the 24th Annual Conference for Catechesis and Ministry was held at Holy Family Church in Victoria. The Most Reverend Richard J. Malone from the Diocese of Portland, Maine, offered the keynote address using the Catechesis for the United States Conference of Catholic Bishops (USCCB) as well as other USCCB committees.

Prior to the keynote address, the Most Reverend David E. Fellhauer, bishop of the Diocese of Victoria and friend of Bishop Malone, celebrated the opening prayer service and reflected on the day’s reading from Philippians. Bishop Fellhauer reminded the participants how great and blessed we are to have been given the faith of Jesus. “So many have not been given this gift – this gift of faith – millions in the world. How good God is to all of us.”

Sister Digna Vela, IBVS, and director of the Office of Catechesis and Ministry of the Diocese of Victoria, and Christela Alvarado, her associate, welcomed everyone to the conference and then introduced Bishop Malone for his address.

Following his opening statement of how we Catholics-sometimes have amnesia when it comes to the Eucharist, Bishop Malone continued saying, “These days there is a lot of confusion, even ignorance of the Eucharist,” he said. “The Eucharist makes the Church, and we’ve lost the wonder, the awe.”

Spanish.

Workshops were offered on forgiveness, apologetics, liturgical ministry, the Roman Missal, the Mass, prayer, the Rapture and what the Church teaches about it. Our Jewish Roots, praise and worship, “Texas in Mission,” Catechesis/Communica tion, Scripture, spiritual formation, the Liturgical Year, the Eucharist, classroom management, and in Spanish: “Viviendo los Sacramentos”, “Sacerdote, Profeta y Técnico”.

What an inspirational conference...” said diocesan liturgy and permission director, Cynthia Goerig. “Something for all the people.”

Beginning at top clockwise, Bishop Richard J. Malone of the Diocese of Portland, Maine, opens the conference with his presentation featuring the Catechetical Sunday theme, “Do This in Memory of Me.”

• Father Richard Mether, parochial vicar at Our Lady of Victory, explains Catholic apologetics in “Why Do You Do That?”

• Father Tommy Chen, parochial vicar at Sacred Heart in Hale trettville, explains that “The Mass is A Feast for Our Souls, A Feast for Our Senses.”

• Mr. Matthew Schaefer of Our Lady of Sorrows delights his audience in his teaching, “Eucharist: A Taste of Heaven!”

• In Spanish, Sister Mary Louise Barb, MCDP, teaches “Celebrate the Eucharist in Our Every Day Lives.”

In a quick interview with Sister Emily Eilers, IBVS, (above) who presented “Many Mansions” of the House of Prayer, she was asked, “What do we do with distractions.”

“’When you go to prayer, there’s two things that you do; you go there with the ‘intention’ of talking to God. Has your ‘at tention’ gets pulled aside,” Sister Emilie responded.

“When you find that you’re sitting there really taking in the distraction, you need to have a prayer, word or phrase to pull you back to your intention of being with God. That was new to them. They didn’t know that there was a way they could help themselves. But they really caught on to that. And they really appreciated that, I thought.”

“For many people go to, confession, confessing that they were distracted in their prayer. But I told them God made us with a brain and a mind that is going to function all the time, and we can’t shut it off, but we know how to deal with what the brain and mind is doing,” she continued.

During the presentation, Sister Emilie also had the participants practice guided meditation for about 15 minutes. She read a Scripture passage, and while participants listened, they put themselves into the scene with Jesus and asked each other, “What do I see? What do I hear? What do I smell?”

“I told the teachers that they can do this with their students,” she said.

Then she talked about developing our relationship with God, just like we develop a relationship with others. “In the beginning, we do all the talking and we don’t listen a lot, but the longer we know this person and become familiar with them, we develop a relationship and understand one another and we don’t have to talk all the time; we can just be with this person, have intimacy, and friendship.”

It’s the same with God.

XXIV Annual Conference for Catechesis and Ministry

By Cynthia Brewer

“We sometimes have a creeping amnesia about our Catholic faith and the profound gift of the Eucharist,” opened Bishop Richard J. Malone, the keynote speaker for the Annual Conference for Catechesis and Ministry for the Diocese of Victoria. “It’s important that we grasp this,” he emphasized. “We are not ‘the forgotten’, we have to be the ‘rememberers’ – and not have amnesia!”

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