The Church’s Noblest at Ground Zero

By Sister Mary Ann Walsh

There are times when the church makes you feel proud. Priests’ response to 9/11, ten years ago, is one of them.

This became evident as the U.S. Bishops’ Office of Media Relations interviewed and sought reflections from a few persons for “The Catholic Church Remembers.” It is a website memorial of video clips, photos and print that can be found at http://www.usccb.org/issues-and-action/human-life-and-dignity/september-11/

Cardinal Edward Egan, retired archbishop of New York, was one of the first responders that fateful morning. He headed for Ground Zero when he heard of the attack. As he was on the way, Mayor Rudolph Giuliani called and asked him to go instead to await the injured at St. Vincent’s Hospital. Thus began the cardinal’s critical service to a city in need.

The first person he met at St. Vincent’s was a woman, burned from head to foot. The second was one of his priests, a fire department chaplain.

By rank, a cardinal is like a U.S. senator or a general, a big-time leader you don’t expect to find on the front of any war. Cardinal Egan didn’t see himself that way.

“I’m not a police officer, a fireman, a fire person, a firefighter,’” he recalled on video. “I’m not a police officer.”

Priests’ response to 9/11, ten years ago, is one of them.

The second was one of his priests, a fire department chaplain.

The first person he met at St. Vincent’s was a woman, burned from head to foot. The second was one of his priests, a fire department chaplain.

By rank, a cardinal is like a U.S. senator or a general, a big-time leader you don’t expect to find on the front of any war. Cardinal Egan didn’t see himself that way.

“I’m not a police officer, a fireman, a fire person, a firefighter,’” he recalled on video. “I’m not a police officer.”

POLICE OFFICERS AND FIREFIGHTERS HOLD SEPT. 11 FLAG DURING CEREMONY IN NEW YORK—Police officers and firefighters hold the National 9/11 Flag during a pre-game ceremony at Frontier Field in Rochester, N.Y., Aug. 22. The flag flew atop a severely damaged building across from ground zero and was left tattered by debris from the fallen World Trade Center. In 2008 a group of tornado survivors in Kansas stitched the flag back together, and it has been turning every state since then. In each stop, local service heroes stitch pieces to it to help complete its stripes. (CNS photo/Mike Crupi, Catholic Courier)

Father Charles Dwomoh Celebrates Silver Jubilee

By Cynthia Brewer

HUNGERFORD—Rev. Charles Dwomoh, the pastor of St. John the Baptist Parish in Hungerford, celebrated his 25th anniversary of ordination to the priesthood among parishioners and long-time friends on Sunday, July 17, 2011.

A Mass of Thanksgiving was celebrated by Bishop David Fellhauer and Father Charles and concelebrated by another eight priests from throughout the diocese, including Father Henry Rachunek, former pastor of St. John’s, and half a dozen priests originally from Ghana.

Following the Mass, a reception was held, which was organized by a few parish ladies and contributed to by parishioners. Many other friends, who originate from Ghana, were in attendance, including lady-see Father Dwomoh, p. 5.

Father Dwomoh Celebrates Silver Jubilee

By Cynthia Brewer

HUNGERFORD—Rev. Charles Dwomoh, the pastor of St. John the Baptist Parish in Hungerford, celebrated his 25th anniversary of ordination to the priesthood among parishioners and long-time friends on Sunday, July 17, 2011.

A Mass of Thanksgiving was celebrated by Bishop David Fellhauer and Father Charles and concelebrated by another eight priests from throughout the diocese, including Father Henry Rachunek, former pastor of St. John’s, and half a dozen priests originally from Ghana.

Following the Mass, a reception was held, which was organized by a few parish ladies and contributed to by parishioners. Many other friends, who originate from Ghana, were in attendance, including lady-see Father Dwomoh, p. 5.

Father Charles Dwomoh celebrated his Silver Jubilee July 17 at St. John the Baptist Parish in Hungerford, of which he just recently became pastor. Pictured are Fourth Degree Knights of Columbus and some of the priests who celebrated his Thanksgiving Mass. From left are Fathers Dominic Antruv-Boaako, Gary Janak, Bishop David Fellhauser, Charles Dwomoh and former pastor of St. John’s, Henry Rachunek.

Catholic schools – made by heroes from throughout history

By Cynthia Brewer

Sister Carol Circino of Sadlier Publishing kept the attention of diocesan Catholic school faculty and staff during the 14th Annual Catholic Schools Seminar held at the KC Hall in Halletsville August 12, 2011. She taught about the heroes of U.S. Catholic Schools and gave helpful advice to today’s teachers on how to continue being Catholic school heroes.

Catholic school faculty and staff during the 14th Annual Catholic Schools Seminar held at the KC Hall in Halletsville August 12, 2011. Sister Carol Circino of Sadlier Publishing kept the attention of diocesan Catholic school faculty and staff during the 14th Annual Catholic Schools Seminar held at the KC Hall in Halletsville August 12, 2011. She taught about the heroes of U.S. Catholic Schools and gave helpful advice to today’s teachers on how to continue being Catholic school heroes.

Sister Carol Circino of Sadlier Publishing kept the attention of diocesan Catholic school faculty and staff during the 14th Annual Catholic Schools Seminar held at the KC Hall in Halletsville August 12, 2011. She taught about the heroes of U.S. Catholic Schools and gave helpful advice to today’s teachers on how to continue being Catholic school heroes.

Sister Carol Circino of Sadlier Publishing kept the attention of diocesan Catholic school faculty and staff during the 14th Annual Catholic Schools Seminar held at the KC Hall in Halletsville August 12, 2011. She taught about the heroes of U.S. Catholic Schools and gave helpful advice to today’s teachers on how to continue being Catholic school heroes.

Sister Carol Circino of Sadlier Publishing kept the attention of diocesan Catholic school faculty and staff during the 14th Annual Catholic Schools Seminar held at the KC Hall in Halletsville August 12, 2011. She taught about the heroes of U.S. Catholic Schools and gave helpful advice to today’s teachers on how to continue being Catholic school heroes.

Catholic schools – made by heroes from throughout history

By Cynthia Brewer, The Catholic Lighthouse

Some people think history is boring. I doubt they’d think that if they had sat in Sister Carol Circino’s “History of U.S. Catholic Schools” presentation at the 14th Annual Diocese of Victoria Catholic Schools Seminar in Halletsville on August 12, 2011. And the comments on the evaluations proved she kept their interest.

Veteran Catholic schoolteacher and administrator Sister Carol Circino, SSJ, Ed. D., taught and entertained 250 diocesan Catholic schools’ staff and faculty at the conference titled, “The Hero Teacher in All of Us,” sponsored by Sadlier Publishing and held at the Knights of Columbus Hall in Halletsville.

Sister Carol has the distinction of being the only woman religious who have been a three-day champion on the television show Jeopardy! With the laughter she evoked from the audience by the jokes and funny stories she told her audience of faculty and staff, she might be the only woman religious who could hold her own in a comedy show.

Superintendent John Quary made a wise decision when he chose Sister Carol, currently a national consultant for the William H. Sadlier Co., as the guest speaker.

Sister Carol Circino of Sadlier Publishing kept the attention of diocesan Catholic school faculty and staff during the 14th Annual Catholic Schools Seminar held at the KC Hall in Halletsville August 12, 2011. She taught about the heroes of U.S. Catholic Schools and gave helpful advice to today’s teachers on how to continue being Catholic school heroes.

Sister Carol Circino of Sadlier Publishing kept the attention of diocesan Catholic school faculty and staff during the 14th Annual Catholic Schools Seminar held at the KC Hall in Halletsville August 12, 2011. She taught about the heroes of U.S. Catholic Schools and gave helpful advice to today’s teachers on how to continue being Catholic school heroes.

Sister Carol Circino of Sadlier Publishing kept the attention of diocesan Catholic school faculty and staff during the 14th Annual Catholic Schools Seminar held at the KC Hall in Halletsville August 12, 2011. She taught about the heroes of U.S. Catholic Schools and gave helpful advice to today’s teachers on how to continue being Catholic school heroes.
The Catholic Lighthouse Page 2 – September 2011

Seminary Burses (Continued on p. 4)

~ Msgr. Hubert J. Janak
Newly Established Aug. 27, 2011

In memory of Mildred Janak by:
  Valentine Weichsel 20.00
  Chris and Karen Rozynsky & Jenna 5.00
  Janie Fiala 5.00
  Daniel and Janet Pohl & Family 5.00
  Gussie Kelnar 20.00
  Elizabeth Koeppe 25.00
  S.E. & Mary Golsch 10.00
  Glenn and Dede Dobbs 20.00
  Frankie and Lucille Kizier 10.00
  Jerome and Mary Janak 25.00
  Gary and Joyce Bludau 40.00
  G. Bbreit & Sandy Gilich 5.00
  Joseph and Dorothy Schneider 20.00
  Vic and Katherine Kahale 10.00
  Agnes Pitsl 20.00
  MM Joe A. Lara 25.00
  Melvin and Hazel Roeker 20.00
  Robert and Sally Janak 10.00
  E.J. and Leah Janak & Judy 300.00
  Elia and Peggy Koraj 20.00
  Hubert and Elizabeth Janak 25.00
  Wilma and David Wagner 10.00
  Anthony and In Matulis 10.00
  Arnold and Gene Marie Bohuslav 10.00
  Robert and Annette Pfechalla 25.00
  The Jonsa, Zanzy Family 25.00
  Kerry and Diana Bowler 40.00
  Peoples State Bank, Halietville 11.00

Total $780.00

~ Rev. Jerome J. Stryk
Previously Reported $13,844.50

In memory of Agnes Machiek by:
  Lad and Helen Mura 15.00

Total $13,859.50

~ Rev. Michael Rother
Previously Reported $4,185.00

In memory of Tonia & Nguyen by:
  Bernard and Madeline Rother 25.00
In honor of Rev. Michael Rother’s Birthday by:
  Richard and Jessica Allums 25.00
In honor of Rev. Michael Rother’s Ordination
  by R.L. Allums Family 15.00

Total $4,280.00

~ Fr. Oskvulr & Verdurme
Previously Reported $10,377.39

In honor of Marvin Hilscher by:
  MM Anton Schoener 20.00
In memory of Agnes Machiek by:
  Edwin and Julie Stryk & Family 25.00

Total $10,422.89

~ New E-Mail Address~

To send local stories, photos or festival announcements, please use The Catholic Lighthouse’s new e-mail address: Lighthouse@victoriatinc.org. Thank you.

The principal document that outlines the U.S. Bishops’ response to the attacks of September 11 is the Pastoral Message: Living with Faith and Hope After September 11, which was issued by the full body of bishops in November 2001. This message was the product of intensive work by the International Policy Committee and a subcommittee of bishops and lay experts. This subcommittee, whose members represented diverse areas of expertise and diverse perspectives, met weekly for five weeks to craft this statement.

Reach Out to Those In Need

• The first response of the Church was to provide pastoral and spiritual guidance and words of healing and consolation for those directly affected by the attacks and for a suffering and traumatized nation. Faith has been awakened in many ways and in many people as a result of the terrorist attacks and faith has sustained our nation and its people through dark times.

• Catholics, like other Americans, showed an overwhelming generosity of spirit in providing aid to those affected directly or indirectly both in the United States and, through Catholic Relief Services in Afghanistan, in this effort.

• The bishops and other religious leaders called on Americans to avoid succumbing to hate, revenge, and violence, particularly against Arab-Americans and Muslims.

Resolve to Defend Innocent Life and the Common Good

• Crimes against humanity. The attacks of September 11th were not just attacks on the United States, but, as Pope John Paul II has said, they were crimes against humanity. The victims came from nations of countries, and economic and political repercussions have been global. Those responsible for the attacks may have been motivated by opposition to specific U.S. policies, particularly in the Middle East, but their underlying agenda seems to be a deep antagonism toward Western culture and interests.

• Duty to defend the common good. The U.S., in collaboration with other nations and organizations, has a moral right and a grave obligation to defend the common good against mass terrorism. Therefore, there is a right and duty to seek out and hold accountable those in accord with national and international law, those individuals, groups and governments which are responsible. The real risk that terrorism will use weapons of mass destruction in the future only reinforces the urgency of this task.

Restrain in the Use of Military Force

The non-military means of defending the common good. While military action may be necessary to defend the common good, it is by no means sufficient to deal with the Islamic terrorist threat. The United States and its allies bear a heavy moral obligation to see that the full spectrum of non-violent means is employed to work toward a homeland and security and ensuring greater transparency of the financial system to strengthening global cooperation against terrorism, a wide range of non-military measures must be pursued.

• Military force may be justified in combatting terrorism, but U.S. actions must be governed by respect for just war criteria, especially civilian immunity and proportionality. The U.S. must not only act justly but be perceived to be acting justly if it is to succeed in marginalizing terrorists.

• Long-term efforts to rebuild Afghanistan. A just war requires a just peace. The U.S. must work with the international community on long-term and sustained efforts to help Afghans rebuild the political, economic, and cultural life of their country after the war. CRS is playing a key role in this effort.

• Use of force against Iraq: The Bush administration has reiterated, in a new context and with greater vigor, the long-standing U.S. policy of removing Saddam Hussein. While major military strikes do not appear imminent, and would likely be further delayed by a multi-faceted effort to achieve this objective. The USCCB has not addressed these new threats against Iraq, but absent all clear evidence that Iraq was involved in the September 11th attacks that it represents a clear and present danger to our country.

The Roots of Terrorism

• A new sense of solidarity. One function of the bishops’ statements on September 11 was to launch a public debate from military responses to terrorism to long-term efforts to get at the roots of terrorism. After September 11, Americans better appreciate how injustice and instability in far away lands about which we know and care too little can have a direct impact on our own sense of peace and security.

• A broad understanding of security. Dealing with terrorism, a focus on military security is not adequate; a much broader, long-term understanding is needed. See USCCB Response, p. 14
No lack of resources available to prepare Catholics for new missal

By Nancy Frazier O’Brien

Catholic News Service

WASHINGTON (CNS) — As Catholics look toward Nov. 27, when the new edition of the Roman Missal goes into use in the United States, there is no lack of resources to help them prepare for the new sound and feel of the liturgy.

Dozens of books and brochures have been published or are in the works, along with many DVDs and audiotapes aimed at specific audiences — from parents to the very young, and adults and middle school students.

But how can average Catholics know what the best resources are for their particular circumstances?

Father Richard Hilgartner, executive director of the U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops’ Secretariat for Divine Worship, advises people to look to their pastors, diocesan worship offices or Catholic bookstores for recommendations.

“Anything will ultimately be helpful in some way,” he told Catholic News Service. “But some materials are more targeted at different age groups and audiences.”

He does not recommend that Catholics “pull out reference cards detailing the new responses by the people at various parts of the Mass.”

“Perhaps more than any other time in recent history, people’s attention will be focused on the Mass,” said Catholic theologian Edward Sri, who wrote A Biblical Walk Through the Mass and the briefers guide. “This is an excellent opportunity for catechesis and faith formation.”

The Essential Guide to Catholic Prayer and the Mass, written by Catholic columnist Mary DeTurris Poust and published by Aplosbooks, has a similar goal.

In addition to describing the upcoming Mass changes, it “offers devoted Catholics a way to explore prayer styles never before been considered, and non-Catholics or Catholics on the edge a look into a world that can seem mysterious and intimidating,” according to a news release about the book.

Among other new books aimed primarily at adult Catholics are: Understanding the Mass: 100 Questions, 100 Answers, written by Mike Aquilina, executive vice president of the St. Paul Center for Biblical Theology, and published by Servant Books; The Mass: A Servant Scripture by biblical scholar Stephen J. Bix and published by our Sunday Visitor; and Mass Revision: How the Liturgy Is Changing and What Means for You by Catholic author Jimmy Akin and published by Catholic Answers.

That does not mean there aren’t ample resources available for other ages.

Life Teen, the Arizona-based national program for Catholic teenagers, recently introduced Word for Word, a book and DVD designed to update high school students, middle schoolers and their parents about the coming changes.

For younger children, Liturgy Training Publications has published What’s New About the Mass by Maureen Kelly for third- to seventh-graders with an accompanying handbook for teachers and catechists. Lig- uort Publications has a four-page brochure called Going to Mass with Children and Parents, which was written for Catholic author Mr. Akin and published by Catholic Answers.

In addition, the bishops’ divine worship secretariat also has a variety of resources available for other ages.

According to a news release about the book, "What’s New in the Mass," published in English and Spanish, is designed to update high school students, middle schoolers and their parents about the coming changes.

The bishops’ divine worship secretariat also has a variety of resources available for other ages.

For further information, please call Cynthia Goerig, director of Victoria Diocesan’s Liturgy Commission, at (979) 543-5706 or e-mail cgoerig@sbglobal.net.
Three seminarians study Spanish in preparation for priesthood

This summer, three of the Diocese of Victoria seminarians spent eight weeks in Antigua, Guatemala, studying Spanish and spending free time with more than a dozen other seminarians, eight of whom were from the Diocese of Diocese and three from Charlotte, N.C.

Scott Hill, Jacob Koether and Matthew Soto studied Spanish while living in an orphanage called Los Obros Sociales. Each had different experiences, but overall they were thankful for the time spent in Guatemala. Following are reflections of each of these seminarians.

Scott Hill, St. Roch Parish, Mentz

This past summer, I had the opportunity to study Spanish in Antigua, Guatemala, for eight weeks as part of my preparation for the priesthood. Seminarians study Spanish for a one year at the end of the first year of theology studies. The school I attended had class for four hours in the morning and two hours in the afternoon. It was long, but pleasant work.

What touched me the most about living in Guatemala was seeing how happy are the people. Guatemala is a third world country. Therefore, the people do not really have a lot of material possessions, but they are genuinely happy. Simplicity is something that I have not experienced before. In Guatemala, even the people cannot afford superfluous items, there is not a feeling that they must own the newest item and are happy with what they have.

Overall, my summer was enjoyable, and this August I begin my second year as a seminarian of the Diocese of Victoria.

Jacob Koether, Holy Cross Parish, Bay City

My trip in Guatemala was a good one. Eight weeks out of the country can be difficult, but you end up going or what you’re doing, but I still enjoyed myself. Most of what I did was study Spanish for five-and-a-half hours every weekday at a beautiful school a couple blocks away from where we were living. Though I was not able to do much besides classes, one of the things that I was able to participate in was the religious festivities that frequently occurred. On the feast of Corpus Christi, for instance, there was a procession around the city with flowers made into different designs scat tered throughout the street. Men setting off fireworks followed us the whole way while a band played different traditional songs. Their very vibrant and illuminated way of worshipping made me realize how often my religion for granted here in America.

What the summer did for me as a whole was solidify in my identity as a seminarian. Being able to spend time with other seminarians, praying, going to Mass everyday and being involved in something that was particularly for my formation as a priest, helped me better grasp what it means to be a seminarian. I am very grateful for having this opportunity.

Matthew Soto, Ns. Cyril & Methodius, Parish, Shiner

My time in Guatemala was a very rewarding experience, but it was very difficult spending eight weeks in a country where I could not speak the language very well. Some days I was so tired of learning, but we had to continue taking classes. This forced me to be patient and learn somehow, and after a few weeks in the new country I could appreciate my time in Guatemala.

Guatemala is a country that revolves around religion. The people there had such faith and obviously turned to God for everything. Seeing how integral religion was to their life helped me to turn to God more. God is a part of their everyday lives and it caused me to try and turn to God in all facets of my life.

Guatemala was very similar to the seminary in the aspect that the other seminarians and I said morning and evening prayers together. We went to Mass daily and got to know each other much better. I find myself very fortunate to spend my time in Guatemala with other guys who are striving to do God’s will. Going to Guatemala allowed me to build camaraderie with the other seminarians that I would have missed if I had not gone. Therefore, I am very thankful for my time in Guatemala, but am even more thankful to be back here studying for the priesthood.

Seminary Burses

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

As of August 30, 2011

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Burse Type</th>
<th>Previous Reported</th>
<th>Donations by</th>
<th>Total</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>General Seminary Burs</td>
<td>$98,434.00</td>
<td>$27,370.00</td>
<td>$125,804.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>CDA #1374 Queen Of Peace</td>
<td>$5,652.72</td>
<td>$20.00</td>
<td>$5,672.72</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Rev. John C. Bily</td>
<td>$9,159.00</td>
<td>$50.00</td>
<td>$9,659.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Rev. Joseph Vosely</td>
<td>$25.00</td>
<td>$10.00</td>
<td>$35.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Fr. John K. Peters Burse #5</td>
<td>$1,194.00</td>
<td>$10.00</td>
<td>$1,204.00</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Overall, my summer was enjoyable, and this August I begin my second year as a seminarian of the Diocese of Victoria.

Jacob Koether will be a Theology II student at St. Mary Seminary in Houston. His home parish is Holy Cross, Bay City, and his birthday is September 14. Please show your support for this seminarian by writing to: Jacob Koether, St. Mary Seminary, 9845 Memorial Drive, Houston, TX 77024-3407.

To Philip Brune, the seminary is like a woodshop

I’ve been asked many times, “So what’s seminary like?”

Being a woodworker I’d compare it to a woodshop – it helps me begin to look at and cut away those parts of me that don’t allow me to be the man God knows I can be.

Seminary has sent me through the planer and helped to shape me so that I can begin to be a man who helps build up the Church. Warted studs and 2X6’s don’t make good walls for God’s Church, yet it’s amazing because God still uses my flawed self.

Now all of this shaping, this formation, does not mean the seminary only turns out 2X4’s. Each of us who are called to be priests is different and so the seminary shapes us and develops our particular gifts.

We have different gifts other seminarians don’t have and they have gifts I don’t have.

That’s pretty awesome because all these gifts will be shared with God’s people. When we nail all of our gifts together we begin to become the Church God wants us to be and become who we truly are.

Some of the tools the seminary uses are intellectual education, spiritual growth, pastoral growth and growth as human beings. Location in the world is important and helps us see that everyone that has a philosophy and theology we live by and it affects every aspect of our lives, whether we know it or not.

Our spiritual growth is the heart of who we are as people. It’s like sanding down a piece of wood and then being able to clearly see all of the beautiful grain patterns. Spiritual growth helps me to see who I am and who God is as he works in my life.

Human growth in the seminary helps me to be a human, so that, simply put, I am not someone (out of fear and in of itself – just ask my siblings).

Finally, pastoral education helps me to grow as a shepherd, as a father, who will one day be helping people take care of the one thing that will never die – their souls.

There is a lot of chiseling, cutting and sanding that happens in the seminary, but it’s not something that is done to me. This shaping is something the formatters, the carpenters at the seminary, help me to do so I can be with and serve God’s people.

Philip is in Theology III. His parish is Sts. Peter & Paul in Frelsburg. He may be written to at: St. Mary Seminary, 9845 Memorial Drive, Houston, TX 77024-3407.
Sister Digna Vela, IWBS, and chancery staff celebrate her birthday and her completion of a three-year graduate program in Spiritual Direction and Directed Retreats. From left are pictured: Christella Alvarez, Melissa Gutierrez and Sister Digna, all with the Catechetical office; Jamie Stirneman, with Catholic Cemeteries; and Irene Marler, with Tribunal and Chancellor’s office.

Chancery staff celebrates Sister Digna’s graduation and birthday

Sister Digna Vela, IWBS, director of the Diocesan Catechetical Office completed a three-year graduate program in Spiritual Direction and Directed Retreats from Creighton, a Jesuit University in Omaha, Nebraska, where she earned a graduate certificate. The staff celebrated this accomplishment on August 16, Sister Digna’s birthday, with a cake and ice cream social.

Creighton University’s Christian Spirituality Program, one of the first and oldest programs in the United States for training and forming spiritual directors, began over 38 years ago. Its many students and graduates throughout the years have come from the United States and numerous foreign countries.

When asked what she plans to do with this graduate certificate Sister Digna replied, “I am open to whatever God wants me to do with this knowledge and training. I hope to continue to be a spiritual director at the Amor Mueo Spirituality Center in Victoria sponsored by the Sisters of the Incarnate Word and Blessed Sacrament and also to give directed retreats at Amor Mueo and at the Diocese of Victoria Renewal Center.”

When asked to explain what exactly spiritual direction entails, Sister answered, “Spiritual direction is not counseling, giving advice, or psychotherapy. Spiritual direction is the process of accompanying people on a spiritual journey in a context that emphasizes growing closer to God. The emphasis is on helping the directee develop a prayer life and relationship with God. Sometimes a director may suggest forms of prayer and readings that might help the person on their spiritual journey. People who go for spiritual direction usually meet with their director once a month for an hour. There is not a fee for spiritual direction; however, people usually offer a stipend or donation.”

Sister Digna has been trained to give directed retreats. What exactly is a directed retreat and how does it differ from other retreats such as ACTS? Conference or preached retreats such as ACTS are aimed at the general situation of a number of people. On the other hand, individually directed retreats are silent retreats tailored to suit the unique calling and experience of an individual through the assistance of an experienced spiritual guide. Once daily while on the retreat, a retreatant will meet individually with the director. The rest of the time is spent in meditation and other activities designed to deepen an awareness of God and one’s relationship with God.

Anyone interested in spiritual direction or directed retreats can call Sister Digna at (361) 573-0828 or e-mail her at dvega@ victoriaarchdiocese.org to get more information or to set up an appointment to talk about this.

Father Dwomoh Celebrates Silver Jubilee

Continued from p. 1

The second largest city in Ghana. He was ordained to the priesthood on July 19, 1986, and served the Catholic Church in Ghana for three years before coming to the United States in 1989.

He served as an associate pastor for one year in the Diocese of Pensacola-Tallahassee, Florida, before coming to Victoria, Texas, in 1992. He was incardinated into the Diocese of Victoria as of 1995.

He served as an associate pastor at St. Mary’s Parish, Victoria, from Nov. 1992 to Feb. 1993, and Our Lady of Victory Cathedral, Victoria, from February 1993 to January 1998.

He served as pastor at St. Anthony of Padua Church in Palacios from Jan. 1998 to August 2010. In August 2010, he was appointed pastor of St. John the Baptist Parish in Halletsville.

Father Charles is a naturalized U. S. citizen, and he is very proud to be an American. He always thanks God for calling him to serve the Kingdom of God as a priest. He is very much dedicated to the promotion of respect for the human dignity of every person.

“I live by faith in the Son of God who loved me and died for me” (Gal. 2:20).

Dioecesan priests attend CAPA meeting

GEORGETOWN—Priests of Czech descent met at the latest Czech American Priest Association (CAPA) meeting at St. Helen Parish in Georgetown, Texas, August 2-3, 2011. From the Diocese of Victoria, Father John Peters of Sacred Heart Parish in Hallettsville and Father Joe Hybner of Sacred Heart Parish in Flatonia attended the meeting, which included the celebration of Mass and a luncheon and social time.

Three Czech deacons, who will be ordained priests in the spring of 2012 also attended the meeting. The three young men from the Czech Republic were visiting under the sponsorship of Father Stephen Nesrata of Fayetteville. CAPA helps with this program also.

The objectives of CAPA are to foster fraternity, unity, solidarity and mutual support of Czech-American priests to deepen their spirituality and understanding of Czech history; to collaborate with Czech bishops for renewal and preservation of liturgical customs, traditions and heritage of the Czech people; to foster understanding and appreciation of the valued traditions and customs of the Czech ancestors in faith; to collaborate with Czech Catholic organizations to promote faith-filled Catholic family life; to promote the Czech language and history through courses in high schools, colleges, universities and cities; to promote and encourage Czech music and song at churches, festivals, family reunions and in the home; to promote the rich, educational and social history of Czech-American communities; to promote religious vocations and lay ministries within the Czech-American communities; and to have an exchange program of priests and seminarians between the Czech Republic and the United States.

SEMINARIANS AND RELIGIOUS ENJOY SERRAN COOKOUT—This summer, before the seminarians and religious in formation of the diocese had to return to school, the Serra Club Northwest hosted the summer hambarger cookout at St. Mary’s, St. Mary (Hallettsville). The Aug. 9 evening was also attended by Serra Club of Victoria members along with the religious sisters, priests and family members of those being honored.

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

Serra International

HOLY CROSS PARISH BAZAAR

Riverside Hall, East Bernard
Sunday, October 9, 2011

Meals Served Starting at 11:00 A.M.
BAR-B-QUE BEEF * CHICKEN * SAUSAGE
WITH "HOMEMADE DRESSING" & ALL THE TRIMMINGS
Hamburgers Served Starting at 3:00 P.M.

**Pony Rides & Moonwalk**
**Yeuro Wall & Rock Climbing Wall**

Games from Noon — 5:00 P.M.
Mass Schedule – Holy Cross Church
Sunday – 7:00 A.M. and 9:00 A.M.

Hops, Vino, Music & Entertainment from Noon till ?
Dukas Brothers (noon to 3:30 P.M.)
Red Ravers (3:30 P.M. to 6:00 P.M.)
No Limit (Country/Rock 6:00 P.M. to 187)

EVERYONE INVITED!
POPE GREETS YOUTH AS HE ARRIVES FOR WORLD YOUTH DAY VIGIL IN MADRID—Pope Benedict XVI greets young people as he arrives for the World Youth Day vigil service at Cuatro Vientos airfield in Madrid Aug. 20.

(CNS photo/Susana Vera, Reuters)

Youths welcome pope to WYD: he asks them to think about faith

By Cindy Wooden, Catholic News Service

MADRID (CNS) — Formally welcomed to World Youth Day by a boisterous, flag-waving throng of hundreds of thousands of young people from around the world, Pope Benedict XVI encouraged their enthusiasm but also urged them to be strong, solid and think about their faith.

The pope greeted the youths in Spanish, French, English, German, Italian, Portuguese and Polish.

In English, he expressed his hopes that “these days of prayer, friendship and celebration” would “bring us closer to each other and to the Lord Jesus. Make trust in Christ’s word the foundation of your lives.”

After the Gospel was sung in English, the pope gave the youths an in-depth introduction to the World Youth Day theme, “Rooted and Built up in Jesus Christ, Firm in the Faith.”

He said the pope wanted the young to listen to God’s word and allow it to become “a rule of life which likens us — poor in spirit, thirsting for justice, merciful, pure in heart, lovers of peace — to the person of Christ.”

He asked the young to listen to God’s word and allow it to become “a rule of life which likens us — poor in spirit, thirsting for justice, merciful, pure in heart, lovers of peace — to the person of Christ.”

He said some people “take it upon themselves to decide what is true or not, what is good and evil, what is just and unjust; who should live and who can be sacrificed in the interests of other preferences.”

Such people claim to be living a life free from every constraint, but their lives have no mooring and no clear horizon, he said: They are lost.

The 84-year-old pope urged the young people to “be prudent and wise, build your lives upon the firm foundation which is Christ’s word” so that “nothing will make you fear, and peace will reign in your hearts.”

“You will be blessed and happy and your happiness will influence others,” he said.

The pope then extolled the youth of today and said that “so much of your life is” and they, too, will discover Christ, “your friend, your brother, and Lord, the Son of God incarnate, who gives meaning to all the universe.”

After reviewing his trip to Madrid for World Youth Day at the Aug. 24 weekly audience, the pope announced the themes he said will be: “Go and Make Disciples of All Nations.”

“Then you will be blessed and happy, and your happiness will influence others,” he said.

“This is like labeling the Democratic National Convention that took place in Denver a ‘party for Obama.’”

After World Youth Day is an opportunity to know Christ better and “to make sure that, rooted in him, your enthusiasm and happiness, your desire to go further, to reach the heights, even God himself, always hold a sure future, because the fullness of life has already been placed within you,” he said.

The pope asked the young to be steadfast in faith, but also know that “in the face of our weaknesses which sometimes overwhelm us, we can rely on the mercy of the Lord who is always ready to help us again and who offers us pardon in the sacrament of penance.”

By Christopher Stefanick

Denver pilgrims got front row seats to the riots that took place in Madrid to protest World Youth Day. They broke out just outside of our hotel. Thankfully, no one was hurt.

The incident was sparked by many mainstream news outlets around the world with the same choice words. Google “lavish party for the Pope” and you’ll be amazed at how quickly the coming of the purple- and white-clad strong young party for Pope Benedict XVI at a time of economic crisis...in time for lavish World Youth Day celebrations.”

The spin accomplished by this report gives me media induced vertigo. To say the report straight, in case you were successfully spurned: World Youth Days is not a luxury party for a megachurchmaniacal organization that drags a different nation’s economy every three years.

Anyone who has been to a World Youth Day would chuckle at the word “lavish” to describe the experience. Have you ever waited 90- minutes to use a port-a-potty? I have! Only at World Youth Day. It’s a pigmentation in the meanest sense. We’re talking for rest and luxury (if you can afford the latter), pilgrimages tend to be packed with redemptive suffering.

This can especially mean at a World Youth Day. Even if pilgrims attempt to avoid austerity, it has a way of finding you when you’re in a room with one million other people. No way for a city to gracefully accommodate such numbers.

World Youth Day pilgrims are often hungry, thirsty, tired and a rock festival-style, million-strong youth protest World Youth Day. They broke out just outside of our hotel. Thankfully, no one was hurt. If the city had put $70 million into the event, it would have doubled on the investment for itself. Perhaps the pope wouldn’t turn their anger toward math illiteracy.

Only a people steeped in the dogmas of the “culture of death” — wherein humans are seen as a “dread” — would overlook the obvious financial blessings of a crown one million strong.

The good news is that even if a riot is thousands strong and reaches a violent pitch, if it happens in a crown of a million, most of the people will even notice it! This was the case in Madrid. While we our Denver pilgrims had the unfortunate experience of getting a bird’s eye view of the culture of death, it was mercifully happening. The culture of death was muted by the sheer multitude of joyful faces. Have you ever visited a World Youth Day, there’s so much Catholic news, popular and otherwise, that being a “drain” would over look the obvious financial blessings of a crown one million strong.

The 2012 theme will be, “Rejoice in the Spirit and Mary Immaculate in SA”

Have you ever wondered what life in a convent is like and how sisters live, work and spread the Gospel? The Sisters of the Holy Spirit and Mary Immaculate live and work among the people to whom they have ministered since their founding in 1903. These ministries are in Texas, Louisiana, Mississippi, Mexico and Zambia, Africa.

In an effort to increase vocations to religious life and to support their community, the Sisters are hosting a “Come and See” event at the Motherhouse, 200 Yucca St., San Antonio, TX 78201, on October 21-23, 2011, to give discerning women (ages 18-45) an opportunity to experience “life in a convent situation.” During the weekend, these women enjoy community prayer, small group sharing, discernment themes, personal reflection, an Emmaus Walk, recreation, and other activities with the sisters.

Registration on-line is available on the Web site www.shsp.org (under “What’s New?”) or contact Sister Gabriel at 533-5139 or at gbsqssion@hotmail.com.

Come and See Visit for Women Discerning Religious Life

Single Catholic women (high school graduates through 50 years of age, who are discerning God’s call) are invited to attend an “Amor Meus” (My Love) day retreat on September 17 and then stay for an overnight visit at Incarnate Word Convention in Victoria. If you are interested and want to check out our website visit www.iwbp.org or call (361) 575-7711 or e-mail iwbvoc2@yahoo.com for more details or to make a reservation. We’ll be waiting for your response.

Fall Turkey Dinner
St. Patrick’s Church
Bloomington (13316 State Hwy 185)

Sunday, September 25

Serving Time: 11:00 a.m.
$7 p/p – Turkey, gravy, dressing, cranberry
Sauce, cornbread, cole slaw, cake & bread

Plates-to-go available at 9:00 a.m.
curb service available

Auction – 11:30 a.m.
Country/Religious Store • Cakewalk • kid Games (Moon Pond, Fish Pond, Toy Walk)

For orders on Festival day: (361) 897-1398

Setting the Record Straight About World Youth Day

Come and See with the Sisters of the Holy Spirit and Mary Immaculate in SA

Have you ever wondered what life in a convent is like and how sisters live, work and spread the Gospel? The Sisters of the Holy Spirit and Mary Immaculate live and work among the people to whom they have ministered since their founding in 1903. These ministries are in Texas, Louisiana, Mississippi, Mexico and Zambia, Africa.

In an effort to increase vocations to religious life and to support their community, the Sisters are hosting a “Come and See” event at the Motherhouse, 200 Yucca St., San Antonio, TX 78201, on October 21-23, 2011, to give discerning women...
of this year’s conference, as she was able to not only share her knowledge with the staff of 15 Catholic schools, but also keep them entertained for three sessions throughout the day.

“This was fantastic, interesting, informative and entertaining,” said one participant.

“She kept our interest, the relevant and compelling past to continue the future,” said another.

“We are Heroic Teachers!” Sister Carol began by asking all the teachers, “How many of you here today for the first time? Of course that question brought a lot of laughter.

“It’s never been about the money, she said. “It’s the time spent helping each other about them about Jesus and there’s little the government can do about it.”

“So you are heroes,” she said. “In America we really teaching ourselves. There are not enough real people in kids’ lives.”

“And finally, you are people of the Spirit,” she said. “Out of our mouths should come wisdom, and if you listen to the Spirit, it will. Unless we’re open to the Spirit, we can’t instill wisdom to the students.”

“The Catholic Lighthouse

— Christmas Tour —

BBQ Chicken Dinner @ $7.50 p/p serving 11:00 a.m.-1:00 p.m. dine-in or drive-thru available

Live Auction @ 12:00 p.m.

Shiner Catholic School Fall Festival
Sunday, October 2
at the KC Hall
(formally American Legion Hall)

The Diocese of Victoria Library and Media Center was begun in 1991 in order to help individual parishes in the Diocese of Victoria Library and Media Center in order to help individual parishes. The library houses an excellent collection of books and videos on spirituality, Scripture, prayer, liturgy, catechetical topics, morality, saints, church documents, and many more topics not readily available at a public library or book store. The General Directory for Catechesis states, “The means of social communication have become so important as to be the beginning with the Blaine Amendment of the mid-1870s, to Agnostini V. Felton in 1997. Often the Church won those battles if they were helping children, not Catholic schools.

With the social revolution of the 1960s, other problems came to Catholic schools. There was a decline in church attendance, and there was a decline in the profession of women religious as more opportunities became available to women.

Multiple Catholic schools have closed in the past 50 years. In 1965 there were about 14,000 Catholic schools; today there are fewer than 7,500. In a four-year period in the 1970s, 20 percent of schools closed.

In 1991, it was realized that Catholic schools do it best,” Sister Carol commented, “but schools continue to close – 50 to 70 per year.”

“You don’t know where you’re going unless you know where you’ve been,” she said. “We have to do a percent of Catholic schoolteachers were religious men and women and they taught 6.5 million students in about 14,000 schools,” she stated.

“Catholic education has always rested on the quality of instruction provided, and our history involved struggle and change,” Sister Carol summarized. “We presumed that the Church would stay the same – that the nuns would always be there and could provide the education to the children.”

She then detailed the legal battles pertaining to a supposed separation of church and state and government dollars going to fund private schools – from government funds for textbooks and school busing, to the sharing of school buildings and teachers.

Sister Carol showed how the Catholic schools had to fight to remain in existence many the chief means of information and communication. For this reason, in addition to the numerous traditional means in use, the media has become essential for evan- gelization and catechesis.

Each year a Library Agreement is offered to parishes and schools through the Diocese of Victoria Library and Media Center in order to help individual parishes from having to purchase audio-visual resources, thus defraying costs for them. The Library Agreement allows for all cat- echists, teachers, and those in ministry in Catholic schools and parishes to check out videos (VHS or DVD) for educational and instructional purposes at no charge. Call (361) 573-0828 for additional information on how to become a patron of the library.

The weekend concluded on Sunday evening with the annual adoration, where participants were encouraged to “come to Christ on your knees next to the Blessed Mother, which has been teaching for a long time. Cultivate a circle of friends and contribute to your community of friends.”

“A hero also has to meet monsters,” she explained. “Sometimes those monsters are our own fears of inadequacies. We need to get comfortable with our choices: we need to kill those monsters or live with them.”

She led the audience of teachers and faculty in singing her hero’s song, “How do I look at my life and my vocation now? How differently has it changed the way I see the kids, life and faith?”

“Sometimes those monsters are our own fears of inadequacies. We need to get comfortable with our choices: we need to kill those monsters or live with them.”

She compared the quest of a teaching vocation to the Annunciation of the birth of Christ to the Blessed Mother, which included giving a “Hail Mary,” “Reaction of Fear and Awe,” “A Glimpse of the Future Outcome,” “Objection from the Hero in the Question of How?” and “Assurance of Divine Accompaniment.”

“We are Heroic Teachers!”  Sister Carol summarized. “We presumed that the Church would stay the same – that the nuns would always be there and could provide the education to the children.”

She then detailed the legal battles pertaining to a supposed separation of church and state and government dollars going to fund private schools – from government funds for textbooks and school busing, to the sharing of school buildings and teachers.

Sister Carol showed how the Catholic schools had to fight to remain in existence.

 przeciwko, by się zatrzymać i czasami dojść do wyzwolenia, czasami do porozumienia.

Gdybyśmy mogli, co prawda, być w stanie wprowadzić pewne zmiany w systemie edukacji, które pomogły by w utrzymaniu kulturowej różnorodności i zapewnienie ochrony dla młodych. Jednakże, nawet jeśli mamy pewne-elections, to jednak nie możemy zapominać, że edukacja jest jednym z najważniejszych narzędzi do kształtowania przyszłości. Właśnie z tego powodu jest tak ważne, abyśmy utrzymywali w kontakcie z lokalnymi społecznościami, aby nie wiązać naszych działań tylko z indywidualną przyszłość i interesami, ale zaczęły zwracać uwagę na większe próby utrzymania kulturowej różnorodności i zapewnienia ochrony dla młodych. Jednakże, nawet jeśli mamy pewne-elections, to jednak nie możemy zapominać, że edukacja jest jednym z najważniejszych narzędzi do kształtowania przyszłości. Właśnie z tego powodu jest tak ważne, abyśmy utrzymywali w kontakcie z lokalnymi społecznościami, aby nie wiązać naszych działań tylko z indywidualną przyszłość i interesami, ale zaczęły zwracać uwagę na większe próby utrzymania kulturowej różnorodności i zapewnienia ochrony dla młodych. Jednakże, nawet jeśli mamy pewne-elections, to jednak nie możemy zapominać, że edukacja jest jednym z najważniejszych narzędzi do kształtowania przyszłości. Właśnie z tego powodu jest tak ważne, abyśmy utrzymywali w kontakcie z lokalnymi społecznościami, aby nie wię
By Sister Mildred Truchard, IWBS

Letting our Light Shine as Incarnate Word Sisters and Associates

The Eighth Incarnate Word National Reunion is now a part of history and things are just about back to normal; however, we the Sisters and Associates involved, will never be the same. The intense days of liturgies, talks, and mingling have enriched us. We have seen how the Holy Spirit is working through the Church and through the Sisters of the Incarnate Word and their Associates in various parts of the world. Representatives of Incarnate Word groups, who have members serving in North and South America, Africa, and Europe, illustrate the growth of the order that Venerable Jeanne Chazeur de Matel founded nearly 400 years ago in France. After being totally dispersed during the French Revolution, the order reassembled in the same spot that it was founded, and with a tiny group of ten women

Thirty-five-year old Mother Saint Claire Valentine, with three companions, would establish the first American house in Brownsville, Texas, in 1833 and the second in Victoria in 1866. That first trip from Brownsville to Victoria took some three days by railroad. When the train broke down, some of the passengers had to walk; moreover, on the way they were greeted by a raw “blue norther” to which they were unaccustomed. These young French Sisters were challenged by the frontier culture and the English and Spanish languages, which they immediately tried to learn in order to minister in Texas.

These early Sisters were to experience great difficulties from the prevalent yellow fever and malaria, to hurricanes, to extreme poverty and to religious persecution in Mexico. One early Texas account describes their daily fare of coffee, molasses and black bread. Their furniture consisted of packing crates until the priest tore his cassock on the crates; he then procured some furniture for them!

Little did they know that from these first foundations would spring numerous houses in the United States, Mexico, and foreign mission lands. One has to admire these women, along with other early immigrants, who were so willing to leave their families and homeland, even via warships coming to Mexico, to serve their God!

Now, over a century later we follow the example of such valiant women as these. Seeing all their spiritual descendants throughout the reunion, one can’t help but see the Holy Spirit in our midst. Let us all invoke the Holy Spirit to guide each of us as we continue to witness to God’s love for all peoples.

Pray for Peace in the Holy Lands

Please pray for peace and for God’s will to be done at the UN regarding Palestine’s quest for recognition of Statehood Sept. 20, 2011.

St. Roch Catholic Church – Mentz, Texas Join Us For Mass at 10:30 a.m., Sunday, October 2 BBQ Beef, Pork & Sausage Adults $8.00 Children Under 12: $4.00 Dine in AC comfort or under pavilion Serving beginning at 11:00 a.m. — 2:00 p.m.

Drive-Through Line

BBQ & Sausage Sold At Pit By The Pound HAMBURGERS GET A HAMBURGER BEGINNING AT 10:00 P.M.

Auction • Bingo • Country Store • Kids Activities Live Music by Odessa - 1:00-5:00 p.m.

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) 543-3770 or Sr. Emilie Elders (361) 575-7111, Coordinators of Pastoral Care and Outreach.

• Write to: Most Rev. David E. Fehlauer

Diocese of Victoria

P.O. Box 4070

Victoria, TX 77903

Mark your letter “Personal and Confidential”

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

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

The Church’s Noblest at Ground Zero

Continued from p. 1

I’m not an emergency worker. I’m a priest and I’m going to do everything that a priest can do under these circumstances.”

Afterwards, he worked at Ground Zero, a site he contaminated that officials told him to discard all his clothes when he returned home. He assisted families, listened to rescuers, and consoled both the disconsolate and the consolers. He celebrated funerals at St. Patrick’s Cathedral and led prayers when President George W. Bush arrived at Ground Zero and at an ecumenical service he organized at Yankee Stadium.

On the television action too. Msgr. Kevin Sullivan, head of Catholic Charities of the New York Archdiocese, saw that it was not just Wall Street people with significant finances who were affected. It was also those who live on the edge, such as the wait staff at Windows on the World, the restaurant atop one of the Twin Towers. Msgr. Sullivan contacted the unions and said Catholic Charities would pay the salaries for six months to restaurant workers there who were suddenly out of work, enough time, thought, for them to find another job.

Other priests made their way to the scene, most notably the fire department chaplain Franciscan Father Mychal Judge, the first officially recorded fatality of the attack. Weeks later, when rescuers found his body, firemen carried it from the rubble, not to a mortuary van but to the sanctuary of a nearby church.

Other clergy responded as priests too. The city established a site for those looking for missing family members, a place with counselors and social workers. The line went on for blocks and priests walked alongside it and helped people accept the inevitable – a loss of someone only to be found again in heaven. A veteran psychia-

trist told Cardinal Egan that he was amazed when he interviewed families and saw how deeply they had been touched by their side-walk conversations with priests.

The church knows the importance of chaplains and designates priests to help emergency workers such as police, fire-fighters, and Federal Bureau of Investigation agents. These public servants need one of their own in crises and at St/11 their own priests were needed.

9/11’s own, however, also turned out to be not just official chaplains but also priests answering the call. As the Sisters and Associates of the Incarnate Word and Blessed Sacrament Anniversary of the Incarnate Word National Reunion on July 22-24, 2011. The theme of the assembly was Sisters and Associates of the Incarnate Word: On the Cutting Edge of a New Vision – Where Are We Standing?

As the Sisters and Associates of the Incarnate Word and Blessed Sacrament from Cleveland, Corpus Christi, and Houston, along with representatives from the Sisters of Charity of the Incarnate Word gathered in a reunion area to pray with gratitude and joy upon reuniting with old friends and meeting new ones who embraced the Incarnate Word heritage.

The reunion gave us the opportunity to search out some aspects of our common heritage, to pray together and to share conversations about traditions food and joyful laughter. It gave us an opportunity to appreciate what the Incarnate Word is doing in our lives and ministry, as each congregation gave a presentation on how its members were “extending the Incarnate Word” and being crystal vases of the imagery of the crystal vase had been given to our foundress by Jesus, the Incarnate Word, when she told her, “You have seen how I have placed you like a crystal vase upon the altar.” Like our foundress, Jeanne Chazerá de Matel, we are called to be such vases wherever we are and in our lives and ministry.

We were blessed to have Bishop David Fehlauer with us celebrating the Mass and giving the homily on Saturday and Cardinal Daniel DiNardo, Archbishop of Galveston-Houston, doing likewise on Sunday.

At the closing ceremony, each congregation presented with a large crystal vase imagery. The Sisters of the Incarnate Word be as a reminder of our call to be such vases wherever we are.
As though exploitative. It’s unnatural. It’s dangerous and “natural” step in growing up. But it’s not this prescription is seen by many as a “natural” step in growing up. But it’s not

obtaining to their physicians to have their “precau

This article will continue in following issues of The Catholic Lighthouse or it may be read in full at: http://catholicexchange.

Hormones Exploit Girls: As though we were talking about candy, rather than a dangerous drug, birth control pills are dispensed and pushed upon girls by pharmaceutical companies through the media, “family” doctors, through school systems and through Planned Parenthood. This push is madness.

One example of this “push” was explained by conference speaker Patricia Bainbridge. This example is a birth control pill named “Yaz.” Yaz is specifically marketed to young girls, hence its “Yazzy-pizzazz” name. The television commercials for these pills show flying balloons and pretty girls lightly and gaily dancing about. But the commercials mislead young girls in a serious way.

Yaz is a dangerous drug. In 2009 there were 1100 lawsuits against Yaz. The dangers of Yaz are ineffectively communicated to girls who are the target “market” for these drugs. Here are some dangers: cervical hematoma, cholestatic jaundice, depression, candidiasis, change in colorectal curvature, thrombophlebitis, arterial thromboembolism, pulmonary embolism, myocardial infarction, cerebral thrombosis, hypertension, gallbladder disease, hepatic adenomas, retinal thrombosis and gastrointestinal symptoms.

If you want to know more about Yaz, you can google: “Yaz lawsuits,” “almost killed by Yaz,” or “Yaz birth control deaths.” But it is not just with respect to the dangerous side effects of birth control pills that girls are being misled. They are misled in other ways too.

KJZT #101 DISTRIBUTES SCHOLARSHIPS—At the breakfast following their annual Mass for Living and Deceased Members at Our Lady of Victory Parish on August 14, KJZT #101 of Victoria presented scholarships of $550 each to five young people preparing for college this fall. Scholarships were presented to Andrew Polasek, son of Paul and Michelle Polasek, will attend U.T.; Kaley Jurica, daughter of Gerald and Jean Jurica, will attend Victoria College; Dana Vanek, daughter of Dennis and Donna Vanek, will attend Blinn; Kendra Hanslik, daughter of Kenneth and Denise Hanslik, will attend Victoria College; and Cameron Burger, son of Michael and Michelle Burger, will attend Victoria College. The recipients are pictured from left to right. Also during the breakfast, KJZT Treasurer Carolyn Nevulid presented a $400 check to Jimmy Zamora, vice-president of Our Lady of Victory’s St. Vincent de Paul Society in honor of KJZT’s “Feeding Families Across Texas.” program.

The girls were prepared for this concert by Kay Bolbom, former director of the Dawson-Wharton Elementary and Wharton Junior High choirs, who also sang with the Dawson-Wharton Symphony Orchestra. The choir was under the direction of world-renowned conductors.

Hormones Exploit Girls: As though we were talking about candy, rather than a dangerous drug, birth control pills are dispensed and pushed upon girls by pharmaceutical companies through the media, “family” doctors, through school systems and through Planned Parenthood. This push is madness.

One example of this “push” was explained by conference speaker Patricia Bainbridge. This example is a birth control pill named “Yaz.” Yaz is specifically marketed to young girls, hence its “Yazzy-pizzazz” name. The television commercials for these pills show flying balloons and pretty girls lightly and gaily dancing about. But the commercials mislead young girls in a serious way.

Yaz is a dangerous drug. In 2009 there were 1100 lawsuits against Yaz. The dangers of Yaz are ineffectively communicated to girls who are the target “market” for these drugs. Here are some dangers: cervical hematoma, cholestatic jaundice, depression, candidiasis, change in colorectal curvature, thrombophlebitis, arterial thromboembolism, pulmonary embolism, myocardial infarction, cerebral thrombosis, hypertension, gallbladder disease, hepatic adenomas, retinal thrombosis and gastrointestinal symptoms.

If you want to know more about Yaz, you can google: “Yaz lawsuits,” “almost killed by Yaz,” or “Yaz birth control deaths.” But it is not just with respect to the dangerous side effects of birth control pills that girls are being misled. They are misled in other ways too.

DUPING THE GIRLS

Girls are further duped through inad

Dr. Hilary Apfelstadt and Dr. Anna Hanre and was accompanied by string players of the Rome Symphony Orchestra. The choir performed classical literature in Latin and Italian.

During the non-rehearsal hours the group was able to tour the city and see some well-known sites as the Colosseum, the Vatican Museum, the Sistine Chapel, Trevi Fountain, the Spanish Steps, Castel de Sant’Angelo, Piazza Navona, the Pantheon, Le Bocca della Verita, the Roman Forum, Basilica di San Pietro in Vincoli, which houses Michelangelo’s Moses and the chains that held St. Peter, and of course St. Peter’s Basilica where they viewed Michelangelo’s famous "Pieta." They also saw Roman baths and aqueducts, the sites where gladiators trained and where Julius Caesar was assassinated.

The Wharton vocalists were immersed in history and art during their stay in the Eternal City and agreed that one week was not long enough. Upon their return, Michaela comment-

It’s so amazing. We’d need a month to see it all.” And Mianasija answered, “I’m going back.”

The蝌蚪Visitete was most last month where they joined with other vocal groups to sing the Mass in St. Peter’s Basilica.

The following day they presented a concert to a capacity audience in the Basilica di Santa Maria Sopra Minerva.

Dr. Hilary Apfelstadt and Dr. Anna Hanre and was accompanied by string players of the Rome Symphony Orchestra. The choir performed classical literature in Latin and Italy.

During the non-rehearsal hours the group was able to tour the city and see some well-known sites as the Colosseum, the Vatican Museum, the Sistine Chapel, Trevi Fountain, the Spanish Steps, Castel de Sant’Angelo, Piazza Navona, the Pantheon, Le Bocca della Verita, the Roman Forum, Basilica di San Pietro in Vincoli, which houses Michelangelo’s Moses and the chains that held St. Peter, and of course St. Peter’s Basilica where they viewed Michelangelo’s famous "Pieta." They also saw Roman baths and aqueducts, the sites where gladiators trained and where Julius Caesar was assassinated.

The Wharton vocalists were immersed in history and art during their stay in the Eternal City and agreed that one week was not long enough. Upon their return, Michaela comment-

It’s so amazing. We’d need a month to see it all.” And Mianasija answered, “I’m going back.”
Clara Allen meets with Texas Representative Ron Paul while she attends the National Youth Leadership Conference in Washington, D.C., this summer.

Clara Allen Represents St. Joseph High School As National Scholar

Clara Grace Allen represented St. Joseph High School as a National Scholar from Texas at the 2011 National Youth Leadership Conference in Washington, D.C., June 12 - June 24. While attending the NYLC, she collaborated with high school students from across the United States and abroad in an array of political forums. Clara was honored to have the opportunity to be an active participant in learning about the presidency, our government, and especially being involved with the human rights campaign. Meeting and visiting with Mr. Ron Paul, a Texas presidential nominee hopeful, was an extraordinary highlight.

Clara is a top-ten honor student and student ambassador at St. Joseph High School and is a member of the varsity band and varsity cheerleading squad. She is the daughter of Cory and Marylouise Allen of Victoria. Clara will be a junior this year.

FIRST DAY OF SCHOOL 2011—St. Philip School students and faculty in El Campo had a restful summer, and now school is back in session. Above are pictured 8th graders on the first day of school at St. Philip School. Welcome back to school all students and faculty. Have a great year!

Pray for the unborn and suffering little children.

Clara will be involved with the human rights campaign. Meeting and visiting with Mr. Ron Paul, a Texas presidential nominee hopeful, was an extraordinary highlight. Clara is a top-ten honor student and student ambassador at St. Joseph High School and is a member of the varsity band and varsity cheerleading squad. She is the daughter of Cory and Marylouise Allen of Victoria. Clara will be a junior this year.

BOY SCOUT TROOP 364 MEMBERS RECEIVE RELIGIOUS AWARDS—Four boys earned their Ad Altare Dei religious emblem during the 2010-2011 school year from Boy Scout Troop 364, sponsored by Our Lady of Victory Cathedral in Victoria. These boys have diligently worked as a group studying the Seven Sacraments of the Catholic Faith. Father Michael Rother presented the boys with their religious emblems after Mass on Saturday, July 30, 2011. Pictured from l. to r. are Kenneth Hathaway, Diego Garza, Father Rother, Miguel Garza, LeeAnn Hathaway (Ad Altar Dei Advisor) and Sam Bonorden.

KJIT SUPPORTS ASSUMPTION’S VBS—Members of KJIT – Catholic Family Fraternal of Texas – Society No. 43, The Purification, of Ganado assisted in Assumption BVM parish Vacation Bible School in July. They served snacks of fresh fruit plates. Pictured are Frances Vesely, President Cecilia French, Mary Ann Peters and Helen Andel.

Clara Allen Represents St. Joseph High School as a National Scholar from Texas at the 2011 National Youth Leadership Conference in Washington, D.C., June 12 - June 24. While attending the NYLC, she collaborated with high school students from across the United States and abroad in an array of political forums. Clara was honored to have the opportunity to be an active participant in learning about the presidency, our government, and especially being involved with the human rights campaign. Meeting and visiting with Mr. Ron Paul, a Texas presidential nominee hopeful, was an extraordinary highlight.

Clara is a top-ten honor student and student ambassador at St. Joseph High School and is a member of the varsity band and varsity cheerleading squad. She is the daughter of Cory and Marylouise Allen of Victoria. Clara will be a junior this year.

FIRST DAY OF SCHOOL 2011—St. Philip School students and faculty in El Campo had a restful summer, and now school is back in session. Above are pictured 8th graders on the first day of school at St. Philip School. Welcome back to school all students and faculty. Have a great year!

Pray for the unborn and suffering little children.

Clara will be involved with the human rights campaign. Meeting and visiting with Mr. Ron Paul, a Texas presidential nominee hopeful, was an extraordinary highlight. Clara is a top-ten honor student and student ambassador at St. Joseph High School and is a member of the varsity band and varsity cheerleading squad. She is the daughter of Cory and Marylouise Allen of Victoria. Clara will be a junior this year.

BOY SCOUT TROOP 364 MEMBERS RECEIVE RELIGIOUS AWARDS—Four boys earned their Ad Altare Dei religious emblem during the 2010-2011 school year from Boy Scout Troop 364, sponsored by Our Lady of Victory Cathedral in Victoria. These boys have diligently worked as a group studying the Seven Sacraments of the Catholic Faith. Father Michael Rother presented the boys with their religious emblems after Mass on Saturday, July 30, 2011. Pictured from l. to r. are Kenneth Hathaway, Diego Garza, Father Rother, Miguel Garza, LeeAnn Hathaway (Ad Altar Dei Advisor) and Sam Bonorden.

KJIT SUPPORTS ASSUMPTION’S VBS—Members of KJIT – Catholic Family Fraternal of Texas – Society No. 43, The Purification, of Ganado assisted in Assumption BVM parish Vacation Bible School in July. They served snacks of fresh fruit plates. Pictured are Frances Vesely, President Cecilia French, Mary Ann Peters and Helen Andel.

Clara Allen Represents St. Joseph High School as a National Scholar from Texas at the 2011 National Youth Leadership Conference in Washington, D.C., June 12 - June 24. While attending the NYLC, she collaborated with high school students from across the United States and abroad in an array of political forums. Clara was honored to have the opportunity to be an active participant in learning about the presidency, our government, and especially being involved with the human rights campaign. Meeting and visiting with Mr. Ron Paul, a Texas presidential nominee hopeful, was an extraordinary highlight.

Clara is a top-ten honor student and student ambassador at St. Joseph High School and is a member of the varsity band and varsity cheerleading squad. She is the daughter of Cory and Marylouise Allen of Victoria. Clara will be a junior this year.

FIRST DAY OF SCHOOL 2011—St. Philip School students and faculty in El Campo had a restful summer, and now school is back in session. Above are pictured 8th graders on the first day of school at St. Philip School. Welcome back to school all students and faculty. Have a great year!

Pray for the unborn and suffering little children.

Clara will be involved with the human rights campaign. Meeting and visiting with Mr. Ron Paul, a Texas presidential nominee hopeful, was an extraordinary highlight. Clara is a top-ten honor student and student ambassador at St. Joseph High School and is a member of the varsity band and varsity cheerleading squad. She is the daughter of Cory and Marylouise Allen of Victoria. Clara will be a junior this year.

BOY SCOUT TROOP 364 MEMBERS RECEIVE RELIGIOUS AWARDS—Four boys earned their Ad Altare Dei religious emblem during the 2010-2011 school year from Boy Scout Troop 364, sponsored by Our Lady of Victory Cathedral in Victoria. These boys have diligently worked as a group studying the Seven Sacraments of the Catholic Faith. Father Michael Rother presented the boys with their religious emblems after Mass on Saturday, July 30, 2011. Pictured from l. to r. are Kenneth Hathaway, Diego Garza, Father Rother, Miguel Garza, LeeAnn Hathaway (Ad Altar Dei Advisor) and Sam Bonorden.

KJIT SUPPORTS ASSUMPTION’S VBS—Members of KJIT – Catholic Family Fraternal of Texas – Society No. 43, The Purification, of Ganado assisted in Assumption BVM parish Vacation Bible School in July. They served snacks of fresh fruit plates. Pictured are Frances Vesely, President Cecilia French, Mary Ann Peters and Helen Andel.

Clara Allen Represents St. Joseph High School as a National Scholar from Texas at the 2011 National Youth Leadership Conference in Washington, D.C., June 12 - June 24. While attending the NYLC, she collaborated with high school students from across the United States and abroad in an array of political forums. Clara was honored to have the opportunity to be an active participant in learning about the presidency, our government, and especially being involved with the human rights campaign. Meeting and visiting with Mr. Ron Paul, a Texas presidential nominee hopeful, was an extraordinary highlight.

Clara is a top-ten honor student and student ambassador at St. Joseph High School and is a member of the varsity band and varsity cheerleading squad. She is the daughter of Cory and Marylouise Allen of Victoria. Clara will be a junior this year.
SCHULENBURG—The Marti Love Children’s Chapel & Jack Hooper Prayer Garden is a new addition to the parish grounds. Bishop David Fellhauer will bless the chapel and garden Friday, September 30, following an 8:10 a.m. school Mass.

The small wood-frame building was recently moved to its new location near the original spot of its construction between the church and school on Black Street. Details regarding the age of the building and who constructed it remain unknown but there are many stories shared about the use and purpose of the tiny structure.

St. Rose parishioner, Helen Stanzel, remembers the building as a small chapel used by the parish for various functions who would like to make a financial contribution. If you would like to make a donation to the project please contact the parish, (979) 743-3117, or school offices or from any committee member. Anyone who has any information and/or photographs relating to the history of the chapel they would like to share is asked to contact any committee member.

Today this piece of church history has two wonderful people. At its construction be open to the public as a place of reverence where anyone can come to remember, reflect and pray. Members of the committee have enjoyed the opportunity to revive a part of parish history while paying tribute to two wonderful people.

In addition to site preparation, planning and renovation, the committee is also working to secure the funds necessary to make this project a reality. The budget of the project is $30,000 and a grant for $15,000 has been obtained. The committee has also acquired other money through fundraising efforts and donations. Fundraising efforts will continue with a raffle that includes the top prize of a $3,000 St. Rose tuition credit OR $2,000 Visa cash card. The drawing will be held on Sept. 30. Tickets are available at the school and parish offices or from any committee member.

Chapel steering committee members are Maura Bennett, Rosanne Gallia, Donna Kunz, Stacy Oeding, Linda Schmidt, Melissa Schmidt, Stevie Smith-Thompson and the project manager is Bob Stanzel.

The future Marti Love Chapel is lowered to the ground at its new location, which very well may be its original location. It was returned from the former Stanzel homestead to St. Rose of Lima Church to be renovated. The blessing of the chapel will be held Sept. 30.

The site plan’s surrounding plants and gardens not only speak to Ms. Love’s own personal love of gardening and nature but will also serve as a reminder of the faithful life of Jack Hooper.

Bishop Fellhauer will be at the site, September 30, to dedicate and bless the chapel and gardens. The chapel steering committee hopes to see the chapel used by the parish for various religious activities such as adoration of the Blessed Sacrament and special prayer services. The chapel and grounds will also be open to the public as a place of reverence where anyone can come to remember, reflect and pray. Members of the committee have enjoyed the opportunity to revive a part of parish history while paying tribute to two wonderful people.

In addition to site preparation, planning and renovation, the committee is also working to secure the funds necessary to make this project a reality. The budget of the project is $30,000 and a grant for $15,000 has been obtained. The committee has also acquired other money through fundraising efforts and donations. Fundraising efforts will continue with a raffle that includes the top prize of a $3,000 St. Rose tuition credit OR $2,000 Visa cash card. The drawing will be held on Sept. 30. Tickets are available at the school and parish offices or from any committee member.

Chapel steering committee members are Maura Bennett, Rosanne Gallia, Donna Kunz, Stacy Oeding, Linda Schmidt, Melissa Schmidt, Stevie Smith-Thompson, and the project manager is Bob Stanzel. The entire move was donated by John Kana. Bernard Ripper and his son, Michael, did all the preparation work to make the structure secure for the move. They will continue the additional restoration and renovation at the new site.

The committee will also be relying on the generosity of individuals and businesses who would like to make a financial contribution. If you would like to make a donation to the project please contact the parish, (979) 743-3117, or school office, (979) 743-3080, or any committee member.

Anyone who has any information and/or photographs relating to the history of the chapel they would like to share is asked to contact any committee member.
The Catholic Lighthouse
FAITH & FAMILY

Puzzle Contest Prize:

The Essential Guide to Catholic Prayer and the Mass

Today, there are an increasing number of Catholics looking for new ways to explore spirituality. Some may seek to adapt simple traditions to modern life, or are hungry for a deeper connection through the Eucharist. Whatever prayer styles are sought, The Essential Guide to Catholic Prayer and the Mass will help those who are longing for a connection to God to reach their pathway to worship.

Archbishop of New York, Timothy M. Dolan, endorses the book saying, “As Saint Paul confesses, ‘none of us know how to pray as we ought.’ This book is sure a help.” The book offers lessons on Scripture, ancient rituals and the examples set by the saints; a description of the Church’s new translation of the Mass – which requires Catholics to relate familiar prayers; a pathway to prayer for every person of every background and mindset; and an exploration of new prayer methods. The Essential Guide to Catholic Prayer and the Mass is available from Web sites for as little as $12.01. For a chance to win your own copy, please complete this month’s Puzzle Contest and send it to arrive at The Catholic Lighthouse by September 26.

August Puzzle Contest Winners Announced


Congratulations to our winners, and thank you to all the “guys” who have been playing the Puzzle Contest.

The winner of the September Puzzle Contest will win this month’s featured book, The Essential Guide to Catholic Prayer and the Mass by Mary DeTurris Pousette and published by ALPHA. See review on this page.

Please mail all completed September puzzle forms to arrive in The Catholic Lighthouse office, P.O. Box 4070, Victoria, TX 77903 by Sept. 26.

Those wishing to purchase Swimming in the Daylight, may purchase it from bookstores or Web sites at $18.96.

The Paschal Mystery in our Lives – moving through every sort of death and diminishment towards ever deeper life

Spiritual Renewal Center, Victoria, TX

How do new life and new spirit appear in our lives? How do we name our deaths, claim our births, grieve what we’ve lost, let our losses bless us, and then receive new spirit for our lives? How do we learn to live inside of our own skins? The paschal mystery is the deep secret. This will be a retreat on the paschal mystery.

Father Rolheiser is currently serving as president of the Oblate School of Theology in San Antonio. His books, including The Shattered Lantern, The Holy Longing, and The Restless Heart, are popular throughout the English-speaking world, and his weekly column is carried by more than 60 newspapers worldwide. For additional information on Fr. Rolheiser visit his Web site at www.ronrolheiser.com

The retreat cost is $170.00 per person for double occupancy. There may be a limited amount of single rooms ($190.00) available. Space is limited and will be reserved in the order of deposits ($50.00 non-refundable). The balance is due September 15. Please make checks payable to Spirit Wind Ministry and mail to: Susan Oakley, 103 Woodmere, Victoria, TX 77904. For additional information, please contact Susan Oakley at (361) 576-1515/361-649-6931 or e-mail smoak53@msn.com.

~ Retreat by Father Ron Rolheiser ~

October 28-30

The Paschal Mystery in our Lives – moving through every sort of death and diminishment towards ever deeper life
The Confraternity of Christian Mothers Celebrates 100th Anniversary

HALLETTSVILLE — The Confraternity of Christian Mothers of Sacred Heart Parish, Hallettsville, celebrated the 100th anniversary of its organization on July 24, 2011. The celebration began with a white carpet with Bishop David Fellhauer as main celebrant. Rev. John Peters, pastor, congratulated the annual members with Targass anointing. Bishop Fellhauer delivered an inspiring homily and stressed the importance of parents being the first teachers of the faith to their children, which begins at home.

In the history of the Mass, the celebration continued at the Family Center with a catered meal served to the members and guests.

The Confraternity of Christian Mothers of Sacred Heart Parish was granted affiliation by the Archdiocese of Galveston-Houston in 1911. While the world has changed, good Christian mothers have always been the mainstay of spiritual life within their own family and a fruitful source of blessings to the community in which they live. This is the principal aim of all Confraternities affiliated with the Archconfraternity.

The celebration concluded with benediction led by Bishop Fellhauer and everyone singing the hymn “Immaculate Mary.”

As the history of the first 100 years of the Christian Mothers comes to a close, a review of the objectives of the organization is the same in 2011 as it was in 1911. While the world has changed over the years and raising children in today’s world has certainly changed, good Christian mothers (and fathers) continue to strive to raise their children to be good Catholics through prayer and good example. According to the guidelines, as quoted from the Mother Love prayer book, 

“The Confraternity of Christian Mothers has for its objective the Christian Home Education of children by truly Christian Mothers. It plans to unite, by the observance of its rules and regulations, all Christian ladies, married or widowed, who are willing to assume another to attain this noble purpose. Under the special patronage of the ‘Mother of Sorrows’ the members are encouraged joyously and hopefully to undertake the important task of training and sanctifying the young souls entrusted to their care. They are schooled to edify one another by word and deed, to support one another by fervent prayers and thus become the mainstay of spiritual life within their own family and a fruitful source of blessings to the community in which they live. This is the principal aim of all Confraternities affiliated with the Archconfraternity.”

Full story on diocesan web.

Catholic Women’s Conference


Sunday Readings from Sept. 11 to Oct. 23

September 11 —
Twenty Fourth Sunday in Ordinary Time
Sirach 27:30 — 287
Psalms 103:1-2, 3-4, 9-10, 11-12
Romans 14:7-9
Matthew 18:21-35

September 18 —
Twenty-Fifth Sunday in Ordinary Time
Isaiah 56:9-12
Psalms 145:2-3, 8-9, 17-18
Philippians 1:20-24, 27a
Matthew 20:11-16a

September 25 —
Twenty-Sixth Sunday in Ordinary Time
Ezekiel 18:25-28
Psalms 25:4-5, 8-9, 10, 14
Philippians 2:11-14
Matthew 21:26-32

October 2 —
Twenty-Seventh Sunday in Ordinary Time
Isaiah 51:1-7
Psalms 89:8, 12, 13-14, 15-16, 19-20
Philippines 4:6-9
Matthew 21:23-43

October 9 —
Twenty-Eighth Sunday in Ordinary Time
Isaiah 55:1-10a
Psalms 23:1-3a, 3b-4, 5, 6
Philippians 4:12-14, 19-20
Matthew 22:1-14

October 16 —
Twenty-Ninth Sunday in Ordinary Time
Isaiah 45:1-6
Psalms 96:1, 3, 4, 5, 7-8, 9-10
1 Thessalonians 1:1-5b
Matthew 22:15-21

October 23 —
Thirtieth Sunday in Ordinary Time
Ezoeus 22:20-26
Psalms 182:3-4, 3-7, 51
1 Thessalonians 1:5c-10
Matthew 23:24-30

All daily and Sunday readings, as well as a daily reflection video, are available in text or audio at: www.usccb.org/nab/

Brought to you by the Catholic Communications Campaign – please be generous.

Page 13 — September 2011

The Catholic Lighthouse
Ten years later: Pausing to reflect on the effects of 9/11

Like most Americans who experienced 9/11, I can remember the events as if they just happened. As I was leaving the rectory that day, our housekeeper motioned me to the television set. As the first of the twin towers exploded, I thought of my days as a fireman and wondered how the people on the top floors would survive.

And then the second tower got hit, and shortly later when the Pentagon was hit, I realized that the United States itself was under attack.

Across the street, the Senate Building and other senate buildings were evacuated. Not all of the people rushed off of Capitol Hill. Many came to our 12:10 p.m. Mass.

After Mass, the hill was dead silent. The police, who were a second community to me, and who more often than not acted as tour guides, went into body armor and who more often than not acted as tour guides, went into body armor and were regrouping.

Our spirit had been rocked but not broken! Because of 9/11, many innocent Amer

ican lives were lost, and, after it, countless others innocent and not so innocent around the world have been lost.

At this moment, the spirit of terror triggered by 9/11 has spawned a new wave of revenge, retaliation, reverse terrorism, heartlessness, profiling and hyper protectionism.

On this 10-year anniversary, we would do well to examine these depressing spirits in the light of our American spirit that was founded on Judeo-Christian ideals.

In 2001, we regrouped and sustained a strong spirit in the midst of a horrific catas

trophe. And today, there still exists a need to once again regroup and strengthen our spirit against those things that can tarnish, darken and make it fearsome.

The combination of the war on terrorism, tax cuts and a recession are putting new pressures on international and domestic programs that serve the poor and vulnerable. The poor abroad and in the United States must not be asked to bear a disproportional burden of the sacrifices that will have to be made in this long-term effort against terrorism.

Homeland security and migration and refugee issues. The bishops are concerned that as essential security measures are strengthened, the U.S. government is singling out immigrants and taking this opportunity to unnecessarily restrict legal immigration. Moreover, the U.S. tempo

rarily suspended and might reduce refugee admissions at a time when the need to protect refugees who flee terror in their homelands is as great as ever. Ensuring security is not necessarily incompatible with a generous immigration regime. Undermining our heritage as a nation of immigrants will weaken, not strengthen, our country. An outcome any terrorist would welcome.
Earthly affairs can wait; things of God demand action now, pope says

By Catholic News Service CASTEL GANDOLFO, Italy (CNS) — Temporal things can wait; only the things of God merit acting upon without hesitation, Pope Benedict XVI said.

“God’s words and his will are the only things “that are truly urgent for our lives,” he said.

Celebrating an early morning Mass Aug. 15, the feast of the Assumption of Mary, the pope reflected on the reading from the Gospel of Luke in which Mary visits Elizabeth “in haste” after the angel Gabriel announced to Mary God’s plan that she conceive the son of God.

Mary’s sense of haste is important, the pope said, because it shows “the only things in the world that merit haste are exactly the things of God.”

Pope Benedict celebrated the Mass in the parish Church of St. Thomas, just across the main square from the papal villa in Castel Gandolfo. Those attending the Mass in the small church included retired Hong Kong Cardinal Joseph Zen Ze-kiun and the pope’s brother, Msgr. Georg Ratzinger.

In his Mass homily, the pope said the Old Testament shows that the Ark of the Covenant in the Temple of Jerusalem was “the symbol of the presence of God among his people.”

However, “the New Testament tells us that the real Ark of the Covenant is a living concrete person – it’s the Virgin Mary,” he said.

Mary offered a new dwelling place for God by carrying Jesus in her womb, showing that God no longer lives in some static structure, but a silent retreat. Each participant will provide their own spiritual material and prayer, reflection and spiritual reading.

This retreat is an opportunity to provide their own spiritual material and structure their own day. All meals will be provided. Space is limited. Reservations required, call (361) 894-1699. Cost for the two nights/three days is $100.

The Gospel of St. Mark — Nov. 7 – 9, 2011

We are 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, reflecting on its many themes. If you think you have stress in your life, come empathize with the stress of Jesus and his disciples. All meals will be provided. Space is limited. Reservations required, call (361) 894-1699. Cost for the two nights/three days is $100.

Advent Reflections — Dec. 5 – 7, 2011

Advent is a time of hoping, waiting for preparing for the coming of the Christ child. This retreat is an opportunity to spiritually prepare ourselves for Christ’s entrance into our lives anew. The retreat will include spiritual reading, prayers, reflection and conferences. All meals will be provided. Space is limited. Reservations required, call (361) 894-1699. Cost for the two nights/three days is $100.
Chinese sculptor Lei Yixin stands in front of a 30-foot sculpture of the Rev. Martin Luther King Jr. Aug. 22 in Washington. He created the sculpture as part of a memoir in the civil rights leader on the National Mall. The memorial’s Aug. 28 dedication was postponed because of Hurricane Irene. (CNS photo/Bob Roller)

Diocese of Orange increases its bid for Crystal Cathedral

By Catholic News Service

ORANGE, Calif. — The Diocese of Orange has upped its bid to buy the Crystal Cathedral complex in Garden Grove from $50 million to $53.6 million.

Once the home church of the Rev. Robert Schuller, a noted television preacher, the cathedral property was put up for auction earlier this year as part of the Crystal Cathedral Ministries bankruptcy proceedings.

News media in California reported that a bidding war had begun, prompting the Orange Diocese to increase its offer. Other bids in the $50-million range have come from David Green, a prominent evangelical who heads the nationwide arts and crafts retailer Hobby Lobby, and Chapman University, a private liberal arts university in Orange.

Meanwhile, the board of Crystal Cathedral Ministries, or CCM, announced it has no plans to sell the property and has launched a fundraising drive to try to save it. But the creditors committee, which is part of any bankruptcy proceeding, must review the bids and present them to the bankruptcy court.

According to its Aug. 9 announcement about increasing its bid, the Orange Diocese said in goals remain the same: “to see cathedrals satisfied, adequately provide for all constituents and stakeholders, and accommodate the Diocese of Orange’s need for a new cathedral, while respecting the CCM ministry and its legacy.”

The Orange Diocese said that if it has the winning bid, the $53.6 million would be paid in cash at closing and if Crystal Cathedral Ministries wishes to stay on the site for a period of time, $3.6 million of the funds would be reserved to pay the organization’s rent for up to two years.

The diocese also would provide “alternative worship space of at least 50,000 square feet to allow CCM to continue in ministry for up to 15 years and at significantly lower cost, than the site itself would” and at significantly lower cost, than the site itself would.

“Further, the diocese would have access to a much-needed cathedral complex in a shorter time, and at significantly lower cost, than the site itself would,” the diocese added.

“My organization could buy back space equal to 90 percent of fair market value.”

The Orange Diocese asked to purchase the site for $100 million.

“True to Pope John Paul II’s vision, Archbishop Gomez said, “Let it be about us. Let it be about being obedient to the will of God.” Msgr. Walter Rossi, the basilica’s rector, welcomed the congregation and expressed sorrow at the damage to the Episcopalian cathedral. “Together we join hands, hearts and prayers to honor a great American, a champion of the civil rights movement and a man of unwavering faith,” the priest said.

Bishop John Bryson Crance of the Episcopal Diocese of Washington offered the invocation, noting that “there is still work to do, a promised land to be discovered, and hearts and minds to be changed.” The dedication of the King Memorial, which had been planned for Aug. 28, was postponed until September or October due to the approaching hurricane.

Diocese of Orange increases its bid for Crystal Cathedral

By Catholic News Service

ORANGE, Calif. — The Diocese of Orange has upped its bid to buy the Crystal Cathedral complex in Garden Grove from $50 million to $53.6 million.

Once the home church of the Rev. Robert Schuller, a noted television preacher, the cathedral property was put up for auction earlier this year as part of the Crystal Cathedral Ministries bankruptcy proceedings.

News media in California reported that a bidding war had begun, prompting the Orange Diocese to increase its offer. Other bids in the $50-million range have come from David Green, a prominent evangelical who heads the nationwide arts and crafts retailer Hobby Lobby, and Chapman University, a private liberal arts university in Orange.

Meanwhile, the board of Crystal Cathedral Ministries, or CCM, announced it has no plans to sell the property and has launched a fundraising drive to try to save it. But the creditors committee, which is part of any bankruptcy proceeding, must review the bids and present them to the bankruptcy court.

According to its Aug. 9 announcement about increasing its bid, the Orange Diocese said in goals remain the same: “to see cathedrals satisfied, adequately provide for all constituents and stakeholders, and accommodate the Diocese of Orange’s need for a new cathedral, while respecting the CCM ministry and its legacy.”

The Orange Diocese said that if it has the winning bid, the $53.6 million would be paid in cash at closing and if Crystal Cathedral Ministries wishes to stay on the site for a period of time, $3.6 million of the funds would be reserved to pay the organization’s rent for up to two years.

The diocese also would provide “alternative worship space of at least 50,000 square feet to allow CCM to continue in ministry for up to 15 years and at significantly lower cost, than the site itself would.”

“The site itself would have access to a much-needed cathedral complex in a shorter time, and at significantly lower cost, than the site itself would,” the diocese added.

“My organization could buy back space equal to 90 percent of fair market value.”

“Further, the diocese would have access to a much-needed cathedral complex in a shorter time, and at significantly lower cost, than the site itself would.”

The Orange Diocese asked to purchase the site for $100 million.

“True to Pope John Paul II’s vision, Archbishop Gomez said, “Let it be about us. Let it be about being obedient to the will of God.” Msgr. Walter Rossi, the basilica’s rector, welcomed the congregation and expressed sorrow at the damage to the Episcopalian cathedral. “Together we join hands, hearts and prayers to honor a great American, a champion of the civil rights movement and a man of unwavering faith,” the priest said. Bishop John Bryson Crance of the Episcopal Diocese of Washington offered the invocation, noting that “there is still work to do, a promised land to be discovered, and hearts and minds to be changed.” The dedication of the King Memorial, which had been planned for Aug. 28, was postponed until September or October due to the approaching hurricane.
Archbishop Issues Statement on U.S. Military Helicopter Crash in Afghanistan

WASHINGTON, D.C. — His Excellency, the Most Reverend Timothy P. Broglio, J.C.D., Archbishop of the Archdiocese for the Military Services, USA, today issued the following statement on the crash of a United States military helicopter in Afghanistan, killing 30 Americans and eight Afghans in the single deadliest loss for U.S. troops in the ten-year-old war.

"On behalf of my Auxiliary Bishops, the priests, and the faithful of the Archdiocese for the Military Services, I express my heartfelt condolences to the families and friends of the valiant members of the Armed Forces and the Afghani citizens who perished in the helicopter crash and the recent fighting in the Tangi Province of Afghanistan. It is a reminder of the terrible tragedy of war and its toll on all people. No person of good will is left unmoved by this loss."

"We pray for the repose of their souls and the consolation of their families, we also raise our hearts and minds to Almighty God and beg for the elusive gift of peace on earth and harmony among all people."

As the nation’s only Catholic archdiocese without geographical boundaries, the Archdiocese for the Military Services, USA, has active military priests and chaplains stationed throughout the country and around the world. “Their mission is to meet the spiritual and sacramental needs of 1.5 million Catholics in the U.S. Armed Forces, their families, Catholics in VA Medical Centers, and U.S. Government civilians overseas."

We believe that we had seen everything. However, what happened today surprised us,” said Cardinal Francisco Robles Ortega of Monterrey in a message issued late Aug. 25. “Hopefully our authorities surprise us with a definite solution to this serious scourge. We join in prayer for those who lost their lives, for their families and so that peace is restored,” the cardinal said. A statement released late Aug. 23 by the Archdiocese of Mexico City labeled the attacks as “cowardly and abominable,” and said the deaths “add to the innumerable victims of the cruelty and evil of organized crime.”"
### Social Hostilities Regarding Religion

Nearly half of the world’s population lives in countries where social hostilities involving religion range as high or very high. Percent of population and severity of social hostility:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Category</th>
<th>Percentage</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>High</td>
<td>48%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Moderate</td>
<td>35%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Low</td>
<td>18%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

### Role for world’s religions seen in peacebuilding, solving conflicts

By Sara Angele<br><br>Catholic News Service<br><br>WASHINGTON (CNS)—Few would argue against the notion that to solve conflict created by religious intolerance, prejudice and discrimination, it is essential to understand how religion motivates believers and shapes their worldviews, that respecting all religions is not enough. While religion can be a cause of conflict, it carries political leverage that many say makes it a source for solutions and a tool for peace building.

“We are giving a whole government effort to put religion on the table,” said the Rev. Suzan Johnson Cook, the new president and founder of the International Center for Religion and Diplomacy and the use of religion to reframe conflict and urging religious freedom.

Her comments came in response to Johnston’s work, “The State Department is not constructed to address issues of religion,” who addressed the symptoms, but we need to address the cause.”

Johnston said in his book that there is nothing more strategic “on or off the battlefield” than religion.

Johnston agreed, saying the department “is not constructed to be the persuasive impact of religion.”

Glassman said, “We need to take the tools of public diplomacy as seriously as we take the tools of violence” and “engage the persuasive impact of religion.”

She described Johnston’s approach as “an avenue to diplomacy,” one that addresses “the ideas behind the guns.”

Meese said religious believers are often excluded as a solution to political issues because there is a misunderstanding of what the concept of “separation of church and state” means.

Catholic News Service

---

### You Can Help with Your Excellency.

The Holy Father has asked me to acknowledge the offering of $10,000 which you sent through the Apostolic Nunciature in the U.S. to support the Holy See. This generosity is for the support of the Holy See, and it is greatly appreciated. The Holy Father is grateful for the donation and for the devoted sentiments that inspired it. He very much appreciates the support which you and your people have given to him and to his service to the universal Church. He is pleased to assure you of the Holy Father’s prayers for you and for those entrusted to your pastoral care. Invoking upon you and upon all your community the blessing of the living God, he prays that you may continue to be a source of light and a beacon of hope in this world.

[Thank You Letters]

---

### Victoria’s Own

**Sings Your Favorites From the 50’s and 60’s Including Many of Elvis’ Hits!**

**Relieve those Days of Old with those Golden Oldies**

To hear a sampling go to: [www.goodolesongs.com](http://www.goodolesongs.com)

For availability & pricing call: 361-550-7913

---

### Thank You Letters

**Your Excellency,**

The Holy Father has asked me to acknowledge the offering of $10,000 which you sent through the Apostolic Nunciature as a contribution from the Diocese of Victoria for the support of the Holy See. This generosity is for the support of the Holy See, and it is greatly appreciated. The Holy Father is grateful for the donation and for the devoted sentiments that inspired it. He very much appreciates the support which you and your people have given to him and to his service to the universal Church. He is pleased to assure you of the Holy Father’s prayers for you and for those entrusted to your pastoral care. Invoking upon all of you joy and peace in our Lord Jesus Christ, he cordially imparts his Apostolic Blessings.

With personal good wishes, I am Yours sincerely in Christ

Tarcisio Cardinal Bertone
Secretary of State (Vatican)
**Plates-to-go available and hamburgers available after 4:00 p.m.**

The auction begins at 1:00 p.m. Fire dance under pavilion after auction with music by DJ Val. Plates-to-go available and hamburgers after 4:00 p.m.

---

**Plates-to-go available and hamburgers available after 4:00 p.m.**

The auction begins at 1:00 p.m. Fire dance under pavilion after auction with music by DJ Val. Plates-to-go available and hamburgers after 4:00 p.m.

---

**Plates-to-go available and hamburgers available after 4:00 p.m.**

The auction begins at 1:00 p.m. Fire dance under pavilion after auction with music by DJ Val. Plates-to-go available and hamburgers after 4:00 p.m.

---

**Plates-to-go available and hamburgers available after 4:00 p.m.**

The auction begins at 1:00 p.m. Fire dance under pavilion after auction with music by DJ Val. Plates-to-go available and hamburgers after 4:00 p.m.

---

**Plates-to-go available and hamburgers available after 4:00 p.m.**

The auction begins at 1:00 p.m. Fire dance under pavilion after auction with music by DJ Val. Plates-to-go available and hamburgers after 4:00 p.m.

---

**Plates-to-go available and hamburgers available after 4:00 p.m.**

The auction begins at 1:00 p.m. Fire dance under pavilion after auction with music by DJ Val. Plates-to-go available and hamburgers after 4:00 p.m.

---

**Plates-to-go available and hamburgers available after 4:00 p.m.**

The auction begins at 1:00 p.m. Fire dance under pavilion after auction with music by DJ Val. Plates-to-go available and hamburgers after 4:00 p.m.
This year there will be 37 workshops on a variety of topics for adult Catholics. For a full description of the workshops and biographical information on the presenters, visit www.victoriadiocese.org. This diocesan event offers an opportunity for all Catholics to attend workshops on pertinent topics offered by local and national presenters.

Otto Bleier and the Knights of Columbus will provide breakfast and lunch at very affordable prices. Catholic publishers and vendors will exhibit their products and offer advice on a variety of catechetical materials.

Otto Bleier and the Knights of Columbus will provide breakfast and lunch at very affordable prices. Catholic publishers and vendors will exhibit their products and offer advice on a variety of catechetical materials.

Otto Bleier and the Knights of Columbus will provide breakfast and lunch at very affordable prices. Catholic publishers and vendors will exhibit their products and offer advice on a variety of catechetical materials.

Otto Bleier and the Knights of Columbus will provide breakfast and lunch at very affordable prices. Catholic publishers and vendors will exhibit their products and offer advice on a variety of catechetical materials.

Otto Bleier and the Knights of Columbus will provide breakfast and lunch at very affordable prices. Catholic publishers and vendors will exhibit their products and offer advice on a variety of catechetical materials.

Otto Bleier and the Knights of Columbus will provide breakfast and lunch at very affordable prices. Catholic publishers and vendors will exhibit their products and offer advice on a variety of catechetical materials.

Otto Bleier and the Knights of Columbus will provide breakfast and lunch at very affordable prices. Catholic publishers and vendors will exhibit their products and offer advice on a variety of catechetical materials.

Otto Bleier and the Knights of Columbus will provide breakfast and lunch at very affordable prices. Catholic publishers and vendors will exhibit their products and offer advice on a variety of catechetical materials.

Otto Bleier and the Knights of Columbus will provide breakfast and lunch at very affordable prices. Catholic publishers and vendors will exhibit their products and offer advice on a variety of catechetical materials.

Otto Bleier and the Knights of Columbus will provide breakfast and lunch at very affordable prices. Catholic publishers and vendors will exhibit their products and offer advice on a variety of catechetical materials.