

The Catholic Lighthouse

The Cradle of Texas Immigration



VOL. 19, NO. 12

OFFICIAL PUBLICATION OF THE DIOCESE OF VICTORIA IN TEXAS

April 2006

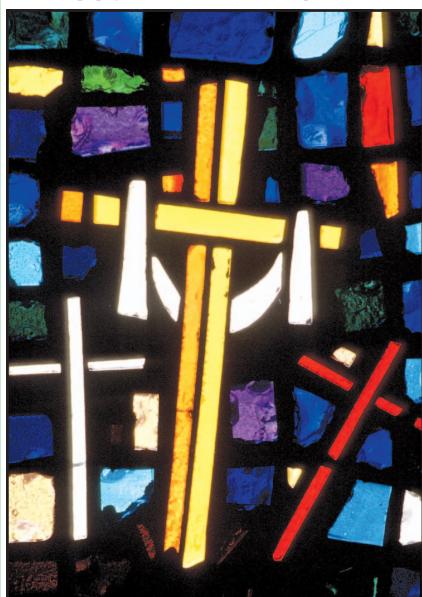
In Brief

And The Winner Is ...



Mr. Joe Gentry from Yorktown is the winner of the 2006 Toyota Tacoma pickup which was the prize for a diocesan fund-raiser. The story of the K of C Golf Tournament and drawing will appear in the May issue of *The Catholic Lighthouse*.

Happy Easter — April 16



CNS photo/Crosiers

Easter cross is depicted in church window.



Scene from new A&E reality series *God or the Girl*
Steve Horvath is one of four Catholic men with a calling to the priesthood.

See pg. 18

Msgr. Benton Thurmond celebrates 60 years of priesthood

By Cindy Brewer

Well-wishers from throughout the diocese came to Inez Saturday, March 18, 2006, to celebrate Msgr. Benton Thurmond's 60th anniversary of priesthood. The celebration, which included Mass and a dinner reception, was held at the community center in Inez, the community in which Msgr. Thurmond was born and raised.

Msgr. Thurmond, the oldest of seven children, was actually born in what is now the rectory at St. Joseph Parish, the last parish of his priestly assignment. His parents, Benton Sr. and Rose Thurmond, were caretakers of St. Joseph Parish and lived in the house that was to become the rectory, according to friend and parishioner Mary Hodgkinson.

He was born March 27, 1921. Unknowingly, he began preparing for the priestly ministry by assisting priests as server and gate opener for priest's journeys to parishioners' homes. At the age of 14, in 1935, he began attending St. John's Seminary in San Antonio. He graduated from high school at St. John's and continued his college and seminary there, being ordained on March 19, 1946.

He served in several parishes within the Archdiocese of San Antonio. He was serving at St. John, St. John and its mis-

sion parish Ascension in Moravia, outside of Schulenburg, from 1972 to 1984, when the Diocese of Victoria came into being. He was incardinated

Joseph in Inez from which he retired on August 1, 2003.



Bishop David E. Fellhauer congratulates Msgr. Thurmond on his 60th anniversary. Priests and friends, Msgr. Arnold Anders, Father John Peters, and Father Tim Kosler, offer Msgr. Thurmond the sign of peace during his anniversary Mass.

into the Diocese of Victoria in 1983. From 1984 to 1989 he served at St. Philip in El Campo, Holy Family in Wharton from 1989 to 1990, and was then moved to St.

Bishop David E. Fellhauer presided over the Mass of Thanksgiving, which was concelebrated by 11 priests from the diocese including Msgr. Thurmond. Sister Barbara Bacak, St. Joseph's pastoral care delegate, was the lector and cantor at the Mass.

In his homily, Bishop Fellhauer said he chose the Lenten weekday readings for the Mass, which included the parable of the Prodigal Son, because of its ideas of mercy and compassion in seeking out people.

"One of the greatest characteristics of Msgr. Thurmond's priesthood was that he always went out seeking people. He has always been very zealous, among other things ... bringing people to the church, finding people who were in need and wanted to get back and find God," the bishop said.

Master of Ceremonies Mark Maraggia with the Knights of Columbus of Inez opened the dinner and toast/roast of Msgr. Thurmond by thanking him for his dedication of 60 years of religious vocation,

See Msgr. Benton Thurmond, p. 9

Bishop Grahmann comes home to celebrate triple jubilee

By Charles Grafe

Hallettsville Tribune Staff Writer

Hallettsville's native son returned home Sunday to celebrate his Triple Jubilee at Sacred Heart Church with a Mass and reception.

Bishop Charles V. Grahmann was welcomed by a full house at the 10:30 Mass.

"We welcome home our native son," said Sacred Heart pastor, Rev. John Peters. "We are proud to have him come home and celebrate with us."

During the homily Sunday, Bishop David Fellhauer said Bishop Grahmann was "the first shepherd of the Victoria Diocese and he shepherded it well. He was a good and visionary shepherd who has proclaimed God's word and commandments."

Bishop Grahmann was ordained March 17, 1956, at San Fernando Cathedral in San Antonio. He returned to San Antonio Friday March 17, 2006, to say Mass.

He said his first Mass at his home parish, the old Sacred Heart Church, on March 18, 1956.

After the Mass Sunday, several hundred people gathered at the KC Hall for a reception honoring Bishop Grahmann.

"It is hard to believe that 50 years has passed," Bishop Grahmann said. "But it

has been a great 50 years. Along the way, I have met some very wonderful people.

"I thank you for coming today. This community gave me life and I have great respect for it."

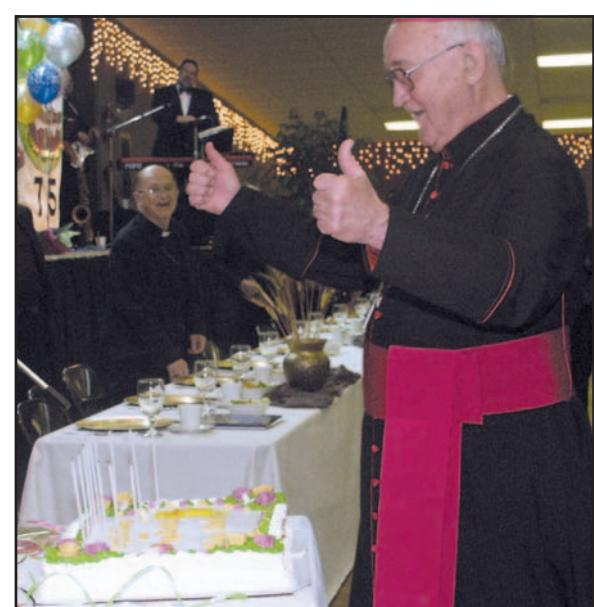
Sacred Heart Catholic School principal David Smolik presented Bishop Grahmann with a school baseball cap and shirt.

"Congratulations — we are very proud that you are an alumnus of Sacred Heart School," Mr. Smolik said. "We are proud of you and your accomplishments."

Hallettsville city council member Alice Jo Summers read a proclamation honoring Bishop Grahmann.

John Barton, president of the Pastoral Advisory Council, presented Bishop Grahmann with a plaque. "We are very honored to be celebrating with you here today," Barton said.

Sister Emily Eilers, representing the Incarnate Word and Blessed Sacrament sisters, reminisced about the time Bishop Grahmann spent in San



Bishop Charles Grahmann blows out all of his candles on his birthday cake at the reception held at the Knights of Columbus Hall in Hallettsville.



Bishop Fellhauer's Schedule

April	
9	9:00 a.m., Palm Sunday of the Lord's Passion, Our Lady of Victory Cathedral
11	10:00 a.m., Chrism Mass, Our Lady of Victory Cathedral
13	6:30 p.m., Mass of the Lord's Supper, Our Lady of Victory Cathedral
15	8:00 p.m., Easter Vigil, Our Lady of Victory Cathedral
19	11:30 a.m., Mass, DSA Volunteers Appreciation Luncheon, Chancery
	6:00 p.m., Confirmation Mass, St. Mary Church, Nada
20	7:00 p.m., Confirmation Mass, St. Robert Bellarmine Church, El Campo
21	7:00 p.m., Confirmation Mass, Our Lady of Mount Carmel Church, Wharton
22	3:00 p.m., Mass, 50th Wedding Anniversary of Deacon Alonzo and Mary Calzada, Our Lady of the Gulf Church, Port Lavaca
	6:00 p.m., Confirmation Mass, St. Anthony Church, Palacios
23	10:30 a.m., Confirmation Mass, Sacred Heart Church, Hallettsville
	5:00 p.m., Confirmation Mass, Our Lady of the Gulf Church, Port Lavaca
26	7:00 p.m., Confirmation Mass, St. Anthony Church, Columbus
27	6:30 p.m., Mother Seton Awards Banquet, Knights of Columbus Hall, Shiner
28	7:00 p.m., Confirmation Mass, Our Lady of Guadalupe Church, Bay City
29	11:15 a.m., Mass, Diocesan Council of Catholic Women, Sts. Peter and Paul Church, Meyersville
	5:00 p.m., Confirmation Mass, St. Mary Church, Victoria
30	7:30 a.m., Confirmation Mass, Our Lady of Lourdes Church, Victoria
	2:30 p.m., Confirmation Mass, Our Lady of Victory Cathedral
May	
1	6:00 p.m., Confirmation Mass, St. Rose of Lima Church, Schulenburg
3	10:00 a.m., Presbyteral Council meeting, Chancery Office
	7:00 p.m., Confirmation Mass, St. John Church, New Taiton
4	7:00 p.m., Eighth Grade Religion Awards, Our Lady of Victory Cathedral
6	5:00 p.m., Confirmation Mass, St. Joseph Church, Yoakum
7	10:15 a.m., Confirmation Mass, Sts. Peter and Paul Church, Meyersville
	2:00 p.m., Confirmation Mass, Holy Family Church, Victoria
10	7:00 p.m., Confirmation Mass, St. Agnes Church, Edna
13	6:00 p.m., Confirmation Mass, St. Patrick Church, Bloomington

NOTIFICATION

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In the unlikely event your check (payment) is returned unpaid, we may elect to electronically (or by paper draft) re-present your check (payment) up to two more times.

The Catholic Lighthouse
The Chalice of Jesus Incorporated

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DEADLINE IS THE THIRD TUESDAY OF THE PRECEDING MONTH.

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Thank You Letter

Your Excellency,

On behalf of Cardinal Rigali, the Chairman of the Ad Hoc Committee to Aid the Catholic Church in Central and Eastern Europe, I wish to thank you and the people of the Diocese of Victoria for your most generous gift of \$25,882.75 to support the work of the Catholic Church in Central and Eastern Europe.

Your gift is a sign of solidarity and hope for a people who have endured so much and who have held steadfast in the faith. Our office assists Catholics in twenty-seven countries. The Church there is growing and vibrant, but still in great need.

We chose the theme of hope as a highlight of our collection in 2006. From my vantage point I see the deep faith, hope, and love of the Catholics of Eastern Europe as a tremendous inspiration for the Church around the whole world. Hope does indeed inspire hope. Gifts such as that of your diocese provide a tremendous boost.

Thank you once again for your kind and thoughtful concern. I wish you all God's blessings.

Sincerely yours,
Rev. James M. McCann, S.J.,
Executive Director
Office to Aid the Catholic Church in
Central and Eastern Europe

Dear Bishop Fellhauer:

With sincere gratitude I wish to acknowledge receipt of the check in the amount of \$27,781.17, representing the

Peter's Pence contribution from the Church in Victoria for 2005, which you had forwarded this past week to the Apostolic Nunciature.

As I assure you that this sum will be duly transmitted to the Secretariat of State on your behalf, permit me to offer an initial word of appreciation in the name of the Holy Father for this valuable assistance. In addition to sharing in the material responsibilities facing Pope Benedict XVI, this expression of generosity by your people reveals their deep awareness of the bonds of faith, worship, and love which they share with the Universal Church and God's people, especially the poor, throughout the world.

May God, who is infinitely generous, reward you and continue to bless you and the faithful under your pastoral care.

With warm regards, I am

Sincerely yours in Christ,
Archbishop Pietro Sambi,
Apostolic Nuncio

Dear Msgr. McLaughlin,

Thank you for the check in the amount of \$20,795.73 for the General Fund of The Society for the Propagation of the Faith for 2005 from the people of Victoria.

Asking God to continue to bless you in your mission endeavors, I remain

Fraternally in the Lord,
Rev. Msgr. John E. Kozar
National Director
Pontifical Mission Societies
in the United States

Sister Elizabeth Riebschlaeger's mother dies

Evelyn Klecka Riebschlaeger was born in the Czech community of Granger on July 3, 1912 to Louis J. and Albina Spacek Klecka, the oldest of three children. Theodore Arthur and Aloisia (Loyce) Marie were her beloved siblings. She attended Sts. Cyril and Methodius Catholic and Granger Public schools. After Albina died in the 1918 flu epidemic, Louis married Stella Vasicek Klecka. They had a daughter, Doris Mae Klecka. In 1924, he opened a new drugstore in Cuero.

In 1929, Evelyn began studies at Incarnate Word College in San Antonio and UT. In 1933, Evelyn met a handsome young pharmacist at a dance who later came to work for her father. September, Rip and Evelyn were engaged. Her father died unexpectedly on March 19, 1934. Rip and Evelyn were married quietly on May 22, 1934, in St. Michael's Church. After their honeymoon they took over responsibility for running the drugstore as partners and Evelyn taught school in Stratton.

In 1936, Elizabeth Josephine "Bette Jo" (now Sister Elizabeth of the Sisters of Charity of the Incarnate Word) and in 1939 Mary Katherine "Kaye" were born.

During her married life Evelyn served as Grand Regent of the Catholic Daughters of America three times, volunteered with the Mothers' Club of St. Michael's School and the Band Parents of Cuero High School Band, was a Charter Member of the Pilot Club of Cuero, member of the Republican Party for Dewitt County, and of the Republic Women of Texas from whom she received an award at a State Convention for her outstanding work. She loved attending Catholic Daughters and Pilot Club conventions with her friends, and her cheerful leadership as well as her many talents spent in service with her dear friends in all these organizations were a joy for her. Evelyn's priority was always

**Have
You
Moved?**

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

Diocese of Victoria
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P. O. Box 4070
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janakr@victoriadiocese.org



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.

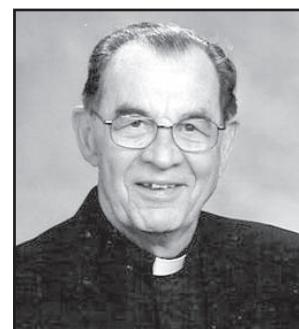
As of March 22, 2006		TOTALS
— Knights of Columbus Council 2480	Yorktown Burse	
In memory of Deacon Gene Warzecha by K of C Council 2480		\$25.00
	Total	\$25.00
— Catholic Daughters of America Court Our Lady Queen of Peace 1374 Burse		
Previously reported		\$2,757.72
In memory of Francis Lutringer by Carl and Dolores Priesmeyer		20.00
	Total	\$2,777.72
— Nicholas and Annie Grahmann Burse No. 2		
Previously reported		\$2,474.56
In memory of Nicholas and Annie Grahmann by Most Rev. Charles Grahmann		2,000.00
In honor of Most Rev. Charles Grahmann's ordination anniversary and birthday celebration by Joana Bochat		25.00
In honor of Most Rev. Charles Grahmann's triple jubilee by M/M Robert Bochat		50.00
	Total	\$4,549.56
— Catholic Daughters of America Court of St. Ann 369 Burse No. 2		
Previously reported		\$4,045.00
Annual donation by CDA Court St. Ann 369		500.00
	Total	\$4,545.00
— Catholic Life Insurance Victoria Branch No. 51— Rev. Msgr. Eustace Hermes and Rev. Msgr. Gino Bernasconi Burse		
Previously reported		\$14,840.47
In memory of Rev. Msgr. Gino Bernasconi by Marcus & Lillie Janak		50.00
In memory of Rev. Msgr. Gino Bernasconi by Deacon and Mrs. Dick Wearden		100.00
	Total	\$14,990.47
— Rev. Msgr. Michael O'Shaughnessy Burse		
Previously reported		\$7,194.50
In honor of Rev. Msgr. Michael O'Shaughnessy by David H. Watson		100.00
	Total	\$7,294.50
— St. Mary Church – Praha Burse		
Previously reported		\$3,060.00
Gift from St. Mary Church – Praha		1,000.00
	Total	\$4,060.00

Rev. Msgr. Emil J. Wesselsky of Shiner celebrates 50th anniversary

San Antonio—Seventy-five years ago a son was born to Emil J. Wesselsky Sr. and Pauline Klos on Nov. 11, 1930, in Shiner, Texas. He was baptized Emil J. Wesselsky in the parish church of Sts. Cyril and Methodius. It was there that he received the sacraments of Holy Eucharist, penance, and confirmation.

After graduation from St. Ludmila's Academy in Shiner and a year at Baylor University in Waco, Texas, he felt the "Call from Christ" to enter St. John's Seminary in San Antonio.

Because of a "shortage of priests" in 1956, Archbishop Robert E. Lucey decided to ordain the five seminarians on March 17 in San Fernando Cathedral so



that they could help minister in parishes during Holy Week. The other classmates were Louis Fritz, Charles V. Grahmann, Alton Rudolph, and John W. Yanta. In Ireland, auxiliary Bishop Thomas Flanagan, Monsignor Thomas C. McLaughlin, Monsignor Patrick Flanagan, and Father Peter Higgins were also ordained for the Archdiocese of San Antonio in June.

Father Wesselsky celebrated his first High Mass in his home parish. Msgr. Roy Rihn, the vocation director of the archdiocese, preached the sermon. Msgr. Wesselsky was honored to have him preach the Golden Jubilee homily at his Thanksgiving Mass at St. Henry's Parish on March 19, 2006.



SERRA CLUB INDUCTS NEW MEMBERS—The Serra Club of Victoria recently inducted five new members at their regular meeting. New members (from l.-r.) are Joe Zapata, Bill Spellacy, Jennifer Houston, Diane and Stephen Griffin. Also pictured (l.-r. from center front) are Dr. Mary Finehout, membership chairman; Msgr. Eustace Hermes, club chaplain, Tim Michalski, club president, and Joe Jakubik, district governor.

A word of thanks....

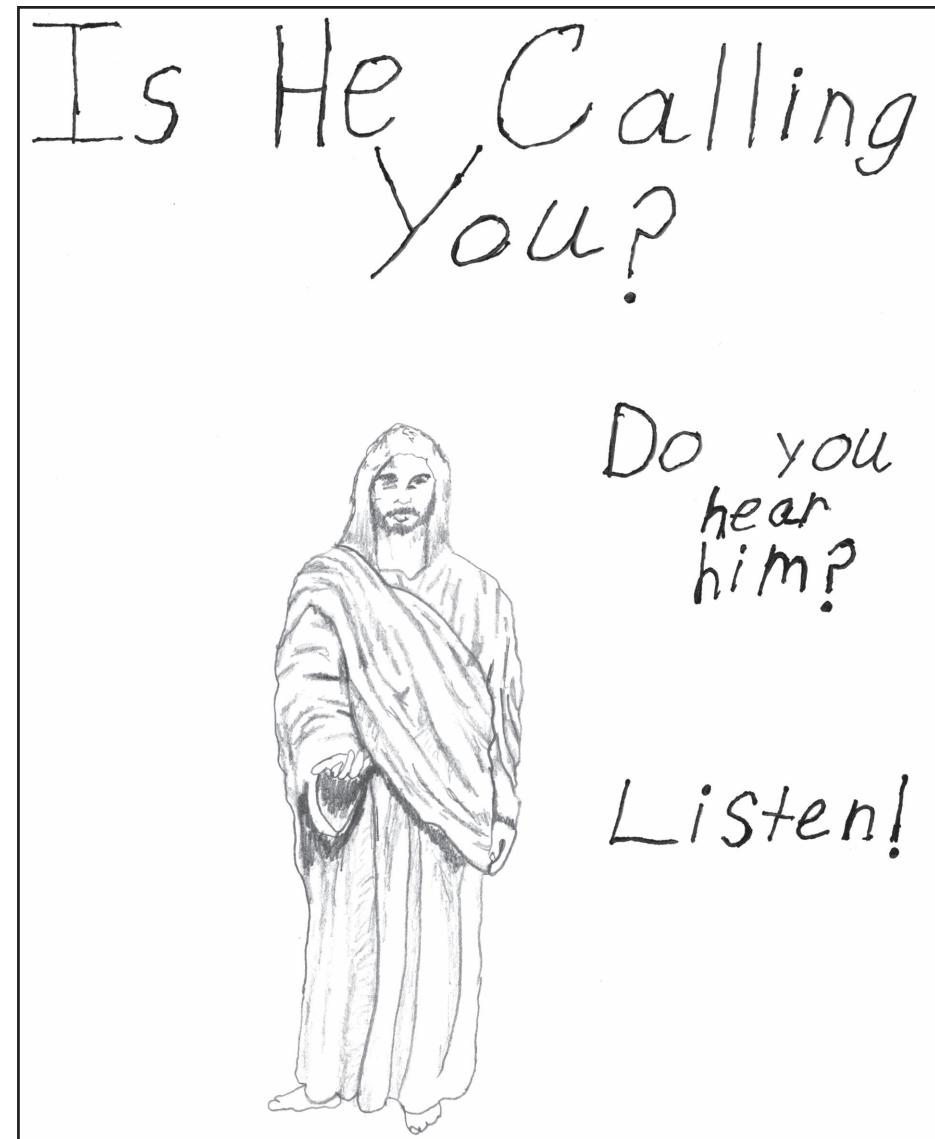
I would like to thank the people throughout the diocese for their support and prayers during my recent illness. About a month ago, I was forced to return prematurely from my missionary work in Guatemala because I fell ill. On Ash Wednesday, March 1, 2006, doctors at Methodist Hospital in Houston removed a 25 pound malignant tumor which encased my right kidney. The kidney was also removed.

I have received calls, e-mails, visits, spiritual bouquets, and sympathy cards from people not only in my parishes but throughout the diocese. I consider myself very lucky to have the support of so many caring people. I especially thank the

bishop and the priests who have offered Masses for my speedy recovery and the people who have requested those Masses.

With each passing day, the pain lessens and my strength seems to be returning. For any discomfort I have experienced I have offered it up for vocations to the priesthood and religious life. My prayer is the same as so many others... . May the Lord move the hearts of young men and women to follow him into the service of the Church.

Yours in Christ,
Fr. Dan Morales, pastor
Our Lady of the Gulf Catholic Church
Port Lavaca, TX



Vocation Art

Artwork by Brady Sitka • Grade 5 • Sacred Heart School, Hallettsville

Consider the Religious Life!

Office of Vocations • Diocese of Victoria in Texas • P.O. Box 4070 • Victoria, Texas 77903 • (361) 573-0828; vocations@victoriadiocese.org or Incarnate Word Convent at (361) 575-7300; iwbsvoc@yahoo.com

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.

Reporting Abuse

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

- Call the chancery at (361) 573-0828 and ask to speak with the bishop or the chancellor;
- or
- Call Rev. Gary Janak (979) 543-3770 or Sr. Emilie Eilers (361) 575-7111, Coordinators of Pastoral Care and Outreach;
- or
- Write to: Most Rev. David E. Fellhauer
Diocese of Victoria
P.O. Box 4070
Victoria, TX 77903
Mark your letter "Personal and Confidential"

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

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



Looking Around

By Father William J. Byron, SJ
Catholic News Service



The challenge of empty pews

Scranton, Pa., is one of my favorite cities. I spent nine years of my Jesuit life there, teaching for two years at Scranton Prep and later serving for seven as president of the Jesuit-run University of Scranton.

Long known as the Friendly City, Scranton is also a very Catholic town. It came, therefore, as a bit of a surprise to see a recent front-page story in the Scranton Times-Tribune with the photo caption "Empty Pews at the Cathedral." The headline read: "Study: Mass Attendance 36 Percent."

"Like Catholic dioceses across the country, the Diocese of Scranton grapples with thinning ranks of priests and shifting populations," the newspaper said. "It now has another common trend to contend with: empty pews."

The news report drew from a published survey conducted locally but consistent with national data that show about one in three Catholics attending Mass weekly, although about two-thirds report monthly attendance. The time-honored "Sunday obligation" appears to be losing its hold on practicing Catholics, who, nonetheless, regard themselves as faithful, committed and loyal.

Although many adult Catholics would admit they could use a theological "tune-up," few would acknowledge that they have an inadequate understanding of their Sunday obligation's deeper meaning. They wouldn't acknowledge it, I suspect, because they rarely think about it.

The obligation is not simply to be in sacred space for an hour every Sunday. It is to give praise and thanks to God for the gift of redemption won through Christ's sacrifice, a sacrifice made present again on the altar at every Mass. "Were you there when they crucified your, Lord?" asks the memorable and haunting words of the old Negro spiritual. You should be there — at Mass on Sunday — in order to show your gratitude for that gift, says the teaching church to Catholics. Saying you simply

must be there "or else" is not a helpful way of explaining the theology of the Sunday obligation.

"Much obliged" is old American vernacular for saying thank you. The obligation for Catholics is not only to express gratitude, but to do so with others — a community of the faithful, a segment of the people of God — in a sacred, sacramental ritual that literally says thanks, does thanks, and gives thanks.

Why in a worshipping community? Why not alone? Because we were redeemed as a people, as a community, and are obliged to share with and care about the others with whom we form the "one body" of Christ.

In my view, the virus of individualism dulls the desire to be with others at Mass on Sunday. And the misapplied precept to "keep holy the Sabbath" tends to confuse, not clarify, the Sunday obligation. The Sabbath is the week's seventh day. Sunday is the first day, Resurrection Day, a day of celebration and remembrance.

Instead of viewing themselves as a Sunday people, a thankful, celebrating, remembering people, Catholics of an earlier era focused on avoidance of "servile work" on the day they mistakenly thought of as "the Sabbath." They were attentive to their duty, as individuals, to assemble for a fixed block of time but without much connection to others in the assembly.

It is now time to connect the dots that represent isolated worshippers in otherwise empty pews. The church faces a formidable pastoral challenge of summoning believers out of their isolation and forming them into worshipping communities.

Stronger homilies, better music, more attractive art and architecture, along with a recaptured sense of gratitude can, by God's grace, fill empty pews with willing worshippers.

To see how one parish increased its Mass attendance, see Evangelization story, p. 14.

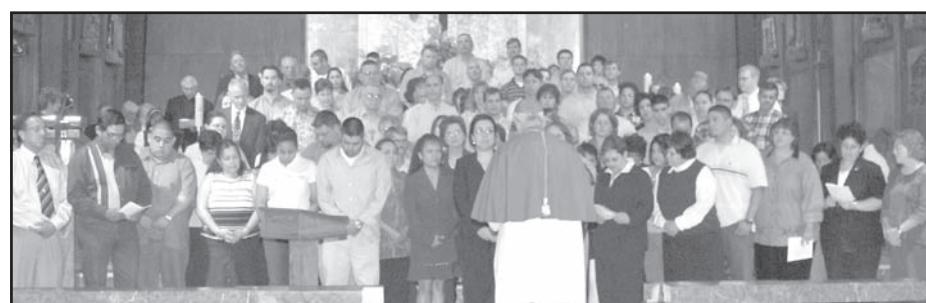
ALTAR SOCIETY RETREAT HELD—

Holy Family Catholic Church in Victoria held its fourth annual Altar Society retreat Saturday, Feb. 11, 2006, focusing on the theme of social justice. The retreat began with morning Mass celebrated by the retreat master, Father Bob Knippenberg, pastor of Sts. Cyril and Methodius in Shiner. Following Mass, the 80 women present from various Victoria parishes broke into groups with which they shared and studied a Bible verse. Father Bob then spoke on the fact that "justice is that which everyone is owed because we are made in the image and likeness of God." He encouraged the ladies to read and reflect on the encyclicals pertaining to social justice especially during the Lenten season. The retreat ended with a noon lunch of soup and sandwiches. Pictured are the retreat chairmen, Jo Ann Jalufka (l.) and Marjorie Tasin (r.) and Father Bob Knippenberg.



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

Reporting Child Abuse • Hotline 1-800-252-5400



Candidates and their sponsors with the bishop; candidates will enter the fullness of faith this Easter.

Catechumens and Candidates to enter church this Easter

By Cindy Brewer

The Rite of Election and Call to Continuing Conversion was celebrated on the first Sunday of Lent, March 5, at Our Lady



Catechumens will enter the Catholic Christian faith on Easter, pictured are catechumens and their godparents.

of Victory Cathedral with Bishop David E. Fellhauer presiding.

Thirty-three catechumens and 63 candidates were presented to Bishop Fellhauer and affirmed by their sponsors and the

present Catholic assembly. Following the rite, participants were invited to tour the chancery building.

Catechumens are those who wish to become Christians and enter the church. They will receive the three rites of initiation — baptism, confirmation, and the Eucharist — on Easter Vigil. Candidates are those who have been baptized into the Christian faith, but are awaiting acceptance into the fullness of the faith by receiving confirmation and the Eucharist on Holy Saturday evening (Easter Vigil).

A special thanks goes to those who assisted in the rite: Father Ty Bazar, master of ceremonies; Cynthia Goerig, organist; Janice Cox, cantor; Jo

Ann Martinez, secretary; Sister Digna Vela, IWBS, coordinator of the chancery reception; chancery staff, tour guides; and Our Lady of Sorrows CDA Court 2273, reception hosts.



KJT SUPPORTS PRIEST AND RELIGIOUS RETIREMENT FUND—Pictured is Margaret Hanslik, state director of the Catholic Union of Texas, the KJT, presenting a check to Bishop David E. Fellhauer in the amount of \$7,420.43 for the Priest and Religious Retirement Fund for the Diocese of Victoria. The KJT societies that contributed to this fund raising effort are located in Praha, Hostyn, Ammannsville, Hallettsville,

Dubina, Yoakum, Smothers Creek, Shiner, St. John, Nada, Moulton, East Bernard, Holman, Wied, Hillje, Weimar, Hungerford, El Campo, Victoria, Schulenburg, and Bay City. The Priest and Religious Retirement Fund is the annual charity project of the KJT and over \$28,000 will be given to the various dioceses in Texas where KJT societies are located.



Diocese of Victoria Library & Media Center



Book of the Month

Can You Drink The Cup? by Henri Nouwen. This question, one that Jesus asked his friends James and John, has the "power to crack open the hardened heart..." explains Nouwen. Using the cup as a metaphor, he reflects on three images — holding, lifting, and drinking to articulate basics of the spiritual life.

Other Books

- *Reaching Out: The Three Movements of the Spiritual Life*
- *Making All Things New: An Invitation to the Spiritual Life*
- *Life of the Beloved: Spiritual Living in a Secular World*
- *Here and Now: Living in the Spirit*

Video of the Month

Molokai - The Story of Father Damien This story is about the giving of self totally — even at the cost of one's own life. Father Damien is an example of one who relentlessly gave of himself and served the lepers who had been exiled to the barren island of Molokai in Hawaii. Approximately 1 hour and 50 minutes in length.

Other Videos

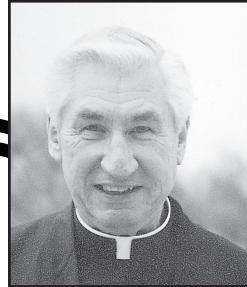
- Cigar Box Ray — He gave up all he had for the people...even his life!
- Journey of the Heart: The Life of Henri Nouwen
- Moving On - Responding in the Spirit
- The Fifth Gospel: The Land and Sea of Galilee

The Library and Media Center is open to all persons in the Diocese of Victoria. It houses over 5,000 books and 1,400 videos. Office hours are 8:30 a.m. - 4:30 p.m., Monday - Friday, or visit us on line at www.victoriadiocese.org



Faith Point

By Rev. Msgr. James C. Brunner
Vicar General, Diocese of Victoria
For past articles: www.stmaryvic.com/desk.htm



Toppling Dominos

Standing dominos on end and toppling them fascinates many people. On one day more than 4 million were toppled in the Netherlands. The phenomenon is a good visual for philosophical principles. Once a principle is set in motion it begins a process much like the toppling dominos. If the line of dominos extends for miles it may not be possible to see where the path leads without walking to the end. Often people do not see the ultimate outcome of a principle or its rejection because they concentrate on what is immediately before them and do not explore the consequences flowing from the principle.

This is certainly the case with the principles undergirding marriage. For millennia most societies have coupled sexual activity with children and marriage. The coupling is reasonable inasmuch as sexual activity over time normally results in the conception of children and, since children need parenting for many years following birth, marriage affords the children the benefit of being reared by their biological parents. Experience and research show that that is the best possible situation for children. That is why the family has been the foundational social block of all known societies.

The notion that marriage is for producing and rearing children resulted in other principles. Fornication or premarital sex was generally condemned because, although it produced children (probably more than the practitioners wanted) casual sex contacts did not necessarily involve a lifetime commitment of the parents to raise the children. Marriage brought on condemnation of adultery, sexual activity by a married person with someone other than his or her legitimate spouse, because adultery undermined marriage and produced single-parent families with their attendant social pathology.

It was understood that the sex act was joined to the production of children not in the sense that every sex act resulted in the conception of a child but since many of them did sex was to be avoided until there was a support system in place for the rearing of children. That is why sex acts were never regarded as merely pleasurable activity undertaken for mere gratification. Sex was a way of expressing love but its foundational purpose was the production of new members of the human race.

The sexual discipline in the Bible also presupposed that the purpose of sexual activity was children and not merely enjoyment of the participants because it condemns activities that are pleasurable but separated from children and marriage. The Bible condemns homosexuality in Lev. 18:22, adultery in Exod. 20:14, fornication, adultery, prostitution, and homosexuality in I Cor. 6:9-10.

If sex were a mere plaything as modern secularists maintain, these prohibitions would make no sense because all of them are pleasurable. Secularists believe that the desire for sexual sensations is sufficient justification to engage in sexual acts. These acts may be accompanied by com-

mitment between the participants but they believe that there is no reason that they must be.

Contraception practiced to avoid the burden of children broke the nexus between children and sex. Sex can have two basic purposes: procreation and recreation. In contraception, procreation is avoided as far as possible and the purpose that remains is recreation. To justify contraception therefore one must adopt the principle that purely recreational sex is morally permissible. That undercuts completely the biblical discipline on sex because the new principle makes homosexuality, fornication, and adultery permissible since they are recreational. Once contraception is accepted there are no principled grounds for forbidding any sort of consensual sexual activity. Parents who contracept are not being consistent when they try to dissuade their teenage daughters from engaging in the same sort of recreational sex that they practice.

Contraception toppled another domino in leading to the acceptance of abortion. Abortion became necessary to make up for contraceptive failure.

The next domino to fall was a divorce of sex and marriage. If sex can be purely for enjoyment without a need to have the act open to children, then marriage was no longer a moral requirement for sex or for children. Hence we now have an increasing number of couples who cohabit without benefit of marriage.

The divorce of marriage and children and the approval of purely recreational sex are causing another domino to fall. Many would like to legalize same-sex marriages and give them the same status as heterosexual marriages. Since children are not a necessary component of marriage and recreational sex is morally acceptable according to the new morality, there are no principled grounds for not legalizing "marriages" of homosexuals. Heterosexual marriages used to be promoted because society needed babies and marriage was seen as essential for the continuation of the society. Now that marriages are divorced from parenthood they would seem to deserve no special protection and marriage should not be denied to same sex couples. Once gay marriages are legal, presentation of homosexuality as normal will become a compulsory part of the education of students in public school.



The next step in the process, the next falling domino, is multipartner marriage which has already occurred, as many of these aberrations do, in Holland. A married couple presented themselves for a second marriage involving them and a female friend that they had met through a chat room. Both women in this new three-way marriage were bisexual. What gay marriage is to homosexuals, group marriage is to bisexuals.

We might call the triple Dutch marriage polygamy but it is better identified as polyamory, loving relationships among more than two people. Polyamory will be the next domino to fall. It will not just be a triad but will consist of any combination of partner-numbers and sexual orientation with no upper limit on the number of persons. Two bisexual men married to two women could merge the two marriages into a foursome. If ever gay marriage is legally accepted it will be difficult to withhold legal recognition of polyamory. Children born in these groupings will have a confusing assortment of parents and if the group splits determining visitation rights will be a nightmare. It matters little because all of these arrangements are not concerned about child welfare but are accommodations for the

sexual proclivities of adults.

Perhaps the final domino in the series will be interspecies marriages.

As we stand aghast and wonder how society got to this point it is easy to understand the sequence. Contraception led to separation of children from sex and from marriage. It also furnished the rationale for abortion, which is looked upon as backup contraception. Since the possibility of children is no longer a necessary component for marriage and recreational sex is morally permissible, then there is no reason to deny marital rights to homosexuals. If the institution of marriage is flexible enough to accommodate homosexuals it should also extend to bisexuals, leading to group marriages of three or four or more persons in polyamory. If we want to explain what caused this last domino to fall we have to start at the beginning of the line of dominos: contraception.

Persons may think that contraception is an acceptable and necessary solution to their problem of undesirable offspring. It is really the start of a chain of events that will result in a radical redefinition of marriage. If persons who contracept do not like the current societal developments they have only themselves to blame. They were the ones who toppled the first domino.

Separated and divorced Catholics invited to international conference

The North American Conference for Separated and Divorced Catholics (NACSDC) cordially invites all to its International Conference and Ministry Leadership Seminars to be held at Notre Dame University in South Bend, Indiana from June 26 to July 2, 2006.

The 2006 conference, titled "Making Light," will present many distinguished speakers and a variety of events including leadership training, education, healing, social events, and more.

The NACSDC logo combines a bro-



ken cross, as a reminder of the brokenness experienced as part of every human life, and water, as a sign of the promise of "living water" which God offers each of us (John 4:4-42).

With these elements our logo captures the reality of suffering, the invitation to drink the living water and be transformed, and the challenge to offer that living water to others.

For more information please visit their Web site at www.nacsdc.org or call (906) 482-0494.

St. Patrick's Annual Spring Festival & Barbecue

Sunday, April 23

Parish Hall
13316 Hwy 185 • Bloomington

Serving starts at 11 a.m. • \$6 p/p
1/2 lb. BBQ Brisket & Sausage
w/homemade potato salad, beans,
dessert, bread, and tea
Drive-thru for plates-to-go available.

Raffle
Country Store
Cake Wheel
Auction
Kid's Room
Fun Day For All!



The baby

Her baby,
the baby she let go,
the small little person that she herself
will never get to know

Because she wanted
to live her life alone
the baby now gone
its name left unknown

She regrets her decision
her wish is that her baby was back
now
but her wish can't be granted
there isn't a single way how

May she remember
on that fateful night
for the rest of her life
knowing she hadn't done what was
right

Letting a bundle of joy
not live for a moment
just so her life
could be simple and perfect

How could one make
such a horrible choice?
In her mind now
she hears her child's voice

Her life was lived "peacefully",
but when all in fact
the woman who wasn't thinking
wishes her baby was back.

Abortion 2

They wanted her
to have an abortion
let the baby go
it wasn't a notion

It was meant to be gone
or that's what was said
maybe their love wasn't meant to be,
but was this poor baby meant to be
dead?

But they never knew
what the baby would say
to know that its mommy
didn't want to pay

Expenses,
that's what she blamed it on
but everyone knew
the true story was long

She did it for fun
knew the price she could pay
for doing wrong
not waiting for the day

Her marriage was planned
the perfect night
cheating on the man she "loved"
she knew it wasn't right

Now she has to do
the one thing she can't forget
for the rest of her life
a baby unborn yet

And the baby must wonder
what she had done wrong
why mommy didn't want her
for mommy's voice was her song

She is back where she started
to the clouds again
now knowing the problem
that her mommy had been in

She forgives her
but her mother won't forget
for the scar on her tummy
isn't gone yet

Nor will it ever be
'cause she knows it was wrong
an innocent baby
it's life now gone

— Amanda Cisneros, an 8th grade
student at Yoakum Jr. High and a mem-
ber of St. Joseph Parish

NIH study shows how abortions complicate future pregnancies

The National Institutes of Health did a study of 40,000 women, half of whom had had an abortion and half of whom had carried their first baby to term.

The mothers who aborted their first baby lost babies during a subsequent pregnancy or birth *twice as often* as the mothers who did not abort. They later experienced an 85 percent increase in miscarriages, a 67 percent increase in premature births, a 47 percent increase in labor complications and an 85 percent increase in

delivery complications as compared to mothers who carried their first baby to term.

The official count as to how many abortions have happened since Roe v. Wade in 1973 until the end of 2004 is 45,951,133. Every single one of those deaths is a tragedy. (From Life and Family Advocates News Vol. 23, No. 2, Feb. 2006)

Bishop Forest High School reunion

SCHULENBURG—A Bishop Forest High School reunion is scheduled for Saturday, May 13, 2006, at the Wolters Park Pavilion in Schulenburg beginning at 3:00 p.m. All graduates, former students, faculty, friends, and supporters of Bishop Forest High School are invited to attend.

There will not be any individual class meetings. Instead they will have a social gathering and just spend time reminiscing. St. Rose School will have soft drinks and hamburgers available for those who are interested. There will be no alcoholic beverages sold but you are welcome to bring your own.

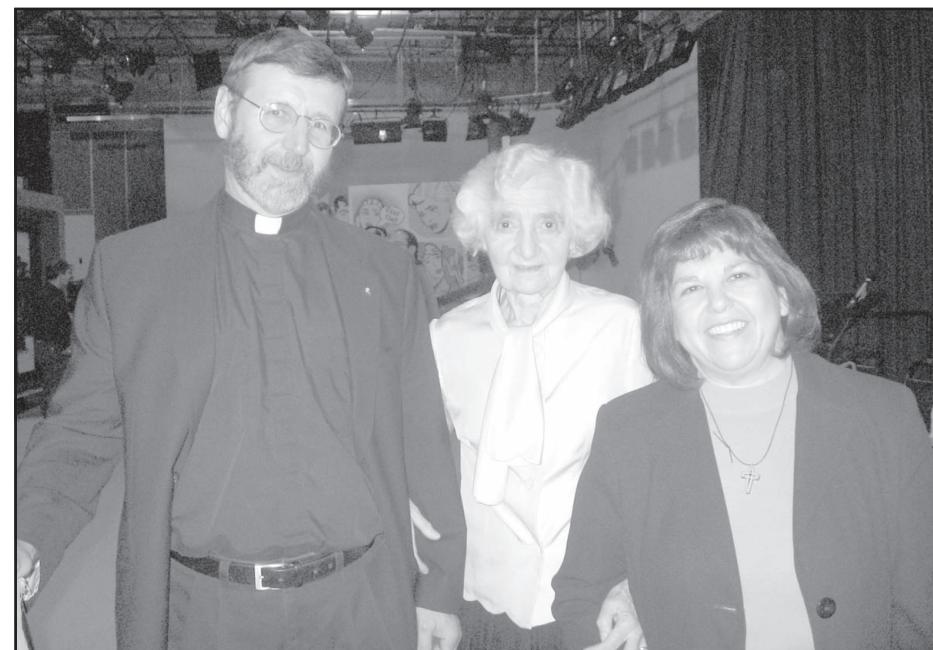
This reunion will be similar to the one held three years ago. If there are any questions, contact Joe Cernosek at (979) 743-4331 or Dan Mueller at (979) 247-4746.

St. Joseph choirs take home top honors

The choirs of St. Joseph High School in Victoria earned superior ratings at the Texas Private School Music Educators Association's Regional Solo and Ensemble Contest last weekend.

The Men's ensemble, the Treble ensemble, and the Varsity Mixed ensemble all earned superior ratings. Shayla Stockton was the Class III solo winner. Class II solo winners were Rebekah Bellanger, Alissa Roby and Katie Aguayo. Class I solo winner, Brianne Martin, qualified to advance to the state competition on May 27.

St. Joseph High School choirs are directed by Debbie Durham and accompanied by Dr. Jim McFarland.



Cindy Cuellar (r.), a former resident of the Victoria Diocese, poses with Father Mitch Pacwa of EWTN Live and his guest, Dr. Alice von Hildebrand, an international lecturer, philosopher, and author. "The evening was incredible and definitely one that I will cherish for a long time," said Cindy of meeting Dr. von Hildebrand. Cindy now works at EWTN as a Theology Advisor (Spanish).

Former Victorian now working with EWTN

By Cindy Brewer

In her search to serve Jesus Christ best, Cindy Cuellar of Victoria, Texas, had originally joined the Sisters of the Incarnate Word and Blessed Sacrament on May 2, 1998, and was a temporary professed Sister until August 11, 2004. She then began work with a non-profit organization that works with the church. Now she is employed with EWTN television.

In her free time in September of 2005 she read Raymond Arroyo's book on Mother Angelica and was amazed at everything Mother Angelica had sacrificed and endured out of her deep love and commitment to Jesus Christ and his bride, the church.

After finishing the book one evening, she prayed to the Lord and thanked him for helping Mother Angelica persevere in the task of founding EWTN.

"I have always been an admirer of EWTN and have really appreciated all that Mother Angelica and Deacon Bill Steilmeier have done to make EWTN what it is today," Cindy said.

"I didn't tell the Lord this, but deep down inside I was curious to learn more about all that is involved at EWTN and I

thought about how wonderful it would be to work at EWTN," she said.

"I quickly brushed these thoughts aside and said, 'Lord, not my will, but, your will be done,'" she said.

"The Lord does indeed know our thoughts and desires," Cindy said, "Sure enough, about a month later my boss walked into my office with a very sad and troubled look on his face."

It turned out that the non-profit organization she was working for had had difficulty receiving enough donations to keep a full staff. They had to cut expenses and had to let her go. Her boss was terrific though, she said, and gave her plenty of time to prepare her résumé and take time for interviews.

Doors began to open a couple of weeks later, she received phone calls and invitations for job interviews from some organizations, but as she spoke with them on the phone she just didn't have a peace in her heart and spirit, and so she graciously declined their invitations.

In mid-October, her boss walked into her office and told her that he had gotten

See Former Victorian, p. 7

STJ Band students win 12 regional UIL solo and ensemble medals

Students of the St. Joseph High School Band of Victoria were awarded 12 first division medals on Saturday, March 4, 2006, at the Texas Private School Music Educators Association (TPSMEA) Regional Solo and Ensemble Contest. The contest was hosted by Houston Christian High School.

TPSMEA Solo and Ensemble Contests divide the Solo and Ensemble competition into three classifications. A Class III solo or ensemble is reserved for the freshman or 1st year competitive level of performance. A Class II event is one in which intermediate to advanced students may compete at the director's discretion. Class I solos or ensembles are for the highly advanced students, mostly performed by seniors. A first division rating at region on Class I events allows the student or students to advance to the Texas State TPSMEA Solo and Ensemble Contest on May 31. Green Hill School in Addison, Texas is the host for this event.

Those STJ Band students awarded a gold medal for a superior rating on their Class III Solo are Kevin Farnsworth (trom-

bone), Danielle Foxell (clarinet), Kali Modisette (snare drum), and John Russell (alto saxophone).

Christina Cooke (clarinet), Lindsay Hahn (alto saxophone), Luke Hersey (trumpet), Lori Holloway (flute), and Jonathan McDonald (xylophone) received First Division Gold Medals for their performances of Class II solos.

Advancing to the state competition for a Gold Medal performance on a Class I solo are Brandon Fiew (trumpet), and Chris Hybner (baritone horn).

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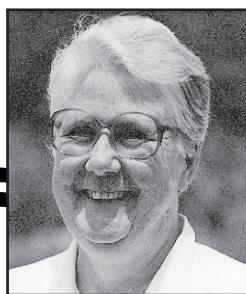
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Sisterly Thoughts

By Sister Mildred Truchard, IWBS



Discipleship tested

Sometimes it's hard to think of ourselves as disciples. We read about the disciples who followed Jesus and think in terms of "they" without acknowledging that we too are disciples – followers of Jesus.

It might be easier to see ourselves in the awesome role of disciples if we recall Matthew's account of Jesus commissioning his apostles to go out and make disciples of all people, baptizing them Baptism, then, has been our initiation into discipleship. In response to God's grace, we, like the disciples of nearly two thousand years ago, follow Jesus.

Those early disciples followed Jesus who taught them through his instruction, his parables, and his awesome miracles and acts of compassion and power. Those who recognized him as the long-awaited Messiah continued to follow him. We, too, have been graced with faith in him due to having been recipients of baptism, the teachings of his church, the Scriptures, and an awesome spiritual life of healing, strength, and nourishment through the Sacraments.

We can continue to learn much from those disciples of old whose fidelity was challenged during the passion and death of Jesus. First of all, most of them deserted Jesus in his time of trial. Their treasurer saw an opportunity to "make a quick buck" at the expense of his master. Their leader even denied ever having known him. Only a few of them, mostly women, remained with Jesus to the bitter end. Even after Jesus had risen, they wouldn't believe the women who brought them the news. Afterwards, one of them refused to believe the testimony of the rest of them.

Now, let's not be too rough on these

disciples of old. Rather, let's learn from their experience so that, in our weakness, we don't fall into the same pattern of behavior when we encounter challenging times and circumstances. When times are difficult, we can hang in there and accompany Jesus in those who are suffering. We can make sure that monetary gain never causes us to betray our God or to distract us from our financial obligations. We can stand up for our faith and not be ashamed to acknowledge Jesus through public witness to our faith. However, when we do fail, we can follow the denying disciple's later example and repent.

Through the way we live, we can proclaim our belief in and our fidelity to the Risen Jesus. And like the disciples of old who gathered together afterwards, we can come together every Sunday for the commemoration of Christ's giving himself for us.

Big order? Yes, indeed! But through the redemptive grace of Jesus and the guidance of the Holy Spirit, we can definitely witness to Jesus, risen and among us!

Best wishes for a profound Holy Week and a Happy Easter.

Chancery Office to be Closed

During Holy Week the Chancery will be closed April 13 and 14 and on Easter Monday, April 17.

Have a blessed Easter!

2006 Pilgrimages with Betty Urbanovsky

USA Heritage Pilgrimage Limit 12 p/t • May 1-8 and July 10-17
Washington / Philadelphia / New York / Ground Zero / Statue of Liberty / St. Elizabeth Ann Seton (First American Saint) / Immaculate Conception Cathedral / St. John Newman and much more ...

Medjugorje / Dubrovnik November

USA and Canada Pilgrimage Limit 12 people per trip • August 7-14
Philadelphia / Massachusetts - Shrine of Divine Mercy / Montreal - St. Joseph Oratory / Quebec - St. Anne de Beaupre and much more

Footsteps of the Holy Father (Pope John Paul) with Father Gary Janak August 31 to Sept. 15

Prague (Holy Infant) / Poland (Home of the Holy Father and Our Lady of Czestochowa) / Austria (Our Lady of Mariezell) / Krakow (Divine Mercy, St. Faustina) / Padua (St. Anthony) / Assisi (St. Francis / St. Clare) / Rome (Audience) NOTE: Over half booked — Reserve ASAP!

Ireland with Father Bryan Heyer October 2-14

Our Lady of Knock / St. Patrick / Sights of Ireland / and of course the Pubs

Guadalupe Mexico/Morelia

Spring 2007

For more information and inquiries, please contact:
Betty Urbanovsky, 911 Fahrenthold, El Campo, TX 77437
Email: burbanovsky@sbcglobal.net, Ph# 979-543-2333 or
Melva Don Brown, 2599 GCR 358, Shiner, TX 77984,
Email: mdbrown@gvec.net, Ph# 830-857-3040

Holy Land

Early November, 2007

TCGS will host Tracking Our Footprints

In January of this year, the Texas Czech Genealogical Society announced their theme throughout the year would be "Tracking Our Footprints." With the theme as their guide, they are seeking to help all individuals who are searching the paths of their Czech ancestors throughout Texas, the United States, and the Czech Lands of Bohemia, Moravia, and Silesia.

On Saturday, April 22, the Texas Czech Genealogical Society will host a research opportunity of a lifetime. Hundreds of books will be made available beginning at 10:00 a.m. in the east wing of the Nueces County Memorial Agricultural Center, located at 900 East Ave. J, in Robstown, Texas. These books will help all those concentrating on Czech genealogy.

Two guest speakers will add to the day with their timely presentations. In the morning, Edwin Wallek Jr., will help us remember moments in our childhood with his presentation on Home Remedies. Edwin asks if those planning to attend have any antique medicine bottles or news-

paper ads to bring them along. Not only will these add to the presentation but an open forum will follow his presentation.

Following a lunch of roast beef, mashed potatoes, gravy, green beans, dinner rolls, tea, and a dessert, Patrick Janis of Victoria will help attendees with his presentation on Organizing Your Research Materials. This presentation, given at the genealogy conference hosted by TCGS last year, is one that is often requested because of the many helpful hints Patrick introduces.

The days' activities will run from 10:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m. The cost for the entire day, which includes lunch and both presentations, will be \$8 per person if registered before April 14. Send registration fee to: Sallie Wendt, 361 N. Post Oak Lane #145, Houston, Texas 77024, (713) 682-6262. After April 14th and at the door, registration will be \$10 per person. More information can be found on the TCGS Web site at www.txczgs.org.

Former Victorian now working with EWTN

Continued from p. 6

word that EWTN had an opening for someone with a masters in theology who was bilingual.

"Interestingly enough, he didn't know that I had an interest in EWTN; the only ones that knew this were me and Jesus," Cindy said.

Her boss encouraged her to submit her résumé, and about a week later she received a phone call from EWTN's Human Resources director asking her if she would be interested in flying to their headquarters in Irondale, Alabama, for an interview in November. "Needless to say, he didn't have to ask me twice – 'yes,' I excitedly answered."

The interview process involved three interviews including one with the EWTN president, Michael Warsaw. He offered her the job of Theology Advisor (Spanish), but before replying she asked if she could have some time to pray and seek the Lord's will. He agreed and asked her to give him an answer in a couple of weeks.

She accepted the job and began working in their theology department as a theology advisor this past January 16. She works primarily with the team responsible for EWTN's Spanish programs.

"The folks here are absolutely wonderful and very gracious. Everyone is focused on one thing - Jesus Christ and spreading

his Gospel message to all ends of the world," she said. "I am indeed very grateful and blessed to be a part of such a faithful and dedicated group of people."

Cindy's responsibilities at EWTN include reviewing videos, books, documents, scripts, etc. as a means of ensuring that they are orthodox, i.e., in accord with the magisterial teachings of the church.

"I am also working on translating the EWTN Kids site on the Internet into Spanish." She asks that if you haven't been to the EWTN Web site at www.ewtn.com, to please check it out.

So far, she has met Spanish-speaking EWTN employees from Cuba, Colombia, Puerto Rico, Guatemala, and Argentina.

"One really gets a better understanding of what it means to be One, Holy, Catholic and Apostolic Church when you meet Catholics from other parts of the world. We are indeed a Universal Church - we are one body in our Lord, Jesus Christ!" Cindy said.

You can tell Cindy fits in well at EWTN, as she closed her e-mail interview with *The Catholic Lighthouse* inviting readers to take a pilgrimage to EWTN, and then added, "Please remember to keep EWTN in your prayers and donations – as Mother Angelica says, 'Keep us between your gas and electric bills.'"

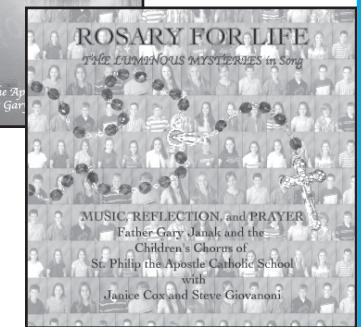
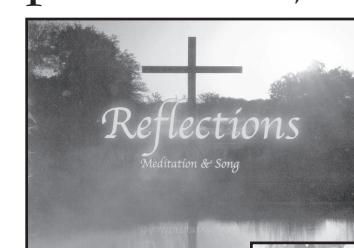
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Our Turn

By Therese J. Borchard
Catholic News Service



Career paths that may not lead to retirement

"What do you want to do when you grow up?" my best friend asked me the other day. We were away together on our first trip without the children. She patted her pregnant belly, baby No. 3, as she told me about her dreams for when all the children are in school and she has time to work again.

The next morning I had coffee with another 30-something friend. She told me she wanted to leave the book-publishing business and start a restaurant with another friend.

Older generations might shake their heads and think, "For Pete's sake, why don't you young people just choose a career path and stick with it?" They might presume Gen-Xers lack the discipline and stamina of their parents, who dug their heels into one organization and stayed there until retirement.

Not my father-in-law, Dave Borchard, a professional counselor with more than 25 years of experience in career life planning. He's specialized in designing careers and lifestyles for the 21st century, and has written a skills and passion assessment (available at <http://passion.careersite.com>) that can be very helpful to the young adult in soul-searching or career-searching mode.

According to Borchard, Gen-Xers face a very different world of work than previous generations. "Baby boomers and their predecessors could expect to spend an entire career within one organization," he says. "For them career development was pretty much a matter of promotions, where seniority counted. In today's fast changing world of work, few Gen-Xers expect, or even want, to spend their work life within one organization. Because of the rapid changes occurring in today's work world, Gen-Xers can expect to change jobs often — and even career directions upon occasion."

Spend fall weekends in another century!

PLANTERSVILLE—The Texas Renaissance Festival announces auditions for their 2006 season on Saturday, May 20, and Saturday, May 27. All types of actors are needed. Bilingual actors are especially welcome. Characters sought are peasants, fairies, goblins, as well as the loftier positions of Lords and Ladies in the King's Court. New this year is a state-wide search for a New Market ogre. Years have flown since our beloved ogre passed away. Now the King has decreed a search for this most hallowed position. Do you remember the New Market Village ogre from years past? If you feel that you have what it takes to replace that eight foot, red-haired, gas expelling, green-teethed kazoo player with your own brand of humor, then TRF has an exclusive contract waiting for you.

Ten Star All Star Basketball Camp

Applications are now being evaluated for The Ten Star All Star Summer Basketball Camp. The camp is by invitation only. Boys and girls ages 10-19 are eligible to apply.

Past participants include: Michael Jordan, Tim Duncan, Vince Carter, Jerry Stackhouse, Grant Hill, and Antawn Jamison.

College basketball scholarships are possible for players selected to the All-American Team.

Camp locations include: Commerce, Texas and many more places throughout the United States. For a free brochure, call (704) 373-0873 anytime.

This is both good news and bad news. On the one hand, 20- and 30-somethings can exercise more control over their careers and seek a better fit for their strengths. They have more options, more possibilities and don't have to feel locked into one career choice.

However, this also means that they are going to have to know their strengths, how and where to market them, as well as become much more adept at job changing than previous generations. They may have to know how to translate the skills they learned in one trade (like book publishing) into a whole new industry (like running a restaurant).

That's an important investment — finding out what we like and are good at — because we are going to spend the biggest portion of our life working.

Of course, jumping ship so often leaves the young adult without the funded retirement plans of older generations. Young adults need to be realistic about their retirement, or lack of an ability to retire, for that matter.

I know one couple who chose low-paying, creative professions that they enjoy. With children and other expenses in the equation, they cannot put away the money they need to retire. However, the future seems less daunting because of their career choices.

"I will probably be working well into my 80s if I live that long, but I enjoy designing buildings, so that thought isn't as depressing as it would be if I were in a less-creative, better-paying profession," says one of my architect friends.

"The best advice I can offer a young adult is to set up a financial plan with an expert early and then to stick to the plan," says Borchard. Staying disciplined has never been so important as it is today with Social Security in question.

YOUTH CALENDAR OF EVENTS

April 20 — Rocky Mountain High Retreat registration deadline
May 7 — Youth Leadership Training - Camp David planning and development session, Chancery Office 9:00 a.m.-4:30 p.m. **Mandatory session for all Camp David Staff**
June 1 — Deadline — Camp David registration / D-week registration
June 4 — Rocky Mountain High parents meeting, 3:00 p.m. Chancery Office
June 9-10 — Staff preparations for Camp David, at the Spiritual Renewal Center
June 11-13 — Camp David at the Spiritual Renewal Center for Elementary and Junior High Students
June 11-13 — Session I-Two night junior high camp
June 14 —One day elementary camp
June 14-16 — Session II-Two night junior high camp
June 26-29 — Discipleship Week at the Spiritual Renewal Center
July 8-16 — Rocky Mountain High in Pagosa Springs, Colorado.
July 31 - August 4 — Region X Directors Meeting - Laredo
November 17-19 — Region X Youth Conference in Laredo
November 30-December 3 — National Conference on Catholic Youth Ministry at the Riviera Hotel in Las Vegas, Nevada

For more information on any of these events, please contact:

Debbie Vanelli at the Office of Youth Ministry
at (361) 573-0828 ext. 32 or e-mail at dvaneli@victoriadiocese.org
or JoAnn Martinez at ext. 50 or e-mail at jmartinez@victoriadiocese.org
Web site: www.victoriadiocese.org/youthoffice



Sacred Heart Indianette Volleyball Team pictured at state championship

Indianette volleyball team state champs congratulated

HALLETSVILLE—Sacred Heart High congratulates and commends the Sacred Heart Indianette Volleyball Team for being TAPPS 2A Bi-district champions, area champions, regional champions and state champions. They had an outstanding season of 27 wins and 9 losses. Congratulations to Alex Pinney, Holly Pustejovsky, Erin Schott, and Sara Steinacher on being selected to the all tournament team to the state tournament. Congratulations, Indianettes and coaches Wanda Orsak and Christina Zbranek.

Congratulations also go to Sacred

Heart Indianette volleyball coach Wanda Orsak on being selected the 2005 All Area Victoria Advocate Volleyball Coach of the Year. Coach Orsak guided the Indianettes to a 27 — 9 record and the TAPPS 2A State Volleyball Championship. This is the third year in a row that Coach Orsak has received this honor.

It was the fiftieth Sacred Heart Catholic High School State Championship. The State Championships have been earned in football, basketball, girls track, baseball, softball, girls golf, band, and have been TAPPS overall state champions.

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For the General Practice of Law



Msgr. Benton Thurmond celebrates 60 years of priesthood

Continued from p. 1

including being a parish priest of 14 parishes.

According to the master of ceremonies, Msgr. Thurmond was involved in the KCs, CDA, Boy Scouts, Polish Priests Association, and although he was Polish, not Czech, he was a charter member of the Victoria Czech Society. He also coached a Little League baseball team with Coach Kasperek from Weimar which made it to the state level in Texarkana.

"His interests included history, raising rose bushes and pecan trees, and 'telling people what to do,'" Mark stated, evoking laughter from the guests.

Msgr. Thurmond published the *History of St. Mary's High Hill*, a parish he served in 1959, and was the editor of the English edition of *And Who Will Kill You... — The Chronicle of the Life and Sufferings of Priests in the Concentration Camps* by Bedrich Hoffmann.

Special guests, Diana Massey, Julius and Margie Matula, Paul and Johnine Leineger, Chuck and Mary Clifton, Mark and Debbie Thurmond, and Bishop Fellhauer, sat with Msgr. Thurmond at the head table where each were then invited to share with him their memories of his service. Guests from throughout the hall were also invited to share their memories.

Mrs. Johnine Leineger said, "Msgr. has been the epitome of a priest to us and to



Msgr. Benton Thurmond is greeted by his brother, Lee, at his 60th anniversary to the priesthood.

our family. There is nothing that a priest should be or is that father isn't. He's a perfect example of loyalty, reverence, humility." She also thanked him for helping to organize and coordinate the Tridentine Latin Mass held at St. Mary Parish in St. Mary on the first and third Sundays.

Celebrating with Msgr. Thurmond was his only living sibling, Lee, of El Toro, Texas, who shared that his brother Benton got his drive from his mother who ran the Thurmond Grocery Store in Inez and raised seven children by herself after his father died in 1933.

Closing the ceremony was Mary Hodgkinson who had taken Msgr. Thurmond into her home for two years after his retirement and also coordinated his 60th anniversary celebration. Before coming to tears she was able to tease him a bit saying most everyone has the same stories of Father, "He always encouraged us to do the things we really did not want to do, he always would encourage us to do things the way he thought they needed to be done, he always made sure that our schedules always included something he needed to get completed, but most of all, Father has always, always had such a kind and special heart."

Friends and parishioners may visit Msgr. Thurmond who now resides in Hillje Nursing Home in El Campo where he says the Mass and the rosary for the residents.

Bishop Grahmann comes home to celebrate Triple Jubilee

Continued from p. 1

Ronnie Adamek told of the friendship he and his family had with Bishop Grahmann while he was serving in Yoakum. "My family has a bond with Bishop Grahmann," Adamek said. "We have always felt comfortable around him."

Fred Grahmann spoke in behalf of the Nicholas Grahmann family.

"I was just a kid when the bishop, when



Bishop Charles V. Grahmann is shown with his brothers and sisters. From left, Brother Nic Grahmann, Mary Ann Michalke, Rita Zaruba, Jerome Grahmann, Anita Spangler, Bishop Grahmann, Nicholas Grahmann Jr., Sister Sylvia Grahmann, Fred Grahmann, and Marcus Grahmann.

Bishop Grahmann, started seminary," Fred said. "I do remember him practicing a sermon behind the barn. I asked my parents, 'Who is he talking to — the cows?'

"We always looked forward to Easter, Thanksgiving, and Christmas because we knew Bishop Charles was going to come home," Fred added. "The strongest thing we enjoyed from this is the bond the family had because of him."

Bishop Grahmann will celebrate 25

1931, on a farm outside of Hallettsville to Nicholas and Anne Grahmann and was the fourth of 11 children.

He entered the seminary after his eighth grade year at Sacred Heart School.

"The seminary is a place of discernment," Bishop Grahmann said. "After I entered the theology part of my education, I realized then that I wanted to be a priest. I was happy with what I was embracing."

Sister Elizabeth Riebschlaeger's mother dies

Continued from p. 2

1998, she was presented a Texas flag that had flown over the State Capitol by the Texas State House of Representatives in "recognition of your Divine Faith and Wisdom to your Church, Community, and the Great State of Texas." Evelyn overcame many major illnesses with the care of skilled medical professionals and the grace of Almighty God. After a blessed 93 years, she left her family and friends reluctantly, and on March 25, 2006, the feast of the Incarnate Word, surrendered her life peacefully into the hands of her Lord and Savior, Jesus, to lead her into the Kingdom of the Father of all life. She was preceded in death by all her siblings

Mass of Christian Burial was celebrated by Most Rev. David E. Fellhauer in St. Michael Church on April 1.

Pallbearers were Arlyn Seiler, Daryl Klecka, Randy Katzmark, Will Thomas, Robert De Leon and Richard Carbonara.



Worldwide Marriage Encounter couples to host barbecue for World Council

AUSTIN—Eight couples and eight priests from throughout the world will meet for a week at Cedarbrake Retreat Center in Belton, Texas, for a meeting of the Worldwide Marriage Encounter (WWME) World Council. The weeklong meeting kicks off on Sunday, May 14.

San Antonio Auxiliary Bishop Patrick Zurek will celebrate Mass at the conclusion of the conference. The Mass will begin at 2:30 p.m. May 20 at Sacred Heart Church, located at 5909 Reicher Drive in Austin, Texas. Following the Mass the conferees will be feted with an old fashioned Texas barbecue in the parish hall.

ME couples are invited to attend the Mass and barbecue to give the World Council a hearty send off. For more information or to RSVP, please contact Ken and Theresa Eisman at (979) 245-2497.



GIRL SCOUT RELIGION AWARDS PRESENTED AT MASS—Bishop David E. Fellhauer awarded nine area Girl Scouts with their Religious Recognition Awards at the Saturday evening Mass March 11 at Our Lady of Victory Cathedral. The following girls earned and received the Family of God awards: Madison Etzler from Troop 5021 of Hallettsville; Lauren Omecinski, Emily Weaver, Leann Weaver, Lauryn Dippel and Kaitlyn Dippel from Troop 557 of Victoria; and Kyra Williams and Aubry Williams from Troop 439 of Goliad. The Girl Scout Paisano Council of Victoria hosted the awards evening which included a reception following the Mass. Martha Nichols is the Catholic Committee volunteer director of the Girl Scout Religious Committee. The committee is responsible for preparing and mentoring the girls as they work towards earning their awards. Terry Blevins, senior membership executive, stated her appreciation for all the volunteers who organize the Girl Scout programs, as she and Frances Cervantes are the only paid employees in the 12-county Girl Scout Paisano Council.



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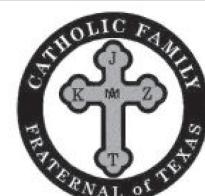
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Pictured above are the 21 OLV students who qualified to go to the PSIA state finals to be held in Fort Worth on April 29.

Our Lady of Victory students to go to PSIA state finals

Our Lady of Victory School in Victoria recently participated in the 2006 Private Schools Interscholastic Association Academic District Meet held in Selma, Texas.

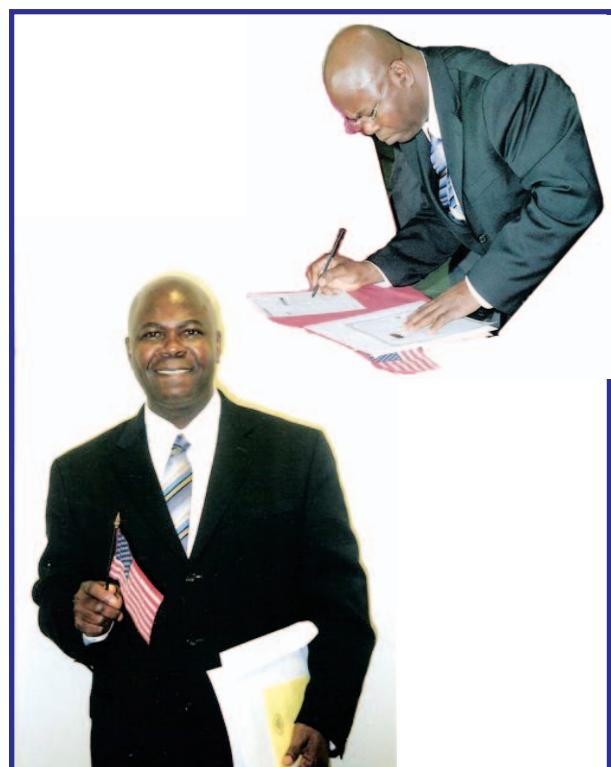
Sixty-nine OLV students from grades 4 through 8 participated in the event.

Of those participants, 39 were winners in the categories of math, number sense, ready writing, poetry, spelling, vocabulary, science, dictionary skills, listening, maps, graphs & charts, and drawing.

All 1st and 2nd place winners advance to the State PSIA competition, which will be held on April 29 in Fort Worth.

State Qualifiers, from l. to r., are 1st Row: Madison Kurtz-listening; Olivia Creager-poetry; Johanna Hoang-math and spelling; 2nd Row: Chloe Shoemake-dictionary skills; Kristen Jurica-spelling and maps, graphs & charts; Kayla Headley-ready writing; Aaron Kovar-number sense; Ahmad Sabbaugh-number sense and math; 3rd Row: Jared

See Our Lady of Victory, p. 13



AN AMERICAN CITIZEN—Father Dominic Antwi-Boasiako, parochial vicar at Our Lady of Victory Cathedral in Victoria, became a U.S. citizen Thursday, March 16, 2006, at a Naturalization Oath Ceremony held at the U.S. Federal Court, Southern District of Texas in Corpus Christi Division. Friends, Lillian Cooper of Sts. Peter and Paul in Meyersville, Deacon Jim and Lauri Koenig of St. Mary's in Victoria, and Father Raphael Baidoo of Immaculate Conception in Goliad attended the ceremony for Father Dominic. After the swearing in, the judge said the newly sworn in citizens could register to vote. Lillian Cooper said that Father Dominic was one of the first to sign up, he was so excited. Father Dominic has been in the country since 1995 and in Victoria since April 1997. Just recently he earned his masters in education with a major in counseling.

BANNER DONATED TO ST. ROSE SCHOOL BY ALUMNUS—Helen Koncaba, a member of Schulenburg's St. Rose Catholic School class of 1960, made a banner for the school's celebration of Catholic Schools Week, Jan. 29 through Feb. 4, in memory of her husband, Oscar. Helen (back, second from left) presented the banner to Principal Peggy Kusy (back, third from left). The school banner was put on the front of the altar during Catholic Schools Week and is now displayed at the St. Rose School Annex. Others on hand for the presentation were (front row, from left) Kodi Dvorak, Colin Schuetze, and Nathan Schuetze, Koncaba's grandsons; (back, left) her daughter Michelle Koncaba Schuetze, a member of the St. Rose class of 1980; (back right) her daughter Kimberly Koncaba Dvorak, a member of the St. Rose class of 1985; and (back, second from right), Kori Dvorak, Koncaba's granddaughter, presently a St. Rose seventh grader.



Schulenburg Sticker Photo By Beth Wiseman



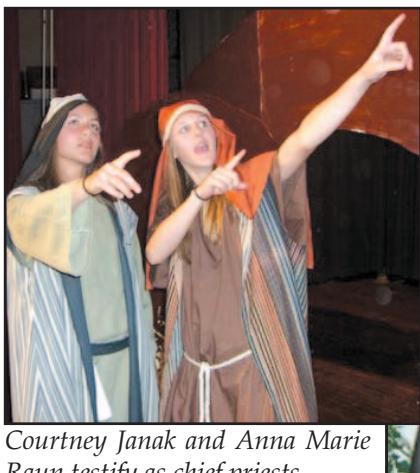
FULLER SCULPTURE DONATED TO RAPHAEL'S REFUGE—Artist Michael Fuller, recent graduate of St. Edward's University, has donated a terra cotta sculpture to Raphael's Refuge which will be located just outside of Flatonia. The sculpture, "Holy Innocent: A Child of the Thorn," is modeled after a thirty-six week old fetus. It can serve as a meditation focus for those who seek healing at Raphael's Refuge. After being exhibited at St. Edward's University and Sts. Peter and Paul Catholic Church in Freelsburg, it is now at home in Flatonia. Mr. And Mrs. Fuller and their daughter, Carrie, reside in Lockhart, where he is starting a Christian based art studio. Michael can be contacted at mikelkf@hotmail.com



(below) Father Victor Scocco from Our Lady of Sorrows in Victoria distributes ashes to residents at Twin Pines Nursing Home.

BISHOP FELLHAUER CELEBRATES ASH WEDNESDAY WITH STUDENTS—Bishop David E. Fellhauer celebrated the Ash Wednesday Mass, March 1, with St. Joseph High School students in Victoria. The Mass was held at the school's gymnasium. Above, Bishop Fellhauer distributes ashes upon the forehead of Brittany Hermes (10th grade). Hilary Rojas (10th grade) is next to receive the ashes, which call Christians to repent and remind them that "man is dust and to dust he shall return." President and principal Mr. Bill McArdle, Mrs. Deborah Machicek, Mr. Ron Friedel, and Mrs. Kathy Tomanek helped distribute ashes. The choir performed and students proclaimed the readings.





Courtney Janak and Anna Marie Raun testify as chief priests.



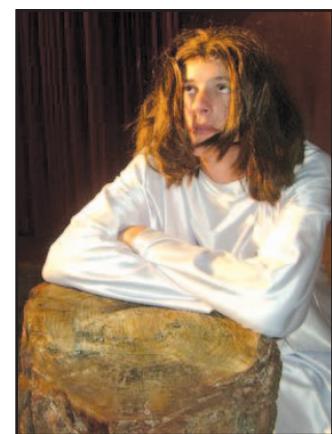
Shayla Smith, Brittany Faas, and Bethany Dluhos go to Jesus' tomb but only find the white cloth used to wrap his body. They were having a dress rehearsal for their Good Friday, April 14, Passion Play to be held at the El Campo High School.

St. Philip High youth proclaim Gospel in Good Friday Passion Play

El Campo—On Good Friday, April 14, the St. Philip High School Youth invite everyone to encounter “The Passion of Jesus Christ.” Come experience the miracle of salvation! This stirring presentation of the last few days of Jesus’ life is based on the Scriptures and songs written by Adrian Snell in his recording “Passion.” Each scene builds on the drama of our salvation, from Jesus’ triumphant entry into Jerusalem to his Last Supper, betrayal, crucifixion, and his victory over death.

Forty High School C.C.E. students, under the direction of Mary Kay Price and Therese Faas, will take on the roles of Jesus and his family, friends, and enemies during his passion, death, and resurrection. As Mrs. Price said when she gathered the teens for practice: “This is not a production; it’s a proclamation of the Gospel. Our hope is that, through your performance, you will touch the hearts of those attending, and they will experience the awesome love of God.”

The students involved in the Passion Play are: Madsen Raun as Jesus, Brittany Faas as Mary, Mother of Jesus, Bethany Dluhos as Mary Magdalene, Shayla Smith as Mary, Mother of James, Christopher Raun as Pontius Pilate, Katie Kainer as Veronica, Tyler Socha as Joseph of Arimathea, Thad Deiss as Simon of



Madsen Raun plays Jesus in the Garden of Gethsemane.

Cyrene, Emily Bergstrom as Accusing Woman, Travis Trochta as Peter, Linda Cerny as James, Son of Zebedee, Travis Johnson as John, Son of Zebedee, Hunter O'Briant as Judas, Kyle Wiesner as Bartholomew, Bryce Skow as Philip, Stephanie Mahoney as James, Lauren Wells as Matthew, Cassidy Popp as Thomas, Tyler Socha as Simon, Matt Tumlinson as Andrew, and Thad Deiss as Thaddeus. The soldiers are: Dustin Janak, Taylor Graham, Dustin Appling, and Justin Cox. Chief Priests are: Courtney Janak, Jason Schoenfield, and Anna Marie Raun. Jerusalem Women are: Emily Bergstrom, Torie Rachunek, Shannon Bode, and Kyndal Priesmeyer. Liturgical Dancers are: Molly Melanson, Suzanne Buzek, Jackie Rodriguez, Macy Stavinoha, Kenna Bubela, Brooke Altenhoff, and Shelby Cooper. Narrators are: Alexis Cooper and McKenzie Stavinoha. Lights, sound and props are: Tyler Woods, Michael Matthews Tumlinson, Chris Genzer, Charlie Watson, Roger Wood, Travis Deiss and Holden Whitley.

Everyone is invited to this moving presentation on Good Friday April 14, at 7:00 p.m. in the El Campo High School auditorium at 600 W. Norris. Admission is free (a free will offering will be accepted).



PINE TREES POINT TO CHRIST'S RESURRECTION—Walter Eyring of Holy Rosary Parish in Hostyn tells the story of how the pine trees know that Easter is coming. A couple of weeks before Easter, he said, you will notice that the golden-yellow, new growth on the pine trees form a cross. “At the tip of each and every branch a cross points up to heaven, announcing the resurrection of Christ,” he told the editor of *The Catholic Lighthouse*. Mr. Eyring took this picture of a pine tree located on Hwy. 90 outside of Schulenburg.

St. Roch CDA and KC organizations hold their 10th annual fund-raiser

MENTZ—The Catholic Daughters of America Court 2328 and the Knights of Columbus 10249 were blessed with a clear and sunny 50 degree day to hold their 10th annual turkey dinner fund-raiser at St. Roch Catholic Church in Mentz Sunday, Feb. 12, 2006.

Approximately 700 plates of mouth watering, homemade turkey and all the trimmings were served in 2 1/2 hours to hungry guests. For those wondering, 700 plates equates to 54 turkeys or 1,091 pounds of turkey meat, 14 roasters of dressing, 200 lbs. of white potatoes and 200 lbs. of sweet potatoes.

Diners were also offered a chance to win some terrific prizes at the raffle or try to get the winning bid at the silent auction.

This is the main yearly fund-raiser for the Catholic Daughters of St. Roch and the second largest fund-raiser for the Knights of Columbus at St. Roch. Proceeds raised at this event are used throughout the year to help fund worthwhile causes in the community. In 2005, funds were used to support scholarships for eligible college students, send Christmas gifts to local soldiers serving in Iraq, the Vacation Bible School and CCE programs, clergy appreciation day, monthly bingo at



Catholic Daughter Barbara Helfrich, and K.C. member James Helfrich, take a break to visit with Father Wayne Flagg while keeping warm by the barbecue pit used to keep the potatoes and dressing warm.

help two local families in financial need due to high medical bills.

The Catholic Daughters and Knights of Columbus members of St. Roch would like to extend an early invitation to everyone in the Diocese of Victoria to “save the date” for the eleventh annual turkey dinner on Feb. 11, 2007, and join them for 10 a.m. Mass and then come over to the dining hall for some homemade turkey and dressing. We hope to see you there next year!



With a loud buzz and a bright light announcing the quickest responder, Joshua Hawken just beats out his two other contestants, Carson Kabela (l.) and Cabott Hanes (r.), to answer the next Catechism question to be announced by moderator Grand Knight Bob Leach. In the long run, Cabott Hanes won this division championship.

Knights hold Jeopardy Catechism Contest

By Cindy Brewer

Twelve contestants from four divisions of the Holy Family religious education program battled in the first ever Jeopardy Catechism Contest held at Holy Family Parish in Victoria Saturday, March 4.

The Knights of Columbus Council 9088 and the parish religious education program, directed by Carol Lehnert, sponsored the Catechism Contest for the Victoria Holy Family CCD program.

Questions and answers were given to the students at the end of October to study for a few months. The winners of each of the four divisions: Grades 1-2, Grades 3-5, Grades 6-8, and Grades 9-12, came together to test their knowledge and speed.

Representing Grades 1-12 in the finals were Amee Rivers, Isaac Leal, Carson Kabela, Joshua Hawken, Cabott Hanes, Cody Richter, Tanner Austin, Kellea Goebel, Jessica Sanchez, Maret Hanes,

Andrea Johnson, and Aaron Gonzales.

The final division winners, who each received \$100, were Isaac Leal, primary; Cabott Hanes, intermediate; Kellea Goebel, junior; and Maret Hanes, high school.

Grand Knight Bob Leach was the moderator of the contest. The “Jeopardy” styled board with its bells and lights was designed and constructed by Knight Jerry Hajek. Dr. Bill Sage, Pam Kusak, Mark Westerman, and Gerald Bludau were the judges for the final.

The Knights sponsored the contest in response to the late Pope John Paul II who said in *Catechesi Tradendae* that memorizing the words of Jesus, important Bible passages, the Ten Commandments, the formulas of profession of the faith, the essential prayers, and key doctrinal ideas is a real need.

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FAMILY PUZZLE CONTEST

to offer *Reminiscences of a Hidden Child* as prize

The winner of the April Family Puzzle Contest will receive a copy of *Breaking the Silence ... Reminiscences of a Hidden Child*

their last name. Schwarzbart was eventually reunited with his mother, but his father succumbed at Buchenwald just two months

before the liberation of the concentration camp by the Allies. The boy and his mother managed to settle in the United States where Schwarzbart did his university studies before embarking on his teaching career.

Still intensely feeling the pain of his personal loss and that of the families of the 1.5 million Jews who did not survive, Schwarzbart nevertheless finds his heart more grateful than vengeful. With fond memories of his Cub Scout days at the children's home near the Luxembourg border, he appreciates the loving care of the administrators, teachers, priests, nuns, and young scout masters who were only a few years his senior, and he vividly recalls being spoiled by American GIs after they drove off the German soldiers in the region. Calling all people to remember that each person can make a difference, Schwarzbart adds, "Most Holocaust 'rescuers' made that decision and acted upon it."

Mr. Paul Schwarzbart's book may be purchased online at the list price of \$15.50.

by Paul A. Schwarzbart and published by Author House, ISBN 1-4184-0711-9.

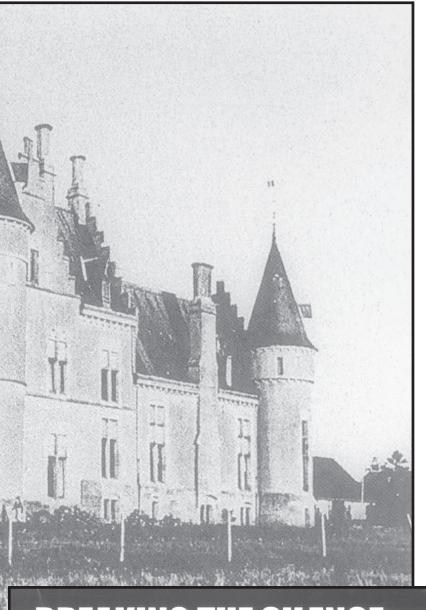
Breaking the Silence ... Reminiscences of a Hidden Child is a heart-warming story of courage, love, sacrifice, and devotion. It is a story of a family that continually sacrificed to protect and preserve one another.

The below review was written by Claudia Devaux, Web minister of St. Thomas More Catholic Church in San Francisco. The church hosted Mr. Schwarzbart to speak about his experience. Go to the Web site at www.stmchurch.com/schwarzbart.htm to learn more about him and how the Catholic Church was involved in saving his life.

Following a 45-year teaching career in California, Paul A. Schwarzbart has found a new vocation: telling the story of how he was hidden in a Catholic boarding school in Belgium during World War II.

As a young Jewish boy, he had assumed the last name of a neighbor and was whisked away by an unidentified member of the Belgian Resistance to a Catholic boarding home where he learned the prayers in Latin, served at Mass, and took communion, all the while concealing his true identity. Of the 125 children at the school, he thought he was the only Jewish boy. Years later, as an adult attending a reunion, Schwarzbart learned that at least 60 of his schoolmates were Jewish children being hidden there like himself.

Schwarzbart's father, an Austrian Jew, had been arrested in Belgium and shipped off first to Vichy France and later to Germany. Neighbors who hired his mother to keep house and care for their children urged her to confide her son to Resistance workers, supplying him with



EASTER

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MAJOR FEAST

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NEW LIFE
PEACE BE WITH YOU
RAISED
SALVATION

SPICES
STONE
THIRD DAY
TOMB
WOMEN

Congratulation to Mary Jo Rebeck of Sts. Cyril and Methodius Parish in Dubina; Mary Jo is the winner of the March family puzzle contest and will receive *A Faith for Grown-ups—A Midlife Conversation about What Really Matters* by Robert P. Lockwood.

The winners of the child contest were James Wenske (8) of Moulton and Jami Shimek (8) of Hallettsville; they will receive a gift from the Incarnate Word Gift Shop.

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

Couple aims to raise awareness of Sunday-best behavior at Mass

By Suzanne Molino Singleton

BALTIMORE (CNS) — When people are guests in someone's home, they most likely practice their best manners and teach their children to do the same. If they were a guest in God's house, their manners might be 10 times better.

It is easy to surmise how Jesus would behave in his Father's house: He would dress appropriately, he would refrain from gossip and he would listen to God as a young child hangs onto his father's every word. But what would God say about your manners after you left his house?

John and Joan Scornaienchi, parishioners of St. Louis Parish in Clarksville and Church of the Resurrection in Ellicott City, are etiquette and protocol consultants. It's their mission to raise awareness of personal behavior in social and professional interactions through their company, Ambassador Protocol.

"We view our mission to advance civility as a calling from God and welcome the opportunity to do his work," said John Scornaienchi.

They are in the planning stages of offering training to places of worship and other Catholic organizations that will include tips on Mass etiquette.

Although they witness many well-mannered families and well-behaved children in church, the Scornaienchi's believe that more support and attention need to be directed to the way things are supposed to be.

Sometimes a Mass is filled with distractions: latecomers, talkers, misbehaving children and people leaving early.

"Everything in life has rules, including church," said Joan Scornaienchi.

"How can we pray if we are also watching children run up and down the aisle?" she asked. "We need to remind adults what we learned as children, and then teach our children to treat God with respect. If we do not teach children respect in God's house, how can we expect them to behave at school, in sports, or while driving?"

As public speakers, the Scornaienchi's are familiar with distractions from an audience. They offer protocol and etiquette training at corporate sites, schools, restaurants, civic meeting places and churches.

"Proper etiquette is about relationship building and can apply to all areas of your life," said Joan Scornaienchi.

Here are some of the guidelines offered by the couple:

— Attire: The idea of "Sunday best" should be honored; churchgoers of all ages should dress conservatively. Coat and tie are appropriate for men, but not required. Women should wear modest dresses, skirts and slacks; no tank tops, short skirts or tight-fitting clothing.

— Arrival: Arrive at least 10 minutes before Mass begins. This helps reduce distractions and provides time to get settled. Latecomers should wait to be seated by ushers so as not to disrupt the service and the congregation.

— Entering the church: It is optional to bless yourself with holy water, but as a sign of respect for the Blessed Sacrament, genuflect before taking your seat. Slide over to the center of the pew to accommodate others who arrive after you.

— Quiet time: The liturgy is not the time to socialize with friends or prepare the offering envelope. Instead, sit quietly or pray. Turn off cell phones and pagers.

— Kneeling: Respect for the Eucharist demands that we kneel without leaning back on the pew. Be careful not to drop or bang the kneelers. If ill or disabled, it is acceptable to sit.

— Sign of peace: People usually shake hands or exchange a quick kiss, but if you have a cold or cough, you can politely say "Peace be with you," without shaking hands.

— Communion: Receive the Eucharist with reverence, bow slightly and respond "Amen." If receiving the host by hand, place the left hand over the right (or opposite if you are left-handed)

See *Couple aims*, p. 13

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Light One Candle

By Dennis Heaney, President
The Christophers



By the light of Easter's dawn

When it comes to symbols, Easter certainly has its fair share. Eggs, baskets, bunnies (especially candy ones), come to mind. There may be fewer bonnets on parade than in years past, but chicks and ducks and other fluffy spring newborns are common trappings of the season.

They are popular signs of the Easter holiday, as opposed to the Easter holy day. And I enjoy them. Jelly beans, chocolate eggs, marshmallow chicks ... what's not to like? Besides, I might be drummed out of the grandparents' hall of fame if the Easter Bunny didn't provide brimming baskets for all of our grandkids.

Still, Easter is no more simply a spring festival than Christmas is just a winter break. Easter is not only the most solemn Christian feast, it's the celebration of life over death and forgiveness over sin. Christians come in many denominations, and, God knows, we disagree about many things. Yet we can agree that on that first Easter morning, the universe changed because Jesus of Nazareth, the Son of God, rose from the dead. So while we hide colorful eggs for the youngsters to hunt, and enjoy a feast of roast lamb or baked ham or whatever our family tradition calls for, we must remember the spiritual essence of Easter long after we step outside

of church.

I've come to believe that the essential symbol of Easter is light. Recently, I found a story that reminded me of the power of light as it shatters the darkness. I've been reading the manuscript for a new 60th anniversary edition of *You Can Change the World*. This book was written by Rev. James Keller, M.M., the founder of The Christophers, and I'll be telling you more about it in a future column. It was one of his recollections that got me thinking about light and Jesus Christ—and about what God asks of us.

Father Keller was arranging for a benefit concert to be held at the old Metropolitan Opera House in New York City and the assistant manager offered to show him the seating arrangements. It was late and the auditorium was dark. The man told Father Keller to wait while he headed for the bank of light switches. Suddenly, he struck a match and "that speck of light was greater than all the darkness around it." Father Keller continued, "That's how it is with us. The least person, no matter how insignificant, who is interested in bringing the light of Christ's truth to the whole world is likewise a pinpoint of light in the darkness and is, by God's grace, greater than all the encircling gloom."

Our Christian liturgies reflect

these beliefs. Many Easter Vigil liturgies include the blessing and lighting of the Paschal candle which, in turn, lights all the candles which members of the congregation hold. Many denominations around the world celebrate Easter sunrise services so that people can join in prayer and song as first light dispels the night. These customs are beautiful, but they are meaningful because they capture the real meaning of Easter: the victory of God's love over human fear, hatred, and indifference. As the dawn reveals the emptiness of his tomb, Jesus Christ makes himself known to us as the true light of the world.

"The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness did not overcome it." (John 1:5) With God's help, we will add our light to his and brighten our own corner of the world. Happy Easter!

For a free copy of the Christopher News Note: LIVING GOD'S JOY, write: The Christophers, 12 East 48th Street, New York, NY 10017; or e-mail: mail@christopers.org

SmileLine Dental Awareness Day

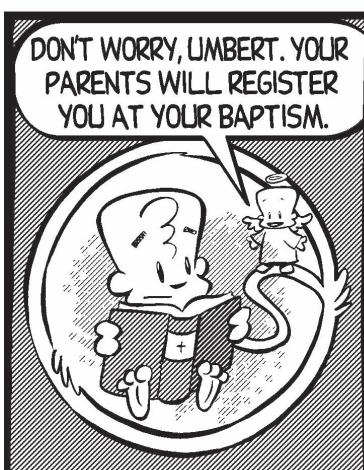
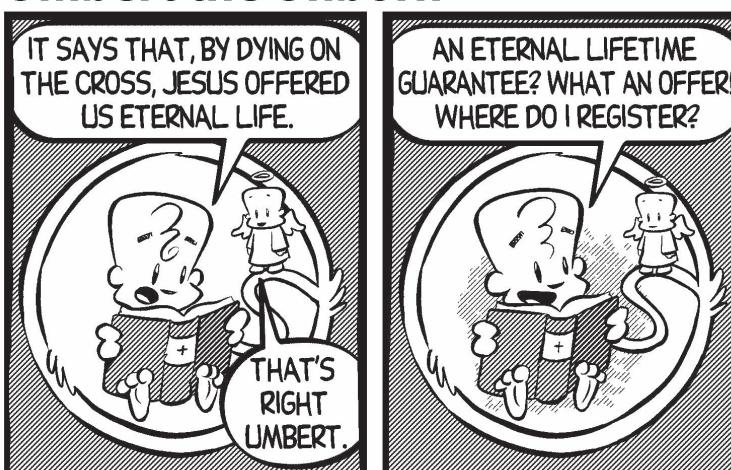
SmileLine, will host a toll-free hotline anyone can call to have any questions about oral health answered by a dentist for free. The hotline will be open on Friday, April 21, 2006, from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. CST; and anyone can call and speak to our volunteer dentists in English or Spanish at (800) 764-5333. Whether it is for a lack of time, financial reasons, or dreading a visit to the dentist, many Texans have questions about their oral health that go unanswered, and SmileLine is here to help.

Our Christian liturgies reflect

Don't miss these terrific shows!

April	
12	New Life — Easter Special with Father Mike
19	Preempted by TBN Telethon
26	Helping Them Cope — Amy Lynn Frost, <i>Business Consultant</i> Successful businesswoman finds greatest joy in City of Hope ministry.
May	
3	Celestial Harmony — Lisa Lynne, <i>Professional Harpist</i> Music ministry brings happiness, hope, and peace to patients at City of Hope.
10	Gospel of Service — James DeHarpporte, <i>Catholic Relief Services</i> CRS serves those who are marginalized and empowers people around the world.
17	Combating Homelessness — Rev. Joe Carroll, <i>Father Joe's Villages</i> Where there's a willing catalyst, there's a way to help those who are homeless.
24	What Would Jesus Say? — Neil Saavedra, <i>The Jesus Christ Show</i> Want to talk to Jesus? Pick up your phone and give him a call.

Umbert the Unborn



by Gary Cangemi



Couple aims to raise awareness

Continued from p. 12

and raise your arms slightly. Gum or candy should never be in your mouth when taking the host.

— Leaving the church: The final part of Mass is singing a

closing hymn. Leaving before the hymn ends is inappropriate. Genuflect toward the altar before leaving the pew or at the end of the pew.

— Leaving the church: The final part of Mass is singing a

Our Lady of Victory students to go to PSIA state finals

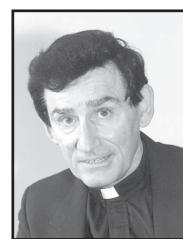
Continued from p. 9

Poland-science; Sarah Weber-ready writing; Zach Miles-ready writing; Cameron Becker-number sense; Christian Wenske-number sense, math, and maps, graphs & charts; 4th Row: Stephanie Kasper-science and vocabulary; Brenna Kobus-ready writing; Kaley Jurica-spelling; Steven Sudheimer-spelling; Martin Kallus-number sense; top row: Shaleen Vasavada-number sense and maps, graphs & charts; Sahil Parikh-math, number sense, and science; Christian Maxwell-spelling; and Kurt Kotzur-spelling.



The Human Side

By Father Eugene Hemrick
Catholic News Service



Setting off a "nuclear blast" of good deeds

American speed skater Joey Cheek did something very unusual after winning the 500-meter race at the Winter Olympics. He contributed his \$25,000 gold medal award from the U.S. Olympic Committee to refugees from Darfur and encouraged Olympic sponsors to support the same relief effort.

Without sounding cynical, Cheek's donation is a drop in the bucket from the standpoint of the money that is needed for the refugees. It will do little or nothing for the thousands of people who have been torn from their homes and are wandering about hopelessly. But it may accomplish something else of great importance.

Beyond this, there are few to no peacekeepers present in Darfur to halt the carnage. Corruption runs rampant, and neighboring countries are doing little to help.

To better appreciate Cheek's act of generosity on behalf of humanity, let's look at its opposite side. When anyone as young as Cheek has the possibility of establishing a firm financial base for living comfortably, it's a big temptation to "go for it!" Isn't this what most athletes do, and isn't it considered prudent to cultivate a nest egg?

And too, when the spotlight is on a person and accolades abound, isn't there a tendency to wallow in them, to forget that others exist and say, "I've made it!"?

Cheek is the direct antithesis of this. He bypasses the materialistic and egocentric mentality

that is prevalent in society and speaks to our idealism.

Though \$25,000 seems insignificant considering the great need, the inspiration it generates is worth billions. For, inspiration tends to beget chain reactions.

I wouldn't be writing this column were it not for Cheek's inspiration. Nor would millions of people be reading about him. There's no way to know how many people were touched by his gesture, but my guess is it is a multitude. When multitudes are touched deeply, revolutions occur. People get fired up. The word goes out, and suddenly people are talking to people about an urgent need to do something.

No doubt the U.S. government could step up efforts on behalf of Darfur and its refugees and pressure other governments to take action as well. But someone has to get the ball rolling. This is what Joey Cheek's gesture does. It was an inspirational act that ran contrary to the way we normally act. It made the newspapers and got people talking to each other.

That drop in the bucket money-wise may just be the spark that is needed to set off a "nuclear blast" of good deeds.

Door-to-door evangelization reinvigorates parish, its members say

BRYAN, Texas (CNS) — Walking through neighborhoods, knocking on doors and passing out parish bulletins are not activities typically associated with

Papal preacher says obeying God brings inner peace

VATICAN CITY (CNS) — Obeying God means living out God's plan, which then brings inner peace and serenity, said the preacher of the papal household. God wants his flock to be obedient, not because he wants to rule his underlings, but because it means "we are carrying out God's will" and aiming for the same things God wants, said Capuchin Father Raniero Cantalamessa. The more people conform their lives to what God has planned, the more they will be bathed in the light of truth and, as a result, in peace, the preacher said in a Lenten reflection offered March 31 to Pope Benedict XVI and senior Vatican officials. The Capuchin said a reflection on the importance of obedience could help contribute to a "good spiritual climate in the church and the Curia" every time one is faced with the possibility of job or personnel changes.

The Way of Beauty: Can it lead people to God?

VATICAN CITY (CNS) — Poets and philosophers have long pondered the mysterious nature of beauty: Is beauty only what pleases or teases the eye of the beholder? Or does a more universal beauty exist that can attract people of all ages and cultures? And what about the wifing or wrinkling demise of physical beauty? Isn't there perhaps something more enduring that offers a glimpse of the divine? Just as Socrates and other esteemed Greek intellectuals gathered one day more than 2,000 years ago to discuss beauty and love, another kind of symposium

The Pope Speaks

Pope Benedict XVI



CNS photo from Reuters

Pope says belief in Jesus leads to communion with God, people

VATICAN CITY (CNS) — Belief in Jesus Christ should lead people both to a deep communion with God as well as to unity with all men and women, Pope Benedict XVI said.

"Communion with God and communion among us are inseparable," the pope said March 29 at his weekly general audience in St. Peter's Square.

If people are not in communion with the God who created them, "the root or source of unity among us is destroyed," he said. And if people forget that they are all brothers and sisters, "our living in communion with the triune God is not real or true."

Pope Benedict was continuing a new series of audience talks about the apostles and the church, following his prepared text only briefly as he explained that it is through the apostles and their successors that the church continues to be a saving communion.

"This life of communion with God and among us is the aim of the proclamation of the Gospel, the aim of conversion to Christianity," he said.

Pope Benedict told the estimated 37,000 people gathered in St. Peter's Square that the Eucharist nourishes communion with God and with all who gather around the Lord's table throughout the world.

"This network of unity which embraces the world is the anticipation of the world to come in Christ Our Lord," he said.

In a world where "solitude threatens everyone," the pope said, the communion experienced in the church "makes us participants in the love which unites us with God and, therefore, unites us with one another."

"Despite all the human frailties" seen in the church throughout the centuries, he said, the church is "a marvelous creation of love."

"In the church, the Lord remains with us. In the Scriptures the Lord does not speak of the past, but speaks in the present tense. He speaks to us today. He gives us his light. He shows us the path of life. He gives us communion and, in that way, opens us to peace," he said.

Women invited to DCCW day retreat

All women of the Diocese of Victoria are invited to a retreat sponsored by the Victoria Diocesan Council of Catholic Women to be held Saturday, April 29, at Sts. Peter and Paul Catholic Church in Meyersville.

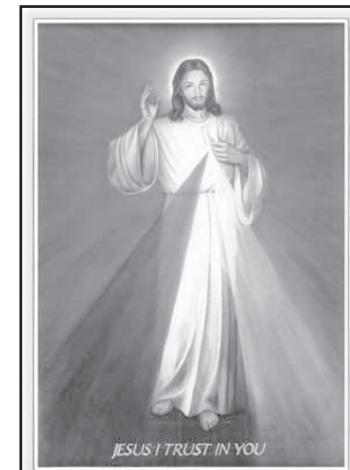
Father Michael Petering, the pastor of Sts. Peter and Paul has accepted the invitation to be the guest speaker. Father Michael will bring a beautiful message to help all to continue on their journey as disciples of Jesus.

Unice Washa, the newly elected province director will also attend, bringing news from the national council. After the talks, Mass will be celebrated by Bishop David Fellhauer, followed by a delicious lunch. The traditional CCW silent auction will also take place.

The day retreat will begin with registration from 9:00 to 9:45 a.m. (there is no registration fee).

This is a wonderful opportunity to take time out of busy schedules, take a ride out to the country to see the beautiful wildflowers, and renew one's mind and spirit for the Lord.

For more information, please contact Janice Ohrt, president of Victoria Council of Catholic Women, at (361) 575-2056.



Feast of Divine Mercy — April 23

The Feast of Divine Mercy will be celebrated at St. Mary Church, Victoria, on Divine Mercy Sunday, April 23, from 2:00 - 5:00 p.m., with Mass at 4:00 p.m. Confessions will be heard from 2:00 to 3:30. The Divine Mercy Novena may be recited from Good Friday, April 14, through Saturday, April 22, in preparation for the Feast. For more information, please contact Bertha McDowell at 578-4673, evenings and weekends. Everyone is invited to attend.

For those unable to attend at St. Mary's in Victoria, please check to see if there will be a special celebration of Divine Mercy Sunday in your parish.

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LIKE A GOOD NEIGHBOR

P02386 01/03

Catholic evangelization in the United States. Yet, for the past few months, lay Catholic missionaries have been going door-to-door in Santa Teresa Parish in Bryan. The outreach has invigorated the parish and helped bring so many people to church that another Mass was added to the weekend schedule. Margarita Gonzalez, 22, and Veronica Alcazar, 20, are members of the Missionaries Servants of the Word, a community of young laywomen and men, priests and nuns who are involved in direct evangelization to bring others to Christ. Father Raymundo Vasquez, pastor, and Father Cesar Diaz, associate pastor of Santa Teresa, had worked with the community in previous assignments and invited the missionaries to Bryan. Although the two young women sometimes have gotten doors slammed in their faces, overall they said they are pleased by how people have welcomed them. Many of those visited have been approached by members of other religious denominations. "They're surprised we are Catholic, but are happy to see us," Gonzalez told *The Catholic Spirit*, newspaper of the Austin Diocese.



Los obispos mexicanos expresan esperanza, preocupación con U.S. cuenta de la inmigración

Ciudad de México (CNS) — Los obispos mexicanos dice que son esperanzados sobre las perspectivas de una nueva cuenta en el U.S. Senado que permitiría que millones de inmigrantes ilegales legalizaran su estado, aunque se preocupan la cuenta se puede cambiar criminalizar a trabajadores indocumentados.

“Es un momento decisivo para la legislación de la migración,” obispo Rafael Romo Muñoz de Tijuana dijo en una rueda de prensa de marcha de la 28 llevada a cabo por la conferencia de los obispos mexicanos.

La cuenta podía representar “dos pasos adelante y una parte posterior del paso,” obispo Romo dijo.

De 11 millón de a 12 millones de inmigrantes ilegales estimados en los Estados Unidos, alrededor a medias, o alrededor 6 millones, es el mexicano.

Los obispos mexicanos también invitaron su propio gobierno para pasar las reformas económicas que crearían más trabajos en México y darían a trabajadores un incentivo para no emigrar a los Estados Unidos.

Cada año, México genera solamente alrededor de la mitad de los trabajos necesarios para resolver la demanda de la gente joven que inscribe a la mano de obra, y las reformas económicas se han pegado en el congreso de México por casi una década.

“Los políticos necesitan poner sus intereses del partido a un lado. El es qué ha conseguido de la manera,” obispo Romo dijo.

Los obispos impulsaron el gobierno mexicano para poner junta una política de migración mejor para los trabajadores americanos centrales que vivían ilegal en México o que pasaban a través en la

manera a los Estados Unidos. Los americanos centrales se quejan con frecuencia de abusos en las manos de autoridades mexicanas.

“La lucha de México para la reforma de la migración debe también traer un nuevo sentido de la responsabilidad con América Central. Deseamos ser tratados bien en los Estados Unidos, pero necesitamos tratar (los americanos centrales) bien, también,” dijo a obispo Rogelio Cabrera López de Tuxtla Gutiérrez.

El gobierno mexicano ha estado cabildeando activamente el U.S. Congreso desde 2000 para una reforma de la migración que legalizaría la estancia de los nómadas mexicanos en los Estados Unidos. El gobierno mexicano compró un anuncio full-page en el poste de marcha la 20 de Washington que dijo, “es importante encontrar una solución para la población indocumentada a que las vidas en los Estados Unidos y contribuyen al desarrollo del país, para incorporar la gente completamente en sus comunidades reales, con las mismas derechos y deberes.”

El comité judicial de marcha la 27 del senado aprobó una medida que, entre otras cosas, permite que los inmigrantes ilegales ya en el país legalicen su estado, después de esperar su vuelta en un sistema reservado, pagando una multa y satisfacer otros requisitos.

La cuenta, sin embargo, podía todavía ser cambiado en el piso del senado. También, tendrá que ser reconciliado con una cuenta de la casa de diciembre que autorizó la construcción de una cerca 700-mile a lo largo de la frontera mexicana y haría probablemente ser un inmigrante ilegal a la ofensa criminal. Bajo ley actual, los nómadas ilegales violan códigos

civiles y no criminales.

Incluso la cuenta más suave aprobada por el comité del senado el número casi doble de U.S. Los agentes de la patrulla de frontera durante los cinco años próximos y apresurarán la deportación de inmigrantes ilegales de países otros que México.

Los obispos mexicanos dijeron que los opusieron a cualquier medida que estuviera parada de la manera de los nómadas que buscan el trabajo.

“El intentar parar la migración con diversos tipos de barreras es imposible,” dijo a Arzobispo Alberto Suárez Inda de Morelia.

Él dijo U.S. los legisladores tienen la obligación moral “de hacer un esfuerzo especial de crear una manera legal de modo que los trabajadores mexicanos puedan encontrar los trabajos en ese país que permiten que tengan una vida dignificada.”

La cuenta aprobada por el comité del senado crearía el programa más grande del trabajador de huésped de los Estados Unidos puesto que el programa del bracero colocó a más de 4 millones de trabajadores mexicanos en trabajos agrícolas a partir de 1942 a 1964.

La cuenta pondría a inmigrantes ilegales en una trayectoria a la ciudadanía eventual, requerirlos trabajar por seis años antes de solicitar una tarjeta verde. Podrían entonces solicitar ciudadanía después de

cinco años y pagarían una multa \$1,000 y tuvieron que aprender inglés.

También crearía un programa temporal para permitir a 1.5 millones de trabajadores extranjeros en la industria agrícola y permitiría que 400,000 trabajadores extranjeros entraran en el país cada año.

Los obispos elogian los centenares de miles de manifestantes que han llevado las calles en días recientes para protestar la cuenta de la contra-inmigración de la casa.

Por lo menos 500,000 manifestantes resultaron en Los Ángeles de marzo la 25, a 1 g u n a s imágenes que llevan de nuestra señora de Guadalupe, Patrón santo de México. En Washington, vario cientos líderes de la fe —

incluyendo muchos sacerdotes católicos — recolectados fuera del capitol de marzo la 27 y nos cantaron “superarán,” una canción se asoció al movimiento de las derechos civiles.

“Es una causa de la alegría para ver cómo tan muchas organizaciones civiles y religiosas han contribuido de una manera grande a levantar el sentido de esta realidad entre el U.S. gente,” obispo Romo dijo.

Día dental del conocimiento de SmileLine - de abril el 21

SmileLine, recibirá un teléfono directo gratis que cualquier persona puede llamar para tener preguntas sobre la salud oral contestada por un dentista para libre. El teléfono directo estará abierto el viernes, De abril el 21, 2006, a partir de 8 est al CST de 5 p.m. y a cualquier persona puede llamar y hablar a los dentistas voluntarios en inglés o español.

Si está para una carencia del tiempo, razones financieras, o temiendo una visita al dentista, mucho Texans tiene preguntas sobre su salud oral que vayan por contestar, y SmileLine está aquí ayudar.

Uno de los problemas de salud dentales más comunes en americano es caries untreated. Según el U.S. Departamento de los servicios de salud y humanos, cerca de una mitad de americanos sufre de caries. Es una de las enfermedades más comunes de la niñez, el conducir a las cavidades y a la pérdida permanente del diente a (800) 764-5333.

“Buscando cuidado dental sobre una base más preventiva y más pro-active, los pacientes ayudarán a su salud total,” dicho Dr. Donna Molinero dicho, coordinador de SmileLine.

Como reportar un abuso.

Si usted o alguien que usted conoce ha sido abusado sexualmente por un clérigo o cualquier miembro del personal de la iglesia puede registrar su queja.

- Llame a la cancillería al (361)573-0828 y pida hablar con el Obispo o su canciller; o puede llamar a:
- Rev. Gary Janak al (979)543-3770 o a la Hna. Emilie Eilers al (361)575-7111, que son los coordinadores del Pastoral Care and Outreach;
- También puede comunicarse por escrito enviando su carta a:
Most Rev. David Fellhauer
Diocese of Victoria
P.O. Box 4070
Victoria, TX 77903
Por favor, escriba en el sobre:
“Personal and Confidential”

También podemos ayudarle a comunicar su queja a cualquier otra diócesis donde haya ocurrido el abuso si ahora usted se encuentra viviendo en la nuestra.

Si no se encuentra seguro de proceder con la queja o necesita más información, por favor comuníquese con el Rev. Gary Janak al (979)543-3770.



Veronica Alcazar, izquierda, y Margarita Gonzalez, representado en una foto enero a principios de, son los miembros de los criados de los misionarios de la palabra, una comunidad de jóvenes pone a las mujeres y a hombres se invitó que que ministraran para poblar en la parroquia de Santa Teresa en Bryan, Texas. (foto del CNS Maria P. Walker, *The Catholic Spirit*)

Parroquia a domicilio de los reinvigorece el evangelización, sus miembros dicen

BRYAN, Texas (CNS) — Caminando a través de vecindades, el golpear en puertas y el pasar fuera de boletines de la parroquia no son actividades asociadas típicamente al evangelización católico en los Estados Unidos. Todavía, para el pasado pocos meses, los misionarios católicos de la endecha han estado yendo a domicilio en la parroquia de Santa Teresa en Bryan. El exceder ha vigorizado la parroquia y ha ayudado a traer a tan mucha gente a la iglesia que otra masa fue agregada al horario del fin de semana. Margarita Gonzalez, 22, y Veronica Alcazar, 20, son los miembros de los criados de los misionarios de la palabra, una comunidad de jóvenes laywomen y los hombres, sacerdotes y monjas que

están implicados en el evangelización directo para traer otros a Cristo. Padre Raymundo Vasquez, pastor, y padre Cesar Diaz, pastor del asociado de Santa Teresa, había trabajado con la comunidad en asignaciones anteriores y había invitado a misionarios a Bryan. Aunque las dos mujeres jóvenes a veces han conseguido puertas cerradas de golpe en sus caras, total dijeron que son satisfechos por cómo la gente les ha dado la bienvenida. Muchos de éstos visitados han sido acercados por los miembros de otras denominaciones religiosas. “Están sorprendidos que somos católicos, pero sea feliz vernos,” Gonzalez dijo *The Catholic Spirit*, periódico de la diócesis de Austin.



New executive director named for Texas Catholic Conference

AUSTIN—Andrew D. Rivas has been named executive director of the Texas Catholic Conference, the association of the 15 Catholic dioceses of Texas. The announcement was made by Bishop Gregory M. Aymond, chair of the search committee, on behalf of the bishops of Texas, including Archbishops Joseph A. Fiorenza, Daniel N. DiNardo and José H. Gomez.

"Mr. Rivas' gifts are in many ways unique and well suited for this position," Bishop Aymond said. "With a law degree from The Catholic University of America and having worked for the U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops, he is very knowledgeable of church teaching, especially on social justice. He is highly respected by his co-workers at USCCB and on Capitol Hill."

Rivas served as policy advisor for the USCCB for more than four years, concentrating on federal legislation that impacted criminal justice, agriculture, and environmental issues. Prior to his position at the USCCB, he worked for Catholic Charities USA and the Senate Commerce Committee.

"I am very excited over the opportunity to serve as the new executive director of the Texas Catholic Conference and to live in one of the most beautiful cities in America," Rivas said. "I have always considered working for the church a blessing because it has allowed me to serve my community in a meaningful way. Now my community will include the city of Austin and the state of Texas."

Rivas follows Holy Cross Brother Ri-

chard Daly, who served as executive director of the Texas Catholic Conference for 26 years. Rivas will be the fourth director for the conference when he assumes the position on July 1.

The Texas Catholic Conference was founded in 1963 to encourage and foster cooperation and communication among the dioceses and the ministries of the Catholic Church in Texas. A major function is to be the public policy arm of the bishops of Texas before the Texas legislature, the Texas delegation in Congress, and state agencies. The public policy issues addressed by the conference include institutional concerns of the Catholic Church as well as issues related to Catholic social teachings.

Costs skyrocket, but clergy sex abuse cases fall sharply in 2005

WASHINGTON (CNS) — Clergy child sex abuse allegations dramatically declined in 2005 over the previous year, but costs skyrocketed, according to the yearly audit on how the U.S. church is applying child protection policies. Dioceses, Eastern-rite eparchies and religious communities paid out \$467 million in child sex abuse-related costs in 2005, \$309 million more than in 2004, while new credible allegations dropped by 28 percent to 783, said the audit report made public March 30. Most of the money, \$446 million, was paid out by dioceses and eparchies, with 49 percent covered by insurance. The payouts involved many cases reported in prior years. When added to previously released costs, the U.S. church



CATHOLIC SCHOOLS DONATE \$1 MILLION—Catholic school and religious education students donated over \$1 million to help Hurricane Katrina student victims. The National Catholic Educational Association (NCEA) sponsored the Child-to-Child Campaign to Aid Catholic Education which raised money for Catholic schools and religious education programs that were affected by the hurricane. Above, Dr. Karen Ristau and Mr. Dan Curtin of NCEA are surrounded by some of the children benefiting from the generous donations to the Child-to-Child Campaign. (*New Orleans Clarion Herald* photos by Frank J. Methe)

has paid out more than \$1.3 billion on clergy sex abuse-related issues, mostly in settlements to victims, since 1950. Besides allegations, the number of alleged victims and abusers dropped significantly.

Commission, others warn of fragile state of Sudan's peace

WASHINGTON (CNS) — A year into Sudan's peace process, a continued ethnic cleansing campaign in the Darfur region threatens the nation's fragile stability, according to both a U.S. government commission and a Catholic Relief Services program manager. The last week of March brought the release of a report on Sudan by the U.S. Commission on International Religious Freedom and a CRS-sponsored series of meetings with a newly returned program coordinator for Darfur. The coming weeks will bring other events calculated to bring attention to the tenuous situation in the region. They include an ongoing postcard campaign; an April 2-9 week of prayer and action for Darfur, co-sponsored by a broad coalition of interfaith groups; and an April 5 Sudan Freedom Walk and rally and April 30 Rally to Stop Genocide, both in Washington. Rep. Frank Wolf, R-Va., co-chairman of the Congressional Human Rights Caucus, called on President George W. Bush to "go back and do something bolder" in trying to resolve Sudan's tenuous state. He recommended appointing a special envoy who would work on bringing lasting solutions to the region.

Support urged for humanitarian needs in emergency appropriations

WASHINGTON (CNS) — House consideration of an emergency appropriations bill should deal with humanitarian assistance for Sudan, funding for migration and refugee programs, additional food aid and Iraqi reconstruction, House members were told in a March 7 letter from two Catholic leaders. In the letter, the chairman of the U.S. bishops' Committee on International Policy and the president of Catholic Relief Services reminded House members they "are called to target funds where the need is greatest and where it can be most effective." To that end, Bishop Thomas G.

Wenski of Orlando, Fla., and Ken Hackett of CRS, the U.S. bishops' overseas relief and development agency, urged members of the House Appropriations Committee to ensure that the legislation scheduled for action in the House March 15 supports critical needs. The letter requested attention to four areas: funding refugee, humanitarian and peacekeeping expenses in Sudan; adding to the Bush administration's request for \$51.2 million to fund the State Department's Migration and Refugee Assistance account; fully funding the \$350 million request from President George W. Bush for Title II food aid and adding \$50 million to replenish the Bill Emerson Humanitarian Trust; and funding that supports "responsible transition" in Iraq.

Women in Prison

This is an excerpt of the seventh in a series of eight pastoral statements by Catholic Bishops of the South on the Criminal Justice process and a gospel response. The full text can be found at www.victoriadiocese.org.

As pastoral leaders of the Roman Catholic community, we continue to reflect with you on the themes of responsibility, rehabilitation, and restoration in light of the reality of crime and criminal justice in our area of the country.

As we studied the issues involved in criminal justice over these past three years, we have found that the population of women in prison in the U.S. is escalating faster than that of men in prison. In fact, the U.S. now has 10 times more women in prison than the combined nations of Western Europe with approximately the same number of women in the population.¹

The testimony of a volunteer teacher in a women's prison captures the key issues: "The majority are single parents of minor children. They tend to be depressed rather than angry. They are pregnant; they are mothers and grandmothers. They are undereducated and underemployed. Most should be in treatment, not in jail."

The following points were made by the bishops:

Most women in prison are victims of
See Women in Prison, p. 18

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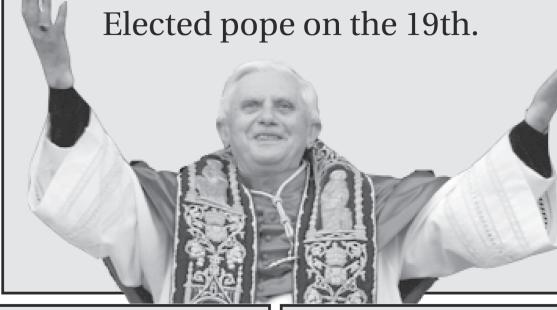
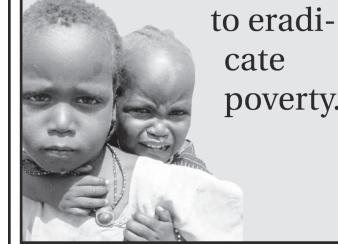


Investment in Iraqi people key to nation's stability, nun says

WASHINGTON (CNS) — For a peaceful, stable Iraq, money needs to be invested in the Iraqi people, not in the U.S. military and U.S. corporations currently operating in the country, said Sister Simone Campbell, who is national coordinator for Network, a Catholic social justice lobby. "Part of the problem is that money is going to the military and not into development," Sister Simone, a Sister of Social Service, told Catholic News Service March 13. She said that another aspect of unrest in Iraq is the high rate of unemployment, which she estimated to be between 40 percent and 50 percent of the working-age population. Sister Simone added that U.S. corporations in Iraq rebuilding infrastructure are not hiring Iraqi people, so are not helping to solve the unemployment problem. Sister Simone was one of about 10 interfaith religious leaders who led an ecumenical prayer service for peace in Iraq outside the U.S. Capitol. The "Blessed are the Peacemakers" prayer service, which drew approximately 200 participants, was part of a March 10-13 ecumenical advocacy effort for peace and justice organized by grass-roots religious groups including Church World Service, Union for Reform Judaism, Muslim Public Affairs Council, National Sikh Gurdwara and the Interfaith Alliance. Sister Simone, who traveled to Iraq in December 2002 on a two-week peace mission, said three components are needed to materialize simultaneously for a peaceful Iraq: economic development, a unity government, and a decrease in the number of U.S. troops in the country.

Church workers say India must enforce efforts to curb female feticide

NEW DELHI, India (CNS) — Though church workers have hailed the recent Indian government campaign to curb rampant female feticide, they said real progress will not come without enforcement and changes in attitudes. India's Ministry for Women and Child Development launched the Decade of the Survival of the Girl Child in March to reverse the decline in the number of women. "It is a tragedy that every year half a million girl children are being killed and prevented from being born," said Renuka Chowdhury, federal minister for women and child development. A day later, in its annual budget, the Delhi territorial government announced an incentive to dissuade parents from aborting female fetuses. The Delhi government will deposit 5,000 rupees (US\$112) in the name of each

2005	APRIL Elected pope on the 19th. 	MAY Waives 5-year waiting period for John Paul II's sainthood cause. Appoints Archbishop Levada to head doctrinal congregation.	JUNE Denounces gay marriage, cohabitation, birth control. Meets with world Jewish leaders. Releases Compendium of the Catechism of the Catholic Church.
	JULY Urges G8 leaders to take measures to eradicate poverty. 	AUGUST Visits Cologne, Germany for World Youth Day. Approves document barring ordination of men with "deep-seated" homosexual tendencies.	OCTOBER Presides over Synod of Bishops on the Eucharist.
2006	NOVEMBER Says created world is "intelligent project" reflecting divine origin.	DECEMBER Says human rights must be respected even in war. Calls for proper application of Vatican II.	
	JANUARY At baptism service, calls on Christians to resist "culture of death." Publishes first encyclical, "God Is Love."	FEBRUARY Presides over discussion on reconciliation with Lefebvrites. Names 15 new cardinals. Condemns religious violence in Iraq and Nigeria.	MARCH Visits Vatican Radio and receives an iPod nano. 

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female born in New Delhi, and parents can claim the deposit with interest when the girl turns 18 and completes schooling. "These are very positive measures, and we are most happy about it," said Sister Mary Scaria, coordinator of the Justice and Peace Commission of the Delhi Archdiocese. "But the question is how sincere is the government in implementing such declarations," said the nun, a member of the Sisters of Charity of Jesus and Mary.

Christians are 'moderating force' in Lebanon, says leading politician

BEIRUT, Lebanon (CNS) — Christians in Lebanon are a "moderating force" because their beliefs promote tolerance, said a Lebanese general often mentioned as a potential presidential candidate. Gen. Michel Aoun, leader of the Free Patriotic Movement, the largest Christian bloc in the Lebanese Parliament, said Christians were "like a transitional culture between the West and the East ... like a human bridge between both sides." Aoun, a Maronite Catholic, said he thought it was "very symbolic for relations" that a memorandum of understanding between his movement and Hezbollah, which represents the Shiite Muslim community, was

formally presented in February at St. Michael Maronite Catholic Church in Beirut. A day earlier, a Catholic church in Beirut was attacked by Islamic extremists protesting caricatures of the prophet Mohammed. Aoun also noted that St. Michael's is on the border of the Green Line, the area that witnessed intense Christian-Muslim fighting during Lebanon's 1975-90 war.

Christian convert, in Italy, thanks pope for appealing on his behalf

ROME (CNS) — After fleeing to Italy, an Afghan man who faced the death penalty for converting to Christianity thanked Pope Benedict XVI for appealing on his

behalf. "In Kabul they would have killed me, I'm sure of that," Abdul Rahman said after he was granted refugee status in Italy on grounds of religious persecution. Speaking to a small group of Italian reporters March 30, Rahman thanked a number of people who pressed for his release; the first person he mentioned was the pope. Rahman, 41, arrived in Italy from Afghanistan in strict secrecy. He said he intended to stay in the country and find work. In the meantime, he was being cared for by the Italian Interior Ministry, officials said. Pope Benedict and others had appealed for Rahman's release, urging Afghan authorities to show respect for freedom of religion.



CNS photo/L'Osservatore Romano

PRIEST PLACES FLOWERS ON TOMB OF POPE JOHN PAUL II—Msgr. Mieczyslaw Mokrzycki, who was the assistant secretary for Pope John Paul II, places flowers on the tomb of the late pope during a special service in the grotto of St. Peter's Basilica April 2, the first anniversary of the death of the Polish pope.

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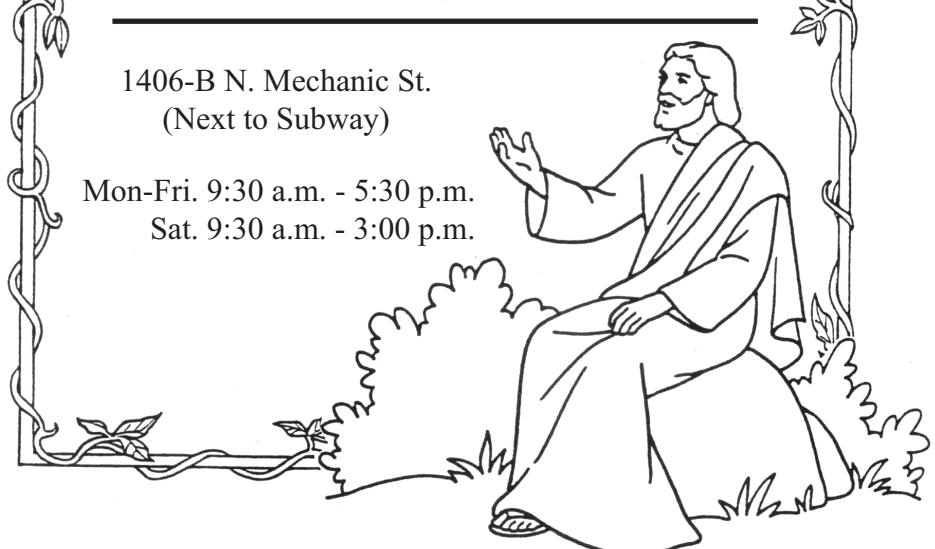




Photo by David Snyder, CRS

HIV positive since 2000, Doreen Otieno was in and out of hospitals for a variety of ailments until she began ARV's at the Nazareth Holy Family Center in Limuru, Kenya. Since beginning the ARV regimen, Otieno has been able to return to work at a nearby commercial flower farm with the same energy she had before falling ill with HIV.

Anticipating the hope of Easter

New life for people living with AIDS in the developing world

By Ken Hackett
President, Catholic Relief Services

Pope Benedict XVI, in his Lenten message, calls this solemn season "a privileged time of interior pilgrimage" in which God accompanies us, "sustaining us towards the intense joy of Easter."

Our Catholic faith in the resurrection, which we anticipate during Lent and celebrate at Easter, teaches us that hope never dies. That is an important truth to keep in mind when confronted with a crisis of the magnitude of the HIV/AIDS pandemic. The toll of this disease is staggering. HIV has infected more than 68 million people and 25 million have died since the beginning of the pandemic. Currently about 43 million people are living with HIV—nearly three-quarters of them in Africa. Its effects have been devastating, and not just on those who contract the virus. It has torn apart families as parents die, leaving countless children orphaned and vulnerable. It creates poverty, as wage earners can no longer work and support their dependents. And the HIV/AIDS pandemic has stigmatized its victims.

What cause is there for hope?

Actually, there is reason to remain optimistic. Effective treatments are becoming more widely available, such as antiretroviral drugs, a combination of medicines that helps reverse the progression of HIV in the body. In many people,

the result is so dramatic that it has been dubbed "the Lazarus effect," after the friend that Jesus raised from the dead. People are carried into clinics on stretchers, on death's doorstep, and in a few weeks are able to walk home to resume their lives and support their families.

Catholic Relief Services (CRS) is the lead agency in a consortium that is the recipient of the largest U.S. government grant to deliver antiretroviral treatment to people living with AIDS in Africa, the Caribbean, and Latin America.

The treatment is already showing results that one could only call miraculous. There is the story of Doreen Otieno, a flower farmer in Kenya who could not afford the life-saving antiretroviral treatment from private or government health services on the \$43 she earned each month. Then, she began receiving these life-saving antiretroviral drugs through the consortium-supported Nazareth Hospital in Limuru, Kenya. Before, her body was wracked with frequent opportunistic infections like meningitis. She lost weight and became so weak that she was no longer able to work. After five months of treatment, she regained 18 pounds and became strong enough to return to her work at the flower farm. But the biggest effect, she said, has been in the lives of her children, now 14 and 10 years old. She told us: "Now, the money I used to spend on hospitals is no longer taken from my salary.

So now my children are back in school."

In addition to the 90 local partner treatment facilities that are implementing the antiretroviral therapy program, CRS is helping many other communities to care for their own sick through Home Based Care programs. The philosophy behind these programs is rooted in the harsh reality of the developing world: Clinics and hospitals are often located miles from rural villages, making them inaccessible for the patients who usually have no transportation other than their own two feet. The scope of the AIDS pandemic has also strained the resources of existing clinics and health care services. So CRS and its local partners fill a critical gap in the care of people with HIV/AIDS by enabling families and communities to care for the sick in their own homes. These programs provide counseling, health care training, and supplies like food, clothing, blankets, and medicines. By supporting community volunteers in this way, CRS not only helps to reduce the stigma of the disease, but also keeps families intact and enhances a community's capacity to care for each other as the heart and hands of Jesus.

These are just two initiatives that are helping us to make inroads against a pandemic that is a daunting challenge. But we are compelled by our faith to act—and to never lose hope.

Women in Prison

Continued from p. 16

severe and prolonged physical and/or sexual abuse.

Nine out of ten women in prison are substance abusers, and many are medicated while incarcerated.

Incarcerated women are generally mothers of minor children and suffer deeply as a result of separation from their families.

The overwhelming number of women in prison belong in treatment, classrooms leading to a General Education Diploma, and/or vocational training rather than in prison.

We call for greater advocacy for using probation rather than incarceration. Vocational training must be greatly expanded.

Vatican official says Catholics must support Holy Land Christians

VATICAN CITY (CNS) — Catholics have an obligation to support Christians living in the Holy Land with prayer and material resources, said Cardinal Ignace Moussa Daoud. The cardinal, prefect of the Congregation for Eastern Churches, urged Catholics around the world to give to the special "Pro Terra Sancta" collection on Good Friday or on the date established by their local bishops' conference. "The presence of Christians in the Holy Land is more necessary than ever for the peaceful future of the area," he said, as well as for the good of the universal church, which needs to have "living communities that profess the Gospel faith" present and active in the land where Jesus was born, died and rose again. The collection was established in 1618 by Pope Paul V to support the Catholic community in the Holy Land and to help maintain the "sacred sites linked to Redemption."

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EVENTS

The Catholic Lighthouse
Page 19 — April 2006



"God or the Girl," April 16, A&E

By Harry Forbes

NEW YORK (CNS) — It's finally happened: Reality TV has found religion.

In the A&E cable channel's new five-part "God or the Girl," four young men with a calling to the priesthood must decide whether to enter the seminary or serve God as laypeople.

The series will air, appropriately enough, during Easter week, with the first two episodes premiering on Easter, April 16, 8-10 p.m. CDT. (The third and fourth

hours debut Monday, April 17, 8-10 p.m. CDT, with the finale Sunday, April 23, 9-10 p.m. CDT.)

Apart from the slightly sensational title — actually a misnomer as none of these devout men would ever consider abandoning God — the series created by Darryl Silver, Stephen David and David Eilenberg and executive-produced by Silver and Mark Wolper offers a surprisingly reverential treatment of a profound life passage.

In its essentials, the series is as serious-minded as a public television documentary on the subject, albeit fitted out with all the trappings of "Survivor."

The program touches only lightly on the sex abuse shadow. "Everyone will think you're a child molester," remarks Steve at one point, anticipating outsiders' reactions.

We won't ruin the surprise of which of the four (if any) actually decides to enter the seminary, but the filmmakers have

done all in their power to hook viewers, with standard pre-commercial teases and cliffhanger closes. And if those methods build a large audience for such an atypically religious-based series, then why not?

The filmmakers shot footage on a fifth subject who will appear on the forthcoming DVD version only.

An occasional crass expression and a few sexually related words and innuendo are the only flags among otherwise unobjectionable content.

The Movie Review Line — (800) 311-4CCC

www.catholicnews.com/movies

Special Collections

Operation Rice Bowl — Sundays of Lent and Easter Sunday

Holy Land — April 14 (Good Friday)

Collection for Home Missions — May 7

Ongoing Events

Mini-Life-Chain — In Victoria every Wednesday before the 2nd Thursday of each month. Call (361) 578-2506 or (361) 578-2002 for time and intersection location.

Victoria—St. Francis and St. Clare Fraternity/Secular Franciscans — For meeting dates call Mary Ann LeBlanc at (361) 575-1858.

Our Lady of the Rosary Fraternity Emerging/Secular Franciscans — meets every other Wednesday from 7:00-9:00 p.m. For dates and location call Jay Howard at (361) 574-8487.

St. Padre Pio Prayer Group meets the 2nd Saturday of each month at St. Mary Church Activity Center (audio-visual room) in Victoria for a 7:30 a.m. Mass, followed by prayer and light refreshments.

Tridentine Mass (Latin) — is held the first and third Sunday of each month at St. Mary Church, St. Mary (outside of Hallettsville on FM 340) at 11:00 a.m. For more info. call (361) 594-3024.

Engaged Encounter — Register as soon as you have contacted your pastor due to limited space. **It is strongly recommended that you attend an encounter weekend four to six months prior to your wedding date.** For a registration form, contact your pastor, visit the [Web site at www.victoriadiocese.org/family/ee.htm](http://www.victoriadiocese.org/family/ee.htm) or write to: Engaged Encounter, P.O. Box 4070, Victoria, Texas 77903. The weekend is held at the Spiritual Renewal Center. The dates for 2006 are: May 5-7, June 23-25, Sept. 15-17 and Nov. 17-19. For more info., call (361) 573-0828 ext. 56. A date cannot be reserved for any couple unless a cashier's check or money order is sent in the amount of \$190 for weddings being held within the Diocese of Victoria or \$245 for weddings being held outside the Diocese of Victoria.

Marriage Encounter — Weekends are held at the Spiritual Renewal Center. For more info. or to register, write or call Milton and Diane Rejcek, 2512 Hillcrest, Bay City, Texas 77414; (979) 245-0323; www.mevictoria.org

Retrouvaille — For troubled marriages — The word Retrouvaille means 'rediscovery.' It is a program that offers the chance to rediscover yourself, your spouse, and a loving relationship in your marriage. Tens of thousands headed for divorce have successfully saved their marriages by attending. The next Retrouvaille weekend will be held Sept. 1, 2006, in Victoria. To register, please call Gerd and Linda Conner at (979) 648-2276. For more information or for other dates in Texas, please go to www.retrouvaille.org.

Cursillo News—Ultreya: Witnessing to God's working in our everyday lives — song and prayers, Fridays, 7:45 p.m.; **Sabatina:** Rosary and devotion to Mary, Saturdays, 8:00 a.m.; **Holy Hour:** Every 1st Tuesday, 7:45 p.m. Events held at Our Lady of Sorrows Church and Trinity Hall.

Singles — Catholic Singles, 40 and over, meet every second and fourth Thursday of the month at Holy Family Education Building at 7:00 p.m. Call Sue at (361) 578-3106 or Eleanor at (361) 575-5314 or Jean at (361) 578-8760.

Singles — Young Adults between the ages of 21 and 45 meet for an evening of fellowship and good company every 1st and 3rd Thursday at Holy Family at 7:00 p.m. Call Jim Wearden at (361) 579-9737 or Laura (361) 579-6516.

ACTS Retreats — Upcoming ACTS retreat dates. **Men's ACTS** retreats: May 18 — OLS, Victoria, TBE; June 1 — St. Philip, El Campo, Spiritual Renewal Center (SRC); August 17 — Holy Family, Victoria, SRC. **Women's ACTS** retreats: April 27 — St. Philip, El Campo, TBE; April 27 — OLV, Victoria, SRC; May 4 — Assumption, Ganado, TBE; May 11 — Holy Family, Victoria, SRC; July 13 — Holy Cross, Bay City, SRC; July 20 — OLG/Spanish, SRC; July 27 — OLS, Victoria, SRC; Aug. 3 — Sacred Heart, Hallettsville, Women/Teens, Cathedral Oaks; Aug. 10 — Assumption, Ganado, TBE. **Teens ACTS** retreats: June 15 — Sacred Heart, Hallettsville, CO; July 27 — St. Philip, El Campo, CO; Aug. 3 — Sacred Heart, Hallettsville, Women/Teens, CO. For more information see the ACTS Web site at www.actsmissions.org.

Natural Family Planning — For bilingual (Spanish or En-

glish) sessions of the **Sympo-Thermal Method (S-TM)** in Palacios, call Rene and Wilma Galvan at (361) 972-5030. Available for counseling and classes. Introductory presentations on the **Creighton Model Ovulation Method** are offered in Wharton at Our Lady of Mount Carmel Church and in East Bernard at Holy Cross Catholic Church. Please contact Melissa Morse at (979) 335-7306 for more information or to register for classes. For information about the Creighton Model in the Victoria area, contact Rudy and Stella DeLosSantos (361) 573-2624. **Natural Family Planning is the only church approved form of family planning.**

Goliad — Presidio La Bahia Museum and Visitor Center — a National Historic Landmark — is the only Spanish fort remaining in the possession of the Catholic Church in North America. A tour program is available to groups. The presidio is open daily from 9:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. and is closed on major holidays. Admission is \$3 for adults and \$1 for children under 12. The fort is handicapped accessible. For more information call (361) 645-3752. **For upcoming events see the Web site at: www.presidiolabahia.org**

San Luis Church. For more information call (361) 564-2893.

Weimar — St. Michael Annual Spring Festival April 30 at the Veterans Hall. A fried-chicken and sausage dinner with all the trimmings begins at 11:00 a.m. Drive-thru plates-to-go available at St. Michael Family Center. The auction starts at 1:30 p.m. inside the a/c hall. There will be games, cakewalk, music, and refreshments.

Upcoming Events

Hostyn — Holy Rosary Mayfest May 7 beginning with a Polka Mass at 10:00 a.m. A barbecue-pork and sausage dinner will begin at 11:00 a.m. with music, activities, and games all day.

Wharton — Our Lady of Mt. Carmel Annual Bazaar and Barbecue Dinner May 7 on the church grounds (506 S. East Ave). A barbecue dinner of chicken, beef, and sausage will be served from 10:30 a.m. to 1:30 p.m. for \$7 each. Dine-in or drive-thru serving available. There will be an auction (1:00 p.m.), live music, Mt. Carmel Folklorico Dancers, games, cakewalk, food booths, plant walk and much more.

Lubbock — A bilingual (English and Spanish) Healing Service and Mass with Father Ralph A. DiOrio, Apostolate of Divine Mercy and Healing Crusade, will be held May 7, 2006, at the Lubbock Civic Center, 1501 Mac Davis Lane. The service is sponsored by the Diocese of Lubbock and the Charismatic Renewal. For more information contact Father Nelson Diaz at (806) 863-2201 or Lupe Villarreal Jr. at (806) 762-0447.

Schulenburg — Bishop Forest High School Reunion May 13 at Wolters Park Pavilion beginning at 3:00 p.m. This reunion will be similar to the one three years ago. Hamburgers and soft drinks will be sold by St. Rose School. For more information call Joe Cernosek at (979) 743-4331 or Dan Mueller at (979) 247-4746. See page 6 for more info.

Victoria — Knights of Columbus Council 1329 chicken-barbecue fund-raiser April 23 at the KC Hall. The price is \$5 per chicken. Beans and Spanish rice available for \$1 per pint. Sale starts at 8:30 a.m. Proceeds benefit council's projects.

Hallettsville — Sacred Heart Parish Spring Festival May 28 at the KC Hall. A fried-chicken and stew dinner will be served from 10:30 a.m. to 1:30 p.m. Music throughout the day and night. The auction begins at 1:00 p.m. There will be games, entertainment, and a train ride for the children.

Shiner — Sts. Cyril and Methodius Spring Picnic May 28 at the American Legion Park. A stew, fried-chicken and sausage dinner will be served from 10:30 a.m. to 2:00 p.m. An auction begins at 12:00 p.m. There will be a country store, cake wheel, plant wheel, kiddie rides and games. Music day and night.

Flatonia — Sacred Heart Spring Picnic June 4 with a fried-chicken and stew dinner beginning at 11:00 a.m. There will be a horseshoes tournament. Music throughout the day. There will be an auction, country store and more.

St. Mary — St. Mary Parish Picnic June 11 at the parish hall. Mass will be celebrated at the church beginning at 9:15 a.m. A stew and sausage dinner begins at 10:30 a.m. There will be games, plants, cakewalk, train ride, and country store. Hamburgers will be sold in the afternoon. Auction begins at 1:00 p.m. Dance to live music from 11:00 a.m. to 9:00 p.m.

Bay City — Our Lady of Guadalupe Annual Parish Jamaica June 11 on the parish grounds (1412 12th Street). Food booths open at 11:00 a.m. There will be live music, Mexican food, entertainment, games, and fun for all ages.

Wharton — Holy Family Annual Bazaar, June 25

Dubina — Sts. Cyril and Methodius Parish Picnic July 2

St. John — St. John Annual Parish 4th of July Picnic

Moravia — Ascension of Our Lord Parish Picnic, July 16

Boling — St. Joseph Mission Annual Bazaar, Aug. 6

Frelsburg — Sts. Peter and Paul Annual Festival, Aug. 6

Yoakum — St. Joseph Parish Picnic, Aug. 6

Palacios — St. Anthony Shrimporee, Aug. 6

Weimar — St. Michael Harvest Feast, Aug. 13

Praha — St. Mary Parish Picnic, Aug. 15

San Antonio — Oct. 20-21, 2006, Criminal Justice Conference at the Cathedral Conference Center. For more information, please contact Beverly Linke at (361) 277-5828.

Victoria — Catechetical Conference Sept. 30 at Holy Family Church.

When & Where

Picnics, Activities, etc.

April

El Campo — The Hispanic Education Project will host its 14th annual scholarship banquet on Saturday, April 8, at the El Campo Civic Center. Hospitality hour begins at 6:00 p.m. with dinner and program starting at 7:00 p.m. Tickets are \$15 adults and \$10 students. Guest Speaker and entertainment will highlight the evening. Net proceeds benefit the HEP scholarship fund. For ticket information call Andrew Garza at (979) 543-2218 or Bobby Perez at (979) 543-2753.

Bloomington — St. Patrick's Annual Spring Festival and Barbecue April 23. Half pound barbecue-brisket and sausage plates will be served starting at 11:00 a.m. at \$6 per plate. Drive-thru plates-to-go available. There will be an auction, country store, cakewalk, and a kid's room. Located at 13316 State Hwy. 185.

Beasley — St. Wenceslaus annual bazaar at the CCD building on the church grounds April 23. A barbecue-beef, chicken, and sausage dinner will be served beginning at 10:30 a.m. The auction begins at 11:30 a.m. along with music and entertainment for all ages.

Victoria — Knights of Columbus Council 1329 chicken-barbecue fund-raiser April 23 at the KC Hall. The price is \$5 per chicken. Beans and Spanish rice available for \$1 per pint. Sale starts at 8:30 a.m. Proceeds benefit council's projects.

Victoria — St. Mary's Altar Society Annual Games Party Tuesday, April 25, noon to 4:00 p.m. A lunch of chicken casserole, salad, garlic bread, cookies, and drinks will be served at 1:00 p.m. A country store will feature homemade goods and craft items. Admission is \$7. For reservations call Ann Carver at (361) 575-2050, Geraldine Jurica at (361) 573-3949, or Martha Hamel at (361) 575-1932.

Meyersville — The Victoria Diocesan Council of Catholic Women will hold a day retreat for all women of the diocese Saturday, April 29, at Sts. Peter and Paul Church. Registration will be from 9 to 9:45 a.m. the day of the retreat. There is no registration fee. Father Michael Petering, pastor of Sts. Peter and Paul, will be the guest speaker; talks followed by Mass celebrated by Bishop Fellhauer. See more information on pg. 14.

Victoria — Holy Family Festival April 30 at the community center. A barbecue-beef and sausage dinner served from 11:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m. with curb service available for plates-to-go. There will be a country store, cake wheel, children's games, and more. Auction begins at 1:00 p.m.

Yorktown — San Luis Jamaica at the church hall April 30 from 10:00 a.m. to 10:00 p.m. Tamales will be sold beginning at 10:30 a.m. Serving of barbecue-chicken dinner with all the trimmings begins also at 10:30 a.m. Live music featuring local bands along with a country/plant store, snow cones, cakewalk, children's games, and crafts booths — vendors welcome, call for more information. Mass at 10:00 a.m. at



Parish's weekly meals evolve into full-scale migrant ministry

By Patricia Zapor
Catholic News Service

ALTAR, Mexico (CNS) — In the beginning, a concerned group of parishioners at Our Lady of Guadalupe Church decided that the men in Altar's town square, which is anchored on one corner by the church, looked like they needed a hot meal, explained Josefina Campuzano.

After the U.S. Border Patrol began enforcement campaigns in the 1990s at the most common points on the border for

migrants.

In May 2000 when Campuzano and other volunteers from the church began cooking a simple meal once a week and taking it to the plaza, between 2,000 and 2,500 people a day were passing through Altar, explained former mayor Francisco Garcia Aten. The permanent population in Altar, in the state of Sonora, is about 14,000.

The parishioners were initially surprised when as many as 200 people would



CNS photo/Patricia Zapor

POSTER DETAILS DANGERS FACED BY BORDER CROSSERS—A poster detailing Sonoran Desert dangers, from snakes and scorpions to jumping cholla cactus, is part of efforts to warn would-be border crossers of the risks of trying to walk illegally into the United States. It asks, “Is it worth risking your life?” The poster is in a community center for migrants in Altar, Mexico; the center is sponsored by the local Catholic parish, the Archdiocese of Hermosillo and Catholic Relief Services.

crossing into the U.S. illegally, in Arizona, California and Texas, Altar became a point from which people launched efforts to sneak in.

Its location near major Mexican highways and about 60 miles down a dirt road from a less densely patrolled section of the border west of the Nogales, Ariz., port of entry helped turn Altar's fading agricultural economy into one based on services

come forward for the free meals. They began asking their guests a few questions, compiling statistical data about where the migrants came from, how often they had tried to cross the border and what their needs were.

“After a few months we realized they needed more services — medical care, emotional support, places to clean up and to sleep, somewhere to do laundry,”

Campuzano said.

With assistance from the Archdiocese of Hermosillo and U.S.-based Catholic Relief Services, the parish's ministry blossomed into a full-service center. It includes comfortable, clean beds for 20 people, a dining room offering dinner and breakfast, a small clinic, showers, a laundry room and a storeroom where guests can get a change of clothes, shoes and socks or a warm blanket.

“We hoped it would be an oasis in the desert,” Campuzano explained to a group of visitors from the Diocese of Tucson, Ariz., which is directly north. The U.S. diocese and the Archdiocese of Hermosillo have collaborated on ministry to migrants for several years. Two trips in February and early March were offered to parish leaders from Tucson to give them a perspective on immigration and migrant ministry south of the border.

Father Prisciliano Peraza, pastor of Our Lady of Guadalupe, said the goal is for the Centro Comunitario de Atencion al Migrante y Necesitado (Community Center to Aid Migrants and the Needy) to be “a place where migrants are served with dignity and joy.”

“Our primary mission and our motive is the message of Jesus,” he said. “We hope it embodies the call to serve the least of our brothers with love, charity, peace, brotherhood, justice, and solidarity.”

The center is a cheerful contrast to most of the town's commercially run

in January were from the southern Mexican states of Chiapas and Veracruz. Fifty-eight percent had only a primary education and 52 percent had been removed from the U.S. at least once. Twenty-four percent said they had experienced some sort of rights violation, such as being robbed or mistreated by government authorities.

A typical example of mistreatment migrants report while in custody in the United States is being held for more than eight hours without food or water, Garcia said.

In addition to the beds, meals, and other resources, the community center has everyone who uses their services watch a presentation about the dangers of trying to cross the desert on foot, ranging from dehydration and poisonous snakes to hypothermia. A brochure distributed at the center, published by the Mexican consulate in Nogales, Ariz., warns in Spanish: “Cuidado (Beware), Mexicano, many of your fellow Mexicans have died crossing the Sonora-Arizona border in recent years.”

“Many people don't have any experience with the desert,” said Father Peraza. People who arrive by bus from more temperate climates don't realize that a gallon of water will never see them through three days of walking in 100-degree weather.

“They think they're going to walk for three days along a flowing river and under trees,” such as they might in hilly



CNS photo/Karl Bierach, The New Vision

MIGRANTS WAIT AT 'GUESTHOUSE' IN MEXICO—Migrants wait at a “guesthouse” in Altar, Mexico, before trying to cross the border into the U.S. They typically will take a van 60 miles north to a tiny border town, where they will attempt to enter the United States through the Sonoran Desert.

guesthouses, where for about \$4 a night, one might get only a metal bunk with a worn piece of carpet for a mattress in a house crowded with scores of people.

At one such place a few blocks from the community center, dozens of men sat in dark rooms and a small courtyard. A 42-year-old man who called himself Felix, from the Mexican state of Puebla, said he left his wife and three teenagers behind to try to get a better-paying job in the United States. His previous job raising cattle earned him about 4,000 pesos, or about \$400, a month.

He had never tried to leave Mexico before, he said, and had no idea what to expect.

“I know it is a risk,” he said. “But I don't know what the risks are. I have no idea what is going to happen.”

Garcia, the center's human rights director, said volunteers interview each visitor, in part to ensure smugglers or thieves aren't taking advantage of the facility. But they also continue to track demographics and to brief each person on their rights under Mexican and U.S. laws.

According to statistics posted in the center's lobby, the majority of its visitors

Chiapas or Oaxaca, he said. Nor do the coyotes they hire bother to educate them.

Father Peraza said he wages a constant battle to replace posters about the dangers of crossing that he tapes up around the church; they get torn down all the time. One displays a map of the region showing distances between the border and “nearby” communities. For instance, it's nearly 60 miles of harsh, mountainous desert between Sasabe and Tucson, a trip coyotes might tell people they can walk in a day or two.

About 280 people are known to have died in the Arizona desert in the fiscal year that ended Sept. 30. More than 3,000 deaths of border crossers have been counted since the 1990s.

The back wall of Father Peraza's church also displays posters sent by family members seeking word of loved ones believed to have gone to Altar.

“Disappeared,” they read, and include photos, names, descriptions and home-towns of relatives not heard from in months: “Ubaldo Suarez Meza, 16, from Oaxaca.” “Florencia Marcos Rivera, last seen July 3, 2005, in Altar.”

Immigration reform still up in the air

WASHINGTON (CNS) — Thousands of people, many of them Spanish-speaking immigrants, loudly voiced their displeasure about a House-passed immigration bill with a large rally outside the Capitol March 7. The bill would stiffen penalties for undocumented immigrants and their employers, and Cardinal Roger M. Mahony of Los Angeles has said church and charitable organizations would be subject to prosecution if they aid immigrants. The Senate is considering its own versions of immigration legislation.

The bill, the Border Protection, Anti-Terrorism and Illegal Immigration Control Act, sponsored by Rep. James Sensenbrenner, R-Wis., passed the House Dec. 16 by a vote of 239-182.

The day of the rally the Senate Judiciary Committee began consideration of an immigration bill drafted by Sen. Arlen Specter, R-Pa., committee chairman. It includes provisions to criminalize violations of immigration law, including the act of providing aid to illegal immigrants; would make it harder for legal immigrants to become citizens; and would penalize state and local governments that do not pointedly enforce immigration laws, currently only a responsibility of federal agencies. It would eliminate a visa lottery pro-

gram that allows up to 50,000 people a year from certain countries to enter the United States legally and would build 700 miles of new fence along the 2,000-mile border with Mexico.

The Senate Judiciary Committee March 27 approved a measure that would, among other things, allow illegal immigrants already in the country to legalize their status, after waiting their turn in a backlog system, paying a fine, and meeting other requirements.

The bill, however, could still be changed on the Senate floor. Also, it probably will have to be reconciled with the December House bill that authorized building a 700-mile fence along the Mexican border and would make being an illegal immigrant a criminal offense. Under current law, illegal migrants violate civil and not criminal codes.

The McCain-Kennedy bill includes provisions for border security, temporary worker visas and family reunification. It would require efforts by foreign countries to help control the flow of emigrants, cover the costs borne by hospitals that provide emergency care for undocumented immigrants, promote citizenship, and take various steps to prevent fraud.