

The Catholic Lighthouse

The Cradle of Texas Immigration



VOL. 20, NO. 4

OFFICIAL PUBLICATION OF THE DIOCESE OF VICTORIA IN TEXAS

August 2006



Photo by Cindy Brewer

Sisters of the Incarnate Word and Blessed Sacrament Convent celebrate jubilees of their religious profession Sunday, July 9, 2005. Sitting from left are Sisters M. Catherine Wagner and M. John Hayden. Standing from left: Sisters M. Amata Hollas, M. Esther Gerbermann, M. Geraldine Pavlik and M. Carola Hajkik. Inset: Sister M. Bernard Stryk.

IWBS Sisters celebrate anniversaries of religious profession

The Sisters of the Incarnate Word and Blessed Sacrament honored seven sisters who celebrated the 75th, 70th and 50th anniversaries of their religious profession on Sunday, July 9, 2006. Bishop David E. Fellhauer of the Diocese of Victoria was the principal celebrant at the afternoon Mass of Thanksgiving at Incarnate Word Convent for the honorees whose 420 cumulative years of service have enriched the Church and the People of God.

Those celebrating jubilees were: 75 years — Sister M. Catherine Wagner and Sister M. Bernard Stryk; 70 years — Sister M. John Hayden; and 50 years — Sister M. Esther Gerbermann, Sister M. Amata Hollas, Sister M. Geraldine Pavlik and Sister M. Carola Hajdik. As these seven sisters were celebrating the anniversaries of their commitments to religious life, they recalled that one of their number, Sister M. Joan of Arc Kalina who died

on May 13, 2006, contributed generously in her ministry to the ill and infirm during her 70 years of religious profession.

See *IWBS Sisters*, p. 3



Photo by Beth Wiseman Schulenburg Sticker

On the steps of Sts. Cyril and Methodius Church, Bishop David Fellhauer listens as State Rep. Robby Cook reads a resolution recognizing the 150th anniversary of the establishment of the Dubina community.

St. Cyril and Methodius Parish in Dubina celebrates 150 years

Story by Cindy Brewer and the Schulenburg Sticker

State Rep. Robby Cook reads a resolution as part of the Sunday, July 2, morning ceremony recognizing the 150th anniversary of Dubina, which has been designated as the "First Czech Settlement in Texas" by the Texas Historical Commission.

Also on hand at Sts. Cyril and Meth-

By Cindy Brewer

To say the past 12 months has been a big year for Father Dominic Antwi-Boasiako might be an understatement. In August 2005 he had just received his masters in education with a major in counseling from the University of Houston-Victoria; he became a U.S. citizen on March 16, 2006; he celebrated his 25th anniversary to the priesthood; and he was installed to his first pastoral position since coming to the United States.

Father Dominic celebrated his installation as pastor to Holy Family Parish in Wharton and his 25th anniversary to the priesthood on the weekend of July 15-16.

At Holy Family's Saturday evening Mass, Father Dominic was installed as its pastor by Bishop David E. Fellhauer. This is Father Dominic's first parish to pastor since com-

Father Dominic Antwi-Boasiako celebrates 25 years to the priesthood

ing to the Diocese of Victoria in April 1997. The presider of the installation Mass was Bishop Fellhauer assisted by Deacon Alvin Matthys. Father Robert Fisher, parochial vicar at St. Philip the Apostle Church in El Campo, concelebrated the Mass. Father Fisher, a missionary of the Servants of the Divine Word, had been

See *Father Dominic*, p. 6



Photo by Cindy Brewer

Father Dominic receives the offertory gifts from young friends from his former parishes at his 25th anniversary Mass held at Our Lady of Victory Cathedral, July 16.



Sister Dawn Achs, SSND

Diocese hires associate superintendent of schools

The Diocese of Victoria welcomes Sister Dawn Achs, a School Sister of Notre Dame, as the Office of Catholic Schools' associate superintendent.

A native of St. Louis, Missouri, Sister Dawn has served as teacher and principal in both elementary and special education, and as an assistant superintendent. She has also served as personnel director for the St. Louis Province of the School Sisters of Notre Dame and communications coordinator for the School Sisters of Notre Dame at the international level in Rome. Sister holds a masters degree in education with specialization in special education. She began employment with the Diocese of Victoria in July 2006.

"As associate superintendent, Sister See *Diocese hires associate*, p. 6

In Brief

Coverage of the Ordination of Five Deacons July 29, 2006, will be in the September issue of *The Catholic Lighthouse*.

Remember, all who work/volunteer with children at a Catholic school or church must be in compliance with the diocese's Safe Environment program. New employees and volunteers must complete the original core program. Call (361) 573-0828 ext. 49 or see policy information at www.victoriadiocese.org.



Bishop Fellhauer's Schedule

August

4 7:00 p.m., Reconciliation services, Our Lady of Victory Teen ACTS retreat, Spiritual Renewal Center, Victoria

5 5:00 p.m., Mass Installation of Father Matthew Huehlefeld as pastor of St. Joseph Church, Yoakum

15 10:00 a.m., Mass, St. Mary Church, Praha

September

6 10:00 a.m., Presbyteral Council meeting, Chancery Office

8 8:10 a.m., School Mass, Sts. Cyril & Methodius Church, followed by blessing of new facilities, Shiner

9 6:30 p.m., Mass 100th Anniversary of the dedication of Nativity of the Blessed Virgin Mary Church, High Hill

10 9:00 a.m., Mass, celebrating 50th anniversary of ordination to the priesthood of Bishop John Yanta, Holy Cross Church, Yorktown

Bishop Fellhauer addresses concerns and strengths of diocese at banquet

By Cindy Brewer

The Bishop's Charities Banquet, hosted by the Victoria Diocese Knights of St. Gregory the Great, was held Thursday evening, July 13, 2006, at the Victoria Country Club in Victoria. The banquet room was filled to overflowing with over 200 guests. The banquet raised \$10,000 which George Wenzel, president of the Knights, presented to Bishop David E. Fellhauer for his use in various diocesan charities.

With renovations taking place on the Country Club facilities, it is the hope of George Wenzel that more participants may attend next year. He said they had to refuse about 25 people from attending this year due to a lack of space.

The master of ceremonies was once again Father Don Ruppert, pastor at Holy Cross in East Bernard. He provided much entertainment with his collection of jokes. The official entertainment was held prior to the dinner with Karl Kirst providing background music on the piano during the social period. He also closed the evening with the performance of *God Bless America*.

Father Ruppert praised Bishop Fellhauer for being such a wonderful, kind and considerate bishop who has done so much for the diocese.

Bishop Fellhauer addressed the concerns of the diocese: 1) the constant challenge of "educating our people" - the

youth learning their faith; 2) the shortage of religious vocations; 3) the rising cost of gas and the increased cost of insurance, particularly medical and property insurance; and 4.) the support of Catholic schools.

He also noted the diocese's strengths, which included what he called the most valuable assets - the personal "re-

sources," priests, sisters and people.

He introduced the latest resource, Sister Dawn Achs, SSND, who has come from the St. Louis Archdiocese to Victoria to be the associate superintendent of Catholic schools.



Bishop David Fellhauer receives a \$10,000 check from Knights of St. Gregory the Great president, George Wenzel, at the Bishop's Charities Banquet July 13.

He announced that 21 churches in the diocese completed the Generations of Faith program, and that this was the third year the diocese had published the Disciples on the Journey Lenten program, having sold 20,000 booklets in 39 states this past year.

The Office of Youth and Child Protection is directed by Melissa Perales. At any one time the diocese has 4,500 people working with children, the bishop said. Within the diocese, 15,000 children and 7,000 adults have been educated about child abuse.

Bishop Fellhauer thanked the lay women and men who serve on the many diocesan boards. He also announced the presence of the architectural sketches of the newest addition to the Spiritual Renewal Center, the multipurpose building, and the upcoming ordination of five permanent deacons.

He finished his address by publicly congratulating the diocese's first bishop, the Most Rev. Charles V. Grahmann, on the celebration of his triple jubilee year and Msgr. Eustace Hermes' recent 65th anniversary to the priesthood.

The banquet was dedicated in memoriam to Roger C. Hamel and Charles Janota, Knights of St. Gregory, who have gone to their eternal reward since last year's banquet.

**Chancery will be closed
August 15 for the
Feast of the Assumption.**

St. Rose of Lima School to receive new principal

SCHULENBURG—While students and faculty prepare to go back to school at the diocese's 12 elementary and three high schools this August, St. Rose of Lima Catholic School in Schulenburg will not only be welcoming its students and faculty, but a new principal as well. The elementary school announced that Mrs. Roseanne Gallia has been selected to be principal for the 2006-2007 school year.

Mrs. Gallia was selected because of her commitment to Catholic education, her philosophy of education, her academic credentials and her years of successful experience in the Catholic school setting.



Mrs. Roseanne Gallia

A native of Hallettsville, Mrs. Gallia earned a bachelor of business administration from the University of Texas - Austin in 1981. She received a BSBA from the University of Houston - Victoria in 1989 and a masters in education administration in 1994. She began her career in business then went on to become certified in education. She has been employed at Sacred Heart School in Hallettsville for the past 16 years as teacher and assistant principal.

The St. Rose of Lima community welcomes Mrs. Gallia and at the same time, says thank you to Mrs. Peggy Kusy for her service as principal during the past five years.



Banquet attendees sing the closing song, *God Bless America*, played on the piano by Karl Kirst. The banquet was held July 13 at the Victoria Country Club.

Host families STILL needed for 200 exchange students!

HOST FAMILIES are needed for the coming school year! The ERDT/SHARE! High School Exchange Program has over 200 students who are still awaiting placements with a host family. It's not too late to share your heart and home! For more information, please call Yvette Coffman, SHARE! Southwest Regional Administrator, at 1-800-941-3738 or visit www.sharesouthwest.org

2006 DSA Monthly Report

Can one person make a difference?
One person did over 2,000 years ago! Because he made a difference for us, we choose to make a difference in the world around us. Thank you for supporting our Diocesan Services Appeal. Each gift **DOES** make a difference.

Currently our records indicate a total pledged amount of \$634,261 and the total paid amount is \$565,385. To those who have been unable to contribute, please continue to pray for our success in reaching our goal of \$1,238,378.

Jeri Joseph
DSA Coordinator

DSA Goal
\$1,238,378

Half way
marker

Pledged
Amount
\$634,261

Stewardship Thought

"Do not neglect good deeds and generosity. God is pleased by sacrifices of that kind (Hebrews 13:16).

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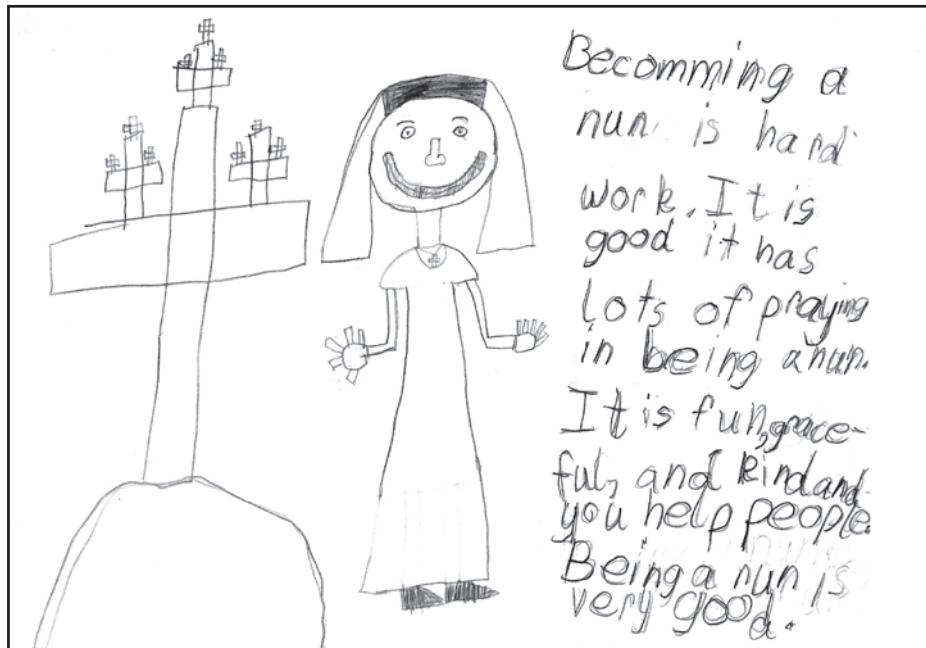
Seminary Burses

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

As of July 25, 2006

	TOTALS		
— General Seminary Burse		— Sister M. Barbara Konvicka IWBS Burse	
Previously reported	\$74,059.00	Previously reported	\$70.00
In honor of Jerry and Mary Mika's 25th wedding anniversary by Edmund and Lucille Zissa	25.00	In memory of Sybil H. Janak by Laddie and Evelyn Konvicka	10.00
In memory of Ann Marie Francis by M/M Bob Bochat	25.00	Total	\$80.00
Gift from CDA Our Lady of the Rosary Court 1595	100.00	— Deceased Priests of Praha Burse	
Total	\$74,209.00	Previously reported	\$1,120.00
— Catholic Daughters of America Court Our Lady Queen of Peace 1374 Burse		In memory of Gary Zimmerhanzle by Dan Stryk	25.00
Previously reported	\$3,047.72	Total	\$1,145.00
In memory of Agnes Stry by Sylvia Peter	10.00	— Rev. John C. Peters Burse No. 3	
In memory of Hugo Kaiser by Sylvia Peter	10.00	Previously reported	\$11,171.00
Total	\$3,067.72	In memory of Agnes E. Bludau by Helen Mitchon	100.00
— Rev. Msgr. Edward F. Bily Burse No. 2		In memory of Joe A. Janca Jr. by Jossie and Jerome Janca	30.00
Donation to the burse by M/M Jesse Lednický	100.00	Total	\$11,301.00
Total	\$100.00	— Josephat R. Janak Burse	
— Catholic Daughters of America Court of St. Ann 369 Burse No. 2		Previously reported	\$14,548.77
Previously reported	\$4,565.00	In memory of Wilhelmina Zafereo by Evelyn Janak and family	15.00
In memory of Gertrude Kaiser by CDA Court St. Ann 369	20.00	Total	\$14,563.77
Total	\$4,585.00	— Rev. Jerome J. Stryk Burse	
— Catholic Life Insurance Victoria Branch 51— Rev. Msgr Eustace Hermes and Rev. Msgr. Gino Bernasconi Burse No. 2		Previously reported	\$10,067.50
Previously reported from Burse No. 1	\$680.47	In honor of Sister Bernard Stryk's 75th anniversary of her profession of vows by Dan Stryk	75.00
In honor of Rev. Msgr. Eustace Hermes' 65th ordination anniversary by Lee and Jean Payne	25.00	In honor of Edwin and Julie Stryk's 50th wedding anniversary by Margaret and George Boedeker Jr.	25.00
Total	\$705.47	Total	\$10,167.50
— Rev. Theophil Okruhlik & Rev. Vincent Verdame Burse		— Rev. Joseph A. Koebel Burse	
Previously reported	\$7,110.00	Previously reported	\$5,508.00
In honor of Edwin and Julie Stryk's 50th wedding anniversary by Margaret and George Boedeker Jr.	25.00	Gift from CDA Our Lady of the Rosary 1595	125.00
Total	\$7,135.00	Total	\$5,633.00

Those wishing to begin a burse or to contribute to an existing seminary burse may do so by sending their contributions with the appropriate burse designation to:
Seminary Burse, P.O. Box 4070, Victoria, Texas 77903



Vocation Art

Artwork by Abigail Kalina • 3rd Grade • St. Philip School, El Campo

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

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.

IWBS Sisters celebrate anniversaries of religious profession

Continued from p. 1

Sister M. Catherine Wagner, daughter of the late John and Cecile (Jiral) Wagner, was born in Hochheim, Texas. She was one of seven children, which included her brother Msgr. John Wagner, who was co-celebrant at the Jubilee Eucharistic Liturgy, and her sister, Sister M. Gemma (deceased), who would have been celebrating her 65-year anniversary this year.

Sister Catherine completed her elementary education at Blessed Sacrament School in Poth and her high school at St. Ludmila Academy in Shiner. She entered the Shiner Convent of the Sisters of the Incarnate Word and Blessed Sacrament as a postulant on September 22, 1929, received the habit on June 29, 1930, and made her first profession of vows on June 30, 1931, in Shiner.

Sister Catherine spent the majority of her 75 years as a professed member of the congregation in food preparation. She ministered in Corn Hill, San Marcos, Nada, East Bernard and Nazareth Academy in Victoria where she prepared meals for the school cafeteria as well as for the sisters. Sister Catherine also served in the Health Care Dietary Kitchen at Incarnate Word Convent for fourteen years. Although retired from active duties, Sister Catherine now resides in the IWBS Health Care where she ministers in the apostolate of prayer and suffering.

Sister M. Bernard Stryk, daughter of the late Francis and Albina (Barta) Stryk, was born in Flatonia, Texas. The family had ten children – five boys and five girls. One of the boys was the late Rev. Jerome Stryk. Sister completed grammar school at St. Mary's School in Praha and attended high school at Blessed Sacrament Academy in San Antonio. She became a postulant at Blessed Sacrament Convent on February 2, 1930, received the habit on August 28, 1930, and made first profession of vows on August 31, 1931, in San Antonio. Sister Bernard received her BA degree from Incarnate Word College in San Antonio with a major in English and a minor in Spanish.

During the 75 years of her religious profession, Sister Bernard taught on the elementary and junior high levels at St. Michael School in Weimar, Holy Trinity School in Corn Hill, St. John School in San Marcos, St. Joseph School in Honey Creek, St. Michael School in Cuero, St. John School in Ammansville, Sacred Heart School in Hallettsville, Immaculate Conception School in Sealy, Blessed Sacrament Academy in San Antonio and Incarnate Word Special School in Victoria. Sister Bernard also served as a nurses' aide in the IWC Infirmary for a number of years. She now resides in the IWC Health Care where she ministers in the apostolate of prayer and suffering.

Sister M. John Hayden, daughter of the late Robert Joseph and Emma Nocker Hayden was born in San Antonio, Texas. She attended St. Leo School and graduated from Blessed Sacrament Academy. Sister John entered the postulancy on June 18, 1934, received the habit on February 22, 1935, and pronounced first vows in February 23, 1936. She received a BA degree from Incarnate Word College on San Antonio with a major in English and a minor in Spanish.

During her years as a professed member of the congregation, Sister John taught at Blessed Sacrament Academy in San

Antonio, and ministered as teacher and principal at Sacred Heart School in Hallettsville and Immaculate Conception School in Sealy. When she retired from full-time active teaching, she assisted in the IWC Gift Shop and helped with household chores. Sister John now resides in the IWC Infirmary where she ministers in the apostolate of prayer and suffering.

Sister M. Esther Gerbermann, daughter of the late Alvin and Anastasia Syring Gerbermann, was born in Nada, Texas, on November 28, 1936. She attended St. Mary's School in Nada and graduated from Nazareth Academy. She became a postulant on December 8, 1954, received the habit on August 25, 1955, and made first profession of vows on August 27, 1956. Sister Esther received a BA degree from Incarnate Word College in San Antonio with a major in history and a minor in English. She also received an MA degree in Religious Education from the University of St. Thomas in Houston.

During her years as a professed member of the congregation, Sister Esther taught at St. Agnes School in San Antonio, St. Michael School in Cuero, Holy Cross School in East Bernard, Assumption School in Ganado, Sacred Heart School in Floresville, Blessed Sacrament Academy in San Antonio, Sacred Heart School in La Grange, Sacred Heart School in Crosby and St. Paul High School in Shiner. She also served as DRE at Holy Cross Parish in East Bernard, St. Philip the Apostle Parish in Corpus Christi and presently ministers as DRE in St. Vincent de Paul Parish in San Antonio. Sister Esther enjoys sewing and gardening in her free time.

Sister M. Amata Hollas, daughter of Ann Gerdes Hollas and the late Albert Hollas, was born in Lott, Texas, on April 16, 1937. She received her grade-school education in Vanderbilt and Edna and graduated from Nazareth Academy in Victoria. She entered Nazareth Convent as a postulant on December 8, 1954, received the habit on August 25, 1955, and pronounced first vows on August 27, 1956. Sister Amata received a BA degree from Incarnate Word College in San Antonio with a major in English and a minor in Latin. She also received an M Ed. degree from Southwest Texas State University with a major in administration and a minor in psychology.

During her 50 years as a professed member of the congregation, Sister Amata ministered as a teacher and/or principal at St. Leo School in San Antonio, Our Lady of Victory School in Victoria, Holy Cross School in East Bernard, Sacred Heart School in La Grange, and St. Ludmila Academy in Shiner. She also served in the San Antonio Archdiocesan School Office as a school consultant for seven years. For eighteen years she served as initial formation director and has been a member of the leadership team of the congregation the past six years. She enjoys working in the archives, and her hobbies are sewing and caring for flowerbeds on the convent grounds.

Sister M. Geraldine Pavlik, daughter of the late Joseph and Julia Weber Pavlik, was born in Weimar, Texas, on December 24, 1936. She attended Wildwood Public School and St. Michael School in Weimar, Weimar High School

See IWBS Sisters, p. 6



September

Sat

30

The Diocese of Victoria announces ... The XIX Annual Conference for Catechesis and Ministry

Holy Family Church,
704 Mallette, Victoria, Texas

Who do you say that I am?

The Nineteenth Annual Conference will feature two keynote presenters, thirty-four workshops, over twenty Catholic Publishers and exhibits and much more.



David Kauffmann

The conference will begin with the keynote "Meeting Jesus at the Movies" by Sister Rose Pacatte, FSP. The afternoon keynote presentation, "God Walks Among the Pots and Pans," will be presented by Mr. Charles Balsam. Throughout the day, workshops on Scripture, prayer and spirituality, and the Charismatic movement will be offered along with workshops specifically for catechists, lectors and ministers of communion.

In his morning workshop, "Songs for Retreat and Reconciliation," David Kauffmann, a recording artist and music producer, will offer a variety of music for retreats, such as ACTS. In his second workshop, "Songs for Sunday Worship," Kauffmann will discuss the importance of selecting appropriate music for the Mass.

Dr. Robert Jensen is an associate professor in the School of Journalism at the University of Texas at Austin. In his first workshop, "Talking to Children about War and Peace," he will discuss some of the practical and ethical problems that arise from trying to shield children from conflict in the world. In his afternoon workshop, "Disaster: Power, Ideology and the Failure of the U.S. News Media in the Middle East," Dr. Jensen will look at some of the factors that constrain U.S. journalism and ways we can work to promote a more democratic media.

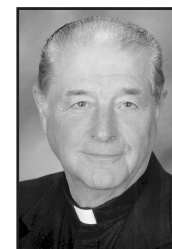


Dr. Robert Jensen

Look for the September issue of *The Catholic Lighthouse* which will have the entire selection of conference workshops. Registration forms for the XIX Annual Conference will be mailed soon. Early registration is encouraged. Registration fees are \$14 per person or \$12 per person for groups of 10-15 from a parish. For additional information, call the Catechetical Office at (361) 573-0828 or e-mail calvarez@victoriadiocese.org.

Question Corner

By Father John Dietzen
Catholic News Service



Looking for references to Mary's assumption in the Bible

Q. Where in the Bible does it state that the Blessed Virgin Mary was taken to heaven? Or that St. John was with her until she died? Where does it say Mary was glorified in heaven?

I can't find any of this in the Bible. A Christian friend brought this to my attention and said everything we believe should be in Scripture. (New York)

A. Catholics and most other Christians often find themselves unnecessarily confused and embarrassed when someone aggressively confronts them with the question, Where do you find this or that belief in the Scriptures?

They panic and run to their priest or write to me and say, "We must be wrong because I can't find this anywhere in the Bible." The truth is that we, and all Christians, hold as sacred many significant truths that are not, at least explicitly, in the Bible.

Jesus did not write a Bible, nor did he tell his apostles to write one. He established a community of believers to which he imparted his Holy Spirit. He promised to be with this community, to keep it in the truth, until the end of time. (See Matthew 28 and John 15 and 16).

We need to remember that over a period of many years, the Christian Scriptures were produced by the early Christian communities; they are part of Christian tradition, not something outside and separate from that tradition.

Thousands of Christians were born and died before the New Testament was even written. These followers of Jesus received their faith not from a book, but from the company of those who were Christ's disciples before them, the group we now call the church.

To put it plainly, therefore, we do not believe, and Christians never have believed, that all the doctrines and truths we profess are explicitly in the Bible. We do believe the Bible is the word of God. We believe that the Bible is the norm of our faith, that nothing the church believes or holds as revealed by God can contradict what is in the Scriptures.

We also believe, however, as the

Christian church has believed from the beginning, that the Holy Spirit guides us above all in and through the community of faith, not exclusively by the Bible which that same community produced in its earliest decades.

Even Christians who say they "accept nothing that isn't in the Bible" must prove the most basic of their beliefs, that the book is the word of God, from something outside that book. It must be authenticated by someone, or some group, that can point to it and say authoritatively: "This is God's word and revelation. Accept it and believe it."

So don't panic when these questions arise. Explain that you are on a different track of faith, the faith of the church that, by the light of the Holy Spirit, gave us the Bible in the first place and which guides us still in the doctrines we believe.

That said, it is true that the dogmas about Mary's assumption and glorification in heaven are among those which cannot be found explicitly in the Bible. Many passages in both the Old and New Testaments, however, show that the honors and roles our faith attributes to the mother of Jesus are in accord with how the Gospels tell us the Father's love is played out in the life of Jesus and in our lives. Nothing in these doctrines contradicts or denies what is in the Bible.

A free brochure answering questions Catholics ask about Mary, the mother of Jesus, is available by sending a stamped, self-addressed envelope to Father John Dietzen, Box 325, Peoria, IL 61651. Questions may be sent to Father Dietzen at the same address, or e-mail: jjdietzen@aol.com.

**The feast of the
Assumption of the Blessed
Virgin Mary, body and soul,
into heaven — celebrated
Tuesday, August 15 — Holy
Day of Obligation**



Diocese of Victoria Library & Media Center



Book of the Month

Blood Brothers — is the unforgettable story of a Palestinian Christian working for peace in Israel. Author Elias Chacour blends his riveting life story with historical research to reveal a little-known side of the Arab-Israeli conflict and the birth of modern Israel.

Other Books

- *We Belong to the Land* by Elias Chacour
- *In My Brother's Image* by Eugene L. Pogany
- *What Everyone Needs to Know about Islam* by John L. Esposito
- *On Jews and Judaism* by Pope John Paul II
- *Separated Brethren* by William J. Whalen

Video of the Month

Walking God's Paths: Christians and Jews in Candid Conversation The video provides an experience of each tradition which brings understanding of how the two faith communities can relate to one another in positive ways. *Approximately 90 minutes in length.*

Other Videos

- Where Jesus Walked
- Judaism: The Religion of a People
- Hinduism: An Ancient Path in the Modern World
- Understanding World Religions: What is Islam?

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

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



DIOCESE OF VICTORIA PASTORAL INSTITUTE

Extended Program Classes

The Gospel of John and the Book of Revelation

Sr. Digna Vela, IWBS – Instructor

Why is the Gospel of John so different from the other Gospels?
Does the Book of Revelation predict the end of the world?

Students will explore the Gospel of John and its transforming message for our lives and will learn how Catholics read and interpret the Book of Revelation. For more information or to register, call the Catechetical Office at (361) 573-0828 or e-mail calvarez@victoriadiocese.org. You can also register the first night of class. All classes are from 7:00-9:15 p.m. Classes are \$15 per six-weeks.

VICTORIA CENTER

Chancery Building
1505 E. Mesquite Lane
Tuesdays: Sept. 5 - Oct. 10
Thursdays: Sept. 7 - Oct. 12

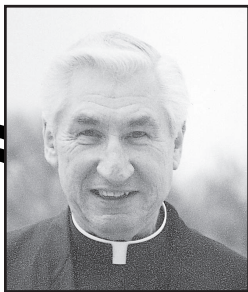
WHARTON CENTER

Holy Family Church
2011 Briar Lane
Mondays: Aug. 28 - Oct. 16
(no class Sept. 4 - Labor Day and Sept. 18)



Faith Point

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



What Religious Liberty?

We Americans are proud of the religious freedom in our country. Does religious freedom mean to you the absolute right to practice your religion without government interference? If so, you are in for a shock. The government has many ways of limiting your religious practice and requiring you to act against your religious convictions.

Catholic Charities of California has been compelled by the State to include contraception in the medical insurance plan it provides its employees even though the Church considers it sinful. According to the courts, Catholic Charities is not an organization entitled to a religious exemption. The charities thrust of the Church is not a Church activity.

Not so the Boy Scouts of America. They are a religion according to the ACLU. They have successfully sued to prevent the Scouts from using military facilities because the Boy Scouts encourage a belief in God. Their using military facilities would be a governmental establishment of religion. Maybe Catholic Charities should argue that it also encourages belief in God. It could then qualify for a religious exemption. If the Scouts cannot use federal facilities, does the prohibition apply to all federal, state, and local government property? If so, the Scouts could not meet in 40% of the United States.

There are legal attempts to compel Catholic hospitals and druggists to dispense abortion drugs. Mandating that is a declaration that the practice of Catholicism is not permitted in a hedonistic, atheist, secular society.

There have been attempts to compel Catholic hospitals to perform abortions. No hospital of any sort can be forced to provide every elective procedure. Secularists who favor "choice" do not see the hypocrisy of removing choice protected by the First Amendment.

A Christian businessman in Arlington County, Virginia, who runs a video copying service was sued because he refused to reproduce a video promoting homosexuality. He was ordered to reproduce it or pay for its reproduction elsewhere. This is an imposition of secular immorality in direct opposition to the Free Exercise Clause of the Constitution.

Maryland Republican Governor Robert L. Ehrlich Jr. has fired Robert J. Smith, a Catholic and his appointee to the Washington, D.C., transit authority board because Mr. Smith, in a situation that had no connection with his job, called homosexuality "sexual deviancy" that should not receive special entitlement. The governor says effectively, "Sexual deviancy is good;

traditional morality is bad." Espousing Christian morality in public is a firing offense. The condition for a Catholic to hold office has become never to utter Catholic morality in public. Syndicated columnist

John Leo points out that liberals, not famous for consistency, assume a different attitude about firing when loony leftist professors make insane statements outside their jobs (e.g., 9-11 victims are "little Eichmanns") or teachers have children out of wedlock.

Illinois Governor Rod Blagojevich signed into law a bill that would force churches to hire openly practicing homosexuals. This violates both the provisions for Free Exercise and Association.

Catholic Charities of Boston announced that it was getting out of the adoption business because it would lose its license if it did not, in opposition to its moral code, assign adoptive children to homosexual couples. The refusal of the agency to do so in no way did anyone harm because other adoption agencies could fill in the breach. This is a clear case of interference in the right of religious practice in order to make homosexuals feel good about themselves. The right of religious practice is in the Constitution; making homosexuals feel good is not.

Often Christians are asked, "What harm can homosexual marriage do to others?" Besides the examples already cited, it will affect religious institutions in at least four areas: admission, employment, housing and regulation of clubs.

A private Christian school in California expelled two girls who stated publicly that they are in a lesbian relationship. The girls sued and if the school loses, religious schools are either out of business or they will be required by the State to tolerate declarations and conduct that the schools regard as sinful. There would also be ramifications in religious camps, retreat centers and homeless shelters as to who must be admitted and what accommodations to

provide.

An atheist sued San Diego, California, to have it remove a cross, the centerpiece of a national war-veterans memorial, from Mount Soledad. The charge was that the cross violated the "separation of church and state" and so far the courts have agreed. Do the crosses and the stars of David in Arlington National Cemetery also violate the separation of church and state? Must they be removed?

A New York state agency is threatening a skating rink owner in Accord, New York, for playing Christian music during a "Christian Music Skate Party." The agency also threatened a local newspaper which advertised the event with "aiding and abetting" unlawful discrimination. The owners were exercising basic Constitutional rights on private property without excluding anyone. This is just another example of using government to dictate religious expression.

In Atlanta, FAA employee Larry Dombrowski was suspended without pay for expressing at work his religious beliefs about homosexuals. Religious employees are not second-class citizens and do not lose their free speech rights in the workplace even when it is religious speech.

These examples barely scratch the surface of the hundreds of law suits designed to drive religion from the public domain. Omitted is any mention of the Christmas wars against the display of crèches and singing of carols or the displays of the Ten Commandments on public property.

Secularists call the Constitution a "living document" and mold it to their ideology like play dough. The Constitution is not a living document any more than a

contract is. The job of judges is to interpret the intent of the signers of this contract between the people and the government, not to change the meaning of the contractual terms to implement the judge's ideology. Thus judges can see a right to abortion (nowhere mentioned) and a right

of the state to curtail public religious expression (expressly forbidden). A malleable Constitution affords any atheist a veto over public religious expression if he feels that he is offended (freedom from offense is not in the Constitution). If circumstances make amending the contract desirable, there is a provision for that in the document itself and it is not judicial fiat.

Secularists manipulate the courts to enact a left-wing agenda because they are incapable of passing it through the legislatures. Thus homosexual marriages are enshrined in Massachusetts by judicial fiat. Whenever the people are afforded an opportunity to vote on the matter it is everywhere defeated by overwhelming margins.

Conservatives sometimes say that the courts should apply the "rule of law." The problem is that there is a large body of "law" that has been put in place by 50 years of judicial activism. We need judges to restore the balance among the branches of our government.

The selection of judges is a serious business and it has a direct bearing on your religious liberty, already under attack. Religious people should recognize the connection between candidates who they elect and the judges who will be appointed. That will mean intelligent use of the ballot. In voting, follow Ronald Reagan's approach to the Cold War: "We win. They lose."

[In the Constitution] ... judges can see a right to abortion (nowhere mentioned) and a right of the state to curtail public religious expression (expressly forbidden).

The selection of judges is a serious business and it has a direct bearing on your religious liberty, already under attack.



MEMBER OF HOLY FAMILY KC COUNCIL 9088 TAKES FIRST PLACE IN STATE BOWLING—The Holy Family Council 9088 *Family Friends* bowling team finished fifth in the 2006 State Bowling Tournament held at Bandera Bowl Funplex in San Antonio, April 22-23, 2006. Members on the winning team were Bryan Ellis, Albert Janak, Paul Salinas, August Smejkal and Steven Volkmer. Bryan Ellis also won two additional awards in the tournament, taking the first place trophy in the State Singles Division, bowling a 734 series, and finishing fifth in the All Events – teams, doubles and singles. Also participating in the tournament were brother Knights Jerry Uptmor, John Figueroa Jr. and Bob Leach. Pictured above is Bryan Ellis and Bob Leach.

Victoria Catholic schools honored by knights

The Knights of Columbus Council 9088 held its eighth annual appreciation dinner for the Victoria Catholic schools at the Holy Family Activity Center, Victoria, May 16, 2006.

The Knights honored the administration, faculty and staff of Our Lady of Victory School (Principal Sister Leonita Barron), Nazareth Academy (Principal C.R. "Duke" Alicardi) and St. Joseph High (Principal Bill McArdle Jr.). The evening began with opening remarks by Grand

Knight Bob Leach and the Pledge of Allegiance. Bishop David E. Fellhauer led the opening prayer, Father Greg Korenek, pastor of Holy Family blessed the meal, and Mr. Leach introduced the officers and special guests, as well as the guest speaker, State Secretary of the Texas State Council Mr. Larry Zapalac.

The evening closed with the singing of God Bless America, led by Jerry Uptmor. Music was provided by Holy Family's Rusty Steins.

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CDA Leadership Training – August 26

The Catholic Daughters of the Americas of Districts 14, 29 and 34 will host an Officers' Leadership Training on August 26, 2006, at the Assumption of the Blessed Virgin Mary Parish Hall at 108 S. 6th St., Ganado, Texas. Registration begins at 8:30 a.m. and costs \$7; lunch will be provided.

St. Cyril and Methodius Parish in Dubina celebrates 150 years

Continued from p. 1

church, Bishop Fellhauer celebrated the Mass of Thanksgiving assisted by seminarian Gabriel Espinosa, who is spending his summer at St. Michael Parish and its mission (Dubina). The ceremony and Mass kicked off the annual picnic, which included a dinner, music, rides for the children, an auction and several other attractions.

Commenting on the Sunday reading from Corinthians, Bishop Fellhauer said, "Today is not unlike the days of Corinth, holding on to one's faith is difficult with so many distractions."

"The faith of our fathers who established the church in Dubina was strong in persecution," he continued.

According to an historical profile by the first editor of *The Catholic Lighthouse*, W.L. Schmidt, and an article in the *Fayette County Record* celebrating the parish's first 130 years, the parish of Dubina was founded in November of 1856 by a group of Czech immigrants who had endured a 14-week trip across the Atlantic in the small sailing ship, "The Elizabeth." They landed in Galveston and traveled by ox cart for five days to Cat Spring. Scouts returned with tales of fertile land in Fayette County and it was decided they would make their homestead there in a grove of oak trees.

After the town had gone by the name of Navidad, then Bohemian Navidad, it was agreed to officially name it "Dub" with "ina" added, the Czech words for oak and grove.

Diocese hires associate superintendent of schools

Continued from p. 1

Dawn will assist the superintendent in providing services to the 12 elementary schools and three high schools of the diocese," said Sister Gloria Cain, superintendent.

"The principals join me in welcoming Sister Dawn to the diocese. We recognize that the needs of schools as well as the responsibilities of educational administrators have increased and become more complex over the years. Sister Dawn's experience and expertise will be invaluable as we continue to address the new challenges and needs of our Catholic schools," she continued.

Sister Dawn said that as she begins her ministry in the Diocese of Victoria, two quotes from the Constitution of the School Sisters of Notre Dame resonate within her: "Education means enabling persons to reach the fullness of their potential as individuals created in God's image and as-

It is important that all newly elected officers attend this training; however, this training is open to any member wishing to attend. Please call the court regents for information or Terri Beltran, district deputy, at (979) 578-3647, RSVP must be in by August 15 to the regents or to Terri.

The faith community first met for Catholic services in Joseph Peter Sr.'s log house, which was built in 1858. Father Gury traveled from Frelsburg three or four times a year to provide the sacraments to the community. The parish grew to 600 families in the 1870s. The first church was built in 1877, and the Sisters of the Divine Providence served its school.

The railroad built in the 1870s bypassed Dubina, instead going through a small town named Weimar. So many people moved to Weimar because that was where the opportunities were that Sts. Cyril and Methodius became a mission of St. Michael Parish in Weimar in 1895.

Sts. Cyril and Methodius was destroyed in 1909 by a tropical storm. A newly constructed church was completed in 1912. A painter stenciled the entire interior of the church and painted a fresco over each arch. The entire church was repainted in 1952, covering the stenciled work. In 1984, parishioners came together and completely restored the stencils and frescoes to their original beauty.

Sts. Cyril and Methodius is still a mission under the protection of St. Michael Parish in Weimar, and is pastored by Father John Bily. Mass times are Sunday at 8:45 a.m. Sts. Cyril and Methodius is listed as one of the six painted churches on the Painted Churches Tour. Go to the diocese's Web site, www.victoriadiocese.org, for more information on the Painted Churches Tour.

sisting them to use their gifts to transform the earth" and "Through our ministry, we and those to whom we are sent are mutually enriched."

"It is my hope that in my position as associate superintendent of schools for the diocese, I will be able to live out both of these passages. I look forward to working with our principals and teachers to strive to assist each child in our schools to reach their full potential, to realize their giftedness as children of God and to use their gifts to make a difference in our world. I can only hope that the gifts that I bring will enrich the people of the diocese as much as I know their gifts will enrich me," Sister Dawn said.

The Office of Catholic Schools was established in 1996. Sister Gloria Cain, SSND, was hired as the first superintendent of schools and Mrs. Margery Farris as its administrative assistant. The school office, under the direction of the superintendent, coordinates all school programs to ensure compliance of Catholic schools with federal, state and local laws related to education as well as compliance with the doctrines and policies of the Catholic Church and the Diocese of Victoria.



Bishop Fellhauer congratulates Father Dominic Antwi-Boasiako following the stating of his oath at his installation as pastor of Holy Family Parish in Wharton June 15.

Photo by Regina Matus-Janak

Father Dominic Antwi-Boasiako celebrates 25 years to the priesthood

Continued from p. 1

Father Dominic's teacher while he was in seminary in Ghana over 25 years ago. The Holy Family parishioners welcomed Father Dominic to his new home with a reception after Mass.

The following afternoon, he celebrated his 25th anniversary to the priesthood at Our Lady of Victory Cathedral, the parish from which he had spent the past four years as its parochial vicar. The Mass of Thanksgiving was concelebrated with Bishop Fellhauer and more than a dozen priests from throughout the diocese, including Father Ralph Baidoo, O.S.S.T., pastor of Immaculate Conception Church in Goliad, who delivered the homily.

Special friends of Father Dominic assisted at the Mass including lectors, Mrs. Janice Ohrt and Mr. Jimmy Traber; Mass servers, Chase Goodman, Fabio Thomas, Jonathan McDonald and Madeline Adams;

and gift bearers, Jamie, Paige and Taylor Wanjura and Cameron and Megan Wright.

The music at Mass was provided by Father Dominic's ACTS' brothers and sisters, directed by Rick Streeter and John Vecera. A large reception was held at Our Lady of Victory School gym with music provided by County Line Entertainment.

Father Dominic's first assignment upon coming to the Diocese of Victoria was St. Mary Parish in Victoria. He served as parochial vicar from April 1997 to Sept. 2000. From Victoria he became parochial administrator at Sts. Peter and Paul Church in Meyersville from September 2000 to July 2002. From there, he went to Our Lady of Victory where he spent four years until he became pastor at Holy Family in Wharton.

Congratulations, Father Dominic, and best wishes.

IWBS Sisters celebrate anniversaries of religious profession

Continued from p. 3

and graduated from Nazareth Academy. Sister Geraldine entered the postulancy on December 8, 1954, received the habit on August 25, 1955, and pronounced first vows on August 27, 1956. She received a BA degree from Incarnate Word College with a major in history and a minor in speech and math. She also received an M. Ed. degree from Southwest Texas State University with a major in administration and a minor in psychology.

During her 50 years as a professed member of the congregation, Sister Geraldine has ministered as teacher and/or principal at Sacred Heart School in Floresville, Assumption School in Ganado, St. Agnes School and St. Leo School in San Antonio, St. Michael School in Cuero, Our Lady of Perpetual Help School in Selma and Holy Cross School in Bay City where she presently serves. Sister Geraldine loves to cook, do arts and crafts and read.

Sister M. Carola Hajdik, daughter of the late Louis and Emilia Orsak Hajdik, was born in Sealy, Texas, on November 20, 1935. She attended Immaculate Conception School and Sealy High School and graduated from Nazareth Academy. Following in her sister, Sister Marietta's footsteps, Sister Carola entered Nazareth Convent as a postulant on December 8, 1954, received the habit on August 25, 1955, and pronounced her first vows on August 27,

1956. Sister Carola received a BA degree from Incarnate Word College with a major in history and a minor in speech and sociology. She also received a MA degree in religious education from St. Thomas University in Houston.

During the 50 years she has been a member of the congregation, Sister Carola ministered as teacher in Holy Cross School in East Bernard, Our Lady of Victory School in Victoria, St. Michael School in Weimar, Sacred Heart School in Floresville, St. Mary School in Nada, and Sacred Heart School in Crosby. She served as diocesan director of religious education for the first three years after the Victoria Diocese was formed. She then ministered as DRE for Sacred Heart Parish in Flatonia, St. Philip Parish in El Campo, and Holy Cross Parish in East Bernard. As of this June, Sister Carola has retired from these ministries and will reside at Incarnate Word Convent where she will assist in various activities. Sister Carola's hobbies are fishing, making noodles, cross-stitching, embroidery and quilting.

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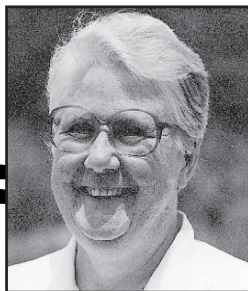
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Sisterly Thoughts

By Sister Mildred Truchard, IWBS



What a difference a person can make!

We had barely arrived at an Incarnate Word Convent-School complex in Gomez Palacios (near Torreon), Mexico, for an international gathering of Incarnate Word Sisters when the words "Freeport, Texas" on a painting caught my eye. "What a small world!" I thought. It turned out that Freeport was the birth place of one of the founders, Sister Maria of the Sacred Heart Hord, of that Incarnate Word Congregation.

She had been born in a prominent Swedish-Dutch-American family in 1868 and had received her education at Incarnate Word Academy in Brownsville, Texas, which was the first American establishment of the Incarnate Word and Blessed Sacrament Order that had been founded in France some two centuries earlier.

Impressed by the religious sisters she knew, she entered the Brownsville community at the age of twenty. She became a teacher and later taught in Corpus Christi. In 1903, she and two Irish Sisters were sent to establish a convent in Tula, Mexico. After two years, at the sudden

death of the priest who had sponsored them, they moved to Saltillo and then in 1906, they transferred to the then one-year-old town of Gomez Palacios in the Mexican state of Durango. This new foundation had enjoyed four years of peace when the Mexican Revolution shattered the tranquility; the convent served as the boundary between opposing forces with some 75 fired shots hitting the building.

After some terrifying and difficult experiences, the sisters fled from Mexico, spent one winter in Arkansas and then accepted an invitation to Cuba. In 1921, when Mexico seemed safer, the sisters returned to Gomez Palacios to find the buildings in shambles and the property confiscated by the Mexican government. Because Sister Mary of the Sacred Heart Hord was an American citizen, she was able to petition the American government to help her reclaim her property. Afterward, in spite of continued persecution and unrest, and the governmental expulsion of the Irish (non-Mexican) members of the order, the foundation prospered under her leadership. The expelled Irish Sisters

eventually settled in Cleveland, Ohio, where their congregation continues to minister.

After her death in 1948, Sister Maria was sadly missed; however, her legacy lives on through the lives of the sisters who

serve the people of Mexico. The citizens of Freeport and all Texans can be proud of the dedication and accomplishments of one of their own — a sister who gave all she had for the sake of the kingdom.



Junior KJZT Campers

KJZT 2006 junior camp held

AUSTIN—Camp Guardian Angel 2006 was another weekend of fun and excitement. Each year since 1995, the youth from the Junior KJZT societies across the state gather together for one weekend in the summer and enjoy great fun and fellowship. The camp was held at Forest Glen Christian Camp in Huntsville, Texas.

Friday afternoon is exciting because everyone is reunited. This year after everyone settled into their cabins, the campers gathered together in the meeting hall and made dog-tag necklaces decorated with a cross. They then divided into groups to play "ice breaker" games. After dinner, Mass was celebrated by Father Joe Hybner, pastor of Sacred Heart in Flatonia and Sts. Cyril and Methodius in Cistern, honoring St. Ephrim. Betty Vacek led the singing and various members assisted as servers, lectors and eucharistic ministers.

Saturday was full of fun activities. There was time for swimming, archery, canoeing, riflery, ropes courses and more. Father Joe honored the campers again by celebrating Mass in honor of the Blessed Virgin Mary. After Mass the Junior KJZT members designed their own shirts for a craft project. Saturday evening was the

time for the real fun to begin! It was time to dance. Every year on Saturday night there are Czech dance lessons. This is a time for everyone to relax, have fun and enjoy their Czech heritage. Before the dance broke up, winning names were drawn for raffle prizes.

On Sunday many of the same activities were available, yet a highlight was celebrating Mass with St. Michael's church group from Lake Jackson, Texas. This was quite a treat for everyone because their musicians are very talented, almost as good as Ms. Betty! Sunday's Mass was celebrated in honor of the Holy Trinity and Father Joe spoke about blessing each other with a sign of the cross on the forehead. Other activities for the day included making saints' calendars as well as horseback riding and treasure hunting. That evening the youth were invited to a campfire on the island and campers had a "talent night" and roasted marshmallows.

When the campers leave it is tough because they know they may not see their new friends for a whole year! This year was just as fun as all the others and everyone is looking forward to next June!

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FAREWELL PARTY FOR FATHER PETER—On Monday, June 26, the parishioners of St. Mary's in Nada, said "So long" to their friend, Father Peter Yeboah-Amanfo. To show their appreciation for his spiritual care these past six months, Father Peter was feted to a covered-dish supper on his last evening in Nada. All of us at St. Mary's say "Thank you, Father Peter, for bringing such joy into parish life while you were with us." Effective July 18, 2006, Father Peter was appointed parochial vicar at St. Rose of Lima Church, Schulenburg, and St. Mary, High Hill, as well as at St. John Church, Ammannsville, and its mission St. Wenceslaus, Holman. Father Joe Vrana is the new pastor at St. Mary and St. John, New Taiton.



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Nada Community Center • Sept. 3

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YOUTH CALENDAR OF EVENTS

August 19—Basic Certificate in Youth Ministry – Chancery – Renewing the Vision and Advocacy – 9:30 a.m.-2:30 p.m.
September 7—Theology on Tap – Tejas Café in Victoria – 6:45 p.m. -Topic: Decoding the DaVinci Code – Speaker: Father Bob Knippenberg. (See article on the right for future dates.)
September 10—Youth Leadership Training – Holy Family in Victoria
September 23—Basic Certificate in Youth Ministry – Chancery – Pastoral Care – 9:30 a.m.-2:30 p.m.
October 14—Basic Certificate in Youth Ministry – Chancery – Leadership Development and Planning and Programming– 9:30 a.m.-2:30 p.m.
October 22—Youth Leadership Training – Chancery in Victoria
November 5—Youth Leadership Training
November 17-19—Region X Catholic Youth Conference in Laredo, Texas
November 30-December 3—National Conference for Catholic Youth Ministers – Las Vegas, Nevada
December 9—Bishop Fellhauer Christmas Dinner to benefit the multi-purpose building fund, Spiritual Renewal Center.

Save these dates in **2007**: Youth Spectacular – February 4, 2007; Jr. High Fiesta – March 4, 2007.

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 dvanelli@victoriadiocese.org
 or JoAnn Martinez at ext. 50 or e-mail at jmartinez@victoriadiocese.org
 Web site: www.victoriadiocese.org/youthoffice

Bring It On!

By Matthew and Lupe Schaefer



"Pirates Ye Be Warned!"

Arrr matey...it's time to walk the plank! Chances are that most of us have probably been a pirate of some sort at one time or another. The adventuresome life of Captain Jack Sparrow on "Pirates of the Caribbean" has a certain appeal, doesn't it? One of his desires, and there were many, was to be the captain of his own ship, the Black Pearl. That ship represented freedom to Jack and he was prepared to do anything to get it. Stealing, lying, cheating, manipulating and killing was his way and the way of all pirates for that matter. You and I might hate to admit it, but that's our way too. Yet it doesn't have to be. They were "Rebels on the High Seas" and we were (or still are) "Rebels on the High School Seas."

What do we pirates do in order to get what we want? First of all, we are willing to sell anything of value for a passing pleasure. We sell our morals for a Friday night party. We sell our generosity in exchange for the pirate way of "do for yourself and leave the others behind." We sell our honesty for the chance of a better grade on a test by cheating. We sell our purity for selfish gain. We embrace the pirate's motto: "Take what you can, give nothing back."

What we don't see up front is that "freedom," the curse of The Black Pearl, comes at a price. We become a slave to what we want and we lose our very life to get something that does not fulfill. Nothing satisfies us and we never seem to get enough. The pirates in the movie had the same problem. They could experience no feeling of being satisfied. No matter how much they ate or drank, it passed right through their dead bodies. What they consumed didn't settle within them. You and I also hunger after and consume all kinds of pleasurable things that leave us feeling empty once we've tasted it.

In the end, (of part 1...we don't want to ruin part 2 for those who have yet to see it!) the "dead" pirates gave up what they thought they wanted, what they were losing their lives for, in order to get back true life. To break the curse, they had to choose to give up their "riches." We mod-

ern-day pirates have the perfect example of real riches and freedom in Jesus. Jesus freely gave his life and asked for nothing in return. He calls us to give as he did, without expectations. We would do well to learn to hunger and thirst after what truly satisfies and brings life.

"For whoever wishes to save his life will lose it, but whoever loses his life for my sake and that of the Gospel will save it. What profit is there for one to gain the whole world and forfeit his life? What could one give in exchange for his life?"

Mark 8:34-36

Matthew, Lupe and family returning to Victoria

By Lupe Schaefer

In last month's *Lighthouse* we told you about Project COVE. Matthew's moving from the office position to giving up his salary is a big leap of faith that we were ready to take; however, as of Friday, July 7, it was decided that the community here is not ready for the launching of Project COVE. We all feel that the community isn't at a place where it can fully support the program on a spiritual level. Because the day to day running of the camp is the first priority, they feel that it may take a while before they are able to fully work on forming community. They feel that perhaps in a year or two it will be ready for this program.

So where does this leave Matthew and me and our family? We are confident in what we have heard God saying to us con-



The Catholic Young Adult Group of Victoria met at Tejas Café in July to plan the fall 2006 Theology on Tap program. This year's session begins Sept. 7. Pictured sitting are June Cernosek, Elizabeth Corte, Jim Wearden and Debbie Vanelli. Standing is Tejas staff: Veronica Fuentes and Shannon Dooling.

Theology on Tap fall series begins September 7

By Elizabeth Corte

The Catholic Young Adult Group of Victoria kicks off the fall with a new Theology on Tap series.

The Theology on Tap program, sponsored by the Office of Youth and Young Adult Ministry of the Diocese of Victoria is a casual forum for ALL young adults 19-40+, single or married. One can expect an evening of straight talk, hard facts and real answers regarding living out our faith as well as a chance to meet new friends.

All the sessions for this fall series will take place at Tejas Café, 2902 N. Navarro in Victoria. Sessions will begin at 6:45 p.m. with dinner and drinks followed by a speaker and then a question and answer/discussion session. The schedule and topics are as follows:

September 7:

Decoding DaVinci; Speaker: Father Bob Knippenberg, pastor of Sts. Cyril & Methodius, Shiner. The DaVinci Code quickly became a best-selling novel and movie, but how much of the story is fact? Did Jesus have a wife or children? Has there really been a cover-up for centuries? Father Bob will help us sort through Dan Brown's maze and understand the truth and myths beneath the historical fiction.

September 21:

God of Desire: From Dating to Courtship to Paradise; Speaker: Father Victor Scocco, OSST, pastor of Our Lady of Sorrows, Victoria. Marriage is the vocation of the majority of Catholics. In a society that uses sex for entertainment, however, the search for a partner and a truly sacramental marriage can be a difficult journey. Come discover the greatness of this calling and of the necessary ingredients for successful relationships.

October 5:

Listen, Just Listen; Speaker: Father David Berger, Our Lady of Victory, Victoria. Life is a series of difficult decisions. Sometimes we long for a direct sign from God telling us what to do. We want a dream or an angel or some other sign, but it's not that simple. Without these things, how do we find God? Father David will teach us how to listen for God's guidance, love and support in our everyday life.

October 19:

Saints & Superstitions; Speaker: Father Michael Lyons, pastor of Assumption of the Blessed Virgin Mary, Ganado. Can St. Anthony really help me find things? Why do Catholics pray to Mary and the other saints? If I bury a statue of St. Joseph, will my house sell? What makes this different from rabbits' feet and good luck charms? Father Michael will give us a deeper appreciation for the saints and their assistance.

November 2:

Love: The Center of It All; Speaker: Bishop David E. Fellhauer, Diocese of Victoria. Love is the constant theme of our faith and our lives. In recognition of this reality, Pope Benedict's first encyclical explores the connection between eros and agape love and how love leads us to charity for humankind. We will be introduced to the major themes of this eloquent encyclical.

November 16:

What the Heck is Purgatory? Speaker: Father Ty Bazar, pastor of St. Patrick, Bloomington. Heaven, Hell, Purgatory, Limbo. Do these places exist? Where do we really go when we die? How do we know? What is eternity like? How do we get to the right place? This session will help us understand the Catholic teaching about the great unknown of life after death.

For more information contact Jim at 361-649-9157, or e-mail at thinn@tisd.net, Debbie or JoAnn at (361) 573-0828 ext. 32 and 50 or e-mail dvanelli@victoriadiocese.org; jmartinez@victoriadiocese.org.

"The priesthood today means the ability to hear the world crying out for help, the voice of the innocent who are without peace, without leaders, without help and without love" (Pope Paul VI).

Will you allow Christ to work in you as a priest or religious?
 — Diocese of Victoria Vocation Office (361) 573-0828, ext. 50



CHILD is in need of parents

Congregations Helping in Love and Dedication (CHILD) is a unique collaboration between Texas' faith-based communities and Child Protective Services to find loving homes for children who have come into the state's care due to abuse and neglect.

MEET CAROLINA



Photo taken Feb 15, 2006

Carolina is a charming child with a pleasant and playful personality and an engaging smile. She can be quite shy at first, but quickly warms up to people as she gets to know them. Carolina is very expressive and is able to say some words and answer simple questions. Her favorite expression is "I don't know" or any phrase from Dora the Explorer. Carolina likes to get and give High Fives!

Carolina gets along well with other children and loves to play. She is now learning to be somewhat independent and likes to try and dress herself in the mornings. Carolina is very photogenic and enjoys posing for photographs. Carolina is easygoing and responds well to positive reinforcements.

Carolina has many medical challenges and is diagnosed with end stage renal disease that requires ongoing treatment including hemodialysis. She does need a kidney transplant and will be put on the transplant list once she is adopted.

Even with these challenges, Carolina continues to have a sunny personality and enjoys life to her full capabilities. She is being fed through a G-button due to an oral aversion, but is physically able to eat

and digest solid foods. Carolina receives occupational therapy and physical therapy and is able to walk independently. She is able to bond easily with others and is well adjusted to being around other children.

DESIRED FAMILY PROFILE

Carolina would fit well with a family who is knowledgeable and experienced in caring for children with special needs. This family must be able to plan for 24-hour care for Carolina. The family should also be loving, caring and a strong advocate for her educational and medical needs.

Carolina needs a caregiver who will have access to community resources and have close access to a medical facility that is equipped and ready to provide care to a child in Carolina's medical condition.

SPECIAL NEEDS:

Developmental Special Needs: None; Emotional Special Needs: None; Physical Special Needs: None; Medical Special Needs: Severe

VISIT ME AT TARE GALLERY:

<http://tare.dfps.state.tx.us/search/ChildDetail.jsp?TareId=33143>

Child's Contact: Felicia.mason-edwards@dfps.state.tx.us (512) 438-4516

To view the state adoption Web site, please go to www.adoptchildren.org

All too often we forget to express appreciation to those in service-oriented jobs, including priests, sisters and brothers. We forget because we think, "It's their job to help." Priests and religious aren't super-humans. They need genuine support from those they serve. Let them know how you feel.

A program from USA/Canada Council/ Serra International to foster and preserve Church vocations.

Mother and daughter help others to 'bear' a loss

By Eileen Connelly, OSU, *The Catholic Telegraph*, Archdiocese of Cincinnati

The young couple had recently lost their precious baby daughter, ill since birth and barely a year old. In their grief, the baby's mother struggled to get a good night's sleep.

Then, a friend gave her a soft, huggable bear made from her little one's sleeper — a gift that brought her a measure of comfort and peace.

Jinny Purcell and her daughter, Dee Sikes, have been deeply moved by many stories such as this since creating their ministry, "Memories to Bear." Using a favorite piece of clothing from a loved one, the two women can transform the material into a "love bear" to serve as a touchable, huggable remembrance of family member or friend who is no longer with us because of death or distance.

"It all started when my brother-in-law lost his wife," explained Purcell, who works for Catholic Inner-City Schools Education Fund. "They were so in love, and I wondered what I could do to help comfort him. I thought of making him something from her clothing, something he could wrap around himself like a quilt."

When her friend lost a sister to breast cancer, Purcell again felt the need to reach out to her in some way and, "a light bulb came on. Teddy bears came to mind. I really believe the idea came from God."

Initially, she and Sikes just made the bears for family members and friends, but the requests have grown to the point that the mother/daughter team has developed a Web site. Purcell estimates they've created approximately 150 bears to date.

"They're a way of remembering someone who you love, of keeping them close to your heart," she said.

"When people see the bears, it seems like they just fall in love with them. We've seen every kind of reaction. Some people just hold them tight. Others have cried."

"They seem to be an outlet for people who have been holding their emotions in-

side," added Sikes.

Those who have had these cuddly creatures made for them and their loved ones can attest to the comfort they've brought. After her mother, Margaret, passed away last January, Linda Chouteau, secretary to Archbishop Daniel E. Pilarczyk of Cincinnati, ordered a number of bears and gave them to her siblings and two nieces on Easter. When others who were close to her mother saw Chouteau's own special bear, they requested them, too.

"This is a strong affirmation for me of how much Mom touched the lives of others," she said. "The bears remind us of good times with her and have given us a comfort, especially my seven-year-old nephew, Mason. They will be heirlooms for future generations."

"It's very satisfying for us to be able to give somebody peace and joy or whatever the bears bring to them," said Purcell.

Each handmade bear takes approximately three-and-a-half to four hours to fashion, she noted, and requires about a yard of material. Any type will work with the exception of stretch material and real fur. One medium or large size shirt or blouse is generally enough to craft one bear, while a dress can yield two. "We use as much of the article of clothing as possible and can add material if necessary," Purcell said, noting that the bears stand 18 inches tall when complete.

In addition to the "love bears," the women also make huggable friends for other special occasions, such as a celebration of a birthday or in honor of a favorite sports team. With so many people's loved ones serving overseas in the military, Sikes said that camouflage bears have become especially popular. Made from soft fleece or even the service member's own uniform, these bears give children a parent stationed far away "something snuggly to hold onto," she said.

For more information, or to order a bear at a cost of \$29.99, visit www.memoriestobear.com or call Sikes at (513) 314-4327.



Dee Sikes, left, and her mother, Jinny Purcell, pose with some of the bears they have created. The bears are made from a piece of a loved one's clothing, thus providing much comfort to the one holding the teddy.

Exchange student host homes needed in Victoria area

Active, Catholic, exchange students are coming from around the world to study in the Victoria area during the 2006-07 school year.

They will integrate themselves into a local family with the goal of experiencing American culture as an American high school student does.

In turn they will provide insight into their own culture, beyond the tidbits that can be gleaned from second-hand references.

This is the essence of student exchange. It is a unique and vital source of knowledge and an empowering supplement to both the American student's and the exchange student's education and experience.

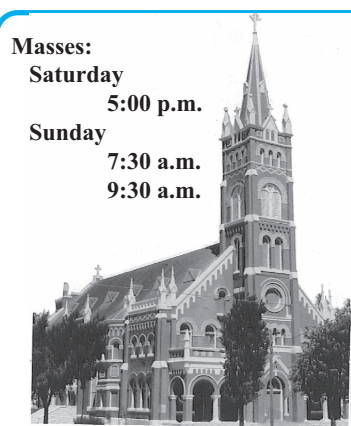
It is also a lot of fun; life-long friendships are created every year as a result of student exchange. Reunions are equally abounding and often in the exchange student's home country.

STS Foundation, a non-profit student

exchange organization, is proud to help facilitate these relationships as they've done for the past 20 years.

They look forward to finding new host families in the Victoria area and connecting them with Catholic exchange students like Maria. She is an 18-year-old girl from Ecuador. She loves children, cooking and animals. Christopher is a 16-year-old boy from Hamburg, Germany, who is very interested in computer operating systems, and in the summer he volunteers at a Red Cross youth camp. He also enjoys various sports.

They are both excellent students and are very excited to come to the area. They will have their own spending money and health insurance. If your family would be interested in being a host family for one of them, please call Sean at 1-800-522-4678 or email at seant@stsfoundation.org. To find out more about STS, please visit www.stsfoundation.org.



Masses:
Saturday
5:00 p.m.
Sunday
7:30 a.m.
9:30 a.m.

BIG COUNTRY AUCTION
Begins at 12 Noon
Cattle Auction: 2:30 p.m.
Drawing
Prizes given away at 10 p.m.

ARTS & CRAFTS
Booth Spaces: \$35
Call (361) 594-2971 or 594-8548

--- DINNER ---
10:30 a.m. — 3:00 p.m.
Dine in A/C Dining Room
Country Sausage! Shiner Picnic Stew
i Fried Chicken i Trimmings
-- ALL YOU CAN EAT --
Adults: \$6.50 Kids Under 11: \$3.00

Drive thru "Plates to Go" from
10:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. at
Shiner KC Hall on Hwy 90A East

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Fall 2006 PICNIC
Sunday, September 3
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Old Favorites

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2 — 4 p.m.
Shiner Hobo Band
6 — 8 p.m.
Hoffmann Kickin' Polka & Country

DANCE
9 p.m. to 1 a.m.
EMOTIONS
\$7 Admission charged inside hall beginning at 8 p.m.

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Website: www.shinerchurch.org



Sixteen of the 28 who completed the diocese's Pastoral Institute accept their certificates from Sister Digna Vela, Catechetical Office director, on June 24, 2006.

Twenty-Eight Complete Pastoral Institute extended program

Evening Prayer was celebrated on Saturday, June 24, 2006, at the chancery in Victoria with those who had completed the Pastoral Institute Extended Program, their families and friends, Pastoral Institute instructors and others.

The students were given an opportunity after the prayer service to share what the Pastoral Institute meant to them. Clement Korenek from Nativity of the Blessed Virgin Mary Parish in Nada who attended the classes in Weimar said that he realized how the New Testament fulfills the Old Testament. His wife Grace said that her Pastoral Institute studies has enhanced her participation in Sunday Liturgy. Lydia Guerrero from Our Lady of Mt. Carmel in Wharton said that she has been attending the Pastoral Institute in various places for the past 15 years and has met many wonderful people and learned so much about her faith. She is presently taking the classes again at Holy Family in Wharton. Bo Laurence from Our Lady of Victory in Victoria said that as soon as she retired as a teacher at St. Joseph High School, she began taking the classes and feels they have helped to deepen her faith. Bob and Frances Leach from Holy Family Parish in Victoria said that they have learned so much from the Pastoral Institute classes and would recommend it to anyone wanting to learn more about the Catholic faith. David Wanjura from Weimar said that once he started the classes, he had to complete them. He didn't want to miss anything. Kenneth Roznovsky from Sts. Cyril and Methodius in Shiner, a seventh grade CCD teacher, made the trip to Victoria for three years to complete the program.

Sister Digna congratulated these adults for their perseverance and dedication to learning more about the Catholic faith and Scripture. She emphasized the importance of adult Catholics studying Scripture and the beliefs of the Church in order to share these with their children and others.

The following persons completed the Extended Program, which consists of 12 six-week courses, a total of 144 clock hours of study: Patti Farley – Holy Cross, Yorktown; Robert and Frances Leach and Betty Migura – Holy Family, Victoria; Clement and Grace Korenek – Nativity of the Blessed Virgin Mary, Nada; Sister Louise Marie Jones – Incarnate Word Convent, Victoria; Martha Nichols and Emily Yeary – Our Lady of Lourdes, Victoria; Lydia Guerrero – Our Lady of Mount Carmel, Wharton; Nick Alvarez – Our Lady of Sorrows, Victoria; Alicia Morales and Mary Moreno – Our Lady of the Gulf,

Port Lavaca; Bo Laurence and Susan Mueller – Our Lady of Victory, Victoria; María Del Carmen Nuñez and María De La Paz Nuñez – Parish of the Nativity, Eagle Lake; Pamala Rab – St. Agnes, Edna; Anna Hlavaty – St. Ann, Point Comfort; Linda Lockhart, Carol Braune, and Sister Ann Meletio – St. Mary, Victoria; Charleen Kocian, Mary Luhrs, Josephine Peters, and David Wanjura – St. Michael, Weimar; Kenneth Roznovsky – Sts. Cyril and Methodius, Shiner.

The following persons also received an Advanced Catechist Certificate for completing all the catechetical courses in the Pastoral Institute Short-Term Program as well as all the courses in the Pastoral Institute Extended Program: Lora Faltysek – Holy Cross, East Bernard; Patti Farley and Jo Ann Griffin – Holy Cross, Yorktown; Lydia Guerrero – Our Lady of Mount Carmel, Wharton; Anna Hlavaty – St. Ann, Point Comfort; Richard Luhrs – St. Michael, Weimar; Alicia Morales and Mary Moreno – Our Lady of the Gulf, Port Lavaca; Martha Nichols and Emily Yeary – Our Lady of Lourdes, Victoria; Kenneth Roznovsky – Sts. Cyril and Methodius, Shiner; Beatrice Wicke – Holy Cross, East Bernard.

The Victoria Diocese Pastoral Institute was established to provide theological and Scriptural courses for the continuing faith enrichment for adult Catholics. Recent Church documents such as the *General Directory for Catechesis* issued by the Congregation for the Clergy, *Our Hearts Were Burning Within Us*, and the new *National Directory for Catechesis* (2005) issued by the United States Catholic Conference of Bishops all state very clearly that adult catechesis is the primary form of catechesis in the church. *Disciples on the Journey*, a Lenten faith-sharing process in the diocese, and *Generations of Faith*, a process for whole community catechesis, have given impetus to many adults to seek greater understanding of Scripture and their Catholic faith. See page 4 in this issue of *The Catholic Lighthouse* for a complete schedule of the Pastoral Institute courses for the fall.

Public invited to Ninth Annual Catholic Schools Seminar—Sept. 1

Continued from p. 20

The public is invited to attend the Friday event at a cost of \$12, \$5 for lunch. To register, please call the Catholic Schools Office at (361) 573-0828 ext. 13 by Monday, August 14.

Father Samuel Appiasi becomes U.S. citizen

By JoAnn Martinez
Diocese of Victoria staff

HOUSTON—Recently Debbie Vanelli, director of Youth and Young Adult Ministry; Sandra Genoway, parishioner of Our Lady of Victory; and I had the opportunity to be present as Father Samuel Appiasi, pastor of St. Peter Church in Blessing, became a United States citizen in Houston, Texas, June 21, 2006. He was one of over 2,400 from 119 nations that were becoming U.S. citizens. The naturalization ceremony was held at Campbell Hall in the gym, which served as a federal courtroom.

When Father Samuel witnessed over 2,000 people of every race, language and nation becoming U.S. citizens he said Scripture from Revelation 7:9 flashed in his mind, "After this I had a vision of a great multitude, which no one could count, from every nation, race, people and tongue. They

stood before the throne and before the Lamb, wearing white robes and holding palm branches in their hands."

"If it's like that (Rev. 7:9), then we as a nation ought to be like that," Father Samuel said. We should have the characteristics of heaven.

Father Samuel came to the Diocese of Victoria in January of 1998.

This was an awesome experience to have had the privilege of witnessing all these people becoming U.S. citizens.

As the oath was recited, the pledge of allegiance pledged, and the National Anthem sung, we began thinking how lucky we were to have been born citizens of this free and beautiful country. We

were spellbound as we watched so many people of different backgrounds and cultures become part of our nation. How rich in traditions, ethnicity, and customs are we!

Welcome Father Samuel!



Father Samuel Appiasi, pastor of St. Peter Parish in Blessing becomes U.S. citizen.



Newly instituted Catholic Daughters of the Americas, Court Sacred Heart of Mother Theresa 2570, install their first officers. Pictured from left are Financial Secretary Arlene Florus, Vice-Regent Lori Michalec, Regent Susan Steinhauer, Recording Secretary Terri Kalina, Treasurer Denise Grieve and Court Chaplain Rev. Joe Hybner.

New CDA Court instituted in Flatonía

FLATONIA—Catholic Daughters of the Americas gathered at Sacred Heart Catholic Church in Flatonía, Wednesday, June 7, 2006, to witness the institution of a new court of the Catholic Daughters of the Americas. The new court is Court Sacred Heart of Mother Theresa 2570.

Rev. Joe Hybner, pastor at Sacred Heart, was the celebrant at the 6 p.m. Mass. He will serve as the court chaplain.

Gussie Machalac, District Deputy 30,

introduced the 33 charter members of the new court and led them in their pledge.

State Regent Olga Samaniego, El Paso, conducted the first court meeting in Sacred Heart Parish Hall. The first officers of the court were elected and then installed; they are Regent Susan Steinhauer, Vice-Regent Lori Michalec, Recording Secretary Terri Kalina, Financial Secretary Arlene Florus and Treasurer Denise Grieve.

Court Sacred Heart of Mother Theresa will meet the first Wednesday of the month at 7 p.m. in the Sacred Heart Parish Hall. Dues will be \$20 a year.

Other state officers of the Catholic Daughters of the Americas participating in the activities were First Vice State Regent Carolyn Bachmann of Scotland, State Secretary Carolyn Malik of Shiner, Treasurer Peggy Rosales of Austin, and Third Vice National Regent Libby Ramirez of Victoria.

All present enjoyed a reception meal to conclude the evening.



By Debbie Vanelli, Director of Youth and Young Adult Ministry

It was a stifling 96 degrees with probably “200 percent humidity” when fifty-one young people and staff boarded the bus in Victoria for the annual Rocky Mountain High Retreat in Pagosa Springs, Colorado. I am sure that among their many thoughts was, “She said the temperature is going to be 48 degrees at camp tomorrow evening.” Luckily they were not disappointed in the weather in Pagosa Springs (it actually was 45° Sunday evening).

As a matter of fact, this retreat produced much deeper conversations of important life issues for these young people,

such as God’s will in their life, how God’s view differs from mankind’s view, relationships with friends and family, and keeping their faith life strong despite what the world throws at them.

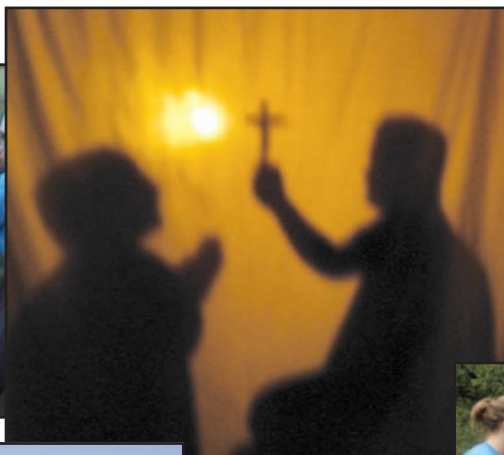
We were very blessed this year to have

two priests accompany us on this retreat. Father Dan Morales, Our Lady of the Gulf in Port Lavaca, and Frather Kirby Hlavaty from the Catholic Community of Cuero.

It is said that a picture is worth a thousand words – so enjoy the picture montage! More pictures are on the Web at www.victoriadiocese.org, click on youth ministry and scroll down the page.



(above) Night prayer around the fire ring.



(right) Young adults enjoy a very “cool” ride in one of seven rafts.

(left) A vocation skit uses shadowing.



(right) Father Kirby and Father Dan celebrate Mass with the retreaters at Wolf Cross (elevation of 11,000 plus).



Trust is a very important part of this retreat.

The illustrious staff, Michael Beard, Bobby Kneifel, Kevin Majewski, Debbie Vanelli, Richard Seiler, Judy Seiler, Father Kirby Hlavaty, Joe Ortega, Jenny Vincent, Julia Ortega, Linda Beard, Mariah Adamek and Father Dan Morales.



(right) It takes a lot of trust to walk blindfolded across a thin board over a muddy pit. Father Kirby is the one blindfolded.



YOUTH CHOIR GOES ON FIELD TRIP—The Holy Cross Youth Choir went on its annual field trip July 7, 2006. This year they spent a wonderful morning at Splashway in Sheridan and then traveled to Circle Oaks Ranch outside of Hallettsville. The eventful day was filled with hotdogs for lunch, a hayride, homemade ice cream, sack races, balloon and other relays, skits, lots of singing and laughing and hamburgers for dinner. Everyone had a wonderful time and no one wanted to leave. A big “thank you” goes to Mr. and Mrs. Johnny Viktorin who graciously opened their ranch house and provided the hotdogs and the hayride. The youth choir, which is under the direction of Mrs. Janice Polak and Mrs. Dianne Viktorin, sings for the 5:00 p.m. Saturday Mass at Holy Cross Catholic Church in East Bernard. Pictured at Splashway: Dianne Viktorin (sponsor), Katie Kubes, Brady Babin, Emily Dixon, Kara Morse, Rachel Polak, Cassidy Mica, Danielle Stavinoha, Janice Polak (sponsor); seated: Beverly Keller, Miranda Lehmann, Brandy Babin, Catheryn Morse and Sarah Sims.



YOUTH RAISE FUNDS FOR CAMP—The Sacred Heart Catholic Youth Group sponsored a booth selling shirts, hand-made rosaries and “pig plop” squares at the Sacred Heart Spring Picnic in Hallettsville, Texas. The fund-raiser was organized to help defray costs of travel and lodging for the 24 members who traveled by school bus to Jennings, Louisiana, for the 2006 *Alive in You Camp and Conference* held July 11 through 16. The conference focused on “A New Beginning,” helping the youth serve others while strengthening their faith and trust in God. During the service portion of the conference, the youth worked to create a new beginning for communities affected by hurricanes Rita and Katrina. They did clean-up projects, painting, rebuilding and responding to the needs of hurricane victims. The group netted \$2259. Frank Janecek, president of the Texas Branch of the Catholic Knights, presented the youth group with a check for \$1,000 made possible through the matching funds program. Catholic Knights Branch 564 of Hallettsville co-sponsored the booth. Rev. John Peters, pastor of Sacred Heart Church in Hallettsville, currently serves as the Catholic Knights Branch 564 spiritual director. Pictured standing (l. to r.): Rev. Bryan Heyer (associate pastor Sacred Heart Church), Jessica Kallus, Laura Boehm, Jennifer Kallus; sitting: Frank Janecek (president of Catholic Knights Texas Branch 564), Meghan Timm, Jessica Janak, Kris Hermes (youth minister), Julie Jakubek and Alyson Klmitchek.



OUR LADY OF LOURDES VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL GOES TROPICAL—Teen parishioners teach OLL’s youth about finding the true treasure of God – God’s love – during the week of July 10. Deidra Kalina and Michelle Yates directed this year’s Son Treasure Island Summer Bible School program by Ligouri, which reached 38 kids; another 14 were youth volunteers. Each day included skits, music, crafts, games, snacks and Bible stories. Above, Capt. Crisp P. Cookie is played by David Maxey; Pearl – Meagan Neuman; Coco Banana – Marjori Bradicich; and Krumb’s – Tyler Yates.



“A Radiance in the Gulag” will be Puzzle Contest prize

By Cindy Brewer

I happened to come across “A Radiance in the Gulag” in the “free pile” at the Incarnate Word Gift Shop. It caught my attention because it looked like a European WWII history story. Rather, it was a story that actually took place mainly from the 1970s to 1990s in the dark gloomy years of the Communist occupation of Catholic Lithuania. I had found a jewel in the “free pile.”

The story is about a Lithuanian Catholic woman who was sent to three years in prison and exiled for another three years to Siberia for defending her faith during the Soviet’s occupation of Lithuania.

The Baltic states, Lithuania, Estonia and Latvia, were carved from Europe in 1930 in an agreement between Adolf Hitler and Joseph Stalin dividing Europe among the Nazis and Communists in the Molotov-Ribbentrop Pact of 1939, igniting WWII. Lithuania was controlled by the Germans during WWII but after the war Russia held it until the fall of Communist Russia in 1991.

Nijole Sadunaite preferred her Catholic faith, Christian love, and the truth to the comforts of freedom, always living by her confirmation patron Saint Theresa of Lisieux’s motto, “I desire nothing but what you, Oh God, wish and as you wish it! ... Lead me where you will, the way you know, for you are truly Love!” and from Scripture, Luke 21:18, “without the will of God not a hair falls from our head.”

Her crime was helping to duplicate and circulate the *Chronicle of the Catholic Church in Lithuania*, an underground publication which recorded the offenses committed by the Soviet Union against the Catholic Church and its Lithuanian people, of which 95 percent were Catholic. The faithful made copies of the publication by hand typing the paper. Her neighbor heard her typing in her government-issued apartment and turned her into the KGB.

The Soviet’s Constitution, law and Universal Declaration of Human Rights stated that all citizens, without regard to their beliefs, have the right to enjoy freedom of conscience.

In her defense speech Nijole shamed the authorities to no avail stating, “The

words of the Constitution and the law are important even if they are not applied in real life and the all-pervasive discrimination against believers is sanctioned. The *Chronicles of the Catholic Church in Lithuania*, is like a mirror, which reflects the crimes atheists perpetrate against believers.” The Constitution should have condemned those who perverted it; it stated the rights of the people and religion, yet it was ignored.

Because she would not reveal any others working in the underground, she received the punishment of three years in prison and three years in Siberian exile.

Rather than complain about the food given her in prison – sour bread, which

gave her stomach aches, and watery soup, imprisoned in extreme heat or extreme cold and being watched by the KGB even after she had been released, she offered up her sufferings in reparation for the outrages being committed against the people under the Communist regime: the murder of holy men, women, priests and bishops, the moral depravity of the youth growing up without values and for the conversion to Christ of those who wanted to harm her.

“We have to fear only that we work and worry too little about the things of Christ and the church, and there is too little sacrifice in our lives.”

Lithuania was freed by the fall of Communist control over USSR and became a NATO partner country in 1991. In November 2002 Lithuania and six other countries, including Estonia and Latvia, were invited into the European Union.

It frightened me to learn that the Communist government had a beautiful constitution, but that its words were twisted to mean the opposite of what it originally meant or was just plainly ignored. Please read Msgr. James Brunner’s column, “What Religious Liberty?” on page 5 to compare similarities between what US Justices are doing to our Constitution and how the Soviet’s Constitution lost the meaning to its words.

“A Radiance in the Gulag” by Nijole Sadunaite is published by Franciscan University Press, ISBN 0-940535-49-1, (1992). It can be purchased on line or ordered from book stores.



FAMILY PUZZLE CONTEST MARTYRS I

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P A S H J T R A Y B L F T Q E
S B T L I U C C K P V H A S W
A E A N A D L I Y L O V I S H
M H N L N I O S Q M I L R U R
S T I C T Y Z P A N E L D E H
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C H L A P S M E I F C L N E Z
J O A O Y O N F R E T E P N K
D J U A R T P S T G E O R G E
A E S E R R F X A K Y M L R G

AGATHA
COSMAS
FABIAN
FIDELIS
GEORGE

JOHN THE BAPTIST
LAURENCE
MARTIN
NEREUS
PAUL

PETER
SEBASTIAN
STANISLAUS
THOMAS MORE
VINCENT

Winner of August contest receives *A Radiance in the Gulag*

Congratulations to Elizabeth Schilhab of Our Lady of Victory Parish in Victoria; she is the winner of the July Family Puzzle Contest and will receive *Natural Family Planning Blessed Our Marriage* by Fletcher Doyle. The winner of the children’s contest was Kyle Mamerow (6) of St. Robert Parish in El Campo. He will receive a gift from the Incarnate Word Gift Shop.

The winner of the August Family Puzzle Contest will receive *A Radiance in*

the Gulag by Nijole Sadunaite, published by Franciscan University Press. Its review is featured on this page.

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 August 25 to: Family Contest, The Catholic Lighthouse, P.O. Box 4070, Victoria, TX 77903. Only youth need to include age. Please don’t forget your phone number and parish name.



Texas Renaissance Festival Give-away

Three pairs of tickets to the Texas Renaissance Festival will be given away each of the next three months through *The Catholic Lighthouse* drawing. Tickets are valued at \$21 each; good for any weekend Sept. 30 – Nov. 19. The festival is held at 21778 FM 1774, Plantersville, Texas. Please fill out one form per household and send by August 25 to: The Catholic Lighthouse, P.O. Box 4070, Victoria, TX 77903

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By Kevin
Anderson
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Honoring: The Forgotten Vow

At the Fall 2005 Retrouvaille International Conference in Santa Clara, California, I was watching the Friday evening keynote speaker, theologian Richard Gaillardetz, receive a standing ovation for his fine talk. As it often does, my mind began to generate less-than-helpful thoughts, such as: *I wonder if they'll give me a standing ovation tomorrow night when I speak after dinner?* While reviewing my notes later that evening, a light bulb went on in my head. *What if I start the talk by asking for my standing ovation right at the beginning just to get it out of the way?* I did just that, and to my surprise, the 700 or so attendees stood and went wild for me before I'd said or done anything to earn it.

Such unconditional honoring, I told them, is the key to what I call extraordinary marriage. If we intentionally and unconditionally honor our partner daily—with kind words, affectionate touch, and the willingness to listen and forgive—we can experience the best of marriage. We promise to honor and love on the wedding day, but love gets all the songs, the poems, the accolades. Honoring is the forgotten vow, the tortoise that wins the race when the hare of “We’re so in love!” pauses for a rest.

After the standing ovation, I asked the 350 couples to bow slightly to one another with their hands in the prayer position over their hearts. Then I had them repeat what I call a nested meditation, a prayer-like poem in which each stanza contains the one before and adds to it in a way that shifts the meaning: I honor you. // I honor you, my soul companion. // I honor you, my soul companion, as you are. // I honor you, my soul companion, as you are Divinity in disguise.

What a concept—treating your spouse every day like God living in your home. “Whenever you do these things to the least

of my brothers and sisters, you do them to me.” Or, as Victor Hugo put it in *Les Misérables*, “To love another person is to see the face of God.”

I remember telling a friend who had called me to complain about his wife that we get in trouble as married people when we begin treating our spouses like a home improvement project. We’re better off, I told him, treating them like Divinity in disguise. “If my wife’s Divinity in disguise,” he said, “she’s got a pretty darn good disguise going!”

For years I’ve been teaching couples about seven spiritual practices of marriage—ways in which we can choose to honor our spouses on a regular basis. The seven practices are: Create a shared vision; Make connection the norm; Bring honoring to conflict; Give up the search for the perfect lover; Work on the “I” in marriage; Make love a gift; and Walk the sacred path.

Most married people want loving feelings to carry them along from the wedding day to “death do us part.” They think loving feelings will produce honoring behaviors, but it’s the other way around. Honoring is the soil, the water, the sunlight, the fertilizer, the stem and the leaves of marriage. Loving feelings are the blossoms.

Editor’s note:

Kevin Anderson, Ph.D., is a practicing psychologist and author of “The 7 Spiritual Practices of Marriage and Divinity in Disguise: Nested Meditations to Delight the Mind and Awaken the Soul.” He is the founder of The Gift of Marriage Project, an organization committed to helping couples create extraordinary marriages. You can give away a copy of “The 7 Spiritual Practices” and receive a free copy for your own marriage by e-mailing giftofmarriage@buckeye-access.com.

A personal story of a marriage saved by Retrouvaille

By Linda Conner

Retrouvaille is helping couples put the pieces back together and rebuild loving relationships. Retrouvaille, pronounced re-tro-vi, is a French word meaning “rediscovery.”

What all these couples have in common is a sincere desire to build a stable loving marriage.

Retrouvaille gives couples the hope and the tools to make this a reality, as illustrated by the following letter which was written by a young wife and mother who attended a Retrouvaille weekend with her husband. The letter was written to give hope and encouragement to her friend:

Dear _____,

It took me a full year to respond to this pamphlet when a friend gave it to me. But because it was brought to my consciousness I could not get a divorce without trying it. I attended the weekend feeling that I will do this, one last thing, so that I could honestly tell _____, my child, that I had tried everything I knew

of to help us solve our problems, then I could proceed with divorce with a clean conscience. I was very skeptical that this weekend could do anything different from the counseling, medication, psychologists, self help books, church advice, etc ... that I had consulted, off and on, during these past 16 years.

The information indicated that we would not be sharing our painful problems with other couples. This only fed my skepticism; I thought “How can you possibly help us with our very complex and long history of problems without hearing what the problems are?”

Friday afternoon while we were packing to attend the weekend, _____ was crying about having to spend two nights at an aunt’s house, I felt guilty thinking, “If we could just get along we wouldn’t have to put her through this nor would we have to impose on others while we go work on our troubled marriage.”

My husband went so far as to tell me and _____, that if he was not convinced within the first couple of hours of the program that this was going to help, he would leave early so that she wouldn’t have to spend the night at her aunt’s. I was irritable, made a few verbal jabs and we both had to practice great restraint to not lash out and start another shouting match that would result in his not even getting in the car.

Starting the weekend with such negativity only increased my doubts and made me sure that we would not benefit since neither of us was in the right frame of mind.

I was so pleasantly surprised at the process. The format of the program guides you on how to express to your spouse how you feel about things without inciting a fight, putting him on the

Sunday readings from August 13 to September 10

August 13 — Nineteenth Sunday in Ordinary Time	1 Kings 19:4-8 Psalm 34:2-3, 4-5, 6-7, 8-9 Ephesians 4:30 — 5:2 John 6:41-51
August 15 — The Assumption of the Blessed Virgin Mary	Revelation 11:19a; 12:1-6a, 10ab Psalm 45:10, 11, 12, 16 1 Corinthians 15:20-27 Luke 1:39-56
August 20 — Twentieth Sunday in Ordinary Time	Proverbs 9:1-6 Psalm 34:2-3, 4-5, 6-7 Ephesians 5:15-20 John 6:51-58
August 27 — Twenty-first Sunday in Ordinary Time	Joshua 24:1-2a, 15-17, 18b Psalm 34:2-3, 16-17, 18-19, 20-21 Ephesians 5:21-32 John 6:60-69
September 3 — twenty-second Sunday in Ordinary Time	Deuteronomy 4:1-2, 6-8 Psalm 15:2-3, 3-4, 4-5 James 1:17-18, 21b-22, 27 Mark 7:1-8, 14-15, 21-23
September 10 — Twenty-third Sunday in Ordinary Time	Isaiah 35:4-7a Psalm 146:7, 8-9, 9-10 James 2:1-5 Mark 7:31-37

defensive. You do this in the privacy of your room while maintaining the dignity of each. I went in thinking I would just go through the motions, instead we came out with a renewed commitment to our marriage and family. We have been given tools that we believe are practical and realistic.

We feel reassured that we can get through future challenges with the post weekend support that is offered. We have hope that we do not have to continue to be trapped in the cycle of misery we have created for ourselves. We will replace that cycle with the techniques of effective communication.

It is only for a Friday evening through a Sunday early evening. The inconvenience of making

arrangements for your children and the sacrifice of time will be well worth the gift of hope you will bring to your home.

My sincerest prayer is that both of you will find the determination to do this. Look on the Web site to see if weekends are offered in a city within driving distance to you.

All my love and hope, _____

A Retrouvaille Weekend will be held September 1-3, 2006, at the Victoria Diocese Spiritual Renewal Center. Please call (979) 543-3493 or 1-800-470-2230 or e-mail lbconner@sbcglobal.net for more information and to register for the weekend. Also see: www.retrouvaille.org

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Can America Survive Incivility?

By Donovan Russell

If you think about it, our news says a lot about us. Reports on “the Pit Bull of Congress,” someone publicly dismissing the president as “stupid,” headlines bragging “vicious and heartless comments,” liberals labeled “Godless,” adoption of “Bring it On” language for various purposes, political opponents “demonizing each other,” etc.

I have worked in third world countries. In one, Parliament became so polarized that government and opposition MP’s would not sit in the legislative chamber together. I witnessed initiation of an official hit squad by a supposed democracy, to promote order - “another dissident killed by mistake last night in crossfire, while resisting arrest.” Things are out of hand in some places. Are we headed that way?

Even in the church - some parishioners on the left do not attend because they are “suspect” for certain of their political views. Others, on the right, are dismissed because they do not fully accept certain academic explanations. What was that about bearing false witness against your neighbor?

And broadcasting has become less about exploring issues so that people can make their own choices and more about converting listeners to one’s own orthodox. Some broadcasters aim to “collect the faithful,” subjecting them to diatribe on the left or on the right, dividing the nation into audiences of blind loyalty. But this is selling

Americans short.

Most of us realize that within so-called blue states, there are considered red views and within so-called red states, there are plenty of blue positions. But how to work together to thoughtfully address serious issues - energy, healthcare, the environment, middle class retirement, crime, hunger - if we allow ourselves to be increasingly put into left or right cheering sections?

In some places the expression of difference is manifested by bomb throwing, Baghdad, Gaza, Chechnya, Mumbai. We should be concerned about right or left exploitation of our citizens to the point that they cannot hear or appreciate each other.

“Whatever is true, whatever is noble, whatever is right, what-

ever is pure, whatever is lovely, whatever is admirable...” It does not seem that this nation wishes to “think on these things” anymore.

Since when was it American to be intolerant, close-minded, impatient with others, conceited, insufferable, impervious, insensitive, and inconsiderate of other’s views? How can a democracy function within a stream of abusive denunciation for those who do not see things our way? Whatever happened to, “help me understand your thought?”

I served as Peace Corps Director in two countries. It was not easy for our young people, indeed it was extremely frustrating, but hundreds of idealistic volunteers were successful when they overcame themselves and could see good and fascinating things

Whatever happened to, “help me understand your thought?”

about their hosts, as different as they were. When our volunteers did this, they got a new glimpse into themselves. They began to appreciate the wonder of our diverse world and to benefit from other people’s strengths. They learned how human beings of very different backgrounds could find ways to go forward together. If they could do this, then with a little understanding and good will, Americans who are so much more alike, can too.

Our Turn

By Therese J. Borchard
Catholic News Service



Getting depression out of the closet

I’ve added a new name to my list of heroes: Douglas Duncan, who candidly revealed his diagnosis of depression as the reason he is bowing out of the Maryland governor’s race.

In my mind, the Montgomery County executive joins other inspiring figures such as Abraham Lincoln, whose depression made him the empathetic leader he was, British Prime Minister Winston Churchill, who referred to his deep melancholy as his “black dog,” and Archbishop Raymond Roussin, who followed doctor’s orders to take a six-month break from his pastoral duties to the Canadian Archdiocese of Vancouver in order to treat his clinical depression.

I know how difficult it is to be completely honest. Last summer, while disabled by depression, I weighed the pros and cons of explaining why exactly I couldn’t deliver the keynote address at a large Catholic convention and why I needed to take a hiatus from my writing respon-

sibilities. I stayed vague and simply said I was having health problems.

People won’t understand, I reasoned. They won’t ask me to write or speak again. But now, seeing the courage of Duncan and how he has contributed to the education on depression and mental disorders, I regret not laying it all on the line for others to ponder, speculate, even judge if they wanted to.

At the time I feared everyone would react the same way a few well-intentioned but ignorant friends had by telling me to snap out of it, to positive-think this thing away, that it was a mind-over-matter deal, and I was simply weak for giving in to it.

So I tried to make it go away through prayer and meditation. Cognitive behavioral therapy. Weekly counseling sessions. Regular yoga classes. Light therapy. Acupuncture. Massage therapy. Cranial-sacral therapy. Magnets. Spiritual literature. Self-help books. Novenas to St.

Therese. Lighting votive candles at Mass. Composing gratitude lists. Affirmation tapes. Breathing exercises. Chinese herbs. Omega 3 fatty acids. Arctic cod liver oil. Magnesium, vitamin B complex, folic acid and vitamin E. Running 25 miles a week. Swimming laps. Twelve-step support groups. Reiki. A high-protein diet. Homeopathic remedies.

But wait. I must have missed something, because I was still shaking and crying over my bowl of Kashi and green tea in the morning, breathing with a paper bag during panic attacks.

I stayed sick until I found a good and compassionate doctor who convinced me that although all these techniques are helpful, a person with depression truly has a chemical imbalance, an organic, brain disease that chanting or meditation or vitamins alone can’t treat. To those of you who join Tom Cruise in believing that persons diagnosed with depression or any mental illness are basically wimps who haven’t learned how to master their thoughts, guess again. You’re dead wrong.

I say “dead” because suicide is the second-leading cause of death worldwide among females between the ages of 15 and 44, according to the World Health Organization, and fourth among males. In 2000, suicide took

29,350 lives, accounting for 10.6 out of every 100,000 deaths. It took the life of my godmother, my aunt Mary Lou, who ended her days with the turn of the ignition, and more recently the life of Annapolis-based publisher, entrepreneur and diplomat Phil Merrill.

Duncan’s candidness has in-

spired me to ignore the critics who may think I’m just one of the cuckoos who couldn’t get it together or that all I’ve needed was a little chakra balancing and fish oil. He makes me think there is hope that one day if I have to call in sick, I’ll be able to give the honest-to-God reason why.

The Pope Speaks

Pope
Benedict XVI



CNS photo from Reuters

Pope says being silent about Christianity will not increase peace

VATICAN CITY (CNS) — In the name of peace, many people are tempted to think it is better not to speak about religion or their specific faith, but that runs the risk of giving free rein to those who abuse religion and the name of God, Pope Benedict XVI said.

The pope made his comments July 23 at the tiny parish in the village of Rhemes-Saint-Georges, near where he was vacationing in the Italian Alps.

The Vatican press office July 25 published a transcript of the pope’s unprepared remarks to parishioners during the evening prayer service for peace in the Middle East.

“Today in a multicultural and multireligious world, many are tempted to say, ‘It is better for peace in the world among religions and cultures not to talk too much about the specifics of Christianity, that is, of Christ, the church and the sacraments,’” the pope said.

Many people reason to themselves, “Let’s be content with the things we have more or less in common,” he said.

But that will not increase the chances for peace, the pope said.

“Precisely at this moment — a moment of great abuse of the name of God — we need the God who triumphed on the cross, who won not with violence but by his love,” Pope Benedict said.

“Precisely at this moment we need the face of Christ to understand the true face of God and, in that way, to bring reconciliation and light to the world,” he said.

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Fallece el anterior Obispo de Brownsville; conocido por defender a los Inmigrantes.

BROWNSVILLE, Texas (CNS) – El Obispo jubilado Juan J. Fitzpatrick de Brownsville, conocido por su ministerio pastoral y defensa para con los migrantes y inmigrantes, falleció en su residencia el 15 de Julio de muerte natural a los 87 años de edad.

La Misa de funeral sería celebrada el día 19 de Julio en la parroquia de Santa María, Madre de la Iglesia, en Brownsville, donde continuó su servicio ministerial después de su retiro. La Misa fue seguida del funeral en el cementerio de Buena Vista.

El Obispo Fitzpatrick dirigió la Diócesis de Brownsville 1971 a 1991 y administró la diócesis nuevamente de 1994 al 95, después que su primer sucesor muriera.

Como sacerdote y Obispo, fue reconocido por su servicio a los pobres, emigrantes y refugiados.

Casa Romero, que fue abierta por él en 1982 en San Benito, Texas, a dado albergue a cerca de 130,000 refugiados de Centro América a través del tiempo y ha servido cerca de 2.5 millones de comidas.

“El Obispo Juan Fitzpatrick será recordado como un campeón de los pobres y desprotegidos” dijo el señor Raymond J. Peña, Obispo de Brownsville. “Su alcance a los campesinos y refugiados fue por demás notorio. El era callado, hombre sencillo quien sirvió a la Iglesia con fidelidad y constancia.”

Juan José Fitzpatrick nació el 12 de Octubre de 1918, en Trenton, Ontario, pero creció en Bufalo, N.Y. y fué ordenado sacerdote para la Diócesis de Bufalo en 1942.

En 1948 fué transferido a la Diócesis de San Agustín en la Florida, la cual en aquel entonces cubría casi todo el estado. Cuando la Diócesis fue dividida en 1958 para formar la Diócesis de Miami (Después Arquidiócesis) en el sur de la Florida, él pasó a formar parte del clero de Miami.

Antes de dos semanas después que Miami se convirtiera en Arquidiócesis, en Junio de 1968, él fue nombrado el primer obispo auxiliar. Su ordenación como obispo fue el 28 de Agosto de 1968. Fue asignado vicario para el clero y director arquidiocesano de la educación.

Continuó con su prolongado interés por los trabajadores migrantes de la Florida, muchos de ellos de habla Español, y algunas veces fué a los campos a celebrar la Misa con ellos.

“Una de las verguenzas más grandes para nosotros como Americanos y como Cristianos es la adversidad que enfrentan nuestros trabajadores migrantes,” dijo en 1970 cuando clamaba para que fueran asistidos. Dijo, los trabajadores migrantes, “nos proveen nuestra comida diaria por todo el año, y sin embargo ellos está mal alimentados, mal pagados y sin la educación que merecen. Ellos son víctimas

de nuestro sistema económico, y de nuestra negligencia nacional.”

El Obispo Fitzpatrick fue nombrado Obispo de Brownsville el 12 de Abril de 1971, y fue instalado el 29 de Mayo del siguiente año. La diócesis tiene un 80 por ciento de Hispanos y algunos líderes de organizaciones Hispanas Católicas protestaban diciendo que debía de ser asignado un obispo Hispano.

En los 20 años en que dirigió la diócesis, él dió un fuerte apoyo a las pequeñas comunidades cristianas a nivel parroquial para llegar a los católicos. Inauguró el ministerio de puerta-a-puerta en cada parroquia. El amplio Ministerio de

Los Agustinos abren una casa de discernimiento vocacional para aspirantes Hispanos.

Por el Servicio Católico de Noticias

VILLANOVA, Pa. (CNS) Los Agustinos de la Provincia de Santo Tomás de Villanova han dado apertura a una casa de discernimiento vocacional para varones Hispanos, llamada Casa Agustín.

Un comunicado de la provincia dice que se espera que la Casa Agustín, localizada en Lawrence Mass., mejore las oportunidades para vocaciones Hispanas y aumente las vocaciones en la orden de Agustinos. El programa ha sido diseñado específicamente para aspirantes que hablen Español y tengan necesidad de preparación espiritual, académica y lingüística.

Casa Agustín es una casa bilingüe de manera que los aspirantes puedan lograr un mayor entendimiento del idioma Inglés sin perder su herencia Hispana.

El Padre Agustino Luis Madera, director de la Casa Agustín, nació en Puerto Rico. Hizo su profesión como Agustino en 1995 y fue ordenado sacerdote en el 2000. Ha sido asociado pastoral en Nuestra Señora del Buen Consejo en Staten Island, N.Y., y regresó a Lawrence el pasado Agosto.

Para quienes se interesen en saber más acerca de Casa Agustín pueden comunicarse con el Padre Madera por correo electrónico a:

vocaciones@losagustinos.org, o bien llamar por teléfono al (978) 685 6876.

La página de la red para la casa de discernimiento es

www.losagustinos.org.

“Una de las verguenzas más grandes para nosotros como Americanos y como Cristianos es la adversidad que enfrentan nuestros trabajadores migrantes.”

El Obispo Juan J. Fitzpatrick

Entrenamiento para Laicos que iniciara en 1980 formó a más de 1,200 ministros laicos activos en los siguientes ocho años.

Hizo que la parroquia tuviera una ceremonia de envío para bendecir a los más de 100,000 trabajadores migrantes de la diócesis antes de iniciar su viaje anual hacia el norte junto con las caravanas de trabajadores campesinos, a pesar de contar con pocos sacerdotes en la diócesis, envió trabajadores de la Iglesia junto con los campesinos.

En 1976 él mismo los acompañó en persona, viajando hacia el norte para visitar sus campos y llamar la atención pública hacia ellos. “Los trabajadores migrantes no son problemas – ellos son una magnífica oportunidad para probar nuestro celo apostólico,” dijo en su homilia en la Misa especial para campesinos celebrada con los obispos de la nación en su reunión de primavera en Chicago durante el mes de Mayo.

En 1983 fallidamente solicitó al presidente Ronald Reagan dar amnistía a todos los refugiados Salvadoreños y de la América Central que habían entrado ilegalmente al país escapando de la

discusión civil y la persecución.

Notando que la comisión de la Naciones Unidas para los refugiados había declarado a todos los Salvadoreños fuera del Salvador como reugiados políticos, dijo que para el gobierno negar la amnistía o asilo político a quienes venían a los Estados Unidos “es claramente una violación a sus derechos humanos y la ley internacional.”

La Casa Oscar Romero fue una fuente de controversia. En 1985 su director y un voluntario laico fueron convictos por conspiración y transportación a extranjeros ilegales. El Obispo Fitzpatrick dijo que el refugio podría proveer alimentos, vestido y casa temporal a los Centro Americanos pero no podían transportarlos. En 1986 el Consejo de la ciudad de San Benito obligo al cierre y traslado Casa Romero a Brownsville. En 1990 oficales de la inmigración federal hicieron una redada al refugio y apresaron a 34 inmigrantes indocumentados.

En un mensaje en Nueva York en el año 1985, el Obispo Fitzpatrick llamó a la deportación de Salvadoreños refugiados “una página de verguenza” en la historia de los Estados Unidos. En una entrevista en ese tiempo, dijo que no se oponía a la deportación de ilegales que no estuvieran en peligro de muerte o presecución en sus propios países, pero sentía que los Salvadoreños debían calificar como refugiados y en calidad de asiliados.

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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.

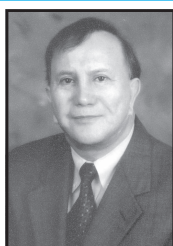
- Llame a la cancillería al (361)573-0828 y pida hablar con el Obispo o su canceller; o puede llamar a:
- Rev. Gary Janak al (979)543-3770 o a la Hna. Emilie Eilers al (361)575-7111, que son los coordinadores del Pastoral Care and Outreach;
- También puede comunicarse por escrito enviando su carta a: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

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For the General Practice of Law



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Former Brownsville bishop dies; noted for defending immigrants

By Catholic News Service

BROWNSVILLE, Texas (CNS) — Retired Bishop John J. Fitzpatrick of Brownsville, noted for his pastoral ministry to migrants and immigrants and his advocacy on their behalf, died in his home July 15 of natural causes. He was 87.

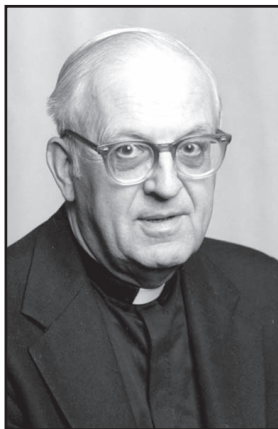
His funeral Mass was celebrated July 19 at St. Mary, Mother of the Church Parish in Brownsville, where he continued ministering after his retirement, followed by burial at Buena Vista Cemetery.

Bishop Fitzpatrick headed the Brownsville Diocese from 1971 to 1991 and administered the diocese again in 1994-95 after his first successor died.

As a priest and bishop he was noted for his ministry to the poor, migrants and refugees — first in Florida and then in the Rio Grande Valley.

Casa Oscar Romero, which he opened in 1982 in San Benito, Texas, has sheltered about 130,000 refugees from Central America over the years and has served about 2.5 million meals.

"Bishop John Fitzpatrick will long be remembered as a champion of the poor and



Bishop John J. Fitzpatrick

underprivileged," said Brownsville's Bishop Raymundo J. Pena. "His outreach to farm workers and refugees was noteworthy. He was a quiet, simple man who served the church with fidelity and steadfastness."

In 1983 he unsuccessfully petitioned President Ronald Reagan to grant amnesty to all Salvadoran and other Central American refugees who had entered the country illegally to escape civil strife and persecution.

Noting that the U.N. commission for refugees had declared all Salvadorans outside El Salvador political refugees, he said that for the government to deny amnesty or political asylum to those who came to the United States "is clearly in violation of their human rights and international law."

In a 1985 speech in New York, Bishop Fitzpatrick called the deportation of Salvadoran refugees "a page of shame" in U.S. history. In an interview at the time

"One of the greatest sources of embarrassment to us as Americans and as Christians is the plight of our migrant workers," Bishop Fitzpatrick.

he said he did not oppose deporting illegal aliens who were not in danger of death and persecution in their own countries, but felt the Salvadorans should qualify for refugee and asylum status.



CNS photo/Kevin Lamarque, Reuters

FAMILIES WITH CHILDREN WHO WERE ONCE FROZEN EMBRYOS LISTEN TO U.S. PRESIDENT BUSH—Families with children who were once frozen embryos listen to U.S. President George W. Bush speak out against the federal funding of embryonic stem-cell research during an event at the White House in Washington July 19. The president used his first veto in his five-and-a-half-year administration to block legislation expanding embryonic stem-cell research.

Volunteers urgently needed to repair homes devastated by Katrina

ALEXANDRIA, Va. (CNS) — Catholic Charities agencies in Louisiana and Mississippi are in desperate need of volunteers to clean or repair homes damaged nearly a year ago by Hurricane Katrina, according to Catholic Charities USA in Alexandria.

An estimated 92,000 houses in New Orleans and 200,000 houses in the surrounding area were severely damaged or destroyed by Hurricane Katrina. In Biloxi, Miss., where

more than 65,000 homes were flood-damaged, people are still living in tents and trailers as they wait for aid. Houses that need to have moldy drywall and debris removed before they can be cleaned and renovated remain in poor condition because no one is available to do the initial cleanup work.

More information on volunteering in the Gulf Coast is available online at www.catholiccharitiesusa.org.

Holy Land Christians seek Ambassadors of the Mother Church

All Christianity traces its root to the first Christian Pentecost (Acts 2:11) in Jerusalem. After 2,000 years, Christian families are still living in the Holy Land, the land our Lord sanctified with his life and death.

An "Ambassador of the Mother Church" is one who supports our Christian Heritage — spiritually, physically or monetarily. For more information, go to www.hcef.org, the Holy Land Christian Ecumenical Foundation, or www.pilgrimcenterofhope.org, (210)

521-3377.

Pope Benedict XVI has implored our prayers for the Holy Land. Let us be united in prayer for a peaceful and just resolution for all peoples in that area.

"I invite pastors, faithful and everyone in positions of responsibility in the civil community, to favor mutual respect between cultures and religious, and to create as soon as possible the conditions for serene and peaceful coexistence throughout the Middle East." — Pope Benedict XVI, June 2006

5.10% APY

*Includes Current Yield
+ 1% First Year Bonus

Tax-Deferred Annuities • IRAs 401(k) Rollovers

Open a new Annuity or IRA and we'll guarantee you'll earn the current interest rate for one full year. Interest rates may change after the first year, but will never fall below the minimum guarantee. Available to age 90.

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- Quarterly Statements
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Robert Melnar, FIC-361-578-2957

Eugene Rehak, FIC-361-575-4982

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CATHOLIC LIFE INSURANCE

*Interest rates are subject to change & vary by plan. Rate guaranteed for 1st year of plan. Minimum guarantee is 3.00%. Not all benefits available on all plans. SS 5-06



Knights of Columbus Council 3253 Our Lady of the Gulf, Port Lavaca Festival Kick Off ~ Cook Off September 15 & 16



Friday, Sept. 15th

Teams set up starts at noon
Entertainment
Calcutta starts at 7:00 p.m.
Dance at 8:00 p.m.

at the KC Hall
(take Hwy. 35 to FM 1090 and go 3 miles West to FM 3084 turn left on FM 3084 and go 3/4 mile)

Saturday, Sept. 16th

Cook Off starts at 6:00 a.m.
Brisket/Beans/Chili ~
Judging at 2:00 p.m.
Domino tournament
Washer Toss ~ Horseshoes
Entertainment
Awards presentation at
7:00 p.m.
Dance at 8:00 a.m.



**Chili Cook Off
Sanctioned**

Horseshoes \$10 p/p ~ Washer Toss \$10 p/p ~ Dominos \$10 p/p
Brisket \$30 per team ~ Beans \$20 per team ~ Chili \$20 per team
All three Cook Off Categories \$60 per team

For more information call:
Mario Badillo (361) 550-2270 / (361) 552-5565 or
Kenny Weaver (361) 550-2270



Stop All The Violence, Pursue A Just Peace

Statement of Patriarchs and Heads of Local Churches in Jerusalem — July 7, 2006

Editor's Note: This statement was written five days before the Israeli/Hezbollah (Lebanon) events began, thus showing the exasperation felt by the Arab Christian leaders even before the crisis began in Lebanon.

"Justice is turned back, and righteousness stands at a distance; for truth stumbles in the public square, and uprightness cannot enter. Truth is lacking, and whoever turns from evil is despoiled. The Lord saw it, and it displeased him that there was no justice. He saw that there was no one, and was appalled that there was no one to intervene" (Isaiah 59: 14 – 16).

The violence and aggression of this present moment is without proportion or justification. [In Gaza] an Israeli soldier was taken prisoner in a combat. A Jewish settler was kidnapped and killed. As Israeli response, three bridges were destroyed and a power substation was disabled causing tens of millions of dollars of damage and leaving up to 750,000 people without electricity or water in Gaza. Moreover, the Israeli forces have abducted 84 persons, among them 7 Cabi-

net Ministers and 21 members of the Palestinian Legislative Council. This comes after a week in which 48 Palestinians were killed and among the dead were 27 innocent civilians, including nine children and a pregnant woman.

Today, we Christian heads of the Churches in Jerusalem, we say: it is against law and reason what is still happening in our land. It is our duty as religious leaders to keep saying this to our Authorities. It is against law and reason that you remain and you keep us on the ways of death. "The Lord saw it, and it displeased him that there was no justice. He saw that there was no one, and was appalled that there was no one to intervene" (Isaiah 59: 16).

We condemn the abduction of the Israeli soldier, the killing of the settler youth, as we condemn the daily abduction and killing of tens of Palestinians as well as the keeping of thousands of them in prisons. All human beings, Israelis and Palestinians, have the same dignity and must be equally treated. All aggression against human dignity, whether Israeli or Palestinian, must stop.

Our sufferings, Israelis and Palestinians, will have an end when the truth on both sides is recognized. The right for Is-

rael to have security must be recognized. At the same time, must be recognized that the core of the conflict between Israelis and Palestinians is the deprivation of the Palestinian people of his freedom. We firmly support fighting against terrorism, but we remind firmly that this fighting starts by eradicating the roots of all violence, which is the deprivation of the Palestinian people of his freedom.

It is against law and reason to keep going in the way of death. The moral imperative is clear. Stop all the violence. Stop the killing. Protect the life and dignity of the people. Begin negotiations. Break this murderous chain of violence in which we are ensnared. And listen to God's call: "Depart from evil and do good, seek peace and pursue it" (Psalm 33:15).

Things have gone too far. We call on the International community to intervene and insist on a diplomatic solution to this conflict. All Authorities must change course, and with unflinching International pressure and presence, they have to nego-

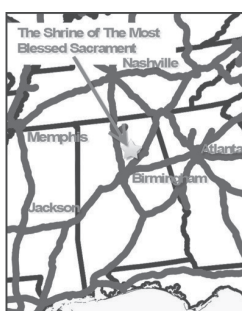
tiate in order to reach the just and definitive peace. "What does the Lord require of you...To do Justice, love kindness and walk humbly with your God" (Micah 6:8).

+ Patriarch Theophilos III: Greek Orthodox Patriarchate + Patriarch Michel Sabbah: Latin Patriarchate (Catholic) + Patriarch Torkom II: Armenian Apostolic Orthodox Patriarchate. Rev Pier Battista Pizziballa, ofm, Custos of the Holy Land (Catholic) + Anba Abraham: Coptic Orthodox Patriarchate. + Swerios Malki Mourad: Syrian Orthodox Patriarchate. + Abune Grima: Ethiopian Orthodox Patriarchate + Paul Nabil Sayyah: Maronite Patriarchal Exarchate (Catholic) + Bishop Riah Abu Al-Assal: Episcopal Church of Jerusalem & the Middle East. + Bishop Mounib Younan: Lutheran Evangelical Church. + Pierre Malki: Exarch for the Syrian Catholics - Jerusalem (Catholic) + George Bakar: Greek Catholic Patriarchal Exarchate (Catholic) Rev Rafael Minassian: Armenian Catholic Patriarchal Exarchate (Catholic).

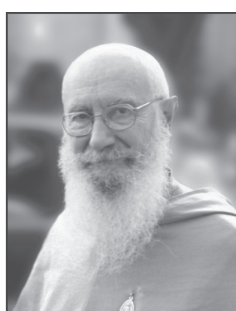
Our Lady of America †Procession and Benediction† Pray for Peace & Purity



The Shrine of the Most Blessed Sacrament
Our Lady of the Angels Monastery
Hanceville, Alabama
1:00 PM Saturday, August 5th, 2006
Feast of the Dedication of
The Basilica of Saint Mary Major



Detail Map on Website



Homilist: Fr. Peter Damian Mary Fehlner, Franciscan Friars of The Immaculate.

For more information visit:
www.OurLadyOfAmerica.com/OLAM1.php
Telephone Eugenie Breaux (205) 795-5717
The Contemplative Sisters
Our Lady of America Center
PO Box 445, Fostoria, Ohio 44830

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NUN OPENS DOORS OF CATHOLIC SCHOOL TO MUSLIMS ESCAPING VIOLENCE—

Sister Marie-Therese, director of St. Vincent Catholic School in Beirut, Lebanon, makes rounds July 23, checking on refugees who have fled the violence in southern Lebanon. The nun opened the school to hundreds of Shiite Muslims seeking shelter. (CNS photo/Norbert Schiller)



Pope calls for cease-fire after Israeli raid kills children

CASTEL GANDOLFO, Italy (CNS) — Pope Benedict XVI launched an impassioned appeal for a cease-fire in the Middle East, saying it was impossible that military action would create the conditions needed for a lasting peace in the region.

"In the name of God, I address all those responsible for this spiral of violence so that immediately on all sides the weapons would be laid down," the pope said July 30. The pope made his appeal several hours after an Israeli air raid in Qana, Lebanon, led to the deaths of some 60 civilians, including at least 37 children. The attack on Qana brought Lebanon's death toll to more than 510 since fighting began mid-July.

Asking those gathered in the courtyard of his summer residence to increase their

prayers for peace, Pope Benedict said the situation in Lebanon, Israel and the Palestinian territories was becoming more and more "serious and tragic" with "hundreds of dead, many injured, an enormous mass of homeless and displaced (and) houses, cities and infrastructure destroyed."

At the same time, he said, "in the hearts of many people, hatred and the desire for vengeance seem to grow."

"These facts clearly demonstrate that you cannot reestablish justice, create a new order and build an authentic peace by turning to the instrument of violence," the pope said.

The pope also appealed for continued donations for humanitarian aid for the suffering and displaced (see addresses on pg. 18).

Our Lady of the Gulf

7th Annual 4-Person Scramble

Door Prizes will be given throughout the tournament.

Saturday, Sept. 16
Hatch Bend Country Club in Port Lavaca



All proceeds benefit Our Lady of the Gulf Church.

For more information or to be a sponsor: Call Fabian Balboa (361) 553-6289; Anni Ramos (361) 552-6504; or Rob Suarez (361) 987-2061.

Golf

- 7:00 a.m. Registration
- 7:30 a.m. Shotgun Start
- 1:00 p.m. Lunch
- 1:50 p.m. Awards

Tournament

Entry Fee: \$75 per player (\$300 per team)* includes green fees, golf cart and lunch

Prizes for Top 3 Teams • Longest Drive • Closest to the Pin Par 3 • Worst Team Score



Holy Cross Church Festival

at Yorktown Community Hall

Sunday, September 10

Celebrating 90 Years in the present church

9:30 a.m. Mass with Bishop John Yanta native of Runge

Celebrating 50th Anniversary of Priesthood

concelebrating: Bishop David Fellhauer and Fr. Donald Hayden, O.S.S.T.

11:00 a.m.

Barbecue-beef, Polish sausage

Dinner in a/c dining hall

\$6.50 p/p \$3 p/p 12 and under (plates-to-go available at \$6.50)

Free entertainment by

Country/Western entertainer Chris Winkler

And Polka and Waltzes by Nordheim Friends and Faculty Band

Auction
12:30 p.m.

Raffle

Country
Store
Bingo

Games
Cakewalk



Making A Difference

By Tony Magliano
Catholic News Service



Justice and peace begin at home

The Catholic Church in the United States has the potential to lead our nation on a new course, unprecedented in the history of the world. With 67 million lay and ordained members we have the resources to influence American government and corporate policies powerfully with the beauty and wisdom of the Gospel and Catholic social teaching.

We have it within our power to infuse into our national conscience the responsibility and commitment to work energetically for an end to all the social and political ills of our times. Abortion, cloning, embryonic stem cell research, the violence and sex "entertainment" industry, poverty, hunger, homelessness, environmental degradation, bloated military budgets, the arms race, nuclear weapons, pre-emptive attacks and war in general run contrary to Catholic social doctrine.

We could lead a genuinely Christ-inspired crusade to reverse all of these national and global ills. But first the rich treasure of Catholic social teaching — like selected modern papal encyclicals — needs to be dusted off, read, taught and applied.

Challenging and courageous homilies need to be preached in all our 19,500 parishes. Ongoing national debates need to be sponsored in hundreds of Catholic colleges and universities. And a commitment to educate ourselves better — from a Catholic perspective — on the vital social justice and peace issues of our day needs to be made.

But even more basic than all this is the need for Catholics genuinely to listen to each other — and to respond to each other's opinions respectfully.

From personal experience, I can attest that this is often not the case. Over the past five years I have received more than a few mean-spirited letters in response to my syndicated social justice and peace column. Although my columns present challenging reflections and a strong point of view on issues that others often view differently, they are, nonetheless, always based on the teachings of the Catholic Church. We are all entitled to our opinions. But it is our moral obligation to make sure that our opinions are in line with church doctrine. It seems that some Catholics allow other sources, in the main, to guide their opinions. Often political parties, government leaders and capitalist and nationalistic tendencies have the most influence on the consciences of these Catholics. Such tendencies prevent them from exercising the needed countercultural force our society desperately requires.

We have a moral obligation to seek first and foremost the guidance of Catholic social teaching and its principal teachers, the magisterium.

In their 1983 pastoral letter on war and

peace titled "The Challenge of Peace: God's Promise and Our Response," the U.S. bishops courageously challenged government policies and Catholic consciences. They wrote: "The moral judgments that we make in specific cases, while not binding in conscience, are to be given serious attention and consideration by Catholics as they determine whether their moral judgments are consistent with the Gospel."

Here the bishops presented the key question for all Catholics to consider when formulating opinions on modern issues: Are our moral judgments consistent with the Gospel?

Are they really?

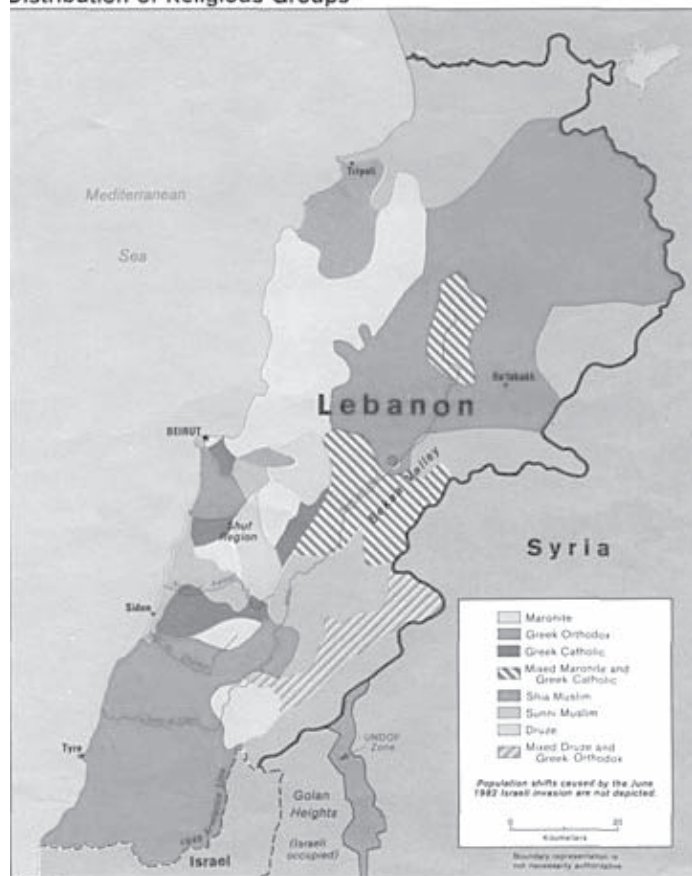
Editor's note: In another column, Tony Magliano has requested readers not to forget the suffering in Darfur (Africa) where 3.5 million people are now hungry, 2.5 million have been displaced due to violence and more than 400,000 people have died thus far. He requests readers to contact the president/US senators/congressperson and ask them to pass the Darfur Peace and Accountability Act. Contact the president at White House comment desk, 202-456-1111 or comments@whitehouse.gov and e-mail or call your two U.S. Senators and Congressperson at Capitol switchboard, 202-224-3121, or go to senators' Web site by typing: lastname.senate.gov; U.S. Representative: www.house.gov/paul or <http://hinojosa.house.gov/>. Donations may be sent to: Catholic Relief Services, Box 17090, Baltimore, Md. 21203-7090. Earmark your check "For Darfur Relief," and 100 percent of your donation will be used to help the suffering people in Darfur. To learn more, please go to: www.savedarfur.org.

Humanitarian crisis spiraling out of control

Baltimore, MD—Catholic Relief Services (CRS) and its local partner, Caritas Lebanon, warn of a major humanitarian crisis in the hardest hit areas of Lebanon if life-saving relief supplies do not reach those in need by the end of this week (July 29). The organizations continue to urge the immediate cessation of hostilities, the lifting of the siege on the Lebanese people, and the establishment of a humanitarian corridor that would provide unfettered, safe access for the delivery of vitally needed assistance. CRS and Caritas Lebanon have nearly 100 staff on the ground in Beirut, as well as 7,000 Lebanese volunteers working throughout the country to provide aid from 36 field offices.

Donations may be earmarked for MidEast and sent to: CNEWA, 1011 First Ave., New York, NY 10022-4195 or CRS, P.O. Box 17090, Baltimore, MD 21203

Distribution of Religious Groups



Placement of Christians in Lebanon

- Maronite
- Greek Orthodox
- Greek Catholic
- Mixed Maronite and Greek Catholic
- Shia Muslim
- Sunni Muslim
- Druze
- Mixed Druze and Greek Orthodox

All but Druze, Shia Muslim and Sunni Muslim are Christian; all but Greek Orthodox are Catholic. Map is courtesy of the University of Texas Libraries, The University of Texas at Austin."— www.lib.utexas.edu/maps

By the Numbers

\$10,712	annual income of minimum-wage worker
12 million	households earning less than \$10,712 a year
\$5.15	since 1997: federal minimum wage
\$2.30	1977 federal minimum wage
\$15.28	hourly wage necessary to afford rent and utilities on a modest apartment

Sources: U.S. Department of Labor and National Low Income Housing Coalition

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& Much More

★ **SACRED HEART PARISH** ★

★ **FALL PICNIC** ★

SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 3RD

at the K.C. Hall in Hallettsville, Texas

Dinner: Serving from 10:30 AM till 1:30 PM

~~Drive Thru Plates to Go~ 10:30 AM till 1:00 PM~~

Adults \$6.50 "All You Can Eat" in the Hall Children \$3.50

➔ **COUNTRY FRIED CHICKEN,**
HOMEMADE CORNBREAD DRESSING
& STEW WITH ALL THE TRIMMINGS ←

AUCTION ★ **From 11:00 AM to 1:00 PM**
Beginning at 1:00 PM ★
★ **Kiddie Rides all afternoon!!** ★
★ **Bingo** ★
Inside the Air-Conditioned K.C. Hall
Noon till 4:00 PM

🏇 **HORSESHOE PITCHING CONTEST - 2:00 PM**
WASHER PITCHING CONTEST - 5:00 PM

★ **From 11:00 AM to 1:00 PM** ★
★ **"Kovanda's Authentic Czech Band"** ★
On the Main Pavilion
~~Free Dance~~
On the Polka Pavilion-Biergarten
From 1:00-10:00 PM

★ **Dujka Brothers** ★
and
Red Ravens

Karaoke
5:30-9:30 PM

Hamburgers, french fries, popcorn,
nachos, and sno-cones available
throughout the day!



EVENTS

The Catholic Lighthouse
Page 19 — August 2006



Special Collections

Retired and needy priests of the Diocese — Sept. 2-3

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**, 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: Nov. 17-19. The dates for 2007 are: Jan. 26-28, March 2-4, April 27-29, June 22-24, Sept. 28-30, and Nov. 30-Dec. 2. For more info., call (361) 573-0828 ext. 56. A date cannot be reserved for any couple unless a cashiers 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 contact Gerd and Linda Conner (979) 543-3493 or (800) 470-2230. 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 Georgia (361) 573-9435 or Jean at (361) 578-8760 or Sue at (361) 578-3106.

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. **Women’s ACTS** retreats: Aug. 10 – Assumption, Ganado, TBE. **Men’s ACTS** retreats: August 17 – Holy Family, Victoria, SRC. For more information see the ACTS Web site at www.actsmissions.org.

Natural Family Planning—For English or bilingual sessions of the **Sympto-Thermal Method** (S-TM) in Palacios, call Rene and Wilma Galvan at (361) 972-5030. Available for counseling and classes. For information about the Sympto-Thermal Method in the Victoria area, contact Rudy and Estella DeLos Santos (361) 573-2624. 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. **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**

Picnics, Activities, etc.

August

Boling—St. Joseph Mission Annual Bazaar and Barbecue Aug. 6 at the community center (County Road 162). A barbecue-beef, chicken, and sausage dinner will be served from 11:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m. The auction begins at 1:00 p.m. There will be various games and booths for all ages. Music by Bobby Jones Czech Band 10:30 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. and 3:30 to 7:30 p.m. A domino tournament begins at 7:30 a.m. with registration at 7:00 a.m. at \$10 p/p (bring your own partner).

Frelsburg—Sts. Peter and Paul Annual Festival Aug. 6 beginning with Mass at 8:15 a.m. A fish-fry dinner begins at 11:00 a.m. (lg. \$7.50 p/p and small \$4.50 p/p) with drive-thru avail-

able at \$7.50 p/p. The auction starts at 1:00 p.m. There will be a country store, silent auction, cakewalk, children’s games, horseshoe pitching, refreshments and more. Music during the day by Douglas Polasek. A free dance from 4:00-8:00 p.m. with the Red Ravens providing music.

Yoakum—St. Joseph Parish Picnic Aug. 6 at the community center. A stew and sausage dinner begins at 10:30 a.m. An auction starts at 12:30 p.m. There will be a country store, games, cakewalk, pantry wheel, horseshoe tournament and more throughout the afternoon. Mexican food available in the afternoon.

Palacios—St. Anthony Shrimporee Aug. 6 at Palacios Rec. Center (2401 Perryman). A barbecue-seafood dinner will be served. There will be live music, country store, games, an auction and much more. Fun for all ages!

Weimar—St. Michael Harvest Feast Aug. 13 at the Veteran’s Memorial Park. A fried-chicken and stew dinner will be served beginning at 11:00 a.m. Drive-thru, take-home plates available at St. Michael Family Center only. There will be entertainment for all: games, train ride, moon walk and cakewalk. Music throughout the afternoon and evening. There will be an auction at 1:30 p.m. in the a/c hall.

Praha—St. Mary Parish Picnic, “Prazska Pout,” Aug. 15 beginning at 10:00 a.m. with Mass. A stew and fried-chicken dinner will be served from 11:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m. An auction begins at 1:00 p.m. There will be a country store, cakewalk, toy walk, games and more. Food available throughout the afternoon and evening. Hamburgers available after 4:00 p.m. Music throughout the day and evening.

Victoria — MAN TO MAN Leadership Matters Conference Aug. 18-19 to be held at the Victoria Community Center Dome on Aug. 18 and Northside Baptist Church Aug. 19. Topics/speakers: Dan Roberts, award winning western country music artist of the year; Steve Farrar, *Men Leading the Charge*; Glen Dry, Founder of Man to Man; and Gene McConnell, *The Power of Porn: Living in a Sex Saturated Society*. Glen will close the morning with a challenge to reach and disciple every willing man in Texas. Come and see for yourself how this weekend changes and transforms one man at a time! To register go to: www.mantomanonline.org

Hillje—St. Andrew Summer Festival Aug. 20 at St. Andrew Parish Hall. A prime-beef barbecue, homemade sausage dinner will be served starting at 11:00 a.m. (serve yourself in the hall) and drive thru plates-to-go available at \$6.50 p/p. Bulk sales available at the pit. The indoor auction begins at 12:30 p.m. There will also be a country store, bake sale, cakewalk, games and music.

Cistern—Sts. Cyril and Methodius Picnic Aug. 20 beginning with Mass at 10:00 a.m. followed by a stew and fried-chicken dinner. Music throughout the day. There will be an anuction, games and more for all to enjoy.

Victoria—Knights of Columbus Council 1329 chicken-barbecue fund-raiser Aug. 20 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.

When & Where

Amarillo—Second Eucharistic Congress August 25-26, 2006 at Amarillo’s Civic Center. Beginning on Friday evening and continuing throughout the day on Saturday, the diocese is planning special breakout sessions covering many topics, prayers and spiritual opportunities aimed at deepening devotion, understanding and reverence for the Eucharist. Special guests and speakers include; Most Reverend Jose H. Gomez; Most Reverend Dominic Luong; Most Reverend Jose Fernandez Arteago, Reverend Stephen Rosetti, Reverend Frank Pavone, Reverend Jose A. Robles, Reverend Thomas Vu, Amy Welborn, Rosalind Moss, Alveda King, Jonathan Saenz, Barbara McGuigan, Katie Pfeffer and many more... A wide variety of topics will be presented on the Eucharist, decoding The DaVinci Code, Apologetics, Raising Larger Families, Perpetual Eucharistic Adoration, Addictions, Eucharistic Healing, Religious Liberties, Chastity, Spiritual Fitness, and much more. Breakout sessions are offered in English, Vietnamese and Spanish. Exciting Youth Tract with well known entertainers Tony Melendez and Point 5 Covenant. The Good Shepherds will be offered at all three breakout sessions for ages 5 through 5th grades. For more information, please call (806) 383-2243 ext. 119 or (800) 658-6643.

Columbus—St. Anthony School PTC will host “A TASTE OF SAS” Cooking Contest and Tasting on Saturday, Aug. 26 from 7:00-9:00 p.m. in the school cafeteria. A \$5 ticket (\$3 ages 3-12) at the door lets you sample over 30 favorite recipes of SAS families. You become the judge as tasters vote for their favorites! Door prizes will be given away and tea and coffee are complimentary. Guaranteed to fill you up with food and fellowship!

Ganado—CDA Officer’s Leadership Training will be held for Districts 14, 29 and 34 Saturday, Aug. 26, at Assumption of the Blessed Virgin Mary Parish Hall at 108 S. 6th St., Ganado. RSVP by Aug. 15 with court regent or District Deputy Terri Beltran (979) 578-3647. Registration begins at 8:30 a.m.; cost is \$7; lunch is included. *See article pg. 6.*

September

High Hill—St. Mary Annual Parish Picnic Sept. 3 flag-raising ceremony at 9:30 a.m., followed by a Polka Mass at 10:00 a.m. Fried-chicken and stew lunch served at 11:00 a.m. The super auction begins at 1:00 p.m. Music during the day by Texas Sound Czech and the Dujka Brothers, free dance at night by Texas Dream. Polka Lovers Klub of America dance performance at 11:30 a.m. and 1:00 p.m. Booths include cakewalk, toy walk, country store, duck pond, ring toss, train ride, the famous souvenir booth and others. Hamburgers, nachos and homemade sausage available all day and a spectacular fireworks show at 10:00 p.m. on the church grounds.

Hallettsville—Sacred Heart Parish Festival, Sept. 3. *See page 18 for more information.*

Shiner—Sts. Cyril and Methodius Picnic, Sept. 3. *See page 9 for more information.*

Vanderbilt—St. John Bosco Picnic Sept. 3 at the Trinity Family Center. A barbecue-brisket and sausage dinner will be served from 11:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m. with plates to go available at \$6 p/p. There will be an auction at 1:00 p.m.; games, refreshments, cakewalk, religious and craft store and much more for young and young at heart.

Cuero—Our Lady of Guadalupe Parish Jamaica, Sept. 3. *See page 15 for more information.*

Nada—St. Mary Parish Festival and Homecoming, Sept. 3. *See page 7 for more information.*

Inez—St. Joseph Annual Parish Picnic, Sept. 10

Yorktown—Holy Cross Festival, Sept. 10. *See page 17 for more information.*

Port Lavaca—Our Lady of the Gulf Festival, Sept. 10

Yorktown—16 Septiembre Celebration of Independence at San Luis Church grounds and church hall (East Second Street). Activities begin at 10:00 a.m.; noon Mexican plate w/tea \$6/ dine in or take out; ringing of the Church Bell at 6:00 p.m. as well as speeches from historians from Texas A&M and Texas State University, El Grito – Viva Mexico and fireworks to replicate canons firing. Other foods available in the afternoon: Menudo \$4 bowl/ \$6 quart; a dozen tamales \$6; gorditas, nachos, and raspas. Entertainment throughout the day includes games, children rides, music, Ballet Folkloricos de Goliad, and mariachis from Victoria. Dance to Gilbert Mungia’s band, Los Mismos, from 9:00 p.m. on. Sponsored by the Guadalupe Society. Advised to purchase tickets for noon dinner and evening dance in advance. Contact Holy Cross rectory (361) 564-2893 or Olga Ochoa Lassmann 564-2776 / 564-7342.

Port Lavaca—Knights of Columbus Council 3253 Our Lady of the Gulf festival kick off ~ cook off Sept. 15 and 16. There will also be horseshoes, washer toss, dominos along with the brisket, beans and chili cook off. *See page 16 for more information.*

Port Lavaca—Our Lady of the Gulf 4-person scramble golf tournament, Sept. 16. *See page 17 for more information.*

Port Lavaca—Our Lady of the Gulf Festival, Sept. 17. *See page 7 for more information.*

Bay City—Our Lady of Guadalupe Festival Meal Sept. 17 at the parish hall (12th Street and Ave. D). There will be a brisket dinner from 11:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m. at \$6 each with dine-in, pick-up or drive-thru available. The auction begins at noon.

Victoria—Knights of Columbus Council 1329 chicken-barbecue fund-raiser Sept. 17 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.

San Antonio—5th annual Catholic Women’s Conference, *Come to Me*, Sept. 22 eve. – Sept. 23, with nationally known speakers, inspirational music, the rosary, Mass, eucharistic healing service and more. Speakers: Father John Jesus Maloney, FJ, *–Mary, our Mother of Hope, Model for all Women, and Intercessor*; Dr. Martha Garza, OB/GYN, *A Professional Woman Speaks on God’s Mercy and Forgiveness*; Mary Jane Fox founder and chairperson of the Catholic Women’s conference, *Encounter the Risen Lord – Our Healer*; Gloria Zapiaín, Diocese of Laredo, *Between the Rock Peter, and a Hard Place – Living the Life of Faith in the New Millenium*; Barbara Nicolosi, ACTONE, Inc., *Signs of Hope from Hollywood and What is Beauty? Women – Nurturers of Art*; Suzanne Baars, LPC, Healing Ministry, *I Will Give Them a New Heart: Discovering the Divine Plan for Our Emotions*; music by Sarah Hart; and emceed by Stephanie Welch. \$45 p/p includes boxed lunch on Saturday. For more information, please go to www.pilgrimcenterofhope.org or call (210) 521-3377.

Columbus—St. Anthony School will celebrate its 50th Anniversary on Saturday, Sept. 23, with a 5:00 p.m. Mass officiated by Bishop David Fellhauer and Father Kahlich. Following the Mass, a banquet and program will be held at the KC Hall. All St. Anthony School alumni, current families, and parishioners are invited to join in this remarkable occasion. For more information, please call the school office at (979) 732-5505.

Bloomington—St. Patrick Annual Turkey Dinner and Fall Festival, Sept. 24

El Campo—St. Philip the Apostle Parish Picnic, Sept. 24 at the KC Hall

Meyersville—Sts. Peter and Paul Annual Barbecue, Sept. 24

Sweet Home—Queen of Peace Parish Picnic, Sept. 24

Victoria—Catechetical Conference Sept. 30 at Holy Family

Upcoming Events

Goliad—Immaculate Conception Fall Festival, Oct. 15

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

El Campo—St. Robert Bellarmine Parish Picnic Oct. 22



Back to School 2006-7

There's good news and sad news as the new school year begins



National enrollment figures show a slight decline again this year in the number of Catholic schools and students. Most of these declines have been in the large urban areas in the Midwest and Great Lakes. These areas initially were home to large concentrations of Catholics but as many people moved to new neighborhoods it has become increasingly more difficult to maintain schools. The most recent figures available from the National Catholic Educational Association (NCEA) for the past school year show 2,363,200 students enrolled in 6,386 elementary and 1,203 secondary schools.

The good news is that there is a strong demand for Catholic schools in parts of the Southeast and Far West. Across the nation, 138 new schools opened last year and more are in the planning. Waiting lists exist in 32 percent of Catholic schools.

Several recent studies confirmed that Catholic schools are doing things right.

A 2006 study of elementary schools commissioned by NCEA revealed that, overall, Catholic parents are positive about Catholic elementary schools. Parents believe Catholic schools are better than other schools in terms of moral issues, discipline and academic standards. They especially agree that Catholic schools are better at teaching good morals and values. Parents are most likely to cite the quality religious education, safe environment, quality academic instruction and discipline and order as important in the consideration of a school.

NCEA surveys show that 99.1 percent of students in Catholic high schools graduate. That's three percentage points higher than non-sectarian private schools and more than 20 percentage points higher than public schools. Most of these graduates (97 percent) continue their education at two- or four- year colleges or technical schools.

Even the U.S. Senate and House of Representatives took note of Catholic schools last spring. During Catholic Schools Week, Senate Resolution 364 noted that Catholic schools present a broad curriculum "that emphasizes the lifelong development of moral, intellectual, physical and social values in young people of the United States." House Resolution 657 noted that Catholic schools "are internationally acclaimed for their academic excellence" and that they "produce students strongly dedicated to their faith, values, families and communities."

Schools with Extended Day Programs

Extended day programs involving before and/or after school activities are held in 4,370 Catholic elementary/middle schools.

New England	338
Midwest	1,268
Great Lakes	816
Plains	358
Southeast	613
West/Far West	977
Total	4,370



Nation's Report Card Science 2005

The National Assessment of Education Progress (NAEP) indicates that the average science test scores of Catholic school students in grades 4 and 8 are more than a dozen points higher than their counterparts in public schools. "The Nation's Report Card Science 2005" reviews student achievement on the NAEP, administered by the National Center for Education Statistics (NCES), an agency of the Institute for Education Sciences of the Department of Education.

Revised Faith Assessment Instrument Available

A revised survey instrument, Information for Growth (IFG), is ready for distribution. The IFG questionnaire provides feedback to individuals and groups about their knowledge of church teachings on a variety of issues. It enables individual to assess their personal level of religious knowledge and provides faith formation program leaders with group information to use in planning faith formation initiatives.

For additional information, contact NCEA's Department of Religious Education at (202) 337-6232.



Questions:

1. What is the principal language used on ATM screens in the Vatican?
2. What currency is used in the Vatican?
3. Can I surf into the Vatican on the Internet?



4. What is the license plate number for the Popemobile?

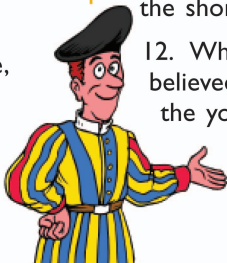


5. What is the name of the skullcap that the pope wears on informal occasions?



6. Where can the Pope ride on the Vatican rail system?
7. Does the pope own an airplane?

8. What are the age, marital status and height qualifications to be a member of the Swiss Guard?



9. Is the papal ring passed from one pope to another as a symbol of continuity?



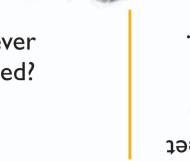
10. What pope shares the same name as a character in the Peanuts comic strip?



11. Which pope reigned the longest? Whose reign was the shortest?



12. Who is believed to be the youngest cardinal ever appointed?



1. Latin
2. The Vatican Euro
3. Yes, go to www.Vatican.va
4. SCV I (Stato della Città del Vaticano)
5. Zucchetto
6. The system, all 2,600 feet of it within Vatican City, connects to the Italian railway system.
7. No, when the Pope travels by air he goes by chartered jet.
8. Guard applicants must be between the ages of 18 and is 71.1 years.
9. No, the ring is broken upon the death of a pope.
10. Lino (67-76 AD, successor to St Peter)
11. Pius IX reigned from 1846 to 1878; Stephen II (752) died three days after his election and before his consecration.
12. Luis Antonio de Bourbon, 8-year-old son of King Philip of Spain, was named a cardinal by Clement XII at the insistence of the king. Luis held the cardinalship until he was 27, when he resigned so that he could marry. (The average age of a cardinal is 71.1 years.)

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Answers:

Material for this quiz was found in the book, *How to be Pope*, by Piers Merchant, published by Chronicle Books, San Francisco www.chroniclebooks.com.

School Statistics from United States Catholic Elementary and Secondary Schools, 2004-2005, the Annual Statistical Report on Schools, Enrollment and Staffing, NCEA, 2006.

First day of class announced for Catholic schools

Welcome back to school!

Thursday, August 10

Our Lady of the Gulf, Port Lavaca
St. Joseph, Yoakum
St. Michael, Weimar
Shiner Catholic Schools

Friday, August 11

Sacred Heart, Hallettsville

Monday, August 14

St. Joseph High, Victoria
St. Michael, Cuero

Tuesday, August 15

Holy Cross, Bay City
Nazareth, Victoria
Our Lady of Victory, Victoria

Thursday, August 16

St. Philip, El Campo
St. Rose of Lima, Schulenburg

Friday, August 17

St. Anthony, Columbus

Public invited to Ninth Annual Catholic Schools Seminar—Sept. 1

This year's Diocese of Victoria Annual Catholic Schools Seminar will have a different format from past seminars and will be held, not in Victoria, but in Hallettsville.

The Ninth Annual Catholic Schools Seminar will focus on the social teachings of the Catholic Church and will be held Friday, September 1, 2006, at the Knights of Columbus Hall in Hallettsville.

The highlight of the conference will be guest speaker John Carr, the United States

Conference of Catholic Bishops' secretary of Social Development and World Peace. According to the USCCB Web site, Mr. Carr takes the lead in staffing the bishops' committees on domestic and international policy.

He will be presenting "Catholic Social Teaching and the Catholic School Teacher" throughout the day, from 8:45 a.m. to 2:30 p.m.

See Public invited, p. 10