

The Catholic Lighthouse

The Cradle of Texas Immigration

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OFFICIAL PUBLICATION OF THE DIOCESE OF VICTORIA IN TEXAS



June 2006



Rev. David W. Berger Ordained to the Priesthood — June 3, 2006 Sts. Cyril and Methodius Church, Shiner

By Cindy Brewer

SHINER—The ordination of David Wayne Berger was truly a day of celebration on the beautiful, sunny, summer morning of June 3, 2006, at his home parish, Sts. Cyril and Methodius Church, in Shiner, Texas.

Family, friends, and clergy filled the 85-year-old, Romanesque Revival-style red-brick church to capacity with standing room only.

As the priests were vesting in the parish activity center, David was inside the church dressed in a suit welcoming all of his guests on this his special day. He

vested in his alb and deacon's stole as he walked outside to join those who were to become his brother priests. David greeted each deacon and priest with a hug as he made his way along the processional line to his reserved place.

Father David Berger, a native of Shiner and son of Ernest and Mary Ann Berger, is the first priest since 2004 to be ordained for the Diocese of Victoria and the first to be ordained in Sts. Cyril and Methodius Parish in over 30 years, making for a joyous and grace-filled celebration.

Most Reverend David E. Fellhauer, bishop of Victoria, ordained Father David

Berger to the order of the priesthood in the company of over 30 priests from the diocese as well as David's seminarian classmates who are to be ordained in the following weeks.

Principal concelebrants were Reverend Robert E. Knippenberg, pastor of Sts. Cyril and Methodius Parish, and Reverend Monsignor Daniel Flores, vice-rector of Saint Mary's Seminary in Houston, Texas. The Deacon of the Eucharist was David's classmate, Rev. Mr. John Guzaldo, who is to be ordained June 10. Father Ty Bazar was the master of ceremonies.

See Rev. David W. Berger, p. 11

Anniversaries of Note

June may be the month for weddings, but it is also the month for ordinations to the priesthood.

Three special ordinations of note are the anniversaries of Msgr. Thomas C. McLaughlin, Msgr. Eustace A. Hermes, and Rev. Peter Higgins.

Msgr. McLaughlin, chancellor and vicar general of the Diocese of Victoria, will be celebrating his 50th anniversary of his ordination to the priesthood, his Golden Jubilee, on June 17, 2006. He will not have a public celebration;

however, since the people of the Diocese of Victoria have been an appreciated part of his life and priesthood during the years, he asks them to join him in a prayer of thanksgiving to Almighty God for his goodness to him.

"I will be happy to receive your greetings and good wishes, but no gifts please," Msgr. McLaughlin states on his anniversary announcement.

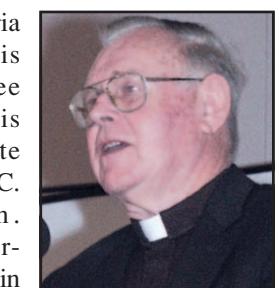
Well wishes may be sent to him at 110 Stonewood Place, Victoria, Texas 77901; (361) 578-5927; or E-mailed to thomascmclaughlin@prodigy.net.

Msgr. Hermes, a retired yet very active diocesan priest, will be celebrating his 65th anniversary of his ordination to the priesthood with a Mass and reception Sunday, June 11, 2006, at Holy Family Church in Victoria at 3 p.m. He continues to maintain the database of property records for the Diocese of Victoria, rides 15-miles a day on his stationary bike, and is the world's longest serving Serra Club chaplain—he's been the chaplain of the Victoria Serra Club since 1961. Msgr. Hermes will turn 90 years of age Jan. 20, 2007.

Father Peter Higgins, the founding pastor of the parish of the Holy Family of Joseph, Mary, and Jesus in Victoria



Msgr. Eustace A. Hermes



Father Peter Higgins



Bishop Fellhauer's Schedule

June	
8	6:30 p.m., Serra Club NW priests' cookout, St. Mary, St. Mary (Hallettsville)
11	8:30 a.m., Confirmation Mass, St. Mary Church, Praha 11:30 a.m., Hoelscher Family Reunion, El Campo Civic Center 3:00 p.m., Mass, celebrating 65th anniversary of ordination of Msgr. Eustace Hermes, Holy Family Church, Victoria 6:30 p.m., Confirmation Mass, Our Lady of Sorrows Church, Victoria
14-17	United States Conference of Catholic Bishops, General Meeting, Los Angeles, California
July	
2	10:00 a.m., Mass, celebrating 150th anniversary of Sts. Cyril and Methodius Church, Dubina
9	2:00 p.m., Incarnate Word and Blessed Sacrament Sisters' Jubilee, Incarnate Word Convent, Victoria
13	6:30 p.m., Bishop's Charity Banquet, Victoria Country Club

Official Appointment By Most Rev. David E. Fellhauer

Effective June 27, 2006:

Newly ordained **Rev. David W. Berger** is appointed as parochial vicar at Our Lady of Victory Cathedral.

The **Rev. Dominic Antwi-Boasiako** is relieved of his assignment as parochial vicar at Our Lady of Victory Cathedral and appointed pastor of Holy Family Church, Wharton, and its mission, St. Joseph Church, Boling.

The **Rev. Joseph Vrana** is relieved of his assignment as pastor of Holy Family Church, Wharton, and appointed as pastor of St. Mary Church, Nada, and St. John Nepomucene Church, New Taiton.

Effective July 18, 2006:

The **Rev. Roger Hawes** is relieved of his assignment as pastor of St. Joseph Church, Yoakum, and its mission, St. Ann Church, Hochheim, and will be in residence at Holy Family Church, Wharton.

The **Rev. Matthew H. Huehlefeld** is relieved of his assignment as pastor of St. Patrick Church, Bloomington, and is appointed pastor of St. Joseph Church, Yoakum, and its mission, St. Ann Church, Hochheim.

The **Rev. Ty J. Bazar** is relieved of his assignment as parochial vicar at St. Rose of Lima Church, Schulenburg, and

appointed as pastor of St. Patrick Church, Bloomington.

The **Rev. Peter Yeboah-Amanfo** is relieved of his assignment as parochial vicar at St. Philip Church, El Campo, and appointed parochial vicar at St. Rose of Lima Church, Schulenburg, with its mission churches in High Hill, Ammannsville, and Holman.



Eleanor Holm

Eleanor Marie Holm, 96, passed away May 11, 2006. She was born in Denhoff, N.D., the first of three children to Martin and Julia Block Campion.

She graduated from Presentation Academy in Wil-

low City, N.D., and subsequently attended St. Mary's College in Praire d'Chien, Wis., later receiving her BA and MA from University of Houston.

In 1930, Eleanor married Reuben Holm in Minneapolis, Minn., and had five children, John, Daniel, Mark, Leo and Sister Mark Edward. After raising her chil-

dren, she was a teacher and librarian in high schools in Tolousa-Midway Texas; Paducah, Ky.; and Bloomington, Texas.

After retirement, Eleanor worked in libraries at Nazareth Academy and as a volunteer at Our Lady of Victory, the Chancery Office in Victoria, and St. Vincent de Paul Library in Houston. For twenty years, Eleanor was a member of the Legion of Mary at OLV in Victoria.

"I am deeply grateful to Mrs. Eleanor Holm and Sister Charles Lorenz who organized the diocesan library. For ten years Mrs. Holm, a professional librarian, volunteered her services weekly at the diocesan library. She trained Mrs. Ann Gerdes to take her place when she could no longer help with the library" said Sister Digna

See *First diocesan librarian*, p. 3

2006 DSA Monthly Report

DSA Goal
\$1,238,378

Pledged
Amount
\$575,368

The month of May shows an increase of \$154,066.00 in the amount paid which brings our total contributions to \$475,314.00. To-date \$575,368 has been pledged by 3,753 members of our diocesan family. We offer our thanks and appreciation to these faithful contributors.

Currently, our records indicate a total of 22,166 members in the Diocese of Victoria. A small contribution by the remaining 18,413 households would make our goal a reality. Any parish exceeding their goal will be reimbursed for their amount of overage.

Jeri Joseph
Chancery Business Office

Stewardship Thought

All of us are called to be good stewards of our time but to different causes or activities according to God's specific call. What is God's call to you?

Obituaries

Sister Joan of Arc Kalina, IWBS, dies

Sister M. Joan of Arc Kalina, IWBS, 86, of Victoria, died at Incarnate Word Convent on May 13, 2006, in her 70th year of religious profession.



Sister Joan of Arc
Kalina, IWBS

She was born July 16, 1919, in Praha, Texas, to Joseph and Mary Kubena Kalina. Sister Joan of Arc received her grade school education at St. Mary's School in Praha and graduated from Nazareth Academy in Victoria. She studied nursing at St. Joseph School of Nursing in Fort Worth, Texas and became a certified anesthetist after studies at the

School of Anesthesia in Peoria, Ill.

Sister Joan of Arc entered Blessed Sacrament Convent in San Antonio as a postulant in 1934 and was received into the novitiate on June 6, 1935. She made her first profession of vows on June 7, 1936, in San Antonio and final vows on August 15, 1940, at Nazareth Convent in Victoria.

During the 70 years as a professed member of the congregation, Sister Joan of Arc dedicated herself to health care as a registered nurse, anesthetist, superintendent, and administrator. She ministered to the sick in Schulze Hospital in Schulenburg, Burns Hospital in Cuero, Huth Memorial Hospital in Yoakum, Mercy Hos-

See *Sister Joan of Arc*, p. 3

Sister M. Celine Pisklak, IWBS, dies

Sister M. Celine Pisklak, IWBS, 90, of Victoria, died at Incarnate Word Convent on Monday, May 8, 2006, in her 71st year of religious profession.

She was born on December 21, 1915, in Wallis, Texas, to Edward and Sophie Holub Pisklak.

Sister Celine received her grade school education in the Wallis Catholic School and Concord Public School near Needville. She studied at St. Ludmila Academy from which she received her high school diploma. She received her B.A. and M.Ed. degrees from the University of Incarnate Word in San Antonio. She also obtained a Texas Teacher Professional



Sister Celine
Pisklak, IWBS

final profession on October 1, 1938.

Sister Celine taught in the following schools in Texas: St. John near Schulenburg, St. Mary in Nada, St. John in Ammannsville, St. Ludmila Academy and St. Paul High in Shiner, St. Mary in Marak, Sts. Peter and Paul in Freelsburg, Holy Trinity in Corn Hill, Sacred Heart in Floresville, St. Leo in San Antonio, Holy Cross in Dallas, Sacred Heart in Hallettsville, Nazareth Academy in Victoria, and Holy Cross in Bay City. She also taught in the CCD programs in East Bernard, Wharton, Nada, Angleton, and Danbury.

When Sister Celine retired to Incarnate Word Convent, she remained active with many household duties and enjoyed sewing and crocheting until her health failed in recent years.

Sister Celine is survived by: sisters, Bertha Pisklak Hruby of Brazoria, Chris-

See *Sister M. Celine Pisklak*, p. 5

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Seminary Burses

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

As of May 25, 2006

TOTALS

— General Seminary Burse
Previously reported \$73,859.00
In memory of Rev. Msgr. Edward Bily by Fred and Martha Holub **100.00**
Total \$73,959.00

— Catholic Daughters of America Court of St. Ann 369 Burse #2
Previously reported \$4,545.00
In memory of Ray W. Goldsmith by CDA Court St Ann 369 **20.00**
Total \$4,565.00

— Rev. Msgr. Michael O'Shaughnessy Burse
Previously reported \$7,294.50
In honor of Rev. Msgr. Michael O'Shaughnessy's 56th ordination anniversary by Mary Dean Maresh **25.00**
Total \$7,319.50

— Rev. John C. Peters Burse #3
Previously reported \$8,836.00
In memory of Joe Pavlu by Benita Pavlu **2,000.00**
In memory of John C. and Tillie Peters by Anita Migl **10.00**
Total \$10,846.00

— Rev. Jerome J. Stryk Burse
Previously reported \$9,592.50
In memory of John Kruppa and Rev. Msgr. Edward Bily by Dan Stryk **50.00**
In honor of Edwin and Julie Stryk's 50th wedding anniversary by: Joe and Pat Kalina **10.00**
Larry and Becky Stryk family **50.00**
Louis Stryk **50.00**
Perry Muras **20.00**
Lad and Helen Muras **25.00**
Andy and Pauline Stryk **50.00**
In memory of Rev. Msgr. Edward Bily by: Louis Stryk **10.00**
Lad and Helen Muras **10.00**
Total \$9,867.50

— Rev. Theophil Okruhlik & Rev. Vincent Verdarame Burse
Previously reported \$7,055.00
In honor of Edwin and Julie Stryk's 50th wedding anniversary by Mrs. Evelyn Okruhlik **30.00**
Total \$7,085.00

— Rev. Joseph A. Koebel Burse
Previously reported \$5,463.00
In memory of Olga Lundquist by Mrs. Curtis Lundquist **20.00**
Total \$5,483.00

— Rev. Sean Donohue Burse #2
Previously reported \$1,830.20
In memory of Victor Perez by Bernard and Madeline Rother **25.00**
Total \$1,855.20

— Josephat R. Janak Burse
Previously reported \$14,113.77
In honor of Rev. Gary Janak's 18th ordination anniversary by: Rose Marie Janak and family **20.00**
Larry and Delores Dornak **20.00**
M/M Jimmie L. Triska **100.00**
Gift from members of the Rudolph and Julia Janak family reunion **250.00**
Total \$14,503.77

Additional Burses for donations:

- Nicholas and Annie Grahmann Burse #2
- Rev. Msgr. Julius Petru Burse #2
- Rev. Joe Levy
- Rev. Marcus Valenta
- Rev. Godfrey F. Kurathko
- Rev. Msgr. John Hanacek
- Sophie Schmidt
- Rev. Msgr. Robert Schmidt
- Rev. Msgr. Vaclav Bily
- St. Mary Church — Praha
- St. Mary Church — High Hill



DAUGHTER OF THE YEAR—The Catholic Daughters of Court 2475 in Inez have elected Anne Marek (l.) as Daughter of the year. Presenting the award to Anne Marek is Connie Andel, last year's recipient and Regent Kathy Prukop.

More Good News and Thanks from Father Dan

I would again like to thank the people of the Diocese of Victoria for their continued prayers for my recovery. You have successfully prayed me back to health.

I met with the oncologist at MD Anderson Hospital this week (mid-May) and he is not recommending any treatment at this time. They completed scans on me and found no new tumors. Because there is not enough research to indicate that either chemotherapy or radiation would be to my benefit and worth the side effects, the doctors have chosen no treatment, while closely monitoring for new tumors. He has freed me to return to active ministry. I am not scheduled to return for further medical testing for the next four months.

With my bishop's permission and the doctor's release, I have decided to return to Guatemala this week (May 16). After I return, I will assist in a parish outside the diocese to insure some rest and renewal (without the stress of doctors, hospitals, third world mission life, and the demands of a local parish) then I will return to my parish assignment in July.

Again, I thank you for your prayers and look forward to seeing all of you on my return in July.

Yours in Christ,

Father Dan Morales, pastor
Our Lady of the Gulf Church
Port Lavaca, Texas

On Ash Wednesday, March 1, 2006, doctors at Methodist Hospital in Houston removed a malignant tumor, which encased Father Dan's right kidney, which was also removed.



Vocation Art

Artwork by Reagan Renken • 4th Grade • St. Joseph School, Yoakum

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;
- Call Rev. Gary Janak (979) 543-3770 or Sr. Emilie Eilers (361) 575-7111, Coordinators of Pastoral Care and Outreach;
- Write to: Most Rev. David E. Fellhauer
Diocese of Victoria
P.O. Box 4070
Victoria, TX 77903
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.

Thank You Note

Dear Bishop Fellhauer:

The success of The Catholic Relief Services Collection is dependent on the good work of the diocesan staff members who guide and support the local efforts on behalf of the collection. We would like to acknowledge and thank Msgr. Thomas McLaughlin, in the Diocese of Victoria, with the enclosed certificate and would ask you to present it to him.

The Diocese of Victoria realized a 155 percent increase in 2005 over 2004. This extraordinary accomplishment places your diocese in the top 10 percent of all dioceses taking up the CRS Collection.

Our national collections are catechetical opportunities. They help our people practice Gospel stewardship and provide tangible expressions of solidarity with the Universal Church.

We would be grateful if you would also convey our heartfelt gratitude to your priests for their efforts to promote the CRS Collection in their parishes. Their commitment and generosity demonstrates genuine love and compassion for all who are helped by the collection — those who are truly *Jesus in disguise*.

Sincerely yours in Christ,
Most Rev. William S. Skylstad
Bishop of Spokane
President, USCCB

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



A Culture of Life

By Janet E. Smith, PhD



Humanae Vitae

When *Humanae Vitae* was released in July 1968, it went off like a bomb. Though there was much support for the encyclical, no document ever met with as much dissent.

It was a historic and pivotal moment in Church history. Dissent became the coin of the day. This had not been true prior to *Humanae Vitae*. Dissenting theologians had never before made such a public display of their opposition on any given issue. The open dissent to *Humanae Vitae* was a real watershed in the history of the Church. One can view the phenomenon as either a crystallization of something that had been bubbling under the surface for some time, or as catalyst for everything that was yet to come. Soon theologians and eventually lay people were dissenting not only about contraception but also about homosexuality, masturbation, adultery, divorce and many other issues.

In spite of the dissent and in spite of widespread use of contraception among Catholics, the Church continually reiterates its opposition to contraception as a great moral wrong; Pope John Paul II made opposition to contraception one of the cornerstones of his pontificate and wrote and spoke extensively on the topic.

I think the experience of the last few decades has revealed that the Church has been very wise in its continual affirmation of this teaching for we have begun to see that contraception leads to many vicious wrongs in society; it facilitates the sexual revolution which leads to much unwanted pregnancy and abortion. It has made women much more open to sexual exploitation by men. In fact, *Humanae Vitae* predicted a general lowering of morality should contraception become widely available and I think it is manifest that ours is a period of very low morality—much of it in the sexual realm.

Western society has undergone a rapid

transformation in terms of sexual behavior and few would argue that it is for the better. The millions of abortions over the last few decades and the phenomenal spread of AIDS alone indicate that we have serious problems with sexuality. The statistics of ten years ago were bad enough; many thought things could hardly get worse—as did many twenty years ago, and thirty years ago. In the last generation the incidence of sexual activity outside of marriage and all the attendant problems have doubled and tripled—or worse.

Statistics do not really capture the pervasive ills attendant upon sexual immorality. Premature and promiscuous sexuality prevent many from establishing good marriages and a good family life. Few deny that a healthy sexuality and a strong family life are among the most necessary elements for human happiness and well-being. It is well attested that strong and secure families are less likely to have problems with alcohol, sex, and drugs; they produce individuals more likely to be free from crippling neuroses and psychoses. Since healthy individuals are not preoccupied with their own problems, they are able to be strong leaders; they are prepared to tackle the problems of society. While many single parents do a worthy and valiant job of raising their children, it remains sadly true that children from broken homes grow up to be adults with a greater propensity for crime, with a greater tendency to engage in alcohol and drug abuse, with a greater susceptibility to psychological disorders.

*Prof. Janet E. Smith, PhD, is the Fr. Michael J. McGivney Chair of Life Issues at Sacred Heart Major Seminary in Detroit. She is the author of *Humanae Vitae: A Generation Later* and editor of *Why Humanae Vitae Was Right: A Reader and many articles on ethical and bioethics issues.**

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

Pastoral Institute Short-Term Summer Classes

Date	Class	Time	Place	Facilitator/Instructor
6/20	Intro. to the Scriptures Part 1	6:00-9:00 p.m.	St. John Bosco, Vanderbilt	Judy DeBord
6/21	Intro. to the Scriptures Part 2	6:00-9:00 p.m.	St. John Bosco, Vanderbilt	Judy DeBord
6/28	Getting Started as a Catechist	6:00-8:00 p.m.	St. John Bosco, Vanderbilt	Judy DeBord
7/5	Roles of the Catechist	6:00-8:00 p.m.	St. John Bosco, Vanderbilt	Judy DeBord
7/12	Person of the Catechist	6:00-8:00 p.m.	St. John Bosco, Vanderbilt	Judy DeBord
6/17	Roles of the Catechist	9:00-11:00 a.m.	Our Lady of Sorrows, Victoria	Rick Navarro
6/17	Methods for Grades 5 & 6	11:00 a.m.-1:00 p.m.	Our Lady of Sorrows, Victoria	Rick Navarro
6/24	Person of the Catechist	10:00 a.m.-12:00 p.m.	Our Lady of Sorrows, Victoria	Josy Martinez
6/17	Methods for Grades 3 & 4	10:00 a.m.-12:00 p.m.	St. Procopius, Louise	Bernadette Merta
6/27	Catholic Morality Part 1	6:30-9:30 p.m.	Assumption/BVM, Ganado	Sr. Mildred Truchard
6/29	Catholic Morality Part 2	6:30-9:30 p.m.	Assumption/BVM, Ganado	Sr. Mildred Truchard
6/26	Sacraments Part 1	6:00-9:00 p.m.	St. Joseph, Boling	Sr. Mildred Truchard
6/28	Sacraments Part 2	6:00-9:00 p.m.	St. Joseph, Boling	Sr. Mildred Truchard
6/21	I Believe, We Believe	12:00-6:00 p.m.	St. Mary, Nada	Susan Popp
6/19	I Believe, We Believe	10:00 a.m.-3:00 p.m.	St. John's Rectory, St. John	Janis Hrcic
6/13	I Believe, We Believe	9:00 a.m.-12:00 p.m.	Our Lady of Victory, Victoria	Betty Mitchell
6/20	Catholic Morality Part 1	9:00 a.m.-12:00 p.m.	Our Lady of Victory, Victoria	Betty Mitchell
6/22	Catholic Morality Part 2	9:00 a.m.-12:00 p.m.	Our Lady of Victory, Victoria	Betty Mitchell
6/24	Introduction to the Learner	9:00 a.m.-3:30 p.m.	Immaculate Conception, Goliad	Linda Lockhart

Everyone who is interested in learning more about their Catholic faith, especially catechists, youth ministers, lectors, ministers of Communion, music ministers, parents, RCIA teams, etc., are invited to attend classes being offered around the diocese this summer. For more information or to register, call (361) 573-0828, or e-mail calvarez@victoriadiocese.org

Enroll in Summer 2006 Language Classes at MACC

SAN ANTONIO— The Mexican American Cultural Center (MACC), a national Catholic institute for pastoral leadership and language studies, is holding registration for the three-week summer courses in pastoral English or Spanish for adult learners.

The classes are especially for clergy, religious, and lay leaders who are preparing for ministry in bilingual communities. Class sizes are small so that participants may receive more individualized attention. The MACC Ministry Formation Program (with its three components of the Mini

Pastoral, Hispanic Pastoral Ministry, and Language Studies) is accredited through the United States Conference of Catholic Bishops Commission on Certification and Accreditation.

For information about the MACC course schedule and cost, contact the registrar, (210) 732-2156, ext. 7102, e-mail register@maccsa.org or visit www.maccsa.org. Registration/testing fee of \$125 applies. Partial scholarships are available for qualifying participants who work in pastoral ministry.

Editorial

Sharing a 'Palm Sunday Experience'

By Cindy Brewer

I know it happened almost 2,000 years ago, but it felt like I was just there—at Jesus' triumphant entrance into Jerusalem. But it wasn't 2,000 years ago; it was just a couple of weeks ago at Our Lady of Sorrows XLT in Victoria.

XLT stands for Exalt in the Lord. According to its promoters it's a "dynamic teaching, praise and worship, and Eucharistic Adoration for all high school teens."

I've known about XLT; I had even put a notice about it over a year ago in *The Catholic Lighthouse*, but I'd never gone. That was until Thursday, May 11, 2006.

A friend told me XLT would be held at 7 p.m. that night at Trinity Hall activity center, and for some reason I felt inspired to go.

Now, I'm no high-school teen, but I knew that a lot of adults attended XLT, so I figured it was OK. It turned out the audience was about 50 percent teens and 50 percent adults.

Jose Ortega, OLS youth director, and Mark Zepeda of the Life Teen Band, led the evening.

Of course the music was beautiful and really brought about a sense of praise and worship. However, Mark was quick to mention that the music itself was not the worship, but a tool to lead us to worship. The worship was coming, he said.

The band played songs for about half an hour, then Jose's former NET brother and sister, Cameron Maeder and Matt Fradd of Houston, spoke about their relationships to God, their families, and with one another—since they are preparing to be married this summer.

I've listened to many young people talk

about chastity and relationship before, but this couple was phenomenal. They spoke right to your heart with such conviction.

But still, that wasn't the highlight—that was still to come.

A few more songs, then with the lights low, Father Victor Scocco, the pastor of OLS, came in from the back entrance of the hall with Jesus present in the Holy Eucharist in a large, golden monstrance with two escorting altar servers bearing lit candles and another bearing incense.

It was a "Palm Sunday experience" for me. It was as if I were in the crowd when Jesus arrived on the donkey in Jerusalem nearly 2,000 years ago. The band was playing; the crowd was singing along; and everyone knelt as Jesus passed by in the Eucharist. The monstrance was then set on the altar for adoration of the Eucharist.

The band and worshipers continued to sing throughout the time of adoration. This was the highlight—this was the worship. At benediction, as the congregation was blessed with the monstrance, it was obvious that healing was occurring. Before I knew it, three hours went by in what felt like less than an hour.

I felt like Peter at the transfiguration. He was so amazed with the event that he offered to set up tents—he didn't want the experience to end. But like Peter, we had to "come down from the mountain," and continue to live that holiness in our everyday lives.

Fortunately for us, we can attend Mass and experience Christ's healing power each week or even on a daily basis. Also we can experience Christ's presence at adoration chapels throughout the diocese; and we can go to that mountain called XLT at OLS' Trinity Hall in Victoria every second Thursday of the month.

The hall was pretty full that night, but I'm hoping it will be standing room only at the next XLTs, June 8 and July 13. See y'all there.

The church and the United Nations

By Father John Dietzen
Catholic News Service

Q. What is the teaching of the Catholic Church about the United Nations? The attitude we hear often today is that it is a travesty, an effort to take away our national pride and independence. It has done many good things, but some of its actions have been far from perfect. Has the church ever condemned this organization? (Pennsylvania)

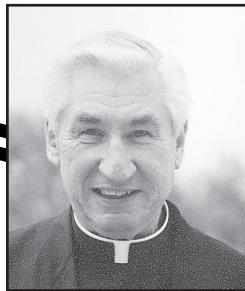
A. Your feelings are perhaps understandable. Anything human is imperfect.

*See The church and
United Nations, p. 18*



Faith Point

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



Anti-Cure, Anti-Life

The *Victoria Advocate* recently printed an editorial attacking Representative Geanie Morrison of Victoria for her role in trying to pass legislation that would disallow embryonic stem cell research (ESCR) in Texas educational institutions. The paper calls the move anti-cure and anti-life. The ironic thing is that these four words describe exactly the situation of ESCR proponents. Embryonic stem cells (ESCs) have produced no cures and require the death of hundreds of thousands of human embryos.

The mantra of the mainstream media is that ESCs offers the greatest hope for cures and the Bush Administration's ESCR funding restrictions have caused America to fall behind in the great international race to develop effective ESC treatments.

The problems with harnessing ESCs as treatments appear to be growing, not shrinking. Boosters claim that these cells are "immortal," that is, they can be maintained indefinitely in culture. Not true. Over time ESC lines develop chromosomal abnormalities similar to those found in some cancers. Their useful shelf life is probably limited.

The assertion that ESCs can be used to create any kind of cell in the body apart from their presence in the embryo has not been validated in experiments. Few researchers have been able to differentiate ESCs into the precise kind of cell they are seeking. Most often, attempts to morph ESCs into specific cell types have resulted in a wide variety of unwanted cells.

ESCs have produced tumors and teratomas (tumors consisting of such things as teeth, hair, bone, cartilage, or muscle). This fact alone would delay human experiments not by years but by decades, if indeed the problem of tumors can ever be solved. ESCs also display gene expression from the donor which could cause problems of rejection in the recipients of the cells.

If an ESC treatment requires cloning there will be a problem with acquisition of human eggs. Currently hundreds are needed for a single clone. Millions of women would have to become human egg mercenaries and undergo a dangerous and uncomfortable procedure to obtain the eggs.

The number of persons who have been cured by ESCs treatments is zero. Following the longest and most troublesome path in achieving cures makes little sense, without considering the ethical burdens borne by ESCR, especially when promising ethically sound alternatives are available. There is nothing in recent research that establishes cannibalization of other human beings, human embryos, is the best path to cures for others human beings. It is tempting to label this misguided activity

Pro-lifers are accused of being anti-cure and anti-life because we do not believe in the practice of using "leftover" embryos from in vitro fertilization clinics. These embryos in the editorial are said to have "no value." We should beware of buying into the philosophy that some lives are valueless.

as anti-cure. Instead of describing this debate as religion versus cures it might be more accurate to call it ESCR versus cures. Some claim that using adult stem cells for treatments is a dead end. Using ESCs is worse; it is a dead beginning that causes deaths of fellow human beings and so far has produced no cures but only damage.

Whether ESCs will ever produce useful treatments is uncertain, but it is certain that their use is anti-life. It is important to define precisely when another being becomes one of us. It will not do to say blithely that becoming human is a journey without establishing the beginnings and the end of the journey. It is not enough to say that "that thing in the Petri dish" is not part of humanity. Some ESCR proponents like Dr. Michael Gazzaniga would limit membership in humanity to those who can acquire "memories and loves hopes that accumulate over the years." Human infants do not have any of these experiences under their belt. Would Dr.

Gazzaniga countenance harvesting their organs?

The ESCR community takes great pains in trying to convince us that an embryo is not an embryo. For example, the *Victoria Advocate* editorial states: "Putting something other than human sperm into a human egg cannot create a new human life." Something other than sheep sperm was put into a sheep egg to produce Dolly, the first cloned sheep—genetic material from another sheep. According to this logic Dolly could not have been a new sheep life since she was not produced by sheep sperm.

Pro-lifers are accused of being anti-cure and anti-life because we do not believe in the practice of using "leftover" embryos from in vitro fertilization clinics. These embryos in the editorial are said to have "no value." We should beware of buying into the philosophy that some lives are valueless. Historically the results of this kind of thinking have not been pretty. Think back to the days of slavery when blacks were defined as less than human and in the Nazi era when Jews were so



defined. Some say that these embryos will be discarded and die anyway. We do not harvest organs from the elderly or death row prisoners on the grounds that they are soon going to be dead. There are ethical lines that a civilized society should not cross. Killing very young human life is one of them. Far from being useless the frozen embryos in these clinics are valuable to the parents who seek other children and other couples who have adopted them. President Bush welcomed many of these "snowflake families" to the White House. Once the destruction of human life is permitted in the name of science all life is devalued and the culture of death becomes more pervasive. A science that approves using one form of human life to serve another would have no scruples against using all human life to serve itself.

There is a great gulf between the promise of ESCR and the real therapies coming from Adult Stem Cell Research (ASCR). ASCs are already in our bodies and act as a sort of repair kit. They are criticized for the very qualities that make them safe and effective for human treatments—controlled growth toward replacing specific cells. Researchers from around the world have documented that ASCs from bone marrow, blood, amniotic fluid, placenta, umbilical cord blood, and nasal tissue show the plasticity claimed for ESCs but without the problem of tumors. Rejection by the recipient's immune system is not an issue with ASCs. Unlike ESCs, they do appear to be immortal in culture.

Chancery Office to be Closed

On July 4 the Chancery Office will be closed and will reopen on July 5 at 8:30 a.m.



**Sister M. Celine Pisklak,
IWBS, dies**

Continued from p. 2

tine Pisklak Demny of Houston, and Martha Pisklak Vacek, Wilma Pisklak Bielek, and Georie Pisklak Koehne, all of Richmond; brother, Edward Pisklak of Brazoria.

She was preceded in death by her parents; stepmother Emilie Putejovsky Pisklak; sister Melanie Pisklak; and brothers: Joseph, Gabriel, and Frank.

The Mass of the Resurrection was celebrated May 11, 2006, with Rev. Joseph Hybner officiating; Revs. Charles Sonnier (homilist) and Leon Rubaj concelebrated. Burial was in Catholic Cemetery No. 3.

Pallbearers were nephews: Ronald Pisklak, Gerald Pisklak, David Koehne, Jolly Hudeons, Thomas Pisklak, John Demny, and Richard Vacek. Honorary Pallbearers were nephews and nephews-in-law.

St. John's Parish Picnic

Mass at 9:30 a.m. Tues., July 4, 2005

St. John's Parish Hall
FM 957 — 6 miles SW of Schulenburg

Flag Raising Ceremonies at 10:30 a.m.
American Legion and VFW members
Vietnam Veterans and all persons
interested in the patriotic cause

Stew & Fried-Chicken
Dinner at 11:00 a.m.
Plates - Adults \$6 • Children \$3



- Games
- Room for Dancing under Main Pavilion



Auction
at 1:00 p.m.

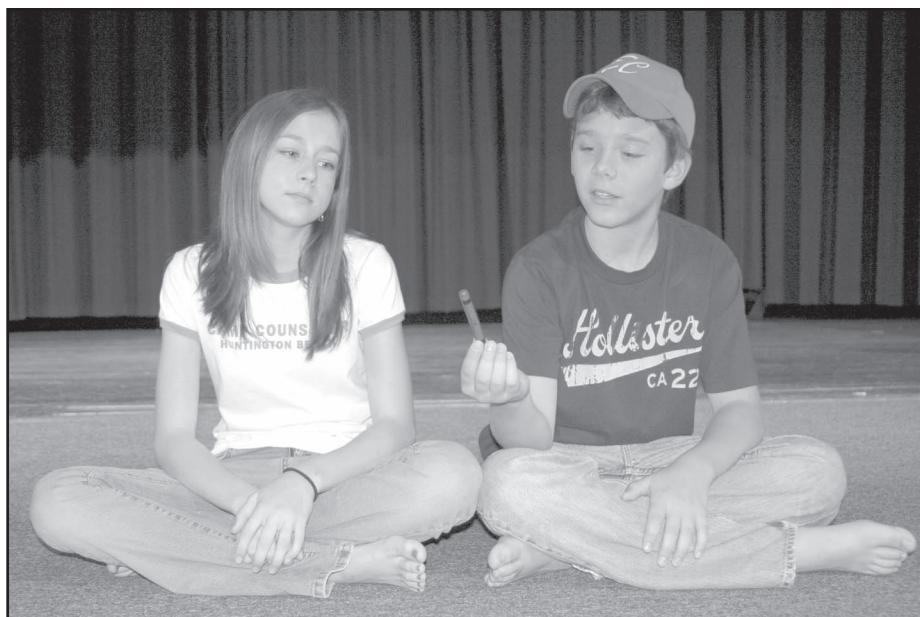


LIVE MUSIC

- Shiner Hobo Band
- The Dujka Brothers
- Red Ravens



- Drinks
- Hamburgers
- Cakewalk



Amber Kresta and Wes Smolik played the two main characters in St. Philip's "Hush Little Celia, Don't Say A Word." Amber Kresta, who played the main character, Celia, was named best actress.

St. Philip one-act play wins 2nd at state!

EL CAMPO—"Each one is a star," said Molly Kresta, co-director of St. Philip's drama students who placed first in the PSIA Area 5 One Act Play contest and 2nd at the state meet in Brenham.

The cast, who presented "Hush Little Celia, Don't Say A Word" by Joseph Wallace, competed against six other schools from Area 5, including Beaumont, Yoakum, and four schools from Houston. At the state meet they competed against schools from Austin, Lubbock, San Antonio, and Gainesville.

"Hush Little Celia, Don't Say A Word" includes the two main characters, as well as 11 other supporting actors from St. Philip who take on various roles, and three crew members. The play was directed by parent volunteers Keri Graff and Molly Kresta.

Amber Kresta, who played the main character Celia, was named best actress at both Area and State. Only one female was chosen from all seven casts.

Students claiming individual awards were: Wes Smolik (All-Star Cast Area and State), Eli Kresta (All-Star Cast Area), Risa Eldridge (Honorable Mention All-Star Cast Area and State), Nick Gutierrez (Honorable Mention All Star Cast State), and Katie Bode (Honorable Mention All-Star Cast Area). Honorable mention en-

semble at Area included Kaitlyn Cain, Ashley Cochrum, Heather Graham, Nick Gutierrez, Hayley Pierce, Shelby Snyder, Trisha Thornton, and Paige Wallace.

"It was an amazing performance," said Graff. "We are so proud of what they have accomplished," added Kresta.

The group began practicing every Friday last October. In January of this year they stepped up their rehearsals to Thursday and Friday, and since February they dedicated almost the whole school week as well as holidays for what became the perfect performance at competition.

"It was a lot of hard work, but these students have been so dedicated and they chose to elevate at just the right time. Every single one of them gave the best they had and they were rewarded," said Graff.

"Our technical crew did an awesome job," said Kresta. "The judge commented on our lighting, costumes, and our set design. Without these elements, the play would not have the emotional impact that it does."

"We were honored to be able to represent St. Philip School and the Houston area at the State Meet on May 13th," said Graff.

"We had such a great time. We could not have done it without the support of parents, family and friends," said Kresta.

CDA multi-district retreat held in East Bernard

EAST BERNARD, Texas—Olga Samaniego, El Paso, Texas state regent of the Catholic Daughters of the Americas, was the presenter of a multi-district retreat in East Bernard.

The retreat was held April 8 and hosted by Court St. Bernadette 1108 of District 28, in the educational building of Holy Cross Church.

Terrie Vacek, regent of Court St. Bernadette 1108 and district 28 deputy, welcomed attendees from Districts 10, 14, 28, 29, 34, 37, 38, 45, and 46 and then presented the morning prayer.

Retreat participants came from Blessing, Bay City, Crosby, Eagle Lake, East Bernard, Highlands, Houston, Missouri City, Palacios, Pattison, Rosenberg, Sealy, Spring, Victoria, and Wharton.

Monica Kubena, a member of 1108, spoke to the group of 125 on "Faithfulness and Blessings" as she recaptured the ordeal of her family in dealing with her twins, Sara and Tara, having cancer in 2001 and then the recurrence of cancer in Tara. The Kubena family received the ABC Extreme Makeover house in January, 2006.

Reverend Donald Ruppert, state clergy consultant, spoke on "The Steadfast Heart

of Jesus." Shannon Pickard, author of *The Choice is Yours*, spoke on "It's All a Gift from God."

The Holy Cross Youth Choir, under the direction of CDA members Dianne Viktorin and Janice Polak, entertained the group with religious vocals during lunch, which was prepared by the Knights of Columbus and Court 1108 members.

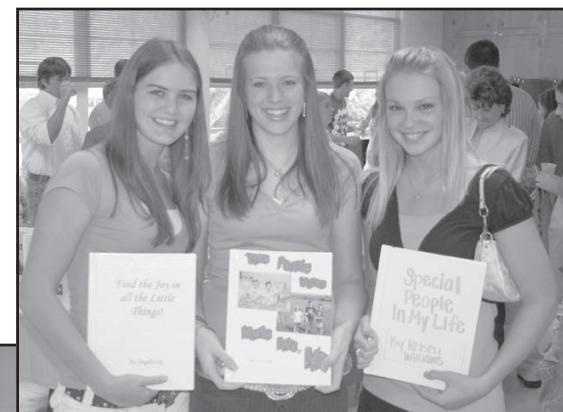
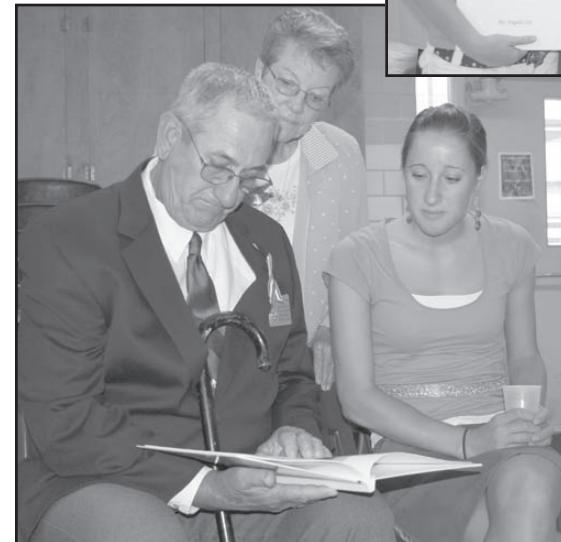
To begin the afternoon session, five CDA members of Court 1108 enacted the story "The Three Trees".

Olga Samaniego, presented the retreat on "The Steadfast Heart." Questions answered and discussed included these: What is holding me back from surrendering to God completely? Where is my focus? What is the Lord truly calling me to do?

Retreat participants then engaged in an outdoor living rosary prior to the Palm Sunday Procession at the church grotto. Each retreat participant was given a "Jesus in the Garden" holy card, compliments of Court St. Bernadette.

The retreat closed with the Palm Sunday Mass with the reception of sixteen new members from four different courts who were being formally received into the order.

(below) Mr. and Mrs. Joe Talbott read the book Hannah Starkey (r.) wrote about local VFW heroes.



(above) Angela Cox, Jordan Traber, and Kelsey Williams show off their newly published works at the Authors' Party.



70 St. Joseph students publish books

VICTORIA— St. Joseph High School held its annual Authors' Party in early May 2006. Guests gathered to read the books and share the excitement with the student authors.

Seventy students participated in the writing project this year. In *Footprints Left Behind*, Christina Henry remembers her mom, their special moments, and family times. Hurricane Katrina changed the lives of many, including Allegra Peters who fled the storm and ended up in Victoria for her senior year. *Growing up in the "Big Easy"* tells about her life in New Orleans.

Hannah Starkey wrote *In America's Shadow*, which pays tribute to local veterans from the Vietnam War, the Korean War and WWII. Veteran Mr. Joe Talbott and his wife attended the party and were moved by what they read.

"I was touched by the fact that a student would be that interested in the lives

of veterans who served to protect our country. Hannah, the men and women in uniform salute you," Mr. Talbott said.

The Victoria Post VFW 4146 ordered 20 copies of the book, and one will be sent to the VFW archives in Washington, D.C. as well as the national office in St. Louis, Missouri, the state office in Austin, and the local office in Victoria.

First Lady Laura Bush acknowledged the book-writing program that Mrs. Nancy Peters has been doing since 1989. "Your program is a great example of this creativity. I am sharing your information with my projects' office," Mrs. Bush wrote.

Nancy Peters, head of the Journalism Department, has presented this writing program at conferences for Texas Teachers of English in Dallas and Houston, for the New Jersey Writing Project at Padre Island, and the Columbia Scholastic Press Association at Columbia University in New York City and at Region III.

Evacuations and Special Health Care Needs: Dial 2-1-1 to register for a ride

AUSTIN — If you live in a hurricane EVACUATION ZONE, and you have special health care or transportation needs, you need to make extra efforts to get ready

for hurricane season. Hurricane season officially began June 1 and continues through November 30.

It is critical that you begin now to make your evacuation plans, prepare an emergency kit and learn evacuation routes. This should be done well in advance.

To find out whether you are living in an evacuation zone, dial 2-1-1 for information. Operators answering the phones at 2-1-1 are also prepared to help you register for transportation and special assistance now, before hurricane season begins.

If you have special health care needs, register by dialing 2-1-1:

Gulf coast residents with special health care needs (including those who are disabled or medically fragile) who live in evacuation zones and do not have friends or family to help in an evacuation should register for a ride in advance by dialing 2-1-1. The 2-1-1 registry must be dialed

IN ADVANCE. Do not wait until a storm is in the Gulf to register for assistance. This service is for people who cannot drive themselves or make transportation arrangements.

If you need transportation, register with 2-1-1:

If you do not have a car or other vehicle, and you cannot get a ride with friends, neighbors or family, register IN ADVANCE for a ride by dialing 2-1-1.

Hurricane Preparedness tips on the web:

Governor's Division of Emergency Management Web site: www.txdps.state.tx.us/dem

FEMA Web site www.Ready.gov or www.redcross.org

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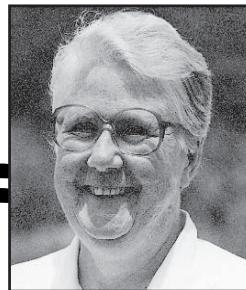
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Sisterly Thoughts

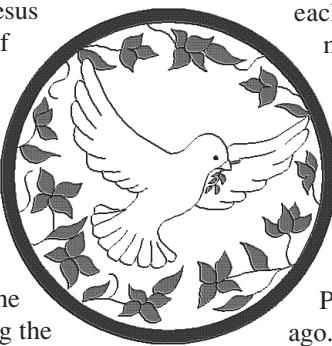
By Sister Mildred Truchard, IWBS



The Church: alive and growing!

June is such a joyous time in the Church. We have just celebrated the feast of Pentecost, the day when the Church was launched through the ardent fervor of those early disciples who had experienced the *Coming of the Holy Spirit*. No longer was the saving message of Jesus confined to a small group of frightened disciples; it had been proclaimed to peoples of all nations by these same transformed disciples, who boldly witnessed to God and shared the Gospel message.

Through the centuries, the Holy Spirit has been guiding the Church and strengthening its members and continues to do so today. We have also all received the Holy Spirit in baptism and confirmation; however, some of us may fail to realize that the Holy Spirit is truly with us. Therefore we may have to make a conscious effort to be mindful of this awesome reality! Have you ever been in a frightening situation and felt a presence which brought you peace? Could this sense of peace have been the work of the Holy Spirit? Have you ever experi-



enced a time when you spoke words of extraordinary wisdom or did acts of courage and afterward wondered where that wisdom or courage came from? Let's not forget to give the Holy Spirit credit for the gifts which have been bestowed upon each of us through the sacraments of baptism and confirmation. And let us not stifle these gifts as we cultivate them in our mission to witness to God and share the Gospel as members of that same Church that was launched on that Pentecost two thousand years ago.

We, this Church, guided by the Holy Spirit, also enjoy a special relationship with Christ who refers to the Church as his bride. Let us reflect on this union between Christ and our Church every time we attend a wedding. May we pray for the couple entering into a loving mutual relationship with Christ as the center of their relationship. And may our own devotion to Christ through the Church be an example and means of support to the June newly-weds in our midst!



The Nada Catholic Life Insurance Branch recently held their annual CCD Teacher Appreciation Dinner for teachers at St. Mary's in Nada and St. John's in New Taiton. Pictured left to right are Bernadette Jurica, Katie Kunz, Missy Jurica, LaNelle Engstrom, Donna Merta, Father Peter Yeboah-Amanfo, David Marcaurele, Ann Bilicek, Yvonne Marcaurele, and Pat Kresta

Catholic Life Nada Branch holds annual CCD teacher appreciation dinner

SAN ANTONIO —The Catholic Life Insurance Nada Branch held their annual CCD Teacher Appreciation Dinner on Wednesday, May 17.

Approximately 25 teachers, spouses, and Catholic Life Officers attended the dinner which recognized CCD Teachers from St. Mary Church in Nada and St. John Church in New Taiton. A roast-beef dinner was served to all in St. John's Parish Hall.

During the dinner, Mrs. Ann Bilicek, a second- and third-grade teacher, was hon-

ored for her 35 years of service to St. John's Parish as she retires this year. She has instructed three generations of parishioners and aided them in their receipt of the sacrament of First Communion. She was honored with a plaque and rosary from St. John's Parish.

Founded in 1901, Catholic Life Insurance offers life insurance, IRAs, annuities, and fraternal benefits to individuals, families and businesses in the Southern United States.

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Sacred Heart's Trey Kraatz named 2006 Wal-Mart Teacher of the Year

HALLETTSVILLE—Mr. Trey Kraatz, a Sacred Heart Catholic School teacher, was recently selected as the 2006 Wal-Mart Teacher of the Year. Trey was selected from among teachers in the local Wal-Mart service area which includes Shiner, Vysehrad, Sweet Home, Ezzell, Schulenburg, Yoakum, Moulton, Rice, Sheridan, and Hallettsville.

Trey has been teaching and coaching at Sacred Heart Catholic School for sixteen years. He holds a Bachelor of Arts Degree from the University of Houston at Victoria with a major in History and Humanities. Trey also holds a Texas Teacher Certificate for Secondary History in Grades 6-12.

His present assignment at Sacred Heart includes teaching American history, world history, world geography, and 7th and 8th grade social studies. He also is the assistant high school football coach. Additional responsibilities include freshman class sponsor, National Junior Honor Society faculty council, and National Honor Society faculty council.

"Trey is an excellent teacher who is truly dedicated to meeting the individual needs of his students" as stated by his principal, Mr. David Smolik. His greatest compliments come from his former students who excel in college and credit him

for preparing them so well.

Every other summer Trey coordinates and chaperones an educational trip to Washington, D.C. for junior high and high school students. He does this voluntarily on his own and it is not part of his school responsibility. In fact, students from other surrounding schools also participate in the trip.

Mr. Gary

Boyington, Wal-Mart Manager, presented Sacred Heart Catholic School with a \$1,000.00 check in Trey's honor on his selection and a \$100.00 Wal-Mart Gift Card to Trey himself. Congratulations Mr. Kraatz!

Trey and his wife, Jennifer, have five children, Tyler, Austin, Trenton, Victoria, and Alexandra.

SCHOOL BENEFITS FROM FISH FRY — Our Lady of the Gulf School in Port Lavaca Principal Theresa Dent (left) and HSA co-president Toi Dowell (center) accept a check from Rob Suarez, grand knight of KC Council 3253 for the 2006 fish fry proceeds. The school and the Knights of Columbus have been working together for the past five years on the lenten fish fry.

June Victim Offender Mediation Awareness Program/Training Victim/Offender Mediation

Training will be presented by the Center for Peace, a ministry of Perpetual Help Home, June 20 – 22 at 705 E. Santa Rosa in Victoria. The final day of training will be presented by Eddie Mendoza, director of the Texas Dept. of Criminal Justice, Victim Offender Mediation Dialogue program. The cost of the training is \$195. This program helps provide the victims of violent crimes the opportunity to have a structured face-to-face meeting with their of-

fender in a secure, safe environment in order to facilitate a healing/recovery process.

A free, one-day seminar will be presented by Eddie Mendoza for those who work with victims of violent crimes. The training will be held Thursday, June 22, 8:30 a.m. – 3:30 p.m. at 705 E. Santa Rosa in Victoria.

Please call the Center for Peace at (361) 575-2249 to register.



St. Michael's Annual Family Fishing Tournament

Saturday, June 17

Port O'Connor Community Center
Registration Fee: \$120 per boat
with maximum of four per boat

Weigh-in from 3:00 p.m. to 5:00 p.m. at the community center with a meal served that evening • Silent Auction — A Must See!

Questions Call:
St. Michael School - (361) 277-3854; James and Amy Crain - (361) 277-9433; or Chris and Jill Crain - (361) 277-8766

Benefitting St. Michael Catholic School in Cuero



From left, Annette, Pete, and Jonathan Delgado have all been on ACTS retreats. The family, who attends Our Lady of Sorrows Catholic Church, agrees that the retreat has brought them together spiritually. The Catholic Church sponsored retreats are open to everyone. Retreat dates listed on page 19.

ACTS retreat renews teen's faith in God

By Tracy Simmons, Victoria Advocate

Jonathan Delgado wears a crucifix around his neck and an ACTS retreat bracelet on his wrist.

The jewelry reminds the Memorial High School junior of the Teen ACTS retreat he attended this past summer and of the next Teen ACTS retreat he's helping to organize.

The retreat is sponsored by the Catholic Church but is open to people of all faiths.

Jonathan's parents, Pete and Annette Delgado, had been on numerous ACTS retreats. They wanted their son to experience it as well and Jonathan wanted to see what it was like, so he waited patiently for a teen retreat to come to the Victoria area.

"When my mom and dad would come back to the house it was so peaceful, filled with joy and love for God," he said. "I wanted to experience it for myself."

So he joined dozens of other teenagers from local parishes this past summer. They rode a bus out to the Catholic Diocese of Victoria's Spiritual Renewal Center.

When he arrived and saw lines of teenagers ready for a spirit-filled weekend, he said, "it was a beautiful sight to see."

Jonathan had been to a number of other teen revivals and retreats but this one was different.

"It was very spiritual, this one was one-on-one," he said. "There were less people, it was more focused."

Now he knew what his parents were talking about.

"It's beautiful to walk out there and see three or four cabins, a mess hall and the rest is woods, grass and a chapel, which is the most beautiful thing there," he said.

Though the retreat was a learning experience, Jonathan said it was also fun.

"It lifts you up and makes you feel really good," he said. "It's just a good time to learn about God."

He said it reinforced his beliefs to stay abstinent and keep his body free of drugs and alcohol, which he said won't be hard because now he has hundreds of people, of all ages, to call on.

"I have ACTS brothers and sisters I can count on. To have an elite group of people I can turn to for help that way is so awesome," he said.

"My mom and dad are more ACTS brothers and sisters now," Jonathan said. "There are 50- and 60-year-olds who have been on them that I can actually relate to."

He said he's blessed to be able to experience the retreat at such a young age.

Now he's busy helping plan the next Teen ACTS. He meets with a group of other team members every Monday and

some Saturdays. He considers the time he dedicates to the retreat worth it.

"It's something I love to sacrifice," he said.

Since the retreat, Jonathan looks forward to going to church each week with his family.

Jonathan's parents, who have each been on six retreats, said they're proud to be able to share the ACTS experience with their son.

"I wanted J.P. (Jonathan) to go to experience different activities and meet different kids from different parishes," his father said.

Pete Delgado said also that the retreat taught him a lot about his role as a Christian and he wanted his son to understand that role as well.

"I know it truly made me understand what my role is as a servant to God," Pete said.

Jonathan's mother said her family has grown closer since the retreat, particularly her relationship with her husband.

"He's always been my soul mate ... but it brought us together spiritually," she said.

They've been able to grow together in their Christian walk by praying and studying the Bible together, she said.

YOUTH CALENDAR OF EVENTS

June 9-10 — Staff preparations for Camp David, at the Spiritual Renewal Center

June 11-13 — Camp David at the Spiritual Renewal Center for Elementary and Junior High Students

June 11-13 — Session I - Two-night, junior-high camp

June 14 — One-day elementary camp

June 14-16 — Session II - Two-night, junior-high camp

June 26-29 — Discipleship Week at the Spiritual Renewal Center

July 8-16 — Rocky Mountain High in Pagosa Springs, Colorado.

July 31 - August 4 — Region X Directors' Meeting - Laredo

November 17-19 — Region X Youth Conference in Laredo

November 30-December 3 — National Conference on Catholic Youth Ministry at the Riviera Hotel in Las Vegas, Nevada

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

Debbie Vanelli at the Office of Youth Ministry
at (361) 573-0828 ext. 32 or e-mail at 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 Schaefer



"Let the Son Shine"

Summer is here again! That means fun in the sun for most of us. Mountain climbing, skydiving, and bungee jumping just might be on your "top ten" list of favorite things to do this summer. On the other hand, you may be one who is capable of attempting such adventures as reading a book while sitting under a shaded tree or listening to classical music even as you sway back and forth on the front porch swing! Whatever your ambition for the summer months may be, living in South Texas assures you plenty of sunshine while you're doing whatever it is you're doing.

We've all heard the inventory of precautions we ought to take when out basking in the beautiful sunshine. The main cause of endless safety measures is for the safeguarding of our skin. Indeed the sun can emit a fierce burn upon our delicate outer coverings. Even our insides are worthy of being sheltered as well. (It's a good thing God thought about that when

he made us.) In all reality, the sun can be harsh and damaging, but a far brighter and much more intense sun, "The Son," is gentle and healing.

As far as the sun in the sky is concerned, there is nothing we can do to stop it from shining its rays wherever it wants. The same is true for the Son, yet that is not how he does things. Many areas of our lives are lived sheltered from the Son, in the shaded places, places of darkness. Maybe we're stuck in a bad habit of lying and we cannot see a way out because having to face others with the truth would be too embarrassing. Holding onto anger or hatred for someone who has deeply hurt us might be keeping us in the shade of resentment. Perhaps we are wounding ourselves and others by our impurity in our relationships. These situations and several others need the light of the Son.

Let's remember that the Son chooses not to shine where he has not been invited. When we do not hand out the invitation for him to shine on us, we've put on a type of "Sonblock." The higher the SPF - Son Protection Factor - the more we keep him away from us. Our lying is made easier, our anger remains intact, and we continue to harm ourselves by our destructive behavior. We apply Sonblock all over attitudes, actions, and even our hearts. The SPF is way too high. Even an SPF level of 1 is enough to block the nourishing rays of the Son.

When engaging in any activities, indoors or out, we need to let the Son shine into our very selves. All we have to do is ask him to be with us in whatever we do, wherever we go, and in all our relationships. He will be gentle and will heal our hearts. Give him the invitation and watch him shine.

A bumper sticker once declared, "Exposure to The Son may prevent burning!" If we live this out, only then can we truly have fun in the Son.

"Lord, let your face shine upon us" (Psalm 4).



Hallettsville Sacred Heart Band

Sacred Heart Band wins 1st place at TAPPS State Music Contest

HALLETTSVILLE — Recently the Sacred Heart Catholic School Band participated in the TAPPS State Music Contest held at Mary-Hardin Baylor University in Belton, Texas. The Sacred Heart Band competed in concert and sight reading with several students also competing in solo and ensemble contests. Points were awarded for the events and schools were ranked. The Sacred Heart Catholic School Band placed 1st Overall and was awarded the 2006 State Instrumental Music 2A Champion plaque.

The band also received a State Sweep-

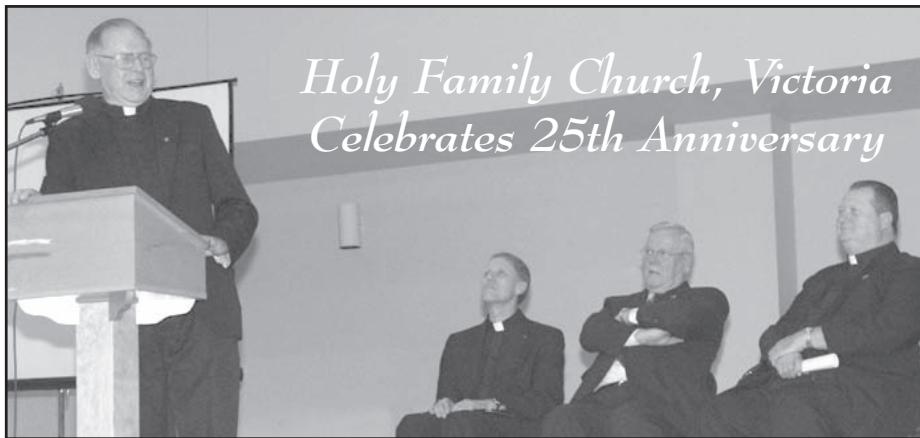
stakes Award for all Superior ratings in concert and sight-reading. There were three soloists and seven ensembles who received a Superior 1st Division rating.

Those students receiving a Superior 1st Division rating and medal for their solos were: Laura Boehm — Flute; Andrew Herndon — Tenor Saxophone; and Lauren Tankersley — Tenor Saxophone.

Ensemble members receiving a Superior 1st Division rating and a medal for the ensemble contest were: Flute Trio —

See Sacred Heart, p. 9

Happy
Father's Day
June 18



Holy Family Church, Victoria Celebrates 25th Anniversary

Father Peter Higgins addresses participants at the 25th anniversary of Holy Family of Joseph, Mary, and Jesus Parish in Victoria April 23. He was the parish's first pastor. Father Greg Korenek, Gaylon Duncan, and Father Don Ruppert listen in the background.

Holy Family celebrates 25 years

Holy Family Catholic Church in Victoria celebrated its 25th anniversary Sunday April 23, 2006, with the return of the priests who had been pastors of the parish.

Archbishop Patrick Flores of the Archdiocese of San Antonio decreed a new parish in the archdiocese on March 12, 1981. Archbishop Flores named Father Peter Higgins, who had been serving as the pastor of St. Andrew's in Hillje, the pastor of the new parish to be located in Victoria.

The first parish Mass was held the weekend following Easter, April 25, 1981, at the Colonial Funeral Home's Northside Chapel. The complimentary use of the chapel, offered by Gaylon and Ella Marie Duncan, allowed the new parish to devote the majority of collections to the building fund. Twelve acres of land had been purchased on Glasgow Street by its mother parish, Our Lady of Victory, in September 1966.

In honor of the decade of the family (1980-1990) and the desire to have all parishes in Victoria contain the name of the Blessed Virgin Mary, the parishioners voted to name the parish "Holy Family of Joseph, Mary, and Jesus."

After much thought and discussion, the advisory board decided to look for a more suitable site for the parish home, and property was purchased on Mallette Drive with plans to have the church proper built by Krueger Construction with the parishioners completing additional work.

The church was dedicated on May 27, 1984, in what became the Diocese of Victoria.

The parish has had three pastors since

its inception. Father Peter Higgins (1981-1984) of County Donegal, Ireland, was the founding priest of Holy Family. According to the parish's 25th anniversary program, Father Higgins was also a carpenter, electrician, expert on heavy machinery, secretary, accountant, landscaper, and a master fund-raiser. He is now the pastor of St. Paul the Apostle in Horseshoe Bay, Texas.

Father Donald Ruppert of Yoakum was the next pastor, from 1984 to 1996. Father Don purchased land, built the education building and added additional parking spaces. His love of music led to the purchase of a digital computer organ, a sound system, Baldwin Grand Piano, and a Carillon of Bells.

Father Greg Korenek of Nada became the third pastor of Holy Family. He was parochial vicar from 1993-1996, and has been its pastor since 1996. He is responsible for the new activity center (an addition to the education building) and is commended for his financial accomplishment, as the parish is debt free. He is most generous in sharing his musical talent of playing the accordion at many church and community functions. Father Greg leads a busy life as he provides for the spiritual needs of the large Holy Family Parish of 1,656 families with 5,299 parishioners.

Steve Borowitz Jr., an original parishioner, was ordained a permanent deacon on Nov. 19, 1994, at Holy Family Church and has remained with the parish since. Father Bryan Heyer is the first vocation from Holy Family. He was eight years old when Holy Family became a parish and his family became parishioners. He was ordained at Holy Family on May 29, 2004.



VICTORIA PARISH MEMBERS WALK 2006 RELAY FOR LIFE—Fourteen local cancer survivors who walked the 2006 Relay for Life (Apr. 28-29) celebrated with Father Wolfgang Mimms, parochial vicar at Our Lady of Sorrows in Victoria and also a cancer survivor, to show their solidarity and celebrate life. Pictured in front row: Maria D. Nunez, Mabel Martinez, Rosemary Zarate, Aida Bonnell; second row: Lucy Zamora, Elisa Garza, Mary Eloise Ramirez, Angie Garcia, Mary Helen Cantu; and back row: Dr. Estella DeLos Santos, Father Wolfgang Mimms, Bea Perales, Alice Foster, Emily Estrada, and Annie Barela.



ST. ROBERT BELLARMINE HONORS THE BLESSED MOTHER—St. Robert Bellarmine Parish in El Campo honored Mary, the Mother of God, with a Marian Triduum May 12, 13, and 14. A procession and rosary were held Friday and Saturday evenings and Sunday after Mass. Friday prayer was for the sick and shut-ins, Saturday, the strengthening of spiritual, moral, and vocational values in family life, and Sunday, for personal intentions. The children brought fresh flowers and presented them to the Blessed Mother, representing their devotion and love to Mary as Jesus did and as we all do to our beloved mothers. Mary is loved because she loved her son Jesus. Raul Gonzales and Frida Bazan were chosen to crown Our Lady of Guadalupe, they are also members of this year's 1st Communion class. Special thanks to Father Lawrence Matula and Terri Beltran (coordinators), CDA Court 2275, Knights of Columbus 9393, Hector Gutierrez and Felix Garcia, 4th Degree Knights Assembly 1131, Guadalupanas, Mary and Javier Cavazos, Wal-Mart, Ozarka Natural Spring Water, KULP, El Campo Leader News, and everyone who participated by praying the mysteries. Pictured are: Father Lawrence Matula, James Balderas, altar server; Hector Gutierrez and Felix Garcia, 4th Degree Knights Assembly 1131, St. Robert's parishioners carrying the statue of the Blessed Mother and Frida Bazan, who crowned the Blessed Mother.

Sacred Heart Band wins 1st place

Continued from p. 8

Paige Hanacek, Megan Pavlicek, and Amaris Wick; Flute Quartet — Laura Boehm, Julie Jakubek, Jessica Janak, and Jennifer Kallus; Clarinet Trio — Renee Guenther, Tiffany Buchanan, and Kaylie Steffek; Clarinet Trio — Renee Guenther, Janelle Bludau, and Erin Krischke; Clarinet Quartet — Kristin Kunz, Anna Hemmi, Serena Remmers, and Kristin Dworsky; Saxophone Trio — Andrew Herndon, Lauren Tankersley, and Chris Vanek;

Saxophone Quartet — Kayla Bludau, Sara Steinocher, Lauren Tankersley, and Andrew Herndon.

The band consists of 63 members in grades 8-12. Congratulations to the Sacred Heart Band students on their outstanding performances. We want to thank the Band Parents Club for their support of the band program throughout the school year and our band director, Mr. William Harrison, for his extra time and effort.

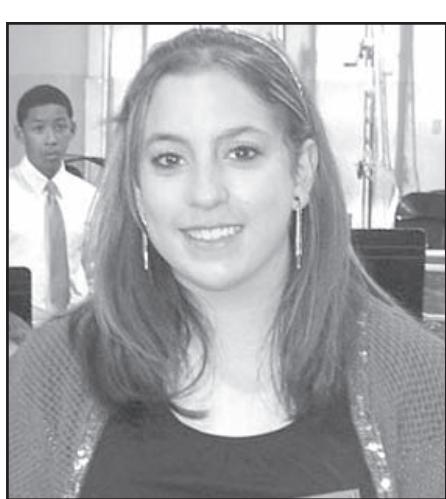
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NAZARETH BAND AND CHOIR MEMBERS RECEIVE AWARDS—Nazareth Academy in Victoria held their annual Band and Choir Spring Concert May 15. The concert included, in addition to some outstanding band and choir performances, the awarding of the Director's Award for the Outstanding Advanced Band Student, Hilary Kristynik (left); Most Improved Advanced Band Student, Sarah Zepeda; Outstanding Beginner Band Student, Ashley Kolar; and the Outstanding Choir Member Award, Lauren Moreno (right). The award-winning band, directed by Mr. Anthony Wilhelm, and award-winning choir, directed by Lark Pesak (right), both had outstanding years.



Photo by Regina Matus-Janak

RELIGION AWARDS PRESENTED—The Catholic schools of the Diocese of Victoria held their 2006 Religion Awards Ceremony May 4 at Our Lady of Victory Cathedral. Bishop David E. Fellhauer presented the awards to the eighth-grade students from the 12 elementary schools in the diocese. The purpose of the Catholic School Religion Award is to encourage students to realize, intellectually and practically, the purpose of Catholic education as stated by the Catholic bishops of the United States. It is intended to make one's faith become living, conscious, and active through the life of instruction. Sister Gloria Cain, SSND, school superintendent, assisted Bishop Fellhauer as Kelsey Noska from St. Rose of Lima School, Schulenburg, is presented her award.

Congratulations to all graduates!
May God Bless You On Your New Journey.



Photo by Regina Matus-Janak

VOLUNTEERS HONORED—The Ninth Annual Mother Elizabeth Ann Seton Awards were presented recently in Shiner by the Office of Catholic Schools. A dinner was served, followed by the presentation of the awards. Making the presentations were Bishop David E. Fellhauer and Sister Gloria Cain, SSND, school superintendent. The recipients of the award for the year 2006 are back, l-r: (Sister Gloria); Travis Schaar, St. Joseph High School, Victoria; Ernie Klesel, St. Michael School, Weimar; Marty Bludau, Sacred Heart Elementary, Hallettsville; Lacey B. Lowry, Holy Cross School, Bay City; (Bishop Fellhauer); Ben Knesek, St. Paul High School, Shiner; Ed Martinka, Our Lady of Victory School, Victoria; Carol and Clarence Hartenstein, St. Rose of Lima School, Schulenburg; Carolyn Boehm, Sacred Heart High School, Hallettsville; Jacqueline and Charles Papacek, St. Michael School, Cuero; front, l-r: Toni Schaar, St. Joseph High School, Victoria; Elizabeth Kloesel, St. Michael School, Weimar; Joani Dungen, St. Anthony School, Columbus; Janet Marsh, St. Joseph School, Yoakum; Kimberly Novak Socha, St. Philip School, El Campo; Mary Jane Mabry, Our Lady of the Gulf School, Port Lavaca; Patrice Barta, St. Ludmila School, Shiner; and Cindy Dubose, Nazareth Academy, Victoria.



Mrs. McMullen advises Father Roger Hawes and Principal Mike Fisher on the gardening plans.



Thanks to a Meadows Foundation grant and help from the community, the science classes from St. Joseph Catholic School in Yoakum planted gardens at their school as a beautification project.

St. Joseph beautifies school grounds

YOAKUM—St. Joseph School in Yoakum is in the process of beautifying its campus. The first step was taken during the first week of May when the 6th, 7th, and 8th grade students planted gardens in front of the school.

This was all made possible through the help of the Meadows Foundation, Mrs.

Margie McMullen, Handy Stop Nursery of Yoakum, Miss Kendra Ward, and her 6th, 7th, and 8th grade science classes.

Along with the Meadows Foundation's donation, Mrs. McMullen and Mr. Summers of Handy Stop Nursery donated monies, time, and gardening experience

See St. Joseph, p. 12



OLV DUKE TIP WINNERS—Our Lady of Victory School 7th graders, Stephanie Kasper, Morgan Cisneros, Andrew Polasek and Steven Sudheimer qualified for State Recognition in the 2006 Duke University Talent Identification Program (Duke TIP). They will be honored at the State Recognition ceremony in June at Trinity University in San Antonio. Stephanie Kasper also qualified for Grand Recognition. There were over 70,000 participants in this year's program and only 1,234 qualified for Grand Recognition. Stephanie was honored at the Grand Recognition Ceremony at Duke University in Durham, North Carolina on May 22 where she received a medallion embossed with the Duke Chapel.

Special Summer Church Feasts:

- June 11 — The Solemnity of the Most Holy Trinity
- June 18 — The Solemnity of the Most Holy Body and Blood of Christ
- August 15 — The Assumption of the Blessed Virgin Mary



Rev. David W. Berger Ordained to the Priesthood — June 3, 2006 Sts. Cyril and Methodius Church, Shiner

Continued from p. 1

Sister Lois Marie Etzler, IWBS, was the lector for the first reading from Isaiah



Rev. Mr. David Berger prior to his ordination.

61:1 – 3 abcd, and David's former Texas A&M classmate Franciscan Brother Seraphim Roycourt, currently of New York, was the lector of the second reading from II Corinthians 4:1-2, 5-7. The Psalm and Alleluia were cantored by seminarian Mr. Tommy Chen. Deacon Paul Patek of Sts. Cyril and Methodius, the Deacon of the Word, read the Gospel, John 10:11-16, then called David forward to begin the Ordination Rite.

homily focusing on the Gospel which taught of the good shepherd who lays down his life for the sheep, "You, David, as a priest, are a shepherd and icon. For a true shepherd, the sheep come first, he (shepherd) comes second. It is a relationship of love and care."

Bishop Fell-



Brother Seraphim Roycourt and David, former Aggie classmates, get ready for ordination.

hauer continued to say that although the shepherd must put the sheep first, he must also take care of himself and foster his relationship with God.

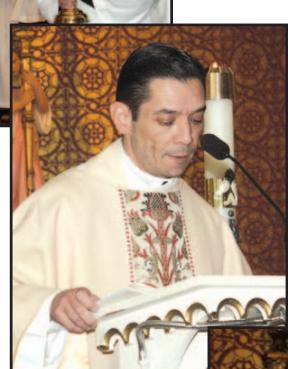
He then teasingly suggested that as a means of renewal, David could "work on his golf game and perhaps curry the favor of his bishop," an avid golfer.

Following the homily, David declared his resolve to serve the people of God as priest. In the promise of the elect, he promised respect and obedience to the bishop and his successors.

David prostrated himself before the altar in humility while Tommy Chen sang the Litany of Supplication and the congregation responded "Pray for us" after each request.



(above) Deacon Paul Patek proclaims the gospel. Seminarians Michael Rother (l.) and Gabriel Espinosa serve.



(right) Msgr. Daniel Flores presents David to the bishop.



David lies prostrate before the altar during the Litany of Supplication.

As David stood before the congregation, Msgr. Daniel Flores presented him to Bishop Fellhauer testifying to David's readiness to serve as priest. The bishop responded, "Relying on the help of the Lord God and our Savior Jesus Christ, we choose this man, our brother, for the Order of the Priesthood." The assembly responded, "Thanks be to God."



Bishop Fellhauer anoints David's hands, signifying his sharing in Christ's sanctifying ministry.

After invoking the Holy Spirit, David knelt before the bishop who extended his hands over David and said the prayer consecrat-

ing him to the Lord's service.

As the vesting clergy, Fathers Bob Knippenberg and Gerard Cernoch, both pastors of St. Cyril and Methodius while

David was in seminary, vested David in the new stole and chasuble presented by his parents.

Bishop Fellhauer then anointed the hands of Father David, the newly ordained, to signify his sharing



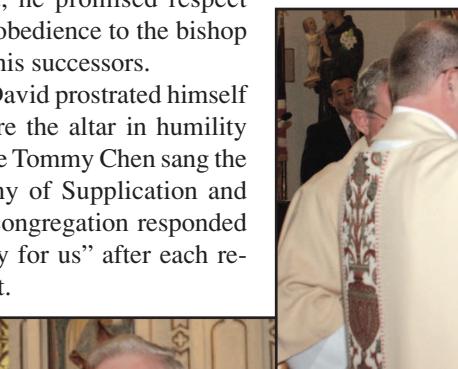
David is with his family, Ernest and Mary Ann Berger, along with his grandmother, Annie Etzler of Hallettsville.

in Christ's sanctifying ministry.

He then presented David the paten of bread and chalice of wine which was brought forward by Anthony and Anna Etzler and Incarnate Word Sisters, Roselyn Henke and Clementine Henke. He received a chalice that Msgr. John J. Hanacek, a former pastor of Sts. Cyril and Methodius, who had willed, 30 years earlier, to the



David promises respect and obedience to the bishop and his successors.



Fathers Gerard Cernoch (l.) and Bob Knippenberg vest Father David.

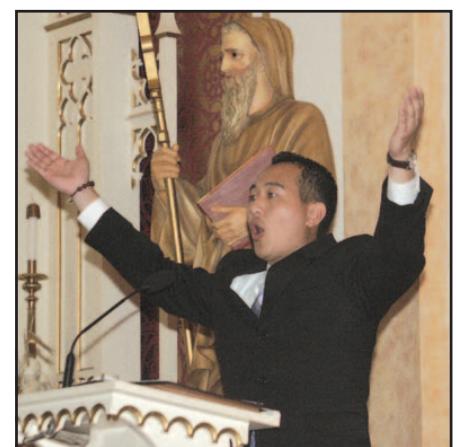
next Czech vocation from the parish. David said he was close enough. He also received a second chalice from the Robert Kubala Family and the Fourth Degree Knights of Columbus of El Campo.

Finalizing the Ordination Rite, Bishop Fellhauer extended a sign of peace to the newly ordained priest. The priests in attendance likewise welcomed Father David Berger into the order of the priesthood.

The Mass continued with the Liturgy of the Eucharist. The servers of the Mass included seminarians Philip Brune, Gabriel Espinosa, and Michael Rother, and servers from Sts. Cyril and Methodius, James Blackman, Blue Hybner, Cole Hybner, Trevor Hyb-



Bishop Fellhauer receives the first priestly blessing from Father David Berger.



Mr. Tommy Chen, a seminarian from Point Comfort cantors the Psalms.

ner, and Ashley Kloesel.

The music, expertly coordinated by Mrs. Cynthia Goerig of El Campo, consisted of three choirs: the Holy Family Concert Wind Ensemble of Holy Family Parish in Victoria, directed by Carol Luxenberger; the Spanish Choir from Saint Anthony Parish in Palacios, directed by Rose Thurlkill Pena; and the Children's Choir from Saint Ludmila Elementary of Shiner, directed by Sharon Patek; organists included Cynthia Goerig, Lynette Pesek, and Amy Adamek.

At the end of the ordination, Bishop Fellhauer announced that Father David Berger would be assigned to Our Lady of Victory Parish in Victoria.

At the reception, which followed with dinner, drinks, and entertainment at Shiner American Legion Hall, Mr. Eric Henry, director of formation at Holy Trinity Seminary, who has known David since his first year in seminary said, "I've worked with 130 seminarians and Father David is one of the most normal seminarians I have met."

"He has an awesome sense of humor and he's able to relate to anyone and make them feel comfortable. In my opinion he's everything you'd look for in a young priest," he continued.

David's mother said David would always ask his family if he was doing the right thing. They would just say, "You just have to pray about it."

David's former Aggie classmate, Brother Seraphim Roycourt, who has one more year before he will make his final vows to the Franciscan Friars of the Renewal in New York, said David "really



Father David concelebrates the Mass with Bishop Fellhauer, Father Gerard Cernoch (center), and other priests.

opened the way for me too. He has encouraged me, he's been a proper example."

Everywhere David went at the reception, lines formed to congratulate him and ask for his priestly blessing.

"You just can't describe it ... it's indescribable! The goodness of God is always greater than you can imagine," the newly ordained priest said in response to 'What did today mean to you?' In closing he thanked the people of the Diocese of Victoria for their generosity and goodness to him.



Catholic elementary schools highest level recognized

Eight Graders — St. Philip, El Campo

Katie Leigh Bode, Ashley E. Cochrum, Lauralee Brooke Collins, Zachary Alan Edwards, Risa Loree Eldridge, Nicholas Joe Gutierrez, Cody Wayne Korenek, Hayley Marie Pierce, Joshua David Sablatura, Wesley R. Smolik Jr., Trenton Wayne Socha, Katlyn Jo Urbanovsky

Sacred Heart, Hallettsville

Clay Bludau, Justin Brown, Alyssa DeLaRosa, Ricky Fenner, Cody Filip, Kayla Harmon, Dillon Hollas, Gunnar Janak, Joseph Janak, Stephen Jansky, Donald Klesel, Amy Klimitchek, Sarah Michalcik, Haley Patek, Megan Pavlicek, Trentin Pilat, Amanda Shimek, Whitney Snider, Amaris Wick

Our Lady of the Gulf, Port Lavaca

Joshua Curry, Kati Durham, Morgan Elgin, Hailey Griffith, Evan Hernandez, Juan Lopez, Brian Salyer

St. Ludmila, Shiner

Derek Chunda, Jill McElroy, Courtney Mraz, Kelsea Panus, Kendle Patek, Daniel Pierce, Jenna Roznovsky, Kyla Schacherl, Curtis Shields, Kelsea Warren, Joseph Wenske

Nazareth Academy, Victoria

Alexa Lauren Albrecht, Katherine Lynn Click, Travis Michael Cole, Kevin Michael Daniels, Laurie Diane Davidson, Alyssa Gabrielle DeLaGarza, Alexandra Nicole Diaz, Don Paul DuBose, Bracen Nicholas Eichhorn, Angelina P. Garcia, Stacie Marie Garcia, Amy Elizabeth Glud, Sherrod Parke Greeson, Matthew Taylor Griffin, Johann Derrick Fitzgerald Bragg Hall, Melanie Kay Janssen, Lee Davis Johnston, Hilary Marie Kristynik, Jack William Lau, Cody James Loest, Clayton Alonzo Longoria, Scott Gregory Lowe, Roberto Carlos Martinez, Matthew Redmond Mayes, Mary Isabel McCan, Lauren Nicole Mumphord, Daniel Cross Murphy, William Jefferson Pratt, Mary Katelyn Rather, Kamen Alden Ruelas, Gabriela Renee Sandigo, Christopher Ladd Slavik, Brooke

Elaine Small, Whitney Raelynn Stevens, Taylor Glenn Strauch, Madison Lynn Thormahlen, Sarah Ann Tucker, Armando Miguel Vasquez, John Thomas Villafranca, Luke Neftali Villafranca, Christian Rene Villarreal, Marissa Nicole Villarreal, Devin Brooke Wood, Sarah Elizabeth Zepeda

Our Lady of Victory, Victoria

Lauren Alexander, Brandi Austin, Kendall Bena, Gabriela Benoit, Brad Bishop, Brooke Blanton, Kayla Bomersbach, Tyler Bonorden, Reno Bradicich, III, Kimi Carrier, Jayde Chapa, Bridget Charbula, Julie Cooper, Kerry Culberson, Luke Dornak, Sarah Fotiades, Taryn Gann, Rachel Grahmann, Brett Hager, Savannah Hardin, Audrey High, Jolynn Hoang, Kurt Kotzur, Kevin Kroll, Christian Maxwell, Megan McDaniel, Thomas McDowell, Aubrey Miska, Marley Moehrig, Shelby Monroe, Rebecca Nitschmann, Cassidy Norville, Jared Novosad, Sahil Parikh, Shane Pfeil, Peyton Ratliff, Brooke Rau, Robert Rodriguez Jr., Marissa Solis, Shaleen Vasavada, Lauren Vasquez, Ashley Wagner, Paige Wenske, Ryan Williams

St. Michael, Weimar

Dalton Ervin, Dustin Helmcamp, Colin Kasper, Preston Langhoff, Amber Leppin, Johnny Lieverino, Inti Ortega, Rodney Plummer, Logan Ramirez, Brian Rosenauer, Kolby Scardino, Kurt Scardino, Allison Sestak, Kristin Smith, Jonathan Treptow

Sixth Graders —

St. Michael, Cuero

Ryan Beer, Christopher Papacek, Tyler Perez, Austin Traynham, Garrett West, Patrick Zengerle

Holy Cross, Bay City

Brittany Biezenski, Aaron Cantu, Jocelyn Carnicle, John Paul DeLaRosa, Haley Dibbern, Paige Green, Devond LeFlore, Bronson McKinney, Tana Nieto, Laryssa Rubio, Aaron Smith, Ashley Thompson, Rebekah Udovich



St. Joseph School goes to PSIA state competition

YOAKUM—The St. Joseph PSIA academic team traveled to TCU in Ft. Worth for state competition on May 5, 2006. Twenty students competed in twenty-six events and came home with six state medals.

1st place Michelle Frerich – 8th grade – Modern Oratory; 2nd place Weston Barton – 8th grade – Poetry Interpretation;

3rd place Jeff Tuttle – 7th grade – Ready Writing; 3rd place Rafael Olivares – 5th grade – Art Memory; 3rd place Christina Squyres – 4th grade – Music Memory; 5th place Alex Hull – 1st grade – Storytelling.

We are very proud of all those who competed in PSIA events this year. Your dedication and hard work are certainly evident and admirable. Congratulations!



St. Michael School in Weimar wins 3rd at PSIA state meet. Sister Laura Toman principal of St. Michael School, pictured on left, and PSIA director Patricia Walters, right, pose with St. Michael PSIA winners. Mrs. Walters came from Grapevine, Texas, to present the trophy (front center) to the St. Michael School.

St. Michael, Weimar, wins third in PSIA state meet

WEIMAR—Thirty-four St. Michael School students in grades 1-8 traveled to Fort Worth on May 6, to compete at Texas Christian University (TCU) in the PSIA (Private Schools Interscholastic Association) Meet. These students qualified and competed in forty-eight events at the state level. Ninety-two schools competed at the state level in the small school division in sixty-six events.

St. Michael School of Weimar brought home seventeen state medals and the 2006 third place trophy to add to their collection of six 1st through 3rd state trophies won since 1998 when the program began.

Students winning medals at TCU were Molly Wick, 1st in Storytelling; Todd Heger, 5th in Storytelling; Greyon Ulrich, 3rd in Poetry Interpretation; Emily Koenig, 4th in Poetry Int.; Drew Billeck, 5th in Poetry; Makayla Ramirez, 1st in Poetry; Jessica Koenig, 2nd in Poetry; Ryan Ramirez, 2nd in Music Memory; Reid Vrana, 6th in Listening; Vanessa Maupin, 3rd in Poetry and 5th in Calculator; Samuel Winkler, 2nd in Science; Inti Ortega, 1st in Poetry, 4th in Calculator and 6th in Number Sense; and Jonathan Treptow, 2nd in Mathematics and 4th in Number Sense.



Photo by Schulenburg Sticker, Beth Wiseman

St. Rose brought home eight individual medals, they went to (front, l-r) Hannah Fogle, second in ready writing; Sarah Walker, fifth in art memory; (back) Mackenzie Srubar, second in dictionary skills, second in on-site drawing and third in maps, graphs, and charts; Christopher Kunz, first in maps, graphs, and charts; Emily Seyl, third in spelling; and (not pictured) Kori Dvorak, third in listening.

St. Rose School places 8 of 92 at state PSIA

SCHULENBURG—Being in the top 10 percent at PSIA State competition is something the St. Rose School family is extremely proud of. After PSIA district competition, St. Rose School had 16 students advance to the PSIA Middle School Division State Meet on the Texas Christian University campus May 6th. There were 92 private, parochial, and home schools represented throughout the state of Texas. St. Rose School was not only recognized for tying 8th place in the

middle school division, but also brought home eight individual medals. Those eight state medals were awarded to Christopher Kunz – 1st Maps, Graphs, and Charts; Hannah Fogle – 2nd Ready Writing; Mackenzie Srubar – 2nd Dictionary Skills, 2nd On-site Drawing, and 3rd Maps, Graphs, and Charts; Emily Seyl – 3rd Spelling; Kori Dvorak – 3rd Listening Skills; and Sarah Walker – 5th Art Memory. Congratulations to these state winners and all our PSIA participants.

St. Joseph beautifies school grounds

Continued from p. 10

to this project. Mrs. McMullen and Mr. Summers also gave valuable guidance and advice in preparing the gardens and planting the plants. The students did the planting and will be involved with the up-keep of the gardens.

There will be one more planting in these gardens when the kindergarten and first-grade students plant some flowers in the front of the gardens. After these plantings, the kindergarten and first graders will be in charge of weeding their part of the garden.

The purpose of this project, besides

beautifying the school campus, is to allow the children to experience the importance of environment. The students will learn more about the planting, growth, and care of the plants based upon location, soil condition, nutrients, and watering.

This is one of many projects in the planning for changes at St. Joseph School. Mr. Michael Fisher, principal of St. Joseph School, says, "We have received many compliments on the gardens and the efforts of the students. We are grateful to all for the work, expertise, and donations that made this all possible."



How Pope Benedict says we should put love into practice

This is the second in a two-part series examining Pope Benedict's encyclical, "Deus Caritas Est" ("God is Love").

By Bob Zyskowski

Through his first encyclical, "Deus Caritas Est" ("God Is Love"), Pope Benedict XVI walks us through a deep, rich understanding of the meaning of love.

The encyclical moves us from a Catholic understanding of the mutual sacrifice and giving and receiving of marital love through love of neighbor as Jesus taught in the Parable of the Good Samaritan.

The pope urges us to make that expression of love for our neighbor a concrete one, not limited to those close to us or to the people of a single community or country.

He reminds us of Our Lord's description of the Last Judgment, when our entry into eternal life will depend on how we treated the least of our brothers and sisters.

He adds that we must see Jesus in those in need, and we must show our love of them, because if we don't love our brothers and sisters, then we cannot love God.

Fortunately, we have help in this area.

The Lord "encounters us ever anew," the pope writes, "in the men and women who reflect his presence, in his word, in the sacraments, and especially in the Eucharist. In the church's liturgy, in her prayer, in the living community of believers, we experience the love of God, we perceive his presence and we thus learn to recognize that presence in our daily lives."

It is because God loves us first, Pope Benedict notes, that love can blossom as a response in us.

But we'd better be doing something as a response.

The pope is clear — tough

even — in stating that we need to show others that we love them. This is a critical passage in Benedict XVI's first encyclical:

"Love is not merely a sentiment," Benedict writes. "Sentiments come and go." And love is an open-ended process; it is never "finished." It changes and matures.

"It consists in the very fact that, in God and with God, I love even the person whom I do not like or even know.

"This can only take place on the basis of an intimate encounter with God. . . . Then I learn to look on this other person not simply with my eyes and my feelings, but from the perspective of Jesus Christ. His friend is my friend."

And then there is this interesting passage:

"If I have no contact whatsoever with God in my life, then I cannot see in the other anything more than the other, and I am incapable of seeing in him the image of God. But if in my life I fail completely to heed others, solely out of a desire to be 'devout' and to perform my 'religious duties,' then my relationship with God will also grow arid. It becomes merely 'proper,' but loveless."

The pope adds, "Only if I serve my neighbor can my eyes be opened to what God does for me and how much he loves me."

The Holy Spirit, energizes and transforms the heart of our church community to be witnesses before the world to God's love, Pope Benedict tells us.

Love is the service the church does to attend to people's sufferings and needs, including material needs. "Within the community of believers there can never be room for a poverty that denies anyone what is needed for a dignified life," the pope says firmly.

As a community, the church must practice love and it needs to be an organized effort.

Benedict acknowledges that

church leadership was slow to realize the need for the restructuring of society in more just ways, but he points to the social doctrine that the church teaches today as fundamental guidelines for achieving the common good.

With love of neighbor as the base, the church wishes to help form consciences in political life, so that what prevails in society is a willingness to sacrifice to achieve what is just.

The pope says working for justice is the work of lay people. We can do it if we have a living relationship with Christ. That means having a prayer life, Benedict says. And being a people of hope that has its faith and trust in God.

"The Christian's program — the program of the Good Samaritan, the program of Jesus — is 'a heart which sees,'" the Holy Father writes. "This heart sees where love is needed and acts accordingly."

Bob Zyskowski is associate publisher of The Catholic Spirit, newspaper of the Archdiocese of St. Paul and Minneapolis.

The Pope Speaks

Pope Benedict XVI



CNS photo from Reuters

Pope condemns anti-Semitism, says world must not forget Auschwitz

VATICAN CITY (CNS) — "Our world must not forget Auschwitz," German-born Pope Benedict XVI said three days after he visited the site of the Nazi death camp in Poland.

Dedicating his May 31 general audience talk to a review of his trip to Poland, Pope Benedict condemned anti-Semitism and racial hatred and prayed that all people would recognize that "God is the father of all."

The pope said that during his May 25-28 trip he wanted to visit places associated with the life and ministry of Polish-born Pope John Paul II and to call on Poles to remain solid in the faith so that Europe and the world could benefit from their testimony to Gospel values.

"All Christians must be committed to giving this testimony to prevent humanity of the third millennium from knowing again horrors like those tragically evoked by the Auschwitz-Birkenau extermination camp," he said.

During his audience talk, the pope said, "At the Auschwitz-Birkenau camp and in similar camps, Hitler had more than 6 million Jews exterminated."

In facing the horror of Auschwitz, he said, Christians must contemplate and learn from the cross of Christ, the symbol of "a love which brings salvation by freely descending into the abyss of evil."

The Da Vinci Waste

By Jo Garcia-Cobb

As a revert Catholic, what pains me about books like *The Da Vinci Code* is the memory of a significant portion of my life spent reading such books. I got into such books after I saw the movie *The Last Temptation of Christ* in the late '80s. It was based on the novel of the same title, authored by Nikos Kazantzakis. Like *The Da Vinci Code*, it is a work of fiction that caused the kind of controversy that *The Da Vinci Code* has been stirring up. Unlike *The Da Vinci Code*, however, it was not an overt and malicious, though "fictional," attack on the church.

After seeing the movie, the curious cat in me, historically and theologically ignorant, wondered: Jesus married Mary Magdalene? They had children? The faith my parents handed on to me isn't true? I then set off on a path of finding out for myself the truth of the matter, as I turned to writings whose claimed veracity I had no way of proving on my own, while I ignored what the 2000-year-old Church had to say about it.

These books played a significant role in my leaving the Church, next to the ignorance and stupidity with which I conducted my research. Part of it had to do with the climate of the time: the great business of seeking the truth that "resonated with me, and me alone." I gobbled up books such as those used by Dan Brown as references for *The Da Vinci Code*. After being on a diet of books like the *Holy Blood, Holy Grail*, the *Lost Books of the Bible*, *The Gnostic Gospels*, and *The Jesus Seminar*, I began to develop a growing bias and

prejudice against the church of my upbringing. Over time, I began to suffer a profound sense of grounding in reality. I didn't know who or what to believe anymore. I lost faith in Scripture, to the point of doubting the very existence of Jesus Christ. I also almost convinced myself that Scripture itself could well be well-spun fiction.

I, thus, had to create my own reality, to compensate for my lack of grounding in reality, if there, indeed, was such a thing. "Question reality," my bumper sticker proudly suggested. To make a long story short, the simple act of viewing "The Last Temptation of Christ" and pursuing answers to my questions in the wrong places had a devastating impact on my life. A profound sense of spiritual and intellectual bankruptcy set in. I looked at the anti-Catholic books I had indulged myself in for years and asked myself: Why? Why am I doing this? Is this leading me closer to or farther away from truth? What, by the way, happened to Truth?

As I subjected myself to a self-imposed process of self-examination, I began to study what the Church and Scripture had to say about Jesus, the Church whose own churches stand to this today on the very spots where Jesus walked, lived, preached, and ate. The Church whose archives contain the rich deposit of the faith. The Church that has survived for over two thousand years despite the attacks of her enemies and the tragic errors that many of her children have committed. The Church whose saints were my companions and role models as a child. The Church

that fed the pen of Shakespeare, Dante, Tolkien, and others who have saved us from the quicksand of cultural mediocrity. The Church that gave us Michelangelo, Bernini, and yes, Da Vinci, who must be turning in his grave today.

One Sunday morning in 1994, in Fairfield, Iowa, where my husband and I were stationed as disciples of the Beatles' former guru, Maharishi Mahesh Yogi, a stroke of grace pulled me to go to Mass at St. Mary's Church. It was my first Mass after many years of not setting foot in a Catholic Church. It was, in brief, a homecoming to the real Jesus, truly present to those willing and humble enough to encounter a humble God—in the Most Holy Eucharist. An unspeakable wave of relief, of comfort, and of peace swept through my soul. I wept, and still often weep to this day every time I go to Mass.

The question I still ask myself is: How could I have become so incredibly dense to trade the real Jesus for anything else? How could I have wallowed in mud for so long, without knowing soon enough that I was in mud? How did I forget where my *Home* was? As I reflected upon these questions, I had the inspiration, by another stroke of grace, to haul the books that had led me astray from the Church to the nearest dumpster. The Truth, indeed, sets free.

*Jo Garcia-Cobb is the co-author of *Praying with John Paul II* (Word Among Us Press, Summer 2006), and *Rising in Christ: Meditations on Living the Resurrection* by John Paul II (Word Among Us Press, 2004).*

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LIKE A GOOD NEIGHBOR

P02386 01/03



Stay With Me Still —

Rosary meditations and spiritual support for persons with alzheimer's, their caregivers, and loved ones

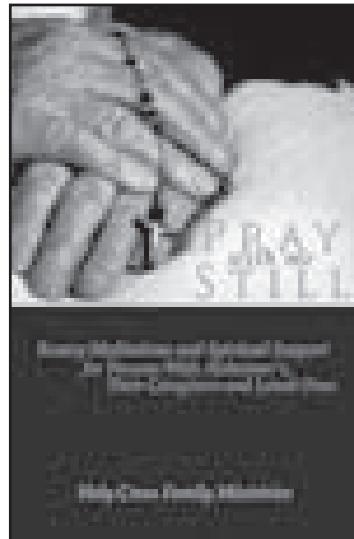
Notre Dame, IN — Alzheimer's is a devastating and frightening disease that slowly robs individuals of their memories. *Pray with Me Still* is rooted in the practice of praying the rosary, a ritual that is often a source of great comfort to Alzheimer's patients themselves and their loved ones.

Pray with Me Still confronts the struggles, joys, and spiritual depths of both Alzheimer's patients and those who care for them, while guiding individuals through this difficult time. By probing the spiritual life and capacities of the patient's themselves, *Pray with Me Still* will bolster the spiritual strength of those who care for those with or live with Alzheimer's.

Pray with Me Still begins by looking at the spiritual capacities of Alzheimer's patients through three case studies. Then, turning attention to the struggles of those who love them and the spiritual realities with which they live, *Pray with Me Still* offers a section on how to pray the rosary and the prayers needed to pray it.

Two different sets of meditations on the mysteries of the rosary are provided. The first set is focused on the very personal day-to-day needs of Alzheimer's patients and is ideal for caregivers. These meditations could stand-alone or be read along with praying the rosary. The second set of meditations is more concise and written for caregivers or loved ones to use when praying together with patients. These are particularly well suited for use before each decade of the rosary.

The book is a collaborative project by author Beth Mahoney and Holy Cross Family Ministries. Mahoney shares her pastoral experiences in compiling the work of the contributors as well as authoring the rosary medita-



tions for those with Alzheimer's and their loved ones. She has a master's degree in Pastoral Care and Counseling from Boston College and has taken postgraduate courses in Theology and Canon Law. Mahoney is the Mission Director for Holy Cross Family Ministries, which is headquartered in North Easton, Massachusetts, with offices in 16 countries worldwide. Their mission is to promote family prayer to bring unity and peace to families. For

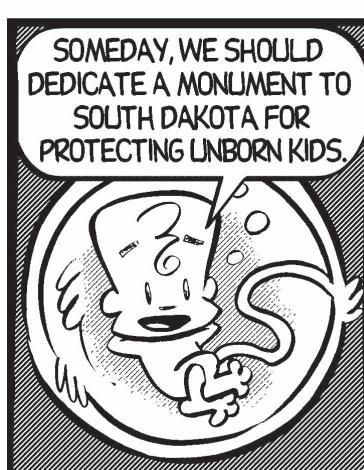
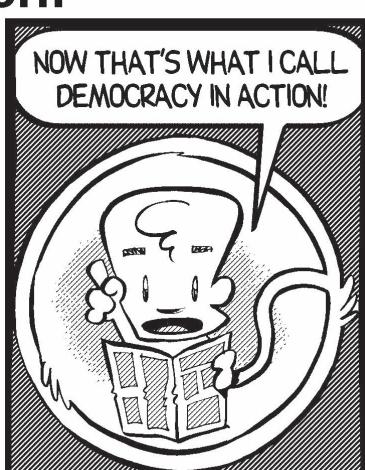
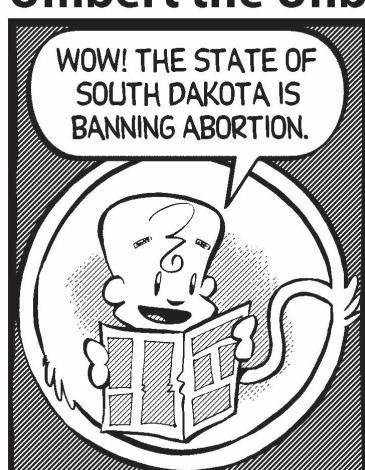
more information on Holy Cross Family Ministries, visit their Web site www.hcfm.org or call 800-299-PRAY.

Pray with Me Still is available online at www.avemariapress.com or at your local bookstore; it is published by Ave Maria Press; ISBN: 1-59471-077-5; 64 pages; \$4.95. One copy will be given as the prize for the June issue of *The Catholic Lighthouse* Family Puzzle Contest.

Pope urges Catholic movements to proclaim faith openly

CZESTOCHOWA, Poland (CNS) — Pope Benedict XVI urged Catholic movements and religious orders to proclaim their faith openly and have confidence in the church's capacity to nourish and support their mission. "Believe in the grace of God which accompanies you and bring it into the living fabric of the church, especially in places the priest or religious cannot reach," Pope Benedict told representatives of Poland's 150 movements and associations during a May 26 service at Our Lady of Jasna Gora shrine. "You are nourished by different schools of spirituality recognized by the church. Draw upon the wisdom of the saints, have recourse to the heritage they have left us," the pope said.

Umbert the Unborn



FAMILY PUZZLE CONTEST

KNIGHTS OF COLUMBUS

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CATHOLIC MEN
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June 21—Earth Stewardship ~ *James Latty*, Chemical Engineer; Who says we can't find alternative sources of energy?

June 28—Newspaper Power ~ *Steve Lambert*, VP News, L.A. Newspaper Group Media with added weight. Who's responsible to whom?

July 5—Back to Christ ~ *Anne Rice*, Author; Edge-of-your-seat vampire writing—now about *Christ the Lord!*

July 12—Church & Youth Today ~ *Patty Islas*, Parish Youth/ Music Leader Faith, hope, and creativity hard at work in guiding youth.

A Father's Dedication — one day at a time

By Christopher de Vinck

I asked my father one afternoon, "How did you take care of Oliver for 32 years?"

My brother Oliver was blind, he could not speak; he had no intellect. Oliver was in bed all his life, born with severe brain damage. My father looked at me with simple confidence and said, "Chris, it was not 32 years. I asked myself, 'Can I feed Oliver today? Can I bathe Oliver today,' and the answer was always, yes, today I can feed and bathe my son."

We sometimes look forward to our lives and see one huge burden, or routine, and we sometimes look back to our lives and see just one, long worn path. But

I believe we look at our lives in this way when we are tired, or when we feel defeated. When we are strong and confident, we can easily see a future filled with promise, and a past filled with gratitude.

I worked, for many years, in a large school system and happened to be in the superintendent's office on his last day of work after a 40-year career. There John was at his desk, signing papers, making decisions for the school, keeping appointments, and then I said, "John, I am amazed. Here you are on your last day of work, and you are there at your desk, working as hard as you always did, as if this was just another day." He looked at me, smiled, took off his glasses

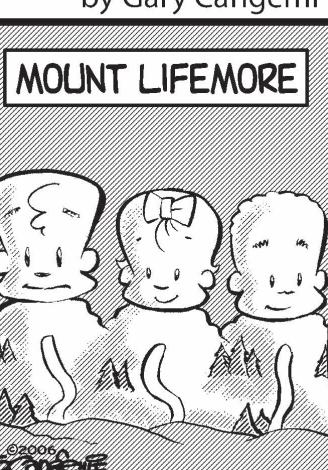
and said, "Chris, we just do what we have to do in life. It's all about choices. Now, let's get back to work."

In our dedication to our work, we can find true happiness. Rosie, my baby-sitter when I was a child, had hundreds of African violet plants in her house. Each window had five or six glass shelves. Her sunroom was filled with glass shelves, and on each shelf there were many, many pots of African violets: pink, purple, blue, white. Rose said it took her over an hour a day just to water and prune her little plants, and then she'd say, "Aren't they beautiful?"

If we look closely inside the routines of our daily lives, we can find hints of God's grace, and I believe such grace can be felt in the dedication to the labor that is placed before us. My father loved my brother Oliver. My superintendent loved his work in the school district. Rosie loved her African violets. In the end, what do we have after our honest labor? A son who is fed, students who are well served, and beautiful flowers.

Dedication to a life lived in holiness is a choice, a great labor, filled with difficulty and sometimes sorrow, but it is also a life filled with gratitude and promise one day at a time.

by Gary Cangemi





Light One Candle

By Dennis Heaney, President
The Christophers



A Special Father's Day Gift

My friend Pat's dad always seemed like a great guy. He had a terrific sense of humor, and we loved talking sports with him when he worked around his yard. We were impressed because he knew the stats on our favorite baseball players which, to 9- and 10-year-old boys, made him an authority.

To us, his dad always seemed to be there for Pat, whether it was hitting fly balls in the park, playing catch in the backyard or being an assistant scoutmaster. Today, we would call him an involved father. The only thing that gave us pause was that some of us thought he drank a lot.

Occasionally, we would go over to Pat's house and see his dad asleep in a chair with a couple of empty beer bottles next to him. Other times, he slurred his words. However, as pre-teen boys who knew little or nothing about alcoholism, we'd shrug it off, saying Pat's dad "just drank too much sometimes."

It wasn't until we were in our twenties that Pat told a few of us that through the years the drinking got worse and, when drunk, his dad would be verbally abusive. I remember being shocked that the guy I thought was so nice could be cruel. Years later, Pat told me that his father's verbal abuse had hurt so deeply that after his dad got into Alcoholics Anonymous in his mid-sixties and tried to make amends for the hurt his drinking had caused the family, Pat could not forgive him. Sadly, for father and son, Pat did not even begin the process of forgiveness until years after his father had died.

Every year, around Father's Day, I think about Pat and his dad, when I hear or read the different definitions of a "good father." I honestly don't know if you can have a "one-size fits all" definition. For me the best definition is the same one we attach to beauty: it's in the eyes of the beholder — or the child.

Since there is no "how to" manual for being a good father, it's a learn-as-you-go situation and we all do it differently. I wasn't the same kind of father my dad was, and I am sure that my sons parent differently than I do. What I know we have in common is that each of us tries to be the best father possible and asks God every day for the guidance and strength to make the right decisions and be a good example.

People make mistakes; it's part of our humanity. But I have



special prayers for the Pats who cannot forgive their fathers' mistakes. I respect the way Pat felt, but it must be painful carrying so

much anger with you for so long and not finding the strength even to begin to forgive. What a heavy burden — and the longer it goes on, the heavier it gets.

Fathers have special moments

of joy, like answering the phone and hearing the voice on the other end say, "Hi, Dad, just checking in" or hearing your child — or grandchild — say "I love you." However, imagine the joy that a father who made the terrible mistakes that Pat's dad did would feel if, when he sincerely apologized and attempted to make amends, he heard his child say "Dad, thanks for trying and I forgive you."

Forgiveness is a beautiful gift to give or receive. For your own sake as well as those around you, if forgiveness is something you need to give — or ask for — what better day to start than Father's Day!

For a free copy of the Christopher News Note: OK DAD, IT'S UP TO YOU, write: The Christophers, 12 East 48th Street, New York, NY 10017; or e-mail: mail@christopers.org

Sunday readings from June 11 - July 9

June 11 —
The Solemnity of the
Most Holy Trinity

Deuteronomy 4:32-34, 39-40
Psalm 33:4-5, 6, 9, 18-19, 20, 22
Romans 8:14-17
Matthew 28:16-20

June 18 —
The Solemnity of the
Most Holy Body and
Blood of Christ

Exodus 24:3-8
Psalm 116:12-13, 15-16, 17-18
Hebrews 9:11-15
Mark 14:12-16, 22-26

June 25 —
Twelfth Sunday in
Ordinary Time

Job 38:1, 8-11
Psalm 107:23-24, 25-26, 28-29, 30-31
2 Corinthians 5:14-17
Mark 4:35-41

July 2 —
Thirteenth Sunday in
Ordinary Time

Wisdom 1:13-15; 2:23-24
Psalm 30:2, 4, 5-6, 11, 12, 13
2 Corinthians 8:7, 9, 13-15
Mark 5:21-43

July 9 —
Fourteenth Sunday in
Ordinary Time

Ezekiel 2:2-5
Psalm 123:1-2, 2, 3-4
2 Corinthians 12:7-10
Mark 6:1-6

Marriage Encounter contributes to couple's spiritual growth

By Alfredo E. Cárdenas
Marriage Encounter, Austin

"We didn't have a 'bad' marriage before, but we were each leading separate lives. Now we spend a lot of time together again like we did when we were dating."

Couples that have taken part in Worldwide Marriage Encounter (WWME) easily understand these words spoken by Theresa Eisman, a Bay City wife and mother whose job is taking care of her husband and daughter. Theresa and her husband Ken, who works as a computer consultant for Matagorda County, have enhanced their relationship with God and their church family because of their involvement with WWME.

According to the history of WWME, the movement has as its focus "the development of an open and honest relationship within marriage and learning to live out a sacramental relationship in the service of others." More than 1.5 million couples have gone through the program in 88 countries since its founding in 1952 by Father Gabriel Calvo, a Spanish priest. Father Calvo asked couples to reflect "upon themselves, their relationship with each other, and with God."

Contrary to popular perception, Marriage Encounter is not designed for marriages in trouble, but rather for marriages seeking a renewal of a dulled passion.

"WWME is generally misunderstood," said Ken. "When we speak to others about WWME, we constantly hear 'Oh, we already have a good marriage.' We say 'That's great! Then you deserve a weekend!' WWME is not for bad or hurting marriages. There is another ministry called Retrouvaille to help couples in troubled marriages. WWME is designed for the average marriage to make it above average."

Theresa recalls why she chose to go to a Marriage Encounter weekend. "We know that

life has its ups and downs. For ourselves, we have found that by journeying with other couples, the downs aren't so down and the ups are even better. By continuing with WWME, we are accompanied by priests and other

life change we have seen this ministry bring to every couple it touches," Ken said. After attending their weekend, Ken and Theresa became Section Database Couple, Circle Leaders, a Presenting Couple and the Vic-

ried March 12, 1990, at Holy Cross Church in Bay City, where they remain parishioners, and attended their first Marriage Encounter in November of the same year. The couple's 14 year-old daughter Michaela is a junior at Bay City High School.

For locations of Marriage Encounter weekends in the Victoria area, visit www.mevictoria.org. For locations in other areas, go to www.wwme.org. Couples can also find many useful guides to improving their marriage at these Web sites.



Victoria/Corpus Christi Area Marriage Encounter Ecclesial Team - Ken and Theresa Eisman and Father Casey Jarzombek of Holy Cross, Bay City. Ken and Theresa have been involved as a Marriage Encounter Couple for 16 years.

couples who value marriage as much as we do. WWME has made us a family again."

Unlike most husbands who attend because their wives ask them to go, Ken attended the weekend because he was familiar with the benefits of

such a program. "We wanted to take our marriage to the next level," Ken said. "We were really excited by the results of attending Engaged Encounter before we were married and couldn't wait to attend WWME when we heard about it from a couple giving a pulpit talk."

The Eismans, married 16 years, attended Marriage Encounter in November 1990 at the Spiritual Renewal Center in Victoria.

"We continue in leadership because of the marvelous, posi-

toria/Corpus Christi Area Leaders for WWME.

"I guess you could say that WWME has made us young again. It's a fountain of youth," exclaimed Ken, as Theresa smiled in agreement.

"WWME really solidifies the connection between the Church, Holy Matrimony, and Holy Orders," Theresa points out.

"Through WWME, we've really come to understand that the family is the foundation of the church. We also walk very closely with many of our wonderful priests now because of WWME and discovered that they are human too and need to interact on an emotional level with the people they call their spouses — their parishioners, us."

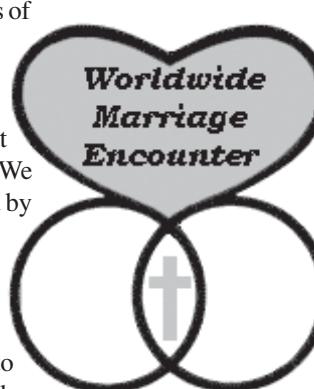
Ken and Theresa were mar-

Representatives from the World Council of WWME came to Texas May 15 – 20 to discuss the status and future of the movement. The World Council meets every eight months in a different part of the world to ensure its continuing renewal mission in the Catholic Church. Eight couples and eight priests from Asia, the South Pacific, Pan-Africa, Europe, the United States, Canada, and Latin America met at Cedarbrake Retreat Center in Belton, Texas.

Ken and Theresa Eisman joined WWME alumni to welcome World Council members at an old-fashioned, Texas barbecue attended by over 250 people at Sacred Heart Church in Austin on Saturday, May 20.

The event was a bon voyage for the World Council members and included a Mass celebrated by San Antonio Auxiliary Bishop Patrick Zurek.

Father Richard Beck, OMI, chaplain at St. Joseph High School in Victoria attended May 20 as a delegate to represent Bishop David Fellhauer. The dioceses of Galveston/Houston, San Angelo, Corpus Christi, and Austin also sent delegates to the world council.





Padres Pada Vida

Por Padre Frank Pavone
Director Nacional



Almas vacías

La vida de un abortero es un infierno. Frederick Douglass escribió sobre su vida como esclavo y el extraño comportamiento de su amo. "Tanto el dueño de esclavos como el esclavo, son víctimas de la esclavitud" dijo. Su amo solía "caminar solo... hablándose y a veces gesticulaba como si estuviera desafiando un ejército de enemigos invisibles. La mayor parte de su tiempo de ocio la pasaba caminando, maldiciendo y gesticulando, como si estuviera poseído por un demonio. Era evidentemente un hombre miserable que estaba en guerra con su propia alma y con el mundo que lo rodeaba." (The Life and Times of Frederick Douglass; New Jersey, Citadel Press, 1983).

Nuestra experiencia con los aborteros demuestra que exhiben los mismo signos y un nivel de stress que nunca debería soportar la persona humana porque deforma su personalidad más allá de cualquier normalidad. En efecto, por todas partes se aprecian en los aborteros los síntomas de "síndromes post-traumáticos" (Post Traumatic Stress Disorder - PTSD). Sencillamente, cuando experimentamos un trauma que trasciende el rango de las experiencias humanas comunes, nuestra percepción de la realidad y nuestra capacidad para funcionar quedan deterioradas. El trauma consiste en una amenaza real o percibida a la integridad del cuerpo propio o de algún otro. Los síntomas de PTSD se ven en soldados que regresan de la guerra y también en el síndrome post-aborto. Así es, la persona que ha realizado el procedimiento ha estado igualmente en contacto con una muerte violenta y traumática y por lo tanto también paga un precio.

Es más duro para el abortero que para

Misioneras Catequistas reciben superiores mayores

Por Sr. Silvia Gomez

Nuestra Congregación, aunque es pequeña en número, está organizada en tres Provincias, dos en México y una en Estados Unidos. También contamos con una Delegación para las Hermanas en España y África.

Las hermanas en los Estados Unidos tuvimos el gusto de ser las anfitrionas de la reunión de Superiores Mayores que hasta ahora solamente se había tenido en México. "Es un momento histórico para nosotras" dijo la Madre General, Rosa Alva Torres, en el momento de dar inicio a las sesiones de trabajo, las cuales duraron tres días. El Espíritu Santo ayudó con sus

el soldado. En el caso del soldado, se está defendiendo a sí mismo y a otros de un agresor. Pero el abortero sabe que el bebé no es ningún agresor. Más aún, el soldado tiene un sistema de apoyo y camaradería con el que el abortero solo puede soñar. Los aborteros son aislados y evitados por la sociedad, la profesión médica y también los grupos pro-aborto. Diane Derzis, administradora de una clínica que conoció personalmente, le dijo a un periódico de Atlanta: "También está la cuestión de la vergüenza, aún entre aquellos que son pro-aborto (pro-choice)... Todavía nos ven como gente sucia, incluso entre los nuestros." (Conversaciones telefónicas grabadas en Junio/Julio 1985). Una encuesta de Priests for Life entre 961 aborteros señala que el 69% de ellos sienten que no son respetados por el resto de la comunidad médica.

Estos y muchos otros factores relacionados llevan a comportamientos como el que relata un ex-empleado de una clínica de abortos en Luisiana que cuenta que el abortero "tenía un feto envuelto en papel azul... Estaba parado en el hall... tiraba el feto al aire y lo atajaba. Como si fuera una pelota de plástico." Joy Davis, a quien conoció personalmente, relata en una entrevista de 1993 con Life Dynamics lo siguiente sobre un abortero para quien trabajó. "A veces entraba en su oficina a la mañana y lo encontraba... echado en el piso, completamente desnudo, en medio de un charco de vómito, adonde había pasado la noche drogado."

Si piensa que esto es malo, apenas estamos tocando la superficie. Comuníquese con Priests for Life y pida el libro "Lime 5" si piensa que podría soportar saber más sobre las almas vacías de los aborteros.

inspiraciones a las hermanas en el deseo de servir lo más posible a la contrucción del Reino de Dios entre las familias.

Después del trabajo intenso, las Hermanas recorrieron los diferentes lugares donde nos encontramos trabajando en el Sur de Texas en nuestra Diócesis de Victoria y en la Diócesis de Galveston-Houston. Durante este pequeño recorrido las Hermanas tuvimos la oportunidad de reforzar los lazos de unión fraterna, al tiempo en que contemplamos la realidad de las familias Inmigrantes. Muchas de las personas que nos encontramos en los Estados Unidos tienen a miembros de su familia en los

En el más reciente número de la revista U.S. Catholic, la editora superior Catherine O'Connell-Cahill escribe amorosamente de su padre, in hombre quien leía libros, amaba la ópera y la poesía, en especial la de Shakespeare, y de su tío Ray Carmody y su hermano Dave. Es un tema oportuno mientras meditamos sobre la muerte de Jesús en la cruz. También nos invita a preguntar quienes somos como pueblo.

El padre de Catherine invitó su vida cubriendo tubería con asbesto (sin la extensa protección actualmente requerida). Su tío trabajaba en el mismo oficio. Y cuando Dave estaba en la escuela superior y necesitaba trabajo para el verano, su padre le halló puesto también trabajando con asbesto. No sabían de la debilitación de los pulmones y del cáncer prácticamente incurable que el asbesto causa. Esas enfermedades le quitaron la vida a los tres -- su hermano a los 35 años, su tío a los 52, y su padre a los 79, un Methuselah entre los trabajadores de asbestos, según Catherine, una antigua amiga; la mayoría de los trabajadores del asbesto no viven tantos años. "No puedo imaginar como sería llevar a su hijo a la quimioterapia y verlo morir, dejando a su esposa y un hijo de 3 años."

Empezando en los 1930, los productores de asbesto sabían de los riesgos pero ocultaron los estudios. Similarmente, la industria del tabaco, cuyos productos causan la muerte de 440,000 cada año en este país, ocultó la verdad que los cigarrillos causan cáncer. La industria del uranio en Nuevo México y los productores de pesticidas siguieron

la misma meta. Cuando yo era universitario trabajaba con una pesticida muy peligrosa, sin idea del daño que puede hacer.

En el mismo numero de U.S. Catholic, los editores entrevistan a la profesora Kristin Shrader-Frechette de la Universidad de Notre Dame, investigadora para la justicia ambiental cuya madre murió a los 43 años de cáncer causado por la contaminación ambiental. Dice que como un tercio de toda la enfermedad del corazón viene de contaminantes en el aire. En Chicago ocho personas mueren diariamente de enfermedad del corazón causado por partículas. Las minorías y los pobres, dice la profesora, son las víctimas más comunes de la contaminación ambiental; las empresas ubican instalaciones de desechos peligrosos en vecindades donde es menos probable que los residentes acudan a los tribunales u organicen protestas efectivas.

Cuando era reportero visité a Sunland Park, Nuevo México, amenazado por un basurero de desechos médicos; a suelo en la reserva Navajo tan contaminado con residuos del uranio que no se atreve uno a pisarlo; y una colonia para pobres hispanos y africanos en West Dallas donde una compañía enterró los metales peligrosos y químicas de pilas de automóviles. Muchas casas tenían rampas para sillas de ruedas para personas incapacitadas por la contaminación. En Gary, Indiana, una comunidad 90 por ciento africana e hispana donde Shrader-Frechette trabaja, "niños americanos de raza africana mueren del asma a un índice cuatro veces más alto que niños blancos," dice.

Nuestra fe exige que confrontemos tal crucifixión, que no es el inevitable precio del progreso sino, como la primera Crucifixión, la consecuencia del pecado. La profesora cita al Papa Pius XI: "La justicia social demanda no sólo reformar nuestra moralidad personal sino las instituciones de la sociedad." Durante un reciente charla el padre capuchino Jack Rathschmidt, sacerdote quien admiro, concluyó: "Dios no nos pide que háganos todo; nos pide que háganos algo." La profesora de Notre Dame concluye en el mismo sentido: "No tenemos que hacer cosas increíbles. Cada uno de nosotros tiene que hacer un poquito."

Como reportar un abuso.

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

- Llame a la cancillería al (361)573-0828 y pida hablar con el Obispo o su canciller; o puede llamar a:
 - Rev. Gary Janak al (979)543-3770 o a la Hna. Emilie Eilers al (361)575-7111, que son los coordinadores del Pastoral Care and Outreach;
 - También puede comunicarse por escrito enviando su carta a:
Most Rev. David Fellhauer
Diocese of Victoria
P.O. Box 4070
Victoria, TX 77903
Por favor, escriba en el sobre:
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También podemos ayudarle a comunicar su queja a cualquier otra diócesis donde haya ocurrido el abuso si ahora usted se encuentra viviendo en la nuestra.

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

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Attorneys at Law



Joseph G. Garza
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Former J.A.G. Officer

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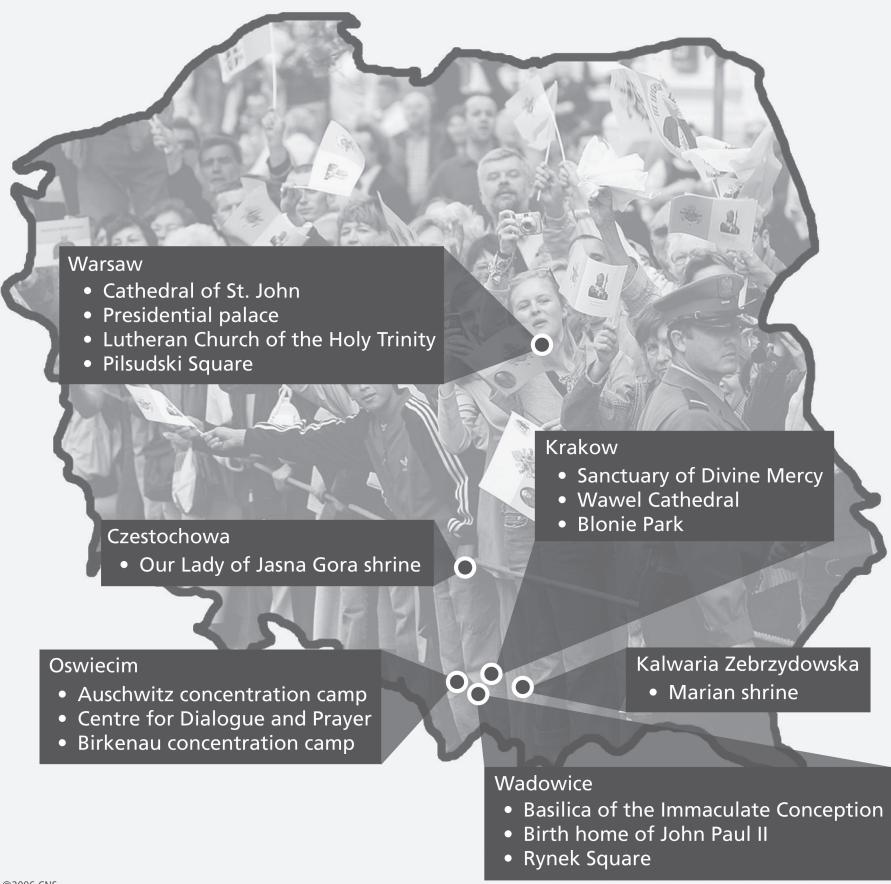


Marc Phillip Garza
Attorney at Law



Pope's Visit to Poland

Pope Benedict XVI's May 25-28 trip to Poland included many sites associated with his predecessor, Pope John Paul II, as well as stops at the Auschwitz-Birkenau concentration camps.



©2006 CNS

At Polish shrine, pope says he hopes for Pope John Paul's sainthood

WADOWICE, Poland (CNS) — On a day dedicated to the memory of Pope John Paul II, the first unscripted words Pope Benedict XVI spoke during his trip to Poland referred to the sainthood cause of the Polish-born pope. "I, too, hope that divine providence soon grants us the beatification and canonization of our dear Pope John Paul II," he told a crowd gathered May 27 at the Kalwaria Zebrzydowska shrine. The pope's day began in Wadowice with a visit to Immaculate Conception Basilica, where Karol Wojtyla — the future pope — was baptized, received his first Communion and served as an altar boy. While some 25,000 people waited in the square in front of the church, Pope Benedict walked a block down a narrow street to the Wojtyla house, now a museum.

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Pope appeals for calm, peace in East Timor

VATICAN CITY (CNS) — Pope Benedict XVI appealed for calm and peace in East Timor, marked by sporadic rioting and violence for more than a month. The violence began in late April after the government dismissed about one-third of its army. The dismissed soldiers, who come from the western part of the country, claimed they were being discriminated against. The majority of the army is made up of men from the eastern part of the country.

At the end of his May 31 general audience, the pope praised the local church, Catholic agencies, and other international organizations that were helping people displaced by the violence and asked the estimated 35,000 people at his audience "to pray to the Blessed Virgin Mary so she would support with her maternal protection the efforts of those contributing to the pacification of souls and the return to normality."

Bishop Alberto da Silva of Dili, East Timor, was working behind the scenes to help resolve the situation in the country whose population of about 800,000 is more than 90 percent Catholic.

Pray for Peace in the World!

Immigration reform advocates see good, bad in Senate bill

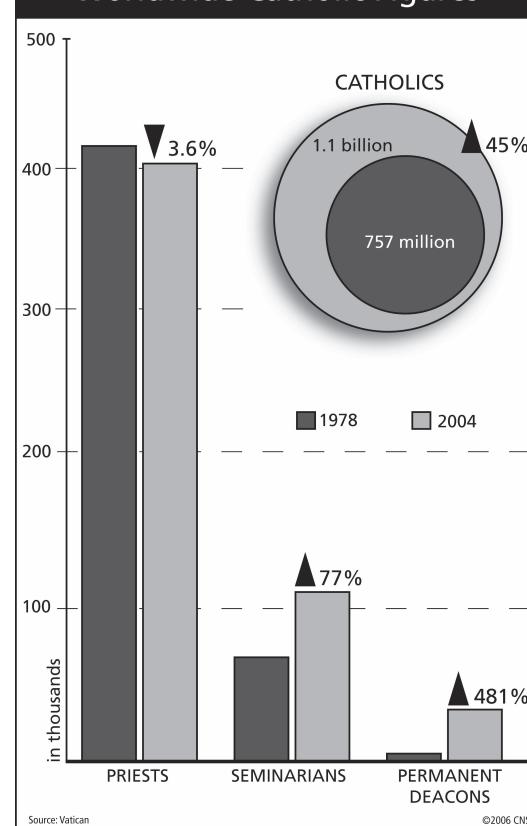
WASHINGTON (CNS) — Supporters of a comprehensive immigration reform plan said the bill passed May 25 by the Senate is more punitive and less far-reaching



CNS photo/Douglas Kaup,
Pittsburgh Catholic

NEW WASHINGTON ARCHBISHOP ANSWERS QUESTIONS DURING PRESS CONFERENCE IN PITTSBURGH—Newly appointed Washington Archbishop Donald W. Wuerl smiles while answering questions from the Pittsburgh-based media during a May 16 press conference held at the Pittsburgh Diocesan seminary. Archbishop Wuerl was named May 16 by Pope Benedict XVI to succeed Cardinal Theodore E. McCarrick, who is retiring. Archbishop Wuerl had headed the Diocese of Pittsburgh since 1988.

Worldwide Catholic Figures



ing than they had hoped it would be, but they said it also includes many provisions they sought. In a 62-36 vote, the Senate adopted a bill that would give illegal im-

migrants a chance to legalize their status, create a guest worker program for about 1.5 million farmworkers, add 370 miles of new triple-layered fencing along the Mexican border and increase the number of visas for both skilled and unskilled workers. The bill also would expand the Border Patrol, create additional detention facilities for illegal immigrants, increase penalties to employers who hire illegal workers and deport illegal immigrants who have been convicted of a felony or three misdemeanors. Los Angeles Cardinal Roger M. Mahony in a May 25 statement praised the bill's provisions to allow many of the estimated 12 million illegal immigrants in the country a path to citizenship and to provide a temporary worker program and improve family reunification policies. "But the bill also contains provisions that are unnecessarily punitive in nature, and will not help to fix our nation's broken immigration system," he said.

Ordination Class of 2006

average age of new U.S. priests

75% have full-time work experience

40 have served in U.S. armed forces

30% were born outside of the U.S.

largest number to be ordained in a single diocese/archdiocese — Archdiocese of Newark, N.J.

17



Source: U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops
©2006 CNS



Priests For Life

By Father Frank Pavone
National Director



Tragic Triangle

Violence done against human beings involves three types of people: the Perpetrator, the Victim, and the Observer. This is known as the "Tragic Triangle." In child abuse, the child is the victim, the abuser is the perpetrator, and those who come to know of the abuse as it is going on are the observers. Abortion also is a tragic triangle. The abortionist, in collusion with the parent(s), is the perpetrator, the child is the victim, and the observers are all the rest of us.

Many may conclude that the perpetrator is the most guilty of the three. Yet in most tragic triangles, the observers carry the greatest guilt. They are more detached from the tragedy and usually have more objectivity to assess the evil and the opportunities for stopping it. Psychiatrist Philip Ney points out, "The observers in tragic triangles have a greater responsibility, primarily because they can be more objective, but also because they often gain by allowing the tragedy to start and to continue" (The Centurions' Pathway, p.25).

Regarding abortion, he further notes, "The observers are just as guilty, [and their] self-justification is more deeply entrenched and their rationalization more difficult to undo. 'I personally don't approve, but clean, clinical terminations are much better than back street abortions'" (p.44).

One of the key responsibilities of the observer in the abortion tragic triangle, is to reach out to the abortionist. Dr. Ney, who has worked with many abortionists

The church and the United Nations

Continued from p. 4

And any effort to place nearly 200 nations representing 6 billion people around a table to wrestle with the most complex issues of international justice and peace is bound to be about as imperfect and frustrating as one could imagine.

While the faults of the United Nations, therefore, are many, the position of the Catholic Church has been clear from the beginning. The United Nations is the only world organization attempting not only to "facilitate mere coexistence among nations," but to "organize the brotherly collaboration of the world's peoples." This purpose reflects "the ideal of which mankind dreams on its pilgrimage through time." The quotes are from Pope Paul VI, speaking at the United Nations. "The edifice you have constructed," he said, "must never fail. ... You mark a stage in the development of mankind from which retreat must never be admitted."

This has been the Catholic position since the United Nations was founded. Popes Pius XII, John XXIII, Paul VI, and John Paul II have recognized its weaknesses, but insist it is still the best hope for world peace and order.

This supportive attitude is confirmed by the presence of a permanent Vatican observer at the United Nations, and the unflagging encouragement and support the church has offered to major U.N. agencies since its founding after World War II.

No one was a more fervent champion of the United Nations than the late Pope John Paul. Speaking to the U.N. General Assembly in October 1995, for example, he declared, "My words are meant as a

lead them out of the abortion industry, comments, "The abortionist in one way or another is often appealing to the observers. 'Surely somehow, some way you could stop this. If you really persisted you could have stopped me from doing abortions. I may have resisted you, but I would

have listened. At least, I think I could have been influenced'" (p.25).

Testimony of former abortionists confirm this. Former abortion clinic operator Carol Everett relates the story of a preacher who came to visit her at her clinic. "Through a long period of discussions, he told me that God had asked him to come into this situation for 30 days, and that there was indeed someone in there that the Lord wanted out. And we left in 27 days" (Testimony at Meet the Abortion Providers Conference, Chicago).

Former abortionist Tony Levatino had a patient who witnessed to him regularly before he stopped doing abortions. He relates, "I can tell you that if enough women come to you and say, 'I think you are a

great doctor. We have gotten along very well, but I can't go to you anymore because you perform abortions." This can have a real effect. As I said, to most of the average gynecologists in their offices, abortion is not a big part of their business. If they see another part of their business going out the door because of it, it will make it cost them more than it's worth" (Testimony at Meet the Abortion Providers Conference, Chicago).

Observers have the power to stop the perpetrators.

Remember to support our work at www.priestsforlife.org/donate. This column can be found online at www.priestsforlife.org/columns/columns2006/06-05-08tragictriangle.htm

The Bottom Line

By Antoinette Bosco
Catholic News Service



A Catholic response to illegal immigrants: Help them!

The immigration debate has heated up in the hallowed halls of Congress. While I agree that attention must be given to the problem of illegal immigration, what has upset me is the tone of the debates. I sense a meanness.

Actually, I wrote that opening in a column back in November 1995. Sometimes it is true that the more things change, the more they stay the same!

I have in my hand a "letter to the editor" in which a woman begins, "Why is the Catholic Church offering services to Hispanic and Portuguese-speaking illegal and legal immigrants that the church never extended to Italian, German, Russian and other immigrants? I am outraged that my

church is so completely out of touch with the very people who have supported it all their lives."

Remembering what the Catholic Church meant to my immigrant relatives from Italy, I know she is wrong. The mean tone is even worse — though certainly nothing new. In fact, when Pope John Paul II visited the United States in October 1995, he addressed this meanness in a homily at the Mass he celebrated at Giants Stadium in East Rutherford, N.J.

In his words: "Quite close to the shores of New Jersey there rises a universally known landmark which stands as an enduring witness to the American tradition of welcoming the stranger and which tells us something important about the kind of nation America has aspired to be. It is the Statue of Liberty, with its celebrated poem, 'Give me your tired, your poor, your huddled masses yearning to breathe free. ... Send these, the homeless, tempest-tossed to me.' Is present-day America becoming less sensitive, less caring toward the poor, the weak, the stranger, the needy? It must not!"

Of course, the U.S. Catholic bishops have not been silent on this immigration issue. In fact, Cardinal Roger Mahony of Los Angeles has spoken so Christ-like on this issue of immigration that he made national news.

I was giving a talk recently on nonviolence at a Catholic college when someone asked what I thought of Cardinal Mahony denouncing the anti-immigration movement growing in the nation. It gave me a chance to give a public thank-you to him for pointing out again that Catholic social teaching insists that immigrants be treated, as Pope John Paul said, as "brothers and sisters."

We have to acknowledge there is a problem because so many are entering our country illegally, but as Peter D. Salins, author of "Assimilation, American Style," pointed out recently in a New York Times editorial, there are solutions.

Salins proposed a three-pronged "immigration reform package":

1. Put illegal immigrants already here on a secure path to legal residency and ultimate citizenship.

2. Enlarge the quota of legal new entrants (with clean records) on a "first-come" basis, placed on a waiting list.

3. Enforce border control, but with an enlarged quota and more effective enforcement.

Our late pope reminded us strongly that our immigrants are our "brothers and sisters." We must end our irrational fear of immigrants and remain the compassionate country we were when our ancestors came to these shores.

18th Annual Holy Family Church, Wharton BAZAAR

June 25, 2006

Join in the fun at the
Knights of Columbus Hall
2820 N. Fulton

Masses:

Saturday: 5:30 p.m.
Sunday: 10:00 a.m.

Dinner Menu

Bar-B-Que Chicken & Sausage

• Bacon & Onion Potatoes	\$7
• Green Beans	in advance
• Cole Slaw	\$7.50
• Ice Tea	at the door

Serving starts 11:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m.
Seating available or plates to go
Drive thru for plates to go 11:30 a.m. to 1:00 p.m.

Auction Begins 12:00 noon

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Outdoor Dancing
Entertainment
Polka Music
Featuring
Johnny Underwood
Solo Sounds Band
Various Children's
Games



EVENTS

The Catholic Lighthouse
Page 19 — June 2006



At The Movies

The Omen

Anyone unfamiliar with Catholicism who wanders into a multiplex this summer is likely to leave with a pretty warped impression. On the heels of "The Da Vinci Code," with its murderous monk and egregious distortions, comes "The Omen" (20th Century Fox), a stylish and sus-

penseful, if unnecessary, remake of Richard Donner's 1976 supernatural potboiler.

Effective remake of the 1976 supernatural thriller about an American diplomat (Liev Schreiber) and his wife (Julia Stiles) whose adopted son (Seamus Davey-Fitzpatrick) turns out to be the Antichrist. Slickly crafted and well-acted with a fair amount of suspense, director John Moore's virtual scene-by-scene update is a hodgepodge of Christian symbol-

ism, biblical prophecies, nonscriptural inventions, and occult mumbo jumbo, resulting in the sort of silly pop-religious junk food that should not be taken too seriously.

Some disturbing scenes of violence, include an impaling, a decapitation, a dog mauling, a hanging suicide, and a person getting hit by an automobile; a misrepresentation of Catholic doctrine; an instance of rough language and profanity.

But if you don't take the film seriously

— given its ludicrous theological underpinnings, it's hard to see how anyone could — "The Omen" is a fairly decent, if occasionally lurid, thriller.

The USCCB Office for Film & Broadcasting classification is L -- limited adult audience, films whose problematic content many adults would find troubling. The Motion Picture Association of America rating is R -- restricted. Under 17 requires accompanying parent or adult guardian.

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

www.catholicnews.com/movies

Special Collections

Peter's Pence (Collection for the Holy Father) — July 1-2
Ongoing Events

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

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

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

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

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

Engaged Encounter — Register as soon as you have contacted your pastor due to limited space. **It is strongly recommended that you attend an encounter weekend four to six months prior to your wedding date.** For a registration form, contact your pastor, visit the [Web site at www.victoriadiocese.org/family/ee.htm](http://www.victoriadiocese.org/family/ee.htm), or write to: Engaged Encounter, P.O. Box 4070, Victoria, Texas 77903. The weekend is held at the Spiritual Renewal Center. The dates for 2006 are: June 23-25, Sept. 15-17, and 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 cashier's check or money order is sent in the amount of \$190 for weddings being held within the Diocese of Victoria or \$245 for weddings being held outside the Diocese of Victoria.

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

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

Cursillo News — Ultreyá: 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. **Men's ACTS** retreats: August 17 — Holy Family, Victoria, SRC. **Women's ACTS** retreats: July 13 — Holy Cross, Bay City, SRC; July 20 — OLG/Spanish, SRC; July 27 — OLS, Victoria, SRC; Aug. 3 — Sacred Heart, Hallettsville, Women/Teens, Cathedral Oaks; Aug. 10 — Assumption, Ganado, TBE. **Teens ACTS** retreats: June 15 — Sacred Heart, Hallettsville, CO; July 27 — St. Philip, El Campo, CO; Aug. 3 — Sacred Heart, Hallettsville, Women/Teens, CO. For more information see the ACTS Web site at www.actmissions.org.

Natural Family Planning — For English or bilingual sessions of the **Sympo-Thermal Method (S-TM)** in Palacios, call Rene and Wilma Galvan at (361) 972-5030. Available for counseling and classes. Introductory presentations on the **Creighton Model Ovulation Method** are offered in Wharton at Our Lady of Mount Carmel Church and in East Bernard at Holy Cross Catholic Church. Please contact Melissa Morse at (979) 335-7306 for more information or to register for classes. For information about the Sympo-

Thermal Method in the Victoria area, contact Rudy and Estella DeLos Santos (361) 573-2624. **Natural Family Planning is the only church approved form of family planning.**

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

Picnics, Activities, etc.

June

East Bernard — Annual Czech Kolache Klobase Festival June 10 from 10:30 a.m. to 8:30 p.m. at the Riverside Hall sponsored by KJT Society No. 40. A sausage and barbecue-chicken dinner will be served beginning at 11:00 a.m. There will be dancing, live continuous entertainment, arts/crafts, cakewalk, children's entertainment, and kolaches for sale. Entertainment includes: Dujka Brothers, Vrazel Polka Band, Bobby Jones Czech Band, Red Ravens, Texas Sound Czech Band, Czechaholics, East Bernard Dance and Tumbling Group, and Keller Academy of Performing Arts Dance students. Admission is \$6 p.p. and children 12 and under are free. For more information call (979) 335-7907 or www.kkfest.com.

Victoria — Our Lady of Sorrows Ballet Folklorico will host its Annual Show on Saturday, June 10, at 2:00 p.m. and 7:00 p.m. at the Leo J. Welder Center for the Performing Arts. Tickets are available from all members. Tickets for the 2 p.m. matinee show are \$5 per person. Tickets for 7 p.m. evening performance are \$7 per person. For more information call Director Nora Molina at (361) 578-3174.

When & Where



St. Mary — St. Mary Parish Picnic June 11 at the parish hall (outside of Hallettsville on FM 340). Mass will be celebrated at the church beginning at 9:15 a.m. A stew and sausage dinner begins at 10:30 a.m. at \$6 p.p. with dine-in or drive-thru available. There will be games, plants, cakewalk, train ride, and country store. Hamburgers and refreshments will be sold in the afternoon. Auction begins at 1:00 p.m. Dance to live music from 11:00 a.m. to 9:00 p.m. with Texas Sound Check, Czechaholics and Red Ravens.

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

Yorktown — Yorktown Community Hall (parish hall for Holy Cross Church) Annual Feast, June 11. Homemade sausage with all the trimmings. Dinner served from 11:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m. Country store, cakewalk, silent auction, and games. The Nordheim Friends and Faculty Band will perform during the dinner hours.

Cuero — St. Michael's Family Fishing Tournament June 17 at the Port O'Connor Community Center. Registration fee is \$120 per boat with maximum of four per boat. There will be a meal served that evening along with a silent auction. For more information or to register call St. Michael School at (361) 277-3854; James or Amy Crain at (361) 277-9433; or Chris or Jill Crain at (361) 277-8766. Benefits St. Michael School.

Victoria — Knights of Columbus Council 1329 chicken-barbecue fund-raiser June 18 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.

Plum — Sts. Peter and Paul Parish Celebration June 25 on the parish grounds. Mass at 10:00 a.m. followed by a fried-chicken dinner (\$6.50 p.p. and 12 and under \$3.50). There will be games, an auction at 2:00 p.m. and much more.

Wharton — Holy Family Annual Bazaar June 25 at the KC hall (2820 N. Fulton). A barbecue-chicken and sausage dinner will be served from 11:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m. at \$7 p.p. (pre-sale by calling (979) 532-3593 or after Mass) and \$7.50 at the door. The auction begins at 12:00 p.m. There will be a country store, cakewalk, plant walk, and other games and entertainment for the whole family. Polka music by Jonny Underwood for your dancing pleasure.

July

Dubina — Sts. Cyril and Methodius Parish Picnic July 2

St. John — St. John Annual Parish 4th of July Picnic on the parish grounds (7026 FM 957 - 6 miles SW of Schulenburg). Mass at 9:30 a.m. followed by flag raising ceremonies at 10:30 a.m. A stew and fried-chicken dinner begins at 11:00 a.m. The auction starts at 1:00 p.m. There will be children's games, cakewalk, refreshments, and other activities throughout the day. A free dance will be held under the main pavilion. Come visit the 118-year-old church.

Moravia — Ascension of Our Lord Parish Picnic (located at FM 957 and FM 532) July 16 with Mass at 10:00 a.m. followed by a fried-chicken and stew dinner at 11:00 a.m. at \$6.50 p.p. and children \$3.50 with drive-thru plates (\$6.50 p.p.) to go from 10:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. There will be a cakewalk, games, country store, and music during the day and night with The Czechaholics and Mark Halata - Texavia. There will be an auction at 1:00 p.m.

Victoria — Knights of Columbus Council 1329 chicken-barbecue fund-raiser July 16 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 — 1st Annual Catholic Men's Conference, *Come to Me*, July 28 eve. — July 29, with nationally known speakers, inspirational music, the rosary, Mass, Eucharistic Healing Service and much more. Speakers: Ralph Martin — "My Five Most Important Decisions"; Deacon Harold Burke-Sivers, "Male Spirituality"; Steve Bollmann, "That Man Is You!"; Father John Jesus Maloney, FJ, "Mary, Seat of Wisdom"; and Father John Waiss, "Man, Created in God's Image". The conference will focus on the Search for Truth of God's Plan in the Life of Men. \$35 p.p. includes box lunch on Saturday. For more info. please go to www.pilgrimcenterofhope.org or call (210) 521-3377.

Upcoming Events

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

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

Yoakum — St. Joseph Parish Picnic, Aug. 6

Palacios — St. Anthony Shrimpree, Aug. 6

Weimar — St. Michael Harvest Feast, Aug. 13

Praha — St. Mary Parish Picnic, Aug. 15

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.

High Hill — St. Mary Parish Picnic, Sept. 3

Hallettsville — Sacred Heart Parish Festival, Sept. 3

Shiner — Sts. Cyril and Methodius Picnic, Sept. 3

Vanderbilt — St. John Bosco Picnic, Sept. 3

Cuero — Our Lady of Guadalupe Parish Jamaica, Sept. 3

Nada — St. Mary Parish Festival and Homecoming, Sept. 3

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

Yorktown — Holy Cross Festival, Sept. 10

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

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 at \$45 p.p. includes box lunch on Saturday. For more info. please go to www.pilgrimcenterofhope.org or call (210) 521-3377.

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

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

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

Summer Events

Victoria — Our Lady of Victory Summer Day Camp Program for children ages 3-12. Activities include field trips, arts and crafts, cooking, reading, movies, swimming, special programs, and many more fun activities. For registration information call (361) 575-0498.

East Bernard — Holy Cross Vacation Bible School will be June 26-29. This year's theme is "Fiesta! where kids are fired up about Jesus."

Victoria — St. Mary Vacation Bible School will be June 26-30. For more information call (361) 573-4328.

Shiner — Sts. Cyril and Methodius Vacation Bible School will be June 26-29. For more information call (361) 594-3836.



*Diocese of Victoria Catholic
High School's 2006 Top Graduates*

**St. Joseph High
Victoria**



Michael Rokytka
Valadictorian
Parents:
Debbie & Franklin Rokytka

**St. Paul High
Shiner**



Madeleine Wenske
Valadictorian
Parents: Benedict &
Elizabeth Ann Wenske

**Sacred Heart High
Hallettsville**



Steven Warzecha
Valadictorian
Parents:
Marvin & Virginia Warzecha



Jennifer Stevens
Salutatorian
Parents:
Suzanne & Robert Stevens



Carol Filip
Salutatorian
Parents:
Terrence & Mary Rose Filip



Renee Guenther
Salutatorian
Parents:
Philip & Kathy Guenther



Hannah Starkey
Historian
Parents:
Dr. Taylor & Myra Starkey



Blake Chunda
Historian
Parents:
Jeff & Anne Chunda



Kyle Demel
Historian
Parents:
Barry & Dianne Demel

Words of Wisdom

By Rev. Bryan Heyer
Commencement Address
Sacred Heart, Hallettsville

Sometimes courage isn't the blind insistence of independent fortitude but the humility to ask for help. Graduates be faithful to God for he is faithful to you. Always find time to serve others less fortunate than you. Love yourself and others without strings attached. And honor your father and mother, for you will always be their little ones. "The highest reward for a person's toil is not what they get for it, but what they become by it," words of the author and social critic John Ruskin.

**St. Joseph High School Band wraps
up year on winning note**

The South Coast Music Festival is proud to announce that the St. Joseph High School Band of Victoria, Texas, received a 1st division trophy for a Superior concert rating on May 5, 2006. The contest was hosted by Flour Bluff High School near Corpus Christi. St. Joseph competed in the Varsity Class AAA Band Category.

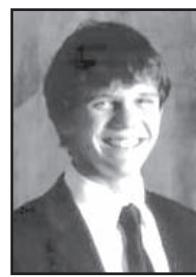
Judges for the contest were Gary Lewis of Texas Tech Uni-

versity, Dan Presgrave of Washington University-St. Louis, and Dennis Hopkins of Austin ISD.

Band Director for the St. Joseph High School is Michael Petrisky. Mr. Petrisky commented, "The students have done a remarkable job this year. This success is a small reflection of the hard work and improvement all of the students have made. The credit goes to the students. Congratulations Band!"

Coca-Cola \$10,000 scholarship winner

SHINER—Trevor Hybner, an exceptional senior at Saint Paul High School in Shiner, has been recognized as one of the country's most outstanding high school seniors by the Coca-Cola Scholars Foundation and has been awarded the \$10,000 Regional Coca-Cola Scholarship for college. The program recognizes a diverse group of extraordinary high school seniors who have



Trevor Hybner

demonstrated academic and civic excellence in their schools and communities. In Shiner, the Foundation is supported by the financial commitment of Houston Coca-Cola Bottling Company and The Coca-Cola Company.

Trevor joined 249 of America's most impressive high school students who competed for the 50 National (\$20,000) and 200 Regional (\$10,000) scholarships during the Coca-Cola Scholars Weekend, held April 6-9 in Atlanta, Ga. Scholars were chosen from an initial applicant pool of more than 50,000, representing approximately 23,000 high schools nationwide.



Six KC 9088 scholarship winners were presented \$500 scholarships during Mass at Holy Family Parish in Victoria May 14. Pictured from l. to r. are Logan Westerman, Brittany Bongers, Father Greg Korenek (pastor), Clyde Svetlik, Kimberly Rokytka, Heath Vesely, Hilary Janysek, and Michael Rokytka.

KC 9088 grants scholarships

Holy Family Knights of Columbus Council 9088 presented six \$500 scholarships to Catholic graduating seniors. Scholarship winners were Logan Westerman (St. Joe) and son of Mark and Laura Westerman; Brittany Bongers (Memorial), daughter of David and Kim Bongers; Heath Vesely (St. Joe), son of Larry and Sheila Vesely; twins Michael and Kimberly Rokytka (both of St. Joe), children of Frank and Debbie Rokytka; and Hilary Janysek, (Memorial) daughter of Ronald and Deborah Janysek. Hilary plans to attend Texas State University at San Marcos while the other five recipients will attend Texas A&M

University at College Station.

The seniors were chosen from a number of applicants for their high academic standards, involvement in school, church, and community activities, and their understanding of what it means to be a practicing Catholic. The scholarship is open to Catholics who attend Holy Family Church or their dad is a member of KC 9088. This year all winners' dads happened to be members of council 9088.

The scholarships were presented at the May 14 Mass at Holy Family Parish in Victoria by scholarship chairman Clyde Svetlik and Grand Knight Bob Leach.



St. Joseph High School Band received a 1st Division trophy for a Superior concert rating. St. Joseph competed in the Varsity Class AAA Band Category. Band officers, pictured left to right, top row: Brittany Modisette and Lindsay Hahn; bottom row: Stephen Janak, Chris Hybner, and Brandon Fiew.

Class of 2006