

# The Catholic Lighthouse

*The Cradle of Texas Immigration*

VOL. 20, NO. 7

OFFICIAL PUBLICATION OF THE DIOCESE OF VICTORIA IN TEXAS



November 2006



Queen of the Holy Rosary Parish in Hostyn celebrated its 175th anniversary of the first Mass said in the Hostyn area Sunday, Oct. 1, 2006. Above is the parish's fifth and current church building.

## Father Victor Scocco elected provincial minister of the Trinitarians

Just days following his 25th anniversary of ordination, Trinitarian priest, Father Victor Scocco of the Order of the Most Holy Trinity (O.S.S.T.) and pastor of Our Lady of Sorrows Parish in Victoria, was elected to a three-year term as the provincial minister of his order during the order's chapter. As of the date of his election and installation, Tuesday, October 24, 2006, he has been in residence at the provincial house in Baltimore, Maryland. He will return to Victoria during the week of Nov. 5 for 7 to 10 days to tie up loose ends. A detailed story will follow in the December issue of *The Catholic Lighthouse*.

On their day of ordination, Trinitarian seminarians Victor Scocco and Donald Hayden process to the altar at Holy Trinity Monastery in Pikesville, Maryland, Oct. 9, 1981. They celebrated their 25th year of priestly ordination at their parishes on Oct. 8, 2006; Father Victor celebrated at Our Lady of Sorrows in Victoria and Father Donald at Holy Cross in Yorktown.



## Brother seminarians celebrate 25th anniversary of priesthood

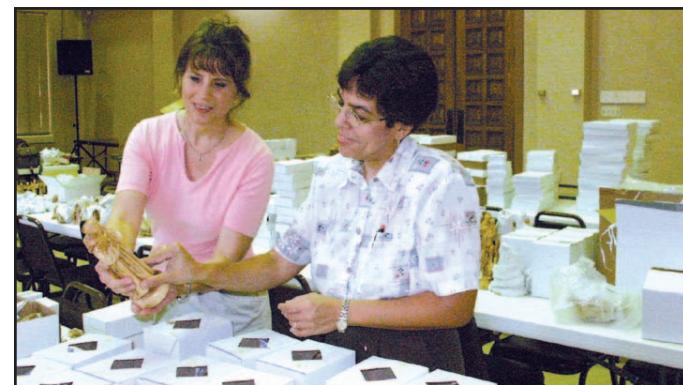
By Cindy Brewer

Trinitarian priests, Father Victor Scocco and Father Donald Hayden, each celebrated their 25th anniversary of their priesthood Sunday, October 8, 2006.

Although they walked together two by two on the day of their ordination, Fathers Victor Scocco and Donald Hayden celebrated their anniversaries in separate parishes in separate towns; however, since the

Trinitarian order serves in five states and has missions as far away as India, it was actually very fortunate that they celebrated as close as they did. Father Victor, the pastor of Our Lady of Sorrows Parish in Victoria, celebrated his anniversary with his parishioners, as well as his mother, Evelyn, and brother and sister-in-law, Gary and Ann, whom his parishioners brought to

See *Brother seminarians*, p. 7



Cindy Brewer and Regina Janak (r.) of *The Catholic Lighthouse* sort through 37 sixty-lb. boxes of olive wood gifts from Bethlehem in preparation for the HCEF Holy Land Gift sales which will be held throughout the diocese by various parish organizations.

## Catholic organizations gearing up to help Holy Land Christians with Advent sales

By Cindy Brewer

Thirty-one churches in the Diocese of Victoria will hold Holy Land Gift sales in support of the non-profit organization, the Holy Land Christian Ecumenical Foundation (HCEF) this fall and Advent.

Cindy Brewer, co-chair of the Holy Land Christian Support Network of HCEF in Victoria, is very grateful for the help of over 25 church organizations that have

agreed to sell the olive wood gifts for the Christians in the Bethlehem area.

Such organizations as the Catholic Daughters of the Americas, the Knights of Columbus, the Altar Society, Guadalupanas, Young Neighbors and other youth groups and the Council of Catholic Women have taken on this project to as-

See *Catholic organizations gearing up*, p. 8

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## Queen of the Holy Rosary Parish celebrates 150 years

Contributions by *Schulenburg Sticker*

HOSTYN—Queen of the Holy Rosary Parish in Hostyn celebrated its 175th anniversary of the first Mass said, and the 150th anniversary of the first church built in the Hostyn area, Sunday, Oct. 1, 2006. The anniversary was observed by celebrating the parish's annual October Festival.

The celebration began with a welcome from the parish's pastor, Rev. Msgr. Stanley J. Petru, at Our Lady of Lourdes Grotto on the parish grounds.

Following an introduction of guests by Cyril Muras Jr., a proclamation signed by the Fayette County Commissioners Court Sept. 25 was presented by Fayette County Judge Ed Janecka. Resolutions were pre-

sented by Texas Representative Robert "Robby" Cook and Judy McAda representing U.S. Representative Ruben Hinojosa.

The LaGrange VFW conducted a presentation of the U.S. and Texas flags, with the flag raising and the Pledge of Allegiance led by Joseph Kruppa of the VFW.

A Polka Mass was concelebrated by Bishop David E. Fellhauer and Msgr. Petru at 10 a.m. Newly ordained Deacon John McCourt assisted at the Mass.

Following Mass, the October Festival began with the serving of over 2,800 meals of traditional fried chicken, sausage, potatoes and sauerkraut. A country auction was held, and music was provided throughout the day and evening by Donnie Wavra and his Orchestra, the Dujka Bros.

See *Queen of the Holy Rosary*, p. 20

## Texas Catholic Conference Voting Statement

October 19, 2006

**Dear Sisters and Brothers in Christ:**

Our airwaves have been filled with political ads as we prepare for the November elections. We write to you to encourage you to exercise the important privilege and responsibility we have as citizens by voting.

The Catholic Church does not endorse specific candidates. However, we do uphold important principles outlined by our bishops' conference in the document "Faithful Citizenship."

### Issues to Consider

**1. Protecting Human Life.** Our foundational principle to protect the life and dignity of all human persons calls us to work to end abortion, euthanasia, destruction of human embryos, cloning, assisted suicide, intentional targeting of civilians in war or terrorist attacks and the use of the death penalty. This principle leads us to seek peace, raise serious questions about the preemptive use of force.

**2. Promoting Family Life.** We defend marriage between a man and a woman, work for just wages and the protection of children. We support parental choice in education, responsible use of media, and technology and vigorous enforcement of existing pornography laws.

**3. Pursuing Social Justice.** We show God's special concern for the poor and vulnerable by supporting programs that create living wage jobs, make health care more affordable and accessible, provide income security for low and average wage workers at retirement, offer safe and affordable housing, protect family farmers and farm workers, and bring about just immigration reform. We seek public policies that work to end poverty, hunger and

See *Texas Catholic Conference Voting Statement*, p. 17



## Bishop Fellhauer's Schedule

November	
3	4:30 p.m., Reconciliation Service, Spiritual Renewal Center
4	5:00 p.m., Mass and blessing of new pavilion in Holy Cross Cemetery, Holy Cross Church, East Bernard
5	9:30 a.m., Mass, Veterans' Memorial Service, St. Mary Church, Praha
6	7:00 p.m., Liturgical Commission meeting, Chancery Office
8	10:00 a.m., Presbyteral Council meeting, Chancery Office
	7:00 p.m., Memorial Mass for parishioners who have died during the past year, St. Joseph Church, Inez
9	6:00 p.m., Mass, Serra Club orientation program for prospective members, Chancery Office
10	7:00 p.m., Reconciliation service, Spiritual Renewal Center, Victoria
11-16	United States Conference of Catholic Bishops, General Meeting, Baltimore, MD
21	6:00 p.m., Retirement party for Connie and Amador Amador, O'Connor House, Victoria
28	12:00 p.m., Catechetical Conference volunteers' appreciation luncheon, Chancery Office
29	4:30 p.m., Diocesan Building Board meeting, Chancery Office
December	
1	12:00 p.m., presentation, Serra Club of Victoria, Holiday Inn, Victoria
6	6:30 p.m., Equestrian Order of the Holy Sepulchre of Jerusalem, Christmas gathering, Victoria Country Club
8	8:15 a.m., School Mass, Nazareth Academy, Victoria
9	6:30 p.m., Christmas Dinner, benefit for the Multi-Purpose/Youth Activity Building at the Spiritual Renewal Center

## Thank You Notes

### Your Excellency:

We began this new academic year, the ninth of my presidency, with great news. In September, The Catholic University of America welcomed the largest freshman class in history, some 870 new students. The overall enrollment of the university also exceeded expectations.

As we rejoice in our success, we must also acknowledge with profound gratitude the contributions of your diocese to the annual appeal for The Catholic University of America. Your gift of \$5,863.46 is most deeply appreciated.

My grateful prayers are yours today and throughout the year. Thank you for supporting us at CUA in such a marvelous and enduring way!

Faithfully yours in Christ,

Very Rev. David M. O'Connell, C.M.  
President, The Catholic University  
of America

### Dear Bishop Fellhauer:

With sincere gratitude I wish to acknowledge receipt of the check in the amount of \$22,053.33, representing the Peter's Pence contribution from the Church in Victoria for 2006.

In addition to sharing in the material responsibilities facing Pope Benedict XVI, this expression of generosity by your people reveals their deep awareness of the bonds of faith, worship and love which they share with the Universal Church and God's people, especially the poor, throughout the world.

With warm regards, I am

Sincerely yours in Christ  
Archbishop Pietro Sambi  
Apostolic Nuncio

### Your Excellency,

As the new appointed Prefect of the Congregation for the Evangelization of Peoples, I cordially greet you and send my sentiments of profound appreciation to you and all your faithful.

It is with extreme gratitude that I acknowledge this past year's generous support of \$21,572 to the Society for the Propagation of the Faith from the Diocese of Victoria. In addition, the children of your diocese have also contributed \$599 in solidarity with children in the missions around the world.

Despite the many challenges the Church in your country has experienced over recent years, you have maintained this strong commitment to support the mission *ad gentes*.

Sincerely in Christ,  
Ivan Cardinal Dias  
Prefect, Congregatio Pro Gentium  
Evangelization

## The Catholic Lighthouse is now available on the Web

Can't remember the date of the event you saw advertised in *The Catholic Lighthouse* last month? Wanted to pass along an article to a friend, but threw the paper out a bit earlier than you should have? Wish out-of-town relatives could see that picture the Lighthouse took of you? No worries. Now you and your out-of-town relatives can look up previous issues of *The Catholic Lighthouse* on the Diocese of Victoria's Web site at [www.victoriadiocese.org](http://www.victoriadiocese.org).

*The Catholic Lighthouse* has also added a *Lighthouse Extra* to the Web site, which includes articles of interest that couldn't fit in the paper or came too late to print. Please check out the diocese's Web site and click on Lighthouse News-paper.

A new feature has been added to the paper as well. The Teens & Twenties page has been separated into two pages: one for young adults (on page 5) and one for teens (on page 9). The "Young Adults" page is specifically geared toward 18 to 35 year olds. Young Adults who have gone off to college are eligible to receive *The Lighthouse*. Please send their name and address to the address or e-mail mentioned at the end of this article and they'll be added to the list to receive the paper monthly. They may also bookmark the diocesan Web site on their "favorites" list and check out the paper via the Internet.

Interested in advertising your business in *The Catholic Lighthouse*? If so, call or e-mail Regina at The Lighthouse. The rates for personal or business within the diocese is \$10 per column inch / outside of the diocese, \$15 per column inch. So for businesses within the diocese, a three-inch by two-columns wide ad would cost \$60. Churches may advertise at \$8 per column inch; the same size ad would cost a church \$48. Regina will need to know you're interested in placing an ad by the third Tuesday of the month prior to the month you wish to display your ad.

The deadline for articles is also the third Tuesday prior to the upcoming

## Official Appointments By Most Rev. David E. Fellhauer

Effective November 6, 2006, the Rev. Joseph Madhuravely, CMI, is relieved of his assignment as parochial vicar at Our Lady of the Gulf Church, Port Lavaca, and its missions, and appointed parochial vicar at Holy Rosary Church, Hostyn and Sts. Peter and Paul Church, Plum.

month, and the paper is printed on the first Wednesday of each month. Please notify *The Catholic Lighthouse* staff of any church events that should be announced on the When & Where page as soon as you know the date of the event.

Also, if you have a change of address, please notify *The Lighthouse* as soon as possible. Newspaper contact addresses are: 1505 E. Mesquite Lane, Victoria, Texas 77901; (361) 573-0828, ext. 30 for Regina (ads and When & Where), ext. 31 for Cindy (articles/news events); [cbrewer@victoriadiocese.org](mailto:cbrewer@victoriadiocese.org) or [janakr@victoriadiocese.org](mailto:janakr@victoriadiocese.org).

## Letter to the Editor

**Editor**  
**The Lighthouse**  
**October 2, 2006**

The front page article in the *Victoria Advocate* about Sister Rose Pacatte, a keynote speaker at the recent Diocesan Catechetical Conference, could very well initiate the following parent-child conversation: "No, you cannot go to that movie because it has subject matter that promotes immorality and contains nudity and violence." The response: "Why not? We can also learn from that kind of movie." In the *Victoria Advocate*, thirty-five movies were mentioned by Sister Rose because, in her opinion, they taught lessons on faith, hope, love, relationships, human dignity/morality, community/family, and sacrifice. The following ratings were given to these movies: 13-R rating, 13-PG13, 5-PG, 2-G, 2- not rated.

That leaves me with a burning question: "Why our young people or anyone else should wade through immoral actions in order to learn a lesson?" Shouldn't we practice vigilance to safeguard chastity by avoiding indecent movies, and television? In the afternoon session Sister Rose said that she watched "Desperate Housewives" on a weekly basis. While apparently looking for lessons in shows such as this, are we not also filling our minds with debris?

Thank you to those parents who simply tell their children that they cannot go to a movie because it is an occasion of sin that degrades the human body and that, as St. Paul reminds us, our bodies should be used to glorify God.

Carol Lehnert  
Victoria, Texas

## 2006 DSA Monthly Report

DSA Goal  
\$1,237,250

Half way  
marker

Total  
Amount  
Paid  
\$655,976

### Stewardship Thought:

"Honor the Lord with your substance and with the first fruits of all your labors" (Prov 3:9).

**The Catholic Lighthouse**  
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OFFICIAL PUBLICATION OF THE DIOCESE OF VICTORIA IN TEXAS

Published monthly at 1505 E. Mesquite Lane — Victoria, TX 77901  
(361) 573-0828 — FAX (361) 573-5725 — [www.victoriadiocese.org](http://www.victoriadiocese.org)

**Publisher**  
The Most Rev. David E. Fellhauer

**Production/Advertising**  
Regina Matus-Janak — e-mail: [janakr@victoriadiocese.org](mailto:janakr@victoriadiocese.org)

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**DEADLINE IS THE THIRD TUESDAY OF THE PRECEDING MONTH.**

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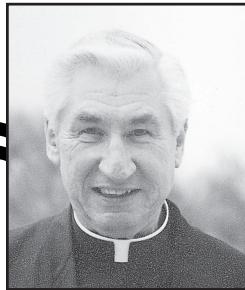
**Periodical postage paid at Victoria, Texas, USPS-001015 (ISSN 0894-7740)**

**POSTMASTER:** Send address changes to  
The Catholic Lighthouse - P.O. Box 4070 - Victoria, Texas 77903



## Faith Point

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



### When Do We Become Human?

**E**ven persons who claim to be pro-life see no contradiction in their profession and approval of embryonic stem cell research or on so-called fertilized eggs or pre-embryos. These are such tiny creatures that it is difficult to conceive of them as human. Are they human and, if not, when do they become human and subjects of rights and protection that humanity requires? Those who would use human embryos as raw material for cures charge that maintaining the humanity of the embryo is unscientific and has a theological basis. It will be useful to hear what the science of embryology, the study of very small children, has to say on the subject.

Every human adult was once an embryo, just as he or she was once an adolescent, and before that a child, and before that an infant, and before that a fetus. This is not a religious claim or metaphysical speculation. It is an empirical fact. You are the same human individual that at an earlier point in your life was an adolescent, a child, an infant, a fetus, an embryo, a fertilized egg. From the stage of the fertilized egg forward, all you needed for your survival and continued growth towards adulthood was a suitable environment, adequate nutrition, and freedom from grave disease.

The scientific facts are indisputable—that human embryos do not differ in kind from other human beings; rather, they differ from other human beings merely in their stage of development. Embryos, fetuses, infants, adolescents, and adults are not different *kinds* of being. They are the same kind of being at different developmental stages. Therefore it is as wrong to kill them for their stem cells as it would be to kill a five-year old for his heart.

Some researchers deviate from terminological accuracy in maintaining that pregnancy occurs only at the time of implantation. This redefinition of pregnancy occurred only after science discovered how to manipulate embryos in Petri dishes. Prior to developing that skill in the mid-1980's, science had always considered pregnancy to begin at conception. The definition of pregnancy changed not because any reality within a woman changed, but because with in vitro fertilization, IVF, the skill set of a scientist changed. Embryologists universally reject the implantation definition. The only people who accept such an absurdity are people interested in taking newly conceived, rapidly growing little humans and tearing them to pieces. Another motive for changing the definition was to secure acceptance of contraceptives which often act as abortifacients (cause an early stage abortion) among women who might swallow the immorality of using contraceptives but balk at using them if they cause abortions.

Another deviation from scientific accuracy is the use of the terms "fertilized ovum" and "pre-embryo." Never in the history of mankind, has a fertilized egg ever implanted in a woman's womb. Misunderstanding this single fact destroys the ability to think clearly about a host of issues, yet even medical doctors regularly misspeak when they discuss it. When the

egg is fertilized, it meshes the sperm's new DNA into its own and starts using the new information immediately. That is, within hours of the sperm-egg union, the fertilized egg begins to divide.

Now, according to every embryology text in the world, as soon as a fertilized egg begins to divide, it is no longer a fertilized egg. Instead, it is an embryo and will remain such until about the end of the eighth week, when it will be called a fetus. Even with that first cell division, the cells within the embryo are organizing themselves. As the embryonic child travels down the Fallopian tube, its highway to the uterus, it is constantly growing, dividing, creating and organizing more and more cells within itself, getting everything ready for implantation in the womb.

Unlike fertilization, which is the work of a few hours, it takes days for implantation to occur. The embryo typically makes it into the womb about four days after fertilization. The growth necessary to complete implantation won't finish until roughly day ten.

The result is no egg, fertilized or not, ever implants itself in the womb. Only embryos can implant in the womb. A fertilized egg can't implant. Technicians at the local IVF clinic recognize this. When they want to help a woman become pregnant, they wait until the embryo is ready before they attempt implantation.

The same people who deny the existence of the child in the womb or in the Petri dish invented other new terminology. They knew that research with embryos would get them into trouble with ethics committees, so they simply invented a brand new term: pre-embryo. They hoped through this verbal smokescreen to escape scrutiny from ethics committees who might have forbade research done on embryos. Researchers who want to clone human beings use another obscurantist term: unfertilized blastocyst. The point is to suggest that a cloned human embryo would not really be human since it is produced without fertilization.

Still another motive for resorting to verbal legerdemain that denies the humanity of very young humans is the growing practice of preimplantation genetic diagnosis or P.G.D. It is a process accomplished at IVF clinics wherein a number of embryos are tested for a predisposition to such diseases as colon cancer, breast cancer, Down syndrome or cystic fibrosis. The prospective parents may pick the

one that seems to pass the test and presumably all others are destroyed. Now a child needs to pass a physical to enter the human family. "Come up to our expectations or die."

Embryologists were livid at the invention of the terms "pre-embryo" and "fertilized ovum." From their point of view, people masquerading as medical professionals were perverting a solid century's use of scientific terminology, the very terminology whose accurate definition was necessary for embryologists to do and discuss their work. As a result of their protests, the term "pre-embryo" gradually fell out of favor, but the embryologists were never forgiven for objecting to the politically correct word that offered cover for killing embryos to harvest their cells. The same people who used to talk about "pre-embryos" consistently misuse the phrase "fertilized egg," which as we have seen, once fertilization is complete, is really an embryo.

Some scientists maintain that we ground our views about the humanity and dignity of the human embryo in religious beliefs. We are accused of concocting a scientific sounding case against embryo-destructive research in an effort to impose our religious beliefs on others while evading the constitutional prohibition of laws respecting an establishment of religion. Maintaining that human embryos are hu-

mans at an early stage of development they say is "hidden theology."

Our grounds for believing that human embryos are human beings is the indisputable *scientific* fact that each human embryo is a complex, living, individual member of the human species. Although our claim does not rest on religion we find the Church's teaching against human embryo-killing credible precisely because it is in line with the embryological facts. It is not we who are being unscientific in opposing embryonic stem cell research. The scientists who want to destroy young humans for scientific experiments are the ones who hide their ideology under a veneer of false science. But the veneer peels off easily and the truth is exposed. Just examine any of the major embryology texts now in use in American medicine. What you will find is the teaching that a new human individual exists from the earliest embryonic stage forward. That individual is a complete, though, of course, developmentally immature, member of the human species, whose life — whether it lasts a minute or a hundred years — is a human life.

The humanity of the human fertilized ovum and human embryo is scientifically established. The science of researchers who would tear apart little humans for problem avoidance, exploitation or profit is questionable. Perhaps also the humanity of these researchers.

### Sister Stephana Marbach's mother dies

SAN ANTONIO—Erna Schumann Marbach, the mother of Sister Stephana Marbach, IWBS, died peacefully on October 15, 2006. She was born to Albert Schumann and Margaretha Hesser Schumann in Converse, Texas, Oct. 20, 1917. She would have celebrated her 89th birthday on Oct. 20, 2006.

Erna was a devoted wife and mother and a member of the Sts. Peter and Paul Catholic Church in New Braunfels, the St. Ann's Christian Mothers Society of Selma and the VFW Ladies Auxiliary.

She married Udo Stephen Marbach on June 1, 1939, in Selma, Texas. Mr. Marbach preceded her in death.

She was also preceded in death by her daughter Diana Marie Ciomperlik, a son Anthony Marbach, brothers Arlon, Alfred and Marvin Schumann, sisters Hedwig Friesenhahn and Dora Klar.

Mrs. Marbach is survived by daughters: Sister M. Stephana Marbach, IWBS, of Selma, Texas, Joan Ciomperlik and her husband Ronald of Cibolo, Texas,



Erna Marbach

Georgine Marbach of Seguin, Texas; sons: Udo Simon Marbach Jr. and his wife Carole of New Braunfels, Texas, Dennis Marbach and his wife Kathy of New Braunfels, Patrick Marbach and his wife Suzie of Cibolo, Jerome Marbach and his wife Betty of Converse, Gerald Marbach and his wife Judy of Converse, Lawrence Marbach and his wife Pam of New Braunfels, Kenneth Marbach and his wife Debbie of New Braunfels, Clyde Marbach of Bracken, Texas; son-in-law Clarence Ciomperlik of St. Hedwig, Texas; sister, Imelda Friesenhahn of New Braunfels; 38 grandchildren and 21 great-grandchildren; and numerous nieces and nephews and other relatives.

A funeral Mass was celebrated Wednesday, October 18, 2006, at Sts. Peter and Paul Church. Entombment followed in the Holy Cross Mausoleum in San Antonio. Serving as pallbearers were her grandsons. Memorials may be made to the Sts. Peter and Paul Catholic Church Building Fund in New Braunfels.



Sticker Photo By Beth Wiseman

**KNIGHTS OF COLUMBUS DONATE TO ST. ROSE SCHOOL, SCHULENBURG**—Knights of Columbus Grand Knight Randy Mican (left) and KC member James Sommer present St. Rose Principal Rosanne Gallia with two checks to benefit St. Rose School. A "back-to-school" raffle raised \$19,500, which went to the bus fund, while a drive-through dinner raised \$3,000 to be used for roof repairs.





## 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 October 19, 2006

<b>TOTALS</b>	
— Knights of Columbus Victoria Council 1329	
Burse #3	
Previously reported	\$6,172.50
In memory of Clinton Klare by	
Imogene A. Klare	50.00
Total	\$6,222.50

— Catholic Daughters of America Court Our Lady Queen of Peace 1374 Burse

Previously reported	\$3,237.72
In memory of Joyce Kahanek by	
CDA Our Lady Queen of Peace	55.00
In memory of Evelyn Krpec by	
CDA Our Lady Queen of Peace	55.00
In memory of Carol Ann Koenig by	
CDA Our Lady Queen of Peace	55.00
In memory of Frances Luttringer by	
CDA Our Lady Queen of Peace	55.00
Total	\$3,457.72

— Rev. John C. Bily Burse

In honor of Rev. John C. Bily, pastor of	
St. Michael Church, Weimar by	
James and Barbara Janak	\$500.00
Total	\$500.00

— Louis and Edith Hickl Family Burse

Gift to the burse in loving memory of	
Mr. Louis Hickl Sr. by Edith M. Hickl	\$1,500.00
Total	\$1,500.00

— Rev. Roman M. Janak & Rev. Msgr. Hubertus J. Janak Burse

Previously reported	\$13,884.84
In memory of the Joe and Cecilia	
Fikac Family, Alvin Janak, August	
Fikac and Leon Klekar Sr. by the family	
members of Joe and Cecilia Fikac	50.00
Total	\$13,934.84

— Rev. Msgr. Michael O'Shaughnessy Burse

Previously reported	\$7,619.50
In honor of Rev. Msgr. Michael A.	
O'Shaughnessy's birthday	
celebration by Mary Dean Maresh	50.00
In memory of Ysabel Barron by	
M/M John J. Hertz	50.00
Total	\$7,719.50

— Rev. John C. Peters Burse No. 3

Previously reported	\$11,341.00
In memory of Daniel Pargac by	
Willie E. Barborak	10.00
In honor of Rev. John C. Peters'	
birthday celebration by:	
Angela Hermes	20.00
Alice Bludau and family	10.00
Dennis & Sheila Jansky and family	25.00
Jerry & Margaret Kallus	20.00
Jimmy & Peter Mikulenka	50.00
Total	\$11,476.00

— Josephat R. Janak Burse

Previously reported	\$14,598.77
In memory of Joe R. Janak by	
Rose Marie Janak & family	25.00
In memory of Irene A. McMurray by	
Margaret Kutac	10.00
Total	\$14,633.77

— Rev. Theophil Okruhlik & Rev. Vincent Verdarama Burse

Previously reported	\$7,225.00
In memory of Aline Reitz by	
M/M Anton Schoener	15.00
Total	\$7,240.00

**Additional Burses for donations:**

- Nicholas and Annie Grahmann Burse No. 2
- Bishop David E. Fellhauer/Catholic Life Insurance Nada, Moulton, Hallettsville, Edna-Ganado & El Campo Branches Burse No. 2
- St. John the Baptist Church, St. John Burse No. 2 — In Honor of Rev. Brian Crookes
- Rev. Jerome J. Stryk
- Rev. Msgr. Julius Petru Burse No. 2
- Rev. Joe Levy
- Rev. Marcus Valenta
- Rev. Godfrey F. Kuratko
- Rev. Msgr. John Hanacek
- Catholic Family Fraternal of Texas KJZT Burse No. 5
- Sophie Schmidt
- Rev. Sean Donohue Burse No. 2
- Rev. Msgr. Robert Schmidt
- Rev. Msgr. Vaclav Bily
- St. Mary Church — Praha
- St. Mary Church — High Hill
- Holy Rosary Church — Hostyn Burse No. 2
- Rev. Charles Kram
- Eddie & Olga Jurosek and Floran & Laura Frnka
- William L. Schmidt
- William and Herman Grahmann Sr.
- Deceased Priests of Praha
- Sr. M. Perpetua Hawes, IWBS
- Jim Vacek Burse No. 2
- Knights of Columbus Council 3204 — Ganado Rev. Joseph Hybner
- Rev. Msgr. Benton Thurmond
- Mrs. Elorine Tumlinson
- Sr. M. Barbara Konvicka, IWBS
- Catholic Daughters of the Americas Court St. Ann No. 369 Burse No. 2

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



**DEACONS' ANNUAL RETREAT HELD**—The diocesan Annual Deacons' Retreat was held at the Spiritual Renewal Center on Sept. 29 to Oct. 1, 2006. The retreat master was Father Robert B. Fisher, SVD, parochial vicar at St. Philip the Apostle Parish in El Campo. The theme of the retreat was "How Judgment and Sin Came." Above are the deacons and their wives who were able to attend the retreat. Father Robert Fisher is in the center of the back row. The Diocese of Victoria now has 29 deacons.

### Chicago priest calls for priests with 'wisdom and intelligence'

SCHAUMBURG, Ill. (CNS) — The church needs priests with "wisdom and intelligence" to preach the faith effectively amid the challenges of today's culture, Father Louis Cameli told the National Catholic Educational Association's annual seminary convocation in Schaumburg, a Chicago suburb. Father Cameli, a pastor in Norridge and former Chicago archdiocesan director of ongoing formation for priests, suggested that the two main models of priesthood often discussed in U.S. church circles over the past four decades have not put enough emphasis on the intellectual demands of the priesthood. "It seems that the intel-

lectual capacity of priests is of lesser importance than it was in years past," he said. "It also seems that the exercise of intellect in the course of ministry is not so prominent as it might have been previously." Father Cameli received the NCEA's John Paul II Seminary Leadership Award during the convocation. He was chief editor of the fifth edition of the U.S. bishops' Program of Priestly Formation, which was published this summer after receiving Vatican approval, and of the National Plan for the Ongoing Formation of Priests adopted by the U.S. bishops in 2000.

### Safe Environment Renewal Training reminder

The end of the year is fast approaching! ALL individuals who took the original Safe Environment classes in 2003 should have taken a renewal course. If they have not taken the renewal course, they must do so before December 1, 2006, in order to continue their ministry/employment within the diocese. Individuals who are in need of a renewal session are encouraged to contact their local parish or school.

Individuals who took the original classes in 2004 will be renewed in 2007. We are unable to begin the renewal process until the Office of Child and Youth Protection returns from audit workshops in January of 2007, at which time, we will be informed of changes that will need to be implemented.

For more information please contact Melissa at the Office of Child and Youth Protection at the Victoria Diocese Chancery Office: (361) 573-0828, ext 49.

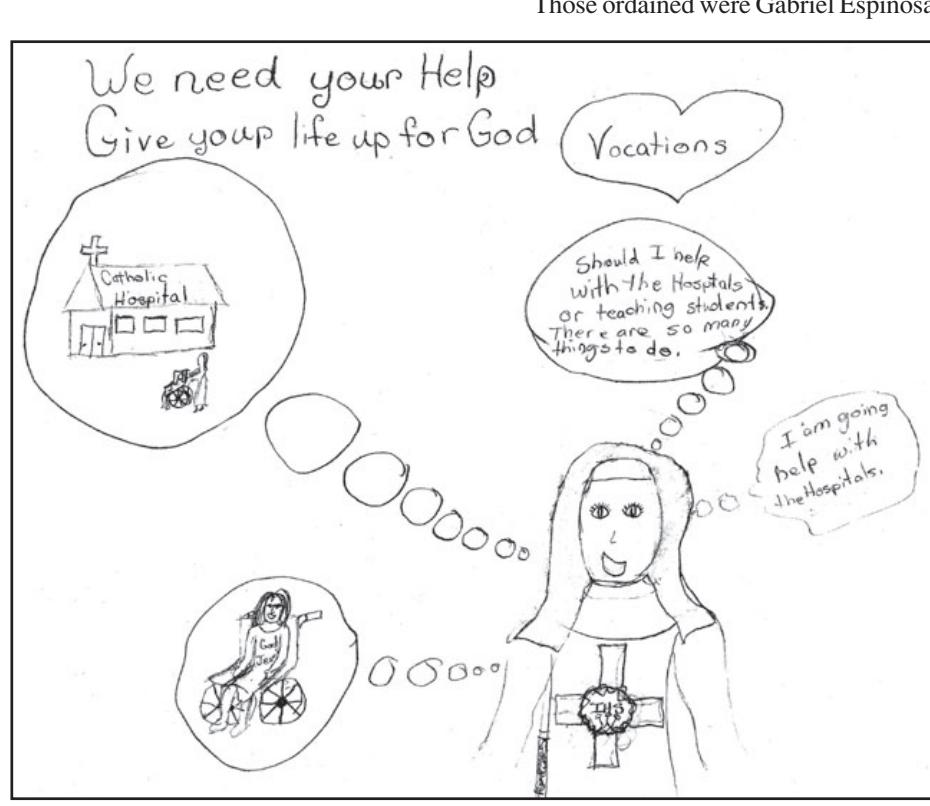
### Reporting Abuse

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.



**Vocation Art**

Artwork by Marianne Herndon • 6th Grade • Sacred Heart School, Hallettsville

**Consider the Religious Life!**

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



## Twenty Something

By Christina Capecci



### Wedding bliss, marriage blues: The state of the union

In the film "The Last Kiss," Zach Braff tells his pregnant girlfriend he'll marry her when she can name three couples whose marriages have lasted five years.

She gets stuck at her parents and a pair of ducks at the park. And after a few more scenes, she's down to the ducks.

Pretty bleak.

It made me wonder: Is that really how young adults feel about tying the knot?

Statistically, Americans are shying away from the altar. Marriage rates fell nearly 50 percent from 1970 to 2004. The number of Catholic marriages also has plummeted.

Researchers for the National Marriage Project cite multiple reasons: the increase in cohabitation, the delay of first marriages until older ages and the growth of adults having children outside marriage.

Culturally, a number of factors are taking a toll on marriage — and inhibiting single adults.

For starters, there are fewer examples of strong marriages. Many young adults have witnessed the bitter divorce of parents or friends, and they're a bit gun shy.

Meanwhile, celebrities are making a mockery of marriage. Britney Spears' first marriage lasted 55 hours. Renee Zellweger and Kenny Chesney's endured four whole months. Apparently they waited 'til after their beachside ceremony to raise trivial questions like: "By the way, do you want kids?"

Some stars don't even pretend to honor marriage. In 2004, Brad Pitt told *Vanity Fair*: "Jen and I always made a pact that we'll see where this thing is going. I'm not sure it really is in our nature to be with someone for the rest of our lives just because you made this pact."

"Til death do us part," it seems, has become "til difference do us part." And "for better or worse" now implies "until someone better comes along."

Being married is no longer a societal ideal. Look at some of the nation's most powerful women — Condoleezza Rice, Oprah Winfrey, Martha Stewart. None are married.

An obsession with weddings, fueled by reality TV and evidenced by a proliferation of bridal magazines, isn't helping marriage. Analysts say the average cost of

## Diocesan Directory

The Office of *The Catholic Lighthouse* has just completed a new directory for the Diocese of Victoria.

This directory is in a new format; it is now in a three-ring binder. The binder format will allow us to provide updates to the directory on a timelier basis. We will no longer print a new directory each year or even every other year. This directory will serve you for many years.

Corrections received from parishes and organizations will be placed on the diocesan Web site. These changes will be made regularly, so please check the site often.

The directories are available at the chancery office at \$15 each (\$5 extra for shipping).

a wedding in 2006 is \$26,000.

Deciding how to spend all those dollars doesn't leave much time for contemplating the partnership that will follow the Big Day. And the debt that weddings thrust many newlyweds into doesn't exactly breed harmony.

More than ever before, we're living in a culture of instant gratification. Technology is fast; attention spans are short. Americans love having options, and that's exactly what the 21st century delivers. Google grants 178 million entries on marriage in less than two-tenths of a second.

If you don't like what you've got — a purse, a nose or a spouse — if it fades or wrinkles or disappoints, you can always take it back.

There's good news, though. Catholic young adults are earnest and discerning. This marriage crisis has given us pause, prompting us to really think it through.

Twenty years ago, many singles began sentences with the casual assumption, "When I get married ..." Today, I hear many saying, "If I get married ..."

With that attitude, the marriage rate may continue to drop. But so will the divorce rate.

Today's young adults are acutely aware of the effort that marriage requires. And we're willing to work.

My friend Wendy and her fiancé Clint care so much about their marriage that they received extra counseling from their priest.

When I watched them exchange vows last week, I was overcome. They may be young and poor and nervous, but they are best friends and they believe.

Sheer love, earnest hope and deep faith — these three things remain.

— Christina Capecci is a graduate student at Northwestern University in Evanston, Ill.

### New Christian Web radio comes from France

PARIS—Volunteers from different denominations, Catholics and Protestants, in France and from other countries, have launched a French/English 24/7 radio Web site accessible from anywhere in the world playing Christian music and presenting Christian events in France. The purpose of Radio Gospel is to encourage Christian unity and the revival of the Christian faith in France where only four and one half percent regularly go to a church (any church!) on Sundays.

God willing, and with ongoing financial support so that the station can hire a small staff, its target is to receive 1.5 million "hits" each month by January, 2007. In only a few months the purpose is being fulfilled! Thousands of people are listening and being stirred towards Christ through the Internet by listening to Radio Gospel.

Please join your French Catholic and Protestant brothers and sisters in Christ and listen to Radio Gospel. Please pray for the success of this ministry to touch more and more hearts for Christ in France.

Zap over to [www.RadioGospel.fr](http://www.RadioGospel.fr) and listen to some great music as if you were in Paris. Tell your friends!



Modeled above are Christian t-shirts and caps by Lionheart Apparel. Former Apprentice 5 contestant Tarek Saab designs the new line of men's Christian clothing and donates 10 percent of all profits to pro-life charities.

### 'Apprentice' contestant fired up about Christian apparel

DALLAS/Christian Newswire/ — Former Apprentice 5 contestant Tarek Saab is causing quite a stir with Lionheart Apparel, his new line of men's Christian clothing. Saab and business partner, David Colletti Jr., both Christians, produce designs that are "subtle, symbolic, and stylish."

Lionheart Apparel offers a variety of hats and T-shirts displaying Christian symbols, some of which are common, like the fish, while others are less common. Additionally, the T-shirts have short scriptural phrases.

"We don't think wearing a Christian T-Shirt makes a man any more Christian. We simply want to encourage men to identify with their Christian beliefs through what they wear. There is something more inherently meaningful in a Lionheart Apparel product than in something from a sports team or rock group," says Saab.

However, several people have challenged the company's public affiliation with the pro-life movement. Lionheart Apparel donates a portion of its profits to two charities — Human Life International and Dallas-based Catholic Pro-Life Committee.

One Christian consumer was turned off

### Pro-Life Students in Missouri Take Action

On November 7, 2006, Missourians will vote on the controversial Amendment 2 which will legalize embryonic stem cell research and human cloning in the Missouri constitution. Pro-life students are taking action.

Pro-life students are organizing to fight the deceptive language within the Missouri Research and Cures Initiative, Amendment 2. Students see the Amendment as both confusing and misleading because while Amendment 2 claims to ban human cloning, it actually provides for it.

Students in Missouri have discovered that Amendment 2 will use taxpayer dollars to fund this controversial research and are taking action. Mizzou Students for Life at the University of Missouri, Columbia, has been holding events aimed at educating the student body on the Amendment. They are planning an event (Oct. 31) to activate hundreds of pro-life students. "Our goal is not only to educate students on the issue but to help facilitate a course of action for individuals to take in helping to inform others and defeat the deceptive

because he felt he could not in good conscience support a pro-life charity.

Colletti responds, "It's about being proud of your faith and setting an example for other men, regardless of what other people think. Men have a duty to defend innocent life at all ages. This is why we have chosen to donate 10 percent of all profits to pro-life charities."

Saab agrees, "Our commitment to the Pro-Life Movement is an indicator that we are an action-oriented company that stands for what is right."

Despite the criticism, the company has benefited from strong word-of-mouth, particularly within the college crowd. The company's Web site received over a quarter of a million hits during the final two weeks of August. Additionally, the company has secured three retailers to date.

"This is just the beginning of a wide reaching initiative, and we are seeing the fruits of our labor on a national scale," says Saab.

Colletti adds, "The men who wear Lionheart Apparel are saying to the world 'I'm more than just a man. I'm a Christian man.' In light of the secular nature of our society, that's a bold statement."

Amendment. We want all students and our community to understand the full impact of Amendment 2 and why it is so important to fully understand," Meagan Rippee, President of Mizzou Students for Life said.

Pro-life students also want to emphasize that they are not against finding cures from stem cell research. Instead, pro-life students support adult stem cell research. Part of the opposition of embryonic stem cell research is that cures would be found through human cloning. Additionally, embryonic stem cells have not been used successfully for human therapies whereas therapies using adult stem cells are having increasing success.

*Students for Life of America* is a non-profit organization dedicated to equipping the pro-life generation with the resources they need to end abortion in America. There are 3500 colleges and universities nation-wide and there are currently 200 pro-life groups. For more information on the SFLA and their historic college recruitment program visit [www.studentsforlife.org](http://www.studentsforlife.org).



## Spirituality for Today

By Father John Catoir  
Catholic News Service



### Dangerous detachment from moral and religious values

Our two most recent popes have spoken out on the nature of evil.

Pope John Paul II once reflected on the 20th century's impact on human history. He concluded that modern society still acts as if it can determine good and evil without any reference to God. Pope Benedict XVI said the same thing, applying it to the Islamic jihadists who in the name of religion justify merciless killing.

The two popes are in perfect agreement that God's will must be honored if we are to live in peace and joy.

Pope John Paul II said, "If man can decide alone, without God, what is good and what is evil, then he can also decide to exterminate a whole category of human beings." He was referring to abortion and mercy killing.

Pope Benedict XVI condemned both the secularism of the West and the irrational behavior of radical Muslims, saying, "Violence in the name of religion is contrary to God's nature and contrary to reason." Benedict wants a return to reason in order to have a basis for "the genuine dialogue of cultures and religions so urgently needed today."

John Paul II condemned the communist revolution, the rise of Nazism and the installation of the Soviet regime, all of which led to the deaths of over 100 million people. He viewed the 20th century as a stage upon which the forces of good and evil engaged in sharp combat.

Though he felt the forces of good triumphed in World War II, John Paul II was concerned that we have not yet learned our lesson — namely, that when God's will is disregarded, a culture of death and joylessness begins to take root. The pope noted that Hitler, departing from God's will, got his lawmakers to open the way to aggression against other European countries, to create concentration camps and to introduce the so-called "final solution" to eradicate the Jewish race. It was all done legally, but it was totally immoral.

Totalitarian regimes always proclaim that the end justifies the means. They believe in doing whatever it takes, even killing the innocent, to accomplish their goals.

Pope John Paul warned against this dangerous detachment from moral and religious values: "The most immediate

association of ideas that comes to mind are the laws on abortion. The parliaments that create and promulgate such laws should be aware that they are abusing their powers, remaining in open conflict with the law of God and the law of nature. This new type of totalitarianism has taken aim at basic human values by promoting moral permissiveness, abortion, euthanasia, genetic manipulations, contraception and

divorce."

In September, Pope Benedict condemned both the secularism of the West and the violence of Muslim jihadists in his speech at Regensburg University in Germany. The Muslims protested wildly while the secularist West yawned, a clear sign of their total indifference to religious values.

Pope Benedict condemned all the violence done in the name of religion. He also chided those democratic nations who depart from the will of God, killing innocent human beings at will and doing it under legal authority.

(*Most of the above was taken from my new book, "Joy, the Spirit's Gigantic Secret Behind the Church's Survival," in a chapter titled "Evil the Enemy of Joy." To obtain a copy (\$15 postpaid) write to me at Box 745, Chester, NJ 07930.*)

### National Meeting of Liturgists held in Omaha

OMAHA, NEB.—The National Meeting of Diocesan Liturgical Commissions drew 165 delegates from 97 dioceses at its annual meeting, which was held in Omaha, Nebraska, October 10-13, 2006.

The meeting, jointly sponsored by the Federation of Diocesan Liturgical Commissions (FDLC) and the Bishops' Committee on the Liturgy (BCL), focused its theme on *Music and the Art of Celebration*.

The meeting presentation were offered by Rev. Anthony Ruff, OSB, of St. John's Abbey and St. John's University in Collegeville, Minnesota; Dr. Marie Rubis Bauer, the director of Cathedral Music Ministries and organist at the Cathedral of Saint Cecilia in the Archdiocese of Omaha; and Dr. J. Michael McMahon, the president of the National Association of Pastoral Musicians. The text of these presentations will be posted to the FDLC website ([www.fdlc.org](http://www.fdlc.org)) by November 1, 2006.

Business sessions included the presentations of reports from the Bishops' Committee on the Liturgy offered by its chair, Most Reverend Donald Trautman, Bishop of Erie, and from the Federation's chair of the board of directors, Rev. Msgr. John Burton.

In the course of the meeting the federation presented its annual Frederick R. McManus Award for pastoral liturgy to Dr. Nathan D. Mitchell, professional specialist in the University of Notre Dame Department of Theology and concurrent associate director for the Notre Dame Center for Liturgy.

During the meeting the diocesan delegates passed seven position statements that had been formulated during FDLC

regional meetings earlier this year and one executive committee resolution. Five of the seven position statements deal with ministerial formation, one with translation of liturgical texts, and the other with education in the utilization of technology in liturgical catechesis. The resolution focused on the revision of *Music in Catholic Worship*.

Representing the Diocese of Victoria was Cynthia Goerig, director of the Liturgical Commission.

### Question Corner

By Father John Dietzen  
Catholic News Service

*Q. My first marriage was annulled in the 1980s. Since then I have moved and misplaced the papers, which I need. What is the procedure for requesting a copy? (Ohio)*

*A. You may call or write to the diocesan tribunal which processed your case. They will have your records and will send a copy. If you don't know the necessary addresses and phone numbers, your pastor or parish staff will help.*

*(A free brochure in English or Spanish outlining marriage regulations in the Catholic Church and explaining promises in a mixed marriage is available by sending a stamped, self-addressed envelope to Father John Dietzen, Box 5515, Peoria, IL 61612.*

*(Questions may be sent to Father Dietzen at the same address, or e-mail: [jjdietzen@aol.com](mailto:jjdietzen@aol.com).)*

### Bishop outlines reasons Catholic politicians may be refused Communion

PHOENIX (CNS) — Catholic politicians who publicly support abortion, euthanasia and same-sex marriage "jeopardize their own spiritual well-being" and should not receive Communion, Bishop Thomas J. Olmsted of Phoenix says in a new booklet. Called "Catholics in the Public Square," the 45-page booklet includes 29 questions and answers about the separation of church and state, anti-Catholic discrimination and Catholic participation in public life. Published in English and Spanish by Basilica Press, it is intended as the first in a "Shepherd's Voice" series. Bishop Olmsted said there are some issues on which Catholics may disagree with the hierarchy such as the just-war theory or capital punishment. "Despite these examples there are other issues, such as abortion and euthanasia, that are always wrong and do not allow for the correct use of prudential judgment to justify them," he wrote. "It would never be proper for Catholics to be on the opposite side of these issues."

### NCEA head says teaching is a vocation that requires constant renewal

OMAHA, Neb. (CNS) — Teaching is a vocation that requires constant renewal of mind, heart and spirit, the National Catholic Educational Association president told educators in a keynote speech Oct. 13 at the 2006 fall conference of the Catholic schools of the Archdiocese of Omaha. Held at Creighton Prep High School, the conference drew 1,300 administrators and teachers. "Work hard and when your soul hears the chiming of the hours, be mindful of the great work of your co-workers, love the good God and you will have the grace of great things," Karen Ristau told the gathering. She touched on Pope Benedict XVI's first encyclical, "Deus Caritas Est" ("God Is Love"). The pope "explains he chose the topic of God is love because that message is at the heart of our faith. It touches everything we are and everything we do. Being a Christian, he says, is the result of our astonishing encounter with God, who loved us first," she said. She said the mission of the NCEA should inspire each educator "to advance the general interests of Catholic education, to encourage the spirit of cooperation and mutual helpfulness among Catholic educators, to promote by study, conference and discussion the thoroughness of Catholic educational work in the United States."

## 45th annual Southwest Liturgical Conference Study Week January 17-20, 2007

Be a part of the Study Week as we listen to and dialogue with scholars, colleagues and coworkers in liturgy and catechesis about the meaning of **SUNDAY, THE DAY OF THE LORD**, and what it means to "Keep Holy the Lord's Day."

The major speakers include the Rev. Paul Holmes, Rev. J. Michael Joncas, Rev. Kevin Irwin, Mrs. Pat Kerwin and Mr. Bill Huebsch.

The Study Week will take place in revitalized downtown Oklahoma City. All

sessions will be held in the Cox Business Services Convention Center adjacent to the Renaissance, Sheraton and the Courtyard by Marriott hotels.

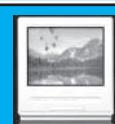
Registration brochures are available now in the chancery. Application forms for scholarships are available on a first come first serve basis. For more information or to request a scholarship form and brochure, contact Cynthia Goerig at (979) 543-5706. You may also visit [www.swlc.org](http://www.swlc.org).

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

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



## Diocese of Victoria Library & Media Center



### Book of the Month

**Saints for Our Time** This engaging book presents the saints as real people who experienced many of the same problems, hopes, fears, and dreams as all of us do. These stories offer an anchor for a sound Christian lifestyle in our spiritually-challenging times. This book also contains a lists of saints as they appear in the liturgical calendar.

### Other Books

- *The Saints Humanly Speaking* by Felicitas Corrigan, O.S.B.
- *The Autobiography of St. Teresa of Avila* translated by Kieran Kavanaugh, O.C.D.
- *Edith Stein: Life in a Jewish Family* translated by Josephine Koepell, O.C.D.
- *Encyclopedia of Saints* – Revised by Matthew Bunson

### Video of the Month

**Entertaining Angels – The Dorothy Day Story** Dorothy Day lived a very hard life. She made mistakes and endured the consequences. Yet, the unquenchable fire that burned within her could not be contained – Dorothy wanted to make a difference. Popular stars and important themes combine in this compelling true story of the "American Mother Teresa."

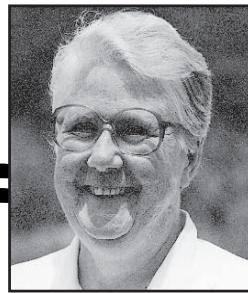
### Other Videos

- *Thérèse – Living on Love*
- *A Man for all Seasons*
- *St. Martin de Porres*
- *All Saint's Day*
- *The Hiding Place: Corrie ten Boom*
- *Squanto and the First Thanksgiving*

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



## Sisterly Thoughts



By Sister Mildred Truchard, IWBS

### Getting into the Spirit of Autumn!

**A**utumn is my favorite season of the year – with its completion of the harvest season, its cooler weather, its pleasant outdoor mornings and evenings, and its spectacular display of rich, vibrant colors. Even more significant is the fact that this cyclical seasonal phenomenon is paralleled by celebrations that highlight the autumnal aspects of our lives, encouraging us to slow down and disengage ourselves from the frenzied pace of activities which many of us succumb to in order to gratify ourselves, impress others, or seek what is not truly life-giving. Rather slower-paced autumn living can encourage the display of our inner virtue which deserves to be manifested.

This spirit of displaying the colorful aspects of the inner fruits of daily living is emphasized by the celebration of All Saints' and All Souls' Days. On All Saints' Day, we rejoiced with all those who have gone before us and are enjoying the rewards of having lived a life of faithful adherence to their God and their Church. Some of them have been officially named as saints; but we know that there are many, many more unlisted ones whom we celebrate. All of us know of persons who have worshipped God and served their neighbor in our midst and are certainly in God's presence for all eternity. The prayers and observance of All Souls' Day gives hope to all of us. We know that future members of the Church will be praying for us if we're not quite ready for



Heaven when we face our final earthly sunset; moreover, it's reassuring for us to know that if we have striven to live a faith-filled life and have accepted the graces afforded us through the Church, but may have goofed up a bit, we'll have the opportunity to get dusted off and spruced up so that we'll eventually pass Heaven's entrance requirements and become among those that are honored on All Saints' Day.

Also, as autumn people, we are grateful for the fruits of hands and hearts and grace that we have been receiving throughout the year. With our nation which has been founded on God-fearing principles, we, through prayer and family gatherings at Thanksgiving, show our appreciation for the blessings that have been bestowed upon us. May our Thanksgiving Holiday be a time of virtuous living, grateful remembering, and generous sharing of our blessings.

Happy Thanksgiving, fellow saints in the making.



**The Chancery Office will be closed for the Thanksgiving Holiday. November 23 and 24.**

**Have a Blessed Holiday with family and friends.**

**OUR LADY OF LOURDES ANNUAL FALL FESTIVAL**  
*Featuring our Traditional Turkey and Dressing Dinner*  
**Sunday, Nov. 12, 2006**

**Victoria Community Center**  
Serving from 11:00 a.m. - 1:30 p.m.  
Adults \$7.00-Children (12 & under) \$3.00  
Plates to go \$7.00  
Drive Up Outside or Pick-up Inside

**Auction**  
Begins at 1:00 p.m.

**Silent Auction 10:00 a.m. to 3 p.m.**

Quilts \* Antiques \* Crafts \* Collectibles  
Country Store/Arts & Crafts  
Booths Open at 10:00 a.m.  
Live Music in Dining Area

**Festival Ticket-Giveaway**  
Cake Walk - Kolaches  
B-B-Q Sandwiches \* Nachos  
Soft Drinks \* Games for Children



## Knights of Columbus hold Soccer Challenge

Five boys and five girls from Victoria and East Bernard were named Diocesan Champions of the 2006 Knights of Columbus Soccer Challenge and have earned the right to compete at the state level. State competition will be held at St. Matthew's soccer fields in San Antonio on Saturday, Nov. 18, 2006.

Each participant had 25 kicks at a soccer ball from the penalty line to the goal, 12 yards from the goal. The goal was divided into 5 sections:

top corners worth 20 points, bottom corners worth 10 points and the center was worth 5 points. All 25 kicks were added for a total score.

Brandy Babin, East Bernard, was the 10-year-old girls' champion and Nathan Tovar, East Bernard, was the winner of the 10-year-old boys' division.

In the 11-year-old bracket, Nicole Sontheimer, Victoria, was the girls' champion and Lane Brown, Victoria, was the boys' champion.

The 12-year-old girls' winner was Bryana Frazer, Victoria. No 12-year-old boy competed.

The 13-year-old girls' division was



Diocesan Soccer Challenge 2006 winners will attend the Knights of Columbus state tournament in San Antonio.

Eleven-year-old girl's second place went to Laura Gorham of East Bernard.

The 13-year-old girl's second and third finishers were Shannon Danesi and Keirra Brown, both of Victoria.

The 2006 Knights of Columbus Soccer Challenge was supervised by Assistant Diocesan Deputy Robert Stryk and assisted by District Deputy, 153, Bob Leach. Also assisting were Billy Macha and Jeremy Martin of Council 1329 in Victoria and Chris Bludau of Council 908 from Holy Family Catholic Church, Victoria. Lisa Kristynik of Holy Family, Victoria, completed certificates for all fourteen participants.

The Knights of Columbus wish to thank the Victoria Youth Soccer Organization (VYSO) for the use of their field for this competition.

## Brother seminarians celebrate 25th anniversary of priesthood

*Continued from p. 1*

Victoria as a surprise gift to their pastor.

The communities of Holy Cross and San Luis in Yorktown celebrated Father Donald's anniversary with both a relaxing barbecue and funny skits performed by different parish groups at the community center and a formal evening dinner at Holy Cross' activity center that included

a slide presentation of pictures from throughout Father Donald's life. Attending were two brothers, a sister and a sister in-law, as well as many family friends.

Both Father Victor and Father Donald attended seminary at Holy Trinity Monastery outside of Baltimore in Pikesville, Maryland, and were ordained there together on Oct. 9, 1981.

Father Victor has two brothers and a sister and his father is deceased. He was raised in West New York, New Jersey, and joined the seminary in 1973. He had resided at Our Lady of Sorrows since 1993 and had been the parish's beloved pastor since 1998. He was elected to a three-year term as Provincial Minister of the Order of the Most Holy Trinity at the provincial chapter October 24, 2006, and will now reside in Pikesville.

Father Donald comes from a large family, having two sisters and eight brothers. He grew up in Sayville on Long Island, New York, and joined the seminary in 1976.

Congratulations to Father Victor and Father Donald and to the Order of the Most Holy Trinity.

### Want to be a HERO for a child? Volunteer Today!

You can help abused and neglected children find safe, permanent homes where they can thrive and succeed in life. As a CASA volunteer, your efforts will show these children that you care. Become a powerful voice in a child's life by volunteering to speak up for a child in court.

CASA (Court Appointed Volunteer Advocate) trains volunteers from all walks of life, ages and ethnic groups to act as a voice in court for abused and neglected children.

Please call for details: Golden Crescent CASA (361) 573-3734

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## Catholic Daughters hold state retreat

By Henriette Jalowy  
State Public Relations Chairman

All five State officers of the Catholic Daughters of the Americas hosted a state retreat at San Angelo Diocese Christ the King Retreat Center September 22-24. The state officers are State Regent Olga Samaneigo of El Paso, First Vice State Regent Carolyn Bachman of Scotland, Second Vice State Regent Sheila Martinka of Pasadena, State Secretary Carolyn Malik of Shiner, and State Treasurer Peggy Rosales of Austin.

Retreat Master for the journey was Rev. Chuck Gunti. He is a member of San Jose Mission Friar community in San Antonio. Rev. Gunti has been a friar for 46 years and a priest for 38. As a chaplain in the U.S. Army, he took care of the religious needs of soldiers and their families at posts in the U.S., Germany and Korea.

The theme for the retreat was the Holy Eucharist—the Mass, the action of Christ in the Mass defined by behaviors and attitudes. Father Gunti made several important points about the Mass. He said, “The sacrifice of the Mass is not repeated. It is continued forever as we offer ourselves to obedience in our relationship to Christ in the Eucharist.”

Additionally, Father Gunti stated, “The Mass is a social event. It is the public worship of God. It is not a private devo-

tion with him. Christ preached in public. His death was a public act. The Mass is what God has and is doing for us. This is signified in the four parts of the Mass: the



Rev. Chuck Gunti, a friar from San Antonio, was the retreat master at the state retreat of the Catholic Daughters of the Americas in San Angelo, September 22-24. He stands with Olga Samaneigo of El Paso, state regent of the Catholic Daughters of the Americas.

entrance, the Liturgy of the Word, the Liturgy of the Eucharist, and the exit, meaning the commission to take Christ as revealed to us into the community.”

Father Gunti quoted excerpts from the first encyclical of Pope Benedict XVI titled “God is Love,” and numerous writings by St. Augustine. He also said, humorously, “I will plop my worries on the altar,” and he added that his focus would be, “I will practice the living Word,” and advised us to, “Do what you’re told.”

He closed the retreat by emphasizing that we should have both a vertical and a horizontal prayer life.

The Bishop’s aide and the local 4th Degree Knights of Columbus served at the farewell Mass Sunday.

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## Catholic organizations gearing up to help Holy Land Christians with Advent sales

*Continued from p. 1*

sist the Christians in the Holy Land.

Because so few tourists are visiting the Holy Land, the Christian artisans are suffering from a lack of sales of their olive wood carvings, thus adding to the 65 percent unemployment rate of Palestinians. The following local churches are thus bringing the Holy Land Gifts to those unable to travel to the Holy Land.

Parishes participating in the gift sales are St. Anthony, Columbus; St. Michael, Weimar; Sts. Cyril & Methodius, Shiner; Our Lady of Mt. Carmel, Wharton; Holy Cross, Bay City; Sacred Heart, Wadsworth; St. Rose of Lima, Schulenburg; Sacred Heart, Flatonia; St. John the Baptist, Sweet Home (Koerth); Sts. Cyril & Methodius, Cistern; St. Mary, Praha; Sts. Peter & Paul, Meyersville; St. Joseph, Yoakum; Queen of the Holy Rosary, Hostyn; Sts. Peter and Paul, Plum; Holy Cross and San Luis in Yorktown; Sacred

Heart, Hallettsville; St. Agnes, Edna; Holy Family, Wharton; Assumption, Ganado; Immaculate Conception, Goliad, Sts. Peter & Paul, Frelsburg; Holy Cross, East Bernard; St. Robert Bellarmine, El Campo; Our Lady of Victory, Our Lady of Lourdes, Our Lady of Sorrows and St. Mary, Victoria; St. Joseph in Boling; St. Theresa, La Salle; St. Roch in Mentz, as well as downtown sales at De Leon Plaza Market Days the third Saturday of Nov. and Dec.

A big thank you also goes to all the priests who agreed to hold sales in their parish (many more priests offered to help; however, a parish organization wasn’t available to sell at the time).

The purchase of Holy Land gifts helps to support 800 Christian families in the Bethlehem region who depend on tourism and the sales of such crafts for their daily living. To further help the Christians in the Holy Land, please consider sponsoring the education of a Christian child through the HCEF’s Child Sponsorship program, or making a donation to support housing renovation and employment projects, or Jesus Loves the Children Christmas program. More information can be found at [www.hcef.org](http://www.hcef.org) or by calling Cindy Brewer at (361) 573-0828, ext. 31.

The Christian population in the Holy Land (Jordan, Israel and the Occupied Territories) has declined from 18 – 23 percent to less than 2 percent since the establishment of the Israeli state in 1948.



*The Equestrian Order of the Holy Sepulchre of Jerusalem celebrated the promotion and investiture of members at their annual meeting and investiture Sept. 29-Oct. 2, in Austin. Thirteen of about 50 Victoria Diocese members of EOHSJ attended the annual meeting (top). Lady Gussie M. Pittman, LGCHS, Sir Daniel Jalufka, KCHS, and Lady Martha Hamel, LGCHS (not pictured), all of Victoria, were promoted within the order (photo on left). The three new investees were Sir Thomas P. Vacek, KHS, and Lady Donna M. Vacek, LHS, of East Bernard, and Rev. Joseph M. Hybner, KHS, (r.) (pastor of Sacred Heart, Flatonia, and Sts. Cyril and Methodius in Cistern).*

## Three new members from diocese invested in EOHS

By Lady Joyce Morris, KC\*HS

AUSTIN—The Southwestern Lieutenancy of the Equestrian Order of the Holy Sepulchre of Jerusalem held its annual meeting and investiture in Austin, Texas, at the Austin Hilton Hotel, Sept. 29 – Oct. 2, 2006.

On Friday, Sept. 29, a Traveler’s Mass was said at the newly refinished Saint Mary Cathedral in downtown Austin. An orientation meeting was held Saturday morning for investees and members. In the afternoon the Memorial Mass, Promotion Ceremony and Vigil Service were held at San Jose Catholic Church in Austin. The principal celebrant and homilist was His Excellency, Most Reverend Gregory Aymond, KC\*HS, Bishop of Austin. Concelebrants were Most Reverend Eusebius Beltran, KC\*HS, Archbishop of Oklahoma City; Most Reverend Daniel N. DiNardo, KC\*HS, Grand Prior, Southwestern Lieutenancy, USA, and Archbishop of Galveston-Houston; Most Reverend Joseph A. Fiorenza, KC\*HS, Archbishop Emeritus of Galveston-Houston; Most Reverend Michael J. Sheehan, KC\*HS, Archbishop of Santa Fe, N.M.; and bishops, abbots and priests of the order, His Excellency Michael R. Earthman, KGCHS, Lieutenant, Southwestern Lieutenancy, USA, presided. John O’Neill, KHS, was the assisting deacon; altar servers were from St. Louis King of France Church, Austin. Also attending was Sir John W. Condon, KGCHS, chancellor.

During the Promotion Ceremony Lady Martha Hamel, Lady Grand Cross Holy Sepulchre (LGCHS), Lady Gussie M. Pittman, LGCHS, and Sir Daniel Jalufka, (KCHS) Knight Commander Holy Sepulchre were promoted from the Diocese of Victoria.

A reception and black-tie banquet was held in the hotel that evening. Following the banquet, adoration was held throughout the night until 8 a.m. On Sunday morning the Southwest Lieutenancy held its annual meeting and reports for members and investees.

The procession, Eucharistic celebration and Ceremony of Investiture of EOHSJ were held Sunday afternoon at the hotel. The principal celebrant and homilist was Archbishop Daniel N. DiNardo and concelebrants were the archbishops, bishops, abbots and priests of the order and Deacon John O’Neill, His Excellency

Michael R. Earthman, Lady Betsy W. Earthman, LGCHS, and Sir John Condon. Honored guests were His Excellency Anthony J. Capritto, KGCHS, and his wife, Lady Eileen Capritto, LGCHS.

From the Diocese of Victoria, the three new investees were Rev. Joseph M. Hybner, KHS, (pastor of Sacred Heart, Flatonia, and Sts. Cyril and Methodius in Cistern), Sir Thomas P. Vacek, KHS, and Lady Donna M. Vacek, LHS, of East Bernard.

The Masses and ceremonies were very beautiful and inspiring.

Some of the speakers included Brother David Carrol, FSC, PhD, KC\*HS. He is a member of the Brothers of Christian Schools. He gave a very informative presentation for new investees and members at the Saturday meeting. Msgr. Robert L. Stern, KC\*HS, Pontifical Mission for Palestine, president, spoke to the group at the Sunday morning general meeting. The speaker at the Sunday night formal banquet was Rev. David – Maria Jaeger, OFM, and KHS. He gave us some thoughts and information on some of the happenings in the Holy Land.

Attending from the Diocese of Victoria were Rev. John C. Peters, KCHS and pastor of Sacred Heart in Hallettsville; Rev. Donald R. Ruppert, KCHS and pastor at Holy Cross in East Bernard; Rev. Joseph Hybner, KHS; and 10 members of the diocese.

The EOHSJ relives, in a modern manner, the spirit and ideal of the Crusades, with the arms of faith, the apostolate and Christian Charity.

The fundamental purpose of the order is the preservation of the faith in the Holy Land. To this end, it must provide spiritual, moral and material support to the Christians who still live there.

It contributes to the maintenance of 44 parish schools of the Latin Patriarch of Jerusalem, which is attended by about 15,100 children of various faiths. It also contributes to the maintenance of the Patriarchal Seminary, (about 80 students) and the diocesan clergy, looks after dozens of dispensaries in the Holy Land and many other duties.

The ceremonies ended with a Traveler’s Mass on Monday morning. Next year’s annual meeting and investiture will be in Oklahoma City on Oct. 12 – 14, 2007.

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Archbishop Stanislaw Rylko, president of the Pontifical Council for Laity, speaks with Wenworth representative Malcolm Turnbull, at the Randwick Racecourse Oct. 5 outside Sydney, Australia. The racecourse was chosen as the location for the vigil and closing Mass for World Youth Day 2008 in Australia. Organizers expect that World Youth Day 2008 will be the largest gathering ever in Australia.

## Sydney racecourse to be site of closing Mass for World Youth Day 2008

By Dan McAloon

SYDNEY, Australia (CNS) — Royal Randwick Racecourse has been named as the venue for the overnight vigil and final Mass to be celebrated by Pope Benedict XVI at World Youth Day in July 2008.

Sydney Cardinal George Pell, chairman of the local organizing committee for World Youth Day, made the announcement Oct. 6 with Archbishop Stanislaw Rylko, president of the Pontifical Council for the Laity, who was in Sydney reviewing preparations for the event.

Cardinal Pell said the racecourse, located about three miles south of Sydney's central business district, offers the best combination of "space, uninterrupted sightlines and transport links."

He said he expected up to 300,000 pilgrims to walk to the site for the vigil with Pope Benedict XVI; those young people usually sleep under the stars. He said as many as 300,000 more are expected to

arrive the following morning for the pope's closing Mass.

Cardinal Pell said that 400,000 people can be accommodated within the 202-acre racecourse, while another 200,000 pilgrims in the adjacent Centennial Park will see the pope arrive and watch the final Mass live on big screens.

Archbishop Rylko said, "In Sydney we have wonderful facilities, a beautiful city and warm people."

He noted that it will be the fourth time the racecourse has hosted a papal Mass. Pope Paul VI celebrated Mass there during his 1970 visit, and Pope John Paul II celebrated Mass there during 1986 and 1995 visits.

Speaking on behalf of Australian Prime Minister John Howard, Malcolm Turnbull, a member of Parliament, announced that the Australian government had pledged \$20 million (US\$14.9 million) toward the costs of staging World Youth Day 2008.

*"Christ, who commanded prayer for the laborers in the harvest, has also personally called those laborers ... but usually he calls by means of us and our words."*

Pope John Paul II

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## YOUTH CALENDAR OF EVENTS

November 5—Youth Leadership Training

November 16—Theology on Tap - Tejas Café in Victoria - 6:45 p.m. - Topic: *Life After Death*; Speaker: Father Ty Bazar, pastor of St. Patrick, Bloomington

November 17-19—Region X Catholic Youth Conference in Laredo, Texas

November 30—December 3—National Conference for Catholic Youth Ministers — Las Vegas, Nevada

December 9—Bishop Fellhauer Christmas Dinner to benefit the multi-purpose building fund, Spiritual Renewal Center.

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

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

Debbie Vanelli at the Office of Youth Ministry

at (361) 573-0828 ext. 32 or e-mail at [dvanelli@victoriadiocese.org](mailto:dvanelli@victoriadiocese.org)

or JoAnn Martinez at ext. 50 or e-mail at [jmartinez@victoriadiocese.org](mailto:jmartinez@victoriadiocese.org)

Web site: [www.victoriadiocese.org/youthoffice](http://www.victoriadiocese.org/youthoffice)

### Bring It On!

By Matthew and Lupe Schaefer



### "Can You Hear Me Now?"

Selective hearing ... some of us have it some of the time; some of us have it all of the time. Everyone from the youngest to the oldest has it. The young seem to be especially good at using it and just about anyone who's ever been around young people (or is, or has been a young person) knows this to be true. A father asks his eight-year-old son to pick up the toys from the living room floor ... no response. A father asks his eight-year-old son if he wants to go out for ice cream ... the boy grabs the keys to the car and is willing to drive there himself! A mother asks her daughter to help start supper ... it appears to not have registered at all. A mother says she's thinking about going out to eat for supper ... the girl runs in from two rooms away, grabs the keys to the car and is willing to drive there herself!

We can safely assume that we in our day are not the sole owners of selective hearing. Chances are the apostles and others in Jesus' time had the same problem. There's also the possibility that it wasn't restricted merely to the youngsters. Perhaps that is part of the reason that Jesus used parables (stories) to get people's attention. Maybe he needed to make his point sound as interesting as possible or they might choose not to hear it at all. Stories have a way of grabbing our attention and whatever grabs our attention grabs us. Often times the most memorable lessons in scripture were obtained through the story-telling of Christ. We gain in much the same way today. If we find something interesting to listen to, then we're more likely to really hear the underlying message.

Check this out: Once upon a time there was a kind gentleman who had a most loving little five-year-old son. Each day they made sure to spend time together. They played hide-and-seek, threw balls in the backyard, read books and sometimes just talked. Their love for one another was immeasurable as father and son were best friends. Then one day when the little boy was playing by himself upstairs in his room and his father was out in the backyard, the unthinkable happened. The house caught on fire! Flames engulfed the entire house immediately. The man tried every entrance to go into the house to save his son, but it was impossible. The flames were moving quickly from the first floor to the second and the man knew his son was running out of time. Running around the house and placing himself beneath his son's window, the man yelled his son's name and the boy came to the widow.

"Jump!" the man yelled. Through the thickness of the smoke, the frightened little boy yelled back, "But I can't see you!" "I know," said the father calmly, but I can see you. Jump..."

Did they live happily ever after? You can decide for yourself. If you really listened, then maybe you got the lesson ... your heavenly Father will always be there to catch you when you're in trouble ... so don't be afraid to jump into his arms!

So let's work on doing away with selective hearing and truly listen.

*"Whoever who has ears ought to hear."* Matthew 13:9

### Shiner St. Paul High School honor roll

#### 9th Grade

#### High Honors

Justin Pesek

#### Honors

Derek Chunda, Jill McElroy, Bradon Pesek, Michael Pesek, Kyla Schacherl and Curtis Shields

#### 10th Grade

#### High Honors

Allie Hoerig, Hannah Kocian and Jessica Schwab

#### Honors

Rachel Dupler, Ashley Kloesel and Hannah Marcak

#### 11th Grade

#### High Honors

Thom Raabe and Maria Wenske

#### Honors

Sarah Azar, Jimmy Blackman, Beau Broussard, Kelsey Knesek, Kurt Knesek, Cheritan Matias, Shalane Matula, Stephen Novosad and Gregory Siegel

#### 12th Grade

#### High Honors

Zachary Beal, Brooke Broussard, Amy Coldey, Bryan Molina, Jamie Pilat, Jordan Schaefer and Cassy Tucker

#### Honors

Christina Iley, Joshua Ornelas, Brittany Pohler, Calli Schacherl and Nicole Schwab

Saint Peter wrote:

"Entrust all your worries to God, since he takes care of you."

— 1 Peter 5:7



## Nazareth Academy 6th grade students 'Adopt-A-Sister'

By Mary Louise Allen  
Nazareth Academy parent

Tuesday, September 26, was a day to celebrate as the 6th grade students from Nazareth Academy traveled to Incarnate Word Convent to meet and greet their newly adopted Sisters for the first time.

While she was in the third grade, Clara Allen, a 6th grader in Mrs. Dana Howard's homeroom had become close friends with Sister Elaine Braden. She thought perhaps all of her classmates would also enjoy visiting with the Sisters, and the "Adopt-A-Sister" project was started.

Sister Elaine Braden presented this idea to her fellow Sisters, and twenty-seven Sisters signed up to be adopted by the 6th grade students of Nazareth Academy!

During the students first visit with their Sister they learned a lot about one another. The students who have adopted a Sister can continue to share time together now and in the future. Some of the things the students and Sisters can share together are the following: 1) The love of Jesus; 2) Share time together ... give of oneself; 3) Pray together; 4) Celebrate your adopted Sister's birthday; 5) Celebrate their

adopted Sister's feast day; 6) Share interests ... hobbies ... reading; 7) Send their adopted Sister letters and cards; 8) Learn



*Sister Elaine Braden and 6th grader Clara Allen, spend some quality time together as "sisters." Clara has adopted Incarnate Word Sister Elaine through Nazareth Academy's "Adopt-A-Sister" program.*

about a vocation in the Catholic faith; and 9) Develop a wonderful friendship.

Scott Kloesel, the assistant principal of Nazareth Academy, incorporated the "Adopt-A-Sister" program into his Character Development classes in hopes of continuing this not only for his students, but for the Sisters of Incarnate Word Convent.

The 6th graders of Nazareth Academy are hopeful other Catholic schools will follow their lead and "Adopt-A-Sister" in convents in their own communities.



*Through the Angel Tree program Doris Waskow (l.) and Beverly Hahn-Lincke (r.) present Christmas gifts to children of prisoners on behalf of their parents. The Catholic community in Meyersville has been very involved in the Angel Tree program.*

## Sts. Peter and Paul in Meyersville getting ready for Angel Tree 2006

By Beverly Hahn-Lincke

MEYERSVILLE—Christmas is often the worst time of the year for prisoners and their families. Children can feel like orphans—forgotten by their absent dads or moms. And incarcerated parents despair over not being able to provide wished-for presents. Yes, the incarcerated parents still love their children.

Prisoners' children are often some of the saddest casualties of crime in our society; they are separated from one or both of their parents and frequently placed in foster homes or cared for by various relatives. These children are almost always socially and economically deprived. With this separation and economic hardship, Christmas for these children can be a lonely and empty day.

To brighten children's Christmas and ease the pain of separation, Prison Fellowship established Angel Tree—a program that mobilizes churches across the U.S. to

provide prisoners' children with Christmas gifts, given in Jesus' name on behalf of the imprisoned parents.

In the Diocese of Victoria, my late husband, Larry, and I asked for names of children in Cuero whose parent(s) were imprisoned. When we received our list, we set out to locate our angels. We inquired about their needs and we saw there were many. On Christmas Eve we made the delivery including toys, clothing, candy and food.

Since that year (1997), we have ministered to many "angels," through the generosity of Sts. Peter and Paul Church (Meyersville), deacons, IWBS sisters and our family and friends. There have been smiles, tears and joy in our hearts during these encounters. We have been so blessed. This is the true Spirit of Christmas.

If you wish to become involved in this year's Angel Tree program, please call Beverly Hahn-Lincke at (361) 277-5828.



St. Joseph Pre-K class had a chance to get up close to the Yoakum Fire Department Ladder 1 truck when it came in observance of Fire Prevention Week.

## St. Joseph observes Fire Prevention Week

By St. Joseph school staff

YOAKUM—Fire prevention week was October 8-14. St. Joseph Catholic School and the Yoakum Fire Department worked hand in hand to make this week special for our students. The week proved to be educational as well as fun.

The week started with the K through 3rd grade students being given materials from the Yoakum Fire Department to read and color. These handouts worked in conjunction with lesson plans that were involved with the fire prevention week theme of "Safety in the Kitchen."

The damp Tuesday morning, Oct. 10, started at 8:25 with a fire drill. As the students moved into their assigned places on the football field, the piercing sound of a siren was heard. As the students focused their attention in the direction of the sound, they saw flashing lights and the Yoakum Fire Department Ladder 1 approaching the school. It pulled into the playground area. For a moment, some questioned as to why the truck was there with the lights and siren going. Assured that there was no problem, the students and teachers moved closer to the fire truck. Mr. Jim Herchek, the driver, not only explained parts of the fire truck but also demonstrated how the ladder worked. He was able to show everyone how the ladder could be extended

to the third floor of the school.

After his presentation, he answered questions from the students. It soon started to rain, so Mr. Herchek moved under an awning to finish questions from the Pre-K students. He came into the school to view the fire displays there. When the rain stopped, he went back to the fire truck and let the Pre-K students stand and sit on the truck.

Wednesday was a day for the students to honor and recognize the firemen and EMS personnel for their efforts to keep our community safe. Members of the fire department and EMS were special guests at the school Mass at 8:15. The intention of the Mass was for all firefighters and EMS. At the end of Mass, members of the St. Joseph Catholic School Student Council presented the firefighters and Mr. Baker, fire chief, with two gifts: a small fire helmet representing the virtue of honor; and a basket of goodies to eat. Father Matthew closed Mass with a special prayer asking for God's protection for these and all fire and EMS personnel.

The final presentation to the fire department was a thank you card signed by the students, teachers and staff of St. Joseph Catholic School. A big "Tiger Thank You" to the Yoakum Fire Department and EMS personnel. We feel safe knowing that you are here to help us when in need.



**YOUTH GROUP MARCHES FOR FORMER TEACHER**—The Holy Rosary Youth Group of Hostyn purchased luminaries from the American Cancer Society for the local Relay for Life recently held in La Grange. The luminaries were in memory/honor of church members and their families. A total of \$275 was donated to the La Grange High School Band "Marching for a Cure" team in memory of former band director, Mr. Lowes. Pictured above (l. to r.): Jason Siek, relay and band team member, along with youth group members, Brook Rauch, Amy Rackley and Sterling Behrens.



Photo by Regina Matus-Janak

**BLESSING OF ANIMALS**—Our Lady of Victory School children and their families gathered on October 4 for the Feast of St. Francis to have their pets blessed. The smaller grades drew pictures of their pets to be blessed. The football field was filled with large and small dogs, cats, ponies, rabbits, birds and many more different pets including this pet turtle that Father David Berger blessed.



Joe and Debbie Neskora of Moulton will have a 12" by 12" glass block engraved with their family's name as a contribution to Raphael's Refuge Chapel of the Holy Innocents being built outside of Flatonia.

## Joe and Debbie Neskora help Raphael's Refuge

FLATONIA, Texas— In mid-October, Joe and Debbie Neskora visited the building site for the Chapel of the Holy Innocents. The chapel will be the center of the Monument to the Innocents, a memorial for babies, unborn and born. The Neskoras have made a generous donation to Raphael's Refuge, a special blessing as construction costs continue to rise. A 12" x 12" glass block will be engraved with their family's names. When the long walls of glass blocks are built, the larger blocks will be placed among the smaller babies'

blocks, forming the shapes of crosses.

Currently, construction on the cupola is nearing completion. Preparations are being made for the installation of the glass windows and the metal roofing. To view the progress and drawings of the overall plans, visit the Web site at: [www.rafaelsrefuge.org](http://www.rafaelsrefuge.org).

For more information, or to be sent a brochure, contact Midge Elam at 361-865-3021 or write to her at 2715 W US Hwy 90, Flatonia, Texas 78941.



Photo by Cindy Brewer

### BISHOP BLESSES NAZARETH ACADEMY'S NEW INFANT ROOM

Bishop David E. Fellhauer blessed the new infant room of Nazareth Academy's Preschool Day Care during its open house October 7, 2006. Kenda Holub, director of the NA Day Care since 1993, welcomed the bishop, Principal Duke Alicardi, teachers and guests to the open house and blessing offering a first chance for many to see the newly renovated room. The new room, one of a total of three to be finished in a couple of years, is located in the building across Convent Street from Nazareth Academy's Preschool. The street level day care was made available for parents so they did not have to take their infants up the walkway in the cold and rain. This building allows street-level deliveries, which make it so much easier for parents carrying infants and diaper bags, said Ms. Holub. The new room can accommodate 14 babies and is for infants to age 12 months or until they are able to eat table food. Once they have reached that milestone they are moved to one of the two toddler rooms across the street. School personnel hope the two other rooms in the building will be completed within a couple of years. This will provide day care for children up to 24 months all in one building. Pictured above are staff with the bishop: Brenda Huber, Sister Maria Estefana Robles, Bishop Fellhauer, Eva Cooke, Principal Alicardi and Director Kenda Holub in the rear (not pictured is another teacher, Mandy Salas).



Photos by Cindy Brewer

Author Joe Larke is away from home several days traveling to many schools entertaining students with his poetry. Because he is on the road for quite some time he brings his adorable Shih tzu, Sandyman, whom he is teaching to be obedient in a classroom full of kids. The elementary students at NA couldn't get close enough to Sandyman.

## Dallas author and Dopie Dope come to Nazareth Academy

By Cindy Brewer

Author Joe Larke and his traveling companion Sandyman, visited Sister Liliane Janda's library at Nazareth Academy Wednesday, October 18, 2006, to teach the students the art of poetry writing.

With the help of the subject of his many poems and stories, Dopie Dope, a rag-a-muffin cloth doll, Joe read and even sang some of his poetry to groups of students from pre-k to 6th grade.

Joe inspired the students by telling them that although he is a published writer, he was a slow reader with poor grades in school. He wanted the students to know that authors are real people and they have to overcome problems like everyone else. Though he was not a good reader in school and could hardly remember what he had read, he could remember everything he heard and he had an imagination.

"Everyone has an imagination!" he said. "But not everybody uses it."

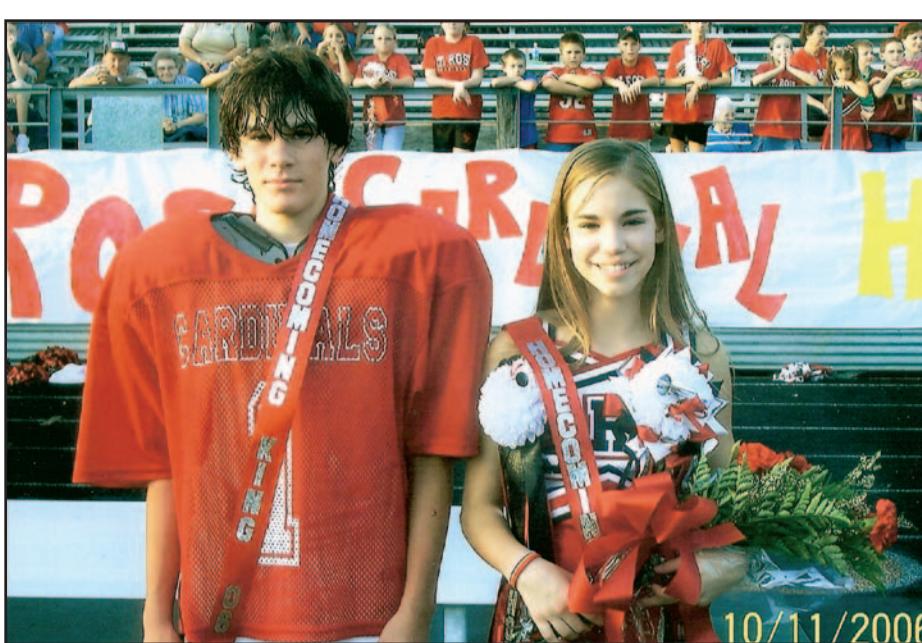
He told the story of how when he was unemployed from a business profession he paid his bills by painting houses. One owner of a house he was painting committed to Joe that he had the wildest imagination and asked if he had ever writ-

ten stories. He was surprised and said, "No," but that he'd written about a dozen poems. She asked to see them and thought they were fantastic and encouraged him to have them published. She told him he has the imagination to write books and just didn't know it.

He took the woman's advice and got his poems published. Since then he has written five children's poetry books, two of which feature Dopie Dope. He travels to schools teaching the basics of poetry writing, selling his books and entertaining students.

His sense of humor and style of teaching kept the students in stitches. He has a "down to earth" personality that captures the attention of his audience. He helps the students to believe in themselves and convinces them that they too can accomplish things beyond their imagination. He told the students that each of them is special and has talents. "If someone tells you you're very good at something, you better listen." Practice at it.

To learn more about Joe Larke and his poetry program please go to [www.grinabit.com](http://www.grinabit.com).



10/11/2006

**ST. ROSE HOMECOMING KING AND QUEEN CHOSEN**—Jake Surman and Jacklyn Saulnier were chosen as Schulenburg's St. Rose of Lima Homecoming King and Queen. The announcement was made during halftime of the Cardinal Homecoming game held on Wednesday, Oct. 11. Jake is the son of Michael and Colette Surman of LaGrange and Jacklyn is the daughter of Terry and Cindy Saulnier of Schulenburg.



## Family Puzzle Contest winner to win Outnumbered! Raising 13 Kids

To outsiders, Kuharski family life sometimes looked like controlled chaos. With 13 kids – seven by birth, six by “airport” (adopted) – it sometimes felt that way to family members, too.

There were those vacations when the entire family jammed into one motel room. There were the excuses: “Kari told me she wanted her hair cut that short.” “Dominic told me the cement was dry.” “Tony said that Grandma said there wasn’t any poison ivy in that area.” And, from a child playing with matches in the basement: “I didn’t know the newspapers would catch fire so quickly and spread to the paint cans.” There were the challenges of adopting special needs children, and the heartbreak of watching some of those children fail to adapt.

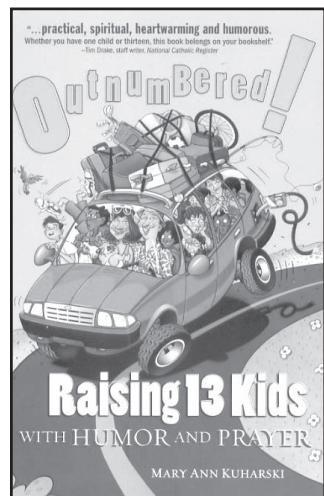
Through it all, by the grace of God,

much prayer and lots of common sense, the family became an oasis of stability and love. Whether your family is big or small, whether you have young children, old children, grandchildren or no children, *Outnumbered!* will bring you to a place at a very special family table.

Mary Ann Kuharski is a homemaker, columnist and author of several books, including *Building a Legacy of Love*. She is president of ProLife Across America (The Billboard People) and an advisory board member of the National Council for Adoption. She and her husband, John, live in Minneapolis and have 13 children

and 12 grandchildren and were founding members of ProLife Across America.

*Outnumbered! Raising 13 Kids with Humor and Prayer* is a \$13.99 paperback published by Servant Books (ISBN:0-86716-734-3).



## Retired bishop has close encounter with squirrel

By Brian J. Lowney  
Catholic News Service

WARWICK, R.I. (CNS) — When Bishop Francis W. Roque started out one day recently on a short trip to mail a few letters in Warwick, he never expected to meet a determined traveler dressed in a furry gray coat and sporting a great big bushy tail.

The retired auxiliary bishop for the U.S. Archdiocese for the Military Services had a close encounter with a frisky squirrel, who apparently either jumped or fell out of a tree and landed on the bishop's car, before rolling off and landing on some nearby grass.

“He hit my windshield with a loud crack,” the bishop told *The Providence Visitor*, newspaper of the Providence Diocese. “He hit it hard.”

Bishop Roque, who retired from the Washington-based military archdiocese in 2004 and moved back to his native Rhode Island, said he immediately pulled his car over to the side of the road, got out and

went over to find the creature dazed but still breathing.

“He looked up at me, but he was unable to move,” he said.

A fellow motorist soon joined him, and as the two of them wondered what to do, the bishop said, the animal sprang into action, ran around in a circle a few times, looked up at the bishop and then darted across the lawn.

“I love nature,” said the bishop, whose car was not damaged by the falling squirrel.

As a military chaplain visiting bases around the world, Bishop Roque often blessed family pets on the feast of St. Francis of Assisi, and has invoked the saint's protection upon sheep, horses and even snakes.

Bishop Roque said that he saw “another side of the squirrel” when he stepped out of his car. Rather than thinking the furry rodent a nuisance that had interrupted his trip, the bishop said that he viewed it as one of God's creatures that needed help.

“Life is precious,” he said.

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## — FAMILY PUZZLE CONTEST —

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WAY

WORD

## Winner of October contest receives book on *St. Therese, the Little Flower*

Congratulations to Wilma Polasek of Holy Cross in East Bernard; she is the winner of the October Family Puzzle Contest and will receive *Saint Therese, Doctor of the Church, A Gift of Our Time*.

The winner of the children's contest was Joshua Morris (10) of St. Rose of Lima in Schulenburg. He will receive a gift from the Incarnate Word Gift Shop.

The winner of the November Family Puzzle Contest will receive *Outnumbered! Raising 13 Kids with Humor and Prayer*

by Mary Ann Kuharski. See review on this page.

If you have not won the puzzle contest within the past six months, please send completed puzzle, name, address, phone number, and parish name by November 27 to: Family Contest, *The Catholic Lighthouse*, P.O. Box 4070, Victoria, Texas 77903. Only youth need to include age. Please don't forget your phone number and parish name.

## Catholic Bestsellers for November 2006

### Children & Young People

1. *The Catholic Faith Handbook for Youth* Brian Singer-Towns, Saint Mary's Press (0884897591 pb; 0884897672 hc)

2. *Welcome Children!* Jean Buell, Pflaum Publishing Group (0898371740)

3. *Handbook for Today's Catholic Teen* Jim Auer, Liguori Publications (0764811738)

4. *Tear Soup – A Recipe for Healing After Loss* Schiebert & DeKlyen, ACTA/Grief Watch (0961519762)

5. *The Mass Book for Children* Gortler & Piscitelli, Our Sunday Visitor (9781592760756)

6. *FAQs About Confirmation* Christina Bigatel Durback, Pflaum Publishing Group (9781933178479)

7. *Absolutely Advent! Day by Day to Christmas 2006* Jean Larkin, Pflaum Publishing Group (9781933178431)

8. *Absolutely Advent! Getting Ready for Christmas 2006* Jean Larkin, Pflaum Publishing Group (9781933178424)

9. *12 Days of Christmas* Kathleen Darragh, ACTA/Veritas (0879463198, 9780879463199)

10. *I Pray the Rosary!* Margaret Rose Scarfi, Pauline (0819836893)

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## Last Things

By Denise E. Brossert



When I receive a contributor's copy of one of my published articles, I usually read it over once and file it away in my office cabinet. It will stay there, collecting dust, until I die and my children sort through the things I have left behind.

No, I don't have a terminal illness. And I'm not trying to be morbid. But I think it is a safe bet to assume I will die one day, and when that happens, there's something I want to leave behind for my children. Like Elijah to Elisha, there is a mantle I want to pass on to them.

One day, my children will dig out everything I've ever written (which they didn't have time to read when I was alive) and study it like it contains a directive from the Great Beyond. They will do this in hope that something I have written at some point in the past will ease their pain and make the grief endurable. I know they will do this, because it is what I did when my father passed away.

And when they open the drawer and pull out the file, I'm praying they find this article in the stack, because there is something I want them to know. At this point in their lives, they just aren't ready to embrace it, but one day that will change.

The year before the crucifixion, Jesus tried to tell the disciples about Holy Communion. They weren't ready to listen either. Hundreds of followers left Jesus that day. The remaining twelve didn't really understand, but after His death, eleven of them would begin to make sense of that Most Holy Mystery. They would remember Jesus' words, and the divine epiphanies would come over them in great waves. They would remember the night He was betrayed. How Jesus had offered Himself to them at the Last Supper. The Eucharistic Meal.

*Take, eat. This is my body. Take, drink. This is my blood.* And they would remember back to the moment a year earlier, when He promised to give them His Flesh and Blood (John 6). Finally, it would begin to make sense.

Many Protestants believe Holy Communion is a symbolic meal. I can no longer accept that theology. When a dying person contemplates his final words to those he loves, he doesn't usually think it's a good time to play a game of let's pretend. It is time to be *real*. It is time to give those

who remain what they *need* to make it through the dark night. And people of faith take that moment very seriously.

What we say when we are about to die has staying power. There is a reason why people make deathbed requests. There is a reason why survivors keep deathbed promises. Final words are powerful.

When I die, if I have a moment or two with those I love, I want to convey something important, something that will help them through the sorrow and suffering they will face. I want to leave them something that will bring us together again one day. And the one thing that can do all this is Our Eucharistic Lord. *Unless you eat the Flesh there is no life in you.* That's what I want to tell them.

While it is a safe bet to assume that I will die one day, it is not a safe bet to assume that I will have a few moments alone with my children to share this important message. And so, I file away the articles. And say a prayer.

Jesus Christ had that perfect moment with His followers. As the Second Person of the Trinity, He'd had all eternity to plan what He would say at that Last Supper. And the message He had to share was the most important message of all time. It was time to usher in a New Covenant. It was the last quiet moment that He would have with the disciples before they scattered and He made His way to the cross. This was no joking matter. It was time to offer to them the Bread of Life.

Because I may not have that perfect moment with my children, I keep that powerful message safely tucked away in a fil-

ing cabinet. My hope is that one day, when I can no longer share my faith by simply inhaling and speaking, when my fingers are still and my computer is in a landfill somewhere, when my life is just a memory to a handful of people, those dearest to me will pull a tattered article from the cabinet and the Catholic faith will begin to make sense to them. And I pray that in that moment, they will understand what Jesus meant when He gave the disciples his body and blood. And I pray that the Eucharist will call to them, speaking above their grief, and say *come this way.* I pray that they will find their way through the sorrow to find Jesus Christ waiting for them in the Mass. And by grace, I will meet them there as well.

*Mrs. Brossert is the mother of four children. She lives with her husband in New Melle, Missouri, where she is a member of Immaculate Heart of Mary Catholic Church. She is a featured writer for One Bread Lay Apostolate and diocesan papers throughout the United States. Read other articles by Brossert at <http://1bread.catholic.org/index.html>*

## Letters to Luke

### Bible-based novel and epic retelling of the gospel

"Letters to Luke" — Dr. Joe E. Holoubek's epic re-telling of the gospels in letterform — places readers with Jesus right on the streets of Galilee.

A love story, historical novel and book-length parable, "Letters to Luke" was featured in the March issue of Writer's Digest. It's a first-place winner of the Writer's Digest International self-Published Awards, inspirational genre. The 13th annual awards competition drew more than 1,800 entries. It has also won the 2005 Independent Publisher Award for Religious Fiction.

"Letters to Luke" was inspired by the love story of the author and his wife, the late Dr. Alice Baker Holoubek.

Known fondly as Dr. Joe and Dr. Alice, the two were widely respected for their care of patients and for their role in founding LSU School of Medicine - Shreveport. Throughout the years, their love for each other grew, as did their love for God. That story is retold in "Luke" in the characters of Joseph and Elisa, a young couple who discover greater meaning in their lives and greater respect for each other's gifts.

Joseph and Elisa encounter Jesus as a mysterious healer. They become friends and followers. They bear witness — as only trained physicians could — to His redemptive sufferings on the cross, and they return to Capernaum to carry on His work as early Christians. Joseph shares their story in letters to his friend and fellow physician, Luke of Antioch.

Its power lies in the author's uncanny ability to write with authority — as if he and his beloved wife were living in the time of Christ and encountering him for the first time.

Holoubek, 90, a retired physician and Catholic author who spends an hour every day in prayer, remains humble at its success. "I am happy more people are reading the Gospel of Luke," he says.

Judges for the Writer's Digest competition gave the book 5 out of 5 points in the 3 categories: structure and organization, grammar and cover design: "This is a

### Sunday readings from Nov. 5 to Dec. 10

November 5 —  
Thirty-first Sunday  
in Ordinary Time

Deuteronomy 6:2-6  
Psalm 18:2-3, 3-4, 47, 51  
Hebrews 7:23-28  
Mark 12:28b-34

November 12 —  
Thirty-second Sunday  
in Ordinary Time

1 Kings 17:10-16  
Psalm 146:7, 8-9, 9-10  
Hebrews 9:24-28  
Mark 12:38-44

November 19 —  
Thirty-third Sunday  
in Ordinary Time

Daniel 12:1-3  
Psalm 16:5, 8, 9-10, 11  
Hebrews 10:11-14, 18  
Mark 13:24-32

November 23 —  
Thanksgiving Day, U.S.A.

1 Kings 8:55-61  
Psalm 145:2-3, 4-5, 6-7, 8-9, 10-11  
1 Corinthians 1:3-9  
Luke 1:39-55

November 26 —  
The Solemnity of Our Lord  
Jesus Christ the King  
Last Sunday in Ordinary Time

Daniel 7:13-14  
Psalm 93:1, 1-2, 5  
Revelation 1:5-8  
John 18:33b-37

December 3 —  
First Sunday of Advent

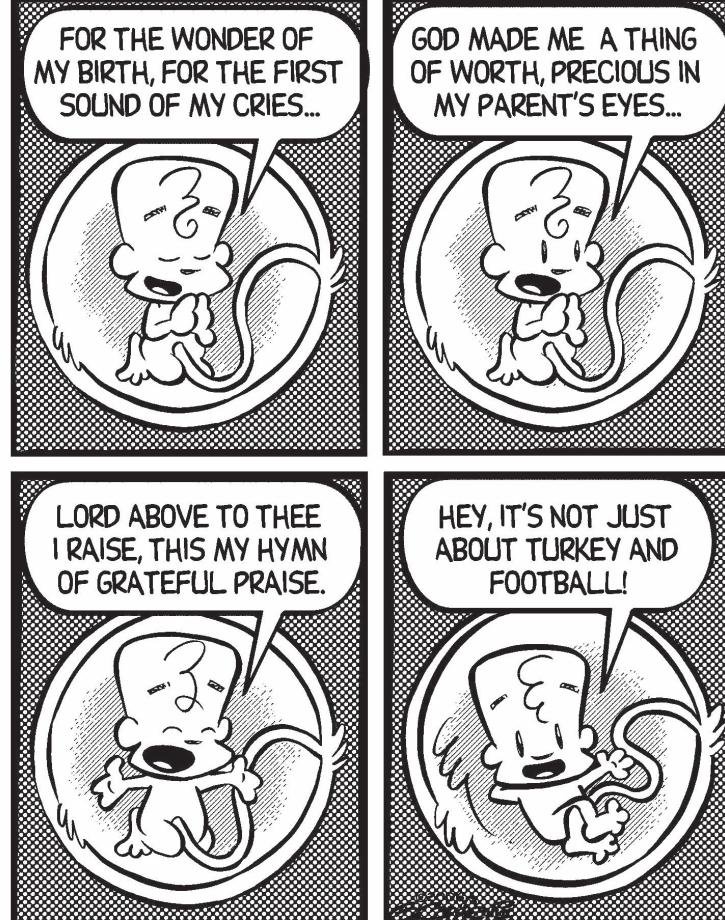
Jeremiah 33:14-16  
Psalm 25:4-5, 8-9, 10, 14  
1 Thessalonians 3:12 — 4:12  
Luke 21:25-28, 34-36

December 10 —  
Second Sunday of Advent

Baruch 5:1-9  
Psalm 126:1-2, 2-3, 4-5, 6  
Philippians 1:4-6, 8-11  
Luke 3:1-6

## Umbert the Unborn

by Gary Cangemi



Christmas Stamp depicting 'Madonna and Child with Bird'

(CNS photo/U.S. Postal Service)

very ambitious and fascinating project backed by extensive research and deep understanding of the subject matter. The text is readable, divided into short chapters and communicated in conversational, 'friendly' tone. The writer has avoided theological jargon and unnecessarily complex sentence structure. Helpful maps have been included and will be well used by readers."



Dr. Joe E. Holoubek

With maps, index and biblical citations, the book may be read on several levels. Its broad appeal reaches young and old, student and scholar, young couples, members of the clergy and medical professionals.

"Letters to Luke" ([www.letterstoluke.com](http://www.letterstoluke.com)) is distributed by FaithWorks of Brentwood, Tenn., a division of STL Inc., U.S. subsidiary of Send the Light Ltd. of Great Britain. Copies may be ordered online at [amazon.com](http://amazon.com), [barnesandnoble.com](http://barnesandnoble.com) and [www.letterstoluke.com](http://www.letterstoluke.com), and toll-free at 1-888-900-LUKE (5853) or through your local bookstore (order 0975376624 - paperback 19.95).

**Editor's note:** I just finished reading *Letters to Luke* and highly recommend it — it would be a beautiful Christmas present! Do not be intimidated by the size of the book — it's the size of a typical Bible, but it has fairly large print and the book is broken into 148 letters rather than chapters, most of which are about two pages in length. It is very easy to read and it will draw you closer to Jesus.



## The Politics of Forgiveness

By Fr. John S. Rausch

The story about the assault on ten Amish girls at the West Nickel Mines School in Pennsylvania started with horror at the assailant, but continued with wonderment at the response of the Amish community. Five children died, five were severely wounded and the perpetrator committed suicide. Tragedy all around, yet the Amish parents almost immediately sent words of forgiveness to the family of the killer who took away their beloved daughters.

How could these families forgive so quickly, so unreservedly? Donald Kraybill, a professor at Elizabethtown College and authority on Amish life, explains that forgiving is woven into the life of the Amish. Their faith sees tragic events as having a divine purpose hidden from human sight. "The Amish don't argue with God," he writes.

The closeness of the Amish community forged by a history of mutual aid like barn-raising, compels them to care for one another in times of tragedy. At a loved one's death, neighbors bring meals, milk cows and do other chores for the grieving family.

The Amish faith takes seriously the life and teachings of Jesus who carried his cross without complaint, who prayed, "Father, forgive them..." on the cross, and who admonished his followers to turn the other cheek, love one's enemies and forgive 70 times seven. Vengeance belongs to the Lord.

The Amish practice of Gospel forgiveness startled the world. Many columnists across the country wrote how the Amish were teaching a neglected lesson in the midst of tragedy, yet a few writers questioned whether forgiveness so easily dispensed makes sense.

On the individual level, forgiveness represents the only way to true inner peace. President Nelson Mandela, a political pris-

oner on Robbin Island South America, for twenty-seven years, modeled forgiveness and reconciliation when he invited his white jailer to his 1994 inauguration as an honored guest. Consistently, families of murder victims find peace, not through the execution of the murderer, but by letting go of hatred and revenge. They cast out thoughts of vengeance that would allow the murderer to live in their heads and victimize them further.

Robert Frost wrote in his poem, "The Star-Splitter:" "to be social is to be forgiving." Without forgiveness society would suffer continuous and ever increasing fits of revenge. Yet, the human condition demands, not "forgive and forget," but "remember and forgive." A believer remembers a crime by pronouncing a moral judgment on the action (murder is wrong), then continues the process of healing by renouncing revenge, envisioning the criminal as a fellow human being and striving to reconcile with the offender. This four-fold understanding makes forgiveness a personal and communal process requiring God's grace.

### New Orleans composer pens Mass honoring Pope John Paul II

WASHINGTON (CNS) — Jay Weigel had never composed a Mass before. But he has his first Mass under his belt now: "The Mass of Pope John Paul II the Great." Nurturing the Mass from its beginning to the present was an arduous journey, complicated by the fact that Weigel lives in New Orleans and was buffeted by Hurricane Katrina. "The CD was going to get released a year ago. ... And essentially, the recording existed, but a lot of work remained putting on the final touches," he said. "Frankly, when the hurricane hit, we were in the middle of that. ... I wasn't able to get on it (again) until Easter time," said Weigel, who was

On the community level, an innovative program dealing with the needed healing from violence focuses on the victim and community harmed by the crime. Restorative justice programs bring the victim and offender together in the presence of a mediator. The process helps the offender acknowledge the harm he has done and promotes rehabilitation through an apology and some appropriate restitution. By meeting their victims, offenders see and hear what their actions have done to the lives of other human beings.

On the international scene, truth and reconciliation commissions take the same approach.

"No peace without justice, no justice without forgiveness"—words of John Paul II on the World Day of Peace, 2002. The formula breaks the cycle of violence for a world community whose conflicts increasingly stem from ethnicity and religion.

Meanwhile, in Pennsylvania, the Amish community leaders established a fund for the widow and children of their daughters' assailant—as a final gesture of forgiveness.

commissioned by the St. Louis Cathedral in New Orleans to compose the Mass. "The Mass of Pope John Paul II the Great" was released Oct. 17, too recently for the composer to chart the public's reaction. "I'm in that great nervous stage," he said, likening it to waiting for, or waiting out, a hurricane. The CD is available online at: [www.amazon.com](http://www.amazon.com) and [www.papalmusic.com](http://www.papalmusic.com), or by phone at: (800) 513-8743. It costs \$14.95 plus shipping and handling.

### Cardinal Keeler discusses accident that took life of his friend

BALTIMORE (CNS) — Cardinal William H. Keeler of Baltimore said he believes his long-time friend who was killed in an automobile accident in Italy had a premonition about his own mortality and was ready to be with the Lord. The 75-year-old cardinal made the comments during an Oct. 23 press conference, his first public appearance to specifically address the automobile accident in which his right ankle was broken and one of his traveling companions, Father Bernard Quinn, was killed. The driver of the car, Msgr. Thomas H. Smith, 75, broke several ribs in the Oct. 7 accident. Another vehicle struck the passenger side of the car in which the three vacationing American clerics were riding. Father Quinn, 78, mentioned at least four times during their trip to Italy that he was prepared to go to the Lord, Cardinal Keeler said at the press conference. "I found it strange, because we were having such a wonderful time," the cardinal said. "He must have had a premonition of it. He was ready. That gives us an enormous amount of consolation."

## The Pope Speaks

Pope Benedict XVI



CNS photo from Reuters

## Pope says living in Jesus' presence not enough to make person holy

VATICAN CITY (CNS) — Living in Jesus' presence is not enough to make a person holy or make him or her immune to temptation, Pope Benedict XVI said.

Living a righteous, Christian life requires a constant surrendering of one's own will to God's divine plan, he said at his Oct. 18 weekly general audience.

When Jesus invited people to follow him as one of his disciples or apostles, he respected their free will even though that still left them vulnerable to "the temptations of Satan" and the many "perversions of the human heart," he said.

The pope told the estimated 30,000 people gathered in St. Peter's Square that Judas' name often sparks "an instinctive reaction of blame and condemnation" in most Christians.

Judas betrayed Jesus by going to the chief priests and promising to hand Jesus over to them for 30 pieces of silver and by leading authorities to where Jesus was.

Pope Benedict said Judas' behavior provokes one to ask two questions: Why did Jesus choose Judas to be one of his close companions and collaborators as an apostle and why did Judas betray Jesus?

That Jesus chose Judas and even trusted in him remains a mystery, the pope said, especially given that Jesus told his apostles, "Woe to that man by whom the Son of Man is betrayed."

The pope said there are several theories as to why Judas betrayed Jesus, ranging from his being too fond of money to the Gospels' explanation that he succumbed to the temptation of Satan.

While the reasons for his betraying Jesus also remain a mystery, what is important to glean from this is Jesus still treated Judas as a friend, did not bend his will, and respected his human freedom even though it left him open to temptation, the pope said.

"It is a mistake to think that the great privilege of living in company with Jesus is enough to make a person holy," the pope said, adding that "the only way to avoid the pitfalls that surround us is to give ourselves entirely to Jesus" and to think and act as he did — obeying God's will.

Even St. Peter succumbed to temptation and repented as Judas later did, but Peter turned to the Lord for forgiveness. Judas, however, turned to suicide, which the pope said teaches another lesson that one must never underestimate the infinite nature of God's mercy.

"Jesus expects us to be willing to repent and convert; he is rich in mercy and forgiveness," he said.

After Judas' death and Christ's resurrection, the apostles chose St. Matthias to replace Judas as one of the apostles.

As a longtime disciple of Christ, Matthias had never wavered in his faith in Jesus throughout Christ's earthly life. His taking Judas' place, the pope said, "almost compensated for (Judas') betrayal."

Even today there is no lack of "unworthy and treacherous Christians in the church," the pope said, so "it is up to each one of us to counteract the evil done by them" with a clear and faithful witness to Christ.

**The Flock** By Jean Denton  
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## Transmitidos internacionalmente, estos programas de radio ayudan a la población hispana viviendo en Estados Unidos a solventar algunos de los problemas más comunes a los que se enfrentan diariamente

*Personajes de radio encaran los problemas más comunes que atañen a la población latina en estos dramas producidos por Family Theater*

HOLLYWOOD — Rafael Cervantes lucha para echar a andar su propio negocio. Luisa, su esposa, es una ama de casa que quiere mantener a su familia unida. Miguel, su hijo, tiene dificultades para entablar amistades y adaptarse a la escuela. Su hermana Gloria se siente atraída hacia un joven con un pasado violento.

Como muchas familias latinas contemporáneas, los Cervantes — una familia inmigrante de primera generación — tratan de ganarse la vida y mantener a la familia unida ante los retos que la vida en Estados Unidos les impone. Se enfrentan diariamente a un sinnúmero de problemas: diferencias culturales, barreras del lenguaje, asimilación cultural, desempleo, drogadicción, violencia, prejuicios y más. No es fácil lidiar con estas dificultades, pero gracias a su fe y valores de familia logran salir adelante e incluso progresar.

Si bien la problemática que enfrentan es real, la familia Cervantes no lo es. Ellos son algunos de los cientos de personajes que han sido creados para los programas de radio en español producidos por *Voz Latina: Radio for the Latino Explosion*. Estos personajes nos muestran algunos de los retos que los hispanos encaran a diario. Estos dramas son realizados por Family Theater Productions, una casa productora católica en Hollywood.

Dichos programas son transmitidos internacionalmente por la cadena EWTN (que cuenta con más de 80 estaciones afiliadas en Estados Unidos y América Latina, y con frecuencias de onda corta con alcance a América del Norte y América Latina), al igual que en doce estaciones en California, Kansas, Michigan, Carolina del Norte, Oregon, Pennsylvania y Texas. La lista de estaciones está disponible al final de este artículo y en el Internet: [www.latinoradio.org/radioschedule.php](http://www.latinoradio.org/radioschedule.php).

A través de Voz Latina, Family Theater Productions ha realizado cerca de 300 programas de radio: una radionovela, *La Historia de Quién Soy*; dos antologías de historias, *Historias Para Mejorar el Mundo y Sabor a Vida*; el talk-show *Conversando*; 160 anuncios de servicio público en *Superémonos en Familia* y

cuatro documentales de radio titulados *El Mejor*, sobre Nuestra Señora de Guadalupe, *La Pasión y la Resurrección de Cristo* y dos sobre la celebración del *Día de los Muertos* en México y otras partes del mundo.

Uno de estos programas: *Día de los Muertos: San Andrés Mixquic*, que salió al aire el otoño pasado, se ha hecho ganador al premio Gabriel 2006. Los programas de radio realizados por *Voz Latina*, han sido escritos por renombrados dramaturgos hispanos y encarnados por prestigiosos actores hispanos. Los programas se han hecho acreedores a más de 25 premios otorgados por la industria, incluyéndose 11 premios Gabriel, y tres Certificados Gabriel al Mérito por parte de la Academia Católica de Profesionales de las Artes de la Comunicación. Los premios Gabriel son muy codiciados por las cadenas de televisión y radio más importantes al igual que por productores y difusoras tanto católicas como laicas.

“Estos programas son una fuente de inspiración y ayudan a las familias latinas a reflexionar sobre sus problemas ofreciéndoles las herramientas de fe y motivación para solventar los retos de la vida diaria en una nueva cultura,” comenta el padre Wilfred “Willy” Raymond, CSC, director nacional de Family Theater Productions.

“A través de su voluntad y perseverancia, estos personajes ayudan a que el latino de hoy entienda mejor su problemática y la resuelva,” dijo Monica Castagnasso, directora del departamento de radio de Family Theater y realizadora de los programas de *Voz Latina*. “Estos programas también ayudan a los latinos recién llegados a Estados Unidos a asimilarse a la cultura norteamericana y a la vez ayudar a los familiares y amigos que se quedaron en sus tierras de origen a entender mejor la problemática que viven.

Para mayor información, visítenos en el Internet: [www.vozlatinaradio.org](http://www.vozlatinaradio.org) o llame lada sin costo al 1-888-264-4611.

**Feliz día de acción de gracias**  
noviembre 23

### 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.



## Católicos a quienes sus clérigos les han hablado sobre

<b>Hambre y pobreza</b>	<b>96</b>
<b>Aborto</b>	<b>75</b>
<b>Situación en Irak</b>	<b>51</b>
<b>Leyes sobre homosexualidad</b>	<b>50</b>
<b>Investigaciones sobre células madres</b>	<b>38</b>
<b>Inmigración</b>	<b>31</b>

De una encuesta nacional, realizada del 6 al 19 de julio, a adultos que asisten a los servicios religiosos al menos una vez al mes.

Fuente: Pew Forum sobre Religión y Vida Pública  
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## Bestseller Católico — noviembre 2006 en Español

1. <i>Un Año De Domingos: Reflexiones De Los Evangelios 2007</i> Upchurch & Yeary, Liturgical Press (0814631134)	Librería Editrice Vaticana, USCCB (1574559206)
2. <i>Catecismo De La Iglesia Católica</i> Our Sunday Visitor (087973129X); Doubleday (9780385479844); Gift Ed. (9780385516501); USCCB (1574558285)	6. <i>Mis 15 Años Memory Book Hijas De San Pablo</i> Pauline Books (0819848506)
3. <i>Manual Para El Católico De Hoy</i> A Redemptorist Pastoral Publication, Liguori Publications (0764813226)	7. <i>La Vida En Cristo</i> Weber, Killgallon, Place, Maletta, ACTA Publications (0879461934)
4. <i>Juntos Para Toda La Vida</i> Joseph M. Champlin, Liguori (0892435933)	8. <i>De La Muerte A La Vida</i> Joseph M. Champlin, Liguori (0764812971)
5. <i>Compendio Catecismo De La Iglesia Católica</i>	9. <i>Mis 15 Años Teacher's Guide Hijas De San Pablo</i> Pauline (0819848514)
	10. <i>Angeles Companeros De Todos Los Días</i> P. Jonas Abib, Pauline Books (9586692477)

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For the General Practice of Law



Cardinal Adam J. Maida of Detroit greets Bishop-designate Daniel E. Flores in the chapel at Sacred Heart Major Seminary in Detroit Oct. 28. (CNS photo/Larry Peplin, Michigan Catholic)

### Corpus Christi priest named auxiliary bishop of Detroit

WASHINGTON (CNS) — Msgr. Daniel E. Flores, rector of Corpus Christi Cathedral in Corpus Christi, Texas, has been named an auxiliary bishop of Detroit by Pope Benedict XVI. Archbishop Pietro Sambi, apostolic nuncio to the United States, announced the appointment Oct. 28 in Washington. Bishop-designate Flores, 45, is to be ordained a bishop Nov. 29 at Blessed Sacrament Cathedral in Detroit. He will be the first Hispanic bishop to serve in the Detroit Archdiocese and the youngest bishop in the country. Previously, Bishop Alexander K. Sample of Marquette, Mich., was the youngest, but he turns 46 Nov. 7. The Texas priest's appointment brings the total number of active Hispanic bishops in the United States to 25. Daniel E. Flores was born Aug. 28,

1961, in Palacios, Texas. He was baptized in Zapata and grew up in Corpus Christi. After two years of study at the University of Dallas, he entered Holy Trinity Seminary, the formation house for priesthood students connected with the university, and completed his philosophy and theology studies at the University of Dallas. He was ordained a priest of the Corpus Christi Diocese Jan. 30, 1988.

### Bishops to vote on new directory, norms for liturgical music

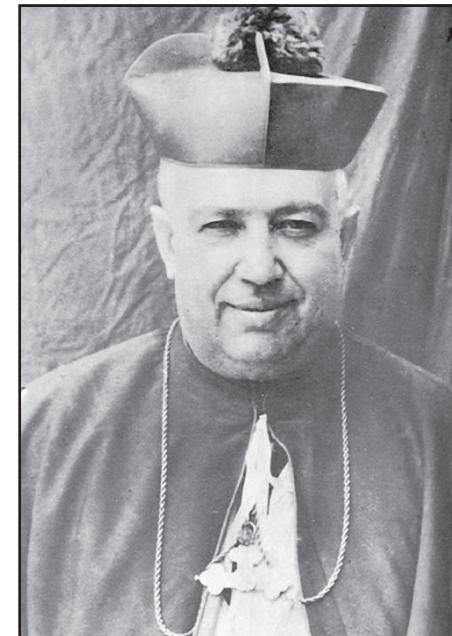
WASHINGTON (CNS) — To ensure that the hymns used at Mass are “doctrinally correct” and based on Scripture and liturgical texts, the U.S. bishops will debate and vote on a new directory for music and the liturgy at their Nov. 13-16 meeting in Baltimore. Each bishops’ conference around the world was directed to draw up such a directory within five years after the 2001 Vatican instruction “Liturgiam Authenticam” (“The Authentic Liturgy”). Within another three years, the bishops’ Committee on the Liturgy is to propose a common repertoire of liturgical songs for all Latin-rite Masses celebrated in the United States. The directory is intended to serve “not so much as a list of approved and unapproved songs as a process by which bishops might regulate the quality of the text of songs composed for use in the liturgy,” said Bishop Donald W. Trautman of Erie, Pa., chairman of the bishops’ Committee on the Liturgy, in an introduction to the document. If approved by two-thirds of the bishops, the directory and norms would be sent to the Vatican for its assent.

### Approved Border Fence



### Bishops from Americas discuss threats to life, U.S. border fence

VATICAN CITY (CNS) — The breakdown of families and threats to human life from abortion to the death penalty are challenges Catholics in the Americas must confront, said a group of bishops meeting at the Vatican. The council of bishops charged with monitoring and promoting follow-up to the 1997 Synod of Bishops for America and to Pope John Paul II’s 1999 post-synodal document, “The Church in America,” met at the Vatican in early October. In addition to denouncing threats to human life, council members — from North and South America as well as from the Vatican — also offered a harsh assessment of plans to construct a fence along the U.S.-Mexican border. On Oct. 23, Congress sent the bill authorizing construction of 700 miles of fencing to President George W. Bush, who signed the provision Oct. 26. “The wall along the United States-Mexico border will not resolve the problem of the migratory flux between the two countries and will not help establish a coordinated and humanitarian migration policy,” the bishops said.



CNS photo/Archdiocese of Xalapa

**PORTRAIT OF MEXICAN BISHOP RAFAEL GUIZAR VALENCIA** — This is a portrait of Mexican Bishop Rafael Guizar Valencia who was canonized Oct. 15 at the Vatican. Born in 1878 to a wealthy family, he dedicated his life to preaching and ministering to the poor, despite government opposition to the church’s activities. He used his family’s money to establish schools for girls and boys. He died in 1938 in Mexico City and was beatified in 1995 by Pope John Paul II.

### New saint from Mexico ‘one of us,’ south Texas Catholics told

SAN ANTONIO (CNS) — One of the church’s newest saints is truly “one of us,” Archbishop Jose H. Gomez of San Antonio and retired Archbishop Patrick F. Flores told the Catholics of south Texas. The two archbishops spoke at a press conference in San Antonio days before Pope Benedict XVI canonized Mexican Bishop Rafael Guizar Valencia, who came to south Texas during his exile from Mexico because of government persecution of the Catholic Church. “In this man of God we have a jewel — someone to pray to and to ask for his intercession,” Archbishop Flores said. “My prayer is that the people get to know him.”

Appointed bishop of Veracruz, Mexico, in 1919 by Pope Benedict XV, the new saint preached missions at Immaculate Heart of Mary Church and San Fernando Cathedral in San Antonio, as well as Our Lady of Guadalupe Church in Austin. At his Oct. 15 canonization, St. Rafael became the first bishop born in the Americas to be declared a saint.

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**Father Kessler to head Liguori Publications as president-publisher**

LIGUORI, Mo. (CNS) — Redemptorist Father Mathew Kessler has been named president-publisher of Liguori Publications, effective in January. Father Kessler, who came to Liguori five years ago, has been working on Liguori's Spanish-language products, published under the imprint Libros Liguori. He was a parish priest and mission preacher for 10 years, primarily in the Latino community, before joining Liguori. The priest, a native of Wichita, Kan., was ordained in 1991. He earned a degree in physics from Wichita State University before studying for the priesthood. Father Kessler said he believes the emerging multiculturalism in the U.S. Catholic Church, in particular the growth of the Hispanic population, and the influence of an educated laity will continue to have an impact on the church.



A man participates in the dedication of Our Lady of La Vang Chapel at the Basilica of the National Shrine of the Immaculate Conception in Washington Oct. 21. The chapel was a gift from Vietnamese-Americans. (CNS photo/ Matthew Barrick, courtesy of the National Shrine)

**Shrine's Our Lady of La Vang chapel a gift from Vietnamese-Americans**

WASHINGTON (CNS) — Archbishop Donald W. Wuerl of Washington celebrated Mass and dedicated a chapel to Our Lady of La Vang, the Madonna of Vietnam, at the Basilica of the National Shrine of the Immaculate Conception Oct. 21. The new chapel is a gift from Viet-

namese-Americans to the Washington shrine, emphasizing the solidarity between Catholics in the United States and Vietnam. Approximately 5,300 people — from as far away as California, Texas, Mississippi and Massachusetts — attended the ceremony. The story of Our Lady of La Vang goes back to the 18th century. Beginning about 1798, the emperor of Vietnam, during a period of political upheaval, restricted the practice of Catholicism and persecuted believers. Catholics fled to the nearby jungle, known as the La Vang region, in what is now the Quang Tri province in central Vietnam. Every night the people gathered at the foot of a large tree to pray the rosary. One night they saw an apparition of a beautiful woman in a native Vietnamese blue and white dress and magnificent cloak, carrying an infant son. Mary appeared many times at the same place throughout a nearly 100-year period of religious persecution.

**Church leaders welcome South Africa's U.N. Security Council seat**

CAPE TOWN, South Africa (CNS) — South Africa's recent election for a temporary seat on the U.N. Security Council shows the world recognizes the country's role in the peace process, said an official with the Southern African Catholic Bishops' Conference. Father Peter-John Pearson, head of the bishops' parliamentary liaison office in Cape Town, said the election "is a challenge to us as a country to be bold and continue building our democratic culture." South Africa has taken a leading role in mediating African conflicts, he told Catholic News Service Oct. 23. Father Pearson said South Africa "is being acknowledged as an interlocutor between the First and Third Worlds." The country "has experience of both worlds and therefore can speak for both," he said. South Africa was elected to a U.N. Security Council temporary seat Oct. 16 with the support of 186 of the United Nations' 192 members. It will begin its two-year term Jan. 1.

**Church spokesman says Hungarian government instigated violence**

WARSAW, Poland (CNS) — A Hungarian church spokesman has accused the government of encouraging violence during commemorations of the country's 1956 uprising against communist rule. "This was a provocation by both government and police," said Csongor Szerdahelyi, spokesman for the Hungarian bishops' conference. "They've tried to give the impression the opposition is violent and impatient and wants to take power

now without waiting for elections. This isn't true." Commemorations of the Hungarian uprising in Budapest Oct. 23 coincided with street protests that left more than 150 people injured; more than 130 were arrested. In an Oct. 24 Catholic News Service interview, Szerdahelyi said tens of thousands of Hungarians attending a peaceful opposition rally had been violently dispersed when participants in a smaller, more vocal demonstration were driven into their ranks by riot police. "Instead of separating the two crowds, the police pushed them together and beat indiscriminately — this is the reality of Hungary today," Szerdahelyi said.

**Mideast patriarchs: Instability must end if Christians are to remain**

BEIRUT, Lebanon (CNS) — Catholic patriarchs of the Middle East said political instability across the region must be tackled if the current Christian exodus is to be stemmed. The negative impact of this instability on local economies and services, as well as on the psychology within communities, are key factors driving

Christians away from the region, said the council of Catholic patriarchs. The council's 16th assembly closed Oct. 20 in Bzommar, near Beirut, with a statement focusing on the dwindling presence of Christians in Lebanon, Israel and the Palestinian territories, Iraq and the wider region. The statement said that Eastern Christian churches acted as a bridge between Western Christianity and Islam, creating an avenue for dialogue between the faiths. The Christian leaders were adamant that this link should not be broken. Despite this summer's 34-day war between Israel and Hezbollah, the Islamic militant group, the patriarchs said Lebanon "remains a source of hope" that "must play an effective role" in solidifying the coexistence of religions in the Middle East. "Our message is in the first place that of safeguarding coexistence in the face of aggravating conflict of cultures and religions," said the patriarchs. The meeting included the Eastern Catholic patriarchs of the Maronite, Coptic, Melkite, Syrian, Armenian and Chaldean churches and the Latin patriarch of Jerusalem.

**Texas Catholic Conference Voting Statement**

*Continued from p. 1*

discrimination.

**4. Practicing Global Solidarity.** We work to alleviate poverty worldwide, strengthen barriers against the use of nuclear weapons and reduce the global arms trade, protect refugees and end conflicts around the globe. We bring our vision and values to the changing global economic structures.

We ask you to use these Christian principles to measure the various candidates and what they bring to the service of our government and society at large. We also ask that you consider the following rights and duties as a part of properly forming your conscience. Please pray, think and vote so that we as Christians will exercise the great privilege that is ours to participate in the democratic process and to uphold the values of Christ in our society.<sup>1</sup>

**Rights and Duties:**

We, the Catholic Bishops of Texas, exercising our role as teachers, offer the following guidelines to help Catholics form their consciences on matters related to our most basic obligation of citizenship: voting. The following guidelines are intended for educational purposes only. We do not intend to endorse or oppose any particular candidate, political party, or political action committee. Rather, it is our hope that these guidelines will show how our Catholic faith and human reason shapes our thinking, choosing, and acting in daily life.

**THE RIGHT AND DUTY TO VOTE.** Catholics live in the world, but they should not live by worldly values that give too much importance to power, possessions, and pleasure as ends in themselves (cf. *1 John 2:16*). Catholics have the same rights and duties as other citizens, but are called to carry them out in light of the truth of faith and reason as taught by the Catholic Church. For example, they are called to respect human authority and obey those who govern society "for the Lord's sake" (*1 Peter 2:13-17*).

**THE DUTY TO FORM AND FOLLOW ONE'S CONSCIENCE.** We are conscientious voters when we are guided by our consciences. Conscience is a law

"written" by God on our hearts that disposes us to love and to do good and avoid evil (cf. *Romans 2:12-16*). The conscience is like an inner voice that has the authority of the very voice of God. We have a serious duty to follow the guidance of conscience. To act against the judgment of conscience when it is certain about what is good and evil has the same seriousness as disobeying God. It is important to remember however that it is possible for our conscience to be certain and at the same time incorrect about what is good and evil.

**A CONSCIENTIOUS VOTER'S DILEMMA.** In light of the above, it is a correct judgment of conscience that we would commit moral evil if we were to vote for a candidate who takes a permissive stand on those actions that are intrinsically evil when there is a morally-acceptable alternative. What are we to do, though, when there is no such alternative?

Because we have a moral obligation to vote, deciding not to vote at all is not ordinarily an acceptable solution to this dilemma. So, when there is no choice of a candidate that avoids supporting intrinsically evil actions, especially elective abortion, we should vote in such a way as to allow the least harm to innocent human life and dignity. We would not be acting immorally therefore if we were to vote for a candidate who is not totally acceptable in order to defeat one who poses an even greater threat to human life and dignity.

**VOTING IS A MORAL ACT.** It involves duties and responsibilities. Our duty is to vote in keeping with a conscience properly formed by fundamental moral principles. As Bishops we are not telling Catholics which candidates they should vote for. Rather, we simply want to teach how we should form our consciences and consider the issues in light of these fundamental moral principles.<sup>2</sup>

**(Footnotes)**

<sup>1</sup> Prepared by Bishop Gregory Aymond, Bishop of Austin

<sup>2</sup> Originally approved and released by the Kansas Catholic Conference with signatures of all the bishops.]

[Adopted, approved, and released by the Texas Catholic Conference with signatures of all the bishops of Texas.]

**Rise in Giving**

The Chronicle of Philanthropy notes a 13 percent overall increase in donations to the nation's largest philanthropic organizations.

Select major Catholic charities	2005 donations in millions	percent of increase from previous year
Catholic Charities USA	\$646.19	11.2
Catholic Relief Services	\$342.60	146
Catholic Medical Mission Board	\$193.73	60
Covenant House	\$97.05	27.9
Christian Appalachian Project	\$91.21	8.2
Girls and Boys Town	\$82.18	4.5

Source: The Chronicle of Philanthropy, Oct. 26 edition

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**RISE IN GIVING** — The Chronicle of Philanthropy notes a 13 percent overall increase in donations to the nation's largest philanthropic organizations. (CNS graphic/Emily Thompson)



## Making A Difference

By Tony Magliano  
Catholic News Service



### We can do something about poverty

Why are so many people poor in a world that has so much? This was among the questions I posed to one of the world's leading economists.

Jeffrey Sachs, special adviser to U.N. Secretary-General Kofi Annan and former economic consultant to Pope John Paul II, told me that poverty is caused by practical problems that have practical solutions.

He said the poorest of the world's poor, some 1.1 billion people, lack the basic necessities of life. These fellow human beings, struggling to survive on less than \$1 a day, are chronically hungry, unable to obtain health care, lack safe drinking water and sanitation, cannot afford education for their children and dwell in poor

leaky huts.

"They live in what the World Bank defines as 'extreme poverty.'" And extreme poverty, said Sachs, "is the poverty that kills." Every year more than "8 million people die because they are too poor to live."

In sub-Saharan Africa — the world's poorest region — subsistence farmers depend on rain to water crops. But chronic drought often prevents plants from growing. Because villages lack electric power and roads, they are cut off from local and global markets. And malaria-carrying mosquitoes kill more than 1 million children every year.

But according to Sachs, wells can be dug, rainwater can be collected, improved seeds can be planted, diesel generators can be installed, power lines can be brought in, roads can be built and inexpensive mosquito nets can protect people during sleep from malaria. All very doable solutions!

But what the 22 rich donor nations of the world need to do is honor past promises to give 0.7 percent of their annual income to poverty-focused development assistance. That comes to just 70 cents of every \$100 of national income.

Only five countries have met that internationally agreed upon goal. The United States is not one of them. We give only 0.2 percent of our national income to poverty-focused development aid. That's just a mere 20 cents for every \$100 of national income.

Sachs told me the \$500 billion the U.S. spends annually on the military never will bring lasting peace because our government continues to spend only one-30th of that addressing the desperation of the poorest of the poor. He added, "Data shows that the poorest regions are more likely to end in conflict. Politicians and rebels manipulate the poor. Great poverty often leads to great instability."

In his encyclical "On Social Concerns," Pope John Paul II wrote, "If 'development is the new name for peace,' war and military preparations are the major enemy of the integral development of peoples."

Diverting approximately \$60 billion from our annual military budget — the additional annual amount needed to end extreme global poverty — not only would lift 1.1 billion of the poorest people on earth out of misery but would greatly reduce international conflict, including terrorism, said Sachs.

He asked that we contact the president and our congressional delegation, urging them to honor our past promises to give 0.7 percent of our annual national income to poverty-focused development aid.

He also suggested we log onto [www.unmillenniumproject.org](http://www.unmillenniumproject.org) to learn more about the international community's plan to cut extreme poverty in half by 2015.

Sachs kindly asked everyone reading this column to donate \$10 to provide a bed net to protect two people from malaria-carrying mosquitoes. Please go to [www.millenniumpromise.org](http://www.millenniumpromise.org) to make a contribution.

Finally, reading Sachs' book titled "The End of Poverty: How We Can Make it Happen in Our Lifetime" is worth the effort.



A painting by volunteers of Offre Joie (Offer Joy), a small nondenominational charity, shows the Lebanese flag, with Offre Joie's symbol of the white dove carrying the traditional Lebanese emblem of a cedar tree. The painting, on the wall of a primary school playground in the village of Houla, Lebanon, symbolizes unity between Muslims and Christians, as represented by a mosque and church. More than 50 Christian and Muslim volunteers of Offre Joie worked together to repair the school following the war. (CNS photo/Mike Hirst)

### Offre Joie brings Christians, Muslims together to rebuild Lebanon

By Michael Hirst

HOULA, Lebanon (CNS) — Lebanon's new school term finally got under way in mid-October, but in southern areas of the country ravaged by the Hezbollah militia's 34-day conflict with Israel, many destroyed classrooms remained empty.

UNICEF reports that 16 public schools were completely destroyed by Israeli strikes during the war; 250 schools were severely damaged, and a further 800 were left in need of repair. But political wrangling over the spending of some \$900 million in international aid donations has delayed the allocation of funds, meaning reconstruction work has been slow, leaving many damaged schools unusable.

One exception is the primary school in the southern border village of Houla where, since the war ended, more than 50 Christian and Muslim volunteers have been working to repair shelled walls, replace ruined roof tiles and install new windows in place of those shattered during the conflict.

These young volunteers came not at the behest of the Lebanese government or the local authorities, but were instead representatives of a small, nondenominational charity called Offre Joie (Offer Joy).

The school in Houla, perched on a hilltop just a few miles from the Israeli border, is one of three in southern Lebanon where some 150 Offre Joie volunteers have worked since mid-August.

On Oct. 14, local villagers joined Offre Joie volunteers in the project's final stages, sweeping dusty corridors, painting repaired walls and cleaning new windows in preparation for the first day of school. Since Oct. 16, morning and evening classes have served about 200 students from the surrounding area.

Based on the three principles of love, forgiveness and respect, Offre Joie is made

up largely of university students ages 20-30, and it takes a hands-on approach to its aid work.

Dressed in a white T-shirt, dusty work boots and a blue smock emblazoned with Offre Joie's symbol — a white dove — Torbey smiled as he reflected on his work.

"For so many people in Lebanon, there are divides between North and South, between Christian, Sunni, Shiite and Druze," said Torbey. "Our aim is to reunite the Lebanese family. Ours is an NGO (non-governmental organization) that accepts volunteers whatever their religion and helps the needy whatever their religion."

In a country for so long split by sectarian divisions, the attitude of unity in diversity means Offre Joie avoids confrontation with various religious groups. Houla, for example, is in an area controlled by Hezbollah, but the militant Shiite organization leaves the group to its own devices.

"Hezbollah know exactly what we're doing, but they leave us alone because we are working for regeneration in southern Lebanon," Torbey said.

Offre Joie is funded largely by overseas donations and runs on a budget of less than \$100,000 a year. Although it has strong Catholic links — approximately half its volunteers attend St. Joseph University — Offre Joie prides itself on its apolitical, nonconfessional approach.

"We welcome the diversity," said its founder, Melhem Khalaf, a 43-year-old French lawyer. "Through our core tenet of respect for each other we don't eat meat on a Friday in line with Christian beliefs. Nor do we eat pork out of respect for Muslims."

"By working together we work as a team, giving the volunteers a stronger sense of citizenship and ownership over the future of Lebanon," he said.



Catholic News Service

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# EVENTS

The Catholic Lighthouse  
Page 19 — November 2006



## Nativity Story is a character-based story

MATERA, Italy (CNS) — *The Nativity Story* will open in theaters Dec. 1 in preparation of Christmas. According to its Web site at [www.thenativitystory.com](http://www.thenativitystory.com), *The Nativity Story* chronicles the arduous journey of two people, Mary and Joseph, a miraculous pregnancy, and the history-defining birth of Jesus. Scriptwriter Mike Rich said he wanted the story to flesh out who Mary and Joseph were and what emotions they must have felt as they faced the immense responsibilities God entrusted to them. He said he was inspired to write the screenplay after seeing Time and Newsweek put the Nativity of Christ on the cover of their 2004 Christmas issues.

However, he said he felt the story of the Nativity had always been presented as an “event-based” story: what happened and when, with little about how the protagonists lived their faith. After months of research and input from religious scholars, Rich started writing what he called “a character-based story.”

“Talk about limited source material,” he said, noting that the only description of Joseph he found in the Bible was that “he was a righteous man.”

Rich, a nondenominational Christian from Beaverton, Ore., said that even though his story was speculative he still sought to keep it faithful to the spirit of

the biblical account.

The result is that the young Mary, played by 16-year-old Oscar nominee Keisha Castle-Hughes (“Whale Rider”), and Joseph, played by a 26-year-old graduate of Julliard in New York, Oscar Isaac, leap to life on the scripts’ pages and hopefully, Rich said, also on the screen.

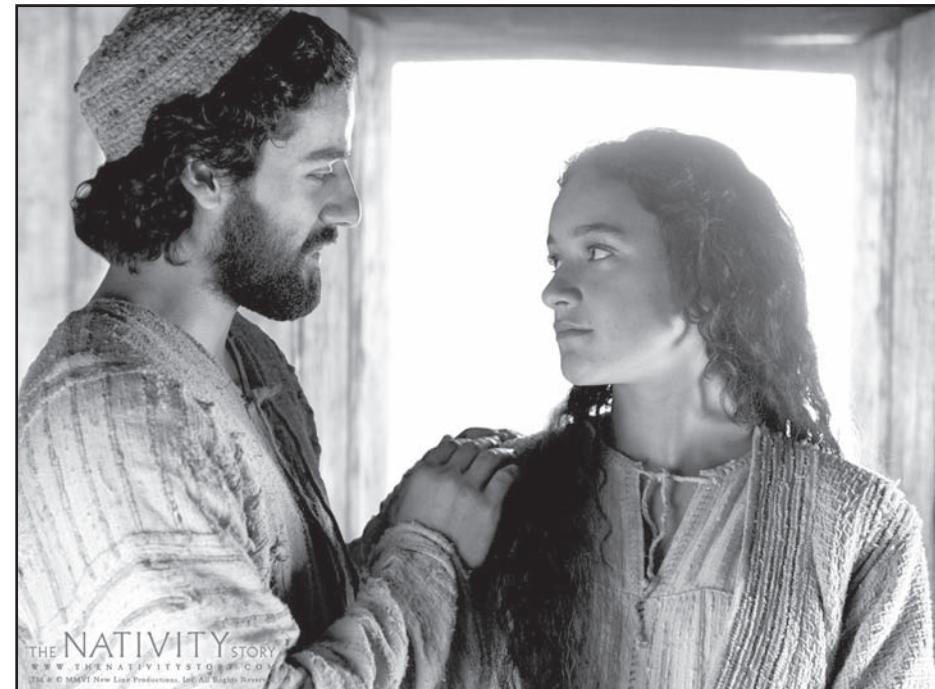
Co-producer Marty Bowen, a Catholic raised in Texas, said that growing up he always put Mary “up on a pedestal.”

*The Nativity Story* is trying to make Mary real, Bowen said, adding that he hoped that the movie would help people see “Mary was a girl before she became a woman and a woman before she became the mother of God.”

He said people should also feel empathy for Joseph, a man “who finds the woman he wants to spend the rest of his life with,” then discovers she is pregnant and he is not the father of the child.

“Talk about a crisis of faith of staggering proportions,” Bowen said.

Bowen, who wears around his neck a rosary his grandmother brought him from Rome and a medal of St. Christopher his mother gave him, said the story of Mary, Joseph, and the shepherds they meet is “a journey of faith that’s rewarded” by God. But people also “need to understand how they earned that” divine reward, he said.



Oscar Isaac and Oscar nominee Keisha Castle-Hughes play Joseph and Mary in *The Nativity Story*.

### Christmas at Maxwell's coming to theaters Nov. 10

“A heartfelt film with admirable messages about God’s forgiveness, the strength of family and being a good Samaritan” - Harry Forbes - USCCB

Christmas at Maxwell's is an inspirational but light romantic Christmas drama, a story about the human struggle, the power of love, forgiveness, trust and uplifting the human spirit. It is the story of a forty-something man confronting the overwhelming effect his past actions seem to be taking on his life and his family. It was written, produced and directed by Catholic father-daughter team Bill and Tiffany Laufer. The movie was filmed in the Northern Ohio area and has been awarded the Dove Seal of Approval. Christmas at Maxwell's has earned rave critical and audience acceptance including an accolade from Bishop A. Edward Pevec, Catholic Diocese of Cleveland, who calls it “a marvelous film!”

### Special Collections

**Campaign for Human Development — Nov. 18-19**  
**Tri-Conference Fund for Retired Religious — Dec. 9-10**

### 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 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](http://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. Contact Gerd and Linda Conner (979) 543-3493 or (800) 470-2230 for more information or for dates in Texas, please go to [www.retrouvaille.org](http://www.retrouvaille.org).

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

**Singles** — Catholic Singles, 40 and over, meet every second and fourth Thursday of the month at Holy Family Education Building at 7:00 p.m. Call Georgia (361) 573-9435 or Jean at (361) 578-8760 or Sue at (361) 578-3106.

**Singles**—Young Adults between the ages of 21 and 45 meet for an evening of fellowship and good company every 1st and

3rd Thursday at Holy Family at 7:00 p.m. Call Jim Wearden at (361) 579-9737 or Laura (361) 579-6516.

**ACTS Retreats**—For more information see the ACTS Web site at [www.actsmissions.org](http://www.actsmissions.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. For information about the Sympo-Thermal Method in the Victoria area, contact Rudy and Estella DeLos Santos (361) 573-2624. Introductory presentations on the **Creighton Model Ovulation Method** are offered in Wharton at Our Lady of Mount Carmel Church and in East Bernard at Holy Cross Catholic Church. Please contact Melissa Morse at (979) 335-7306 for more information or to register for classes. **Natural Family Planning is the only church approved form of family planning.**

## When & Where

**Goliad**—Presidio La Bahia Museum and Visitor Center — 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. **Upcoming events:** Dec. 2 — 17th Annual Pony Express ride between Goliad and San Antonio; 20th Century Re-Enactors Frontier Rendezvous; Christmas in Goliad Las Posadas Procession - a traditional Mexican Cultural event recalling Mary and Joseph’s search for lodging; 37th Annual La Bahia Awards Presentation — a ceremony honoring authors/writers of Spanish Colonial Texas History held in the chapel of Our Lady of Loreto and sponsored by the Sons of the Republic of Texas. **See the Web site at: [www.presidiolabahia.org](http://www.presidiolabahia.org) for more information.**

### Picnics, Activities, etc. November

**Victoria**—The Catholic Cemeteries Office of Victoria will hold a Mass at Resurrection Cemetery Mausoleum (corner of Lauren and Mockingbird) on All Souls Day, Thursday, November 2, at 12:00 p.m. (noon).

**Victoria**—IWBS Christmas Arts and Crafts Sale Nov. 4 and 5 at Incarnate Word Convent, 1101 N.E. Water St. (across from Hopkins School). There will be a variety of items for sale: afghans, african violets, doilies, quilts and much more. Hours are Saturday 9:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. and on Sunday 10:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. Proceeds benefit IWBS health care for retired sisters.

**Hungerford**—KJT and KJZT annual turkey and dressing dinner at the Hungerford Hall; serving begins at 10:30 a.m. Nov. 5 at \$7 p/p. Drive-thru plates-to-go or dine inside. Pastry will be available.

**Victoria**—Our Lady of Sorrows Healing Mass, Wednesday, Nov. 8, at 7 p.m. Rosary at 7 p.m., Mass at 7:30 p.m. Celebrant: Father Gabriel Otoo. The Mass will be in the main church at 208 W. River Street. Let’s come to celebrate the risen Christ. Rosary, singing, praising and adoration!

**Shiner**—Sts. Cyril and Methodius Annual Parish Strudel Bake will be held Nov. 11 from 10:00 a.m. to 6:00 p.m. Fresh baked apple strudels, \$12; unbaked (with baking instructions), \$10. To order strudels to be picked up in Shiner call, (361) 594-3611. Delivery also available in other towns: Yoakum - (361) 293-7789; Gonzales - (830) 672-7954; Victoria - (361) 573-5283; El Campo, Ganado and Edna - (361) 771-3776 or (361) 782-6830. Place orders by Thursday Nov. 9.

**El Campo**—Catholic Daughters of the Americas, Court Our Lady Queen of Peace 1374 Annual Turkey Dinner Nov. 12 at St. Philip Parish Hall. Serving begins at 11:00 a.m. Plates are \$6.50 each with plates-to-go available on Depot Street. There will be no buffet inside.

**Houston**—The Czech Center Houston (4920 San Jacinto in the Museum District) presents American Debut Concert Nov. 12 at 3:00 p.m. From the Czech Republic, The Wallinger Quartet, a chamber ensemble of the Brno State Philharmonic Orchestra, has thrilled music-lovers in concert halls throughout Europe, the Americas, and Africa for the last three decades. A reception to follow the concert! Cocktails and hors d’oeuvres - admission \$15. To RSVP call (713) 528-2060 or by e-mail [Czech@czechcenter.org](mailto:Czech@czechcenter.org). This concert is partially underwritten by a generous grant from the Czech Educational Foundation of Texas Frank J. and Hermine Hurta Kostohryz Residency in Czech Music and Culture. For information go to [www.czechcenter.org](http://www.czechcenter.org) or [www.houstonreceptions.org](http://www.houstonreceptions.org) or call the above phone number.

**Shiner**—Annual Cardinal Booster Club Turkey Shoot and dinner Nov. 19 at Weid Hall (Hwy. 90). The shoot starts at 10:00 a.m. (bring your 12, 16 or 20 gauge shotgun with shells furnished). At 11:00 a.m. a kettle-fried-chicken dinner will be served at \$6 p/p with dine-in or plates-to-go available. The auction begins at 12:30 p.m. Benefits St. Paul High School and St. Ludmila Elementary.

**Victoria**—Knights of Columbus Council 1329 chicken-barbecue fund-raiser Nov. 19 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.

### December

**New Taiton**—The Oblate Club of St. John Church will be hosting their Annual Games Party Dec. 3 at 6:00 p.m. at the community center. There will be games, door prizes, an auction, a silent auction and lots of refreshments.

**Victoria**—Bishop Fellhauer Christmas Dinner to benefit the multi-purpose building fund, Dec. 9 at the Spiritual Renewal Center. For more information contact the Office of Youth and Young Adults at the Diocese of Victoria by calling (361) 573-0828 ext. 50. See page 9 for notice.

**Victoria**—Knights of Columbus Council 1329 chicken-barbecue fund-raiser Dec. 17 at the KC Hall. The price is \$5 per chicken. Beans and Spanish rice available for \$1 per pint. Sale starts at 8:30 a.m. Proceeds benefit council’s projects.



## 19th Annual Catechetical Conference celebrated

By Cindy Brewer

Over 500 participants of the 19th annual Conference for Catechesis and Ministry, held at Holy Family Church in Victoria Sept. 30, 2006, had the opportunity of meeting Jesus at the movies and amongst the pots and pans. This year the conference hosted two keynote speakers wishing to introduce participants to Jesus, Sister Rose Pacatte, FSP, in the morning session, and Charles O. Balsam in the afternoon session.

Sister Rose Pacatte, director of Pauline Center for Media Studies in Culver City, California,



Charles O. Balsam, afternoon keynote speaker, taught about the "domestic church," the family church.

gave a visual presentation of a variety of film clips from major motion pictures and taught that Jesus and his teachings could be found in some of the least likely movies.

Sister Rose first showed a preview of the upcoming movie, *The Nativity Story*,

which will be in theaters Dec. 1. This was an example of an obvious film of Jesus.



Volunteers help register the nearly 500 19th Annual Catechetical Conference participants.

Photos by  
Regina Matus-Janak

(See pg. 19 for review). She then proceeded to show clips of movies that taught themes of Christ's teachings in a variety of ways; however, many of those themes needed to be pointed out to the audience.

She taught that even in movies that are not obviously religious, Jesus' teachings could be found. Many movies offer redeeming values such as faith, hope, forgiveness, love and sacrifice even though they may not be deemed religious movies.

Although her presentation seemed

pleasing to many participants, a few were disappointed with some of the films Sister Rose stated could teach us values. Many of the movies were listed as R-rated and had foul language or presented morally unacceptable situations. A couple of participants told me they were saddened and disturbed that the presentation seemed to approve of



Sister Rose Pacatte, FSP, morning keynote speaker, presented that many religious themes are found in today's movies.



Sister Frances Cabrini Janvier, IWBS, taught two workshops: "Spirituality and Prayer" and "What Does LUKE Mean for Americans?"

He gave many samples of parental tasks in faith development and discipline-making, such as: personal, couple, family prayer; using faith symbols in the home (crucifixes, holy

water, Bible); home celebrations of sacraments; observing Church seasons; marriage enrichment; spiritual reading; lived commitment/resolving difficulties; chastity and modesty.

In a handout Charles gave sources of Church teaching on the family, such as: Lumen Gentium, Gaudium et Spes, Evangelii Nuntiandi, and Familiaris Consortio. He closed with a family prayer found in Colossians 3:12 – 17.

Besides hearing from the keynote speakers, participants also had the opportunity to choose two workshops from a selection of over 32 including two Spanish workshops. Topics included morality, catechesis, social justice, liturgy and spirituality. In between sessions, participants were able to visit over 16 exhibitor's booths.

many immoral movies as a means to teach a few values.

Charles O. Balsam, coordinator of Adult and Family Ministry at St. Louis Church in Austin and former director of the Office of Family Life Ministry in the Beaumont Diocese (1979-1995), taught that the family is the smallest community of church using such themes as St. Theresa of Avila's quote "God Walks Among the Pots and Pans" and many examples from Vatican II documents and Pope John Paul II's teachings.

In teaching the four tasks of the family, Charles began his presentation asking participants to think of how their parents were memory makers and then asking in what ways did their family teach social justice. By looking back on those memories, participants could see the unfolding of the



**ST. ANTHONY SCHOOL, COLUMBUS, CELEBRATES 50 YEARS**—St. Anthony Catholic School in Columbus celebrated its 50th anniversary Sept. 23, 2006, with an evening Mass celebrated by Bishop David E. Fellhauer. Nearly 400 school alumni and family attended the evening meal and program following Mass. Columbus Mayor Richard Heffley officially recognized the 50th Anniversary of St. Anthony School with a proclamation. From left to right are Jenny Tait, assistant SAS principal, John O'Leary, SAS principal, Mayor Heffley, Bishop David Fellhauer, and Father Dan Kahlich, pastor of St. Anthony Parish.

### Queen of the Holy Rosary Parish celebrates 150 years

Continued from p. 1

and the Red Ravens. Many games and even pony rides were provided for the children. The evening closed with a fireworks display.

#### History of Queen of the Holy Rosary Parish

As far back as 1831, Father Miguel Muldoon celebrated Mass in a home at Bluff, now known as Hostyn.

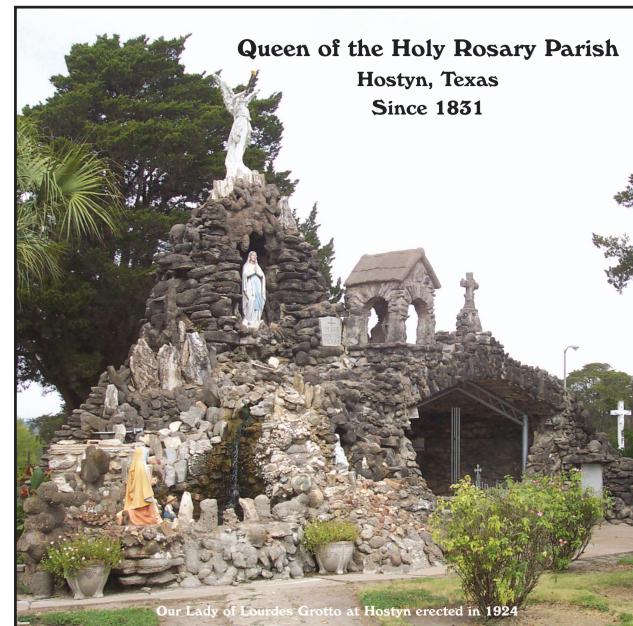
In 1856, a log cabin church was built about three miles from the present location of Hostyn, followed by a second church in 1869 built on the site of present-day Hostyn. The number of parishioners continued to grow, thereby making the second church too small, therefore, the second church was converted into the first rectory at Hostyn and a third church was built.

The formal establishment of K.J.T., the Czech Catholic Union of Texas, occurred on July 1, 1889, in Bluff, where this organization was first started.

The third church burned down in 1907, and in 1908 a fourth church was built at a cost of \$1,121.08.

The name change from Bluff to Hostyn occurred in 1925, under Father Paul P. Kaspar. The name was changed in honor of the Blessed Mother, and also in honor of the early settlers who had come from Hostyn, Czechoslovakia.

During Father Kaspar's time, from 1923 to 1943, the beautiful Lourdes Grotto, the St. Anthony and St. Wenceslaus



The October Festival celebrating Queen of the Holy Rosary's 150th anniversary was held at its grotto (erected in 1924) on the church grounds.

the Calvary Statue were erected on the parish grounds.

In 1966, the fourth church was dismantled to provide room for the fifth church, which was built that same year. On April 18, 1966, His Eminence Joseph Cardinal Beran, Archbishop of Prague, Czechoslovakia, dedicated the fifth and present church of Hostyn.

The parish of Hostyn provided many vocations for the church: two priests, Father Charles Kolek, OSB, ordained in 1937, and Father Adolph Janda, ordained in 1939, 17 religious sisters, one religious brother, and one deacon, Deacon John McCourt.