

The Catholic Lighthouse

The Cradle of Texas Immigration



VOL. 20, NO. 6

OFFICIAL PUBLICATION OF THE DIOCESE OF VICTORIA IN TEXAS

October 2006

In This Issue

New Layout - Check It Out!

**Faith and Family —
Vote for those not
running, p. 3**

Young Adults, p. 5

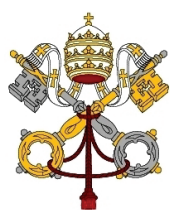
Catechetical, p. 6

Español, p. 15

**The Beginning
Experience retreat
helps one resolve
marriage grief, p. 13**

Teens, p. 9

**CATHOLIC MUSIC
2007**



32 of Today's Catholic Artists Illuminating
the Darkness with Songs of Praise and Worship
Spirit Wing Records

**News & Social
Issues, pgs. 16-18**

**Catholic Social
Teaching topic of
School Seminar held
in Hallettsville, p. 20**

Coming in November

Full coverage of the
19th Annual Conference for
Catechesis and Ministry



St. Michael Catholic School in Weimar receives Blue Ribbon School title

— Schools honored are academically superior or show dramatic gains in student achievement.

By Cindy Brewer

WEIMAR, Texas—St. Michael Catholic Elementary School in Weimar, Texas, has been recognized as a 2006 *No Child Left Behind – Blue Ribbon School* by the U.S. Department of Education.

On September 22, 2006, U.S. Secretary of Education Margaret Spellings announced the names of 200 public schools and 50 private schools that are designated 2006 *No Child Left Behind – Blue Ribbon Schools*.

Only three schools in the 10-county area of the Diocese of Victoria were selected this year; they were St. Michael Catholic School in Weimar, Yorktown Elementary and Point Comfort Elementary. These three schools were the only schools to be selected in this area since 2004.

St. Michael's, with its school population of 142 students, was one of ten private schools and one of 36 total schools

(private and public) named 2006 Blue Ribbon Schools in Texas. Out of the 50 states

only 16 had blue ribbon schools for 2006.

See *St. Michael Catholic School*, p. 7



Sister Laura Toman, IWBS, (l.) and sixth-grade teacher Jean Howze (r.) pose with students of St. Michael Elementary in Weimar with their new blue ribbon, which depicts the school as a 2006 *No Child Left Behind – Blue Ribbon School*. St. Michael's was announced a 2006 Blue Ribbon School by the U.S. Secretary of Education on September 22.

High Hill's St. Mary Church celebrates 100th anniversary of current building

By Maxine Vyvjala (*The Schulenburg Sticker*) and Cindy Brewer (*The Catholic Lighthouse*) using history contributed by Leo Kainer

SCHULENBURG—Most Rev. David E. Fellhauer, bishop of the Diocese of Victoria, celebrated Mass at the Nativity of the Blessed Virgin Mary Church (St. Mary's) in High Hill, Saturday evening, Sept. 9, in honor of the 100th anniversary of the current church building. Rev. Tim Kosler and the Fourth Degree Knights of Columbus also took part in the celebration.

Between 1860 and 1870, 36 Catholic families had settled in the High Hill area and felt the need for a proper place to worship. The parishioners built the church from lumber hauled from Columbus, Texas, by ox-wagons. The church was completed and blessed September 8, 1870.

Within five years a second church was built to accommodate the growing Catholic community in High Hill; it was completed in 1875. The first church building became the site of the first Catholic school

at High Hill and served as the school building until 1956.

With the arrival of the railroad in 1873, Schulenburg became the focal point of the area. Sixteen years later, in 1889, the Catholic Church of St. Rose of Lima was completed through the effort of the resi-



Photo by Maxine Vyvjala

Bishop David Fellhauer and pastor, Rev. Tim Kosler, celebrate Mass in honor of the 100th anniversary of St. Mary's current church building. It is designated as one of the area's Painted Churches.

dent pastor of High Hill. St. Mary's parish thus became St. Rose's mission.

Although St. Mary's was a mission parish, it still continued to grow. In 1905 it was decided another church was needed. The second church was dismantled; with

See *High Hill's St. Mary Church*, p. 8

Vote 2006

**What's a voter to do?
Election guides offer
different answers**

By Nancy Frazier O'Brien
Catholic News Service

WASHINGTON (CNS) — In the absence of a "Faithful Citizenship" document from the U.S. bishops to guide Catholic voters in this midterm election, groups as diverse as the Maryknoll Office for Global Concerns, Priests for Life, state Catholic conferences and new organizations with names like Red Letter Christians and Catholics in Alliance for the Common Good are stepping into the fray.

But the voters' guides and other election guidance offered by the groups must walk a fine line between providing non-partisan political information — permitted by the Internal Revenue Service for tax-exempt religious organizations — and endorsing particular candidates, which is clearly banned under IRS guidelines.

Some of the offerings, like Maryknoll's one-page guide on "becoming a global good neighbor," cover general principles, while others get much more specific — publishing candidates' responses to a set of questions on topics of interest to Catholic voters.

The New York State Catholic Conference recently mailed a 10-question survey to 400 candidates for elective office in the

See *What's a voter to do?*, p. 16



Bishop Fellhauer's Schedule

October

- 7** 1:00 p.m., Blessing of new Infant building at Nazareth Academy Pre-School
- 9-12** Canon Law Society of America Convention, Fort Worth
- 17** 6:30 p.m., Catholic Daughters of the Americas Court St. Ann and Knights of Columbus Council 1329 Awards Banquet, Knights of Columbus Hall, Victoria
- 18** 3:00 p.m., Diocesan Endowment Fund Advisory Board meeting, Chancery
- 4:30 p.m., Diocesan Building Board meeting, Chancery Office
- 19** Priests and Lay Pension Board meeting, San Antonio
- 21** 5:30 p.m., Adoration service, Holy Family ACTS retreat, Spiritual Renewal Center
- 22-24** Pontifical College Josephinum Board of Trustees meeting, Columbus, Ohio

November

- 2** 6:45 p.m., Theology on Tap, Tejas Café, Victoria
- 3** 4:30 p.m., Reconciliation Service, Our Lady of the Gulf ACTS Retreat, 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, Our Lady of Victory ACTS retreat, Spiritual Renewal Center, Victoria
- 11-16** United States Conference of Catholic Bishops, General Meeting, Baltimore, MD

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I certify that all information furnished on this form is true and complete. I understand that anyone who furnishes false or misleading information on this form or who omits material or information requested on the form may be subject to criminal sanctions (including fines and imprisonment) and/or civil sanctions (including civil penalties).

Official Appointments By Most Rev. David E. Fellhauer

Effective September 27, 2006, the **Rev. Samuel Appiasi** is excardinated from the Archdiocese of Accra, Ghana, and incardinated in the Diocese of Victoria.

Effective Monday, October 9, 2006, the **Rev. Dan Morales** is appointed Vocation Director and Director of Seminar-ians, taking over the responsibilities from the **Rev. Matthew Huehlefeld**.

**Daylight Savings Time Ends
October 29**

Thank You Notes

Dear Bishop Fellhauer,

I am in receipt of your check in the amount of \$68,277.92, representing the gifts of the people of the Diocese of Victoria to the Jerusalem Mother Church for the 2006 Good Friday collection. This gift will not only assist in the preservation of the Holy Places but will also help the people to whom the Franciscan Friars of the Holy Land Custody minister.

With deep appreciation, much gratitude and a promise of prayer for you and the People of God in the Diocese of Victoria, I am yours

Sincerely and gratefully,
Bro. Joe Rogenski, O.F.M.
Commissariat of the Holy Land

Your Excellency,

The year 2006 check returns for the National Black and Indian Mission Collection arrived and it is always a pleasure to send the bishops a thank you letter. The office is grateful the amount of \$5,863.46.

Special appeals were made last year because of the terrible damage and destruction in the Gulf Port areas. The needs of the Southern area will be present for many years to come.

Evangelization is priority number one. It was the reason for mandating the National Black and Indian Collection during the Third Plenary Council and has proven itself over and over again through the years, ever since 1884, one hundred and twenty-two years.

Please continue being supportive, as best possible, to the annual National Black and Indian Mission Collection.

Sincerely in Our Lord
Msgr. Paul A. Lenz
Executive Director, Black and Indian Mission Office

Dear Bishop Fellhauer:

With deep gratitude I wish to acknowledge receipt of the check in the amount of \$10,000 representing a contribution for the support of the Holy See from the Diocese of Victoria for 2006, in accordance with the provisions of Canon 1271.

While I can assure you that this sum will be sent to the Secretariat of State on your behalf, permit me to offer an initial word of thanks for this expression of generosity.

May God continue to bless you and the faithful you serve.

Sincerely yours in Christ,
Archbishop Pietro Sambi
Apostolic Nuncio

2006 DSA Monthly Report

Since our last issue of *The Lighthouse* our pledged amount has increased to \$667,291. The total paid amount is \$621,607; which is 50 percent of the goal needed. Thus far 4,240 of 22,173 registered families have responded to the bishop's appeal.

Your contributions are the support of the Diocese of Victoria. Please consider joining these faithful members of our diocesan family and pledge a gift to further and maintain God's word. Your gifts are sincerely appreciated.

Jeri Joseph
DSA Coordinator

Stewardship Thought:

Giving and sharing are learned responses. It is our responsibility to teach our children this lesson.

DSA Goal
\$1,238,378

Half way
marker

Total
Amount
Paid
\$621,607

The Catholic Lighthouse
The Candle of Faith Illumination

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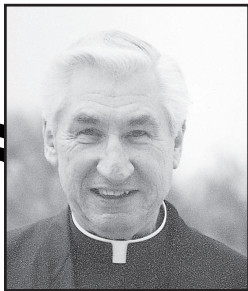
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Faith Point

By Rev. Msgr. James C. Brunner
Vicar General, Diocese of Victoria

For past articles: www.stmaryvic.com/desk.htm



Vote for those not running

Elections, always important, are becoming increasingly more critical. Their importance is not limited to the president and legislators, but to the members of the judiciary whom the president will appoint with the advice and consent of the Senate.

Here is a partial list of issues that have a bearing on religion that, if decided incorrectly by the courts, will curtail or eliminate religious practice and speech: abortion; abortion protests; Bible and Bible study in the workplace; churches and political speech; cloning; conscience protection for medical personnel and druggists with respect to abortion and abortifacients; curriculum matters; equal access for holiday celebrations and displays; equal access to facilities for religious use; euthanasia; free speech; government free speech regulations; internet pornography; judicial nominees; land use and zoning; our national motto, "In God We Trust"; nonprofit tax issues; pledge of allegiance; pornography; prayer at school, athletic contests and graduation ceremonies; protecting traditional marriage; public prayer; religious expression at work; stem cell research; student Bible clubs; student clothing; student right to opt out of classes approving homosexuality; student free speech rights; display of the ten commandments on public property; use of historical religious symbols, documents and logos of public agencies, etc. The outcome of the abundant litigation in these matters depends mainly on the persons who receive judicial appointment.

It was not always so. According to Christopher Wolfe, professor of political science and former chairman of the Political Science Department at Marquette University, judicial review has gone through three recognizable stages in the United States. In the first stage from 1789 until the end of the 19th century judicial review embraced a "fair reading" of the Constitution. This involved common sense rules for interpreting the words in their ordinary usage at the time of writing and in their context. There was a shared assumption that the Constitution had an ascertainable meaning, and finding that meaning was the end or object of the interpretation. Judicial review did not consist in *giving* meaning to provisions that were unclear, but rather in enforcing the meaning that could clearly be found in the Constitution. If constitutional provisions were unclear, the task of choosing how to interpret and apply them was left to the political—the democratically accountable—branches of government. Many people still think that that is the purpose of the Supreme Court. Unfortunately many current justices do not agree or operate in that fashion.

The second stage of judicial review came toward the end of the 19th century. This was characterized by an expansive version of due process that regulated the

substance of law as well as legal procedure to protect property rights and economic liberty. Between 1890 and 1937, the

Court used substantive due process to strike down a great deal of economic regulation at both the federal and state levels. Justices felt free to read their own economic philosophy into the law and did not feel limited to the

words of the Constitution.

The third stage of judicial review started about 1937. Justices were not so much interested in interpreting the words of the Constitution as in specifying the application of vague constitutional principles or values. Judges do not simply determine what the Constitution says; rather, they claim authority to decide what policies will best harmonize the document's allegedly vague principles with countervailing state interests. They defend this new, broader view of interpretation as the best way to combine the apparently permanent constitutional principles and the reality of constant change. Modern constitutional interpretation requires a reading of certain key phrases as vague general presumptions or guiding principles instead of reading them as "absolutes" to be construed "literally." Were certain key phrases intended to have, or do they in fact have, some determinate content that interpreters are to discern and enforce? Or were they intended to be, or are they in fact, open-ended provisions, whose content must be determined by courts over time? Modern judges have arrogated to themselves authority to follow the latter approach.

In this new approach, untethered from the words of the Constitution, justices are free to make decisions in line with what they consider the principles of the Constitution. Not surprisingly the principles they find agree with their own ideology, which is largely secularistic. Thus it was possible to find a right to abortion based on the right to privacy not mentioned in the Constitu-

tion but discovered by the justices in the penumbra (shadow) of the document. It is amazing what lurks in the shadows. From the shadows they have retrieved a constitutional principle of not upsetting religious minorities and this value often overrides express guarantees of the majority.

The new approach permits them to ignore precedent, except when it coincides with their ideology. Thus justices have shown great respect for *Griswold v. Conn.*, which affirmed the right to contraception based on an implied

right to privacy nowhere mentioned in the Constitution. On this right they would later base abortion rights. Justices even know the correct hierarchy of the vague constitutional guidelines. In *Roe v. Wade* they determined that the right to privacy trumps the right to life of an unborn human being. Precedent was not honored so highly in *Lawrence v. Texas*, which declared Texas sodomy laws unconstitutional although in 1986 in *Bowers v. Hardwick* the Court had upheld a similar Georgia statute, not finding a constitutional protection of sexual privacy.

The new, expansive judicial review process appears to this legal layman as

similar to a license for a referee to interpret the provisions of a contract according to what he supposes are the values of the contract with no requirement to base the interpretation on the language agreed upon in the contract itself. It potentially makes the Supreme Court a super-legislature accountable to no one but justices with life

tenure. It could change our form of government to a judicial oligarchy or rule by a few justices. This explains the intensity of the battles over judicial nominees. Secularists are bent on eliminating the judges

who are the wrong kind from their point of view and appointing the right kind to win battles in the Courts that they could never win in the legislative process. The rest of us seek justices who are not judicial activists and are guided by the text of the Constitution rather than vague values the justices suppose are embedded in it. Accord-

ing to a Zogby poll, three-quarters of Americans can correctly identify two of Snow White's seven dwarfs while only a quarter can name two Supreme Court Justices. Twice as many people (23 percent) were able to identify a recent winner of the television talent show "American Idol," Taylor Hicks, as were able to name the Supreme Court Justice confirmed in January 2006, Samuel Alito (11 percent). Yet in current judicial practice the justices have the power, validly or not, to make a profound impact on religion, marriage, education, life and death. That is why you must vote for the candidate who will uphold your values, especially your religious ones, but also vote for those who will appoint justices who do not arrogate to themselves the power to legislate rather than interpret the Constitution. Some Catholics out of habit or self-interest vote for candidates who run on a platform totally opposed to their value system. They are like sheep that are given the choice of choosing masters who will merely shear them or masters who will slaughter them. Unthinking Catholics often vote for the slaughterers. Choose carefully among those who are running for office because they will choose those not running, the justices of the Supreme Court.

The new approach permits them (justices) to ignore precedent, except when it coincides with their ideology.

Secularists are bent on eliminating the judges who are the wrong kind from their point of view and appointing the right kind to win battles in the Courts that they could never win in the legislative process.



Photo by Regina Matus-Janak

SECOND ANNUAL DEACONS' DINNER HELD—The second annual dinner for the diocese's permanent deacons and their spouses was held at Holy Family Church in Victoria September 29, 2006. The evening began with Mass celebrated by Bishop David E. Fellhauer. According to Joe Jakubik of the Serra Club Northwest, this celebration was begun last year to show the permanent deacons and their wives the Serra Club's appreciation for all that they do and the sacrifices they make for the Church, especially in the diocese. Pictured above, front, Deacon Jim Koenig and his wife Laurie (St. Mary Parish, Victoria); seated in front of them is Deacon Ken Ryan and his wife Lianne (Our Lady of the Gulf Parish, Port Lavaca) as they visit with Serra Club members. Each deacon introduced himself and spoke about his ministry. Serra Club of Victoria President Tim Michalski thanked everyone for coming and expressed gratitude to the deacons for what they do in the church.

*"Enjoy Yesterday's Charm
Today's Convenience"*

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TexasLawHelp.org is a Web site dedicated to providing free, reliable legal information to those who cannot afford legal help.



Seminary Burses

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

As of September 26, 2006

	TOTALS
— General Seminary Burse	
Previously reported	\$74,234.00
In memory of Mary Merle Rangnow by M/M Robert Bochat	25.00
In memory of Ysabel Barron by M/M Robert Bochat	25.00
Total	\$74,284.00
— Catholic Daughters of America Court Our Lady Queen of Peace No. 1374 Burse	
Previously reported	\$3,217.72
In memory of Evelyn Krpec by Carol, Tommy and Justin Turner	20.00
Total	\$3,237.72
— Rev. Charles Kolek, OSB, and John & Mary Kolek Burse	
Previously reported	\$1,780.00
Donation by family members of Charles and Mary Kozel Family Reunion	100.00
Total	\$1,880.00
— Rev. John C. Peters Burse No. 3	
Previously reported	\$11,321.00
In honor of Deacon Sonny Rogers' 80th birthday	20.00
Total	\$11,341.00
— Rev. Joseph A. Koebel Burse	
Previously reported	\$5,633.00
In memory of Rev. Joseph Koebel by Catholic Life Ins. Nada Branch 15	50.00
Total	\$5,683.00
— Jim Vacek Burse	
Previously reported	\$11,000.00
Gift given to complete the burse in loving memory of Mr. Jim Vacek by Edith M. Hickl	4,000.00
Total	\$15,000.00
— 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

— Josephat R. Janak Burse

Previously reported \$14,583.77
In memory of Johnnie Janak Sr. and James Moehrig by Evelyn Janak; Diane Moehrig and family; M/M John Janak and family; Sharon Moehrig and family; and Kenneth and Karen Janak 15.00
Total \$14,598.77

Additional Burses for donations:

- Nicholas and Annie Grahmann Burse No. 2
- Bishop David E. Fellhauer/Catholic Life Insurance Nada, Moulton, Hallettsville, Edna-Ganado and 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. Michael O'Shaughnessy
- Rev. Msgr. Julius Petru Burse No. 2
- Rev. Joe Levya
- Rev. Marcus Valenta
- Rev. Godfrey F. Kuratko
- Rev. Msgr. John Hanacek
- Catholic Family Fraternal of Texas KJZT 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 No. 2
- Rev. Charles Kram
- Eddie & Olga Jurose and Floran & Laura Frnka
- William L. Schmidt Seminary Burse
- Willamena 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
- Catholic Daughters of the Americas Court St. Ann No. 369 Burse No. 2
- Sister M. Barbara Konvicka, IWBS
- Rev. Msgr. Edward Bily Burse No. 2
- Rev. Theophil Okruhlik and Rev. Vincent Verdame
- Rev. Roman M. Janak and Rev. Msgr. Hubertus J. Janak
- Rev. Charles Kolek, OSB, and John and Mary Kolek
- Catholic Daughters of the Americas Court Our Lady Queen of Peace No. 1374
- Rev. Msgr. Thomas C. McLaughlin
- Knights of Columbus Victoria Council 1329 Burse No. 3

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

**The Chancery Office
will be closed
November 1 for
All Saints Day**

(Holy Day of Obligation)

Will re-open November 2 at 8:30 a.m.

Obituaries

Sister M. Bernadette Volny, IWBS, dies

Sister M. Bernadette Volny, of Victoria, passed away September 5, 2006, at Incarnate Word Convent at the age of 98 years.

She was born October 21, 1907, in New York City. She was one and a half years old when she came to Texas from the New York Foundling Hospital as one of the orphan train riders. She was taken into the family of Joseph and Annie Brezina Janosec in Granger. After Mr. Janosec died, Mrs. Janosec moved to Taylor and later married Joe Volny. It was then that Sister Bernadette took the last name Volny.

Sister Bernadette completed the first four grades at St. Mary's School in Taylor and the rest of the elementary grades and high school at St. Ludmila Academy in Shiner. She received the habit of the Sisters of the Incarnate Word and Blessed Sacrament at St. Ludmila Convent on August 29, 1923. Sister made her first profession of vows on August 30, 1924 and her final profession on September 7, 1929.

Sister Bernadette received a BS degree with a major in elementary education and a minor in philosophy from Incarnate Word College. She held a Teacher's Permanent Elementary Certificate of the First Class.

During her years of active service, Sister Bernadette taught elementary and junior high grades in the following Catholic schools of South Texas: Hostyn, St. John's, Plum, Shiner, Sealy, Corn Hill, San Marcos, East Bernard, Floresville, Nada, Crosby, Bay City and Victoria.

Survivors include nieces, Mary Ann Wood of San Antonio and Barbara Meyer of Austin.

She was preceded in death by her adoptive parents; and sister, Amelia Rabel.

Funeral Mass was held September 9, 2006, at the convent, with Rev. Leon Rubaj presiding. Burial followed at Catholic Cemetery III.



Sister Bernadette Volny, IWBS

Ysabel Barrón, father of Sister Leonita, OLV principal, dies

EDNA—Ysabel Barrón, husband of Rafaela Barrón for 71 years and father of James Barrón, Hope (deceased), Nicholas Barrón and wife Linda; Father Clemente Barrón, CP; and Sister Leonita Barrón, IWBS, went peacefully to God on September 14, 2006.

Ysabel was born on November 5, 1908 in La Fragua, Guanajuato Mexico and then immigrated to the United States in 1918, became a naturalized citizen in 1940 and settled in Edna in 1945. He is also survived by two sisters, Dolores Garcia and husband, Ignacio; and Lucia Lozano and husband Pablo of Bay City; his sister-in-law, Dorothy Barrón of Austin; and his five grandchildren and nine great-grandchildren.

He was a very active member of St. Agnes Parish and the Edna civic community. His many accomplishments included an active interest and involvement in education, local politics and civic projects. He served on local and regional boards, the historical society, juries and election committees. As involved as he was in the civic community, he was even more dedicated as a parishioner of St. Agnes Church. Over the years he served as choir director, Eucharistic minister, lector, altar server, in catechetical and evangelization programs, the Holy Name Society (both English-speaking and Spanish-speaking expressions), Knights of Columbus, Legion of Mary and St. Vincent de Paul Society. He was named Father of the Year several times by the Knights of Columbus. He and his wife, Rafaela, went to daily Mass when possible and would often represent the parish at Archdiocesan and diocesan events. His wife was always at his side.

Ysabel was most noted for his strong love for his family and his Catholic faith. He was completely devoted to his church. Because he was bilingual, he often served as a bridge between the English and Spanish speaking communities. His life was a model of Christian compassion and love, serving anyone in need. He touched many lives and all are blessed for the gift he has been these many years.

In lieu of flowers, the family is asking that a donation be made to the St. Vincent de Paul Society of St. Agnes Parish 505 N. Allen Street, Edna, Texas 77957 and Our Lady of Victory School, 1311 E. Mesquite, Victoria, Texas 77901.

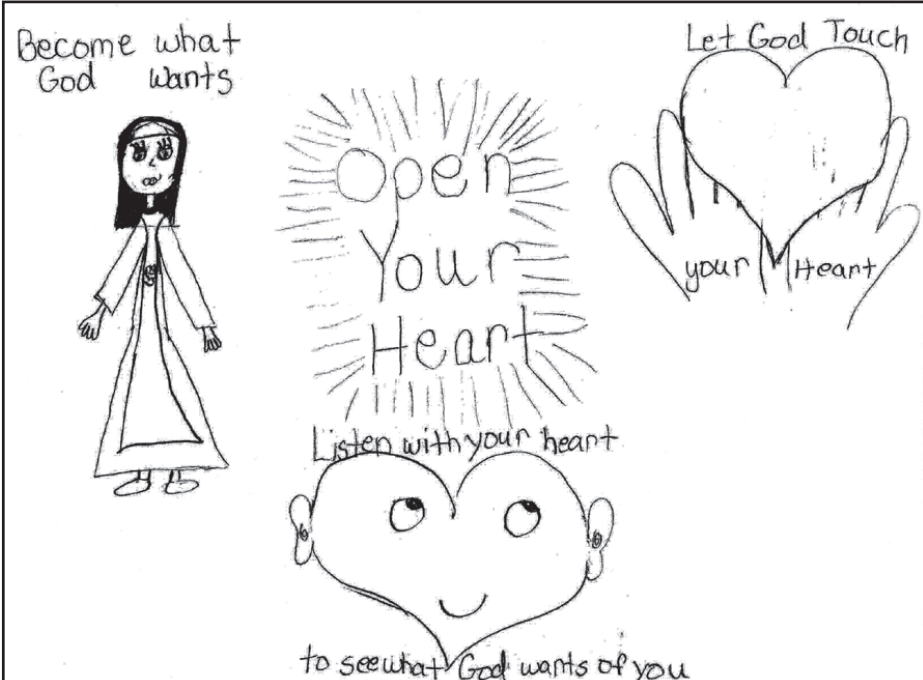


Ysabel Barrón



**Seminarian
Michael Rother
November 13**

Theology IV
St. Mary's Seminary
9845 Memorial Drive
Houston, Texas 77024
*Michael is from
St. Anthony Parish, Palacios*



Vocation Art

Artwork by Amber Smolik • 7th 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 or Incarnate Word Convent at (361) 575-7300; iwbsvoc@yahoo.com

November 2 is All Souls Day
Please remember all the faithful departed in your prayers.

May their souls rest in peace. Amen.

Reporting Abuse

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

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

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

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



Body Language:

Commentary on the intersection of faith, sex and culture

By Christopher West

God, Sex, & Bono

As demonstrated in his encyclical "God Is Love," and more recently at the *Fifth World Meeting of Families* in Valencia, Spain, Pope Benedict XVI, like John Paul II before him, is intent on helping the world see the connection between divine love (*agape*) and sexual love (*eros*). To help us reflect on these themes, I'd like to turn to what may seem an unlikely source: Bono, lead singer of U2, hailed as the biggest rock band in the world.

You've probably heard Bono sing about that "fever" he gets when he's "beside her . . . *desi-i-i-re, desi-i-i-re*" (drums in the background: boom-badood-badood, badood-doom). But this is no normal rock-n-roller glorifying lust. Bono may still not have found what he's looking for, but this is a man on a sincere quest to integrate *eros* with *agape*.

In a book-long interview with Michka Assayas, Bono reflects at length on his unconventional Christian convictions. And Assayas simply cannot understand how the world's biggest rock star could believe Jesus is the Son of God. Nor can he understand how Bono has remained faithful to his wife of 25 years.

In the portions of their dialogue that follow, Bono responds to his incredulous interviewer's suggestion of "incarnating" lustful temptations by turning it on its head. Bono meets Assayas right where he is and, with a stroke of genius, directs the conversation towards a reflection on the relationship between *eros*, *agape*, and the Incarnation of God's Son.

Assayas: "But you're the singer and front man in a band, and it's not just any band. I'm sure you've been tempted. Don't you ever feel that no matter what you have decided [about fidelity to your wife], love needs to be incarnated? . . . Think of *groupies*."

Bono: "We never fostered that environment. If you mean *groupie* in the sense that I know it, which is sexual favors traded for proximity with the band . . . Taking advantage of a fan, sexual bullying is to be avoided, but the music is sexual. . . . Sometimes . . . the erotic love [we sing about] can turn into something much higher, and bigger notions of love, and God, and family. It seems to segue very easily from me between those."

Assayas: "I'm surprised at how easily religion comes up in your answers, whatever the question is. How come you're always quoting from the Bible? Was it

because it was taught at school? Or because your father or mother wanted you to read it?"

Bono: "Let me try to explain something to you, which I hope will make sense of the whole conversation. . . . I remember coming back from a very long tour. . . . On Christmas Eve I went to St. Patrick's Cathedral. . . . It had dawned on me before, but it really sank in: the Christmas story. The idea that God, if there is a force of Love and Logic in the universe, that it would seek to explain itself is amazing enough. That it would seek to explain itself and describe itself by becoming a child born in straw poverty . . . a child, I just thought: "Wow!" Just the poetry. Unknowable love, unknowable power, describes itself as the most vulnerable. There it was. I was sitting there, and . . . tears came down my face, and I saw the genius of this, utter genius of picking a particular point in time and deciding to turn on this. Because that's exactly what we were talking about earlier: love needs to find form, intimacy needs to be whispered. To me, it makes sense. It's actually logical. It's pure logic. Essence has to manifest itself. It's inevitable. Love has to become an action or something concrete. It would have to happen. There must be an incarnation. Love must be made flesh. Wasn't that your point earlier? ("Bono: In Conversation with Michka Assayas, Riverhead, 2005, pp. 119-120, 124-125).

Here Bono echoes St. Paul in helping us to see that the union of man and woman is meant to point us to the incarnation. It's all about Christ's love for the church (see Eph 5:31-32). Go Bono!

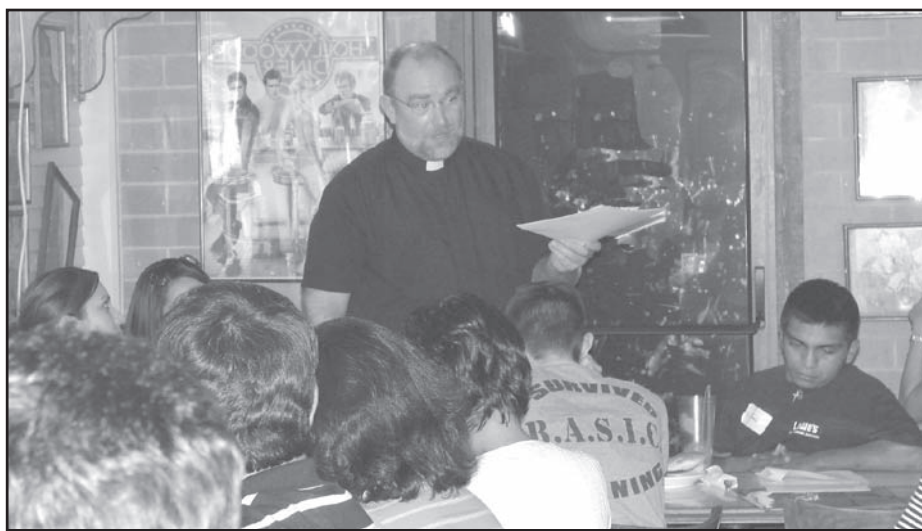


Photo by Lea Villareal Murphy

Father Bob Knippenberg, pastor of Sts. Cyril and Methodius Parish in Shiner, was the guest teacher at the first of six Theology on Tap evenings held at Tejas Café in Victoria for young adults.

Shiner priest addresses *DaVinci Code* misconceptions at Theology on Tap program

By Lea Villareal Murphy

Speaking to a packed room of about 30 people, Father Bob Knippenberg of Shiner, tackled questions that were raised by the book and recently released movie titled, *The DaVinci Code*. Father Bob's talk on Sept. 7 was the first in a series of talks that are part of the *Theology on Tap* program sponsored by the diocese and being held this fall at Tejas Café in Victoria.

Many Catholics and Christians alike have been confused by Dan Brown's book, *The DaVinci Code*, in part, because the book is written as historical fiction, a genre that combines fictional elements with historical events. "What Dan Brown has brought out in us is our angst about who God really is," said Father Bob. He posed the question, "How deep is our faith in who we believe in?" He explained that

there are many unanswered questions in the lives of today's Christians. "Science is where we should go to answer the "what" of life. Religion is where we should go to answer the "why" of life," said Father Bob. "Our lives require a balance of both," he said.

In his book, author Dan Brown caused confusion by presenting fictional elements in a factual way and combining them with the historical events of Jesus and the early Church. To clear up the confusion, Fr. Bob gave handouts detailing many of the discrepancies in the book and explained the inaccuracies and the threads of truth where most were likely derived.

The *Theology on Tap* series continues through mid-November. For specific dates and topics, contact Debbie Vanelli at (361) 573-0828 or see Youth Calendar on pg. 9.

Looking Around

By Father William J. Byron, SJ
Catholic News Service



Formula for success in college

Any beginning, returning or second-chance college student can find the key to academic success on a standard sheet of paper.

If you are a concerned parent, you can pack that sheet in with all the other gear your offspring will be carrying away to college within a week or two. This sheet of paper is called a "study budget."

If you are a student, it is a paper to be filled in by you. And, if followed, it becomes a reliable roadmap to a college diploma. Here's how it works.

Take the sheet and draw vertical lines to produce seven columns; then draw horizontal lines to make 24 rows — one column for each of the seven days in every week, one row corresponding to each of the 24 hours of every day. Label them accordingly down the side and across the top of the page.

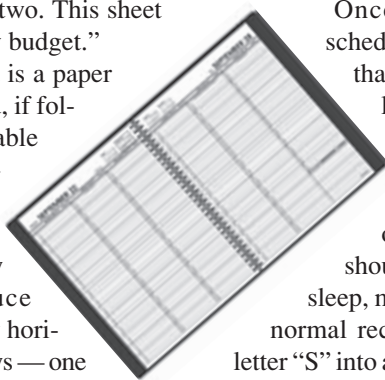
An important point to note as you begin this project is that there may be other students in your class with higher IQs, fatter bank accounts, wider travel experience

and more impressive secondary school credentials than you have, but no one has more days in the week or hours in the day than you.

When you construct a study budget, no one has a bigger sheet than yours — 24/7 means equal opportunity for all!

Once you get your class schedule, fill in those blocks that correspond to class and lab time. That, of course, is time already taken; nothing you can do about it. Next, figure out how many blocks should be blackened out for sleep, meals, extracurriculars and normal recreation. Then write the letter "S" into a sufficient number of the remaining blocks so that you will have set aside study time for each day beginning with Monday of the first full week of class.

Now notice all the white space in the Saturday and Sunday columns and proceed to blacken out some weekend study hours so that they will be "taken," so to speak, and not available for frisbee flipping, televising, hanging out or roam-



ing off the reservation in response to impulse, invitation or unanticipated opportunities that would pull you away from the books.

Then take a long minute to ponder the difference between a money-expenditure budget and a study budget. If you save up your money week by week, you'll surely have a lot to spend on a future blowout weekend with friends. But you can't save and accumulate study time. It has to be spent every day or it just won't be there to be spent at any future date.

Understanding that simple truth admits you to the world of the wise.

Now, of course, you have to allow for spontaneity and make allowance for the unexpected. But remember: If you've squirreled your study time away by not spending it, you are in big trouble as early as three or four weeks into your first semester. An additional week or two with no expenditures from your study budget will put you in a hole so deep that you are unlikely ever to return to the land of the academic living.

Once your study budget is complete, take it to a duplicating machine and run off a few copies — one for the folks at home, one for the wall by your desk and one for a good friend who cares enough about you to introduce you to your better self whenever you deviate from plan.

That's what a study budget is — a plan for academic success. The design-and-build responsibilities are all yours. And so are the good results.

E-mail: wbyron@sjprep.org.

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).

Dear Lord, we invoke your help so more young men and women will be touched by your grace and become priests, sisters, brothers and lay ministers in service to you. We ask this in Jesus' name and through the intercession of your Blessed Mother. Amen.



All Souls Day celebration Nov. 2

Our Catholic cemeteries give a powerful and enduring witness that our community of faith transcends our earthly existence and that the bonds we share are unbroken by time or earthly death.

All Souls Day is a day set aside to pray for the deceased and to visit the graves of loved ones and friends in a show of respect to those who have gone before us and who now dwell with God in Heaven.

To continue their tradition, the Catholic Cemeteries Office of Victoria will hold a Mass at Resurrection Cemetery Mausoleum (corner of Laurent and Mockingbird) on All Souls Day, Thursday, November 2, at 12:00 p.m. (noon). Msgr. Hermes will be the celebrant. Please join us.

At largest assembly NCCW has held, aim is to draw younger members

MILWAUKEE (CNS) — About 850 women attended the biennial general assembly of the National Council of Catholic Women Sept. 21-23, making it the largest general assembly the group has held. Under the theme “Yes, Lord, Your Servant Is Listening,” the women attended workshops promoting leadership and recruiting younger members. “We try to satisfy (younger members) by creating events that are fun for them,” said Carlotta Lawton of the Diocese of Joliet, Ill., in an interview with the Catholic Herald, Milwaukee archdiocesan newspaper. “We make sure we reach out in events that help their lives. When we have activities, we want to make them fun.” Lawton said some of the newer activities implemented in her diocese to attract younger members include golf outings, knitting groups, a fashion show and Christmas craft bazaar. One way to get younger members involved in the NCCW, according to Lawton, is to ask them to start a program in their parish.

Local Religious attend National Religious Vocation Conference

IRVINE, Calif.—From September 7-11, 2006, Sister Mildred Truchard of the Sisters of the Incarnate Word and Blessed Sacrament joined over 450 vocation ministers and accompanying community members at the National Religious Vocation Conference’s biennial convocation held in Irvine, California. The theme of the convocation was, “Called, Vowed, Committed: Belonging in a New Generation.” Some young men and women, under 30 years of age and in discernment and formation programs, were invited as special guests as were congregational leaders.

The National Religious Vocation Conference (NRVC) is a professional organization of men and women committed to vocation awareness, invitation, and discernment to consecrated life as brothers, sisters and priests. This year’s convocation focused on coming to a deeper understanding of the call to religious life, commitment and ministry. The convocation presentations also sought to provide greater understanding of the challenges faced today in vocation ministry while also supporting and fortifying individual and collaborative ministry efforts.

Three keynote speakers addressed the gathering: Reverend Ronald Rolheiser,

OMI; Sister Laurie Brink, OP; and Mr. John Allen. Father Ronald, a member of the Missionary Oblates of Mary Immaculate, serves as president of Oblate School of Theology in San Antonio, Texas, and is a renowned author in the fields of spirituality and systemic theology. Sister Laurie, a member of the Sinsinawa Dominican Sisters, serves as assistant professor of Biblical Studies at Catholic Theological Union in Chicago. John Allen is the Vatican Correspondent for CNN, appears on National Public Radio, and is the author of three books on Vatican affairs.

During the awards Ceremony, the Harvest Award, which is given to non-NRVC members in recognition of service given to vocation ministry, was presented to Serra International and the Serra USA Council for their support in promoting priestly and religious vocations.

Sister Mildred reflected on the Convocation saying, “It was impressive to see representatives from so many religious orders coming together to view afresh the role and future of religious life in our increasingly secular society.

Free online Bible Study Program

In an effort to encourage Catholics to read the Bible and related books, the Catholic Book Publishers Association (CBPA) supports the free national reading program *CatholicsRead*. CBPA has just announced the *CatholicsRead* featured books of the Bible and topics for the 2007 liturgical year: John, Psalms, and “God is Love,” inspired by Pope Benedict XVI’s first encyclical, “Deus Caritas Est.” On the program’s Web site those who wish to participate in the program, individually or as part of a small or large group (such as a parish Bible Study group), can find the texts of the featured books of the Bible in English and Spanish, questions for the group discussion or individual reflection, and supplemental books and music to enhance their study.

To purchase the supplemental resources, participants can either enter their zip code to view a list of local bookstores or link directly to publisher Web sites. For more information on the *CatholicsRead* Program and how to get started using it yourself or in your faith community, visit www.CatholicsRead.org.

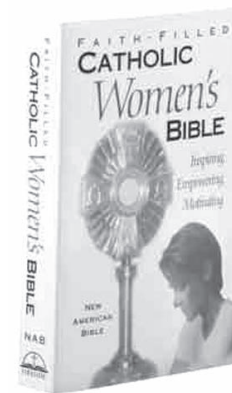
Fireside Catholic Publishing releases New Bible for Catholic Women

Wichita, KS—Fireside Catholic Publishing is pleased to announce the release of the Faith-Filled Catholic Women’s Bible. We are thrilled to introduce this brand new New American Bible specifically designed for Catholic women who want to grow in their faith,” states Mark Brosz, VP Sales and Marketing, Fireside Catholic Publishing.

The Faith-Filled Catholic Women’s Bible speaks to today’s woman – with beautiful color-coded inserts that approach 22 different themes through Scrip-

ture, stories of women saints, and prayer and reflection, along with practical applications of putting faith into action in everyday life.

“Women of all ages will appreciate this indispensable resource to help guide them in living as a faith-filled woman of God,” said Brosz. To order the Faith-Filled Catholic Women’s Bible, contact Fireside Catholic Publishing at 1-800-676-3264. Price is \$24.95 for the laminated soft-cover, shrink-wrapped Faith-Filled Catholic Women’s Bible. For more information visit www.firesidecatholic.com.



Diocese of Victoria Library & Media Center



Book of the Month

Becoming a Community of Salt and Light
This book provides a clear, concise and thorough model for building effective social ministry for our parishes today. The commitment to live the social mission of the church is for each of us. This book is the key to understanding – and then acting upon – this commitment.

Other Books

- *A Concise Guide to Catholic Social Teaching* by Kevin E. McKenna
- *Praying the Rosary* by Megan McKenna
- *Hidden Springs of Hope: Finding God in the Desert of Suffering* by Mary Caswell Walsh
- *Radical Compassion: Finding Christ in the Heart of the Poor* by Gary Smith, S.J.

Video of the Month

Many Faces in God’s House Discover the many unknown riches present within our culturally diverse communities through this colorful and inspiring video. Catholics across the United States can enjoy the gifts and traditions of an ever-widening array of ethnic communities. *Approximately 17 minutes in length; study guide included.*

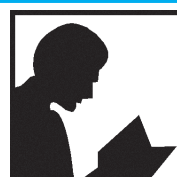
Other Videos

- The Invisible Church
- The Mestiza Virgin: Our Mother of the Americas
- We Pray with Mary: The Cloak of Many Colors
- La Virgen Morena: Nuestra Madre de las Americas

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

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

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



DIOCESE OF VICTORIA PASTORAL INSTITUTE

Extended Program Classes

Pauline Writings and New Testament Letters

Sr. Digna Vela, IWBS – Instructor

What does it mean in 1 Corinthians when it says women should keep silent in church? How do we read the New Testament letters and apply them to our lives?

Study the letters of Paul and other New Testament writings and discuss their message. What is God asking of me? For more information or to register, call the catechetical office at (361) 573-0828 or e-mail calvarez@victoriadiocese.org. You can also register the first night of class. All classes are from 7:00-9:15 p.m. Classes are \$15 per six-weeks.

VICTORIA CENTER

Chancery Building
1505 E. Mesquite Lane
Tuesdays: Oct. 17 - Nov. 21
Thursdays: Oct. 19 - Nov. 30
(no class Nov. 23 Thanksgiving)

WHARTON CENTER

Holy Family Church
2011 Briar Lane
Mondays: Oct. 23 - Nov. 27

Heavenly Helpers

1406-B N. Mechanic
El Campo, Texas
(979) 543-2850

Mon.-Fri. 9:30 a.m.-5:30 p.m.
Sat. 9:30 a.m.-3:00 p.m.



Special Gifts For Any Occasion

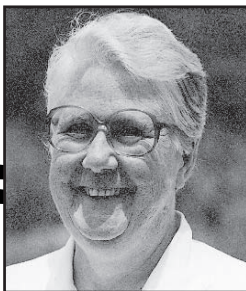
Baptism • Wedding •
Anniversary •
Birthday • Grief

Precious Moments Figurines,
Bibles, Books & Music, Crosses,
Cards, Jewelry, Rosaries, T-Shirts
& Much More



Sisterly Thoughts

By Sister Mildred Truchard, IWBS



Getting Better and Better!

By now, the school year activities have developed a routine which determines much of what we do outside our jobs or school classes. How often do we hear of football statistics, of pep squad and cheerleader motions and yells or of marching band performances? How often do we drive through neighborhoods which seem to be evacuated — all because everyone is at the local Friday night football game?

One would almost think that school is all about fun and entertainment and a better than average performance in extracurricular activities. However, before we make any hasty judgments, let's look behind the extracurricular scene. We'll probably find that students spend many productive hours mastering the basics and preparing for public events. The long hours of tedious practice presuppose a lot more than a good performance; they foster the development of self-discipline and co-operation — skills that should flow over into improved study habits and moral character development. We all know that self-discipline and the ability to work with others

to accomplish a goal is very important.

These skills should transfer as important ingredients in one's Christian life as we work together to bring about the Kingdom of God and put the common good ahead of our own desires.

Becoming aware of the necessity of mastering the basic skills required for devout Christian life should lead one to appreciate the inspiration of the Word of God and the power of the Eucharist in the out-of-this-world performance which we experience each Sunday!

So let us continue to support our students in their efforts to improve their skills and the quality of their presentations through long hours of practice; let us encourage them to become the best that they can be at whatever they attempt. Let us pray for their coaches, sponsors and teachers who continually encourage and challenge them forward. And let us pray that the results of their efforts will spill over into their school work and their moral and spiritual development. May they fully become the persons they were created to be!

Why must we stop funding Planned Parenthood?

By Joan Janak, President
Lavaca Right to Life

Sponsored by: The Woodlands Financial Group

- Planned Parenthood is the leading abortion provider in the United States.
- Planned Parenthood does 180 abortions for every one adoption referral.
- Planned Parenthood kills 14 babies for every one it helps with prenatal care.
- Planned Parenthood knowingly conceals sexual abuse crimes.
- Planned Parenthood's own interactive teen Web site tells teens how to have sex, what birth controls are available and how to use them. Go to plannedparenthood.org and see for yourself.
- Planned Parenthood opposes any parental consent or even parental notification laws for girls considering abortion.
- Planned Parenthood and other abortion clinics perform partial birth abortions and even live births in order to maximize

the profits from the subsequent sale of undamaged fetal tissue. These fetuses are sold to universities, hospitals, etc., for research. So they make money from the woman having the abortion, as well as her dead baby.

- Last year, Planned Parenthood's business income was \$882 million.
- Planned Parenthood has made a profit of \$649.60 million since 1987.
- Planned Parenthood has received \$3.9 billion in taxpayer money since 1987.
- Planned Parenthood received \$272.7 million in taxpayer money in 2005.
- Planned Parenthood conceals the abortion/breast cancer link. In 27 out of 36 studies, the risk of breast cancer rises dramatically when a woman has an abortion. This has been recognized by at least eight medical organizations.
- The Association of American Physicians and Surgeons issued a statement in 2003 calling on doctors to inform patients about a "highly plausible" relationship between abortion and breast cancer. The breast cancer rate according to the American Cancer Society is now 1 in 7 women.
- Even though abortion is legal in the United States—this doesn't make it right. Slavery was once legal!!
- Pope Leo XIII's encyclical, "Rerum Novarum (on capital and labor)," quotes St. Thomas Aquinas:

"Human law is law only by virtue of its accordance with right reason; and thus it is manifest that it flows from the eternal law. And in so far as it deviates from right reason it is called an unjust law; in such cases it is no law at all, but rather a species of violence."

Silence only condones what is wrong. Do not remain silent—be heard!!!

Write to your political representatives, the president, etc. Become active in a pro-life organization in your parish. Go online to www.all.org and sign their petition to stop funding Planned Parenthood.

Most importantly pray, fast and speak up to end abortion and to respect life from conception to natural death.

St. Michael Catholic School in Weimar receives Blue Ribbon School title

Continued from p. 1

"We are so pleased that St. Michael Catholic School has been named a 2006 Blue Ribbon School by the U.S. Department of Education," said Sister Gloria Cain, SSND, and Superintendent of Catholic Schools for the Diocese of Victoria.

"This award publicizes to the nation what we have known for so many years, that St. Michael Catholic School challenges students to develop their full potential in order to fulfill their role as responsible individuals in today's changing society. Congratulations to the administration, faculty, students and the entire community of St. Michael Catholic School," she continued.

The *No Child Left Behind - Blue Ribbon Schools Program* recognizes schools whose students achieve at very high levels or that make significant progress in closing the achievement gap. The schools are selected based on one of two criteria:

- Schools whose students, regardless of background, achieve in the top 10 percent of their state on state tests or in the case of private schools in the top 10 percent of the nation on nationally-normed tests.

- Schools with at least 40 percent of their students from disadvantaged backgrounds that dramatically improve student performance to high levels on state tests.

On July 28, 2002, the Secretary of Education announced that schools singled out for national honors will now reflect the goals of our nation's new education reforms for high standards and accountability. St. Michael's is now one of those leading schools.

"We are grateful to God for having blessed our school with this awesome award," said St. Michael school principal

Sister Laura Toman, IWBS.

In order to be eligible to be nominated for this award, a school must satisfy two requirements: 1. teach a foreign language as part of the school's regular curriculum (not as an elective) in the upper grades of the school; and 2. the students in the highest grade (8th grade class of 2006 in St. Michael's case) must have achieved in the top 10 percent of the nation on their last Stamford Achievement Test in reading and math (public schools must achieve in the top 10 percent of their state, while private or parochial schools must achieve in the top 10 percent of the nation).

"I've always known St. Michael's was an outstanding school, and when we met the two qualifications listed above, I knew it was time to apply," said Sister Laura.

"I wanted others to see the good work the teachers have done with the students and what the students have accomplished through the years," she said.

"This is not only a plus for the diocese but for the community of Weimar as well. It puts Weimar on the map of school excellence," she said.

"You, your staff, students and parents should be proud and pleased at your efforts to deliver the highest quality education; they are not only successful but are an example to others," CAPE wrote to St. Michaels.

The school will receive a plaque stating St. Michael's achievement and a 2006 Blue Ribbon School flag. Award winners are not allowed to apply for this award for another five years. Sister Laura and sixth grade teacher Jean Howze will attend the 2006 *No Child Left Behind - Blue Ribbon Schools* awards ceremony in Washington, D.C., November 9-10, 2006.



Photo by Agnes Sedlmeyer

STS. CYRIL & METHODIUS CATHOLIC CEMETERY HAS A MAUSOLEUM—In response to the needs of the Shiner community, a mausoleum has been built in Sts. Cyril and Methodius Catholic Cemetery. The garden mausoleum has three crypt walks with a total of 123 crypts (burial places). Each of the three Spanish Rose polished granite walks is dedicated to one of the patron saints of the parish: St. Cyril, St. Methodius and St. Ludmila. The crypts are available to parishioners and non-parishioners alike. Construction began late 2004 and was completed in late 2005. ACME Mausoleum Company built and owns the structure. Spaces are still available for purchase by contacting Joe and Anne Castro with ACME at (830) 832-7218 or (830) 609-2039.



Our Lady
of
Lourdes

Annual Fall
Festival
Nov. 12

at the Victoria
Community Center

Featuring Our
Traditional Turkey and
Dressing Dinner @ \$7 p/p

And much more! See ad next
month for more information.

Raffle
Country
Store
Games

Hope You Can Come & Join Us!
St. Theresa Annual Parish Picnic

in La Salle at the Parish Hall

County Road 325 & Hwy 616

Sunday, October 22

Turkey Dressing Dinner

(Catered by Robert Werner of Shiner, Texas)

Serving: 11:00 a.m. • \$6.50 • Dine-in or Plates-to-go

Polka Music

Auction at 12:30 p.m.

Smoothie
Machine
Plant Sale
Cakewalk



Photo by Agnes Sedlmeyer

Bishop David E. Fellhauer blesses the new Vietnamese Dominicans' chapel, St. Rose of Lima Convent, during a visit on September 8, 2006. Above Bishop Fellhauer reads an introduction as school children look on.

Bishop blesses Vietnamese Dominicans' convent chapel

SHINER—Bishop David E. Fellhauer blessed the chapel at the new Sisters' convent at Sts. Cyril and Methodius Parish in Shiner September 8, 2006. The new convent, located at 515 S. St. Ludmila Street, is home to three Vietnamese Dominican Sisters who are serving the Shiner parish

Concerns rise over lack of 'net neutrality' in new telecom bills

WASHINGTON (CNS) — In the era of regulated utilities, residents and businesses alike knew what the charges would be for electricity, natural gas and telephone service. With an unregulated Internet, though, individuals seeking Internet content and businesses and organizations hoping that users will click on their sites may wind up paying huge fees to Internet service providers before much longer. Current telecommunications bills working their way through Congress have no safeguards for "net neutrality," which allows any user equal access to any Web site. Net neutrality — short for network neutrality — is the policy of keeping the Internet open to all lawful traffic by requiring that cable and telephone companies operate their Internet networks in a nondiscriminatory manner. It bars those companies from prioritizing Internet traffic to benefit their own content. With no safeguards for net neutrality, religious groups, including the U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops, fear that Internet service providers will discriminate against them and charge them if they want to get the same level and speed of service they now receive for their online sites when someone types in their Web address.

and Catholic school. The chapel is named St. Rose of Lima Convent in honor of the Dominican saint.

The three nuns came to Shiner from Houston in time for the 2006-07 school year. They are Sister Maria Raphael Tram Tran, Sister Catherine Yen Tran and Sister Christine Thu Hoang.

Sister Marie Raphael, Sister Christine and the second grade class of St. Ludmila Elementary welcomed the bishop to the convent and witnessed the prayer service/ blessing of the chapel.

Prior to the ceremony, Bishop Fellhauer gave a short instruction to the children regarding sacred 'objects and places.' He gave examples of sacred things as being statues, candles, holy water, etc. and sacred places as the church, chapel, altar, tabernacle.



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For more information call Betty Urbanovsky @ 979-543-2333
E-mail
Burbanovsky@sbcglobal.net

High Hill's St. Mary Church celebrates 100th anniversary of current building

Continued from p. 1

much of the material used on the new building. Members of the parish donated time, teams, wagons and ox carts to haul gravel, cement, lumber, bricks and other building materials for the church's construction. The new building included the original 18 stained glass windows from the second church (seven more have since been added). The cost was \$16,000. On September 8, 1906, the new brick church of High Hill was blessed.

In 1910, the pulpit, communion rail and baptismal enclosure were completed

by one of the parishioners, Carl Muehr. He also built 48 new pews. In 1911, three new altars were placed in the church, each was a gift from church parishioners. The new church was completed in 1912 as two noted artists from the San Antonio area finished decorations (stencils) on the ceiling and walls.

High Hill and The Nativity of the Blessed Virgin Mary Church are located about five miles northwest of Schulenburg on FM 2672. It is one of the structures featured on the "Painted Churches" tour.

Catholic Social Teaching topic of School Seminar held in Hallettsville

Continued from p. 20

the search of the common good, not the demands of the special interests," he continued.

Each participant was given a copy of the US Catholic Bishops' card: *Sharing Catholic Social Teaching*. It enumerated the seven themes of Catholic Social Teaching: 1. The life and dignity of the human person; 2. The call to family, community and participation; 3. Human rights and responsibilities; 4. The option for the poor and vulnerable; 5. The dignity of work and the rights of workers; 6. Solidarity; and 7. Care for creation.

These seven themes must be worked within the context of the "Sign of the Times," he said, within our de-moralized politics; challenged church; divided economy; broken world; and culture of violence and death.

Mr. Carr stated that this is a tough time and a tough time for a mission. But he assured the staff that the social mission is not optional nor is it on the fringe. It's the heart of what it means for Catholic schools; it's not something we fit in within a couple of lessons.

Catholic Social Teaching Assets

Highlighted were the assets of the Catholic Church and its social teaching, of which Mr. Carr specifically stated were its Catholic teachers, "The Catholic schoolteachers' job is important work and their sacrifices are remarkable."

Other assets included the moral framework of principles in the church's social teachings, "It's not something we make up along the way; it's not free; it's not trendy," he said.

Things for which the Catholic faithful should be proud of is that in the United States the Catholic Church is the largest non-governmental provider of education and healthcare; Catholic charities such as Catholic Relief Services is in over 100 countries; we have a bishops' conference; and a great leader in the pope.

"But the most important leaders are not in the front row," he said, "They are the teachers and faculty."

Directions and Dangers

Under the heading of Directions and Dangers for Catholic Schoolteachers and Faculty, he taught that social teaching must be integrated, not isolated. This is Catholic identity. It's not something for a few, for one school class, one department or forum. The principals and schoolteachers,

coaches and janitors need to engage and weave the social teachings into what they do every day, he said.

Catholic Social Teaching should be involved in "what is taught, who is taught, and how it's taught."

"Catholic Social Teaching should be involved in recruitment, admissions, financial aid, who is honored, who receives rewards. It should be taught in the liturgies, assemblies and field trips.

"It should be so integrated into the school's mission that it is considered when school leaders plan and prioritize their budget, at orientation, evaluations, staff development, parent's meetings, Catholic Schools Week, disciplining/hiring/firing personnel.

"Schools should consider what is in their libraries: is there information on the shelves about the USCCB social teachings, Catholic Relief Services?"

The few dangers with which one may struggle when applying Catholic Social Teachings are the dangers of self-righteousness, selective polarization (between pro-life and other social issues), and not practicing what we preach.

"A school that doesn't take mission seriously is not fully Catholic. The (social) mission is an integral and essential part of Catholic orthodoxy," Mr. Carr stressed before forming the schools in groups to discuss several question as to how their school is performing in the area of social teaching: what they were already doing well, individually and institutionally, and what they need to improve on, this year and in the next three years.

The evening before the conference, Mr. Carr also spoke at the School Advisory Council Workshop, a mandated annual training, which was held at the Sacred Heart Parish Hall in Hallettsville. About 115 council members heard his presentation, "Catholic Social Teaching and the Catholic School Council."

To learn more about Catholic Social Teaching, please go to these Web sites: www.usccb.org/sdwp and www.usccb.org/faithfulcitizenship.

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www.txdps.state.tx.us/dem

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



Annual Christmas Dinner

Bishop David Fellhauer and the Office of Youth and Young Adult Ministry extend an invitation to join them at the annual Christmas dinner on Saturday, December 9, 2006.

The evening begins at 6:30 p.m. at the Spiritual Renewal Center.

Reservations can be made by contacting Jo Ann Martinez at the Diocese of Victoria at (361) 573-0828, ext. 50.

All proceeds go to benefit the multi-purpose building fund project.

Sacred Heart School is TAPPS 2006 Overall 2A State Champions

HALLETTSVILLE—For the third year in succession Sacred Heart Catholic High School was named the Texas Association of Private and Parochial Schools (TAPPS) 2006 Overall 2A State Champion. The school received this distinct honor for advancing in the playoffs in the following athletic and music competitions: volleyball (10 points), football (2 points), girls basketball (6 points), boys golf (2 points), girls golf (4 points), girls tennis (8 points), girls track (8 points), baseball

(8 points), softball (8 points) and instrumental music (10 points). A total of 66 points were earned for the 2005-06 school year.

Congratulations to the student participants, the teachers, the coaches and the parents for their support of the overall extracurricular programs offered at Sacred Heart Catholic School.

Sacred Heart had previously received the Overall State Championship in 1989, 1996, 1997, 2004 and 2005.

Spirit Wing Records announces Catholic Music 2007

Spirit Wing Records proudly announces an upcoming two CD compilation project titled Catholic Music 2007. Catholic Music 2007 will feature 32 Catholic recording artists and will resemble the popular Christian project, WOW, which is released every year.

Catholic Music 2007, is expected to be released November 22, 2006, in honor of the feast day of Saint Cecilia, the patron saint of music.

With the constantly changing face of Contemporary Christian music it is understandable that one of the newest outreaches would be Catholic music. More and more Catholic artists are breaking into the Christian music scene to help spread the Good News and to bring Christians closer to their faith.

The creators of Catholic Music 2007, Gary Gersin of Cleveland, Ohio, and Mike Beloud of Los Angeles, California, hope to bring awareness to Catholic music ministries.

Gersin, of Sacred Heart Radio, said, "My goal with SacredHeartRadio.net has always been to highlight the wonderful Catholic music ministries out there. Catholic Music 2007 is just another way we are trying to get these artists heard and to help people celebrate their Faith through the Lord's great gift of music."

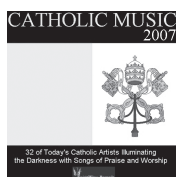
"There are many talented Catholic artists out there who are filled with the Spirit, serving God and the Church through their

music ministries," said Beloud, a member of the Catholic-rock group Rise. "Catholic Music 2007 gives them the opportunity to showcase their work."

"Worship" will be the first of the two CDs which features more traditional/prayerful music while Disc 2, "Praise," will be the more modern upbeat music.

The 32 artists to be featured on the CD project include: Angelina, Bernie Choiniere, Celeste Zepponi, Critical Mass, David Vogel, Father David Hemann, Fred Cacciotti, Gretchen Harris, Jeannie Pomanowski, John Grassadonia, Catholicus, Kitty Cleveland, Last Day, Lynn Geyer, Margo B. Smith, Mark Mallett, Matthew Baute, Michael Patrick, Nancy Krebs, Ned Tonner, Nick Alexander, Remember Rome, Renee Bondi, RISE, ROMANS, Sean Clive, Sharmane Adams, Simonetta, Susan Jansen, The Perfect Cry, Trish Foti Genco and Veronica Morrissey.

Copies of Catholic Music 2007 can be pre-ordered by visiting the Spirit Wing Records Web site at www.spiritwingrecords.com for \$15.99. For a limited time, all pre-orders will receive free shipping and a special gift. For more information, contact Mike Beloud at Mike@SpiritWingRecords.com or Gary Gersin at Gary@SpiritWingRecords.com.



Jesus called four ordinary men who didn't seem to be looking for dramatic changes in their lives. In fact, Jesus reminded them before his death: "You did not choose me, but I chose you and appointed you that you should go and bear fruit." Has God chosen you to be a priest or religious?

Diocese of Victoria • Vocation Office
(361) 573-0828, ext. 50

YOUTH CALENDAR OF EVENTS

- October 10**—All paper work and balance due for Region X Conference
October 14—Basic Certificate in Youth Ministry – Chancery – Leadership Development and Planning and Programming— 9:30 a.m.-2:30 p.m.
October 19—Theology on Tap - Tejas Café in Victoria - 6:45 p.m. - Topic: *Saints & Superstitions*; Speaker: Father Michael Lyons, pastor of Assumption of the Blessed Virgin Mary, Ganado
October 22—Youth Leadership Training – Chancery in Victoria
November 2—Theology on Tap - Tejas Café in Victoria - 6:45 p.m. - Topic: *Love: The Center of It All*; Speaker: Bishop David E. Fellhauer, Diocese of Victoria
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.

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

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



TEENS JOIN IN ACTS RETREAT—Our Lady of Victory Parish recently held its first Teen ACTS Retreat on August 3-6, 2006, at the Spiritual Renewal Center. Father Gabriel Bentil of Our Lady of Victory was the spiritual director. There were 45 retreatants. Participants came from Victoria and the surrounding area, and also from as far away as Brazoria and Frisco. "We had an awesome team and a terrific group of retreatants," said one team leader. Anyone who attended the return Mass could clearly see the motivation of the Holy Spirit in the teens. The next retreat will be held August 2 -5, 2007, at the Renewal Center. Those interested in being on the team for the next retreat may contact Jerome Kotzur at home (361) 573-1681 or cell (361) 652-4269.



CNS photo/courtesy of Francesco Productions

RAPPIN' FATHER STAN FORTUNA PERFORMS— *Rappin' Father Stan Fortuna performs in this undated hand-out photo. The Franciscan Friar of the Renewal's latest release contains 18 songs ranging from old-school rap to world beats.*

Rapping priest releases new CD, says genre speaks to young people

PHILADELPHIA (CNS) — He's at it again. Father Stan Fortuna, the Franciscan Friar of the Renewal who is known as the "rapping priest," has released his latest CD in the genre. Eighteen songs, ranging from old-school rap to world beats, make up the new release, which completes the series of rap albums he has released over the past few years. "Sacro Song 3: The Completion of the Trilogy" deals with a range of topics, from the negative effects visited on fatherless children in "Daddy Wound," and the grip of the culture of death in "Hangin' in There," to a message of peace in "Peace

Shout Out," and a tribute to his beloved role model, the late Pope John Paul II, in "I'm Loving You," "The Great One" and "KW." Throughout the album, the doctrines of the Catholic Church are a consistent thread. "I continue to do rap music because it's a genre that makes the message intelligible to many young people," Father Stan said in an interview with The Catholic Standard & Times, Philadelphia's archdiocesan newspaper.

Stewardship logo contest spotlights teens as stewards

CHARLESTON, S.C. (CNS) — Catholic teenagers are invited to interpret the theme of time, talent and treasure in a stewardship logo contest sponsored by the U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops' Ad Hoc Committee on Stewardship. The contest, open to those ages 13 to 19, was announced in September by Bishop Robert J. Baker of Charleston, chairman of the ad hoc committee. Entries must be received by Nov. 30. The logo can be entered in English or Spanish and should convey the true meaning of teens being good and prayerful stewards for Jesus Christ. Six monetary prizes, three for each language, will be awarded to a Catholic organization of the winner's choice. First place receives \$500, second place \$250, and third \$100. Logos must portray time, talent, treasure, prayer and Scripture and will be judged on overall impact, effectiveness in conveying the theme, originality and artistic merit. More information is available by calling the Diocese of Charleston at: (843) 853-2130.



KNIGHTS ASSIST FAMILY—Family, friends and members of Catholic Knights Branch 564, Hallettsville, joined together in preparing nearly 2,000 plates-to-go for a dinner to benefit Carolyn Shimek who is battling Lou Gehrig's disease. Catholic Knights Branch 564 President Frank Janeczek and Chaplain Father John Peters presented Carolyn and her family with a \$1,000 matching funds check from the central office of the Catholic Knights located in Milwaukee, Wisconsin. Pictured back row (l.-r.) Branch Chaplain Father John Peters, Mike Shimek, Brianna Shimek, Nathan Shimek, Roman Shimek, Gertrude Shimek; front row (l.-r.): Carolyn Shimek and Branch 564 President Frank Janeczek.



Yoakum's St. Joseph Catholic Elementary School welcomes four new teachers to their faculty staff. From left are Anne Marie Hilscher, Shannon Dreitner, Stacy Kvinta and Anne Pesek.

New teachers welcomed to St. Joseph School

YOAKUM—St. Joseph Catholic School in Yoakum has four new staff members this year. They are Stacy Kvinta, Anne Pesek, Anne Marie Hilscher and Shannon Dreitner. All are welcome additions to St. Joseph.

Mrs. Stacy Kvinta is from Yoakum and a graduate of the University of Houston-Victoria. She will be teaching third grade and working with the school Title Program. Mrs. Anne Pesek, a graduate of Texas A&M, will be teaching math in grades 4-8. Mrs. Pesek will also be teaching technology classes. Miss Anne Marie Hilscher, has degrees from Texas A&M, UT, and Sul Ross University. Miss Hilscher will be teaching science in grades

4-8 as well as technology. Mrs. Shannon Dreitner, from Yoakum, will be an aide in the Pre-K program. Mrs. Dreitner will also be working with the yearbook and the school Web page.

"We are very happy to welcome these talented ladies to our school family," says Michael J. Fisher, principal at St. Joseph. "I feel that we have a strong staff from Pre-K through eighth grade. I am looking forward to a great year."

Mr. Fisher also said that the St. Joseph Catholic School family would like to welcome St. Joseph Parish's new pastor, Father Matthew Huehlefeld. "We look forward to his spiritual leadership and guidance," said Mr. Fisher.



KNIGHTS OF COLUMBUS DONATE TO ST. PHILIP'S SCHOOL—KC Council 2490 of El Campo makes one of several donations to St. Philip's Catholic School. Event chairman and Deputy Grand Knight Larry Staff and Grand Knight A.J. Hlavaty present School Principal Tish McAllister with a check for \$1,350 for the school general fund from the proceeds of the Knights recent Barbecue Chicken Dinner. This is one of several fund-raisers the Knights of Columbus have pledged to Catholic education in Wharton County this year.

Local member of CWV Auxiliary wins highest national award

By Lupita Martinez

Cecilia R. Garcia, member of the Catholic War Veterans St. John's Post 1269 Auxiliary, Victoria, Texas, was recently awarded the National Honor Legion of St. Agnes Award at the Catholic War Veterans of the USA, Inc., 71st Annual Convention in Peoria, Illinois on August 26, 2006. The presentation was made immediately following a concelebrated Mass by Rev. Msgr. William F. Bayer, national chaplain, CWV; Rev. Emeric Szlezak, national chaplain, CWV Auxiliary; and Rev. George Boyle, past national chaplain. The St. Agnes award is the highest and most prestigious award of the National Department of Catholic War Veterans Auxiliary, and Mrs. Garcia is the first woman to have won the St. Agnes Award for the Post 12269 Auxiliary.

Lupita Martinez, president of St. John's Post 1269 Auxiliary, submitted Mrs. Garcia's nomination to the National Honor Legion of St. Agnes Award committee on behalf of the auxiliary. The certificate of eligibility and letter of recommendation was submitted by Father Victor Scocco, pastor of Our Lady of Sorrows Church and chaplain for the CWV and Auxiliary for Post 1269, Victoria, Texas. Mary Ann Zepeda, coordinator for Our Lady of Sorrows Shut-In Ministry, and Deborah J. Ramirez, administrative officer with the Department of Veterans Affairs, also submitted letters of recommendation.



Cecilia R. Garcia
National Legion of
St. Agnes Award

Mrs. Garcia has been an active member of St. John's Post Auxiliary since 1987 and served as president for fifteen years. She is presently serving as treasurer, fundraising chairlady and decorations chairlady for Auxiliary Post 1269. She also served as Department of Texas Auxiliary president for six years and is presently serving as ritual officer and Americanism and Civics chairlady for the Department of Texas Auxiliary.

Mrs. Garcia, Daniel Martinez, CWV, national officer of the day; and Lupita Martinez, CWV Auxiliary National second vice-president; attended the CWV National Convention which was held at the Ramada and Conference Center in Peoria, Illinois, August 20-26, 2006. Daniel Martinez was re-elected the national officer of the day, and Lupita Martinez was re-elected national second vice-president.

The Department of Texas Catholic War Veterans and Auxiliary was well represented at the National Convention and received several awards. Lupita Martinez, 1st vice-president for the Department of Texas received the First Place Award for Catholic Action – department level. Estella Dominguez, public relations chairlady for St. John's Post 1269 Auxiliary received a Special Citation Award for her work in publicizing the work of the auxiliary through newspaper articles, newsletters and reporting members submitting letters of encouragement to youth, veterans and those attending ACTS retreats.



Winners of the Education Contest for Our Lady of the Gulf Catholic School pose with their winning certificates in hand. The contest, sponsored by CDA Court 2267, provided two themes from which the students could base their competition: "Spreading the Love of Jesus" and "How can I Promote Peace in this World?"

Port Lavaca CDA present awards

PORT LAVACA—Each year the Catholic Daughters of the Americas Court 2267 sponsors the Education Contest for Our Lady of the Gulf Catholic School students. The themes selected for the contest encourage lively imagination and freedom of thought when student talent and application go hand in hand. The contest enables students of Our Lady of the Gulf Catholic School to compete and strive for awards while following certain fixed rules. The category choices are: Art, Essay, Poster, Poetry, Computer Art, and Music. There is a division I & II in each category. Category I (Grades 4-5) Category II (Grades 6-8).

This year the themes were "Spreading the Love of Jesus" and "How can I Promote Peace in this World".

The Court presents monetary awards to the first three winning entries in each division and category. The winners are as follows:

Art Division I: 1st - Emily Curry; 2nd - Darbi Dowell; 3rd - Adriana Medina

Art Division II: 1st - Evan Hernandez; 2nd - Matthew Curry; 3rd - Kristen Hanzelka

Poster Division I: Ashley Mutchler

Poetry Division I: Ashley Mutchler

Essay Division I: 1st - Joe Martinez; 2nd - Stephanie Johnstone; 3rd - Megan Leal

Essay Division II: 1st - Brian Salyer; 2nd - Morgan Elgin; 3rd - Blanca Hernandez

Computer Art Division I: 1st - Emily Curry; 2nd - Jake Meyer; 3rd - Kaitlinn Smith

Computer Art Division II: 1st - Blanca Hernandez; 2nd - Matthew Curry; 3rd - Jordan Weaver

All the first place local winners advanced to state and first place state winners advanced to National. Ashley Mutchler won first place in state in poster division I and Joe Martinez won first place in state in essay division I. Joe Martinez advanced on to Nationals winning third place in essay division I.



CDA MULTI-DISTRICT TRAINING HELD—Catholic Daughters of the Americas from districts 14, 29 and 34 held a Multi-District Leadership Training Session in Ganado, Texas. The event was hosted by CDA Court St. Alberta No. 1381 of the Assumption of the Blessed Virgin Mary Church in Ganado. Approximately 69 local officers and members representing Catholic Daughter Courts in the Victoria Diocese attended.

Chaplain's Corner

By Chaplain Gabriel Mensah

Having lived in Texas for several years before I joined the military, I became friends with several families from the Diocese of Victoria. Whenever I talk to these friends, their children have tons of questions about where exactly Parris Island is, and what exactly we do here at Marine Corps Recruit Depot. I always tell them: "We make Marines at Parris Island." Invariably, the questions from the kids are, "How do you make Marines?" "Who makes them?" I tell them, "Drill Instructors make Marines." "Who or what are Drill Instructors (DIs)?" they always ask. "Well, why don't you come and see for yourself?" I tell them.

So this past July, a family of five visited me here at PI (Parris Island) from Texas. All the three children were boys, ages 7, 9 and 11. They were absolutely fascinated with the DIs, albeit a little bit unsure of how to approach them. They mustered enough courage to take some pictures with them, and of course they were captivated by the graduation ceremony.

Do you think the fact that I am a chaplain and work here at PI impressed them? Not exactly. I reside at the Northridge community in Ridgeland; there are a couple of DIs and their families that live in the community. My friends' children were extremely impressed that I live in the same neighborhood as these DIs, and that I actually know them by name.

It will be an understatement to say that

the DIs here at PI made a very positive impact on my friends' kids. I did not even have to do the recruiting pitch to convince the boys to become Marines. At their tender ages, they know what they want to be



Catholic chaplain LCDR Gabriel Mensah made his annual visit to his bishop, Bishop David E. Fellhauer, at the chancery office September 13, 2006. Father Mensah spent a week in Texas while on vacation, visiting friends throughout the diocese. The Catholic Lighthouse will have a full story on Father Mensah in the November issue.

when they grow up – to be a Marine, not just any Marine, but a Drill Instructor.

Since they returned to Texas, my friends tell me that when the boys start acting up, all my friends have to say is, "Do you want me to call Padre to bring his DI friends?" Just the mere mention of "DIs" puts the fear of God in the boys and straightens them up for at least a few days.

It has been such a great honor and privilege for me to have this great opportunity to be a part of the Recruit Training Regiment and to work with and meet such outstanding citizens as the DIs and their families.



Photo by Regina Matus-Janak

NAZARETH ACADEMY REMEMBERS 9-11—Nazareth Academy in Victoria held a celebration of remembrance and honor September 11, 2006, the fifth anniversary of the 9-11 terrorist attacks on U.S. soil. The patriotic celebration remembered those who died on that fateful day, but also honored those heroes such as civil servants, volunteers, police, fire, EMS, and sheriff's departments, clergy members, National Guard, and all services that help keep Americans safe. The band played the national anthem, "The Star Spangled Banner," and the choir sang "I'm Proud to be an American," by Lee Greenwood and "Let There Be Peace on Earth." Mrs. Zapalac's eighth grade class organized the event, including the Prayers of the Faithful. Afterwards the students thanked the visitors for attending and got to shake hands with Sheriff O'Connor and peace officers.

Catechists with conviction and enthusiasm commissioned for service

By Lea Villareal Murphy

Our Lady of Lourdes Catholic Church commissioned and blessed over 40 catechists, helpers and aides on September 17, 2006, which is designated as Catechetical Sunday. Father Celestino Say, pastor of Our Lady of Lourdes noted with joy saying, "It is encouraging and heartwarming to see so many good and dedicated people teaching the youth of our parish."

Father Say also asked all parents and grandparents, along with the whole congregation, to stand and be commissioned, saying that they were the primary teachers of their children. "Our Catholic faith is handed on first and foremost through you. You have been entrusted with the faith formation of your children and grandchildren," he said.

Our Lady of Lourdes has recently transitioned from their traditional CCD program to the *Generations of Faith* (GOF) faith formation program. GOF is an on-going program for all ages, including adults. It moves beyond traditional textbook teaching and instead, focuses on life-long learning and participation in the life of the Church. While the program is innovative in its design, it continues to meet the needs of the necessary sacramen-

tal preparation of children and moves beyond that by providing opportunities for life-long learning.

As part of their creative approach to learning, catechists at Lourdes have trans-



Father Celestino Say thanks catechists on Sept. 17, Catechetical Sunday, for their time and commitment to teaching at Our Lady of Lourdes parish in Victoria.

formed the Education Center into the Holy Land with each classroom graphically modified to represent a place where Jesus walked the earth. These interactive and life-long approaches relate directly to whole parish catechesis and the all-parish *Generations of Faith* events.

Laurie Bautista, Director of Faith Formation at the parish noted, "The work and dedication of our catechists is vital to the life of the Church. We are at a crossroads in our faith and must present our Catholic faith with energy, love and passion. The truths and traditions that we hold sacred must be passed on to the next generation with conviction and enthusiasm."



50th Anniversary of Our Lady of America The Immaculate Virgin



Beginning on the Feast of the North America Martyrs September 26, 1956, The Blessed Virgin Mary appeared to Sister Mary Ephrem (Mildred Neuzil) at a Precious Blood Sisters Convent in Indiana, and continued to appear to Sister there and at a cloister in Ohio. A summarization of revelations by The Blessed Virgin Mary, under the title of "Our Lady of America," is:

- Our Lady of America expressed Her thanksgiving and encouragement to the U.S. Catholic bishops for the National Shrine of the Immaculate Conception at Washington, D.C.;



- She stated Her desires that Her children honor Her by the purity of their lives, and She wishes that America be the country dedicated to Her purity;
- She often emphasized Her desire that the National Shrine of The Immaculate Conception be made a place of special pilgrimage where She wishes to be honored as Our Lady of America, The Immaculate Virgin, with a statue of this likeness placed in this Shrine at Washington, D.C.;
- Our Lady of America stated Her desires to make the whole of America Her shrine by making every heart accessible to the love of Her Son, Jesus;
- She asked Her children to reform their lives, for sanctification from within, so that when God looks at the heart of each, it resembles the Heart of His Divine Son, Jesus;
- Our Lady of America asked for acts of penance and self-denial, and for family prayer of The Rosary so that Her children will recognize The Indwelling Most Holy Trinity;
- Our Lady of America stated that peace is from within, not from without; peace will come when Her children are purified and cleansed from defilement, when Her children can recognize, adore and love The Divine Indwelling Trinity more.

The next Procession of this statue of Our Lady of America is at The Shrine of The Most Blessed Sacrament, Hanceville, AL, on October 7th, 2006 1:00PM, Feast of The Most Holy Rosary

By Thy Holy and Immaculate Conception,
Oh Mary, deliver us from evil.

Our Lady of America Center
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Saving Grace:

An American priest gives voice to Czechs, voiceless for so long

Providence, Rhode Island—Join an American priest as he travels through the former Czechoslovakia, exploring the enduring faith of some extraordinary people who secretly kept religion alive behind the Iron Curtain and survived to help usher in a new era of human rights.

For almost 50 years the Communists behind the iron curtain persecuted believers who tried to practice their faith. Ken Gumbert, OP, has created a moving, informative and award-winning documentary,

Saving Grace, that takes you deep into the heart of the former Czechoslovakia. Farmers and housewives, mathematicians and cardinal archbishops tell how they practiced the subversive art of expressing their religious convictions.

In *Saving Grace*, Father Gumbert treks through the golden fields of Slovakia, over the snowcapped peaks of the

Tatra Mountains to the magical cities of Prague and Bratislava. He visits the brave people who managed to keep alive both their faith and themselves while defying their Communist government on matters of religious freedom. Real people, lay and religious, reveal how fighting the state to defend their most basic beliefs landed many in prisons or concentration camps. Activists in Prague show the secret hiding places where they kept forbidden books and documents banned by the government. In an apartment in Bratislava, above the Danube, an underground bishop managed to ordain more than 200 priests to celebrate the Mass for those who were striving secretly to keep religion present

in their lives. Remarkable survivors of an oppressive regime discuss their dangerous struggle against a party line in which they could not believe and the difficulty of keeping faith with the God in whom they did. This is the story of how true believers, longing for a different world, ultimately subverted the Communist system, thus creating new opportunities for religious and other basic freedoms in countries where none then existed.

Father Gumbert was honored recently with a Gabriel Award by the Catholic Academy for Communication Arts Profes-



Filmmaker, Father Ken Gumbert, OP, has created a moving, informative and award-winning documentary, *Saving Grace*, that takes you deep into the heart of the former Czechoslovakia. He is seen overlooking the city of Prague in Czechoslovakia.

sionals for this documentary film. He was one of just three awards recipients in the film category. The Academy, which has honored excellence in broadcasting each year for 40 years, judges submissions not only on technical criteria, but on the impact each has on its audience ...“its ability to uplift and nourish the human spirit.” It is not surprising, based on these criteria, that *Saving Grace* should be so honored. Its depiction of life and faith under the Communist regime, told in the words and faces, tears and smiles of people who lived it, touches the viewer deeply and creates a sense of pride in our faith.

“It was very moving to be able to tell

See *An American priest*, p. 13

FAMILY PUZZLE CONTEST

THE LITTLE FLOWER

GABRIEL PUBLICATIONS © 2002

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HIDDEN LIFE
LISIEUX
LITTLE WAY

OCTOBER
SHOWER OF ROSES
ST. THERESE
STORY OF A SOUL
TWENTY FOUR

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

Congratulations to Jocelyn Bolom of St. John the Baptist in Koerth; she is the winner of the September Family Puzzle Contest and will receive *The Authentic Catholic Woman* by Genevieve Kineke. This was a very popular contest with over 50 contestants.

Because it was so popular we've chosen a second winner for another book for Catholic women, *Living as a Beloved Daughter of God*, by Patricia Mitchell and Bill Bawden. The winner is Charlene Krupala of Ascension Church, Moravia.

This sixteen-session faith sharing guide will help women come to a deeper understanding of their identity in Christ while also helping them to gain a renewed perspective of their varied roles as wives, mothers, sisters, and daughters. It may be purchased through The Word Among Us Press at www.wordamongus.org or (800) 775-9673 for \$8.95.

The winner of the children's contest

was Kyle Wilgus of Sts. Cyril and Methodius in Shiner. He will receive a gift from the Incarnate Word Gift Shop.

The winner of the October Family Puzzle Contest will receive a special edition of *Saint Therese, Doctor of the Church, A Gift of Our Time*. It is a commemorative book compiled in celebration of the Visitation of the Reliquary of St. Therese, 1999-2000, printed by the Carmelite Sisters of the Most Sacred Heart of Los Angeles in Alhambra, Calif. Her feast day is October 1.

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

Texas Renaissance Festival Winners

To allow Texas Renaissance winners appropriate time to schedule travel plans, the editor of The Catholic Lighthouse decided to draw all six remaining pairs of tickets in time to be announced in the October issue. Winners were selected from all entries received since the beginning of the contest.

The following winners will each receive two tickets to the Renaissance Festival: Alice Atchetee of St. Andrew, Hillje; Lisa Pagel of St. Mary, Victoria; Wilma

Polasek of Holy Cross, East Bernard; Cheryl Benavidez of Holy Family, Victoria; JoAnn Cowan of Holy Cross, East Bernard; and Theresa Novosad of St. Joseph in Yoakum.

A big thank you to all who entered the contest. I wish everyone could be winners. Those not winning free tickets may still purchase discounted tickets by calling the number or going to the Web site in the Renaissance advertisement.

the
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A Culture of Life

By Father Eric Nielsen



Golf Swing

It is no secret that we live in the wealthiest society that has ever existed in history. Never have so many people had so much stuff with so many places to put it, and ironically, never have so many people said that they can't afford to have children.

Any parent living in an affluent neighborhood will naturally desire to give their children the same things that others have. Good clothes, trips in the winter to warmer climates, a big bedroom, their own TV with video games and an up to date laptop all seem important when everyone else has them. Furthermore, parents rightly desire that their children develop their natural talents in the arts and sports, and all of this costs money. Which is better—to give two or three children what the culture says they need, or spreading out thinly on six or seven what they REALLY need? Would it be wrong if I had a child that I couldn't send to college?

I just played golf with such a "deprived" child, the youngest boy of a large farm family. His parents limited him to one high school sport, they never owned a television, and he must have never had a golf lesson either

because after each stroke I would pick up his ball and carry it to where mine was. He also just happened to be one of the most stellar, well balanced and virtuous young men I have met. He exhibits faith, responsibility, honesty, self control, good humor and empathy. All are key virtues for a happy life.

It is apparent that the greatest virtues are not acquired by hired piano teachers, but by acts of love, and it doesn't cost much to teach a child how to love. Children may complain about what they don't have, but to be happy they only need three things—food in their belly, a secure place to play and love from their parents.

There are many just reasons that parents have for limiting the size of their family, and many a saint grew up in very holy homes with their own room and having a private tutor. I pray, however, that no one would ever decide not to have another child because they would not be able to provide him or her with these things. For all things being equal, the best gift you can give a child is younger siblings. That's because many of the virtues that lead to a happy life are all reinforced in a child when he is asked to help

care for someone younger than himself. It is not fool proof, but it is much harder to be selfish and narcissistic in a family of nine than in one of three. And as we grow older, our closest friends are generally no longer those we went to college with, but our own brothers and sisters.

Of course parents should strive to give their children benefits that will help them get more out of life. I would have loved to have had private golf lessons as a child—my score would be lower and I would enjoy the game more. But gain a good golf swing in exchange for one less of my own six brothers and sisters? Never in a million years!

Saving Grace:

An American priest gives voice to those voiceless for so long

Continued from p. 12

the stories of people who were voiceless for so long," Father Gumbert said. "Many of the judges were most impressed with that aspect of the documentary." When asked about the award, he said, "It was wonderful to be recognized by my peers in the field of filmmaking." *Saving Grace*, which originally aired on PBS and still runs in various markets on cable, was also shown at the Great Lakes International Film Festival in Cleveland, Ohio, and at the Rhode Island International Film Festival. His earlier film, *RITUAL WAYS* also won a major award.

To learn more about this amazing story of repression and the velvet revolution that defied and overcame it, visit: www.savinggracefilm.com. Click on the various locations on the map to reveal a fascinating history and streaming visuals of this region, then and now. This one hour documentary is now available on DVD (\$30 plus \$6 shipping). To order the SAVING GRACE DVD, Contact: Domesia, PO Box 28292, Providence, RI 02908

Rev. Kenneth Gumbert is a member of the Dominican order. He was ordained in 1985 and is currently an assistant professor of film and video at Providence College. He has produced three documentary films. *Ritual Ways* is a thirteen minute film comparing the rituals of a traditional medicine man with a Catholic priest. *Between Two Worlds* is a 28 minute film exploring the life of a Ute Native American family living on the Uintah Indian Reservation in eastern Utah. *Saving Grace* is a one hour film exploring the lives and stories of people who suffered abuse under Communism for their faith. Father Gumbert is also a photographer, painter and sculptor exhibiting in New York City, Providence, Rhode Island and Salt Lake City, Utah.

Faith-filled family Christmas movie coming to the Victoria theater

Christmas at Maxwell's, a PG-rated holiday film coming to movie theatres November 10, 2006, inspires family audiences with messages about faith, hope, love and miracles.

Produced and directed by a Catholic father-daughter team to offer socially responsible entertainment of redeeming values, the film has been highly praised by Bishop A. Edward Pevec, Catholic Diocese of Cleveland, calling it "a marvelous film!" and Dennis Sadowski, editor of Catholic Universe Bulletin, "very heartwarming and full of hope."

An inspirational Christmas love story, *Christmas at Maxwell's* is about faith, forgiveness, trust, the human struggle, and the power of love. It is inspired by a true story, following a middle-aged Catholic man during his search for answers about his wife's severe illness (cancer).

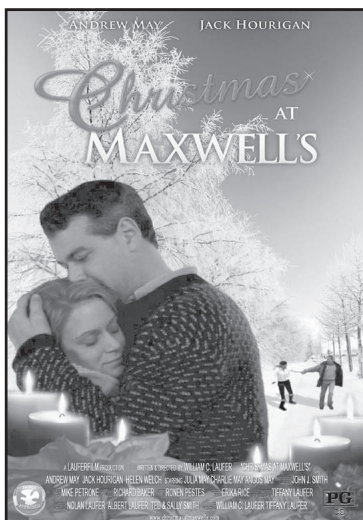
The film was written by Bill

Laufer because, among other reasons, he wanted to make a faith-based family film embracing and celebrating Catholic values that was still accessible to people of all faiths.

It features leading roles played by Andrew May (long-time Cleveland Playhouse and movie star), Jack Hourigan (TV - food channel personality) and Helen Welch (BBC recording star).

This past November, *Christmas at Maxwell's* premiered in Cleveland, Ohio, as part of a limited theatrical release. This coming Christmas 2006 will be the wide release of the movie, and it will be coming to a digital theatre in our area. The movie has received very strong audience reception. People say to us, "We need more movies like this!"

Go to this Web site www.christmasatmaxwells.com to learn more about this faith-filled movie.



Sunday readings from Oct. 8 to Nov. 12

October 8 — Twenty-seventh Sunday in Ordinary Time	Genesis 2:18-24 Psalm 128:1-2, 3, 4-5, 6 Hebrews 2:9-11 Mark 10:2-16
October 15 — Twenty-eighth Sunday in Ordinary Time	Wisdom 7:7-11 Psalm 90:12-13, 14-15, 16-17 Hebrews 4:12-13 Mark 10:17-30
October 22 — Twenty-ninth Sunday in Ordinary Time	Isaiah 53:10-11 Psalm 33:4-5, 18-19, 20, 22 Hebrews 4:14-16 Mark 10:35-45
October 29 — Thirtieth Sunday in Ordinary Time	Jeremiah 31:7-9 Psalm 126:1-2, 2-3, 4-5, 6 Hebrews 5:1-6 Mark 10:46-52
November 1 — Solemnity of All Saints	Revelation 7:2-4, 9-14 Psalm 24:1-2, 3-4, 5-6 1 John 3:1-3 Matthew 5:1-12a
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

The Beginning Experience retreat helps one resolve marriage grief

SAN ANTONIO—*The Beginning Experience* is an international ministry, which helps divorced, separated and widowed individuals resolve their grief surrounding the loss of a marriage partner. Most people who attend a B.E. Weekend find it to be a life-changing event that sets them on the road to resolving their grief in a safe, loving environment. It has proven to be an effective and beneficial aid in dealing with the complicated grief feelings following the loss of a relationship. The process is not quick, but the B.E. weekend is a catalyst in overcoming grief, obtaining self-awareness of one's grief, seeing progress in oneself and proceeding through the stages of grief with more confidence. This proven program has helped in the healing of hundreds of hurting people in San Antonio over the last 20 years.

Sister Josephine Steward a Roman Catholic Nun founded the ministry in Fort Worth, Texas, while assisting separated, divorced and widowed individuals work through the grief recovery process. The ministry has subsequently expanded worldwide to a current global strength of about 140 English speaking teams. The local San Antonio Team operates as an accredited ministry of the San Antonio Archdiocese Family Life Office.

The Team consists of former participants who have gone through similar losses. After gaining from their experience in overcoming their own grief, they have chosen to volunteer their time and efforts to help others benefit as well. They are all trained to be good listeners and

to ask questions that encourage participants to look inside themselves, and work through the grief process in a non-threatening environment. Team members are not professional counselors but are caring individuals who lead the participants through a proven process that helps them confront their individual grief in a supportive way.

The foundation of the program is the Beginning Experience Weekend conducted several times a year at a local retreat center from Friday evening to Sunday afternoon. The next scheduled weekend is October 20-22. The program is based on the Roman Catholic Faith but is open to participants from other denominations. The weekend includes Sunday Mass and the opportunity for private confession with a participating priest. Interested personnel are encouraged to contact the team.

For more information contact The Beginning Experience of San Antonio at: P.O. Box 790882, San Antonio, Texas 78279-0882; call (210) 734-2146; e-mail: bam0842@hotmail.com; or visit the Web site at: www.beginningexperience.org.

Where is the source of hope and of joy? It is in God, who tirelessly seeks us out and finds in us the profound beauty of the human soul.

— Peace of Heart in All Things, Br. Roger of Taizé



By Tina Schoelman
St. Agnes Parish, Edna, Texas

I very recently came back to the Catholic Church here at St. Agnes in Edna. I was welcomed back with open arms. Being born into such a religion, I've grown closer to my faith in God. It wasn't always that way; I was Being-Under-Satan's-Yoke (BUSY).

I worked long hours and was so busy trying to make friends quickly that I didn't make time to keep going to church. Instead I joined another church. I got very lost in society.

Let me tell you a story about the necklace I received in first or second grade for perfect attendance. I never wore it as a child, but I kept it and still have it today.

Well, I lost it three times. My chain kept breaking. I would replace it, then it would break again.

One time I found my crucifix hanging in my hair when I was about to wash it. Amazing, isn't it? After 20 something years, I still have it.

It could have easily gone down the drain, but I caught it just in time. This is proof the Lord was and will always *hang* in there with us.

I was the missing link

I liken the necklace to the church's whole body. We are all needed in the chain's circle, as the links.

The necklace can break. It happens to everyone (kind of like when we make a mistake). Our link gets broken and we have to learn how to fix this link or we will be thrown away.

Thank you, God, that I was lost and not broken. I just fell off the chain and my church could not find me.

I had to find myself. A journey that took about seven years because I was really lost, confused and scared. I did lots of wandering around.

I eventually found my way home, but in the process I was searching and trying to link up with all kinds of chains: Lutheran, Baptist, going on dates, working too hard. I was made precisely to be Catholic; however, I took a lot of wrong turns, but eventually turned back around to come home.

I didn't know where I was

going, but I knew where I had been. It was a whole lot easier coming back to the Catholic faith than I thought it would be. The Good Lord kept me going. Now, I try not to complain much and I pray a lot. I will stay close to home from now on, so I don't get lost again.

I believe I can be a missing link; but I am a stronger link than I thought I was. I've made mistakes, only to become wiser because I believe in our Lord and Savior. Do you?

I get bothered about why people fall away from the Catholic faith. You are going to make mistakes. You must learn from them. Don't get lost in life. If you do, find your Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ. He hangs in there like that crucifix did in my hair. Why can't you hang in there with him? ... with the Catholic Church? There is no reason good enough to me to leave now.

At St. Agnes, the necklace may be smaller and smaller. Even the clasps are not being replaced like they should. The clasps are our priests and others, like the sisters.

We are the links that make up the necklace (the church) and that necklace is adorned with the crucifix, for there is nobody that can replace Christ.

Come to church as often as you can; it pleases God. God is a good God. He forgives because we all sin and need to repent. Praise God with song. To be a strong link you must practice your faith but most of all listen to God's Word from the Bible. Study it at home with your children. Have them grow up to be strong links and clasps. Your necklace (your church) will grow because of your faith in Christ. Come back home like I did. You can do it.

The Pope Speaks

Pope Benedict XVI



CNS photo from Reuters

Pope says church's approach to other religions must be tolerant, open

ROME (CNS) — Believing that each person is created in the image of God, the Catholic Church hopes all people will come to know the Gospel, but its primary approach to other religions and cultures must be one of tolerance and openness, Pope Benedict XVI said.

During a Sept. 28 meeting at his summer villa in Castel Gandolfo, south of Rome, Pope Benedict welcomed Hans-Henning Horstmann as Germany's new ambassador to the Vatican.

Faith, the pope told him, increases people's commitment to the common good, which is marked by defending the life and dignity of all people, including those of other faiths and cultures.

"The church does not impose itself," the pope said. "It does not force anyone to accept the Gospel message because faith in Jesus Christ, whom the church proclaims, can only happen in freedom. For this reason, encounters with others must be marked by tolerance and cultural openness."

However, Pope Benedict said, tolerance, respect and openness "must never be confused with indifference, which is the opposite of the deep Christian interest in human beings and their good."

"True tolerance presupposes respect for the other, for the human being, who was created by God and whose existence was willed by God," the pope said.

The Christian faith motivates Catholics to defend the "dignity, integrity and freedom" of each person, Pope Benedict said, and to work with all people of good will in defending others.

The good of humanity is what leads the church to defend traditional marriage and family life, he said, and to oppose abortion, including cases in which a baby may be severely handicapped, because every human life "has value for God."

Pope Benedict also asked the German government to defend the life and freedom of those requesting exile in Germany because of political or religious persecution in their homelands.

The pope's remarks about tolerance were given special attention in the wake of continuing discussion about his comments on Islam during a Sept. 12 speech at the University of Regensburg in Germany.

See pg. 17 for more on the pope's remarks at the University of Regensburg.

The Flock

By Jean Denton
Copyright ©2005, Jean Denton



Cardinal George reflects on health, life and eternity

By Michelle Martin
Catholic News Service

CHICAGO (CNS) — Nearly two months after having his cancerous bladder removed, Cardinal Francis E. George of Chicago spent several hours Sept. 25 and 26 meeting with members of the media in advance of resuming his public schedule Oct. 1.

The cardinal said he is doing well and no longer experiencing pain from the July 27 surgery, which included removing his bladder and using a section of bowel to create a new bladder. Doctors did a second operation late that night after discovering he was still bleeding internally.

Cardinal George, 69, acknowledged that for a period of several hours following the first surgery he believed he was dying — a thought that did not frighten him.

"The important thing when you die is to be ready to surrender your whole life to the Lord," he said. "When you've done that, when you've given the Lord your life, that brings a certain peace. After that, it's up to the Lord to take care of you, and he will. That's his end of the bargain."

And, while being in pain

makes it difficult to think, Cardinal George said he could feel the prayers thousands of people were saying for him.

"I knew I wasn't alone," he said. "I could sense that I was in people's prayers. I could also sense the presence of the Lord. The Lord was with me, and he brought his friends — and quite a few of my friends, too."

Cardinal George said he was never angry at God about his illness.

"I didn't have time to be angry before the operation," he said. "And, of course, after the

operation, you're focused on getting well. ... God has sustained my vocation, accompanied me through life and loved me. If I were to die tomorrow, I'd have no reason to be angry with the Lord. Quite the opposite."

While he would be sorry to leave the people he loves on earth, at least for a time, and give up his "projects and plans," Cardinal George said the goal of this life is to share eternal life with God.

"The important thing is that you live with the Lord in eternity," he said



WOMAN PRAYS ROSARY DURING VIGIL FOR CHICAGO CARDINAL — A picture of Cardinal Francis E. George is seen on a booklet as a woman prays at Holy Name Cathedral in Chicago July 27. A steady flow of people came to the cathedral during the all-night vigil as the Chicago cardinal recovered from surgery for bladder cancer that day. (CNS photo/Karen Callaway)

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08/05



Buscando Vida

Por Moises Sandoval
Servicio Noticiero Católico



Los EEUU se refleja en familia multinacional

A duras habrá más diversidad que en mi familia. Mis antepasados, ambos de mi madre y mi padre, llegaron a Nuevo México en 1693, casi 150 años antes de que se hiciera parte de Estados Unidos. Los Perea originalmente eran de la región vasca de España, los Sandoval de Andalucía y Extremadura, según algunos ramos de la familia, judíos sefardí expulsados de España. Pero si los Sandoval eran judíos a tapadillo, el secreto se había olvidado mucho tiempo atrás; somos Católicos. Mi bisabuela era una indígena de pura raza llanura. Una de mis tías se casó con un inmigrante de Líbano. Sin embargo, mi generación avanzó la diversidad más.

Yo, el mayor de 10 hijos, me casé con una mujer de raíces suizas, francesas y irlandesas. Mi hermano Antonio se caso con una africana de Arkansas, mi hermano Arsenio con una coreana y, después, con una anglo de Colorado, mi hermano Elivinio con una hispana de Denver y después con una inmigrante del Perú. Dos hermanos que murieron, Carmel y Eusebio Jr., tenían esposas anglo. Mi hermano Ramón vive con una mujer judía. Mi hermana Lucy se caso primero con un hispano y después con un anglo. Las dos esposas de mi hermano Francisco eran anglos. El esposo de Cathy, la menor, es hispano. Somos un microcosmo de lo que sucede por todo Estados Unidos, un giro rechazado por gente cuyo ideal es una raza pura.

Para tal gente, el periódico de esta mañana contiene malas noticias. Un titular dice que Indra K. Nooyi, americana con raíces en India, va a asumir el puesto de jefe ejecutivo de PepsiCo Inc. El artículo principal cuenta que 63.000 inmigrantes han llegado al Valle Hudson Bajo desde el año 2000 y que, como resultado, "los blancos no-hispanos rápidamente están llegando a ser minoría". En el interior de ese amplio reportaje incorporando varios artículos, los autores, citando estadísticas del censo, dicen que la mayoría de los hispanos son blancos, pero que cuando los demógrafos dicen que el porcentaje de la raza blanca esta disminuyendo, hablan sólo de blancos que no son hispanos. La división implica que los hispanos blancos son de baja categoría.

David Hayes-Bautista, director del Centro para El Estudio de La Salud y

Cultura Latina en la Escuela de Medicina de la Universidad de California en Los Ángeles, e hijo de un padre Mormón anglo y una mujer mexicoamericana de El Paso, dice: "En los Estados Unidos hemos guardado como precioso los conceptos de categorías raciales mutuamente exclusivas, en nuestras leyes, acción afirmativa, cuotas, y todo lo demás. En la cultura de Estados Unidos, es totalmente inaceptable ser de raza mixta. Lo interesante es que hay muchos mestizos. Latinos son mestizos; los negros son mestizos. Muchos se han casado con indígenas. Ochenta y cinco por ciento de los asiáticos se casan fuera de su raza. Las más antiguas familias anglo tienen sangre no blanca".

Hayes-Bautista, quien se considera un futurista, dice: "Si nos proyectamos 500 años al futuro, hasta el año 2492, y ojeamos 1.000 años atrás, ¿qué podrá haber sido la experiencia americana única, lo que marca este hemisferio diferente de Europa, Asia y África? Estoy firmemente convencido que lo que hará la diferencia es que somos una sociedad mestiza. En otras regiones del mundo existe una sociedad de tipo tribal".

Todavía estamos muy lejos de poder abrazar al otro. Pero como escribió el novelista mexicano Carlos Fuentes, "Los pueblos y sus culturas mueren en aislamiento, pero nacen o renacen en contacto con otros hombres y mujeres, con hombres y mujeres de otra cultura, otro credo, otra raza. Si no reconocemos nuestra humanidad en los otros, no la reconoceremos en sí mismos".



Sacerdotes Por Vida

Por Father Frank Pavone
Director Nacional



El César Debe Obedecer a Dios

Las Escrituras y la Responsabilidad Política del Pueblo de Dios

Un importante tema de las Historias del Antiguo Testamento es la forma en que Israel, el pueblo de Dios, se relacionó con los países que lo rodeaban. El pueblo de la alianza no debía seguir las prácticas idólatras de esos países. Después de todo, Israel había recibido los beneficios de la ley revelada por Dios, mientras que los demás países no la recibieron.

Sin embargo, algo que los Israelitas sí querían imitar era que los demás países tenían un rey. Hubo un momento en que exigieron al profeta Samuel: "¡Danos un rey!" Cuando consultó con el Señor, se le dijo a Samuel: "Han pedido un rey --- vamos a darles un rey." Pero Dios también les dió esta advertencia esencial: ¡Tanto el pueblo como su rey tienen un rey en el cielo! El bienestar de la nación entera depende de la obediencia que tanto el rey como su pueblo presten al Rey del Cielo. (Ver 1 Samuel 8:1-22 y 12:13-15.)

El Señor Jesús expresó el mismo tema en Mateo 22:15-22. Cuando alguien le preguntó si debían pagarse los impuestos al César, Jesús preguntó de quien era la imagen e inscripción grabadas en las monedas. "Del César" fue la respuesta. El Señor dijo entonces: "Dad, pues, al César lo que es de César, y a Dios lo que es de Dios" (Mateo 22:21).

La moneda pertenece al César pues lleva la imagen del César. Los seres humanos pertenecen a Dios, ¡pues llevan la imagen de Dios! La implicación de este pasaje es que "Lo que le pertenece a Dios" incluye al propio César, y ¡el Cesar debe obedecer a Dios!

Tanto el pasaje de 1 Samuel como el del Evangelio de San Mateo nos enseñan lo que el Concilio Vaticano Segundo comentó extensamente, (1) es decir que la separación entre Iglesia y estado no significa separación entre Dios y el estado. Si el estado se separa de Dios, se desintegra. Aunque la Iglesia no tiene una misión política, sí tiene una responsabilidad política: dar testimonio de las verdades morales sin las cuales el bien común -- que es el objeto para crear los gobiernos -- no puede sobrevivir. Estas son verdades morales básicas que van más allá de las creencias de cualquier denominación. Precisamente por ser verdades, deben servir de base para las políticas oficiales.

No sólo los individuos tienen la obligación de obedecer a Dios, sino

también los gobiernos. Es más, el Pueblo de Dios no pierde su ciudadanía en la tierra por ser ciudadanos del cielo (Ver Filisteos 3:20). En todo caso, nuestra creencia en el cielo hace que nuestro interés en la tierra aumente en lugar de disminuir. ¿Por qué? Porque todo el bien que hacemos en la tierra no se pierde en el otro mundo, sino, más bien permanece y crece. (2) La vida y las actividades humanas perduran en la próxima vida, y por eso tienen tanta importancia para nosotros hoy en día.

Los Cristianos tienen la obligación de intervenir activamente en la política, de inscribirse y votar, (3) de cabildear y educar a los candidatos y funcionarios electos, y de hablar de los problemas que afectan el bienestar público. Los Obispos de los Estados Unidos lo han expresado con hermosas palabras: "En la tradición católica la ciudadanía es una virtud; la participación en el proceso político es una obligación. No somos una secta apartada del mundo, somos una comunidad de fieles llamados a renovar la faz de la tierra." (4) La Iglesia no prepara las urnas para votar, pero cuando nosotros vamos a las urnas seguimos siendo miembros de la Iglesia. Si no moldeamos las políticas oficiales de acuerdo con las verdades morales, ¿para qué vamos a creer en la verdad moral?

Este es el momento, y he aquí el reto. No podemos seguir pensando que nuestra religión es tan solo "cuestión personal". N. S. Jesucristo enseñó en público y fue crucificado en público. Ahora resucitado, El nos coloca en la palestra pública y nos ordena hacer discípulos en todas las naciones (Mateo 28:18-20). No podemos fallarle ni a El ni a nuestra nación.

Para mayor información o para recibir audiocintas sobre este tema u otros temas desarrollados por el P. Frank Pavone en relación con la Responsabilidad Política de la Iglesia visite nuestra página en Internet www.priestsforlife.org/government/polresp.html.

En 1998 los Obispos de Estados Unidos publicaron Vivir el Evangelio de la Vida: Un reto para los Católicos de América. En dicho documento se detalla claramente las responsabilidades del gobierno y la ciudadanía con respecto a la defensa de la vida. Para ordenar una copia de este y otros documentos sobre responsabilidad política, llamar al 1-800-235-8722. Para recibir las normas del Consejo General de la CCEU sobre Actividades en las Campañas Políticas (Memorandum de 2/29/00), favor llamar al 1-202-541-3300.

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 canceller; o puede llamar a:
- Rev. Gary Janak al (979)543-3770 o a la Hna. Emilie Eilers al (361)575-7111, que son los coordinadores del Pastoral Care and Outreach;
- También puede comunicarse por escrito enviando su carta a:
Most Rev. David Fellhauer
Diocese of Victoria
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Victoria, TX 77903
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También podemos ayudarle a comunicar su queja a cualquier otra diócesis donde haya ocurrido el abuso si ahora usted se encuentra viviendo en la nuestra.

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

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What's a voter to do? Election guides offer different answers

Continued from p. 1

state. The candidates were asked to answer yes, no or "no position" to questions about school vouchers, taxpayer funding of abortion, labor rights for migrant farmworkers, same-sex marriage, the death penalty and other issues.

"The purpose is not to endorse one candidate over another or to tell Catholics how to vote, but to inform Catholic citizens as to where each candidate stands on issues of particular concern to the Catholic Church in her commitment to serve the common good," said Richard E. Barnes, executive director of the conference, in a Sept. 13 letter to candidates.

The responses of candidates for statewide office — governor, lieutenant governor, attorney general and comptroller — were to be published in the newspapers of each of the eight dioceses in New York, while the answers submitted by candidates for the state Senate and Assembly were to go into the newspapers in the diocese that the district represents.

The Interfaith Alliance, a nonpartisan organization founded in 1994 in part to counter the view that the Christian Coalition represented the majority of Christians, takes a completely different stance, offering two guides — not for voters but for candidates and houses of worship.

"Speak to your members on issues of the day but don't compromise religion's powerful healing force by using your authority to advance particular sectarian interests over America's shared values," says the alliance's "Campaign Season Guide for

Houses of Worship."

To candidates, the Interfaith Alliance offers this advice: "It's a serious mistake to consider people of faith as just another bloc of voters like farmers, labor unions and corporate executives. ... You find teachers in schools, doctors in hospitals and farmers in their fields, but you find people of faith everywhere, not just in a house of worship."

Most of the guides make no specific mention of candidates or political parties, but instead offer a set of principles that voters should use in making their decisions.

In its 12-page brochure, "Voting for the Common Good: A Practical Guide for Conscientious Catholics," Catholics in Alliance for the Common Good suggests three principles:

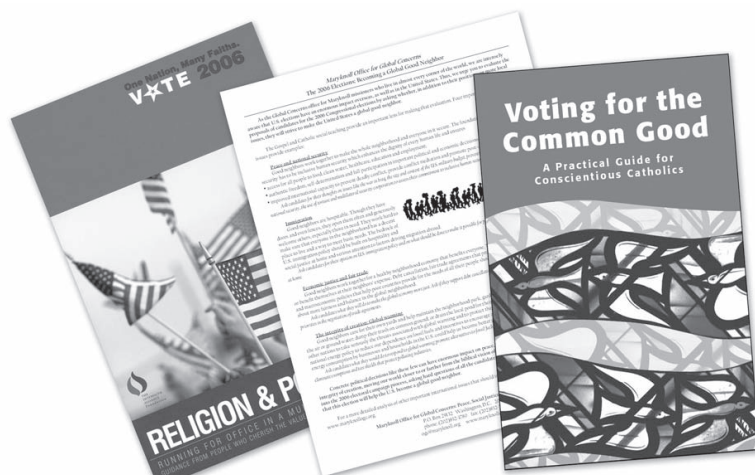
— "Inform your conscience on church teaching and the candidates' positions.

— "Apply prudence when deciding how to apply Catholic values to voting.

— "Vote for the common good by focusing on what's best for everyone, especially the poor and vulnerable."

"We need to understand that our church's social teachings call us to consider a broad range of important issues — on everything from poverty to war, human rights, abortion and the environment," the guide says. "There is no Catholic voting formula and there is rarely, if ever, a perfect candidate for Catholic voters."

But there are some candidates that Father Frank Pavone, national director of



ELECTION GUIDES FOR VOTERS—The 2006 political guide from the Interfaith Alliance, left, speaks to candidates running for office and to houses of worship. Maryknoll's 2006 voter guide, center, from its Office for Global Concerns, is a simple one-page information sheet addressing immigration, global warming, economic justice, and peace and security. The 12-page guide, right, produced by Catholics in Alliance for the Common Good offers three basic principles for making decisions. (CNS)

Priests for Life, would consider clearly imperfect.

In a booklet called "Voting With a Clear Conscience," he urges Catholic voters to "reject the disqualified."

"Suppose a candidate came forward and said, 'I support terrorism.' Would you say, 'I disagree with you on terrorism, but what's your health care plan?' Of course not," the priest of the Diocese of Amarillo, Texas, says in the booklet.

"Similarly, those who would permit the destruction of innocent life by abortion disqualify themselves from consideration," Father Pavone added.

Catholic Answers, a San Diego-based Catholic apologetics organization, takes a similar approach in its "Voter's Guide for Serious Catholics," presenting five "non-negotiable issues" on which to judge candidates for public office — abortion, euthanasia, embryonic stem-cell research, human cloning and homosexual "marriage."

"It is a serious sin to deliberately endorse or promote any of these actions, and no candidate who really wants to advance the common good will support any action contrary to the nonnegotiable principles involved in these issues," the Catholic Answers guide says.

But the "Voting for the Common Good" guide rejects the notion that one voter can judge whether another's vote is a sin. "Any attempt to scare others into voting for or against a candidate violates Catholic teaching on conscience, prudence and human freedom," it says.

In a Sept. 28 teleconference launching the "Common Good" guide, Jesuit Father David Hollenbach, a theology professor at Boston College, said Catholicism "is not a single-issue religion; it deals with the fullness of human life."

"You can't put Catholic social teaching on a bumper sticker in a single phrase," he added.

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A Call to be Catholic

Capitol Comment

By Andrew Rivas
Texas Catholic Conference

It is with a good deal of excitement and nervousness that I begin to write my first Capitol Comments article for

the Catholic newspapers in the state of Texas. I am very excited because there are such a wide variety of important issues that Catholics have to be engaged with today and I am nervous because there is so much at stake as we approach the upcoming election season and then the beginning of the Texas Legislature in January.

As citizens of the United States and of Texas it is our constitutional right to participate in the public dialogue and political processes that will set the course for our nation's future in the years to come. As Catholics, however, it is not only our right but it is also our responsibility to speak out and contribute our love and moral values to the public debates that are unfolding over the next several months. As followers of Christ we are called to prayer and action in order to help build a culture of life. That means that we have to do what we can to:

- Stop the destruction of human life, especially of innocent life;
- Bring an end to the poverty that affects the lives of so many of our friends and neighbors;
- Support families facing serious challenges when it comes to education, healthcare, housing, and passing on spiritual beliefs and moral values to their children;
- Promote the values of justice and peace so that we can overcome the hate and violence that plagues our country and countries around the world; and
- Live out our biblical mandate to love our neighbors and welcome the strangers

among us, whether they are documented or undocumented.

Now, what we are called to do does not easily fit into the

political framework that most of us have grown up with. Any sincere Democrat, Republican or Independent is going to be uncomfortable with some portion of the Catholic perspective on how to deal with the list above. But, Christ did not call us to be sincere Democrats, Republicans or Independents, and don't get me wrong if you have a political affiliation I hope you are sincere about it, rather let me remind you that Jesus called us to love one another. Our Savior's words and his example mean that we cannot be indifferent or cynical about our civic responsibilities.

The upcoming elections and the new legislative session provide us with important opportunities to bring together our faith and our experiences. This dual calling of faith and citizenship is at the heart of what it means to be Catholic in our society and we must therefore raise our voices, share our values, and use our votes to shape society, strengthen our nation and even renew our Church. And, if you don't believe me then let me humbly remind you what Pope John Paul II said not too long ago in *Ecclesia in America*.

For the Christian people of America conversion to the Gospel means to revise "all the different areas and aspects of life, especially those related to the social order and the pursuit of the common good." It will be especially necessary "to nurture the growing awareness in society of the dignity of every person and, therefore, to promote in the community a sense of the duty to participate in political life in harmony with the Gospel."



Democrats announce second bill aimed at reducing number of abortions

WASHINGTON (CNS) — Just six days after a group of Democrats from the House of Representatives announced legislation aimed at reducing the number of abortions in the United States, a second bill with the same goal was presented by another House Democrat. The proposed legislation, Pregnant Women Support Act, was unveiled during a Sept. 20 press conference on Capitol Hill by Rep. Lincoln Davis, D-Tenn. The bill has the support of the U.S. Catholic bishops, unlike the similar legislative proposal, Reducing the Need for Abortion and Supporting Parents Act, announced Sept. 14 by Rep. Tim Ryan, D-Ohio. The newest legislative proposal does not include expanded contraception access, a component of Ryan's proposal which drew objections from the U.S. bishops' pro-life spokeswoman. In a statement distributed at the press conference announcing the Davis bill, Deirdre McQuade, director of planning and information for the bishops' Secretariat for Pro-Life Activities, said she "applauds constructive initiatives to support women and their children, both born and unborn." Both bills were prompted by a legislative proposal known as the 95-10 Initiative announced last year by several Democratic members of Congress and the organization Democrats for Life of America. The proposal seeks to reduce abortions by 95 percent over a 10-year period through legislation encouraging adoption, funding pregnancy prevention, prenatal care and day care and prohibiting insurance practices that discriminate against pregnant women.

Vatican says Archbishop Milingo, four others incur excommunication

VATICAN CITY (CNS) — Recent ordinations made without papal approval have placed Zambian Archbishop Emmanuel Milingo and the four prelates he ordained under automatic excommunication, the Vatican said. Starting with his "attempted marriage" in 2001 until his Sept. 24 ordinations of four bishops in Washington, Archbishop Milingo's actions have led him to "a condition of irregularity and progressive breach in communion with the church," said a written statement by the Vatican press office. Various church officials tried "in vain" to contact the retired archbishop of Lusaka, Zambia, and

"dissuade him from continuing acts that provoke scandal," the Sept. 26 press statement said. It said that despite the "patient vigilance" shown by the Vatican and Pope Benedict XVI in hoping the retired archbishop would return to full communion with the church, the archbishop's Sept. 24 ordinations "have dashed such hopes." Because of the unapproved ordinations, "both Archbishop Milingo and the four ordained men are under a 'latae sententiae' excommunication, according to Canon 1382 of the Code of Canon Law," the statement said. A bishop who consecrates a bishop without a pontifical mandate and the person who receives the consecration from him automatically incur the penalty of excommunication.



POPE TALKS TO AMBASSADORS AND ISLAMIC LEADERS—Pope Benedict XVI talks to ambassadors of Islamic nations and Italian Islamic leaders in a room at his summer residence in Castel Gandolfo, Italy, Sept. 25. The pope assured Muslims that he respected them and was committed to dialogue. (CNS photo/L'Osservatore Romano via Reuters)

Pope expresses respect for Muslims, pledges to continue dialogue

By Catholic News Service

CASTEL GANDOLFO, Italy (CNS) — Meeting with Islamic ambassadors and representatives, Pope Benedict XVI expressed his deep respect for Muslims, pledged to continue dialogue, and said Islamic and Christian leaders should cooperate to curb violence.

"Faithful to the teachings of their own religious traditions, Christians and Muslims must learn to work together, as indeed they already do in many common undertakings, in order to guard against all forms of intolerance and to oppose all manifestations of violence," the pope said.

"As for us, religious authorities and political leaders, we must guide and encourage them in this direction," he said.

The unprecedented encounter at the pope's summer residence Sept. 25 was designed to soothe Muslim resentment over a recent papal speech that cited a historical criticism of Islam and the concept of holy war. The pope later distanced himself from the quoted material and said he was sorry Muslims had been offended.

Addressing the Islamic representatives at Castel Gandolfo, the pope alluded only briefly to the earlier speech. Instead, he focused on assuring Muslim communities that his papacy was not backtracking on the dialogue opened by the Second Vatican Council and developed in large part by his predecessor, Pope John Paul II.

The pope expressed his "esteem and profound respect" for Muslim believers and said he wanted to continue to build bridges, especially between Muslims and Christians. Productive dialogue, he said,

will be based on mutual knowledge, which "with joy recognizes the religious values that we have in common and, with loyalty, respects the differences."

He said historical animosities should be left behind. The lessons of the past, he said, should help Christians and Muslims seek "paths of reconciliation" that lead to respect for individual identity and freedom.

In that regard, Pope Benedict cited Pope John Paul on the important issue of reciprocal respect for religious rights, quoting from a speech the late pope delivered to Muslims in Morocco: "Respect and dialogue require reciprocity in all spheres, especially in that which concerns basic freedoms, more particularly religious freedom."

The pope said that in the current world situation it was imperative that Christians and Muslims join to promote human dignity and the rights that flow from that dignity.

"When threats mount up against people and against peace, by recognizing the central character of the human person and by working with perseverance to see that human life is always respected, Christians and Muslims manifest their obedience to the Creator," he said.

The pope closed his talk by recalling that Muslims worldwide were about to begin the spiritual month of Ramadan, and he prayed that they be granted "serene and peaceful lives." When he finished, he was warmly applauded.

The meeting, arranged with unusual urgency by the Vatican, was a formal audience and not a closed-door exchange of

opinions. In attendance were ambassadors from 22 predominantly Muslim countries and 19 other Islamic representatives based in Italy.

After words of welcome by the head of the Pontifical Council for Interreligious Dialogue, French Cardinal Paul Poupard, the pope delivered his talk in French; the Vatican immediately made available translations in Arabic, English and Italian. Afterward, the pope greeted those present individually, then posed for a photo and left the hall.

The papal talk was broadcast live on the Arab television network Al-Jazeera.

Before the meeting, the Vatican spokesman, Jesuit Father Federico Lombardi, said the encounter was a sign that dialogue was returning to normal after a moment of misunderstanding. The spokesman said the pope's speech Sept. 12 at the University of Regensburg in Germany might even turn out to be "providential" for dialogue.

"We hope the tension and suffering of the past days make everyone understand the urgency of a renewed dialogue that is positive, trustworthy, capable of looking at problems in depth, and ready for 'self-criticism,' as the pope said," Father Lombardi said.

"If this happens, the speech in Regensburg, with its intellectual courage ... will have been fruitful, perhaps even providential," he said.

Reaction to the pope's talk was mostly favorable among the participants and mixed among other Islamic leaders.

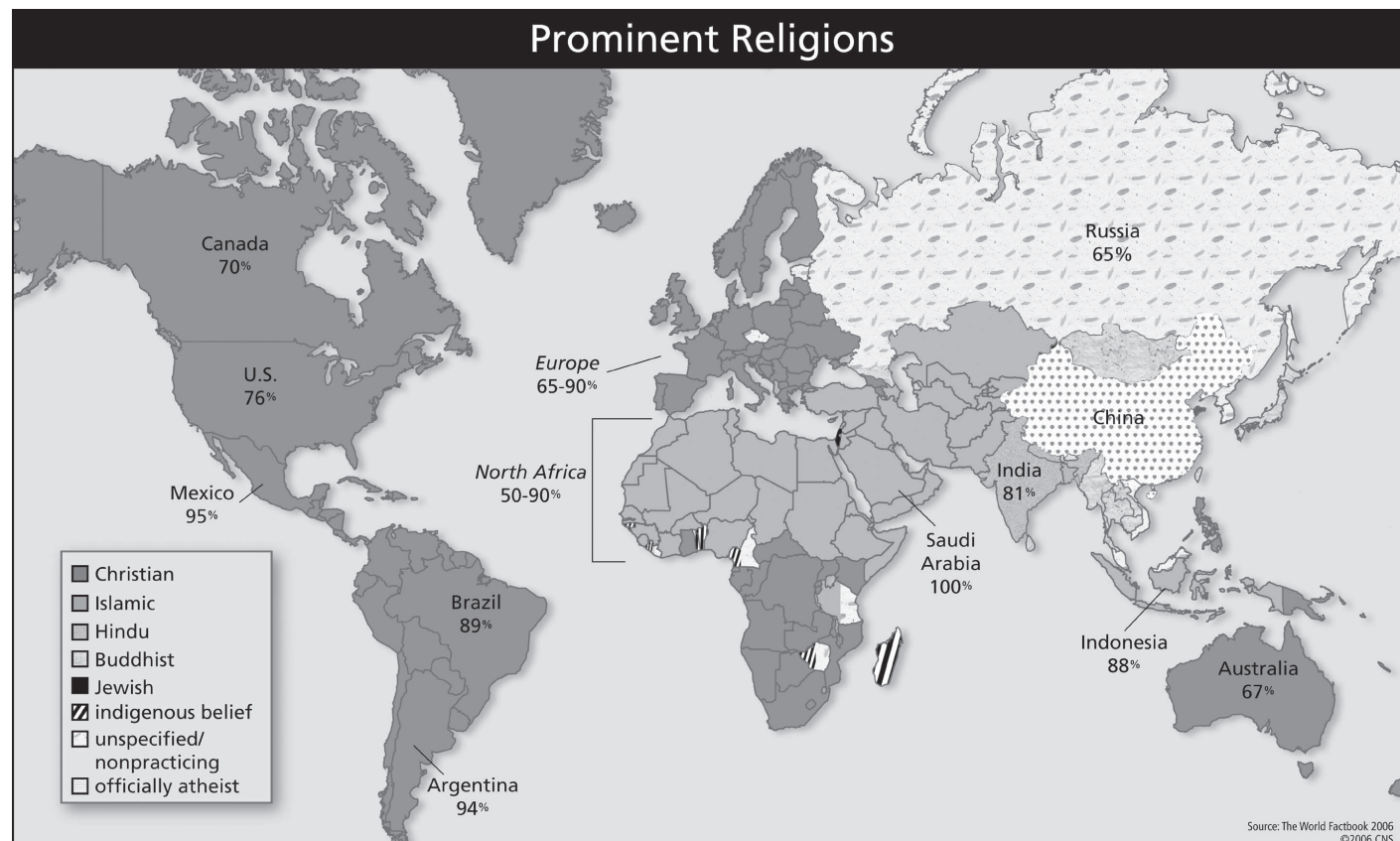
An Iranian diplomat assigned to the Vatican, Ahmad Fahima, said the encounter was "good and, as far as we're concerned, sufficient." Indonesia's ambassador to the Vatican, Bambang Prayitno, said the pope's encouragement to dialogue should have positive effects.

Abdellah Redouane, who represented the Islamic Cultural Center of Italy, said that with the papal talk "a new stage" in dialogue had begun.

Yahya Pallavicini, a Muslim cleric who is vice president of the Islamic Religious Community organization, welcomed the encounter with the pope but said Islamic leaders wanted more than a papal speech. He suggested forming a commission of Christian, Muslim and Jewish experts to map out a new cycle of dialogue meetings.

In Turkey, Ali Bardakoglu, the head of the country's directorate of religious affairs, said he thought the pope's talk would be welcomed as a positive development and would allay misgivings in the Muslim world.

The Italian news agency ANSA reported that in Egypt, spokesmen for al-Azhar University and the Muslim Brotherhood, said they were still waiting for a clear apology by the pope.





Border fence bill passes amid strong opposition from religious leaders

WASHINGTON (CNS) — Legislation calling for construction of a 700-mile fence along the U.S.-Mexican border passed both houses of Congress before they adjourned until after the November elections. The fence was widely criticized by advocates for comprehensive immigration reform, who said the bill was little more than an election-year stunt aimed at voters who want a crackdown on illegal immigration. In a Sept. 29 teleconference, Kevin Appleby, director of migration and refugee policy for the U.S. bishops' Migration and Refugee Services, said the bishops opposed a fence for a variety of reasons. For one thing, half of those who are in the country illegally come in legally and stay beyond their permitted period, he said. Also, a fence will not prevent people from attempting to cross into the U.S. over even more difficult terrain, he added. But it's also a moral issue, said Appleby, citing a Government Accountability Office report that showed the number of deaths in the southwestern deserts doubled after the United States began to blockade less hazardous crossing points in the 1990s.

Cases on partial-birth abortion set stage for court's October opening

WASHINGTON (CNS) — With the Oct. 2 opening of its new term, the Supreme Court will quickly face cases on the federal law banning a procedure known as partial-birth abortion and others on protecting the environment, all of which are drawing attention from the religious community. Court observers are eyeing two abortion cases, in which the 9th and 8th U.S. Circuit Courts of Appeals each said the 2003 federal law banning partial-birth abortion was unconstitutional, to see if recent changes in the Supreme Court's makeup will affect the outcome of abortion-related decisions. The U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops is among the organizations that filed amicus, or friend-of-the-court, briefs urging the high court to uphold the ban and use the cases to reverse the 1973 *Roe v. Wade* decision that legalized abortion nationwide. Another case that has attracted the attention of Catholic organizations is a lawsuit by the commonwealth of Massachusetts against the Environmental Protection Agency, for failing to adopt regulations that would limit greenhouse gases that contribute to global warming. (Please look into The Second Look Project at www.secondlookproject.org; the site helps people make informed decisions on abortion based on fact rather than emotion.)

Catholic organizations back bill to help disabled avoid nursing homes

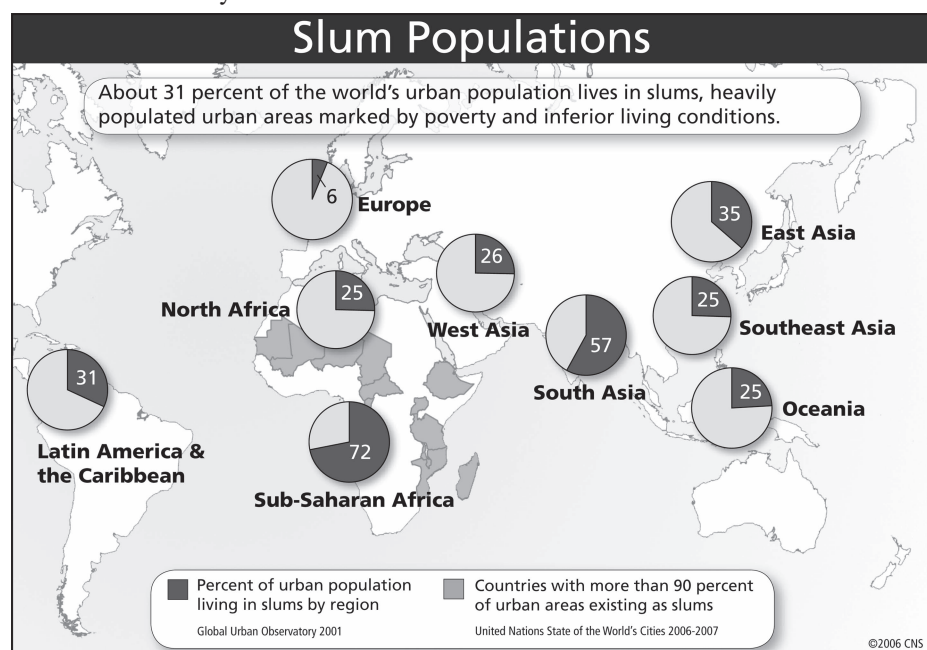
WASHINGTON (CNS) — The U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops and two other national Catholic organizations have backed proposed federal legislation that would enable many people with disabilities to live in their communities instead of in nursing homes. The legislation would help those with disabilities use Medicaid resources to choose independent living, with reliance on community-based services, over Medicaid-funded institutionalized care. In a joint letter to key House and Senate sponsors of the bill, the heads of the USCCB Committee on Domestic Policy, the Catholic Health Association of the United States and the National Catholic Partnership on Disability urged passage of the Medicaid Community-Based Attendant Services and Supports Act, known as MiCASSA. "With the services that MiCASSA would make available, more people with disabilities will be able to move from institutional care to lives of independence in their communities," the Catholic leaders said.

Peace tomorrow relies on justice today, Vatican official tells U.N.

UNITED NATIONS (CNS) — "Building peace for tomorrow requires doing justice today," a top Vatican official told the U.N. General Assembly Sept. 27. Italian Archbishop Giovanni Lajolo, president of the Governor's Office for Vatican City State, addressed issues ranging from development and human rights to religious freedom and dialogue in his speech on the final day of the assembly's annual opening debate. The archbishop, who was the Vatican's foreign minister before he took up his new post Sept. 15, warned that "failures to correct fundamental inequalities in the world economic system are fast becoming lost opportunities to advance a moral alternative to war." He praised the Millennium Development Goals adopted by key world leaders including U.S. President George W. Bush but warned that "implementation has been lacking." He said, "The present lack of progress in the fields of development aid and trade reform threatens everyone's security and well-being."

Pope calls for 'dignified living conditions' for people in slums

CASTEL GANDOLFO, Italy (CNS) — Pope Benedict XVI called for "dignified living conditions" for people living in slums and ghettos. After praying the noonday Angelus Oct. 1, the pope reminded pilgrims gathered in the courtyard of his summer residence in Castel Gandolfo, south of Rome, that Oct. 2 marked World Habitat Day. The United Nations established the day to highlight the importance of city management and an individual's right to adequate shelter. This year's theme was "Cities: Magnets of Hope." The pope said that dealing with the rapid growth of cities and the increase of people moving into urban areas "represents one of the most serious problems that humanity of the 21st century is called to face." He encouraged all those who work on urban management to help ensure that "people living in degraded neighborhoods be guaranteed dignified living conditions, the fulfillment of their basic needs and the possibility of achieving their dreams," especially concerning family life and "peaceful co-existence" in society.



Nick and George Clooney Shed Light on Genocide in Darfur

CINCINNATI—The genocide that is happening to the people of Darfur, a poor district of Sudan, is heartbreaking: Two million Darfuris have been driven from their villages, their homes burned, tens of thousands of them butchered, raped, tortured, beaten, their cattle killed or stolen, their wells poisoned—sometimes with the bodies of the dead. By last July, according to conservative estimates, 250,000 had died and the lives of two million more hang by a thread.

Veteran news journalist Nick Clooney and his son, actor George Clooney, traveled to nearby Chad for a firsthand account of the tragedies occurring throughout the region. Nick Clooney's report is the subject of *St. Anthony Messenger's* October cover story entitled "George and Nick Clooney: 'Stop the Genocide in Darfur.'" The article also contains G. Jefferson Price III's sidebar called "A Relief Worker's Story," about Matthew McGarry, a Catholic Relief Services worker who had been in Darfur. After September 20, the article will be found at this Web site: www.americancatholic.org/.

"Juiced" by his 2006 Oscar win for *Syriana* and wanting to shed light on the genocide in Darfur, George Clooney and his father traveled to a refugee camp in the northeast corner of Chad, which borders Sudan. It is home to 29,000 people who were driven from their villages. Just a few miles from the camp is a region of the Sudan bearing a name that has registered strongly upon the world's conscience: Darfur.

Nick spoke with a refugee who lost nine members of his family a year before. He explains why this situation is happening. "Think about this," he said. "That man"—referring to President Omar Hassan al-Bashir—"is Sudanese, I am Sudanese. He is Muslim, I am Muslim. But he is Arab and I am African. He has contempt for me. He despises me. He wishes me to be dead."

The Darfuri man explains the horrors that he and others have endured: First would come the bombers which would rain down explosives on the helpless village. That would be followed by helicopter gun ships, hitting anything that moved. Villagers, trying to recover from the shock of the air attack, would hear hoofbeats. Over the horizon would come the *janjaweed*, or "devil riders"—rogue militia from the more northern reaches of Sudan. Mounted on horses or camels, they are ruthless killers who destroy whatever they touch.

With this harrowing information, Nick and George returned to the States, armed

with interviews, photographs and memories, and took to the airwaves to spread the message of Darfur. They were interviewed on CNN, MSNBC, Fox, NPR, AP Radio and others. The following day, Nick and George were interviewed by Katie Couric on *Today*. A rally in Washington, D.C., on behalf of the victims in Darfur, in April, drew 30,000 people, with some estimates north of 70,000.

Despite the Clooneys' valiant efforts, Nick is still haunted by the faces of Darfuri refugees. "Their faces wake me up in the middle of the night," he writes. "All of them. Are they all right? Did they make it through another day? Will they ever be able to go home and live out their lives in peace?"

Today he is left with more questions than answers. One question is something many of the world's citizens have asked themselves: "Might this be one genocide we could stop in its tracks?"

Editor's Note: While at www.americancatholic.org, please also visit *Catholic Update's* Understanding Islam.

Week of prayer, fasting part of Respect Life Month events

WASHINGTON (CNS) — A coalition of Catholic and other Christian organizations have mobilized a grass-roots effort worldwide to pray and fast for life in October, which is Respect Life Month. Respect Life Sunday, Oct. 1, was the first day of the 14th annual International Week of Prayer and Fasting to promote a culture of life. The observance, which actually was to last until Oct. 10, included prayer rallies and life chains, which ask people to line up by an abortion clinic to pray for an end to abortion.

In announcing the observance, the coalition asked people to participate as individuals, families and parishes by fasting, attending daily Mass and taking part in Holy Hours, going to confession and reciting the rosary and the Divine Mercy chaplet. "The goals of the week are: the conversion of nations, an end to abortion and to build a culture of life," said the announcement.

Respect Life Month articles/information can be found on the front page of the diocese's Web site: www.victoriadiocese.org; go to the bottom of the page under *The Catholic Lighthouse* logo: Current News.



EVENTS

The Catholic Lighthouse
Page 19 — October 2006



Special Collections

Mission Sunday — Oct. 21-22

Ongoing Events

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

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

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

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

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

Engaged Encounter—Register as soon as you have contacted your pastor due to limited space. **It is strongly recommended that you attend an encounter weekend four to six months prior to your wedding date.** For a registration form, contact your pastor, visit the **Web site at www.victoriadiocese.org/family/ee.htm**, or write to: Engaged Encounter, P.O. Box 4070, Victoria, Texas 77903. The weekend is held at the Spiritual Renewal Center. The dates for 2006 are: Nov. 17-19. The dates for 2007 are: Jan. 26-28, March 2-4, April 27-29, June 22-24, Sept. 28-30, and Nov. 30-Dec. 2. For more info., call (361) 573-0828 ext. 56. A date cannot be reserved for any couple unless a cashiers check or money order is sent in the amount of \$190 for weddings being held within the Diocese of Victoria or \$245 for weddings being held outside the Diocese of Victoria.

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

Retrouvaille — For troubled marriages—The word Retrouvaille means 'rediscovery.' It is a program that offers the chance to rediscover yourself, your spouse, and a loving relationship in your marriage. Tens of thousands headed for divorce have successfully saved their marriages by attending. 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.

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.

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

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

ditional 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 for more information.**

Picnics, Activities, etc.

October

Victoria—Our Lady of Victory Fall Festival Oct. 8 at the community center. A buffet style barbecue-beef and sausage dinner will be served starting at 11:00 a.m. Plates will be \$6.50 p/p, children under 12 plates available, and plates-to-go \$6.50 at the curb. Booths and games open at 11:00 a.m. The auction begins at 12:30 p.m. in the annex.

Flatonia—Sacred Heart Picnic, Oct. 8. Turkey and dressing dinner will be served.

Columbus—St. Anthony Fall Festival Oct. 8 at the KC Hall (I-10W 693 Exit). A barbecue-beef and sausage dinner begins at 11:00 a.m. with plates-to-go available. Lots of booths and fun things for all ages. Pit barbecue, Mexican food, hamburgers served in the afternoon. There will be an auction. Masses at St. Anthony are 8:00 and 10:00 a.m.

East Bernard—Holy Cross Parish Bazaar Oct. 8 at Riverside Hall. A barbecue-beef, chicken and sausage with "homemade dressing" dinner will begin at 11:00 a.m. and continue throughout the day. Czech pastries, refreshments and country store items may be purchased during the day. The auction begins at 12:30 p.m. All kinds of games and entertainment for young and old will be available throughout the day. Added attractions will include a petting zoo, velcro wall and rock climbing wall. Pony rides will be available. Making his fifth appearance will be "Patrick," the celebrity camel, who has appeared on the "Debra Duncan and Oprah Winfrey shows." Not only can he be touched and petted, he will be available for rides. Live music and entertainment starting at noon provided by the Bobby Jones Orchestra (12:00-3:30 p.m.), Dujka Brothers (3:30-6:00 p.m.) and No Limit, local musicians providing country/rock music (6:00 p.m. til?).

When & Where

Goliad—Immaculate Conception Fall Festival, Oct. 15 at the parish hall. Beginning at 11:00 a.m. a barbecue-beef dinner will be served. Live music, dancing, silent auction, cakewalk, and more. Live auction at 1:30 p.m.

Eagle Lake—Parish of the Nativity Fall Festival Oct. 15 at the parish grounds (545 S. Austin Road). Mass times are 8:00 a.m. (Spanish) and 10:00 a.m. (English). A barbecue meal will be served from 11:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. at \$7 p/p with drive-thru available. An auction will be at 1:00 p.m. Throughout the day there will be entertainment, booths, cakewalk, country store, refreshments, plant walk, games and kiddie rides. A soccer tournament starts at 11:00 a.m.

Victoria—Knights of Columbus Council 1329 chicken-barbecue fund-raiser Oct. 15 at the KC Hall. The price is \$5 per chicken. Beans and Spanish rice available for \$1 per pint. Sale starts at 8:30 a.m. Proceeds benefit council's projects.

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

San Antonio—The Beginning Experience Team of San Antonio is sponsoring a weekend retreat to help men and women resolve their grief following the loss of their spouse through divorce, separation or death. The next weekend is Oct. 20–22. Please call (210) 734-2146 for more information. Also see the Web site at www.beginningexperience.org or e-mail: bam0842@hotmail.com. See story on page 13.

Victoria—The Sisters of Incarnate Word and Blessed Sacrament are hosting Discernment Weekends for single Catholic women between the ages of 18 and 50 years of age on Oct. 21-22 and Nov. 4-5 at Incarnate Word Convent. If you are interested, please call (361) 771-3325 or (361) 575-7111 or e-mail: iwbsvoc@yahoo.com for more details.

Hallettsville—Sacred Heart HSA Apple Strudel Bake Oct. 21 at the family center. Strudels will be sold \$10 unbaked and \$12 baked. Victoria residents may pick-up their strudels at Our Lady of Victory cafeteria on Monday, Oct. 23 between 4:00 and 5:30 p.m. To order call Charlene Bradbury at (361) 798-3224; Annette Henke at (361) 798-5374; or Terry Bludau at (361) 798-5243; e-mail order to: charlene_bradbury@hotmail.com

Cuero—St. Michael's School P.T.C. Annual Fall Festival Oct. 22 on the parish hall grounds (104 N. McLeod St.). A kettle-cooked fried-chicken dinner will be served from 11:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. All plates will be \$6.50 each with dine-in (a/c hall) or take-out plates available. A live auction will begin at 1:00 p.m. There will be children's booths along with a pumpkin patch from 12:00 to 3:00 p.m. There will also be a cakewalk, children's costume contest, a country store and more. A 5K run/walk will also be held Sunday morning for those young and young at heart. The festival is held for the benefit of the school.

El Campo—St. Robert Bellarmine Parish Festival Oct. 22 at the K.C. Hall (Armory Road). A barbecue-beef and sausage dinner begins at 11:00 a.m. Huge auction, games for kids, snow cones, ballet folklorico dancers, live music, plant walk,

cakewalk, outside food booths, plenty of fun. For more information contact parish (979) 543-4298.

La Salle—St. Theresa Mission Fall Festival Oct. 22 at the hall. A turkey and dressing dinner (catered by Robert Werner of Shiner) will be served starting at 11:00 a.m. Dine-in or plates-to-go available. Tickets for the meal are \$6.50 p/p. There will be an auction at 12:30 p.m. Also Polka music, games, craft/country store, cakewalk and much more.

Bay City—Holy Cross Fall Festival Oct. 22 at the KC Hall (Hamman Road). A turkey and dressing dinner served from 11:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. at \$7 p/p. Music by Bobby Jones with a dance floor for your enjoyment. There will be an auction, country store, cakewalk and children's games.

Blessing—St. Peter Annual Turkey Dinner Oct. 29 at the church hall. A barbecue-turkey and dressing dinner will be served starting at 11:00 a.m. at \$7 p/p with dine-in or drive-thru available. The auction begins at 12:30 p.m. There will be games to play; kolaches and strudel for sale.

Hillje—St. Andrew Altar Society Turkey Dinner Oct. 29 at the parish hall. Serving begins at 11:00 a.m. with plates-to-go or dine-in at \$6 p/p. There will also be a country store, bake sale, musical entertainment and more.

Seadrift—St. Patrick will hold its annual turkey dinner Oct. 29 at the parish hall. Serving of turkey, dressing and all the trimmings will begin at 11:00 a.m. at \$6 p/p. Baked goods will also be sold and more.

Tivoli—Our Lady of Guadalupe Annual Parish Festival "Jamaica" Oct. 29 with brisket, trimmings and dessert served from 11:00 a.m. - 2:00 p.m. for \$6 p/p. Other events for the day include live auction, country store, color wheel, children's games, costume contest, bingo, evening street dance, refreshments and much more. Please join us for a day of fun, fellowship and festivities.

Upcoming Events

Victoria—The Catholic Cemeteries Office of Victoria will hold a Mass at Resurrection Cemetery Mausoleum (corner of Laurent 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. See ad below.

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—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.

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.



Christmas Arts & Crafts Sale

*Sponsored by the Sisters
Incarnate Word Convent
1101 N.E. Water Street
(across from Hopkins School)*

Sat. & Sun., Nov. 4 & 5

*Sat, 9:00 a.m. - 4:00 p.m.
Sun. 10:00 a.m. - 4:00 p.m.*

*Afghans, African Violets,
Angels, Aprons, Decorations,
Doilies, Pillow Cases, Scarves,
Quilts, Quilt Tops, Pillows,
Pot Holders and
Much, Much More!*

*Benefit:
Health Care
for Retired Sisters*

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

It is updated each weekend.

www.catholicnews.com/movies

Prerecorded capsule reviews of six new movies and a "family video of the week" seen by the U.S. Catholic Conference Office for Film and Broadcasting and classified for their moral suitability.





Texas Catholic Correctional Ministers Conference Oct. 20-21

SAN ANTONIO—The Texas Catholic Correctional Ministers will sponsor the 2006 Criminal Justice Conference, “My God, my God, Why Have You Forsaken Me? Where is the Church?”, at the AT&T Center at San Fernando Cathedral October 20 – 21.

The conference begins at 1:00 p.m. Friday and concludes at noon on Saturday. Topics to be discussed include *Theological Underpinnings of Criminal Justice Ministry* by Bishop Edmond Carmody, Bishop of Corpus Christi; *Who is in Prison? How did they get there? What needs to be done?* by Deacon Doots Dufour, director of Criminal Justice Ministry, Diocese of Austin; *Incarcerated Women – Status, Problems, Special Needs*

by Bonnie Bell Rucker and Nancy Bodkin, wardens of Gatesville Women’s Unit; *County Jails – Status in Texas – Particular Problems and Needs* by Bexar County Sheriff; *Texas State Action Plan for Criminal Justice, Overcoming Fear of Working with Offenders and Ex-offenders – Safety*, followed by *parish activity development: what can the parish do for adult inmates or parolees, what can the church do from the state or diocesan level, and how to recruit volunteers.*

For more information, please contact Beverly Linke, director of Catholic Outreach Prison Ministry in the Diocese of Victoria, at (361) 277-5828, or Deacon Doots Dufour at (512) 651-6108. The AT&T Center is located at 115 Main Plaza.



Father Greg Korenek, pastor of Holy Family Church in Victoria, says Mass and distributes Communion at the Clarence Stevenson Unit, a prison operated by the Texas Department of Criminal Justice in Cuero; Sister Mary Jean Bludau plays guitar in background. The Catholic Outreach Prison Ministry offers Catholic programs (Mass and AA/NA meetings) to offenders at the unit in Cuero each Saturday morning. RCIA classes are offered on the 1st and 3rd Wednesday evenings of the month.

Holy Cross Church celebrates anniversary of church and Bishop Yanta’s priesthood

YORKTOWN, Texas—Holy Cross Church in Yorktown, Texas, celebrated 90 years in the present church, located on Zorn Road. The parish had its beginnings in a wood frame church in 1868 and was named St. Mary’s. On April 7, 1915, the wood church burned and was replaced by the present beautiful brick building and renamed Holy Cross Church.

This year’s festival Mass was celebrated by Most Reverend John W. Yanta, Bishop of Amarillo and native of Runge, Texas. Bishop Yanta celebrated the anniversary of his 50th year of priesthood, being ordained March 17, 1956. Concelebrating with him were our own bishop, Most Reverend David E. Fellhauer, and Father Donald Hayden, O.S.S.T., pastor of Holy Cross.

John W. Yanta was the fifth of eight children, and is a Texan by birth, Polish by descent. He was installed as the seventh bishop of the Diocese of Amarillo on March 17, 1997.

Bishop Yanta is probably best known for his strong defense of the sanctity of human life. On January 22, 1983, he was arrested and went to jail for rescuing babies from death by abortion by blocking

the entrance to the New Women’s Clinic, an abortuary in San Antonio. When it comes to doing the work of protecting human life, Bishop Yanta knows no fear. He is the catalyst behind all the pro-life work that has been accomplished by the Amarillo Diocesan Respect Life Ministries since its inception.

Bishop Yanta is a tireless advocate for women, families and the right to life of the pre-born. He has continually challenged members of his flock to reach beyond their comfort zones in defending the weak and innocent, to set their goals high and has then encouraged and supported them by word and example in realizing those goals. He is known throughout the U.S. as one of the most passionately pro-life bishops in the nation and is in great demand as a speaker and spiritual and strategic director of pro-life activities.

Most recently, Priests for Life has begun construction of its new international headquarters and formation house for its new society in the Diocese of Amarillo.

Following the festival Mass, a generous meal of Holy Cross’ famous Polish sausage and beef barbecue was served at the Yorktown Community Hall.



FEAST OF OUR LADY OF THE GULF CATHOLIC SCHOOL CELEBRATED—Our Lady of the Gulf celebrated the birthday of Mary on September 8 in a variety of special ways. A spiritual novena was offered nine days prior to the feast day. The students also offered a spiritual bouquet for Mary after the Feast Day Mass. Each class then did a service project for the school, washing windows, cleaning out closets, etc. Students also made posters to demonstrate why they think OLG is a great place to learn and grow in the Light of Christ. The feast day culminated with a school-wide assembly and meal at which the OLG Catholic Daughters of America were the guests of honor this year. The students presented a play demonstrating the meaning behind the feast day. The Catholic Daughters of the Americas also presented a donation of \$4,000 for the school toward technology.

Catholic Social Teaching topic of School Seminar held in Hallettsville

By Cindy Brewer

The 9th annual Catholic Schools Seminar, presented to the 15 Catholic schools in the Diocese of Victoria, was held for the first time outside of Victoria, at the Knights of Columbus Hall in Hallettsville Friday, September 1, 2006. The conference hosted John L. Carr, the U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops’ (USCCB) secretary of Social Development and World Peace, from Washington, DC.

This year’s seminar theme was “Catholic Social Teaching: Mission and Message, Directions and Dangers for Catholic Educational Leaders,” and was presented by a top leader in the Catholic social teaching field. Mr. John Carr has served as director of the Department of Social Development and World Peace of USCCB for the past decade. For 25 years he has been involved in Catholic social ministry, serving as Cardinal Hickey’s secretary of social concerns in Washington, D.C.; education director of the Catholic Campaign for Human Development; coordinator for urban issues at the USCC; and legislative coordinator for the Archdiocese of St. Paul-Minneapolis.

Our Mission

Mr. Carr made his presentation hoping that the audience of over 300 Catholic schools’ faculty and staff would come

away from the seminar with a sense of appreciation for what they do. One of the great things Catholic schools can teach is Catholic Social Teaching.

“They’re preparing people about preparing for life,” Mr. Carr said about Catholic

schoolteachers.

The Catholic Church gets its social teaching from Christ’s mission, which is foretold in the fourth chapter of Luke, “The Spirit of the Lord is upon me. The Lord has anointed me to bring Good News

to the poor, liberty to captives, new sight to the blind, to set the downtrodden free.... This is being fulfilled in your midst!” This was Jesus’ mission, and as Christians it is our mission as well.

Mr. Carr stated that Jesus’ mission should “shape what we teach, how we teach, who we teach and how we treat one another.”

He asked the audience what it means to bring Good News to the poor – in a world where 30,000 children will die each day from hunger and its consequences; liberty to the enslaved – enslaved to addictions and trafficking of humans; new sight to the blind; how do we set the downtrodden free with millions of abortions, thousands of Hurricane Katrina refugees?

“These aren’t questions just for the bishops,” he said. “If it’s to be fulfilled, it will be in your midst,” he reminded the teachers.

“We are not an interest group. Our faith is profoundly social – we can’t be Catholic if we don’t take up Jesus’ mission,” said Mr. Carr.

“Our bishops have called for a new kind of public life; focus more on the moral principles than the polls, more on the needs of the weak rather than the contributions of the powerful, and more on

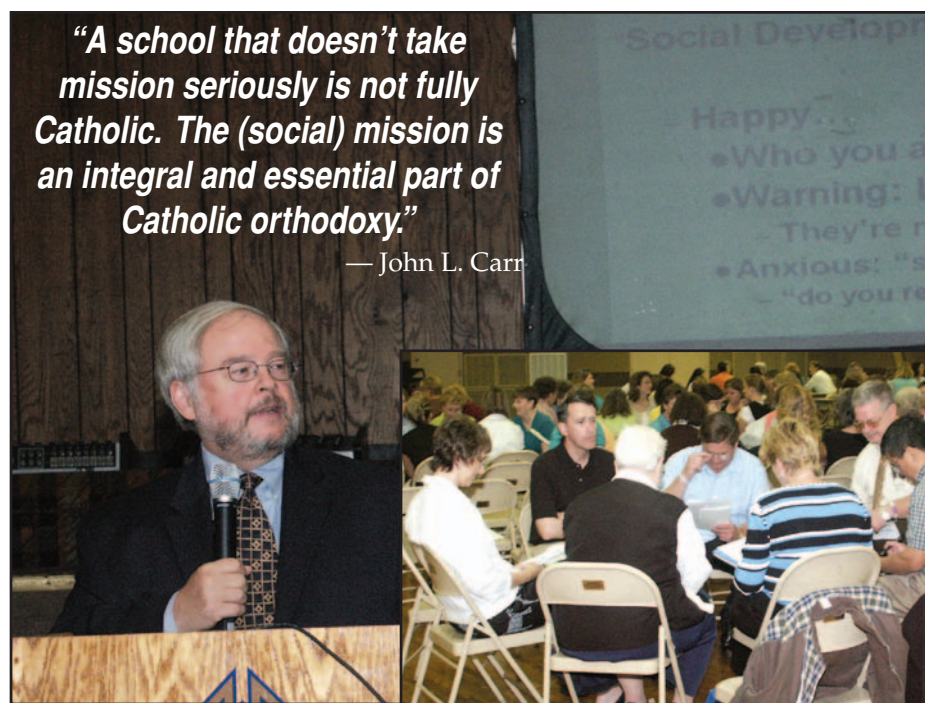


Photo by Regina Matus-Janak

Mr. John L. Carr, secretary of Social Development and World Peace for the U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops, speaks to 300 Diocese of Victoria Catholic Schools faculty and staff during its 9th annual Catholic Schools Seminar September 1.

See Catholic Social Teaching, p. 8