

The Catholic Lighthouse

The Cradle of Texas Immigration



VOL. 20, NO. 5

OFFICIAL PUBLICATION OF THE DIOCESE OF VICTORIA IN TEXAS

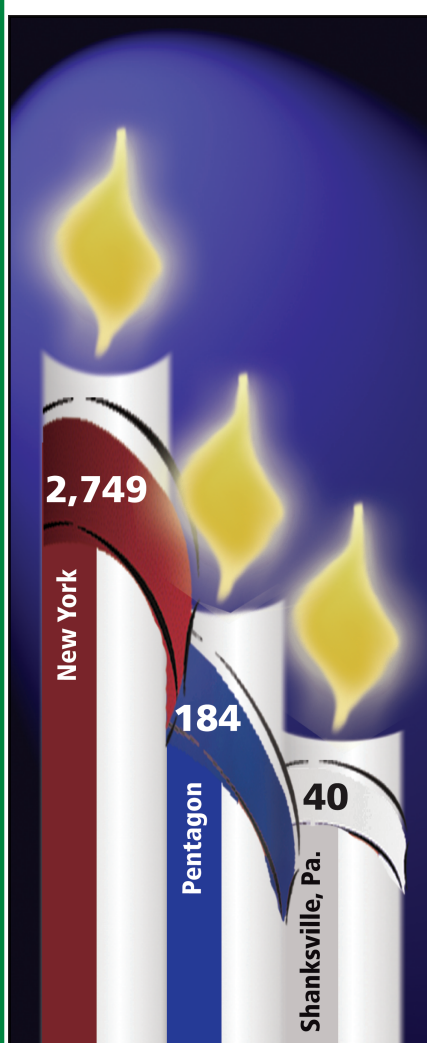
September 2006

In This Issue



Raphael's Refuge in Flatonia being built, see p. 10

Español, p. 15



(CNS graphic/Emily Thompson)

SEPT. 11 REMEMBRANCE

This Sept. 11 marks the fifth anniversary of the terrorist attacks on U.S. soil.

The death toll from New York, the Pentagon and Shanksville, Pa., stands at 2,973.

Young Adult Special, pgs. 8 and 9

NET team, Victoria/Cuero youth educated on Sexual Violence; Stand Up Girl; Life Contract



St. Anthony School begins celebrating 50 Years of Faith, Family and Community. Standing next to a new banner that will remain in front of the school for the anniversary year is (l. to r.) Principal John O'Leary, second grade student Joshua Beane, 4K student Lauren Beane and Father Dan Kahlich. The sign was donated by the Beane family.

Looking back on 50 Years of St. Anthony School

COLUMBUS — St. Anthony School in Columbus is preparing for its 50th anniversary to be celebrated throughout the coming school year. The anniversary year will be kicked off with an alumni celebration on Saturday, September 23, beginning with Mass at 5:00 p.m., celebrated by Bishop David Fellhauer. Immediately following will be a meal and program at the Knights of Columbus Hall in Columbus. The school is trying to inform all alumni about this year's celebration.

All SAS alumni are invited to join the school for its 50th Anniversary Celebration on September 23. It will be a day of reminiscing and reacquainting, as well as updating on the goings-on at St. Anthony School today. Mark your calendar now to make this a day to rekindle some "saintly" memories!!

The planning committee is also search-

ing for photographs and mementos to either borrow or permanently add to the school's collection. They will be displaying these items during the 50th Anniversary Celebration and throughout the year. Any help one can give would be appreciated. Please call the school office (979-732-5055) for more information regarding this special event.

St. Anthony Parish was built on strong Catholic principles and a dedication to spiritual growth from its beginning days. The parish was named in honor of St. Anthony of Padua and thus placed under the patronage of the great Wonder Worker and Doctor of the Universal Church.

St. Anthony Parochial School opened its doors for the first time on Tuesday, September 4, 1956, for grades 1-4. Enrollment in the first four grades was 61 children. Sisters Alberta, Romana and Rosella of the Order of St. Francis were welcomed into the community as the first teachers at St. Anthony School and to live in convent quarters - a newly-purchased building on the southwest corner of the

See Looking back, p. 5

Life Chain Sunday

Sunday, October 1, 2006
2:00 to 3:00 p.m.
Navarro St. from Sam Houston to Loop 463.

In more than 1,400 locations in 1,100 cities across America and Canada, Pro Life people will gather to pray silently and hold signs that say:

ABORTION KILLS CHILDREN
and
ABORTION HURTS WOMEN

Signs will be provided along the Navarro route.

Join in this peaceful solidarity of the church community for life — come as a church community to Stand Up for the Unborn.



Libby Ramirez

Libby Ramirez to begin two-year term as second top CDA national leader

By Tom Panas, Communications for National Catholic Daughters of the Americas

On August 19, 2006, Victoria resident Libby Ramirez began a two-year term as the Catholic Daughters of the Americas National Regent-Elect, the second highest national leadership position in the organization.

The position means that in 2008 Mrs. Ramirez will be the National Regent of the organization, the position equivalent to "president."

Mrs. Ramirez was elected at the organization's 51st Biennial National Convention held recently in Minneapolis with delegates from across the United States, Puerto Rico, the Dominican Republic and Guam voting.

As a long-standing member of the Catholic Daughters of the Americas Court St. Ann No. 369, Libby Ramirez has held many high positions. She served as one of the five national officers — the five top

See Libby Ramirez, p. 6

St. Ann Church Celebrates Centennial

YOAKUM—Many who have driven Highway 111 through the Petersville area of De Witt County have seen a quaint little church with its adjoining cemetery perched at a peak along the rolling prairie. St. Ann Church is celebrating 100 years of establishment this year. The annual feast day of Sts. Joachim and Ann was observed on Wednesday, July 26, with an evening Mass followed by a social and meal at Turner Hall. Many of the families who have roots in the area and who are associated with its history came together and gave thanks to God for the gift of their faith, in this little sanctuary of peace and beauty.

The beginnings of the parish can be found in its connection to the Yoakum area. In the northern section of De Witt County, Czech Catholics began to settle

in 1886. People came from other parts of the state when the Aransas Pass Railroad was proposed to be built there. Land at that time was sold for \$6-\$8 dollars an acre.

At the time Yoakum was not a city yet, but St. Joseph Church had been established in 1869 near the area of Brushy Creek. To the northeast of Yoakum was a tiny settlement called Hochheim, which dates back to 1836. It derives its name from the first settler, Valentine Hoch, who came to America from Alsace-Lorraine.

Through the generosity of Jacob Poth with his donation of five acres, the St. Ann church and cemetery were located on a scenic hilltop. It was built in 1906 at a cost of \$3,000 through the efforts of Father William Heffernann, the pastor of St.

See St. Ann Church, p. 7



Bishop Fellhauer's Schedule

September

- 9** 7:00 a.m., Mass, Our Lady of the Gulf ACTS retreat, Spiritual Renewal Center, Victoria
- 9:00 a.m., Mass, celebrating 25th Wedding Anniversary of Chris and Nick Alvarez, Our Lady of Victory Cathedral
- 6:30 p.m., Mass 100th Anniversary of the dedication of Nativity of the Blessed Virgin Mary Church, High Hill
- 10** 9:00 a.m., Mass, celebrating 50th anniversary of ordination to the priesthood of Bishop John Yanta, Holy Cross Church, Yorktown
- 2:00 p.m., Mass of Consecration, Incarnate Word and Blessed Sacrament Associates, Incarnate Word Convent, Victoria
- 14** 6:00 p.m., Mass, Feast of the Exaltation of the Holy Cross, Equestrian Order of the Holy Sepulchre, St. Mary Church, Victoria
- 16** Our Lady of the Gulf Parish golf tournament, Port Lavaca
- 18-19** Texas Catholic Conference General Assembly, Doubletree Hotel, Austin
- 20** 3:00 p.m., Diocesan Finance Board Meeting, Chancery Office
- 4:30 p.m., Diocesan Building Board Meeting, Chancery Office
- 21** 6:00 p.m., Serra Club Deacon Appreciation dinner, Holy Family Church, Victoria
- 22** 8:00 a.m., School Mass, St. Michael Church, Weimar
- 7:30 p.m., Reconciliation Service, Our Lady of Victory ACTS retreat, Spiritual Renewal Center, Victoria
- 23** 5:00 p.m., Mass, 50th Anniversary of St. Anthony School, St. Anthony Church, Columbus
- 30** 9:00 a.m., Conference for Catechesis and Ministry, Holy Family Church, Victoria
- October**
- 1** 9:30 a.m., Flag raising and Proclamation
10:00 a.m., Mass, celebrating 150th Anniversary of Holy Rosary Church, Hostyn
- 9-12** Canon Law Society of America Convention, Fort Worth

Vatican changes dates for 2008 feasts of St. Joseph, Annunciation

VATICAN CITY (CNS) — Because of conflicts in the Catholic Church's liturgical calendar, the Vatican has decided that in 2008 the dates of the feasts of St. Joseph and of the Annunciation of the Lord will be moved. Working a year and a half in advance to meet the needs of publishers of church calendars, the Congregation for Divine Worship and the Sacraments published its notification on the 2008 changes in mid-July. In 2008, if the feast of St. Joseph were to be celebrated as usual on March 19, it would fall on the Wednesday of Holy Week and if the feast of the Annunciation of the Lord were to be celebrated March 25, it would fall on the Tuesday during the octave of Easter. While the two feasts are among the 14 solemnities marked with special care in the Catholic Church, they do not take precedence over the commemoration of Christ's suffering, death and resurrection. Therefore, the congregation said, in 2008 the feast of St. Joseph will be celebrated March 15, the day before Palm Sunday, and the feast of the Annunciation will be celebrated March 31, the Monday after the second Sunday of Easter, which also is Divine Mercy Sunday.

Official Appointments By Most Rev. David E. Fellhauer

Effective August 28, 2006, the Rev. Francis Thaivalappil, CMI, is appointed Parochial Vicar at Our Lady of the Gulf Church, Port Lavaca, and its missions.

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).



VICTORIA KJZT HELPS THE GABRIEL PROJECT WITH BAKE SALE FUNDS—KJZT Society No. 101 Assumption from Victoria held a bake sale that allowed the organization to give a donation of \$1,483 to the Gabriel Project. This project, as well as others like its Lenten Soup, cleaning yards with youth and holding meetings allowed the society to earn \$100 from the KJZT state office, which they donated to Principal Sister Leonita Barron at Our Lady of Victory School. Pictured above is sitting (l. to r.) Barbara McCain, Evelyn Dierlam, Emily Yearry and Irene Brosch; standing: Carolyn Nevlud, Rosie Olsovsky, Delores Stryk, Stefanie Spears and Sophi Perkins.

Nada Catholic receives full scholarship

Margie Leopold, a junior at Regis University, has been awarded the Clare Booth Luce Scholarship. Regis University, located in the foothills of the Rocky Mountains, north of downtown Denver, Colorado, is the smallest of 28 Jesuit Universities in the United States. The Jesuits were founded by Saint Ignatius Loyola in 1540 and are recognized world wide for their educational institutions. Regis University was established in 1877 and was named in honor of Saint John Francis Regis, an 18th century Jesuit missionary.

Margie is the daughter of Frederick and Cathy Leopold of Nada. She was a 2004 honor graduate from Rice Consolidated High School. She is double majoring in Computer Science and Mathematics at Regis University.

The Clare Booth Luce Scholarship was awarded to two participants at Regis University with the criteria of being a woman and majoring in Computer Science. This is the first year that Regis University has awarded the scholarship, which entails full tuition paid for the next two years, approximately \$65,000.

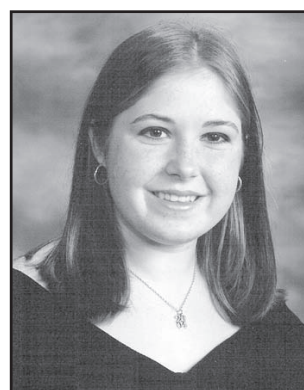
Clare Booth Luce was a prominent

Catholic, playwright, journalist, U.S. Ambassador to Italy, and the first woman elected to Congress from the state of Connecticut. She established this scholarship program to "encourage women to enter, study, graduate, and teach in sciences,

mathematics, and engineering." This scholarship program is the single most significant source of private support for women in science, engineering, and mathematics.

Leopold will have the opportunity to do some community outreach and service type learning activities. Leopold will receive a \$600 stipend for going to conferences and seminars. She will begin a new research project that will relate back to Computer Science. Leopold will also participate in starting a new group at Regis for "Women in Science" where it will be a student/faculty group focusing on the work in many sciences. This group should be kicking off in the fall.

Leopold also will have the opportunity to work with United Nations Association -Colorado Division, working on a model to develop Model UNs online where students across the world can participate with each other in Model UN.



Margie Leopold

2006 DSA Monthly Report

Since our last issue of *The Lighthouse* our pledged amount has increased to \$655,249 and the total paid amount is \$597,058, which is 48 percent of the goal needed. Thus far 4,192 out of 22,159 registered families have responded to our Bishop's Appeal. These families are giving back to God some of the blessings that God has given them. Thank You. Your gifts are sincerely appreciated.

Christian stewardship trains us to become aware that God is the ultimate giver of the gifts we have. Giving to God should be from the top not what may be left over. As we approach the end of 2006, let us think about what gifts God has given to us. A vibrant diocese can become even more vibrant when people respond to the call of stewardship.

Jeri Joseph
DSA Coordinator


Stewardship Thought

Stewardship is not job-oriented or project-minded. It is a way of life for a lifetime.

DSA Goal
\$1,238,378

Half way
marker

Total
Amount
Paid
\$597,058



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DEADLINE IS THE THIRD TUESDAY OF THE PRECEDING MONTH.

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The Catholic Lighthouse - P.O. Box 4070 - Victoria, Texas 77903



Seminary Burses

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

As of August 30, 2006

	TOTALS
— General Seminary Burse	
Previously reported	\$74,209.00
In memory of Ann Halepaska by M/M Robert Bochot	25.00
Total	\$74,234.00
— Catholic Daughters of America Court Our Lady Queen of Peace 1374 Burse	
Previously reported	\$3,067.72
In honor of Joe and Jeanette Matzke's 50th wedding anniversary by Catherine Drapela	50.00
In memory of Rev. Joseph Koebel by M/M Thomas Turner & Justin	20.00
In memory of Carol Koenig by M/M Thomas Turner & Justin	20.00
In memory of Hugo Kaiser by M/M Thomas Turner & Justin	20.00
In memory of Edith Cernoch by M/M Thomas Turner & Justin	20.00
In memory of Henry Kana by M/M Thomas Turner & Justin	20.00
Total	\$3,217.72
— Rev. Roman M. Janak & Rev. Msgr. Hubertus J. Janak Burse	
Previously reported	\$13,864.84
In memory of Sybil Janak by Mary Triska	20.00
Total	\$13,884.84
— Catholic Life Insurance Victoria Branch 51— Rev. Msgr Eustace Hermes and Rev. Msgr. Gino Bernasconi Burse No. 2	
Previously reported from Burse No. 1	\$705.47
In honor of Herman A. Moore's birthday by Henry and Frances Vesely	15.00
In honor of Anne Moore's birthday by Henry and Frances Vesely	15.00
Total	\$735.47
— Rev. Charles Kolek, OSB, and John & Mary Kolek Burse	
Previously reported	\$1,180.00
In memory of Charles E. and Mary A. Kozel and Sister Annie Kozel, Oblate of St. Benedict, by members of the Charles and Mary Kozel Family Reunion	600.00
Total	\$1,780.00

— Rev. John C. Peters Burse No. 3
Previously reported \$11,301.00
In memory of John and Agnes Peter
and Gottfried and Theresa Beck 20.00
Total \$11,321.00

— Josephat R. Janak Burse
Previously reported \$14,563.77
In memory of Stanley Hrnir Jr. by
Rose Marie Janak and Family 20.00
Total \$14,583.77

— Rev. Jerome J. Stryk Burse
Previously reported \$10,167.50
In memory of Frances Demel by
Lad and Helen Muras and family 50.00
Total \$10,217.50

**— Rev. Theophil Okruhlik & Rev. Vincent
Verdaram Burse**
Previously reported \$7,135.00
In memory of Fred Hubenak by
Willie and Tina Hubenak 20.00
In memory of Debbie McCartney by
M/M Vencil F. Janis 10.00
In memory of Debby McCartney by
Ervin and Peggy Hermes 20.00
In memory of Nina Mae Beard by
Ervin and Peggy Hermes 20.00
In honor of Frankie and Leonard Dreymla's
golden wedding anniversary by
Ervin and Peggy Hermes 20.00
Total \$7,225.00

**— Rev. Msgr. Julius Petru Burse No. 2 St. John
Nepomucene-New Taiton**
Previously reported \$9,775.00
In memofy of Joyce Kahanek by
M/M Robert Hlavaty 20.00
Total \$9,795.00

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

COOKOUT FOR SEMINARIANS

— Bishop David
Fellhauer with
seminarians, l-r,
Tommy Chen,
Philip Brune and
Gabriel Espinoza
attend a cookout
hosted by Serra
Club of Victoria at
the KC Hall. Semi-
narian Michael
Rother was at a re-
treat and unable to
attend.



Photo By Regina Matus-Janak



ST. ANTHONY FIRED UP ABOUT JESUS AT VBS FIESTA—Vacation Bible School was a big hit at St. Anthony Parish in Columbus. Children from pre-K through 5th grade, along with 52 adult and teen leaders, joined in memorable and fun Bible-learning activities with catchy songs, exciting video serial adventure, tasty snacks with-a-meaning, crafts and games. St. Anthony's Bible adventurers learned to know about, talk to, tell about, love and work for God as they explored the stories of good friends lowering their paralyzed friend through the roof to meet Jesus, Jesus raising Lazarus from the dead, Jesus choosing his first disciples, the death and resurrection of Jesus, and how Ananias helped Saul. Each day the children were challenged to apply the day's theme at home and come back the next day to tell how they lived it out. The children also participated in a mission to help needy children by making blankets that were given to St. Vincent de Paul Society. Family and friends were invited each day to a festive finale celebrating the lessons of the day.



Photo by Cindy Brewer

Father Ty Bazar greets his parishioners from St. Patrick Catholic Church in Bloomington following his installation Mass July 29. Above he speaks with the Evan Kloss family (Talitha and children).

Father Ty J. Bazar installed as pastor

BLOOMINGTON—Father Ty Bazar who was ordained to the priesthood June 1, 2002, at Our Lady of Victory Cathedral, was recently installed as pastor of St. Patrick Parish in Bloomington. Bishop David E. Fellhauer installed Father Ty within the Order of the Mass at St. Patrick's on July 29, 2006.

The installation process included the presentation of Father Ty, followed by a welcome from the people. Father Ty then led the faithful in the Nicene Creed and recited to Bishop Fellhauer his oath as pastor.

At the end of the evening Mass, Father Ty told his parishioners, "I will do my best, as I've already pledged, to lead you in the ways of the faith and I look forward to it ... I ask that you be gentle and patient as we begin this journey of faith together, and staying close to the Lord and fixed on

him always, we will succeed." A reception in the parish hall followed the Mass.

Prior to the installation ceremony, Father Ty had met with the parish finance council, religious education instructors, lectors and extraordinary ministers of Holy Communion. In the church bulletin, he said he was pleased with the productive meetings and stated that he was highly optimistic about the well being of the parish. In the bulletin he also thanked those who had helped with his installation and reception.

Prior to becoming a parish pastor, Father Ty had been parochial vicar at three parishes since his ordination: St. Philip the Apostle in El Campo from July 2002 to July 2003; Our Lady of the Gulf in Port Lavaca from July 2003 to June 2005; and St. Rose of Lima in Schulenburg and her missions from June 2005 to July 18, 2006.

*"Open your hearts to Christ.
Go out to meet Him. Quench
your thirst at His spring. He
offers a water which will sat-
isfy your thirst for truth, for joy,
for happiness and for love."*

—Pope John Paul II

**Will you allow Christ to
work in you as a priest or
religious?**

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

**HAPPY
BIRTHDAY**

**Seminarian
Tommy Chen
October 2**

Theology III
St. Mary's Seminary
9845 Memorial Drive
Houston, Texas 77024
*Tommy is from St. Ann Parish,
Point Comfort*

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.



September

Sat

30

The Diocese of Victoria

19th Annual Conference for Catechesis and Ministry

La Conferencia Anual Decimanovena para Catequesis y Ministerios

Who do you say that I am?

Morning Keynote Presentation

Meeting Jesus at the Movies



Sister Rose Pacatte, FSP, Presenter

- A-1 Why Do We Keep Choosing the Wrong Tree?
Taking Another Look at Making Good Moral Decisions
- A-2 Talking to Children about War and Peace
- A-3 Creative Ideas for Catechists
- A-4 Discovering Disciples in the Classroom
- A-5 Why Do They Do Things They Do?
- A-6 Songs for Retreat
- A-7 In Conversation with the Bishop
- A-8 Spirituality and Prayer
- A-9 So Many Resources, So Little Time
- A-10 Re-Imagine Jr. High Faith & Holiness
- A-11 The Chat Room:
How to Talk to Jesus Through "Prayer"
- A-12 Cyber Safety in the Community
- A-13 Living Word, Living Body
- A-14 Real Faith for Real Folks!
Go from How? to Wow!
- A-15 Mystagogy: Making Sure Faith Formation "Sticks"
- AS-16 La Renovación Carismática, una oportunidad para la Iglesia de nuestros días
- AS-17 La Familia, primera y principal transmisora de la Fe

Schedule of the Day

- 7:30 a.m. Registration & Visit Exhibits
- 9:00 - 9:30 a.m. Welcome & Opening Prayer
- 9:30 - 10:30 a.m. Keynote Presentation:
Sister Rose Pacatte, FSP
- 10:30 - 11:00 a.m. Break
- 11:00 - 12:15 p.m. Workshop - Session A
- 12:15- 1:30 p.m. Lunch & Visit Exhibits
- 1:40 - 2:25 p.m. Keynote Presentation:
Mr. Charles Balsam
- 2:30 - 2:45 p.m. Break
- 2:45 - 4:00 p.m. Workshop - Session B
- 4:15 p.m. Liturgy - Bishop Fellhauer

Conference Registration Information

INDIVIDUAL REGISTRATION

- \$ 14 per person if **pre-registered** by September 25, 2006
- \$ 16 per person if registering after September 25, 2006

GROUP REGISTRATION

- \$ 12 per person for groups of 10 to 15 persons
- \$ 10 per person for groups of 16 to 20 persons
- \$ 8 per person for groups of 21 or more persons

To receive group discount, all registrations **MUST BE** turned in to the catechetical office by September 25, 2006

\$ 20 per person registration fee at the door!

Holy Family Church



704 Mallette, Victoria, Texas

¿Quién dicen ustedes que soy yo?

Afternoon Keynote Presentation

God Walks Among the Pots and Pans



Charles O. Balsam, Presenter

- B-18 In the Image of Christ: Education and Media Mindfulness
- B-19 Wake-Up Call: Parents, Baptism, and Evangelization
- B-20 Discovering Disciples in the Classroom
- B-21 Why Do They Do Things They Do?
- B-22 Living Bread, Living Body
- B-23 I'm Catholic and Proud of It!
- B-24 Songs for Sunday Worship
- B-25 The Vision & Role of the Charismatic Prayer Groups, a New Way of Meeting Jesus
- B-26 What Does LUKE Mean for Americans?
- B-27 Cyber Safety in the Community
- B-28 The Chat Room: How to Talk to Jesus through "Prayer"
- B-29 Power, Ideology, & the Failure of the U.S. News Media in the Middle East
- B-30 Real Faith for Real Folks! Go from How? to Wow!
- B-31 Re-Imagine Jr. High Faith & Holiness
- B-32 Mystagogy: Making Sure Faith Formation "Sticks"
- BS-33 Oración y Espiritualidad
- BS-34 Quinceñera: Sentido Cristiano de la Celebración

For more information or to register call the Diocese of Victoria Catechetical Office at 361-573-0828 or e-mail: calvarez@victoriadiocese.org



Diocese of Victoria Library & Media Center



Book of the Month

Catholics, Marriage and Divorce: Real People, Real Questions - This book is written in a question-and-answer format to guide people who hope to find answers to questions such as: Can I get married if I already live with my fiancé? Can I receive the sacraments after I divorce? What is a tribunal? and many more.

Other Books

- *Until the Trumpet Sounds: Seeking Holiness Now* by Zachary Grant
- *A Concise Guide to Your Right in the Catholic Church* by Kevin E. McKenna
- *The Ten Commandments: Covenant of Love* by Alfred McBride, O.Praem.
- *Questions from Seventh Period* by Michael Pennock, Ph.D.

Video of the Month

Questions of the Soul A five video series by Fr. Michael Himes which provides insight to questions such as: What is Prayer? What Can Suffering Teach us? What is Spirituality? and What is Spiritual Discipline? *Each video is approximately 25 minutes in length.*

Other Videos

- Connecting with God: Ways to Pray
- Some Assembly Required: Teens Talk about Faith
- Spiritual Recovery from Divorce and Separation
- Wives of Deacons: Ordinary Women, Extraordinary Lives

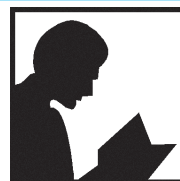
The Library and Media Center is open to all persons in the Diocese of Victoria. It houses over 5,000 books and 1,400 videos. Office hours are 8:30 a.m. - 4:30 p.m., Monday - Friday, or visit us on line at www.victoriadiocese.org

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

Pope: Interreligious prayer meetings are needed even more today

ASSISI, Italy (CNS) — On the 20th anniversary of the first interreligious prayer meeting in Assisi, Pope Benedict XVI said the initiative had been a "prophetic" way for various faiths to witness against conflict and war. The pope said such gatherings were needed even more today, when younger generations of all faiths must learn that prayer "does not divide, but unites" and that religion must never be used as an excuse for violence. The pope made his comments in a message Sept. 4 to the 20th Interreligious Prayer Meeting for Peace in Assisi, Italy. Sponsored by the Sant'Egidio Community, the two-day encounter brought together more than 150 representatives of various world religions. The pope's message offered a strong endorsement of the interfaith meetings that began in Assisi in 1986, surprising some observers.



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

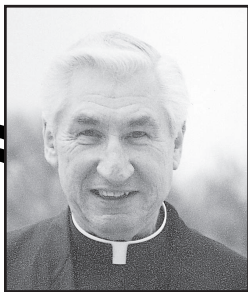
Holy Family Church
2011 Briar Lane
Mondays: Oct. 23 - Nov. 27



Faith Point

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

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



Do Vouchers Work?

Congressional Republicans floated a bill called the Opportunity Scholarship Program to dedicate \$100 million to school vouchers. The vouchers would go mainly to students in poor schools that have failed to meet their progress goals for at least five straight years. Parents could get \$4,000 per year to put toward private-school tuition or a public school outside their local district. They also could seek up to \$3,000 per year for extra tutoring.

"More than 1,700 schools around the country have failed to meet state standards for five or six years in a row," Education Secretary Margaret Spellings explained. Thousands of students throughout the nation stand to benefit from the Opportunity Scholarship program.

As the voucher program was under discussion, on July 14, 2006, the National Center for Education Statistics (NCES) released a report, Comparing Private School and Public Schools Using Hierarchical Linear Modeling (HLM). The HLM study analyzed the 2003 grade 4 and grade 8 National Assessment of Educational Progress (NAEP) data.

The HLM model employed an advanced statistical technique that attempts to examine the differences in mean scores when selected school and student characteristics are taken into account.

The 2003 NAEP reading and math tests were administered to public and private school students in grades 4 and 8. The actual 4th grade private school NAEP mean scores in reading were 14.7 points higher than the public schools; 8th grade reading was 18.1 points higher. In math assessments, the 4th grade private school scores were 7.8 points higher than public schools and for 8th grade the private school scores were 12.3 points higher than public schools.

The HLM model takes the actual scores and subjects them to a statistical analysis of socioeconomic characteristics to determine whether the private school "advantage" disappears. The characteristics used in the comparison were school size and location, gender, race/ethnicity, family income, disability status and degree of Limited English Proficiency. Discounting these "private school advantages", the study found that there was no significant difference between public and private schools in 4th grade reading and 8th grade math results; there was a significantly higher difference (7.8) for private school 8th grade reading and a higher public school difference (4.5) for 4th grade math.

Opponents of voucher programs pounced on this study like a hungry cat on a mouse and newspapers all around America reported that according to the U.S. Department of Education, "Children in public schools generally performed as well or better in reading and mathematics than comparable children in private schools." At last there was a study to counter the torrent of studies favoring vouchers. Voucher opponents claimed that vouchers were not necessary or even use-

ful. The *New York Times* put the study on its front page and quoted teachers' union president Reg Weaver who claimed "public schools were doing an outstanding job."

When our 8th grade students are 19th among 38 countries in mathematics and 18th in science, lagging behind students from the Slovak Republic, Hungary, Slovenia, Australia, Finland, Czech Republic, Malaysia and Bulgaria even though their educational expenditures are a mere fraction of ours, it is quite a stretch to say that public schools are doing an "outstanding" job.

The *Times* and teachers unions' use of the study to show that private schools do no better than public ones is inappropriate. Two reasons are listed in the study itself. First, the NCES study says, that "overall, due to the complexity of the issues involved, no single study can provide a definitive determination of the effectiveness of various forms of schooling." The *Times* never mentions this caveat. The study takes raw test scores from a single year and applies statistical controls for demographic factors like race, income and disabilities.

A second statement from the study also minimizes its value for comparative use:

"Ideally, to ascertain the difference between the two types of schools, an experiment would be conducted in which students are assigned (by an appropriate random mechanism) to either public or private schools." The *Times* did not find that "fit to print."

What is puzzling is why the researchers did not utilize what they say is the ideal research technique and make a direct comparison between public and private schools. Instead they chose to rely on statistical hypothetical models that cannot be interpreted as causal relationships and do not give any new information on why stripping away presumed "advantages" of private schools impacts results. The report itself states that the results are of "modest value."

The study does not measure progress over time. Single-year snapshots of test scores provide no information about growth in achievement and reveal nothing about the relative quality of public and private schools.

The HLM regression analysis is a valid statistical tool, but one prone to researcher bias. The data may have been manipulated (Commentator John Stossel used the word "tortured") to obtain the result that public

schools are providing a better education—even though the actual test results show the opposite. The authors cite in the bibliography no fewer than nine papers written or co-authored by one of them, most of which challenge the premise that non-public schools produce a better educational product. Indeed the list of private school "advantages" used in the study came from one of those articles.

Even if one stipulates the study as a valid means of judging educational programs it provides scant good news for public schools. For one thing it finds there is a decline in scores from grade 4 to grade 8 in public schools. Parents prefer success at the conclusion of the educational process rather than just at the beginning. Also claiming that public education does as good a job as private schools is rather like saying that a \$60,000 Lexus does almost as well as a \$20,000 Corolla. The almost-as-good performance comes at a cost at least three times larger than private schools at approximately \$200,000 per classroom.

The ideal way to measure school quality, according to the NCES study itself, is to compare schools in which students from low-income families were given a chance to apply for school vouchers and selected by lottery. Then researchers could compare the voucher students in private schools with a control group: the losers of the lottery who remained in public school. This research technique is employed—indeed is considered to be the gold stan-

dard—to discover the effectiveness of pharmaceuticals or medical treatments. Subjects chosen by a random mechanism are given the pharmaceutical or treatment under examination while others are given a placebo. If the subjects receiving the real pharmaceutical show substantial improvement over those receiving the placebo one can put faith in the effectiveness of the drug. Similarly if the voucher students who receive the treatment of private schooling do better than public school students who sought but did not obtain a voucher, representing the placebo group, we can attribute the improvement to the schooling.

This sort of experiment has been conducted in New York, Dayton, Washington, D.C. and other cities where voucher programs have been allowed. In all, there have been eight random-assignment studies of voucher lottery winners compared with the losers who had to remain in the public schools. Again and again the voucher students in private schools outscored significantly students from the same population who remained in the public schools. The gains were produced with lower costs than in the public schools. None of these studies, incidentally, made the front pages of the *New York Times*. The consistent success of the voucher programs in educational results should recommend approval of their extension. Vouchers work and the NCES study does nothing to bring that fact into doubt.

Looking Back on 50 Years of St. Anthony School

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parish block.

In the fall of 1957, St. Anthony School progressed a step ahead when grades five and six were added to the curriculum. Grade seven was added in 1958 and grade eight in 1959, when enrollment reached 125. On Sunday, May 29, 1960, a group of 12 students, boys and girls, were ready to receive their diploma of work accomplished and so graduation exercises were held for the first time.

The original school building still stands as the entrance building to the St. Anthony School campus. As the years passed, rooms were added and moved to accommodate the growing needs of the parish and the school. The most recent development took place in 2003 with the addition of the gym/cafetorium and the early childhood wing. It is with unyielding parish support that the school has continued to flourish.

Today, St. Anthony School includes a preschool program for three and four-year-olds and a kindergarten class. Enrollment has maintained in the 170s for the past three years. Many of the faculty members have been teaching at St. Anthony School for 10+ years. The quality and

dedication of the administration, faculty and staff supports the outstanding academic rankings of SAS students in their higher years of education. The parental support is evident through the strong fundraising efforts over the years by the PTC organization. The PTC has given a foundation from which friendships form, work is collaborated, monies are raised and the traditions of SAS are allowed to grow and flourish over the years.

Two cases of alleged miracles attributed to Archbishop Sheen

PEORIA, Ill. (CNS) — Documentation of two alleged miracles attributed to the intercession of the late Archbishop Fulton J. Sheen were sent to Rome this summer as part of the promotion of his sainthood cause. The cases claiming the archbishop's intercession involve a woman from Champaign and a baby in Pittsburgh. The cases were investigated and documented and, following ceremonies in Peoria and Pittsburgh, documentation was sealed and prepared for delivery to the Vatican Congregation for Saints' Causes for further study.

Parish of the Nativity

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Sunday, October 15

Eucharist: 8 a.m. Spanish • 10 a.m. English

11:00 a.m. until 1:00 p.m.

Barbecue meal with all the trimmings \$7 p/p
Dine-in or Drive-thru

Auction begins at 1:00 p.m.

Cakewalk • Country Store • Food • Kiddie Rides & Games • Plant Walk • Soccer Tournament 11 a.m.

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Terri Burto (center) of Catholic Daughters of the Americas Court 2085 in New Braunfels is flanked by two Texas CDA members who were elected to the national board at its national convention in Minneapolis, Minnesota, July 16-21. Duchess Collins (l.) of Sugar Land is a newly elected national director. Libby Ramirez (r.) of Victoria is the newly elected national regent-elect.

Two Texas CDA's elected at national

Two Catholic Daughters from Texas were elected to the National Board of the Catholic Daughters of the Americas at its 51st Biennial National Convention in Minneapolis, Minnesota. Libby Ramirez of Victoria was elected national regent-elect and Duchess Collins of Sugar Land was elected one of nine national directors.

More than 100 attendees from Texas included delegates, alternates, members, clergy, spouses and guests.

Clergy from Texas attending the convention at the Minneapolis Hyatt Regency, July 16-21, 2006, were Rev. Donald Rupert, Texas state court clergy consultant of East Bernard, and Father Roy Oggero of Sugar Land.

Libby Ramirez of Court St. Ann No. 369 of Victoria has been elected to the newly created position of national regent-elect, which means she will automatically become the national regent at the next biennial national convention in 2008.

Texas State Regent Olga Samaniego of El Paso accepted a certificate for the state for winning second place in its division in the National Newsletter contest. Texas was also awarded certificates for outstanding participation in the following Circle of Love categories: Education, Leadership, Quality of Life, National Charitable Projects, and Legislation. The state regent accepted a plaque for the state for having instituted the most new courts and a certificate for participation in *Read Across America*.

State officers from Texas included State Regent Olga Samaniego, El Paso; First Vice State Regent Carolyn Bachmann, Scotland; Second Vice State Regent Sheila Martinka, Pasadena; State Secretary Carolyn Malik, Shiner; and State Treasurer Peggy Rosales, Austin.

The theme of the convention was "Women of Faith and Vision." Nearly 900 people attended from across the United States, Puerto Rico, the Dominican Republic and Guam. The gathering liturgy and welcoming dinner and entertainment was Sunday, July 16.

The convention officially opened Monday afternoon, July 17, with National Regent M. Joan McKenna of Massachusetts presiding. During the week delegates elected new members to the national board and debated, amended, rejected and passed resolutions and by-laws. Many reports were presented. They summarized goals reached, accomplishments, issues and events during the past two years.

The officers and members of New Mexico State—site of the 2008 Biennial National Convention—presented preliminary plans for the next convention and invited all to attend.

The hard-working state regents who

lead their states were honored at a State Regents Luncheon. The clergy were honored at a Clergy Brunch.

Guest speakers inspired, informed and motivated attendees. Keynote Speaker Mother Mary Agnes, Sister of Life, SV, spoke movingly of the order formed by the late Cardinal O'Connor and its tireless work on behalf of pro-life, a position supported by the Catholic Daughters. Marie Boneli, Court of Redeemer Angels No. 2426 in Mechanicsville, Virginia, introduced three young members of the Junior Catholic Daughters of the Americas court there, and expressed the tremendous satisfaction one gets from working with "Juniors." Judy Kullman from St. Paul, Minnesota, motivated the audience with information about "T.G.I.S." (Thank God It's Sunday) The recipient of CDA's "Woman of the Year" Award, Mary Ann Kuharski of PROLIFE Across America, talked about the organization's billboard campaign and what it is like to raise 13 children.

Mass was celebrated daily by members of the clergy who attended the convention. Celebrants and homilists included Rt. Rev. Jack Ahern from Boston, CDA national clergy consultant; Bishop Victor Balke, bishop of Crookston Diocese, Minnesota State Chaplain; Rev. Kevin O'Leary, state chaplain of Massachusetts; Rev. Michael Schommer, state chaplain of North Dakota; Rev. Dennis Dinan, chaplain of Court Madonna No. 114, Port Jervis, New York.

The Mass of Installation was celebrated in the Basilica of St. Mary, Thursday afternoon, July 20. The five newly installed national officers serving a two-year term are: National Regent Claudia R. Bosch, North Dakota; National Regent-Elect Libby Ramirez, Texas; First Vice National Regent Joanne Tomassi, Florida; Second Vice National Regent Anne Nelson, Maryland; National Secretary-Treasurer Shirley Seyfried, Minnesota.

These nine new national directors were also installed: Duchess Collins, Texas; Teresa Kocer, South Dakota; Lois Nelson, Minnesota; Lucretia Coats, Maryland; Evelyn Saxton, Oklahoma; Margaret Bingham, Vermont; Lettie Calvetti, Pennsylvania; Lorraine Zimmerman, Oregon; Vicki Broussard, Louisiana.

An entertaining banquet concluded the evening. A Mass of Thanksgiving was celebrated Friday morning before the attendees departed from Minneapolis.

El Campo CDA Circle of Love chairpersons announced

EL CAMPO—CDA Regent Terri Beltran announced Catholic Daughters of the Americas (CDA) San Roberto Belarmino Court 2275 Circle of Love chairpersons recently. The Circle of Love program has seven points that indicate the needs of the Church and community best served by the Catholic Daughters.

The Circle of Love points are Life, Youth, Legislation, Education, Spiritual, Leadership and Projects. The program itemizes these needs with suggestions on how Catholic Daughters can effectively work with the Church and community.

CDA is aware of the needs in society that are deeply affecting today's generation, the elderly and human life. To be effective in promoting good works, CDA must reach out and make a difference in the lives of those who are suffering, whether it is through their own fault or the circumstances in which they find themselves.

If we are to be "Jesus' hands and feet"

St. Mary's altar society to hold retreat

St. Mary's Altar Society in Victoria will sponsor a retreat on October 17 at the St. Mary's Activity Center. Registration is from 9:00 to 9:30 a.m. at the center. Father Gary Janak, pastor of St. Philip Church in El Campo will be the retreat master.

Lunch will be served after the 12:05 p.m. Mass, which will be held in the activity center. The retreat will be concluded after the Mass.

There will be no charge but you are asked to make reservations before October 15 to Janell Kruppa at (361) 575-8166 or Pattie Stevens at (361) 573-2974.

Libby Ramirez to begin two-year term as second top CDA national leader

Continued from p. 1

leaders – for four years. She was national secretary-treasurer and then third vice national regent before being elected to her current position. As a national director, she was responsible for overseeing state courts in Arkansas, Texas, New Mexico and the courts in Mexico.

An advocate of young people, Mrs. Ramirez is chairman of the Junior Catholic Daughters of the Americas, the Catholic Daughters' organization for girls and young women ages 6 to 18. Previously, Bishop David E. Fellhauer of the Diocese of Victoria appointed her to serve on the Diocesan Review Board for the Protection of Children and Young People.

She is married to Alfred Ramirez, a member of the Knights of Columbus Council 1329 in Victoria, Texas. Libby is a mother of four girls and a grandmother of two.



Pictured are Terri Beltran and Rose Ann Delgado; back: Eloisa Cantu, Libby Ramos, Helen Escobar and Cathy Garcia. Not pictured: Sylvia Falcon, Dorothy Delano, Irene Benavidez and Lorine Molina.

Chairpersons for the Circle of Love include: Spiritual - Irene Benavidez and Lorine Molina; Youth - Cathy Garcia and Rose Ann Delgado, JCDA; Education - Sylvia Falcon and Dorothy Delano; Life - Eloisa Cantu; Projects - Libby Ramos and Beatrice Ortiz; Legislation - Elida Diaz; and Leadership - Terri Beltran.

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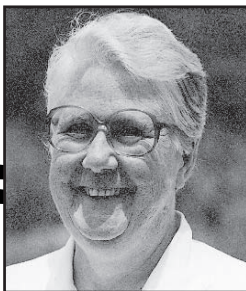
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Sisterly Thoughts

By Sister Mildred Truchard, IWBS



Puzzling Wisdom

I don't know how many of you enjoy assembling jig-saw puzzles. I don't usually start a puzzle because once I get started — even though I'm not very good at it — I become obsessed with getting it completed! As a consequence, I may neglect other tasks while I "waste time" with the puzzle. However, some would argue that such time is not wasted, but that such activity is mentally challenging and even good for one's mind and soul.

They may have a point there, so let's examine the spiritual benefits of jig-saw puzzle assembling.

First of all, as they say, it demands that one be patient — and patience certainly is necessary in spiritual development. Then, they also advise us that it teaches a person the virtue of perseverance; since it's hard to do anything else around a half-finished project, one had better persevere and finish it in order to be able to clear up one's work space for other activities. Now, we

certainly can't deny that perseverance is a necessary ingredient for spiritual well-being and growth, can we? Moreover, these puzzle advocates maintain that a puzzle teaches one to be perceptive, implying that being able to see God's presence in all the bits and pieces of one's life is a valuable spiritual skill. There's more; we cannot forget the lesson of interconnectedness which is so Christian when applied to our understanding of the Body of Christ. Every piece, every person is important for completion of the picture or the Body and must fulfill its role. A lost piece or a lost person presupposes incompleteness; therefore we are reminded to take care of and value one another.

I'm sure that we could think of other valuable jig-saw puzzle lessons if we continued our reflection; but let's leave that for the next time we're tempted to begin a puzzle... Now, let's see; where does this piece fit...?

St. Ann Church Celebrates Centennial

Continued from p. 1

Joseph. The small fledgling group of 25 parishioners had a joint meeting and decided to name the parish, "St. Ann." The dedication of the parish took place on October 24, 1906 with the Most Rev. J.W. Shaw of the Archdiocese of San Antonio. As a way of honoring the generosity of the donor of the land, the bell of the parish was blessed and dedicated to St. James. A great feast was held honoring the many members of the clergy and laity who had gathered for this solemn celebration.

Near the time of the dedication Mass, an observer wrote describing the day: "As this celebration was announced last Sunday in Yoakum, there would come a very large number of Czech, German and Spanish people—some out of pure curiosity and deep devotion. Though the time of the Mass was at a very late hour—many had fasted long hours, just to be able to receive Holy Communion on this, their most special occasion in their lives. There was not even a confessional yet, so Father heard confessions at the High Altar...it was all very touching."

St. Ann Parish has for most of its existence been a mission of St. Joseph in Yoakum. It did have one resident pastor, Father Charles J. Benes, from 1922-1932. Throughout its history it has been damaged by several storms (1920, 1929) and always repaired and restored by its members. It was enlarged to its present size after the 1929 storm and made into the shape of a cruciform. Other improvements included the application of stucco to the exterior, and continued upkeep over the years.

As the population has shifted, the activity around the little parish has diminished. But the spirit of the parish family is strong and dedicated. In recent years the roof has been replaced, the interior refurbished, windows replaced, air conditioning installed and the pews refinished. Mass is celebrated the first Sunday of the month at 7:00 a.m., and on special feasts. The picturesque little church at Hochheim Prairie remains a center of faith and devotion for those who hold St. Ann's so dear in their heart.



The Polka Mass Choir of Holy Cross Church in East Bernard was invited to provide music at the opening Mass at the State KJT Convention in Houston.

Holy Cross Polka Mass Choir performs at State KJT Convention

HOUSTON—The Holy Cross Catholic Church Polka Mass Choir had the honor of providing the music at the Opening Mass of the State KJT (Catholic Union of Texas) Convention held at the Omni Houston Hotel Westside in Houston, Texas, on Thursday, July 27, 2006. The choir was requested to perform by State KJT President Elo Goerig after hearing the choir at the July 17, 2005, Centennial Celebration of the local KJT Society No. 40. The appointment was finalized by the approval of the State Officers and Directors in January of 2006.

The principal celebrant of the Mass was Archbishop Daniel N. DiNardo of the Archdiocese of Galveston-Houston.

Concelebrants were State Spiritual Director Father Edward Karasek and various other society spiritual directors and attending priests. Archbishop DiNardo was most complimentary of the choir and commented in his homily on the appropriateness of one of the hymns, Hymn to Sts. Cyril and Methodius. Sts. Cyril and Methodius are the patron saints of the KJT Society and the lyrics of this hymn reiterate the saintly works of the two saints and stress the importance of following their example.

A total of 30 choir members, eight musicians and choir director Martha Viktorin attended and were transported to the convention in the comfort of a chartered bus.

10th ANNUAL KC GOLF TOURNAMENT RAISES FUNDS—Knights of Columbus Council 2490 held its 10th Annual Golf Tournament July 29 at El Campo Country Club. The proceeds of this tournament were divided between St. Philip's School and Texas State Charities, each receiving \$3,150.

Pictured from left to right are Grand Knight A.J. Hlavaty, Tish McAlister, principal of St. Philip School, and Greg Witcher, golf chairman.



3rd Annual Council 3295 Flatonia Knights of Columbus Golf Tournament



Sunday, October 1

**at the Flatonia Golf Course
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**includes: green fees and 1 free Mulligan per player
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7 p.m. — Holy Family Church

704 Mallette Drive, Victoria

(No Ticket Required — Free Will Offering)

For more info. contact Rey Rosas (361) 553-2912



Students attend 3-day conference addressing respect in secondary schools



Local students educate peers about sexual violence

By Jennifer Poncik

While most students spent the week-end of June 23-25 working or playing as normal, a dozen Victoria and Cuero area youth chose to spend a weekend gaining new knowledge and skills, preparing them to share a message of healthy relationships and respect at Victoria and Cuero area schools this fall. Kelly Janak, Keith Janak, Hilary Kristynik, Kelli Longoria, Jake Morgan, Jennifer Morrison, Michelle Olsovsky, Eric Poncik, Andrew Reyna, Samantha Reyna, Melissa Tschoepe and Lauren Zamora attended the sixth annual Students Taking Action for Respect (STAR) Conference at the Texas State University campus in San Marcos along with sponsors Melissa Coffey, Antoinette Garcia, Susan Longoria and Jennifer Poncik.

STAR, the youth outreach and education program created by the Texas Association Against Sexual Assault (TAASA), incorporates positive messages directed at reducing sexual harassment and violence in schools.

The STAR Program trains high school students to present workshops and organize activities dealing with sexual harassment while building an environment of respect within Texas schools. These student-led presentations are currently traveling the state, allowing STAR participants to increase sexual violence awareness among their peers.

"These students walked away from the conference empowered by what they had learned and have grown passionate about educating their friends and peers," said sponsor Jennifer Poncik.

"The STAR Program, while offering an education in social responsibility, has also encouraged the students to seek out leadership roles among their peers and has improved their public speaking and presentation skills."

The Holy Family Catholic Church and Our Lady of Victory Catholic Church STAR teams are only two of over 50 such teams in the state.

The American Association of University Women study, *Hostile Hallways: Bullying, Teasing and Sexual Harassment in School*, found that 80 percent of American school children report they have experienced sexual harassment on school campus. This report, a follow-up to the group's 1993 survey, reinforces that sexual harassment has become a fact of life for students.

The innovative and nationally acclaimed STAR curriculum carries the "Speak Up. Speak Out." message of TAASA's public awareness campaign even further, bringing dialogue about sexual violence into school classrooms. Recent studies have shown that sexual

assault is a top crime concern for Texans, and the efforts and hard work of STAR participants increases young Texans' awareness of this silent crime. Workshops at the conference are, in many cases, conducted by teens who have been active in the STAR program since its inception and cover topics ranging from acquaintance rape and club or date rape drugs to sexual harassment and dating violence. By the close of the conference, all attendees have amassed the skills necessary to spread their lessons learned to their peers at home.

They [children] need to know what you would think, say, and do about an unintended pregnancy before one ever occurs.

The Pro-Life Promise: A Contract for Life

By J. Pepper Bryars

What would happen if your daughter faced an unintended pregnancy? Would she tell you about it and ultimately choose life, or would she be embarrassed, afraid, and possibly lured by the deceptive remedy of abortion?

Few parents really know for sure.

That's because while most parents teach their children to remain chaste to avoid an unintended pregnancy, few ever discuss abortion in particular or what's expected should they make a mistake and an unintended pregnancy ever occur. The result of such an oversight could be potentially devastating for your daughter ... and deadly for your grandchild.

In hopes of prompting such a necessary and potentially life-saving discussion, I've drafted a "Pro-Life Promise" contract for parents and their children. A copy can be downloaded from www.ProLifePromise.com or a copy is printed on page 9.

Most pro-life parents assume that their children know an abortion would never be condoned or supported. They also assume that their children would know that their family would love and support them throughout the pregnancy. They think their child would come to them first and ask for help and guidance.

Those assumptions are often wrong.

During my years of research into why women choose abortion, a major factor is a young woman's absolute fear and confusion about what her parents might think, say, or do. Not ever having had a real discussion about what would happen if they should become pregnant often leads scared, panicked young women into abortion clinics ... and a lifetime of regret.

Some children know their parents are pro-life, but they worry about what their family would "really think." Others don't want to disappoint or embarrass their par-

Second year four OLS teens go on NET mission

By Cindy Brewer

Last year four youth from Our Lady of Sorrows Parish in Victoria were part of the Catholic National Evangelization Team's (NET) nine-month ministry mission. This year another four are getting ready to follow in their footsteps.

Kristin Delgado, Juan Echeveste, Carlos Longoria and Jordan Buchhorn will be journeying to a NET retreat and training in St. Paul, Minnesota. Again, all four are from Our Lady of Sorrows Parish.

According to the NET Web site at www.netusa.org, each year approximately 90 young adults, age 18-30, volunteer nine months of their lives to serve on NET teams. These young adults travel throughout the United States on eight different teams of 10-12 people.

The four "netters" left Victoria in August, beginning with Jordan who left August 13 to start NET music training, where he was to be evaluated to see if he'll become a music leader. The other three left on a flight to St. Paul on August 24.

After music training is over, everyone will gather together for a two-week retreat in Wisconsin; they then go back to St. Paul to be split among teams and to do three weeks of training. They will then be commissioned and sent to eight different locations throughout the United States.

For nine months, these eight NET teams become like family as they refer to

each other as brothers and sisters. NET team members travel as missionaries in a selected region in the United States from September to May, sharing their faith with young people from across the country. Through six retreats per week, the netters touch the lives of over 70,000 young people from 70 dioceses each year.

Kristin and Juan are both 2006 Memo-



Four more OLS youth join the NET team. Clockwise from top are Carlos Longoria, Jordan Buchhorn, Juan Echeveste and Kristin Delgado.

rial High School graduates.

Kristin heard about NET from Matthew Schaeffer, OLS' former youth minister.

"Some of my friends had been on a NET team before and loved it so much; plus they put on retreats and it looked like fun." Kristin is hoping she'll be sent to minister in New York.

Juan learned about NET through Jose Ortega, OLS' current youth minister. "At first it didn't interest me, but I couldn't stop thinking about it." Finally he applied, and was chosen.

Carlos is a 2003 graduate of Memorial High and was familiar with NET, having gone to a Net retreat.

"I have a lot of friends who are with NET. I wanted to grow more spiritually and I saw that in those who were in NET," he said.

He wants to go to school to be a public speaker – about chastity and *Theology of the Body*.

When asked where he hoped his mission would take him, he responded, "Wherever God wants me to go, I'll go." Then jokingly he added, "Hopefully it's what I want to do. Just kidding; hopefully we're on the same page."

Jordan is the most senior of the four Victoria youth joining NET. He is a 2001 home-school graduate who had ministered with his guitar at Our Lady of Guadalupe in Cuero for about two years. He began playing with Our Lady of Sorrows' Life Teen band in 2004.

He really didn't know much about NET.

"I knew Matthew Schaeffer and Jason Baize from Life Teen. I had always seen Jesus in Jason.

"I have never been to a NET function; I was just told about it by Matthew and Jason. I saw it lived through their lives.

All NET missionaries must earn \$3,400 to help support their nine-month mission. Anyone who would like to help may send donations in the name of a netter to: His or Her Name, Net Ministries, 110 Crusader Ave. West, West St. Paul, MN 55118-4427.

"We ask for donations, but especially for prayers for us and Net Ministries," Kristin said.

J. Pepper Bryars is editor of www.AbortionWatch.com, a popular pro-life blog, and the author of The Pro-Life Promise. He is a member of Saint Rita Parish in the Diocese of Arlington, Virginia. Readers may contact him at editor@abortionwatch.com.



A Culture of Life

By Father Eric Nielsen



Girls Just Want to Have Fun

By Father Eric Nielsen

As a young man I went on a motorcycle trip through Corsica at the same time that the Italians were on their school break. The beautiful winding roads of this Mediterranean island were filled with young Italian men on motorcycles with their lovely Italian girlfriends gracefully sitting behind them. At night they would enjoy the nightlife of the island and in the morning I would see them at the campgrounds we shared.

It was not a pretty sight. While their boyfriends slept in I watched the girls coming out of their tents, hair in a mess, tight clothes that looked not quite put on right, and long faces as they prepared something for breakfast. I didn't speak Italian, but the short words spoken back into the tent did not seem like gentle wake-up calls.

On the third morning of the trip I noticed a young woman in front of her tent looked different. Her hair was neatly combed and held back by a headband, she was comfortably dressed, and she looked happy as she started to collect the things necessary for breakfast. What made her so different, I wondered? Like the rest she had crawled out of the same little tent pitched next to a motorbike.

What made her so unusual, I noticed, was her wedding ring. Unlike the other girls who were traveling and sleeping with boys who had given them little commitment, this young woman had a man who loved her enough to make a permanent commitment to her. It was a vivid visual symbol of the difference between a relationship built on pleasure and one built on a lifelong promise of love.

One of the results of a contraceptive society is that young people can easily pursue a sexual relationship without the responsibility of commitment. Rare is the young man or woman who does not desire a relationship with someone of the opposite sex, and what seems equally rare is the young person in such a relationship who is ready to be married.

This is a very bad mix for it leads to

relationships built more on a selfish desire for instant physical and superficial emotional pleasures rather than on a wise and authentic pursuit for genuine and comprehensive marital love. With couples habitually forging their intimate relationships with such mutually selfish practices, it is no wonder so many marriages end in failure.

Furthermore, it is our fault that young people lead this type of destructive lifestyle because we do little to stop it. It seems we would rather see them graduate from college, pursue a good career, develop some wealth, and keep their options open than marry too young and be "burdened" with children. Thus we condone things such as vacations together on unchaperoned trips with the only stipulation that no one gets pregnant. And we give them such sage advice as, "don't get married too early."

Let's be honest, very few people will have the skills and opportunity to find a great measure of satisfaction in their careers, while most people, by simply following God's plan for them, can find great happiness in their marriages.

We need to rethink our principles. Open-ended, youthful relationships may look intriguing, but in the end they mostly bring about misery. The sacrificial love of marriage is what brings true lasting joy, and only those serious about getting married have the necessary intentions and dispositions to form a serious dating relationship.

Our expectations for our children should be clear and firm. For their own long-term happiness we expect nothing short of complete chastity prior to marriage and long-term relationships only when the intention for marriage is clear and foreseen.

Father Eric Nielsen, a priest of the Madison Diocese, is pastor of St. Mary Help of Christians Parish, Sullivan, and St. Mary Parish, Palmyra. He is one of the authors of the *A Culture of Life* column.

Young people pledge that they "believe that premarital sex is wrong and dangerous and promise not to engage in such activity until marriage." But if they are ever faced with an unintended pregnancy, they "pledge not to consider abortion an option..." Parents, for their part, are bound to help their child choose life, and "not to react harshly or punish" them in any way. A full-size contract may be obtained from the Web site listed on pg. 8.

THE PRO-LIFE PROMISE®

~ A Contract for Life ~

The Pro-Life Promise® is a contract designed to provide young people with the guarantee that their parents, guardians or other caring adults will help them choose life should they ever face an unintended pregnancy, and that they will be met with unconditional love rather than embarrassment, judgment or punishment. The contract is designed to foster the communication, expectations and mutual trust needed to successfully face an unintended pregnancy and welcome new life safely into the world. It is written to be signed by sons as well as daughters, mothers and fathers, and anyone else wishing to help.

YOUNG PERSON

I believe that premarital sex is wrong and promise not to engage in such activity until marriage.

However, should I ever face an unintended pregnancy, I pledge not to consider abortion an option, for I believe that life begins at conception.

Furthermore, I promise to tell you about the pregnancy immediately and seek the proper prenatal care that my child needs.

Young Person

Date Signed

PARENT / GUARDIAN / CARING ADULT

Should you ever face an unintended pregnancy, I promise to help you choose life. I pledge not to react harshly or punish you in any way.

Furthermore, I promise to be proud of your courageous decision to embrace life and will not concern myself with the thoughts of others. You have my unconditional love and support, and so will your child.

I promise to help during the pregnancy, both financially, spiritually, emotionally and in any other way possible. I also promise to help you raise the child or, should you desire, help you choose other child-rearing options.

Parent / Guardian / Caring Adult

Date Signed

Parent / Guardian / Caring Adult

Date Signed

• www.ProLifePromise.com •

YOUTH CALENDAR OF EVENTS

September 21—Theology on Tap - Tejas Café in Victoria - 6:45 p.m. - Topic: *God of Desire: From Dating to Courtship to Paradise*; Speaker: Father Victor Scocco, O.S.S.T., pastor of Our Lady of Sorrows, Victoria

September 23—Basic Certificate in Youth Ministry – Chancery – Pastoral Care – 9:30 a.m.-2:30 p.m.

September 27 — Deadline deposit on **Region X Conference**

October 5—Theology on Tap - Tejas Café in Victoria - 6:45 p.m. - Topic: *Listen, Just Listen*; Speaker: Father David Berger, Our Lady of Victory, Victoria

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

Book to help pregnant, single women come to terms and make decisions

By Cindy Brewer

The first words in the book, *Standup Girl* by Becky Fraser with Linda Shands, are TIME OUT!

Standup Girl is just the first part of the title. The rest is: *Take Charge of Your Unexpected Pregnancy*. The "TIME OUT" request from the author is to get young, unmarried women who find themselves pregnant to stop, take a breath, and write out their thoughts to find out where they're standing before making any decisions they may regret in the future.

Becky Fraser knows what she's talking about as she found herself single and pregnant while in school. She has a Web site, www.StandUpGirl.com, and has now put her story into a book of the same title.

Through Fraser's experience and that of many other girls with whom she's corresponded through her Web site, she has compiled a fantastic book to help young, single women or girls who have found out they're pregnant to take the steps one needs to take to make it through one of the scariest times of life.

This Christian-based book will lovingly and wisely advise and guide the pregnant girl throughout the stages of her pregnancy. Fraser suggests journaling to take stock of the circumstance she is in. She asks, "What are your needs, fears and questions?" She advises that one will notice things become much clearer once thoughts are written out.

Through her and other girls' experiences she gives suggestions on how to tell the father of the baby that one is pregnant, and then how to tell one's parents. She does this by telling other's stories, and not by preaching what she thinks is the best way.

Part two looks over your options: keeping the baby on your own, marrying your baby's father, adoption, abortion, and loss and grief.

Under the chapter on abortion, Fraser goes into detail describing how different kinds of abortions are performed and include letters from women who had abortions at different stages of a pregnancy. Again, in this chapter as in others, she doesn't preach, she just gives the facts and experiences of others to help the troubled girl make decisions.

Under Loss and Grief, she discusses the losses one experiences once one is pregnant, whether the pregnancy was planned or not. "A loss can include everything from no high school diploma to an interrupted career," she writes. She continues stating some girls lose their parents' respect, their home, and many may lose the baby's father. However, she describes abortion as the greatest loss imaginable because sooner or later the parents realize that their child died by their choice. Another loss Fraser includes is miscarriage; she then describes the steps of grief and recovery.

The third part of the book is about the step-by-step development of the baby, changes the mother's body experiences and giving birth.

The fourth and final part of the book includes chapters to help one's parents, boyfriend, and friends understand what their pregnant daughter, girlfriend or friend is going through and offers suggestions as to how they might help rather than hurt.

Stand Up Girl is a wonderful book, written in a Christian context without the preaching, that will provide invaluable help to anyone facing an unintended pregnancy. It is written so lovingly and with such wisdom that I believe it should be read by every girl and young woman – as it wonderfully and powerfully reminds women of the wisdom behind God's plan of chastity and marriage. Stand Up Girl is published by Servant Books for \$12.99. Until you can get your hands on a copy of the book, go to: www.StandUpGirl.org





Incarnate Word leadership elected

The Sisters of the Incarnate Word and Blessed Sacrament of Victoria met recently for an evaluation of the past six years, planning for the future and election of new congregational leadership for the next six years. All the sisters were included in the planning and decision-making.

The leadership team was elected in March and inducted into office during a special liturgical celebration on June 11.

Sister Evelyn Korenek, who was General Superior for the past six years, was re-elected for another six years. Sister Emilie Eilers, former principal of St. Jo-

currently working in parish ministry at Assumption Parish in Ganado, was elected to her first year term as councilor.

Sister Andrea Hubnik was elected to her second term as treasurer general, and Sister Mary Virginia Sheblak was appointed secretary general for a second term.

During the Chapter of Affairs, which had the theme, "Standing at the Crossroads of Grace," the sisters re-examined their life and committed themselves to embrace more deeply the charisma and spirituality of their congregation. Through prayer and discernment, visioning and consensus-building, they resolved to strengthen and transform their communal relationships, to deepen their involvement in social justice issues, to develop plans for more effective community outreach, and to explore new models for leadership and membership partnership throughout the next six years. With much gratitude for the call and gift which has been handed on through the centuries from their foundress, they committed themselves to live out the Gospel of love in today's world.

The Sisters of the Incarnate Word and Blessed Sacrament were founded by Venerable Jeanne de Matel in France in 1625. The group came to Texas in 1852 and established a foundation in Victoria in 1866. The Victoria congregation at the present have 95 Sisters ministering in five Texas dioceses — San Antonio, Corpus Christi, Dallas, Galveston-Houston and Victoria. They also minister in Rome, Italy; Lyon, France; and Kenya, East Africa.



The IWBS leadership team is, seated l.-r., Sister Evelyn Korenek, General Superior; Sister Amata Hollas, councilor; (standing l.-r) Sister Mary Virginia Sheblak, secretary general; Sister Emilie Eilers, assistant general; Sister Mildred Truchard, councilor; Sister Andrea Hubnik, treasurer general; and Sister Odilia Korenek, councilor.

seph High School, was elected Assistant General.

Elected to a second term as councilor were Sister Odilia Korenek, who is currently serving as executive director of Blessed Sacrament Academy in San Antonio and Sister Amata Hollas, who is currently serving as archivist for the congregation. Sister Mildred Truchard, who is

Shiner youth help hurricane victims during summer

SHINER—This summer eight young people from Sts. Cyril and Methodius Catholic Church in Shiner traveled to Louisiana and Colorado on two different and awesome adventures.

Four young ladies, Shalane Matula, Courtney Panus, Julie Petru and Beth Valenta, and their chaperone Claire Petru, traveled to Jennings, Louisiana. They traveled with young people from Sacred Heart Parish in Hallettsville and joined other young people from Wisconsin, Georgia, New Jersey, and three groups from Texas. While there they worked on several service projects for the community.

Here, they are shown painting a house for an elderly couple whose home was destroyed during Hurricane Rita. Earlier that day they assisted in putting up the siding and the trim. While in Louisiana they also attended daily Mass, prayer sessions and a weekend conference.

"I really enjoyed the real-life stories people shared at the sessions. It touched not only my life but also others around the country. The bands 'Remnant' and 'The Blue Stand Boyz' were such great entertainment and their music has really touched my life! I really recommend for anybody to jump in and get involved! It makes a huge difference in one community and a memory for the world," said Beth Valenta.

The other group of young people went to Colorado for the Rocky Mountain High Retreat. This group: Chad Kloesel, Nicole Schwab, Darrell Wagner and Maria Wenske spent a week in the heart of the San Juan Mountains in Southern Colorado experiencing the wonder and grandeur of

the great outdoors, spending time reflecting on important issues of life, faith, family and friends.

"The Rocky Mountain High retreat was the best experience of my life and I enjoyed every minute of it! I met so many wonderful people and had a great time learning more about God as well as



Four Shiner youth help rebuild a home damaged by Hurricane Rita.

strengthening my faith. The retreat incorporated the perfect balance of spiritual rejuvenation, excitement and relaxation in the midst of the cool, crisp Colorado atmosphere," said Darrell Wagner.

These young people are to be commended for their courage to step out of the norm and be willing to go to new places, meet and serve new people and experience God at work through them and those around them.

2006 KJZT Fraternal Project helps local Catholic education

The Catholic Family Fraternal of Texas (KJZT) adopted a state-wide fraternal project, recognizing each of the societies in the state that received a "Diamond Status" with a \$100 gift to be donated to a Catholic school library or parish religious education program for their use in purchasing educational materials. Seventy-five societies reached the Diamond Status in 2005. Two of those societies in the Diocese of Victoria were Society No. 94 in La Salle and St. Mary's Society No. 3 (Hallettsville).

Society No. 94 in LaSalle chose third generation member and recent CCD teacher Evie Cantrell Carrizales to present their \$100 donation to St. Theresa Church in Lasalle.



In LaSalle, Evie Carrizales (l.) presents the donation to St. Theresa's pastor, Rev. Johnson Owusu-Boateng, while second generation KJZT member, Aileen Cantrell observes. Their mother and grandmother, the late Lena Gregurek, was also a member of this statewide fraternal organization and a CCD instructor.



St. Mary's Society No. 3 of Hallettsville has chosen the St. Mary's religious education program as the recipient for their donation. Pictured (l. to r.) is Dorothy Schneider, treasurer of Society No. 3; Cindy Svetlik, religious education coordinator; Jennifer Grahmann, president of Society No. 3; Rev. John Peters, pastor of St. Mary's; Angela Hermes, parish secretary; and Lucille Ulcak, state president of KJZT.

St. Mary's Society No. 3 chose St. Mary's religious education program as the recipient for their donation.

Each year, societies of KJZT focus on participating in work and parish and community projects throughout the state. Dur-

ing 2005, fraternal members donated 283,190 volunteer hours and participated in 14,583 events assisting others and working to make parishes and communities

stronger and more viable.

Other societies receiving Diamond Status and \$100 to spend on a school library or church religious education program were: Society No. 1 in Yoakum, No. 2—Hallettsville; No. 4—Praha; No. 5—Shiner; No. 7—Dubina; No. 9—St. John; No. 12—Sweet Home; No. 14—Moulton; No. 17—Nada; No. 20—Cistern; No. 23—Hostyn; No. 24—Ammannsville; No. 30—East Bernard; No. 37—Hochheim; No. 43—Ganado; No. 44—Moravia; No. 53—Wied; No. 63—Worthing; No. 65—

Holman; No. 66—Weimar; No. 72—El Campo; No. 83—Flatonia; No. 100—Bay City; No. 101—Victoria; No. 111—Edna; and No. 126—Palacios.

Due to space, *The Lighthouse* is unable to print photos of more societies.

Raphael's Refuge progressing amazingly well

By Cindy Brewer

"Praise God! It's happening!" are the excited words of Midge Elam who has been responsible for the conception and organization of Raphael's Refuge outside of Flatonia.

The mission of Raphael's Refuge is to build a memorial for the unborn, the still-born and babies who have died in infancy and to provide a place of spiritual healing for family members. The healing is to be achieved through spiritual direction, prayer and emotional support.

On August 8, 2006, a crew started installing the big arches for the Chapel of the Holy Innocents at Raphael's Refuge. The project's architect is Wes Griffin, (Griffin & Jacobson, of Leander, Texas), who continues to donate his services without charge. Dennis Kallus, of Flatonia, is overseeing the construction.

"The company involved with this part of the chapel construction (design, manufacture, and installation of the wooden arches and decking) is R.M. Rodgers of Houston," said Midge Elam, the director of Raphael's Refuge. The Rodgers' company began their work on August 8 and

finished eight days later.

According to Midge Elam, upon the completion of the cupola, Raphael's Refuge will have to wait for donations before proceeding with the roofing, walls and so on.

Bernadette Kresta, of Moulton, has already completed the engraving of names

of deceased babies on over 34 glass blocks. She will soon begin work on the larger blocks, which are for recognizing larger donations made by families and organizations.

The glass blocks will radiate from the chapel into the prayer garden.

Other information related to Raphael's Refuge is the announcement of the addition of three new

board members: Rev. Dean Wilhelm, vice rector at St. Mary's Seminary in Houston, and Chris Hicks and Hank Novak, businessmen from Flatonia.

To learn more about Raphael's Refuge, please go to their Web site at www.raphaelsrefuge.org.

Raphael's Refuge is a 501©3 non-profit organization; donations are tax deductible. Their mailing address is:

P.O. Box 341, Flatonia, Texas 78941



The construction crew of R.M. Rodgers (Houston) put up the Chapel of the Holy Innocents in less than half the time they expected. Raphael's Refuge must wait for further donations to continue construction on the building of the memorial for the unborn.



Family witnesses daughter's final vows

NASHVILLE, Tenn.—In early August, while most families were getting ready for 'back to school,' one Victoria family headed up to Nashville, Tenn. Richard and Judy Seiler took family and friends on a summer trip of which most will never have the privilege to be a part. Their daughter, Kelly, was making final vows to the religious life.

"Finding your vocation is like standing in a dark room with a dim flashlight that only shines one step ahead of you. You have to take that small step not knowing what lies ahead of you. You can't see any further into the room unless you take a step. If you don't take the first step your



Sister Marie Hannah goes to the altar on which is placed the formula of profession; she then signs the document of profession upon the altar itself.

light won't shine to the next one," Mariah Adamek Raz stated as the memories came flooding back to the words of Sister Marie

Hannah as Mariah sat in the Diocese of Nashville's cathedral before the ceremony began.

Seven years ago, Kelly Sunshine Seiler took a giant leap into God's hands, pray-

joining for the Perpetual Religious Profession and concelebrating the Mass was Father Ed Kelly of San Antonio, Sister Marie Hannah's Godfather and namesake, and fifteen other clergy.



After the ceremony, Sister Marie Hannah visits with her family. From left: Richard and Judy Seiler, Marie Hannah, sister Kasey, and brother-in-law Nick Lacina.

ing she was headed in the right direction. She stepped across the threshold of a conservative, habit-wearing, pope-following convent. She has entered the Dominican Sisters of St. Cecilia Congregation in the heart of Nashville, where they have occupied the same hill since before the Civil War.

On August 8, 2006, the feast of St. Dominic, six, young and beautiful religious sisters lay prostrate before God and made their solemn final vows of poverty, chastity and obedience for all their lives. Sister Marie Hannah Seiler, OP, a Dominican Sister of St. Cecilia Congregation at the Cathedral of the Incarnation in Nashville, Tenn., professed her final vows. Most Reverend David Choby, bishop of Nashville, was the main celebrant. Also

Father Ed Kelly commented, "As we say, life is full of surprises: One of the surprises in my life was the invitation to be the Godfather of Kelly Seiler, now known as Sister Marie Hannah. When I learned she entered a religious congregation, I recognized that God's call is strong and we have embraced it,

letting go of the comfortable and the familiar. Yet God is not outdone in his generosity. We are given more than we can ever imagine. Being Sister Marie Hannah's Godfather has truly been a blessing for me because of her prayerful support, her example to me and her willingness to give all to God."

"Being the parents of a religious sister, we are asked many questions about the religious vocation by friends and family" said her parents Richard and Judy.



Sister Marie Hannah processes into the sanctuary of the Cathedral of the Incarnation in Nashville, Tenn., on August 8, the day she made her final vows.



The Dominican Sisters of St. Cecilia Congregation sing in their newly constructed chapel, which is a replica of the diocese's cathedral.

IWBS Sister makes first profession of vows

By Janet Weaver

Sister Josephine Martin made her first profession of vows with the Sisters of the Incarnate Word and Blessed Sacrament (IWBS) on August 12, 2006. This profession is a public declaration of love to God and community, continuing a journey that began when Sister Josephine was a small child in Bloomington.

Born Belinda Martin, she is the youngest of eight children who were raised in a loving Catholic home. Since the age of six, she has had a strong sense of God's love. First Holy Communion was a great moment because she was able to receive Jesus, whom she loved.

Upon receiving the sacrament of confirmation in the fifth grade, she announced her vocation to her mother, who issued her a challenge to overcome her shyness. She struggled with her feelings of being different, and finally took her struggle to God. Through Scripture, she came to understand that God loves each of us just the way we are.

Sister Josephine first met the IWBS sisters when they were teaching her junior high school CCD classes. She began to attend their "Come And See" weekends at the Incarnate Word Convent, but her path to the convent had some twists and turns.

After high school, she went to college and earned a degree as a Medical Laboratory Technician. Her job was also her min-

istry as she served God's people—the poor, the sick, and those most in need. Maintaining her connection with the IWBS Sisters, she also visited other religious communities. She spent two years as an affiliate with the Missionary Catechists of Divine Providence (MCDP) Sisters in San

Antonio, but then her mother became very ill. She decided to stay home and care for her ailing mother rather than enter the convent. After her mother died five years later in 1994, she entered another religious community. She left as a novice sister, re-

alizing she was not yet in the place God had prepared for her. Still searching and discerning, she returned to the MCDP Sisters, who helped her embrace her humanity and trust ever more deeply in God. Continuing her journey, she returned home to Bloomington and began to spend time with the IWBS Sisters again.

Sister Josephine entered the convent of the Sisters of the Incarnate Word and Blessed Sacrament in 2003 as a postulant. She knew she was finally home. There were struggles, but through those difficulties, God's grace, mercy, and compassion were increasingly revealed.

Of the day of her *First Profession*, Sister Josephine says, "Truly this was the day that my heart had longed for, to consecrate myself to God through the vows of consecrated chastity, evangelical poverty, and religious obedience. It was a day filled with God's love and joy."

Her current ministry is in Assumption Church in Ganado and in St. Robert in El Campo. She is participating in religious and faith formation, continuing the mission of the IWBS Sisters of extending the Incarnation.



Sister Josephine (Belinda) Martin, IWBS, makes her first profession of vows in the Incarnate Word and Blessed Sacrament Chapel Saturday, August 12, 2006.

After high school, she went to college and earned a degree as a Medical Laboratory Technician. Her job was also her min-

We have been blessed to have our two daughters' vocations fulfilled. Our daughter, Kasey, was married in 2005 to Nick Lacina and now Sister Marie Hannah has professed her final vows. I remind others that Christian marriages bring two individuals together to become one, but each must work at becoming one spirit, which requires a death to self and a tremendous love for a spouse. As a religious sister, by becoming one with her Divine Spouse, Marie Hannah lives her religious life constantly seeking to please him, and by dying to self, the hope is to resemble him," said her mother Judy.

"Reflecting back to the beautiful ceremony with the young sisters in their long white habits and black veils in front of the altar offering up their souls entirely to the Lord, the song, 'Take My Life,' by Chris Tomlin plays in my mind: 'Take my life and let me be consecrated, Lord, to Thee. Take my moments and my days, let them flow in ceaseless praise ... Take my will and make it Thine, it shall be no longer mine. Take my heart it is Thine own, it shall be Thy royal throne. Take my love, my Lord, I pour at Your feet its treasure store. Take myself and I will be ever, only, all for Thee. Here I am, all of me. Take my life, it's all for Thee.'"

In fulfillment of her mission, Sister Marie Hannah teaches third grade at Mt. Carmel Catholic School in Newport News, Va.

Visitors are welcome at the Dominican Sisters Congregation in Nashville and to listen to the 225 young sisters singing in their heavenly voices in their newly constructed chapel.

"You will definitely see a glimpse of what heaven must be like," said Judy Seiler.



The Authentic Catholic Woman

What does it mean to be a woman today? Is there a one-size-fits-all answer? How can a woman be truly Catholic and truly feminine, hardworking and creative, and yet be at peace within? How does she nurture life at home, at school, on the job or in the culture?

In this profound yet practical guide, Genevieve Kineke invites women to consider the Church, the Bride of Christ, as the model for authentic Catholic womanhood.

"The mission of women is inscribed in the mystery of the Church," Pope John Paul II said. The author explores facets of this mystery – the Church as mother, bride, spouse and teacher, as sacramental, as font of wisdom, source of culture and life-giving sanctuary – and reveals how women mirror the Church in their core identity.

Faithful to this authentic identity, women will play a critical role in rebuilding a civilization of love and life.



"... an invaluable book for Catholic women at a time in our culture when it is most needed. Pick up this book, devour it and apply it to your lives." – Donna-Marie Cooper O'Boyle, author, *Catholic Prayer Book for Motherhood, Finding Holiness in the Catholic Home*.

Genevieve Kineke is a convert to the faith who has written extensively about the vocation of woman. She founded *Canticle* magazine as a forum dedicated to that topic. Genevieve and her husband, Charley, are the parents of five children.

The *Authentic Catholic Woman* is written by Genevieve Kineke and published by Servant Books, paperback, \$13.99. (Review taken from *The Authentic Catholic Woman* flapjacket.) This book will be given away as the September Family Puzzle Contest prize. Play and win!

St. Francis feast day pet blessings to be listed on Web site

In honor of St. Francis' feast day, October 4, please let readers of *St. Anthony Messenger Press* and *The Catholic Lighthouse* know where they can have their pets

blessed. If your church or school will be holding an animal/pet blessing, please let St. Anthony Messenger know of the date, time and location of pet blessing.

Please contact them by the middle of September by FAX to (513) 241-0399; e-mail information to StAnthony@AmericanCatholic.org, or phone to (800) 488-0488, ext. 118. They will put the information on their Web site.

Since the October issue of *The Catholic Lighthouse* won't be in homes until at least Oct. 7, our readers may also go to www.AmericanCatholic.org to find out where in our diocese they can have their pets blessed.

Saint John wrote: "God is love, and whoever remains in love remains in God and God in him ... When we love we have no fear, since perfect love casts out fear, and anyone who is still afraid of punishment has not reached the perfection of love."

— 1 John 4:16b, 18

August Texas Renaissance Festival Winners

The August Texas Renaissance Festival Give-away winners were Mr. George Boedeker of St. Mary, Victoria; Roy and Patsy Jones of St. Roch, Mentz (Cat Spring); and Teresa Brashears of St. Joseph, Yoakum. Each set of winners will win a pair of tickets to the Texas Renaissance Festival open from Sept. 30 to Nov. 19.

To those who sent their entry in last month and did not win, thank you for entering. You do not need to send another entry this or next month, as we will include all past entries in the next drawing – this way you may save postage. Only one entry per family, please.

We had a lot of contestants! Thanks for reading *The Catholic Lighthouse* and playing the contest.

FAMILY PUZZLE CONTEST BENEDICT XVI

www.wordgamesforcatholics.com

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

DOCTRINE
GERMANY
HOLY FATHER
POPE
PROFESSOR

RATZINGER
ROME
THEOLOGY
VATICAN II
VICAR

Winner of September contest receives *The Authentic Catholic Woman*

Congratulations to Martha Sitka of Sacred Heart Church in Hallettsville; she is the winner of the August Family Puzzle Contest and will receive *A Radiance in the Gulag* by Nijole Sadunaite, published by Franciscan University Press. The winner of the children's contest is Mikayla Hollmann (9) of St. Roch in Mentz. She will receive a gift from the Incarnate Word Gift Shop.

The winner of the September Family Puzzle Contest will receive *The Authentic Catholic Woman* by Genevieve Kineke,

published by Servant books, ISBN 0-86716-768-8. Its review is featured on this page.

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



Texas Renaissance Festival Give-away

Three pairs of tickets to the Texas Renaissance Festival will be given away through *The Catholic Lighthouse* drawing in September and October. Tickets are valued at \$21 each; good for any weekend Sept. 30 – Nov. 19. The festival is held at 21778 FM 1774, Plantersville, Texas. Please fill out one form per household and send by September 25 to: The Catholic Lighthouse, P.O. Box 4070, Victoria, TX 77903. Those who applied last month need not apply again.

NAME: _____
ADDRESS: _____
CITY: _____ STATE: _____ ZIP: _____
PHONE NUMBER: _____
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King and Queen

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Saturdays and Sundays
September 30th - November 19th

Special Discount Tickets

Adult \$18.00 Child (5-12) \$8.00
Tickets at the gate - Adult \$21.00 Child \$10.00
www.texrenfest.com - 800-458-3435



New feature film, 'Hidden Secrets,' entertains while exploring themes of forgiveness and faith

LOS ANGELES — Does anyone ever travel too far down the road of life to be truly for-



As scene from the feature film, "Hidden Secrets," stars John Schneider (television's "Smallville" and "Dukes of Hazzard") and David A.R. White ("Mercy Streets" and "Melrose Place"). Hidden Secrets tells the story of a young man whose surprise encounter with a painful past opens the door to healing and renewed faith. Also stars Christian recording artist Rachel Lampa who sang at NCYC 2003 in Houston.

given? A new feature-length movie from family-friendly filmmaker Pure Flix Entertainment offers a dramatic and compelling answer to this burning question, in the process deals with pressing issues like abortion, homosexuality, pre-marital sex — and the true meaning of faith.

Set for release October 6 in select cities across the nation, Hidden Secrets is a

colorful and compelling account of love, friendship, sorrow, regret, conviction, conversion — and ultimately, faith. With a star-studded cast, Hidden Secrets tells the story of a young man whose surprise encounter with a painful past opens the door to healing and renewed faith for himself and those he loves.

Joining a group of childhood friends for the hometown funeral of his best friend, Jeremy finds himself caught between his new fiancé and an old flame that still burns deep within his heart. Forced to face his humiliating fall from youth pastor to college party man, Jeremy discovers that he isn't the only one hiding a dark secret — or in need of mercy and forgiveness.

Tom Saab, president of Christian Film Festivals of America, calls Hidden Secrets an "outstanding and uplifting story" that will touch everyone who views it. "Hidden Secrets is a movie for everyone ... who needs forgiveness," said Saab. "That means it's a movie for everyone!"

To find out more about Hidden Secrets, visit www.hiddensecretsthemovie.com.

Blood and guts not needed for great video games

PENSACOLA, Florida — A six-pack of computer video games is being introduced to provide players over 70 hours of playing time filled with fun, action, entertainment, skill-development and moral enhancement without the violence.

"These games are the equivalent to violent games such as DOOM III, however these games have been built to encourage younger Christians with Biblical values in a storyline about spiritual warfare," writes Rob Allwright, editor, Sotaria Magazine.

In response to the overabundance of sexually-explicit and very violent video games, Harry E. Pratt, regional spokesperson for Christian Game Developers Foundation, says: "Parents and grandparents have become quite frustrated. They want video games that will challenge and excite their children in a positive way. Our answer to their frustration has been the Great Conquest Collection, a video game with a higher calling that offers valued principles, high morals and a positive message!"

According to Mr. Pratt, parents and grandparents do have a choice: "The Great Conquest Collection positively influences our youth and provides lasting moral implications for them. We are fully confident our video games will prepare all players in their daily battle against the devil, his followers and their evil ways."

Furthermore, Mr. Pratt emphasized, "I firmly believe the Great Conquest Collection will help build successful relationships between family, friends and other members of society. Our goal has been to offer exciting and challenging video games that will help bring one back to the basics of life so the application of them can help one live in better unity with God and others."

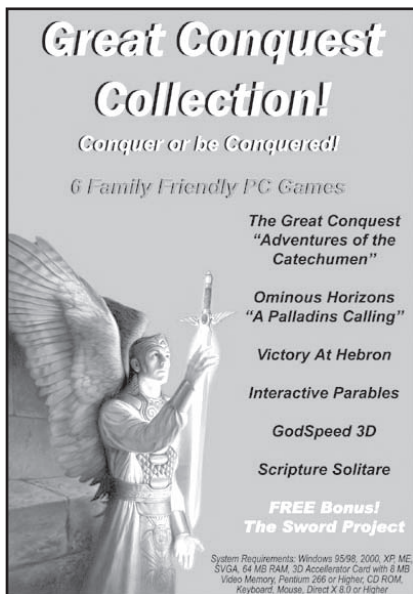
The first video of the six-game series, "Catechumen," is a game of chase by Roman soldiers of the early Christians. The player is the Christian; he stops the chase by converting the soldiers.

There are 18 levels, some of which include the titles: Parthenon,

Bathhouse, Temple, Coliseum, Conversion Chamber and Castle Dungeon.

Mr. Ralph Bagley, Chief Spokesperson for the Christian Game Developers Foundation says: "The Bible is full of great game ideas. Christian history is so rich and so dramatic in some areas that we have all the game concepts we need for the next 20 years. As concerned parents and Christians we are truly excited about the launching of the Great Conquest Collection, because we're fully confident this will be the first of many other collections that will be introduced in years to come."

Go to this Web site, www.greatconquestcollection.com, to view, sample, order or just learn more about the games.



Satan's Busy-ness Meeting: (Read – even if you're busy)

Satan called a worldwide convention of demons.

In his opening address he said, "We can't keep Christians from going to church."

"We can't keep them from reading their Bibles and knowing the truth."

"We can't even keep them from forming an intimate relationship with their Savior."

"Once they gain that connection with Jesus, our power over them is broken."

"So let them go to their churches; let them have their covered dish dinners, BUT steal their time, so they don't have time to develop a relationship with Jesus Christ."

"This is what I want you to do," said the devil: "Distract them from gaining hold of their Savior and maintaining that vital connection throughout their day!"

"How shall we do this?" his demons shouted.

"Keep them busy in the non-essentials of life and invent innumerable schemes to occupy their minds," he answered.

"Tempt them to spend, spend, spend, and borrow, borrow, borrow."

"Persuade the wives to go to work for long hours and the husbands to work six to seven days each week, 10-12 hours a day, so they can afford their empty lifestyles."

"Keep them from spending time with their children."

"As their families fragment, soon, their homes will offer no escape from the pressures of

work!"

"Over-stimulate their minds so that they cannot hear that still, small voice."

"Entice them to play the radio or CD player whenever they drive." To keep the TV, VCR, CDs and their PCs going constantly in their home and see to it that every store and restaurant in the world plays non-biblical music constantly."

"This will jam their minds and break that union with Christ."

"Fill the coffee tables with magazines and newspapers."

"Pound their minds with the news 24 hours a day."

"Invade their driving moments with billboards."

"Flood their mailboxes with junk mail, mail order catalogs, sweepstakes, and every kind of newsletter and promotional offering free products, services and false hopes..."

"Keep skinny, beautiful models on the magazines and TV so their husbands will believe that outward beauty is what's important, and they'll become dissatisfied with their wives."

"Keep the wives too tired to love their husbands at night."

"Give them headaches too!"

"If they don't give their husbands the love they need, they will begin to look elsewhere."

"That will fragment their families quickly!"

"Give them Santa Claus to distract them from teaching their children the real meaning of Christmas."

"Give them an Easter bunny

so they won't talk about his resurrection and power over sin and death."

"Even in their recreation, let them be excessive."

"Have them return from their recreation exhausted."

"Keep them too busy to go out in nature and reflect on God's creation."

Send them to amusement parks, sporting events, plays, concerts and movies instead."

"Keep them busy, busy, busy!"

"And when they meet for spiritual fellowship, involve them in gossip and small talk so that they leave with troubled consciences."

"Crowd their lives with so many good causes they have no time to seek power from Jesus."

"Soon they will be working in their own strength, sacrificing their health and family for the good of the cause."

"It will work! It will work!" It was quite a plan!

The demons went eagerly to their assignments causing Christians everywhere to get busier and more rushed, going here and there. Having little time for God or their families; having no time to tell others about the power of Jesus to change lives.

I guess the question is, has the devil been successful in his schemes?

You be the judge!!!!

Does "BUSY" mean:
B-eing U-nder S-atan's Y-o-ke?

Editor's note: Internet e-mail forward, author unknown.

St. Paul wrote: "Avoid irreverent and empty discussions, which only lead further and further away from God." — Timothy 2:16



Do not despair, love is everywhere

By Frederick Hermann

A young nun was sitting in her room at the convent opening her mail.



One of the letters was a birthday card from her brother with a gift of \$80 in cash. The sister had no use for the money, and as she was contemplating what was best to do with it, she noticed a homeless man sitting on the curb outside. She opened the window and handed the money to the man, saying "don't despair."

The next day the man returned with \$8,000 for the sister. When she asked where he had gotten the money, he excitedly told her "Don't Despair came in at 100 to one!"

Like the nun in this joke, we can be surprised when we share our gift of love.

We can never be sure what people will do with it, and we never know how or when it will come back to us. On a deeper level, I am awestruck when I consider that all love originates with God. My ability to love comes from him. God originates all love; it starts with him. He loves me first, and this enables me to love him in return, and to love others.

This is true for all of us; our ability to love is enabled by God's love of us. "We love, because he first loved us." (1 John 4:19)

What will we do with his gift? Will we gamble with it, or squander it? Better yet, will we plant it deep in our souls, and cultivate it as a priceless seed, so that it increases a hundredfold?

When we share God's love with other people, this enables them to experience his love. It

inspires them to return that same love, to God and to others.

Sometimes, sadly, others may not reciprocate. We all know people in our lives whom we love, but who are thankless, poor in spirit, or spiritually homeless. They do not return our love. It may be a spouse, parent, child, or friend.

They may be squandering our love at the racetrack, so to speak, and we don't know if they will ever return it. They may be gambling with our love, or learning how to appreciate it somewhere else, maybe with someone else. We may never see them again, and in the meantime, our love is unrequited.

Yet we need not despair. We may be hopeful that in God's good time, and if it is his will, they will return our love.

In the meantime, we may fortify and console ourselves by practicing the virtue of hope. We hope by praying that the seeds of love we spread will fall on fertile soil and produce a harvest.

To increase our hope, we can meditate on the parable of the Sower, as told by Jesus: "Other seeds fell into the good soil, and

yielded a crop, and produced thirty, sixty and a hundredfold." (Mark 4:8)

We do well to remember that the seeds of love we sow must be selfless, self-giving and sacrificial. This is true love, requiring us to give up our desires, maybe even a loved one, for God's sake.

After we have given up everything in love, we may receive our reward a hundredfold, at an unexpected hour.

As Jesus promised, "Truly I say to you, there is no one who has left house or brothers or sisters or mother or father or children or farms, for my sake and for the gospel's sake, but they will receive a hundred times as much now in the present age... and in the age to come, eternal life." (Mark 10:29)

Hermann is author of a popular book giving hope and healing to victims of crime and their families called "The Spirit Set Me Free" (Paulist Press) Find it on Amazon.com or here: www.breakoutofprison.com His email is fhermann@earthlink.net.

United States Catholic Catechism For Adults available

WASHINGTON — The United States Catholic Catechism For Adults marks the first official catechism produced by the Catholic Bishops of the United States since the creation of the *Baltimore Catechism*. Unlike the *Baltimore Catechism* with its 421 questions and answers so familiar to many generations who used it as children, this catechism is aimed specifically at adults and does not require rote memorization. Instead, it promotes a command of Catholic faith, prayer life and

morals through a more accessible writing style and numerous, often unexpected, features. The *United States Catholic Catechism for Adults* is an adaptation of the *Catechism of the Catholic Church* promulgated by Pope John Paul II in 1992. At that time the Pope urged that local catechisms be developed to better address specific situations in different countries. The *United States Catholic Catechism for Adults* is available from USCCB Publishing (No. 5-450, 664 pp. \$24.95).

New book series aims to educate adult Catholics

SAN FRANCISCO (CNS) — Ignatius Press and Ave Maria University have co-published a parish-level adult faith formation series designed to help Catholics learn more about their faith or relearn aspects they do not understand well. The series, Catholic Faith Explorers, currently covers seven topics and there are plans to add others. Each topic — the Mass, Scripture, baptism, confession, Mary, the role of laity in the church, and church authority — is developed in participant workbooks presenting church teaching in everyday language and explaining how it applies to modern life. The workbooks contain references for more in-depth study and lists of recommended resources and Web sites for further information. The leaders' guides contain suggestions for presentations and PowerPoint materials that can be reproduced (\$29.95 www.ignatius.com (800) 651-1531).

The Pope Speaks

Pope Benedict XVI



CNS photo from Reuters

Jesus excludes no one from his loving embrace, pope tells audience

VATICAN CITY (CNS) — Jesus excludes no one from his loving embrace because he came especially to save sinners and social outcasts, Pope Benedict XVI said.

The good news of the Gospels consists precisely in Jesus' message that God offers his grace above all to those who seem furthest from being holy, the pope said Aug. 30 at his weekly general audience.

In front of some 8,000 pilgrims packed into the Paul VI hall, the pope continued his series of audience talks about the apostles with a reflection on the life and Gospel of St. Matthew.

Matthew was a tax collector for the Roman occupiers in Israel and, therefore, like all the tax collectors at the time, was much hated by his fellow Jews, who considered him to be a public sinner.

But Jesus invited Matthew and other marginalized people to "follow me" and even invited them to eat with him, the pope said.

To those who were scandalized by Jesus associating with the community's outcasts, the pope quoted Jesus as saying: "Those who are well don't need a physician, but the sick do. I did not come to call the righteous, but sinners."

"Jesus excludes no one from his friendship," said the pope. Rather, he makes a special invitation to those who have humbly acknowledged their sins and are willing to leave their old ways of life behind for a new life with Christ, Pope Benedict said.

For example, in St. Luke's account of the parable of the Pharisee and the tax collector, the humble sinner who begs God's forgiveness will be justified in God's eyes before the self-righteous person who proudly vaunts his or her moral perfection.

This seemingly paradoxical teaching is also reflected in the figure of St. Matthew, the pope said, since the person who seems furthest from being holy can become the first to enter the kingdom of heaven and act as an example of God's welcoming mercy.

Matthew did not hesitate to answer Jesus' call even though it meant leaving everything behind, especially his job — an occupation that had been his one sure source of income, but which was also often unjust and dishonest work, said the pope.

"Matthew understood that knowing Jesus would not allow him to continue an activity God disapproved of," he said.

"Even today it is not admissible to be attached to things that are incompatible with following Jesus, such as is the case with dishonest wealth," he said. Just as Matthew decided to leave behind an immoral livelihood in order to follow Christ, the pope said all people are called to remove themselves from "a situation of sin" so as to embark on a new way of life and "follow Jesus completely."

At the end of the two-hour audience, the pope individually greeted and blessed a long line of physically disabled children and adults, including an African woman who left behind her wheelchair to walk resolutely up to the pope using crutches and two artificial legs.

Holy Cross Church Bay City

Fall Festival

Turkey & Dressing Dinner

Drive-thru 11:00 • Dine-In 11:00 to 1:00

Turkey, Dressing, Green Beans, Mashed Potatoes, Cranberry Sauce.

Dessert & Tea (tea dine-in only) • \$7 per plate

Sunday, October 22

**Knights of Columbus Hall
Hamman Road**

Outdoor Mass 9:30 a.m.

**Music by: Bobby Jones Band
with Beer Garden & Dance Floor**

**Auction at 12:30 p.m. • Raffle
Country Store • Children's Games •
Cakewalk**

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Buscando Vida

Por Moises Sandoval
Servicio Noticiero Católico



Armon-a entre la vida y la musica

“Yo voy a la iglesia de Rociada Abajo porque allí toca Antonia Apodaca,” dice Amy Chávez enfermera de Tierramonte, Nuevo México. Viaja por auto 10 millas para oír los cantos que toca en el acordeón Apodaca, una mujer diminutiva y delgadita de 82 años. Esta música folclórica ha tocado en La Casa Blanca, para el primer Presidente Bush, para varios gobernadores de Nuevo México, y para audiencias por todo el país, ambos los poderosos como también los pobres. Tocó en el Festival de Arte Folclórico Americano en el Instituto Smithsonian y en el Museo Nacional de Historia Norteamericana, ambos en Washington. La recipiente de innumerables premios y honores, todo el mundo la busca para dar conciertos, pero también halla tiempo para tocar en iglesias humildes como la capilla en Rociada.

Aún, es difícil decir que es más impresionante, la música o la persona quien la toca. “Antonia es un músico y ser humano asombrosamente enérgica y dinámica,” escribió David Romvedt, un admirador. “Para ella no hay separación entre la música y la vida. Cuando ella toca, es como si todos fuéramos amigos sentados en la sala de estar. Hay gran compasión y amor en Antonia que brilla cuando ella toca y cuando ella está ayudando a otra persona aprender sobre la música y la vida.”

Si su música nos acerca al infinito amor de Dios, también nos enseña a vivir la vida plenamente, no permitiendo que los años limiten nuestras posibilidades. Acababa de tocar en Taos, Española, Albuquerque y Clayton. Ahora iba a tocar en el Santuario de Chimayo, destinación de muchos peregrinos en Nuevo México. “Mi nuera necesita trasplante de hígado, y tengo esperanza que pueda recaudar fondos,” dijo. De allí iba a tocar en un casorio. “Tenemos que brincar para mantenernos vivos,” dijo mientras observaba a bailadores en una fiesta de cumpleaños. Sola o con otros músicos, ella da conciertos para grupos de todas edades, enseña danzas y canciones españolas coloniales, y da talleres en el acordeón, la guitarra y en como escribir música.

Antonio aprendió a tocar el acordeón de su Mamá, Rafaelita Suazo Martínez, cuando tenía 6 años. La madre había aprendido de su esposo, José Damacio Martinez. Por su parte, ella le enseñó como tocar la guitarra, que había aprendido de su padre, Abran Suazo. La música es

corriente profunda en la familia de Antonia. Sus padres tenían un pequeño conjunto en cual ella tocaba y cantaba. A los 13 años, Antonia ganó un concurso del acordeón en Santa Fe, compitiendo con adultos. Pocos años después, Max Apodaca se integró al conjunto, y Antonia y él se enamoraron. Se casaron en 1943.

Como muchos hispanos pobres, los Apodaca fueron campesinos itinerantes, siguiendo el cultivo y la cosecha por muchos lugares. Por fin, se asentaron en Riverton, Wyoming, donde él trabajaba como minero de uranio. Allí, crearon a sus cinco hijos y siguieron tocando juntos. Volvieron a Rociada en 1979, estableciéndose en una casa que habían construido en los 1940s. Cuando él murió en 1987, ella cesó de tocar y cantar, desolada por tristeza. Dos amigos le ayudaron a empezar de nuevo. Dice que le gustan en especial las rancheras, canciones que cuentan de la lucha de su gente que tuvo que abandonar su tierra en Nueva México para buscar la vida en otros estados.

Gente constantemente visita a Antonia, algunos son sus vecinos y otros vienen de lugares lejanos. Vive en la casa que ella y su esposo hicieron 60 años atrás, sin agua corriente o alcantarillado. Las visitas se maravillan de su vitalidad, indomable a pesar de su lucha y el pase de los años. Ella es un icono cultural en Nuevo México y allende.

ASISTENCIA ALIMENTARIA

El trigo y la harina de trigo son los alimentos donados más comunes, seguido por los granos enteros y el arroz.

Mayores receptores de alimentos (toneladas métricas)

1'097,240

Etiopía

1'079,560

Corea del Norte

877,590

Sudán

Mayores donantes de alimentos (toneladas métricas)

4'026,382

EE.UU.

1'500,000

Unión Europea

576,582

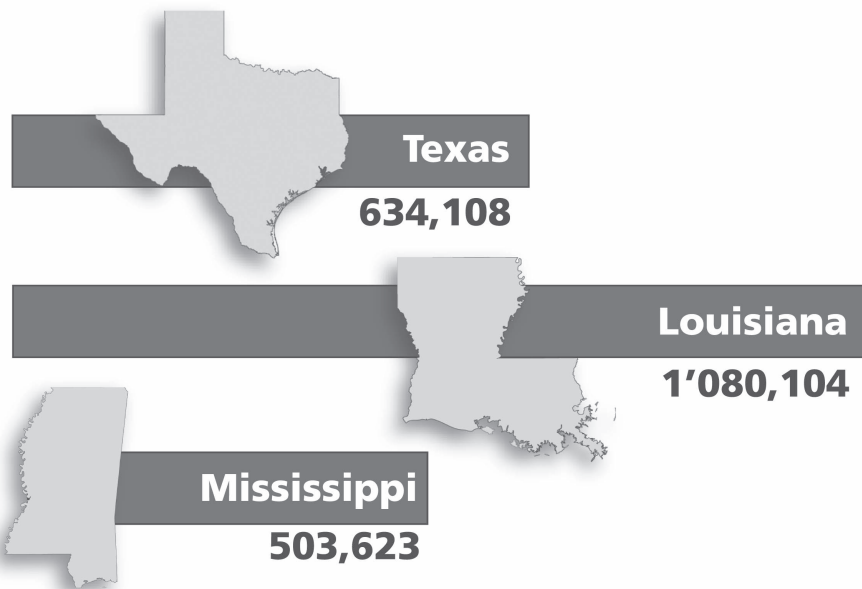
China

Source: World Food Program

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Ayuda Solicitada

Más de 2.56 millones de personas han solicitado ayuda a la Agencia de Emergencia Federal por los desastres ocasionados por los huracanes Katrina y Rita. Muchos residían en tres estados.

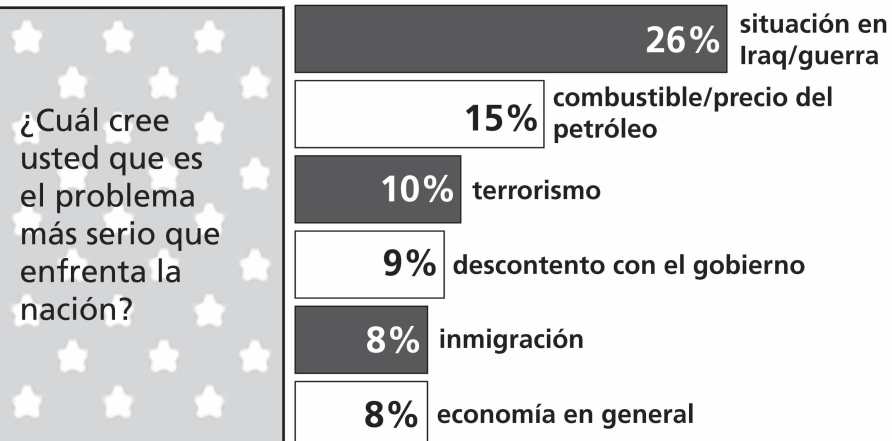


Información actual julio 21, 2006.

Fuente: www.fema.gov

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Problemas Nacionales



Fuente: 2006 Gallup Poll

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16 Septiembre Celebration of Independence

at San Luis Church in Yorktown

grounds and church hall (East Second Street)

beginning at 10:00 a.m.

noon Mexican plate w/tea \$6 dine-in or take out



Ring of the Church bell at 6:00 p.m. as well as speeches from historians from Texas A&M and Texas State University, El Grito – Viva Mexico and fireworks to replicate cannons firing.



Other foods available in the afternoon: Menudo \$4 bowl/\$6 quart; a dozen tamales \$6; gorditas, nachos and raspas



Throughout the day games • children rides • music • Ballet Folkloricos de Goliad • Mariachis from Victoria • 9:00 p.m. dance to Gilbert Mungia's band, Los Mismos

Sponsored by the Guadalupe Society. Advised to purchase tickets for noon dinner and evening dance in advance. Contact Holy Cross rectory (361) 564-2893 or Olga Ochoa Lassmann (361) 564-2776 / (361) 564-7342.

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
P.O. Box 4070
Victoria, TX 77903
Por favor, escriba en el sobre:
“Personal and Confidential”

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

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

Garza, Garza & Garza

Attorneys at Law



Joseph G. Garza
Former State and
Federal Prosecutor
Former J.A.G. Officer

570-3900

1101 N. Navarro
Victoria, Texas



Marc Phillip Garza
Attorney at Law

For the General Practice of Law



The Anniversary of 9/11: Looking Back, Moving

CINCINNATI—Five years have passed since New York City, Pennsylvania and Washington, D.C., suffered the worst acts of terrorism in our nation's history. Though the country has been on a healing journey ever since, deep wounds are often slow to mend. Questions linger: Why did this happen? What can we do to move forward? Can we forgive the perpetrators of these tragedies? For many Americans, such questions are still unanswered.

St. Anthony Messenger has devoted a special section—three articles and an editorial—of its September issue to the anniversary of the attacks. Titled “Healing After 9/11,” the special section will be posted, after August 21, at: www.AmericanCatholic.org.

Peter Feuerherd's “New York City: Five Years Later” delves into the terrorist attacks on the World Trade Center, how survivors look back on that day and how the events changed their lives. In “Flight 93 Memorial: Sacred Ground in Pennsylvania,” Assistant Managing Editor Mary Jo Dangel writes about the site in Pennsylvania where Flight 93 crashed and how local Catholics were involved in recovery efforts and volunteered at the temporary memorial.

Forgiveness is a theme that factors into the special section as well. In light of the attacks, such grace can be difficult to find. Father Robert Schreiter, C.P.P.S., who teaches at Catholic Theological Union in Chicago, reflects on what reconciliation involves in “Can We Forgive 9/11?” And

Assistant Editor John Feister rounds off the special section with his editorial, “9/11 and Pope John Paul II's Challenge,” which addresses how the modern communication that facilitates terrorism can also spread the good news of Jesus Christ.

Though five years have come and gone since the tragedies of that fateful day, for many people in this country, healing is slow. Peter Feuerherd devotes part of his article to featuring survivors of the attacks, such as Yvonne Robinson, 42, who left New York soon after 9/11. Five years ago, she was an office worker for the Port Authority, the New York/New Jersey agency that built the World Trade Center. On 9/11, she walked with her coworkers down more than 80 flights of stairs. Some of them never made it out.

Mary Jo Dangel features, among others, John and Doreen Loidici, two Red Cross volunteers who worked at the site where Flight 93 crashed in Pennsylvania's Somerset County. Along with other volunteers, they served meals to those who worked at the site, distributed supplies and ran various errands for rescue workers. Doreen believes her faith has only strengthened through her experiences and that a “higher power” got everyone through such a life-changing, traumatic experience. “You'd see men cry; they'd just sit there and cry,” she says.

Doreen echoes an attitude expressed by others who worked near the site of the tragedy: “We thank God for the opportunity to be able to help them, to hold their hands for a couple of minutes.”

Katrina's challenges, chances for renewal linger, says Biloxi bishop

BILOXI, Miss. (CNS) — Bishop Thomas J. Rodi of Biloxi said many people probably have mixed feelings about the first anniversary of Hurricane Katrina.

“There is some wisdom in wanting to get on with our lives and not giving attention to Aug. 29,” the day the hurricane made landfall in 2005, he wrote in the Aug. 18 issue of the Gulf Pine Catholic, Biloxi's diocesan newspaper. “It may feel to some that we are giving the storm too much power over us if we recall and observe the day it hit.”

But he also noted that there is a need to “pause and to remember,” reflecting on all that was lost and destroyed by Katrina and remembering what was learned from the disaster.

He said the extensive losses from the storm caused many to reflect upon “what is truly important and what is truly lasting.”

“We have been reminded that people are more important than things. We have also been reminded how important it is to

tell people we love them. We never know when we will be separated from them. Our priests and religious have been outstanding both in helping us to rebuild and to discern the greatest values in life,” he said.

The bishop also stressed that the hurricane demonstrated people's compassion especially as volunteers arrived from across the world to help out.

“It has been difficult at times to be on the receiving end of this generosity, but it has been a blessing to see so many people who wish to lend a helping hand to others. We are fortunate to be able to see so much goodness in the world,” he added.

Bishop Rodi also noted that those directly impacted by the storm have had the opportunity to grow in faith even as they question why God would allow bad things to happen.

“We have had the opportunity to learn that God is with us both in the good times and in the struggles of life,” he said. “We have also had the opportunity to learn that

See Katrina's challenges, p. 17

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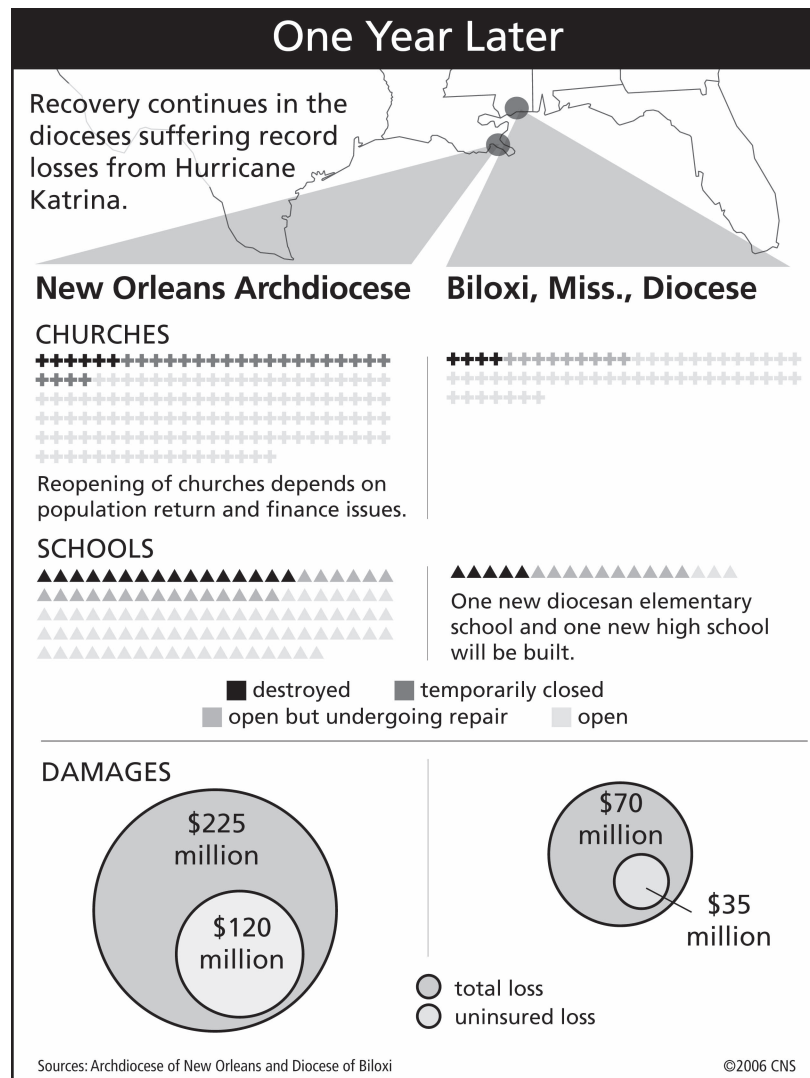
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Hamburgers • Raffle

Fireworks Show at Dark

Battle Dance 3:00 pm to 9:00 pm
with Music by
DUJKA BROS. & RED RAVENS



Two children stand near the Cross of Enghausen, the oldest existing life-size crucifix in the world, in the Catholic church in the Bavarian village of Enghausen. The cross, which dates to the year 890, will be used during the Mass celebrated by Pope Benedict XVI in Munich during his Sept. 9-14 visit to Germany. (CNS photo/Alexandra Beier, Reuters)

U.S. seminaries get new Program of Priestly Formation

WASHINGTON (CNS) — A new Program of Priestly Formation has been issued for use in all U.S. Catholic seminaries. It places more emphasis on the human formation of seminarians, and especially on formation for celibacy, than did the fourth edition of the program, which had been in effect since 1992. The 98-page revised version of the program, the fifth edition, has been posted on the Web site of the U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops, www.usccb.org. The Program of Priestly Formation has governed seminary formation in the United States since the bishops issued the first edition in 1971. The new version, reflecting the bishops' recent response to the scandal of clergy sexual abuse of minors, says explicitly for the first time that no seminary applicant is to be accepted if he has been involved in sexual abuse of minors. It also incorporates stricter norms, adopted by the bishops in 1999, on evaluating an application for seminary admission from someone who previously left or was dismissed from a seminary or a formation program for religious life.

Women religious told to remain committed to local, global issues

ATLANTA (CNS) — The Leadership Conference of Women Religious celebrated its 50th anniversary by hearing calls to continue involving its members in the problems of the local and global communities that surround them. This includes encouraging peacemaking around the world and keeping the door to dialogue open with the bishops so that women religious have greater decision-making power in "our church, its teachings and its practices," said Franciscan Sister Beatrice Eichen, LCWR president. At the Aug. 18-

21 annual assembly held in Atlanta, the conference passed a resolution condemning torture and encouraging help and support for torture victims, especially those in areas under U.S. government control. The 2006 Outstanding Leadership Award went to St. Joseph Sister Catherine Pinkerton for her work as a justice and peace lobbyist for Network, a social justice lobbying group founded in 1971 by several U.S. women religious. Sister Mary Whited, general superior of the Sisters of the Most Precious Blood, was elected new LCWR president.

Cardinal says 'patriarchal society' not cause of all-male priesthood

PHILADELPHIA (CNS) — The church's prohibition against women priests is not culturally conditioned by the "patriarchal society" in which Jesus lived and taught, said Philadelphia Cardinal Justin Rigali. "Jesus treated women in a manner highly unusual for his culture," he said, noting that Christ "forgave the woman caught in adultery." The cardinal described as an "unfortunate incident" the July 31 riverboat ceremony near Pittsburgh at which eight women said they were ordained to the Catholic priesthood. But the event provides an opportunity to discuss Catholic teaching, he said. Some critics of the all-male priesthood "have attempted to dismiss this teaching by stating that Jesus lived in a patriarchal society and that, because he was limited by the culture of his time, he chose only men to be priests," the cardinal said in his weekly column appearing in the Aug. 17 archdiocesan newspaper, *The Catholic Standard & Times*. Christ "could hardly be limited by culture," he said. "Furthermore, in the days of the early church, priestesses were common in the polytheistic religions and cultures of pagan Rome and Greece," the cardinal said.

Katrina's challenges, chances for renewal linger, says Biloxi bishop

Continued from p. 16

God can bring good even out of the worst of times.

"If we open our eyes we can see the hand of God guiding, helping and strengthening us," he added. "We are not the same after Katrina, but we can each be better. God can lead us to grow in wisdom, compassion and faith because of all we have and are enduring."

The bishop pointed out that many parishes and schools are planting an oak tree to observe Katrina's anniversary as a memorial to those who have died and a tangible sign of "our commitment to continue to grow and together build a new future for our beloved Mississippi."

He said the trees will take time to grow, just as recovery takes time. "The road of

recovery will be long and challenging," Bishop Rodi wrote. "With neighbor helping neighbor, with the assistance we are receiving throughout our nation and our world, and with God's help, we will rebuild wonderful communities with a great sense of place and a wonderful quality of life."

Katrina's devastation — more than 1,500 deaths and the destruction of 200,000 homes in the metropolitan New Orleans area — crossed all racial, ethnic and economic lines. The New Orleans archdiocese sustained \$225 million in damage to its properties — \$145 million in flood damage and \$80 million in wind damage — and \$120 million of that was uninsured flood loss.

Pope says visit to Germany to be personal, chance to thank people

VATICAN CITY (CNS) — Pope Benedict XVI will go on a September pilgrimage to southern Germany from Sept. 9 to 14.

The 79-year-old pontiff will return to his Bavarian roots, stopping in Marktl am Inn where he was born, in Altötting where he used to pray at a local shrine, in Regensburg where he taught and in Munich where he was a bishop.

Along the way, he will preside over a string of public Masses, prayer services,

processions and blessings. The visit is predominantly personal and religious.

"I want to see again the places where I grew up, the people who touched and shaped my life. I want to thank these people," the pope said.

"The basic theme (of the pilgrimage) is that we have to rediscover God, not just any God, but the God that has a human face, because when we see Jesus Christ we see God," he said.

CRS dedicates Southwest Regional Office

SAN ANTONIO, TEXAS—On Sunday, August 27, 2006, Catholic Relief Services (CRS) dedicated their Southwest Regional Office with an Inaugural Mass held at San Fernando Cathedral and with a blessing of the CRS office located at 7711 Madonna Dr. The Inaugural Mass was celebrated by Cardinal Renato Raffaele Martino, President of the Pontifical Council for Justice and Peace and President of Pastoral Care of Migrants and Itinerant Peoples. CRS Southwest, recently established in San Antonio, is one of six regional offices in the United States that seeks to inform and engage U.S. Catholics to live their faith in solidarity with the poor around the world. CRS has a goal of education on strategic issues such as peace building, fair trade, food security, migration, and social justice.

Priests for Life announces new community in Amarillo

AMARILLO, TEXAS—Priests for Life announced groundbreaking for a new community of priests and laity to end abortion in Amarillo, Texas, for its new international headquarters and the formation house for its seminarians of the new Society, the Missionaries of the Gospel of Life. The new headquarters is located on property adjacent to the Bishop DeFalco Retreat Center.

Cardinal Renato Martino, the president of the Vatican's Pontifical Council for Justice and Peace presided over the ceremonies, which included a Mass in which Father Frank Pavone officially became the

first member of the Missionaries of the Gospel of Life, and also received the promises of the first group of lay associates.

The Most Rev. John Yanta, Bishop of Amarillo, has welcomed Priests for Life into Amarillo, and officially established its new community in December. The second group of seminarians for the society arrived on August 17.

"This is an historic day," the Bishop commented, "and only God knows how significant it will prove to be for the pro-life movement in this country and around the world. Our diocese is proud to partner with Priests for Life in this work of the Holy Spirit."

Father Pavone added, "We invite those who feel the call to devote their lives entirely to the protection of the unborn to come to us. Working in union with the entire pro-life movement, we will never turn back, and we will overcome."

Other guests present at the Amarillo ceremonies included Dr. Alveda King, niece of Martin Luther King, Jr. and a member of the Priests for Life pastoral team; Norma McCorvey, the former "Jane Roe" of Roe vs. Wade, whom Father Pavone received into the Catholic Church in 1998; Bob and Mary Schindler, the parents of Terri Schiavo, along with her brother Bobby; and Mary O'Connor Ward, the sister of Cardinal John O'Connor, who ordained Father Pavone and gave him permission in 1993 to lead Priests for Life.

Priests for Life is the nation's largest Catholic pro-life organization dedicated to ending abortion and euthanasia. For more information, visit www.priestsforlife.org.

Victoria County's 21st Annual

Sunday, Sept. 24, 2006

10:00 a.m. - 8:00 p.m.

Victoria Community Center
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Admission \$5 p/p
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Music By

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Shiner Hobo Band	11:00 a.m. - 1:00 p.m.
Leo Majek Orchestra	1:00 - 4:15 p.m.
Concert - Majeks & Red Ravens	3:45 - 4:15 p.m.
Red Ravens	3:45 - 8:00 p.m.

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Celebrated by Father Joseph Hybner • 9:00 a.m.

Our Lady of Victory Cathedral • Laurent and Mesquite Streets

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Rules of war still apply even if one side ignores them, panelists say

WASHINGTON (CNS) — Even if terrorists or insurgents attack civilians and ignore other moral rules of warfare, those who are fighting back must still follow those rules, said experts at a round-table discussion of just-war issues five years after the terrorist attacks of Sept. 11, 2001. The round table was convened by Catholic News Service Aug. 21 at the Woodstock Theological Center at Georgetown University in Washington. Panelists were just-war experts from The Catholic University of America and Georgetown University and a former chief of Navy chaplains who wrote his doctoral thesis on the requirements of moral conduct in waging war. Franciscan Father Louis V. Iasiello, now president of Washington Theological Union, said that before his recent retirement as chief of Navy chaplains he was twice asked to lecture at the U.S. war colleges on how the military should “fight an enemy that either ignores or exploits the rules of war for tactical, operational or strategic gain.” He said, “The answer may be found not in asking ‘What should I do?’ but ‘Who am I?’ ... If we’re here to represent the constitutional values that we’re willing to fight and die for, then we’d better be ready to put those same principles on the line in the field of battle. So I said (in those lectures) if you ask yourself ‘Who are you?’ you’ll come to the realization of what you should do.”

Conscientious objection still possible in all-volunteer U.S. military

WASHINGTON (CNS) — Conscientious objection to fighting wars is still a possibility 33 years after the U.S. ended obligatory military service. But objectors in the all-volunteer U.S. armed forces have to be opposed to all wars and not just to a particular one such as Iraq. Even with volunteers, where the presumption is that

someone enlisting is willing to fight, the law allows troops to change their minds for religious or philosophical reasons. One result has been that after the Sept. 11, 2001, terrorist attacks activities picked up at the Catholic Peace Fellowship, which helps military personnel filing for conscientious-objector status or just wanting information about Catholic moral teachings on war. “Sept. 11 shaped what we have done since,” said Holy Cross Father Michael Baxter, national secretary of the Catholic Peace Fellowship, based in South Bend, Ind. Through e-mails, telephone calls and personal contacts, the once-dormant Catholic group has actively aided about 60 people seeking conscientious-objector status since Sept. 11 and fielded more than 1,500 requests for information, said Father Baxter, also an assistant theology professor at the University of Notre Dame.

September is National Alcohol & Drug Addiction Recovery Month

Dennis Heaney, President The Christophers

A person who lights candles — in other words, a Christopher — is, among other things, “a quiet doer rather than a noisy complainer.” At any rate, that’s the way our founder looked at it. Maryknoll Father James Keller wrote those words many years ago, seeing in them one of the building blocks of The Christophers. One sure way of helping to change the world, he knew, was to stop griping about our problems and do something about them.

The other day a friend passed along to me a story about someone who did just that. In fact, the problem that Dan Rodricks took on was so enormous that many people — maybe even *most* people — have simply washed their hands of it. Not Rodricks. He did something about it, just

Making A Difference

By Tony Magliano
Catholic News Service



Laboring for peanuts

Many corporate and government leaders would do well this Labor Day to take seriously a warning from the Catholic Church’s Compendium of the Social Doctrine of the Church: “They commit grave injustice who refuse to pay a just wage.”

Unfortunately, for the past nine years numerous political and business leaders have ignored this long-held warning. Consequently, millions of full-time American workers have had to endure the injustice of working for much less than a just wage.

A general lack of concern among U.S. citizens coupled with strong pressure from many in the business world have influenced Congress since 1997 to keep the federal minimum wage at just \$5.15 per hour. Yet, during this same period, Congress had no problem raising its own salary by more than \$30,000 per member. And corporate executives have fared even better.

The Economic Policy Institute (EPI) recently reported: “In 2005, an average Chief Executive Officer was paid 821 times as much as a minimum-wage earner, who earns just \$5.15 an hour. An average CEO earns more before lunchtime on the very first day of work in the year than a minimum-wage worker earns all year.”

After all these years, just when a bill to raise the minimum wage was finally coming together, amendments were added — benefiting the wealthy — which led to the bill’s early death.

This bill would have increased the minimum wage over a two-year period to \$7.25 an hour. According to the EPI, such an increase would directly help 5.6 million workers. Among them, approximately 3.9 million parents with children under 18 would benefit.

The EPI added that the earnings of minimum-wage workers are critical to

their families’ wellbeing. Evidence from an analysis of the last national minimum wage increase shows that the average minimum-wage worker brings home more than half of his or her family’s weekly earnings.

In most cases, minimum-wage workers are struggling to make ends meet. They deserve a raise. But the distance between deserving a raise and getting it is long and difficult. A successful outcome depends on enough Americans rising to the occasion.

If Congress hears mostly from those in the business world who falsely claim that a raise in the minimum wage will hurt jobs and the overall economy, they will do nothing.

But if many people of good will — even large numbers of Catholics alone — contact their two U.S. senators and Congressperson urging quick passage of a just minimum wage increase without any amendments it will become law!

So it really comes down to you and me. Are we willing to take a small amount of our time to pick up the phone and/or e-mail our federal legislators on behalf of extremely low-paid U.S. workers and their families? Or will we just think about our Labor Day cookout?

If you decide to offer a hand up to struggling American workers, you might be inspired to go the extra Gospel mile and also help miserably poor workers in the developing world.

One of the most compassionate and professional international labor rights organizations around is the National Labor Committee. Just log onto www.nlcnet.org to learn how you can make a difference in the lives of some of the poorest workers on the planet.

Let’s make Labor Day a labor of love!

Fighting Drugs – One Job at a Time

as Father Keller would have counseled — perhaps not in the quiet way the Maryknoll priest might have envisioned, but in a way that got results. As you’ll see, Dan Rodricks succeeded in making a difference.

Dan’s story appeared in *Innovations*, the newsletter published by Innovators Combating Substance Abuse, sponsored by the Johns Hopkins University School of Medicine.

Dan is a columnist for the *Baltimore Sun*, and in his 26-year career he’s written more than once about the things that have had a negative effect on Baltimore life — drugs, street violence and the like. Then in June of 2005 he wrote a column not only about the problem, but one that might provide an answer: his own personal help in getting drug dealers out of that business and into legitimate work.

“Dear Baltimore drug dealers,” the column began. “I promise this will be the most ridiculous thing you’ve ever heard. How about taking the summer off to see what it might be like around here without all the shooting and killing? Serious.” He listed his telephone number and promised to assist personally with job placement opportunities

Believe it or not, it worked. That was well over a year ago, and more than 1,200 calls later, they’re still coming in. Any previous attempts by drug dealers to go straight were met with delays, runarounds

and other obstacles; this offer was for real. Callers included not only drug dealers but addicts ranging in age from 20 to 60. “None of them seriously considered the options available to them until they heard about Rodricks,” the newsletter reported.

Many employers and job training programs stepped up; so did treatment centers. By the end of the first year Dan Rodricks had helped more than 1,000 Baltimoreans with addictions find jobs and/or treatment. He provided 100 names alone to one program operated by Goodwill Industries, which now employs 25 of those referred by Rodricks and has another 30 in its training program.

That’s quite an example Dan Rodricks has set, justifying the newsletter’s concluding words of praise: “Rodricks’ personal commitment to trying to solve this complicated problem has gone far beyond his duties as a journalist and has touched many lives. His columns have put a human face on addiction.”

Father Keller, of course, would be highly pleased. And it’s my pleasure to pass the story, and the example, along to you.

For a free copy of the Christopher News Note: Alcohol and Drugs — What Young People Need to Know, write: The Christophers, 12 East 48th Street, New York, NY 10017; or e-mail: mail@christophers.org

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EVENTS

The Catholic Lighthouse
Page 19 — Septmeber 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. **For upcoming events see the Web site at: www.presidiolabahia.org**

Picnics, Activities, etc.

September

Inez—St. Joseph Annual Parish Picnic Sept. 10 at the community center. A fried-chicken, barbecue-brisket and sausage dinner will begin at 11:00 a.m. inside (with drive-thru plates available at 10:30 a.m.) at \$6 p/p.

Yorktown—Holy Cross Festival Sept. 10 at the community hall. Celebrating 90 years in the present church beginning with Mass at 9:30 a.m. with Bishop John Yanta, Bishop David Fellhauer and Father Donald Hayden, O.S.S.T. concelebrating. At 11:00 a.m. there will be a barbecue-beef, Polish sausage dinner in the a/c dining hall at \$6.50 p/p (children 12 and under at \$3 p/p). There will be free entertainment, an auction at 12:30 p.m., country store, games, cakewalk and more.

Yorktown—16 September Celebration of Independence at San Luis Church grounds and church hall (East Second Street). Activities begin at 10:00 a.m.; noon Mexican plate w/tea \$6/ dine in or take out; ringing of the church bell at 6:00 p.m. as

well as speeches from historians from Texas A&M and Texas State University, El Grito – Viva Mexico and fireworks to replicate firing cannons. Other foods available in the afternoon: Menudo \$4 bowl/\$6 quart; a dozen tamales \$6; gorditas, nachos and raspas. Throughout the day games, children rides, music, Ballet Folkloricos de Goliad and mariachis from Victoria. Dance to Gilbert Mungia’s band, Los Mismos, from 9:00 p.m. on. Sponsored by the Guadalupe Society. Advised to purchase tickets for noon dinner and evening dance in advance. Contact Holy Cross rectory (361) 564-2893 or Olga Ochoa Lassmann (361) 564-2776 / (361) 564-7342.

Port Lavaca—Knights of Columbus Council 3253 Our Lady of the Gulf festival kick off ~ cook off Sept. 15 and 16. There will also be horseshoes, washer toss, dominos along with the brisket, beans and chili cook off. For more information call Mario Badillo (361) 550-2270 / (361) 552-5565 or Kenny Weaver (361) 550-2270.

Port Lavaca—Our Lady of the Gulf 4-person scramble golf tournament Sept. 16 at Hatch Bend Country Club. Registration at 7:00 a.m. with an entry fee of \$75 per player. For more information or to be a sponsor call Fabian (361) 553-6289; Anni (361) 552-6504; or Rob (361) 987-2061.

Port Lavaca—Our Lady of the Gulf Festival Sept. 17 at the Bauer Community Center. A shrimp dinner will be served from 11:00 a.m. to 1:30 p.m. with dine-in or drive-through available at \$6.50 p/p. The auction begins at 12:30 p.m. There will be arts & crafts, entertainment, games, refreshments, cake spin, face painting, egg rolls w/ fried rice and more.

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

Moulton—St. Joseph Annual Parish Picnic Sept. 17 at the KC Hall. Open-air Mass with the Happy Czech Singers at 10:00 a.m. at the city park. A kettle-fried chicken and stew dinner (\$6 p/p) beginning at 10:30 a.m. Music outside by Johnny Underwood 10:30 a.m.-1:00 p.m., outdoor auction and games. Free dance in a/c hall beginning at 1:00 p.m. with music by Bobby Jones Czech Band.

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

When & Where

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

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

Bloomington—St. Patrick Annual Turkey Dinner and Fall Festival Sept. 24 on parish grounds (13316 State Hwy. 185) will begin with Mass at 10:00 a.m. followed with their famous homemade cornbread dressing and fresh-baked turkey with all the trimmings. Drive-thru plates-to-go available with serving starting at 11:00 a.m. There will be an auction, country store, games and cake wheel.

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

Meyersville—Sts. Peter and Paul Annual Festival Sept. 24 with a barbecue-beef dinner served from 11:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. at \$7 p/p (children under 12 \$4 p/p). A live auction starts at 1:30 p.m. Music by the Nordheim Faculty and Friends Band from 11:30 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. There will be a country store, games, cakewalk and much more for all. Mass at 10:15 a.m.

Sweet Home—Queen of Peace Parish Picnic Sept. 24 at the community center. A stew and sausage dinner will be served from 11:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. (dine-in or drive-thru for plates to go). There will be an auction, country store, games and refreshments.

Victoria—Victoria County Annual Czech Heritage Festival Sept. 24 beginning with a 9:00 a.m. Czech-English Mass at Our Lady of Victory Cathedral with Father Joseph Hybner. Following Mass, there will be exhibits, museum, arts and crafts, children games, auction, pastry wheel, tarok tourna-

ment and music until 8:00 p.m. at the community center. Admission is \$5 p/p (under 15 free). For music listing and more see p. 17.

Victoria—David Kauffmann Concert to be held Friday, Sept. 29, at 7:00 p.m., at Holy Family Church, 704 Mallette Drive, (No Ticket Required – Free Will Offering). For more information contact Rey Rosas at (361) 553-2912.

Victoria—Catechetical Conference Sept. 30 at Holy Family, see page 4 for more information.

Upcoming Events

Hostyn—Queen of the Holy Rosary Church, 150th Anniversary Celebration of the first church, 175th Anniversary of the first Mass celebrated in a home in the Hostyn area, Sunday, Oct. 1, Polka Mass at 10 a.m., fried-chicken and sausage meal at 11 a.m., auction, games, live music all day, fireworks at dark. For information call (979) 247-4441 or e-mail hostynch@cvtv.net.

Flatonia—KC Council 3295 Annual Golf Tournament Oct. 1 at the Flatonia Golf Course. It will be a three-person scramble. Entry fee will be \$105 per team which includes green fees and one free mulligan per player (carts are extra \$16 each). Sponsorship of holes and tees available for \$25 (contact Brenda Ray at (361) 865-3391 or Kirby Farek (361) 865-2325). To register for the tournament contact Calvin Kurtz at (361)-772-8727 or (361) 865-2981. Funds raised benefit council’s state charities. Mass: Saturday, Cistern 4:00 p.m.; Flatonia 5:00 p.m.; and Praha 6:00 p.m.; Sunday, Flatonia and Praha 8:30 a.m. and Cistern 10:30 a.m.

Shiner—Catholic School Fall Festival Oct. 1 at the American Legion Hall. A barbecue-chicken dinner will be served from 10:30 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. drive-thru available. Live auction at noon. There will also be a cakewalk, games and refreshments.

Victoria—Nazareth Academy Fall Festival Oct. 1 at the community center. A turkey and dressing dinner will be served beginning at 11:00 a.m. There will be a silent and live auction, games, refreshments and more.

Hungerford—St. John Annual Bazaar at the Hungerford Hall. A barbecue-chicken, beef and sausage dinner with sauerkraut will be served starting at 10:30 a.m. The auction begins at 12:15 p.m. Entertainment during the day includes: games, country store, kids’ rides and music by Sil Krenek.

Victoria—Our Lady of Victory Fall Festival Oct. 8 at the community center. A buffet style barebecue-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 Opray 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 pm til?).

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, 2006, Criminal Justice Conference at the Cathedral Conference Center. For more information, please contact Beverly Lincke at (361) 277-5828.

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

La Salle—St. Theresa Mission Fall Festival, Oct. 22

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.

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.



Five ordained for service, teaching, preaching and worship

By Cindy Brewer

The Diocese of Victoria ordained five men into the order of the diaconate at Our Lady of Victory Cathedral in Victoria. On Saturday morning, July 29, 2006, Dennis Kutach, John McCourt, Charlie Novosad, Leo Sharron, and David Valdez were ordained permanent deacons, "strengthened by sacramental grace and dedicated to the People of God," (Lumen gentium) by the presider and ordaining prelate Bishop David E. Fellhauer.

This brings the total number of deacons, in service for the diocese, to 30.

The deacon candidates processed into the cathedral one at a time followed by their soon-to-be brother deacons and concelebrating priests and Bishop Fellhauer.

The five candidates sat in the first row of pews with their wives close by in the pew behind them.



Father Gabriel Maison, pastor of St. Joseph Parish in Moulton is the director of the permanent diaconate.

testify that they have been found worthy."

Bishop Fellhauer chose the candidates for ordination as deacons and invited the



Deacon candidates, David Valdez, Leo Sharron, Charlie Novosad, John McCourt and Dennis Kutach, wait for the clergy to process into the cathedral. Their wives are seated behind them.

consent of the assembly, which responded with great applause.

In the homily the bishop welcomed the candidates and their wives, congratulating them for their five years of preparation. He expressed his gratitude and admiration for their perseverance,

will."

Following the homily, Bishop Fellhauer examined the candidates asking

the priest.

Each of the newly ordained deacons, one by one, knelt before the bishop who handed them the Book of Gospels of which they are now heralds.

Once more they approached the bishop who gave each of the newly ordained the fraternal kiss of peace. The previously ordained deacons proceeded to the lower sanctuary to offer the kiss of peace to each



The five deacon candidates lay prostrate before the bishop while the litany of supplication to the saints is sung.

knelling before him and placing

new deacon as a sign of their being joined in the order of diaconate.

The ceremony continued with the Liturgy of the Eucharist with the new deacons assisting the bishop. Three of the newly ordained deacons' wives, Eileen McCourt, Anne Sharron and Debra Valdez, presented the gifts to the altar. The five new deacons were the ministers of the Blood of Christ during Holy Communion.

Following Mass, a reception was held for the newly ordained at Our Lady of Victory school gymnasium.

Dennis Kutach is assigned to St. Joseph Parish in Yoakum; John McCourt to Queen of the Holy Rosary Parish in Hostyn and Sts. Peter and Paul Parish in Plum; Charlie Novosad to St. Anthony Parish in Columbus; Leo Sharron to the two parishes in Cuero, St. Michael and Our Lady of Guadalupe; and David Valdez is assigned to Our Lady of Mount Carmel in Wharton.



Bishop David Fellhauer lays hands upon Leo Sharron of Cuero.

Following the Liturgy of the Word, in which two of the candidates wives, Georgia Kutach and Lorraine Novosad, proclaimed the Scriptures, the candidates were called forward by the assisting deacon, Reverend Mr. Steve Borowicz of Holy Family Parish in Victoria. When each candidate was called by name, he stood and responded, "present," and then walked to the center of the sanctuary making a profound bow before Bishop Fellhauer.

preparation and faithfulness to following God's call.

"This is a moment of grace for our diocese ... that five of you have followed God's call," the bishop continued.

In completion he said, "All of you are indeed a blessing to our diocese. God has done good work in you. Bring it to completion. We hope and pray and trust that God

their hands, folded flat together, inside the bishop's hands.

The elect then prostrated themselves before the bishop while the litany of supplication to the saints was sung by the choir, led by cantor Stephen Girndt; music director, Janice Cox; and organist Cynthia Goerig.

Following the litany, each of the elect knelt before the bishop who, in silence, laid his hands on each of their heads. The bishop then prayed the prayer of consecration over each of the elect, thus affecting the ordination of the five deacons.

In an emotional ceremony of smiles, tears and hugs, the wives of each of the newly ordained deacons vested their spouse with stole and dalmatic, the outer vestment similar to the chasuble worn by



Lorraine Novosad vests her husband, newly ordained Charlie Novosad, of St. Anthony Parish in Columbus.

To the bishop, Father Gabriel Maison, director of the permanent diaconate and pastor of St. Joseph Parish in Moulton, testified to the readiness and worthiness of each candidate saying, "After inquiry among the Christian people and upon the recommendation of those responsible, I



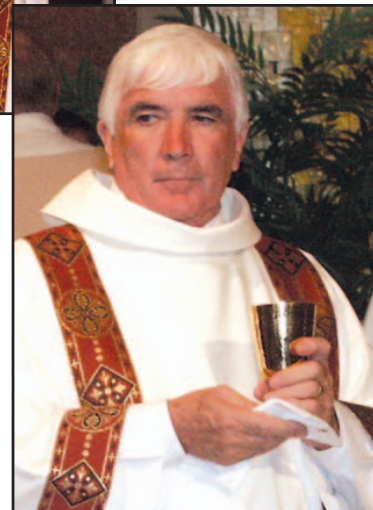
Bishop Fellhauer gives the fraternal kiss of peace to Dennis Kutach of St. Joseph in Yoakum.



David Valdez of Our Lady of Mount Carmel in Wharton looks on upon being ordained to the diaconate.



As one of his first acts as a deacon, Leo Sharron incenses the bishop, concelebrants, deacons and the people.



John McCourt of Hostyn prepares to distribute the Blood of Christ during Holy Communion at the ordination Mass for deacons.

To All Deacons On Their Ordination Day

God Called You.

The day is here.

Today,
You will say,
"Yes!"

As you minister
To His people:
Those without faith,
Those who are lonely,
Those in pain-
All will come to know
His healing
As you share
His Word
In a Special Way ...

May God shower you
With many gifts
As you
Share your Faith
With us ...

July 29, 2006
Charline Stehle
St. Joseph Parish, Yoakum