

The Catholic Lighthouse

The Cradle of Texas Immigration

VOL. 21, NO. 1

OFFICIAL PUBLICATION OF THE DIOCESE OF VICTORIA IN TEXAS

MAY 2007

Diocease of Victoria in Texas Celebrates 25th Anniversary

The faithful of the Diocese of Victoria are cordially invited to attend a special Mass celebrating the 25th anniversary of the establishment of the Diocese of Victoria.

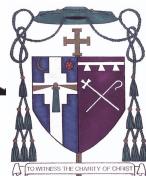
The Mass will be held Wednesday, June 6, 2007, at 5:30 p.m. at Our Lady of Victory Cathedral at 1309 E. Mesquite Lane in Victoria, Texas.

The presider of the anniversary Mass will be The Most Rev. David E. Fellhauer, the bishop of the Diocese of Victoria; priests of the diocese will concelebrate the Mass and The Most Rev. Charles V. Grahmann, the first bishop of the diocese, will be the homilist.

All Catholic organizations in the diocese are especially invited to attend; members are invited to wear their uniforms as appropriate.

After the Mass, light refreshments will be served in the chancery building. An open house and tour of the chancery offices will be available for those interested.

The Diocese of Victoria was canonically established on May 29, 1982.



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Catholic press board urges new stress on diocesan newspapers

By Jerry Filteau
Catholic News Service

WASHINGTON (CNS) — Diocesan newspapers deserve new emphasis as a means of spreading the Gospel and connecting Catholics to one another and their church, said the board of directors of the Catholic Press Association of the United States and Canada.

"Diocesan publications can light the fire of faith that warms hearts to action for the good of all," the CPA board said in a statement released April 10.

"Recently the Italian Federation of Catholic Weeklies announced a bold initiative, the opening of 76 new diocesan newspapers. The goal ... was that each of Italy's 226 dioceses would have at least one publication to serve its members," the board said.

"That same type of emphasis is needed in the United States and Canada," it said.

CPA members include a wide range of national and international Catholic newspapers, magazines and newsletters, but the 173 diocesan newspapers of the United States and Canada that belong to the asso-

ciation form nearly half of its member publications.

Helen Osman, CPA president, told Catholic News Service April 10 that the board statement was sparked by the strong support Pope Benedict XVI expressed for the diocesan press at a meeting with the Italian federation last November.

The pope said diocesan papers "can represent significant places of encounter and attentive discernment for lay faithful involved in the social and political arena," promoting dialogue and "convergences and objectives for joint action in the service of the Gospel and the common good."

"Continue to be 'newspapers of the people and among the people,' stages for a loyal exchange and debate among diverse opinions in order to promote an authentic dialogue, which is indispensable for the growth of the civic and church communities," the pope told the group.

Diocesan newspapers "serve a vital role in our local churches," the board said in its statement. "They are vehicles of evangelization and accountability, offer-

See Catholic press, p. 3

April 11 in Baltimore, Maryland.

The Secondary Schools Department honors Catholic educators and leaders whose works warrant national recognition. Awardees are dedicated to innovative thinking, problem solving and educational strategies as the face of American Catholic education diversifies. Award winners have made significant contributions to the academic progress of their schools as well as to the success of school related, extra-curricular activities.

Sisters Jane Meyer and Donna Pollard, Head of Schools at St. Agnes Academy and St. Pius X School of Houston, respectively, nominated Mr. Smolik for the award.

A native of Hallettsville and a Sacred Heart alumnus, Mr. Smolik began his career in education following graduation from Southwest Texas State University in San Marcos in 1968 as a teacher in the Weslaco ISD. After one year in Weslaco, he was called to serve in the United States Army and was stationed in Kaiserslautern, Germany. Following 18 months of service, Mr. Smolik returned to education as a teacher, assistant principal and principal in the North Forest ISD.

During his tenure in Houston, he earned a Masters Degree in Educational Administration and Mid-Management from Texas Southern University.

Mr. Smolik returned to Hallettsville in 1981, teaching social studies at Hallettsville High School. In 1984, he accepted the principal position at Sacred Heart School and has served in this capacity since.

During his tenure, Mr. Smolik has helped bring the school and community

See Principal of Sacred Heart, p. 8



Mr. David Smolik, principal of Sacred Heart School in Hallettsville, was presented the National Catholic Educational Association's Secondary Educator's Award. He was one of five recipients from nominees throughout the nation who were presented the award at the NCEA's Convocation on April 11 in Baltimore, Maryland. Pictured from left: Dr. William P. Ford, NCEA Secondary Schools Department president; Mr. David Smolik, awardee; Sr. Donna M. Pollard, OP, NCEA Secondary Schools Department executive committee member; and Sr. Mary Frances Taymans, SND, executive director of NCEA Department of Secondary Schools.

Principal of Sacred Heart School in Hallettsville receives national secondary educator's award

By Jimmy Appelt, Tribune Herald

HALLETTSVILLE — Mr. David Smolik, Sacred Heart Catholic School principal, recently received the National Catholic Educational Association's Secondary Educator's Award. Mr. Smolik, one of five recipients chosen from nominees throughout the nation, was presented the award at the NCEA's Convocation on



Bishop David Fellhauer Golf Tournament raises over \$25,000 for the Renewal Center Building Project

Additional \$20,000 earned from Rolex fund-raiser

By Debbie Vanelli, director, Office of Youth and Young Adult Ministry

The powerful prayers of the participants and organizers of the 10th annual Bishop David Fellhauer Invitational Golf Tournament, Holy Family Council 9088 in Victoria sponsored by the Knights of



The beauty and seriousness of golf. The team watches intently as the player lines up his shot.

Columbus proved strong enough to keep the elements at bay for the tee off that was held March 30, 2007, at Colony Creek Country Club in Victoria. A morning that began with high winds and misting rain, morphed into an idyllic day for golfing as 31 teams took to the course for a day of fun, good-natured banter and the opportunity to raise some serious money.

The 16th hole proved to be a treat for all, as the teams were cheered on by two



Our own cheerleaders, Bernice Krueger and Patsy Brown, cheered the players on from the 16th hole.

ex-Dallas Cowboy Cheerleaders, at least that is what their t-shirts said, and I feel certain that Patsy Brown and Bernice Krueger had certainly cheered before since they not only had the t-shirts but also possessed the spunkiness and enthusiasm that



OLG CELEBRATES SPRING FESTIVAL—Our Lady of the Gulf Catholic School held their Annual Spring Festival on April 21. The festival included food, games, obstacle courses, boxing, a silent auction and a raffle. The 2007 raffle grand prize was a Craftsman 20hp lawnmower which was won by Mr. and Mrs. Antonio Silva shown above with Father Dan Morales, pastor, and Father Donald Hayden, associate pastor. Upon receiving this grand prize, the Silva's donated the lawnmower back to the parish to help maintain the grounds. It was an incredible way to end a fantastic day!

is the trademark of cheerleaders everywhere. For a small contribution, Bishop David Fellhauer, putted for team members on that hole as well, and many believe that it was his expert putting skills that clinched the top spots for the winning teams. D.D. Lewis, former Dallas Cowboy star linebacker and winner of five Super Bowl rings, was also on the fun hole as teams were able to donate a small sum for him to drive the ball onto the green. D.D. had his rings on display throughout the tournament and graciously autographed pictures and caps for the sponsors and players, throughout and after the tournament.

When the teams came off the course, they were treated to a delicious seafood gumbo meal prepared by some of the amazing chefs that also are members of KC 9088. Otto Bleier and Dennis Lockstedt along with their team spent many hours cooking the delicious gumbo, rice and bread pudding that left everyone blissfully sated.

Monroe Rieger, tournament chairperson, and his committee, Gerald Bludau, Robert Bryarly, Ed Lehnert, Jo Ann Martinez, Hardy McCullough, John Pribyl, Bill Reichert, Tommy Treybig, Bennie Vitek and George Wenzel, worked for several months on the numerous details that made this day such a success. In addition to the work of these dedicated men, many members of this organization kept the day flowing in a seamless manner.

Congratulations are in order for the winners of the tournament which include:

1st Flight Winners: First Place with a score of 43.3 – Charlie Papacek, Father David Berger, Jackie Papacek and Kim Patek. Second Place with a score of 45.9 – Bill Bommer, Bill Reichert, Bob Vincent and David Heyer. Third Place with a score of 46.6 – Greg Norgard, Lynn Hugo, Robby Burdge and Ron Ripple.

2nd Flight Winners: First Place with a score of 42.0 – Chris Janak, Doug Anders, Dennis Satsky and James Terry. Second Place with a score of 44.2 – Stanley Koenig, Jeff Coffey, Bruce Poncik and John Morkovsky. Third Place with a score of 45.0 – Jerry and Mary Cheatham and Ken and Susan Adams.

3rd Flight

Winners: First Place with a score of 41.8 – Larry Hoelscher, Dick Ottis, Tommy Turner and Bob Little; Second Place with a score of 41.9 – Tom Friedel, Tim Michalski, Glen Machicek and Russell Janecka. Third Place with a score of 43.0 – Dennis and Wayne Leita and David and Alan Murray

The entire proceeds of this tournament sponsored by the Knights of Columbus 9088 benefited the youth activity/ multi-purpose building at the Spiritual Renewal Center. Construction of this long awaited building is slated to begin in early 2008. The building will include dining and meet-

ing facilities for 250 people as well as breakout rooms, additional storage and a larger kitchen facility. Although this began as a perceived need by the Office of Youth Ministry of the diocese, it quickly became evident that the need for a building of this type stretched far beyond the needs of just youth retreats and camps. Much thought and time has been spent meeting with the various groups in the diocese that frequent the center to assure that the needs of each group is taken into account before construction begins.

Immediately after the tournament, a drawing for a ladies' beauti-



Debbie Vanelli presents the fund-raising prize, a Rolex watch, to Ed and Olaya Salas of Victoria. They purchased a ticket for each of their children; their daughter, Sharon Salas Fuller, was the lucky winner.

ful DateJust Diamond Bezel Rolex watch was held. This watch, donated anonymously by two families in the diocese, is valued at \$12,500. Sharon Salas Fuller was the lucky recipient of the remarkable timepiece. The Rolex raffle raised an additional \$20,000.00 for the youth/multi-purpose building.



Two St. Rose of Lima Catholic School teams won the regional "eCYBERMISSION Challenge." Each of the seven students making up the two teams will receive a \$2,000 EE savings bond. Pictured above are Mrs. Phyllis Venghaus, science teacher and team advisor; Dax Dittrich, Cameron Heger, Kirsten Heger, Ashley Girard, Caitlyn Bennett, Kori Dvorak and Hagan Jones.

St. Rose students win \$14,000 in saving bonds

SCHULENBURG—St. Rose of Lima School in Schulenburg received word that seven of the ten students who entered the "eCYBERMISSION Challenge" contest on February 20, 2007, will each receive a \$2,000 EE savings bond and a certificate for their outstanding work. This contest was for students in grades 6-9, where groups of three to four students form a team to work on one of four problems relating to arts and entertainment, environment, health and safety, or sports and recreation. They participated on their own classroom computers.

The team must work cooperatively to pick a problem in one of the related areas and work together to try to solve the problem. They must answer all the questions in the Mission Folder, along with submitting supporting files, such as graphics or photos. This online experience proved to be extremely educational for all students.

Upon completion of the mission folder, the students received an eCYBERMISSION t-shirt, certificates, and *Mission Max*—a CD based math, science and technology game.

The two winning teams from St. Rose School selected problems related to the environment. The sixth grade team won the sixth grade award for Application of Science, Math and Technology in the Southwest/Pacific Region. The team consisted of Caitlyn Bennett, Dax Dittrich, Kirsten Heger, Hagan Jones and their advisor, Mrs. Phyllis Venghaus.

The eighth grade team won the award for "Benefit to the Community" and consisted of Kori Dvorak, Ashley Girard, Cameron Heger and advisor Mrs. Phyllis Venghaus. This year, a record number of 10,823 students registered for the contest forming 3000 teams. St. Rose School congratulates these students on their outstanding achievement.



DIOCESE

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Bishop Fellhauer's Schedule

May

4 Knights of Columbus State Convention, Corpus Christi

5 5:00 p.m., Confirmation Mass, Sacred Heart Church, Flatonia, including Sts. Cyril and Methodius, Cistern

6 10:00 a.m., Confirmation Mass, St. Rose of Lima Church, Schulenburg

6:00 p.m., Confirmation Mass, Assumption Church, Ganado

7 5:00 p.m., Diocesan Liturgical Commission meeting, Chancery

9 10:00 a.m., Presbyteral Council meeting, Chancery

7:00 p.m., Confirmation Mass, St. Agnes Church, Edna

10 7:00 p.m., Confirmation Mass, St. John Nepomucene Church, New Taiton, including St. Mary Church, Nada

12 6:00 p.m., Confirmation Mass, St. Patrick Church, Bloomington

13 10:00 a.m., Confirmation Mass, St. Michael Church, Cuero, including Our Lady of Guadalupe Church

1:00 p.m., Confirmation Mass, Queen of Peace Church, Sweet Home

15 6:30 p.m., appreciation dinner for Catholic school teachers, staff, etc. by the Knights of Columbus Council 9088, Holy Family Church, Victoria

18 6:00 p.m., Confirmation Mass, St. Andrew Church, Hillje

19 7:00 p.m., Confirmation Mass, St. Joseph Church, Inez

20 10:30 a.m., Confirmation Mass, St. John Bosco Church, Vanderbilt

5:00 p.m., Confirmation Mass, Our Lady of Loreto Chapel, Presidio La Bahia, Goliad

27 9:00 a.m., Confirmation Mass, St. Joseph Church, Moulton

6:30 p.m., Confirmation Mass, Our Lady of Sorrows Church, Victoria

June

1 7:00 p.m., Reconciliation Service, Spiritual Renewal Center, Victoria

2 12:00 p.m., Mass, Dedication of new Holy Trinity Chapel, Silver City, Victoria

5:30 p.m., Confirmation Mass, Holy Family Church, Wharton, including St. Joseph Church, Boling

3 9:30 a.m., Confirmation Mass, St. Peter Church, Blessing

4:00 p.m., Mass and Awards Banquet, Catholic Committee on Scouting, Holy Family Church, Victoria

6 5:30 p.m., Mass 25th Anniversary of establishment of the Diocese of Victoria, Our Lady of Victory Cathedral, followed by a reception at the Chancery Office

9 10:00 a.m., Mass, Ordination of Michael Rother to the Priesthood, St. Anthony Church, Palacios

5:30 p.m., Mass, Girl Scout Religion Awards, Our Lady of Victory Cathedral

10 2:00 p.m., Mass, 45th anniversary of ordination to the priesthood of Father Henry Rachunek, St. John the Baptist Church, Hungerford

16 10:00 a.m., Mass, Ordination of Gabriel Espinosa to the Priesthood, Sts. Cyril and Methodius Church, Shiner

Thank You Note

Your Excellency,

Thank you very much for your check in the amount of \$2,729.86, representing CNEWA's share of the 2006 World Mission Sunday collection of the Diocese of Victoria.

May God bless you and reward all the good people whose love and concern contributed to this generous assistance for the work of the Eastern churches.

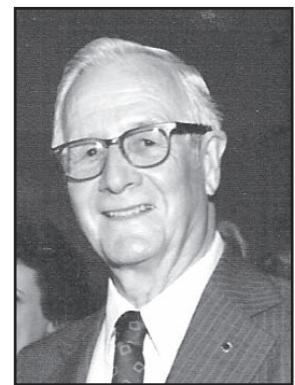
As you may know, we regularly use our share of the World Mission Sunday collection to support the operations and good works of the Holy See's Congregation for the Eastern Churches on behalf of the peoples and churches under its jurisdiction.

Be sure that you have the gratitude of Cardinal Ignace Moussa I Daoud, Prefect of the Congregation, and Cardinal Edward Egan, president of CNEWA in addition to my own.

May God ever bless and be with you.

Msgr. Archimandrite Robert L. Stern
Secretary General
Catholic Near East Welfare Assoc.

CNEWA



Harold E. Fellhauer

He was preceded in death by his sister, Shirley Green, and brother, William Fellhauer. The funeral Mass was celebrated Saturday, April 28, at St. Jude Catholic Church, Gun Barrel City, Texas. Interment followed at Calvary Hill Cemetery in Dallas.

Catholic press board urges new stress on diocesan newspapers

Continued from p. 1

ing a way for Catholics to make their faith relevant to their daily lives."

"The great value of a diocesan newspaper is that it is edited for the needs of a local audience by editors who live within the local church and are sensitive to the information needs of their readers," it added.

The board said that in many Catholic households the diocesan newspaper may be the only Catholic reading material that comes into the home.

"Diocesan publications are often the first step for Catholics who are interested in reading and learning more about their faith," it said.

It added that a diocesan newspaper offers the local bishop an opportunity to reach out directly to his people on a regular basis. "As one bishop noted, it may be the only time his flock hears from their shepherd other than when they receive his annual appeal for a contribution to diocesan funds," it said.

The board said diocesan newspapers help their readers "realize that they are part of a larger family that extends well beyond their parish" to the rest of the diocese and to the entire Catholic world.

Diocesan newspapers offer readers "a reliable source of information about church news," written by professional journalists committed to exploring "the full and richer story of the church" often not covered in secular media, the board said.

Osman said that after the papal comments last November the CPA board decided it should develop a new statement on the value of the diocesan press. A draft circulated by e-mail led to various suggestions and refinements, and a final version was adopted by the board in a telephone conference call April 4, she said.

The full text of the statement, "The Value of Diocesan Publications," is available on the CPA Web site, www.catholicpress.org.

2007 DSA Monthly Report

Our records indicate a pledged amount of \$528,101 and the amount paid-to-date of \$414,912.

To the faithful people who have already responded, we send a "Thank You" for your support in carrying out the work of the diocese.

God has given us many gifts and calls us to use those gifts to build up his kingdom. Our faith identifies us as stewards and gives us a relationship with God. Many of these gifts are given for our needs; others are given for the needs of others. Stewardship is a ministry by which we nurture and share our gifts.

Have you ever thought about how many hours you spend doing things for yourself versus how many you spend doing things for others?

Jeri Joseph
DSA Coordinator

Stewardship Thought

On this Mother's Day, let us look to Mary, a model of stewardship for guidance in following her Son, Jesus.

pledged amount

Half
way

\$1,263,145

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\$528,101

The Catholic Lighthouse
The Chalice of Jesus Incorporated

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Seminary Burses

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

As of April 26, 2007

	TOTALS
— General Seminary Burse	\$74,699.00
Previously reported	\$74,699.00
In memory of Irene Obsta by Barbara Brown	40.00
In memory of Harold E. Fellhauer by M/M Bob Bochat	50.00
	Total \$74,789.00
— Knights of Columbus Victoria Council 1329 Burse No. 3	\$6,837.50
Previously reported	\$6,837.50
In memory of Alfred Smiga by KofC Victoria Council 1329	100.00
	Total \$6,937.50
— K of C 4th Degree St. Michael's Assembly 1527 WeimarBurse	\$2,150.00
Previously reported	\$2,150.00
In memory of Stanley A. Marczak by KofC Fourth Degree No. 1527	150.00
	Total \$2,300.00
— Catholic Daughters of America Court of St. Ann No. 369 Burse No. 2	\$5,340.00
Previously reported	\$5,340.00
In memory of Irene Obsta by CDA Court St. Ann No. 369	45.00
In memory of Henrietta Nevild by CDA Court St. Ann No. 369	25.00
In memory of Pauline Trevino by Ladies AUX Veterans of Foreign Wars Post 4146	20.00
In memory of Pauline Trevino by M/M Ben Matus	15.00
In memory of Frank Molina by M/M Ben Matus	15.00
	Total \$5,460.00
— Rev. Msgr. Benton A. Thurmond Burse	\$805.00
Previously reported	\$805.00
Gify by CDA Court St. Joseph Protector of Mary No. 2475	100.00
	Total \$905.00
— Rev. John C. Peters Burse No. 3	\$12,050.00
Previously reported	\$12,050.00
In memory of Tillie and John Peters Jr.	20.00
	Total \$12,070.00
— Rev. Sean Donohue Burse No. 2	\$1,905.20
Previously reported	\$1,905.20
In memory of George P. Ottis Jr. by Bernard and Madeline Rother	25.00
	Total \$1,930.20

— Josephat R. Janak Burse	\$14,678.00
Previously reported	\$14,678.00
In memory of John Janak by Rose Marie Janak	10.00
In honor of Rev. Gary Janak's 19th anniversary ordination to the priesthood by Rose Marie Janak and family	20.00
In memory of Lorine Boomgaarden by Larry and Delores Dornak, Kim and Mike Shimek and family, Craig and Christina Dornak and Joseph	50.00
	Total \$14,758.00

Additional Burses for donations:

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

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**

Letter to the Editor:

Dear Editor and People,

What a wonderful article, "Warm Mongers," by Rev. Msgr. J.C. Brunner in the April '07 diocese paper.

This article made the most sense of anything I have ever read on global warming so far. And very well documented. If I were you I would make sure all our Representatives and Senators read this and all in the White House. Maybe it would save our country a billion dollars by eliminating all these studies they go thru. Or publish it again and again so people can grasp the meaning of this write-up.

I wish I could study and write like that — I know it takes research and study so thanks again for publishing this. Please send this on to people who need to read this. ... people need to read this! Maybe EWTN will show it.

Thank you for listening to me and for our wonderful Bishop Most Rev. David Fellhauer. We are indeed blessed to have him in our diocese.

Only in faith,
Dorothy J. Dueser
Yorktown, Texas



Vocation Art

Artwork by Chase Meyer • 4th Grade
Holy Cross School, Bay City

Consider the Religious Life!

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

On The Cutting Edge

By Sister Margaret Mary Lavonis, CSC



Consecrating our whole lives ...

I had the Sisters of the Immaculate Heart of Mary for most of my grade school years and every day we said the Morning Offering and consecrated ourselves to Jesus through Mary. As a child, I am not sure I fully understood what I was doing, but I did know that I offered all I did that day to God. Little did I know that I would later give my whole life to Jesus as a Sister of the Holy Cross.

There is much ignorance about religious life, especially among the young. Fewer young men and women are answering the call to live a consecrated life as a sister, brother or priest. I think one of the major reasons for this is a lack of understanding of priesthood and religious life. Worse yet, the possibility of living the Christian call we receive at baptism doesn't even cross their radar!!! It is logical to say that a person cannot choose a way of life he or she knows little or nothing about!

What is religious or consecrated life? In my early years I thought being a religious was chiefly about ministry and serving others, but Jesus calls all Christians to serve his people. Religious life is also a call to make Jesus the center of one's life. It is to consecrate or give one's whole self to God. It is truly about loving God above all. One important way to show this love is through ministry or service, but that is not what makes one a religious.

Men and women religious consecrate themselves to God by professing the three vows or promises of chastity, poverty and obedience. It is a lifetime commitment.

All Christians are called to be chaste and to respect their bodies as temples of the Holy Spirit, but religious priests, brothers and sisters vow to give all of themselves, body and soul, to God and to God's people. (This is where the service comes in!)

Christians are also called to live the virtue of poverty and to live simply. Those in consecrated life strive to live in radical dependence on God and try not to be weighed down by material goods and other attachments.

The baptized are also called to follow God and obey God's word. As a husband and wife give themselves to each other and to their children, family is their primary focus. Consecrated religious strive to do God's will in conjunction with the mission of their particular community. Those who commit themselves as religious give their entire lives to Christ and to the Church through the vows of poverty, chastity and obedience.

I believe God still calls some to this radical and challenging way of life. Let us pray that those to whom God is calling will respond with a generous "yes." Let us also do our part to invite the young to consider this option when they are discerning life choices. Sometimes it only takes the sentence, "Did you ever think God might be calling you to be a priest, brother, or sister." Your question just might plant the seed of a religious vocation. Just as the Church needs good marriages, it also needs sisters, brothers and priests to extend the reign of God in our world.

KJZT SOCIETY 101 CONTRIBUTES TO C H R I S T ' S KITCHEN — KJZT

Society 101 of Victoria recently held a bake sale with its proceeds going to Christ's Kitchen, a Victoria community entity that provides lunch for the poor. The donation was in the amount of \$1,580.31, which includes a KJZT state contribution of about \$500. Pictured above are members Evelyn Dierlam, president; Rosie Olovsky, vice-president; Bob Redding, Christ's Kitchen representative; and Irene Brosch, secretary.



Reporting Abuse

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

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

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

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



YOUNG ADULTS

The Catholic Lighthouse
Page 5 — May 2007



Twenty Something

By Christina Capacci
E-mail: christinacap@gmail.com



The maker's mark: Don't underestimate your value

Antiques Roadshow catches ordinary people in an endearing position: their nerve-racking television debut. They tend to be talkative and made-up, dressed in coral, spattered in rouge and framed in fluffed-up curls.

Then an appraiser delivers the news that they're richer than they thought they were. Substantially richer.

The poised persona they were trying to project snaps, giving way to a Macaulay Culkin face and homespun expressions such as "Oh my lanta" or "Egads!"

Some can't fathom the dollar value, repeating "You're kidding!" in a stunned daze. Others focus on one fact to navigate through their shock. For one man, that was the handle of his sword, which, evidently, was made of rhinoceros horn. "The most amazing thing is the rhinoceros!" he exclaimed. "I thought that was plastic!"

Now in its 11th season, PBS'

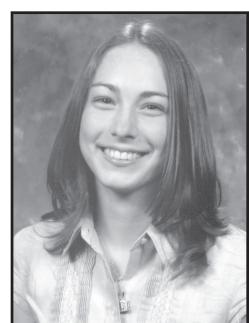
Bay City High School student wins half scholarship to Franciscan University

STEUBENVILLE, OHIO—Franciscan University of Steubenville has announced the winners of the fourth annual Father Michael Scanlan Scholarship Competition. The three winners were chosen from among 46 competitors who vied for the top spot.

Locally, Donna Lyle of Bay City High School in Bay City, Texas, won the half-tuition scholarship which will pay half of her tuition for four years. Lyle, the daughter of Richard and Darlene Lyle, has a 5.404 GPA and tested impressively on the SAT, plans to study psychology and theology. She has aspirations of receiving her master's degree and becoming a Christian counselor.

Her list of achievements at her school and community includes: National Honor Society; member of the State Ensemble; qualified for National Merit; member of Youth Alive; and His Girls.

The scholarship program is named in honor of Chancellor Father Michael Scanlan, TOR, who served as president of Franciscan University for 26 years and was instrumental in revitalizing the Catholic identity of the school.



Donna Lyle

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Roadshow is currently being filmed in Omaha, which should be fertile ground for granny curls and "my lanta." It's one of a few reality TV shows that stimulates rather than saps brain cells. It's packed with obscure tidbits.

"This artist always painted a blue bird in the upper right corner of his landscapes. This is the only one with a crow in the corner, which increases its value."

Anything can be rendered fascinating and valuable on *Roadshow*. An ashtray. A pocket watch. A pillowcase. You never know how it was stitched—or who drooled on it.

Once I watched an ugly mahogany chair yield an astonishing appraisal. Its back was unusually long and skinny. But the bottom bore the letters RX, "the maker's mark," the appraiser said, and the maker was a famous artist.

That phrase lingered in my mind long after I turned off the TV: "the maker's mark."

We each bear the maker's mark, and our maker is the most famous artist of all time. In six days, he created Niagara Falls and the Grand Canyon. And the original "Starry Night" that Van Gogh later ripped off.

We are each unique, a limited edition, one out of one. You know what that does to the value of the art.

It's important that we keep this in mind as we prepare for summer, wriggling into swimsuits and staring into three-fold full-length mirrors. It's hard to shake that model in our mind and it's easy to spot our physical deviations.

But the image we envy is generic. One print out of 10 million. So don't sell out.

Many young women make this mistake. Look at Ashlee Simpson, who burst into a music scene filled with blond look-alikes and turned heads with her black hair, fair skin and fresh look. She looked as though she ate peanut butter. Girls liked that, and they turned her first album into a triple platinum. (Whereas Britney had to thank creepy old men for that distinction).

Alas, Ashlee turned skinny, tan and blond. She got a new nose. And her next album didn't come close in sales.

Thousands of girls follow her lead. Some submit themselves to ice-cube diets. Others submit themselves to the plastic surgeons on *I Want a Famous Face*. God created you one of a kind. He sculpted

See The maker's mark, p. 8

17th Annual Czech Kolache-Klobase Festival

Saturday, June 9, 2007 — 10:30 a.m. - 8:30 p.m.

Riverside Hall - East Bernard, Texas

Admission: \$6 per person • Children 12 & under FREE

Bobby Jones Czech Band • Vrazel Polka Band • Janak's Polka Band • Red Ravens • Czechaholics • Al Sulak's Country Sounds • Keller Academy Dance Group • East Bernard Dance/Tumbling

Plate Lunch Served 11:00 a.m.

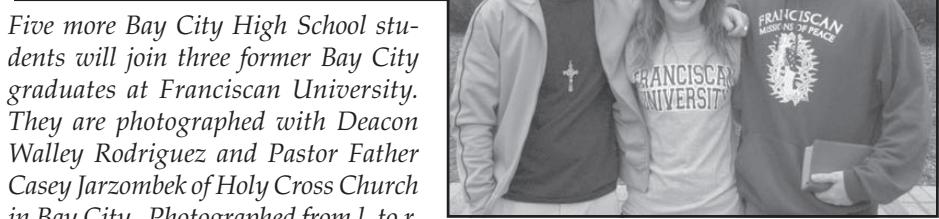
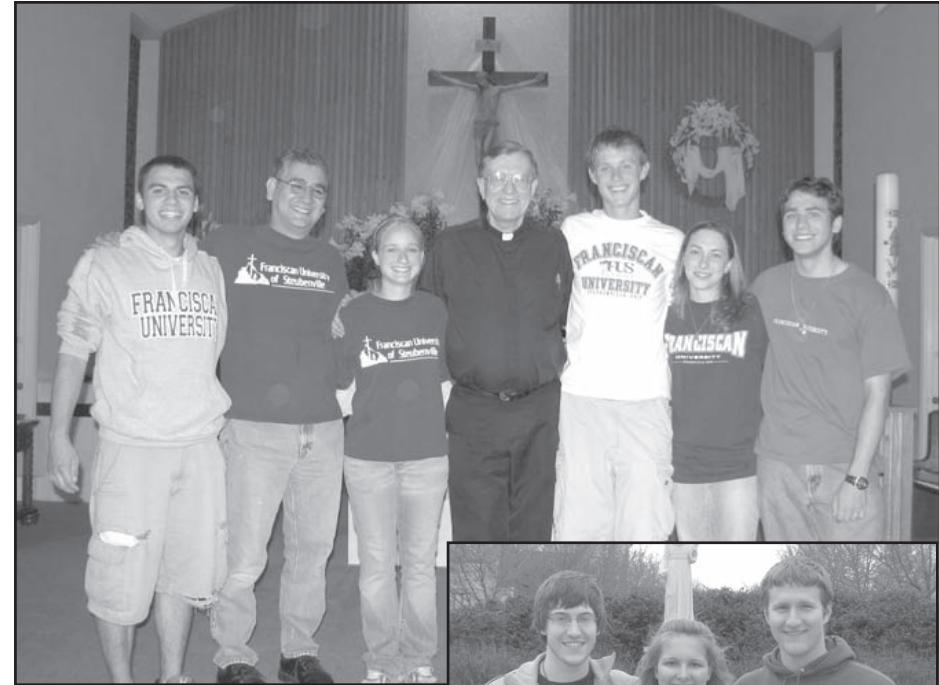
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Five more Bay City High School students will join three former Bay City graduates at Franciscan University. They are photographed with Deacon Walley Rodriguez and Pastor Father Casey Jarzombek of Holy Cross Church in Bay City. Photographed from l. to r. are Adam Rodriguez, Deacon Rodriguez, Kimberlee Coney, Father Jarzombek, Douglas Arlitt, Donna Lyle and Scott Evanicky.

Above are the three former Bay City students already attending Franciscan University. They are (from l. to r.) Sean Breeden, Sara Busha and Jacob Koether.

Eight Bay City youth to attend Franciscan University at Steubenville

By Terri Busha, youth director,
Holy Cross Parish

BAY CITY—Ever mindful of the spirit of St. Francis of Assisi, Franciscan University of Steubenville takes to heart the divine call directing St. Francis to "rebuild my Church." Franciscan University fulfills this mandate by educating and forming men and women of hope to be a transforming presence in the Church and the world.

Holy Cross Church in Bay City did not have much of a connection with Franciscan University until the summer of 2003 when thirty-five teens along with the Life Teen Core Team and Father Casey Jarzombek, pastor of Holy Cross, attended their first Steubenville South Conference in Alexandria, Louisiana. The next summer in 2004, eleven teens and four adults took a road trip to a *Going Deeper Conference* in Steubenville, Ohio. After attending a three-day conference and listening to many great speakers, the teens' lives were touched in a very special way. Three of those teens are now attending the Franciscan University, Sean Breeden, Jacob Koether and Sara Busha.

Sean Breeden, paved the way in 2005 being the first teen from Holy Cross to attend Franciscan University in Steubenville, Ohio. He is very enthusias-

tic about his experience at Franciscan University. "I love Franciscan! I've grown so much in my faith since I came here last year," said Sean, "and I've made life-long friends. The Catholic faith is so vibrant here – the three daily Masses are packed, and confession lines are almost out of the chapel. I would encourage anyone who has the opportunity to come visit – you can even stay in my dorm room if you want!"

In 2006 Sara Busha and Jacob Koether joined him, and in the fall of 2007 five more teens will be heading north to Franciscan University. Douglas Arlitt, Kimberlee Coney, Scott Evanicky, Donna Lyle and Adam Rodriguez are getting packed up and ready to go.

Donna Lyle, daughter of Richard and Darlene Lyle, was invited to the University last February to compete for an academic scholarship. She joined 45 other competitors who held top GPA rankings in their respective schools and superior SAT and ACT scores. The students met on February 8 during a welcoming social. The following day the students were interviewed, wrote an essay and took part in a group presentation. Donna was one of the three recipients to be awarded the Father Michael Scanlan scholarship. The scholarship program is named in honor of Chancellor Father Michael Scanlan, TOR, who served as president of Franciscan University for 26 years and was instrumental in revitalizing the Catholic identity of the school.

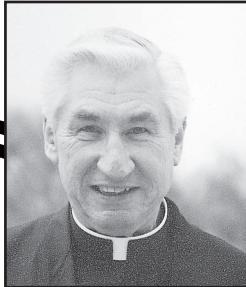
The students are planning to study a variety of majors including theology, catechesis, philosophy, business/management, nursing and psychology. Jacob Koether, son of Larry and Lynn Koether is in the pre-theologate program, which is for men preparing for Major Seminary.

Holy Cross Life Teen will be making their fifth trip to Alexandria, La., for the Steubenville South High School Youth Conference on June 22 - 24, 2007. There will be 50 teens making the weekend along with 30 adults going as chaperones and volunteers for the conference. For more information about Steubenville South go to www.steubenvillesouth.com. You can get more information about the Franciscan University at www.franciscan.edu.



Faith Point

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



More Secular Speak

Some months ago I wrote an article that gave samples from my *Secular to English Dictionary*. It explained in plain English the real meaning of the words secularists use. Here are some new secularist words, severely abridged to save space.

Academic freedom: Freedom to propagate left-wing ideas in universities but not conservative ideas. An example is Judge Mark L. Wolfe in Massachusetts who issued a 38-page decision declaring that public schools have not only a right, but also a positive duty to indoctrinate children on homosexuality.

Activist court: 1. Courts that can find a right to abortion and same-sex marriage in the Constitution but not a right to bear arms.

2. Courts that legislate removal of all vestiges of religion from public life while imposing their secularism on others.

3. Courts that protect virtual child pornography but forbid political speech one month before a primary and three months before an election.

4. Courts that permit the burning of an American flag but forbid distribution of pro-life leaflets within 100 feet of an abortuary.

Alternate theories: Theories suggesting that evolution might be intelligence-directed were removed by court order from public school textbooks in Cobb County, Georgia. Alternate sexual lifestyles apparently advance civilization but not alternate theories of origin.

Bigotry: 1. Being opposed to affirmative action and quotas for minorities and believing that entrance into college should be based on ability. This notion is pure race hatred and practicing genocide with a smile.

2. Asserting that homosexual orientation may not be genetically determined.

3. Bigotry can sometimes be chic if it takes the form of Christian bashing, the only fashionable expression of bigotry.

Censorship: It may be illegal to quote the Bible at a gay event since its judgment on sodomites constitutes “fighting words.”

Christianity: The only religion that cannot be tolerated and therefore may not be discussed in the public forum or on public school facilities.

Culture war: 1. A struggle between secularists and Christians who want to mention the name of Jesus at graduations and before football games. Secularists forbid Jesus but protect pornography and abortion.

2. An attempt by secularists to inflict gay marriage and partial birth abortion on the rest of the population without a vote of the citizens.

3. An attempt by the ACLU to force Kentucky’s Boyd County school district to compel all students to attend sexual orientation and gender identity “tolerance training” with no right of parents or students to opt out.

Diversity: 1. Opposition to non-discriminatory hiring practices in order to secure racial, ethnic, sexual variety on university faculties. Universities “do indeed cultivate diversity — in race, skin

color, ethnicity, sexual preference. In everything but thought.” (George F. Will)

2. An excuse for public schools to suppress competing points of view on the topic of homosexuality in its celebration of diversity. Secularists must allow only right ideas in order to maintain “diversity.”

Double standards: 1. Tart-tongued critic of liberalism, Ann Coulter, was criticized for calling perennial nuisance, Helen Thomas of the White House press corps, “an old Arab.” Ann was censured for stating the truth, but nobody reproached Helen for calling President Bush “a fascist” and Condoleezza Rice “a monster” and “a g**damn liar.”

2. A fourteen-year-old girl has sufficient maturity to seek an abortion without the knowledge of her parents, but a teenager lacks sufficient moral maturity in judging the seriousness of crimes that carry a life sentence.

3. It was wrong for Republicans to filibuster Democratic nominees for judgeships but not for Democrats to filibuster Republican nominees.

4. The University of Colorado defends the fulminations of Ward Churchill who called the victims of 9-11 “little Eichmans” as an exercise of free speech but forbids pro-life students to mount a display because it is “controversial and potentially disruptive.”

5. Calling wealthy, left wing, Hollywood actors ‘Limousine Liberals’ is hateful, but calling a conservative black person an “Uncle Tom” is not.

6. Cutting down trees is more egregious than piercing the heart or brain of an unborn baby with a sharp metal object.

7. Don Imus must be fired for calling college girls ho’s but rappers who spew filthy, misogynistic lyrics are given awards for their “art.” Recently the winner of Best Original Song at the Academy Awards was “It’s Hard Out Here for A Pimp.” That represents a high point in Western civilization.

8. A cross in the chapel at William and Mary College is galling to one non-Christian and should be removed, but a university-funded display of “sex-worker” styles and bodies should be allowed as free speech. The cross and the sex show are excellent metaphors for secular values:



cross, divisive and bad; sex show, inclusive and good.

Free speech: 1. Pornography, public nudity, and criticism of religion. It explicitly excludes public expressions of religion, which may disturb the delicate sensibilities of the irreligious.

2. Free speech does not include peaceful protests at abortion facilities.

3. Free speech establishes a right to publish but not to be read, as when liberal college students torch without corrective action or criticism of the liberal faculty and administration, publications of conservative students.

4. Something PC secularists promote through censorship and speech codes.

Imposition of Religion: 1. Attempting to make laws recognizing the humanity of the fetus from conception. It is not an imposition of religion to make a law recognizing that humanity begins only at birth.

2. A doctor who refuses to perform an abortion or a druggist who refuses to dispense an abortifacient drug is imposing his ideology on others, but those who demand abortions or abortifacient drugs are not imposing their ideology on the doctor or druggist.

Inappropriate choices:

These are best explained by examples:

1. The choice of parental notification of parents in the case of abortions for their minor children is bad.

2. Laws requiring that pregnant women be given information on the stage of development of their fetuses are threatening.

3. Choice is evil when third world na-



Parishioners of Sacred Heart Parish in Hallettsville view organization options at their Organization Exposition April 14-15.

Sacred Heart honors its organizations

HALLETTSVILLE—The 125th Anniversary Celebration of the Sacred Heart Catholic Parish continues. The month of April was dedicated to all the organizations and affiliated organizations in the parish.

An Organization Exposition was held the weekend of April 14-15 after each Mass. Each of the organizations had tables set up outside of church with information pertaining to their group. Members were there to answer any questions that anyone had regarding their organization’s purpose, membership, meeting times, etc.

Thanks go out to the chairman, Karen Steffek, and to all who helped organize this exposition. A special thanks goes out to all of the organizations that put together their displays and to those members who took the time to participate on the weekend. The organizations are a big part of the parish; each one has a special function that supports the parish in its own unique way. Sacred Heart Parish is very fortunate to have each of these organizations and all of their members. A special thanks goes

tions reject population controls and abortion as requirements for receiving American aid.

4. Choice is dangerous if it extends to pickets of abortuaries.

5. The choice of medical personnel not to participate in abortions or in the distribution of abortifacient drugs on conscientious grounds is illegal.

6. Choice is perilous if federal workers are allowed to opt for a medical coverage plan that does not cover abortion and contraception.

7. Choice is dangerous if parents object to inculcation of hedonistic sexual standards in sex education programs.

8. Catholic hospitals must never be allowed the choice of refusing to perform abortions.

9. Choice is not good when applied to vouchers that give parents a choice in the selection of schools for their children.

It should be made clear that secularists in promoting choice are talking about *their* choices. Foolish Christian, did you think they are concerned about *your* choices?

Indoctrination: Inculcation of religious values in any venue. The word is not correctly applied to the indoctrination of secularist values in public schools or universities.

There are many more words but these suffice to show that the predominant characteristic of secular speak is hypocrisy. If hypocrisy is the compliment that vice pays to virtue there must be a great deal of vice among seculars because there is plenty of hypocrisy. Secularist double standards are not useless. But for double standards secularists might not have any at all.

Beware for whom you vote. If you vote for politicians with secular values you will not only hear secular speak from the native speakers but you will be their victim.

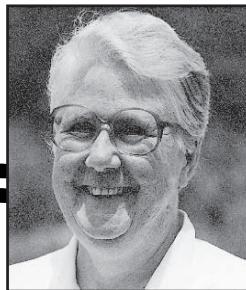
out to each and everyone of you.

Adoration Chapel, Altar Society, Bereavement Committee, Catholic Daughters of the Americas Court 797, Jr. Catholic Daughters of the Americas, Catholic Family Fraternal of Texas - KJZT Society 2, Catholic Union of Texas - KJT Society 5, Catholic Knights, Catholic Life Insurance Branch 22, Catholic Youth Group, Champs Youth Group (3rd - 7th grades), Confraternity of Christian Mothers, Caring Hands, Czech Heritage Society of Texas, Divine Mercy Prayer Group, Sisters of the Incarnate Word & Blessed Sacrament Associates, Knights of Columbus Council 2433, L.A.M.B. - Food Bank & Assistance and Thrift Store, Marriage Encounter, Music Ministry, Quilting Circle, A.C.T.S. Retreats, Right to Life, Sacred Heart Federal Credit Union and Serra Club. These organizations are parish organizations; Sacred Heart School organizations such as booster clubs, Home and School Association, etc, were not included at this time.



Sisterly Thoughts

By Sister Mildred Truchard, IWBS



Awesome Jobs!

Recently I read about a survey asking people which job they found most fulfilling. While a few ranked high-paying jobs at the top of the list, most listed being of service, teaching, and helping others as among the most satisfying jobs. I immediately thought that the jobs they were describing sounded like that of the most important job in the world: parenting!

As we approach the celebration of Mother's Day in May and Father's Day in June, our minds and hearts are directed toward some of the most important persons in the world: those who have the awesome experience of being co-creators with God in bringing forth new life. Their child is a constant reminder of God's creative love and power; it is a precious gift that God has entrusted to their love and care. They have an awesome job of being a reflection of God to that child. The scriptures are replete with references to God being a caring and nurturing parent. If the child is to see God as loving and caring, the child must have experienced these attributes in his/her parents. Moreover, a child's whole outlook on life is based upon the experience of love and example given by parents. Parents may be unaware of the fact that they are the most influential forces in a child's spiritual and emotional development. They are the first teachers,

the leaders of the domestic church of the home, and the gentle molders of the child's character. By the environment that the parents establish in the home, and by their consistent example in everyday life, they instill the faith and values that they themselves had received.

We salute all parents and grandparents (and caretakers) who are reading this article; we acknowledge all the sacrifices you make in order to provide for the well-being of your children.

We urge all readers to show your own parents that you love them. If your parents are alive, please express your love for them, and visit or call them if you are not living with them. If they have already gone to their eternal reward, pray for them and tell them that you love them; I feel sure that they will hear you. Also, remember to pray to and imitate Mary and Joseph, the model of all parents!

persons known by their victims and are often close family members, the bill could make children even more reluctant to report sexual abuse than they already are.

"The protection of children from further harm is our priority. Any proposed law we would expect has as its first purpose greater protection for our children, certainly not placing them in greater danger.

For these reasons, we believe Jessica's Law or Senate Bill 5 is ill-conceived. But most importantly, if passed, it could lead to the murder of the very children it is intended to protect," said Sister Elizabeth Riebschlaeger, a member of LCWR Region XII.

The nuns encourage everyone who cares about the safety of children to contact their state senators to oppose this legislation.

Nuns in leadership in Texas and New Mexico oppose Jessica's Law

Controversial proposed law endangers children and could motivate killers

SAN ANTONIO, Texas — The Leadership Conference of Women Religious (LCWR), Region 12, comprised of religious women in leadership from throughout Texas, New Mexico, Arizona and Arkansas, stands united in opposing proposed Texas Senate Bill 5, commonly referred to as Jessica's Law.

The proposed law is named after Jessica Lunsford of Florida, a 9-year-old girl who was abducted, raped and killed. John Evander Couey, 48, was convicted last month in her death. He could now face execution.

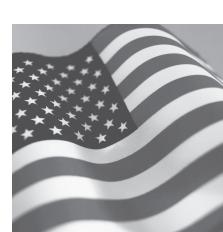
Jessica's Law would allow the death penalty for repeat child sex offenders. However members of the LCWR Region XII believe, if the bill is passed, it could motivate sex offenders to kill children to silence them from testifying. Additionally, since most child sexual predators are

Leadership Conference of Women Religious Region XII holds semi-annual meeting

CORPUS CHRISTI, TEXAS — The Leadership Conference of Women Religious (LCWR) Region XII hosted their semi-annual meeting at the Bayfront Plaza Hotel in Corpus Christi on March 26 – 29, 2007. Forty-two women from 16 different congregations were represented at the meetings including the local congregations of the Sisters of the Incarnate Word and Blessed Sacrament, the Sisters of Charity of the Incarnate Word, the Sisters of Divine Providence and the School Sisters of Notre Dame.

The first day of the conference was spent reflecting on peace and social justice issues. As part of this reflection day, LCWR Region XII met with Andy Rivas, executive director of the Texas Catholic Conference (TCC) to increase collaborative efforts between the two groups. Each congregation introduced themselves to Mr. Rivas with a brief overview of their congregation, including background on the Charism/mission of the congregation, number of members and their traditional and current ministries.

Sister Irma Gonzalez, superior general



The Chancery Office will be closed May 28 for Memorial Day.

NOTE:

St. Rose of Lima Parish in Schulenburg Parish Picnic has new date and place. Picnic will be June 10 at the KC Hall (Hwy. 77) with dinner • music • auction • and more.

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From The Pastor's Desk

By Father Bob Knippenberg
Pastor of Sts. Cyril and
Methodius, Shiner



Single-Hearted Commitment

In an age when cohabitation (what we euphemistically call "living together" outside of marriage) is the norm rather than the exception, one cannot help but wonder if marriage (and the gift of our sexuality reserved for marriage) is any longer considered by Catholics to be something sacred (a "sacrament"). Do wedding vows any longer have any meaning whatsoever? Or, are they empty, meaningless religious ritual?

Perhaps we should remember our Lord's words to the scribes and Pharisees: "Woe to you, scribes and Pharisees, you hypocrites. You are like whitewashed tombs, which appear beautiful on the outside, but inside are full of dead men's bones and every kind of filth. Even so, on the outside you appear righteous, but inside you are filled with hypocrisy and evil-doing" (Mt. 23:27-28).

"No servant can serve two masters. He will either hate one and love the other, or be devoted to one and despise the other. You cannot serve God and mammon," our Lord taught (cf. Lk 16:13). A disciple of Christ must make a single-hearted commitment and that is as true of those called to the vocation of marriage as it is for those called to the vocations of priesthood and consecrated life.

For Christ and his followers, marriage was a total commitment, a permanent self-giving, even before Christ elevated it. St. Matthew and St. Mark both quote our Lord on this very point: "So they are no longer two but one. What therefore God has joined together, let no man put asunder" (Mt 19:6; Mk 10:8). In St. Luke's account, we see that our Lord was more forceful still: "Every one who divorces his wife and marries another commits adultery, and he

who marries a woman divorced from her husband commits adultery" (Lk 16:18).

How important it is for Christians to recapture the vitality of this commitment! This permanent, exclusive self-giving in marriage is not only the foundation of the social order and the key to the sanctification of the vast majority of all human persons; it is also the school of commitment that makes every other vocation possible. By far, the greatest number of priestly and religious vocations come from good and stable families founded on a bond between husband and wife which mirrors the bond between Christ and his Church. Similarly, every other human commitment, every unbroken act of the will to sacrifice and serve, is strengthened in the school of marriage and family.

It is with very good reason that St. Paul stated point blank: "To the married I give charge, not I but the Lord, that the wife should not separate from her husband (but if she does, let her remain single or else be reconciled to her husband) - and that the husband should not divorce his wife" (1 Cor 7:10). This bond of commitment is so critical to everything human and divine that we cannot possibly be surprised at Christ's own choice of the wedding feast at Cana to enter into his "hour," that hour which would lead him to redeem his bride on the Cross (cf. Jn 2:4).

Next month: "Making Right What Is Wrong"

MACC offers Summer Leadership Course

SAN ANTONIO—The Mexican American Cultural Center (MACC), is holding registration for the Mini Pastoral course in order to prepare individuals to work with Hispanic and multicultural

Principal of Sacred Heart School in Hallettsville receives national secondary educator's award

Continued from p. 1

closer, increased the enrollment at Sacred Heart and implemented Advanced Placement (AP) and dual credit college course programs.

He leads by example, instills pride in the students and faculty and is dedicated to helping them be successful.

"David is a model of servant leadership, devoted to ministering and nurturing students in the religious traditions and practices of the Church," said Sister Jane.

You can't attend a Sacred Heart School or parish event without seeing Mr. Smolik present and involved in its activities.

"I visited Sacred Heart School and was embraced by a welcoming spirit that exuded pride, hard work and love of school, and community support – David's strong leadership, care and concern for the students and faculty were evident," Sister Donna said.

Stopping by Sacred Heart Catholic School, you will find Mr. Smolik administering in all areas of the school, from office matters to encouraging students and faculty as well as making visitors feel welcome.

"David is a leader who inspires, challenges and makes you feel proud being part of the Sacred Heart Family – he has embraced his job as a principal and lives a ministry of commitment to Catholic education," said Rosanne Gallia, former assistant principal.

Mr. Smolik said the award could not have been accomplished without support of the community and the school.

"This award is a tribute to our won-

derful students, professional and dedicated faculty, staff and extremely supportive parents and parishioners of Sacred Heart," Mr. Smolik said. "I am indeed blessed to be in such a special school environment and supportive community."

Mr. David Smolik and his wife, Joyce, have five children, all of whom graduated from Sacred Heart High School: Scott and wife, Kimie, of Albuquerque, N. M., Kristi, Nicholas, and Donald of Austin, and Denise of Victoria.

Editor's note: Mr. David Smolik is a shining example of what a "Christopher" is according to Father James Keller's book, "You Can Change the World." See page 16.

The maker's mark: Don't underestimate your value

Continued from p. 5

you carefully, counting the hairs on your head. So when you try to emulate Eva or Jen, you insult your creator's fine taste.

Like the Blenko glass on *Roadshow*, our physical imperfections add an interest and value that collectors covet. The chicken-pox scar on your forehead. The birthmark on your left calf. You've been trying to hide the very mark that makes you special.

So take care of yourself, the fabulous original, avoiding scratches and cheap imitations. God's appraisal of your value wildly exceeds your estimation.

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

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FREE MUSIC & DANCING
Inside A/C Hall
11 a.m. to 6 p.m.
Polkas, Waltzes, Old Favorites
11 a.m. - 2 p.m.
Accordion Music
2 - 4 p.m.
Shiner Hobo Band
4 - 6 p.m.
Hoffmann Kickin' Polka & Country

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

- Hamburgers •
- Bingo With Cash Prizes Only •
- Cake & Plant Wheels •
- Kiddie Rides • Games •
- Fun for the Whole Family!!!



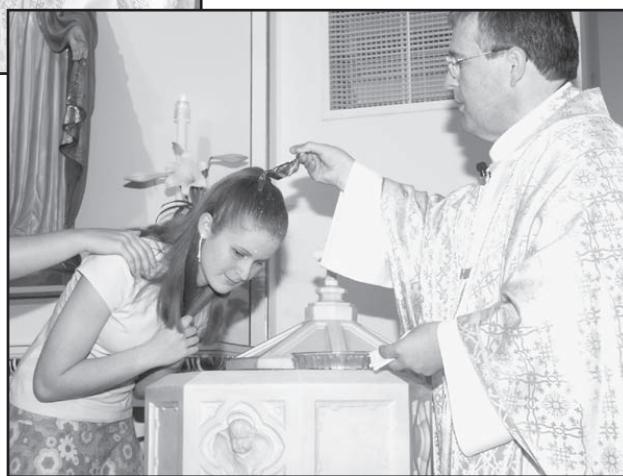
Teen joins church on her own

By Cindy Brewer

Influenced by high school friends and the memory of her grandmother, 17-year-old Elizabeth Joy Frietsch of Yoakum joined the Catholic Church on Easter Vigil



The pastor of St. Joseph Parish in Yoakum, Father Matthew Huehlefeld, inserts five pieces of incense, signifying the five wounds of Christ, into the Easter Candle prior to lighting it. At his first Easter since becoming a permanent deacon, Deacon Dennis Kutach assists Father Matthew.



Father Matthew baptizes Elizabeth.



Father Matthew anoints Elizabeth with Chrism oil at her confirmation. Her godmother, Ashley Hermes, stands to her left. Clyde Sprott Jr.'s godmother, Mrs. Roger Holster, is pictured on far left.

at St. Joseph Church in Yoakum.

"I've wanted to be Catholic ever since the fifth grade," Elizabeth said prior to the Easter Vigil, April 7, 2007.

She said her grandma, Mrs. Emma Frietsch, who passed away when Elizabeth was in the fifth grade, influenced her.

Her grandma had Catholic items and pictures around her house and always had her rosary with her, she said.

"She was a very good role model; she was cool," Elizabeth said.

In the sixth grade, she'd stay overnight at her friend, Hillary Lauer's house and would go to Sunday Mass with her. She'd wear some of Hillary's clothes to attend Mass.

During eighth grade she worked at a Baptist Church nursery on Sundays and Wednesdays for two and a half years. It was there that she met her future god-

mother, Ashley Hermes. Ashley is three years older than Elizabeth and a Catholic. Ashley attended the 8 a.m. Catholic Mass then would go to work at the Baptist nursery at 9:30 a.m.

Once Elizabeth was in the ninth grade and her extracurricular schedule changed, Ashley would take her to the early Friday morning Mass and then they would have "Breakfast with God" at the H&H Café with the teens before school.

"I started to go to Sunday Mass ever since I could drive at 16," Elizabeth said. She attended the Sunday Mass as well as the Friday morning Mass with the youth.

When she became a junior, in August 2006, she began the Right of Christian Initiation of Adults at St. Joseph Catholic Church. She asked Ashley,

who by then was attending Texas A & M, to be her godmother.

Saturday evening, April 7, Father Matthew Huehlefeld, pastor of St. Joseph's parish baptized and confirmed Elizabeth, along with Clyde Sprott Jr. of Yoakum. She then received her first Holy Communion with the Catholic community.

When asked if it felt different going to Mass now that she was a full member of the church she said, "Not really." But now, "It's really exciting getting to receive Communion."



Photos by Cindy Brewer

Elizabeth receives Holy Communion for the first time. Behind her is her godmother, Ashley, and Clyde Sprott, who also received communion for the first time.

"We're supposed to be serious," she said of receiving Communion, "but I just smile."

Elizabeth is the daughter of Walter Jr. and Tammy Frietsch.

YOUTH CALENDAR OF EVENTS

June 3 — Rocky Mountain High, staff training and parents meeting

June 8-10 — Camp David Staff Development

June 10-12 — Junior High Camp, Spiritual Renewal Center

June 13 — Elementary Camp, Spiritual Renewal Center

June 13-15 — Junior High Camp, Spiritual Renewal Center

June 25-28 — Discipleship Week, Spiritual Renewal Center

July 7-15 — Rocky Mountain High at Pagosa Springs, Colorado

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 dvaneli@victoriadiocese.org

or JoAnn Martinez at ext. 50 or e-mail at jmartinez@victoriadiocese.org

Web site: www.victoriadiocese.org/youthoffice

Bucking the status quo

By Karen Osborne
Catholic News Service

The Disney movie "High School Musical" is not just another tepid teen flick. It is a bona fide smash hit with an excellent message for all ages.

The song "Stick to the Status Quo" really (pardon the pun) stuck with me. Inspired by star basketball player Troy Bolton's revelation that he is auditioning for the school musical, students confess awesome but unpopular interests to their friends. Zeke, a jock, loves to bake. Smart student Martha adores hip hop dancing. The skater dude plays the cello — in a coat and tie.

The moment their interests break out of East High's tiny, highly defined boundaries, Zeke, Martha and the skater dude are shut down by the very people that are supposedly their friends. "Stick to the stuff you know," their friends sing. "It is better by far to keep things as they are. If you want to be cool, follow one simple rule: Don't mess with the flow, oh no!"

But sticking to the status quo is like walking into an ice cream shop with 42 flavors on the board and being told you can have only one — and you're not allowed to choose.

Sticking to the status quo is like going to an amusement park and being told you can't ride the roller coasters because "that's not what people like you do."

That attitude sounds ludicrous, doesn't it? But it is real.

In the past, sticking to the status quo meant a white restaurant owner telling an African-American patron he would not serve him in the dining room.

In the past, status quo meant that guidance counselors told young women that they had a choice of four careers: nurse, teacher, secretary or housewife.

Imagine what it would have been like if Troy hadn't broken every rule of East High society by auditioning for the musical. How boring!

Imagine if the astronomer Copernicus stuck to the status quo. He might have continued the prevailing wisdom of the day that said the earth, not the sun, was the center of the solar system.

Albert Einstein, one of the most famous scientists who ever lived, dropped out of high school and failed his first college entrance exam. Imagine if he listened to people who may have told him that he was nothing more than a dropout, and dropouts are limited to certain professions.

Our world is better for the people who decided to stand up and say, "No! I won't stick to the status quo!"

Imagine what the U.S. would be like if Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. hadn't marched on Washington or if Rosa Parks hadn't refused to give up her seat on that bus. How unjust!

Another recent movie, "The Pursuit of Happyness," describes the fictionalized journey of a salesman, Christopher Gardner, and his son, Chris Jr., who find themselves poor and homeless in the mid-1970s. Our society says that the status quo for homeless people makes them worthless, good for nothing and incompetent.

Against these status quo expectations, Gardner gets an internship with a brokerage firm, founds his own company and becomes a millionaire. Other homeless people are able to break out of their situations as well; they don't let themselves be defined by the narrow, false boundaries of an East High kind of world.

So go ahead. Eat the ice cream. Ride the roller coaster. Because, as Troy sings to his friend Gabriella in "High School Musical," "There's not a star in heaven we can't reach."

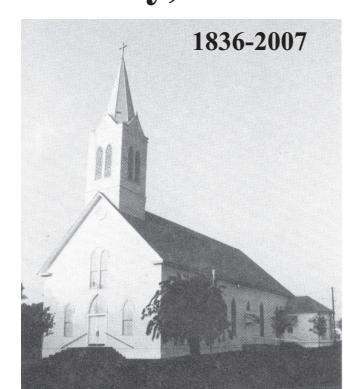
St. Mary's Parish Picnic

St. Mary's Parish Hall
Hallettsville, Texas

Beer • Popcorn • Soda
Water • Snowcones •
Hamburgers • Ice
Cream and More



Sunday, June 10



1836-2007

Mass 9:15 a.m.

Meal Begins at 10:30 a.m.

Featuring Special St. Mary's Stew &

Sausage & all the Trimmings

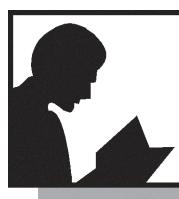
PLATES: Adult: \$6.50

Children: \$3.50 (dine-in only)

Dine-in or Drive-thru

Auction @ 1:00 p.m.

Music 10:30 a.m.-9:00 p.m.
Texas Sound Czech
Czechaholics
Red Ravens



Diocese of Victoria

Pastoral Institute

Short - Term Program

Summer Schedule by Class

For information, call the Catechetical office at
(361) 573-0828 ext. 24

Catechetical Classes

Getting Started as A Catechist

June 2 Sat.	8:30 - 10:30 a.m.	OL of Lourdes / Victoria, Parish Hall
June 9 Sat.	9 - 11 a.m.	St. Joseph / Boling, Parish Hall
June 16 Sat.	8:30 - 10:30 a.m.	Immaculate Conception / Goliad
July 21 Sat.	8:30 - 10:30 a.m.	St. Procopius / Louise
Aug. 21 Tues.	8 - 10 a.m.	St. Philip / El Campo, Parish Hall
Aug. 21 Tues.	6 - 8 p.m.	St. Philip / El Campo, Parish Hall

Roles of the Catechist

June 2 Sat.	10:30 a.m. - 12:30 p.m.	OL of Lourdes / Victoria, Parish Hall
June 16 Sat.	10:30 a.m. - 12:30 p.m.	Immaculate Conception / Goliad
June 16 Sat.	9 - 11 a.m.	St. Joseph / Boling
July 21 Sat.	10:30 a.m. - 12:30 p.m.	St. Procopius / Louise
Aug. 21 Tues.	10 a.m. - 12 p.m.	St. Philip / El Campo, Parish Hall
Aug. 21 Tues.	8 - 10 p.m.	St. Philip / El Campo, Parish Hall

Person of the Catechist

June 2 Sat.	12:30 - 2:30 p.m.	OL of Lourdes / Victoria, Parish Hall
June 16 Sat.	12:30 - 2:30 p.m.	Immaculate Conception / Goliad
June 23 Sat.	9 - 11 a.m.	St. Joseph / Boling, Parish Hall
July 21 Sat.	1:00 - 3:00 p.m.	St. Procopius / Louise
Aug. 16 Thurs.	6 - 8 p.m.	Sacred Heart / Hallettsville
Aug. 23 Thurs.	8 - 10 a.m.	St. Philip / El Campo, Parish Hall
Aug. 23 Thurs.	6 - 8 p.m.	St. Philip / El Campo, Parish Hall

Methodology

June 30 Sat.	8:30 - 10:30 a.m.(Grs.1-2)	Immaculate Conception / Goliad
June 30 Sat.	8:30 - 10:30 a.m. (Grs. 3-4)	Immaculate Conception / Goliad
June 30 Sat.	10:30 a.m. - 12:30 p.m.(Grs.5-6)	Immaculate Conception / Goliad
June 30 Sat.	10:30 a.m. - 12:30 p.m. (Grs.7-8)	Immaculate Conception / Goliad
Aug. 23 Thurs.	10 a.m. - 12 p.m.(Grs. 1-8)	St. Philip / El Campo, Parish Hall
Aug. 23 Thurs.	8 - 10 p.m. (Grs. 1-8)	St. Philip / El Campo, Parish Hall

Introduction to the Learner

June 5 & 6	6 - 9 p.m.	Sacred Heart / Hallettsville
June 13 & 20	6 - 9 p.m.	Holy Rosary / Hostyn
June 16 Sat.	9 a.m. - 3:30 p.m.	Our Lady of Sorrows/ Victoria
June 23 Sat.	9 a.m. - 4 p.m.	St. Mary / Victoria
July 31/Aug. 1	6 - 9 p.m.	St. Agnes / Edna

Theological Classes

Catholic Morality

June 2 Sat.	9 a.m. - 3:30 p.m.	OL of Sorrows / Victoria
June 6 & 13	6 - 9 p.m.	St. Peter / Blessing, Parish Hall
July 10 & 12	6:30 - 9:30 p.m.	St. Anthony / Columbus, Cafeteria
July 11 & 18	6 - 9 p.m.	Sts. Cyril & Methodius / Shiner, Parish Hall
Aug. 11 Sat	9 a.m. - 4:00 p.m.	St. Anthony / Palacios, Parish Hall

Church

June 18 & 20	6:30 - 9:30 p.m.	Chancery / Victoria
July 21 Sat.	9:00 a.m. - 3:30 p.m.	Our Lady of Guadalupe / Bay City

I Believe, We Believe

June 30 Sat.	9 a.m. - 4 p.m.	St. Mary / Victoria, Cafeteria
July 10 & 12	9 a.m. - 12 p.m.	OL of Victory / Victoria
July 9 & 11	6:30 - 9:30 p.m.	Assumption of the BVM / Ganado
July 10 & 12	6 - 9 p.m.	St. Joseph / Boling, Parish Hall
July 25 / Aug. 1	6 - 9 p.m.	Sts. Peter & Paul / Plum

Introduction to the Scriptures

July 10 & 12	6:30 - 9:30 p.m.	Holy Cross / East Bernard
July 25/Aug. 1	6 - 9 p.m.	Sts. Cyril & Methodius / Shiner, Parish Hall
Aug. 14 & 16	6:30 - 9:30 p.m.	St. Philip / El Campo, Parish Hall

Liturgy

May 14 & 21	6 - 9 p.m.	OL of Mt. Carmel / Wharton
June 19 & 21	9 a.m. - 12 p.m.	OL of Victory / Victoria

Prayer & Spirituality

June 26 & 28	9 a.m. - 12 p.m.	OL of Victory / Victoria, Cafeteria
June 20 & 21	6:30 - 9:30 p.m.	St. Michael / Weimar
July 11 & 18	6 - 9 p.m.	St. Peter / Blessing
July 14 Sat.	9 a.m. - 4 p.m.	St. Mary / Victoria
July 14 Sat.	8:30 a.m. - 3 p.m.	St. Procopius / Louise
July 24 & 26	6:30 - 9:30 p.m.	St. Anthony / Columbus, Cafeteria
July 28 Sat.	12 - 6 p.m.	St. Mary / Nada

Sacraments

June 7 & 14	6 - 9 p.m.	Our Lady of Mt. Carmel / Wharton
Aug. 4 Sat.	9 a.m. - 3:30 p.m.	Chancery, Victoria

Proclaiming the Word (for lectors)

July 14	9 a.m. - 3:30 p.m.	Sacred Heart / Hallettsville, Family Center
July 17 & 19	6:30 - 9:30 p.m.	Chancery, Victoria

Ministers of Communion

July 28	9 a.m. - 3:30 p.m.	Chancery, Victoria
July 30 & 31	6:30 - 9:30 p.m.	Assumption of the BVM / Ganado

Music Showcase

June 19	7 - 9 p.m.	Assumption of the BVM / Ganado
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Question Corner

By Father John Dietzen
Catholic News Service



Can more homilies against suicide bombings prevent them?

Q. I believe Catholic teaching is that the idea of suicide bombers is totally wrong and that anyone who commits such a crime is going to hell. We now know that they are using the Internet to recruit these people, and we should do all we can to counter them. Why doesn't the church preach more about these sinful actions? (Wisconsin)

A. While suicide is an objectively sinful act, and deliberately killing innocent people while committing suicide is particularly horrendous, I am not clear why you think more Catholic homilies against suicide bombing will affect extremists who do it.

One point in your letter, however, which I know is shared by many Christians deserves some comment. I am not qualified to explain Islamic beliefs on suicide bombing, but Catholic teaching has some valuable things to say about the eternal destiny of those who commit such crimes.

Contrary to the assumptions of many, the Catholic Church holds that all persons who sincerely attempt to follow their own consciences, what they believe to be right and good, are saved. This concept is well entrenched in church teaching. It applies to everyone, not just to those whose religious theories enjoy our blessing.

The Catechism of the Catholic Church says it clearly. "Those who, through no fault of their own, do not know the Gospel of Christ or his church, but who nevertheless seek God with a sincere heart and, moved by grace, try in their actions to do his will as they know it through the dictates of their conscience — these too may achieve eternal salvation" (No. 847).



Coat of Arms of the Diocese of Victoria

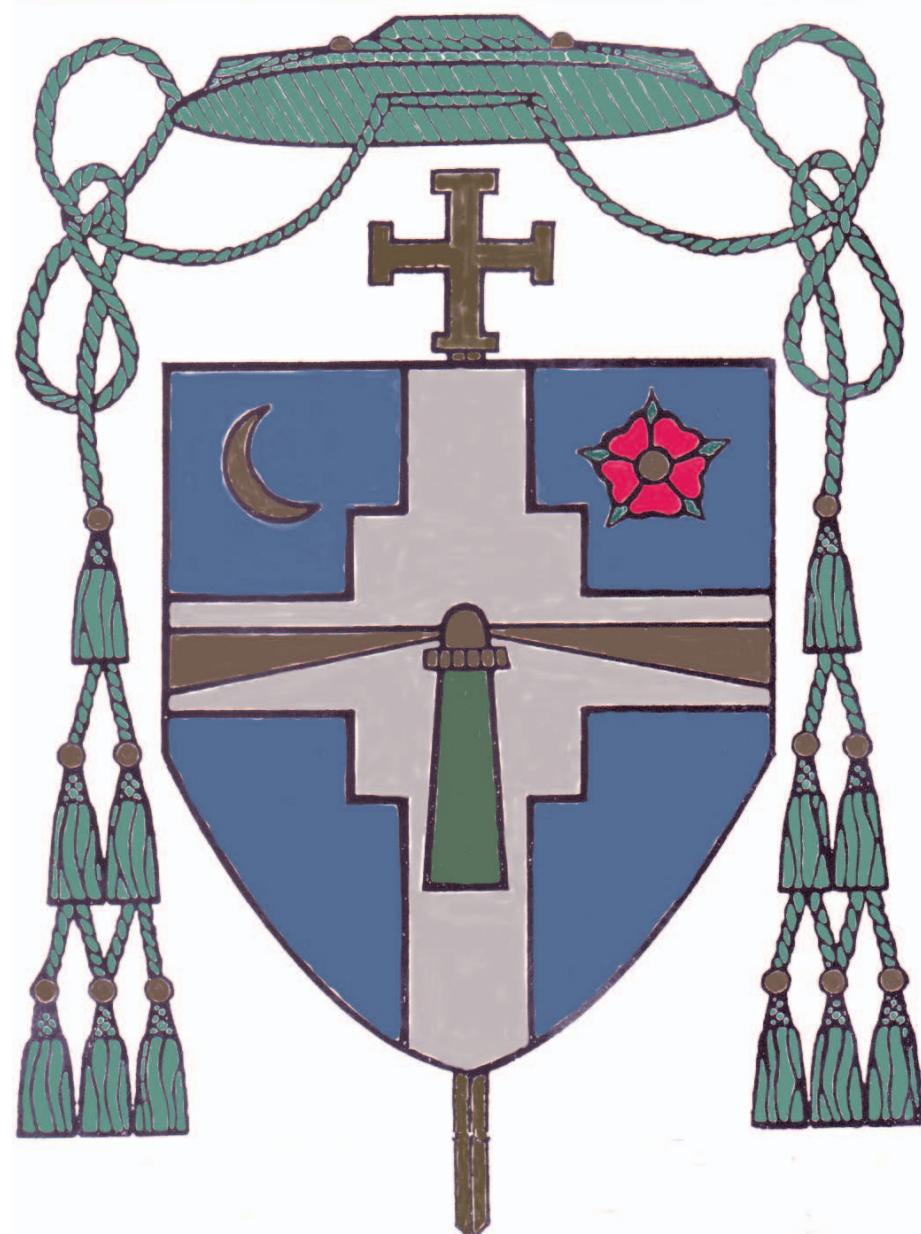
Heraldic notes by
Sister JoAnn Niehaus, OP

The coat of arms of the diocese of Victoria displays a blue field with a silver cross on which is blazoned a green lighthouse with a gold beacon. In chief, the upper division, on the bearer's right is a gold crescent and on the bearer's left, a red rose.

The gold crescent designates the geographic area of the Gulf Coast, sometimes called the Golden Crescent or the Crescent Valley, in which the Diocese of Victoria is located. The red rose honors Our Lady of Guadalupe, naming her special patroness of the diocese. In displaying these two charges together, the shield recalls the traditional image of Our Lady, in which she is seen standing on a crescent moon, hereby acknowledging her gentle dominion over the people of the crescent diocese.

The field is blue, the color of sky and water, to speak of peace and unity, qualities already attributed to the people, and herein established for the diocese. The cross points to the rich tradition of faith brought to the region by European settlers who landed at Indianola where the historic lighthouse still stands. The early Germans, Czechs, Polish, Irish and others joined the Mexican people in making faith and love of family life, attributes that abound even today.

Green, the color of hope, designates the lighthouse as a symbol of hope, while the golden beacon of light stands for Jesus, the Light of the World, calling the people to Himself and illuminating their paths through the darkness. Historically, the families of this diocese have produced numerous vocations to the religious and priestly life, including six bishops; the beacon represents this call to the service of Christ in the Church, through religious life and through family life as well. Just as the city of Victoria, the center of the diocese and the Episcopal seat, has been called "The Crossroads," so too the cross can be read as a convergence of paths on which the pilgrim people of God travel to meet Christ, their center.



Bull of Erection of New Diocese of Victoria in Texas

John Paul Bishop, Servant of the Servants of God, as a record in perpetuity. When the proper occasion and necessity so demand We gladly indeed affirm plans and favor undertakings which seem destined to promote the true well-being of the Lord's flock. Among such must surely be enumerated the appropriate division of dioceses and the constitution of new ones by which certainly both the pastoral care of Bishops for particular churches is more effectively exercised and the welfare of the people of God is served as perfectly as possible. (Christus Dominus, #22) Such being the case, considering the extensive boundaries of the Churches of San Antonio, Galveston-Houston and Corpus Christi and the consequent disadvantage to the faithful, the distinguished Archbishop of San Antonio, with the concurrence of the pastors of the said three churches, having consulted the Episcopal Conference of the United States of America, has petitioned this Apostolic See that the aforesaid boundaries might be changed and a new diocese, to be known as Victoria in Texas, might be established. Since our Venerable Brother, Pio Laghi, Titular Archbishop of Mauriana and Apostolic Delegate in the United States of America has agreed, with the consent of all those concerned with an interest, together with the prudent counsels of our Venerable Brothers, the Cardinals of the Holy Roman Church charged with the Affairs of the Sacred Congregation of Bishops, by the plenitude of our Apostolic power through these letters we therefore decree and order as follows: from the Archdiocese of San Antonio we sever the territory contained in the Counties of Calhoun, Colorado, De Witt, Fayette, Jackson, Lavaca, Victoria and those areas of the Counties of Matagorda and Wharton lying to the west: similarly, from the Diocese of Galveston-Houston we remove the portions of the Counties of Matagorda and Wharton lying to the east; in addition, from the Diocese of Corpus Christi we take away the County of Goliad. From these territories taken together we constitute the new Diocese of Victoria in Texas, which will be a suffragan of the Archdiocese of San Antonio under the authority of whose metropolitan Archbishop we place its Bishop, who will govern the new Church favored by Us with the same rights, privileges and honors as are enjoyed by other diocesan Bishops throughout the world and bound by the duties and obligations that are incumbent upon other Sacred Prelates discharging the same office. We establish the See of the newly constituted Diocese in the city of Victoria. We, therefore, direct that the Episcopal Chair be placed in the church in that city which is dedicated to the honor of the Blessed Virgin under the title of Victory and we raise the same to the dignity of the Cathedral Church of Victoria in Texas, so that it may enjoy the privileges and distinctions proper to other Cathedral churches. At the same time We grant that, until such time as a Cathedral Chapter may be established, diocesan Consultors may be chosen there according to the norms of law. Further, as far as Episcopal support is concerned, we order that the Curia shall receive the benefits of the offerings of the faithful, as well as a just portion accruing to it from a division of the property of the Archdiocese of San Antonio and this is to be made carefully according to the Prescription of Canon 1500 of the Code of Canon Law. In those matters indeed which pertain to the education and formation of students for the priesthood, the prescriptions of the common law must be observed, taking into account also the instruction contained in the Decree "Optatum Totius" of the Second Council of the Vatican and the norms determined by the Sacred Congregation for Catholic Education. We decree, moreover, that, upon the establishment of this new diocese, the priests should regard themselves as belonging to the Church in which they hold an office or benefice; other clerics and seminary students are attached to the diocese within whose boundaries they have lawful domicile. For the rest, we order that official documents which pertain to the new Church, or its clergy or to the faithful or to property, shall be transferred without delay from the Curia of the Archdiocese of San Antonio to the Curia of the newly established Diocese of Victoria so that they may be preserved in files to be established there. Let our Venerable Brother, Pio Laghi, Titular Archbishop of Mauriana, and Apostolic Delegate in the United States of America, whom we depute and empower with the necessary faculties, together with the liberty of subdelegating for such an office a man in ecclesiastical dignity, execute those matters here decreed, with the obligation, however, of seeing to it that certain and true records of the execution of the individual documents, signed and sealed in the customary manner, be forwarded without delay to the Sacred Congregation for Bishops. Finally, it is our will that these Apostolic Letters be valid now and for the future, all things to the contrary notwithstanding.

Given at Rome, at St. Peter's, the 13th day of the month of April, in the Year of the Lord, one thousand nine hundred and eighty-two.

Signed/ Agostino Cardinal Casaroli, of the Council for the Public Affairs of the Church
Signed/ Sebastiano Cardinal Baggio

Prefect of the Sacred Congregation for Bishops

Signed/ Marcello Rossetti
Prothonotary Apostolic



Our Lady of Victory Cathedral

Our Lady of Victory Cathedral was erected on a site of land donated by the Thomas O'Connor Sr. and Martin O'Connor families.

Mr. Thomas V. O'Connor Jr. had requested that the church be dedicated as a memorial to his late wife, Mrs. Junie B. O'Connor. Mr. O'Connor proposed that the expense for the entire church, its erection and furnishings be left to him. With the assistance of his family, he would completely finance this project, and the other buildings in the parish plant would be left to the parishioners.

On July 13, 1958, the church was formally dedicated, and on November 4, 1958, its solemn consecration took place.

The Archdiocese of San Antonio and the people of Victoria have been eternally grateful to Mr. Thomas V. O'Connor Jr. and family for this great memorial to Mrs. Junie O'Connor which has served these many years as a parish church.

Now, the new Diocese of Victoria, born today, proudly receives the church as its new Cathedral and renews its thanks to the generous donor, together with an ongoing prayer for the eternal repose of the soul of Junie O'Connor.

Printed in the program for the Solemn Erection of the Diocese of Victoria in Texas May 29, 1982.



File photo



Coat of Arms of Bishop Charles V. Grahmann

The arms of Bishop Charles V. Grahmann symbolize his personal and priestly life, his family origins and his desire to serve others in his Episcopal office. The field party per saltire (partitioned diagonally) is tinctured gules and sable (red and black), colors associated with Bishop Grahmann's German Heritage. In the chief (top division) a hand apaumee (open-palmed) silver represents the Bishop's desire to reach out to the poor and to those in need. The hand appears in the most honorable point of the shield, emphasizing the Bishop's commitment to the causes of justice, equality and human dignity. In dexter (bearer's right) a rose of the first (red), barbed vert (green), seeded gold: in displaying this charge the Bishop places himself under the personal patronage of Mary, especially in the title of Our Lady of Guadalupe, Patroness of the Americas. In base of horse silver, the charge of the Westphalia district of the Rhine, Northern Germany, the ancestral home of the Grahmann family: the horse is noted for its strength, nobility and intuition. In sinister (bearer's left) a star gold for the State of Texas, the place of Bishop's birth, rearing, education and service in the priesthood.

To complete the achievement of arms, in place of the usual crown, an Episcopal hat vert (green), and for mantling, the double six-tassels of a bishop. A cross potent gold forms the sword behind the shield.

In his motto, "To walk humbly with your God," Bishop Grahmann expresses again his solidarity with the humble and the poor.

"You have been told ... what the Lord requires of you: Only to do right and to love goodness, and to walk humbly with your God" (Micah 6:8).

Heraldic notes by Sr. JoAnn Niehaus, OP

CONGRATULATORY LETTER
FROM HIS EXCELLENCY, ARCHBISHOP FLORES

CHANCERY OFFICE
P.O. BOX 32648
SAN ANTONIO, TEXAS 78284
TELEPHONE 344-2331
AREA CODE 512

May 29, 1982

Most Reverend Charles V. Grahmann
Clergy, Religious and Laity

This is the day the Lord has made. Let us rejoice and be glad. Alleluia! Alleluia!

May 29, 1982 is a day to be remembered always in the Archdiocese of San Antonio and in the new Diocese of Victoria. Victoria becomes a Diocese! The Most Reverend Charles V. Grahmann becomes its first Bishop! Thanks be to God!

I extend sincere congratulations to the first shepherd of Victoria, to the Priests, Religious, Brothers, Deacons and the Laity. I know that all of you, together, will do beautifully in preserving, enriching and sharing your faith. You will do great in expanding the presence of the Lord amongst you. You will continue to build and strengthen the people of God.

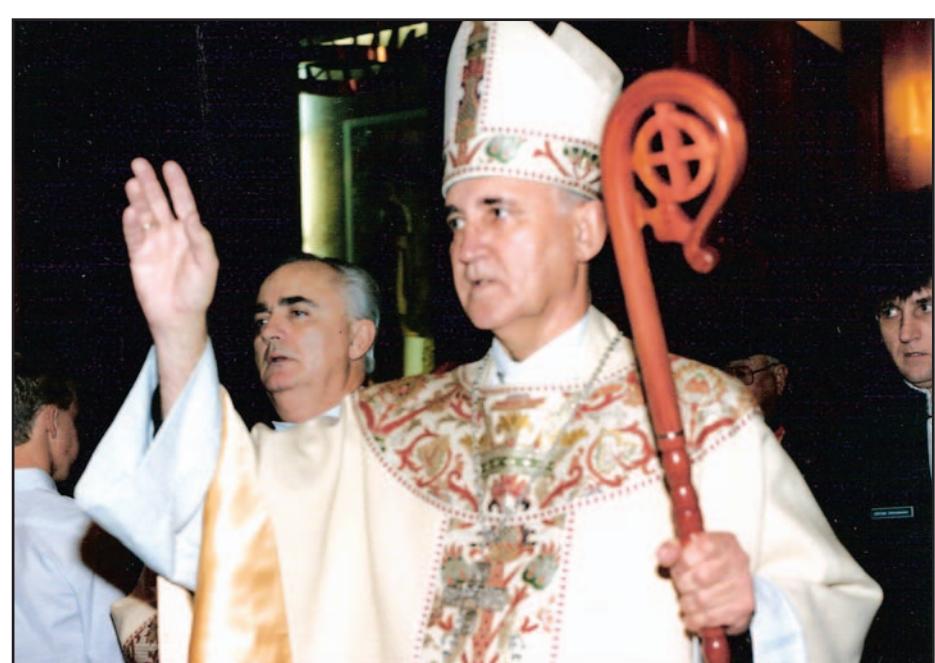
I join you in thanking His Holiness John Paul II for commanding the erection of the Diocese of Victoria and for appointing His Excellency, the Most Reverend Charles V. Grahmann as its first Bishop. I know that you will be the pride and joy of His Holiness the Pope.

From all of us in the Archdiocese of San Antonio, congratulations and prayerful best wishes!

Most Reverend P. F. Flores, D.D.
Archbishop of San Antonio



File Photo
A large crowd gathers for the dedication of the Chancery Sept. 8, 1985.



File Photo
"I have to be the symbol of unity leading the way and build a trusting relationship with the priests," Bishop Grahmann stated upon learning he'd been selected to lead the Diocese of Victoria.



A History of the Diocese of Victoria

At St. Peter's in Rome on the 13th day of the month of April in the Year of the Lord, 1982, a Papal Bull announced the erection of the Diocese of Victoria.

The next day, Wednesday, April 14, from San Fernando Cathedral in San Antonio, Archbishop Flores announced the formation of the Diocese of Victoria and the selection of The Most Rev. Charles V. Grahmann as its bishop.

From the April 16, 1982, issue of *Today's Catholic*, the official newspaper of the Archdiocese of San Antonio, Archbishop Patrick Flores said, "I am happy to be the proud father of daughter Victoria," regarding the establishment of the Diocese of Victoria.

The article states that the possibility of a diocese in Victoria had been talked about for 25 years. Archbishop Flores said the size and population warranted the new diocese, "and now it is a reality."

The diocese had been created out of portions of three surrounding jurisdictions including the San Antonio Archdiocese and the Corpus Christi and Galveston-Houston dioceses.

At its establishment in 1982, the Diocese of Victoria was comprised of 115,158 Catholics, 142 religious women, 81 priests, two brothers, five seminarians, 51 parishes, 22 missions, 13 parochial schools, one large Mother House (the Sisters of the Incarnate Word and Blessed Sacrament) and one Catholic hospital in Yoakum (Huth Memorial Hospital).

Because the population was growing in the area, Archbishop Flores said the new diocese will make it feasible for the Church to be more effective.

Archbishop Flores said it was with mixed emotions he announced the new diocese's first bishop, the Most Rev. Charles Grahmann. Grahmann served as the Archbishop's secretary for two years.

Quoted in the same article were the words of the other two bishops who were contributing portions of their dioceses for the creation of the new diocese.

Bishop Thomas Drury of the Diocese of Corpus Christi stated: "I think the new Diocese of Victoria is a wonderful addition to the Church of Texas. It needs a center like Victoria. I am very happy. Under Bishop Grahmann's capable leadership, the Church of the Victoria diocese will prosper."

Bishop John Morkovsky, Galveston-Houston Diocese added: "The Founding of Victoria Diocese is a sign of vigorous growth of the Church in Texas. We are very happy about that. The new diocese includes my home territory, an area which has great faith and many vocations to the priesthood and religious life. We congratulate the new bishop and wish the new Victoria Diocese great strength and prayers."

The Diocese of Victoria was formally established on May 29, 1982, with the reading of the Papal Bull by Msgr. Thomas C. McLaughlin, followed by the installation of Most Rev. Charles V. Grahmann as its first bishop.

The first diocesan offices were known as the Catholic Center and were located at 2007-A DeLeon Street in Victoria, Texas.

In March of 1984, the bishop's office was moved to the Central Park Plaza Building on Commerce Street, joining the offices of the business manager, chancellor and tribunal, catechetical ministry and youth ministry.

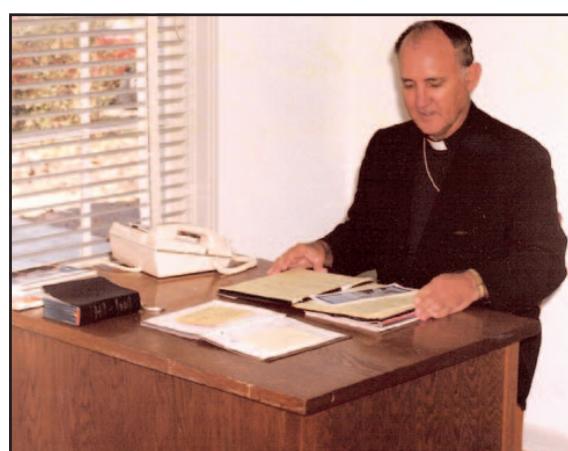
All personnel moved into the new chancery building, located on 1505 East

Mesquite Lane, on August 15, 1985. The building was dedicated on September 8, 1985.

The Spiritual Renewal Center was dedicated on November 20, 1988. It is located on San Antonio River Road (off Highway 77), approximately 20 miles southwest of Victoria. The cluster of cedar-log buildings includes residence cabins, meeting rooms, a dining room and a chapel. The chapel is currently in the process of renovation, and a youth/multi-purpose building is slated to be built in 2008.

Diocesan offices located off the premises of the chancery include the Spiritual Renewal Center, Presidio La Bahia, liturgical commission and the permanent diaconate.

Bishop Grahmann was appointed co-



File photo
Humble beginnings ... Bishop Grahmann sits at his desk at the diocese's first office on DeLeon Street.

adjutor bishop of the Diocese of Dallas on December 18, 1989, and was installed as coadjutor Bishop of Dallas on February 21, 1990. From February 21, the Reverend Monsignor Thomas C. McLaughlin served as administrator of the Diocese of Victoria.



File photo
Bishop Charles V. Grahmann places a Time Capsule in the cornerstone space of the chancery building of the Victoria Diocese. The Time Capsule, which has many items pertaining to the 1980s period, will be opened in the year 2085.

The Reverend David E. Fellhauer was appointed Bishop of Victoria on April 7, 1990. He was ordained and installed as bishop of the diocese of Victoria on May 28, 1990. Bishop Fellhauer came to Victoria from the Diocese of Dallas where he was ordained to the priesthood in 1965 and had served most recently as judicial vicar of the Dallas Diocese.

On July 1, 1996, the Catholic Schools Office was established in the diocese.

As of 2007 the offices of the bishop, vicars general, chancellor, diocesan tribunal, business, catechetical ministry, vocations and seminarians, *The Catholic Lighthouse* newspaper, youth and child protection, youth and young adult ministry, Catholic schools and Victoria Catholic Cemeteries are housed at the Chancery. A



About the Chancery Building and Grounds

The Chancery is the administrative seat of diocesan services for the ten-county area that comprises the Diocese of Victoria. It was dedicated on September 8, 1985, to the "Immigrants Who Planted the Seeds of Faith in this Area of Texas."

The architecture is meant to speak to us about our roots. Since this area is known as the *Cradle of Texas Immigration*, the chancery building and grounds are designed to illustrate this fact.

The pond in the front represents the Gulf of Mexico and Pass Cavallo through which the ships passed to shore. A short distance farther is a lighthouse symbolizing the lighthouse that was built in 1852 which stands on Matagorda Island. It alerted the ships of the correct passage to the harbor. The building itself is designed in an architectural style known as *Texana*, embracing something of every ethnic group.

The principal value, which the immigrants brought with them, was their faith. This is represented by the circular chapel behind the building and rising above with

its domed, copper roof. Inside the chapel are seven stained glass windows on which are depicted the stories of this area of Texas, beginning with the presence of the Native Americans, the coming of the missionaries, the wave of European immigration and the life of the church throughout, to the present moment of people on their journey to the Kingdom.

Historical Highlights of the Diocese of Victoria

Taken from the Dedication of Chancery Building Program

- The Victoria Diocese is the "Mother of Texas Bishops." Six native sons of the area have become bishops: The Most Rev. Patricio F. Flores, Archbishop of San Antonio; The Most Rev. Charles V. Grahmann, First Bishop of Victoria Diocese; The Most Rev. Bernard Popp, Auxiliary Bishop of San Antonio; The Most Rev. Ricardo Ramirez, CSB, Bishop of Las Cruces (New Mexico); the Most Rev. John Morkovsky, retired of the Diocese of Galveston-Houston; and the Most Rev. Hugo Gerbermann, retired bishop residing in the Diocese of Victoria in Texas.

- First non-mission church in Texas (Chapel at La Salle's Fort Saint Louis, 1685).

- Birthplace of the American cattle industry. First cattle drives out of Texas to Louisiana during Spanish Mission Period.

- Nine flags have flown over the Diocese of Victoria, three more in addition to what is known as the Six Flags Over Texas: (Spain/1519-1821, France/ 1685-1689, Mexico/ 1821-1836, Magee-Gutierrez Expedition/ 1812-1813, Long Expedition/ 1821, First Flag of Texas Independence/ 1835-1836, Republic of Texas/ 1836-1845, Confederate States of America/ 1861-1865 and the United States of America/ 1845-1861, 1865-present).

- Victoria is the only Catholic Diocese in the United States in possession of a Spanish fort (Presidio La Bahia, Goliad).

- Mexico's national hero, General Ignacio Zaragoza, was born in Goliad in 1829.

- First Czech Catholic school in the United States established at Hostyn in 1868.

- Nazareth Academy, established in 1867, was one of the first accredited schools in Texas.

- St. Joseph's Seminary, in Victoria, 1880-1902, was once the only Catholic seminary in the state of Texas.

- The first Mexican-American to become a bishop in the United States in 1970, Archbishop Patrick Flores, was born at Ganado.

- The Diocese of Victoria has the world's only complete collection of Spanish Colonial Texas coinage.

- The church structures within the diocese represent one of the finest collections of Church architecture in Texas.



Excerpts from Bishop Fellhauer's Episcopal Ordination

Over 1000 people from the Victoria Diocese attended the Episcopal ordination of Bishop David Eugene Fellhauer, the second bishop of the Diocese of Victoria, on May 28, 1990, at Our Lady of Victory Cathedral.

Bishop Fellhauer was ordained by Archbishop Patrick F. Flores of San Antonio with Bishop Thomas Tschoepe and Bishop Charles V. Grahmann, both of Dallas, serving as principal co-consecrators and concelebrants. Representing the Vatican was Msgr. Rino Passigato, chargé d'affaires of the papal pro-nunciature of Washington.

Archbishop Flores said in his homily, "I would like to congratulate, in a very special way, the Fellhauer family: mama and papa and the rest of the members of the family. Because it is you who have given to the Church this young bishop."

Bishop Fellhauer celebrated the 25th anniversary of his ordination to the priesthood on the day following his installation as bishop. His anniversary date, May 29 of this year (1990) was also the eighth anniversary of the establishment of the Diocese of Victoria.

As the ceremony came to a close, Fellhauer described himself as feeling like a professional golfer

Ben Crenshaw after winning the Colonial Tournament in Fort Worth. Crenshaw, he explained, said that it had been so long since he had won a tournament that he didn't know how to act. Fellhauer continued by saying, "It has been such a short time that I have been ordained a bishop, I don't quite know how to act either."

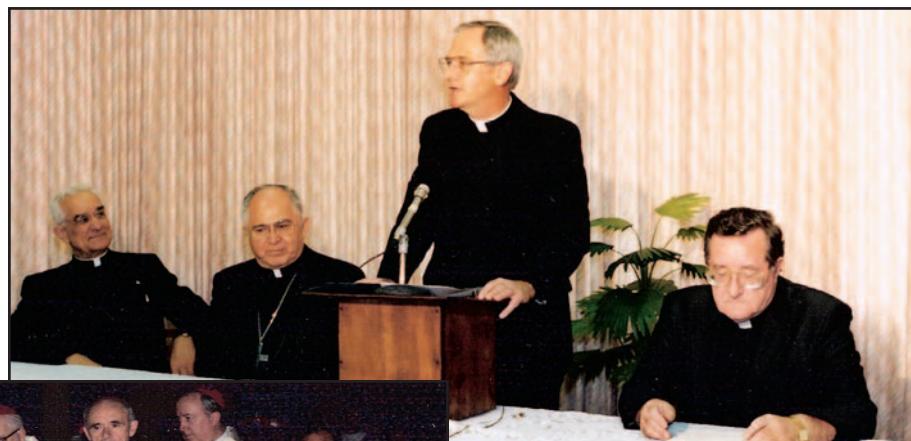
He expressed his gratitude to his family, to the people of the Dallas Chancery offices and the many people of the Victoria Diocese who were instrumental in planning the elaborate ceremony and the reception that followed.

He concluded by saying, "I have heard

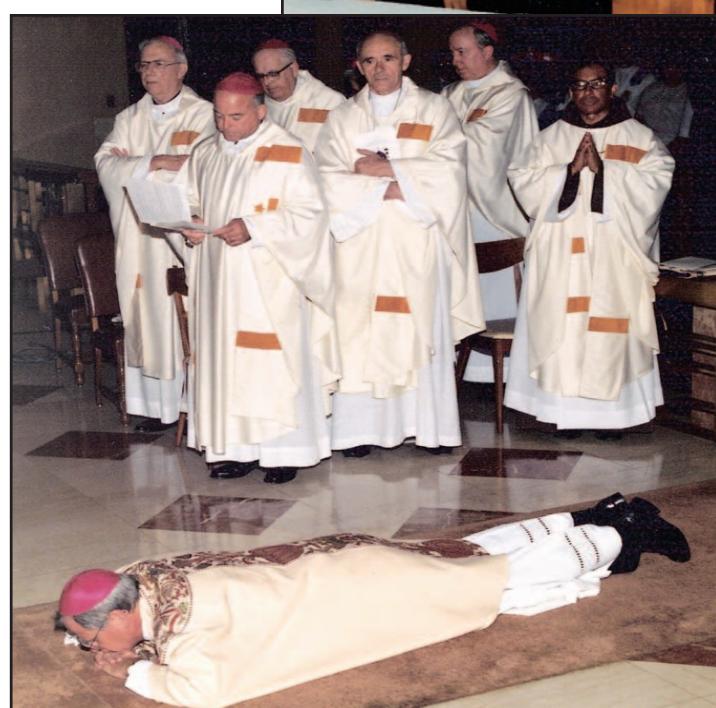
said of me some pretty nice things today. Some of them perhaps exaggerated. I am a person of genuine limitations, of limited talents and gifts. And I am but a poor, frail human being. Nonetheless, I shall try to live up to this charge as a father and brother among all those who God places in your care. I stand in need of your

prayers.

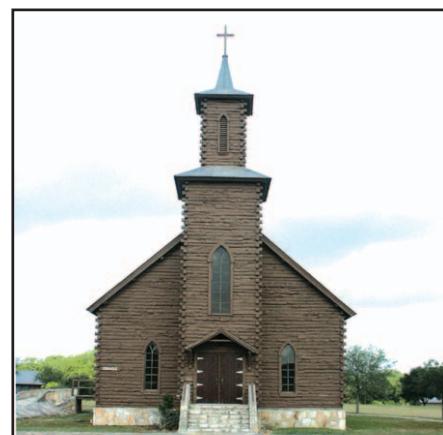
Bishop Fellhauer, was 50 at the time of his episcopal ordination and was the youngest diocesan bishop in the state of Texas. Prior to his appointment to the Diocese of Victoria, he served for 10 years as judicial vicar of the Dallas diocesan tribunal.



File photo



With his brother bishops looking on, the bishop prostrates himself in prayer as the congregation sings the Litany of the Saints. Photo by Kevin Jordan © 1990

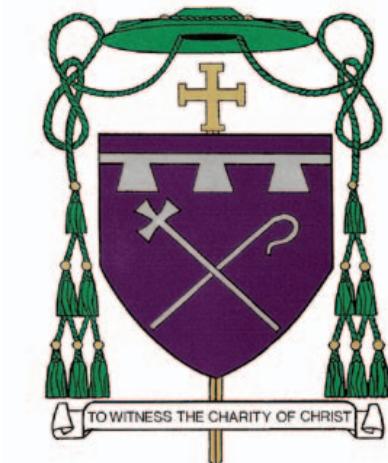


Spiritual Renewal Center Chapel

Eighteen priests ordained in the diocese since it's establishment

Rev. Gabriel F. Mensah – Oct. 29, 1983
Rev. Edward J. Winkler – May 17, 1986
Rev. Gary W. Janak – May 14, 1988
Rev. Wayne N. Flagg – Sept. 24, 1988
Rev. Dan Morales – Sept. 8, 1990
Rev. Thu Van Nguyen – May 9, 1992
Rev. Gregory Korenek – May 15, 1993
Rev. Frank B. Lenz – Oct. 29, 1994
Rev. Matthew Huehlefeld – June 1, 1996
Rev. Michael J. Lyons – June 8, 1996
Rev. Michael W. Petering – May 15, 1999
Rev. Kirby F. Hlavaty – May 29, 1999
Rev. Robert Guerra – May 20, 2000
Rev. Robert E. Knippenberg – June 10, 2000
Rev. Roger Hawes – June 2, 2001
Rev. Ty J. Bazar – June 1, 2002
Rev. Bryan O. Heyer – May 29, 2004
Rev. David W. Berger – June 3, 2006

Two more priests will be ordained in June of 2007: Michael Rother, June 9, and Gabriel Espinosa, June 16.



Coat of Arms of Bishop David E. Fellhauer

The coat of arms of Bishop David E. Fellhauer has a field of purple, a color derived in the combination of red and blue, two colors taken from the red shield of the Diocese of Dallas honoring the Sacred Heart, and the blue shield of the Diocese of Victoria honoring the Blessed Mother. In choosing purple, Bishop Fellhauer recalls his years of priestly service in the Diocese of Dallas and anticipates his Episcopal service in the protection of Jesus and Mary. In a spiritual sense, the color connotes deep reflection, restraint in judgment, and wisdom in leadership.

In chief, the upper portion of the shield, is a silver label with three pendants taken from Bishop Fellhauer's maternal family coat of arms denoting eldest son. He is the eldest of his siblings, as were both his father and mother.

In base, the bottom part of the shield, the two charges are crossed, in saltire, as a sign of deliberation and balance. The shepherd's crook stands for the name David, after the Old Testament shepherd King David, and indicates the bishop's desire to be a just and caring pastor of the people.

Bishop Fellhauer displays the cross in order to proclaim Christ's call to His followers to walk in His steps and to be disciples in the fullest sense of the term.

The motto, "To witness the charity of Christ," is derived from Canon 383, #4 of the Church's Code of Canon Law in which the duties of a bishop are identified. In displaying this motto, Bishop Fellhauer embraces his own mission of witnessing to all the charity of Christ and calls on the people of the Diocese of Victoria to join him in that mission.

Behind the shield is a gold sword with a hilt in the shape of a cross. Above the shield is the green hat with six tassels on each side denoting the rank of bishop. *Heraldic notes by Sr. JoAnn Niehaus, OP*

Three dioceses contribute parishes to the Diocese of Victoria

By Cindy Brewer

The Diocese of Victoria is comprised of the nine counties of Calhoun, DeWitt, Goliad, Jackson, Lavaca, Matagorda, Victoria, Wharton, Colorado and that part of Fayette County west of the Colorado River. The make-up of the diocese came from the contributions of three dioceses: the Archdiocese of San Antonio and the Corpus Christi and the Galveston-Houston dioceses. The diocese grouped the parishes into four deaneries: El Campo, Hallettsville, Schulenburg and Victoria. Shortly after the initial grouping, the deaneries were subsequently divided into six deaneries: Cuero, Edna, El Campo, Hallettsville, Schulenburg and Victoria.

The **Galveston-Houston Diocese** gave the following parishes and missions to Victoria: Holy Cross, Bay City, and its mission, Sacred Heart, Wadsworth; Our Lady of Guadalupe, Bay City; Holy Cross, East Bernard; St. John the Baptist, Hun-

gerford; Holy Family, Wharton, and its missions, St. Joseph, Boling; and Our Lady of Mt. Carmel, Wharton.

The **San Antonio Archdiocese** contributed the following parishes and their missions to the Diocese of Victoria: St. Philip the Apostle, El Campo; St. Robert Bellarmine, El Campo; St. Andrew, Hillje, and its mission, St. Procopius, Louise; Nativity of the Blessed Virgin Mary, Nada; St. John Nepomucene, New Taiton; St. Anthony, Palacios; St. Peter, Blessing, and its mission, St. Robert, Markham; St. Agnes, Edna; Assumption of the BVM, Ganado; St. Rose of Lima, Schulenburg; St. John the Baptist, Ammannsville; and its missions, St. Wenceslaus, Holman and Nativity of the Blessed Virgin Mary, High Hill; St. John the Baptist, St. John, and its mission, Ascension of Our Lord, Moravia; Sts. Cyril and Methodius, Cistern; Sacred Heart, Flatonia; Assumption of the Blessed Virgin Mary, Praha; Holy Rosary, Hostyn;

Sts. Peter and Paul, Plum; St. Anthony, Columbus; St. Michael, Weimar, and its mission Sts. Cyril and Methodius, Dubina; Sacred Heart, Hallettsville; St. John the Baptist, Koerth; Queen of Peace, Sweet Home; St. Joseph, Moulton; St. Mary, St. Mary, and its mission St. Anthony, Witting; Sts. Cyril and Methodius, Shiner; St. Joseph, Yoakum, and its mission, St. Ann, Hochheim; Huth Memorial Hospital, Yoakum; St. Michael, Cuero; Our Lady of Guadalupe, Cuero, and its mission, St. Aloysius, Westhoff; Holy Cross, Yorktown, and its missions: Sts. Peter and Paul, Meyersville, San Luis Church, Yorktown, and St. Ann, Nordheim; St. John Bosco, Vanderbilt, and its mission St. Theresa, LaSalle; St. Joseph, Inez; Our Lady of the Gulf, Port Lavaca, and its missions: St. Ann, Point Comfort, St. Joseph, Port O'Connor, and St. Patrick, Seadrift; St. Patrick, Bloomington; Holy Family of Joseph, Mary and Jesus, Victoria; Our Lady

of Sorrows and its mission, Holy Trinity, both of Victoria, and Sorrows' mission, Holy Infant of Prague, McFaddin; Our Lady of Victory, Victoria; St. Mary, Victoria; Our Lady of Lourdes, Victoria.

The **Corpus Christi Diocese** added the following: Immaculate Conception Parish, Goliad; and its missions of Our Lady of the Assumption, Fannin, Our Lady of Guadalupe, Charco, and Immaculate Heart of Mary, Berclair. Also included is the old Franciscan Mission of La Bahia, Our Lady of Loreto.

In December of 1989 the following parishes entered the diocese from the **Dioce**se of Austin: Our Lady of Perpetual Help Parish and Our Lady of Guadalupe Parish, Eagle Lake; Sts. Peter and Paul Parish, Freelsburg; and St. Roch Parish, Mentz. On March 1, 1995, Our Lady of Perpetual Help and Our Lady of Guadalupe were merged. The parish was named the Parish of the Nativity.



Living Well

By Maureen Pratt
Catholic News Service



Going public with one's suffering

There are benefits and drawbacks to "going public" about a health issue.

The personal health of public individuals has taken center stage in the news lately. From the cancer diagnoses of Elizabeth Edwards, wife of presidential candidate John Edwards, and White House Press Secretary Tony Snow, to the addiction problems of various celebrities, not a day seems to go by without disease details and judgments about how the individual patient is handling the situation.

Hearing that a public figure has a specific illness can certainly help those who are ill not to feel alone and bring to light the importance of research, understanding and solidarity with those suffering. Watching someone overcome great pain or infirmity and accomplish something amazing can be inspiring and empowering.

Children who compete in Special Olympics, for example, display a resilience that defies their condition. If they kept to the shadows, we would never benefit from their determination and accomplishments.

Broadcasting what a disease

is and how it is diagnosed can inform others and perhaps prompt them to go to their doctor for consultations and earlier diagnoses. Medical professionals, too, can benefit from further knowledge of a particular illness, and perhaps apply that knowledge to their own patients.

Yes, lives can be saved by someone "going public."

But lives can also be sorely challenged.

One of the drawbacks to public figures talking about their illnesses is that they can become the face of their disease. Others not in the public eye might be held up to the celebrity's standard — and be found greatly lacking.

Thousands of people will be diagnosed with cancer this year. Not all will have the same access to physicians and medical care as those in the media spotlight. Not all will have understanding spouses and accommodating employers. Indeed, some will lose their marriages, jobs and even health insurance once they disclose their diagnosis.

For every celebrity battling an illness who puts a brave and positive face forward in the media, there are thousands more

who struggle each day to take care of their families and live with hope — if they are not too tired and pained by the end of the day to do so.

Not every person who has cancer or another illness will be willing to discuss it as openly as some celebrities. Some patients are afraid, others modest or shy. Some do not have the desire or ability to gather complex information about their condition, or they may be tongue-tied when bombarded by questions.

Media coverage of illness can sanitize it and not show the stark reality of its consequences. It is one thing to say "he will undergo further chemotherapy." It is quite another to accompany that person to treatments and hold his hand as the nausea becomes overwhelming day after day, week after week.

The point of my bringing up these issues is not to discourage public figures from coming forward about health crises. Rather, it is to encourage everyone to remember both the public figures and the little-known individuals who are battling illnesses in a less glamorous environment.

We do well to include in our daily prayers the young mother who is on her third chemo treatment, the 70-year-old man who is being treated for an infection that he picked up during dialysis, the toddler who is undergoing heart surgery and all other people who live invisible to the media's cameras but not to God's love.

Light One Candle

By Dennis Heaney, President
The Christophers



The Rosary — A devotion to our mother

When I was in grade school, our primary rite for welcoming spring was the May crowning procession, when we placed flowers at the statue of the Blessed Mother that was located between the school and church. Following the procession, we would have Kool-Aid and cookies. I'm sure that as young as we were, the crowning and snacks were important mostly because they meant we were outside and not in class.

In later years, as I think back on those times, my memories are also of the classes we had leading up to the May celebration and what we learned about the importance of Mary, the mother of Jesus, to the Church and to each of us. It may be just me, but it sometimes seems as though Mary's place doesn't get the same attention today, and I think that's a loss on a number of levels.

As children, when we learned about Mary, I am sure what really registered was that she was the mother of Jesus and so we could relate to her role as a loving parent. For a lot of us, that image helped us develop a spe-

cial devotion to her because we felt that we could talk to her just as we would talk to our mother and that she would care for us as only a mother can.

In her book, "May Crowning, Mass and Merton", author Liz Kelly says, "We ask Mary to pray for us because her unique role as the mother of Jesus, the mother of God, makes her a powerful intercessor."

Some of us were raised in homes where the evening rosary was a tradition with mandatory attendance. No playing outside, not even homework came before the rosary. In our home, we went from sitting at the dinner table to kneeling around the living room sofa for our nightly five decades. No detours were allowed and a serious demeanor was a requisite. However, with four boys kneeling there, the challenge was to see if you could make one of the others laugh — and not get caught doing it.

A couple of weeks ago, at a dinner party, some of us were recalling those days and I was surprised to hear a couple of people say they never said the rosary anymore. They put it

down as boring and repetitious.

I don't quite understand that because I believe that one of the great gifts we get from saying the rosary is that it can be either an opportunity for communal prayer or a chance for quiet meditation. Saying the rosary as you're out for a walk helps give a sense of peace. It can often clear the mind of worries so that you're able to focus on your conversations with Mary, mother and intercessor.

Many of us can relate to those special conversations we have had with our mothers through the years. They were important because they helped us work through problems, ask for special favors, or share joys or sorrows. Much the same can happen as we say the rosary.

While the rosary may not have the popularity that it once did, it can still have a very important place in our prayer lives. I suggest that the bottom line in any conversation about the rosary is that we respect and understand those who love this beautiful devotion. They choose to move closer to God through Mary and we owe them respect for the path they take. And if you haven't tried it for a while, you might want to think about having a word with your Mother.

For a free copy of the Christopher News Note: *LIVING GOD'S JOY*, write: The Christophers, 12 East 48th Street, New York, NY 10017; or e-mail: mail@christopers.org

The Pope Speaks

Pope
Benedict XVI



CNS photo from Reuters

Pope says his new book highlights different levels of reading Bible

By Cindy Wooden Catholic News Service

VATICAN CITY (CNS) — Pope Benedict XVI said that in his new book he tried to highlight what the Bible says about Jesus, what the moral implications of his teachings are and how reading the Scriptures can lead to a real relationship with Jesus.

At his April 25 weekly general audience, the pope said his three-pronged approach to the Bible's words were inspired by Origen of Alexandria, a third-century theologian.

The pope's book, "Jesus of Nazareth," went on sale April 16 in Italian, German and Polish; the English edition is set for release May 15.

During his general audience, Pope Benedict called Origen "one of the greatest" teachers of the Christian faith, particularly because of the way he combined scholarship, preaching and teaching with the example of "exemplary moral conduct."

The pope said one of Origen's most important contributions to Christianity was the way he combined theological and biblical studies.

Origen proposed a "triple reading" of the Bible, the pope said.

First, "there is the literal sense, which hides depths that do not appear at first," the pope said.

"The second dimension is the moral meaning: What must we do to live the word?" he said.

Finally, Pope Benedict said, there is "the spiritual meaning," which comes across with the help of the Holy Spirit, leading the reader to a deeper prayer life and a closer relationship with God.

"In my book on Jesus, I tried a bit to demonstrate this multiple dimension in today's context," he said.

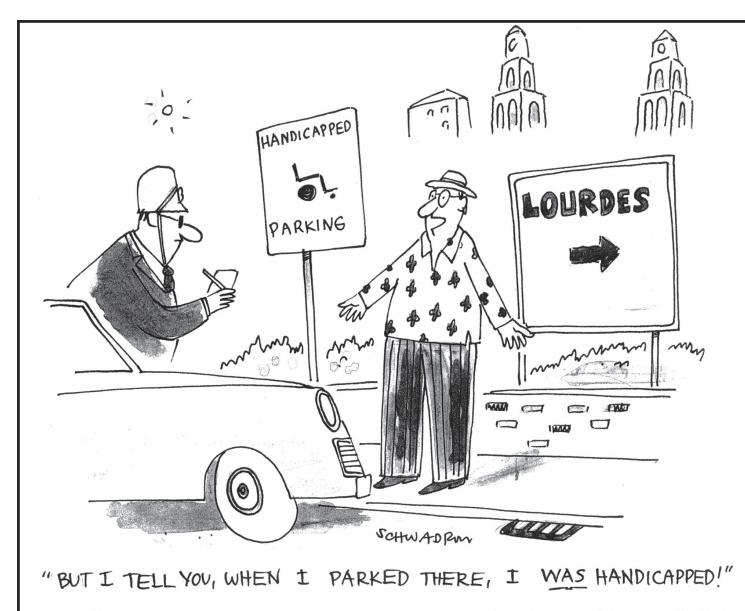
The pope said he tried to give an example of how to read the Bible, understanding what is written literally, but also how each passage leads "toward Christ in the light of the Holy Spirit and shows us the way to live."

The Bible, despite the age of its various books and chapters, is always new because the truths it communicates are always relevant, the pope said.

The teaching of Origen is a reminder that in prayerfully reading the Scriptures and in living its message concretely "the church continually renews itself and is rejuvenated," he said.

Pope Benedict prayed that "the Lord will give us new thinkers, theologians and exegetes today who will find this multiple dimension, the permanent relevance of the sacred Scripture (and) its newness for today."

He also asked the people at the audience to join him in asking "the Lord to help us to read the sacred Scriptures in a prayerful way and to nourish ourselves seriously from the true bread of life, his word."



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On The Cutting Edge

By Sister Margaret Mary Lavonis, CSC



Our world needs Easter people

Our world desperately needs the hope that only Easter brings! Our world is in a sorry condition. All we need to do is turn on the television or read the paper to know that. Pain and suffering is all around us. Hardly a day goes by when we don't hear about car bombings, murders and other violent behaviors.

The situation in Iraq seems to go from bad to worse. More and more military personnel and innocent civilians are killed every day, with no end in sight. Many people live in constant fear for their lives. And just when we think we have heard about the worst situation ever, something even more evil happens.

And the war in Iraq is not the only place where there is much pain. Most of us can name other places and situations where there is tremendous suffering. Violence, hatred and revenge are all around us. Thousands of people die each day from hunger and illness caused by poverty, war and greed. Suffering runs rampant, and mercy and compassion are often scarce commodities.

But there is hope. Our faith in the resurrection means that we believe good can come from suffering and evil; that love can conquer sin. This, of course, is not a popular stance in today's environment. So many people and nations believe violence must be dealt with by force!

During this coming Easter Season, it might be beneficial to reflect on our own attitudes. Do we feel justified by our desire to punish hatred with more violence? What are our thoughts about the death penalty (which is what Jesus received)? Do we ever pray for the conversion of our enemies or those who terrorize others? Are we able to forgive those who have hurt us or at least pray for them? Or does our anger or bitterness eat at us?

Are we willing to go deeper and discover the roots of evil and use love to conquer it? What does our celebration of Easter really mean? Hopefully it is more than

new clothes and chocolate bunnies or a bi-annual trip to church.

Do we really believe that violence can destroy evil? Has it ever really worked throughout history? Doesn't love seem to be a better and more logical solution?

We have the resurrection of Jesus to prove that it can happen. Jesus' life conquered sin and evil. Does God continue to bring life out of suffering?

The sisters in our retirement community used the phrase—"the power of one" as their theme for Lent. It stemmed from their belief that every individual good act makes a difference.

Just imagine what it would be like if every person in the world would live the commandment of love for just one day. There would be no war, hatred or violence. People would ask for and offer forgiveness. The only news to report would be good. The front page of newspapers would have life-giving stories. Everyone would have plenty to eat because people would share with one another. And so on and so on . . . Wouldn't it be awesome?

As Christians who believe in the resurrection, we must strive to be models of love and hope. Our good works of Lent must continue throughout the rest of the year. We have a call and a mission to make Christ known by our love. We must express our belief that, even in this gloomy, dark time, God will not abandon us. God will always be faithful just as he was to his Son, Jesus, by bringing him to new life. Our world needs this Easter message! Go out and proclaim it to all in your world!

And if current events make it hard for you to believe that God is somehow in all of this, ask God to deepen your faith and to help you to remember times when he brought you out of difficulties in your life or the life of someone you know. Easter tells us that God never leaves us in our pain and often brings good out of evil!

Happy Easter!

Remember Veterans this Memorial Day

By Mark Christian, CCCE president, Catholic Cemetery Conference

As a child growing up in the 1960s I have many fond memories of Memorial Day. Back in those "ancient" times this holiday was always celebrated on May 30. My father, a veteran of World War II was especially fond of this holiday. We would start that day with a hearty family breakfast and then my dad, mom, brother and I would pile into the old Nash Rambler to attend Wilmington's Memorial Day parade.

During the parade my father would become unusually quiet and when the United States flag passed he would place his hand over his heart and urge my brother and me to do the same. His eyes would fill with tears and then he would always reach out to hug his wife and two sons. Immediately after the parade we would visit the cemetery. Members of the Veterans of Foreign Wars would be at the cemetery entrance passing out small American flags. We would take two flags and



place them on the graves of my great-uncles, both veterans of World War I. Immediately after, we were off to the ballpark or a family picnic.

In 1968 Congress passed legislation to move the official observance of Memorial Day to the last Monday in May. Shortly thereafter the holiday became known as the unofficial kick off for summer vacation and as is the custom in our area people flocked to the Delaware beaches or the Jersey shore. Since my parents had purchased a small trailer at the beach, our family's Memorial Day tradition changed to a weekend of camping, fishing and swimming. It never felt the same.

In his later years, dad and I would often sit and reminisce about the old days. During one of our father and son talks he admitted that while he enjoyed time at the beach, he missed those Memorial Days of the 1960s when we celebrated the holiday as he felt it should be celebrated. We

See Remember Veterans, p. 17

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Family Puzzle Contest Winners

The winner of the April Puzzle Contest is Lorraine Dennis of St. Philip the Apostle Church in El Campo. She is the winner of "Parish Priest," the story of the founder and founding of the Knights of Columbus.

The youth contest winners are Braxton Brown (9) of St. Rose in Schulenburg and Simone Petrosky (17) of St. Roch in Mertz. They will receive a gift from the Incarnate Word Gift Shop.

The winner of the May Family Puzzle Contest will receive "You Can Change the World – Anniversary Edition" originally written in 1948 by Father James Keller, the founder of The Christophers. See book review on this page.

If you have not won the puzzle contest within the past six months, please send completed puzzle, name, address, phone number and parish name by May 28, 2007, 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.

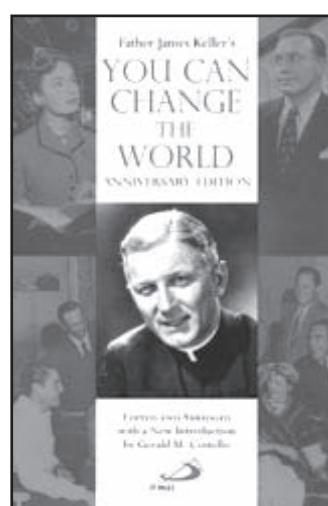
You Can Change the World to be Family Puzzle Prize

By Cindy Brewer

The winner of the May Family Puzzle Contest will win a copy of Father James Keller's *You Can Change the World – Anniversary Edition* from The Christophers.

Father James Keller, the founder of the Christophers, originally wrote *You Can Change the World* in 1948 when the threat of Communism was high. The book's emphasis was on how each person, no matter his or her position in society could make a difference against the Communist influences upon our nation in the 1940's and '50s.

The anniversary edition is just as timely as Father Keller's "highly acclaimed classic" in that our nation continues to be influenced by negative forces: materialism, paganism, relativism and totalitarianism.



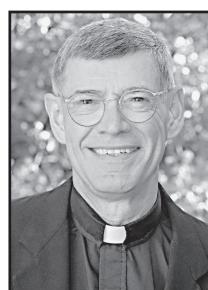
Father Keller calls all Christophers to take a stand against apathy because the only way that the negative forces have power is that not enough people are taking positive action to influence our world. And since the word Christopher means Christ bearer, we are all called to respond.

As the most effective means of changing the world, Father Keller suggests Christophers must get involved in four influential areas: education, government, labor management and writing (media, films, entertainment). And this makes sense, as one can see that is where the liberal forces are focusing their attention.

If only a million lay persons were willing and anxious to play the role of a Christopher in every walk of life, those advocating for a materialistic world would not have influence, Father Keller said.

One does not need to be a professional in any of the four fields mentioned, he said, but just have a driving purpose, such as the early Christians in the catacombs – to be the "leaven for the multitude."

This book will not only help you change the world, it will change your life. The book can be purchased at Society of St. Paul/Alba House at (800) 343-ALBA (2522). ISBN: 0-8189-1234-0 (Paperback: 216 pp. illustrated (Price: \$14.95 + shipping).



By Father Oscar Lukefahr CM
Hugh, a Veterans' Home resident, said that during World War II he often attended Mass at makeshift altars like the hood of a jeep. Once in the Philippines he was at Mass when a Japanese Zero fighter roared overhead on a strafing run. Priest and soldiers huddled on the ground until the fighter disappeared. Then Mass resumed. I asked Hugh why he attended Mass under such conditions. He replied, "I wanted to, and so did the other soldiers. We knew we needed God."

We need God too. But in the relative comfort of our modern world, we can forget this. So we need to examine the reasons why we should attend Mass. So we continue ...

TO DISCOVER REAL HAPPINESS

We all want to be happy. Mass is essential to our search for happiness. Pope John Paul II wrote in his letter, *"Dies Domini"*, that "we must rediscover this aspect of the life of faith.... Sunday is the day of joy in a very special way, indeed the day most suitable for learning how to rejoice and to rediscover the true nature and deep roots of joy" (57).

I wonder how many of us come to Sunday Mass expecting happiness. We may instead feel overwhelmed by problems. But consider the problems Christ faced on the night before he died. He awaited a terrible day of ghastly suffering, yet radiated

Why go to Mass?

(PART II)

peace and joy. "I have said these things to you," he told his disciples, "so that my joy may be in you" (Jn 15:11). He prayed that their sorrow would be turned to joy (Jn 17:13), and his prayer was answered on Easter. "The disciples rejoiced when they saw the Lord" (Jn 20:20).

"Sunday," John Paul II observed, "as a weekly echo of the first encounter with the Risen Lord, is unfailingly marked by the joy with which the disciples greeted the Master" (*"Dies Domini"*, 56). So at Mass this joy ought to affect our moods. In times of sorrow, we look to Jesus for comfort. In times of despair, for hope. In times of tranquility, for a greater measure of the joy that flows from the heart of Christ.

LIVING IN A LARGER WORLD

Is my world big enough? Do I realize that I belong to a larger family, the Body of Christ, that I have brothers and sisters worldwide with concerns like mine? Scripture says: "So ... you are citizens with the saints and also members of the household of God, built upon the foundation of the apostles and prophets, with Christ Jesus himself as the cornerstone" (Eph 2:19-20).

At Mass we come to "...the city of the living God, the heavenly Jerusalem, and to innumerable angels in festal gathering, and to the assembly of the first-born who are enrolled in heaven, and to God the judge of all, and to the spirits of the righteous made perfect, and to Jesus, the mediator of a new covenant..." (Heb 12:22-24).

Mass is an opportunity to widen our horizons, to strengthen bonds with our Church family on

Remember Veterans this Memorial Day

Continued from p. 16

talked of his time in the service and of his great love for his country.

When I asked why he volunteered for the war at such a young age, barely 18, he told me that he had to defend his country so that he could realize the American dream of a family and home of his own. He was always proud of his family and the small row house with three tiny bedrooms and one tinier bathroom where he and his wife raised their four children. He always wanted to give his kids more than he had growing up without a father in the coal towns of West Virginia.

He died suddenly two short years ago in the living room of that tiny row house. He died as king of his castle and with the love of his life nearby. His earthly life of patriotism, faith and family was at an end, yet he, like the fallen heroes we remember on Memorial Day, must never be forgotten or placed on the dust heap of history. It was

their love of God and country that inspired them to fight for the freedom that we all hold so dear yet sadly take for granted.

I urge everyone to take time on this Memorial Day to pause and remember all those young men and women who have bravely served their country in the armed forces. We also must give special remembrance to those who have died in the service of their country and pray for the repose of the souls of all deceased veterans.

As Catholics we are truly blessed that at every Mass there is a specific remembrance of our beloved dead. What better tribute is there to give than to participate in the Holy Sacrifice of the Mass on Memorial Day? Whether we attend Mass at our local Catholic cemetery or parish church, we are united as one in our tribute of undying love and gratitude for the patriots of yesterday, today and tomorrow.

earth and in heaven. Mass is a sacred moment to let Christ's love flow into us, remembering that we can reach our true destiny only through him.

GETTING THE MOST OUT OF LIFE, AND DEATH

Hugh and the soldiers huddled with him around those makeshift altars of World War II knew they needed God. Death was as close as the fighter planes roaring overhead. Now Hugh and many other veterans gather several times a month around an altar at the Veterans' Home to attend Mass. They know they need Jesus as much now as they did in battle six decades ago. Then death clothed in bombs and bullets took many of their comrades. Now death comes clothed in age and illness. But when they receive Holy Communion, they receive the promise of eternal life. "I am the living bread that came down from heaven. Whoever eats of this bread will live forever" (John 6:51).

While we may not feel the nearness of death as aged veterans do, we will need Jesus one day to bring us through death to eternal life. We need Jesus in the Eucharist now to get the most out of life. At the end of our days we will need Jesus in the Eucharist to get the most out of death!

*Father Oscar Lukefahr is a Vincentian priest who is the author of numerous books on the Catholic faith, including *Christ's Mother and Ours*.*

Bibles and Cell Phones

I wonder what would happen if we treated our Bible like we treat our cell phone?

What if we carried it around in our purse?

What if we flipped through it several times a day?

What if we turned back to get it if we forgot it?

What if we used it to receive messages?

What if we treated it like we couldn't live without it?

What if we gave it to kids as gifts?

What if we used it when we traveled?

What if we used it in case of emergency? — hmm.

Where is my Bible? Unlike our cell phone, we don't have to worry about our Bible being disconnected because Jesus already paid the bill! And no dropped calls!

Author unknown; the editor received this from East Bernard's St. Bernadette CDA Court newsletter; it has also been sent as forwarded e-mail.

Sunday readings from May 6 to June 10

May 6 —
Fifth Sunday of Easter

Acts 14:21-27
Psalm 145:8-9, 10-11, 12-13
Revelation 21:1-5a
John 13:31-33a, 34-35

May 13 —
Sixth Sunday of Easter

Acts 15:1-2, 22-29
Psalm 67:2-3, 5, 6, 8
Revelation 21:10-14, 22-23
John 14:23-29

May 20 —
The Ascension of the Lord

Acts 1:1-13
Psalm 47:2-3, 6-7, 8-9
Ephesians 1:17-23 or
Hebrews 9:24-28; 10:19-23
Luke 24:46-53

May 27 —
Pentecost Sunday

Acts 2:1-11
1 Corinthians 12:3b-7, 12-13 or
Romans 8:8-17
John 20:19-23 or
John 14:15-16, 23b-26

June 3 — The Solemnity of
The Most Holy Trinity

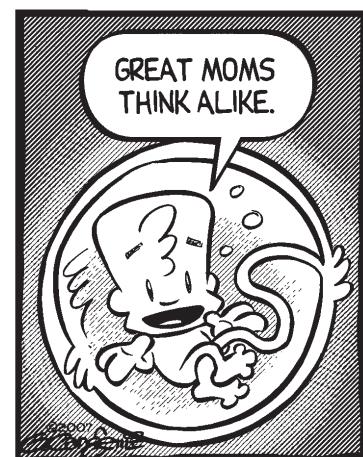
Proverbs 8:22-31
Psalm 8:4-5, 6-7, 8-9
Romans 5:1-5
John 16:12-15

June 10 — The Solemnity
of The Most Holy Body
and Blood of Christ

Genesis 14:18-20
Psalm 110:1, 2, 3, 4
1 Corinthians 11:23-26
Luke 9:11b-17

Umbert the Unborn

by Gary Cangemi



Augustine of Canterbury

died c. 604

feast — May 27

This monk was prior of a monastery in Rome until 596, when Pope St. Gregory the Great sent him and 30 other monks to evangelize England. They landed in Kent where they got permission to preach because the king's wife had been a Christian before her marriage. Augustine's preaching won over King Ethelbert, who became a Christian and gave the monks a house and church in Canterbury. Augustine built England's first cathedral there; from this see missionaries and bishops were sent around England. He is known as "the apostle of England."



Crosiers



Limited child protection audits find most dioceses in compliance

By Jerry Filteau

Catholic News Service

WASHINGTON (CNS) — Twenty-seven of 29 Catholic dioceses and eparchies audited in 2006 complied with the church's national standards for child protection programs and the prevention of and response to sexual abuse, says a report released April 11. However, four dioceses that were not found in compliance in 2005 refused to participate in the 2006 audit.

Two — the Diocese of Lincoln, Neb., and the Melkite Eparchy of Newton, Mass. — had refused to participate in the 2005 audits as well and were supposed to undergo full audits. The Diocese of Baker, Ore., and the Eparchy of Our Lady of Deliverance of Newark (N.J.) for Syriacs refused partial audits that would have focused on those areas where they did not meet compliance standards in 2005.

"The overall results of the 2006 audit are encouraging," said Patricia O'Donnell Ewers, chairwoman of the bishops' all-lay National Review Board. But she described the refusal of four dioceses to participate as "discouraging news."

William A. Gavin, president of the Massachusetts-based Gavin Group, which conducted the audits, reported that among the dioceses that were audited in 2006 only the Cincinnati Archdiocese and the Diocese of Burlington, Vt., were found to be not yet fully compliant with the abuse response and child protection standards set by the bishops' "Charter for the Protection of Children and Young People." The remaining problem in both dioceses was

the need to complete the safe environment training of all volunteers who work with children, he said.

He told Catholic News Service that both dioceses have been "very conscientious" about working toward full compliance and he expects they will reach that goal this year.

The report on the 2006 audits, prepared by the bishops' Office of Child and Youth Protection, was released by Bishop William S. Skylstad of Spokane, Wash., president of the U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops, after the National Review Board reviewed it and recommended its publication.

Noting the high level of compliance on all articles of the charter, Bishop Skylstad said, "Vigilance to ensure the safety of children is now a way of life."

"In the last five years we have made enormous progress, yet we must continue to proceed steadfastly," he said.

Teresa M. Kettelkamp, executive director of the USCCB Office of Child and Youth Protection, said the audits show that "the church has done a lot" to protect children from sex abuse and respond to it when

it occurs.

"But, as I have said in the past, this does not mean the job is done," she said. "Victims continue to come forward and a welcoming hand needs to reach out to them. Children still need our protection and safe environments must be maintained for them."

Editor's Note:

Since the implementation of the Charter for the Protection of Children and Young People in the Diocese of Victoria in March of 2003, the diocese has had a total of 5,332 individuals complete its Safe Environment training program. According to Melissa Perales, director of the Office of Youth and Child Protection, of the 5,332 individuals, 1,216 are church or Catholic school employees and 4,116 are church or Catholic school volunteers. Renewals of training are conducted every three years; in 2006 there were 2,092 who renewed their pledge to protect children. "Our anticipated renewal count for 2007 is 615," Melissa said. "We also average 600-700 new volunteers/employees annually," she continued.

Latest sex abuse report finds drop in reported victims

By Agostino Bono

Catholic News Service

WASHINGTON (CNS) — The number of people who said they are victims of clergy child sex abuse has dropped 34 percent since 2004, according to a national survey of dioceses and religious orders. The survey was conducted by the Center for Applied Research in the Apostolate at

Georgetown University in conjunction with the 2006 audit on U.S. church compliance with child protection policies.

The annual report on the survey and audit showed the same drop since 2004 in the number of credible allegations made and a 40 percent drop in the number of reported offenders. The report collected

See *Latest sex abuse, p. 19*

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Partial Birth Abortion Ban Act upheld; abortion opponents laud court

By Mark Pattison

Catholic News Service

WASHINGTON (CNS) — Abortion opponents lauded the Supreme Court's 5-4 decision April 18 upholding the Partial Birth Abortion Ban Act.

President George W. Bush, who signed the ban into law in 2003, called partial-birth abortion an "abhorrent procedure" in an April 18 statement from the White House.

"Today's decision affirms that the Constitution does not stand in the way of the people's representatives enacting laws reflecting the compassion and humanity of America. The partial-birth abortion ban, which an overwhelming bipartisan majority in Congress passed and I signed into law, represents a commitment to building a culture of life in America," said Bush.

While praising the decision, Cardinal Justin Rigali of Philadelphia, head of the U.S. bishops' Committee on Pro-Life Activities, said: "The court's decision does not affect the legal status of the great majority of abortions, and does not reverse past decisions claiming to find a right to abortion in the Constitution.

"However, it provides reasons for renewed hope and renewed effort on the part of pro-life Americans," he said. "The court is taking a clearer and more unobstructed look at the tragic reality of abortion, and speaking about that reality more candidly, than it has in many years."

Justice Anthony Kennedy, writing the majority opinion in the Gonzales v. Carhart and Gonzales v. Planned Parenthood cases, said the law's opponents "have not demonstrated that the act would be unconstitutional in a large fraction of relevant cases."

Also voting in the majority were Chief Justice John Roberts and Justices Samuel Alito, Antonin Scalia and Clarence Thomas.

Voting in the minority were Justices Paul Breyer, Ruth Bader Ginsburg, David Souter and John Paul Stevens.

In her dissenting opinion, Ginsburg said the decision "tolerates, indeed applauds, federal intervention to ban nationwide a procedure found necessary and proper in certain cases by the American College of Obstetricians and Gynecologists." She added the decision "refuses to take ... seriously" previous Supreme Court decisions on abortion.

Six federal courts had ruled the act had unconstitutionally restricted a woman's legal right to an abortion. In October the Supreme Court accepted cases from California — the Planned Parenthood case — and Nebraska — the Dr. Leroy Carhart case. The high court conducted oral arguments in November.

In what the law calls partial-birth abortion, also referred to as an "intact dilation and extraction," a live fetus is partially delivered and an incision is made at the base of the skull, through which the brain is removed, and then the dead body is delivered the rest of the way.

In the 1990s, Congress had twice passed a ban on partial-birth abortions. Both times the bills were vetoed by President Bill Clinton.

In 2000, the Supreme Court struck down a Nebraska ban on partial-birth abortions. Writing for a 5-4 majority at that time, Breyer said the law imposed an undue burden on a woman's right to make an abortion decision. Chief Justice William Rehnquist, who died in September 2005, and now-retired Justice Sandra Day O'Connor were both on the high court at the time this ruling was issued. O'Connor

See *Partial Birth Abortion, p. 21*



CNS photo/Tomas Bravo, Reuters

RESIDENTS SURVEY DAMAGE FROM TORNADO IN TOWN NEAR U.S. BORDER—Residents survey a destroyed church in the neighborhood of Villa de Fuente in Piedras Negras, Mexico, April 25. A tornado killed 10 people, injured at least 80 and left hundreds homeless when it struck along the U.S.-Mexican border at Eagle Pass, Texas, the night before.

Religious leaders thank Texas Sen. Shapiro for championing religious freedom

The multi-faith advocacy organization Texas Impact released a statement today commending Senator Florence Shapiro of Plano for hosting Imam Dr. Yusuf Kavakci to offer the opening prayer in the Texas Senate on April 4. The event marked the first time a Muslim religious leader has offered the Senate's opening prayer. Reverend Mel Caraway of Garland, president of Texas Impact's board of directors, said that Shapiro, who is Jewish, modeled respect for religious freedom in inviting Imam Kavakci to open the Senate. "Our state is a microcosm of the religious diversity found in our United States, and it is incumbent upon all of our legislative bodies to uphold the freedom of all our citizens to express their faith," Caraway said. Imam Kavakci's prayer coincided with the lobby day for the Freedom and Justice Foundation (F&J), a Muslim grassroots organization that stresses interfaith dialogue and cooperation. F&J is a member of Texas Impact, along with about 40 Christian, Jewish, Muslim and multi-faith regional and statewide groups. Mohamed Eliabary, President & CEO of F&J and a constituent of Senator Shapiro, praised the welcome Imam Kavakci received from Shapiro, Lt. Governor David

Dewhurst, and most of the Senate. One senator left the chamber during the Imam's prayer, drawing criticism from the media and his colleagues. "The conflict over Imam Kavakci's prayer only serves to showcase the ongoing need for intentional interfaith dialogue and cooperation," Eliabary said. "It's a natural human reaction to fear what we don't understand, but our collective First Amendment right to Religious Liberty makes it incumbent upon us to learn about our diversity because in the end we're all Americans."

Study finds U.S. Hispanics drawn to charismatic churches

WASHINGTON (CNS)—The church familiar to and preferred by Hispanic Catholics in the United States is a livelier, more charismatic place than the one most American Catholics are used to, finds a new survey on Latinos and religion. A detailed survey by the Pew Hispanic Center and the Pew Forum on Religion and Public Life released April 25 says about a third of U.S. Catholics are Latinos and that they are bringing a more evangelical style of faith into the broader church as their numbers grow. Despite an overall drop in the percentage of U.S. Hispanics who are Catholic — due largely to those who joined evangelical and Pentecostal churches — Latinos will continue to rep-

Latest sex abuse report finds drop in reported victims

Continued from p. 18

data on credible allegations and costs related to child sex abuse in 2006 and compared them to the figures gathered in 2004 and 2005.

Of the 2006 allegations, 71 percent involved abuse that took place or began between 1960 and 1984, the report said.

Published figures since 1950 also showed the 1960-84 period as being the years when most abuse took place. As with previously published figures, the overwhelming majority of the victims who came forward in 2006 — 80 percent — were male.

Lawyers' fees continued to skyrocket in 2006 but the amount of money paid out in settlements dropped by nearly \$122 million from 2005, it said. Lawyers' fees totaled \$75.1 million in 2006, an 82 percent rise from the 2005 figure of \$41.2 million, the report said.

Also on a major upswing was the amount of money paid for living expenses, therapy and other support of offenders, it said.

The report was released April 11 in Washington by the U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops' Office of Child and

Youth Protection and the all-lay National Review Board established by the bishops to monitor compliance with child sex-abuse prevention policies.

The study said 99 percent of the 195 dioceses and eparchies and 68 percent of the 220 religious institutes responded to the CARA survey, giving an overall response rate of 83 percent.

The drops in the number of victims and allegations show that "what we are doing in creating safe environments is working," said Bishop Gregory M. Aymond of Austin, Texas, chairman of the bishops' Committee for the Protection of Children and Young People.

But at the same time he called the report "sobering." While most of the new allegations concerned behavior that occurred decades ago, "the fact that there are any recent cases at all is very disconcerting," he said. "We need to be consistent and do more," he told Catholic News Service.

He praised clergymen, church employees and volunteers for cooperating by undergoing background checks and by attending educational programs on preventing child sex abuse.

resent an ever-larger share of the U.S. Catholic population because of immigration and high birthrates, it said. About 68 percent of U.S. Hispanics say they are Catholics. The study is titled "Changing Faiths: Latinos and the Transformation of American Religion."

Religious groups band together to call for farm bill reforms

WASHINGTON (CNS)—The U.S. bishops, Catholic Relief Services, Catholic Charities USA, the National Catholic Rural Life Conference and Network, a Catholic social justice lobby, are joining more than a dozen other religious groups in advocating reforms in federal farm policy that could be implemented through the farm bill now working its way through Congress. The organizations have coalesced into a body called the Religious Working Group on the Farm Bill to propose changes in the legislation that they say would benefit farmers, rural communities and Americans' nutritional needs. "Passing a new farm bill is an important opportunity to reshape our agricultural policies to build a more just framework that better serves rural communities and vulnerable farmers in the U.S., overcomes hunger here and abroad, and helps poor farmers and their families in developing countries," said an April 20 statement by Bishop Nicholas DiMarzio of Brooklyn, N.Y. chairman of the U.S. bishops' Committee on Domestic Policy. "We join together to support policies that promote economic justice, strengthen rural communities at home and around the world, care for the land as God's creation, foster right relations among nations and achieve an end to hunger," said the Religious Working Group on the Farm Bill statement, also issued April 20.

Catholic universities study own security after Virginia Tech tragedy

ROMEOLVILLE, Ill. (CNS)—In the wake of the tragic shooting spree that left 33 people dead April 16 at Virginia Tech in Blacksburg, Va., universities nationwide have been re-evaluating their crisis procedures. Three Catholic universities based in the Diocese of Joliet are no exception. Lewis University in Romeoville, the Uni-

versity of St. Francis in Joliet and Benedictine University in Lisle immediately reviewed their communications and security procedures involving staff and students. Joe Falese, vice president of student services at Lewis and a member of the crisis response committee, said the Virginia Tech tragedy "affects all of us." He also said he anticipates an avalanche of questions about campus security from parents and students, especially in the fall. While the Blacksburg university has a more pastoral campus setting, colleges in the Chicago suburbs generally have a more urban feel because they attract a significant number of commuter students. But Falese stressed that every campus, no matter its location, must maintain a sense of safety and security.

Knights of Columbus ethical practices qualifications reaffirmed

The Insurance Marketplace Standards Association (IMSA) has renewed the membership of the Knights of Columbus as an insurance industry leader in ethical standards and practices. IMSA, the premiere standard-setting organization in the life insurance marketplace, recognized the Knights of Columbus in a March 30, 2007, announcement. The three-year renewal of qualification reflects the commitment of the Knights of Columbus to be "fair, honest, and open in the way they advertise, sell and service their products," according to IMSA. The Knights of Columbus also holds the highest ratings from A.M. Best Company (A++ Superior) and Standard & Poor's (AAA Extremely Strong), independent analyst organizations that evaluate the financial strength of life insurance companies. The Knights of Columbus is one of only four insurers in North America to simultaneously earn IMSA certification and top ratings from both A.M. Best and Standard & Poor's. Supreme Knight Carl A. Anderson expressed satisfaction with the renewed IMSA qualification, saying that "the Knights of Columbus, throughout its 125-year history, has always placed the needs and care of its members and their families as its first priority."

SACRED HEART PARISH
SPRING PICNIC

SUNDAY, MAY 27
at the K.C. Hall in Hallettsville, Texas

Dinner: Serving from 10:30 AM till 1:30 PM
~ ~ Drive thru Plates-to-Go: 10:30 AM till 1:00 PM ~ ~

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

**COUNTRY FRIED CHICKEN, STEW,
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AUCTION
Beginning at 1:00 PM

BINGO inside the
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Noon - 4:00 PM

Kiddie Rides all afternoon!!!

Horseshoe Pitching Contest - 2:00 PM
Washer Pitching Contest - 5:00 PM

Karaoke
5:30 - 9:30 PM

Music on the Main Pavilion
by "J & S Playboys"
11:00 AM to 1:00 PM

FREE DANCE
On the Polka Pavilion - Biergarten

Music by
Tony Janak Orchestra
- and -
Bobby Jones Czech Band
1:00 PM - 10:00 PM

Delicious hamburgers, french fries, popcorn, nachos, funnel cakes and sno-cones available throughout the day!



Fotos Por César Hernández

La constucion de la Iglesia de La Santísima Trinidad la parte exterior se esta finalizando dando los toques finales.

La Comunidad de La Santísima Trinidad construye una nueva iglesia

Por Padre Alberto Rodríguez

La historia de nuestra comunidad se remonta alrededor del año de 1943 cuando los Padres Trinitarios llegaron para el cuidado pastoral de la Parroquia de Ntra. Sra. de los Dolores. En el mismo año llegaron cuatro hermanas Misioneras Catequistas de los Sagrados Corazones de Jesús y de María para dedicarse a la educación religiosa de los niños y jóvenes de la comunidad. Casi enseguida las hermanas comenzaron a venir a Silver City para la catequesis de los niños de la zona y se reunían en diferentes casas de familia en la calle Ozark, entre ellas la familia Martínez y la familia Núñez, también en un salón propiedad del Sr. Solís que se encontraba donde ahora está nuestro parqueo. Más tarde, alrededor de los años 60 el Sr. Rafael Cepeda nos donó el terreno que hoy ocupa nuestra capilla y una barraca para la catequesis. En el año 1965 la catequesis comenzó a darse en nuestro centro del CCD y se abandonó la capilla. Alrededor del año 1968 el P. Richard Toal comenzó a celebrar la Santa Misa los domingos en la barraca debido a que muchas personas mayores de Silver City no podían caminar hasta la parroquia. En el año 1971 se estableció la capilla como Misión de la Santísima Trinidad.

En 1980, siendo encargado de la misión el P. Juan de Ayerbe, la barraca se cubrió de ladrillos y se le hizo la adición lateral, pues la comunidad había crecido y necesitaba más espacio. En el año 1983 se compró este terreno y el salón para la futura iglesia que vamos a construir. Nuestra comunidad es la única de la diócesis que sirve a la comunidad hispana exclusivamente en español. En palabras del P. Raúl Rendón, que estuvo de párroco el decía "esta comunidad es como los brazos que se abren para recibir a los hispanos que llegan a nuestra diócesis y en ella encuentran un pedacito de su propio país" y mientras se van acostumbrando a la nueva cultura no se ven privados de la de ellos y la transición es menos dolorosa.



El obispo David E. Fellhauer de la Diócesis de Victoria participa con la comunidad de La Santísima Trinidad en la procesión del via crucis viviente, que la capilla celebra desde hace 24 años.

tantos años, un templo nuevo y espacioso donde podamos reunirnos como comunidad para dar gloria al Dios Uno y Trino en nuestro propio idioma y cultura.

El día 2 se abril del año 2006 el Sr. Obispo, Monseñor David Fellhauer, Obispo de la Diócesis de Victoria, TX., bendijo el terreno en donde hoy se construye la iglesia de La Santísima Trinidad que será dedicada el día 2 de junio a las 12:00 horas del medio día en la víspera se la solemnidad de La Santísima Trinidad.

Les invitamos a todos a celebrar en este día de alegría en el cual ya tendremos otro Santuario mas grande en donde adorar a nuestro Padre Dios.

Garza, Garza & Garza

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Former State and
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For the General Practice of Law



Marc Phillip Garza
Attorney at Law

Sacerdotes Por Vida

Por Padre Frank Pavone
Director Nacional



El interés del estado por la vida

La Corte Suprema confirmó hoy la prohibición del aborto de parto parcial que fuera sancionada por el Congreso y promulgada por el presidente Bush en el 2003. Es un día que marca un avance histórico en la causa de la defensa de la vida, cuyo objetivo final es restablecer la protección de la ley a todo niño por nacer, en cualquier etapa de su desarrollo. Por primera vez desde Roe vs. Wade, hoy los Estados Unidos de América en vez de regular, han prohibido un procedimiento para provocar el aborto.

Los fuerzas pro-aborto intentaron anular esta prohibición alegando que no tiene una excepción por motivos de salud. La Corte, sin embargo, dijo que quienes se oponen a la prohibición no pudieron demostrar que la necesidad de esa excepción fuera de tal magnitud que determinara la inconstitucionalidad de la ley. La Corte también rechazó la argumentación que la prohibición es muy amplia o muy difusa. El texto de la prohibición es lo suficientemente claro para que los abortistas sepan cuando están violando la ley y cuando no.

Es refrescante leer la decisión de este caso, porque hace hincapié en el interés legítimo del estado sobre la vida del niño por nacer durante todo el embarazo. Tampoco es ésta la primera vez que la Corte reconoce ese interés. La decisión hace referencia al derecho del estado a "expresar profundo respeto por la vida del no-nacido" y afirma que "el gobierno tiene un interés legítimo y sustancial en preservar y promover la vida fetal". El procedimiento de aborto de parto parcial difiere de otros procedimientos en que, concretamente, subvierte el parto y lo

transforma en un método homicida; por lo tanto distorsiona el papel del médico. La Corte ha reafirmado hoy que el estado tiene un "interés legítimo en regular la profesión médica para promover el respeto a la vida, incluyendo la vida de los no-nacidos". Esta decisión también afirma que "el estado tiene interés en asegurar que haya buena información frente a una elección tan grave." Al reafirmar estos intereses legítimos del estado en defensa de la prohibición del aborto de parto parcial, la Corte también señala el camino para la continuada acción legislativa en defensa de la vida tanto a nivel estatal como federal.

La decisión de hoy también nos recuerda la importancia de las elecciones. El trabajo hecho por tantas personas pro-vida en los años 2000, 2002 y 2004 hizo que esta decisión fuera posible. Los legisladores que sancionaron la prohibición fueron elegidos, como lo fue el presidente que la promulgó. Los senadores que confirmaron dos nuevos magistrados de la Corte Suprema fueron elegidos, como lo fue el presidente que los nominó. El fruto de esas elecciones que recogemos hoy debe hacernos renovar nuestro compromiso para elegir candidatos pro-vida en el 2008.

Al agradecer la prohibición del aborto de parto parcial, hacemos un llamado para una aplicación fiel y vigorosa de la norma. Más aún, también deberían sancionarse prohibiciones estatales similares a la prohibición federal confirmada por la decisión de hoy.

Esta decisión marca una línea significativa y necesaria, deteniendo el impulso del movimiento pro-aborto que cree poder justificar todos y cada uno de los métodos de asesinato de los no-nacidos. De hecho, esta prohibición salvará muchas vidas.

Como reportar un abuso.



¡Día feliz
de
Madre!

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

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

TV program notes — week of May 6

By Harry Forbes

Catholic News Service

NEW YORK (CNS) — Here are some television program notes for the week of May 6 with their TV Parental Guidelines ratings if available. They have not been reviewed and therefore are not necessarily recommended by the Office for Film & Broadcasting.

Sunday, May 6, 7-8 p.m. CDT (National Geographic) "Search for Noah's Ark." Documentary investigates the latest clues and competing theories that attempt to confirm the biblical account of Noah's ark and the flood. From satellite imagery of mountaintops to underwater geological surveys, the program dissects

the story's timeline from God's warning to Noah through the floodwaters receding (TV-G — general audience).

Sunday, May 6, 8-9 p.m. CDT (National Geographic) "Cain and Abel: Brothers at War." This timeless narrative of brothers' bloodshed has puzzled biblical scholars for centuries and impacts not only Jewish, Christian, and Muslim traditions but all of humanity. A team of archaeologists goes deep inside Egyptian burial tombs and to the mountaintops of Iran in a quest to decipher this story (TV-PG/V — parental guidance suggested/moderate violence).

Sunday, May 6, 9-10 p.m. CDT (National Geographic) "In Search of the Lost

Kings of the Bible." Could a shard of pottery, an underground tunnel, and the ruins of an illustrious temple be proof enough of King David's and King Solomon's historical existence? This documentary follows the trail of evidence through Israel, Egypt, Syria and Jordan in search of the legendary father and son.

Wednesday, May 9, 8-10 p.m. CDT (PBS) "Secret Files of the Inquisition." This miniseries, based on previously unreleased secret documents from European archives, including the Vatican's, promises to unveil "the true story of the Catholic Church's 500-year struggle to remain the world's only true Christian religion." The miniseries' four episodes span

medieval France, 15th-century Spain, Renaissance Italy and mid-19th-century Europe. It reveals how the church created the Inquisition to attack its enemies and preserve the unquestioned authority of the pope. In the first hour, the pope sends the inquisitors of heretical depravity to exterminate heresy high in the Pyrenees (TV-PG — parental guidance suggested). In the second, a young king and queen bent on immortality proclaim themselves the Catholic monarchs and start the Inquisition (TV-PG/V — parental guidance suggested/moderate violence).

Saturday, May 12, 7-8 p.m. CDT (EWTN) "The Pope: Life and Times of John Paul II."

Special Collections

Collection For Home Missions — May 6

Black and Native American, Catholic Communications Campaign and Catholic University of America Collection (all three combined) — June 2 and 3.

Ongoing Events

Grief Group — Have you experienced the death of a loved one? Join us in this on-going grief group on the 1st and 3rd Thursday of each month at 7:00 p.m. in the conference room at Holy Family Church, 704 Mallette Drive, Victoria. For information, please call (361) 578-7572.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Retrouvaille — 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.

The Beginning Experience — An international ministry that helps divorced, separated and widowed individuals resolve their grief surrounding the loss of a marriage partner, announces their 2007 BE Weekend schedule. Weekends will operate May 18-20; Aug. 17-19; and Nov. 2-4 and are held in San Antonio. For more information, please go to this Web site: www.beginningexperience.org; e-mail: sanantonio@yahoo.com; phone: (210) 734-2146; or The Beginning Experience of San Antonio, P.O. Box 790882, San Antonio, Texas 78279-0882.

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

When & Where

Picnics, Activities, etc.

May

Plantersville — Texas Renaissance Festival auditions May 5 and May 12 from 8:30 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. by appointment only. For more information visit www.texrenfest.com or call the office at (800) 458-3435.

Hostyn — Holy Rosary Mayfest May 6 beginning with a Polka Mass at 10:00 a.m. A barbecue-pork and sausage dinner will begin at 11:00 a.m. with music, activities and games all day.

Victoria — Holy Family Festival May 6 at the community center. A barbecue-beef and sausage dinner will be served from 11:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m. with curb service available for plates-to-go. There will be a country store, cake wheel, children's games, and more. Auction begins at 1:00 p.m.

Lake Dallas — Montserrat Jesuit Retreat House announces its Hispanic Ministry Workshop May 7-10. A workshop specially designed for parish and diocesan staff, pastors and their associates, directors of religious education, and those working in organizations that serve the growing Hispanic population to promote growth in cultural awareness among people responsible for the Hispanic Ministry in the Church. The conference will be presented principally in English. The cost is \$360, for a single room, or \$300 if you can share a double room. This includes all conference materials, lodging at Montserrat, and meals, starting Monday evening, May 7, and continuing through lunch on Thursday, May 10. Space is limited. Your space is reserved with your \$100 registration deposit. Credit cards accepted/checks payable to Montserrat Jesuit Retreat House at P.O. Box 1390, Lake Dallas, TX 75065. Questions? Contact: Rev. Nathan Stone, SJ, nstonesj@yahoo.com; Luz Restrapo, Retreat1@airmail.com, (940) 321-6020. Web site is www.montserratretreat.org

Cuero — St. Michael Spring Festival May 20 on the parish grounds. A roast-beef dinner will be served from 11:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. with drive-thru for plates-to-go at \$7 p/p. Also there will be an auction, country store and a fun-filled assortment of game booths for all ages. The festival will benefit St. Michael Church and School. For more information contact the church office at (361) 275-3554.

Wharton — Our Lady of Mt. Carmel Church Annual Bazaar and Barbecue Dinner May 20 on the church grounds at 506 S. East Ave. A barbecue dinner of chicken and sausage will be served from 10:30 a.m. to 1:30 p.m. Plates are \$6.50 p/p and will be available for dine-in or drive-thru serving lines. Tickets for the raffle may be purchased at the rectory during office hours and after weekend Masses. There will be an auction at 1:00 p.m.; raffle, live music, Mt. Carmel Folklorico

Dancers, games, cakewalk, pastry and food booths, plant walk and much more. Day of fun for the whole family.

Victoria — Knights of Columbus Council 1329 chicken-barbecue fund-raiser May 20 at the KC Hall. The price is \$5 per chicken. Beans and Spanish rice available for \$1 per pint. Sale starts at 8:30 a.m. Proceeds benefit council's projects.

Hallettsville — Sacred Heart Parish Spring Festival May 27 at the KC Hall. A fried-chicken and stew dinner will be served from 10:30 a.m. to 1:30 p.m. Music throughout the day and night. The auction begins at 1:00 p.m. There will be games, entertainment and a train ride for the children.

Shiner — Sts. Cyril and Methodius Spring Picnic May 27 at the American Legion Park. A stew, fried-chicken and sausage dinner will be served from 10:30 a.m. to 2:00 p.m. An auction begins at 12:00 p.m. There will be a country store, cake wheel, plant wheel, kiddie rides and games. Music day and night.

Upcoming Events

Flatonia — Sacred Heart Spring Picnic June 3 with a fried-chicken and stew dinner beginning at 11:00 a.m. There will be a horseshoe tournament. Music throughout the day. There will be an auction, country store and more.

East Bernard — 17th Annual Czech Kolache Klobase Festival June 9 from 10:30 a.m.-8:30 p.m. at Riverside Hall, sponsored by KJT Society No. 40. A sausage/barbecue chicken plate lunch will be available. Dance to live continuous entertainment, arts/crafts, raffle, cakewalk, children's entertainment, kolaches for sale and much more. For information call (979) 335-7907 or go to www.kkfest.com. Proceeds benefit KJT Society No. 40 Hall Fund.

Bay City — Our Lady of Guadalupe annual Parish Jamaica June 10 from 11:00 a.m. to 8:00 p.m. on the parish grounds (1412 12th Street). Food booths open at 11:00 a.m., there will also be a raffle, live music, Mexican food, games, entertainment and fun for all.

St. Mary — St. Mary Parish Picnic June 10 at the parish hall. Mass will be celebrated at the church beginning at 9:15 a.m. A stew and sausage dinner begins at 10:30 a.m. at \$6.50 p/p with dine-in or drive-thru available. There will be games, plants, cakewalk, train ride and country store. Hamburgers will be sold in the afternoon. Auction begins at 1:00 p.m. Dance to live music from 10:30 a.m. to 9:00 p.m. with Texas Sound Czech, Czechaholics and Red Ravens.

Schulenburg — St. Rose of Lima Parish Picnic June 10 at KC Hall. A fried-chicken and stew dinner will be served from 11:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. The auction begins at 12:30 p.m. There will be games, country store, cakewalk, rides for children and much more. Live music begins at 12:30 p.m.

Victoria — Knights of Columbus Council 1329 chicken-barbecue fund-raiser June 17 at the KC Hall. The price is \$6 per chicken. Beans and Spanish rice available for \$1 per pint. Sale starts at 8:30 a.m. Proceeds benefit council's projects.

Dubina — Sts. Cyril and Methodius Parish Picnic July 1

St. John — St. John Annual Parish 4th of July Picnic

Notre Dame, Ind. — Catholic Divorce Ministry 2007 International Conference, July 5 — 7. For more information, please go to University of Notre Dame Center for Continuing Education at <http://cce.nd.edu>.

Moravia — Ascension of Our Lord Parish Picnic, July 15

Victoria — Knights of Columbus Council 1329 chicken-barbecue fund-raiser July 15 at the KC Hall. The price is \$6 per chicken. Beans and Spanish rice available for \$1 per pint. Sale starts at 8:30 a.m. Proceeds benefit council's projects.

Steubenville, Ohio — St. John Bosco Conference for Catechists

and Religious Educators, "Come, Drink of the Holy Spirit," will be held for anyone who provides instruction in the faith July 18 - 22 at the Franciscan University. This year's theme will explore the mysteries of the Holy Spirit, the third person of the Holy Trinity. The conference offers many certification tracks. For more information or to register, please call (800) 437-8368 or visit www.franciscanconferences.com.

Frelsburg — Sts. Peter and Paul Annual Festival, Aug. 5

Yoakum — St. Joseph Parish Picnic, Aug. 5

Palacios — St. Anthony Shrimporee, Aug. 5

Weimar — St. Michael Harvest Feast, Aug. 12

Praha — St. Mary Parish Picnic, Aug. 15

High Hill — St. Mary Parish Picnic, Sept. 2

El Campo — St. Philip the Apostle Parish Picnic, Sept. 30



Photos by Cindy Brewer

The entrance to the St. Joseph O'Connor Athletic Complex at 3006 N. Cameron is a welcoming sight to fans on opening day, April 12, 2007.

A Grand Opening

St. Joseph 'family' celebrates new state-of-the-art athletic facility

By Coy Slavik - Advocate Sports editor, The Victoria Advocate

A new era in St. Joseph athletics has officially begun.

Approximately 600 people attended the April 12 opening ceremonies of the St. Joseph O'Connor Athletic Complex, which is now the permanent home of the school's girls softball team and boys and girls soccer teams.



Bishop David E. Fellhauer prepares to bless the complex fields with the help of his "assistant," Conner Burdge, son of Robby and Tami Burdge.

"It's really nice to have our own field," senior St. Joseph softball player Chelsea Wenske said. "I'm glad the younger people will have a place they can call their own. It's really nice. They put a lot of work into it."

The \$1.4 million facility, located at 3006 N. Cameron, has four lighted softball fields and two multi-purpose fields, which can also be used for football and soccer practices. The Lady Flyers began playing softball at the complex last month after years of playing at the Vine Street complex in Riverside Park.

"I think this is the most wonderful thing a coach could ask for," St. Joseph softball coach Craig Lauger said. "Not only is it a beautiful facility, but everything is state-of-the-art and what we need to play here and practice here. It's wonderful to have your own place. It's so con-

venient. We don't have to drive all over town to practice and play. This is really special for us."

Lauger, owner of Lauger Construction, played a vital role in the construction of the facility and was honored by St. Joseph president and principal William McArdle with the unveiling of an engraved plaque with Lauger's likeness that will be displayed at the entrance of the complex.

"I just lent my expertise in the construction field," Lauger said. "We pulled a lot of people together who gave donations, field dirt, electrical work, painting. People who work with me in the construction industry were generous and gave what they could and I'm really proud of those people for doing so. Without those people, we couldn't have done this."

During a 90-minute ceremony, Bishop David Fellhauer blessed the field and McArdle recognized the many donors for their efforts in making the facility a reality.

Among those recognized for their work were longtime baseball coach Mike Shimek and his wife, Carolyn, who had one of the softball fields named after them.

Athletic director John Mares, who has been at the school for the past 15 years, said he didn't think he'd ever see St. Joseph own its own facility for softball and soccer.

"This is a tremendous accomplishment and it's going to be great for our kids," Mares said. "The enthusiasm is only going to grow when you have a facility like this."

"So many people donated time, money and energy," Mares added. "It was the whole St. Joseph family."

Coy Slavik is the sports editor for the Advocate. Contact him at 361-574-1206 or cslavik@vicad.com, or comment on this story here.

**Happy Mother's Day,
God Bless You!**

May 13



OLV YOUTH HOLD FAST ON GOOD FRIDAY—Our Lady of Victory Cathedral's youth ministry hosted a 30-Hour Famine on Good Friday, April 6, 2007. Approximately 35 youth attended the event and participated in numerous service projects. The energetic youth held the Living Stations of the Cross Friday morning at OLV. Other activities included placing flowers on the graves of the priests and the religious, visiting nursing homes and helping to spruce up the yard and interior of a local shelter. The youth also participated in a "Witness Walk" in which they carried a cross and wore a crown of thorns in the neighborhood around OLV. After attending Mass in the evening, the group helped clean the cathedral under the direction of Father David Berger. Time was then spent reflecting on the day's events and how it touched their lives. Youth were given time to think about all the burdens in their lives and then were given the chance to turn them over to the Lord. The 30-Hour Famine ended at midnight, but the group fasted until the next morning. The famine was successful in part due to the generosity of the adult volunteers who helped drive the group to events and assisted with activities.



The above St. Rose of Lima Elementary PSIA winners will go on to the PSIA state competition: row 1: Bryn Stryk, Amanda Jurica, Taylor Olsovsky, Seamus Bennett, Allison Meyer, and Alexis Fowlkes; row 2: Dax Dittrich, Meagan Jurica, Hannah Fogle, Haley Nidey and Hagan Jones; row 3: Mrs. Georgia Pohl, Cameron Heger, Christopher Kunz, Kirsten Heger, Bailey Fietsam, and Molly McCourt; row 4: Mrs. Stacy Oeding, Mrs. Sue Spradlin, Emily Seyl, Emily Kossa, Mackenzie Srubar, Elizabeth Pohl and Mrs. Doris Bujnoch; row 5: Mrs. Pam Wick, Mr. Matt Bonner, Mrs. Phyllis Venghaus, Mrs. Carmen Appelt, Mrs. Donna Kunz, Mrs. Laura Fogle and Mrs. Christina Halata.

St. Rose students go to State PSIA

SCHULENBURG—The students of St. Rose of Lima School competed in the District PSIA Meet held at Blinn College on March 23-24, 2007. Seventy students placed at the meet and twenty-two qualified for the state meet to be held in Fort Worth. A list of the students that placed, and the event in which they placed follows. Congratulations to the students and coaches that represented St. Rose of Lima School on a job well done!

Art Memory: Samantha Holub (4 grade) Fourth Place and Meagan Jurica (5) First

Calculator Applications: Kirsten Heger (6) First; Freeman James (7) Sixth; and Kori Dvorak (8) Second

Creative Writing: Brynn Stryk (1) First; Sarah Vecera (1) Third; and Haley Olsovsky (1) Fifth

Dictionary Skills: Kirsten Heger (6) Fourth and Mackenzie Srubar (8) First

Impromptu Speaking: Elizabeth Pohl (8) First and Emily Kossa (7) Second

Listening Skills: Hannah Fogle (5) Third; Haley Nidey (5) Fourth; Hagan Jones (6) First; Christopher Kunz (6) Third; Emily Kossa (7) First; Cameron Heger (8) First; and Kori Dvorak (8) Fourth

Maps, Graphs and Charts: Scott Stoner (5) Third; Rachel Saulnier (5) Sixth; Christopher Kunz (6) First; Hagan Jones (6) Second; Caitlyn Bennett (6) Fourth; Emily Seyl (7) Third; Mackenzie Srubar (8) First; and Kori Dvorak (8) Fifth

Mathematics: Allison Meyer (4) Sixth; Christopher Kunz (6) Fifth; and Emily Kossa (7) First

Music Memory: Seamus Bennett (4) First and Allison Meyer (4) Second

Number Sense: Christopher Kunz (7) Third and Emily Kossa (7) Second

On-Site Drawing: Dax Dittrich (6) First and Mackenzie Srubar (8) Second

Prose Interpretation: Alexis Fowlkes (4) Second; Haley Nidey (5) Third; Sarah Walker (5) Fifth; Hannah Fogle (5) Sixth; Molly McCourt (6) First; Baylie Fietsam (6) Second; Emily Seyl (7) First; Emily Kossa (7) Third; and Elizabeth Pohl (8) Sixth

Ready Writing: Amanda Jurica (3) Second; Dawson Dittrich (3) Sixth; Hannah Fogle (5) First; Sarah Walker (5) Fifth; Haley Nidey (5) Sixth; Molly McCourt (6) First; Baylie Fietsam (6) Second; Emily Seyl (7) First; Emily Kossa (7) Third; and Elizabeth Pohl (8) Sixth

Science: Hagan Jones (6) First; Christopher Kunz (6) Sixth; Cameron Heger (8) Fifth; and Mackenzie Srubar (8) Sixth

Spelling: Taylor Olsovsky (4) Second and Sarah Walker (5) Fifth; Kirsten Heger (6) Fourth; Molly McCourt (6) Sixth and Emily Seyl (7) First

Storytelling: Kate James (1) Third; Tyler Allen (1) Fourth; Wyatt Fogle (2) Fourth; Ray Thompson (3) Second; and Amanda Jurica (3) Sixth

Vocabulary: Haley Nidey (5) First; Emily Kossa (7) First; and Freeman James (7) Third



'Commando crawl' and all, priests train to be military chaplains

By Christina Lee Knauss
Catholic News Service

FORT JACKSON, S.C.—As the soldier leaned out over a length of rope stretched 20 feet in the air over a net, he began the "commando crawl," a careful, hand-over-hand movement across the rope to a wooden platform on the other side. The other men and women in his platoon waited on the ground below and cheered him as he slowly made progress.

The casual observer would never guess the man on the rope, a first lieutenant, was also a Catholic priest, Father Mario Rosario, studying to become a chaplain in the U.S. Army.

He and eight other Catholic priests were among approximately 130 students in late March at the U.S. Army Chaplain Center and School at Fort Jackson, near Columbia.

Father Rosario, a native of the Philippines, and three other priests were enrolled in the Chaplain Basic Officer Leadership Course, the initial three-month course to



CNS photo/Paul Haring

Father Mario Rosario does the "commando crawl" during training at the U.S. Army Chaplain Center and School at Fort Jackson, S.C., March 27. Father Rosario, a first lieutenant in the Army, and three other Catholic priests completed the Chaplain Basic Officer Leadership Course April 5 and could easily serve in Iraq within a year.

to combat areas during their careers. It also bonds them with those they serve.

"It's important for the soldiers to see the chaplains doing the same things they do," Father Kenehan said.

The shortage of Catholic priests in the Army resembles in many ways the shortage of priests in the civilian world. With an increasing shortage of priests in the United States, more dioceses are relying on missionary priests from overseas.

Of the nine priests in training at the chaplain school, all but one were foreign-born. They came from the Philippines, India, Poland, Kenya and Nigeria.

"The pressing need for priests in the Army prompted me to do this," said Father John Baptist Gabriel, a priest of the Diocese of Neyyattinkara, India.

"The kids who are facing combat really need support from priests at this time in



CNS photo/Paul Haring

1st Lt. Matt Guncheon, right, a chaplain candidate, gives a homily during training for a "field service" that was part of the Chaplain Basic Officer Leadership Course at Fort Jackson, S.C., March 27. 1st Lt. Scott Dennis, left, who is a chaplain, later played his guitar as soldiers sang Christian songs at the service.

become a chaplain. They graduated April 5. Five other priests, already chaplains, are

taking the Chaplain Captain Career Course, or C-4.

Catholic priests are a minority in the ranks of Army chaplains, even though it is estimated that one in four soldiers in the Army is Catholic, said Oblate Father David A. Kenehan, an Army colonel who serves as deputy commandant at the chaplain school.

Priests who become military chaplains are also soldiers. Their lives include daily and weekly Mass, prayer and other elements of a civilian priest's life.

But they dress in regulation camouflage battle-dress uniforms. They study military regulations and procedures, wake up early to go on five-mile marches, learn how to put on a gas mask in less than nine seconds, and rappel off a 60-foot wooden structure known as Victory Tower.

This training is essential because many of these priests and their fellow chaplains will be deployed

to combat areas during their careers. It also bonds them with those they serve.

Once they complete chaplain training, Catholic priests are usually assigned to serve as chaplains for a division. As chaplains, they minister to soldiers from all

their lives."

Napieralski said. "I wish those who think about the priesthood would also think about this as a possibility."

Priests who have already completed one or two tours in combat areas in the

Middle East say the issues soldiers face these days are daunting, especially strained marriages and family ties because of long, multiple deployments. Add this to the daily stress of combat, homesickness and the pain of losing friends and fellow soldiers, and the work of the Catholic priest as chaplain becomes even more vital, they say.

"Being in combat helps you to know more the value of life," said Father Isaac Opara, another Nigerian in the C-4 class who was deployed to Kandahar in Afghanistan.

"What gave me joy over there was knowing I was living the mission of bringing the Gospel to everyone," he added. "The work I did showed me how important the priest is in the combat context. Catholic soldiers especially need their priests because it takes a priest to make sure they get the spiritual attention they need."



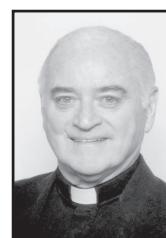
CNS photo/Paul Haring

Fathers John Baptist Gabriel, Mario Rosario, Fausto Kaverenge and Maciej Napieralski, all foreign-born, are introduced at a Sunday Mass for basic trainees at Fort Jackson, S.C., March 25.

denominations, not just Catholics.

After graduation, the four priests received their assignments: Father Rosario, Hunter Army Airfield, Savannah, Ga.; Father Kaverenge, Germany; Father Gabriel, Fort Hood, Texas; and Father Napieralski, Fort Wainwright, Alaska.

"We need more chaplains in the U.S. Army and we need more priests," Father



Spirituality for Today

By Father John Catoir
Catholic News Service

Iraq and the Shiite-Sunni split

We all need to pray for peace in Iraq. The situation is desperate, but there is still reason to hope for a solution. Here is my take on the relationship between the Sunnis and the Shiites.

Iraq is similar to a medieval society in that 85 percent of the population is Shiite, the serfs and peasants, while the remaining 15 percent are Sunni, the landlords and upper classes. The Sunnis, once the rulers before Saddam Hussein was toppled, are now in the minority in the government.

The Shiites want revenge after decades of abuse, but only the radicals among them are striking out violently against the Sunnis. Radical Sunnis are striking back. They want to prevent a democratic state from succeeding.

The original split between the Shiites and the Sunnis goes back to the death of Mohammed in 632. At that time, Mohammed's followers argued over who should succeed him. The more traditional Shiites insisted that only blood relatives of the prophet should lead them. The Sunnis held that any member of the faithful who could gain a consensus of support should lead them.

Where do the two groups stand today? They are still divided.

The countries in the region, except Iran, are predominantly Sunni. Saudi Arabia is a Sunni nation. Osama bin Laden and his group al-Qaida are radical Sunnis. The late Abu Zarqawi, who beheaded the hostages on camera, considered himself a Sunni warrior. The Taliban in Afghanistan are Sunnis. They declared all the Afghan Shiites to be heretics, and did not hesitate to slaughter thousands of them in spite of the Quran's prohibition.

Jordan's King Abdullah is a Sunni. He

claims he is a direct descendent of the Prophet Mohammed. The leader of Syria is a Sunni. President Hosni Mubarak of Egypt is a Sunni. He has stated publicly that most Shiites are loyal to Iran but not the countries where they live. He and others are worried that a Shiite state under Iran's control might lead to a shift in power involving the control of oil.

The Shiites may be the majority in Iraq, but they number only 150 million in the general region, which has over 450 million Sunnis. The hostility between these two groups predates the American intervention in Iraq by centuries. (My book "World Religions" has a chapter dealing with Islam.)

At the moment the American presence might be the only thing preventing a civil war from breaking out in the region. The majority of Arabs in surrounding nations are afraid that a bloodbath might occur if America pulled its troops out too quickly.

Most Arabs would welcome a peaceful Iraqi nation, but the radicals among the Shiites and the Sunnis are agitated. Contemporary concerns about the role of women, freedom and equality are issues that can best be worked out in a democratic setting. Many want to see progress, but they define progress differently.

The government in Iraq has a Shiite prime minister who has asked the U.S. not to leave because his government wants to prevent a wider war from breaking out.

Eventually, we will need a good exit strategy, but for the moment I believe a peaceful diplomatic solution is possible. With God all things are possible.

Pray for those in Iraq and in the surrounding region.

A recent letter from Father Gabriel Mensah

Father Mensah is a Navy chaplain from the Diocese of Victoria

Thanks for your "early" birthday wish. I am doing well, albeit extremely exhausted. One of the Navy Catholic chaplains in the area (Marine Corps Air Station, Beaufort, S.C.) got transferred in January. Since then I have been taking care of the Air Station and the Naval Hospital, Beaufort, due to the paucity of Navy Catholic chaplains.

Would you believe that I haven't taken a day off since I came back from my short Texas vacation in September of last year? We just don't have enough Catholic priests in the Navy. Out of 825 Navy chaplains, we have less than 70 Catholic priests, and we are stretched very thin. When I leave Parris Island in June, there will be only one Catholic priest here ... and things are going to get worse... Please say some prayers for us.

Blessings,
Father Mensah

