

# The Catholic Lighthouse

The Cradle of Texas Immigration



VOL. 21, NO. 12

OFFICIAL PUBLICATION OF THE DIOCESE OF VICTORIA IN TEXAS

April 2008

## Father Say celebrates 50th anniversary and 80th birthday with many friends

By Cynthia Brewer

Surrounded by faithful friends, parishioners of various parishes and more than twenty of his fellow priests, the Rev. Celestino Say, administrator of Our Lady of Lourdes in Victoria since 1995, celebrated his 50th year of priestly life and his 80th birthday on Sunday March 30, 2008.

Celestino Say was born on March 28, 1928, in Manila, Philippines, the fifth of seven children of John and Tee Hee (Ty) Say, and was ordained a Benedictine priest on March 21, 1958.

Father Say and Father Abbot Tarcisio Narciso, OSB, Benedictine Abbot of Our Lady of Montserrat in Manila, concelebrated the anniversary Mass with Bishop David E. Fellhauer, the president. Msgr. Thomas C. McLaughlin was the master of ceremonies of the Mass, while Deacon Jim Koenig assisted.

Other priests attending the Mass who are originally from the Philippines were Father Martin Parayno, OSB, pastor of Santo Niño Church in San Antonio, Father Mayeul Ibay, OSB, of the Diocese of Corpus Christi, and Father Juan Ignacio, pastor of St. Rose of Lima in San Antonio.

Another 18 priests from the diocese of Victoria also attended, including Msgrs. Arnold Anders, James Brunner, and Eustace Hermes, and Fathers Ed Kelly, Victor Scocco, Henry Rachunek, John Peters, Joe Hybner, Luke Mennella, John Bily, Ty Bazar, Robert Knippenberg, Greg Korenek, Dan Morales, Michael Petering, Leon Rubaj, Gabriel Oduro Tawiah, and Stan De Boe.

"Seeing all of the priests at the altar with Father Say was like a little piece of heaven," said parishioner Michelle Yates.

Three of Father Say's classmates



Pictured above is Father Say at his 50th anniversary Mass along with master of ceremonies Msgr. Thomas C. McLaughlin; in background is altar server Madalynn Kainer. Inset: Father Abbot Tarcisio Narciso, OSB, traveled from the Philippines to concelebrate Father Say's anniversary Mass.

who graduated high school with him in Manila in 1949 also attended. They were Fernando Reyes from Richmond, BC, Canada; Ponciano Reyes from La Mirada, Calif., and Renaldo Agleham, Mountain House, Calif. Other special guests attending were Brenda and Richard Wong, Dallas; Dr. Agosto Tanjuatco, San Antonio; Greg and Teresita Aranda from Missouri City, Texas; Rosalie Penafiel, P. A., Harlingen, Texas; Henry and Aurora Lopez, San Antonio; and Dr. Gary and Mary Cox, Victoria.

It was standing room only at the Mass at Our Lady of Lourdes and nearly 500

friends attended the reception. Because of the response Father Say was receiving from his invitations, he had to move the reception from the KC Hall to Holy Family Activity Center, a larger facility.

Father John Peters, pastor of Sacred Heart in Hallettsville, was the master of ceremonies at the reception; and parishioner Bob Bautista read an official proclamation from Mayor Will Armstrong proclaiming March 30, 2008, as "Father Celestino Say Day," while representatives from parish ministries made special presentations. Bishop David Fellhauer prayed the Prayer of Thanksgiving for Father Say and his Life of Service. Throughout the dinner and fellowship a slide show of photographs and videotapes of special events in Father Say's life was shown.

Parishioner Laurie Bautista said, "The whole event was so festive – it fit Father Say perfectly."

Rev. Celestino Say's life began in Manila, Philippines, as the son of Chinese

See Father Say, p. 11



Part II

## Who in the Church Should Participate in Political Life?

In the Catholic Tradition, responsible citizenship is a virtue, and participation in political life is a moral obligation. As Catholics, we should be guided more by our moral convictions than by our attachment to a political party or interest group. In today's environment, Catholics may feel politically disenfranchised, sensing that no party and few candidates fully share our comprehensive commitment to human life and dignity. Catholic lay women and men need to act on the Church's moral principles and become more involved: running for office, working within political parties, and communicating concerns to elected officials. Even those who cannot vote should raise their voices on matters that affect their lives and the common good.

[www.usccb.org/faithfulcitizenship/](http://www.usccb.org/faithfulcitizenship/)  
To be continued next month.

## Chance to see pope possible as he travels from site to site in DC, papal Masses reflect diversity of U.S. population

By Catholic News Service

WASHINGTON (CNS) — Pope Benedict XVI will celebrate Mass with tens of thousands of people in Washington and New York during his apostolic visit to the United States, April 15-20.

Washingtonians and visitors to the nation's capital will have opportunities to greet Pope Benedict XVI during his visit to Washington.

"An important part of the pope's demanding itinerary includes opportunities for the public to see the pope as he travels to some events," according to a March 19 news release from the U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops.

The release said details of the pope's travel routes were still being finalized, but that there will be several opportunities for the general public to welcome the pope as he travels in the popemobile.

Created for his predecessor, Pope John Paul II, the customized, bullet-proof vehicle allows for as much visual contact as possible between the pontiff and members of the public who gather to get a glimpse of him.

The pontiff is expected to arrive at 4 p.m. April 15 at Andrews Air Force Base in Maryland just outside Washington on an Alitalia flight dubbed "Shepherd One." Several Vatican officials and more than 60

members of the Vatican press corps will be on the same plane.

President George W. Bush and first lady Laura Bush will be there to greet the pope, as will several church officials, according to the USCCB. They will include Archbishop Pietro Sambi, Vatican nuncio to the United States; Cardinal Francis E. George of Chicago, who is USCCB president; Archbishop Donald W. Wuerl of Washington; and Archbishop Timothy P. Broglio of the U.S. Archdiocese for the Military Services. Among several hundred other guests will be military families and young people from several area Catholic high schools.

The next morning Pope Benedict will meet with President Bush at the White House, and the general public will be able to see the pope as he leaves there and travels across town to return to the papal nunciature, where he will stay while he is in Washington. Pope Benedict will ride in the popemobile for part of the route.

Later, the public will be able to see the pope as he travels in the popemobile to the Basilica of the National Shrine of the Immaculate Conception in another part of the city. At the shrine he will celebrate vespers and meet with the U.S. bishops.

On April 17, following a 5 p.m. ad-

See Chance to see pope, p. 16

## April Visit

The tentative schedule of Pope Benedict XVI on his first pastoral visit to the United States.



April 15



### WASHINGTON

Arrive in the nation's capital.

16

Official welcome at the White House. Address to U.S. bishops at the Basilica of the National Shrine of the Immaculate Conception.



17



Mass at the new Nationals baseball stadium. Visit to The Catholic University of America. Interfaith meeting at the Pope John Paul II Cultural Center.

### NEW YORK

18

Address to the United Nations. Ecumenical meeting.

19

Mass at St. Patrick's Cathedral. Meeting with youths and seminarians.



20

Visit to ground zero. Mass at Yankee Stadium.

Source: U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops

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## Bishop Fellhauer's Schedule

### April

- 5 5:30 p.m., Confirmation Mass, Holy Family Church, Wharton, including St. Joseph Church, Boling
- 6 10:00 a.m., Confirmation Mass, Our Lady of Lourdes Church, Victoria  
2:00 p.m., Confirmation Mass, Our Lady of Victory Cathedral  
6:00 p.m., Confirmation Mass, Our Lady of the Gulf Church, Port Lavaca
- 7 10:00 a.m., Texas Bishops' meeting, Mexican American Cultural Center, San Antonio
- 11 7:00 p.m., Confirmation Mass, Our Lady of Guadalupe Church, Bay City
- 12 5:00 p.m., Confirmation Mass, St. Joseph Church, Yoakum
- 13 10:15 a.m., Confirmation Mass, Sts. Peter and Paul Church, Meyersville  
6:00 p.m., Confirmation Mass, St. Philip Church, El Campo
- 15-18 Visit of Pope Benedict XVI, Washington, DC
- 19 5:00 p.m., Confirmation Mass, Holy Cross Church, Yorktown
- 20 10:30 a.m., Confirmation Mass, Sacred Heart Church, Hallettsville  
5:00 p.m., Confirmation Mass, Sts. Cyril and Methodius, Shiner
- 23 7:00 p.m., Confirmation Mass, St. Michael Church, Weimar
- 24 6:30 p.m., Mother Seton Awards banquet, Knights of Columbus Hall, Shiner
- 25 7:00 p.m., Confirmation Mass, St. Robert Church, El Campo
- 26 5:00 p.m., Confirmation Mass, St. Michael Church, including Our Lady of Guadalupe Church, Cuero
- 27 9:15 a.m., Confirmation Mass, St. Mary Church, St. Mary (Hallettsville)  
6:00 p.m., Confirmation Mass, Holy Cross Church, Bay City
- 30 7:00 p.m., Confirmation Mass, St. Anthony Church, Columbus, including the Parish of the Nativity Church, Eagle Lake

### May

- 2 7:00 p.m., Confirmation Mass, Our Lady of Mount Carmel Church, Wharton
- 3 5:00 p.m., Confirmation Mass, St. Mary Church, Victoria
- 4 8:30 a.m., Confirmation Mass, Sacred Heart Church, Flatonia  
6:00 p.m., Confirmation Mass, Assumption Church, Ganado
- 7 10:00 a.m., Presbyteral Council meeting, Chancery Office
- 10 5:00 p.m. Confirmation Mass, St. Rose of Lima Church, Schulenburg
- 11 10:30 a.m., Confirmation Mass, St. John Bosco Church, Vanderbilt

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

Effective February 27, 2008, The **Rev. Gabriel Bentil** was excardinated from the Diocese of Koforidua, Ghana, and incardinated in the Diocese of Victoria.



OFFICIAL PUBLICATION OF THE DIOCESE OF VICTORIA IN TEXAS

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

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

Subscription Price Per Year Is \$7/\$10 outside the diocese

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

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

## Letter to the Editor

### 150-year anniversary of Lourdes Apparitions

#### Dear Editor,

This year marks 150 years of miraculous happenings in Lourdes, France. Proofs for these miracles would withstand a Congressional hearing. But there is little or no documentation concerning the millions of people who have gone there only to be disappointed with failure in their personal healing.

I visited the shrine there in 1977 seeking no cures but very curious. I had no disappointments, but experienced the most overwhelming physical need to drop to my knees as soon as I entered the grotto. Why? It may have been the sight of the discarded crutches and wheelchairs. My human act was not unlike those of us to whom St. Thomas referred as needing to eat grass like cows. I confess to not having felt this same compelling need at any of the times when I approached the altar to receive the Eucharist.

When I returned to Texas, I brought about two quarts of the spring water which I had personally taken. I found many people wanted some of the water and I gave it all away drop by drop. I particularly remember giving it to a reverent friend as a last hope for his dying wife.

To get to the point ... his wife was not

cured and she made no improvement until she died. His bitter reaction was to leave the Catholic Church.

By contrast, when another California friend flew his 16-year-old son, David, to Lourdes, he and his wife could detect no improvement in several of their son's ailments. David died sometime later. David knew he was dying and knew that his parents were overcome with grief. On his deathbed, he said emphatically for his parents to have no concern about him because, "Right now ... the Blessed Mother is holding me in her arms!"

David was among those who knew that he had received God's blessing, although not the physical one which his family yearned for. David's words became a source of inspiration to a great many people as his story was recounted.

I, like many others, didn't leave Lourdes with nothing to show. I left knowing as never before that God does love us. But I know that his love is shown in ways that we cannot expect to understand.

Sincerely,  
Woody Guidry  
Victoria

## YOUR CAPITAL CAMPAIGN CONTRIBUTIONS AT WORK—As

shown, the renovation of the chapel at the Spiritual Renewal Center is progressing. In the coming month, the hardy plank siding should be installed, the openings for the windows framed in, and the porch and the steps completed. The anticipated completion date is mid-August of 2008. The new parking lot is partially completed and will be open to the public for use within a couple of weeks.



## Capital Campaign

## Thank you for your support!!

To date the Diocese of Victoria has collected \$3,261,465.03 (24%) of the \$13,551,249.02 pledged to the *Reflection of Faith, A Vision of Hope, A Gift of Love Capital Campaign*.

Due to the overwhelming response to the Capital Campaign, there were some initial delays in mailing Monthly Pledge Reminder Statements. However, the Business Office is now current and Monthly Reminder Statements are being mailed at the beginning of each month.

As a reminder, your Capital Campaign Pledges may be fulfilled utilizing your credit card (Visa, Mastercard or Discover) or through an automatic draft from your checking or savings account.

If you are not receiving your Monthly Reminder Statement or are interested in fulfilling your pledge through a credit card or automatic draft, please contact Sue Ellen Galvan at the Diocese of Victoria Business Office (361-573-0828 ext. 20).

## Diocesan Services Appeal '08

Two months after the February start up our records indicate a pledged amount of \$257,045 and the amount paid-to-date as \$195,807.50.

To the faithful people who have already responded, we send a "Thank You" for your support in carrying out the work of the diocese. For those who have not yet responded, there are nine months remaining in this year to contribute monthly or make a one-time contribution.

Remember, the chancery is now accepting donations through automatic bank withdrawals or credit cards. You may select to have your donation automatically withdrawn from your bank account each month, or charge your donation to a credit card. Required information can be found on the reverse side of your pledge card.

A pledge may be a one-time gift or a monthly payment for the remaining nine months of this year.

Jeri Joseph  
DSA Coordinator

## Stewardship Thought

"For the Son of Man came not to be served, but to serve and to give his life for many." (Mark 10:45)

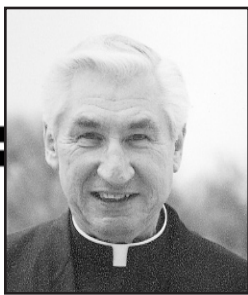




## FAITH POINT

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

For past articles: [www.stmaryvic.com/desk.htm](http://www.stmaryvic.com/desk.htm)



### Liberal Fascism

Jonah Goldberg has written a book titled *Liberal Fascism*. “Fascist” is an epithet hurled at conservatives and religious by seculars because in their mind the word sums up all that is evil, which is all that conservatives are capable of. However, Goldberg claims that fascism was the forebear of what today is called liberalism or progressivism. The liberals of other ages were in love with Mussolini, Hitler, and Stalin and spoke approvingly of the governmental “experiment” that they were conducting. Of course, when the experiment turned deadly they disavowed fascism while still clinging to the ideology behind it.

Goldberg’s thesis is that liberal secularists still cling to the ideals of fascism but to a fascism with a smiling face. Indeed the cover of his book has a smiley face with a Hitlerian mustache. I leave it to the reader to decide whether Goldberg has made his case. I think that he has.

Rather than examine his arguments and evaluate his research I will use his definition of fascistic theory of government and contrast it to the Church’s teaching on government. To some people this may be as exciting as watching grass grow and they may want to nod off in the middle of the first definition. Let me assure you that the real life results of different doctrines of government are not the least bit boring. One example is the concentration camps and gulags spawned by the earliest fascistic experiments. People were put to sleep but it was not boredom from which they died.

Goldberg argues that American liberalism is a totalitarian political religion. Here is Goldberg’s definition of fascism: Fascism is a religion of the state. It assumes the organic unity of the body politic. It is totalitarian in that it views everything as political, and holds that any action by the state is justified. To achieve a common goal it takes responsibility for all aspects of life, including health and well-being, and seeks to impose uniformity of thought and action, whether by force or through regulation and social pressure. Everything, including the economy and religion, must be aligned with its objectives.

This may not sound threatening. But let us look at these elements of fascism and contrast them to Catholic political doctrine. First of all, the State may not be a religious object. In his 1931 encyclical *Non Abbiamo Bisogno*, Pope Benedict XV accused the Fascists of “Statolatry” which resolves itself into a true pagan worship of the state. The fascist movement gave birth to a religious conviction that Christianity either was to be sloughed off and replaced or updated by the new progressive faith in man’s ability to perfect the world. Loyalty to the state and loyalty to the divine were the same thing.

Church teaching holds that there are rights and obligations of persons that are antecedent to their becoming part of a state. Just to name a few: the right to life, the right to worship as one’s conscience dictates and to establish and direct families. The rights of parents over children exist prior to the formation of states and must

not be abridged arbitrarily. This directly contradicts the fascistic notion that all things are political and under the control of government. The notion that children may be indoctrinated in the goodness of homosexuality even contrary to their parents’ wishes, as a recent California court held, is a fascistic one.

The government is not responsible for all aspects of life, but only for those that are essential to achieve the common good. In Catholic teaching the common good can be defined as the conditions of social life that permit groups and individuals to attain more fully their perfection. The common good has three elements: (1) respect for the person and his or her inalienable rights; (2) social well-being and development of the group itself; and (3) peace or security of a just order including individual and collective just defense. Governmental authority is legitimate only if it seeks the common good and employs moral means.

The Catholic view of government does not permit the state to control all goods of society. In order to avoid stifling of personal freedom and initiative, states must follow the rule of subsidiarity according to which a community of a higher order must not interfere with the internal life of a community of the lower order, depriving the latter of its functions, but rather should support it and in case of need help to coordinate its activities with the rest of society, always with a view to the common good. The principle of subsidiarity is opposed to all forms of collectivism. History itself shows the wisdom of the Church’s position on private ownership as an incentive for productivity and initiative since the enterprise that eliminated private property, Communism, literally went broke. Other socialist nations have had their economies diminished in precise alignment with the degree of socialism that they have adopted.

Fascistic tendencies and ideologies are a real danger to our freedom. Start with religious freedom. Hitler’s Germany first forbade school prayer, then Christmas carols and Christmas celebrations and, finally, all religious instruction of those fourteen years of age or older. This pattern is disturbingly similar to what is happening in our nation. In the United States, moments of silence were prohibited as being a government endorsement of prayer. Nonsectarian prayers in school were outlawed. All this flows from the same fascistic impulse that could not countenance an allegiance rivaling that of the state.

In the fascist machine there lurks a hidden eugenics demon. For a time some American states engaged in compulsory sterilization to eliminate the “unfit.” When it was reported that the Nazis had sterilized over 50,000 “unfit” Germans, American geneticist, Alan Wolfe, exclaimed that the Germans were beating us at our own game. Oliver Wendell Holmes stated that “three generations of imbeciles were enough” and that health of the organic body politic trumped individual liberty.

Fascist leaders imposed their ideology on the nation. The same is true of modern secularists who try to impose legality of

abortion, acceptance of a homosexual lifestyle and homosexual marriages, as well as elimination of traditional families, all the while protesting the alleged imposition of values by religious groups.

Secularists become really testy when devout Christians choose to live their lives under God’s laws, but have no compunction in compelling others to live under the tender mercies of the Nanny State where they make the rules. Recent examples are smoking bans in many places, the evisceration of the Fifth Amendment ban on appropriating private property except for “public use,” a decision in California that parents do not have a right to home school their children, and the war on the amount and kinds of fats allowed in hamburgers. Man-made global warming has not been established as real, but real or not, fascists among us find it useful to achieve control over world economies. They will brook no further debate and want to initiate economy-destroying programs to counter

the Chicken Little menace.

Principles are directive of activities like the aiming of a gun. If the principles are false they can do as much damage as when a gun is not aimed properly. To the extent that liberal fascism holds sway in our country there will be a diminution of respect for life, freedom of religion, and ultimately freedom of individual activity. Fascism with a smiley face is still fascism and a danger to life and freedom.

**Personal Note:** October 19-30, 2008, I will be conducting a pilgrimage to the Holy Land—Israel and Jordan. If you have ever wanted to visit Israel I urge you to take advantage of this opportunity. The tour will visit the sites at which Gospel events took place and also Petra, declared one of the new Seven Wonders of the World. Contact me at 361-573-4328 or e-mail to: [stmaryvic@suddenlinkmail.com](mailto:stmaryvic@suddenlinkmail.com) or at P.O. Box 2448, Victoria, Texas 77902-2448.

## Faith, Reason, and The War Against Jihadism – A Call to Action

By George Weigel; Doubleday; 208 pgs; 2007; \$18.95

Review by Cynthia Brewer, editor

I’ve just finished a book that I believe is very important for Americans to read.

The introduction to the book is titled, “Deadly Serious Business.” That should give the hint that the book’s topic is extremely important. George Weigel’s purpose in “Faith, Reason, and The War Against Jihadism – A Call to Action,” is to identify what we should have learned since Sept. 11, 2001: about the enemy, about ourselves and about what must be done to see us through to a future safe for freedom.

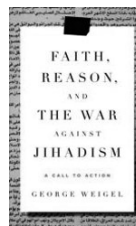
Weigel is a distinguished senior fellow of Washington’s Ethics and Public Policy Center; he is a Catholic theologian and one of America’s foremost commentators on issues of religion and public life.

He clusters 15 lessons under the three headings: “Understanding the Enemy;” “Rethinking Realism;” and “Deserving Victory.”

In section one, “Understanding the Enemy,” Weigel first explains what we need to know about ourselves in order to know our enemy. He explains that the U.S.’ decline in moral values, the secularization of our culture, and the media, government and intellectual’s downplaying and belittling of religion, greatly contributes to the extremist Muslim’s hatred of the West. Although so few are willing to admit it, Weigel says the war on terror has everything to do with religion and values.

The author then explains the enemy, warning readers that Judaism, Christianity and Islam should not be spoken of as the “Three Abrahamic Faiths;” for although all three trace the origins of their faith in the one true God to Abraham, what has emerged is three decisively different religions – especially with regard to Islam. Very importantly, Weigel also explains that there are many forms of Islam, but the specific form of Islam that threatens the West is best described as *Jihadism*. He quotes Richard John Neuhaus’ definition of Jihadism as “the religiously inspired ideology that it is the moral obligation of all Muslims to employ whatever means necessary to compel the world’s submission to Islam.” However, those Muslims who read Jihad to mean “a peaceful spiritual struggle” are not the enemy. Americans must realize the difference.

Under “Realism,” Weigel explains how the U.S. was prepared for the first



war on Iraq, the removal of Saddam Hussein, but was neither prepared militarily, intellectually, nor politically for the three years that followed. The U.S. was not

prepared because it had not defined the enemy, the author says, as it had with the NSC-68, the document drafted that defined the enemy and the strategy to be deployed, if needed, in the Cold War. However, he is quick to note that deterrence, the Cold War strategy, would be ineffective against those who crave martyrdom, the 21<sup>st</sup> century enemy warrior.

For instance, regarding the need for a regime change in Iran, he suggests Kenneth Timmerman’s advice that a U.S. military strike would be costly, ineffective and counterproductive. Instead, we should empower Iranian pro-democracy forces to change the regime. And, keeping very much in step with the Church’s teaching, Weigel suggests we follow the 2007 advice of George P. Shultz, William J. Perry, Henry A. Kissinger and Sam Nunn that the U. S., with as many nuclear power allies, must abolish nuclear weapons.

In the final section, “Deserving Victory,” a quote he borrows from Winston Churchill, Weigel says that as a nation we must avoid relativism that believes all cultures are equal. If we refuse to judge other cultures because it would appear that we’re intolerant or antidemocratic, we become a culture given to self-deprecation, he states. We cannot win a war against global jihadism if we do not deem our culture/selves worthy of victory. And speaking of worth, the author reminds liberal thinkers, who have no tolerance for Christianity, that it was Christianity that brought freedom and human dignity to members of society and limited the state’s boundaries over its people. It was Christianity that formulated the idea that the state is the servant of society, not man a servant to the state. Therefore we should hold our Christian culture in esteem and not succumb to the cultural, social, and political pressures from Islamists and through a mistaken idea of tolerance succumb to self-imposed dhimmitude (second class citizenship/slavery) to Islam. This may sound like paranoid thinking; however, the author gives many examples of how Western Europeans have lost their rights to super sensitivity to Islam.

“Faith, Reason, and the War Against Jihadism” is a good wake-up call to Americans who, perhaps, are becoming influenced by the wishy-washy relativists of our time.





## 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 March 31, 2008

	TOTALS
<b>— Rev. John C. Bily Seminary Burse</b>	
Previously reported	\$1,350.00
In memory of Rev. Msgr. Edward F. Bily by members of his family	1,000.00
Donation by Catholic Life Insurance Weimar Branch No. 5	100.00
In memory of Bennie ad Mary Addicks by Laurence and Sylvia Addicks	15.00
In memory of Emil James Dusek by Laurence and Sylvia Addicks	10.00
In honor of Rev. John C. Bily's 20th Anniversary as Pastor of St. Michael Church, Weimar by Mrs. Online Mae	50.00
Anonymous Donation	5.00
In memory of Robert Paul Kelley by Imelda Kelley	10.00
In memory of P. A. and Stella Kubala by Lowell M. Kubala	25.00
In memory of Carla Marek by Bernice Liehardt	10.00
In memory of Tim Kram by Bernice Liehardt	10.00
In memory of Pedro and Barbara Reyes by Petra L. Reyes	25.00
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$2,610.00</b>

<b>— Knights of Columbus 4th Degree St. Michael's Assembly 1527 Weimar, TX Seminary Burse</b>	
Previously reported	\$2,475.00
In memory of Sir Knight John J. Pechacek by K of C 4th Degree 1527	225.00
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$2,700.00</b>

<b>— Catholic Daughters Court of St. Ann No. 369 Seminary Burse</b>	
Previously reported	\$5,988.99
In memory of Irene Adamek by CDA Court St Ann No. 369	50.00
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$6,038.99</b>

<b>— Rev. John C. Peters Seminary Burse No. 4</b>	
Previously reported	\$469.00
In memory of Joe and Olga Targac, parents of Deacon Joey Targac	20.00
In memory of Helen and Harold Fellhauer, parents of Bishop David Fellhauer by Margaret Dornak	1,000.00
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$1,489.00</b>

<b>— Rev. Jerome J. Stryk Seminary</b>	
Previously reported	\$10,567.50
In memory of Johnny Pechacek by Lad & Helen Muras	10.00
In memory of Johnny Pechacek by Steven and Ann Hennig	10.00
In memory of Sister Bernard Stryk by Daniel Stryk	100.00
In memory of Sister Bernard Stryk by Andrew and Pauline Stryk	100.00
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$10,787.50</b>

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**SEMINARY BURSES**  
**DIOCESE OF VICTORIA**  
P. O. BOX 4070  
VICTORIA, TX 77903

— Rev. Marcus Valenta
— Rev. Godfrey F. Kuratko
— Rev. Msgr. John Hanacek
— Rev. Msgr. Michael Harrold
— Holy Rosary Parish – Hostyn
— Rev. Joseph Koebel
— St. Mary's Church – Praha
— St. Mary's Church – High Hill
— Holy Rosary Church – Hostyn
Burse #2
— Deceased Priests of Praha
— Knights of Columbus 4th Degree Victoria Assembly #1126
— Knights of Columbus 4th Degree Yoakum Assembly #1128 Burse #2
— Knights of Columbus 4th Degree Victoria Council #1329 Burse #3
— Knights of Columbus 4th Degree St. Michael's Assembly Weimar #1527
— Knights of Columbus Holy Family Council #9088
— Knights of Columbus Council #3204 – Ganado Rev. Joseph Hybner

## In Memory of ...

### Aurora A. Calzada, Deacon Al's mother

PORT LAVACA — Aurora Aurelia Calzada, 94, of Port Lavaca, passed away Thursday, Feb. 28, 2008. She was born Dec. 26, 1913, in Runge, to the late Victoriano and Modesta Padilla Farias. She was retired from the housekeeping dept. at the hospital.



She is survived by her daughters, Angelina Calzada, Amelia Silvas, Angelica Partida, and Janie Lozano, all of Port Lavaca; Martina Flores of Houston, and Mary Ann Balboa of Inez; sons, Deacon Al, Cipriano, Gabriel, Joe, and Tony Calzada, all of Port Lavaca; 46

grandchildren, 66 great-grandchildren, and six great-great grandchildren.

She was preceded in death by her parents; husband, Cipriano Calzada Sr.; sisters, Juanita Salazar, and Conception Velasquez; and brothers, Juan and Jose.

A funeral service was held March 1 at Our Lady of the Gulf Church in Port Lavaca with the Rev. Francis Thaivalappil CMI, officiating. Interment followed immediately at Port Lavaca Cemetery.

Pallbearers were Victor O. Calzada, Al Calzada Jr., David Silvas, Joe Calzada Jr., Felipe Lozano III, Julie Mesada, and Alyssa Garcia.

Memorials may be made to Our Lady of the Gulf Catholic Church.

### Sister Linda Avilla, former teacher at St. Mary, Nada

FOND DU LAC, Wis. — School Sister of St. Francis Linda Avilla (Michaelinda) died March 4, 2008, at St. Agnes Hospital in Fond du Lac, Wis. The daughter of Peter and Consension Avilla, she was born Dec. 12, 1926, in Sioux Falls, South Dakota. She was received into the School Sisters of St. Francis June 13, 1950, and made her final (perpetual) vows June 21, 1958.



Sister Linda is survived by two brothers, Frank (Elizabeth) of Eau Gallie, Florida, and Henry of Omaha, Neb.; and two

sisters, Leona Lindsay of Kennett, Missouri, and Gladys O'Brien of Jacksonville, Arizona; nieces and nephews; friends; and the School Sisters of St. Francis.

Sister Linda lived her religious ministry in Iowa, Nebraska, Illinois, Montana, Minnesota, Arizona, New Mexico, Wisconsin and Texas. In the Diocese of Victoria, Sister taught at St. Mary School in Nada (1983-1988) and served as parish minister at Our Lady of Guadalupe Parish in Eagle Lake (1988-1989).

A funeral Mass took place on March 7 at St. Joseph Convent in Campbellsport, Wis. Interment followed at Sisters' Cemetery in Campbellsport, Wis.

### Olga K. Targac, Deacon Joseph's mother

WEIMAR — Olga Konarik Targac, 86, of Weimar, passed away March 4, 2008. She was born Jan. 1, 1922, in Smithville, the daughter of Jan and Emilie Konarik.



Olga was a homemaker, childcare provider, and a member of St. Michael Catholic Church in Weimar. She married Joe Charles Targac on April 24, 1948.

Olga is survived by her daughter, Pat Simons and husband James of Columbus; sons, Deacon Joseph and wife Mary of

Hallettsville, David and wife Stephanie of Bay City, and Gary and wife Christina "Cricket" of Anchorage, Alaska; eight grandchildren and seven great-grandchildren.

She was preceded in death by her parents; husband; brother, Eddie Konarik; and sister, Millie Svoboda.

A funeral Mass was held on March 8 at St. Michael Church with Father John Peters officiating. Burial followed at Sts. Peter and Paul Cemetery in Plum.

Pallbearers were her grandchildren. Memorial contributions may be made to St. Michael Catholic School in Weimar or the charity of your choice.

### Sister M. Bernard Stryk, IWBS

Sister M. Bernard Stryk, IWBS, 93, of Victoria, died March 19, 2008. She was born on Feb. 4, 1915, in Flatonia, to the late Frank and Albina (Barta) Stryk. She was a member of the Sisters of the Incarnate Word and Blessed Sacrament.



Sister Bernard completed grade school at St. Mary's School in Praha and attended high school at Blessed Sacrament Academy in San Antonio. She entered Blessed Sacrament Convent as a postulant on Feb. 2, 1930. She made her final profession on Feb. 23, 1936.

She received a Bachelor of Arts degree with a major in English and a minor in Spanish from Incarnate Word College in San Antonio.

Sister Bernard ministered as a teacher in the following schools: St. John the Baptist in Ammannsville; St. John Nepomucene in Fayetteville; Sacred Heart in Hallettsville; St. Michael in Weimar; Holy Trinity in Corn Hill; St. John in San Marcos; St. Joseph in Honey Creek; St. Michael in Cuero; Immaculate Conception

in Sealy; Blessed Sacrament Academy in San Antonio and Incarnate Word Special School in Victoria.

Sister also served as a nurse's aide in the IWC Infirmary. She had resided in the infirmary since 1999 and ministered in the apostolate of prayer and suffering. She is remembered for her quiet, gentle and serene manner in all that she did.

Survivors: brothers, Louis of Flatonia, and Edwin and wife Julie of Victoria; sisters, Irene Stryk Orsak of Victoria, and Helen Stryk Muras and husband Lad of Flatonia; sister-in-law, Delores Stryk of Victoria; and nieces and nephews.

Preceded in death by: parents; brothers, infant Joseph Stryk, Frank Stryk, the Rev. Jerome Stryk and Bernard Stryk; and sister, Lillie Stryk Kalina.

Funeral services were held March 24 at the convent with the Rev. Leon Rubaj presiding. Burial followed at Catholic Cemetery III.

Pallbearers were her nephews, Gerald Kalina, Daniel Stryk, Jimmy Orsak, Steven Muras, Robert Stryk, David Stryk, Perry Muras and Stanley Stryk.

Memorials may be made to Incarnate Word Convent, Hospice of South Texas or donor's choice.

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

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

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

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





## Young adult Catholics are interested in church ministry, study finds

By Catholic News Service

WASHINGTON (CNS) — Although many young adult Catholics are interested in church ministry they find it difficult to connect their career plans or talents with available ministries, according to a survey released this year.

The survey, "Young Adult Catholics and Their Future in Ministry," was commissioned by the Emerging Models of Pastoral Leadership Project, a joint project involving six national Catholic organizations and funded by the Lilly Endowment Inc.

A preliminary report on the survey of young adult Catholics will be the topic of an upcoming National Ministry Summit April 20-23 in Orlando, Fla. The summit, initially planned for 1,000 participants, recently was expanded to accommodate all who wish to attend.

"The waiting list kept growing," said Christopher Anderson, executive director for the National Association for Lay Ministry, one of the sponsoring groups of the project. He said the interest in discussing the survey's results shows that it "struck a chord with the people who minister and those who plan for future ministry in the Catholic Church."

The nationwide online survey of young adult Catholics was conducted by sociologist Dean Hoge of The Catholic University of America's Life Cycle Institute and Marti Jewell, director of the Emerging Models of Pastoral Leadership Project. Approximately 1,300 survey respondents were either involved in campus ministry programs or parish young adult ministries. The full survey will be published by Loyola Press later this year.

Most of the respondents said they view lay ministry as a call from God. More than a third of college students expressed interest in such service, and more than half of active young adults in the workforce expressed the same interest. Nearly half of the young men surveyed and more than a third of the women said they have at one time seriously considered ministry as a priest or religious.

"It's time for us to engage these young people and find out how we can get them on board," said Bishop Blase J. Cupich of Rapid City, S.D., episcopal adviser for the Emerging Models project.

"We are heartened at their level of interest, and we need to find ways to translate this attraction into active ministry that our church urgently needs," he added.

The survey set out to learn more about the next generation of church ministers by looking at factors that both determine and deter their involvement in ministry.

Respondents said they were responsive to the concepts of answering God's call, helping others and passing on the faith. Deterrents to ministry included other career plans and not realizing their own talents for ministry, low wages for lay ministry work and celibacy for those considering vowed vocations.

Many young adults in the survey — nearly half of the men and nearly 40 percent of the women — said they have seriously considered the priesthood or religious life. Following other career paths and a desire for marriage were most often cited as the primary reasons not to pursue ordination.

When asked if guidelines could be changed for those pursuing the priesthood, religious life or diaconate, respondents did not change their opinion.

For example, young women in the survey did not show great interest in becom-

ing priests if they could. Nearly a quarter of the young men said they would find the priesthood more inviting if celibacy were not mandatory, but many did not have an opinion about it. The required lifelong commitment also did not appear to be a deterrent. The diaconate was of interest, but viewed as an option for later in life.

More than half of the respondents said the church needs to move faster to empower laypeople in ministry.

The young adult Catholics who were surveyed said they want pastoral leaders to more actively engage them in the life of the church and said they also would like a more solid catechetical foundation. Some called for more traditional practices in the church while others wanted the church to relate more to modern life and their personal experience.

"Underneath the differences, these young adults show deep care for their faith and an interest in the future of the church," said Jewell, director of the Emerging Models project.

"Our next task is to find ways to engage them in a church for which discipleship is central and their involvement is crucial," she said. "The young adults in this study have given us some interesting ideas to think about, and point to further questions and study. It is an area of concern that affects us all."

The survey report, "Young Adult Catholics and Their Future in Ministry: Interim Report on the 2007 Survey of the Next Generation of Pastoral Leaders," contains some of the main results of the survey conducted for the Emerging Models project. It is available online at [www.emergingmodels.org](http://www.emergingmodels.org); the site also has information on the National Ministry Summit.

The Emerging Models of Pastoral Leadership Project is a collaborative effort of the National Association for Lay Ministry, the Conference for Pastoral Planning and Council Development, the National Association of Church Personnel Administrators, the National Association of Diaconate Directors, the National Catholic Young Adult Ministry Association and the National Federation of Priest Councils.

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### Substitute Adorers Needed

St. Mary's Adoration Chapel in Victoria is always in need of substitutes. If you are willing to fill in when an adorer needs a substitute, please call Cleo Boldt at 573-6161 or St. Mary Rectory at 573-4328.



U.S. Sisters Mary Rachel and Mary Madeline talk with World Youth Day volunteers at the offices of the Archdiocese of Sydney in Sydney, Australia. These members of the Dominican Sisters of St. Cecilia in Nashville, Tenn., are among those working on the spiritual and liturgical aspects of World Youth Day 2008. (CNS photo/Nancy Wiechec)

## U.S. Dominican nuns turn heads, spread God's love to youths in Sydney

By Dan McAloon  
Catholic News Service

SYDNEY, Australia (CNS) — Everywhere they go in Sydney, the three Dominican nuns from Tennessee keep turning heads. Dressed in their distinctive white habits and black and white veils, the sisters stand out in the crowd.

At Sydney Harbor, where the tourists fix their cameras on the iconic Opera House and bridge, the arrival of Sisters Anna Wray, Mary Rachel Capets and Mary Madeline Todd gets everybody's viewfinders swinging in their direction.

The reaction of local residents in Belmore, the multicultural suburb where they are staying, is similar. The Vietnamese baker and his wife tell them of the kindness of Catholic nuns to war orphans in their homeland. The older people in the street stop to reminisce about the nuns who taught them at school. The "hijab"-wearing Muslim women, at first surprised at the sight of the nuns' veils, smile broadly with the recognition of the love of a common God.

"You're making our neighborhood a different place," the Lebanese shopkeeper told them. And when his customers ask if he has seen the strange new nuns about, the shopkeeper boasts: "Yes, of course! They are my friends!"

The nuns are in Sydney at the invitation of Sydney Auxiliary Bishop Anthony Fisher, World Youth Day 2008 coordinator and fellow Dominican. Normally they would be at home teaching, but their motherhouse in Nashville has sent delegations to assist with preparations for each World Youth Day since Denver was the host city in 1993.

"It's part of our apostolic mission to spread God's love to the youth of the world," said Sister Anna, 28, noting that as Dominicans their lives are balanced between "contemplation and action."

"Wherever we are, we live by our values. Our founder Dominic was about taking God's word into the world and influencing people. We have a capacity to be adaptive, you could say. We know that people won't listen to us unless we are clearly living what we preach," she said.

A colleague at the Sydney Archdiocese describes the three as a "breath of fresh air about the place."

While Sister Mary Madeline is working as an assistant to Bishop Fisher, Sister Anna works with the liturgical committee and Sister Mary Rachel helps plan the

youth festival.

As the July 15-20 World Youth Day events approach, there are still myriad details to be finalized in time for the arrival of the pilgrims. More than 125,000 are expected to arrive from overseas for the event, including 38,000 from the United States.

Sister Mary Rachel, 32, said that despite the 20-hour flight from Los Angeles, pilgrims from the U.S. won't be disappointed.

"They will find a beautiful, friendly city. People here are very generous because many are migrants and they know what it is to be the stranger," she said. "And for the pilgrims there's the special grace of being in the presence of the pope and in experiencing the beauty of the universal church."

"All Catholic life is a pilgrimage, and every experience teaches us something new," added Sister Mary Madeline. "I think the people of Sydney will be very surprised by how many pilgrims are ready to make that journey for Christ and celebrate their life in communion."

Sister Anna, a Dominican novice, has her own pilgrim story to tell of the influence World Youth Day had in calling her to religious life.

"Being in Rome for World Youth Day (in 2000) really was a catalyst for my entering religious life," she said. "I had no intention of being a sister then, but I did hear the offering of the church and the Holy Father, 'Do not be afraid to live the Gospel directly.' And that is something I have tried to do ever since."

**Editor's Note:** Marie Hannah Seiler, daughter of Richard and Judy Seiler of Holy Family Parish in Victoria, is a Dominican Sister of the above mentioned congregation.

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## — St. Ann's Carolyn Brogger — Parish Catechetical Leader of the Month

By Cynthia Brewer

POINT COMFORT—The diocesan catechetical office has chosen to honor Mrs. Carolyn Brogger of St. Ann Mission in Point Comfort as the April Parish Catechetical Leader (PCL).

Mrs. Brogger has been the PCL at St. Ann's, a mission of Our Lady of the Gulf Parish in Port Lavaca, for 14 years. Prior to being asked to be the PCL, Mrs. Brogger was going on her 24th year as a catechist, of which the last 14 years she had been the 2nd grade catechist.

She said she accepted the position of PCL so she could work with kindergarten to 12th grade students.

St. Ann's religious education classes are taught on Wednesday afternoons and evenings. For the school year 2007-08, the mission has 55 students: 27 k – 5th graders, who meet in the afternoon; and 28 6th-12th graders, who meet in the evening. Mrs. Brogger has 12 catechists who assist her and the program.

The most challenging aspect of her ministry is parent involvement and keeping the kids coming when they're involved in athletics. Mrs. Brogger said it is hard for the parents to come to the meetings and the kids to come to class with so many other events competing for their time.

Some of the happiest moments con-

cerning her ministry include the climax of a year's work with the 2nd graders, "I worked with this group for many years, so First Communion is a happy day for me," she said.

Mrs. Brogger also feels blessed when she sees newly confirmed young adults return to religious education classes, even after they've received the sacrament of confirmation.

Congratulations to Mrs. Carolyn Brogger for her 38 years of service as a catechist and leader. She is also involved with the Parish Bereavement Committee.



Carolyn Brogger  
St. Ann Mission

## Child Abuse Prevention Month to be observed in April

WASHINGTON—Child Abuse Prevention Month will be marked in parishes and dioceses around the United States in April. The Secretariat of Child and Youth Protection has made care for minors a key priority and spearheaded nationwide safe environment programs through which 5,683,940 minors already have been educated on how to protect themselves from harm and 1,844,681 adults have undergone background screening and training on appropriate relationships with youth in their care.

"We can never rest when it comes to protecting children and teenagers," said Bishop Gregory Aymond, chair of the bishops' Committee on the Protection of Children and Young People. "They are gifts entrusted to us by God and our future is in their hands. The prevalence of child abuse in our society calls for vigilance of parents, pastors, teachers, indeed, all responsible adults. Child Abuse Prevention Month deserves our attention in both prayer and action."

Parents, guardians, and adults who care for children face constant challenges when trying to help keep children safer in today's fast-paced world. The National Center for Missing and Exploited Children (NCMEC) offers easy-to-use safety resources to help address these challenges. NCMEC's Web site offers a range of practical information for parents and guardians that will help keep children safe from harm. The site also features an interactive quiz on child safety designed for both adults and children.

Visit the NCMEC Web site and click on "Child Safety": [www.missingkids.com](http://www.missingkids.com). For a diocesan personalized quiz, go to the Office of Child and Youth Protection link at the Diocese of Victoria's Web site

## Offices of Catechetical Ministry and Youth and Young Adult Ministry Co-sponsor OCL Adolescent Workshop

The Offices of Catechetical Ministry and Youth and Young Adult Ministry are co-sponsoring a workshop titled "Sharing Faith with Young Adolescents" (grades 6-8) from 9:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. at Holy Family Parish on Tuesday, April 22, 2008.

"Sharing Faith with Young Adolescents" is designed for coordinators of religious education and youth ministry, Catholic school religion teachers, and others interested in developing strong catechetical and pastoral ministry with young adolescents (grades 6-8). This

workshop will explore new and innovative ways to minister to young adolescents that effectively help them own and appreciate their Catholic faith. The latest research on how Catholic identity is formed for youth as well as young adolescent learning styles will be explored.

The presenter Ann Marie Ecker holds a Master of Arts in Pastoral Ministry from Christ the King Seminary in Buffalo, N.Y.

Ann Marie is a coordinator for youth ministry services for the Center for Ministry Development, and currently coordinates the Youth Leader program and Effective Practices workshops. She has authored and contributed to a number of books including "Call to Faith – A Thematic Approach to Young Adolescent Catechesis" (Harcourt Religion Publishers), "Ministry Resources for Youth Leadership Development," "Ministry Resources for Community Life," and "Effective Practices for Dynamic Youth Ministry" (Saint Mary's Press). Previously, Ann Marie was the associate director for Youth and Young Adult Ministry in the Archdiocese of Milwaukee and assistant director of the Youth Department in the Diocese of Buffalo.

This workshop will be the program for the April meeting of the Organization of Catechetical Leadership. Workshop materials, morning hospitality, and lunch are included in the \$25 fee. A grant from the Offices of Catechetical Ministry and Youth Ministry has been made to offset a partial cost of this workshop, which is normally \$45. For more information or to register, please call the catechetical office at (361) 573-0828. Registration deadline



Presenter Ann  
Marie Ecker

at [www.victoriadiocese.org](http://www.victoriadiocese.org).

Sample questions include:

*True or false: Child sexual abusers are only attracted to children and are not capable of appropriate sexual relationships. False. While there is a small subset of child sexual abusers who are exclusively attracted to children, the majority of the individuals who sexually abuse children are (or have previously been) attracted to adults. Child predators are difficult to identify precisely because they look just like everyone else. In some cases, they are our most trusted friends and even our family members.*

*True or false: It is common for both child and adult victims of sexual assault to wait some time before telling someone about the abuse. True. It is common for victims of sexual assault to wait some time before telling someone. When the person was assaulted*

*as a child, he or she may wait years or decades. The reasons for this are numerous: victims may want to deny the fact that someone they trusted could do this to them; they may want to just put it behind them; they may believe the myth that they caused the assault by their behavior; or they may fear how other people will react to the truth.*

For information on how you can become more informed and involved in keeping our children safe, please call: Melissa Perales, director of the Diocese of Victoria's Office of Child and Youth Protection at 361-573-0828 ext. 49.

This April, please pray for a heightened awareness of the needs of the children in our country and throughout the world.



## Who can receive the anointing of the sick?

By Father John Dietzen  
Catholic News Service

Q. Our parish has begun giving the anointing of the sick twice a year. We have a flyer that explains who may receive the sacrament. The way I read it, one must be really sick, terminally ill or really old. I don't seem to qualify.

I was born with a hole in my esophagus that was repaired with cat gut, a new procedure in 1962. That part of my esophagus is now reduced in size and there is no natural muscle action to push the food down. If I forget to chew my food well or run out of water, food gets stuck and restricts my breathing.

Would I qualify for the anointing? To look at me no one would know I have this trouble. (Wisconsin)

A. I doubt that any priest would say you are not a valid candidate for the anointing of the sick. The introduction to the church's Rite of Anointing and Pastoral Care of the Sick (8-12) lists the following who may receive this sacrament:

- 1) Those who are seriously ill due to sickness or old age.
- 2) Those who have already been anointed but are now suffering from a different illness, or if the danger becomes more serious in the same illness.
- 3) Those who are to undergo surgery because of a serious illness.
- 4) Old people who are weak from age, even if no dangerous illness is present.
- 5) Sick children, if they have sufficient use of reason to be comforted by this sacrament.

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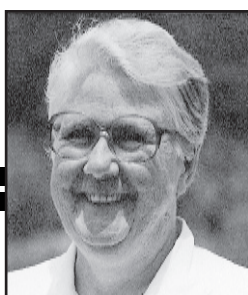
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## SISTERLY THOUGHTS

By Sister Mildred Truchard, IWBS



### Some See Jesus; Some Don't

After His Resurrection, Jesus made some surprise visits. Some people saw him; others did not. No one saw him rise from the dead; some found an empty grave; others were greeted by angels; yet others only found his burial clothes in the vacated tomb.

Now, let's examine some of Jesus' appearances that have been recorded. According to Matthew's account, which was read during the Easter Vigil Service, it was Mary Magdalene and the other Mary who had gone to see the tomb early in the morning and had seen the angel. They believed the angel and hurried away to tell the others; it was while they were hurrying to spread the Good News that Jesus appeared to the women. And on Easter Sunday, we heard John's account of how Mary Magdalene went to tell the disciples who ran back to the tomb. We are told that they finally believed after they saw the empty tomb with the burial cloths. Then during the week we heard the famous Emmaus story in which the two travelers' "eyes were prevented from seeing him" until they recognized him in the "breaking of bread." We also remember how Mary Magdalene initially failed to recognize Jesus and thought that he was the gardener. Also, we can't forget Thomas who couldn't believe that Jesus was really risen. We read of other surprise visits that Jesus made to his followers, some of whom didn't recognize him.

To sum his appearances, we read in the Acts of the Apostles, "This man God raised on the third day and granted that he be visible, not to all the people, but to us,

the witnesses chosen by God in advance, who ate and drank with him after he rose from the dead."

We may wonder why so many of the disciples failed to recognize or believe in the Risen Jesus. Was it because Jesus' body was transformed or was it because it was so far beyond their expectations that they just couldn't comprehend it? In the case of Thomas, we might say that he should not have been playing hooky when the others were assembled in prayer; however, in other instances, the persons seemed to be in the right place, so we may ask "Why didn't they see him?"

Rather than spending time worrying about the disciples; let us look at ourselves. Why can't we see Jesus? How are our spiritual eyes prevented from seeing him? We've learned that he's present in the Eucharist that we share every Sunday and often during the week. Do we recognize him with the eyes of faith? Or are we like Thomas who missed out because he was absent from the assembly? Do we recognize Jesus in those about us — those who serve us and those we serve? Do we recognize him in our loved ones whom we may take for granted? Do we recognize him in those who we think do not belong — those who think differently, act differently, or are different? Do we recognize him in those who do not get along with us?

Unlike the disciples, we can change the story; we can clean our spiritual glasses in order to find and recognize Jesus. So, let us spend the rest of the Easter Season searching for Jesus about us. Happy seeking Jesus! May you see him!

### Vincentians Celebrate 175 years and founder's birth on "Ozanam Sunday"

Local story added by Cynthia Brewer, editor

Each year, on the last Sunday of April, the Society of St. Vincent de Paul celebrates its birth and the birth of its founder, Frederic Ozanam. This year, "Ozanam Sunday" falls on April 29 and celebrates 175 years of service by the Society of St. Vincent de Paul.

Ozanam Sunday Masses often include a ceremony in which the society's members, known as "Vincentians," commit themselves to spiritual growth; to the promotion of a community of faith and friendship among all members; and to service to the poor in a spirit of justice and charity. They call on their patron, St. Vincent de Paul, to help them abandon themselves to God's Providence, and they implore their founder, Blessed Frederic Ozanam, to obtain for them a tender heart filled with compassion for the distress and suffering of others, especially the most helpless.

Blessed Frederic Ozanam was born on April 23, 1813. Exactly twenty years later, on April 23, 1833, Frederic and six fellow students at the Sorbonne in Paris founded the Society of St. Vincent de Paul. The

Society began its existence in the United States 12 years later, in 1845. The largest lay Catholic organization in the world, operating in 142 countries, the Society of St. Vincent de Paul is best known for its thrift stores and food pantries, and for the personal visits of its members to the homes of the poor and needy.

"Vincentians help people in need," observes Bishop John Quinn of Detroit, the Society's National Episcopal Advisor, "but the Vincentians themselves are the ones who benefit most. The benefactors are really the beneficiaries, because their acts of charity help them grow in faith and become better Christians."

"In the Diocese of Victoria, we have a total of nine aggregated conferences," said Cathy Garcia of St. Robert Parish in El Campo, district president for the Victoria Diocese district. To be aggregated means to be part of the international council, not just a group using the St. Vincent de Paul name.

The oldest conference in the Victoria Diocese is St. Mary of Victoria. It celebrates 53 years with its aggregation in

See Vincentians, p. 8

### CRS sends emissaries to Victoria Diocese

By Cynthia Brewer

To make known its efforts in combating poverty in Guatemala, Catholic Relief Services sent two emissaries to the Diocese of Victoria on February 14, 2008. The representatives were Father Juan Molina, O.S.S.T., former associate pastor at Our Lady of Sorrows in Victoria and now the CRS advocacy coordinator for CRS' Southwest Region, and Lucrecia Oliva of Guatemala, who traveled specifically to raise awareness of CRS' work in her country of residence.

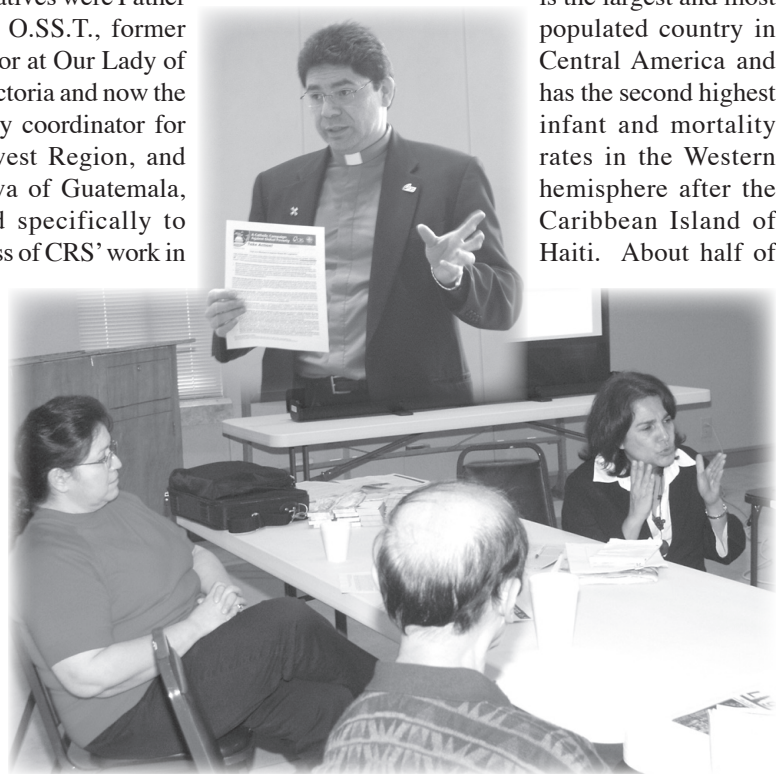
Father Juan and Ms. Oliva spoke at St. Paul High in Shiner, Sacred Heart High in Hallettsville, St. Joseph High in Victoria, as well as at Our Lady of Sorrows Parish and the chancery office.

As Lent had just begun, the two representatives came to educate members of the diocese about CRS programs, particularly the Lenten Social program "Operation Rice Bowl," as well as its programs of solidarity. The February focus on solidarity was on the Central American country of Guatemala.

Ms. Oliva first told the story of how Guatemala's 36-year civil war, which ended over a decade ago, created disparity

in the country, and that despite the stability of the current democratically elected government, the gap between the rich and the poor continues to grow.

According to CRS statistics, Guatemala is the largest and most populated country in Central America and has the second highest infant and mortality rates in the Western hemisphere after the Caribbean Island of Haiti. About half of



(inset) Rev. Juan Molina, O.S.S.T., speaks to groups in the Victoria Diocese about CRS programs. Here he is urging members of the diocese to contact their representatives regarding PEPFAR, which had been an excellent program assisting those throughout the world needing HIV medical care. Recently lawmakers requested a change to require health care providers to implement reproductive health care (abortions) and family planning.

Lucrecia Oliva (r.) of Guatemala speaks about how CRS has helped her country through its programs.

the country's children under five years of age suffer from chronic malnutrition and 57 percent of the population lives below the national poverty line.

The cause of poverty in Guatemala is the result of a highly inequitable distribution of resources.

See CRS sends emissaries, p. 18

ST. MICHAEL  WEIMAR, TEXAS

# Spring Festival

## SUNDAY, APRIL 27, 2008

### Fried Chicken & Sausage Dinner

at 11:00 a.m. - ADULTS \$7.00 - CHILDREN \$4.00  
DRIVE-THRU PLATES & PLATES-TO-GO \$7.00

**Veterans Memorial Park - Weimar, Texas**

**DRIVE-THRU TAKE-HOME PLATES WILL BE AVAILABLE AT ST. MICHAEL FAMILY CENTER ONLY**

<p><b>AUCTION</b> 1:00 p.m.</p> <p><b>ATTRACTIONS!</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>★ Country Store</li> <li>★ Cake Walk</li> <li>★ Fish Pond</li> <li>★ Music Walk</li> <li>★ Train Ride</li> <li>★ Bean Bag Throw</li> <li>★ Ring Toss</li> <li>★ Treasure Chest <small>(a variety booth)</small></li> </ul>	 <p><b>Music By:</b></p> <p><b>The Mailman Band</b> (11 a.m. - 1 p.m.)</p> <p><b>Czechaholics &amp; Red Ravens</b> (1 p.m. - 9 p.m.)</p>	<p><b>BINGO</b> 2:00 - 6:00 p.m. License 1-74-1110101-1</p> <hr/> <p>★ HAMBURGERS ★ COLD DRINKS ★ HOMEMADE ICE CREAM</p> <hr/> <p><b>Drawing</b> 9:15 p.m.</p>
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(above) 2008 Troop 364 at Our Lady of Victory Cathedral, and below, today's and yesterday's scout leaders at Troop 364 50th anniversary.



## Our Lady of Victory Boy Scouts celebrate 50 years

On Sunday, March 2, 2008, the Our Lady of Victory Boy Scout Troop #364 celebrated its 50th anniversary. The celebration began with a Scout Sunday Mass at 9 a.m. with Father David Berger, parochial vicar of Our Lady of Victory Cathedral, as the celebrant.

Following Mass, a reception was held at the KC Hall with about 175 in attendance. Booths, pictures and memorabilia were set up, giving former scouts from over the years some opportunities to share memories of camping trips.

A catered meal was served followed by the program with Gary Moses serving as master of ceremonies. The Troop #364 history was given by Graham McDonald and Dave Wearden. Guest speaker Scouter K.B. Hallmark of Inez spoke on character and values learned in scouting. Scoutmaster Frank Parma gave a talk on the changes over the past 50 years. Former scoutmasters and Eagle Scouts were honored. Closing comments and a benediction concluded the program.

## Students take home first-place honors at Catechism contest

Ten students won first place honors in their grade divisions at the final oral competition of the third annual Catechism contest for CCD students of Holy Family Catholic Church on March 1 at the church's education center. Knights of Columbus Council 9088, which is affiliated with Holy Family Church, sponsored the contest and awarded \$50 to each winner for grades 1-5. Winners for grades 6-12 were awarded \$100.

Winners include Nathan Leal, grade 1; Nicholas Carville, grade 2; Chelsea Carroll, grade 3; Samuel Bonorden, grade 4; Hannah Mallory, grade 5; Joshua Hawken, grade 6; Travis Molnoskey, grade 7; Cassie Turner, grade 8; Michael Valdez, grade 9; and Marett Hanes, grades 11-12.

Other finalists for each grade level were Natalie Hawes, Alexander Bonorden and Brandon Grahmann, grade 1; Fernando DeLeon, Myah Mallory and Morgan Lemke, grade 2; Jacob Saenz, Jack Bordovsky and Sean Casey, grade 3; Reid Goodwine, Isaac Leal and Jessica Martin, grade 4; Jordan Ulcak, Nicholas

Vallejo and Avery Fajkus, grade 5; Braydon Frazer, Ellen Hermes and Breanna Takacs, grade 6; Cabott Hanes, Joshua Guerra and Elizabeth Schmidt, grade 7; Cole Stevenson, Loretta Faxlanger and Jessica Uresti, grade 8; Drew Charbula, Jennifer Wade and Rebecca Takacs, grade 9; Stephanie Briones, Alan Mendieta, Jared Lewis and Lauren Martin, grade 10; Jarrod Rodriguez, John Solis and Nathalia Mendieta, grades 11-12.

All students enrolled in the CCD classes on Wednesday and Sunday competed in the written test to determine the top students in each class.

"We are extremely proud of the students who competed and their parents," said Carol Lehnert, director of religious education. Assisting Lehnert were Janet Sikes, assistant director of religious education; Reuben Petrusek, Betty Migura, Diane Faxlanger and Walt Hawken. Grand Knight Bob Bryarly of KC Council 9088 served as moderator. Judges were Gerald Bludau, Elizabeth Klecka and Melicent Bryarly.

## THREE YEARS STRAIGHT

### Nazareth Academy wins award for student-produced show

By BJ Lewis - Victoria Advocate

For the third year in a row, Nazareth Academy won a \$2,000 Best Buy Teach Award.

The program rewards schools that integrate technology into the curriculum. In 2006 and 2007, the school received \$2,500 each.

Since 2004, the Best Buy Teach Award program has awarded nearly \$14 million to over 5,000 kindergarten through 12-grade schools, according to the Best Buy Web site. This year Best Buy presented awards totaling up to \$4 million.

Nazareth Academy won the award based on its student-produced Nazareth Academy Show. Students write, direct, edit, produce on the show and appear on screen as anchors covering sports and other school events, principal Scott Kloesel said.

The difference this year is the show has gone to high definition.

Using the award from 2007, the school purchased an HD camcorder, a one-terabyte external hard drive, microphone and tapes for the camcorder.

They have not decided how they will spend this year's grant money.

"We're very pleased with the award. I didn't think they would award it to us for three years in a row," Kloesel said. "We're collecting quite a bit of machinery for our

kids to get experience with."

With every production, Kloesel is amazed at how quickly his students catch on to using the equipment.

Sarah Eaves, an on-screen anchor, said the award is good for her school.

"Now we can improve the show and perfect it," the 12-year-old said. "It's fun to work with all that stuff and explore and see what goes into making a TV show."

Though she enjoys working with the technology, Sarah said at this point it's not a career path she wants to explore when she is older.

Kloesel assured her she is a natural reporter, but she is looking at going into the medical field.

A fellow cast mate, Marcus Salinas, sees the show and using the technology as a springboard for his career path.

"I want to go into government or law enforcement," the 14-year-old said. "Undercover work, using digital imaging, video. It could help out."

Marcus said with the award they can improve the show and reach out to other networks and potential students "to show what Nazareth Academy is about, what you will learn."

Kloesel said the school will enter the contest again next year for certain.

"I don't know what we will enter it on the basis of," he said. "(But) we'll have something."

## Vincentians Celebrate 175 years and founder's birth on "Ozanam Sunday"

*Continued from p. 7*

Feb. 28, 1955.

In order of aggregation, the nine conferences include St. Mary's - Victoria, Our Lady of Lourdes - Victoria, Our Lady of Victory - Victoria, Our Lady of the Gulf - Port Lavaca, Assumption of the Blessed Virgin Mary - Ganado, Holy Cross - Bay City, St. Agnes - Edna, St. Robert Bellarmine - El Campo, and Our Lady of Guadalupe - Bay City.

"We also have a conference started in Shiner at Sts. Cyril and Methodius. The youngest conference is Holy Trinity in Wharton, made up of three parishes run by two priests; the parishes are Our Lady of Mount Carmel, Holy Family and St. Joseph in Boling," said Cathy. Holy Trinity will be aggregated next year in October 2009.

"This past February 24, Our Lady of Sorrows would have had 50 years but they have been inactive for six years now," Cathy said.

The assistance provided by the societies in the Diocese of Victoria ranges from food, utilities, transportation, dental, medicines, medical and shelter. Most of the assistance is provided through actual home visits: home, nursing home, jail, hospital, home bound visits, etc.

"Our income comes from black bag collections," said Cathy. Some funding also comes from fundraising, members' solidarity (members' gifts) and Emergency Food and Shelter monies that conferences can apply for. "But we only budget for the year from our black bag collections," she said.

Because many national council members (leadership) will be at the mid-year meeting in St. Louis on April 29, Ozanam Sunday will be celebrated at local conferences Sunday, April 20. Each conference will celebrate Ozanam Sunday as they wish, Cathy said. It could be with a reflection, prayer service, attending Mass as Vincentians, or by holding a membership drive.

The 175th anniversary will conclude on September 27, 2008, with the society's first annual nationwide "Friends of the Poor® Walk." As to whether a "Friends of the Poor Walk" will be held annually in the Victoria district will be discussed at the next district meeting to be held at Sts. Cyril and Methodius Parish in Shiner May 4. The quarterly meeting will follow a 9:30 a.m. Mass.

To learn more about SVDP, please go to their Web site at [www.svdpusa.org](http://www.svdpusa.org), or to join, contact your parish conference's president or contact the Victoria district's president, Cathy Garcia, by going to the Web site then click on Texas, then Diocese of Victoria. If a parish is interested in starting a conference, a priest will have to start it and contact Cathy as well.

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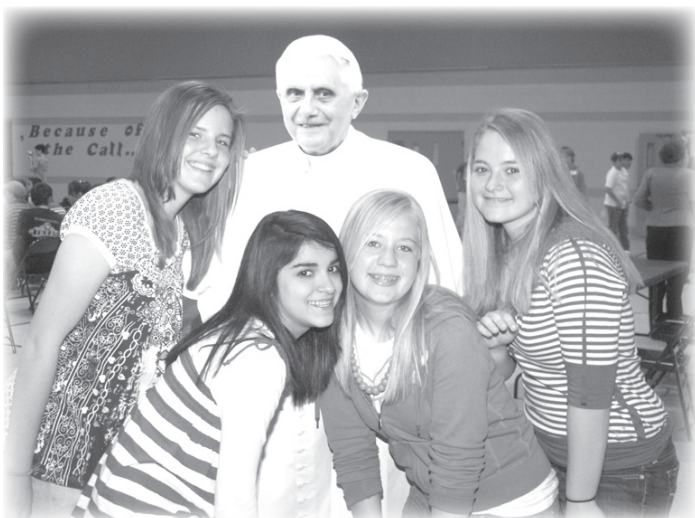
(361) 578-0828 OR

[slovakjim@att.net](mailto:slovakjim@att.net)

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[www.abcatstravel.com](http://www.abcatstravel.com)





Dana Gips, El-ysa Amador, Sara Watson and Jacque Denton, freshmen from Yorktown, get their picture taken with Pope Benedict XVI who visited the Youth Spectacular in cardboard form.

## The 2008 Youth Spectacular hosts Vince Nims to tell of "The Call"

By Cynthia Brewer

Vince Nims inspired and entertained 500 diocesan youth who attended the 2008 Youth Spectacular held at Holy Family activity center Sunday, February 9.

Vince, who grew up in Los Angeles, Calif., told the youth of how God's call came to him. He said he had three priorities when he was in high school. They were third: church; second: girlfriend; and first: baseball, particularly the Dodgers. He lived and breathed baseball playing shortstop; every throw, catch or hit he made, he imagined he was on

by many people for his business card and if he'd come and perform at parishes back in the states. By 1998 he was a new face on the religious retreat circuits throughout



Vince Nims sings "Blind Man" while the youth leaders pantomime the words.



Icebreakers!

Dodgers' field.

He got the chance to play college ball at St. Mary's in California. He saw this as his steppingstone to the pros. However, during tryouts he threw out his arm and didn't make the team. He said he was crushed, so much so that he didn't pick up a ball for

the United States, and by 1999 he had a packed schedule – and was getting paid.

After just recently playing in Los Angeles for a parish event, the Los Angeles Diocese called him again to ask if he was busy in May 2000. He said, well I was just there, and they said, no, this was go-



Having too much fun.



Vince Nims entertains the Victoria Diocese youth.

four years. He'd avoid the college baseball field by driving or walking another route so he wouldn't have to see it.

He graduated with a degree in his third priority, religious studies, in 1990. He had a job at a parish as youth director the Sunday after graduation. By 1993 he was being asked to provide music for retreats. He was getting a lot of offers, which he did for free. In 1997 he went to the World Youth Day in Paris, France, and sang for thousands of youth. He was being asked

ing to be for a big event to be held in Dodger Stadium. He immediately said yes.

"I'll never forget that day, May 20, 2000, when I hit the stage on the Dodgers' field, right next to second base at the shortstop position," Vince said. He wore his Dodgers' jersey and had tears streaming down his face as he walked onto Dodgers' field as a guitar player. He realized that everything he'd ever wanted was happening to him then and there, because of God's call.

"Faith happens on God's terms" Vince said. "You'll realize real faith doesn't happen on your terms, but on God's terms."

God is just laughing with all of our targets for the way our lives are going to unfold. "God may have a different plan," he said.

If you were actually standing in God's presence, are you going to say, "No'?"

"They brought me from California, not to tell you what to think, but to think!" Vince said ... about the Call!

## Youth Calendar of Events

- April 13 – DOVE Retreat** at Sacred Heart in Hallettsville
- April 19 – Basic Youth Ministry Certificate Course – Class No. 7 - Retreat Formation** – at the Chancery from 1:30 p.m. – 5:30 p.m. Pre-registration is required
- April 22 – Sharing Faith with Young Adolescents** – a workshop for all adults who work with junior-high age young people
- April 27 – Youth Leadership Training** - Camp David planning - 8:45 a.m. – 4:30 p.m.
- June 1 – Rocky Mountain High Staff Development** and parent/participant meeting at the Chancery
- June 6-8 – Camp David Staff Development** at the Spiritual Renewal Center
- June 8-13 – Camp David**, Spiritual Renewal Center
- June 20-22 – D-week Staff Development**, Spiritual Renewal Center
- June 23-26 – Girls Vocation Camp** at Stony Creek Camp in Columbus
- June 23-26 – D-week**, Spiritual Renewal Center
- July 5-13 – Rocky Mountain High** in Pagosa Springs, Colorado
- July 15-18 – Boys Vocation Camp** at Stony Creek Camp in Columbus

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

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

## Grinding for God: Pope to get 'official papal skateboard' from youths

By Beth Griffin

Catholic News Service

NEW YORK (CNS) — When Pope Benedict XVI returns to the Vatican, he'll be toting a gift not generally associated with an 81-year-old pontiff. He'll take home the "official papal skateboard," a gift from the youths of New York.

The gift and a contest to design it started with a remark made by a teen member of the skateboard club at St. Elizabeth Parish in Washington Heights, a hilly neighborhood in northern Manhattan.

Father Peter Pomposello is a skateboarder and the parochial vicar at St. Elizabeth. As he recalled it, he was talking about the papal visit with the club members and they began to ask him questions about why the pope was coming and what he would do in New York.

"I said, 'We pray with him and we give him gifts,'" he said, "and one kid, without missing a beat, said, 'Let's give him a skateboard!'"

Father Pomposello agreed, to the surprise of the boarders. But he sees it as a vehicle for evangelization. "It's no secret that skateboard culture does not have a clean image," he said in an interview. "In their age of cell phones and iPods, this is meeting the kids where they're at."

The pope will be in New York April 18-20; he will be in Washington April 15-17.

Father Pomposello secured the necessary permissions and began to advertise online a contest to design the underside of the skateboard. It was open to youth ages 11 to 18 who live in the Archdiocese of New York. The rules limited the colors to papal gold, black, red and white and encouraged the use of symbols such as the papal visit logo and the visit's motto, "Christ Our Hope."

Some 76 eligible entries were received; the deadline was March 17. Father Pom-

posello said that he had to decline entries from Europe and U.S. cities beyond the Archdiocese of New York, "because this is meant to be a gift from the children of New York."

Father Pomposello hoped the winner would be announced April 6; entries were being judged on the basis of creativity and originality. The winner will get three tickets to the papal youth rally April 19 at St. Joseph Seminary in Yonkers.

The actual gift will be fabricated by an online skateboard store. Father Pomposello said that replicas of the winning papal skateboard would be available for sale, with the proceeds donated to Catholic Charities.

Father Pomposello is a former teacher whose athletic interests also include running marathons, bicycling and snowboarding. He was ordained in 2004.

Pictures of the entries can be found online at [www.archny.org/papalvisit/papal-skateboard-art-design-contest](http://www.archny.org/papalvisit/papal-skateboard-art-design-contest) at the site's "View Art Gallery" link on the lower right-hand side. A photo of the eventual winner will be posted there.

## Coming This Summer

**St. Theresa Vocation Camp**  
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**DISTINGUISHED GRADUATE AWARD**—St. Philip Catholic School in El Campo recognized three alumni with the Distinguished Graduate Award during the annual celebration of Catholic Schools Week January 27 – February 2, 2008. This award is given to individuals whose accomplishments reflect the values and character of St. Philip School and have contributed much to our faith family. Recipients (pictured left to right) were Father Kirby Hlavaty, Class of 1983; Mary Kathleen Corbett Price, Class of 1966; and Janice Cox, Class of 1971. Their names are engraved on a perpetual plaque located in the lobby of the school.



**SCHOOL PRINCIPALS ATTEND CHALLENGING CONFERENCE**—The principals of the Catholic schools of the Diocese of Victoria attended the Region X Catholic School Educational Leadership Conference recently held in Dallas. Sister Clare Fitzgerald, SSND, was the presenter for this conference. Her talk and reflections centered around being effective leaders. As leaders we are called to protect and proclaim the mission, Sister Clare said, and to be passionate people in this 21st century. As educators, she said we are dangerous people because we can change hearts and minds. Leaders are called to be visionaries - to realize that what worked before will not necessarily work in this century. We are called to reshape our schools so that they can be effective learning places where our students are called to be saints - to be holy. Sister Clare concluded by saying our symbol for leadership is the towel, for we are called to clean and heal just like Jesus - he washed feet and healed people of many infirmities! Sister Goike, principal of St. Michael in Weimar, said the conference was powerful and challenging. Nine principals and the diocesan superintendents represented the Victoria Diocese; they were (from left) Theresa Dent, Port Lavaca; Judy Roeder, Cuero; Roseanne Gallia, Schulenburg; Scott Kloesel, Victoria; Sister Kathleen Goike, Weimar; Susan Kelly, Yoakum; Sister Dawn Achs, SSND, associate superintendent; Sister Gloria Cain, SSND, superintendent; Bill McArdle, Victoria; David Smolik, Hallettsville; and John O'Leary, Columbus.



**EL CAMPO YOUTH REENACT CHRIST'S PASSION FOR COMMUNITY**—St. Philip Catholic Church's youth ministry presented "The Passion of Christ" at the El Campo High School Auditorium on Good Friday, March 21. In this reenactment of the Last Supper, Thad Deiss portrays Jesus in the breaking of the bread. Jesus (Deiss) is surrounded by his Apostles (seated, l-r): Katie Tomanek, Holden Whitley, Zach Edwards, Travis Trochta, Taryn Socha, Vicki Cerny, Bradd Staff and Jason Schoenfield. Contributed photo by Denise Urbanovsky (courtesy of *The El Campo Leader News*).



**FIRST COMMUNION CANDIDATES EXPERIENCE LAST SUPPER**—On Monday March 17, 2008, during their religion class, the second grade students at St. Rose of Lima Catholic School experienced a very educational presentation by Mrs. Joyce Machicek, student Kristen Osina's grandmother. She demonstrated how to make unleavened bread. The second grade students learned that at the Last Supper Jesus shared unleavened bread and grape wine with his apostles. The students experienced what that Last Supper was like and were treated to the bread along with grape juice. This was a very special and memorable morning for these First Communion candidates.



**ST. ROSE OF LIMA SCHOOL WINS YARD OF THE MONTH**—The Schulenburg Garden Club chose St. Rose of Lima Catholic School's Walking Rosary "Mary Garden" as the community's March Yard of the Month. The garden, located at 405 Black Street, was dedicated to the memory of Mr. Fred Lero, the grandfather of St. Rose students' Freeman and Kate James. The dedication marker at the cross of the rosary states: "The faithful children of the rosary shall merit a high degree of glory in heaven." Pictured are (l. to r.) first row: Dylan Goldberg, Allison Mican, Molly McCourt, Liam Bennett, Sydney Thompson and Clinton Mica; standing: Father Tim Kosler, pastor of St. Rose; Rosanne Gallia, principal; Freeman James, Kate James, and Garden Club representatives Mary Demel and Hilda Demel.

**EL CAMPO STUDENTS VISIT VICTORIA CHURCH FOR FIELD TRIP**—Students from St. Robert Bellarmine Parish CCD program in El Campo visited the diocese's chancery office and the Sisters of the Incarnate Word and Blessed Sacrament Convent during a field trip March 18. Since they were on spring break it was



a perfect time for them to experience the Church in Victoria. They attended the Chrism Mass held at the cathedral; Sister Digna Vela of the catechetical office gave them a tour of the chancery building; and they finished the day with a tour of the IWBS Convent. After every stop, the kids kept repeating 'that was awesome!!,' said their CCD teacher, Elisa Garcia. "Some of our kids have never been to a church other than St. Robert's and some have never even been to Victoria. When we got home, they told Father Larry Matula, their pastor, 'We saw you (at the Mass)!!!' It was just too precious," she said.





## Father Say celebrates 50th anniversary and 80th birthday with many friends

*Continued from p. 1*

parents. His father was a logger and a Chinese immigrant to Manila who had been baptized an Anglican. His mother, also Chinese, was a devout Buddhist and a talented embroiderer who died when Celestino was five years old.

Growing up in the Say household was austere because of his mother's death and his father's declining health. French-Canadian missionary nuns of the Immaculate Conception schooled the children gratis.

The children were baptized together in December 1936. Their devout Catholic faith fortified the family throughout WWII, at which time Celestino witnessed and experienced hardship and mistreatment during the Japanese occupation of the Philippine Islands. Father Say recalls stopping by the church every day to say, "Hello, Jesus. You better take care of this little boy or he is done for!"

Celestino began high school with his younger brother following the war. In his second year, a Benedictine priest asked if he had ever considered a vocation to the priesthood. Since then, this thought would not leave his mind. After graduating from high school, Celestino snuck into the Benedictine monastery, but had to return home due to his father's severe protestations. Two years later he re-entered the same monastery and this time was allowed to stay because his godfather told his father, "If this is not your son's vocation, he will be out in a week. If it is a true vocation, you're fighting God." Father Say was ordained by Archbishop Santos in the chapel of the Abbey of Our Lady of Montserrat in Manila in 1958.

Just one week before Celestino's ordination, his father suffered a severe heart attack and fell to the living room floor. In the emergency, Celestino's older brother baptized their father a Catholic. Upon his recovery, Celestino presented his father

with a catechism, and John Say remained true to his new faith until he died.

As a Benedictine Father of the Abbey of Our Lady of Montserrat, Father Say served as head librarian of the Benedictine College in Manila from 1959 to 1962, and subsequently obtained a MS in library science from The Catholic University of America in 1964. Father Say was appointed prior-administrator of the Abbey of Our Lady of Montserrat in 1968. He



At Father Say's 50th anniversary and 80th birthday reception March 30, he was greeted by former and current church secretaries of Our Lady of Lourdes. From left are Sharon Rangnow, Sister Louise Marie Jones, Mary Ann LaBlanc and current secretary Emily Yeary.

held this position, which carried all the responsibilities of an abbot, until 1973.

In 1972, Martial Law was imposed in the Philippine Islands. The Benedictine monks and their homilies, which were continuously monitored, came under criticism by the government. While at the Congress of Abbots in Rome in September of 1973, Father Say tendered his resignation and requested reassignment.

He was subsequently assigned to the Archdiocese of San Antonio and welcomed by Archbishop Francis J. Furey. He worked as a Benedictine Religious from 1973-80, at which time he earned his American citizenship and was incarcerated into the archdiocese.

Father Say was assigned associate pastor of Our Lady of Sorrows in San Antonio from 1973-75. He moved to Hallettsville and assumed the same position at Sacred Heart Parish from 1975-82. From 1982-94 he served as pastor of Sacred Heart Parish. In 1995 he became administrator of Our Lady of Lourdes where he continues to serve.



Newly renovated stained glass windows at Holy Cross Church in East Bernard.



## Holy Cross Church makes improvements with the help of Capital Campaign funds

EAST BERNARD—During the Diocesan Capital Campaign, parishes were asked to select projects for their churches that would be undertaken with the parish portion of the campaign funds. Parishes are able to spend 50 percent of any funds that were raised above their campaign goal.

Holy Cross Parish in East Bernard has already begun one of its projects. The Diocesan Building Board reviewed and approved the proposal to have Holy Cross' stained glass windows preserved.

Of the church's 32 windows, 10 large windows in the nave were made by the Otmar Vackar Company in Brno, Czechoslovakia, at a cost of \$2,238 in 1925. Emil Frie, a graduate of the School of Arts and Crafts in Munich, Germany, created the remaining windows. Like Conrad Schmidt, the Tiffany glass designer, Frie was employed by the Franz Mayer Company before coming to the United States in the 1890s and starting his own design studio in St. Louis.

Willet Hauser Architectural Glass Company of Minnesota, one of the oldest and most recommended stained glass manufacturers and preservationists in the United States, was designated to do the repairs and restoration of the windows.

The 32 stained glass windows in the church are over 80 years old. When Willet Hauser inspected them, they were found to be in good condition, considering their age. Only minor repairs had to be done

to the glass.

"Usually every 75 to 125 years, they have to be taken into the factory and every piece of glass taken apart and reassembled with new lead," Father Don Ruppert, pastor, said. Ours were in good enough condition that they were repaired on site, he said.

Several windows had bulges in the glass, which were straightened, and broken solder joints were repaired. Additionally, braces were added to some of the windows to strengthen them. The outer surface of all the windows were re-cemented and the millwork cleaned and repainted. The protective storm coverings were cracked and deteriorating, so new protective coverings of 3/16" Lexan XL10 was installed on all the windows.

"Only one window was broken," said Father Ruppert, "and it was sent off and repaired in 24 hours."

The repairs cost \$57,000, which is 42 percent of the total amount of the \$133,000 Holy Cross will receive from the Diocesan Capital Campaign once all pledges are paid.

Father Ruppert said he chose the Willet Hauser Architectural Glass Company because he knew it was a reputable company.

"Considering the condition of the storm coverings, I wanted to have them replaced before the next hurricane season," he said.

## Knights of Columbus Council 9088 Awards Ceremony and Dinner

The Knights of Columbus Council 9088 of Victoria held their awards ceremony at Holy Family Catholic Church activity center January 15 bestowing several awards including the two major awards of the Knight and Family of the Year. Presenting the awards were Bob Bryarly, grand knight, assisted by Dennis Lockstedt, deputy grand knight.

The Knight of the Year went to Harvey Kocian. He was selected by the members from the Knights of the Month for 2007. They included Bill Spellacy, Mike Bednorz, Eddie Huse, Stephen Lesak, Gerald Bludau, Michael Gabrysch, Edward Salazar, Ralph Howard, Edward Lehnert, David Heyer, Tommy Treybig and Harvey Kocian. The Knights of the Month are selected for their service to the council and the Church.

The Family of the Year is voted on by the membership from the year's Family of the Quarter. The Family of the Quarter is selected on the basis of both the Knight and his wife's service to the Church community. Families of the Quarter for 2007 included Clyde and Margaret



Family of the Year  
Bob and Melicent Bryarly



(right) Knight of the Year Harvey Kocian

Svetlik, Ted and Claudia Sheblak, Bill and Theresa Spellacy and Bob and Melicent Bryarly. The Family of the Year went to Bob and Melicent Bryarly.

Special Grand Knight Awards were presented to Dan Jalufka for 22 years service as treasurer and Ed Lehnert for publishing the newsletter, the "Knightly News."

Service awards were given to members with 20, 25, 30, 35, 40, 50, 55 and 60 years of service. Awards were given also to honorary members and honorary life members.

Special recognition certificates were also awarded to the appointed directors and the chairmen of the major fund-raising activities.



Special Grand Knight Award was presented to Ed Lehnert (left) for publishing the newsletter, the "Knightly News."



Special Grand Knight Award was presented to Dan Jalufka for 22 years of service as treasurer.





## Book Review

### A Civilization of Love: What Every Catholic Can Do to Transform the World

By Carl Anderson  
Harper One, 2008; \$19.95  
Review by Kelly Bowring, STD

Today many ask, “What will become of the people in our world?” More specifically, author Carl Anderson asks, “What kind of people are we becoming in our world?” With the way the world is headed, many wonder what can be done to turn things around. We have perhaps heard various names used to describe our world as it stands today – the culture of death, the clash of civilizations, the dictatorship of relativism – but the leader of the international men’s fraternal organization The Knights of Columbus, Carl Anderson, chooses to focus his new book on the theme building a world of hope and love.

Anderson states that his new book, *A Civilization of Love: What Every Catholic Can Do to Transform the World*, is “a call to active hope.” Practical hope is the reason I think this book succeeds, because it is about the hope and means of building a civilization of love; and this book truly inspires hope, but more – while offering a clear and engaging theological treatise on the social doctrine of the Church it is also a practical guide to making such a hope a reality. This book is for anyone who is looking to be part of the revolution of love that has already changed both individual hearts and sectors of society through organizations like the Knights of Columbus.

Mr. Anderson, a first-class theologian in his own right, has written a how-to book that appeals to Catholics of all backgrounds. The author does for Catholic social teaching what Lee Iacocca did for American corporate business – he first leads a revival within his own social enterprise at the Knights of Columbus and then calls the rest of us to follow his success, to transform the world with love.

Anderson weaves his chapters with thematic discussions that focus on various ways to build the civilization of love – topics that include the power of Christ, the domestic church, globalization, business ethics – while filling in the gaps with illustrative examples of people and successful projects that demonstrate the practical possibility of making his plan, which is ultimately the plan of the Church and the Holy Spirit, a new world-wide reality. From Father Michael McGivney who founded the Knights of Columbus, which is today a 1.7 million volunteer Catholic men’s organization that gave \$143 million to charity in 2006, and who was recently regarded by Pope Benedict for his heroic

virtue, to Lt. Dan O’Callaghan who died at the World Trade Center on 9-11 and was found holding his Knights of Columbus rosary, to Karol Wojtyla (John Paul II) who found his vocation to become a priest while learning the “Gospel of work” in a rock quarry in Nazi-occupied Poland. In this way, Anderson’s book offers the best of both Church social teaching and inspiring examples of modern witnesses of love.

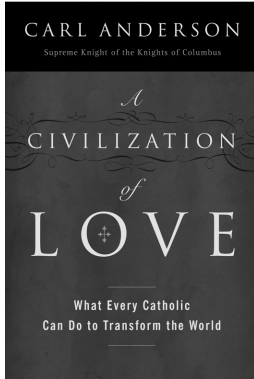
Pius IX once said that if there were one million families praying the Rosary every day, the entire world would be saved. After reading this book, I would add that if there were a million people who would read this book and attempt to put its principles into action, the entire world would be changed... into a renewed civilization of love. Outlining how we can build our contemporary culture with an authentic spirit of progress, Anderson’s book gives his readers an invaluable resource on how to become living stones in the building of a global civilization of love. And this is the kind of people Christ is calling us to become in building our world of tomorrow.

*A Civilization of Love: What Every Catholic Can Do to Transform the World* will be the April Family Puzzle prize. Please send in your completed puzzle by April 25.

Kelly Bowring, STD, is dean of spiritual mission and associate professor of sacred theology at Southern Catholic College in Georgia.

#### Love of Christ can transform people, society and world, say panelists

NEW YORK (CNS) — The love of Christ can help people transform themselves, society and the world, said panelists who participated in a discussion in New York on “Creating a Culture of Peace.” The March 26 discussion was hosted by the Holy See’s Permanent Observer Mission to the United Nations and the Knights of Columbus. The panel was prompted by the release of Supreme Knight Carl Anderson’s book, “A Civilization of Love: What Every Catholic Can Do to Transform the World.” The three panelists included Anderson; Rwandan genocide survivor Immaculee Ilibagiza, the author of “Left to Tell: Discovering God Amidst the Rwandan Holocaust”; and retired Capt. Alfredo N. Fuentes of the New York Fire Department, a survivor of the Sept. 11, 2001, terrorist attacks on the World Trade Center.



## PENTECOST

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### Pentecost Sunday, May 11

Jesus, our peace, by your Holy Spirit you continue to be for us today what you were for your disciples on earth. In your Gospel, you assure us: “I will never leave you alone; I will send you the Holy Spirit as a support and a comfort, to remain with you forever.”

— Brother Roger of Taizé

### Family Puzzle Contest Winners

Kay Potter of St. Roch Parish in Mentz is the March Family Puzzle Contest winner and will receive “The Greatest Gift – The Courageous Life and Martyrdom of Sister Dorothy Stang” by Binka Le Breton.

Matthew Holub (14) of St. Rose of Lima Parish in Schenectady is the winner of the youth puzzle contest. He will receive a gift from the Incarnate Word Gift Shop.

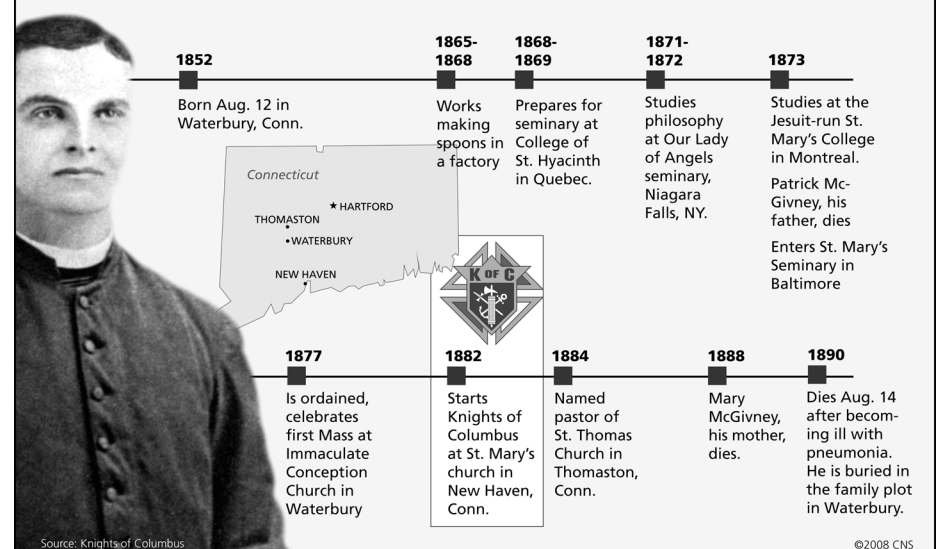
Thank you to all the youth and adults who entered the contest this past month.

The winner of next month’s contest will win “A Civilization of Love: What Every Catholic Can Do to Transform the World” by Carl Anderson (see review on this page and ad on pg. 17).

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 April 25 to: Family Contest, The Catholic Lighthouse, P.O. Box 4070, Victoria, TX 77903. Only youth need to include age.

### Father Michael J. McGivney

At age 30 this Connecticut priest founded what would become the largest Catholic lay organization. The Knights of Columbus now has more than 1.7 million members worldwide.



On March 15 Pope Benedict XVI approved a decree of “heroic virtues” for Father Michael McGivney, a U.S. priest who, after establishing the Knights of Columbus, worked as a pastor until his death at age 38. Father McGivney can be beatified if a miracle is attributed to his intercession. Canonization — a declaration of sainthood — requires an additional miracle. Supporters of Father McGivney’s cause are hoping he will be the first U.S.-born priest to be canonized.



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## An Earth Day challenge: Be a good steward of your God-given talents

By Sr. Jan Lane, ASC

This morning on my run, I breathed deeply, inhaling all of spring: the warm possibility thawing, the new life hatching, the Easter promise blooming. It was invigorating.



I took a different route and happened upon one of the most vibrant tulip gardens I have ever seen, a rich medley of red, yellow, orange, magenta, white, yellow and purple. Technicolor glory. Their petals were opening wide to the sun.

When we celebrate Earth Day this month, we pay tribute to the environmental movement that has become so vogue. We pause to consider the ramifications of our daily habits and the ways we could be better stewards of the planet God has loaned us.

As a vocations director, this holiday holds rich layers of meaning. We are called to be faithful stewards of the Earth — and of our God-given talents. God has

entrusted each of us with special gifts, along with the expectation that we put them to full use.

St. Luke reminds us of this, chronicling Jesus' parable of the master who returns to his servants unexpectedly. "Who, then, is the faithful and prudent steward?" Jesus asks. "Much will be required of the person entrusted with much."

A steward, by definition, is a person who manages another's property or affairs, someone who administers something as an agent of another. That term "agent" applies to each of us; we are called to act on God's behalf by employing the talents He has given us.

We experience deep joy and lasting peace when we discover a complete use of our God-given talents. I see this evidenced by the members of my religious community, the Adorers of the Blood of Christ. One is patient and articulate, a valuable asset to her local literacy program. Another is prudent and steadfast, a wise caretaker for seniors in her town. Yet another is strong and giving, a marvelous massage therapist.

One Adorer is warm and affirming, the perfect kindergarten teacher. Another is just and compassionate, an unwavering advocate for victims of human trafficking. We have a talented writer in our community and we post her insightful Scripture reflections on our website so everyone can benefit. We also have a gifted photographer, whose lens illuminates the Lord's handiwork in our midst. Just like the colorful tulip garden I encountered this morning, the Adorers are in brilliant, multi-hued bloom. They are firmly rooted and bursting with the joy that comes from serving the Son. This Earth Day, step back and consider what kind of a steward you are of your talents. Your first thought may be of the talents you are using. But take a deeper look at your life. God has entrusted you with many gifts. Have you buried any in the ground? What's keeping you from putting them to use? Fear of others' reactions? Fear of change? Fear of failure?

I challenge you to tackle whatever may be hindering you. And do it today! Dig out those neglected gifts and put them to use. When you do, your talents will double, like the first two servants in St. Matthew's parable. Their master was pleased with their return. "Well done, my good and faithful servant," he told them. "Since you were faithful in small matters, I will give you great responsibilities. Come, share your master's joy."

Don't you long to hear the same words?

Come, share your Master's joy. Sister Jan Lane is the Vocation Director for the U.S. Region of the Adorers of the Blood of Christ. She can be reached at [lanej@adorers.org](mailto:lanej@adorers.org) or 1-877-236-7377.

me; Ronnie's calling had been one of God's greatest messages to us, Matthew 6:25: "Therefore I tell you, do not worry about your life"...that's it!!! Ronnie was here to help us make it through this valley of tears. His silly jokes, bad singing, and hurky jerky dancing were all gifts from God, supporting our faith to give us relief from our daily trials to be able to laugh and smile no matter what. At his memorial, his life-long source for silly jokes was revealed to me. They came from "Laffy Taffy," a candy that sells for about 10 cents in just about every convenience store. Each piece of candy comes with two silly jokes.

While traveling, I began to see Laffy Taffy everywhere from Texas to Oklahoma. Ronnie's silly jokes are still here for you and me.

Here are two of my favorites: "What do you call a cow with a twitch? Beef jerky." "Why did the chicken cross the playground? To get to the other slide." So the next time you are at a convenience store, look for Laffy Taffy. Let's take time to laugh again. God is with us! And if we learn to laugh at ourselves, we will never run out of material. Peace be with you.

## "Laffy Taffy" ... An ode to an old friend

By Norman Neal Eckstrom  
Cuero/Yoakum

I just had to write this story about a special friend of mine, Ronnie Bays.

Ronnie and I met in the fall of 1992. I was going to school at the University of Houston and working part-time as a delivery driver for Sears, and Ronnie worked there full-time. We became friends quickly and worked together whenever we could. We were a great delivery team, as he was 5'6" and I was 6'3" — a perfect combination for apartment stairs. I got to know Ronnie's friends and his family. A lot of times we played cards on the weekends. His brother, Michael, could fix anything; his younger brother, Rick, was supposedly the smart one and had gone off to Finland as an exchange student. His mom and dad lived in Kenedy and were some of the nicest people I had ever met, even to this day.

As Ronnie and I grew up, we had each gotten married, had children, changed jobs, careers, and geographic locations, but we always kept in touch. He would usually call me on my birthday and sing Happy Birthday to me. He was without a doubt one of the worst singers I had ever heard. I used to tell him that, when he called and sang Happy Birthday, my dogs would run away as fast as they could. He was also the king of bad jokes; nothing ever profane, just dumb. It became kind of a competition between us to see who could come up with the worst one.

As we began to move into our 50s together, the kids grew up and life went on. When I was traveling I would eat an early breakfast with Ronnie. Our friendship deepened as we shared our life struggles

and triumphs. We shared our faith journey and how we believed in the divine powers of God and how he had always been there for us and how no matter what faced us we could make it.

In 2001 the company I worked for was down sized, and there was Ronnie cheering me on when I felt abandoned — still singing badly and telling those silly jokes!!!! Fast-forward about four years. Ronnie gets laid off...here we go again. He begins the "job-hunt," not something easy for a guy in his mid-50s. We talked almost every day. We'd pray together, and I always tried to cheer him up...we always joked about him rearranging his sock drawer in his spare time.

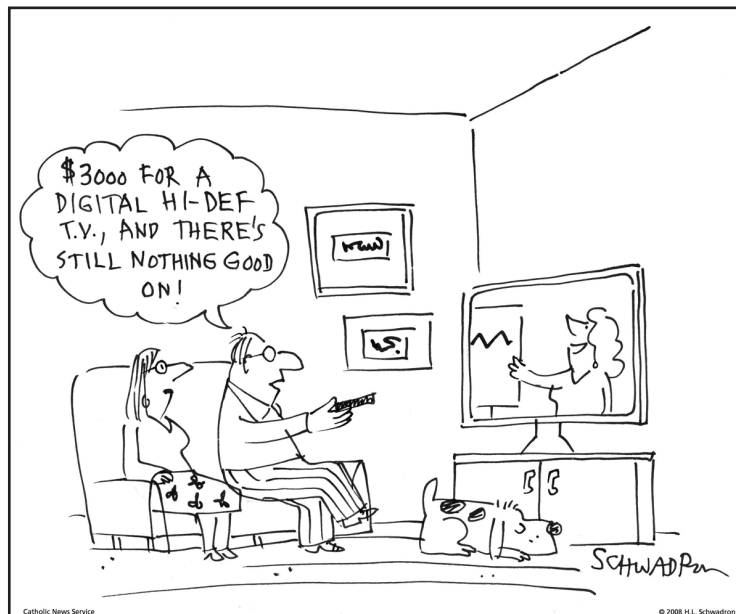
He took a job delivering donuts all night...and quit after falling asleep at the wheel! Then he became a pest-control man, crawling under houses looking for termites. Never ever did I hear "Woe is me" ... I did hear bad singing and silly jokes though, and of course, we always talked about how God was working in our lives.

Ronnie loved his family so much that he began a job search in Houston to be close to his mom and dad. His dad had begun to have some medical issues and Ronnie wanted to be close to help. Then one day, Ronnie had taken a day off to look for a house with his wife. As they finished breakfast, the angel of death took Ronnie from us. At 8:37 a.m. his wife called me. In my job I travel a lot, and over the next 48 hours all I could think about was Ronnie.

Why now? Why Ronnie? What did it mean? I was overcome with sadness. I had lost my best friend of 35 years! I thought about what had been Ronnie's life. Then it came to

### Sunday readings from April 13 to May 25

April 13 — Fourth Sunday of Easter	Acts of the Apostles 2:14a, 36-41 Psalm 23:1-3a, 3b4, 5-6 1 Peter 2:20b-25 John 10:1-10
April 20 — Fifth Sunday of Easter	Acts of the Apostles 6:1-7 Psalm 33:1-2, 4-5, 18-19 1 Peter 2:4-9 John 14:1-12
April 27 — Sixth Sunday of Easter	Acts of the Apostles 8:5-8, 14-17 Psalm 66:1-3, 4-5, 6-7, 16, 20 1 Peter 3:15-18 John 14:15-21
May 4 — Ascension of the Lord	Acts of the Apostles 1:1-11 Psalm 47:2-3, 6-7, 8-9 Ephesians 1:17-23 Matthew 28:16-20
May 11 — Pentecost Sunday	Acts of the Apostles 2:1-11 Psalm 104:1, 24, 29-30, 31, 34 1 Corinthians 12:3b-7, 12-13 John 20:19-23
May 18 — Most Holy Trinity	Exodus 34:4b-6, 8-9 Daniel 3:52, 53, 54, 55 2 Corinthians 13:11-13 John 3:16-18
May 25 — Most Holy Body and Blood of Christ	Deuteronomy 8:2-3, 14b-16a Psalm 147:12-13, 14-15, 19-20 1 Corinthians 10:16-17 John 6:51-58



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## Tracing The Traditions

### From Abel to Jesus: Tracing the Good Shepherd image

By Patricia Kasten

The Fourth Sunday of Easter, April 13, is often called Good Shepherd Sunday. This is because of the Gospel reading from John's chapter on the discourse of Jesus about the Good Shepherd. (This year, that reading is Jn 10:1-10).

The Good Shepherd is one of the oldest titles given to Jesus by the church. Images of Jesus as a beardless, young man carrying a sheep have been found in fourth century Christian catacombs in Rome. (In the ancient world of Rome and Greece, youth symbolized immortality, explaining the lack of a beard on these images of Jesus.)

In today's high-tech, business society, a savior depicted as a shepherd — a scruffy tender of shaggy animals — might be hard to comprehend as an ideal. Yet in ancient Israel, owning sheep was a sign of wealth and leadership.

Abel was the first shepherd in the Scriptures. Abraham, Tobit and Job all measured their wealth by the size of their herds. In fact, many patriarchs were shepherds: besides Abel and Abraham, there was Jacob and his sons, as well as the fathers of their brides: Rachel, Leah and Rebecca. Some of the prophets served a term as herdsmen including Amos and Moses, the Lawgiver. And, of course, King David started out as a shepherd.

Flocks of sheep — the source of food, clothing, leather and even tallow for lamps — were so crucial to the economy of the ancient Mid-East that some leaders were called shepherd kings, especially in Mesopotamia. For a time, Egypt was ruled by the Hyksos, who were known as "the shepherd kings" because of

their nomadic history. And many scholars maintain that the royal scepter developed from the rod of a shepherd. In the Jerome Biblical Dictionary, Scripture scholars, Fathers Michael Barre and John Kselman, call the image of the shepherd a "universal image of the king in the ancient world, emphasizing leadership and providence for his subjects."

For ancient Israel, the ideal shepherd-king was God. We see this in many Old Testament passages — such as Ez 34; Zec 10; Jer 23; and many of the psalms. The best known is Psalm 23, which is also used on Good Shepherd Sunday.

In Jewish tradition, Psalm 23 is used for the third Sabbath meal, and is a psalm of mourning for those who have lost a parent. The family significance of the psalm echoes the theme of the Middle Eastern king being a leader who loves and cares for his people. Jesus accepts this image for himself when he promises to walk ahead of his disciples, leading them by the sound of his voice. And we see this lived out when Mary Magdalene identifies the risen Lord when he calls her name (Jn 20:16).

Pope John Paul II, in a homily for Good Shepherd Sunday, said that Jesus went even further when he linked himself to the divine image of shepherd. He "introduces a completely new element: the shepherd is the one who lays down his life for his sheep (Jn 10:11-18). He attributes this trait to the good shepherd, distinguishing him from the hireling... he will not be the shepherd of Israel alone but of all humanity."

All of this helps us understand why Jesus' disciples used the

Good Shepherd image after his resurrection. Just as Israel thought of God as their shepherd — and as Jesus taught them to think of God as their father — so the disciples understood Jesus as the one who would shepherd them into eternal life.

So what does all this mean today, for those of us who have little contact with sheep and shepherds? We can find an answer, perhaps, in a parable of Jesus found in Luke's Gospel, the one that accompanies the Prodigal Son story: the lost sheep, Lk 10:1-7. In that parable, Jesus assures us that one lost sheep is of equal concern to God as 99 safe sheep. So deep is God's concern for each sheep, that God would leave all the others for just one lost sheep.

In the real world, it would be foolish to leave 99 sheep — who might get hurt or lost in the meantime — to look for one. But the extravagance of this concern appealed to Jesus' audience, just as it should today in our world of instant communication and frequent isolation.

That is the message of Good Shepherd Sunday as we rejoice in the promise of the Easter season: Jesus has conquered sin and death and everything that could separate us from God. Our shepherd, who stepped between us and the wolf of death, does not intend to ever leave us behind.

*Kasten has been a Catholic journalist since 1985 and is currently associate editor of The Compass in Green Bay, Wis. She has a master's of theological studies degree from St. Norbert College in De Pere and advanced catechist standing with the Green Bay Diocese.*

## THE POPE SPEAKS

Pope Benedict XVI



CNS photo from Reuters

### Vocations thrive in parishes with 'spiritual soil,' pope says

By Cindy Wooden Catholic News Service

VATICAN CITY (CNS) — Parish communities with a real sense of obligation to spread the Gospel are places where vocations to be missionary priests and religious thrive, said Pope Benedict XVI.

"Vocations to the ministerial priesthood and to the consecrated life can only flourish in a spiritual soil that is well cultivated," he said in his message for the World Day of Prayer for Vocations.

The papal message for the day of prayer, which will be observed April 13 in most countries, was released Feb. 22 at the Vatican. The 2008 theme is "Vocations at the Service of the Church on Mission."

In his message, Pope Benedict insisted that the task of explicitly proclaiming the Gospel to those who do not know Jesus Christ is still at the heart of the vocation of every Christian.

In following Jesus, the pope said, some men are called to the priesthood to carry out the missionary task in a special way by preaching and teaching, caring for the poor, sick and weak, and administering the sacraments.

In addition, in following Jesus who sacrificed everything to bring salvation to humanity, some Christians are called to leave their homelands and set off to bring the message of God's love to a wider audience, he said.

"To respond to the Lord's call means facing in prudence and simplicity every danger and even persecutions, since 'a disciple is not above his teacher, nor a servant above his master,'" the pope said, quoting the Gospel of St. Matthew.

"There have always been in the church many men and women who, prompted by the action of the Holy Spirit, choose to live the Gospel in a radical way, professing the vows of chastity, poverty and obedience," he said.

Pope Benedict said that those on the front lines of the church's work in missionary territories almost always are the priests and religious women and men who consecrate their whole lives to serving God and humanity.

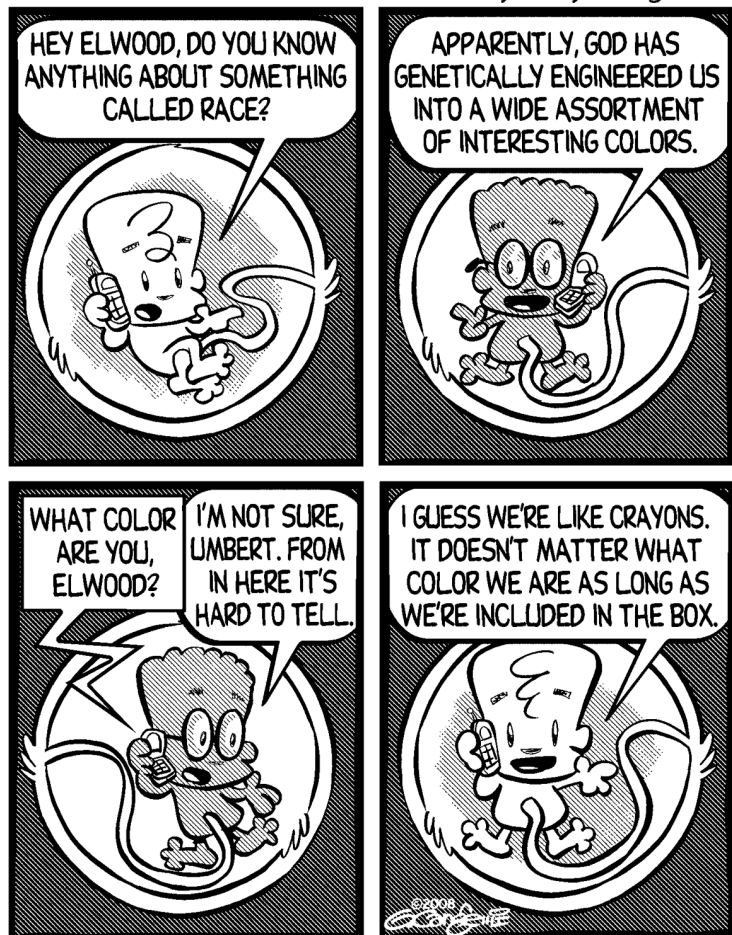
All Christians have an obligation to support the missionaries, materially and with their prayers, he said, and to pray for more vocations to the priesthood and religious life.

"Furthermore, so that the church may continue to fulfill the mission entrusted to her by Christ and not lack promoters of the Gospel so badly needed by the world, Christian communities must never fail to provide both children and adults with constant education in the faith," he said.

"It is necessary to keep alive in the faithful a committed sense of missionary responsibility and active solidarity with the peoples of the world," the pope wrote.

## Umbert the Unborn

by Gary Cangemi



## Cardinal calls mercy a grace that points out sin, provides healing

By Cindy Wooden Catholic News Service

ROME (CNS) — The infinite mercy of God is not simply a warm feeling that leads God to ignore sin and human error, but is a grace that points out sin and provides healing, said Austrian Cardinal Christoph Schonborn of Vienna.

"Some people today try to pass euthanasia off as a form of mercy," the cardinal said, opening the April 2-6 World Apostolic Congress on Mercy. But euthanasia is murder whereas mercy leads to sharing the suffering of another and alleviating as much pain as possible while sitting alongside the dying, he said.

Mercy is not real if it does not acknowledge the whole truth, Cardinal Schonborn said.

Too many people, he said, see the God of the Old Testament as

an angry God, when in fact the Hebrew Scriptures are "a great school of God's mercy."

"The love of God for his people is one of unimaginable fidelity," the cardinal said. "All people, from the king to the most simple, are scolded for their errors" because "one can heal only if there is an honest and clear diagnosis" of the ailment.

"Because we believe and have trust in the fact that God is infinitely merciful, we do not need to hide our sins, deny our errors and continually proclaim our innocence," Cardinal Schonborn said.

The faithful mercy of God shown to the Israelites, he said, became even more accessible in the person of Jesus Christ.

Before the mercy congress opened, participants joined Pope Benedict XVI for a memorial Mass marking the third anniversary of the death of Pope John

Paul II, who promoted the Divine Mercy devotions.

The devotions were begun in the late 1930s by St. Faustina Kowalska, a Polish nun who said she had a vision of Jesus in which he asked for devotions to divine mercy on the Sunday after Easter. As Archbishop Karol Wojtyla of Krakow, Poland, the future Pope John Paul opened the nun's sainthood cause. As pope, he beatified her in 1993, canonized her in 2000 and declared the Sunday after Easter to be Divine Mercy Sunday.

Cardinal Schonborn said Pope John Paul saw the Divine Mercy devotions "as a response to the indescribable proportions evil assumed in the 20th century, which he, in his own life, witnessed: the horrors of national socialism, the incredible sufferings of the Polish population during the Nazi occupation and under communism."





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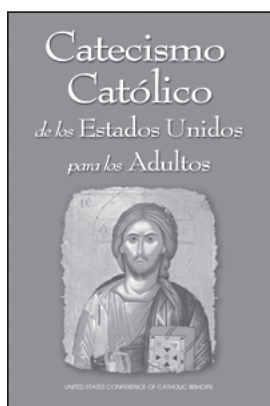
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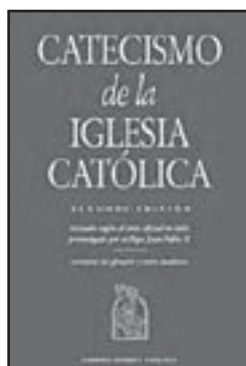
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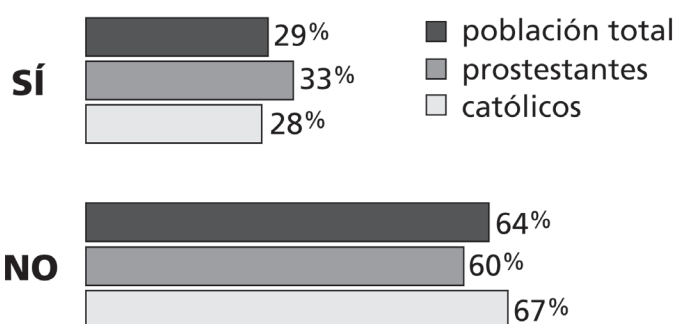
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## Iraq: Cinco Años Después

¿Cree Ud. que los resultados de la guerra con Iraq justifican las pérdidas de vidas norteamericanas y otros costos?



Encuesta realizada en una muestra al azar de 844 adultos norteamericanos entrevistados en marzo 15-17, 2008. El margen de error puede ser de más o menos tres por ciento.

Fuente: CBS News

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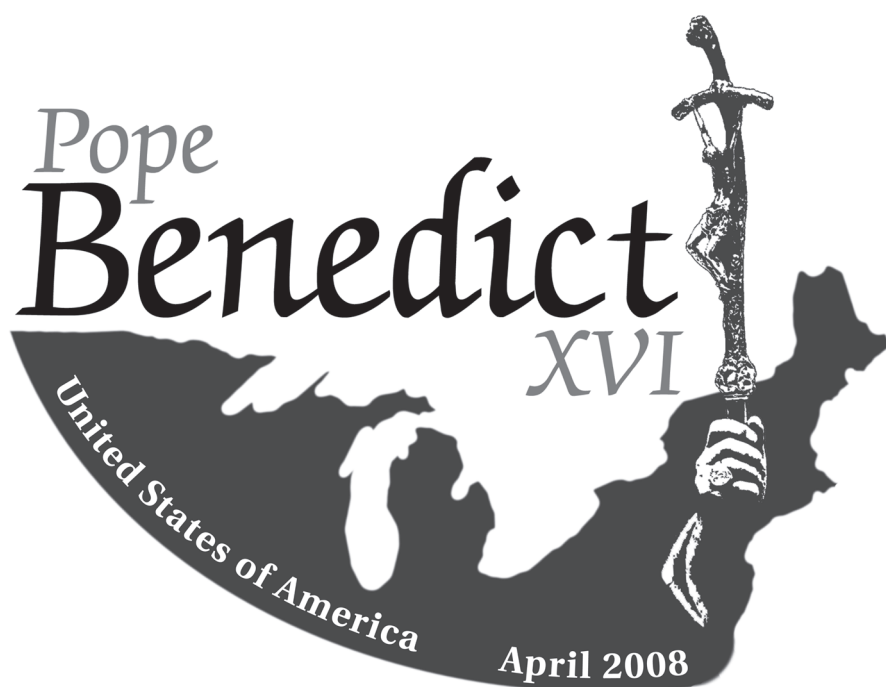
## Creyentes en el mundo

Cristianos y musulmanes suman más de la mitad de la población mundial.

grupos más grandes	número	población en porcentaje
CATÓLICOS	1.14 billones	17.4%
OTROS CRISTIANOS	1.04 billones	16.0%
MUSULMANES	1.34 billones	20.5%
HINDÚES	.87 billones	13.4%

Números redondeados  
Fuente: Almanaque Mundial 2008

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## Misas Papales En Los Estadios De Los Nacionales Y Los Yankees Reflejarán Diversidad Y Celebrarán Varios Bicentenarios

WASHINGTON – El Papa Benedicto XVI celebrará misa con miles de personas en Washington y Nueva York durante su visita apostólica a los Estados Unidos los días 15 al 20 de abril.

En Washington la misa tendrá lugar el jueves, 17 de abril, a las 10:00 de la mañana en el nuevo estadio Nationals Park que dará cabida a 46.000 espectadores. A tono con el tiempo de Pascua y de camino a la fiesta de Pentecostés, las lecturas hablarán de la esperanza y del Espíritu Santo. Éstas se proclamarán en inglés y en español y la oración de los fieles incluirá también peticiones en coreano, vietnamita y tagalo, entre otras lenguas.

El programa musical de la misa reflejará una variedad de estilos musicales, desde el latín e himnos tradicionales en inglés a otros ritmos modernos en varias lenguas. El tenor español Plácido Domingo y la mezzosoprano estadounidense Denyce Graves cantarán en diferentes partes de la misa junto a cuatro coros que agruparán en total a 570 miembros de coros de toda la Archidiócesis de Washington.

El padre Mark Knestout, coordinador de liturgia para esta misa explicó que el objetivo había sido hacer que la misa sea “tan participativa como fuera posible, mostrando la diversidad presente en la archidiócesis desde una perspectiva parroquial”.

Aproximadamente 250 obispos y más de 1,200 sacerdotes ya se han anotado para concelebrar con el Papa. Los principales concelebrantes portarán casullas especiales de color rojo diseñadas para la ocasión. Trescientos miembros del clero, incluyendo obispos, sacerdotes y diáconos, distribuirán la comunión a los fieles. El cáliz que usará el Santo Padre ha sido fabricado artesanalmente en España.

En Nueva York, el estadio de los Yankees acomodará a 57.000 participantes en la misa del domingo, 20 de abril, el último día de la visita del Papa Benedicto. La misa dará comienzo a las 2:30 de la tarde y tendrá un tono especialmente festivo al conmemorarse los bicentenarios de la fundación de cuatro diócesis estadounidenses — Boston, Louisville, Filadelfia y la archidiócesis anfitriona, Nueva York— así como el bicentenario de la declaración de Baltimore como la primera archidiócesis

de los Estados Unidos. Estas diócesis, así como las inmediatamente colindantes con la Gran Manzana tendrán la mayor representación en la misa.

Las lecturas corresponderán con las del Quinto Domingo de Pascua y serán igualmente proclamadas de forma alternativa en inglés y español. La Oración de los Fieles también será en seis idiomas diferentes. Más de 550 sacerdotes y otros miembros del clero distribuirán la comunión en el estadio de los Yankees. Estos serán guiados a sus posiciones por miembros

voluntarios de la Holy Name Society de la policía y del cuerpo de bomberos de Nueva York, así como miembros de los Caballeros de Colón, la Orden de Malta y Caballeros del Santo Sepulcro.

La Archidiócesis de Nueva York ha pedido 500 copones nuevos con grabados que conmemoran la ocasión. Estos se usarán para distribuir la comunión en el estadio y luego se regalarán a cada parroquia de la archidiócesis para su uso y como recuerdo.

Los sacerdotes de la archidiócesis llevarán las casullas de la misa con el Papa Juan Pablo II en 1995 en Central Park. Se han pedido vestimentas especiales para los principales concelebrantes y el clero de las otras diócesis que celebran bicentenarios también portará sus propias vestimentas.

Monseñor Les Ivers, párroco de Saint Frances de Chantal en el Bronx y coordinador de la misa en estadio de los Yankees alabó el trabajo del productor californiano Stig Edgren que está produciendo el evento así como el encuentro con los jóvenes en el Seminario Saint Joseph en Yonkers y la actividad en la “Zona Cero”. “Hizo un magnífico trabajo en 1995 en Central Park y quisimos invitarlo de nuevo”, dijo Mons. Ivers, quien en 1995 fue el coordinador de la visita del Papa Juan Pablo II a Nueva York.

A pesar de todos los desafíos logísticos y la coreografía que implica celebrar misa en un estadio de béisbol, Mons. Ivers expresó la esperanza de que tanto aquellos que estarán físicamente en el estadio como aquellos que sigan el evento por televisión puedan tener la sensación de estar participando en una liturgia llena de la reverencia que se espera de toda misa, pero especialmente de aquellas en las que el Santo Padre está presente.





## Chance to see pope possible as he travels from site to site in DC, papal Masses reflect diversity of U.S. population

*Continued from p. 1*

dress to the heads of more than 200 U.S. Catholic colleges and universities at The Catholic University of America, the pope will travel across campus to the Pope John Paul II Cultural Center for an early-evening interfaith meeting with Buddhists, Hindus, Jews, Muslims and representatives of other religions.

In Washington, the Mass will be celebrated on Thursday, April 17, at 10 a.m. at the new Nationals Park, which is expected to accommodate 46,000 people. In tune with the season of Easter and Pentecost, the readings will speak about hope and the Holy Spirit. There will be readings in English and Spanish, and the general intercessions, also known as Prayers of the Faithful, will include petitions in the Igbo, Korean, Vietnamese and Tagalog languages as well.

The music program for the Mass will reflect a variety of musical styles, from traditional Latin and English hymns to other modern rhythms in several languages. Spanish tenor Plácido Domingo and American mezzo-soprano Denyce Graves are expected to sing at the Mass along with four different choirs totaling 570 members from across the Archdiocese of Washington.

Approximately 250 bishops and over 1,200 priests have already signed up to concelebrate with the pope. Special red vestments have been ordered for the main celebrants. Three hundred members of the clergy, including bishops, priests and deacons will distribute Communion. The chalice to be used by the Holy Father is being handcrafted in Spain.

New York's Yankee Stadium will accommodate approximately 57,000 participants for the Mass on Sunday, April 20, the last day of Pope Benedict's visit. Mass is set to start at 2:30 p.m. It will have an especially celebratory tone as it commemorates the bi-centennial anniversary of the foundation of four U.S. dioceses, including Boston, Louisville, Philadelphia and, the host, the Archdiocese of New York, as well as the 200th anniversary of Baltimore's designation as the first U.S. archdiocese. These dioceses as well as those immediately neighboring the Big Apple will have the largest representation at the Mass.

The readings for the Mass will be those corresponding to the Fifth Sunday of Easter. They will be proclaimed in English and Spanish and the Prayer of the Faithful will be offered in several languages. More than 550 priests and clergy will distribute Communion at Yankee Stadium. They will be guided to their posts by volunteer "Communion guides" from the Holy Name Society of the New York City Fire and Police Departments, the Knights of Columbus, the Knights of Malta and the Knights of the Holy Sepulcher.

The New York Archdiocese has ordered 500 new ciboria engraved to commemorate the occasion. They will be used at the stadium for the distribution of Communion and given to each parish of the archdiocese afterwards for their use and as a memento.

The priests of the archdiocese will wear the vestments from the Mass with Pope

John Paul II at Central Park in 1995. Special vestments are being ordered for the main concelebrants. The clergy from the four other dioceses celebrating bi-centennials also will wear their own special vestments.

Monsignor Les Ivers, pastor of St. Frances de Chantal parish in the Bronx and coordinator of the Mass at Yankee Stadium, praised the work of producer Stig Edgren of California who is producing the event as well as the events with the young people at St. Joseph Seminary in Yonkers and at 'Ground Zero.' "He did a superb job for us in 1995 at Central Park and we invited him

back," said Msgr. Ivers who in 1995 was the overall coordinator for the Pope's visit to New York.

In spite of all the logistical challenges and all the choreography involved in celebrating Mass at a baseball stadium, Msgr. Ivers expressed hope that both those physically present at the stadium and the ones following the events on television will be able to feel a sense of participating at a worshipping event filled with the reverence that surrounds any Mass, but especially those in which the Holy Father is present.

## Texas seminary rector named bishop of Shreveport

WASHINGTON (CNS) — The rector of Holy Trinity Seminary in Irving, Texas, Msgr. Michael G. Duca, has been named bishop of Shreveport, La., by Pope Benedict XVI. The appointment was announced April 1 by Archbishop Pietro Sambi, apostolic nuncio to the United States. Bishop-designate Duca, a native of Dallas, was ordained a priest of the Dallas Diocese April 29, 1978, and has been seminary rector since Aug. 1, 1996. He will become the second bishop of Shreveport. No date has been set yet for his episcopal ordination and instal-



*Bishop-designate  
Michael Duca*

lation. The diocese has been vacant since Bishop William B. Friend retired Dec. 20, 2006. Msgr. Earl V. Provenza has been serving as administrator. Bishop Friend was named bishop of Alexandria-Shreveport in 1982 and first bishop of Shreveport when it was split off from Alexandria to form a separate diocese in 1986.

## New STD Data shows need for Abstinence Education

WASHINGTON—Maira Gual, Family Research Council's Director of Women's Health declared that the alarming new data released at the CDC's national convention on sexually transmitted diseases (STDs) shows the failure of so-called "comprehensive" or contraceptive- and condom-based sex education. "Only a risk-avoidance or sexual abstinence-until-marriage strategy will be effective in helping to reverse the current STD epidemic," said Ms. Gual.

In mid-March the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) released a study indicating that 1 in 4 teen girls, or 3.2 million, are infected with a sexually transmitted infection (STI). In addition, findings from two other studies presented show that of the young women receiving contraceptive services, over half are not receiving appropriate screening and treatment for STIs.

"Taken altogether these findings represent confirmation of a simmering STD epidemic and tremendous negligence in care for those most at risk for contracting STDs" noted Gual. "The call for an effective public health prevention strategy could not be more urgent."

"While much of the medical and public health community pays lip service to prevention for our young people, these results continue to provide sad evidence that the focus is on facilitating high-risk behavior rather than true primary and even secondary prevention," Gual declared. "Abstinence education offers an effective and holistic approach to protect our young people's current and future health by teaching them necessary skills to build healthy relationships and providing accurate medical information concerning risks of sexual behavior."

FRC also called upon policy-making bodies, such as the American Academy of Pediatrics, to develop and formalize clinical counseling interventions directed toward sexual risk avoidance strategies for adolescents. "Such strategies could mirror, and thus strengthen, the risk avoidance prevention messages presented to adolescents regarding tobacco, alcohol, drugs, and violence," said Gual. "This risk avoidance message is the best form of primary prevention youth can receive, and it's time for the medical and public health communities to step up to the plate."

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## Farm bill faces delays; its constituencies face economic uncertainty

WASHINGTON (CNS) -- The 2007 farm bill is now the 2008 farm bill. And if something doesn't happen in Congress by April 18, it could very well become the 2009 farm bill. There are many constituencies interested in different provisions of the five-year, \$286 billion-plus farm bill currently facing revisions by a House-Senate conference committee. Catholic rural life advocates want to see limits placed on the size of federal commodities payments. The biggest payments now go to the largest farms. Catholic anti-poverty advocates would like to see gains made in federal food stamp and nutrition funding. While the farm bill is being massaged into a version that Congress can stomach and President George W. Bush will sign, federal food stamp payouts will continue at current levels, about \$1 per person per meal. Those payouts have stubbornly stayed at \$1 per meal for nearly 30 years, according to Candy Hill, senior vice president of social policy and government affairs for Catholic Charities USA. Farmworker advocates want to improve safety and health conditions for the workers -- largely migrants hailing from other countries -- who pick the crops that make it in some form or other to our tables.

## Vatican official: World has greater number of Muslims than Catholics

VATICAN CITY (CNS) — A Vatican official said that, for the first time, the world's Muslim population is greater than the number of Catholics. Msgr. Vittorio Formenti, who heads the Vatican's statistics office, said the shift was the result of larger families among Muslims. According to statistics at the end of 2006, Muslims now represent 19.2 percent of the world population, while Catholics represent 17.4 percent, he said. "For the first time in history, we're no longer at the top. The Muslims have surpassed us," Msgr. Formenti said in an interview March 30 with the Vatican newspaper, *L'Osservatore Romano*. He noted that if other Christian denominations are taken into consideration, the global Christian population is about 33 percent of the total, still far greater than the Muslim population. Msgr. Formenti said the Catholic population continues to keep pace with world population growth. However, Muslims' families have more children and are outpacing the average growth rate, he said.

## Vatican official discusses Saudi king's idea to initiate dialogue

VATICAN CITY (CNS) — The importance of marriage and the family and the values needed to sustain family life can be an appropriate starting point for inter-religious dialogue, said an official of the Pontifical Council for the Family. Franciscan Father Gianfranco Grieco described as "interesting" Saudi Arabian King Abdullah Aziz's idea to initiate a dialogue with Muslims, Christians and Jews to defend the family, moral values and the importance of religion. While Saudi Arabia is a strictly Islamic country where the public practice of any other faith is illegal, King Abdullah announced March 24 that he had been consulting Muslim religious leaders about the possibility of inviting "all religions to sit together with their brothers, faithfully and sincerely, as we all believe in the same God" to discuss "the crisis all humanity is suffering in the current time." The institution of the family has been "weakened and dismantled," a lack of faith and religious practice has spread and "there is a lack of

ethics, loyalty and sincerity," he said. "If the point of departure is the family, I think it is a good starting point," he said. "That which unites us must be our focus, especially for the future of our children, of humanity," Father Grieco said.

## African church leaders urge Zimbabweans to exercise restraint

CAPE TOWN, South Africa (CNS) — Southern African church leaders urged Zimbabweans and their leaders to exercise restraint as results of the March 29 presidential and parliamentary elections were announced. "We appeal to political leaders to pursue the path of peace and to restrain their supporters from violence during this period," the Regional Faith-Based Initiative said in an April 2 statement from Harare, Zimbabwe. The initiative includes the Inter-regional Meeting of Bishops of Southern Africa, the Fellowship of Christian Councils in Southern Africa and the Association of Evangelicals in Africa. Zimbabwe's combined opposition has won a majority in parliament, defeating President Robert Mugabe's ZANU-PF party, the Zimbabwe Electoral Commission said April 2. No official numbers were released in the presidential vote, in which a candidate needs 50 percent plus one vote to avoid a runoff. Zimbabwe's main opposition party, the Movement for Democratic Change, says that its leader, Morgan Tsvangirai, has won presidential elections outright with 50.3 percent of the vote. The churches expressed their "frustrations and disappointment" that they were barred by the government from observing the elections.



**EXTERIOR OF NEW CO-CATHEDRAL IN HOUSTON**—This is an exterior view of the new Co-Cathedral of the Sacred Heart in Houston April 1. Ground was broken in 2005 on the new church building, and was completed in late March of this year. (CNS photo/Erik Noriega, *Texas Catholic Herald*)

## Meeting the Cardinal

HOUSTON—His Eminence Cardinal Daniel DiNardo, archbishop of the Archdiocese of Galveston-Houston, was announced Irishman of the Year for 2008 at St. Patrick's Emerald Ball Friday, March 7, at The Houston Club.

Several Catholics from El Campo were there to honor him. Blair and Denise Couey of El Campo were the guests of Preston and Mary Jo Faykus of El Campo and were seated at the "Table of the Villa" with the Sisters of Charity. Mary Jo is a former native of Ireland and was one of the seven persons serving on the ball committee.

"What an honor it was for us to meet the first Cardinal from Texas, and what a delightful, humble and holy man he is, as well as an eloquent speaker," Denise said. "Cardinal Daniel DiNardo's mother is Irish

and his father is Italian," she said.

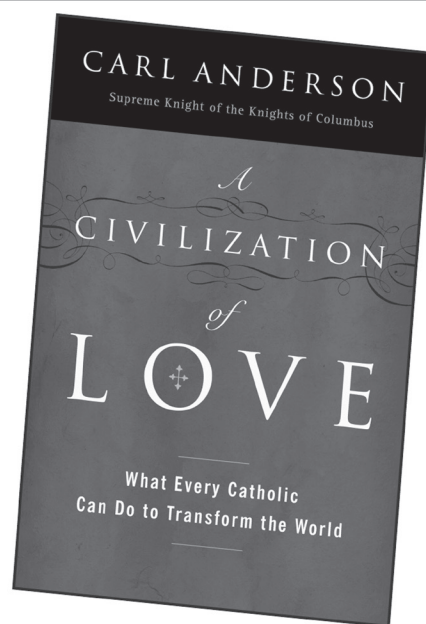
Also, Mary Jo, Denise and Irene Flores of El Campo attended the Mass celebrated by Cardinal DiNardo Friday, March 14, at St. Basil's Chapel at The University of St. Thomas in Houston and the Cardinal's brunch after the Mass.

A silent auction was also held to benefit the Project of St. Brendan. The mission of St. Brendan's is "to assist the bishops of Texas in the recruitment and enrollment of Irishmen in seminarian studies for the benefit of the Catholic dioceses of Texas and to provide financial assistance to Irish persons currently enrolled in religious studies for the purpose of joining a Texas diocese or religious order during the course of work with the state of Texas."

## A BOOK RESPONDING TO THE POPE'S CALL

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— Pope Benedict XVI  
2007 World Youth Day Message



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National Catholic Reporter



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Mercedes Encarnación with her two children, Alesandra (9) and Danilson (2), in front of their new "Food For The Poor" home.

## For some, housing market looks bright

FORT LAUDERDALE, Fla.—Every day there seems to be another headline about the U.S. housing slump - existing home sales are down sharply from a year ago and home prices are seriously depressed in many areas. But believe it or not, in some parts of the U.S. home prices have seen healthy hikes and outside the U.S. - in the Caribbean and Latin America - some first-time homeowners actually have a reason to celebrate.

In Haiti, Jamaica, and Nicaragua, thousands of families have recently moved into newly built homes while thousands more eagerly await construction to wrap up on theirs. Perhaps best of all, these new homeowners don't have to worry about variable-rate mortgages, falling prices, or rising taxes - they're just happy to have a place with real walls, real floors, real doors, and a real roof.

The new owners are beneficiaries of homes provided by the Florida-based nonprofit Food For The Poor, which, since 1982, has built more than 46,000 housing units for destitute families in the Caribbean and Latin America. Last year alone, Food For The Poor put up 6,345 new homes in Jamaica, Haiti, Nicaragua, Guyana, Honduras, Guatemala, El Salvador, and the Dominican Republic.

Trapped by poverty, many of the families in those countries are forced to live in dangerous dilapidated shacks pieced together with scraps of wood, cardboard, tin, or whatever they can salvage from a

dump. The makeshift hovels offer no shelter from the weather; when it storms, rain pours through leaky roofs and turns dirt floors into rivers of mud. When the sun shines down, the inside of the shanties become like an oven.

"The homes we build are modest by U.S. standards," said Angel Aloma, Food For The Poor's Executive Director. "But to the families we help, these homes are steppingstones that can help lift them out of the vicious cycle of extreme poverty."

In Jamaica, where there are about 15,000 people waiting for new homes, Food For The Poor can build a safe, comfortable 12' x 18' home for \$2,600.00. The houses have concrete floors, solid walls, leak-free sheet metal roofs, louvered windows, and even a front porch. Most don't have indoor plumbing or electricity but they do provide protection from the elements and hope for

the future. The basic design of the houses built in other countries served by the nonprofit agency is similar. At any given time, Food For The Poor has an average of 500 to 600 new homes under construction throughout the Caribbean and Latin America.

Food For The Poor, the second largest international relief and development organization in the nation and the #1 charity in Florida, does much more than simply feed the millions of hungry poor in 16 countries of the Caribbean and Latin America. Since 1982, we have provided clean water, medicines, educational materials, homes, support for orphans and the aged, skills training and emergency relief, with more than 96 percent of all donations going directly to programs that help the poor. For additional information, please visit the Web site: [www.foodforthe poor.org](http://www.foodforthe poor.org).



BEFORE: Alesandra Encarnación stands in front of her family's home before their new Food For The Poor home was built.

## Understanding poverty

By Tony Staley  
Green Bay, Wis.

As a fairly typical middle class American, I have often been puzzled by the lives of people living in poverty. I have read and heard what politicians, commentators, social workers and others say about the poor and I have done some volunteering with poor people. Yet I remained mystified.

One day I was talking about it with Sister Liz Brown, who directs EXCEL in Okolona, Miss. EXCEL offers GED classes, fitness and other essential services to poor people (my parish in Green Bay helps support this ministry). Okolona is an impoverished town in Northeast Mississippi, a few

miles from Tupelo. The public school is sub-par, the drop out rate is high and the future bleak for unskilled workers as the area's furniture factories close and outsource the work to China. EXCEL helps them prepare for the GED and has had a positive impact on the community.

Sister Liz told me I needed to read a book that is required reading for EXCEL staff -- "A Framework for Understanding Poverty" by Ruby Payne.

"A Framework for Understanding Poverty" was an eye-opener. It explains the "rules" of people living in generational poverty, how they contrast with the rules of the middle class and

the wealthy, and why things are as they are. It also challenges the middle class and wealthy to offer people in poverty an option through education and mentoring and offers concrete suggestions on how to do that.

This is a book that would benefit educators, employers, parish social action committees and the average person in the pew as it explains poverty in a way anyone can understand. I can't recommend it highly enough. It can be purchased for \$22 at many on-line sources including [www.target.com](http://www.target.com) and [www.amazon.com](http://www.amazon.com); just type the title, "A Framework for Understanding Poverty," in your search.

## Abortion Laws in Europe

Abortion is illegal or restricted only in a few European countries.

- abortion on request
- permitted in most cases
- permitted in limited cases\*
- only to save a woman's life
- banned



Cases in which an abortion can be performed vary by country, but many include to save a woman's life, to preserve physical health, to preserve mental health, in cases of rape or incest, in cases of fetal impairment.

Source: United Nations "World Abortion Policies 2007"

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## Council of Europe report calls for total legalization of abortions

LONDON (CNS) — The Parliamentary Assembly of the Council of Europe has called for an end to all restrictions on abortions in every country in Europe. It urged the predominantly Catholic countries of Andorra, Malta, Ireland and Poland — where abortion is either illegal or severely restricted — to grant women access to the controversial procedure. The demands were in a March 18 report

by the council's Committee on Equal Opportunities for Women and Men. The report was approved March 11 by a large majority of the equal opportunities committee. Although the Council of Europe cannot pass laws, it does pass resolutions which may have significant influence on the laws of its 47 member states. It will be discussed during a plenary session April 14-18.

## CRS sends emissaries to Victoria Diocese

Continued from p. 7

bution of income and land, poor infrastructure and limited health and educational services.

Guatemala has historically relied on agriculture and exports as its leading source of economic security; however, the establishment of the North American Free Trade Agreement (NAFTA) has crushed the small, family farmers.

With most of the land in the hands of a few large corporations and the importation of inexpensive, subsidized agricultural products from the United States into Central America, Ms. Oliva said that family farmers are unable to compete and keep their farms.

Also due to the impact of NAFTA, many Guatemalans have emigrated to the United States in search of jobs. Now the largest source of foreign income to Guatemala is sent home from members of the large Guatemalan community living in the United States.

Ms. Oliva also reported that CRS works to retain Guatemala's Catholicity. With so many new Christian denominations coming to Guatemala and persecuting the Catholic faith, only 60 percent of Guatemalans remain Catholic, she said.

Father Juan spoke in general about CRS' worldwide programs and the nature of the organiza-

tion. He explained that CRS helps with worldwide emergency relief and long-term development and is owned by the United States Conference of Catholic Bishops with 11 bishops and 10 lay people serving as its trustees.

Ninety to 95 percent of CRS' \$600 million dollar budget goes to its overseas operations in 98 countries while five percent goes toward its U.S. operations.

To achieve this, they focus on six key areas of service: emergencies, hunger, education, health, peace and educating Catholics in the U.S. to put their faith in action with programs such as Operation Rice Bowl, purchasing Fair Trade products, and volunteering as missionaries with CRS.

One participant, Gary Rangnow, came to the presentation at the chancery to learn where CRS donations go. He asked if the CRS dollars went to a country's government or to its people. He was happy to learn that CRS works directly with the Catholic churches in the foreign countries and that they never go into a country without the local church's permission. The money always goes to the people, never to the government.

For more information on CRS operations, please go to [www.crs.org](http://www.crs.org).





## “Beautiful Son,” various dates, PBS

By John Mulderig  
Catholic News Service

NEW YORK (CNS) -- The incidence of autism, the mysterious developmental disorder characterized by withdrawal, social impairment and aimless repetitive behavior, seems to have increased dramatically over the past 20 years.

One family's search for a solution to this condition that generates fear and frustration for loved ones is chronicled in the hourlong documentary “Beautiful Son,” distributed by the Independent Television Service and airing on public television stations in late April in observance of Autism Awareness Month. (Check local listings.)

As their son Beau approached his third

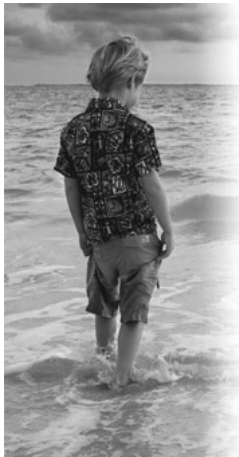
birthday, Hawaii-based filmmakers Don and Julianne King were disturbed to find that his personality was changing drastically. Once bright and engaged, Beau was losing his ability to speak and interact, and his physical coordination also was deteriorating.

Their search for the best available treatment took them to some of the most prestigious children's hospitals in the country, and they brought a camera along to document their quest.

Discovering that the medical establishment has little

hope to offer autism patients, except what can be achieved through intensive behavioral therapy, the Kings turned to a group called Defeat Autism Now. DAN focuses on experimental and alternative treatments and also investigates the possible causes of autism, including the theory that the preservatives in children's vaccinations containing mercury may be at least partly to blame.

“Beautiful Son” effectively conveys the tragic toll exacted by autism, both on the victim and on those around him.



Footage of the younger Beau contrasts sadly with images of him after the condition's onset. We also see his parents debating the risks of various therapies and, in their concern for doing the right thing, quarreling over the proper care for Beau. His older brother observes resignedly that the family's life now revolves solely around meeting Beau's needs.

When Beau's father takes him for his daily swim, he regains some of his focus and displays a rare smile, poignantly suggesting the life the child might be able to enjoy without his condition.

Mulderig is on the staff of the Office for Film & Broadcasting of the U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops.

### Special Collections

#### Collection For Home Missions — May 3-4

##### 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.

**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 2008 are: Sept. 26-28; and Nov. 14-16. For more info., call (361) 573-0828 ext. 50. All registrations are on a first come, first serve basis. Fee must accompany registration form.

**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](mailto:register@mevictoria.org) [www.mevictoria.org](http://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](http://www.retrouvaille.org) or [www.helpourmarriage.org](http://www.helpourmarriage.org).

**The Beginning Experience** — The Beginning Experience is an international ministry that helps divorced, separated and widowed individuals resolve their grief surrounding the loss of a marriage partner. For more information, go to their Web site: [www.beginningexperience.org](http://www.beginningexperience.org); e-mail: [sanantonio@yahoo.com](mailto:sanantonio@yahoo.com); phone: (210) 734-2146.

**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.

**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 (361) 649-9157.

**ACTS Retreats** — For more information see the ACTS Web site at [www.actsmissions.org](http://www.actsmissions.org).

**Natural Family Planning** — For English or bilingual sessions of the **Sympto-Thermal Method (S-TM)** in Palacios, call Rene and Wilma Galvan at (361) 972-5030. Available for counseling and classes. For information about the Sympto-Thermal Method in the Victoria area, contact Rudy and Estella DeLos Santos (361) 894-6950. Introductory presentations on the **Creighton Model Ovulation Method** are offered in Wharton at Our Lady of Mount Carmel Church and in East Bernard at Holy Cross Catholic Church. Please contact Melissa Morse at (979) 335-7306 for more information or to register for classes.

**Natural Family Planning is the only church approved form of family planning.**  
**Goliad** — Presidio La Bahia Museum and Visitor Center — a National Historic Landmark — is the only Spanish fort remaining in the possession of the Catholic Church in North America. A tour program is available to groups. The presidio is open daily

from 9:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. and is closed on major holidays. Admission is \$3 for adults and \$1 for children under 12. The fort is handicapped accessible. For more information call (361) 645-3752 or see the Web site at [www.presidiolabahia.org](http://www.presidiolabahia.org).

#### Picnics, Activities, etc.

##### April

#### World Day of Prayer For Vocations — April 16

**Bay City** — Live in Concert David Kauffman Friday, April 18, 7:00-8:30 p.m. at Holy Cross Church. It is a free concert, but a good-will offering will be accepted. Sponsored by the Bay City ACTS Community. On Saturday morning April 19, join recording artist David Kauffman in a Journaling Workshop at Holy Cross from 8:30 to 11:30 a.m. This will be a morning of music, prayer, journaling and conversation. The cost is \$25 and includes a CD, journal and the workshop presentation. For more information and to register call Janice Popp at (979) 245-8599.

**Columbus** — St. Anthony School PTC annual fundraising gala. Saturday, April 19, at the Knights of Columbus Hall in Columbus. The theme for the evening will be “Let the Good Times Roll;” tickets are \$35 per person. Doors will open at 5:30 p.m. with a social hour, steak dinner served at 6:30 p.m. Cash bar open after dinner. The evening will also feature silent auctions, live auctions and a dance by the live band ‘Brown Sugar’ will begin at 8:30 p.m. Each ticket holder eligible for a drawing for fabulous weekend get-aways and a chance to win \$1000 off an SAS tuition or equivalent VISA gift card. Need not be present to win. Tickets available through Friday, April 11, at the St. Anthony School office. For more information call (979) 732-5505, visit our Web site at [stanthonyschool.homestead.com](http://stanthonyschool.homestead.com) or e-mail [Katie@kunzklan@peoplepc.com](mailto:Katie@kunzklan@peoplepc.com).

## When & Where

**Beasley** — St. Wenceslaus Annual Bazaar April 20 at the CCD building on the church grounds. A barbecue-beef, chicken and sausage dinner begins serving at 10:30 a.m. (also available drive-thru for plates-to-go). There will be music and entertainment for all ages.

**Victoria** — Knights of Columbus Council 1329 chicken-barbecue fund-raiser April 20 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.

**Victoria** — Our Lady of Lourdes Altar Society Games Party April 21 at the KC Hall (3610 Ben Wilson). Doors open from 6:00 to 9:30 p.m. with a light supper, door prizes, raffle and silent auction. Entrance fee of \$6 p/p. Make reservations by April 18 by calling Mary Bianchi 573-9183; Diane Heller 573-7093; Donna Maxey 576-2670; or Leona Sedlar 575-3160.

**Victoria** — St. Mary's Altar Society Annual Games Party, with door prizes, raffle, country store, and refreshments, will be held Tuesday, April 22, from Noon to 4 p.m., at St. Mary's Activity Center. Admission fee is \$6. For reservations call: Martha Hamel (361) 575-1932 or Ann Carver (361) 575-2050. Raffle prizes include king-size “Velvet Garden” quilt, \$100 gift certificate, two \$50 gift certificates, queen sheet set, embroidered pillow cases, quilted table runner and gift basket.

**Chicago** — National Catholic Singles Conference: April 25-27, 2008 in Chicago, IL and June 27-29, 2008 in San Diego, CA; 500+ singles at each with social events and dynamic national speakers on the single life. Register at [www.NationalCatholicSingles.com](http://www.NationalCatholicSingles.com) or call (815) 828-5094 for Chicago and (858) 490-8260 for San Diego. Sponsored by the TOBIA (Theology of the Body International Alliance), CatholicSingles.com, TheologyoftheBody.net, CatholicMatch.com and the Diocese of San Diego.

**Weimar** — St. Michael Spring Festival April 27 at Veterans Memorial Park. A fried-chicken and sausage dinner will be served starting at 11:00 a.m. at \$7 p/p for adults and \$4 p/p for children; drive-thru plates at \$7 p/p available only at St. Michael Family Center. The auction begins at 1:00 p.m. There will be fun and

games along with refreshments and food throughout the day. Music by The Mailman Band (11:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m.) and Czechaholics and Red Ravens (1:00 to 9:00 p.m.).

##### May

**Hostyn** — Holy Rosary Mayfest May 4 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 4 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.

**Wharton** — Our Lady of Mt. Carmel Annual Bazaar and Barbecue May 11. More information next month.

**Austin** — The Texas Catholic Conference (TCC) will hold a Seminar on Parish Management, Management Skills in the Local Church May 12 – 16 at the Austin Airport Hilton. Topics to be discussed include: Pastoral Planning and the Role of Management; Organization of Parish Volunteers; Parishes with Catholic Schools; Stewardship; Forming a Parish into a Community; Parish Social Ministry; Public Policy Issues; Pastoral Leader and Personnel Function; Conflict Resolution; and Recognizing Diversity in the Faith Dimensions of the Parish Community. Registration for the weeklong conference is \$250 payable to the Texas Catholic Conference, mailed to Parish Management Seminar, 1625 Rutherford Lane, Bldg. D., Austin, TX 78754. Rooms are available at the Austin Airport Hilton for \$99/night. Call (512) 385-6767 and say you are attending the TCC Parish Management Seminar. Rooms must be reserved by April 12. Call Becky Sierra for registration form and more information at (512) 339-9882 or [becky@txcatholic.org](mailto:becky@txcatholic.org).

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

**Hallettsville** — Sacred Heart Parish Spring Festival May 25 at the KC Hall. A fried-chicken and stew dinner all be served from 10:30 a.m. to 1:30 p.m. at \$7 p/p. with plates-to-go available. 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. Horseshoe pitching (2:00 p.m.) and washer pitching (5:00 p.m.) contests will be held.

**Shiner** — Sts. Cyril and Methodius Spring Picnic May 25 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. The 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

**Bay City** — Our Lady of Guadalupe Annual Jamaica/Festival will be held June 8 on the church grounds (Avenue D and 12th Street), beginning at 11:00 a.m. to dusk. Fun, games, food and music for all ages. Activities include children's games and rides, country store, cakewalk, silent auction and more. Raffle tickets will be available all day; drawing at dusk. Food booths (open at 9:00 a.m.) will feature gorditas, egg rolls, kolaches, tacos, burgers, fajitas, pizza, snow cones, aguas frescas and more. Proceeds benefit church's projects.

**East Bernard** — Annual Czech Kolache-Klobase Festival June 14 from 10:30 a.m. to 8:00 p.m. at Riverside Hall. Admission is \$7 p/p and children 12 and under free. There will be entertainment indoors and under pavillion with water-fan cooled comfort. Food available throughout the day; and arts/crafts, kiddie games, cake walk and much more family fun. For more information go to [www.kkfest.com](http://www.kkfest.com). All proceeds benefit KJT Society No. 40 Hall Fund. For booth information call (979) 335-4827 or general information (979) 335-7907.

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

**Pilgrimage to Italy for Deaf** — Official American Catholic Delegation to the International Deaf Community Papal Audience June 25, 2008. Pilgrimage to Italy June 16 – 27, 2008, includes Rome, Assisi, Florence, Padua and Venice, \$3,285 land/air from Dallas and other cities. For information and brochures, contact Travel Provider – Best Catholic Pilgrimages; 800-908-2378; FAX 888-647-2378; e-mail: [info@bestcatholic.com](mailto:info@bestcatholic.com).





## A Conversion Story

### Joining the Catholic Church and having to swallow one's own words

By Cynthia Brewer

"I dropped my husband off at Assumption Catholic Church in preparation for his send off to an ACTS retreat last spring," said Tenna Genzer of Ganado. "That was where I said the words that I would soon have to eat."

"Don't even think we're going to become Catholic," she said to her husband, Ronnie, before saying good-bye to him for the weekend.

That was in May of 2007; a week later

of what she'd been told about the Catholic Church.

She still wasn't sure about some Catholic teachings, such as the Eucharist, Mary, baptism and purgatory, but she didn't want to take Ronnie out of his newfound community, so they began attending Assumption Parish. "Everyone was so wonderful there, so inviting," she said.

However, when she heard that Catholics believe the Eucharist is the real body and blood of Christ, she thought her Catholic

along in your spiritual nourishment."

In the interview with Tenna the day before the Easter Vigil, she said it had been hard to wait for the Easter Vigil. "It has taken way too long. I couldn't wait, but now I'm scared to death," she said with excitement.

It was worth the wait though, for Tenna truly learned her faith, saying, "Through RCIA, Scripture study and Life Teen, I learned more about the faith and about any faith than I had known before. Because I

to her dress, a rosary that her sponsor Rose Chovanec's daughter, Martha, made for her.

Ronnie never thought that going to an ACTS retreat would bring his family to where it is now.

The ACTS retreat did it for him, he said. He had never gotten involved in a church before that.

When asked how it changed his life, he said, "I definitely got a lot closer relationship to God."

About coming into the Church on the Easter Vigil, he said he was just a little nervous, but was still excited.

The journey into the Catholic faith was not difficult for him, he said, for he looked at it like he had never had a faith before. What he received at his ACTS retreat was the first faith he had ever experienced.

There was a history of the Catholic faith on Ronnie's father, Jerry's, side, but his father didn't continue the faith into his adulthood. However, his father and mother, Kathy, and grandmother, Bertha Dinbow, came to the Vigil Mass to help with the twins and the grandkids. They told Ronnie and Tenna they were so happy for them because they could see how happy and at peace they and the whole family were.

However, regarding Tenna's family, she said, "My family is not happy about it at all." Her parents are concerned and definitely not supportive of it.

Their oldest daughter, Christina, who is married with two children, is curious as to why they were converting, but she's not upset, Tenna said.

"I still feel I had been deceived (about the church)," said Tenna, "and I believe there are millions of people out there being deceived, and unfortunately many believe it's the truth (what's maliciously said about the Catholic Church).

As to whether Tenna had ever thought about becoming a Catholic before, she responded, "Never in a million years. I'm going to have to eat the words I told my husband before that retreat."

Assumption Parish had the largest number of catechumens and candidates since Father Michael became pastor in 2004. He attributed many of the conversions as fruits of the ACTS retreats. Also joining Assumption Parish with the adult reception into full communion along with the Genzers were Jayme Bure and Marnie Gabrysch. Those receiving adult baptism, confirmation and Eucharist were Travis Taylor, Dominick Morales, Oscar Cantu Jr. and Clinton Wooldridge.



Father Michael Lyons, pastor of Assumption Church in Ganado, inserts incense into the 2008 Easter Candle. Philip Webernick holds the candle and Lauren Sulak and Lukas Herring assist as the evening's altar servers.



Father Michael Lyons baptizes seven-year-old Loren Genzer on Easter Vigil. Her mother, Tenna, watches on right, as well as godparents Becky Sablatura and Richard Chavonec.

the whole family was active at Assumption Catholic Church, while Tenna cautiously yet excitedly studied everything about the Catholic faith that she could get her hands on.

Her husband returned from the ACTS retreat a changed man, Tenna said.

Their family has a Baptist background but had been going to a couple of different churches looking for that place they fit in best. Tenna thought she felt comfortable where they had been attending, but Ronnie always just sat in the pews cleaning his nails and occasionally nodding off, she said. He never paid much attention.

"But when Ronnie returned from the retreat, he couldn't stop talking about faith, his newfound faith," Tenna said. "That wasn't like him. That's all he talked about until our 14-year-old daughter, Allyson, hid in her bedroom," she said with a chuckle.

Ronnie and Tenna also have seven-year-old twins, Loren and Lance. The next day, Tenna began asking her children's teachers, who were Catholic, questions about the faith. A few staff she spoke to included Penny Bethel, Angela Petrash and Mike Sablatura. They helped explain a few things to her, but she still had questions, so she decided to talk to the man in charge, Father Michael Lyons, Assumption's pastor.

She said she wasn't nervous about talking with Father Michael until the six-foot, six-inch priest stood up to greet her. His size intimidated her at first, but she had some important things to discuss, so she began with her first question, "What did you do to my husband?"

It wasn't a bad thing; it was a beautiful thing. "I was raised to believe that Catholics were just above a cult and it surprised me that my husband had such a conversion," Tenna said.

Father Michael referred her to Scripture and to the Web site, [www.catholic.com](http://www.catholic.com). She said that the first chance she had to get on a computer, she printed as much about the Catholic faith as she could.

After just one day's study of the Catholic faith she became enraged! But the rage wasn't directed against the Catholic teaching.

"I was enraged because I felt I had been deceived my whole life," she said,



Seven-year-old Lance, Loren's twin, is baptized, as godparents, Mike Sablatura and Rose Chavonec, and parents, Tenna and Ronnie, witness.

friends and her children's Catholic teachers were nuts. "I thought they were all loons," she said.

She continued reading about the Eucharist and was then invited with her daughter to come to the church's Life Teen XLT, where the Eucharist is adored. "I just asked Jesus if he was really present in the Eucharist; that night he definitely answered me," she said.

"For a couple of months I was obsessed with studying the faith," Tenna said. "I left the housework ... everything got put on the back burner."

"Once I stopped fighting, I began to believe the Eucharist was really Christ," Tenna said. "And when I realized the Catholic Church was the only place I could get the Eucharist, it began to be easier to accept the rest of what the Church taught."

It took about six weeks, weekly Mass, attendance at the parish's Bible classes, and then Tenna was ready. "I went to the women's ACTS retreat in August and was then ready to begin the RCIA classes," she said.

By November, Tenna said she was ready to join the Church.

Father Michael said Tenna became almost angry when he told her she had to wait for the Easter Vigil to join the Church and receive her first Holy Communion. She was ready then and didn't want to wait.

"We wanted to make sure they had the full conversion experience, that it was truly their decision and not based on emotion," Father Michael said.

"The RCIA process is like the spiritual milk Scripture speaks of," he said. "That's what the Rite of Christian Initiation for Adults is, the milk — they're not ready for the meat and potatoes yet. You get brought



Tenna Genzer finally receives the Eucharist she's longed for since November 2007.

didn't know that much as a Baptist, I never dreamed I could know this much now."

"I love how deep the faith is. Everything has a deeper meaning and there's so much symbolism with even deeper meaning," she said. "It's the Eucharist and the faith ... the beauty of the faith" that has brought Tenna to the Church.

The whole family was received into the Church at the Easter Vigil Mass March 22, 2008, at Assumption Church in Ganado.

Ronnie and Tenna each received confirmation and holy Communion; Allyson received holy Communion; and the twins, Lance and Loren, received baptism. Ronnie and Tenna's sponsors were Rose and Richard Chovanec; Allyson's sponsor was Zeke Kuehn; Lance's godparents are Mike Sablatura and Rose Chavonec; and Loren's are Becky Sablatura and Richard Chavonec.

Ronnie wore the tie of his late grandfather, Francis Dinbow, to the Easter Vigil and also took his name for confirmation while Tenna wore, pinned



The Genzer Family of Ganado is all smiles in their new home of faith at Assumption Catholic Church in Ganado. Pictured are Ronnie and Tenna, their 14-year-old daughter, Allyson; and 7-year-old twins, Loren and Lance.