

The Catholic Lighthouse

The Cradle of Texas Immigration



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August 2007



Msgr. Michael O'Shaughnessy visits with parishioners at his retirement party June 24, 2007. (TCL photo by Regina Matus-Janak)



Bishop Charles V. Grahmann, retired, presides over Sacred Heart Parish's 125th anniversary Mass June 22, 2007. Assisting is his brother, Deacon Jerome Grahmann (l.), of El Campo; concelebrating is Father Celestino Say (back left) of Our Lady of Lourdes in Victoria, and Father John Peters (r.), pastor. Hidden in the back are Rev. James Nischan and Deacon Joey Targac. (TCL photo by Regina Matus-Janak)

Msgr. Michael O'Shaughnessy celebrates retirement

By Cynthia Brewer

EDNA — Msgr. Michael O'Shaughnessy, most recently the pastor of St. Agnes Parish in Edna, has retired from active ministry after 57 years of serving in the Archdiocese of San Antonio and the Diocese of Victoria.

A retirement dinner party was hosted

**Saying good-bye ...
Basilian priests leave
Wharton parish**

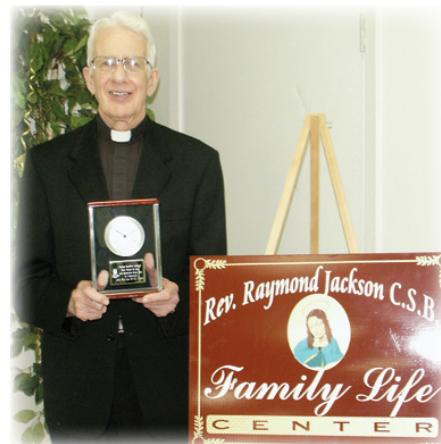
By Barry Halvorson

Victoria Advocate

WHARTON — More than a half-century of ministering and educating the congregation of Our Lady of Mount Carmel by Basilian Fathers of the Congregation of St. Basil came to an end Sunday, June 24, 2007.

The Rev. Raymond Jackson and the Rev. Charles Lynch are the most recent members of St. Basil to head up the congregation. As members of the Basilian order, they have been dedicated

See Saying good-bye, p. 13



Father Raymond Jackson, CSB, holds a gift clock and stands by the new sign for the parish center which is now named after him. (TCL photo by Cynthia Brewer)

Sacred Heart 125th anniversary and reunion held

HALLETTSVILLE — Continuing its monthly calendar of events for its 125-year anniversary, the Sacred Heart Catholic community enjoyed a double feature celebration on Friday June 22, and on Saturday June 23, 2007.

The Friday evening Liturgy of the Most Sacred Heart of Jesus feast was led by hometown vocation, the Most Reverend Charles Grahmann, retired Bishop of Dallas, who delivered the homily and reviewed the development of the local Catholic Church in the area. He concelebrated the feast day Mass with Father John Peters, pastor of Sacred Heart; the Reverend Celestino Say, former pastor of Sacred Heart; Reverend James Nischan, deacons Joey Targac and Jerome Grahmann. Reverend Bryan Heyer served as the master of ceremonies.

Candy Hines orchestrated the liturgy featuring the beautiful voices of four choirs: the Sacred Heart Choir, St. Mary's Czech Choir, Sacred Heart Youth Choir and the Spanish Choir from St. Joseph Parish in Yoakum, singing English, German, Spanish, Czech and Latin songs.

Many local organizations, including the Fourth Degree Knights of Columbus, were in attendance. After Mass the group proceeded to the beautifully decorated Hallettsville KC hall where they enjoyed a delicious meal by Andy's, music by the Nite Session and an ongoing historical slide show created by Donna Mitchon Shimek. The program was moderated by Father John Peters.

Proclamations honoring Sacred Heart and its vital role in the religious and cultural life of the citizens of Hallettsville and Lavaca County, Texas, as previously published in the Tribune-Herald, were made by Judge Ronnie Leck and Hallettsville city council member Alice Jo Summers.

See Sacred Heart 125th anniversary, p. 11

IWBS Jubilee 2007

On Saturday, July 7, 2007, and Sunday, July 8, 2007, fourteen Sisters of the Incarnate Word and Blessed Sacrament celebrated the anniversaries of their professions at Incarnate Word Convent. The Most Rev. David Fellhauer, bishop of the Victoria Diocese, officiated at the afternoon Masses and gave the homily each day. Those who were honored on Saturday, July 7 were: 50 years - Sister M. Mildred Truchard, Sister Adele Marie Machala, Sister M. Denise Bowers, Sister M. Patrice Schorp, Sister M. Agnesine Heinsch, and Sister M. Rachel Gomez; and 25 years - Sister M. Jacinta Benavidez. The honorees on Sunday, July 8, 2007, were: 75 years - Sister M. Dorothy Susil and Sister M. Edith Mzyk; 70 years - Sister M. Michael Kopecky; 60 years - Sister M. Rosa Sanchez, Sister M. Claudia Klesel, Sister M. Lucilla Donnelly and Sister M. Antoinette Peltier.

Together they have contributed 785 years of service to the Church in ministries of education, nursing, administration and pastoral services. Thousands of youth of all ages and hundreds of patients have received the spiritual, medical and educational benefits from these sisters. These women have contributed to the



Fourteen of the Sisters of the Incarnate Word and Blessed Sacrament celebrated jubilee anniversaries this year. Their combined years of service as religious sisters total 785 years. Pictured seated from left are jubilarians Sister Denise Bowers, Sister Michael Kopecky, Sister Dorothy Susil, Sister Edith Mzyk, Sister Antoinette Peltier and Sister Patrice Schorp; standing, from left, Sister Rosa Sanchez, Sister Lucilla Donnelly, Sister Mildred Truchard, Sister Rachel Gomez, Sister Agnesine Heinsch, Sister Adele Marie Machala, Sister Jacinta Benavidez and Sister Claudia Klesel. Sister M. Vivian Hale, who died on June 30, 2007, contributed 75 years of ministry. (TCL photo by Cynthia Brewer)

See IWBS Jubilee 2007, p. 8



Bishop Fellhauer's Schedule

August

9 6:00 p.m., Mass, Serra Club
NW seminarian cookout,
St. Mary Church, St. Mary
(Hallettsville)

13 5:00 p.m., Liturgical Commission
meeting, Chancery Office

14 8:30 a.m., Catholic schools
in-service day, Knights of
Columbus Hall, Hallettsville

14 4:30 p.m., Diocesan Building
Board meeting, Chancery
Office

15 10:00 a.m., Mass, Feast of
the Assumption of the Blessed
Virgin Mary, St. Mary Church,
Praha

September

5 10:00 a.m., Presbyteral Council
meeting, Chancery Office

7 8:00 a.m., School Mass, St.
Michael Church, Weimar

9 2:00 p.m., IWBS Associates
Consecration, Incarnate Word
Convent, Victoria

**A Reflection
of Faith,
A Vision of Hope,
A Gift of Love**

**Diocese of
Victoria Capital
Campaign**

Coming Soon!

Father Rachunek honored for 45 years of priesthood

toria Diocese with St. John's and the Galveston-Houston Diocese for his mission church, St. Wenceslaus.

When the diocese split, he asked to keep St. Wenceslaus and was allowed to.

Participants in Sunday's program included Bishop David Fellhauer and the Most Reverend Joseph Fiorenza.

Presenting gifts were Rev. Rachunek's sisters: Clara Kostka, Ollie Faltisek and

IN MEMORY OF ...

Sister M. Vivian Hale, IWBS

Sister M. Vivian Hale, age 92, died Saturday, June 30, 2007, at Incarnate Word Convent in Victoria.



She was born March 21, 1915, in Yorktown, to the late B.L. and Henrietta Michalke Hale. She was a member of the Sisters of the Incarnate Word and Blessed Sacrament. Sister Vivian attended Holy Trinity School in Falls City and Nazareth Academy in Victoria. She entered Nazareth Convent as a postulant on Sept. 28, 1930, and became a novice on Aug. 16, 1931. She made her first profession of vows on Aug. 17, 1932, and final profession of vows on Aug. 26, 1936.

Sister Vivian received a bachelor of music degree with a major in education and a minor in piano from Incarnate Word College in San Antonio. She held professional teacher certificates on the elementary and high school levels. Sister Vivian, who was a talented musician, taught in the classroom and gave private piano lessons in the following schools: Holy Trinity School in Duquesne, Pa., St. Ludmila Academy in Shiner, Holy Trinity School in Falls City, Sacred Heart School in LaGrange, Nazareth Academy and Our Lady of Victory School in Victoria, St. Leo School and Blessed Sacrament Academy in San Antonio and Sacred Heart School in Floresville. Sister also served as a rectory receptionist and music minister for many years in Blessed Sacrament Parish in San Antonio. When she was no longer able to engage in active ministry, Sister was faithful to the Apostolate of Prayer and Suffering.

She is survived by her sister, Dorothy Unruh of San Antonio; nephew, Anthony

Weynand and wife Carol of Dallas and granddaughter Theresa Tobin and husband Richard of Whitefish Bay, Wis.

She was preceded in death by her parents.

Funeral services were held July 4 at Incarnate Word Convent, with the Rev. Leon Rubaj, chaplain, officiating. Burial followed at Catholic Cemetery III.

Pallbearers were Sister Stephana Marbach, Sister Mary Theresa Fritz, Sister Kathleen Goike, Sister Magdalen Carpenter, Sister Maria Goretti Warzecha, Sister Charlene Machala, Sister Laura Toman and Sister Emiliana Gera.

Memorials may be made to Incarnate Word Convent or donor's choice.

Sister Mary Ann Martinka, IWBS

Sister Mary Ann Martinka, age 90, died Friday, July 13, 2007, at Citizens Hospital in Victoria.



She was born on Nov. 4, 1916, in Corn Hill, to the late Wencelaus and Marie Anna Styskala Martinka. She was a member of the Sisters of the Incarnate Word and Blessed Sacrament. Sister

Mary Ann attended Holy Trinity School in Corn Hill and graduated from St. Ludmila Academy in Shiner. She entered St. Ludmila Convent as a postulant on Jan. 1, 1936, and became a novice on July 26, 1936. She made her first profession of vows on July 27, 1937, at St. Ludmila Convent and final profession on Aug. 24, 1941, at Nazareth Convent in Victoria.

Sister Mary Ann was awarded an as-

sociate of arts degree from Victoria Junior College and received a bachelor of arts degree with a major in English and a minor in Spanish from Incarnate Word College. She also was awarded a master of education with a major in administration and a minor in supervision. She received Professional Texas Teacher Certificates in elementary, high school and principalship areas.

Sister Mary Ann ministered as a teacher and/or principal in the following schools: Holy Cross School in East Bernard, St. Agnes School and St. Leo School in San Antonio, St. Michael School in Weimar, Hostyn Public School in Hostyn, Sacred Heart School in Hallettsville, Our Lady of Victory School and Nazareth Academy in Victoria and Our Lady Queen of Peace in Richwood. She spent one school year at St. Basil Parish in Angleton teaching CCD classes and many summers were devoted to teaching CCD classes. Since 1997 Sister Mary Ann resided at Incarnate Word Convent where she helped with household duties and was faithful to the Apostolate of Prayer and Suffering.

Survivors include her sisters, Theresa Martinka Kubena of El Campo and Lillian Martinka Frerichs of Thrall; brother, Alphonse Martinka of Lowell, Ore.; and beloved nieces and nephews.

She was preceded in death by her parents; sisters, Mary Martinka Kubacak, Angela Martinka, Margaret Martinka Kohoutek and Sister Angela Martinka; brothers, Frank Martinka, Cyril Martinka, Wencelaus Martinka and Joseph Martinka.

Funeral services were held on Monday, July 16, at Incarnate Word Convent with the Rev. Leon Rubaj, chaplain, officiating. Burial followed at Catholic Cemetery III.

Pallbearers were family members: Brian Hubenak, Gerard Kubena, Steve Williams, Arthur Frerichs, Johnny Martinka and Michael Kubena.

Memorials: Incarnate Word Convent or donor's choice.

Continued from p. 20

ioners Don and Ann Strouhal, and James Vincek helped them get it taken care of. Don Strouhal was a classmate of Father Rachunek.

With more than 600 people, 30 priests and two bishops in attendance, Father Rachunek thought it was quite a gathering.

"It was wonderful. A lot of people showed their support," he said.

2007 DSA MONTHLY REPORT

The hustle and bustle of summer activities has not stopped the faithful from remembering to practice stewardship. Our records indicate a total pledged amount of \$623,225 and the total paid amount of \$546,301.

"Thank you" for your response to the Diocesan Services Appeal. To those who have been unable to contribute, we appreciate your prayers for our success in reaching our goal.

Enjoy the remaining months of summer.

Jeri Joseph
Chancery Business Office

Stewardship Thought

"Do not neglect good deeds and generosity. God is pleased by sacrifices of that kind. (Heb. 13:16)

pledged amount

\$623,225

Half
way

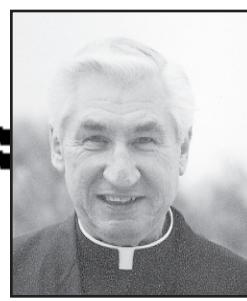
\$1,263,145

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FAITH POINT

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



Jesus of Nazareth

Jesus of Nazareth is the title of a two-volume work projected by Pope Benedict XVI. It is the first book that he has written as the pope. He states explicitly that the book is not meant to be a magisterial document, that is, one that states officially Catholic doctrine to be believed by all the faithful. He even says that readers should feel free to contradict him. Since Pope Benedict is a professional theologian it should not be surprising that he deals with technical matters that may not be familiar to every lay reader. That should not put anyone off because his teaching overall is quite accessible even to those who are not acquainted with the historical-critical method of approaching Scripture. Even if some technical details sail over the reader's head, most of it will be easily absorbed by non-theologians.

The historical-critical method of interpreting Scripture was an attempt by scholars to find "the historical Jesus." Most of what we know about Jesus derives from preachers of the Good News. Scholars distinguish three different layers of material in the Gospels. The bottom layer is the concrete Jesus and his words and deeds, the historical Jesus. The layer above that is Jesus as preached by the Apostles. At the very top there is a third layer provided by the evangelists who theologized on the first and second layers.

Two examples of the many techniques used by historical-critical Scripture scholars include rules such as multiple attestation and gravely offended establishment. Multiple attestation is nothing more than an abundance of witnesses from independent sources. Thus since Jesus' kindly treatment of sinners is related repeatedly in all the Gospels this part of his history is accepted as true. Since Jesus was put to death for his preaching, it is reasonable to believe that some of his statements seriously offended the religious establishment. With these and numerous other techniques, scholars attempted to get to the historical core, "the real Jesus."

While this approach is legitimate it is not without its limitations. Do we condemn as unhistorical a statement made by a single evangelist without corroboration of the others? Although Jesus seriously ruffled the feathers of religious authorities are we to dismiss reported teachings of his that agreed with contemporary Judaism? To put the question another way, should we accept as authentic only those teachings of Martin Luther, which disagreed with Catholicism?

One result of the 19th and 20th century quest of scholars to find the historical Jesus was to produce a divorce between the Jesus of history and the Jesus of faith. Many scholars assumed that most of Christian teaching was a later development of believers that did not have its basis in the teaching of the historical Jesus. Another result was that the "historical" Jesus took many forms from rebel to liberal theologian. The Jesus that resulted was not uniformly the same and invariably reflected the individual investigators.

The first chapter deals with the baptism of Jesus. As he emerged from the water the

Spirit descended on him and a voice was heard, saying, "This is my beloved Son." John the Baptizer on seeing Jesus identifies him as the Lamb of God that takes away the sin of the world. The Hebrew word *talia* may mean both "lamb" and "boy" or "servant." Jesus was to become the Suffering Servant who would pay for the sins of many.

Chapter 2 deals with the temptations of Jesus. At the heart of all temptations is a wish to construct a world by our own lights without reference to God who is regarded as annoying and superfluous. We think that if Jesus came he should have brought world peace, universal prosperity and a better world. What he actually brought was God.

Chapter 3 deals with the Kingdom of God. It means that God is acting in the world now and showing himself as its Lord.

Chapter 4 covers the Sermon on the Mount wherein Jesus expounds his fundamental teaching not as the scribes and pharisees but with his own authority. He gives added depth to the commandments of the second tablet, the ones dealing with our neighbor, but affirmed the validity of the commandments. The beatitudes present a veiled interior biography of Jesus. The rest of the Sermon on the Mount presents Jesus' Torah or Law. In this chapter the pope quotes extensively from the book "A Rabbi Talks with Jesus," by the Jewish scholar Jacob Neusner.

The Holy Father's commentary on the Lord's Prayer is found in Chapter 5. He develops each of the seven petitions.

Chapter 6 is devoted to the Disciples, the choice of the Twelve whom he sent to preach and to cast out demons (Mark 3:14f).

In Chapter 7 the pope speaks of Jesus' parables and develops three major parables from the Gospel of Luke: The Good Samaritan, The Prodigal Son, and the Parable of the Rich Man and Lazarus.

The 8th chapter develops the principal images found in the Gospel of John: water, vine and wine, bread and the shepherd.

Chapter 9 covers two milestones on Jesus' way: Peter's Confession and the Transfiguration.

In the 10th and final chapter the Holy Father discusses Jesus' declaration of his identity and two titles of Jesus that he applied to himself in the Gospels: The Son of Man, and "I Am".

Pope Benedict stated that the writing of this book was a personal search "for the face of the Lord." He presents the Jesus of the Gospels as the true historical Jesus who is much more convincing and plausible than any of the reconstructions of Jesus attempted by scholars in the last few decades. The book represents a fine mind at work and that in itself gives pleasure in the same way that a well-constructed composition by Beethoven or Mozart gives enjoyment. It is well known that the pope has a superb mind but more important than mere possession of talent, he puts it at the service of theology, faith seeking understanding. Reason does not diminish faith but can strengthen it. The pope gives

a picture of Jesus whom from a lifetime of study and meditation he obviously knows well and loves. It is not necessary for the reader to "get" everything that he writes especially passages that deal with biblical scholarship. There are easily understandable insights in abundance in the book that can offer material for years of meditation for the ordinary reader. This book should

be a part of every Catholic's library.

The pope said that he is releasing this portion of his two-volume project now since he does not know how much time he has left to complete the whole. We all pray that God will grant him long life and strength to fulfill this task and the others of his office for the building up of the whole Church.

Pope's new book released

Long known as the Church's defender of orthodoxy, Joseph Ratzinger has made it his mission as Pope Benedict XVI to engage with what he sees as the hopelessness brought on by the growing secularism of the West. Within his own Church, he sees a growing confusion about even the central tenets of the faith.

Doubleday is proud to publish his first book as pope, *Jesus of Nazareth*. In this bold, momentous work, the pope salvages the person of Jesus from recent "popular" depictions and restores Jesus' true identity as discovered in the Gospels. The book itself has its roots in what the Holy Father has noticed over his life as a "growing ... distinction between the 'historical Jesus' and the 'Christ of faith,' a distinction 'that many Christians now accept as accurate.'" Through his brilliance as a theologian and his personal conviction as a believer, the pope shares a rich, compelling, flesh-and-blood portrait of Jesus and exhorts the reader to encounter, face-to-face, the central figure of the Christian faith.

In recent years, Jesus has been re-cast in many roles. Benedict takes seriously modern challenges to traditional belief, and in *Jesus of Nazareth* he poses "the great question ... what has Jesus really brought, then, if he has not brought world peace, universal prosperity, and a better world?" Tracing the Gospel accounts of

Jesus from his baptism by John the Baptist, which marks the beginning of his public ministry, to his mountaintop transfiguration in front of his disciples, Benedict finds that the answer is very simple on its surface: "God. He has brought God! He has brought the God who once gradually unveiled his countenance first to Abraham, then to Moses and the prophets, and then in the wisdom literature." In Jesus, God's

people are led to true and definitive freedom and in Jesus' sonship God is fully revealed.

Benedict's interpretation of the Gospels leads to a fascinating and challenging view of Jesus, and reveals Benedict's deeply held belief that God breaks through history to reveal his love and saving grace to humanity.

Jesus of Nazareth is essential reading for anyone interested in Benedict's pastoral vision and the direction of his papacy. The book represents the culmination of the Holy Father's lifelong quest to not merely defend traditional Christianity in the modern world but to assert its ageless vitality. His fellow believers will find encouragement in these pages, while non-believers will find an engaging and vigorous case for Christianity.

Jesus of Nazareth by Joseph Ratzinger, Pope Benedict XVI, published by Doubleday; ISBN: 978-0-385-52341-7; \$24.95/ hardcover; 400 pages; www.doubleday.com



HOSPICE RECEIVES ASSISTANCE FROM KJZT—The Catholic Family Fraternal of Texas (KJZT) adopted a statewide fraternal project, recognizing each of its seventy-four 2006 Diamond Status Societies. Each society received \$100 to be donated to a community project of their choice to promote community fellowship. Society No. 72, the Queen of the Holy Rosary of El Campo, presented the \$100 gift to El Campo Hospice to help assist the needs of their patients. The check was presented to Claudia Raun by President Josephine Rucka; Secretary Rose Marie Janak and KJZT member; and Hospice volunteer Mary Ann Krauskopf. Each year KJZT societies focus on participating in work, parish and community projects throughout the state. During 2006, fraternal members donated 258,370 volunteer hours and participated in 12,130 events assisting others and working to make parishes and communities stronger and more viable.



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 July 27, 2007

	TOTALS
— General Seminary Burse	TOTALS
Previously reported	\$75,129.00
In memory of Helen Fellhauer by Margaret Matejek	25.00
	Total \$75,154.00
— Knights of Columbus Victoria Council 1329 Burse No. 3	
Previously reported	\$6,937.50
In memory of David L. Heinrich by K of C Council Victoria 1329	100.00
	Total \$7,037.50
— K of C 4th Degree St. Michael's Assembly 1527 Weimar, Burse	
Previously reported	\$2,300.00
In memory of Walter Ripper by K of C 4th Degree St Michael's Assembly 1527	175.00
	Total \$2,475.00
— Nicholas and Annie Grahmann Burse No. 2	
Previously reported	\$4,549.56
In memory of Harold and Helen Fellhauer by Rita and Frank Zaruba	100.00
	Total \$4,649.56
— Sister M. Barbara Konvicka, IWBS Burse	
Previously reported	\$90.00
In memory of Laddie M. Konvicka by Evelyn Konvicka	40.00
	Total \$130.00
— Catholic Life Insurance Victoria Branch #51-Rev. Msgr. Eustace Hermes and Rev. Msgr. Gino Bernasconi Burse No. 2	
Previously reported	\$1,160.47
In memory of Ernest Lala by Our Lady of Lourdes Altar Society	25.00
	Total \$1,185.47
— Catholic Daughters of America Court of St. Ann No. 369 Burse No. 2	
Previously reported	\$5,535.00
In memory of Harold and Helen Fellhauer by M/M Stanley Friedel	25.00
	Total \$5,560.00

— Rev. Jerome J. Stryk Burse	
Previously reported	\$10,337.50
In memory of Mary Bartos by M/M Lad Muras	10.00
In memory of Emma Stryk by M/M Lad Muras	10.00
In memory of Emma Stryk by Edwin and Julie Stryk	10.00
	Total \$10,367.50
— Rev. Sean Donohue Burse No. 2	
Previously reported	\$1,955.20
An anonymous gift to the burse	2,049.16
	Total \$4,004.36
— Rev. Msgr. Julius Petru St. John Nepomucene-New Taiton Burse No. 2	
Previously reported	\$9,795.00
Gift from Mary Petru Jackson	324.00
	Total \$10,119.00
— Mrs. Elorine Tumlinson Burse	
Previously reported	\$1,270.00
In memory of Elorine Tumlinson by M/M Donald McDonald	100.00
	Total \$1,370.00
— Rev. Msgr. John J. Hanacek Burse	
Completed burse given in memory of Rev. Msgr. John Hanacek by friends	\$15,000.00
— Rev. Timothy Kosler Burse	
Completed burse given in honor of Rev. Timothy Kosler by friends	\$15,000.00

Those wishing to begin a burse or to contribute to an existing seminary burse may do so by sending their contributions with the appropriate burse designation to:

**Seminary Burse, P.O. Box 4070,
Victoria, Texas 77903**



The Diocese of Victoria welcomes, from left, Mrs. Susan Kelley, principal of St. Joseph in Yoakum; Mrs. Gwen Edwards, principal of St. Philip in El Campo; Mrs. Connie Andel, Catholic School Office administrative assistant; Sister Kathleen Goike, principal of St. Michael in Weimar; and Mr. Scott Kloesel, principal of NA. (TCL photo by Cynthia Brewer)

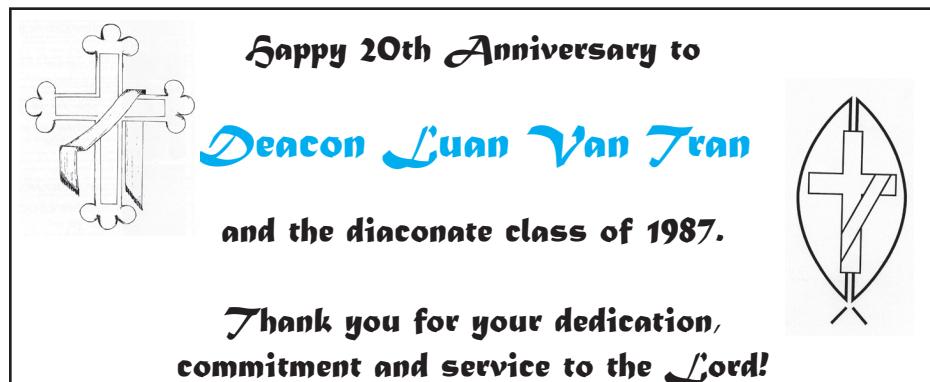
Victoria Diocese welcomes new school personnel

As the new school year begins in August 2007, the diocese welcomes four new principals, and the diocesan Office of Catholic Schools welcomes its new administrative assistant.

Mrs. Susan Kelley, a teacher at St. Joseph Elementary School in Yoakum since 1997, is the school's new principal. Mrs. Gwen Edwards, after having taught at St. Philip Elementary School in El Campo since 2000, has become its new principal.

St. Michael School in Weimar welcomes Sister Kathleen Goike, IWBS, as its new principal; and Mr. Scott Kloesel moves from the position of assistant principal to principal at Nazareth Academy in Victoria. He has been with NA since 1997 as its counselor.

Mrs. Connie Andel joined the Office of Catholic Schools as its new administrative assistant on July 2, 2007.



Bishop David E. Fellhauer addresses the largest crowd ever for the Bishop's Charities Banquet — 250 guests. After receiving a check for \$11,000 from the Knights of St. Gregory the Great, who sponsored the banquet, he gave a report of the chancery office's activities. From left: master of ceremonies, Father Don Ruppert; Bishop Fellhauer; and Don Hall, president of the Knights of St. Gregory. (TCL photo by Cynthia Brewer)

2007 Bishop's Charities Banquet raises record funds for charities

By Cynthia Brewer

With renovations taking place at Victoria's Country Club facility last year, more guests were able to attend the 2007 Bishop's Charities Banquet this year, thus bringing in the most funds ever to the bishop's various charities.

The banquet, hosted by the Victoria Diocese Knights of St. Gregory the Great, was held Thursday, July 12, 2007. The banquet room was filled to overflowing with 250 guests.

The banquet raised \$11,000, which the Honorable Don Hall, president of the Knights, presented to Bishop David E. Fellhauer for his use in various diocesan charities.

In his remarks, Bishop Fellhauer updated the guests on current diocesan happenings: Over 4,500 youth are being served by the Youth and Young Adult Ministry Office, and work has begun on improving the Spiritual Renewal Center, which is used for many youth activities; the Catechetical Office is preparing its 5th edition of the "Disciples on the Journey" booklet for Lent 2008 and distributed 19,000 copies for Lent 2007; The Catholic Lighthouse always gets its fine issues out in a timely fashion; the Catholic Schools Office will introduce four, new school principals this 2007 school year, and the bishop also mentioned the fact that it takes \$15 million annually to operate the diocese's Catholic schools; since its inception, the Office of Child and Youth Protection has trained over 5,000 people in the diocese to recognize symptoms of child abuse, as well as educate staff and volunteers on how to create a safe environment.

ment for youth; and the Business Office has been busy with insurance decisions as it is responsible for insuring 600 employees and their dependents throughout the diocese, as well as insuring all the church properties within the diocese against damage. The bishop also reminded guests of the diocese's 25th anniversary celebration held in June this year and the upcoming capital campaign that will be announced officially in September.

The master of ceremonies was once again Father Don Ruppert, pastor of Holy Cross in East Bernard. He provided much entertainment with his collection of jokes. The official entertainment was beautiful piano music played by local pianist Karl Kirst.

The banquet remembered B. Lee Payne, a Knight of St. Gregory who went to his eternal reward since last year's Charity Banquet.

Note of Thanks

Dear editor and readers:

I am thankful to you for publishing my request for mission needs. Kindly note the change of address. Kindly send rosaries, statues, ball pens, pencils and other mission help to the following new address.

Thank you,
Father Paul Cruz
P.O. Box 691571
KOTTIYAM – P.O.
KOLLAM – 691 571
KERALA – INDIA

Reporting Abuse

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

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

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

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



Culture of Life

By Father Eric Nielsen



The College Pill

People, and men in particular, love to manipulate and control the world around them. It seems that few things give us more pleasure than the ability to dominate something and force it to do exactly what we want. Take modern agriculture where every year some of the same tracts of land are stripped clean of all growing vegetation in order that they may be planted, fertilized, and herbicized to grow only a genetically designed product at just the right time.

We do the same thing to the fertility of young women, when at the slightest cause we give them medication so that their bodies will do only what we want them to do when we want it to happen. It is amazing how many young women show up for the first year of college on the pill because of doctor's orders. The prescription for being on the pill is medical, but there is a very clear hidden message: "We have given you perfect control over your fertility; you can now have sex at college without any need for commitment."

True, there are some women who yearn for this type of sexual liberation. Sex within the context of a permanent spousal relationship is not all that important, and if the contraceptive fails, which happens often enough, an abortion will be an unfortunate but realistic consequence. Most women, however, would not describe themselves in that fashion, but by being on the pill as she leaves home, a young woman may find it easier to slide in that direction.

Most young men are good guys, with great potential, but not quite ready to make a serious commitment. Still, they feel ready to date, and if a college-aged man finds himself enough times alone with a girlfriend who has no fear of pregnancy, things can happen. And it is unfortunate, because this sexual promiscuity often

corrupts what may have been a deepening interpersonal relationship leading to a very good marriage. But now, since the sin of fornication has entered in, selfishness, the desire for pleasure, and the will to control gradually take over.

For the young woman, three or four years of this can take its toll. By her senior year, even limited promiscuity can leave a good hearted woman feeling empty and out of touch with her better desires. Meanwhile the side effects of the pill could leave her somewhat overweight, depressed her libido, given her a higher risk for breast cancer, and prematurely aged her reproductive system. Who would ever want that for their daughter?

Fortunately, God is very merciful, and many are able to right themselves by turning to the Lord, asking for forgiveness, and beginning a new life of virtue. Many eventually find this in their marriage. But many don't, and some of them seem to be doing fine because they have buried their hurt very deeply within them. And what favors are we doing for our young men by allowing them to gratify their sexual desires without any real commitment or responsibility?

We should never put our daughters on the pill except for the most unusual medical necessity. A good pro-life doctor can tell you the difference. What ever may be gained in short term comfort and control will very easily be lost in the physical, emotional and spiritual consequences of a sexual relationship that lacks the necessary commitment and responsibility that marriage requires.

Father Eric Nielsen is a pastor in the Diocese of Madison, Wisconsin.

Syndicated by www.OneMoreSoul.com.

Biblical School online from Dallas

IRVING, Texas—The School of Ministry (SOM) at the University of Dallas continues its leadership role in creating high-quality, innovative academic programs with the expansion of its four-year Catholic Biblical School program—which is now offered entirely online and in both English and Spanish. Today, the Catholic Biblical School is the largest accredited program of its kind in the nation.

The Catholic Biblical School uses the latest technology and professionally credentialed, bilingual faculty to create a distance-learning program that closely resembles the traditional classroom experience. The program explores every book in the Bible from academic and spiritual perspectives, preparing students to serve as leaders in their respective parish communities. The next academic year begins September 2007.

"We have literally opened the doors of our school to the entire world," said Dr. Brian Schmiesek, director of SOM.

The online Catholic Biblical School program combines professors' video lectures and synchronized slide shows, enhanced by live chats and a weekly discussion board. Using only a laptop or personal computer and a simple Internet connection, students also complete assignments, take examinations and engage in "real time" conversations with professors—allowing for discussion and personalized feedback.

"When we created our distance learning program, our primary goal was to provide students with a highly interactive educational experience," said Dr. Matthew Ogilvie, SOM's coordinator of online education. "This isn't a program where students just enroll, receive a package of software in the mail and take a test several weeks later. By offering students a variety of easy ways to connect with and have access to their professors—their voices, their feelings, their personalities—we have achieved a level of intimacy that is rarely associated with online courses."

The School of Ministry (formerly the Institute for Religious and Pastoral Studies) at the University of Dallas celebrated its 20th anniversary this year and is one of the nation's fastest-growing graduate schools in the field. More than 800 students are enrolled in the School of Ministry's five signature programs: flagship master's degree programs, including the popular "Summer in Rome" academic experience; the four-year Catholic Biblical School; deacon formation programs; adult faith formation programs at the parish level; and an annual ministry conference.

For more information on the School of Ministry, please visit www.udallas.edu/ministry.

The University of Dallas is one of the nation's highly regarded private colleges and the only private Catholic-affiliated university in North Texas.



The Catholic Young Adult Group of Victoria meets for an evening of fellowship and good company every first and third Thursday of the month at Holy Family Church at 7:00 p.m. They are currently learning about John Paul II's *Theology of the Body*. Beginning September 6 and going through November, they'll be meeting at 6:45 p.m. at Tejas Café in Victoria to share a meal, explore a discussion topic and ask questions within the parameters of "Theology at the Well." See below story for upcoming topics. (TCL photo by Cynthia Brewer)

Theology at the Well, formerly Theology on Tap, begins new season

The Catholic Young Adults of Victoria invite all young adults to join them this fall for "Theology at the Well." On the first and third Thursdays of September, October, and November, they'll meet at 6:45 p.m. at Tejas Café in Victoria to share a meal, explore a discussion topic, ask questions and visit with friends. They'll have door prizes and plenty of fun! For more info, please call Jim Wearden at (361) 649-9157.

At national conference, young adults renew commitment to church

By Denis Grasska
Catholic News Service

SAN DIEGO (CNS) -- About 500 Catholics flocked to the San Diego Marriott Del Mar June 29-July 1 for a full schedule of educational, spiritual and social programming specifically designed for single Catholics.

The National Catholic Singles Conference previously has been held twice in Denver and once in Chicago.

"This is one of the first events in the diocese to specifically target singles," said Michele Fleming, director of the Diocese of San Diego's Office for Young Adult Ministry.

Fleming said attendees told her that the conference had been "very powerful in their lives; it's renewed their commitment to the church, it's made them want to go back to their local parishes and become more involved."

About half the conference participants were from California, she said. But some came from as far east as Florida and as far north as Canada.

The conference was sponsored by the Diocese of San Diego, the Theology of the Body International Alliance, Ave Maria Singles, CatholicSingles.com and CatholicMatch.com.

It featured presentations by top Catholic speakers, including Catholic author and speaker Christopher West, a recognized expert on the theology of the body, Pope John Paul II's teachings on human sexuality.

West, a faculty member at the Theology of the Body Institute in West Chester, Pa., made two presentations at the conference, "Looking for Love in All the Right Places" and "Sexual Healing: From Marvin Gaye to JPII."

Attention Texas A&M Incoming Freshman and Transfer Students

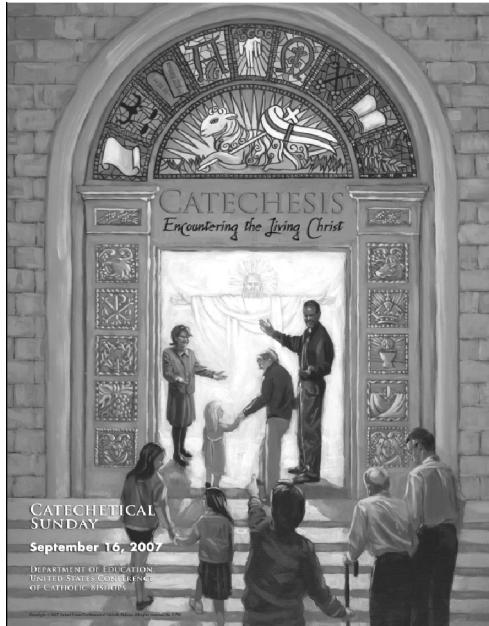
COLLEGE STATION—St. Mary's Catholic Center at Texas A&M in College Station invites incoming freshman and transfer students to the 2007 Welcome Weekend Retreat, Friday, August 24 through Sunday, August 26. Welcome Weekend is a great way to start college life, learn about the dynamic Catholic presence at TAMU and make new friends. For more information or to register, call 1-888-240-TAMU or visit www.agiecatholic.org.



TOP 10 REASONS TO ATTEND THE XX ANNUAL CONFERENCE FOR CATECHESIS AND MINISTRY

Saturday, September 29, 2007, at Holy Family Parish in Victoria

1. Learn more about your Catholic faith.
2. Meet new people from parishes throughout the Diocese of Victoria.
3. Hear two dynamic keynote presenters who will energize and encourage you to deepen your Encounter with the Living Christ.
4. Hear great workshop presentations that will inspire and motivate you.
5. Shop for Catholic books, videos, religious articles, and more.
6. Come and celebrate with over 150 catechists who will be honored for 20 or more years of service in catechesis.
7. Enjoy a great meal at a reasonable price cooked by Holy Family Knights of Columbus Council 9088.
8. Share your faith with others who are also on fire with the "good news"!
9. Be an apostle, invite others to join you for this day of learning, sharing, praying and Christian fellowship!
10. Celebrate the Sunday Liturgy with the Most Reverend David E. Fellhauer, bishop of Victoria.



Adoration Hours Available

Come adore the Lord in the Blessed Sacrament at St. Mary's Adoration Chapel in Victoria.

One hour needs a permanent adorer on Tuesdays from 8:00 – 9:00 p.m. Substitutes are also needed to fill in for absent adorers.

What a perfect way to spend a quiet hour of meditation with our Lord.

Please call (361) 573-6161 or the church office at (361) 573-4328 to offer an hour of adoration.



The Great Unveiling ...

Next month all details will be revealed for the unique diocesan event to be held at Holy Family Parish in Victoria Sunday, February 24, 2008.

Must be 18 years of age and no longer in high school to participate!

D.Y.C.T.
Dust Your Card Tables!

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

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



DIOCESE OF VICTORIA PASTORAL INSTITUTE Extended Program Classes

Chancery, Victoria — Tuesdays 7:00 - 9:15 p.m.
First Six Weeks

Liturgy - Rev. Ty Bazar, instructor

Participants will study the worship and prayer of the Church and its importance in the life of the Christian today. Principles of liturgy, the Mass, music in liturgy, the liturgical year, children's liturgies, etc., will be discussed.

August 28- October 16, 2007 (no class on October 2 & 9)

Holy Family, Wharton — Mondays 7:00 - 9:15 p.m.
First Six Weeks

Trinity - Rev. Eddie Winkler, instructor

Participants will examine the three persons of the Holy Trinity, their relationships to each other and to the human race.

September 10 - October 15, 2007

There is a \$ 15 registration fee for each six-week course. Book fees are extra. To pre-register, call (361) 573-0828 or e-mail bparkan@victoriadiocese.org. Make check payable to: Pastoral Institute. Payment can also be made on the first day of class.

Look What's In The Library & Media Center

Book of the Month

St. Monica: The Power of a Mother's Love
by Giovanni Falbo

This mother never yielded in her efforts to see her beloved son find comfort and peace in God. She also endured countless sacrifices and health risks in her quest to help Augustine embrace the faith.

Other Books

- *Making Sense of Adolescence: How to Parent from the Heart*
- *Celebrate the Older You: Becoming a Wiser, Warmer, Mature Woman*
- *Eucharist: Exploring the Diamond of Our Faith*

For Children

- *Blessed Kateri and the Cross in the Forest*
- *Sacred Stories: A Beginner's Bible Book*
- *Pray with Mary*

Español

- *Cruzando el Umbral de la Esperanza por Su Santidad Juan Pablo II*

Video of the Month

Connecting with God: Ways to Pray This video takes a closer look at what prayer can be by focusing on three ways that we can connect to God – through our bodies, music, and nature.

Other Videos

- *When Your Parent Needs You: A Guide to Positive Growth when Caring for Aging Parents*
- *Where is God When Life Hurts?*

For Children

- *God Wants Me to Forgive Them! A lesson in Forgiveness*

Español

- *El Papa Juan Pablo II: Su Biografía*

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



Masses:
Saturday – 5:00 p.m. (Polka Mass)
Sunday – 7:30 & 9:30 a.m.

BIG COUNTRY AUCTION

12 Noon

Cattle Auction: 2:30 p.m.

Drawing

Prizes given away at 9 p.m.

ARTS & CRAFTS

Booth Spaces: \$40

Call (361) 594-2971 or 594-8548

--- DINNER ---

10:30 a.m. – 2:00 p.m.

Dine in A/C Dining Room
— Shiner Picnic Stew — Fried Chicken — Country Sausage — Trimmings

Adults: \$7.00

Children Under 11: \$4.00

Drive thru "Plates to Go" from
10:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. at
Shiner KC Hall on Hwy 90A East

COUNTRY STORE

Canned and Baked Goods
Kolaches — Pigs-in-Blanket
Served from 8 a.m. until ...

86th Annual

SHINER CATHOLIC CHURCH

Fall 2007 PICNIC

Sunday,

September 2

Legion Park - Shiner

FREE MUSIC & DANCING

Inside A/C Hall
11 a.m. to 6 p.m.

Polkas, Waltzes, Old Favorites

11 a.m. – 2 p.m.

Accordion Music

2 – 4 p.m.

Shiner Hobo Band

4 – 6 p.m.

Rusty Steins Orchestra

DANCE

9 p.m. to 1 a.m.

EMOTIONS

\$7 Admission charged inside hall beginning at 8 p.m.

— Hamburgers — Chicken Fried Steak Sandwiches —

— Bingo — Cake & Plant Wheels —

— Kiddie Rides — Games —

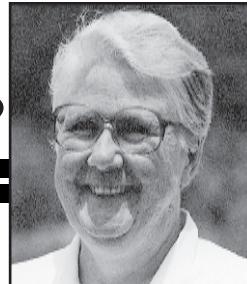
— Fun for the Whole Family!!!

For more information call: (361) 594-3836
Website: www.shinercatholicchurch.org



SISTERLY THOUGHTS

By Sister Mildred Truchard, IWBS



Mystics and Prophets in Today's World!

The IWBS Sisters in Victoria have just finished hosting a reunion of the U. S. Incarnate Word Sisters. The theme was *Mystics and Prophets in the Church Today*. The more I thought about the theme, the more I realized that every baptized Christian is called to be a mystic and a prophet. Some of us may say, "That's not for me; that's for people with special gifts and experiences of God." Moreover, we may think, "I'm just an ordinary Christian; I wouldn't even know much about mysticism and prophecy." Somehow, we have developed the false notion that deep prayer and intimate communion with God is reserved for the spiritually "elite." We think of a mystic as a person who has all kinds of out-of-the-ordinary sights, sounds, and physical experiences. We think of prophets exclusively as old, bearded men from the Hebrew Scriptures who were called to speak for God in the time before Jesus directly made God known to humanity.

Now, for a moment, let us put aside our past understanding and look afresh at our call to be mystics and prophets. At baptism we were all called to be persons of prayer — communion with God — and

persons whose experience of the presence of God is intense and leads to continuing conversion. We are all called to this deep communion of love and of knowledge with God and, in God, with people and all reality. Now, we all know prayerful people about us who live in the presence of God and see God in all the ordinary aspects of Christian life. They delight in the sacraments and public worship, opportunities to learn about the faith, Scripture, personal prayer, interacting with Christ in their neighbors and in rejoicing in the beauty of God's creation. While they probably don't think of themselves as mystics, they match the description! Let's all of us live so as to match this description!

However, the call to mysticism is only half of our call; just as we are spiritually nourished through our relationship with God, we are called to share God's love with others. That's how all of us are called to be prophets — persons who communicate the message of God to the whole world. So, let us receive God's love and, in turn, extend it to others — as mystics and prophets.

From The Pastor's Desk

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



Holy Marriages

To be "holy" ... "holiness" ... means "to be set apart" or "separated."

God is holy. He, of course, is the holiest of all beings because as one who is not created, he is completely separate from everything else insofar as everything else is created. People and/or things are considered "holy" when they are set apart from common usage and dedicated to the service of God.

Even though holiness means to be set apart or separated, and even though God is distinct from creation in that he is not a created physical being, it does not follow that God's holiness is rooted necessarily in separation from creation. God's holiness, rather, is rooted in absolute separateness from the fallen ways of creation.

Divine holiness, expressed in the person of Jesus Christ, means to be absolutely set apart *from sin* and set apart *for love*. Holiness is separating oneself from the ways of sin so as to live a distinguished life of love. It follows that human holiness ... holy marriage ... is also a way of engaging the world without getting caught up in the fallen ways of the world. It is living in the world but not being of the world. Human holiness is not a flight from worldly things; it is being set apart from sinful attachment to things so that one can relate to created things in a spirit of love and freedom.

Holy marriages, therefore, are set apart from other marriages because their *love for Christ is the primary motivation* for all that they are and all that they do. Marriages are holy because they freely choose to live in the love of Christ while

maintaining a dynamic relationship with the surrounding culture. Holy marriages live intimately close to the world and engage it with the light of Christ as their guide, illuminating and celebrating that which is good and rooting out and rejecting that which is evil.

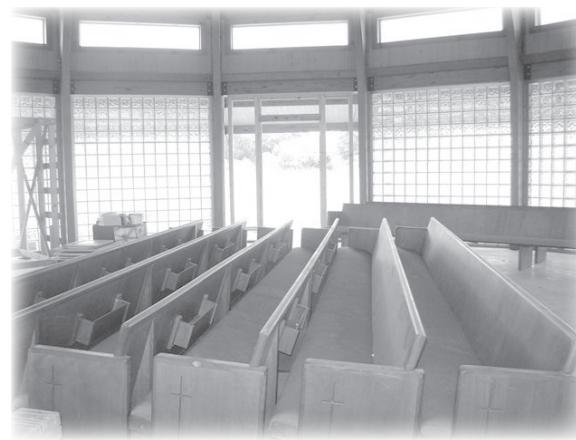
Christian marriages are called to be prophetic, witnessing to the power of God's love in the world. Marriages are not holy because they perform holy actions or actions that are set apart because they are extraordinary; marriages are holy because they are set apart *from selfishness and for compassion and generosity*.

Make a difference in a young person's life!

Volunteer host families -with or without children- are needed to host Christian international teens from over 30 countries for the 2007/2008 school year. They are in need of caring families to provide a bed, meals, as well as friendship, understanding and a genuine desire to share the American way of life with a youngster from overseas.

The students speak English, are covered by medical insurance, have spending money for their personal expenses, and hope to arrive in August for enrollment in their new school. A \$100 donation will be given to your church for each member of the congregation that hosts an exchange student.

For information, call Yvette Coffman at the SHARE! Southwest Office at 800-941-3738 or www.sharesouthwest.org.



Raphael's Refuge continues to receive donations

FLATONIA — Raphael's Refuge now has pews in the Chapel of the Holy Innocents, thanks to the generosity of Hallettsville businessman Kenneth Butschek and his family. Water fountains, a lectern and a table with benches were also donated. The furnishings came from a building that Mr. Butschek recently purchased for his expanding business, TWFG Financial Services. The building had belonged to the Sublime Baptist Church. Midge Elam, the director of Raphael's Refuge, expressed her gratitude and noted that all the items will be very useful.

Raphael's Refuge is also pleased to announce a \$100 donation from the Catholic Daughters of the Americas, Court Sacred Heart 797, of Hallettsville. Six officers of the Court toured the construction site

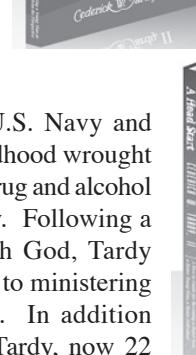
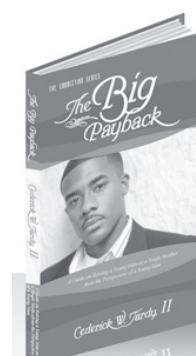
of the Monument to the Innocents on Sunday, July 15. They saw the beautiful glass walls of the chapel and the babies' names that have been engraved on 78 of the glass blocks.

There are 1,560 blocks in the walls, 840 of which will be engraved. When the long walls that will radiate out from the Chapel are constructed, a thousand more blocks will be available for engraving. If interested in having a block engraved with the name of a baby who has died in infancy, or has been stillborn, miscarried, or aborted, contact Midge Elam at 361-258-1514, raphaels@awesomenet.net, or 2715 W US Hwy 90, Flatonia, TX 78941. To learn more, please go to www.raphaelsrefuge.org.

Young Houston author commits life to broken family outreach

HOUSTON — African-American author Cederick W. Tardy II shares his personal experiences and offers invaluable advice for both mothers and sons in "The Connection Series."

The Texas author debuted his first two books, which comprise "The Connection Series," simultaneously on Mother's Day 2007. Part autobiography and part how-to manual, "The Big Payback" is written for single mothers and gives insight on raising boys from a son's perspective. "A Head Start" is a virtual-mentoring tool for young men being raised by single mothers. Tardy penned both books at the age of 19 while serving in the U.S. Navy and after a tumultuous childhood wrought with parental divorce, drug and alcohol abuse, and delinquency. Following a distinct encounter with God, Tardy has turned his life over to ministering to youths and parents. In addition to writing the books, Tardy, now 22 years old, created publishing company Cederick Tardy Enterprises and published the works.



tribute to his mother for the difficult years the two experienced together following his parent's divorce. The book also gives single mothers a window into the world and thinking of today's youths. Unlike any other parenting book, "The Big Payback" offers numerous practical and valuable tips from the perspective of the son of a single mother on how to better raise a young man in the 21st Century.

Tardy shows you how to: build trust, develop courage to overcome, interpret actions and body language, improve communication skills, understand your son's thought processes, plan your son's future, understand the father's significance, win arguments without ruining relationships and much more.

"A Head Start" (ISBN: 978-0-9792301-1-0; U.S. \$15) explores the author's troubled youth and how to avoid his mistakes. Topics include communicating with your mother, dealing with loneliness, managing peer pressure, avoiding drug and alcohol addiction, suicide and depression; planning ahead, setting and achieving goals, dealing

with an absentee father, and finding a mentor. Both books are timely as the single parent rate continues to rise. The U.S. Census reports there are 10 million single mothers in the U.S. with children under 18, and this figure is up three million since 1970.

Additionally, one-in-five single mothers is raising three or more children. Most single mothers (7.7 million or 78 percent) are maintaining their own households. The majority of these mothers do not have another adult in the home to help them out.

To purchase "The Connection Series" or for more information on booking Tardy for a speaking engagement, visit [www.ctardyenterprises.com](http://ctardyenterprises.com). The total for one book plus shipping and handling is \$19.45. The total for the series plus shipping and handling is \$34.45. Checks will be accepted at: Cederick Tardy Enterprises; P.O. Box 840654; Houston, TX 77284.



spiritual well being, literacy and health care of their brothers and sisters in Christ. As these fourteen Sisters were celebrating the anniversaries of their commitments to religious life, they recalled that one of their number, Sister M. Vivian Hale, who died on June 30, 2007, contributed 75 years of ministry.

Celebrating on Saturday, July 7, 2007

Sister M. Mildred Truchard, daughter of the late Joe and Adele (Schneider) Truchard, was born in Sealy, Texas. She received her elementary education at Menz Public School, and attended Columbus High School and Nazareth Academy from which she graduated. Sister Mildred entered Nazareth Convent and received the habit of the Sisters of the Incarnate Word and Blessed Sacrament on August 5, 1956, and made first profession of vows on August 6, 1957. She received a BA degree with a major in English and a minor in Spanish and a MA degree with a major in biology and a minor in education from Incarnate Word College. She earned a master of education in administration from Our Lady of the Lake University and just recently earned a MA in pastoral ministry from the Oblate School of Theology.

During her 50 years of profession, Sister Mildred ministered as teacher and/or principal at St. Michael School in Weimar, Immaculate Conception School and Sealy Public School in Sealy, St. Leo School and Blessed Sacrament Academy in San Antonio, Sacred Heart School in Hallettsville, and St. Joseph High School and Nazareth Academy in Victoria. Sister Mildred was instrumental in opening a Multi-Learning Center as an Alternative High School at Blessed Sacrament Academy in 1989. She ministered as local superior at Incarnate Word Convent and has served as the vocation director for the congregation since 1998. Sister Mildred has written a column, *Sisterly Thoughts*, for the diocesan newspaper, *The Catholic Lighthouse*, since 1995. She has been involved in parish ministry at Assumption of the Blessed Virgin Mary Church in Ganado for the past five years.

Sister Mildred's hobbies are gardening, oil painting, arts and crafts, and reading. She uses her computer skills with the formulation and updating of the IWBS web page for the congregation.

Sister M. Adele Marie Machala, daughter of the late Rudolph and Julia (Kubin) Machala, was born in Crosby, Texas. She received her elementary education at Crosby Public School in Crosby, Parker Public School in Parker, Wash., and Yakima Public School in Yakima, Wash. She attended Crosby High School and Nazareth Academy from which she graduated. Sister Adele Marie entered Nazareth Convent and received the habit of the Sisters of the Incarnate Word and Blessed Sacrament on August 5, 1956, and made first profession of vows on August 6, 1957. She received a BA degree with a major in education and a minor in history from Incarnate Word College and a master of religious education from the University of St. Thomas in Houston.

During her 50 years as a professed religious, Sister Adele Marie taught at St. Mary School in Nada, Sacred Heart School in La Grange, St. Michael School in Weimar, Sacred Heart School in Hallettsville, St. Leo School, St. John School and Blessed Sacrament Academy in San Antonio, Immaculate Conception School in Sealy, Our Lady of Perpetual Help School in Selma, Sacred Heart School in Crosby, Sacred Heart School in Floresville, St. Patrick School in Dallas, St. Joseph High School and Our Lady of Victory School in Victoria. She also ministered in CCD classes in Holy Cross Parish in East Bernard and St. Basil Parish in Angleton. Since 1989 Sister has resided at Incarnate Word Convent where she has assisted in the Incarnate Word Convent Gift Shop.

Sister M. Denise Bowers, daughter of the late Ray and Helen (Bonneau) Bowers, was born in Mont Belview, Texas. She received her elementary education at Collegeport Grammar School in Collegeport, Texas, and graduated from Palacios High School in Palacios, Texas. Sister Denise entered Nazareth Convent and received the habit of the Sisters of the Incarnate Word and Blessed Sacrament on August 5, 1956, and made first profession of vows on August 6, 1957. She earned a BS degree in

education with a major in business administration and a minor in English from Southwest Texas State University in San Marcos. Sister received a MA degree with a major in education and a minor in English from Incarnate Word College.

During her 50 years of religious profession, Sister Denise was a teacher and/or principal at Nazareth Academy in Victoria, St. Ludmila Academy and St. Paul High School in Shiner, Falls City Public Elementary and High School in Falls City, Texas, Sacred Heart School in Hallettsville, and Sacred Heart School in Floresville. Sister served as secretary general of the congregation from 1973 to 1976. Since 1980 she has resided at Incarnate Word Convent where she served as assistant to the treasurer general, worked with records in the archives and did research when information was requested. Sister Denise's hobbies have been reading, working on jigsaw puzzles, playing cards and doing ceramics.

Sister M. Patrice Schorp, daughter of the late Francis and Mildred (Teal) Schorp, was born in Pearsall, Texas. She received her elementary education at Pearsall Public School and Little Flower School in Pearsall, Texas, and graduated from Pearsall High School. Sister entered Nazareth Convent and received the habit of the Sisters of the Incarnate Word and Blessed Sacrament on August 5, 1956, and made first profession of vows on August 6, 1957. She received a BA degree with a major in biology and a minor in chemistry from Incarnate Word College in San Antonio.

Sister Patrice taught science classes at Nazareth Academy in Victoria, St. Ludmila Academy and St. Paul High School in Shiner, and Blessed Sacrament Academy in San Antonio. She served as treasurer general of the congregation for 24 years. Since June of 2000, Sister Patrice has overseen St. Joseph Villa in Charco, Texas. Some of her hobbies have been upholstering, leather crafts, woodcrafts and gardening.

Sister M. Agnesine Heinsch, daughter of the late Otto and Gertrude (Albrecht) Heinsch, was born in San Antonio, Texas. She received her elementary education at St. Leo School in San Antonio and attended Blessed Sacrament Academy from which she graduated. Sister entered Nazareth Convent in Victoria and received the habit of the Sisters of the Incarnate Word and Blessed Sacrament on August 5, 1957, and made first profession of vows on August 6, 1957. Sister Agnesine received a BA degree with a major in history and a minor in English from Incarnate Word College.

During her 50 years of profession, Sister Agnesine ministered as a teacher in the following schools: Our Lady of Victory School in Victoria, Sacred Heart School in Crosby, St. Leo School and St. John School in San Antonio, and Assumption of the BVM School in Ganado. She has served at Blessed Sacrament Academy as academy and/or convent treasurer over the last 24 years.

Sister Agnesine is a fine musician who has used her talents in playing the organ/piano for eucharistic celebrations and other events throughout the years. Her hobbies include gardening, especially with houseplants, and playing the piano.

Sister M. Rachel Gomez, daughter of the late Cosme and Alejandra (Ayala) Gomez. She was born in Selma, Texas. She attended Our Lady of Perpetual Help School in Selma. Sister Rachel entered Nazareth Convent in Victoria where she received the habit of the Sisters of the Incarnate Word and Blessed Sacrament on August 5, 1956, and made first profession of vows on August 6, 1957.

Sister Rachel has spent the majority of her 50 years as a member of the congregation in food preparation. She ministered at Nazareth Convent in Victoria, Mercy Hospital in Jourdanton, Sacred Heart School in Hallettsville, and Incarnate Word Convent in Victoria. She presently resides at Incarnate Word Convent where as nutritionist she supervises preparation of the meals for Incarnate Word Convent. Sister is very meticulous in every aspect of her ministry and is very artistic in producing tempting and delectable foods. Her hobbies

include making rosaries and decorating cakes and cookies.

Sister M. Jacinta Benavidez, daughter of Ignacio Benavidez of Cuero and Rosalie Gill of Houston, was born in Houston, Texas. She received her elementary education at Resurrection School in Houston and graduated from McReynolds High School in Houston. Sister entered Incarnate Word Convent and received the habit of the Sisters of the Incarnate Word and Blessed Sacrament on January 4, 1976, and made first profession of vows on January 5, 1977. She received an associate degree from The Victoria College and a BA degree with a major in elementary education with a specialization in speech and kindergarten endorsement from the University of Houston in Victoria.

During her 25 years of religious profession, Sister Jacinta has ministered as a teacher at Nazareth Academy in Victoria, St. Ludmila Academy in Shiner and St. Leo School in San Antonio. She also assisted in the religious education program at Assumption of BVM Parish in Ganado and St. Agnes Parish in Edna. She now resides at Incarnate Word Convent where she assists in health care and serves as assistant vocation director. Sister's hobbies include reading, writing poetry, woodcarving and making banners.

Celebrating on Sunday, July 8, 2007

Sister M. Dorothy Susil, daughter of the late Charles and Agnes (Manak) Susil, was born in Ellinger, Texas. Sister Dorothy received her elementary education in Ellinger and Hostyn. She attended high school at Lawson Public School in Wharton County and St. Ludmila Academy in Shiner from which she graduated. She entered St. Ludmila Convent in Shiner and received the habit of the Sisters of the Incarnate Word and Blessed Sacrament on June 30, 1931. She made first profession of vows on July 4, 1932. Sister Dorothy received her BA degree with a major in English and a minor in Spanish from Incarnate Word College in San Antonio.

During her 75 years of religious profession, Sister Dorothy taught in various private, parochial and public schools: Holy Trinity School in Corn Hill, Holy Trinity School in Duquesne, Pa., St. Mary School in Nada, St. John School in Schulenburg, Marak Public School, St. Ludmila Academy in Shiner, Sacred Heart School in Floresville, St. Agnes School and Blessed Sacrament Academy in San Antonio, Holy Rosary School in Hostyn, St. Mary School in Praha, Immaculate Conception and Sealy Public School in Sealy and Holy Cross School in East Bernard. Sister Dorothy resides at Incarnate Word Convent where she continues to teach some private piano lessons. She enjoys reading and working with arts and crafts.

Sister M. Edith Mzyk, daughter of the late Jerome W. and Victoria (Pruski) Mzyk, was born in Cestohowa, Texas. She completed elementary school at Holy Trinity School in Falls City and graduated from Nazareth Academy. Sister Edith entered Nazareth Convent and received the habit of the Sisters of the Incarnate Word and Blessed Sacrament on August 16, 1931. She made first profession of vows on August 17, 1932. Sister Edith received both her BA degree with a major in English and a minor in Spanish and a MA degree in education with a major in administration and a minor in supervision from Our Lady of the Lake University in San Antonio.

During her 75 years as a professed member of the congregation, Sister Edith was a teacher and/or administrator at Holy Trinity School in Duquesne, Pa., Sacred Heart School in La Grange, St. Agnes School in San Antonio, St. Michael School in Weimar, Sacred Heart School in Cuero, Holy Trinity School in East Bernard, Sacred Heart School in Hallettsville, St. Ludmila Academy in Shiner, St. Mary School in Nada, Mary Immaculate in Dallas, Our Lady of Perpetual Help in Selma, and Our Lady of Victory School and Nazareth Academy in Victoria. She also taught in the Hobson, Ammannsville and Falls City Public Schools. She served as librarian of the Incarnate Word Convent Library and Annunciation College Library. She spent many years engaged in research and

organization of records for the congregation's archives. Sister Edith presently resides in the Incarnate Word Convent Infirmary.

Sister M. Michael Kopecky, daughter of the late Joseph and Frances (Strauss) Kopecky, was born in Hallettsville. Sister Michael received her elementary education at Sacred Heart School in Hallettsville and graduated from Blessed Sacrament Academy in San Antonio. She entered Blessed Sacrament Convent and received the habit of the Sisters of the Incarnate Word and Blessed Sacrament on February 23, 1936. She made first profession of vows on June 10, 1937. Sister received a BA degree with a major in English and a minor in Spanish from Incarnate Word College and a MA degree with a major in history and a minor in education from the Catholic University of America.

During her 70 years as a professed member of the Sisters of the Incarnate Word and Blessed Sacrament, Sister Michael taught on the elementary, junior high, high school and college levels. She served as teacher and/or principal in the following schools: Sacred Heart School in Floresville, Nazareth Academy in Victoria, Sacred Heart School in La Grange, Holy Cross School in Bay City, Holy Cross School and St. Patrick School in Dallas, Blessed Sacrament Academy in San Antonio and Holy Trinity School in Duquesne, Pa. Though Sister Michael retired from full-time teaching in 1988, she remained active at Incarnate Word Convent where she assisted in chauffeuring and community shopping and also served in the music ministry for services in the convent chapel. Sister enjoyed making flower arrangements and doing arts and crafts. She presently resides in the Incarnate Word Convent Infirmary.

Sister M. Rosa Sanchez, daughter of the late Diego and Genevieve (Vargas) Sanchez, was born in Mackay, Texas. She received her elementary education at Adams Public School in El Campo and graduated from Nazareth Academy. She entered Nazareth Convent and received the habit of the Sisters of the Incarnate Word and Blessed Sacrament on September 1, 1946. She made her first profession of vows on September 2, 1947. Sister Rosa received a BA degree with a major in English and a minor in Spanish from Incarnate Word College in San Antonio and a MA degree with a major in secondary education and a minor in sociology/psychology from Southwest Texas State University in San Marcos.

During her 60 years as a member of the congregation, Sister Rosa taught on the elementary and junior high levels. She also served as principal in several schools and ministered as director of religious education in various parishes. Sister's teaching experiences took her to St. Jerome School in Plum; St. Agnes School, St. Leo School, St. John School and Blessed Sacrament Academy in San Antonio; Holy Cross School in East Bernard; Holy Cross School in Bay City; St. Michael School in Weimar; Our Lady of Perpetual Help School in Selma, Sacred Heart School in La Grange, and Nazareth Academy in Victoria. As director of religious education, Sister Rosa ministered to the people in Holy Cross Parish in East Bernard, St. Mary Parish in Nada, Guardian Angels Parish in Wallis, St. Thomas Parish in Angleton; and St. Lawrence and St. Cecilia parishes in San Antonio.

Sister Rosa became a certified chaplain for pastoral ministry, and since 1994, has ministered as pastoral counselor/chaplain with Nurses in Touch and Outreach Health Service in San Antonio.

Sister Rosa enjoys walking, listening to music, and working with arts and crafts.

Sister M. Claudia Klesel, daughter of the late Edmund and Annie (Till) Klesel, was born in Schulenburg, Texas. She received her elementary education at St. Edward School in Dubina and graduated from Nazareth Academy. She entered Nazareth Convent and received the habit of the Sisters of the Incarnate Word and Blessed Sacrament on September 1, 1946. She made her first profession of vows on September 2, 1947. Sister received a BS degree with a major in elementary education and a minor in social science from Incarnate Word College in San Antonio.

During her 60 years as a professed member

See IWBS Jubilee 2007, p. 9



Youth Calendar of Events

August 6-10 – Diocesan Directors Meeting – Little Rock, Arkansas

August 10 – Life Teen Inspiration Tour – Six Flags Fiesta Texas – go to www.lifeteen.com, click on conferences.

September 6 – Theology at the Well – (formerly Theology on Tap) - Rev. Dan Morales will present the topic: "Good vs. Evil: Stuck in the Middle" For young adults from 6:45 p.m.– 8:30 p.m. at Tejas in Victoria.

September 8 – Basic Youth Ministry Certificate Course – Class #6 - Justice and Service – at the Chancery from 8:30 a.m. – 12:30 p.m. Pre-registration is required.

September 9 – Youth Leadership Training, Holy Family, Victoria, 8:45 a.m.– 4:30 p.m.

September 15 – Basic Youth Ministry Certificate Course – Class #1 - Renewing the Vision – at the Chancery from 8:30 a.m. – 12:30 p.m. Pre-registration is required.

September 20 – Theology at the Well – (formerly Theology on Tap) - Rev. Bob Knippenberg will present the topic: "Revelation for Dummies." For young adults from 6:45 p.m.– 8:30 p.m. at Tejas in Victoria.

September 22 – Basic Youth Ministry Certificate Course – Class #7 - Ethics and Crisis Management – at the Chancery from 8:30 a.m. – 12:30 p.m. Pre-registration is required.

October 4 – Theology at the Well – (formerly Theology on Tap) - Rev. David Berger will present the topic: "Call to Mission." For young adults from 6:45 p.m.– 8:30 p.m. at Tejas in Victoria.

October 7 – Youth Leadership Training, 8:45 a.m.– 4:30 p.m.

October 18 – Theology at the Well – (formerly Theology on Tap) - To be announced later.

October 26-28 – Youth Ministers Conference, sponsored by the Archdiocese of Galveston-Houston. Wyndham Greenpoint Hotel, Houston.

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

Debbie Vanelli at the Office of Youth Ministry

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

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

Web site: www.victoriadiocese.org/youthoffice

Rocky Mountain High Retreat continues to amaze youth

By Debbie Vanelli, Director of Youth and Young Adult Ministry

The rain was relentless as the group of 54, excited participants began the 27-hour bus ride to Sunlight Christian Camp at the base of the San Juan Mountains in southern Colorado. Fortunately, before getting to Austin the clouds broke away and the group experienced a welcome break from the gloomy conditions that had marked the entire summer thus far. The sunshine proved to be a sign of great things to come, as one retreatant described the total experience as "the most amazing week of my life."

So what is the secret that keeps this retreat, which consistently has a waiting list of several people, one of the most sought after events, even after 22 years? The answer is simpler than

of Our Lady of the Gulf in Port Lavaca, and Father Kirby Hlavaty, pastor for the Catholic Community of Cuero. It is said

that a picture is worth a thousand words – so enjoy the picture montage!



The 2007 RMH participants pictured above.

(right) Scaling a 30-foot rock wall is a great personal achievement.

(left) Mass at the end of stations is a beautiful experience.



one would imagine. We are blessed by an extraordinary staff of adults who have a genuine love of young people and love of our Lord, and their words and actions convey that quite strikingly. This love combined with openness and frankness regarding their lives and the Catholic faith is extremely appealing to young people and a welcome reprieve from the mixed messages that they are consistently bombarded with. This retreat produced many deep conversations of important life issues for these young people as they explored Catholic social teaching in a creative and thought provoking way.

Again this year we were very blessed to have two priests accompany us on this retreat, Father Dan Morales, pastor



(left) It takes a lot of concentration to master this task.

(below) The participants enjoy the beauty of God's creation during an outdoor session.



(above) Beth Krenek, proudly shows off her creation, as Ethan Chamberlain and Courtney Janak work to master theirs.



IWBS Jubilee 2007

Continued from p. 8

of the congregation, Sister Claudia taught on the elementary level, served as CCD teacher and has served in such capacities as secretary, office manager and receptionist. Her teaching experiences took her to Our Lady of Perpetual Help School in Selma, St. Michael School in Weimar, Holy Cross School in Bay City, Sacred Heart School in La Grange, Immaculate Conception School in Sealy, St. Leo School in San Antonio, Sacred Heart School in Floresville, St. Edward School in Dubina, Sacred Heart School in Hallettsville, Nazareth Academy in Victoria, Sacred Heart School in Crosby and St. Ludmila Academy in Shiner. Sister Claudia now serves as receptionist, secretary and office manager at Blessed Sacrament Academy in San Antonio. Sister Claudia's hobbies include fishing, walking, crocheting and reading.

Sister M. Lucilla Donnelly, daughter of the late J.E and Mary Edith (Mudd) Donnelly, was born in Sweet Home, Texas. She received her first 10 years of education in Sweet Home and graduated from Nazareth Academy. Sister entered Nazareth Convent and received the habit of the Sisters of the Incarnate Word and Blessed Sacrament on September 1, 1946. She made first profession of vows on September 2, 1947. Sister Lucilla received her BS degree in nursing from Incarnate Word College in San Antonio.

During her 60 years as a professed religious, Sister Lucilla taught on the elementary level at St. Leo School in San Antonio, St. Michael School in Cuero and Nazareth Academy in Victoria. She also served as principal at St. Michael School in Cuero for 10 years. Sister Lucilla ministered in the health care area at Mercy Hospital in Jourdanton, Burns Hospital in Cuero and Cuero Community Hospital. During her nursing ministry, Sister also served as administrator of the hospitals in Jourdanton and Cuero, was a part-time school nurse at Nazareth Academy, and served with the Gerling Home Health Ministry. She was treasurer at Nazareth Convent for several years. Sister currently resides at Incarnate Word Convent where she assists in various ongoing activities. Her hobbies include painting, growing different kinds of cacti and doing counted cross-stitch.

Sister M. Antoinette Peltier, daughter of the late R.J. and Sylvester (Collins) Peltier, was born in Danbury, Texas. She received her elementary education and three years of high school at Danbury Public School and completed the twelfth grade with graduation at Nazareth Academy. Sister Antoinette entered Nazareth Convent and received the habit of the Sisters of the Incarnate Word and Blessed Sacrament on September 1, 1946. She made her first profession of vows on September 2, 1947. Sister received a BA degree with a major in English and a minor in Spanish from Incarnate Word College in San Antonio.

During her years of ministry, Sister Antoinette taught on the elementary, junior high and high school levels. She also served as founder and administrator of Our Lady Queen of Peace Catholic School in Richwood and as director of religious education in various parishes. Sister served as teacher and/or principal at Nazareth Academy in Victoria, Sacred Heart School in Floresville, Sacred Heart School in Hallettsville, Blessed Sacrament Academy and St. Leo School in San Antonio and St. Paul High School in Shiner. She also served as vocation director for the congregation. Sister Antoinette's musical talents were shared with hundreds of students in choral and private music lessons. Sister Antoinette played a special part in the 1966 pageant celebrating the congregation's 100th anniversary of its arrival in Victoria in 1866. She composed many of the songs for the pageant and assisted with the costuming for the performances.

Sister Antoinette is also remembered for making and repairing rosaries, and repairing and painting statues. She resides at Incarnate Word Convent where she ministers weekly with a Cenacle Prayer group.

Sister M. Vivian Hale was another Sister who was to be honored on July 8, but the Incarnate Word called her home on June 30 to celebrate with the angels and saints in heaven. See Obituary on page 2.



Colton Wayne Wenske reaches the rank of Eagle Scout.

Wenske achieves Eagle Scout Rank

SWEET HOME—Colton Wayne Wenske had his Eagle Court Honor in Sweet Home in the Queen of Peace Parish Hall on Sunday, June 24. Colton is 17 years old and will be a senior at Yoakum High School. He has been a very active Boy Scout of Yoakum's Troop No. 228 for the past six years.

Colton's Eagle Project consisted of constructing a new cement ramp with hand-rails and laying a red-brick sidewalk consisting of 1300 bricks that are engraved in memory and in honor of loved ones. A 16-inch square stone with an Eagle emblem reads: "Colton Wenske Eagle Scout dedicated to Queen of Peace Catholic Church."

The project took 350 hours of planning and working to complete. As a Boy Scout, Colton has earned 55 merit badges. He has also earned his bronze, gold and silver palms.

Colton Wenske is the son of very proud parents, Kenneth and Judy Wenske. He also has a younger brother, Clayton, who is becoming a Webelos II Cub Scout this coming school term. Colton is the grandson of Julius Tobola of Hallettsville and the late Evelyn Tobola and Mr. and Mrs. Carlos Dean Wenske of Yoakum. He is the great-grandson of Emily Sitka and the late Mr. and Mrs. Julius J. Tobola.



FUN QUILT TO BE AUCTIONED AT SHINER FESTIVAL—Handmade Shiner Beer T-shirt Quilt will be auctioned at the Shiner Fall Picnic this year. The full/queen size quilt is made up of 14 Shiner Beer T-shirt designs. The t-shirts were donated by the Spoetzl Brewery and the piece work was done by Janie Cimrhanzl. The Fall Picnic will be held Sunday, Sept. 2.



HOSTYN AND PLUM HOLD THEIR FIRST VBS—Queen of the Holy Rosary Church in Hostyn and Sts. Peter and Paul Church in Plum held their very first Vacation Bible School from June 25–29, 2007. The theme of the week was "The Great Bible Reef." The youth learned a new Bible story and verse each day, and then enjoyed crafts, storytelling, games, songs and dances that centered on the story of the day. All the activities were carried out with an ocean theme. The youth also brought their loose change to drop in the LunchBag fish bowl and collected \$145.78, all of which was donated to the LG LunchBag program, providing free summer lunches to youth in the area. Photographed are the youth and youth leaders from the two churches' VBS. The youth hold one of their craft items, "God Cares about ...Name..." t-shirt pillows decorated with fish and sea creatures.



BLESSING KC INSTALLS OFFICERS—The Knights of Columbus Council 4307 in Blessing, Texas, held their installation of officers for the new fraternal year of 2007-2008. The installation was held on June 12, 2007, at the parish CCD center. The new officers for the council are: Stephen Nance, grand knight; John Hickl, deputy grand knight; Edward Gurecky, chancellor; Vincent Nemec, financial secretary; Gerald Wendel, recorder; Robert Torres, warden; Adolph Biskup, treasurer; Dennis Saha, lecturer; trustees: Frank Michalik, Leonard Jasek, Kenneth Christensen; Marvin Hurta, advocate; Jesse Sustaita, inside guard; Willie Bohuslar, outside guard; and chaplain of Council 4307, Father Sam Appiasi.



Lillian Kallus receives of state KJZT award.

Hostyn woman receives state KJZT award

HOSTYN—Lillian Kallus of Queen of the Holy Rosary Church in Hostyn was recently selected as Catholic Family Fraternal of Texas (KJZT) Fraternalist of the Year for 2007 at a recent Centennial Celebration of three societies: No. 23, Holy Rosary of Hostyn; No. 24, St. Agnes of Ammansville; and No. 25, St. Anne of Plum.

Lillian Kallus was recognized for outstanding volunteer service and excellence in fraternalism through exemplary accomplishment.

Lillian, who has been president of Society No. 23 in Hostyn for many years is also regent of the Catholic Daughters of the Americas Court No. 2282, Queen of the Holy Rosary, president of the Christian Mothers, a member of the Living Rosary Society and core member of Generations of Faith.

She serves in many parish and community projects, ministries and activities, helps in the food pantry named AMEN, is a rosary leader and monthly birthday hostess at Monument Hill Nursing Center, teaches religion and recently helped with the parish Vacation Bible School. She worked with children and elderly for many years and continues to lend a hand whenever and wherever help is needed.

Lillian received \$500 to donate to a charity of her choice.

She and her husband, Robert, have four children and six grandchildren.



COMMITTEE ON SCOUTING RECEIVES NATIONAL AWARD—The Diocese of Victoria Catholic Committee on Scouting received the National 2006 Quality Diocese Award this summer from the National Catholic Committee on Scouting. In recognition of the award, the committee received a certificate and a patch that states "Following His Teaching." Dave Kouba of the scouting committee presented the award to Bishop David E. Fellhauer. He said the Diocese of Victoria met the criteria required for the award, "There are a number of activities such as an Annual Boy Scout Retreat, Cub Scout Day of Recollection, annual banquet at which we present the St. George and Bronze Pelican adult awards, and we actively have classes for the boys to earn their Catholic religion awards." The boys may earn the Agnus Dei, Light of Christ, Parvuli Dei, Ad Altare Dei and Pope Pius X awards. (TCL photo by Cynthia Brewer)



St. Joseph, Moulton, parishioner turns 105

By Cindy Brewer

MOULTON—Parishioners of St. Joseph Church in Moulton held a birthday party for their longtime parishioner, Mrs. Annie Kozelsky. The party was held at the parish hall on Saturday, July 21, 2007; she turned 105 years old the day before.

Mrs. Kozelsky was surrounded by her children, several nieces, and many grandchildren and friends at the hall, which was decorated with flowers, balloons and banners.

Dolores Tousignant, the Golden Crescent representative for the Texas Silver-Haired Legislature, presented Mrs. Kozelsky with an Honorable Member plaque, honoring her for all she's done for her community and family. Charlotte Parks, 11th Silver-Haired Legislature Speaker from the Tyler, Texas, area supported her.

At the Saturday evening Mass that followed her party, her pastor, Father Gabriel Maison, gave her a birthday blessing. Mr. James Freytag, a parishioner at St. Joseph, congratulated her on behalf of the parish, stating, "Mrs. Kozelsky, you have been a wonderful leader and role model for the members of your immediate family and this church family. You, in your caring way, have set the example of excellence, commitment and determination for so many of us and we have all come to love



Mrs. Annie Kozelsky celebrates her 105th birthday at her parish, St. Joseph, in Moulton. (TCL photo by Cynthia Brewer)

and cherish you."

Mrs. Kozelsky's parents, Felix and Francis Pavlas, raised a large family and lived in the Oak Grove community. Little Annie left school after four years to help the family at home. Her dedication and commitment to family was demonstrated

at that early age. At 21 years she became the bride of John Kozelsky and they raised five sons and one daughter.

One son was killed in action during WWII, Mr. Freytag continued, and as a Gold Star Mother, Mrs. Kozelsky has always been an outstanding patriot in support of this great country and veterans' organizations like the VFW and the American Legion.

Hard work and dedication to her family and her

church has been Mrs. Kozelsky's trademark. She has been a leader in her faith and in church organizations throughout her life. Until recently, she attended daily Mass. She was the president of the KJZT organization for more than 30 years and has served in various positions of leadership in the Catholic Daughters and the Altar Society. Throughout the years, she also took-in, housed, clothed and fed many young Catholics as they studied the teachings of the Church in Moulton.

Happy Birthday to Mrs. Annie Kozelsky, one of St. Joseph's most renowned parishioners.



BLOOMINGTON VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL—St. Patrick Church in Bloomington hosted Vacation Bible School, July 9-12. Thirty children attended the week titled "Heaven on Earth." Activities included reading the Bible, student acted skits, singing, a saint scavenger hunt, craft projects and wonderful meals served each day. The week ended with Mass.



CATHOLIC VOLUNTEERS DEDICATED TO NURSING HOME RESIDENTS—Bishop David E. Fellhauer gives Holy Communion to Mr. Andras Cisneros at a weekday Mass at the Texan Nursing & Rehab of Victoria West, formerly Retama West, on Wednesday, July 18, 2007. Rosemary Kahanek of the Legion of Mary and local priests and deacons are very faithful to be sure the 9 a.m. Mass is available to the residents each week. The Mass is very popular amongst Catholics and Protestants; therefore, volunteer Mrs. Cleo Boldt (above) identifies to the priest those who receive Communion and those who receive a blessing. Activity director Maggie Torres said volunteers are always welcome to assist at the Wednesday morning Mass and Monday afternoon (2:30 p.m.) rosary, as residents need assistance getting to and from religious services. Call Maggie at 575-2356 to volunteer. (TCL photo by Cynthia Brewer)

Sacred Heart 125th anniversary and reunion held

Continued from p. 1

June 22-23, 2007, were proclaimed Sacred Heart Catholic Church and School Days.



Father John Peters, pastor of Sacred Heart (l.) and Leonard Ebner (r.), Knights of Columbus 2433 grand knight, hold certificates with proclamations from Hallettsville city council member Alice Jo Summers. (TCL photo by Regina Matus-Janak)

Father John acknowledged the scores of volunteers who made this celebration yet another memorable anniversary event.

Representing the Knights of Columbus, also celebrating 125 years of faithful service, was State Deputy Larry Zapalac, who delivered a commentary on the gift of "charitable spirit" that everyone enjoys in this community. "The dedication of so many parishioners committed to service allows for our traditions," Zapalac said. "It doesn't get any better than this."

The school reunion, coordinated by

Irene (Bludau) Knebel and her team of volunteers, was held Saturday, June 23, in the elegantly decorated KC hall.

Sacred Heart Catholic School principal David Smolik moderated the program. "We are so excited that so many of you are here," he said. "Thank you so much for coming."

The event featured tables for religious, guests and classes going back to 1948, which included school scrapbooks compiled by Georgia Haas, program posters of individual graduating classes and council member Alice Jo Summers.

Many classes were well represented including the classes of 1948, 1959 and 1961 with the most percentage in attendance. The Class of 1961 was the largest class graduated from Sacred Heart School with 48 graduates.

Since its 1882 inception, Sacred Heart Catholic School remains committed to balanced programs of excellence and thus has produced generations of students who live out its core values in communities worldwide.

A candle was lit for each Sacred Heart deceased alumni while Mary Koenig Migl and Sister Emiliana Gafe read each

of their names. Sister Bernarda Bludau, currently a principal in Dallas, composed a prayer for the deceased, and a mo-



Dorothy Bujnoch (l.) and Theresa Hemmi (r.) visit with Sister John Hayden, IWBS and a former teacher at Sacred Heart.



The Class of 1961, with 48 graduates, was the largest graduating class from Sacred Heart School.

ment of silence was held.

Sister Raphael Rose Stewart read the Sacred Heart School Family Prayer. All the past cheerleaders then led the group in singing both the school and the fight song. The historical slide show played throughout the evening on the big screen.

Special guests included alumnus Bishop Charles Grahmann, Sister John Hayden, who taught many of the students in attendance, and many other sisters from Incarnate Word and Blessed Sacrament.

A silent auction was held and followed by a delicious meal and an oldies dance.

There was nothing but "rave reviews" of appreciation for both successful 125 year anniversary events, with attendees already inquiring about the next school reunion. The next Sacred Heart reunion is preliminarily planned for the year 2012.



Living Well

By Maureen Pratt
Catholic News Service



Retirement ahead? Approach with play

Retiring from the workplace can bring mixed feelings, among them fear ("Will people remember me?" "Will I have enough money?" "What will I do with my time?") and eagerness ("I can't wait to not have to set the alarm every morning!" "Finally! I'll have time to do what I want to do!"). But when the reality of the alarm-less, goal-less days finally hits, many people can feel another, more unsettling emotion: restless dissatisfaction.

Is there anything people can do to prepare for a fully satisfying life after the responsibilities of the workplace are gone?

As more people than ever move into retirement, medical professionals and researchers are beginning to study what makes them satisfied, that is, what makes them able to live well long after gainful employment ceases.

Recently, George E. Vaillant, senior psychiatrist at Brigham and Women's Hospital, and co-authors from Harvard Medical School presented the results of their survey of 265 men from inner-city Boston (The American Journal of Psychiatry, April 2006). The study surveyed the men on various stages in their lives and focused on what impacted their perceived quality of life at those times. The men are now past 80 and retired at a mean age of 62 years.

When the men were young, their lower socio-economic status and poor health were major influences on their quality of life. But as they moved into retirement, these influences changed. The two most important factors to enjoying "satisfying retirements" went from money and health to "a good marriage and an ability to play."

Elaborating on what they meant, the men cited "their ability to enjoy their children and to participate in hobbies and community activities."

Dr. Vaillant's study showed, interestingly, that the retirement years of men who continued their usual employment past the normal age of retirement "did not result in happiness."

Often "play" is considered the exclusive realm of children. There is much to be said for encouraging children to develop their social, creative and coordination skills through playing games, organized or not. Parents and teachers may also use play to teach early lessons of faith through school pageants, songs and games.

We might do well to revisit our attitudes toward the role that play can take in our lives, whether we're still working or not. As aging adults, we strive to maintain physical range of motion and mental acuity. Playing sports or working puzzles can help maintain those functions. The older we get, the more we want to keep in touch with people who are dear to us, even if it is difficult to do so.

Inviting others into our lives and nurturing the relationships we have now can give wonderful comfort and support in the future. Don't approach the retirement years with fear or remorse. Employ a sense of play and humor. Exercise creative problem-solving talents. These can help you find resolution to problems in new and wonderful ways.

In Luke 18:15-17, Jesus draws children to him and encourages all to adopt their kind of faith to reach the kingdom of God. This resonates so profoundly in Scripture and can in our lives too if we accept Christ with childlike openness. Then we open ourselves to all that the Lord can do with us and for us. We can be, as children, in the world but not of it. We can praise God, pray -- and play!

Could it be that the older we get, the more benefit we can reap from a strong sense of play -- in life and in faith?

FAMILY PUZZLE CONTEST

OUR BLESSED MOTHER

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KNOCK
LOURDES
MADONNA

MOTHER
OUR LADY
QUEEN
SORROWS
VIRGIN

Family Puzzle Contest Winners

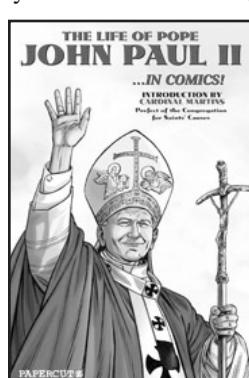
The winner of the July Puzzle Contest is Valerie Starnes of St. Mary Parish in Victoria. She will receive "Real Life, Real Love: 7 Paths to a Strong & Lasting Relationship" by Father Albert Cutié.

The youth contest winners are Taylor Hollmann, 14, and Cassie Cantu, 11, both of St. Roch in Alleyton. They will receive a gift from the Incarnate Word Gift Shop.

The winner of the August Puzzle Contest will receive "The Life of Pope John Paul II ... In Comics," see below review. 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 August 25, 2007, to: Family Contest, The Catholic Lighthouse, P.O. Box 4070, Victoria, TX 77903. Only youth need to include age.

The Life Of Pope John Paul II ...In Comics!

The Life of Pope John Paul II ... In Comics! will be the August Family Puzzle Contest Prize. Just complete the puzzle and send it to *The Catholic Lighthouse* by August 25 for your chance to win this book.



through his heroic defiance of the communist regime which first brought him international attention, and to his leadership as pope. His inspirational quest for peace and world understanding touched millions, reaching far beyond his faithful followers.

Introduction by His Eminence Cardinal Jose Saraiva Martins, prefect of the Congregation for Saints' Causes; Alessandro Mainardi, writer; and Werner Maresta, artist; 96pp., 6x9, full color, jacketed hardcover: \$16.95 (ISBN: 1-59707-039-4).



Texas Renaissance Festival Give-away

Tickets to the Texas Renaissance Festival will be given away through *The Catholic Lighthouse* drawing in August (3 pair), September (3 pair) and October (2 pair). Tickets are valued at \$21 each; good for any weekend Oct. 6 – Nov. 25. The festival is held at 21778 FM 1774, Plantersville, Texas. Please fill out one form per household and send by August 25 to: The Catholic Lighthouse, P.O. Box 4070, Victoria, TX 77903.

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Sunday readings from Aug. 5 to Sept. 9

August 5 — Eighteenth Sunday in Ordinary Time	Ecclesiastes 1:2; 2:21-23 Psalm 90:3-4, 5-6, 12-13, 14, 17 Colossians 3:1-5, 9-11 Luke 12:13-21
August 12 — Nineteenth Sunday in Ordinary Time	Wisdom 18:6-9 Psalm 33:1, 12, 18-19, 20-22 Hebrews 11:1-2, 8-19 Luke 12:32-48
August 19 — Twentieth Sunday in Ordinary Time	Jeremiah 38:4-6, 8-10 Psalm 40:2, 3, 4, 18 Hebrews 12:1-4 Luke 12:49-53
August 26 — Twenty-first Sunday in Ordinary Time	Isaiah 66:18-21 Psalm 117:1, 2 Hebrews 12:5-7, 11-13 Luke 13:22-30
September 2 — Twenty-second Sunday in Ordinary Time	Sirach 3:17-18, 20, 28-29 Psalm 68:4-5, 6-7, 10-11 Hebrews 12:18-19, 22-24a Luke 14:1, 7-14
September 9 — Twenty-third Sunday in Ordinary Time	Wisdom 9:13-18b Psalm 90:3-4, 5-6, 12-13, 14-17 Philemon 9-10, 12-17 Luke 14:25-33



Father Charles Lynch, CSB, greets parishioners and friends outside of Our Lady of Mount Carmel Parish in Wharton following the Despedida Mass for the departing Basilian Fathers. (TCL photo by Cynthia Brewer)

Saying good-bye ... Basilian priests leave Wharton parish

Continued from p. 1

primarily to providing for the Spanish-speaking portion of the Wharton's Catholic community. Our Lady of Mount Carmel was founded in 1948 for that purpose and has always been led by a Basilian.

The church will be placed under the direction of Holy Family Church in Wharton and its pastor, the Rev. Dominic Antwi-Boasiako. Father Jackson said the diocese would be sending an additional priest to help with Spanish services.

Father Jackson will be leaving Wharton and returning to his childhood home in Canada where he will move into a retreat house and partial retirement. Father Lynch has been assigned to the community of the Basilians in Brazoria County.

Father Lynch said it would be hard to leave the congregation but accepts the fact the parish will be turned over to the Victoria Diocese for its operations and priest assignments.

"The Basilians, unfortunately, don't have a sufficient number of priests to keep up with the re-

lationships of the past," he said. "We are asking that people pray for the diocese so this church can continue to operate."

Father Jackson has served as the church's pastor for the past 19 years, while Father Lynch has served the church off-and-on for the past 25 years. For many in the congregation, the Basilian priests are all they have ever known of the church.

"I've been a member pretty much all my life," Michael Vela said. He is one of the congregation's youth group volunteers. "For the past 50 years, this is the only church and these are the only priests we have known. But we look forward to embracing the change, because this is the Catholic Church and we still embrace the same ideas, same principle, even if they might be taught a little different by the diocese. The Church is the Church."

Liliana Johse moved to the U.S. from her home in Nicaragua in 1979 and has attended the church almost since her arrival.

"It breaks your heart that

Father Jackson and Father Lynch have to leave," she said. "They represent so much history to the families. They buried my late husband and my father, they married my children and they offered First Communion for most of my grandchildren. Losing them is like losing part of your family. And it is not just hard for us but for the whole community, even the non-Catholics. Around town, people speak highly of the Fathers."

Father Lynch said that many of the pastors serving Our Lady of Mount Carmel received training and served parishes in Mexico to become fluent in the Spanish language and to understand the culture before being assigned to Texas.

"Part of our goal is to help educate the people, preserve their culture and teach it to their children," Father Lynch said. "They are Americans but they have their own Hispanic traditions that are important to them. They have a rich culture that many could benefit from - like their emphasis on family and hard work."

And, while not anxious to lose their religious leaders, members of the congregation are grateful for the time they've had with their leaders.

"I'm very thankful they have left (the Basilians) here as long as they have," Santos Suaste said. "But we know each priest have orders they have to follow."

Among the members most impacted by the change will be Rebecca Aguilar, who also serves as the church secretary.

"I'll be here to help the new priests with their transition," she said. "Since we are all members of the Catholic faith, I think most things will flow the same and the parish will continue to be healthy."

(More photos on page 15.)

**Chancery
Office will be
closed
August 15
for the Feast
of the
Assumption**



On June 24, 2007, Rev. Msgr. Michael O'Shaughnessy (2nd from l.) celebrates his retirement from active ministry with Bishop David Fellhauer (center left) and his classmates from St. John's Seminary 1950 ordination class: Rev. Msgr. Joseph P. Petsch (l.), Rev. Albert Hubertus (center right), Rev. Msgr. Arnold Anders and Rev. Msgr. Michael Harrold (r.). (TCL photo by Regina Matus-Janak)

Msgr. Michael O'Shaughnessy celebrates retirement

Continued from p. 1

The Hispanic community has grown spiritually through him and hopes that it will continue to grow.

The closing of the special evening included the singing of more Irish songs by 4 City 4, a barbershop quartet; an Irish blessing and prayer said by parishioner Madeline Novian; and "thank yous" were announced to all who helped with the occasion by parishioner Frank Condon.

Msgr. O'Shaughnessy was born to John and Margaret O'Shaughnessy in Askeaton County, Limerick, Ireland, on Oct. 30, 1923.

He attended the local national school through the eighth grade, and his high school was completed at a private Jesuit boarding school. He graduated from Mignret College of Philosophy in May 1945, and the following

year he entered St. John's Seminary in San Antonio, Texas. He was ordained to the priesthood for the Archdiocese of San Antonio on May 27, 1950, by the Most Rev. Robert Lucey.

He served as parochial vicar in several parishes throughout the San Antonio Archdiocese, including St. Peter and St. Leo in San Antonio, Shiner, Moulton and Schulenburg. His first assignment as pastor was in Meyersville, then St. John Bosco in Vanderbilt and St. Joseph in Yoakum. Msgr. O'Shaughnessy was pastor of Our Lady of Victoria Church in Victoria when the church was chosen the cathedral of the newly formed Diocese of Victoria, Texas, in 1982. He continued as pastor of the cathedral until he assumed duties as pastor of St. Agnes Church in Edna in December 1985 and where he served until his retirement July 2, 2007.

He has served as scout chaplain, moderator of the Diocesan Council of Catholic Women, diocesan pastoral council, personnel board member and dean of the Edna Deanery. He is a member of the Knights of Columbus and of the Equestrian Order of the Knights of the Holy Sepulchre.

A prelate of honor elevated Father O'Shaughnessy with the title of monsignor on May 16, 2001.

After a three-month vacation to his home in Ireland, he intends to spend his retirement in Edna, where he has lived for nearly the past 22 years. Father John Peters, pastor of Sacred Heart Parish in Hallettsville, who served as parochial vicar with Father O'Shaughnessy when he was pastor of St. Joseph in Yoakum, will be traveling with him.

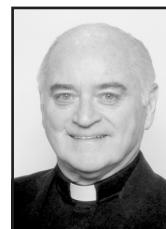
Bishop Fellhauer asked Msgr. O'Shaughnessy not to stay too long in Ireland, as he is the bishop's golf partner.

In closing, Msgr. O'Shaughnessy thanked everyone for coming. "I have no jokes," he said. "I just ask for good health to stay around Edna."



Spirituality for Today

By Father John Catoir
Catholic News Service



The rewards of forgiveness

Forgiveness purifies your soul and brings relief to your wounded spirit. Forgiveness reconciles your mind and heart with God, with neighbor, and, most of all, with self. In countless ways it helps both the one who forgives and the one who is forgiven. Pope John Paul II said about forgiveness: "The forgiven penitent is reconciled with himself in his inmost being, where he regains his own true identity. He is reconciled with his brethren whom he has in some way attacked and wounded. He is reconciled with the church, and he is reconciled with all creation."

The Lord stands ready to forgive everyone; you in turn must be ready to forgive others and yourself, as when you pray in the Our Father: "Forgive us our trespasses as we forgive those who trespass against us." These words tell us all we need to know about the obligation to forgive neighbor and self.

A true Christian prays for the grace to forgive. Jesus forgave his tormentors before they asked: "Forgive them, Father,

they know not what they do" (Lk 23:34).

You can forgive yourself simply by turning your guilt over to God's mercy. You can forgive another simply by willing it, without ever going through a painful confrontation.

Once you decide to forgive, you will gradually be released from all resentment and hurt.

Do not wait until you feel like forgiving or it may never happen. Forgiveness is in the will. Forgive now -- and get on with your life.

Repeat this over and over again: "I forgive and I am forgiven." Feelings will follow in time. Do not wait for good feelings to spur you on; simply forgive. You give it before you feel like giving it. You "fore-give." Do it now.

Forgiving someone who has hurt you, even if you do it secretly, will be good for your mental health. Once you decide to forgive, pay no attention to those feelings of resentment that will surely return. Angry feelings will subside in time. Once you let go of them you will be able to

make room for God's joy.

I have covered forgiveness and joy extensively in my book, "Joy, the Gigantic Secret of the Church's Survival." Accept the negative feelings that come into your heart, and learn to laugh at them. Just will to forgive -- and be patient. The good fruits of peace and joy will return in time. Just knowing that you did God's will and not your own will bring relief and solace.

Mysteriously, by God's grace, you will begin to change as your angry spirit gradually calms down. Gradually your joy will return. "A cheerful glance brings joy to the heart" (Prv 15:30).

Cultivate too a joyful smile. A smile on your lips can change the hurt in your heart. Cultivate positive, healthy thoughts.

The poet Yeats once alluded to a special moment of joy in his life, a time when he experienced an unexpected elation: "My body, of a sudden, blazed." He had forgiven someone and was free once again to dance.

You can tap into the spiritual reservoir of joy within your soul by forgiving others, and especially by forgiving yourself. Meister Eckhart, the German mystic, wrote, "For this joy is close to you, it is in you. None of you has a spirit so heavy, nor an intelligence so feeble, none of you is so far from God so as not to be able to find joy in him."

The Joyful Catholic

By Frederick Hermann
E-mail: RH222@sbcglobal.net



Road trip with God at my side

I just bought a car and discovered God comes as an option.

The owner's manual calls it a GPS, "Global Positioning System," but it functions so much like God that I call it a "God Positioning System."

It sits high in the center of the dashboard, always in front, guiding your way. The bright screen displays a map, oriented as if you were up in the sky with an unlimited view. On this map it pinpoints your position with a gold star. When you move, the map moves with you, and so does the gold star.

How does it work? Three satellites high in the sky automatically triangulate your position, pinpointing your exact location at all times. So the GPS always knows where you are, where you have been, where you are going, AND the best way to get you there.

Sounds a lot like God, doesn't it?

As you drive to your destination, the GPS highlights the correct roads. An arrow appears on the screen before every turn, and a heavenly Voice says "In one mile, turn right." The Voice speaks any language and works in every corner of the planet.

Here is my favorite feature:

if you make a wrong turn, the Voice calmly says; "Please make a U-turn."

If you continue going the wrong way, the Voice repeats; "Please make a U-turn."

If you persist in your mistake, the GPS calculates your new position, highlights a new route and says "at the next intersection, turn right." In fact, every time you miss your turn, the GPS faithfully recreates a new path, reminding you to "turn right at the next intersection" until you safely reach your destination.

Isn't that just like God?

If you want to go your own way, or get lost, you must deliberately ignore and defy your GPS. Follow it and you never miss the mark. I don't know how I ever found my way without it.

So if you feel lost, or find that you need help deciding the right direction in your life, remember that God wants to help you find your way; "Your father in heaven is not willing that any of these little ones should be lost" (Matthew 18:14).

In what way is God asking you to follow him today? Will you trust him, even in unfamiliar territory, perhaps without a map?

Consider how the ancient

people of the Bible trusted God for direction.

Moses led the Israelites out of captivity, and "the LORD preceded them, in the daytime by means of a column of cloud to show them the way, and at night by means of a column of fire" (Exodus 13:21). Noah in his Ark trusted a dove to find land. The Three Wise Men followed a bright star in the night sky to find the baby Jesus.

Years later, Jesus gave his disciples the Holy Spirit as a guide to help them change the world.

We receive the Holy Spirit during the sacrament of confirmation. This wonderful spirit inside us is love, for God is love. Thus each of us is guided by this Love if we allow God to direct us.

That's good news for me, because I often make wrong turns in my life. It comforts me to know God is always there to help me get back on the right track. I gladly choose the option to have the creator of the universe next to me, guiding me every step of the way.

"You guide me along the right path for the sake of your name. Even when I walk through a dark valley, I fear no harm for you are at my side" (Psalm 23).

Hermann is a Catholic author and retreat speaker. His popular series "Find Your Joy In Life" provides guidance, inspiration and encouragement to individuals everywhere. He welcomes e-mails.

THE POPE SPEAKS

Pope Benedict XVI



CNS photo from Reuters

Pope calls for end to 'useless slaughter' of war

LORENZAGO DI CADORE, Italy (CNS) — Pope Benedict XVI called for an end to the "useless slaughter" of war and asked that "the rule of law" replace the recourse to weapons.

When people succumb "to the temptations of evil" and launch violent conflicts and wars, "this stupendous garden that is the world" is opened up to hell, he said.

The pope made his appeal for peace July 22 before reciting the noonday Angelus prayer with thousands of pilgrims gathered in the main square of this northeastern Italian town nestled in the Dolomite Alps, where the pope is spending his July 9-27 vacation.

The peace and tranquillity of this Alpine region has sharpened "the painful impact of the news I receive about the bloody conflicts and violent events happening in many parts of the world," he said.

"The beauty of nature reminds us that we were told by God to cultivate and care for this garden that is the earth. If humanity lived in peace with God and each other, the earth would really look like a paradise," he said.

War, which leaves "grief and destruction in its wake, has always been rightly considered a calamity that clashes with God's plan" of giving life and making humankind one family, the pope said.

Pope Benedict recalled the "appalling conflict" of World War I which raged in the mountains between Italy and Austria. He noted that, in an August 1917 address, Pope Benedict XV appealed to "the heads of warring peoples" to end this "useless slaughter."

Pope Benedict XV condemned not only the war, the pope said, but showed the way leaders could build "a just and lasting peace" based on "the moral force of law, balanced and verified disarmament," fair negotiations and the restitution of occupied lands.

"These events must not be forgotten," Pope Benedict XVI said, so that "the negative experiences which our fathers unfortunately had to suffer" may never happen again.

Vatican official: Pope pained by clerical sex abuse in Los Angeles

PIEVE DI CADORE, Italy (CNS) — Pope Benedict XVI's closest aide said the pope was pained and concerned by the "devastating scale" of clerical sexual abuse in the Archdiocese of Los Angeles. Cardinal Tarcisio Bertone, Vatican secretary of state, held a wide-ranging press conference July 18 in Pieve di Cadore, near where Pope Benedict is vacationing in the northern Italian Alps. Even if the percentage of priests who have sexually abused children "is a minority," he said, just one instance "clashes with the identity and mission we are called to undertake." He said, "The problem of pedophile priests is one that pains all churchmen," and added that the problem "in the diocese of Los Angeles was on a devastating scale."

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El Papa Habla

Papa Benedict XVI

CNS foto por Reuters



BENEDICTO XVI AUDIENCIA GENERAL Sala Pablo VI Miércoles 4 de julio de 2007

Queridos hermanos y hermanas:

Hoy queremos recordar a uno de los grandes Padres de la Iglesia, san Basilio, a quien los textos litúrgicos bizantinos definen como una "lumbre de la Iglesia". Fue un gran obispo del siglo IV, al que mira con admiración tanto la Iglesia de Oriente como la de Occidente por su santidad de vida, por la excelencia de su doctrina y por la síntesis armoniosa de sus dotes especulativas y prácticas. Nació alrededor del año 330 en una familia de santos, "verdadera Iglesia doméstica", que vivía en un clima de profunda fe. Estudió con los mejores maestros de Atenas y Constantinopla. Insatisfecho de sus éxitos mundanos, al darse cuenta de que había perdido mucho tiempo en vanidades, él mismo confiesa: "Un día, como si despertase de un sueño profundo, volví mis ojos a la admirable luz de la verdad del Evangelio..., y lloré por mi miserable vida" (cf. Ep. 223: PG 32, 824 a).

Atraído por Cristo, comenzó a mirarlo y a escucharlo sólo a él (cf. *Moralia* 80, 1: PG 31, 860 b c). Con determinación se dedicó a la vida monástica en la oración, en la meditación de las sagradas Escrituras y de los escritos de los Padres de la Iglesia, y en el ejercicio de la caridad (cf. Ep. 2 y 22), siguiendo también el ejemplo de su hermana, santa Macrina, la cual ya vivía el ascetismo monacal. Después fue ordenado sacerdote y, por último, en el año 370, consagrado obispo de Cesarea de

Palabras del Santo Padre Benedicto XVI a los jóvenes con vistas a la XXIII Jornada mundial de la juventud

Queridos jóvenes:

Dentro de un año nos encontraremos con ocasión de la Jornada mundial de la juventud, en Sydney. Deseo animarlos a prepararlos bien para esa maravillosa celebración de la fe, que viviréis en compañía de vuestros obispos, sacerdotes, religiosos, responsables de la pastoral de la juventud, y unos con otros. Entrad plenamente en la vida de vuestras parroquias y participad con entusiasmo en los acontecimientos diocesanos. De este modo, os prepararéis espiritualmente para experimentar, cuando nos reunamos en Sydney en julio del año próximo, más a fondo todo aquello en lo que creemos.

"Recibiréis la fuerza del Espíritu Santo, que vendrá sobre vosotros, y seréis mis testigos hasta los confines de la tierra" (Hch 1, 8). Como sabéis, estas palabras de Jesús constituyen el tema de la Jornada mundial de la juventud de 2008. Sólo podemos imaginar cómo se sintieron los Apóstoles al oír estas palabras, pero sin duda alguna su confusión fue atenuada por una sensación de temor reverencial y de expectación impaciente por la venida del Espíritu. Unidos en oración a María y a los demás reunidos en el Cenáculo (cf. Hch 1, 14), experimentaron la auténtica fuerza del Espíritu, cuya presencia transforma la incertidumbre, el miedo y la división en decisión, esperanza y comunión.

También nosotros tenemos una sensación de temor reverencial y de expectación impaciente mientras nos preparamos para el encuentro de Sydney. Para muchos de nosotros será un largo viaje. Sin embargo, Australia y su pueblo evocan imágenes de una cordial bienvenida y de una maravillosa belleza, de una antigua historia aborigen y de multitud de ciudades y

Capadocia, en la actual Turquía.

Con su predicación y sus escritos realizó una intensa actividad pastoral, teológica y literaria. Con sabio equilibrio supo unir el servicio a las almas y la entrega a la oración y a la meditación en la soledad. Aprovechando su experiencia personal, favoreció la fundación de muchas "fraternidades" o comunidades de cristianos consagrados a Dios, a las que visitaba con frecuencia (cf. san Gregorio Nacianzeno, *Oratio* 43, 29 in laudem *Basili*: PG 36, 536 b). Con su palabra y sus escritos, muchos de los cuales se conservan todavía hoy (cf. *Regulae brevius tractatae*, Proemio: PG 31, 1080 a b), los exhortaba a vivir y a avanzar en la perfección. De esos escritos se valieron después no pocos legisladores de la vida monástica antigua, entre ellos san Benito, que consideraba a san Basilio como su maestro (cf. *Regula* 73, 5).

En realidad, san Basilio creó una vida monástica muy particular: no cerrada a la comunidad de la Iglesia local, sino abierta a ella. Sus monjes formaban parte de la Iglesia particular, eran su núcleo animador que, precediendo a los demás fieles en el seguimiento de Cristo y no sólo de la fe, mostraba su firme adhesión a Cristo —el amor a él—, sobre todo con obras de caridad. Estos monjes, que tenían escuelas y hospitales, estaban al servicio de los pobres; así mostraron la integridad de la vida cristiana.

comunidades vivas. Sé que las autoridades eclesiásticas y gubernamentales, junto con numerosos jóvenes australianos, ya están colaborando para garantizarnos a todos una experiencia excepcional. A todos ellos les expreso mi más viva gratitud.

La Jornada mundial de la juventud es mucho más que un acontecimiento. Es un tiempo de profunda renovación espiritual, de cuyos frutos se beneficia toda la sociedad. Los jóvenes peregrinos sienten el deseo de rezar, de alimentarse con la Palabra y el Sacramento, de ser transformados por el Espíritu Santo, que ilumina la maravilla del alma humana y muestra el camino para ser «expresión e instrumento del amor que proviene de él» (*Deus caritas est*, 33).

Este amor —el amor de Cristo— es lo que el mundo anhela. Por eso, estáis llamados por tantas personas a "ser sus testigos". Algunos de vuestros amigos tienen pocas motivaciones reales en su vida, quizás absortos en una búsqueda vana de innumerables experiencias nuevas. Llevadlos también a ellos a la Jornada mundial de la juventud. De hecho, he notado que, contra la corriente de secularismo, muchos jóvenes están redescubriendo el deseo que satisface de una belleza, de una bondad y una verdad auténticas. Con vuestro testimonio, les ayudáis en su búsqueda del Espíritu de Dios. Sed intrépidos en este testimonio.

Queridos jóvenes, hasta nuestro encuentro en Sydney, que el Señor os proteja a todos. Encomendemos estos preparativos a nuestra Señora de la Cruz del Sur, Auxilio de los cristianos. Con ella, oremos: "Ven, Espíritu Santo, llena los corazones de tus fieles y enciende en ellos el fuego de tu amor".

Despedida Mass held for Basilians at OLMC Parish

Bishop David E. Fellhauer presides over the Despedida (farewell) Mass at OLMC June 24, 2007, in honor of the Basilian Fathers of Houston, who have left the parish after nearly 50 years.



The Missionary Catechists of the Sacred Heart of Jesus and Mary (MCSH) have been with OLMC Parish since 1951, assisting the Basilian Fathers. They will continue to serve the parish.



Father Raymond Jackson greets parishioners after the Despedida Mass at Our Lady of Mount Carmel in Wharton. (TCL photos by Cynthia Brewer)

Bishop Fellhauer speaks to parishioners following the Despedida Mass. From left are Deacon David Valdez, Sister Felipa Lara, provincial superior of the MCSH, Rev. Raymond Jackson, CSB, Bishop Fellhauer and Rev. Charles Lynch, CSB.

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GIRL WALKS THROUGH DOORWAY AT FRANCISCAN MONASTERY—Kendall Wucker, 7, walks through the doorway of a replica of the Holy Sepulcher in Jerusalem at the Franciscan Monastery in Washington July 13. She was visiting the monastery with her family from California. Since 1899, the Franciscan Monastery has offered pilgrims a glimpse of the Holy Land without leaving the U.S. The monastery is part of the Catholic culture that gives Washington neighborhood 'Little Rome' identity. (CNS photo/Paul Haring)

Catholic culture gives Washington neighborhood 'Little Rome' identity

WASHINGTON (CNS) -- Catholics don't have to go to Italy to visit Rome. Tucked away in a little section of Washington, the Brookland neighborhood around The Catholic University of America is known as "Little Rome" and "Little Vatican," according to local legend and District of Columbia guidebooks. Just as the center of the Vatican is St. Peter's, the center of Little Rome is Catholic University, founded by the U.S. bishops in 1887 to

be the national Catholic university. Many other Catholic institutions later moved into the area around the university, creating a distinctively Catholic culture in which it's not uncommon to see a colorful variety of religious habits in a single day. About 20 religious communities for men and women, the Basilica of the National Shrine of the Immaculate Conception and the U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops are all located near the university. Father George McLean, an Oblate of Mary Immaculate, has lived in the Brookland neighborhood since 1956 and remembers when the area had an even higher concentration of

Catholic culture and communities. In the 1950s, the area had at least 50 men's and women's religious communities, about a dozen schools of theology for particular men's religious orders and 70 houses for graduate students of the various orders, he said.

Catholics, others urge increased funding for children's health care

WASHINGTON (CNS) -- Catholic organizations have joined with a variety of medical, civic, labor and other religious groups in calling on Congress to increase funding for the State Children's Health Insurance Program, despite a threatened veto by President George W. Bush. Representatives of nearly three dozen organizations participated in a July 25 Capitol Hill news conference organized by the Catholic Health Association, which also released a new public opinion poll that showed Americans overwhelmingly support the program known as SCHIP. "We stand united because we believe Congress and the president should do the right thing for our children and our nation -- reauthorize a critically important program that is supported by the vast majority of voters," said Sister Carol Keehan, a Daughter of Charity who is CHA president and CEO. Others at the news conference represented the U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops, Catholic Charities USA and the Society of St. Vincent de Paul, as well as the National Council of Churches, Jewish Council for Public Affairs, Islamic Society of North America, Lutheran Services in America, Episcopal Church, Religious Action Center of Reform Judaism and United Jewish Communities.

U.S. commission hears testimony on Christians in Iraq

WASHINGTON (CNS) -- Members of the U.S. Commission on International Religious Freedom heard testimony July 25 from witnesses regarding the persecution of the ancient, non-Muslim minority religions in Iraq. The witnesses mentioned their personal experiences as religious minorities as well as their professional experience working in Iraq. Commission chair Michael Cromartie said in his opening statement that Iraq was added to the commission's watch list this year for continued violations of religious freedom. He said the plight of Christian minorities in Iraq includes "the assassination of Christian religious leaders, the bombing and destruction of churches and violent threats intended to force Christians from their homes." More than 1.5 million refugees have fled religious persecution in Iraq since 2003, according to the U.N. High Commissioner for Refugees. Although Christians account for only 3 percent of the total Iraqi population, they make up 40 percent of the refugees now living in nearby countries, including Jordan, Syria, Egypt and Iran. Another 2 million people, many living in the northern Nineveh plain, are internally displaced.

Those who are interested in joining Father Michael Lyons on his incredible journey to the Holy Land, November 26 – December 6, 2007, need to make their reservations now.

Space is very limited. Call Betty Urbanovsky at (979) 543-2333 or burbanovsky@sbcglobal.net.

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Protestant groups dismayed at new document on identity of 'church'

By Cindy Wooden
Catholic News Service

ROME (CNS) -- Several Protestant organizations reacted with dismay to the Vatican's recent document on the identity of the church, but the Vatican's chief ecumenist, an Orthodox leader and a Swiss bishop said that, by clarifying its position, the Vatican actually is helping ecumenical dialogue.

The document from the Congregation for the Doctrine of the Faith, "Responses to Some Questions Regarding Certain Aspects of the Doctrine on the Church," was released July 10 at the Vatican.

It reaffirmed Catholic teaching that the Catholic Church is the one, true church of Christ, even if elements of truth and Christ's saving grace can be found in separated churches and communities.

The most ecumenically sensitive part of the new document was its assertion that while the term "sister church" can be used to refer to any of the Orthodox churches, a Christian community born out of the Protestant Reformation cannot be called "church" in the way Catholic theology defines the term.

The text said the Orthodox churches, although separated from the Catholic Church, have preserved apostolic succession, the ordained priesthood and the Eucharist. Nevertheless, they "lack something in their condition as particular churches" because they are not in union with the pope.

The Protestant communities, however, are not churches because they do not have apostolic succession -- the unbroken succession of bishops going back to St. Peter, it said.

The Rev. Setri Nyomi, general secretary of the World Alliance of Reformed Churches, published an open letter July 10 addressed to Cardinal Walter Kasper, president of the Pontifical Council for Promoting Christian Unity.

"An exclusivist claim that identifies the Roman Catholic Church as the one church of Jesus Christ ... goes against the spirit of our Christian calling toward oneness in Christ," Rev. Nyomi wrote. "It makes us question the seriousness with which the Roman Catholic Church takes its dialogue with the Reformed family and other families of the church. It makes us question whether we are indeed praying together for Christian unity."

Rev. Nyomi also said, "For now, we are thankful that our calling to be part of the church of Jesus Christ is not dependent on the interpretation of the Vatican. It is a gift of God."

In a July 11 statement, Cardinal Kasper said that while initial reactions were marked by "irritation among Protestant Christians" a second reading of the document should lead to the conclusion "that

the document does not say anything new," but rather provides a synthesis of Catholic teaching.

By explaining what still divides Christians, he said, the document "does not limit dialogue, but promotes it."

"The document does not say that the Protestant churches are not churches, but that they are not churches in the precise sense, that is, they are not churches in the way that the Catholic Church uses the term 'church,'" he said.

At the same time, Cardinal Kasper said, all Christians must recognize that "at the basis of dialogue there is not just that which divides us, but that which unites us, and that is greater than what divides us. For that reason, one should not skim over what the declaration affirms in a positive way about the Protestant churches, and that is that Jesus Christ is effectively present in them for the salvation of their members."

"The document renders a service to clarity and, consequently, to progress in the dialogue," he said.

Metropolitan Kirill of Smolensk and Kaliningrad, head of the Russian Orthodox office for ecumenical dialogue, told the Interfax news agency that the July 10 document "is an honest statement. It is much better than the so-called 'church diplomacy.' It shows how close or, on the contrary, how divided we are."

In a long theological reflection on the document, Catholic Bishop Kurt Koch of Basel, president of the Swiss bishops' conference, said he understood how the document could be confusing or even hurtful to Protestants and to Catholics who usually refer to the Protestant communities as churches.

The new Vatican document, he said, is looking at the term in a "strictly theological" way, explaining that if the Catholic Church believes apostolic succession and valid sacraments, particularly the Eucharist, are essential aspects of the church established by Christ it cannot recognize as "church" those communities who do not have them.

Bishop Koch also said the document and reactions to it underline a clear difference in the Catholic and Orthodox ecumenical goal and the ecumenical goal of the Protestants.

The Catholic and Orthodox churches, he said, aspire to full, visible unity, while the Protestant communities work for mutual recognition of the multiplicity and diversity of churches, "even with their possible contradictions."

To read the document, please go to: www.vatican.va/roman_curia/congregations/cfaith/documents/rc_con_cfaith_doc_20070629_responsa-quaestiones_en.html or go to: www.vatican.va under search type in document name.

U.S. bishops say pope affirming importance of Mass in both its forms

By Nancy Frazier O'Brien
Catholic News Service

WASHINGTON (CNS) -- U.S. church leaders cautioned against what one called "early and false conclusions" about Pope Benedict XVI's July 7 document expanding the use of the Tridentine Mass and said it should be seen primarily as an affirmation of the importance of reverential participation in the Mass, whether in its ordinary or extraordinary form.

Cardinal Adam J. Maida of Detroit said the apostolic letter "Summorum Pontificum" showed the pope's "pastoral care for those members of the faithful who desire to worship God" with the Mass according to the 1962 Roman Missal, commonly known as the Tridentine rite.

But he said Pope Benedict's decision to allow priests to celebrate the earlier form of the Mass without their bishop's prior permission should not be seen "as calling into question the abiding significance of the teachings of the Second Vatican Council" but as a continuation of Pope John Paul II's efforts to reach out "to those who felt alienated from the church because of the exclusive use of the postconciliar ritual."

Bishop David A. Zubik of Green Bay, Wis., said in separate letters to priests and the faithful in the diocese July 7 that they must "be careful not to arrive at early and false conclusions" about the apostolic letter.

"Most importantly, I wish to state emphatically that the Mass is not changing," he wrote in both letters. "The normal way that we have been celebrating the Mass for the past 40 years remains. What you and I are asked to do is to open our hearts and be more aware of and attentive to those who have a spiritual need for the extraordinary form of celebrating the Mass."

Bishop Zubik told priests that the papal letter appeared to be "in response to serious concerns that have been expressed in countries other than our own."

Cardinal Sean P. O'Malley of Boston said in his Web log, or blog, that he also believed the document "will not result in a great deal of change for the Catholics in the U.S."

"The issue of the Latin Mass is not urgent for our country," he said in a June 29 entry, more than a week before the document was issued but after he had participated in a meeting at the Vatican about the apostolic letter. "I think they (Vatican officials) wanted us to be part of the conversation so that we would be able to understand what the situation is in countries where the numbers are very significant."

The cardinal, who was traveling July 9 and was not available to give a comment to Catholic News Service, told The Boston Globe newspaper that the change must be kept in perspective.

"There are some conservative Catholics who feel that everything ended with the (Second Vatican) Council, and some liberals who think that everything began with the council, and this Holy Father is

trying to say that this is continuous growth, that it's the same church, and that we must try to avoid allowing the liturgy to become a battleground rather than a point of unification and communion for believers," he said in the July 7 telephone interview with the Globe.

Archbishop Raymond L. Burke of St. Louis, the only other U.S. prelate to participate in the Vatican meeting, had no public comment on the papal document, according to his spokeswoman.

Bishop Donald W. Trautman of Erie, Pa., chairman of the bishops' Committee on the Liturgy, said he would be issuing "diocesan norms to help apply and order the specifics of the pope's letter" and would ask priests who want to celebrate the Tridentine Mass to take "a rubrical and Latin exam" before doing so.

"Further, there will be need to ascertain that the common good of the parish prevails and to ascertain what constitutes a stable community of those requesting the 1962 missal," he added in a statement.

Archbishop Jose H. Gomez of San Antonio said he hoped the pope's move will help Catholics "be able to clearly see the growth and progress we have realized since Vatican II, while at the same time preserving the rich heritage and legacy of the church."

Archbishop Donald W. Wuerl of Washington said Pope Benedict "is trying to reach out pastorally to those who feel an attraction to this form of the liturgy, and he is asking the pastors to be aware of and support their interest."

He noted that the Tridentine Mass already is celebrated weekly at three locations in his archdiocese, attended by about 500 people altogether.

Bishop Salvatore R. Matano of Burlington, Vt., said he would celebrate the Tridentine Mass Aug. 15 at St. Joseph Co-Cathedral to mark the feast of the Assumption and to ask "that all we do to celebrate her son's presence among us will bring glory to his name and harmony and peace among his people."

Because it has been 30 years since the Tridentine Mass was celebrated in the diocese, he said, local priests "must reacquaint themselves with its rubrics" and altar servers, choirs and cantors must be trained.

"At the same time, due to a severe shortage of priests, the first duty of the bishop and the pastors is to make the eucharistic sacrifice available to as many people as possible, using the rite that is understood by the majority of the faithful in attendance," Bishop Matano added. "When this fundamental need is met, attention can be given to significant numbers of the faithful who seek the celebration of this extraordinary form of the eucharistic liturgy."

The Diocese of Victoria has provided a Tridentine Mass since 1992 on 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.

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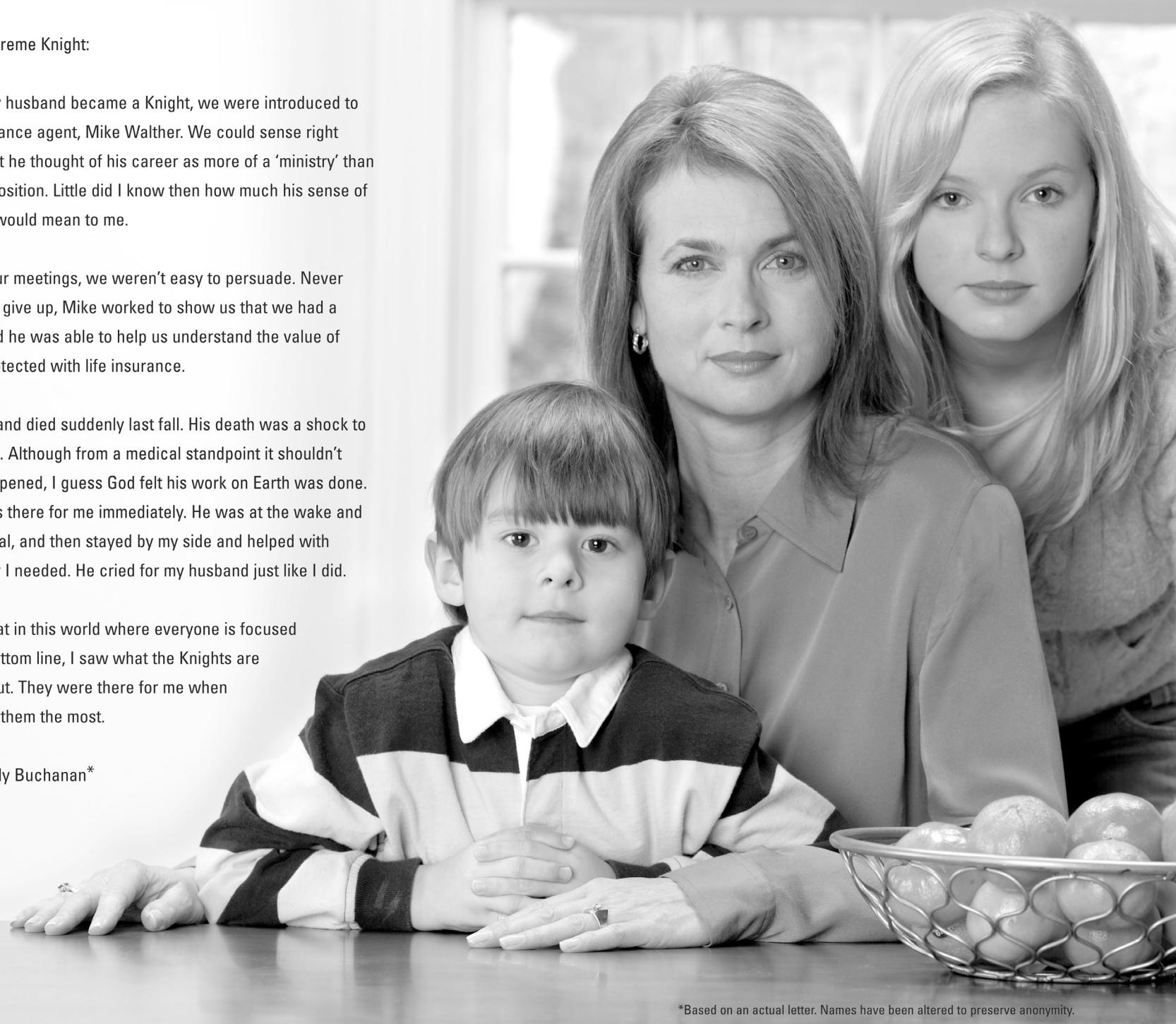
When my husband became a Knight, we were introduced to our insurance agent, Mike Walther. We could sense right away that he thought of his career as more of a 'ministry' than a sales position. Little did I know then how much his sense of ministry would mean to me.

During our meetings, we weren't easy to persuade. Never willing to give up, Mike worked to show us that we had a need, and he was able to help us understand the value of being protected with life insurance.

My husband died suddenly last fall. His death was a shock to everyone. Although from a medical standpoint it shouldn't have happened, I guess God felt his work on Earth was done. Mike was there for me immediately. He was at the wake and the funeral, and then stayed by my side and helped with whatever I needed. He cried for my husband just like I did.

I think that in this world where everyone is focused on the bottom line, I saw what the Knights are truly about. They were there for me when I needed them the most.

— Beverly Buchanan*



*Based on an actual letter. Names have been altered to preserve anonymity.

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Czech films and Czech classes complimentary at the CHS Library in Houston

HOUSTON — The Czech Heritage Library in Houston will be showing a series of films in the Czech language beginning Wednesday, Aug. 29. The films are all subtitled in English and are shown at no charge to the general public. The curtain rises at 7:00 p.m.

The first film is titled KDO CHCE ZABIT JESSIE? (Who Wants to Kill Jessie?). The title suggests a murder mystery but instead, it is a comedy in which cartoon characters invade the real world yet retain some of the characteristics of their cartoon world,

such as speaking in little written balloons above their heads. The reaction of the real world to this cartoon invasion is incredulous, chaotic panic. Those in the audience of Czech background will enjoy seeing vintage shots of Prague while the entire audience will enjoy the light and hilarious comedy of this delightful spoof.

The library is located at 4117 Willowbend, south of the 610 Loop, South Post Oak exit. Go across the railroad tracks; the library is the two-story, red brick building. The series dates are Aug. 29, Sept. 26, Oct. 24, Jan. 30 and

continue on the last Wednesdays of the month.

Questions, please contact Lilian Pivonka at (713) 861-7403. Mrs. Pivonka is willing to show the films for free in any community if transportation is provided.

Also classes in the Czech language are once again being offered for free at the CHS Library. The beginning Czech class is for those who have never had a background of knowledge of the Czech language. Phonics is stressed. Members of the class work in pairs or trio groups to actively practice the material presented

in class. The advanced class is taught by a native Czech speaker who encourages Czech conversation, reading and writing. All class materials are also provided free of charge. Additionally, Czech trav- elogues, videos, sing-alongs, and class parties are included in the class activities. At the beginning of each class period, announcements are made concerning any upcoming Czech cultural events occurring in Texas with emphasis on the Houston area.

The beginning class sessions are held every Wednesday evening from 7:00 to 8:30 p.m. The

first class of the year will commence on Sept. 5; however, new arrivals are always welcomed into the class at any time because we continually are repeating and practicing material. The advanced Czech class is held on Tuesday evenings from 7:00 to 8:30 p.m. and again, new arrivals are always welcome to join.

The only prerequisite for these classes is an interest in the Czech language and culture. For further information call: (713) 861-7403 or call the CHS Library at (713) 349-0500.



EVENTS

The Catholic Lighthouse
Page 19 — August 2007



Special Collections

Retired and needy priests of the diocese — Sept. 2

Ongoing Events

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Retrouvaille — The word Retrouvaille means 'rediscovery.' It is a program that offers the chance to rediscover yourself, your spouse, and a loving relationship in your marriage. Tens of thousands headed for divorce have successfully saved their marriages by attending. Contact Gerd and Linda Conner (979) 543-3493 or (800) 470-2230 for more information or for dates in Texas, please go to www.retrouvaille.org.

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

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 Laura (361) 579-6516.

ACTS Retreats — For more information see the ACTS Web site at www.actsmissions.org.

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

Natural Family Planning is the only church approved form of family planning.

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

Picnics, Activities, etc.

August

Boling — St. Joseph Mission Annual Bazaar and Barbecue Aug. 5 at the community center (County Road 162). A barbecue-beef, chicken and sausage dinner will be served at \$7.50 p/p pre-sale (available at Holy Family Rectory) and \$8 p/p donation at the door. The auction begins at 1:00 p.m. There will be a country store, cakewalk, pastry booth and various games and booths for all ages. Music and dance in the afternoon. A domino tournament begins at 7:30 a.m. with registration at 7:00 a.m. at \$10 p/p (bring your own partner).

Frelsburg — Sts. Peter and Paul Annual Festival Aug. 5 beginning with Mass at 8:15 a.m. A fish-fry dinner begins at 11:00 a.m. (lg. \$7.50 p/p and small \$4.50 p/p) with drive-thru available

at \$7.50 p/p. The auction starts at 1:00 p.m. There will be a country store, silent auction, cakewalk, children's games, horseshoe pitching, refreshments and more. Music during the day. A free dance from 4:00-8:00 p.m. with the Red Ravens providing music.

Yoakum — St. Joseph Parish Picnic Aug. 5 at the community center. A stew and sausage dinner begins at 10:30 a.m. The auction begins at 12:30 p.m. There will be a country store, games, cakewalk, pantry wheel, horseshoe tournament and more throughout the afternoon. Mexican food available in the afternoon.

Palacios — St. Anthony Shrimptoree Aug. 5 at Palacios rec. center (2401 Perryman). A barbecue-seafood dinner will be served. There will be live music, country store, games, auction and much more. Fun for all ages!

Victoria — KJZT No. 101 will have a Mass for living and deceased members on Aug. 12, 7:30 a.m., at Our Lady of Victory Cathedral. A catered breakfast will follow in the OLV cafeteria. Members and families are invited. RSVP at (361) 573-2669.

Weimar — St. Michael Harvest Feast, Aug. 12, at the Veteran's Memorial Park. A fried-chicken and stew dinner will be served beginning at 11:00 a.m. Drive-thru, take-home plates available at St. Michael Family Center only. There will be entertainment for all: games, train ride, moon walk and cakewalk. Music throughout the afternoon and evening. There will be an auction at 1:30 p.m. in the a/c hall.

Praha — St. Mary Parish Picnic, "Prazska Pout," Aug. 15, begins at 10:00 a.m. with Mass. A stew and fried-chicken dinner served from 11:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m. at \$6.50 p/p and \$4 p/p for children. The auction begins at 1:00 p.m. There will be a country store, cakewalk, toy walk, games and more. Hamburgers available after 4:00 p.m. Music throughout the day and evening with Fabulous Six, Texas Sound Czech, and Central Texas Sounds. There will be an extra Mass at 5:00 p.m.

Victoria — Knights of Columbus Council 1329 chicken-barbecue fund-raiser, Aug. 19, 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.

Hillje — St. Andrew Summer Festival, Aug. 19, at the parish hall. A prime-beef barbecue, homemade sausage dinner starts at 11:00 a.m. at \$6.50 p/p with serve yourself in the hall or drive-thru plates-to-go available. Indoor auction begins at 12:30 p.m. There will be a country store, bake sale, cakewalk, games and a raffle drawing after the auction along with some music.

Victoria — Catholic Daughters Court St. Ann Games Party, Aug. 20, at the KC Hall from 6:00-9:00 p.m.; admission is \$6 p/p. There will be door prizes and raffle, and refreshments will be served. For reservations call Dianne Beatty at (361) 575-7042; Linn Boehm at (361) 576-1491; Joyce Morris at (361) 575-5817; or Patty Scharr at (361) 578-6203.

Cistern — Sts. Cyril and Methodius Picnic, Aug. 26, beginning with Mass at 10:00 a.m. followed by a fried-chicken and V & V sausage dinner. Music, games and fun for all ages!

Victoria — Our Lady of Victory Boy Scout Troop 364 barbecue chicken dinner, Aug. 26, at OLV cafeteria from 10:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. with dine-in or plates-to-go available. Plates will have half a chicken with the trimmings at \$6.50 p/p. There will also be a bake sale. Presale tickets available at Cimarron Express and Cimarron Junction.

When & Where

September

High Hill — St. Mary Parish Picnic on the parish grounds (2833 FM 2672), Sept. 2, starting with a flag-raising ceremony at 9:30 a.m., followed by a Polka Mass at 10:00 a.m. A fried-chicken and stew lunch served at 11:00 a.m. (drive-thru starts at 10:30 a.m.). The auction begins at 1:00 p.m. Music during the day by Texas Sound Czech and Mark Halata/Texavia, and a free dance at night by Texas Dream. Booths include a cakewalk, country store, duck pond, ring toss, train ride, the famous souvenir booth and others. Hamburgers, nachos and more available all day and a spectacular fireworks show at 10:00 p.m.

Hallettsville — Sacred Heart Parish Festival, Sept. 2, at the KC Hall. A country-fried chicken, stew and cornbread dressing dinner served from 10:30 a.m. to 1:30 p.m. with dine-in at \$6.50 (adult) p/p and (children) \$3.50 p/p or drive-thru plates-to-go available. The auction begins at 1:00 p.m. There will be games, horseshoe pitching and washer pitching contests, free dance upon the polka pavillion-biergarten from 1:00 to 10:00 p.m. There will be hamburgers and much more in the afternoon.

Shiner — Sts. Cyril and Methodius Picnic, Sept. 2, at the American Legion Park. A sausage, stew and fried-chicken dinner will be served in the a/c dining room from 10:30 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. for \$6.50 p/p (adults) and \$3 p/p (under 11). Drive-thru plates-to-go available from the KC Hall (Hwy 90A East) from 10:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. There will be a country store, arts & crafts games, cake and plant wheels and much more for the whole family. The big auction begins at noon. Free music and dancing in a/c hall from 11:00 a.m. to 8:00 p.m. An admission charged dance begins at 9:00 p.m. For more information go to: www.shinercatholicchurch.org.

Vanderbilt — St. John Bosco Picnic, Sept. 2, at the Trinity Family Center. A barbecue-brisket and sausage dinner will be served from 11:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m. with plates-to-go available at \$6 p/p. The auction begins at 1:00 p.m.; games, refreshments, cakewalk, religious and craft store and much more for young and young at heart.

Cuero — Our Lady of Guadalupe Parish Jamaica, Sept. 2, at the parish hall. The day begins with Mass at 8:00 a.m. followed

by a tamale sale. Starting at 11:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. there is a barbecue dinner at \$6.50 p/p with dining in the a/c hall or drive-thru for plates-to-go. There will be many activities throughout the day with the auction beginning at 1:00 p.m. in the parish hall.

Nada — St. Mary Parish Festival and Homecoming, Sept. 2, at the community center. A barbecue-beef and sausage dinner at \$6.50 p/p served from 11:00 a.m. to 1:30 p.m. for dine-in and 11:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. for drive-thru plates-to-go. The auction begins at 1:00 p.m. There will be music, games and entertainment throughout the day.

San Antonio — 2nd Annual Women of the Cross Retreat, Sept. 8, 9:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. (Birthday of Our Blessed Mother) at the Catholic Center for Charismatic Renewal, Upper Room, 1707 S. Flores, San Antonio, TX 78204. Retreat is centered on various talks on healing, family and on forming a closer relationship with Christ. Retreat is free and a lunch will be provided. Bring your Bible. Contact: Rebecca Rocha (210) 566-1570 or call (210) 226-7545.

Inez — St. Joseph Annual Parish Picnic, Sept. 9, at the community center. A fried-chicken, barbecue-brisket and sausage dinner will begin at 11:00 a.m. inside (with drive-thru plates available at 10:30 a.m.) at \$6 p/p. There will be a country store, auction and games for the children.

Yorktown — Holy Cross Festival, Sept. 9, at the community hall. A barbecue-beef shoulder clod and sausage dinner to be served from 11:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m. at \$7 p/p with dine-in a/c hall or plates-to-go available. The auction begins at 12:30 p.m. There will be entertainment throughout the day including music, country store, cakewalk, children's games and much more.

Port Lavaca — Our Lady of the Gulf Festival, Sept. 16, at the Bauer Community Center. A shrimp dinner will be served starting at 11:00 a.m. for \$6.50 p/p. The auction will start at 12:30 p.m. The raffle prize will be a 2007 Toyota Camry. Some of the food that will be served throughout the day will be pizza, hot dogs, funnel cakes, egg rolls and fried rice. There will be a variety of booths, games and children's activities. For information, please call the church office at (361) 552-6140.

Moulton — St. Joseph Annual Parish Picnic, Sept. 16, at the KC Hall. Open-air Mass at 10:00 a.m. at the city park. A kettle-fried chicken and stew dinner begins at 10:30 a.m. Music outside from 10:30 a.m.-1:00 p.m., outdoor auction and games. Free dance in a/c hall beginning at 1:00 p.m.

Victoria — Knights of Columbus Council 1329 chicken-barbecue fund-raiser, Sept. 16, 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.

San Antonio — 2007 Catholic Women's Conference Sept. 21-22 at St. George Maronite Center, 6070 Babcock. For more information go to: www.pilgrimcenterofhope.org or call (210) 521-3377.

Victoria — Victoria County Annual Czech Heritage Festival, Sept. 23, beginning with a 9:00 a.m. Czech-English Mass at Our Lady of Victory Cathedral with Father Joseph Hybner presiding. Following Mass, there will be exhibits, museum, arts and crafts, children's games, auction, pastry wheel, tarok tournament, Czech demonstrations, homemade beer and wine show, and music until 8:00 p.m. at the community center. At 11:00 a.m. a Czech stew and sausage lunch will be served at \$6.50 p/p. There will be kolaches and homemade chicken noodle soup available all day along with sausage wraps in the afternoon. Admission is \$5 p/p (under 15 free). For more information go to: www.vcchs.homestead.com.

Victoria — Catechetical Conference Sept. 29 at Holy Family

Meyersville — Sts. Peter and Paul Annual Festival, Sept. 30, on the church grounds beginning with Mass at 10:15 a.m. followed by a barbecue-beef dinner at 11:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. Plates will be \$7 p/p for adults with dine-in or plates-to-go. The auction begins at 1:00 p.m. Nordheim Faculty & Friends Band will perform from 11:30 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. There will be a country store, raffle, cakewalk, games and much more.

Bloomington — St. Patrick Annual Turkey Dinner and Fall Festival, Sept. 30, on the parish grounds (13316 State Hwy. 185). Mass begins at 10:00 a.m. followed with the famous homemade cornbread dressing and fresh-baked turkey with all the trimmings. Drive-thru plates-to-go available with serving starting at 11:00 a.m. There will be an auction, country store, games and cake wheel.

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

Sweet Home — St. John the Baptist, Koerth, parish picnic Sept. 30 at the community center. A stew and sausage dinner will be served from 11:00 a.m. There will be an auction, games and other entertainment all afternoon.

Upcoming Events

Beeville — All Souls Pilgrimage to Zacatecas and Monterrey Oct. 15-19 at \$350 p/p. Rev. Eduardo H. Garcia will be the spiritual director. For more information call (361) 358-3239 or e-mail: eddiehgarcia24@hotmail.com.

El Campo — St. Robert Bellarmine Parish Picnic, Oct. 21, at the KC Hall.

LaSalle — St. Theresa Parish will have their annual fall festival Oct. 21. Turkey and cornbread dressing will be served starting at 11:00 a.m. until sold out at \$7 p/p, with dine-in or plates-to-go available. There will also be live polka and country music starting at 11:00 a.m. The auction starts at 12:30 p.m. Raffle tickets, \$3 each or six for \$10, will be sold at the door or by calling (361) 284-3621. Other activities include cakewalk, country store and plant sale, refreshments and various kid's games.

Hungerford — KJT Society No. 79 and KJZT Society No. 57 will be hosting their annual turkey and dressing dinner Nov. 4 at the community center. Serving begins at 10:30 a.m.

Praha — 45th Anniversary Veterans Memorial Service Nov. 11 at 9:30 a.m. For more information call (361) 865-3560.



Father Rachunek honored for 45 years of priesthood

By Burlon Parsons

Wharton Journal-Spectator

HUNGERFORD—Not only did Rev. Henry C. Rachunek recently celebrate his 75th birthday on May 14, the Hungerford native celebrated his 45th year in the priesthood on June 2.

The parish of St. John's Catholic Church came together to honor him at a special program in his honor last Sunday. Two of his parishioners even gave him the keys to a new car.

Rev. Rachunek was born to Frank W. and Mary Ann Mikel Rachunek. He was one of seven brothers and five sisters. His parents, two sisters and two brothers are now deceased.

He attended Hungerford School through the tenth grade. That's when his father became ill and he had to help on the farm. He had felt a calling to the priesthood and talked to his parents.

He started his studies in 1952 at St.

John's Minor Seminary in San Antonio and graduated from there in 1954.

That's when he entered St. Mary's Seminary in Houston to complete his studies. During his studies he became ill and needed operations. He was given a year's leave.

His entry to the priesthood became doubtful. But through his faith and prayer he overcame the illness. In 1961, he returned to resume his studies.

He taught school at St. Mary's Star of the Sea Parish in Freeport.

Rev. Rachunek was the last priest ordained by Bishop Wendelin J. Nold on June 2, 1962.

His first assignment was close to home at Holy Cross in East Bernard from 1962 to 1966. His service then took him to St. Charles Borromeo in Houston from 1966-1967, Holy Rosary in Rosenberg from 1967 to 1970, Queen of Peace in Houston from 1970 to 1973, and Corpus Christi in Houston from 1973 to 1974.

was

On March 8, 1974, he was called in by Bishop Morkovsky to take the parish of St. John in Hungerford. He knew it would be

hard since this was his hometown.

He now serves two dioceses: the Vic-

See Father Rachunek honored, p. 2



Father Henry C. Rachunek, pastor of St. John the Baptist Church in Hungerford and its mission, St. Wenceslaus in Beasley, celebrated his 75th birthday and 45th anniversary to the priesthood with his parishioners and family on June 10 at St. John's. Here he stands with his brothers and sisters: Adolph, Frank, Richard, Father Rachunek, Clara Kostka, Ollie Faltysek and Della Morris; his brother Ben was unable to attend. Father Rachunek is one of 12 children; two brothers and two sisters are deceased.

Ganado cousins receive bone marrow transplants

By Darlene Tise, Managing Editor

Jackson County Herald-Tribune

GANADO—At first glance, all the casual observer will see are two young boys, active, happy and seemingly healthy individuals. They walk, talk and play just like any average child would.

The unseen difference is in their immune system.

Second cousins, William Liam Carruthers, 4, and Michael Bubela, 2, have inherited a genetic disease, chronic granulomatous disease. Both underwent bone marrow transplants at Texas Children's Hospital in May. Full recovery will take several months and possibly up to a year or more. The transplants took place on May 10 for Liam and May 17 for Michael. Both boys spent about 6 weeks on the Bone Marrow Transplant floor at TCH. They are currently living in the Houston area because transplant patients are required to stay within minutes from the hospital for 100 days post-transplant in case a medical necessity arises.

Maternal grandmothers of the young boys, sisters Emelia Kovar Sulak and Margaret Kovar Marek, have traced the inherited disease to their side of the family. Emelia and Margaret lost a brother in infancy to what they thought was leukemia. In retrospect, it is now believed CGD could have been the culprit. Research has shown that women in the family can be carriers of CGD while the males can get it.

Thor and Rebecca Sulak Carruthers and Wayne and Diane Marek Bubela, parents of Liam and Michael, were keenly aware of the genetic disorder from childhood.

Rebecca lost three brothers to the disease. David died in infancy and his autopsy discovered the disease. Two other brothers died, Vincent at age 8 and Stephen at age 10. When Stephen was at Texas Children's in 1984, Emelia and Margaret and two of their sisters were all tested. Only Emelia and Margaret carried the chromosome for CGD. Margaret's only son and Emelia's three other sons were born healthy.

A simple blood test is used to determine if females in the family are carriers. All of Emelia and Margaret's daughters have been tested. Two of Margaret's daughters tested positive, including Diane. Initially, only one of Emelia's three daughters tested positive. Rebecca's test came back negative. When Rebecca gave birth to Liam she believed she was not a carrier.

Liam couldn't get over a case of pneumonia at age one and ended up at Driscoll's Children's Hospital in Corpus. When doctors found unusual bacteria in his lungs, questions began to surface. Family history

was discussed and it was decided to re-test Rebecca for CGD. Test results showed that indeed, Rebecca was a carrier of CGD.

Children born with CGD are usually healthy at birth, as was the case with Liam and Michael. However, sometime in their first few months or years of life, they de-



Liam Carruthers, pictured with mother, Rebecca (l.), and Michael Bubela with mother, Diane, are in recovery from bone marrow transplants each of the boys received in May to protect them from the effects of their inherited genetic disease, chronic granulomatous disease. The mothers are first cousins, the boys, second cousins.

velop recurrent infections that are difficult to treat. Unusual organisms such as fungi cause the infections. Pneumonia is a recurrent common problem and many of the lung infections are chronic.

The Bubela's first son, Brian, tested negative for CGD. It was a different story for Michael. He tested positive at two weeks of age and avoided some of the problems his cousin Liam had because he was put on medicines from the very beginning.

An aggressive use of appropriate antibiotics and anti-fungal medicine was ordered for both boys since their diagnosis. They each received an injection three times a week that aided their immune system.

This aggressive therapy kept the boys full of energy and with an endless appetite. Physically, there are no major signs of the immune disorder.

Over the last six months both families have been moving toward the bone marrow transplants, an option that wasn't available 30 years ago. The boys are now under the care of the same doctors.

"We wanted to do this while the boys are healthy and before school age," said Diane.

"It's a shame you have to take a healthy child and make them sick to get them well," said Thor.

The transplant procedures were done at Texas Children's Hospital in Houston. Dr. Howard Rosenblatt, an immunologist, worked closely with the transplant team. Ten days prior to receiving donated bone marrow, Liam and Michael underwent chemotherapy and preparations.

Liam was put on the National Bone Marrow Donors Program two years ago. Neither of his younger brothers, Nicholas or Trey, were a match, but a donor was found.

Michael was fortunate in that his 14-year-old brother, Brian, was a perfect match.

"Brian is very soft-hearted and is more worried about his brother than himself," said Diane.

Upon arriving at the hospital, the boys and their mothers were housed in a small isolation room that was kept germ-free. They were required to stay in a sterile environment until blood counts reached a certain level. Contact with other members of the family were made through a web-cam that was installed in each of the isolation rooms. Weekend visits from the dads gave the boys something to look forward to after a long week.

After being released from Texas Children's, Liam on June 7 and Michael on June 19, the boys and their mothers moved into campers at a RV Resort just 10 minutes away from the hospital, as they must remain in the Houston area to complete the remainder of the 100 days. Liam is scheduled to come home on August 17 (just two days after his fifth birthday), and Michael is scheduled to go home on August 25. Both boys continue to receive good reports from the doctors and hope to be released a few

days earlier.

Once they arrive back in Ganado, their homes must meet certain criteria. The environment must be kept as sterile as possible. Electronic air-conditioning filters will keep pollen and allergens at bay while UV lights will help kill mold and fungus. Although the boys will be home, they will be restricted from social contact such as going to church, the grocery store, and the mall. In order to minimize their risk of infection, colds, and viruses, contact with the public will be kept minimal for many months. When the boys are allowed out in the public they will wear a mask.

Rejection of the transplant can take up to two years. The chance for rejection is less for Michael since he had a sibling donor. The boys are currently taking anti-rejection medicine but will be weaned off of it so that their new immune system can thrive. They are also taking other specialized medicines to meet their bodies' needs. Both boys will be required to retake all their childhood immunizations since the chemo they received before transplant eliminated prior protection.

Since both families have other children at home, the fathers have become the primary caregivers during these summer months. Extended family has also lent a hand as needed. Wayne, father of Michael, has been caring for Brian, and daughters, Sarah and Emily. Thor, Liam's dad, has been caring for younger sons Nicholas and Trey.

The time they have spent away from home has been hard for both families; however, they have been comforted knowing that their family, friends, and community have been there to pray for them and guide them through the last few months. Community members have held several fund-raisers to assist the families with expenses not covered by insurance. An account has been set up at Citizens State Bank for donations to help defray medical bills. Both families are members of Assumption Catholic Church in Ganado.

GANADO KJZT HOLDS BAKE SALE FOR COUSINS

The KJZT Society No. 43 of Assumption BVM Church, Ganado, held a Bake Sale Benefit on May 12, 2007, for Liam Carruthers and Michael Bubela, the two Ganado, second cousins who both received bone marrow transplants for their genetic disease this summer. The families have many expenses that are not covered by medical insurance. The bake sale was a tremendous success with the entire parish, community and surrounding area supporting it. Pictured, left to right, are Lanoe Macha, social vice-president; Cecilia French, president; Alice Wright, secretary; and Veronica Webernick, member.

