

# The Catholic Lighthouse

The Cradle of Texas Immigration



VOL. 21, NO. 3

OFFICIAL PUBLICATION OF THE DIOCESE OF VICTORIA IN TEXAS

July 2007



**Photo by Capture the Moment**  
Father Michael J. Rother, ordained June 9, 2007, at St. Anthony Parish in Palacios, explains to his nephew, Blaise Rother, that he is wearing a chasuble. Father Rother has been assigned to Sacred Heart Parish in Hallettsville.



**Photo by Regina Matus-Janak**  
Gabrielle Hernandez, niece of Father Gabriel D. Espinosa who was ordained June 16, 2007, at Sts. Cyril & Methodius Church in Shiner, presents his father's wedding ring to him. Father Espinosa has been assigned to Sts. Cyril & Methodius Parish.



**Contributed Photo**  
Father Justin E. Gillespie of Victoria was ordained at St. Eugenio Basilica in Rome for Opus Dei May 26, 2007. Above he reads the Gospel at his first Mass. After completion of his Ph. D. next spring, he could be assigned anywhere in the world.

## Diocese rejoices in the ordination of three priests ... Bittersweet goodbye for three others

**GROUND BREAKING FOR SPIRITUAL RENEWAL CHAPEL RENOVATION TAKES PLACE**—The ominous looking clouds in the background posed a threat as dozens of people anxiously awaited the groundbreaking ceremonies for the chapel expansion at the Spiritual Renewal Center. But the threatening weather could not dampen the mood and excitement of the beginning of this much needed project. The funds for the chapel expansion have been pledged by a family in the diocese who wish to remain anonymous. During the ceremony, the grounds for the long-anticipated multi-purpose building were blessed by Bishop David Fellhauer. A celebration will be held closer to the build date for this structure that will accommodate as many as four hundred people. Pictured before the chapel are Ed Martinka, chairman Diocese of Victoria (DOV) Building Board; Don Krueger - Krueger Construction; Royce Krueger - Krueger Construction; Libby Weedman, lead architect, Heimsath Architects; Scott Strnadel - K&T Construction; Bishop Fellhauer; Fr. Greg Korenek, member of SRC design committee; Jimmy Miori, member DOV Building Board; Gary Burns, County Commissioner Precinct No. 3; Ben Heimsath - principal, Heimsath Architects; Debbie Vanelli, member of SRC design committee; Jo Ann Martinez, DOV Youth Office; and Mike Brown, chairman of SRC design committee.



**Photo by Cynthia Brewer**



**Photo by Regina Matus-Janak**  
Msgr. Michael A. O'Shaughnessy, pastor of St. Agnes, Edna, has retired from active ministry since being ordained 57 years ago. Story will be in August issue.



**Photo by Cynthia Brewer**  
Basilian Fathers have left Our Lady of Mount Carmel Parish in Wharton after serving for a half-century. Father Charles Lynch, CSB, and Pastor Raymond Jackson, CSB, were the order's last priests to serve there. Story will be in August issue.





## Bishop Fellhauer's Schedule

### July

- 7** 2:00 p.m., Incarnate Word and Blessed Sacrament Jubilee Celebration, Incarnate Word Convent, Victoria
- 8** 2:00 p.m., Incarnate Word and Blessed Sacrament Jubilee Celebration, Incarnate Word Convent, Victoria
- 12** 6:30 p.m., Knights of St. Gregory, Bishop's Charity Banquet, Victoria Country Club
- 18** 4:30 p.m., Diocesan Building Board meeting, Chancery
- 22** 9:00 a.m., Mass Incarnate Word and Blessed Sacrament National Reunion of Sisters and Associates, Incarnate Word Convent, Victoria
- 23** 6:30 p.m., Reconciliation service, ACTS Team, Our Lady of Sorrows Church, Victoria



**PARISHIONER OF ST. MICHAEL RECEIVES ANGEL**—The Traveling Angel of St. Michael Parish in Cuero was developed at last year's festival as a fund-raiser and as an honor for exceptional parishioners. The angel is auctioned at the parish's Spring Festival and then presented to a parishioner who has given much service and attention to the church. This year Father Kirby Hlavaty, pastor of St. Michael Parish, presented the angel to Mrs. Emma Leck, a very dedicated parishioner.

Breath of the love of God, Holy Spirit, at times we are quite taken aback to discover how close you are to us. To each one you say: surrender yourself very simply in God; your little faith is enough.

*Praying in Silence of Hearts*  
Brother Roger of Taizé

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

### Effective July 1, 2007

The **Rev. Dominic Antwi-Boasiako** is assigned as Parochial Administrator of Our Lady of Mount Carmel Church, Wharton, and retains his position as Pastor of Holy Family Church, Wharton,

### Effective July 5, 2007

The newly-ordained **Rev. Michael J. Rother** is assigned as Parochial Vicar at Sacred Heart Church, Hallettsville, and its sister churches, St. Mary Church, St. Mary; St. John Church, St. John; and Ascension of Our Lord Church, Moravia.

The **Rev. Bryan O. Heyer** is relieved of his assignment at Sacred Heart Church, Hallettsville, and assigned as Parochial Vicar at Holy Family Church, Wharton, and its mission, St. Joseph Church, Boling, as well as Parochial Vicar at Our Lady of Mount Carmel Church, Wharton.

### Effective July 12, 2007

The newly-ordained **Rev. Gabriel D. Espinosa** is assigned as Parochial Vicar at Sts. Cyril and Methodius Church, Shiner.

### Effective August 1, 2007

The **Rev. Frank B. Lenz** is relieved of his assignment at Sts. Cyril and Methodius Church, Shiner, and is assigned as Pastor of Sts. Peter and Paul Church, Meyersville, and its mission, St. Aloysius Church, Westhoff.

The **Rev. Michael W. Petering** is relieved of his assignment at Sts. Peter and Paul Church, Meyersville, and is assigned as Pastor of St. Agnes Church, Edna.

**Effective July 2, 2007, the Rev. Msgr. Michael O'Shaughnessy** announces his retirement from full-time active ministry and resignation as Pastor of St. Agnes Church, Edna.



**MSGR. PETRU CELEBRATES 59 YEARS OF PRIESTHOOD**—On May 26 and 27, 2007, the parishioners of Queen of the Holy Rosary Parish in Hostyn held a celebration in honor of Msgr. Stanley J. Petru's 59 years of priesthood. Msgr. Petru was ordained on Pentecost Sunday, 1948. He has served in many places including Shiner, Hallettsville, St. Gregory's in San Antonio and Hostyn. Pictured are Verlene Kuntschik, Patsy Janda, Msgr. Petru and Elaine Zbranek.



**SERRA CLUB APPRECIATES RELIGIOUS SISTERS**—The Serra Club held a barbecue for the religious sisters of the Diocese of Victoria Saturday, May 26, 2007. Sisters from throughout the diocese attended, including Incarnate Word and Blessed Sacrament Sisters, Missionary Catechists, School Sisters of Notre Dame and Vietnamese Dominican Sisters. The barbecue was held at the IWBS Convent in Victoria.

## Note of Thanks

Dear Bishop Fellhauer:

I sincerely thank you for your generosity and for the thoughtfulness of the people of the Diocese of Victoria. This letter will serve as the formal acknowledgement of your recent donation to Catholic Relief Services for the following gift from the diocese: \$78,182.26 for Operation Rice Bowl.

With your assistance, CRS is able to make a real difference by bringing peace and hope to countless men, women and children. On their behalf, I thank you for your commitment to alleviating poverty, hunger, disease and hopelessness and to leading the faithful in your community to live in solidarity with those who are most in need.

May God bless you for your generosity and concern,  
Ken Hackett, CRS president

## Have You Moved? Address Changed?

If you've moved to a new location or are in the process of moving, it is important that you furnish your parish with the updated information. You may also contact the Chancery Office directly. Membership in the diocese varies quite often as families move in and out of the area. We want to be able to keep in touch with our households, so please let us know of any address changes.

Diocese of Victoria  
Business Office  
P. O. Box 4070  
Victoria, TX 77903

(361)573-0828 M-F 8:30 a.m. — 4:30 p.m.  
(361)573-5725 FAX

E-mail Address: mpearson@victoriadiocese.org



OFFICIAL PUBLICATION OF THE DIOCESE OF VICTORIA IN TEXAS

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

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

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

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

**POSTMASTER: Send address changes to**

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

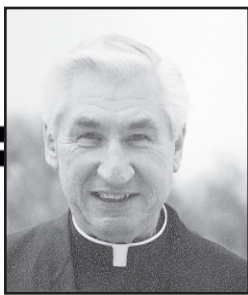




## FAITH POINT

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

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



### The Myth of Neutral Education

**I**t is impossible to avoid having an ultimate point of view. One's worldview may be limited to the material world and the values of such a person would be secularistic. If anyone accepts existences beyond the material world, he can be said to have a religious value system. Public schools supposedly are neutral in imparting values. But neutrality is an impossibility. If they limit themselves to secularistic values with no input from religious ones, they offend those with a religious worldview. If they impart religious values, they offend secularists. The question in public education is not shall values be taught because all education reflects some worldview, but whose values will be taught? Imposition of secularist worldview to the exclusion of the religious, as is done in public schools, makes a mockery of religious freedom. Recently the US Supreme Court ruled in *Davenport vs. Washington Education Association*, that freedom of speech does not include the right of the union to seize someone else's pay to fund speech with which he or she may not agree. Freedom of religion is at least as important as freedom of speech. Why is the government allowed to seize pay to fund educational programs that violate in many respects the religion of taxpayers? To say that freedom of religion does not exclude freedom from having children indoctrinated in a value system inimical to one's religion is like maintaining that I have a Constitutional right to feed my child but only with poison. Recent Court decisions have enshrined secularistic values in public education. The anti-Christian side of a controversial issue is presented with impunity but the religious position is censored from the curriculum. Presentation of the religious view is considered a violation of the separation of Church and state and such is prohibited from being taught in public schools. How can the religious rights of parents and students be respected in a system where only secularistic views are allowed? Parents in effect are compelled to pay the tuition for parochial secularist schools. Examples of promotion of secularism in public schools and inculcation of antireligious values abound. Policies intended to protect homosexuals result in discrimination against Christians. Students have been suspended for wearing anti-gay T-shirts or for denouncing Gay Pride Month, or refusing to attend diversity training in which homosexuality is presented as an acceptable life style. A teenager in Kentucky lost in federal court when he tried to exempt himself from a school program on gay tolerance on the grounds that this violated his religious beliefs. School authorities in Virginia were ordered to hand out to students as young as kindergarten promotion for a

summer camp that advocates for "Atheists, Freethinkers, Humanists, Brights, or whatever." Imagine the outcry if public school officials handed out circulars for religious vacation Bible schools.

Exclusion of anything related to religion from public schools has reached a new low in Plano, Texas. It took a court order to force Plano public schools to allow Christian students to give, privately, Christmas presents with Christian messages. The school district even forbade

children to bring red and green napkins to "holiday" parties because the colors might remind someone of Christmas. In Boulder, Colorado, students attended a compulsory seminar featuring four speakers who urged them to masturbate, experiment with different kinds of sex, and use ecstasy. The school invited the foursome to come next year but due to

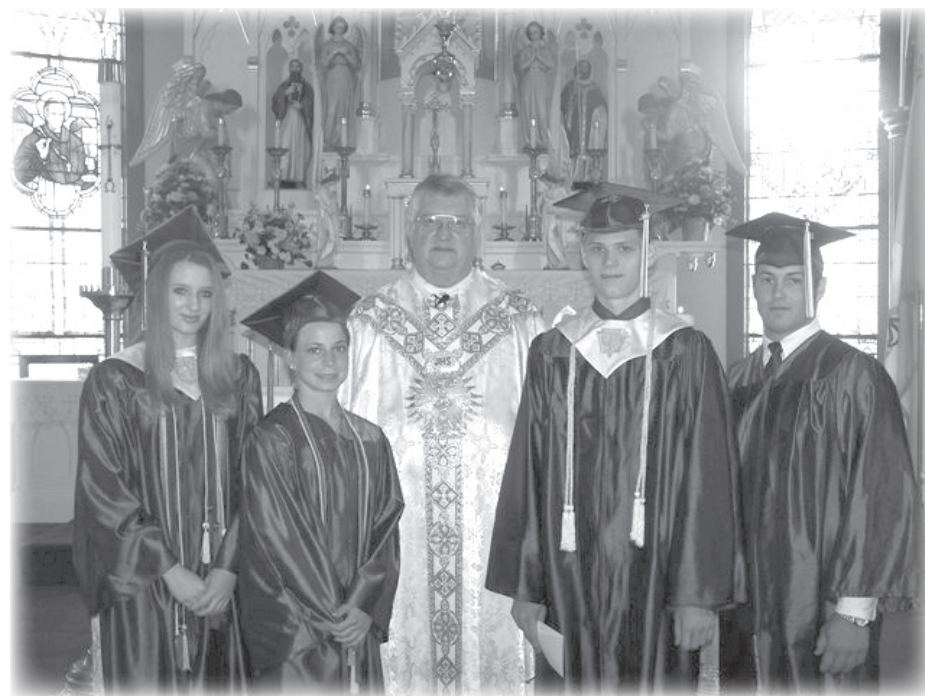
outray against the program attendance will not be compulsory. The ACLU attempted to force Kentucky's Boyd County school district to compel all students to attend sexual orientation and gender identity "tolerance training" with no right of parents or students to opt out. It is usually considered good teaching of science to present all sides of a controverted issue. That is not true in the case of Darwin's theory of natural selection and the alternate theory of Intelligent Design. U.S. District Judge John E. Jones III in a 139-page ruling in *Kitzmiller v. Dover* [www.pamd.uscourts.gov/kitzmiller/kitzmiller\\_342.pdf](http://www.pamd.uscourts.gov/kitzmiller/kitzmiller_342.pdf) declared unconstitutional a school board policy that required students of a ninth-grade biology class in the Dover Area School District in Pennsylvania to hear a one-minute statement that said evolution is a theory and intelligent design "is an explanation of the origin of life that differs from Darwin's view." The Judge's ruling, which was lauded by liberal outlets as a "masterpiece of wit, scholarship and clear thinking," actually was a masterpiece in cutting and pasting. Fully 90.9 percent was taken virtually verbatim from the ACLU's proposed "Findings of Fact and Conclusions of Law" submitted to Jones nearly a month before his ruling. The ACLU abetted by a compliant judge of secularistic bent eradicated a position regarded as heretical by seculars from the public school curriculum. It seems only fair that evidence supporting intelligent design or creation be presented to students alongside of evolutionary theory, especially in public schools which receive funding from taxpayers on both sides of the issue. Also, no one is forced to believe in God or adopt a particular religion, so there is no true violation of separation of church and state. There are many other areas in which religious values are assaulted in public schools including marriage, cohabitation,

pre-marital sex, contraception, abortion, advocacy of the morning-after pill, embryonic stem cell research, attempts to eliminate abstinence-only sex education programs, use of religious themes in student compositions and in graduation addresses, or opting out of questionable classes that impinge on morality. In all these areas it is the secularist viewpoint that is presented. If students cannot be indoctrinated in values based in part on religion because the nonreligious might be offended, why is it permissible to indoctrinate them exclusively in secular ideology which offends the religious? The ACLU and secularist forces are not interested in defending students against indoctrination in religion as long as it is their religion. Their goal is to impose secular humanism as the de facto state religion. If public schools are incapable of instructing without imposing someone's viewpoint and offending another's, why have public schools at all? Promoting education is a legitimate function of government, just as is promotion of an adequate food supply. But nobody believes

that the government should own and run 90 percent of the farms, supermarkets, and restaurants. Why should it run 90 percent of the schools — particularly when it gets terrible results and in the process compels parents to subject their children to a value system that most of them oppose?

Why not establish a universal voucher system in which all parents get to direct tax funds for education to schools of their own choosing? This will allow them to bring up their children in values that they accept and not have opposing values forced down their throats. History has shown that competition for students and the funds they carry would also improve educational outcomes, which public schools have notably failed to achieve as evidenced by the annual humiliation of American students in comparison with students from other industrialized nations and even third world countries. Give parents educational vouchers and let them choose the schools they want their children to attend. Their religious rights will be respected and both public and private education will be improved.

**The question in public education is not shall values be taught because all education reflects some worldview, but whose values will be taught? ... Their (ACLU) goal is to impose secular humanism as the de facto state religion.**



**ST. MARY PARISH AWARDS SCHOLARSHIPS**—High School graduates received \$500 scholarships from their parish, St. Mary in St. Mary/Hallettsville. The scholarship funds come from the proceeds of their annual picnic. Recipients were Lauren Ulcak, Hallettsville High Valedictorian, daughter of David and Kimberly Ulcak; Kori Kocian, Hallettsville High, daughter of Mike and Janice Kocian; Blasé Konvicka III, Sacred Heart High Salutatorian, son of Blasé Jr. and Deberah Konvicka; and Kendrick Rother, Sacred Heart High, son of Alan and Janice Rother. Pastor John Peters (center) awarded the scholarships. Sacred Heart also congratulates its other graduating parishioners (all from Hallettsville High): Kevin Matula, Colin Grahmann, Scott Tobola and Quinton Threadgill. The prayers of the parish are with these graduates.



**'MEET THE AUTHOR' RECEPTION HELD**—The sixth graders in Mrs. Frances Franta's language arts class at Sacred Heart Catholic School participated in a 'Meet the Author' reception prior to finishing the 2006-07 school year. The students chose their favorite author and researched this person. After researching and writing a report about the person of their choice, the students dressed up like the author or a character from one of the author's novels for the reception. Many parents, visitors and other students were able to attend the 'Meet the Author' reception. This is the first year that Mrs. Franta's class has performed this special event.





## 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 June 26, 2007

	TOTALS
<b>— General Seminary Burse</b>	
Previously reported	\$74,929.00
In memory of Helen Fellhauer by M/M Bob Bochat	50.00
In memory of Harold and Helen Fellhauer by M/M Hardy McCullough	50.00
In memory of Helen Fellhauer by Deacon and Mrs. Dick Wearden	50.00
In memory of Helen Fellhauer by the Knights of St. Gregory — Victoria	50.00
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$75,129.00</b>
<b>— St. John the Baptist Church, St. John Burse No. 2 — In Honor of Rev. Brian Crookes</b>	
Previously reported	\$4,296.00
In memory of Adolph B. Kutac by Forrest and Ann Dittrich	10.00
Ervin and Bernice Neskora	10.00
Alphonse Besetzny	10.00
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$4,326.00</b>
<b>— Catholic Daughters of America Court of St. Ann No. 369 Burse No. 2</b>	
Previously reported	\$5,460.00
In memory of Harold and Helen Fellhauer By M/M Otto Bleier, Jr.	50.00
In memory of Dorothy Stathis by M/M Otto Bleier Jr.	25.00
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$5,535.00</b>
<b>— Rev. Msgr. Michael O'Shaughnessy Burse</b>	
Previously reported	\$8,094.50
In memory of Helen Fellhauer by Mary Dean Maresh	20.00
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$8,114.50</b>
<b>— Sister M. Barbara Konvicka, IWBS Burse</b>	
Previously reported	\$90.00
In memory of Laddie M. Konvicka by Evelyn Konvicka	40.00
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$130.00</b>
<b>— Josephat R. Janak Burse</b>	
Previously reported	\$15,008.00
In memory of John Janak, Jr. by Daniel & Kathleen Hollas	20.00
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$15,028.00</b>

<b>— Rev. John C. Peters Burse No. 3</b>	
Previously reported	\$12,070.00
Correction of reporting in previous issue In memory of Harold E. Fellhauer by Sacred Heart Parish	100.00
In memory of Harold E. Fellhauer by St. Mary's, St. Mary Parish	50.00
In memory of Harold E. Fellhauer by Rev. John Peters	50.00
In honor of Deacon Sonny and Elaine Rogers' 60th wedding anniversary by Gilbert and Mary Urbish	25.00
In honor of M/M Raymond Janak's 50th wedding anniversary by Angela Hermes	15.00
In honor of two angels — Ed and Peggy Sacred Heart Catholic School-Faculty, Staff and Students, in appreciation on Catholic School Pastor's Appreciation Day	300.00
In memory of Laddie M. Konvicka by Richard and Ruth Rouse	25.00
In honor of Raymond and Helen Janak's 50th wedding anniversary by Richard and Ruth Rouse	25.00
In honor of Rev. David Berger's ordination to the priesthood by Richard and Ruth Rouse	25.00
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$12,935.00</b>

<b>— Rev. Theophil Okruhlik &amp; Rev. Vincent Verdame Burse</b>	
Previously reported	\$7,975.00
In memory of Norwood Killough by John and Josephine Novak	10.00
In memory of Edward Slansky by John and Josephine Novak	10.00
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$7,995.00</b>

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**



A Dominican nun at adoration.

## Dominican Nuns Celebrate 800 Years

This most recent Easter Season finds the Dominican Order in the midst of its founding. The multifaceted celebration of 800 years of Dominican Monastic life is the exciting focus for more than 3,500 Dominican Nuns in 250 monasteries throughout the world. The Jubilee Year for the Order began on the First Sunday of Advent, December 3, 2006, and will continue until Epiphany 2008.

In 1206, Dominic de Guzman was traveling on a mission for the pope with his bishop, Diego, from the Cathedral in Osma, Spain. While in southern France, they became aware of the great need for good preaching among the people who strayed from the Church because of false teaching. St. Dominic's preaching converted a group of women who had been very active in the heretical sect. These women were eager to give themselves to the true faith, but were in danger of falling back to false ways unless they could continue to nourish authentic teaching and also have an outlet for their generous response to God.

St. Dominic was praying about this outside the small town of Fanjeaux on the evening of July 22, 1206. As he looked out over the countryside, he saw a globe of light descend from heaven and seem to hover above the abandoned church in the neighboring village of Prouilhe. The repetition of this vision on three consecutive nights convinced him that God was calling him to obtain this church and gather the converted women there. This monastery became the nucleus of what would later develop into the Dominican Order. It was a place for Dominic and the preachers who would join him to rest, study and reflect between their apostolic journeys.

The nuns were an integral part of this "Holy Preaching" from the very start since their life focused on the salvation of souls. It was only in December 1216 that Dominic received from the Holy See the final bull approving the order. In the United States, there are sixteen monasteries of cloistered Dominican Nuns. All of these monasteries will be sponsoring special festivities to mark the 800th Anniversary of the Dominican Order.

Among the projects that serve to mark the 800th Anniversary of the order are the publication of two books. "Search for Living Waters: Dominican Nuns Reflect on Contemplative Spirituality" is a collection of 30 essays by the nuns of several different monasteries. Each article is the fruit of the study and prayer that is so essential to the life of the nuns. "Vocation in Black and White," the stories of 24 nuns in the various monasteries, will be available later this year. Along with a little of the early life of each nun, these accounts tell what the young woman was looking for, how she discovered Dominican contemplative life and what attracted her to embrace this way of searching for God.

A special jubilee calendar was a sell-out success, but can still be found at the Web site, [praedicare.com](http://praedicare.com). There are pictures not only of the American monasteries, but many foreign ones as well. The history of the founding of Dominican contemplative life in the USA is also recounted. During this Dominican Jubilee Year, the Holy See has granted a special plenary indulgence under the usual conditions to all of the Faithful who attend services or make a visit to pray at any Dominican monastery in the world.

See *Dominican Nuns*, p. 8

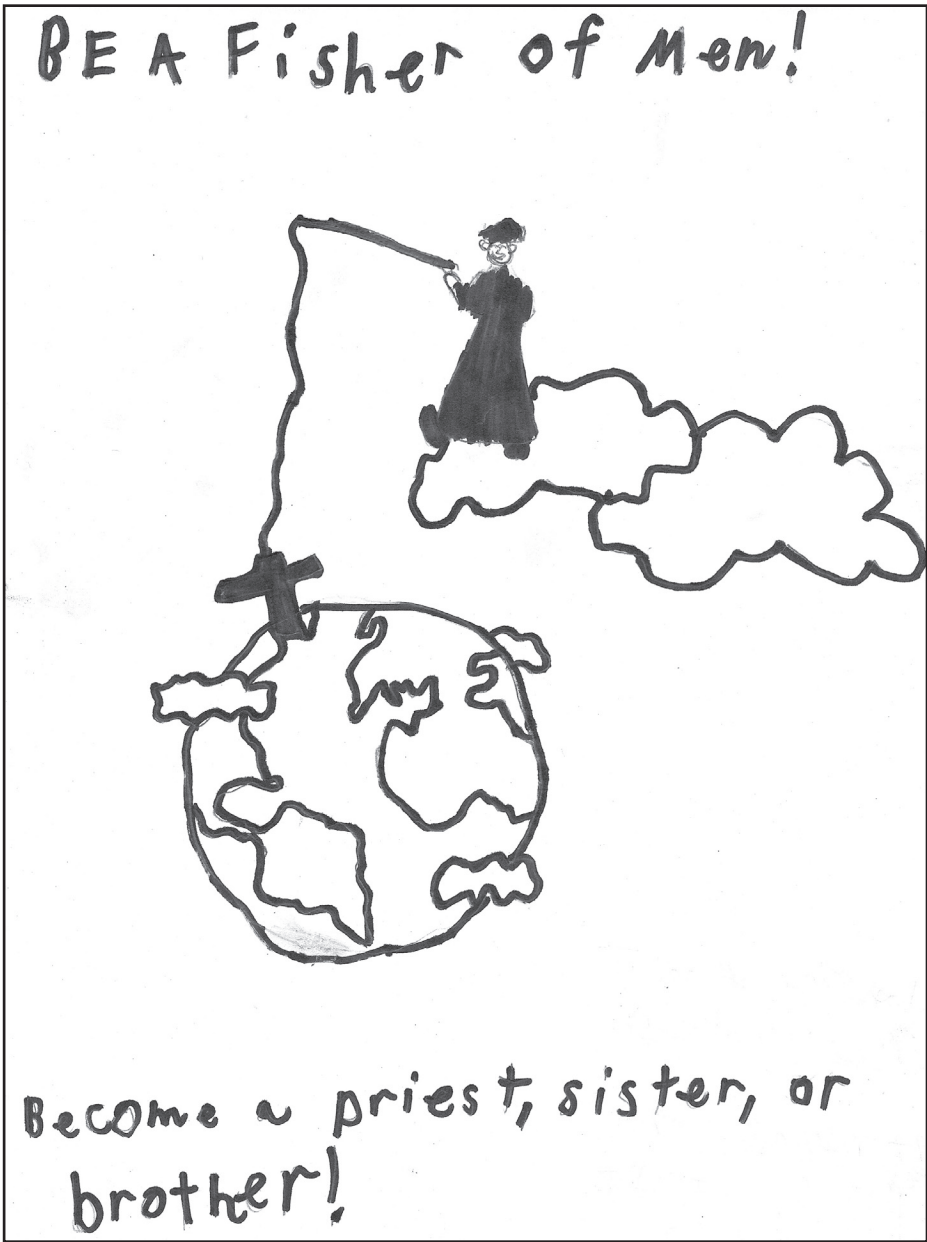
### Reporting Abuse

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

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

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

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



*Consider the Religious Life!*

Office of Vocations • Diocese of Victoria in Texas  
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[vocations@victoriadiocese.org](mailto:vocations@victoriadiocese.org)  
or Incarnate Word Convent at (361) 575-7300; [iwbsvoc@yahoo.com](mailto:iwbsvoc@yahoo.com)

Artwork by Josh King • St. Michael School • Weimar





By Cynthia Brewer

The Vocation Office and the Youth and Young Adult Ministry Office collaborated to hold the first annual Vocation Camp June 18 – 21, 2007, in the Diocese of Victoria. Twenty young men ranging in age from 15 to 21 from throughout the diocese attended the camp held at Stoney Creek Ranch, northeast of Columbus, Texas.

The retreat leaders included Father Dan Morales, director of vocations, Fathers Bryan Heyer, David Berger, Bob Knippenberg, Kirby Hlavaty and seminarians Tommy Chen and Philip Brune. They tried to replicate the seminary experience as best they could by providing Mass, group prayer, individual prayer, sports activities,

## First annual Vocation Camp a success

educational classes and relaxation.

Msgr. Thomas C. McLaughlin, vicar



*Father Bob Knippenberg first explains what theology is, and then teaches about the difference between diocesan and order priests.*

general and chancellor of the diocese, opened the camp with Mass Monday afternoon. In his homily he said that there is a difference between knowing about Jesus and knowing Jesus. The retreat is the time to discover Jesus personally, and after knowing him, to make the choice to follow him in love, he said.

Tuesday morning the youth did a ROPE's course, which helped them to work together as a team and learn about each other. They followed this with an activity that helped them discover their gifts. That evening, Father Wayne Flagg from Frelsburg visited and held a reconciliation and penance service with Father David Berger. Following

Eric said.

Eric also said there are so many questions that go with thinking of becoming a priest. He was glad he came because he got most of his questions answered.



*Father David Berger's group reflects on Scripture.*

Vinson Valdez, an 18-year-old from Boling who attends Our Lady of Mount Carmel Church in Wharton, said he came because Father Jackson asked him to attend. He said he wouldn't want to insult him by not attending, and everyone needs to take some time out of the secular world.

"The other reason I came was that if God is calling me, I'm not sure I'd know it. This retreat will help me to understand how he may be calling me," he said.

"I think any young Catholic guy should spend time discerning any vocation (marriage or priesthood)," said

Lupe Zapata, a 20-year-old from Victoria who has been active with NET.

"Honestly, what I want is a family: a wife and children, but I'm not sure what



*The young men play an impromptu game of toss outside one of their cabins at Stoney Creek Ranch.*

the service, the group watched the movie "Mission" which tied into the heroic life of the priesthood, an activity Father Bryan Heyer led earlier in the day. Wednesday morning, seminarian Tommy Chen used his own vocation story in speaking to the group about how to know you're called to the priesthood. They finished the camp on Thursday by summarizing their experiences and closing with Mass.

Youth from Bay City, Palacios, Port Lavaca, Hallettsville, Victoria, Shiner, Mentz, Columbus, Louise and El Campo attended this first camp.

Griffin Brown, an 18-year-old graduate from Memorial High in Victoria, said he came to the camp, "Because I had always entertained the thought of being a priest, so after graduating I thought I should take a more serious look at discernment."

Since he went to Nazareth Academy it was instilled in him to always think of being a priest. If ever he was asked what he wanted to do when he grew up he'd answer, "Be a priest or ... ." Being a priest was always a possibility.

"I wish we could have done this (the vocation camp) sooner," he said. "It's easier to be open to the idea of the priesthood when you realize there are others in the same boat. It's good to know we're not alone. If I had experienced it earlier, I would have considered the vocation more seriously."

Also, we get to see a different side of the priest's life; we get a feel for the life of a priest, he said. "It's not near as secluded as what I'd thought; it's helped an awful lot."

Eric Jalufka, a 17-year-old from Hallettsville, came to the camp because Father Heyer told him about it. "I always felt like I might be called to the priesthood and I wanted to give God the chance to talk to me and let me know how to serve him,"



*Father Bryan Heyer plays a game of horseshoes with a Bay City youth.*

he (God) wants," Lupe said. "But I want to be open to his will. A retreat like this is a perfect opportunity to discern what his will for your life is," he continued.

What surprised Debbie Vanelli, director of Young Adult Ministry, was what the youth reported on the evaluation form. What they enjoyed most was the Rosary Walk they would take each night at dusk. They would walk in the woods in groups with their priest leader and then join back with the large group at the statue of the

*See First annual Vocation Camp, p. 8*

## Twenty Something

By Christina Capecchi



## Wants, Needs & Coconut Extracts

Somewhere along the line, advertisers convinced me that my skin is woefully inadequate. Dull. Porous. Trapped in dead cells.

They hurled one pejorative after another upon my twenty-something skin, and not once did I defend it. Instead I cried "Uncle," cowering to the cash register with some brightly-packaged, overpriced remedy.

Cosmetic advertisers are creative in their diagnosis of problems: dry, brittle, rough, damaged, parched, distressed, impure.

They are equally creative in their proposal of solutions, infusing goop with a smorgasbord of extracts: rosemary, lemongrass, seaweed, cucumber, melon, mango, pomegranate, coconut, orchid.

I'm a sucker for the exotic: Swiss Glacial Water, Tahitian Palm Milk, Australian Guava. The more remote its origin, I figure, the stronger its power.

I'm also a sucker for the scientific: alpha and beta hydroxy, nutri-keratin, complexes and formulas, fruit micro-waxes. I don't have the foggiest notion of what fruit micro-wax is, but if the back of the bottle pictures a string of magical microbeads, I'm sold.

Then there's active fruit concentrate. It doesn't take a biology degree to know that this is infinitely superior to inactive fruit concentrate.

Garnier sells face scrub containing dermatological nutrients, a phrase that's enclosed in quotation marks and followed by two asterisks. In tiny type, wedged below the product barcode, we find the asterisks' meaning: "Ingredient complexes developed exclusively by Garnier to work on the skin's outer layer."

It is a brand name, a marketer's invention, not a scientific concept. The asterisks exist for liability's sake, because technically the product is not working below the skin, as "dermatological" suggests.

Cosmetic advertisers are selling what we never knew we always needed. We buy it because our society puts a premium on appearance. We buy it because we don't want a pressing need to go unmet, and every cosmetic cause is now packaged to

seem pressing. Garnier makes it matter, insisting, "The beauty of your skin reflects your inner health and vitality."

Catholicism works the opposite way – from the inside out. It does not come in citrus packaging, yet it renews our inner health and vitality. There is no fine print. There are no asterisks or rhetorical inventions. There is nothing trendy to it. That's not the point.

"An adult faith does not follow the waves of fashion and the latest novelties," Pope Benedict XVI said.

Our faith is ancient, steadfast and deeply satisfying. When we practice it, all the fanciful effects attributed to skin products work on our interior. Catholicism hydrates the soul, polishes the spirit and softens the heart. It regenerates morals, fortifies character, renews forgiveness and rejuvenates compassion.

Our faith offers an active virtue concentrate, infused with extracts from St. Peter, St. Paul and the Virgin Mary. And the benefits are long lasting; only change that begins on the inside stands the test of time.

Distinguishing between wants and needs is the task of today's Catholic young adult. Products, promises and potions are constantly pitched to us, arriving in pretty packages with wiggly words. Ads are more sophisticated and better-funded than ever before.

We must be discerning. We must see through the hype so we don't invest our greatest energies on causes that are skin deep.

God knows the desires of our heart, and he will grant them freely and generously if we delight ourselves in him.

Parched skin may elicit more attention, but parched spirituality matters much more. So when you tend to those sunburned shoulders this summer, don't worry about coconut vs. cucumber; rather yourself in God's love.

*Christina Capecchi is a graduate student at Northwestern University in Evanston, Ill. E-mail her at [christinacap@gmail.com](mailto:christinacap@gmail.com).*





## The Office of Priest Is to Celebrate Mass, To Bless, To Govern, To Preach What occurs at the Liturgy of Priestly Ordination?

By Cynthia Brewer

Often times when one attends a priestly ordination, the church is so crowded that it may be difficult to see what is going on.

At Father Justin Gillespie's ordination there were nearly 3,000 people in attendance for the 38 seminarians who were ordained at the Basilica of Saint Eugenio A Valle Giulia in Rome. And although Father Michael Rother's and Father Gabriel Espinosa's ordinations were on a smaller scale, the parish churches are also smaller, thus creating the same problem ... difficulty in seeing and knowing what is going on.

Fortunately in the United States one can follow what's happening fairly closely because the Mass is said almost entirely in English, with perhaps some prayers said in Latin; however in Rome, Italy, the Mass was said in Italian (the language of the people) with parts of the ordination rites said in Latin.

At the Rome ordination, each of us who attended Father Gillespie's ordination was handed a Italian/Latin/English language booklet of the Liturgy of Priestly Ordination to help us follow along. It gave a short description of each of the ordination steps. They are as follows:

### Calling of the Candidates:

After the proclamation of the Gospel and homily the ordination ceremony of the priests will begin. The bishop will call to the priestly ministry those who are presented as suitable for this service.

The candidates are called by the rector of the seminarian's seminary and presented to the bishop.

### Promises of the Candidates:

Before all of us, the candidates will express their firm and free will to collaborate with their prelate (bishop) in the priestly ministry, in order to build up the Church of God in holiness, as faithful administrators of the mysteries and of the glories of the Lord, and will promise filial respect and obedience.

The bishop questions the candidates regarding the necessary dispositions in the exercise of the ministry:

My sons, before you proceed to the order of the presbyterate, declare before the people your intention to undertake this

priestly office.

Are you resolved, with the help of the Holy Spirit, to discharge without fail the office of priesthood in the presbyteral order as conscientious fellow workers with the bishops in caring for the Lord's flock? Response: I am.

Are you resolved to exercise the ministry of the word worthily and wisely, preaching the Gospel and explaining the Catholic faith? Response: I am.

Are you resolved to celebrate the mysteries of Christ faithfully and religiously as the Church has handed them down to us for the glory of God and the sanctification of Christ's people? Response: I am.

Are you resolved to implore, with me, the divine mercy upon the people entrusted to you, fulfilling the commandment to pray without ceasing? Response: I am.

Are you resolved to consecrate your life to God for the salvation of his people, and to unite yourself more closely every day to Christ the High Priest, who offered himself for us to the Father as a perfect sacrifice? Response: I am, with the help of God.

Then the candidates approach the bishop and, kneeling before him, place their joined hands between those of the bishop, who asks them:

Do you promise respect and obedience to me and my successors? Response: I do.

The bishop then says: May God who has begun a good work in you bring it to fulfillment.

### Litany of the Saints

The bishop recites the beginning of the litany to ask for divine help through the intercession of the saints. The candidates prostrate themselves on the floor as a sign of great reverence and humility before God. The litany is sung with the names of some particular saints including the patrons of the consecrating bishop and of the elect. The litany of the saints takes the place of the prayer of the faithful.

### Laying on of Hands. Prayer of Consecration

We come now to the central part of the Rite of Ordination. The bishop will impose his hands upon the head of each candidate for the priesthood. This liturgical gesture signifies the communication of the gift of the Holy Spirit to the candidates for their interior sanctification and consecration in order to enable them to fulfill

their mission in the world as ministers of the Word of God and of the sacraments. Other priests will also impose their hands upon the candidates "because they also share in the same spirit, common to all priests."

Upon completion of the laying of hands and the prayer of consecration, from this moment, they are now priests. The liturgy signifies then with other signs the new reality which has been fulfilled and the dignity that has been conferred. The newly ordained priests put on their priestly vestments for the celebration of the Holy Sacrifice of the Altar.

### Anointing of Hands

After putting on of priestly vestments, the bishop anoints with holy chrism (oil) the palms of the hands of each ordained priest kneeling before him.

The anointing of the hands expresses conformity to Christ. Just as he was anointed by God the Father with the Holy Spirit, so also the priests receive the external ritual unction which manifests the interior and invisible one. From now on and for ever, their hands are consecrated to the service of God.

### The giving of the Paten and the Chalice

The bishop, aided by a deacon, receives from the faithful the offerings for the Eucharistic celebration. The deacon pours wine into the chalice along with some water. He offers it and the paten with the bread to the bishop, who places them on the hands of each newly ordained priest kneeling before him, so that he may live the mystery placed in his hands and he may imitate Christ immolated for us; the celebration of the Holy Mass is the greatest priestly function.

### Embrace of Peace

The spirit which Christ grants to his own is always the principle of unity and of communion in the Church. The priests form with the bishop a priestly body whose members are united by specific bonds of apostolic charity, ministry and fraternity. The embrace of peace is a sign of this reality. After the bishop, the newly ordained priests receive the embrace of the other priests.

The profession of faith is then said. After the offertory, the newly ordained priests approach the bishop in order to concelebrate the Holy Sacrifice of the Altar. For the first time, they are able to consecrate the Most Holy Body and Blood of Christ.



Hank and Judy Gillespie receive Holy Communion from their son, Rev. Justin Gillespie, at his first public Mass said at Our Lady of Peace chapel in Rome.

## Justin Gillespie ordained in Rome

*Continued from p. 20*

"At Justin's first public Mass, as his hands held the Body and Blood of Christ, it really struck us," Mrs. Gillespie said. "Now he is a priest forever with anointed hands bringing the Holy Eucharist to us, no words can describe it."

Justin had become a member of Opus Dei when he was a senior in college at the University of Dallas, where he received his BA in English and his master's degree in literature. He taught English for two years in Milwaukee and during the summer break he would go to Chicago and work in Midtown with inner city youth. He then moved to New York City to work with at-risk youth. He was there for one year before he was invited to study in Rome and discern a vocation to the priesthood.

After six years of study and discernment, Justin was ordained to the diaconate on November 25, 2006.

He's continuing his work on his doctoral thesis, which he will defend in February 2008. The subject of his thesis is how hope in the resurrection of the body develops within the Old Testament.

He plans on returning to Victoria, Texas, in the spring of 2008 to say his Mass of Thanksgiving at St. Mary Parish. He could then be sent to minister anywhere in the world.

Members from the Diocese of Victoria who attended Father Justin's ordination were Marian Kleine of Yorktown and her two children Caroline and Julia; Dr. Frank Parma and his family; Carol Luxenberger, Father Justin's fourth grade music teacher; Carol and Ed Lehnert, Tom and Norma Treybig, Father Joe Hybner and his nephew, Chris; Roger and Kathi Mickan, Hank and Judy Gillespie, and my husband, Greg Brewer, and myself.

Father Justin's mother, Judy, told of many fruits that have developed since her son's ordination. Of special note was his godmother's return to the sacraments after 29 years. His godmother, Faye, attended his ordination and then right before his first Mass she received the sacrament of penance and was able to receive Holy Communion from him. She told Judy it was time for her to come home to the Church. Judy told of many other stories of family members returning to the sacraments after many years and of some, not of the faith, who were coming closer to the thought of joining the Catholic Church.

Everything is still fresh in our memories and we are having to reflect and absorb the details and magnitude of the events in increments," she said. "It is all too profound to take in at once."

"So many special graces were evident during the whole visit in Rome. It was such a privilege to be there, to see the pope and the beauty of the Universal Church," she concluded.



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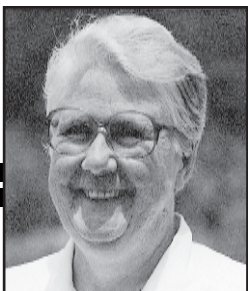
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## SISTERLY THOUGHTS

By Sister Mildred Truchard, IWBS



### The best, the worst of times!

**E**arly one morning I set out on an eastward drive. As the first fingers of dawn touched the sky, I rejoiced and thought that this was the best of times to be driving in this direction. I would enjoy watching the entire drama of sunrise unfold. I wasn't disappointed; the fluffy clouds on the horizon provided the stage for a magnificent display of rapidly changing color. I was delighted — until the sun had risen and was now positioned above the clouds and shining directly into my eyes and almost blinding me. I soon realized that this was the worst and most dangerous time to be driving toward the sun.

As I reflected on this decision, it dawned on me that this situation mirrored much of life; sometimes it is during the best of times that we are distracted and allow the worst of consequences to happen. For example, have you ever been at a party or celebration and seen some people drink too much and make fools of themselves or even harm themselves or others? Or have you, or someone you know, ever grown complacent when things are going

well and forget to continue nurturing your relationship with God, your family, and your neighbors? I think all of us can think of good times which blindsided us and allowed less than the best to surface.

On the other hand, it is sometimes the times that seem to be the worst of times — times of trial and struggle — that end up being the times that we turn to God and others and discover that it is in reality the time when we realize our need for God and our neighbors. These "worst of times" can be periods of spiritual growth and, in the long run, can be the best of times as we look back on them and finally realize that it was then that we reached out for the hand of God who walked with us through our struggles.

Let us then rejoice in the good times without letting ourselves lose touch with what is important, namely God and others, and let us remember that God will sustain us during sorrowful times, if we only allow God to be part of our journey. May God remain with all of us in the best of times and in the worst of times.



Chad, Sara, Patrick and Dolores Janak, Sister Frances Cabrini, Father Bob Knippenberg, Sister Maria Raphael, Sister Catherine, Sister Christine and Sister Maria pause after a blessing ceremony honoring the donation of the convent landscaping.

### Donation made in honor of Sister Frances Cabrini

SHINER—Patrick and Dolores Janak and their children Chad and Sara have honored one of their former teachers in a very unique way. All four Janaks graduated from St. Paul High School in Shiner and all four of them were taught by Sister Frances Cabrini Janvier of the Sisters of the Incarnate Word and Blessed Sacrament.

When a new order of sisters, the Dominican Sisters, arrived in Shiner in August of 2006 and took up residence in their newly renovated convent at 515 S. St. Ludmila Street, the grounds around the convent were in need of new landscaping.

The Janaks, of Janak Bros. Nursery and Landscape of Shiner, generously donated all the shrubbery and other plants that can be seen at the residence. They also provided the design of the landscaping and the planting of the new foliage. They chose to make their donation in honor of and in gratitude to their former teacher, Sister Frances Cabrini.

Sister Frances Cabrini Janvier was born in Elsa, Texas, on April 25, 1940. She received her elementary education

at Edcouch public schools. She graduated at the top of her class from Nazareth Academy in 1958. She entered Nazareth Convent in Victoria after graduation and made first profession of vows in 1960. Sister has a BA in Spanish and English and an MA in religious studies. She has taught in Crosby, Dallas, San Antonio, Shiner, Victoria and in Nakuru, Kenya, at St. Xavier's Secondary School. She also spearheaded an IWBS Sisters formation program in Nairobi, Kenya. Presently Sister is teaching Spanish at Nazareth Academy in Victoria.

On May 23, 2007, in a brief but meaningful ceremony attended by Sister Frances Cabrini, four Dominican Sisters and several members of the laity, Father Robert (Bob) Knippenberg blessed and installed a plaque at the Dominican Sisters Convent that commemorates the donation by the Janaks. Also in attendance were two of Sister Frances Cabrini's sisters from San Antonio. The plaque reads: "Landscaping donated in honor of Sister Frances Janvier, IWBS, By Patrick, Dolores, Chad and Sara Janak."



**FATHER RACHUNEK CELEBRATES 45TH YEAR OF PRIESTHOOD**—Rev. Henry Rachunek of St. John's Catholic Church in Hungerford gives the "thumbs up" as he sits in his new Chevrolet Equinox given to him by donors Don and Ann Strouhal at the June 10 celebration of his 45 years in the priesthood. Bishop David E. Fellhauer celebrated Mass with Father Rachunek at St. John the Baptist Church in Hungerford; a meal was served at the Hungerford Community Center.

### 25th Anniversary — A grand celebration

*Continued from p. 20*

of Victoria was being created."

He closed his homily stating that this moment also gives us an opportunity to reflect on the bigger and broader dimensions of our faith, that of our future in heaven. He said, "John Paul II described the people of the church as being on a giant pilgrimage on the way to the household of the Father, passing through the Church that Jesus Christ bequeathed to us."

The Mass continued with Bishop Fellhauer as the presider; the principal concelebrants included Bishop Grahmann, Msgr. McLaughlin and Msgr. James Brunner, and the vicars forane, Msgr. Michael Harrold, Fathers Gary Janak, Charles Dwomoh, Kirby Hlavaty, Timothy Kosler and John C. Peters.

Three religious sisters brought up the gifts for the eucharistic sacrifice: Incarnate Word and Blessed Sacrament Sisters Emilie Eilers and Donna Bonorden, and Missionary Catechists of the Sacred Heart of Jesus and Mary, Sister Felipa Lara.

The Lord's Prayer was said in Latin, the Pater Noster.

The Deacon of the Word was Deacon Michael Rother, and the Deacon of the Eucharist was Deacon Gabriel Espinosa. Servers included seminarians Philip Brune and Tommy Chen, as well as cathedral servers Chase Goodman, Rhett Goodman and Stephanie Kasper. Lectors were Sister Gloria Cain, SSND, superintendent of Catholic Schools, and Sister Digna Vela, IWBS, director of the Office of Catechetical Ministry. Music was provided by representatives from parishes of the Diocese of Victoria and directed by Mrs. Cynthia Goerig and Mrs. Janice Cox and cantored by Daniel Berglund. Cindi Schneider and Erin Schneider played the flute.

A reception and tours were held at the chancery building following the Mass. The Catholic Daughters of the Americas provided the hors d'oeuvres and anniversary cakes.



Pictured is the final of 10 glass walls built within the Chapel of the Holy Innocents at Raphael's Refuge. The purchase and installation of the blocks have been made possible through the generosity of the Sanford Schmid Charitable Trust of LaGrange, the Theut Glass Company of Columbus and Advanced Glass Blocks of Houston.

### Glass walls are installed at Raphael's Refuge

FLATONIA— The final block of the ten glass walls in the Chapel of the Holy Innocents at Raphael's Refuge, located just west of Flatonia, has been installed. Installation was done by Wick Brother Masonry of Weimar, Texas.

Of the 1,560 glass blocks, 840 will be engraved in memory of babies who have died from miscarriage or abortion, were stillborn, or who died in infancy. At this time, Bernadette Kresta, of Moulton, has engraved 78 blocks. In time, thousands more blocks will be available. These blocks will form long walls, which will radiate outwards from the circular chapel. The purchase and installation of the blocks has been made possible through the generosity of the Sanford Schmid Charitable Trust of LaGrange, the Theut Glass Company of Columbus, and Advanced Glass Blocks of Houston. If an individual or organization would like to

sponsor a wall section, the cost per section is \$2,600.

"To see people from different cities joining together to build this monument is gratifying," said Midge Elam, director at Raphael's Refuge. "It is also fitting, as the monument is designed to serve a large region of South, Central and East Texas and already a number of babies from the Dallas-Fort Worth area are memorialized here."

To request a block be engraved, or for more information, contact Midge Elam at 361-865-3021 or 361-258-1514, [raphaels@awesomenet.net](mailto:raphaels@awesomenet.net), or 2715 W US Hwy 90, Flatonia, Texas, 78941. To see drawings of the plans, photographs of the construction progress, and examples of engraved blocks, visit [www.raphaelsrefuge.org](http://www.raphaelsrefuge.org). Volunteers and donations are always welcome. Raphael's Refuge is a 501(c)(3) non-profit organization.





**CDA SCHOLARSHIPS PRESENTED**—Scholarships of \$300 each were presented to youth by Regent Margaret Kutchka at the June 2007 meeting of Court St. Ann, Catholic Daughters of the Americas. An annual budgeted amount and donations made these scholarships possible. Funds are raised weekly selling food at the regular Wednesday night KC bingos and through semi-annual games parties. The next games party is scheduled for Monday, August 20, at the KC Hall from 6 to 9 p.m. Recipients will be entering various colleges around the state as well as Victoria College, and will be majoring in nursing, English, marketing, physical therapy and management. A reception was held following the awarding of scholarships. Those receiving scholarships are (back row) Thomas Kocian, Nicholas Cooke, Megan Obsta, Kelsey Williams; (front row): Kendal Jurica, Kori Lynn Kocian, Elizabeth Vahalik and Ashley Kutchka. Elizabeth Vahalik also received a \$1,000 scholarship from the CDA State Court of Texas. The state award was presented by National Regent-elect Libby Ramirez.



The United States flag is proudly held by SFO members Alpha Kimes, Mary Ann LeBlanc, Johana Kurtz, Dorothy Harper and Charline Stehle.

## Christmas in July for the Secular Franciscan Order

To the Secular Franciscan Order in the Diocese of Victoria, the United States flag in the photo serves as a constant reminder of Hope, Good-Will, Generosity and Unselfishness. In December 2006, the SFO members responded to a request for care packages for American troops by Sharon Lamorie, chaplain assistant, SSG, USA, stationed at Camp Vance, Bagram, Afghanistan. Sharon is the niece of Deacon Mike and Bonnie Vieira of Palacios who are professed SFO members. When Deacon Mike and Bonnie told the fraternity of the request, everyone was deeply moved, and all took immediate action by purchasing items on a predetermined list of goods — toothpaste, toothbrushes, mouthwash, deodorant, handiwipes, socks, etc... The fraternity sent tinsel, garland, ornaments and one Nativity set which became the only Nativity scene at the camp. The Nativity set will remain at Camp Vance as a reminder of Christ's love for all people, especially for all service personnel.

The soldiers, sailors, airmen, civilians and coalition partners were enlightened spiritually as well as sentimentally. In a letter received from Sharon in December, she stated: "We count it a privilege to serve our country in time of need. The

Global War on Terrorism is certainly a tough and challenging mission. We are called on to be more flexible, resilient and persistent as ever. We cannot persevere without the support of our friends, families, churches and communities."

A United States flag that was flown on the Combined Joint Special Operations Task Force-Afghanistan, Camp Vance Compound at Bagram Airfield, Afghanistan December 25, 2006, during Operation Enduring Freedom in honor of St. Francis and St. Clare Fraternity and a certificate of thanks and acknowledgement arrived in the care of Deacon Mike and Bonnie.

During the early part of June, Sharon returned to the United States. She is stationed at Fort Bragg in North Carolina; however, while she was in Afghanistan, Deacon Mike and Bonnie had a very special care package in their trust — Sharon's six year old son, Xavier. He is now reunited with his mother.

The celebration of Hope, Good-Will, Generosity and Unselfishness in December 2006 led the SFO to bring the Gospel to life as they re-live, re-echo and extend the words of Christ to all the faithful - just as Charles Dickens' character, Tiny Tim: "God Bless Us Everyone..."



**KJZT SOCIETY NO. 43 COLLECTS FOR ST. VINCENT DE PAUL**—During the Sundays in Lent, members of the Catholic Family Fraternal (KJZT) Society No. 43 – The Purification collected food after each Mass at Assumption Church in Ganado. Over 200 pounds of non-perishable food was collected and given to the St. Vincent de Paul Society to help families in need. Pictured (l. to r.): Alice Wright, Georgia Kruse (also a St. Vincent de Paul volunteer), Cecilia French, KJZT president; Steve Labay, St. Vincent de Paul president; Frances Vesely and Lanoe Macha. All are members of the KJZT with the exception of Steve Labay.



**STUDENTS HONOR SCHOOL SECRETARY**—St. Rose School eighth-grade class, Team Red Star, honored their school's secretary Mrs. Jeannie Mican in the Southern Fayette County Relay for Life in Flatonia, Texas, prior to finishing the 2006-07 school year.

## First annual Vocation Camp a success

*Continued from p. 5*

Blessed Mother in the makeshift chapel. Some said they really enjoyed sports activities or swimming, but consistently the Rosary Walk was mentioned as most favorite, Debbie said.

They prayed the Liturgy of the Hours three times daily. Each night as they finished their individual Liturgy of the Hours, they invariably ended up together as a group in front of the Blessed Sacrament.

"It was a very prayerful group," she said, "and very polite."

In his parish bulletin, Father Bob Knippenberg, pastor at Sts. Cyril and Methodius in Shiner, wrote requesting

that every single parishioner pray as fervently as possible and offer sacrifice for an increase in vocations to the priesthood and religious life.

He wrote that he'd just returned from the vocation camp and stated, "What a tremendous grace to spend time with so many young men who have at least expressed openness to listening to and accepting God's call!"

"The camp was very successful," Debbie said. "We don't know what the fruits will be, but we planted the seeds, and we'll have to see where God takes it. It's up to him at this point."

## Dominican Nuns Celebrate 800 Years

*Continued from p. 4*

There is a Web site at [www.usaonpuns.org](http://www.usaonpuns.org) with a Jubilee prayer, along with the announcement of the Jubilee Year Indulgence, a brief history of the Dominican Order, and links to each monastery as well as slide presentations and other information of interest to Dominicans and their friends.

Except for two monasteries in California, the Monastery of the Infant Jesus in Lufkin, Texas, is the only Dominican monastery west of the Mississippi River.

The Monastery of the Infant Jesus in the piney woods of East Texas traces its roots back to the first nuns at Prouilhe, France, founded by St. Dominic in 1206. Nuns from Detroit, Michigan, founded the Lufkin, Texas, Monastery in 1945. Their purpose is the purely contemplative life of worship and adoration of God and in-

tercession for the needs of the Church and the world. The 30 nuns in the community are dedicated to lives of prayer, simplicity, study and community. The Dominican nuns in Lufkin have daily Eucharistic Adoration in their chapel from 8:00 a.m. to 8:00 p.m.

For more information or to obtain their free newsletter, "Monastery Bells" write: Monastery of the Infant Jesus, 1501 Lotus Lane, Lufkin, TX 75904.

St. Dominic has also influenced several religious sisters from the Diocese of Victoria: Sister Marie Hannah Seiler belongs to the Dominican Sisters of Saint Cecilia Congregation in Nashville, Tenn.; and the Diocese of Victoria has the Vietnamese Dominican Sisters (OP) in Port Lavaca and Shiner, teaching at the Catholic schools.

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## Youth camps start up summer fun and spirituality in diocese

By Cynthia Brewer

The summer diocesan camp season started up with a week of over 200 youth praying and playing at Camp David held from June 10 -15 at the Spiritual Renewal Center. 2007 marks the 10th anniversary of the Camp David program put on by

the Office of Youth and Young Adult Ministry.

Kids from all over the diocese attended this year's camp, which had the theme "The Fantastic 3: Father, Son, and Holy Spirit."

The junior high camp was broken into

two sessions, from June 10 -12 and June 13 - 15, with a total of 120 junior high youth attending. The elementary camp brought 91 children on June 13.

ana, descended on the 18 NET alumni staff who came from all over the United States. This is the ninth year for the Diocese of Victoria to host D-week - just one of six



A small group session of young women meet during D-week camp.



The new attraction, Pirate's Cove, was a refreshing activity for all during the hot summer days of Camp David.

Twenty high school and college age youth leaders and 15 adult leaders organized this successful summer camp.

For the high school youth, Discipleship Week, commonly known as D-week, was held at the Spiritual Renewal Center June 25 - 28. Seventy-four retreatants from the Diocese of Victoria; Temple, Texas; College Station, Texas; and Orange, Louisi-



Elementary students race against time as they are tested with the balloon toss.

### On The Cutting Edge

By Sister Margaret Mary Lavonis, CSC



## Your dreams tell a lot about you

Many have already graduated or graduation is right around the corner. It would be interesting to find out each person's hopes and dreams for the future. Although we think of graduation as an end to something, commencement really means beginning. If you are graduating or starting something new, what do you dream about as you continue along the journey of life?

It might be good for the rest of us to also reflect upon our hopes, dreams and goals in life because they reveal a lot about us as individuals. Think of two or three dreams or hopes you have. Are all your dreams centered on what you want to get out of life and what life can do for you? Do you aspire to be wealthy and have everything you want? Do you want the prestige of an important job so others will think highly of you?

Or do you dream of making a difference in the world? Do you want a just world and are willing to work at it? Do you want to help others through your regular job or by volunteering?

Do you always think about what you will get out of a permanent relationship or do you think about all that you want to give to a marriage and family or a congregation or a diocese if you choose religious life or priesthood?

Are you primarily self-centered or other-centered? When you agree to do something for someone is your first thought, "What's in this for me?" Does this desire hold a lot of weight in your decision-making? Or do you help others out of your generosity and care?

This may sound like a corny exercise but it can be very revealing. If, in your reflection, you discover that you basically take care of "number one" then it is time to stop and look at where your life is going?

It is not possible to be a good Christian if we only think of ourselves. Take Pope

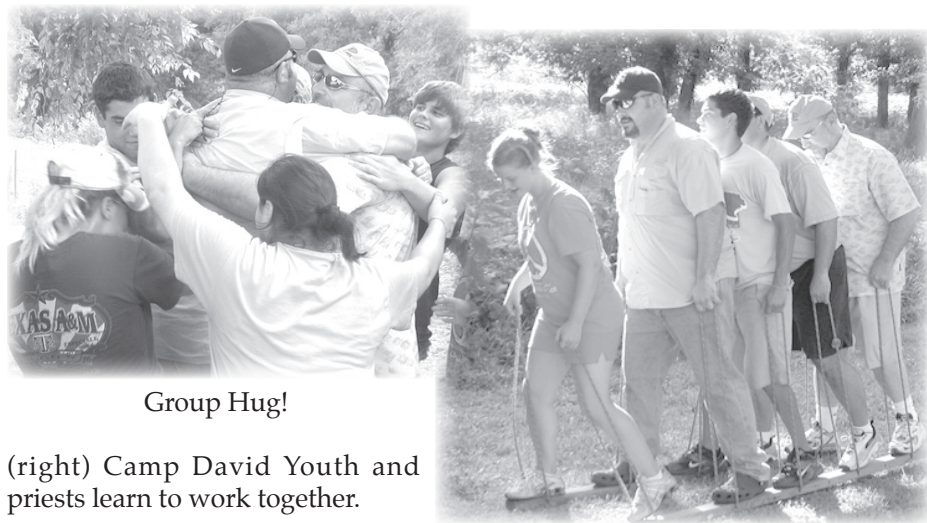
John Paul, II, for instance. Despite his illness and frailty he continued to reach out to others. If he only thought of himself he would probably have stayed in bed for most of the time during his last couple of years. His age and Parkinson's disease would have been a valid excuse. However, like Jesus and so many of the saints, he was a person for others.

As Christians we have a road map for how to live. Jesus could not be any clearer about the fact that his followers are called to love. Yes, he did say that we are to love ourselves too but he was not talking about self-centered love. The love of self he wants us to have is that love and respect for ourselves that makes it possible to love and respect others. It is being grateful for our God-given gifts and using them for others.

Think of how different our lives would be if Jesus had been a self-centered person? He could have gotten a lot of glory and fame if he had used his divine power or became the military leader who would conquer the Romans and free the Jews from domination. He probably would not have died and we would not be saved.

Now is a good time to look at our lives and reflect upon what gives us meaning. When our days on this earth are over, how do we want to be known? Do we want other people to say that he or she was a guy or gal who had a gorgeous home, three cars and made a six-digit salary and all his or her children went to expensive schools? Or would we rather be known as the woman or man who gave time to many causes that helped others, improved the world and was a loving and compassionate person.

Think about your hopes and dreams and if they center on what you can get out of life, then switch gears and begin to dream about what you can give. If you do, I guarantee that your life will be a lot happier.



Group Hug!

(right) Camp David Youth and priests learn to work together.

## MORAVIA ASCENSION PARISH PICNIC

MORAVIA, FM 957 & FM 532

SUNDAY, **July 15**

MASS: MORAVIA: Sunday - 10:00 a.m. in the newly restored church

DINNER 11:00 a.m.

**STEW & FRIED CHICKEN**

ADMISSION: Adults \$6.50 - Children \$3.50 & TRIMMINGS

Drive-thru Plates To Go From 10:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. \$6.50

**COUNTRY  
STORE**

**FISH POND  
& GAMES**



**Cake Walk  
12:00 Noon**

**BINGO**

Lic.#17461806097  
1:30-5:30 p.m.

**AUCTION SALE AT 1:00 P.M.**

Hamburgers, Refreshments and Entertainment on the  
Moravia Parish Picnic Grounds

MUSIC DURING THE DAY AND NIGHT BY  
**THE CZECHAHOLICS**  
**MARK HALATA - TEXAVIA**

EVERYBODY WELCOME - FUN FOR ALL!





## Michael Rother of Palacios is ordained to the priesthood

By Cynthia Brewer

**PALACIOS**—Michael John Rother, son of Bernard and Madeline Rother, was ordained to the priesthood on Saturday, June 9, 2007, at St. Anthony of Padua Catholic Church in Palacios, Texas, his home parish.

The presider of the ordination Mass was Bishop David E. Fellhauer, who was joined by the principal concelebrant, the Very Reverend Brendon Cahill, the rector of St. Mary's Seminary in Houston, as well as nearly 30 priests from the Diocese of Victoria and from Michael's seminary.

The Mass readings were taken from Isaiah 61:1-3, Psalm 110: You Are a Priest Forever,<sup>1</sup> Peter 5:1-4, and John 10:11-16, which centered on the themes of the anointing, the Good Shepherd and his flock.

Prior to the ordination rite, Bishop Fellhauer said the homily, addressing five remarks or commandments to Michael:

Remember that your formation, seemingly a long time, had a lot of ups and downs; so will your life as a priest be, he said, but "your ups will be many." Christ has called you to this life and Christ will sustain you. Remember the words of St. Paul, "My grace is sufficient for you."

"Take care of yourself; you're a valuable product." Take care of yourself physically, emotionally and spiritually.

"You have many good gifts you'll use as a priest and that you'll share with others." In addition, there are lessons to learn throughout life; even if you're a priest for 50 years, you'll still be learning.

"You have been called not to be served but to serve." This holds true with your parishioners and with your diocese. There are many needs, there will be demands, some realistic some not.

You'll be praised a lot in the beginning, but there will be misunderstandings, which is true to relationships. But don't let it crush your spirit. Let it make you a better priest, the bishop concluded.

The master of ceremonies was Father Ty Bazar of St. Patrick Parish in Bloomington. The Rev. Mister Gabriel Espinosa, to be ordained to the priesthood the following week, was the Deacon of the Word, and the Deacon of the Eucharist was the Rev. Mister Seamus Rowland, a fellow seminarian from the Tyler Diocese. Assisting at the Mass were Victorian seminarians Mr. Tommy Chen and Mr. Philip Brune.

Fathers Gary Janak, pastor of St. Philip in El Campo, and Dan Morales, pastor of Our Lady of the Gulf in Port Lavaca, vested the newly ordained priest.

The choir consisted of the Brazos Valley Schola Cantorum, which included Father Michael's brother, Troy. Mrs. Cynthia Goerig was the music coordinator and organist and Mr. Chad Kloesel was the trumpeter.

The lectors were his mother, Mrs. Madeline Rother, and his sister-in-law, Mrs. Shannon Rother. Servers were Miss Audrey Shimek and Mr. Randy Allums.

In Father Michael's ordination program, he thanked the parishioners of Palacios, El Campo, Shiner, Port Lavaca and Yoakum, parishes at which he served during his seminary years, for teaching him what it means to be generous and gracious.

Special gifts given to Father Michael included



Bishop Fellhauer lays his hands upon Michael Rother's head consecrating him to the priesthood.

ments for the whole liturgical year. A Marian stole and vestment, handmade by nuns in Vietnam, were a gift from family friends. He also received two special stoles, one from family members from Nebraska, which had Nebraska crops embroidered on the handmade stole. The second stole was a gift from a family member's trip to Medjugorje.

Family and friends came from Oklahoma, Nebraska and all over Texas to attend Father Michael Rother's ordination.



Father Michael gives Holy Communion to his father, Bernard, and his mother, Madeline.

Photos by Capture the Moment

The reception following the ordination Mass was held at the Palacios Recreation Center. Father Michael wanted a representation of all the cultures he grew up with in Palacios, thus the church community of Vietnamese, Hispanic and German/Czech/European American each provided food for the reception. The ACTS team from Bay City served the food. The Texas Sound Check Band provided music; however Father Michael and his Aggie friends provided the singing for the Aggie War Song.

Father Michael's first Mass was said on Sunday, June 10, at St. Anthony Parish. His good friend, Father Rodney White from Odessa, Texas, said the homily. Father Michael has been assigned to Sacred Heart Parish in Hallettsville.

### His family's thoughts



Michael Rother lies prostrate before God while the Litany of the Saints is sung.

Father Michael's parents, Bernard and Madeline, celebrated their 35th wedding anniversary the day after their son's ordination.

"It was a special, special anniversary," Mrs. Rother said. "On our 25th anniversary, we renewed our vows and Bernard gave me a new ring. So on our 35th, I asked what was he going to do, and he gave me a priest."



Bishop Fellhauer places the paten and chalice on Father Michael's hands so that "he may live the mystery placed in his hands and imitate Christ immolated for us."

How does a mother feel? "Oh Gosh, that's hard to put in words," she responded.

The moment so special to Mrs. Rother was when her son was at the altar with the bishop and other priests and was part of the consecration. That was more than an 'Ah moment,' she said.

"That was my moment of realization that God had called my son to the priesthood and had brought it to fulfillment," Mrs. Rother said.

Another special moment was at a departure Mass said by Father Michael in Wadsworth on Monday for the family and friends who were returning home after the ordination ceremony.

The entire family went to Sacred Heart Church in Wadsworth where Bernard's grandparents, John and Anna Ottis were instrumental in starting the new church. At the end of this Mass, Father Michael presented his mother with the cloth on which he had wiped his hands after Bishop Fellhauer had anointed them. Father Michael explained to his family that it was a tradition that the newly ordained priest give this cloth to his mother who gave him life, so that at her death, she will be buried with the cloth and so present it to God who gave her son his vocation.

A newer tradition, his parents believe

Michael's class is starting, is to present to the newly ordained priest's father the priest's first confessional stole. After using the stole, Father Michael will represent it to his father who will be buried with it at his death.

Prior to the final blessing of the Mass, Father Michael explained these traditions and made the presentations. It was

very emotional, said his mother, "Everyone was crying, including Michael."

How does a father feel about the ordination of his son to the priesthood?

"It is definitely an honor to have a priest come from our parish and then to have one from our immediate family," Mr. Rother said in thanksgiving.

"It's something my mother had been praying for all her life. She's been gone for 36 years and had never

met Michael. But I feel the way we lived our life and our prayers and her prayers, God heard them and answered."

"When it was announced that Michael would be ordained on the June 9th, I thought, 'What a gift for the 10th (of June), which was our 35th anniversary; his first Mass would be said on our 35th anniversary,'" he said.

"My realization that Michael was a priest was at his first Mass, Sunday, when he elevated the Body of Christ," said Mr. Rother. "The second was at the Mass at Wadsworth. He received a travel chalice that belonged to the late Msgr. C. J. Martin, the pastor of Bay City where I grew up. Michael used that chalice that morning."

"I have just a heart full of joy," Mr. Rother continued. "We give it all to God, he was the one who did all the work; we were his servants."

### The 12th Man Tackles the Vocation Crisis

**COLLEGE STATION**—Students at Texas A&M stand during football games as the 12th Man, ready to take the field to help the team. With 12th Man dedication, Catholic Aggies are responding to God's call to serve the church through the priesthood and religious life. Last fall, 14 former students entered formation programs. This summer four Aggie seminarians, including Michael Rother, will be ordained, and an Aggie nun and religious brother will make their solemn final vows.

"It's hard to be pessimistic about the future of the priesthood, religious life and the sanctity of married life when you work among these young Aggie Catholics," said Father David Konderla, pastor and director of Campus Ministry at St. Mary's Catholic Center, which serves students at Texas A&M University in College Station.

The Aggie vocation statistics to date include: 1 bishop (deceased); 55 priests; at least 12 permanent deacons with more expected to be identified; six brothers; and 15 sisters. In addition, there are 39 Aggie men presently in formation for the priesthood and religious life; and two women in formation to become religious sisters. Recognizing the disparity in the numbers of men and women, St. Mary's is currently examining ways to bring sisters in closer contact with the students and help young women discern God's call to religious life.





## Gabriel Espinosa ordained for the Diocese of Victoria

By Cynthia Brewer

Gabriel David Espinosa was ordained a priest of Jesus Christ by the Most Rev. David E. Fellhauer, bishop of the Diocese of Victoria, on June 16, 2007, at Sts. Cyril and Methodius Church in Shiner, Texas.

Gabriel is 44 years old and is originally from Gonzales, Texas, of the Diocese of Austin. His parents are Minnie and the late David Espinosa and he is the youngest of four children.

The presider of the Mass was Bishop Fellhauer; principal concelebrants were Gabriel's former pastor at Sts. Cyril and Methodius, Father Gerard Cernoch, currently pastor of Our Lady of Guadalupe in Bay City; newly ordained Father Michael Rother; Father James Orosco, Gabriel's spiritual director from Holy Trinity Seminary; Father Rafael Davila, MM, Gabriel's spiritual director from St. Mary's Seminary; and Father Paul Raaz, pastor of St. James and Sacred Heart Churches in Gonzales, Gabriel's hometown. A priest friend from San Antonio, Father N. Jim Rutkowski, was unable to attend as his father had passed away the previous weekend. Dozens of priests from the Diocese of Victoria also concelebrated the Mass.

Scriptural readings from Jeremiah 1:4-9; Psalm 116; Ephesians 4:1-7, 11-13 and John 15:9-17 spoke of an active God who calls, sends, sustains and unites us all. In his homily, Bishop Fellhauer said we were just here last year for Father David Berger's ordination; we ought to do it every year, he continued, to which the congregation responded with laughter and agreement.

The bishop focused on the liturgy of priestly formation as his homily. The liturgy itself is one of the best homilies,



Priests gather outside of church following the ordination Mass of Father Gabriel.

Photo by Regina Matus-Janak

he said. The liturgy is beautiful; it is meant to be a primary teaching tool.

He spoke of the questions to which Gabriel would soon respond, giving Gabriel fatherly advice.

The first question asks if he is resolved to care for the Lord's flock. "Caring for the Lord's flock is what it's all about — the whole flock beyond the parish, even beyond the diocese," the bishop said.

Next, are you resolved to exercise the ministry of the word ...? To which the bishop stated, "One must constantly be nourished, meditate and pray on the Word of God. You've done that and will continue to do so."

Are you resolved to celebrate the mysteries of Christ ...? "The mysteries are of course the sacraments, specifically two

sacraments, the Eucharist and reconciliation," Bishop Fellhauer said. "This is a reminder to priests and people alike for the need of God's forgiveness."

Do you resolve to implore God's mercy upon the people entrusted to you and pray without ceasing? "As a priest you are to pray not only for yourself, but for your people. Sometimes that's the most important thing a priest can do for his people" he said.

You will be asked, do you resolve to be united more closely every day to Christ the high priest? "We priests are united ... configured, to Christ, especially



Bishop Fellhauer lays his hands on Gabriel's head and offers the Prayer of Consecration.



Bishop Fellhauer anoints the hands of the newly ordained.

by the Eucharist, in our prayer life and in our conduct. It is a daily and never ending venture."

Do you promise respect and obedience to me and my successors? "Our political community is not particularly characterized by respect and obedience, but our faith community should be," Bishop Fellhauer said.

"Finally in a few minutes after the litany, the priests will lay their hands on you ... because of the common spirit they share as priests and you will share as a priest. We priests have a serious obligation to help and support one another. We must pay attention to and foster this fraternity," Bishop Fellhauer said. "In fact I think our diocese is remarkable in the fact that our priests are so willing to step in and help another priest who is ill or legitimately absent from his parish," he said with thankfulness.

He concluded saying, "We rejoice with your family and friends and give thanks for your vocation and the fact that you have followed it."

With over nine deacons and 35 priests present, Gabriel left the side of his mother at his calling forth at the presentation of the candidate by The Very Reverend Brendan J. Cahill, rector of St. Mary's Seminary, in Houston, Texas. His mother blessed him with the sign of the cross before he left to present himself before Bishop Fellhauer.

Following the ordination rite and the Mass, Bishop Fellhauer announced that Father Gabriel Espinosa would be assigned to Sts. Cyril and Methodius Parish, to the delight of the Shiner parishioners.

Family, friends, priests and seminarian friends from throughout the diocese, state and nation were present for Gabriel's ordination.

"At my ordination I saw my life unfolded before me," Gabriel said.

"There was someone from all of the phases in my life: from undergraduate school, graduate school, life in Santa Maria, Calif., life in Los Angeles, from my time in San Antonio with the Carmelites, from every summer parish I have been assigned to," he said. "It was a beautiful gift from God to be surrounded with so

much love and support."

"There were also many close Protestant friends present, and that meant a lot, that we could all be united in the house of our One Father." Father Gabriel had only four musicians at his ordination. The director of music was Bridget Kelly Wenk who is the music director at St. Mary's Seminary. His cantors were Don Nguyen and Darlene Mahler. Darlene is a good friend of his from his college days, and a former Miss Wichita County. The final musician was seminarian John Szatkowski who played the trumpet.

"The congregation served as the choir and the music was beautiful," Father Gabriel said.

The Deacon of the word was Reverend Mister James Rowland and the Deacon of the Eucharist was the Reverend Mister Paul Patek of Sts. Cyril and Methodius. The master of ceremonies was Father Bob Knippenberg, pastor of Sts. Cyril and Methodius. Seminarians, Tommy Chen,



Photos by Agnes Sedlmeyer  
The Shiner Gazette

With Bishop Fellhauer presiding, principal concelebrants offer Mass with newly ordained Father Gabriel Espinosa.

Philip Brune, Peter Stanley and Michael Okuto assisted in the Mass.

Lectors were Seminarian Hank Lanik from the Diocese of Tyler, and Lancine Bentley who Father Gabriel has known since college. The Deacon of the Word was Deacon James Rowland, a deacon pursuing priesthood from the Diocese of Tyler.

"Between James Rowland (Ireland), my cantor, Don (Vietnamese), my servers seminarian Michael Okuto from Galveston-Houston, (Kenya), seminarian Tommy Chen (China), Father James Ekeocha, a classmate from Nigeria, and the congregation made up of Hispanics, Germans and Czechs," stated Father Gabriel, "we added a real international flavor to the celebration!" "The Sts. Cyril and Methodius parish council hosted the reception following the ordination, and I offer my sincere thanks to all of the hard work they did for my family and me," he continued. Father James Orosco preached the homily at Father Gabriel's first Mass Sunday, June 17, at Sts. Cyril and Methodius Church.

### His mother's thoughts

Father Gabriel's mother, Minnie Espinosa, attended his ordination with his brother, two sisters and two nieces. His father, David Espinosa, passed away in September 2005 while Gabriel was in seminary, but his mother said she knew her husband was watching. "I knew with my whole heart," she said.

"To me it was something you couldn't imagine; it was amazing. Like when I heard the music, I thought heaven must be like this," she said. "It's joyful; the music started and it seemed like the gates

of heaven were opening."

Upon hearing that Gabriel would be assigned to Sts. Cyril and Methodius, she just thought, "God is so good."

Before his ordination, his mother had told him that she hoped he'd be assigned to Shiner. Gabriel told her, "No, Mom, they hardly ever put you in your home parish." She just left it in God's hands but had asked God that Gabriel would be assigned somewhere close. "I just had tears in my eyes," when the bishop made the announcement, she said. Father Bob Knippenberg has told her that God hears mothers' prayers in a special way.

Following the ordination Mass, through his niece, Gabriella, his mother gave Gabriel his father's wedding ring. "That ring is 49 years old," Mrs. Espinosa said. When her husband had broken it, she had it resized to fit her, and she wore it.

"I wanted to present him with a ring," she said, "because he's marrying God. To me, I see it that way."

It was his parents' hope to renew their marriage vows before their son once he was ordained, but Gabriel's father passed away before he was ordained. Mrs. Espinosa said she realizes that God has different plans.

"Death is very bad," she said, "but it's also very beautiful; it's a new beginning to the real life. God gave us life, but he didn't take away the suffering."

"When he decided to become a priest," she said, "I wasn't surprised at all. You have a gut feeling, maybe it's a momma's instinct; to me he was the best kid."

"When he was little, about 5 or 6 or younger, he always imitated the priests," she said.

When he was very small, he had asked for one of the priest's outfits, his mother said. The priest had given her one of the altar server's cassocks. She hemmed it to fit him. It was a little black cassock with buttons all the way to the top, she said.

"He would kneel in a little corner, keeping his back to us (like pre-Vatican II Mass)," his mother said, "blessing everything and moving his hands like a priest. He played priest. It was really amazing."



Pictured with Father Gabriel are members of his family, front l-r, Orlanda Serrato, sister; Gabriella Hernandez, niece; back, Vanessa Espinosa, niece; Mario Serrato, brother-in-law; Minnie Espinosa, Father Gabriel's mother and Martha Espinosa, sister-in-law. Photo by Agnes Sedlmeyer.

"He looked like a little saint to me," she said. Because she was sickly, she wasn't supposed to have any more children after the three: Michael, Sarah and Orlanda. "It was amazing that he was born," she said.

"He's always been my little angel," she said, mentioning that both boys were named after the archangels.

Since his ordination, "Everybody's still calling and congratulating me, hugging me at church," she said.

Father Gabriel's family owns Tony's Food Store and Catering in Gonzales. It has been in his father's family for about 80 years. Mrs. Espinosa and her husband ran it together for 47 years. She still runs it and works every day.





## Making A Difference

By Tony Magliano  
Catholic News Service



### Healthy patriotism vs. blind patriotism

Americans pride themselves on being patriotic. And the Fourth of July highlights that fact more than any other day.

From coast to coast July Fourth is packed with parades, concerts, fireworks and plenty of the red, white and blue to encourage American pride.

Indeed, we have much to be proud of. The natural beauty and bounty of our land, the opportunities for advancement, the freedoms we enjoy and the highest standard of living in the world are among the gifts millions of us possess as Americans.

But many of these gifts are out of reach for countless other Americans. Within our shores 37 million people -- 13 million children -- are poor. Over 45 million Americans have no health insurance. And approximately 4 million adults with children work full time at or near the minimum wage of \$5.15 per hour.

For most of the 12 million undocumented immigrants living in the United States, life is a second-class existence. Because of their non-legal status they are usually offered only the jobs relatively few Americans will do, often paid very low wages and given virtually no benefits.

Contrary to popular belief, our government is actually quite stingy in foreign aid to the poor. Only 0.2 percent of our national budget is appropriated to help the world's 1.1 billion people living in extreme poverty.

These shameful facts are only part of what ails America. The entertainment industry is poisoning millions of adults and teenagers. Pornography and violence are rampant in movies, television programs, videos and on the Internet.

Another layer of corporate America reveals a different kind of sleaze -- virtual slave labor. Over 30 million garment workers worldwide earn pennies per hour sewing clothes in sweatshops for corporations like Wal-Mart.

Next consider our nation's obsession with the Department of Defense and the military industrial complex. Millions of Americans equate patriotism with the military. For them America is at its best when our military is at its strongest.

But military might did not prevent

9/11. Rather, it tempted us into believing a foolish assumption: that invading Iraq and Afghanistan would end terrorism. Instead, our invasion and occupation has angered most of the Arab and Muslim world, thus fueling global terrorism.

With over 3,523 Americans killed, more than 100,000 civilian Iraqis dead, thousands of Afghans lost and approximately \$500 billion squandered, the world is poorer, sadder and more dangerous.

Instead of diligently working to eliminate all nuclear weapons, the U.S. government is planning to build an unreliable missile defense system in Poland and the Czech Republic, which is threatening to pull the United States and Russia into a new Cold War.

The clearest sign of America's moral illness is the fact that 1.3 million unborn babies are brutally dismembered and killed each year through legal abortion.

Are those of us in the U.S. -- clergy and laity -- too immersed in our American culture to recognize our nation's sicknesses? And do we lack the moral courage to challenge these sins of society? Apparently, the answer is yes. But we can change that! We can move beyond blind patriotism.

Let's resolve to make this July Fourth a new beginning for America. Let's fully commit ourselves to giving birth to a nation that completely protects the lives of every human being and fully promotes the dignity of all people born and unborn, American and foreign.

Now that would be healthy patriotism!

*Real Life, Real Love: 7 Paths to a Strong & Lasting Relationship* will be the July Family Puzzle Contest Prize. Just complete the puzzle and send it in to *The Catholic Lighthouse* by July 25 for your chance to win this book -- your first step on the path to a strong, lasting relationship.

As a young man, Albert Cutié thought he would grow up, marry and have a fam-

## FAMILY PUZZLE CONTEST

### MARTYRS I

www.wordgamesforcatholics.com

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AGATHA  
COSMAS  
FABIAN  
FIDELIS  
GEORGE

JOHN THE BAPTIST  
LAURENCE  
MARTIN  
NEREUS  
PAUL

PETER  
SEBASTIAN  
STANISLAUS  
THOMAS MORE  
VINCENT

### Family Puzzle Contest Winners

The winners of the June Puzzle Contest are Dorothy Olsovsky of Ascension of Our Lord Parish in Moravia and Agnes Minks of Holy Cross Parish in East Bernard. Ms. Olsovsky will receive "Clare of Assisi: A Heart Full of Love" by Ilia Delio, OSF; and Ms. Minks will receive "Clare of Assisi: Light for the Way."

The youth contest winner is Lauren Huser, 12, of Sacred Heart Church in Hallettsville. She will receive a gift from the Incarnate Word Gift Shop.

The prize for the July Puzzle Contest will be "Real Life, Real Love: 7 Paths to a Strong & Lasting Relationship" by Father Albert Cutié. See review below.

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 July 25, 2007, to: Family Contest, *The Catholic Lighthouse*, P.O. Box 4070, Victoria, TX 77903. Only youth need to include age.

### Puzzle contest prize focuses on relationships

ily of his own -- after all, he came from a family rich in wonderful, successful marriages. His maternal grandparents were married 58 years, his paternal grandparents for 54 years. His mother and father were married until his father passed away from cancer at a relatively young age. But after attending and leading spiritual retreats with his parish youth group as a teenager, the extroverted young man was inspired to give his life to God.

Albert Cutié was born to Cuban exiles in San Juan, Puerto Rico. After graduating from Southwest Miami High School, he decided to enter the priesthood. In 1991, he earned a bachelor's degree in philosophy from St. John Vianney College Seminary and later completed a master's degree in theology and divinity.

Today, Father Albert Cutié is one of the most recognized names in the Catholic Church and the Latino market. Dubbed "Father Oprah" by his fans, he reaches millions throughout the world each day with his internationally broadcast radio and television talk shows as well as his

syndicated daily newspaper column "Consejos de Amigo" (Advice from a friend). Now, Father Albert offers a manual for creating and sustaining meaningful and effective relationships in "Real Life, Real Love (Berkley Hardcover; 2006; ISBN: 0-425-20542-8; \$22.95).

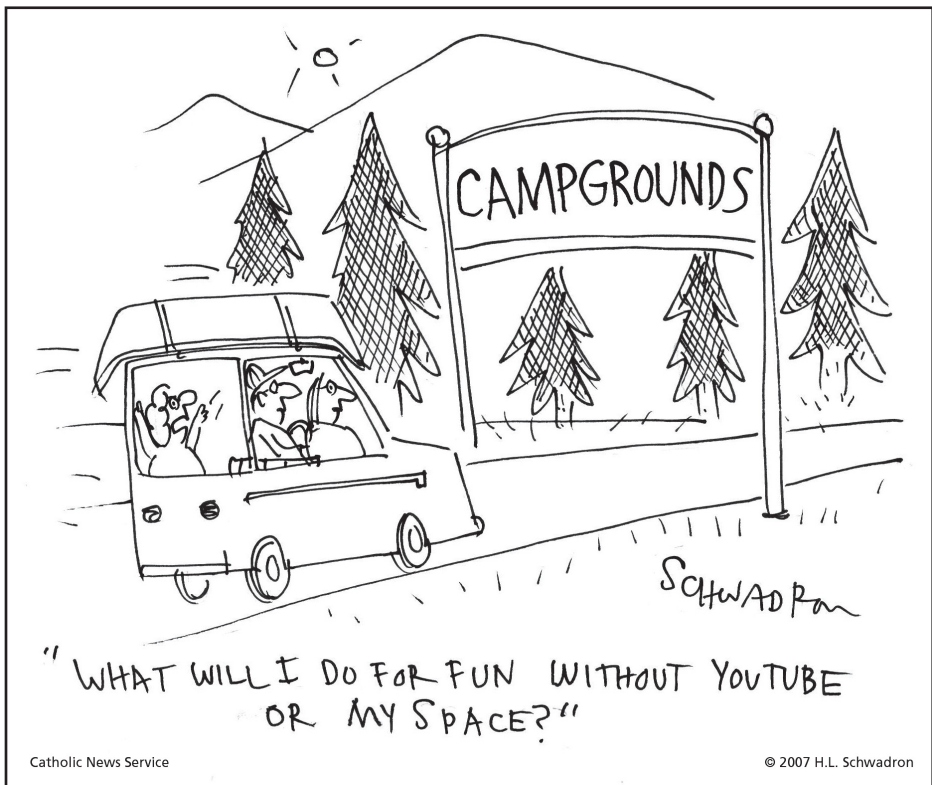
Written with a young and dynamic voice, "Real Life, Real Love goes beyond the high-speed, high-pressure world of modern dating to remind us of the deep joy of developing a true lasting relationship.

By recognizing seven emotional and spiritual "paths" and putting them into practice, couples can learn to speak with an open heart, listen with an open

mind and strengthen their love through good times and bad. With insights and wisdom gained through years of pastoral counseling, Father Albert offers realistic, powerful techniques to help readers:

Build solid relationships, respect each other, clarify their expectations, be honest, communicate, learn to live with their differences and make a commitment to growth and maturity.

"Real Life, Real Love" is an insightful relationship guide that can put you on the right road to harmony and happiness.







## Catholic By Grace

By Denise E. Bossert



### Not Yet Catholic, but curious

Without a doubt, you know someone who is ready and just needs a little nudge. Chances are, you sit by him almost every week at Mass. Chances are, you work with her, and your conversations have turned to the topic of faith now and then. Maybe, you even kiss this person goodnight and call the same four walls *home*.

There is a strong possibility that you know someone who is not yet Catholic, but someone who is curious about the Catholic Church. Moreover, you may be the only link between Mother Church and that person's full communion with Our Lord.

Why is it so easy for us to invite a friend shopping, encourage a co-worker to try a new coffee shop or persuade our spouse to get a membership at the local gym, but the idea of inviting that same person to look into RCIA classes makes us break out in a cold sweat?

One day, we will all stand before Our Lord, and it will be a day of reckoning. *Okay, here are the ones I put in your path, Jesus will say as he shows us an instant replay of our lives. Now, let's take a look at what you did to help them come home. How often did you pray for them? How often did you bring them to Me as your special intention for Holy Communion? How well did you live out the life of faith in front of their eyes? Did you ever invite them to explore the faith?*

### Catechists to Be Honored at 20th Annual Conference

On Saturday, September 29 catechists who have taught in parish religious education programs and in Catholic schools for 20 or more years will be honored at the XX Annual Conference for Catechesis and Ministry at Holy Family Parish in Victoria. Over 140 names have been submitted for this honor.

Thirty-two English and four Spanish workshops on various topics will be offered at this year's conference. Participants will have the opportunity to visit many Catholic publishers and vendors where they can purchase books, religious articles and other resources at the daylong conference.

The conference will conclude with Sunday Liturgy presided by the Most Reverend David E. Fellhauer, bishop of Victoria.

Dear reader, our beloved Church has made it so easy for us to help the seekers discover the joy of reconciliation. Our beautiful Church has made it possible for us to just point a finger in the right direction. We don't have to have all the answers. We don't even have to be a stellar Catholic, and we certainly don't have to be a saint to help another lost lamb back into the fold. We have only to love Our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ and the Church He established. We have only to cling to this firm foundation and say, "There she is, my friend. There's the fullness of the faith. Mother Church. Home. Complete Truth. Peace and joy. I'll walk with you every mile of the journey. I'll hold your hand. I'll find the answers when you have questions. And I'll pray for you. Man, oh man, will I pray for you."

There is an old saying that most of us learned when we were honing our typing skills. "Now is the time for all good men to come to the aid of their country." I have no idea where the line originated, but it keeps coming to me as I think about this time of year. Now is the time for you to speak up. Now is the time when most RCIA classes are forming. Now is the time for you to be an instrument of peace, unity and reconciliation. Now is the time for all good men (and women) to come to the aid of the one God has placed on your heart right now.

All it takes is one finger, as long as it is pointed in the right direction. Don't know where to begin? Well, the next time grace opens a door for you to bring it up, try saying this:

"Are you interested in exploring the Catholic Church and what she really teaches? Well, there is a class specifically designed for non-Catholics who are a bit curious about the Church. I'd love to be your sponsor. I'll even make the call if you'd like."

Does the idea of evangelizing scare you a bit? Well, then get on your knees and ask for sufficient grace and enough love to share the Gospel of Jesus Christ. And remember, now is the time . . .

### Suggested Prayers to Protect Unborn Babies and the Weak and Vulnerable

**July 15** — That all Americans may come to see that the unborn child is our neighbor who deserves the protection of our laws, we pray.

**July 22** — That we may all come to see each child — no matter how tiny, no matter how challenged — as a gift from God, we pray.

**July 29** — For those who daily combat abortion and euthanasia, that we may support them with our prayers in their difficult work, we pray.

**August 5** — For an increase in generosity to aid the pro-life movement in achieving their life-respecting goals, we pray.

### Sunday readings from July 8 to Aug. 5

July 8 — Fourteenth Sunday in Ordinary Time	Isaiah 66:10-14c Psalm 66:1-3, 4-5, 6-7, 16, 20 Galatians 6:14-18 Luke 10:1-12, 17-20
July 15 — Fifteenth Sunday in Ordinary Time	Deuteronomy 30:10-14 Psalm 69:14, 17, 30-31, 33-34, 36, 37 Colossians 1:15-20 Luke 10:25-37
July 22 — Sixteenth Sunday in Ordinary Time	Genesis 18:1-10a Psalm 15:2-3, 3-4, 5 Colossians 1:24-28 Luke 10:38-42
July 29 — Seventeenth Sunday in Ordinary Time	Genesis 18:20-32 Psalm 138:1-2, 2-3, 6-7, 7-8 Colossians 2:12-14 Luke 11:1-13
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

### Priest says Christian perspective can be found in Harry Potter series

By Peggy Weber  
Catholic News Service

WESTFIELD, Mass. (CNS) -- July will be a big month for Harry Potter fans and Father Michael Bernier, parochial vicar at St. Mary Parish in Westfield, proudly counts himself among the myriad of Potter devotees.

In fact, he described himself as a "Pottermaniac" at a talk he gave in May about God and Harry Potter. And he, like millions more, is looking forward to July 21 when the seventh and final book, "Harry Potter and the Deathly Hallows," is released and July 13 when the fifth movie, "Harry Potter and the Order of the Phoenix," premieres.

"Pottermania" is once again expected to sweep through bookstores and movie theaters this summer, and Father Bernier told those gathered for his talk at St. Mary High School that Christians should not fear this devotion to stories about a boy wizard.

"On the surface level it does sound suspect and does raise red flags," he said. However, he said the magic in Harry Potter is not sorcery. And he noted that the original title of the first book was "Harry Potter and the Philosopher's Stone." The title was changed to "Sorcerer's Stone" for the book's release in the United States.

"I happen to be one of the

people who believes that there's a great deal of Christian imagery and symbolism in the books. And I think it answers, at least in parts, a longing that we have for Christ," he said.

Throughout his talk, Father Bernier quoted from "Looking for God in Harry Potter" by John Granger which emphasizes that the Harry Potter books focus on the triumph of love over death. For example, Dumbledore says to the villain Voldemort: "Indeed, your failure to understand that there are things much worse than death has always been your greatest weakness."

Father Bernier also said that many people believe that Pope Benedict XVI "came out against the Harry Potter books."

"Pope Benedict has not said anything actually about the Harry Potter books themselves. I don't know if he's even read them," he said.

He told his audience of about 25 people that before he became pope Cardinal Joseph Ratzinger, as head of the Congregation for the Doctrine of the Faith, responded to a book written about the dangers of Harry Potter. He sent a note to the author thanking her for the book and said if the accusations were true then they would be of grave concern.

A majority of those attending the priest's talk were Harry Potter fans. A few joked that

they arrived by "floo powder" or "platform 9 3/4" — referring to ways people travel in the wizard world.

James Madigan, 14, said he planned to be at a local bookstore at midnight July 21 to get his reserved copy of the latest Harry Potter book.

Lisa Miranda, 14, said she came away from the lecture realizing for the first time that the Harry Potter books had "religious ties."

Father Bernier predicted that author J.K. Rowling would end the series not with Harry's death but possibly Hagrid's. He also predicted that Snape, who has always been portrayed in a dark light, would end up as a good character.

But above all the priest said he hopes readers embrace the goodness of the books and the enjoyment of reading.

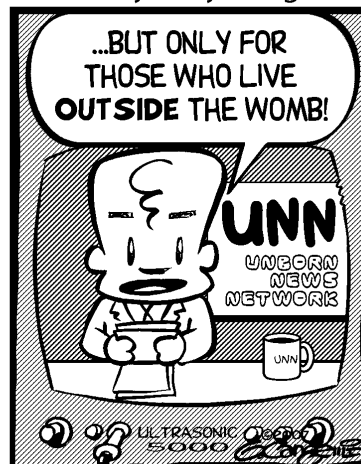
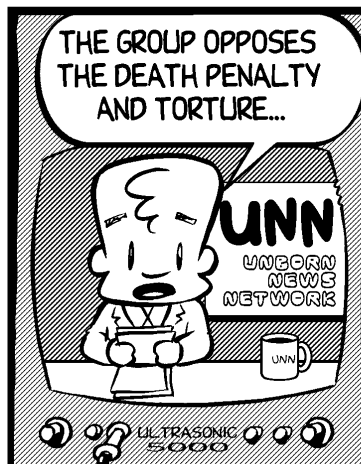
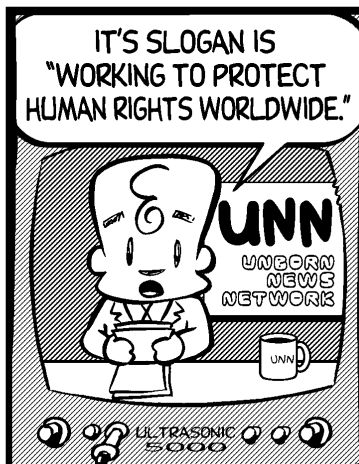
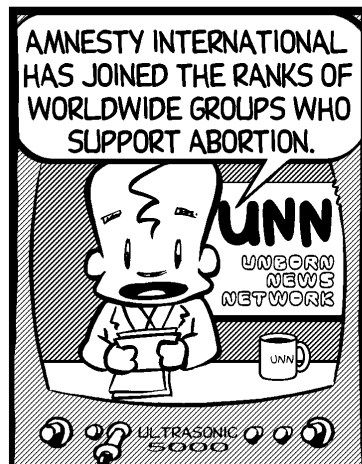
"They're wonderfully written books that appeal to kids and adults. They're easy to read and they're entertaining," he said.

And he noted that Granger's book praises the many good things in a series where "never has the Christian message been smuggled into hearts so effectively."

Father Bernier said that Harry Potter is "a symbol of all of us as sons and daughters of God -- humanity pursuing its spiritual perfection in Christ."

### Umbert the Unborn

by Gary Cangemi







## Joyfull Catholic

By Frederick Hermann  
E-mail: [RH222@sbcglobal.net](mailto:RH222@sbcglobal.net)



### We hide in fear and seek in love

One morning a 3-year-old boy asked his mother for some candy.

"Not until after lunch," she replied.

Shortly she noticed both he and the candy had disappeared. She called out his name, but he didn't answer. She called a second time, adding that he was in big trouble if he didn't tell her where he was.

A few seconds later, a little voice from the corner behind the big easy chair said, "I don't know. I must've gone to Grandma's house."

We laugh at this story because this little boy reminds us of ourselves. We all have a tendency to be impatient, to take what is promised before it's given, and then we hide in one way or another.

On a deeper level this reminds us of our first parents, Adam and Eve, who were allowed to eat anything in the Garden of Eden except the fruit of one tree.

Regrettably they ate the forbidden fruit and immediately hid from each other and from God. In his desire for their best, God came looking for them with love.

Why do we hide? Because we know, deep down, that we have done wrong. The light becomes a threat to our dark secret. Those who seek relationships with us become our enemies, especially those who love us most. We fearfully separate ourselves from friends and loved ones who

desire to provide the forgiveness, healing and reconciliation we desperately need.

This is why we crucified Jesus.

"The light came into the world, but people preferred darkness to light, because their works were evil. For everyone who does wicked things hates the light and does not come toward the light, so that his works might not be exposed. But whoever lives the truth comes to the light, so that his works may be clearly seen as done in God." (John 3:19)

We hide in many places and in many ways. We disguise ourselves with the artfulness of actors, the deception of thieves, and the camouflage of chameleons.

Some of us hide behind a glittering façade of beauty, wealth, power or possessions. Others hide behind a cloak of silence, rebellion, anger or complacency.

The big easy chair we hide behind may be alcohol, drugs, gambling or sex. We may even

hide behind work, exercise, good deeds or religion. Whatever cloak or disguise we choose, the result is the same; we separate ourselves from others and from God. Before long we become strangers to ourselves.

To come closer to God we may ask: How am I hiding? When do I feel most alone or least lovable? Who in my life is gently calling me into the fear-some but glowing light of day? We may be helped by the wise counsel and encouragement of these friends.

Gradually we realize our trustworthy companions are calling us to enjoy God's blessings, and we find the comfort and courage to walk toward the light.

Like long-lost miners returning from underground caves, we emerge blinking in the sunlight, gracefully reunite with God and others, and enjoy the light of the Son.

So let us allow ourselves to be embraced by our Creator, who offers us the light of his perfect love; "God is light, and in him there is no darkness at all." (1 John 1:5)

*Hermann is a speaker and author of "The Spirit Set Me Free," a popular book of hope and healing available on [Amazon.com](http://Amazon.com).*

### Local priest offers a way to prepare for the Pauline year

Msgr. James C. Brunner, pastor of St. Mary Parish in Victoria, is planning a fall trip to Turkey titled, "In the Steps of St. Paul."

"The pilgrimage," Msgr. Brunner said, "would be a way to get a head start on the year of St. Paul by visiting the places where he began his missionary

activities."

The tour, scheduled for November 5 – 16, includes the seven churches of Revelation; Antioch, where Christians first received their name; Tarsus, the birthplace of St. Paul; Ephesus, Mary's house; and Istanbul.

To learn more, please contact Msgr. Brunner at (361) 573-4328 or [stmaryvic@suddenlinkmail.com](mailto:stmaryvic@suddenlinkmail.com).

### Every Catholic called to infuse daily life with faith, says priest

SAN FRANCISCO (CNS) -- In a June 30 homily at San Francisco's cathedral, Msgr. Thomas Bohlin underscored the basic message of Opus Dei founder St. Josemaria Escriva de Balaguer — infusing daily life with the sacraments and sharing the Catholic faith with friends and co-workers. The priest, who is vicar of Opus Dei in the United States, delivered the homily at a Mass celebrated at St. Mary Cathedral to commemorate the June 26 feast day of the Spanish saint. "So much depends upon our living the lives that God wants us to," said Msgr. Bohlin, emphasizing that "every baptized Christian" has a "call to heroic Christian holiness in the hustle and bustle of everyday life." St. Escriva, who founded Opus Dei in 1928 and directed it until his death in 1975, "saw that the call to holiness applies to everyone," said Msgr. Bohlin. He also described Opus Dei's charismatic founder "as a modern-day saint" familiar with 20th-century life.

## THE POPE SPEAKS

Pope  
Benedict XVI



CNS photo from Reuters

### Pope announces special year dedicated to St. Paul

By John Thavis  
Catholic News Service

ROME (CNS) -- Pope Benedict XVI announced a special jubilee year dedicated to St. Paul, saying the church needs modern Christians who will imitate the apostle's missionary energy and spirit of sacrifice.

The pope said the Pauline year will run from June 28, 2008, to June 29, 2009, to mark the approximately 2,000th anniversary of the saint's birth.

He made the announcement while presiding over a vespers service at the Basilica of St. Paul Outside the Walls in Rome June 28, the eve of the feast of Sts. Peter and Paul, patron saints of Rome.

"Dear brothers and sisters, as in the (church's) beginning, today, too, Christ needs apostles ready to sacrifice themselves. He needs witnesses and martyrs like St. Paul," the pope said.

The Pauline year will feature numerous special liturgies and events in Rome, the pope said, but should also be celebrated in local churches and in the sanctuaries, religious orders and other institutions that have a special link to St. Paul.

In a special way, the Pauline year will be ecumenical, reflecting the saint's commitment to the unity and harmony among all Christians, he said. The pope's announcement was met with applause in the crowded basilica.

Seated near the altar were representatives of other Christian churches, in particular a delegation from the Orthodox Ecumenical Patriarchate of Constantinople. The pope made a point of greeting them warmly and reiterating their "common commitment to do everything possible to hasten the time of full communion between the Christian East and West."

Beneath the basilica's main altar, Vatican experts in recent years have unearthed what they say is evidence that a roughly cut marble sarcophagus was indeed the tomb of St. Paul, who was believed martyred nearby.

Pope Benedict went even further, saying in his sermon that the sarcophagus "according to the common opinion of the experts and unopposed tradition holds the remains of the apostle Paul."

He said that during the Pauline year particular care should be taken to welcome Catholics from various countries who may want to make penitential pilgrimages to the saint's tomb.

St. Paul was born in Tarsus, in what is now Turkey, at the start of the Christian era, sometime between A.D. 7 and 10, according to church historians. After his conversion on the road to Damascus, he became one of the church's foremost evangelizers, first among Jews, then among Gentiles.

The pope said the commemorative year would include symposiums and special publications devoted to the writings of St. Paul. The saint's letters are a primary source of information about the life of the early church and have strongly influenced church thinking through the centuries.

In his sermon, the pope said St. Paul's success as an evangelizer was not credited to skills as a speaker or to a "refined strategy" of missionary argumentation.

His achievements had more to do with his extraordinary personal involvement in announcing the Gospel and his total dedication to Christ, despite problems and persecutions, he said.

St. Paul's life holds a lesson for modern Christians, the pope said.

The action of the church is credible and effective only to the extent that Christians are willing to "pay personally for their faith in Christ, in every situation," he said. Where this commitment is lacking, the appeal of the Gospel will be weaker, he said.

The pope recalled that St. Paul was once a violent persecutor of Christians who experienced a lasting personal conversion.

"He lived and worked for Christ; he suffered and died for him. How current is his example today," he said.

The pope also noted that, according to a long-standing tradition, Sts. Peter and Paul met near the basilica before they were martyred, and they hugged and blessed each other.

They were very different figures, with different roles in the church, and there were sometimes tensions between them, the pope said, but together they helped build the church and showed the world a new way of being brothers.

### Sts. Peter & Paul Catholic Church Frelsburg, TX



## COUNTRY FESTIVAL

Sun., Aug. 5, 2007

Holy Mass 8:15 a.m.

## FRIED FISH

Served at 11 a.m.

w/ buttered Potatoes, Hush Puppies,  
Cole Slaw, Pinto Beans, Bread, Pickles & Tea

Meal Tickets: Lg. \$7.50 • Sm. \$4.50

Drive Thru Line — Plates to go \$7.50

(Hamburgers, Nachos & Snacks after 3 p.m.)

**AUCTION at 1:00 p.m.**

**BINGO 11 a.m.-3 p.m.**

COUNTRY STORE • SILENT AUCTION • CAKE WALK • GROCERY  
WALK • CHILDREN'S GAMES • BOUNCIN' BUDDIES • HORSESHOES  
SNOW CONES • DUNKING STAND • PLANT WALK

Music during the day by DOUGLAS POLASEK

## FREE DANCE

RED RAVENS — 4-8 p.m.





## El Papa Habla

Papa Benedict XVI

CNS foto por Reuters



### BENEDICTO XVI AUDIENCIA GENERAL Miércoles 27 de junio de 2007

San Cirilo de Jerusalén

*Queridos hermanos y hermanas:*

Nuestra atención se concentra hoy en san Cirilo de Jerusalén. En su vida se entrecruzan dos dimensiones: por una parte, la solicitud pastoral; y, por otra, la implicación, a su pesar, en las intensas controversias que afligían entonces a la Iglesia de Oriente.

San Cirilo, nacido alrededor del año 315 en Jerusalén o en sus cercanías, recibió una óptima formación literaria, que constituyó la base de su cultura eclesial, centrada en el estudio de la Biblia. Ordenado presbítero por el obispo Máximo, cuando este murió o fue depuesto, en el año 348 fue ordenado obispo por Acacio, influyente metropolitano de Cesarea de Palestina, filo-arriano, convencido de que Cirilo era su aliado. Por eso, se sospechó que había obtenido el nombramiento episcopal mediante concesiones al arrianismo.

En realidad, muy pronto san Cirilo chocó con Acacio, no sólo en el campo doctrinal, sino también en el jurisdiccional, porque san Cirilo reivindicaba la autonomía de su sede con respecto a la metropolitana de Cesarea. En dos décadas san Cirilo sufrió tres destierros: el primero en el año 357, cuando fue depuesto por un Sínodo de Jerusalén; el segundo, en el año 360, por obra de Acacio; y el tercero, el más largo -duró once años- en el año 367

por iniciativa del emperador filo-arriano Valente. Sólo en el año 378, después de la muerte del emperador, san Cirilo pudo volver a tomar definitivamente posesión de su sede, devolviendo a los fieles unidad y paz.

Su ortodoxia, puesta en duda por algunas fuentes de aquel tiempo, la atestiguan otras fuentes igualmente históricas. La más autorizada de ellas es la carta sinodal del año 382, después del segundo concilio ecuménico de Constantinopla (381), en el que san Cirilo había participado con un papel cualificado. En esa carta, enviada al Pontífice romano, los obispos orientales reconocen oficialmente la más absoluta ortodoxia de san Cirilo, la legitimidad de su ordenación episcopal y los méritos de su servicio pastoral, que concluyó con su muerte en el año 387.

De san Cirilo conservamos veinticuatro célebres catequesis, que impartió como obispo hacia el año 350. Introducidas por una *Procatechesis* de acogida, las primeras dieciocho están dirigidas a los catecúmenos o *iluminandos* (*photizomenoi*); las pronunció en la basílica del Santo Sepulcro. Las primeras (1-5) tratan cada una, respectivamente, de las disposiciones previas al bautismo, de la conversión de las costumbres paganas, del sacramento del bautismo, de las diez verdades dogmáticas contenidas en el

Credo o Símbolo de la fe.

Las sucesivas (6-18) constituyen una “catechesis continua” sobre el Símbolo de Jerusalén, en clave antiarriana. De las últimas cinco (19-23), llamadas “mistagógicas”, las dos primeras desarrollan un comentario a los ritos del bautismo; y las tres últimas versan sobre la Confirmación, sobre el Cuerpo y la Sangre de Cristo, y sobre la liturgia eucarística. En ellas se incluye la explicación del padrenuestro (*Oración dominical*): con ella se comienza un camino de iniciación en la oración, que se desarrolla paralelamente a la iniciación en los tres sacramentos: Bautismo, Confirmación y Eucaristía.

La base de la instrucción sobre la fe cristiana se realizaba también en función polémica contra los paganos, los judeocristianos y los maniqueos. La argumentación se fundaba en el cumplimiento de las promesas del Antiguo Testamento, con un lenguaje lleno de imágenes. La catechesis era un momento importante, insertado en el amplio contexto de toda la vida, especialmente litúrgica, de la comunidad cristiana, en cuyo seno materno tenía lugar la gestación del futuro fiel, acompañada de la oración y el testimonio de los hermanos.

En su conjunto, las homilías de san Cirilo constituyen una catechesis sistemática sobre el nuevo nacimiento del cristiano mediante el bautismo. Dice san Cirilo al catecúmeno: “Has caído dentro de las redes de la Iglesia (cf. *Mt* 13, 47). Por tanto, déjate captar vivo; no huyas, porque es Jesús quien te pesca con su anzuelo, no para darte la muerte, sino la resurrección después de la muerte. En efecto, debes morir y resucitar (cf. *Rm* 6, 11.14)... Desde hoy mueres al pecado y vives para la justicia” (*Procatechesis* 5).

Desde el punto de vista *doctrinal*, san Cirilo comenta el Símbolo de Jerusalén recurriendo a la tipología de las Escrituras, en una relación “sinfónica” entre los dos Testamentos, desembocando en Cristo, centro del universo. La tipología será incisivamente descrita por san Agustín de Hipona: “El Antiguo Testamento es el velo del Nuevo; y en el Nuevo Testamento se manifiesta el Antiguo” (*De catechizandis rudibus* 4, 8).

Por lo que atañe a la catechesis *moral*, se funda, con una profunda unidad, en la catechesis doctrinal: el dogma se va introduciendo progresivamente en las almas, las cuales así se ven impulsadas a cambiar los comportamientos paganos de acuerdo con la nueva vida en Cristo, don del bautismo.

Por último, la catechesis “mistagógica” constituía el vértice de la instrucción que san Cirilo impartía, ya no a los catecúmenos, sino a los recién bautizados o neófitos, durante la semana de Pascua. Esa catechesis los llevaba a descubrir, bajo los ritos bautismales de la Vigilia pascual, los misterios encerrados en ellos, aún sin desvelar. Iluminados por la luz de una fe más profunda gracias al bautismo, los neófitos podían por fin comprenderlos mejor, habiendo celebrado ya sus ritos.

En particular con los neófitos de origen griego, san Cirilo se apoyaba en la facultad visiva, muy natural en ellos. Era el paso del rito al misterio, que valoraba el efecto psicológico de la sorpresa y la experiencia vivida en la noche pascual. He aquí un texto que explica el misterio del bautismo: “Tres veces habéis sido sumergidos en el agua y otras tantas habéis emergido, para simbolizar los tres días de la sepultura de Cristo, es decir, imitando con este rito a nuestro Salvador, que pasó tres días y tres noches en el seno de la tierra (cf. *Mt* 12, 40). Con la primera emersión del agua habéis celebrado el recuerdo del primer día que pasó Cristo en el sepulcro, como con la primera inmersión habéis confesado la primera noche que pasó en el sepulcro: del mismo modo que quien está en la noche no ve nada, y en cambio quien está en el día goza de luz, así también vosotros antes estabais inmersos en la noche y no veáis nada, pero al emerger os habéis encontrado en pleno día. Esta agua de salvación, misterio de la muerte y del nacimiento, ha sido para vosotros tumba y madre... Para vosotros (...) el tiempo de morir coincidió con el tiempo de nacer: en el mismo tiempo han tenido lugar ambos acontecimientos” (*Segunda Catechesis mistagógica*, 4).

El misterio que se debe captar es el plan de Dios, que se realiza mediante las acciones salvíficas de Cristo en la Iglesia. A su vez, la dimensión mistagógica va acompañada por la de los símbolos, que expresan la vivencia espiritual que entrañan. Así la catechesis de san Cirilo, basándose en las tres dimensiones descritas -doctrinal, moral y mistagógica- es una catechesis global en el Espíritu. La dimensión mistagógica lleva a cabo la síntesis de las dos primeras, orientándolas a la celebración sacramental, en la que se realiza la salvación de todo el hombre.

En definitiva, se trata de una catechesis integral que, al implicar el cuerpo, el alma y el espíritu, es emblemática también para la formación catequética de los cristianos de hoy.

## Decálogo del conductor

1. No matarás
2. Ve la carretera como un instrumento de comunión
3. Sé cortés, correcto y prudente
4. Sé caritativo y ayuda al necesitado
5. Que el auto no sea una expresión de poder
6. No manejes cuando no estés en condiciones
7. Apoya a las familias de víctimas de accidentes
8. Sé compasivo con los que han errado.
9. En la carretera protege al más débil
10. Siéntete responsable de los demás

De “Orientaciones para la pastoral de la carretera”, documento del Consejo Pontificio para Emigrantes y Viajeros



## Misa Espiritualidad

Si tu eres una persona que desea Alabar a Dios cantando con cantos que salen del corazón.

Ve y Gozate en esta Misa de sanacion, espiritualidad y alabanza.

Con el Padre Michael Deleon de Laredo, Texas, Julio 11. Con el Rosario a las 7:00 p.m. y la Misa a las 7:30 p.m. en Our Lady of Sorrows, 208 W. River Street en Victoria.

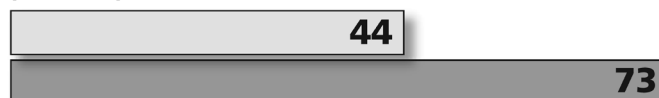
**El Padre celestial, si es su divino hace, inspira muchas de nuestra juventud para decir “Sí” a su llamamiento especial ser los sacerdotes, las hermanas y los hermanos. Amén.**

— Serra Internacional

## Opiniones de televidentes

Porcentaje de televidentes que...

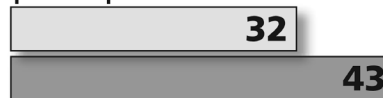
participan en actividades voluntarias



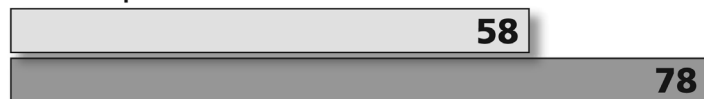
asisten a servicios religiosos semanales



tratan de vivir bajo los principios de Dios



creen que los medios dañan los valores morales



☐ televidentes asiduos:  
4 o más horas cada noche  
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## The End of the 80th

**By: Jennifer A. Carr, Associate Director  
Texas Catholic Conference**

The 80th legislative session marked a change in the order of business at the Texas Catholic Conference. It was the first regular session after a changing of the guard of leadership at the conference. The lobby team for this legislative session was expanded to include: Andy Rivas, executive director, Jennifer Carr, associate director, and Margaret McGettrick, director of education. Even Marsha Solana, associate director of education, and our intern, Maria Frederick got into the action and testified on critical bills. Texas Catholic Conference actively monitored 260 bills and took positions on 115 individual bills (63 Support, 52 Oppose) during the 80th Regular Session of the Texas Legislature. Some of these bills were the identical companion bills filed in the House and Senate. We took positions on 108 different pieces of legislation throughout the session. Bills are enrolled when they pass both the House and Senate, but have not yet been signed by the governor. Here's how we did:

### Texas Catholic Conference Priorities for 80th Legislative Session

Texas Catholic Conference divides our advocacy agenda into five sections: Life Issues, Immigration, Health and Human Services, Education, and Criminal Justice. In this section, we include in our successes bills that we opposed that did not pass.

**Life Issues:** We are disappointed that there are no major successes in terms of pro-life legislation this ses-

sion. Efforts to improve reporting and informed consent for abortion were defeated and the clock ran out on the bill that would have substantially improved our state's Advance Directives statute. We remain hopeful that hospitals will implement the ideas in SB 439 during interim. In addition, the budget includes funding for alternatives to abortion and adult stem cells research.

0 % of legislation we supported passed (0 of 16)

0 % of legislation we opposed passed (0 of 19)

**Immigration:** The session started with multiple anti-immigrant bills that were able to be defeated by and large. This was a defensive session on the immigration issue at the state level. We look forward to continued efforts by the U.S. Congress to enact comprehensive immigration reform which will bring our immigrant brothers and sisters out of the shadows and improve our nation's security.

0 % of legislation we supported passed (0 of 7)

0 % of legislation we opposed passed (0 of 24)

**Health and Human Services:** CHIP restoration, foster care system improvements, long-term care insurance improvements, wage and training enhancements for elder care attendants, increase in the personal needs allowance for seniors in nursing care, and legislation aimed at reducing human trafficking in Texas are among the many successful Health and Human Service initiatives of the session.

We are pleased to report that legislation (HB 709) passed which will improve education on the benefits of adult stem cells and umbilical cord blood.

24% of legislation we supported passed (8 of 27)

0% of legislation we opposed passed (0 of 3)

**Education:** Pre-Kindergarten for children in foster care was added to other education bills, drop-out prevention programs were funded, and child care reimbursement rates were improved. At first review, it does not appear that initiatives to improve parental choice in education had any major outcomes in this session. In addition, we are disappointed that legislation passed which removes a licensing exemption from many of our Catholic Schools which provide after school care for students.

25% of legislation we supported passed (2 of 8)

13% of the legislation we opposed passed (1 of 8)

**Criminal Justice:** Criminal Justice reform was a major highlight of the session with system-wide improvements for treatment alternatives to incarceration. The scandals of the Texas Youth Commission led to needed reforms in the juvenile justice system. In addition, the budget reflects increased funding for treatment alternatives. We remain deeply disappointed in the passage of "Jessica's Law" which for the first time allows the death penalty in Texas when the convicted did not actually kill someone.

29 % of legislation we supported passed (2 of 7)

50 % of legislation we opposed passed (1 of 2)

It is also helpful to review our outcomes in light of the outcomes of the entire legislature.

23% of House Bills filed passed (953 of 4140)

25% Senate Bills filed passed (525 of 2058)

It's not just about the numbers...

While these statistics are interesting, they do not capture the full impact of our presence at the Capitol. Our legislative Mass at the beginning of the session and our respect life rally day and Catholic Charities rally day were well attended and brought much attention to important issues on our agenda. A clear presence of Catholic school children were seen at the school choice rally day and our immigration message was heard loud and clear at press conferences. We received feedback that our increased activity at the Capitol was a powerful influence in educating members on our positions and the theology behind them. Our newly revised Web site, [www.txcatholic.org](http://www.txcatholic.org), helped our grassroots advocates to track legislation with us and be a part of the legislative process. For the first time in many years we had three bishops testify before committees, including one who stayed until midnight to do so.

### What's Next?

As much as we relish the belief that the session is over and our work is done for 18 months, there is much more to be done. During the interim, TCC staff will track interim committees, including testifying at public hearings and working with state agency staff on implementation of legislation that passed. We will work hard to educate the Church on the policy issues and policymakers on the Church. Our Web site will continue to undergo major improvements. We will research the issues further and build relationships so that we are even more effective in the 81st legislative session.

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## Vatican issues 'Ten Commandments' for drivers

By Alicia Ambrosio  
Catholic News Service

VATICAN CITY (CNS)-- The Vatican has issued a set of "Ten Commandments" for drivers, saying motor vehicles can be an "occasion of sin."

A document titled "Guidelines for the Pastoral Care of the Road" said driving can unleash road rage and other immoral behavior, including excess speed, reckless passing, cursing and just plain rudeness.

"Cars tend to bring out the 'primitive' side of human beings, thereby producing rather unpleasant results," the document said.

The warning about driving came in the first part of the 59-page instruction, released June 19 by the Pontifical Council for Migrants and Travelers.

The document said drivers need to remember that even when there is no one sitting next to them, they are never alone.

"Driving a vehicle is basically a way of relating with and getting closer to other people and of integrating within a community of people," it said.

"This capacity for coexistence, of entering into relations with others, presupposes certain specific qualities in a driver: namely self-mastery, prudence, courtesy, a fitting spirit of service and knowledge of the highway code," it said.

Accidents can occur anytime, and when they do motorists have a moral responsibility to stop and help others, it said.

The document cited statistics to demonstrate the risks of driving. In the 20th century, about 35 million people lost their lives in road accidents, and 1.5 billion people were injured. In the year 2000 alone, traffic deaths reached nearly 1.3 million, and 90 percent of the accidents were due to human error.

"The harm caused to the families of those involved in accidents, as well as the protracted consequences for the injured, who all too often are permanently disabled, should also be borne in mind," it said.

The "Ten Commandments" for drivers, as listed in the document, are:

1. You shall not kill.
2. The road shall be for you a means of communion between people and not of mortal harm.
3. Courtesy, uprightness and prudence will help you deal with unforeseen events.
4. Be charitable and help your neighbor in need, especially victims of accidents.
5. Cars shall not be for you an expression of power and domination and an occasion of sin.

6. Charitably convince the young and not so young not to drive when they are not in a fitting condition to do so.

7. Support the families of accident victims.

8. Bring guilty motorists and their victims together, at the appropriate time, so that they can undergo the liberating experience of forgiveness.

9. On the road, protect the more vulnerable party.

10. Feel responsible toward others.

### Texas Catholic Charities to help victims of flooding

AUSTIN, Texas (CNS) — The Diocese of Austin said it would work through Catholic Charities of Central Texas to provide long-term flood relief assistance to those affected by daily downpours in the flood-stricken areas of the diocese. Two weeks of steady rain in central and northern Texas have resulted in 11 known deaths. "We are dedicated to providing help and creating hope for the many families in central Texas affected by the flooding," Cynthia Colbert, executive director of Catholic Charities, said in a June 27 statement. "We'll be working to coordinate assistance to the poor and most vulnerable residents, such as those without insurance, those who cannot access community services, the elderly and the disabled," she said.

### Catholic leaders find president's health care proposals disappointing

WASHINGTON (CNS) — Calling the failure to provide health insurance for every child in the nation "a glaring moral failure," the president and CEO of the Catholic Health Association said President George W. Bush's opposition to the expansion of the State Children's Health Insurance Program was "profoundly" disappointing. Sister Carol Keehan, a Daughter of Charity, said the proposal outlined by the president in a June 27 address at the White House "would actually take coverage away from children currently enrolled in the program by providing insufficient funds." "Yesterday the president also promoted health savings accounts and association health plans, which fall short of addressing the severe weaknesses of our health care system," Sister Carol said in a June 28 news release.

### Christian Family Movement encouraged by bishops' marriage campaign

EVANSVILLE, Ind. (CNS) -- A top leader of the Christian Family Movement in the United States called an initiative by

## Catholic leaders react to Senate's failed immigration bill

By Kaitlynn Riely  
Catholic News Service

WASHINGTON (CNS) -- U.S. Catholic leaders expressed disappointment following the Senate's failure to pass a bill to reform the current immigration system.

Speaking on behalf of the U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops, Bishop Gerald R. Barnes of San Bernardino, Calif., the chairman of the bishops' Committee on Migration, said June 29 he was "deeply troubled" that legislators were unable to agree upon legislation to reform immigration.

"The U.S. bishops shall continue to point out the moral deficiencies in the immigration system and work toward justice until it is achieved."

Had it passed, the bill would have established a path toward citizenship for millions of illegal immigrants living in the United States and would have strengthened security along the U.S.-Mexico border. Mostly Republicans — but some Democrats as well — voted against ending discussion on the immigration bill June 28, effectively blocking its passage.

Opponents of the immigration bill argued that the U.S. borders must first be secured before the government expedited the citizenship process for the estimated 12 million illegal immigrants currently in the country. Analysts have said it is unlikely the immigration issue will resurface for consideration in Congress before the 2008 elections.

Catholic leaders around the nation issued statements voicing their frustration with the outcome of the debate.

The Senate's inability to agree on comprehensive immigration reform is a "monumental failure for our country," said Father Larry Snyder, president of Catholic Charities USA. In a June 28 statement, he lamented the unchanged fate of illegal immigrants living in fear of deportation. "Today's action to give up on the bill leaves in place the status quo — a deeply flawed, untenable and much-criticized

the U.S. bishops to strengthen marriage "good for couples and good for society. It's very exciting to see the Catholic Church encouraging people to treasure their own marriages," said Lauri Przybysz, who shares the CFM presidency with her husband, John. The national office of CFM is in Evansville. Przybysz, coordinator of family and marriage enrichment for the Archdiocese of Baltimore, was participating in the conference of the National Association of Catholic Family Life Ministers in Denver, where on behalf of the U.S. bishops Denver Archbishop Charles J. Chaput June 27 launched public service announcements for the marriage initiative. The announcements, for television and radio, feature couples from around the country candidly talking about what they did that day for their marriage.

immigration system that is (in) desperate need of reform," he said.

Cardinal Roger M. Mahony of Los Angeles spoke in Spanish at a press conference June 29 near the Cathedral of Our Lady of the Angels. According to a translation of his remarks, Cardinal Mahony said immigration laws in the United States were "unjust and immoral."

Opponents of the immigration bill worried about offering what they described as amnesty to illegal immigrants in the United States. Cardinal Mahony said in his statement that immigrants were the founders of the country and have always contributed to the identity of America. He said the Catholic Church would support the immigrant community and spoke against anti-immigrant sentiment.

"We are all part of the same community," Cardinal Mahony said. "We shouldn't be divided by fear or by the anti-immigrant rhetoric which sadly has been perpetuated during this debate."

A statement from Jason Christensen, the executive director of Catholic Charities of Colorado Springs, Colo., said the Catholic Church has always been an "immigrant church." He referenced the parable of the Good Samaritan as a message from Jesus that everyone is our neighbor.

Cardinal Mahony promised to keep the fight for immigration reform alive by working with elected officials. His personal goal, and the goal of the Catholic Church, is to achieve immigration reform that protects human rights and guards the dignity of all persons, he said.

### Pope sends letter to Chinese Catholics

VATICAN CITY (CNS) — With his long-awaited letter on China, Pope Benedict XVI has opened new prospects for reconciliation among the country's divided Catholic communities. How and when these divisions can be overcome is now primarily up to Chinese Catholics. But the pope has underlined the urgency of unity, inviting bishops and the Catholic faithful to move beyond "suspicions, mutual accusations and recriminations" within the church. Certainly, the pope's letter was aimed in part at the Chinese policies that have engendered such tensions. The government requires registration of bishops and church communities and uses this as a tool for control; some Catholics view registration as a serious compromise and prefer to exercise the faith in a semi-clandestine manner. The pope knows there is not a lot he can do about the policies adopted by the Chinese government. On the other hand, he has a much greater opportunity to help resolve internal church problems. That's where the focus of this letter lies. A divided church, he said at the beginning of his 55-page letter, cannot evangelize effectively because it cannot be a witness of love and unity.

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## Amnesty International has lost its heart

*The below letter, from Bishop Michael Pfeifer, OMI, to Mr. Larry Cox of Amnesty International was written in reply to a letter from Amnesty International appealing for financial help.*

Dear Mr. Cox:

You begin your recent letter with "I regret to inform you that we are faced with a severe crisis here at Amnesty International." Yes, there is indeed a severe crisis at Amnesty International, but not just the one you mention in your letter. The huge crisis that I refer to is not primarily financial, but is of a grave moral nature and of perverting the very mission of Amnesty International. How sad it was to receive the news that recently Amnesty International has made the decision to promote abortion rights, depriving the most vulnerable of humanity the right to life. How sad and tragic!

I have always been a supporter of Amnesty International, especially when I served as a missionary priest in Mexico — Oaxaca, Mexico City and other places. And now, sadly, I must let you know that has ended. I always was happy to speak for Amnesty International, but now I must speak and preach against it. Does Amnesty International realize how this decision on abortion has betrayed its own mission?

As you know, Amnesty International was founded in 1961 by Peter Denenzon, a British convert to Catholicism. The Catholic Church around the world has always been a strong supporter of Amnesty International, but now that will end, unless Amnesty changes its position to provide amnesty for the weakest member of society — the unborn. One of the big supporters of Amnesty International, Jesuit Father Daniel Berrigan, S.J., stated after learning of Amnesty's decision: "One cannot support an organization financially or even individually

that is contravening something very serious in our ethic." A couple of months ago the president of the United States Conference of Catholic Bishops, Bishop William Skylstad, warned Amnesty International: "If Amnesty International were to advocate for abortion as a human right, it would risk diminishing its own well-deserved moral credibility. It certainly would most likely divide its own members, many of whom are Catholics and others who defend the rights of unborn children."

Amnesty International is betraying itself and foundational documents on which it claims to be based. Amnesty surely claims to accept the preamble of the Convention of the Rights of the Child, one of the United Nations' foremost human rights documents, which states: "The child — needs special safeguards and care, including appropriate legal protection, before as well as after birth." Amnesty has always reached out to provide a safe haven, protection, and refuge for the marginalized and weak members of human society, but now Amnesty has publicly decided it will no longer provide a safe haven for the tiniest and weakest members of the human family — the precious unborn. And how sad it is to know that Amnesty criticized the recent Supreme Court decision prohibiting Partial Birth Abortion — a brutal procedure that kills the child almost as the child is being born.

While the focus of this letter is on the unborn, the Catholic Church, as you know, has held a consistent ethic of life, insisting on the dignity and sacredness of all human life from conception until natural death as determined by God. The Catholic Church has always offered comfort and support to immigrants, refugees, displaced people, those seeking asylum, those abused and oppressed,

and has worked with Amnesty for an end to the death penalty. I personally have taken the stand in letter writing on this issue with Amnesty. How can Amnesty now claim it is against the death of a hardened criminal who is made in the image and likeness of God, if it denies the right to life of a precious, totally innocent unborn child also made in the very image and likeness of God? The Catholic Church has also offered alternative assistance and compassionate service — physical, medical, emotional, spiritual and financial — for pregnant women struggling with the issue of abortion. Our motto is: Choose life for both the mother and the child.

Larry, please ask Amnesty International to reconsider its deadly decision about killing the unborn. If not, Amnesty International will never be the same and will no longer have my support, nor that of the U.S. Catholic Bishops, nor of the Bishops from around the world. We pray for the guidance of the Holy Spirit at this crucial time. Please let me hear from you about this important matter.

Sincerely in Christ,  
Most Reverend Michael D.  
Pfeifer, OMI  
Bishop of San Angelo

## Pope condemns killing of 11 Colombian lawmakers

VATICAN CITY (CNS) -- Pope Benedict XVI condemned the killing of 11 Colombian lawmakers by guerrilla forces and urged the release of all those held hostage in the country. The deputies were shot and killed after being held for more than five years by the Revolutionary Armed Forces of Colombia, known by its Spanish acronym FARC. The rebels said the victims were killed in crossfire during an attack on their camp.

The pope, speaking at his noon blessing in St. Peter's Square July 1, called the slayings a "barbaric" act in a country torn by "fratricidal hatred." He said he shared in the deep sorrow of relatives of the victims. Colombia is believed to be the country with the highest number of kidnappings in the world, many for political purposes.

## Seeking Life

By Moises Sandoval  
Catholic News Service



## A bleak landscape of disconnection

In Las Vegas, N.M., Aunt Dora, 79, goes for brunch daily to her son's restaurant, the social highlight of her day. If she finds herself eating alone, one of her many children -- she has 12 -- gets a phone call: "Can you take an early lunch so Mom won't have to eat alone?" Soon someone comes to join her.

Aunt Simona, in her late 80s, lost her husband and youngest son last year within a few weeks.

Uncle Herman, 93, died of natural causes while son Jimmy died of acute alcoholism. Having to spend her remaining days in a nursing home would have been a death knell. So her daughter Eva, herself a widow, retired from her job in a restaurant and moved to Uncle Herman's ranch to take care of her mother. Some of her siblings supplement her retirement income so that she can do this.

I have a neighbor, Sonya Berg, whose extended family, scattered over several states, has gathered each year for a reunion for over half a century.

These are beautiful examples of family connection in a bleak landscape of disconnection. Countless nuclear families have no contact and could not agree on a common goal if they did. Visits, if they occur at all, are so tense there is a sigh of relief if they end without hurt feelings or outright alienation.

The disconnect is apparent in extended families as well. Most families couldn't get together — or want to — even once. Even in the parish "family," real connection rarely occurs. Hands touch in the handshake of peace during the Mass, but hearts often remain

### Where Peace Starts

*Instead of loving what you think is peace, love others and love God above all. And, instead of hating the people you think are warmongers, hate the appetite and the disorder of your own soul, which are the causes of war. If you love peace, then hate injustice, hate tyranny, hate greed — but hate these things in yourself, not in another.* —Thomas Merton

isolated.

The disconnect is worse in relations between ethnic and racial groups or between nations. It is ironic that in an era of instantaneous global communication the overriding concern today is to build walls, actual or virtual, whether locally in gated communities or internationally between Israel and Palestine or between the U.S. and Mexico.

We cannot put ourselves in the shoes of the immigrants who risk death on the Mexican border to come here to work to support families who might otherwise starve back home. We mourn the death of our soldiers in Iraq but cannot generate the same feeling for the tens of thousands of Iraqi civilians who have died in that unfortunate conflict.

Worse still is our disconnect from the truth; a national columnist writes that the Great Wall of China and other less-known barriers achieved their purpose when in fact history demonstrates they failed. The mainstream population in the U.S. as in all other developed countries is declining, thus requiring the labor of immigrants from underdeveloped countries for our economy to continue to grow. But it takes a brave politician to declare that our need for immigrant labor will grow rather than decline.

Perhaps it is time, in our relations with our families, other groups and other nations to examine our growing isolation and assess its damage to our values, to our families, society and nation. The Christianity we profess is about breaking down barriers, not about building them. It is about creating brotherhood and sisterhood. It is about compassion, fellowship and love. It is about creating one family on the planet, one people under God. Otherwise, humanity will not survive.

One of my uncles used to say: "There are no strangers in the world, just friends we have not met." These unmet friends far outnumber persons who would harm us in these difficult times.

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## Religious Freedom Trouble Spots

A U.S. commission in its latest report on religious freedom worldwide identifies 19 countries as the worst violators.







# EVENTS

The Catholic Lighthouse  
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## St. Joseph Parish Picnic Yoakum Community Center Sunday, August 5

### Picnic Stew, Sausage & Trimmings

Adult tickets only at \$6 p/p dine-in (air conditioned)  
or drive-thru for plates-to-go — Serving begins at 10:30 a.m.  
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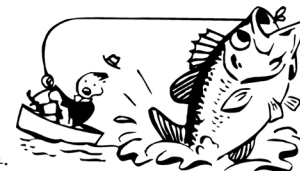


## Readin' — 'Ritin' — Reelin' 5th Annual 3 R's Fishing Tournament Proceeds to go to Nazareth Academy, Victoria, Texas

August 3-4, 2007 — Port O'Connor

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### 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](mailto:register@mevictoria.org) [www.mevictoria.org](http://www.mevictoria.org)

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

**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](http://www.beginningexperience.org); e-mail: [sanantonio@mevictoria.org](mailto:sanantonio@mevictoria.org); phone: (210) 734-2146; or The Beginning Experience of San Antonio, P.O. Box 790882, San Antonio, Texas 78279-0882.

**Cursillo News — Ultreya:** Witnessing to God's working in our everyday lives — song and prayers, Fridays, 7:45 p.m.; **Sabatina:** Rosary and devotion to Mary, Saturdays, 8:00 a.m.; **Holy Hour:** Every 1st Tuesday, 7:45 p.m. Events held at Our Lady of Sorrows Church and Trinity Hall.

**Singles** — Catholic Singles, 40 and over, meet every second and fourth Thursday of the month at Holy Family Education Building at 7:00 p.m. Call Georgia (361) 573-9435 or Jean at (361) 578-8760 or Sue at (361) 578-3106.

**Singles** — Young Adults between the ages of 21 and 45 meet for an evening of fellowship and good company every 1st and 3rd Thursday at Holy Family at 7:00 p.m. Call Jim Wearden at (361) 579-9737 or Laura (361) 579-6516.

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

**Natural Family Planning** — For English or bilingual sessions of the **Sympto-Thermal Method (S-TM)** in Palacios, call Rene and Wilma Galvan at (361) 972-5030. Available for counseling and classes. For information about the Sympto-Thermal Method in the Victoria area, contact Rudy and Estella DeLos Santos (361) 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](http://www.presidiolabahia.org).**

### Picnics, Activities, etc.

#### July

**Victoria** — Healing Mass at Our Lady of Sorrows Church on July 11, with Father Michael DeLeon of Laredo, Texas. Rosary begins at 7:00 p.m.; Mass at 7:30 p.m., 208 W. River St.

**Shiner** — Lucky Hook Fishing Tournament July 13 and 14, Goose Island in Rockport. Proceeds benefit the Religious Education Endowment Fund of Sts. Cyril and Methodius Church. For information visit [www.shinerreef.com](http://www.shinerreef.com).

**Moravia** — Ascension of Our Lord Parish Picnic (located at FM 957 and FM 532) July 15 with Mass at 10:00 a.m. followed by a fried-chicken and stew dinner at 11:00 a.m. at \$6.50 p/p and children \$3.50, with drive-thru plates (\$6.50 p/p) to go from 10:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. There will be a cakewalk, games, country store, and music during the day and night with The Czechaholics and Mark Halata - Texavia. There will be an auction at 1:00 p.m.

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

## When & Where

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

**Victoria** — Our Lady of Sorrows Life Teen High School Women's Conference, Saturday, July 21. All high-school-age women are invited to this one-day conference titled "Imprinted Dignity." Speakers include Dr. Dee Burbank, the medical advisor to the Louisiana governor's program on abstinence who has been on EWTN and spoken at the Steubenville South Youth Conference; Julie Carleton, on staff with NET Ministries will speak on the dignity of women; and Lupe Schaefer, former parishioner of OLS, will speak on how we approach God as women in "In His Presence." To register, call OLS rectory (361) 575-2293 or Estelle Rivera (361) 218-6328.

#### August

**Yoakum** — St. Joseph School announces the Tenth Annual Reunion on Saturday, August 4, beginning with 5:00 p.m. Mass, followed by meal and reunion at St. Joseph Family Center. All alumni are invited. Tickets: Adults \$15; Children under 12 \$5. Please contact St. Joseph Rectory, (361) 293-3518 for reservations, RSVP by July 28.

**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 by Bobby Jones Czech Band free from 10:30 a.m.-1:00 p.m. and \$5 p/p for afternoon dance. 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 Shrimporee 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!

**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 beginning at 10:00 a.m. with Mass. A stew and fried-chicken dinner will be 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 Holy Day 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.

**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!

**El Campo** — St. Robert Bellarmine Parish Picnic Aug. 26 at the KC Hall.

#### September

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

**Hallettsville** — Sacred Heart Parish Festival, Sept. 2

**Shiner** — Sts. Cyril and Methodius Picnic, Sept. 2

**Vanderbilt** — St. John Bosco Picnic, Sept. 2

**Cuero** — Our Lady of Guadalupe Parish Jamaica, Sept. 2

**Nada** — St. Mary Parish Festival and Homecoming, Sept. 2

**Inez** — St. Joseph Annual Parish Picnic, Sept. 9

**Yorktown** — Holy Cross Festival, Sept. 9

**Port Lavaca** — Our Lady of the Gulf Festival, Sept. 9

**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 beginning 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. with music by Bobby Jones Czech Band.

**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.

**Meyersville** — Sts. Peter and Paul Annual Barbecue, Sept. 30

**Bloomington** — St. Patrick Annual Turkey Dinner and Fall Festival, Sept. 23

**Victoria** — Catechetical Conference Sept. 29 at Holy Family

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

#### Upcoming Events

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

#### Summer Events

**Victoria** — Our Lady of Victory Summer Day Camp Program for children ages 3-12. Activities include field trips, arts and crafts, cooking, reading, movies, swimming, special programs and many more fun activities. For registration information call (361) 575-0498.

**Victoria** — St. Mary Church will hold "Avalanche Ranch" Vacation Bible School July 16 - 20. Contact the office at (361) 573-4328 to register.

**Do You Have A When & Where Item?**  
**FAX To: (361) 573-5725**





By Cynthia Brewer

ROME, Italy—Justin Edward Gillespie, 32 years old and a 1992 graduate of St. Joseph High School in Victoria, was ordained a Roman Catholic priest for the Opus Dei order at the Basilica of St. Eugenio A Valle Giulia in Rome May 26, 2007.

A group of 50 family members and friends from throughout the United States and five friends from Austria traveled for Justin's ordination and to celebrate with his parents, Hank and Judy Gillespie.

Justin was one of 38 men from 18 countries ordained for the order of Opus Dei on the vigil of the feast of Pentecost. Justin and Paco Vera are from the United States. The other men came from Ireland, Netherlands, Australia, Germany, Spain, Colombia, Italy, Philippines, Mexico, Venezuela, Chile, France, Rep. Dem. of Congo, Brazil, Argentina, Kenya and Guatemala.

Each individual candidate received the laying on of hands and the embrace



Bishop Javier Echevarria lays his hands upon Justin Gillespie, consecrating him to the priesthood.

of peace by Bishop Javier Echevarria, the Prelate of Opus Dei. However, because there were so many men being ordained at once, they went in groups of four for the anointing of hands and the giving of the patent and chalice.

When Justin heard Father Joseph Hybner, pastor of Sacred Heart Church in Flatonina, was going to attend his ordination, he asked if he would do the honor of vesting him during the ordination ceremony. Father Joe was one of more than 200 priests in attendance.

"As a father, I am very proud of my son, Justin, and as a Catholic, I am very grateful that he answered God's call to be a priest," said Mr. Gillespie. His mother said, "I am humbled by Justin's faith and total generosity. He has earnestly discerned God's plan for his life and whole-

heartedly said yes, Servium, I will serve." Following the ordination Mass, everyone



Thirty-eight Opus Dei seminarians from throughout the world prostrate themselves before God during the Litany of the Saints at their ordination at the Basilica of St. Eugenio in Rome May 26, 2007.

walked to a beautiful courtyard for a reception for all the newly ordained priests and their guests.

The following day, the feast of Pentecost, the Gillespies held a reception for their son and their guests at Ristorante Pancrazio, built over the ancient ruins (50 B.C.) of the Roman theater.

Those attending the reception first met

at St. Peter's Square to pray the Angelus and hear a message from Pope Benedict XVI. He spoke of how the biblical Pentecost describes the identity of the Catholic Church.

Father Justin's first public Mass was said Tuesday, May 29, at Our Lady of Peace chapel on the altar above the crypt of St. Josemaría Escrivá, the founder of Opus Dei. Father John Wauck, who teaches in the faculty of communications at Opus Dei's Santa Croce University in Rome, gave the homily.

See Justin Gillespie ordained, p. 6

## 25th Anniversary of Diocese — A Grand Celebration

By Cynthia Brewer

"It was a grand celebration!" was the comment made by many people who attended the Diocese of Victoria's 25th anniversary celebration held Wednesday, June 6, 2007, at Our Lady of Victory Cathedral and at the Chancery.

The thanksgiving Mass began at 5:30 p.m. with the procession of representatives from several organizations within the diocese, including over 60 Catholic Daughters of the Americas, 15 Knights and Ladies of the Holy Sepulchre and 10 Knights of St. Gregory entering through the guard of the Fourth Degree Knights of Columbus. Incense filled the air and the choir sang "Come Let Us Gather" as eight deacons and 46 priests processed before the Most Reverend David E. Fellhauer, bishop of the Diocese of Victoria, and the Most Reverend Charles V. Grahmann, first bishop of the Diocese of Victoria.

The priests made a magnificent statement by wearing matching vestments at the request of the master of ceremonies, Rev. Ty Bazar, pastor of St. Patrick Parish in Bloomington.

Bishop Fellhauer welcomed the guests from throughout the diocese stating, "It is with great joy that I welcome you all to the cathedral on this solemn occasion which we give thanks to God for the first 25 years of our diocese."

He welcomed his brother bishop, Bishop Grahmann, thanking him for his care in the first eight years he shepherded the diocese and for his presence on its 25th anniversary.

He continued his thanksgiving saying,

"We are indeed grateful to Almighty God for the many blessings of our diocese. We remember in a special way in this Mass the late Pope John Paul II who created our diocese."

He then introduced the vicar general of the diocese, Msgr. Thomas C. McLaughlin, to read the Papal Bull, which was issued by Pope John Paul II 25

a dwelling place of God in the Spirit"; and finishing with Matthew 16:13-19: "Upon this rock I will build my Church and the gates of the netherworld shall not prevail against it."

Bishop Grahmann was the homilist. He addressed the congregation thanking all the organizations, the religious sisters and "all the rest of you

He gave an overview of the history of the diocese, particularly the beginning with



Bob and Minnie Bochat of Victoria process to the sanctuary with the Papal Bull, the 25-year-old document announcing the establishment of the Diocese of Victoria May 29, 1982.



(above) Msgr. Thomas C. McLaughlin reads the Papal Bull, just as he had 25 years earlier.

years earlier at the creation of the diocese. It was Msgr. McLaughlin who first read the Papal Bull May 29, 1982, the date the diocese was canonically established. The Bull is reprinted in the May 2007 issue of *The Catholic Lighthouse*. The original Bull hangs in the Chancery.

The theme of the Scripture readings centered around the house of God, starting with Isaiah 56:1, 6-7: "For my house shall be called a house of prayer for all peoples"; the Psalm: "Let us go rejoicing to the house of the Lord"; Ephesians 2:19-22: "In Christ Jesus, you also are being built together into

saints that make up this beautiful litany of the people of the Diocese of Victoria."

the news of John Paul II that the Diocese

See 25th Anniversary, p. 7



Bishop Charles V. Grahmann, first bishop of the Diocese of Victoria, visits with Bishop David E. Fellhauer, the diocese's second and current leader.



Members of the diocese attend the 25th anniversary reception at the Chancery.

its reflection process, which helped to establish the life and direction of the new diocese.

He continued saying, "This moment of celebration allows us to look back on those 25 years; it allows us to reflect on this journey you've made, it allows you to look at the experiences and dreams that were present in those early days, it allows you to rekindle the hope that was present when you proudly received