



Father Bily is greeted by members of his family following his Mass of Thanksgiving June 8 at St. Michael Parish in Weimar. From left, family members include Lucy Lednicky (sister), Father Bily, Monica Melnar (sister); and Joe Melnar (brother-in-law). In the back row and to the right are some of Father Bily's nieces and nephews. Inset: Fellow seminary classmate and jubilarian Msgr. Ben Zientek of Brenhem supports Father John Bily on his anniversary.

A celebration of anniversaries

By Cynthia Brewer

WEIMAR—Father John C. Bily, pastor of St. Michael Parish in Weimar celebrated three anniversaries with Bishop David E. Fellhauer, fellow priests, parishioners, family and friends at a special afternoon Mass June 8, 2008.

The Mass commemorated his Golden Jubilee of 50 years as a priest, his birthday of 75 years and his 20th anniversary as pastor of St. Michael's. Father Bily was born June 2, 1933; was ordained to the priesthood for the Archdiocese of San Antonio in his hometown parish, Assumption of the Blessed Virgin Mary in Praha, on May 24, 1958; and became pastor of St. Michael's on June 8, 1988.

In his homily, Bishop Fellhauer noted the fast track Father Bily rode, upon his ordination, as associate pastor of eight parishes under 10 pastors in 10 years. All the parishes were in San Antonio except St. Michael's in Weimar from 1962 – 66. After that busy period, his pastoral life settled down to spending the next 40 years in three parishes as the pastor: eight at St. Philip of Jesus in San Antonio; 12 at Assumption in Ganado, and the past 20 years at St. Michael's.

At the end of the Mass Father Bily thanked his parishioners, including those in Dubina, for all of the support he's received from them. He said the big challenge has been St. Michael School, but "thanks to the dedicated Incarnate Word Sisters and the dedicated lay teachers, it's all been worthwhile." He mentioned that the school was nationally recognized as a Blue Ribbon School in 2006 and its recent PSIA standings were 1st and 2nd in district and within the top 10 in the state.

He thanked his family, cousin, Msgr.

Lambert Bily of St. Clare in San Antonio, and former seminarian and fellow jubilarian Msgr. Ben Zientek of Brenhem, for their attendance and support. Speaking of his family he said, "At one time there were five. I'm a pretty old baby – I'm the youngest at 75." Three of the five went into religious life: Father Bily; Sister Rita Rose at Our Lady of the Lake; Msgr. Edward Bily, who passed away two years ago; and two sisters married: Lucy Lednicky and Monica Melnar.

He also thanked all those present for their gifts and contributions that had been given in his honor toward the seminary burses and to St. Michael School.

In closing, Father Bily said, "It's my hobby to stay active in my leisure time," speaking of his "calling" to mow the grass for the school and parish. "When I mow grass, I forget about everything else." At his reception another made a remark that the church would go broke if they had to replace Father Bily, as they'd have to hire a yardman, a plumber and a bus driver, as well as a priest for the spiritual needs of the parishioners.

It seems he keeps busy at his work as well, as just at St. Michael Parish in the past 20 years Father Bily estimates he has said 8,400 Masses, made 2,000 trips to the hospital, 1,000 visits to the nursing home, buried 700 people, baptized 400 and performed 200 weddings.

Following Mass, a dinner reception was held in the school gym. Father John Peters, pastor of Sacred Heart in Hallettsville was the master of ceremonies. Presentations were made by the school personnel, Knights of Columbus, the KJZT, St. Ann's Society and many others.

*Deacon Tommy Chen is ordained
to the Sacred Order of Priesthood
June 21, 2008*



See page 13 for story

Environmental exegesis: Two sets of commandments

By John Thavis
Catholic News Service

VATICAN CITY (CNS) -- Anytime there's mention of a new Ten Commandments at the Vatican, journalists start salivating. So the buzz was high when a new "Decalogue for the Environment" was promised in early June.

As it turns out, though, these Ten Commandments were not headline material. Instead of a list of "Thou shalt nots," a Vatican official presented a set of 10 basic principles to keep in mind on environmental issues.

Meanwhile, an Italian theologian and spiritual adviser to Italy's national agricultural federation came up with his own Ten Commandments, focusing on what he called "ecological sins."

As the environment continues to evolve as a main theme of Pope Benedict XVI's pontificate, here is a look at these two takes on offenses against environmental ethics -- one nuanced, the other more pithy.

Bishop Giampaolo Crepaldi, secretary of the Pontifical Council for Justice and Peace, offered 10 principles drawn from the Compendium of the Social Doctrine of the Church. Here is an abbreviated version:

1. The human being, created in God's image, is placed above all other earthly creatures, which must be used and cared for in a responsible way.

2. Nature must not be reduced to a utilitarian object of manipulation, nor absolutized or placed above human dignity.

3. Ecological responsibility involves the entire planet in a common duty to respect a collective good, for present and future generations.

4. In dealing with environmental problems, ethics and human dignity should come before technology.

5. Nature is not a sacred or divine re-

See *Environmental exegesis*, p. 21



**The "Good News" from St. Paul
Year of St. Paul**

"What will separate us from the love of Christ? Will anguish or distress or persecution or famine or nakedness or peril or the sword? As it is written: 'For your sake we are being slain all the day; we are looked upon as sheep to be slaughtered.' 'No, in all these things we conquer overwhelmingly through him who loved us. For I am convinced that neither death, nor life, nor angels, nor principalities, nor present things, nor future things, nor powers, nor night, nor depth, nor any other creature will be able to separate us from the love of God in Christ Jesus our Lord.'" (Romans 8:35-39)



Bishop Fellhauer's Schedule

July	
10	6:30 p.m., Knights of St. Gregory Bishop's Charity Banquet, Victoria Country Club, Victoria
12	10:00 a.m. Mass, 25th Anniversary of Ordination of Father Peter Yeboah-Amanfo, St. Rose of Lima, Schulenburg
13	2:00 p.m., Incarnate Word and Blessed Sacrament Sisters' Jubilee, Incarnate Word Convent, Victoria
15	4:00 p.m., Mass, Boys' Vocation Camp, Frelsburg
18-20	Catholic Daughters of the Americas, 52nd Biennial National Convention, Albuquerque, New Mexico
25	6:00 p.m., Reconciliation services, Spiritual Renewal Center, Victoria
27	6:00 p.m., blessing of new building and marker, St. Ann's Church, Hochheim

Official Appointments By Most Rev. David E. Fellhauer

Effective July 1, 2008, the following priests are relieved of their present assignments and are given new appointments as indicated:

The **Rev. Bryan Heyer**, Parochial Vicar at Our Lady of the Gulf Church, Port Lavaca, and its missions; the **Rev. Gabriel Espinosa**, Parochial Vicar at Holy Family Church, Wharton, Our Lady of Mount Carmel Church, Wharton, and St. Joseph Church, Boling; the **Rev. Gabriel Oduro Tawiah**, Parochial Vicar at Nativity of the Blessed Virgin Mary Church, Nada, and St. John Nepomucene Church, New Taiton; the **Rev. Anthony Boateng-Mensah**, Parochial Vicar at St. Mary Church, Victoria.


Effective August 5, 2008, the newly ordained **Rev. Tommy Chen** is appointed Parochial Vicar at Sts. Cyril and Methodius Church, Shiner.



CANDIDATES FOR DIACONATE ENJOY SILENT RETREAT—During the final weekend of April, the diaconal candidates and their wives attended a "silent" retreat at the Spiritual Renewal Center. After a busy year of study and formation classes, the participants enjoyed three full days of silent prayer and reflection in the midst of the beautiful surroundings at the Renewal Center. The retreatants included four couples who will start their final year of diaconal studies in August, three couples who have completed their second year, Father Gabriel Maison, the diaconal director, and Michael Fonseca, the diaconal candidates' spiritual director. Pictured from top row from left are Father Gabriel Maison, Patrick Kubala, Joe Ramos; middle row: Bill Briscoe, Kathy Fishbeck, Michael Fonseca, Becky Kubala, Lettie Ramos and Mary Machacek; bottom row: Kenneth Fishbeck, Patricia Briscoe, Miriam Kram, Milburn Kram, Larry Koether, Joe Machacek. Not pictured: Lynn Koether, who took the photo.

Diocesan Directory Updates

The latest updates to the diocesan directory can be found at www.victoriadiocese.org/lighthouse/lighthouse.htm. Directories can still be purchased at the chancery office for \$15; \$20 total if to be mailed to purchaser.



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Bishop David Fellhauer and church organizations honor Sister Barbara at her going away reception May 25, at St. Joseph Parish, Inez.



Sister Barbara Bacak, 1st diocesan Pastoral Life Delegate, leaves diocese

By Cynthia Brewer

INEZ—The parish of St. Joseph in Inez honored Sister Barbara Bacak, SSND, its pastoral life delegate since 2003, with a farewell reception Sunday, May 25, 2008, hosted by the Catholic Daughters and the Knights of Columbus.

Sister Barbara became St. Joseph Parish's pastoral life delegate, the first lay person in the diocese to be responsible for the day-to-day management of the parish and its non-sacramental ministries.

After having spent five years, from 1996 – 2001, ministering in Guatemala, Central America, Sister Barbara came to the Diocese of Victoria, first serving as a pastoral associate at Our Lady of Guadalupe in Cuero from 2001 to 2003.

Sister Barbara was then asked by Bishop David E. Fellhauer to serve St. Joseph Parish in Inez upon Msgr. Benton Thurmond's retirement as pastor in August 2003. She became responsible for everything at the parish except the sacraments. Father Johnson Owusu-Boateng offered the sacraments to the parishioners while he continued to be pastor of St. John Bosco Church in Vanderbilt and St. Theresa Church in LaSalle.

This past spring each of the diocese's three School Sisters of Notre Dame were called to new ministries outside of the Diocese of Victoria. Sister Barbara has been appointed vocations director for the Dallas Province of the School Sisters of Notre Dame and will also be the affiliate director of the house. The province includes a seven-state geographical area. She will reside in San Antonio with other School Sisters.

"I'll be traveling – I'll be available to talk at parishes, college campuses, vocation retreats, and I'll be doing a lot on the Web with our site," Sister Barbara said of her new opportunity. She will also collaborate with all other vocation directors of the School Sisters in the other five provinces in the United States and Canada.

"I will work with women who feel they have a call to our community ... to help them with the initial interest," she said, "and if they make the decision to become more involved with the community, I will help them as they ask questions, develop a prayer life, as well as a spiritual life involving service."

Regarding the St. Joseph parishioners, Sister Barbara said, "I've really seen the parishioners grow ... assuming responsi-

bilities of leadership."

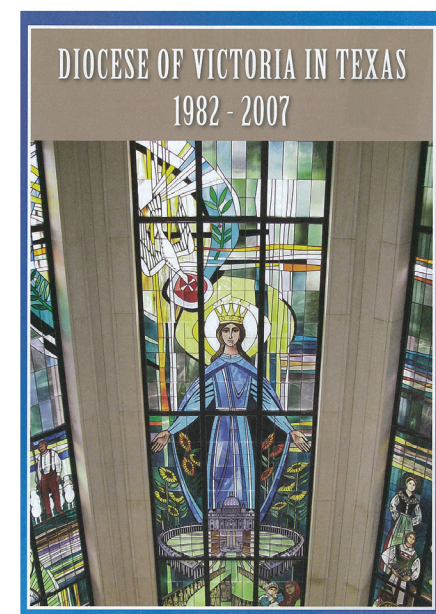
"I'm going to miss them. It's going to be hard to leave," she said.

St. Joseph's is a small but growing parish, she said, "Its potential for growth is really great."

The parish is home to many elderly parishioners, but in the past couple of years there has been a growth in families with elementary-age children who have relocated there, Sister Barbara said.

"We have children's bulletins," she said. "We call up all the little ones. It's such a delight to see the future of the church come up."

Sister Barbara's last day in Inez was Sunday, June 15, the day on which Father Gabriel Bentil transferred from Our Lady of Victory to assume the position of pastor at St. Joseph's.



Diocese of Victoria History Book Available

The history of the diocese is the history of many of our families who were pioneers to this new nation. Many of them faced great hardships to arrive at this part of the world we now know as the Diocese of Victoria.

The history book has a hard cover, 168 pages of glossy paper in full color throughout at the cost of \$32 each, \$35 if mailed. The books are available in most local parishes and at the chancery office.

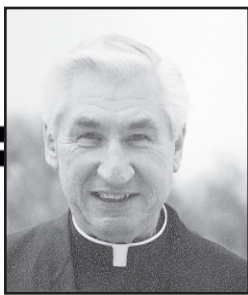
The chancery is located at 1505 E. Mesquite Lane in Victoria.



FAITH POINT

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

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



ASCs 73—ESCs 0

On June 13, 2008, the Bishops of the United States issued a statement on Embryonic Stem Cell Research (ESCR). Herewith is a summary of the statement.

Killing embryos to obtain their stem cells is a gravely immoral act that is not justified by any hoped-for benefit to others. True service to humanity respects each and every human life. Some researchers want to kill embryos for research and even have the killing funded by taxpayers.

The bishops respond to arguments that some make to justify ESCR. First, some argue that harm done to embryos is outweighed by the good that might come from it. Second, what is destroyed is not human life, or, if it is, it does not enjoy human rights. Third, dissecting embryos should not be looked upon as a loss of embryonic life.

To the first argument the bishops respond that the principle of the end supposedly justifying the means of killing innocent human beings is the source of much evil in the world. Policies that justify directly killing innocent human life for a “greater good” undermine respect for all human life. That same argument tries to justify some lives to help persons with Parkinson’s or Alzheimer’s disease can be used to justify killing that same patient whose survival disadvantages others or is not seen as productive.

The second argument is that the embryo is too small and immature to be considered a “human life.” An embryo from conception onward is as much human as any of us. It has the full complement of human genes and will develop in a way that is unique to human beings. To claim that our rights depend on certain abilities such as the power to reason instead of our inherent value as members of the human race is to destroy the concept of human rights. Qualities and abilities can grow and can disappear and can be greater and lesser in individual human beings. If embryos can be destroyed, for example, because they cannot reason, then the unconscious or those who sleep could also be destroyed. The concept of inherent human rights would be meaningless.

The third argument is that killing embryos is not killing human life because they use “spare” or unwanted embryos who are going to die anyhow. Ultimately each of us is going to die, but that gives no one a right to kill us.

Some want to use cloning to create embryos for the purpose of killing them in research. Cloning makes reproduction a manufacturing process and treats human beings as a commodity. It shows disrespect for human life in the process of creating it. Stating that clones will be killed rather than implanted compounds the evil by stating that the innocent clone must die. Cloning human beings to serve as sources of spare parts is a grotesque practice that Congress has already disapproved. The burden of cloning would create hardships for women to furnish literally billions of eggs at great pain and danger to themselves. Utilizing animal eggs diminishes the distinction between animal and human species and brings on the danger of viral transfers to the recipients of the cloned organs or tissues. The way to avoid these physical and moral dangers is to refuse to take the first step.

The third argument is that killing embryos is not killing human life because they use “spare” or unwanted embryos who are going to die anyhow. Ultimately each of us is going to die, but that gives no one a right to kill us.

Fortunately nature has provided a way for us to have the benefit of stem cell research without practicing immorality. It is adult stem cell research (ASCR).

ASCR is currently a vibrant and exciting field. Here are some recent examples of work being done.

Andre Lampkin, a twenty-year-old from Bedford, Texas, contracted bacterial meningitis that cut off circulation to his arms and legs. He was facing amputation of these limbs. In desperation his blood was drawn and sent to a laboratory in Israel where it was replicated into millions of cells. The cells were injected into his hands and feet. His blood, once blocked at his knees, now flows to his ankles and is moving downward. Andre cannot yet use his hands and feet but is hopeful. Before the injection of adult stem cells his limbs would have been amputated.

Science Daily reported on persons who suffer from incontinence and had their

damaged sphincter muscles injected with stem cells taken from their own deltoid muscles. One year later four persons were completely continent while nineteen others are greatly improved. They were upgraded from grade 3 to grade 1.

Canadian researcher, Dr. Mark Freedman, said that an experiment that went wrong may provide a new way to treat multiple sclerosis. Patients who received bone marrow stem-cell transplants similar to those given to leukemia patients have enjoyed a mysterious remission of their disease. Dr. Freedman said that no patient treated has had a relapse in seven years and he is not sure why. MS patients often have hard-to-predict changes in symptoms so the patients must be observed longer to enable researchers to be certain about what is going on.

University of Texas M. D. Anderson Cancer Center has developed a treatment that uses natural killer (NK) immune system cells from umbilical cord blood that effectively destroy leukemia cells in mice. The new technique increases NK cells found in cord blood more than 30-fold while allowing the cells to locate and kill acute leukemia cells. The NK cells can be transferred to a patient without the need for prior chemotherapy.

Australian researchers have discovered stem cells in the brain that are vital for learning and memory. They have learned how to activate the cells so that they produce new neurons. This could lead to better treatments for degenerative brain conditions like ageing and dementia. As people get older they lose their ability to make new nerve cells although the machinery is still present. This research headed by Professor Perry Bartlett of the University of Queensland may have discovered how to activate stem cells in aged subjects.

Cloning makes reproduction a manufacturing process and treats human beings as a commodity.

Thanks to ASCR, laboratory-grown body parts may not be science fiction any longer. Engineering body parts—tissues and whole organs—may be a reality in the foreseeable future. Already children suffering from spina bifida have received new bladders. Replacement blood vessels are

being manufactured from cells manipulated by a cousin of the inkjet printer. And researchers have created a beating heart. Three techniques have been developed to engineer body parts: (1) Make a scaffold from collagen, then seed it with cells from the patient. This has been used to implant urinary bladders. (2) Wash cells from an organ, leaving behind its natural scaffold, then seed it with cells from the patient. This technique has been used to recreate rat hearts. (3) Go scaffold-free by “printing” clumps of cells into the shape of an organ, layer by layer. Vessels similar to veins and arteries have been created in this way.

These are just recent examples of ethical stem cell research that involves no killing of human beings. The meaning of the headline of this article is that ASCR has created 73 successful therapies while ESCR has created none. A longer list of therapies resulting from ASCR can be found online at <http://stemcellresearch.org/>. As the bishops say, this is the way to produce cures and treatments that everyone can live with.

It is important to follow the teaching of our bishops and to vote for candidates who will support human life at all its stages.

Personal note: As of this writing there are only six slots left for the pilgrimage to the Holy Land that I will lead October 19-30, 2008. Sign up for one of the slots now for the trip of a lifetime. Call Msgr. Brunner at (361) 573-4328 or e-mail stmaryvic@suddenlinkmail.com.



ST. JOSEPH’S ALTAR SOCIETY TOURS RAPHAEL’S REFUGE—On their annual spring tour, the ladies of St. Joseph’s Altar Society in Yoakum visited Raphael’s Refuge. After refreshments and touring the Chapel of the Holy Innocents, prayers were led by Claudia Ennis. Above, the St. Joseph’s Altar Society is pictured outside the main entrance to the chapel. The outing continued with lunch and visits to the Painted Churches in Praha and High Hill. The trip was organized by Vice President Gladys Jiral. Raphael’s Refuge, located just outside of Flatonia, is the site of the Monument to the Innocents, a memorial for babies. Though still under construction, the center of the monument, the chapel, is nearing completion and visitors are welcome. For further information or directions, contact Midge Elam at (361) 258-1514, (321) 865-3021, or visit the Web site at www.raphaelsrefuge.org.

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Seminary Burses

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

As of June 20, 2008

	TOTALS
— General Seminary Burse	
Previously reported	\$ 91,589.00
In honor of Seminarians, Sean Breeden and Jacob Koether by Catholic Daughters Of America Court 2054 Resurrection	1,000.00
In memory of Rafaela Barron by Bob and Minnie Bochat	25.00
Total	\$92,614.00

— Rev. John C. Bily Seminary Burse	
Previously reported	\$3,067.00
In honor of Rev. John C. Bily's 50th ordination anniversary to the priesthood by K of C 4th Degree St. Michael's Assembly No. 1527	500.00
In memory of Joe L. Popp by Franklin and Rita Addicks	5.00
In memory of Joe and Mary Orsak by Joe and Verline Orsak	10.00
In memory of our parents, The Luchaks and The Kubenkas by Steve and Evelyn Luchak	50.00
In memory of Fred & Elma Heller Ulrich by John, Aileen and Francis Kasper	50.00
In memory of Henry and Mary Brune by Joe and Verline Orsak	10.00
In memory of Kotrla and Matura Families by Dorothy Kotrla	10.00
In memory of Dreitner / Koncaba Families by Henry and Delores Dreitner	100.00
In memory of James R. Rebecsek Sr. by Mary Jo Rebecsek	20.00
In memory of Frank H. Anders Jr. by Mrs. Frank Anders Jr. and family	100.00
In memory of Frank H. Anders Jr. by Alvin and Daria Emmel	25.00
In memory of Michael A. and Klara Koeth & Edward Cironi by Mike and Michelle Koeth	12.00
In memory of Alphonse, Darlene and Trudi Bartek by Julius & Clara Bartek	15.00
In memory of Henry and Christine Machart & Lawrence and Henrietta Urban by Julius and Clara Bartek	15.00
In memory of Pauline Vana by Frankie A. Vana	25.00
In memory of Oscar R. Melnar by Dorothy Melnar and Family	25.00
In memory of John and Bertha Kasper by John, Aileen and Francis Kasper	50.00
In honor of Rev. John Bily's 50th ordination anniversary by:	
Franklin and Rita Addicks	25.00
Robert and Kay Heger	20.00
Daniel and Cornell Heger	25.00
Stazy Hajek and Georgie Cerny	20.00
M/M Rayomd Toman	50.00
James and Monica Stock	25.00
Bernice Dobecka	100.00
Joe and Verline Orsak	50.00
Frank and Marjorie Grunewald	50.00
Eugene and Betty Patalik	30.00
Dennis and Henrietta Cernosek	200.00
Evelyn Kloesel	25.00
Ron and Kathy Chamrad and family	25.00
Bill and Lorraine Wagner	50.00
Harris and Patricia Ulrich	50.00
Rita and Charles Herzik	25.00
M/M Robert Koenig	25.00
Karen Carroll	20.00
Ray and Barbara Miller	25.00
Catholic Family Fraternal KJZT #66	200.00
M/M Clarence Dittrich	25.00
Joe and Loretta Cernoch	20.00
Evelyn A. Burgess	20.00
Kermit and Evelyn Thuemler	20.00
Lawrence and Sylvia Addicks	20.00
Jesse and Nancy Lednický	50.00
Ernest and Patricia Hollas	250.00
M/M Jim Fox	50.00
Leonard F. and Dorothy Bartos	20.00
Melvin and Gladys Sander	25.00
Alvin Hajek	5.00
Buddy and Alice Michalke	20.00
M/M David E. Kahlich	100.00
Jerry Mikeska	50.00
K of C Council 2153 Weimar	500.00

St. Ann's Society	100.00
Soledad Alston	50.00
Henry and Bernice Schoenfeld	25.00
Kenneth and Gwendolyn Syrinek	50.00
Edna Hudec	10.00
Tommy and Clara Holub	25.00
Mrs. William Strunk	75.00
Robert and Betty Berger	25.00
Total	\$6,664.00

— Rev. Sean Donohue Burse No. 2	
Previously reported	\$4,004.36
In memory of Charles J. Remlinger Jr. by Bernard and Madeline Rother	25.00
Total	\$4,029.36

— Rev. John C. Peters Burse No. 4	
Previously reported	\$1,894.00
In memory of Jesse M. Gomez by Rachel Gomez	25.00
In honor of Rev. Celestino Say's 50th Ordination Anniversary by Margaret Dornak	1,000.00
In honor of Rev. John Peters on Catholic School Pastor's Appreciation Day by the Sacred Heart School faculty, staff and students	300.00
Total	\$3,219.00

— Josephat R. Janak Burse No. 2	
Previously reported	\$263.77
In honor of Rev. Gary Janak's 20th ordination anniversary by Frank Fikac Family	25.00
In memory of Frances Anderle by:	
M/M Anton Schoener	20.00
Larry and Delores Dornak	10.00
Rose Marie Janak and Family	20.00
Fred and Dianne Hartl	25.00
Willie and Tina Hubenak	20.00
Robert and Shirley Ibrom	15.00
Jeanie Targac	20.00
Alton and Irene Hare	25.00
M/M John Trojcak	10.00
Margaret Kutac	20.00
Calhoun Co. VFW Aux No. 4403	25.00
Chris, Mary, CJ and Cory Mabry	25.00
Robert and Rosalie Anderle	50.00
Johnny and Betty Schleichach	15.00
John and Agnes Fling	25.00
Elvera Janak	15.00
James and Yvonne Wagner	50.00
Marvin and Mary Wagner	100.00
Ricky Janak	20.00
Glenn Janak	20.00
Cornelia Pohler and Candace Pohler and Candace Heubel	20.00
Johnny Janak	20.00
Johnny Janak	10.00
Anton Bujnoch	20.00
Albert Winters	10.00
Anton Harper	20.00
Garlan Weber	25.00
Julius and Dolores Krause	20.00
Ira and Merelyn Nicholson	25.00
Victor Janak and family	50.00
Total	\$1,038.77

— Rev. Jerome J. Stryk Seminary Burse	
Previously reported	\$10,829.50
In memory of Rev. Jerome Stryk from descendants of Josef and Theresa Stryk, Praha	400.00
In memory of Rev. Jerome Stryk by Lad and Helen Muras	10.00
Total	\$11,239.50

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

In Memory of ...

Rev. Luke Mennella, O.S.S.T

VICTORIA - Father Luke Mennella, O.S.S.T., 78, who resided within the Trinitarian Community in Victoria, died of cancer on June 23, 2008.

Father Luke was born Anthony Mennella on June 4, 1930, in Trenton, N.J., to the late Anthony Mennella and Margherita Astore Mennella.

Since 2006, Father Luke had been retired but assisted at Our Lady of Sorrows Church, Victoria.

After entering the Trinitarian Minor Seminary in 1944 at St. John DeMatha Monastery in Hyattsville, Md. and graduating from DeMatha Catholic High School in 1948, Father formally began his training for the Trinitarians and the priesthood. He professed his solemn vows on Sept. 8, 1952, and was ordained to the priesthood on June 9, 1956, by Bishop John McNamara at the National Shrine of the Immaculate Conception.

Father Luke graduated from the Catholic University of America, Washington, D.C., with a bachelor of arts in philosophy degree and a master of science in physics degree. He completed his studies for the priesthood at Holy Name College, Washington, D.C.

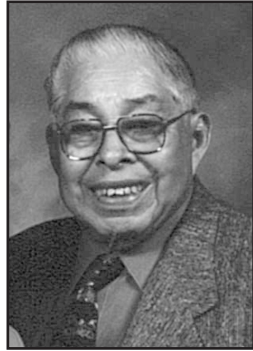
Father studied and spoke several languages besides English: Italian, Spanish, French, German, and Neomelanesian (Pidgen). He enjoyed a very active and fulfilled ministry throughout his life. He was a teacher, prison chaplain, parochial vicar, and pastor. He served his order as minister provincial and as a general counselor in Rome. Fulfilling a dream to serve as a missionary in the order, Father was assigned to the Trinitarian Missions of Madagascar and Papua New Guinea.

Father Luke was an outstanding Trinitarian whose dedicated service and a plethora of personal human resources enabled him to serve both the order and the Church with untiring zeal and commitment. No undertaking was impossible for Father Luke, whose faith and trust in God led him to numerous parts of the world. He was a true disciple of Christ and a devoted follower of our holy founder, St. John DeMatha. His pastoral care made an indel-

See Rev. Luke Mennella, O.S.S.T., p. 8

Sister Anna Marie Lozano's father dies

WHARTON—Manuel Galindo Lozano Sr., age 87, of Wharton died peacefully during his siesta on April 21, 2008, in Wharton following a brief illness. He was born on Feb. 7, 1921, in Wharton, the son of the late Porfirio Lozano Sr. and Fernanda Galindo Lozano. He was also the father of Sister



Anna Marie Lozano, MCHS, who ministers at Our Lady of Mount Carmel Parish in Wharton.

Mr. Lozano was a lifelong resident of Wharton and was a longtime member of Holy Family Catholic Church in Wharton.

On a Pierce Ranch at the age of 21, he found his true love, Antonia Garza. They married on Sept. 13, 1942, in Wharton. They were married for over 65 years. He worked as an equipment repairman for several vending machine companies until his retirement in July of 1997. He also volunteered with the construction to help build Our Lady of Mount Carmel Catholic Church in Wharton. He was a 50-plus year member of the Knights of Columbus and a former member of the Holy Name Society.

Besides his parents, he was also preceded in death by two sons, Vietnam Veteran Manuel Lozano Jr. and Jose Luis Lozano; a brother, Porfirio Lozano Jr.; and a sister, Dolores L. Cisneros.

Survivors include his wife, Antonia Lozano; and his daughter, Sister Anna Maria Lozano of Wharton; seven grandchildren; and 21 great-grandchildren.

A rosary was recited April 23 at the chapel of Wharton Funeral Home and a Funeral Mass was held the morning of April 24 at Holy Family Catholic Church in Wharton with Rev. Dominic Antwi-Boasiako, pastor, Rev. Bryan Heyer and Rev. Augustine Nsiah-Asanti concelebrating, with Deacon David Valdez assisting. Burial followed in Evergreen Memorial Park Cemetery in Wharton.

Pallbearers were Jason Villarreal, Gary Nunez, Chris Lozano, Brian Lozano, Robert Garcia, Manuel Lozano III and Jonathan Lozano. Honorary pallbearers were Felix Martinez, Johnny Villarreal, Abel Cisneros Jr., Gabino Aragoz, Tom Aragoz, George Nunez Sr. and all of his many close friends.

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.



40th Anniversary

Vatican official says 'Humanae Vitae' defends freedom of women

By John Thavis
Catholic News Service

VATICAN CITY (CNS) -- Although bitterly criticized as burdensome on Catholic couples when it was published in 1968, the encyclical "Humanae Vitae" has ended up defending the freedom of women and the fullness of married love, a top Vatican official said.

Cardinal Giovanni Battista Re said in mid-June that the encyclical on married love and procreation, which held that artificial birth control is morally wrong, has defended the value and sacred character of human love against a strictly technological approach.

Cardinal Re, prefect of the Congregation for Bishops, said doctrinal analysis and pastoral experience over the last 40 years

have shown that "the encyclical, which at first appeared to be restrictive, in reality has actually safeguarded the unity and fullness of conjugal love."

It has also "defended the freedom of women, the responsibility of married couples and the autonomy of people in developing countries," he said.

"The encyclical is not simply a 'no' to contraception but also a defense of the dignity of woman against whatever might degrade her greatness as a person, wife and mother, reducing her to an object of pleasure," he said.

Cardinal Re made his remarks in a keynote address at the Rome meeting of the American Academy of FertilityCare Professionals, which had as its theme this year's 40th anniversary of "Humanae Vitae."

The cardinal traced the long history of the encyclical's preparation by Pope Paul

VI, who commissioned doctrinal studies on the question before issuing his judgment. In the end, the pope went against the majority opinion of a commission of experts and reconfirmed the long-standing moral norm against birth control.

Cardinal Re said the church still feels the effects of the widespread dissent that followed the encyclical's publication. It was a text that courageously went against the dominant culture and the expectation of public opinion, even among many Christian couples, he said.

The cardinal said a careful reading of the encyclical today shows that its teaching

tries to persuade rather than coerce. The pope's aim was not to force consciences but to enlighten them, he said.

The en-

cyclical's teaching against contraceptives, Cardinal Re said, is framed in the context of a very positive discourse on human love, highlighting the deep connection between human sexuality and the possibility of life.

"The text of the encyclical proposes a sure path that Catholics ought to follow with confidence: a path that is a 'yes' to life, a 'yes' to the Creator," he said.

Its pronouncement on the intrinsically evil character of contraception, the cardinal added, is "a teaching to be held as irreformable."

To see the original document, Humanae Vitae, go to: http://www.vatican.va/holy_father/paul_vi/encyclicals/. Also the diocesan library at the chancery office has a few copies of the 1968 encyclical; its title in English is "On the Regulation of Birth."



National Natural Family Planning Awareness Week July 20-26

Liguori Publications joins the United States Conference of Catholic Bishops (USCCB) in recognizing July 20 – 26, 2008, as National Natural Family Planning Awareness Week. In September 2007, Liguori Publications published a revised edition of Family Planning: A Guide for Exploring the Issues, available in both English and Spanish, which addresses Natural Family Planning methods, presents Church teachings as they support those methods and examines the dangers and disadvantages of the newest artificial

forms of birth control. The price of the book in English or Spanish is \$4.95 each. The book can be purchased by calling Liguori Publications at 1-800-325-9521, by visiting the Web site at www.liguori.org, or from your local Catholic bookstore.

Liguori Publications, located just south of Saint Louis, Mo., is an apostolate of the Redemptorists, and its mission is to spread the Gospel of Jesus Christ and share in the Redemptorist priority of giving special attention to the poor and most abandoned.

St. Joseph Parish Picnic

Yoakum Community Center

Sunday, August 3

Picnic Stew, Sausage & Trimmings

All Plates at \$7 p/p dine-in (air conditioned)
or drive-thru for plates-to-go — Serving begins at 10:30 a.m.

Soft Drinks & Refreshments Available

Register for Raffle Prizes. Total Value \$13,160 with 57 Prizes to be Drawn
Top Prize \$2,250 in silver dollars

Auction 12:30 p.m.

- Arts & Crafts • Quilts •
- Livestock •
- Many more items •

Horseshoe Tournament • Country Store •
Cakewalk • Games • Pantry Wheel and More!

Mexican Food available in the afternoon.

Annual St. Joseph Alumni Reunion — Sat. Aug. 2
Call the rectory for tickets at (361) 293-3518

NFP Q & A 60

By Father Matthew Habiger, OSB
NFP Outreach / Web site: www.nfpoutreach.org
E-mail: mhabieger@kansasmonks.org

Some Health Hazards of the Pill

According to the director of Planned Parenthood of England the birth control pill causes 150 different chemical changes in a woman's body. Not one of these is beneficial. Abortifacient contraceptives are detrimental to a woman's physical, emotional, psychological, mental and reproductive health. Over 10 million women in the US use the birth control pill today and about 4 million of those are under age 25.

1) 98 percent of all women in the US who have had sexual intercourse have used at least one contraceptive method.

2) Women who use a hormonal contraceptive for a minimum of four years prior to their first full term pregnancy have a 52% higher risk of developing breast cancer.

3) Women who use a hormonal contraceptive for more than five years are four times more likely to develop cervical cancer.

4) Since the advent of "the pill" in 1960, the average number of children in the American Catholic family has fallen from 5.5 to 2.1; the number of seminarians has fallen from 50,000 to 5,000; the number of Religious teaching in Catholic schools has fallen from 100,000 to 10,000; and attendance at Sunday Mass has fallen from almost 75 percent to less than 25 percent.

5) Prior to "the pill" there were known to be five sexually transmitted diseases; today there are more than 30.

6) Today, for every U.S. child born there are an estimated two children killed in the womb from surgical abortion and abortifacient contraceptives.

7) By age 45, at least one partner in every two U.S. marriages has been sterilized.

8) Only one in three U.S. couples now reaches their 25th wedding anniversary; only one in five reaches their 35th.

9) The divorce rate for US couples who use natural family planning to space children is less than 1 percent.

10) The "abortifacient action" in hormonal contraceptives is documented by pharmaceutical manufacturers themselves in package inserts. These devices are believed to be responsible for an estimated minimum of five times more abortions than surgical procedures. Since the advent of Roe v. Wade in 1973, the current estimated total number of abortions from hormonal contraceptives and surgical procedures combined is over 300,000,000 ... one for every American man, woman, and child now alive.

Other side effects of birth control pills are the development of high blood pressure, blood clots, stroke, heart attack, depression, weight gain, migraine, dark spots on the skin and difficulty with breastfeeding. Diabetics, who take oral contraceptives, may note increased sugar levels. Some women who stop taking the pill do not have a return of their menstrual cycles for a year or longer. Although the pill decreases ovarian and uterine cancer, it increases liver and cervical cancer. Studies have shown that the AIDS virus is transmitted more easily to women who are taking the pill and whose partner(s) has the HIV virus.

This data is provided by Victor R. Claveau in his booklet, BIRTH CONTROL AND ABORTIFACIENTS. Order from: The Evangelization Station, 14818 Ranchero Road, Hesperia, CA, USA, 92345. E-mail: claveau@earthlink.net * www.evangelizationstation.com. The supporting references and studies are given in the endnotes of this booklet.

* * * *

*Good morality leads to good health.
Bad morality leads to poor health, spiritual devastation and death.*

Letter to the Editor

Dear Editor,

I am troubled by Msgr. James Brunner's article titled "Liberal Fascism" in his Faith Point column for the April issue of The Catholic Lighthouse. He cites with approval the thesis of Jonah Goldberg's book of the same name that "fascism was the forebear of what today is called liberalism or progressivism."

The term "liberalism" covers a wide variety of issues, and it is true that there are some who are typically termed "liberals" of the lunatic fringe variety who exhibit a fascistic frame of mind. The recent firing of academics who have dared to suggest that Intelligent Design (even as clearly distinct from Creationism) may play a part in the biological evolution, provides a valid current example.

But to imply that all typically liberal causes spring from a form of closet fascism is certainly to tar with far too broad a brush. I do not think I do a disservice to the good monsignor's thought in that he goes on to cite some examples of liberal tyranny: 1) smoking bans in many places, 2) the war on the amount and kinds of fats allowed in hamburgers, 3) man-made global warming.

It is true that these are controversial

issues on which people of good will may disagree, but they are all ideas that have some basis in scientific fact and reasoning. Brunner even goes on to state about curbing global warming that "fascists among us find it useful to achieve control over world economies." Surely, this must be the mother of all conspiracy theories!

Would he go on to cry such all other typically liberal programs — such as social security, progressive taxation, universal health care and the alleviation of poverty — as springing from evil fascistic intent? Are what he terms the "tender mercies of the Nanny State" incompatible with Christ's command to love one another?

In his recent address before the United Nations Assembly, Pope Benedict XVI stated that "Questions of security, development goals, reduction of local and global inequalities, protection of the environment, of resources and of the climate, require all international leaders to act jointly and to show a readiness to work in good faith, respecting the law, and promoting solidarity with the weakest regions of the planet."

Draw your own conclusions.

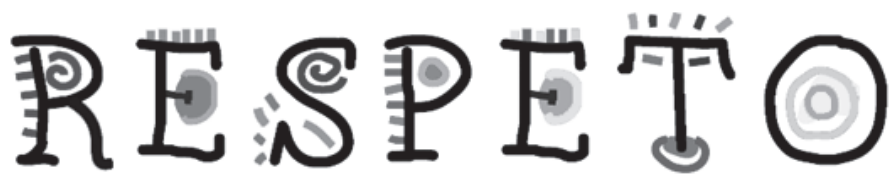
Sincerely,
Sarah Tomko
Victoria



MACC offers weekend workshop of RESPETO

SAN ANTONIO—This summer the Mexican American Cultural Center (MACC), a national Catholic institute for pastoral leadership and language studies, will offer a weekend training workshop to teach youth ministers how to use the RESPETO program. It is designed for all those committed to ministry with Latino youth: diocesan directors of Hispanic youth ministry, directors of youth and young adult ministry at local or diocesan levels, teachers and directors of religious education. Participants have a choice of two weekends: July 10-13 or July 24-27.

RESPETO is a bilingual curriculum for Latino youth leadership formation. In the training weekend, participants will learn how to implement RESPETO to help Latino youth grow spiritually and develop skills to take an active leadership role in the life and mission of the Church. All



participants who attend the workshop will receive the complete facilitator's manual in order to effectively use the RESPETO program in their own parish.

RESPETO is Spanish for respect and serves as the title and underlying theme of a yearlong curriculum for Latino youth leadership formation. The curriculum has twenty-one sessions that foster prayerful reflection and teach valuable skills for leadership such as listening, conflict resolution, discernment, and planning. It is especially geared towards Mexican American teens (approximately ages 14-18) who are already demonstrating leadership potential in their schools, neighborhoods, or church youth groups.

The RESPETO curriculum has been successfully implemented in various regions of the country and is strongly recommended for all those who work with Latino youth.

Tuition and travel assistance is available for qualifying participants. To learn more about the weekend workshop, tuition and lodging, contact the MACC Registrar at (210) 732-2156, ext. 7102, register@maccsa.org or visit the Web site www.MACCsa.org.

MACC's Mission Statement: To empower and educate leaders for service in a culturally diverse church and society.

Latino Youth Leadership Formation

Who is RESPETO for?

RESPETO is especially for Mexican American teenagers (approximately 14-18) who are already demonstrating leadership potential in their schools, neighborhoods, or church youth groups. With some creativity, RESPETO can be adapted for other Latino youth. The program is demanding and requires a certain level of maturity, openness, and a year's commitment.

Why was RESPETO developed?

Latino youth under the age of 18 are the fastest growing group in the United States, representing a third of the total Hispanic population. It is important to invest time and resources now to nurture

youth leaders who can offer their skills and values in service to the community. There is a great need for bilingual, culturally relevant resources for youth leadership formation. Faith communities especially need resources to invite Latino youth to actively participate in the life and mission of the Church today and tomorrow.

How is RESPETO offered?

The RESPETO program is meant to be offered in a parish setting. It requires a small team of adult leaders who can facilitate the sessions. The 21 sessions are approximately 2 to 3 hours long and can be offered every two weeks. Two sessions can also be combined as a monthly, day-long retreat. The sessions work best with a group no larger than approximately thirty youths. RESPETO creatively blends fun activities, group sharing, skills building, and cultural education. The curriculum clearly outlines the objectives of each session and the materials needed for implementation.

When is RESPETO offered?

The RESPETO program is designed to begin in mid-September and end after Easter. The program follows the liturgical year and highlights the special celebrations of Mexican Americans such as All Souls day (día de los muertos) and the feast of Our Lady of Guadalupe. RESPETO culminates with the participants developing and implementing service projects that improve their community. Therefore, the projects continue through some of the summer.

How can I find out more about RESPETO?

MACC will offer several training sessions this year for teams interested in introducing RESPETO. Partial scholarships are available. For more information: The Mexican American Cultural Center; Attention: Dr. Arturo Chávez, Ph.D.; 3115 West Ashby Place; San Antonio, TX 78228-5104; Phone (210) 732-2156 Fax (210) 732-9072; E-mail: achavez@maccsa.org visit us online www.maccsa.org

— Sr. Anna Marie Lozano and Gloria Pavlas —

Honored Parish Catechetical Leaders of the Month

WHARTON—The Parish Catechetical Leaders of Our Lady of Mount Carmel (OLMC) Parish and Holy Family Parish, both in Wharton, have been selected the PCLs for July 2008.

Sister Anna Marie Lozano, a Missionary Catechist of the Sacred Hearts of Jesus and Mary (MCHS) has been a catechist for 42 years and the PCL at OLMC for three years. OLMC Parish serves both English and Spanish parishioners in the Wharton area.

Sister Anna Marie was influenced to join the Missionary Catechists' order because of their mission of teaching religion to public school students. "I especially love to teach public school students—those who cannot attend Catholic school," she said.

"It has been my joy to teach children, youth and adults about the love and care that God, our Creator and Father, Jesus our Redeemer and Brother and the Spirit of Love, has for each one of us," Sister Anna Marie said. "No matter what we may have done, if we are sorry, He forgives us. His love is without end."

To minister to 311 students, the number registered for the 2007-08 school year, Sister Anna Marie has the assistance of 32 catechists (teachers), four substitutes, two office aides, three security personnel, one song leader and six student helpers.

The youth attend one and one half hours of CCD classes each week during the school year, while adults of children preparing for a sacrament attend the parent sacramental classes. The parish religious education program also uses "Disciples on the Journey" during Lent.

Sister Anna Marie said that what is most challenging about her ministry is having all the parents attend parent sacramental classes without having to be so demanding of them. Often times many parents show up at the end of the year when it's about time for the sacrament to be administered.

The second challenge is persuading the parents to continue sending their children to CCD classes after they've received their First Communion.

"The third grade is usually the most sparsely populated of all classes," she said.

She tells the parents all the different themes that will be presented each year of CCD. "But, there are some parents who say, 'My child needs some rest from two years of going to CCD' or 'Oh, my child has already received First Communion. He doesn't need to return until confirmation.'"

"I tell them that they don't stop sending their child to school once he/she has learned to read and write. They continue to send him/her to receive an education," she said. "The same stance should be taken with their child's religious education."

Some of the happiest moments Sister Anna Marie remembers from last year's program included receiving such a posi-

tive response from parishioners when she asked the congregation for volunteers for the CCD school year. She said it filled her with "immense joy." The joy continued when she then saw how the catechists were so creative in their manner of presenting their class.

She was also very pleased by how the students of each grade volunteered to present the dramatization of "The Birth of Christ." "Students from practically every grade took part; the older ones helped the little ones. The presentation was just beautiful."

Mrs. Gloria Pavlas — Holy Family

Mrs. Gloria Pavlas of Holy Family Parish in Wharton is also being honored this month. She has been the Parish Catechetical Leader at Holy Family for 18 years. Prior to this position she was the PCL at St. Joseph's Mission in Boling for 10 years.

She became a Parish Catechetical Leader because it was a way for her to profess her faith in Jesus and embrace the Christian teachings and values with catechists who live their faith. "It is also a great way to evangelize our youth and parents through various programs in our Catholic Church," she said.

The catechetical program is smaller at Holy Family with 159 students, but the parish still experiences strong support with 26 volunteer teachers. The Religious Education Program uses the "Call to Faith" program by Harcourt for grades 1-6, the "Cross Roads Series" by Brown & ROA (now Harcourt) for grades 7-9; "Confirmed in the Spirit" by Loyola University for grades 10-11; and Catholic Source Book for grade 12. The youth go to 28 classes per year, as well as provide extra service hours to church and community.

Mrs. Pavlas' greatest challenge is involving parents in the formation of their children.

However, she is rewarded when she sees youth take ownership of their faith by lecturing, ushering, singing, and being offertory and hospitality ministers at the parish "youth Mass" which is celebrated every third Sunday of the month.

To continue her education as a PCL, Mrs. Pavlas attends many catechetical conferences. She particularly remembers going to many weekly trainings while working under the direction of Sister Angela Erevia, MCDP, the former diocesan catechetical director.

Besides serving her parish as the PCL, Mrs. Pavlas is also an extraordinary minister of the Eucharist, provides Communion Services at two nursing homes and Hearthstone Assisted Living Home; is a member of the Catholic Daughters of the Americas; and is an associate member of the Incarnate Word and Blessed Sacrament Sisters.

Mrs. Pavlas stays very busy with her family as well. She has been married for 42 years to her husband, Julius; has four children, eight grandchildren and one great-grandchild.



Sister Anna Marie Lozano



Gloria Pavlas

Luxury Guided Bus Tour

Austria, Czech Republic,
Germany & Poland
Sept. 19-Oct. 1, 2008

Detailed Itinerary available
Jim or Malvina Slovak,
ABCATS TRAVEL
(361) 578-0828 OR
slovakjim@att.net

Web site:
www.abcatstravel.com

PRAY FOR VOCATIONS



ACTS Convention in San Antonio — July 31-Aug. 4 —

Do you remember your ACTS retreat? Do you remember the fellowship and camaraderie you felt on Sunday, and that the retreat ended too soon? Do you remember having to go out into the world again and deal with issues that had been set aside for several days? Do you remember that even though you had those issues to address after the retreat, you felt that you were better equipped to handle them? These emotions, thoughts, feelings, and friends made the weekend special. Some people who have attended the retreat weekend even remember this weekend as something very special and reflect on it as an anniversary of rebirth of spiritual and family life.

As many of you are aware, the ACTS movement began in 1987 at the San Antonio parish of Our Lady of Perpetual Help. It has blossomed in the last few years and has moved outside of San Antonio, outside of Texas, and outside of the United States. This summer, there will be many retreats going on each weekend so that you or somebody you know may attend, or attend again. ACTS has recently been recognized by the papacy as a lay ministry that should continue. Most Catholics have the attributes of Adoration, Community, Theology, and Service instilled in them at a young age. As life progresses however, we tend to get sidetracked with what we consider more pressing issues. The ACTS retreat reignites the spiritual engine and brings the Catholic values back to the forefront.

How would you like to renew that emotional and spiritual fire? This summer, ACTS Missions is sponsoring ACTS Missions Convention 2008. The purpose of the convention is to provide members of the ACTS community an opportunity for fellowship and sharing outside of the individual's parish community. It is an opportunity to have dialogue with the ACTS executive board and members of other parishes. It is an opportunity to expand one's awareness of the ACTS

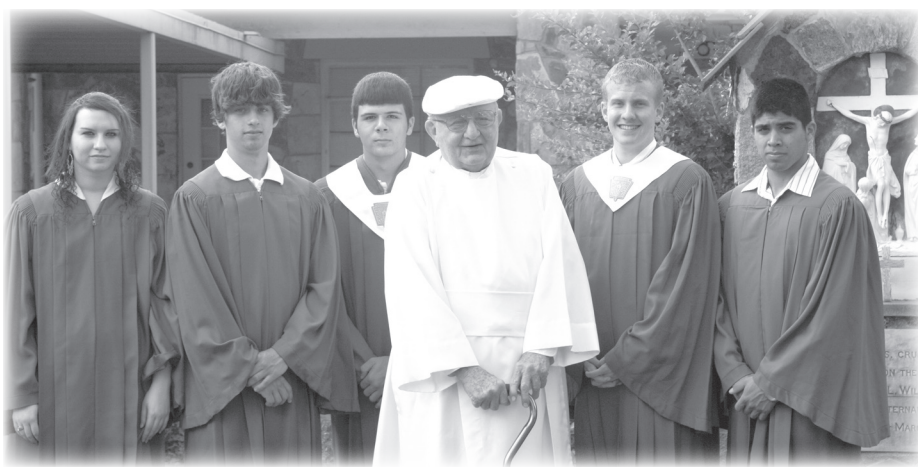
movement and explore other alternatives to the traditional ACTS ministries and services while still remaining faithful to the spirit and guidelines of ACTS. This is also a fundraiser for ACTS Missions so that it can continue to expand ACTS to areas that do not have it.

The convention begins on Thursday, July 31. It is a weekend to renew friendships, create new bonds, and re-instill the tenets of Adoration, Community, Theology, and Service in your life. It will conclude on Sunday, August 3. It takes place in scenic and historic downtown San Antonio at the San Fernando AT&T Centre.

Similar to an ACTS retreat, there are four days of events, speakers, and panels in store. There are events scheduled for all types of retreats: Men, Women, and Teen. Each area is targeted so that you can attend the activity that is most interesting to you.

Maybe you have been only to a retreat with no additional involvement. Maybe you have participated on multiple teams over many years. Maybe you are or have been a member of your parish's ACTS Core. It does not matter how you have been involved. What matters is that you have a love of Jesus Christ, his teachings, and you would like to be more involved in ACTS and parish ministries. This convention will provide you the tools you need to renew your faith journey with our Lord.

For more information including details of the activities and convention cost, please visit actsconvention.org. Registration fees are listed on the registration form and range from \$45 for youth to \$100 per adult and \$150 per couple. There are group discounts available as well. There will be many free items distributed for your enjoyment, and vendors will also be providing gifts for purchase. Information is also available on the Web site if you would like to become a convention sponsor.



HOSTYN AND PLUM GRADUATES HONORED—On Sunday, May 24, 2008, the members of the Queen of the Holy Rosary Parish in Hostyn and Sts. Peter and Paul in Plum honored the La Grange High School graduates who are members of each parish. The seniors, dressed in their graduation gowns, participated in the celebration of the 8:00 a.m. Mass in Hostyn. Afterwards, the seniors, their families and the parishioners were treated to donuts, cookies, juice and coffee on the church grounds. This year's graduates are pictured above with Msgr. Stanley J. Petru. They are (l. to r.) Allyson Svec, Jay Taylor, Aaron Dittrich, Brendan Mueller and Darby Guajardo.



NA STUDENTS RECOGNIZED BY DUKE TIP—The Duke University academic Talent Identification Program (TIP) recognized Charles Holloway, Gideon Luck and Clara Allen at Trinity University on June 2 for their outstanding scores on the college SAT exam. The Duke TIP program identifies and invites academically talented seventh graders to take the ACT or SAT college exam each year, to encourage students to foster their academic talents. Those qualifying for TIP State recognition have the opportunity to participate in various innovative, challenging and highly motivational educational programs for verbally and mathematically talented youth.

Sts. Peter & Paul Catholic Church

Frelsburg

Country Festival

SUNDAY, AUGUST 3, 2008

Holy Mass - 8:15 AM

Fried Fish

Served at 11:00 AM

with Buttered Potatoes, Hush Puppies, Cole Slaw, Pinto Beans, Bread, Pickles & Tea

Meal Ticket: Large \$7.50 Small \$4.50

Drive Thru Line: Plate to go \$7.50

(Hamburgers, Nachos & Snacks available after 3 PM)



1:00 PM AUCTION

Featuring ...



at
Triangle B Ranch
in Fayette County

Trophy
Whitetail
Deer
Hunt

Plus quilts, homemade items & much more!



Bingo

11 a.m.
- 3 p.m.

- ★ Raffle
- ★ Country Store
- ★ Grocery Walk
- ★ Silent Auction
- ★ Cake Walk
- ★ Children's Games
- ★ Bouncin' Buddies
- ★ Horseshoe Pitching
- ★ Snow Cones
- ★ Dunking Stand
- ★ Plant Walk



Free Dance
Red Ravens

4 - 8 PM

Music during
the day by
DOUGLAS
POLASEK

MORAVIA ASCENSION PARISH PICNIC

MORAVIA, FM 957 & FM 532

SUNDAY, July 20

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

DINNER 11:00 a.m.

STEW & FRIED CHICKEN

ADMISSION: Adults \$7.00 - Children \$4.00 & TRIMMINGS

Drive-thru Plates To Go From 10:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. \$7.00

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

Prize Drawing
8:00 p.m.

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

EVERYBODY WELCOME - FUN FOR ALL!



COLUMBIAN SQUIRES SUPPORT VICTORIA CATHOLIC SCHOOLS—

The Columbian Squires 4324 from Victoria recently presented a donation to the general funds of OLV, Nazareth Academy and St. Joseph schools in the amount of \$1616.67 each. Pictured (front row, l. – r.) are Grand Knight Jeremy Martin of OLV KC Council 1329, which sponsored the Squires, Principal Scott Kloesel (NA), Principal Sister Leonita Barron (OLV), and Principal William McArdle (STJ); (back row, l. to r.): Squires Counselors Chris Bludau and Bryan Ellis from Holy Family Council 9088. The Columbian Squires is the junior organization of the Knights of Columbus that is dedicated to service for the church.

Catholic School Teachers Needed

Our Lady of the Gulf Catholic School, Port Lavaca, has lower elementary teacher positions available for the 2008-09 School year.

- Small class sizes in a supportive Christian environment
- Full benefits available
- Applicants must hold a bachelor's degree in education and/or a bachelor's degree with teacher certificate.

Please contact the school office at (361) 552-6140 ext. 202 for more information or send resume to Our Lady of the Gulf Catholic School; Attention Theresa Dent, Principal; P.O. Box 87; Port Lavaca, TX 77979



HOLY FAMILY KC COUNCIL HONORS GRADUATES—Six graduating children of Knights of Columbus members received college scholarships from Victoria KC Council 9088. The 2008 scholarship recipients were presented with a \$500 scholarship each. They were chosen particularly for their church activity, community and extra-curricular activity, and service and academics. Pictured, from left to right, are the recipients with their pastor and the KC grand knight: Father Greg Korenek, Holy Family pastor; Marett Hanes, Brittany Hermes, Nathalia Mendieta, Nicolas Janssen, Stephen Janak, and KC 9088 Grand Knight Bob Bryarly. Not pictured: scholarship recipient Christopher Bednorz.

Rev. Luke Mennella, O.S.S.T.

Continued from p. 4

ible mark in the lives of countless people whom he served. It is also important to underscore how Father Luke enjoyed the respect and admiration of his Trinitarian brothers throughout the world for his years as a missionary and his firm resolve to respond wholeheartedly to whatever the Order asked of him.

Father Luke is survived by his brother, Rocco Mennella of Maryland and his sister, Bridget Zamparelli of New Jersey. He is also survived by many nephews and nieces. His brother, Donato and his parents

have preceded him in death.

On June 25, a rosary was recited at Our Lady of Sorrows Church followed by a Mass at the church. Burial will follow at a later date at the Trinitarians Community Cemetery in Baltimore, MD.

Contributions may be made to the Our Lady of Sorrows Building Fund.

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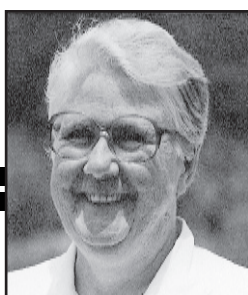
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SISTERLY THOUGHTS

By Sister Mildred Truchard, IWBS



The Gift of 'Freedom'

Independence Day is an occasion for celebration in many American homes. We thank God for the freedom that we enjoy today and we appreciate the courage of our founding fathers who risked all they possessed in their revolt against an oppressive regime. We know that many of them suffered great personal loss as a result of their actions. However, we gratefully enjoy the fruits of their foresight.

As we look upon our flag as a symbol of the quest for freedom and the blood that was shed to achieve and preserve that freedom, we proudly display and salute our flag. As I see the evidence of this pride displayed in yards and public places, I think about the contrast of the significance of our flag and that of the People's Republic of China. The current Chinese flag was first flown in Tiananmen Square in 1949 when the Communists took over the country. The flag has a bright red background repre-



China

senting the Communist Party with one large star representing Communism and four small golden stars in the upper left corner. The presence of five stars reflects the significance of the number five in the culture and heritage of China.

Just as the red background and the large star dominate the flag, Communism dominates the life of the people, who do not experience the freedoms that we enjoy. One of our basic freedoms is life and the right to have as large a family as we want.

Even though we, as a nation, have a long way to go in the line of demonstrating universal respect for life from conception to natural death, at least the government cannot force abortions or sterilizations for couples who al-

ready have one child because of a national one-child policy. Another freedom that we may take for granted is the freedom to worship as we wish. Chinese Catholics, who are openly loyal to the Holy Father, risk imprisonment or death.

Owning property is a privilege that we enjoy; in China most of the land and housing is owned by the state; therefore, you must "lease" it — even if it once belonged to your ancestors before the Communists took over. There are many more freedoms that we could list; however, I think that upon our reflection on the above examples of freedom-deprived Chinese citizens, we would appreciate the freedoms that we enjoy and thank God for those who have safeguarded these freedoms.

Therefore, whenever we see a United States flag or hear a patriotic song, let us breathe a prayer of thanksgiving and let us pray for the people of the world who are denied the blessings that we enjoy.

TRAVELING ANGEL MOVES TO NEW HOME—Father Kirby Hlavaty, pastor of St. Michael and Our Lady of Guadalupe parishes in Cuero, presents The Traveling Angel of St. Michael Parish to Charles and Jackie Papacek at the parish's 2008 Spring Festival. The couple was recognized for their dedicated years of service and leadership with many projects and activities. The Traveling Angel will reside with them for the coming year in appreciation of their dedication.



Inspiring Student Achievement Through Academic Competition



NAZARETH ACADEMY ANNOUNCES PSIA STATE WINNERS—Nazareth Academy students competed with private schools across Texas in the 2008 State PSIA Meet hosted at Texas Christian University in Fort Worth Saturday, May 3. Qualifying to participate at the PSIA level is an outstanding honor, and to place at State is a tremendous achievement. PSIA State winners from NA are Kathie Streeter, 6th place in Vocabulary, and Clara Allen, 3rd place in Vocabulary.

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8:30 a.m. (One Mass Only)



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GIRL SCOUTS RECEIVE RELIGIOUS MEDALS—Girl Scout Religious medals were presented to Girl Scouts from throughout the diocese by Bishop David E. Fellhauer at Our Lady of Victory Cathedral this past spring. Scouts receiving the Junior - I Live My Faith award were Jahnae Mata of Troop 9516 and Alexis Wilson of Troop 9564; and Danielle Malik, Sarah Andruss, Iris Young, Faith Barton, Emily Omecinski, Olivia Creager and Kaitlyn Como of Troop 9557. Brownies who received the Family of God Medals were Janeen Mata of Troop 95019; and Caitlin Walsh and Dana Malik of Troop 9579. The Girl Scout Religious Committee Catholic members are directed by Denise Andruss, Sandy Munoz, Martha Nichols, Diana Starnes and Barbara Wilcox.



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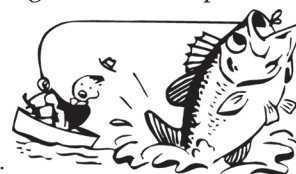
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Camp David 2008 tackles Catholic Social Teaching

By Debbie Vanelli, Director of Youth & Young Adult Ministry

What do you get when you combine 18 teenagers excited about their faith with a captive audience of over 200 junior high and elementary-age young people? One amazing camp - that's what!!!

Camp David 2008 proved to be a very memorable week. This year the focus was on Catholic Social Teaching, and the Camp David staffers tackled these somewhat daunting principles by incorporating a venue all the young people could relate to: movies.

Each session looked at movie clips and then related them back to the seven principles of Catholic Social Teaching: Life and Dignity of the Human Person; Call to Family, Community and Participation; Solidarity; Dignity of Work; Rights and Responsibilities; Option for the Poor and Vulnerable; and Caring for God's Creation.

In addition to these sessions, the participants took part in a teams' challenge course, water activities, a hayride, skits, liturgy, prayer services and so much more.

An undertaking of this size takes the dedication of many, many people. Special thanks to our staffers: Robby Drapela, Wendy Eggert, Anita, Paul

Hlavinka, Courtney Janak, Jennifer Kalus, Laura Martinez, Mariah Raz, Regina Janak, Anna Persyn, Hunter Shimek, Jay Sulak, Tommy Tran, Kimberly Tran, Emily Wagner, Paige Werner and Stephen



Staffers lead a silhouette prayer service of the Stations of the Cross at Camp David. (Top)



The "Cookie Factory" prepares campers to fall correctly in the Teams' Course Trust Fall.



Kids cool off in the Wet Area of the camp! (Bottom)



and Rebekah Garza, Coach and Judy Seiler, Melanie Ledwig, Julia Ortega, Kevin Majewski, Mike Vanelli, James Wearden, Chris Bednorz, Ethan Chamberlain, Layton and Layne Frederick, Megan

Winkenwerder, as well as the Life Teen Band from Our Lady of Sorrows, the music ministry of Holy Family, and Father David Berger and Father Dan Morales.

SCHOLARSHIPS AWARDED

—Pictured are two scholarship recipients from Court St. Ann No. 369 Catholic Daughters of the Americas, who were recently awarded certificates. Kelsey Schmidt, left, will be majoring in kinesiology and planning to be a physical therapist; she will attend Victoria College.



Adrienne Ballard, right, will be pursuing a nursing degree and will attend Texas A&M-Corpus Christi. They are pictured with Grace Rigamonti, scholarship committee chairman. A third recipient, Kevin Patek of Shiner, is not pictured. He will be majoring in kinesiology and working towards a field in sports medicine. He will also be attending Victoria College.

Life Teen announces "Sword Of The Spirit: A Beginner's Guide To St. Paul"

MESA, AZ—In joyful response to Pope Benedict XVI's declaration of the Year of St. Paul (June 2008-2009), Life Teen, an international Catholic youth ministry movement, is pleased to announce the release of "Sword of the Spirit: A Beginner's Guide to St. Paul" (202 pgs., \$14.95).

A concise and enjoyable read for all ages, "Sword of the Spirit" makes St. Paul's "most confusing" writings accessible and practical. Each captivating chapter takes the reader on a journey into the mind and heart of the Church's greatest missionary. The appendix includes overviews of each epistle, a thematic concordance, a personal reading plan, verses for reflection and maps outlining St. Paul's travels, making it an invaluable and handy resource for everyone from Bible novices to Scripture scholars.

Journey with two vibrant young Catholic authors as they introduce you to the

real St. Paul. Award-winning author and Life Teen Executive Vice President Mark Hart and Catholic theologian Christopher Cuddy skillfully introduce the reader to the man who traveled thousands of miles over dozens of years all for the sake of Christ and His Kingdom.

Dr. Scott Hahn, renowned Catholic author, professor and founder of the St. Paul Center for Biblical Theology provides the foreword to "Sword of the Spirit," saying, "When you read St. Paul, it can be daunting, and for that reason we can be thankful for books like this one and guides like its authors."

About Life Teen

Life Teen, Inc. was founded in 1985 and is an international Catholic movement that serves the Church by providing resources and faith experiences that help lead teens closer to Christ. This is accomplished through a vibrant eucharistic spirituality and by creating widespread opportunities for teens to grow in their faith. For more information on Life Teen, visit www.lifeteen.com/press. This is the third paperback release for Life Teen, Inc. Previous book releases include "100 Things Every Catholic Teen Should Know" and "Saintbook."



ST. JOSEPH SOPHOMORE AWARD-ED GOLD MEDAL IN MUSIC

Hilary Kristynik, a sophomore and music student at St. Joseph High School in Victoria, was awarded a State Gold Medal for superior performance from Texas Private Schools Music Educators Association (TPSMEA) State Solo and Ensemble Contest on May 24, 2008, in Addison, Texas. She performed on flute Sonata No.4 Op.5, No.1, movements 1 and 2 by Handel, accompanied on piano by Lori Duke. Her preparation for state was under the direction of Mike Petrisky and Karen Musch. Hilary is the daughter of Alan and Lisa Kristynik of Victoria, Texas.

St. Paul wrote: "Once you were darkness; now you are light in the Lord. Conduct yourselves as people who belong to the light."

— Ephesians 5:8

Called to Be Witnesses

STEUBENVILLE, OH— "Let's tell God that he's worth our time and praise," said Brian Kissinger, host of Franciscan University of Steubenville's Youth Conference, held June 13-15. "There is nowhere you can end up that is beyond his love. At your worst, the worse you can ever be, he will be with you, beside you, humbling himself." About 1,200 high school students from the US and Canada attended the conference. Thirty-two years ago, 1,000 youth and young adults gathered in Steubenville, Ohio, for the first Franciscan University youth conference. This summer, over 40,000 teens will participate in 19 youth conferences in 11 states in the U.S. and in Nova Scotia, Canada. The conference theme, "Witness," stressed the need for young adults to witness to a world that has no hope. "The word witness in Greek means martyr," said Kissinger. "You are going to be challenged by the world, and you will have to stand in the face of adversity."

The weekend was filled with opportunities to receive the sacrament of confession, Mass, and Eucharistic adoration. Teenagers met others who shared a love for Christ and grew in faith as they listened to speakers. In the women's session, "Witness of the Body," newlywed Caroline Gamble told girls that they can stand up in the face of the world that pushes them down. "We end up compromising so much of ourselves, because we are afraid. We need to reclaim our dignity and take a stand." Men's speaker, Chris Padgett, emphasized that men need to focus on purity and to strive to follow Christ completely. "All men want to find satisfaction in life. You can only be satisfied with Christ," he said. He used the example of Mary, the Mother of God as an example for young men. "She shows us that it's important to say yes to God and no to self gratification." "This talk was really good for me," said Isandro Gomez from Holy Family Parish in Caledonia, Michigan. "It was inspiring to hear that it's important to strive for God."

Other upcoming Franciscan University summer conferences include the St. John Bosco Conference (July 16-20) for Catholic educators, and the Defending the Faith Conference, (July 25-27), which focuses on Catholic apologetics. For more information, including a complete list of conferences for adults and youth, go to www.franciscanconferences.com.



Sacrifice is Heart of Eucharist, Christian Life, says French cardinal

By Deborah Gyapong
Catholic News Service

QUEBEC CITY (CNS) — Sacrifice is the heart of the Eucharist and Christian life, said Cardinal Philippe Barbarin of Lyon, France.

To “present Christianity without the cross, or mention (of) the eucharistic sacrifice ... would be a lie,” he said in French during his June 17 catechesis at the June 15-22 International Eucharistic Congress.

More than 12,000 people participated in the conference’s weeklong conferences, lectures and liturgies. Although 75 percent of the participants are Canadians, pilgrims came from more than 70 countries.

Cardinal Barbarin said that by faith the altar is the table of Holy Thursday, the cross of Good Friday and the tomb from which Jesus rose from the dead.

From the Jews, Christians inherited the concept of memorial, he said. The biblical word does not mean merely a monument to the past but “God’s active presence, a God who saves us today as he did in the past,” said the cardinal.

Even if this mystery took place 2,000 years ago, Christians believe that at every Mass they are like the apostles gathered around the Lord for the Last Supper, he said. They are like Mary at the foot of the cross, with a few women and the disciple Jesus loved; they are like witnesses to sightings of Jesus, he said.

“Who is celebrating this mystery?” Cardinal Barbarin asked.

Jesus said, “I have chosen you,” and people are called to answer with their vocations and in their sacrifices, said the cardinal.

He explained that the word sacrifice is often understood to mean suffering and deprivation, but it also is the joy invoked with an inner attitude of offering.

The characteristic of sacrifice is love, he said.

“Start with the priest,” he said, noting that the priest of the Latin rite gives power to the words “This is my body given up for you” because he is celibate.

A pregnant woman does the same in sacrificing her body for the baby, he said.

And for married couples, the sacrament God gave them helps

them understand over the years that “love is everything,” he said, adding that the Eucharist is a foundation for their lives together.

He spoke of young people who have not chosen their vocation — whether to marry or to enter religious life. Whatever the path, it involves the giving of their entire life, the cardinal said.

Cardinal Barbarin stressed the call to chastity. Young people are waiting for a clear testimony and challenging Christians of their age, he said.

He also mentioned those who are suffering: people who want to marry and have not had the

grace, those who are physically disabled, those who have lost their spouses, and those who have suffered neglect.

He discussed those who have followed Jesus to the extreme through martyrdom, including Christians in many countries who have given their lives.

In Algeria, he said, the Trappist monks murdered in 1996 gave a simple offering that was understood by all: They gave their lives because of an evangelical fidelity to the people God sent them to serve and love.

He said Archbishop Henri Teissier of Algiers, Algeria, visited Lyon last year to preach and spoke of the Christian victims of

the recent wave of extremist Islamic violence. Cardinal Barbarin said those listening knew Archbishop Teissier’s own life was in danger every day as well.

The first International Eucharistic Congress was held in France in 1881 as a gathering of 300 Europeans. Over the years, the congresses grew into an international event of celebrations, seminars and charitable works. The last International Eucharistic Congress was in Guadalajara, Mexico, in 2004. Quebec celebrates the global participation in the congress during the city’s 400th anniversary of its founding.



Clergy carry the Eucharist atop the Ark of the New Covenant at the end of the opening Mass of the 49th International Eucharistic Congress in Quebec City June 15. (CNS photo/Nancy Wiechec)

Nine-foot monstrance unveiled as part of new Divine Mercy shrine

CHICAGO (CNS) — Nine years of prayer, work and faith culminated May 31 when curtains parted in the sanctuary of St. Stanislaus Kostka Church in Chicago to reveal an iconic monstrance of Our Lady of the Sign, Ark of Mercy. It’s just the beginning, however, of what will be the Sanctuary of Divine Mercy, the official shrine to the Divine Mercy devotion in Chicago. Cardinal Francis E. George of Chicago was on hand to celebrate Mass and bless the new 9-foot, hand-carved and painted monstrance featuring Mary atop a gold-leaf decorated ark flanked by two kneeling angels, also in gold leaf, whose wings extend to shelter her. The 12-inch host, which had to be specially made

for the monstrance, is encased in Mary’s center. Mercy Festival, a week of daily 24-hour eucharistic adoration, began after the Mass. Approximately 1,500 people packed the church and its balconies to see the monstrance. The detailed monstrance is believed to be the world’s largest and was created by Polish sculptor Stefan Niedorezo. For more information, go to: <http://the-divinemercy.org/news/story.php?NID=3210&PLID=73>

The faithful move toward Our Lady of the Sign, Ark of Mercy, during Communion at St. Stanislaus Kostka Church in Chicago May 31. It will be the focal point of the future Sanctuary of Divine Mercy in the Archdiocese of Chicago. (CNS/Karen Callaway, Catholic New World)

THE POPE SPEAKS

Pope
Benedict XVI



CNS photo from Reuters

Via satellite video, pope urges Catholics to make world better

By Deborah Gyapong
Catholic News Service

QUEBEC CITY (CNS) -- The Eucharist is the church’s “most beautiful treasure” and introduces the faithful to eternal life, Pope Benedict XVI said in his homily during the closing Mass of the 49th International Eucharistic Congress June 22.

Speaking via satellite video in both English and French on two giant video screens that loomed over the historic Plains of Abraham in the city’s Battlefield Park, Pope Benedict told more than 55,000 pilgrims that the Eucharist “is the sacrament par excellence” and contains the mysteries of salvation.

“It is the source and summit of all action and the life of the Church,” he said.

The pope said the Eucharist does not separate the faithful from their contemporaries, but as the supreme gift of God’s love calls people to make the world a better place.

“We must not cease to fight so that every person is respected from conception to natural death, that our rich societies welcome the poorest and restore their dignity, that every person can live and feed his family, and that peace and justice radiate on all continents,” he said.

Pope Benedict urged participants to deepen their understanding of the Eucharist “so as to bear witness courageously to the mystery.”

“We must go back again and again to the Last Supper on Holy Thursday, where we were given a pledge of the mystery of our redemption on the cross,” the pope said. “The Last Supper is the locus of the nascent church, the womb containing the church of every age.”

“In the Eucharist, Christ’s sacrifice is constantly renewed, Pentecost is constantly renewed,” he said.

The pope stressed proper preparation for receiving the Eucharist. As much as possible the Eucharist must be received with a pure heart, he said, especially through seeking the sacrament of reconciliation.

Sin, especially grave sin, opposes the action of the eucharistic grace in us, he said.

In addition to deepening the understanding of the Eucharist, he urged more eucharistic adoration to prolong communion with Christ.

The pope also announced that Dublin, Ireland, would host the next International Eucharistic Congress in 2012.

The Mass took place in a park marking historic battlegrounds, where in 1759 the British defeated the French for control of Quebec. The giant screens showed not only close-ups of the liturgical celebration and wide shots of the massive crowd, but also glimpses inside the Vatican of the pope watching the proceedings on television.





At his Thanksgiving Mass, Father Leon says good-bye to the IWBS Sisters.



Father Leon and Sister Dorothy Susil, IWBS, became good friends while he was chaplain at the IWBS convent. She had taught him piano lessons when he first came to Victoria.

Father Rubaj, IWBS chaplain, retires

By Cynthia Brewer

Father Leon Rubaj, chaplain for the Congregation of the Incarnate Word and Blessed Sacrament Sisters in Victoria, celebrated his retirement as chaplain with a Mass of Thanksgiving June 3, 2008. The Mass was held at the convent chapel and was followed by a reception in the evening.

Father Leon had spent 12 years ministering in Victoria, specifically at IWBS convent as its chaplain. He often filled in to say daily Mass for Victoria's priests when they had other obligations, particularly for Father Say at Our Lady of Lourdes.

At the Mass, Bishop David E. Fellhauer stated, "We all gather here to express our gratitude to you, Father Leon."

He offered his personal gratitude to Father Leon for his ministry especially to the IWBS sisters in the infirmary.

"We wish you a very happy retirement – or different status in ministry in San Antonio," he said. "I hope it is a burden that is light for you."

Priests attending the Mass included Fathers Say of OLL, John Peters of Sacred Heart in Hallettsville, and Msgr. Arnold Anders, retired at Mount Carmel Home in Corpus Christi.

At the end of the Mass, Father Leon

said that he had been a Boy Scout and learned to "always be prepared."

"I would normally be celebrating my 'holy day of obligation' today at the shopping center or lake," he said in his strong Polish accent, "but I had to be prepared for the sisters who arranged this day of thanksgiving."

"Thank you Sisters Evelyn, Lois Marie, and all you sisters for this great surprise for me," Father Leon said.

He expressed how quickly it seemed since the Sisters had first greeted him, "Only God has no beginning and no end. Everything else has a beginning and end."

"Thank you for allowing me to minister to you Sisters over the years. If there was anything good, give thanks to God. If there was anything bad, don't blame me. Bye Bye," he said to laughter. "Thank you for tolerating me for 12 years. God bless you all until we meet again."

Father Leon was born in Poland and came to the United States in 1960. He joined the Archdiocese of San Antonio in the '80s and became the chaplain for the IWBS Sisters in 1996. Father Leon's official retirement date was June 8. He has retired to Casa de Padres in San Antonio.

Father Donald Hayden, O.S.S.T., replaces Father Leon as IWBS chaplain.

St. Michael parishioner receives honor

FLINT, Texas—Cuero artist Marion Reamy, a member of the Victoria Art League, was honored May 11 at the dedication of the Administration Complex of St. Mary Magdalene Church in Flint, Texas, a suburb of Tyler. A mosaic of the parish seal she designed and

painted was unveiled by Bishop Alvaro Corrada del Rio, S.J., of Tyler. The painting was inspired by 11th century paintings depicting St. Mary Magdalene greeting the 11 apostles outside the tomb of the Lord following his resurrection. It was completed by Marion at the request of Father Tim Kelley, pastor of St. Mary Magdalene.

Marion and her husband Milo were one of the 50 families who were founding members of the church in 1998, they are currently residing on their son's ranch near Cuero, Texas, and are now members of St. Michael Church in Cuero.

Pictured are Father Kelly and Marion during the reception at the administration complex following its dedication on Mother's Day, 2008.



TWO CELEBRATIONS IN ONE—On Saturday, May 31, 2008, the parishioners of the Queen of the Holy Rosary Parish in Hostyn and Sts. Peter and Paul in Plum held a small reception on the church grounds after the 5 p.m. Mass in Hostyn to acknowledge two events. The first was to welcome Father Joseph Kariuki who has been assigned to Sts. Peter and Paul in Plum. The second event was to acknowledge the 60 years of priesthood of Msgr. J. Stanley Petru. Msgr. Petru's ordination took place on June 1, 1948. Many parishioners were able to welcome Father Joseph and express their congratulations and appreciation to Msgr. Petru. In the picture are Edith Janda, Father Joseph and Msgr. Petru.

A son returns home for Thanksgiving Mass

By Cynthia Brewer

Father Justin Gillespie returned to Victoria, Texas, a year and two weeks after his ordination to the priesthood at St. Eugenio Basilica in Rome. He came home to St. Mary's, the parish in which he was raised and received his sacraments, to celebrate his Mass of Thanksgiving for his ordination. Father Justin is the son of Hank and

ined that they would be attending a Mass that I would be celebrating for them," he said to laughter.

He finished his statement repeating a quote from Pope Benedict XVI at his first Mass as pope, "The Church is alive!"

"In much smaller confines and a much smaller place, being a Victorian, one can't help exclaim the same thing,



Father Justin Gillespie returns from assignments in Spain and Italy to his home parish, St. Mary's in Victoria, to say his Mass of Thanksgiving at St. Mary Parish Sunday, June 15, 2008. Pictured with him, from left, is Msgr. James Brunner, pastor of St. Mary's; Father Justin; Fathers Gerry Kolf and Michael Barrett, both of Houston; Father Joe Hybner, pastor of Sacred Heart Church in Flatonia; Bishop David E. Fellhauer and Archbishop Jose Gomez of San Antonio.

Judy Gillespie of Victoria.

The Mass was celebrated Sunday, June 15, with Archbishop Jose Gomez of San Antonio and Bishop David E. Fellhauer. About a dozen priests from the Victoria Diocese, as well as Opus Dei priests from Houston, concelebrated the Mass with Father Justin.

Father Justin expressed his thanks for the presence of Bishop Fellhauer and Archbishop Gomez and the other priests who came to express their fraternity with him at his Mass of Thanksgiving. He gave thanks for Archbishop Gomez' friendship with his family and then expressed a special thanks to his parents.

"As everyone was passing by," Father Justin said, "that was when I really began to become overwhelmed with the need to give thanks."

"Especially in a particular way I would like to give to give thanks to the Incarnate Word Sisters for their efforts in educating me. I don't think they would have imag-

'The Church is Alive!'" He seemed to be saying this of the overflowing crowd at St. Mary's, which included several young couples with many babies. "It's a wonderful thing to come back and visit and realize, even though I'm not going to be physically in it, that I'm still very much a part of it (the Victoria Diocese). I support it and am supported by it," he said.

Since his ordination, May 26, 2007, Father Justin finished his Ph.D. in theology from the Pontifical University of the Holy Cross in Rome and was then sent on assignment to Spain to work with high school students and the sick, giving retreats and morning and evenings of recollection. He was able to schedule his Mass of Thanksgiving in Victoria since he was then to come to the United States and Mexico to assist priests with their work with summer camps and retreats for the summer of 2008.



Tommy Chih-Hsiang Chen ordained to the Priesthood of Jesus Christ

Father Tommy's Conversion Story

My vocation story begins in the seventh grade, when our parish organist retired and our parish council asked if I would become full time organist/cantor at our parish. I was delighted to take on that music ministry, and I served as the parish organist/cantor until I graduated from high school. As I continued my music ministry at St. Ann's (Point Comfort), I became involved with our parish's liturgical committee as well. Gradually, a thought entered my mind that church work was not bad, and I wouldn't mind doing it for the rest of my life...but not as a priest.

By high school, I had my life's plan worked out. After graduating from high school, I would study at the University of Texas in Austin as a pre-med student and become a doctor...find my future wife at UT...get married...and have a dozen kids!

Off and on certain parishioners and priests of the parish would suggest to me to consider the priestly vocation.

One parishioner, Mr. Ervin Hermes who was the parish sacristan (may he rest in peace), actually found a way to bring up the topic to me somehow every Sunday. Sunday after Sunday he would tell me he has the seminary application ready for my signature! My reply to the suggestion to consider the priesthood was to repeat my list of plans to these people. In all truthfulness, God had started stirring in my heart, but I didn't want to admit it.

When I began attending the University of Texas, I decided that I would take a break from church ministry because I did not want people to think that I wanted to become a priest. I was miserable though, so after a few months of being a "Sunday-Mass-only-minimal-Catholic," I joined the music ministry team at the Catholic Student Center, as well as a Catholic fraternity, Longhorn Awakening, and Veritas Bible Study.

It was through these organizations that I began meeting other young men who were my age and who were actively discerning God's call to the priesthood. Getting to know these men inspired me and convicted me to seriously evaluate why I would not give God a chance and simply consider the priesthood. I felt that I was not being a good disciple of Christ, because there was a part of me...mainly my vocation...of which I was not willing to let God take control. After much thought, prayer, chatting with friends, and a particularly intense "spiritual wrestling match" with God, I made the decision during my second year of college to enter the seminary after graduating from UT.

I graduated from UT with a degree in psychology in December 2000, and after working at St. Joseph's school in Yoakum for a semester, I entered Holy Trinity Seminary in Dallas to study philosophy for two years and then transferred to St. Mary's seminary in Houston for five years to complete my graduate studies in theology and my training for the priesthood.

Seven years seemed so long when I started, but that time passed quickly and was rich with God's blessings. I am extremely happy to be able to serve the Lord in the ministerial priesthood for the Diocese of Victoria.



Highlights of Father Tommy Chen's ordination at Our Lady of the Gulf, June 21, 2008: (1) As deacon and soon to be priest, Tommy Chen "graduates" from the "class" of diocesan seminarians; (2) Bishop Fellhauer lays hands upon Deacon Tommy; (3) Tommy lies prostrate before God during the Litany of the Saints; (4) Msgr. Don Sawyer and Father Dan Morales vest Father Tommy; (5) Bishop Fellhauer presents Father Tommy with the chalice and paten; (6) Father Tommy gives the Sign of Peace to Msgr. Stanley Petru, pastor in Hostyn and Plum; (7) Father Tommy, Bishop Fellhauer and his mother and father, Lucy and Kim, pose in the church after the ordination.

By Cynthia Brewer

PORT LAVACA—In the more than overflowing nave of Our Lady of the Gulf Church in Port Lavaca, Deacon Tommy Chen was ordained to the priesthood by Bishop David E. Fellhauer Saturday, June 21, 2008. Tommy is a parishioner of St. Ann Church in Point Comfort, but because it is a small, mission church, the ordination ceremony was held at its mother church of Our Lady of the Gulf. However, even with the larger church available, its parish hall, St. Jude's, had to be set up to hold another 200 family members and friends who watched the ceremony with a live video feed.

Even as I watched from the video feed, the opening procession was impressive. The procession began with seven Mass servers, which included the diocese's six seminarians, 21 deacons, 37 priests, Deacon Tommy and Bishop Fellhauer. Bishop Fellhauer served as the presider of the Mass, while the principal concelebrants were Father Dan Morales, director of vocations and pastor of Our Lady of the Gulf; Monsignor Don Sawyer, pastor of Our Lady's Maronite Church in Austin, and Rev. Dean Wilhelm, vice rector of St. Mary's Seminary in Houston. The master of ceremonies was Deacon Chuck Glynn of Frelsburg.

As Father Tommy and his family are from Taiwan, the second reading, Hebrews 5:1-10, was read in Mandarin Chinese

by Mr. Reuben Chen, seminarian of the Diocese of Dallas.

In his homily, Bishop Fellhauer said one of the highlights of the diocese was the ordination of a new priest; he just wished the diocese had more than one this year.

To Deacon Tommy he said, "Your role is to serve ... I know you will not forget we are all, priests and people alike, the Lord's flock, and genuine authority... in the community of Jesus, means humble service of all and faith that is submissive to the will of God." He finished his homily saying, "Tommy, may God give you many years in the priesthood ... and may God grant you many, many joys as you live out your priestly life."

After the laying on of hands by Bishop Fellhauer and the prayer of ordination, consecrating Deacon Tommy to the Lord's service as a priest of Jesus Christ, his parents, Kim and Lucy Chen, brought up the vestments with which Father Dan Morales and Msgr. Don Sawyer vested him.

The bishop then anointed Father Tommy's hands to signify his sharing in Christ's sanctifying ministry. His sisters, Wendy and Katie; brothers-in-law, Stanley and John, and nephews and niece, presented the chalice and paten which contained the gifts of bread and wine to the bishop who then presented them to Father Tommy, exhorting him to imitate the sacrifice of Jesus which he will celebrate

at every Mass.

After the celebration of the Eucharist, Bishop Fellhauer announced Father Tommy's parochial assignment as associate pastor at Sts. Cyril and Methodius Parish in Shiner.

Father Tommy said Masses of Thanksgiving on Sunday June 22, at Our Lady of the Gulf and St. Ann's in Point Comfort. The following week he said Masses at parishes he had spent time in during his pastoral year as a seminarian: Holy Family in Wharton and St. Philip in El Campo.

Tommy's family is originally from Taiwan. He was born in south Taiwan in the city of Kao-Shung. His family immigrated to the United States when he was five-years-old because his father was transferred to Texas for work. He works for the Taiwanese-based plastics company called Formosa in Point Comfort.

His entire extended family still lives in Taiwan and was not able to attend his ordination; therefore, he and his mother will travel back to Taiwan in July for a short visit to celebrate a couple of thanksgiving Masses in Chinese. He will say a Mass of Thanksgiving at the church in which he was baptized, Assumption Catholic Church in Ren Wu, and at the Holy Rosary Cathedral in Kao-shung.

He has not been back to Taiwan in over fifteen years and says he is very excited to be able to see his extended family again.



Twenty Something

By Christina Capecchi



Looking for love: Pop culture lends urgency to romantic quests

My friend Tauna's New Year resolution is to find romance. Last year's wedding circuit took a toll on her and now she's determined to find a mate.

The year is starting off slow, she acknowledged in her blog, but it's early yet. Thankfully, there are resources for Tauna, like Janis Spindel's book, "Get Serious About Getting Married: 365 Proven Ways to Find Love in Less Than a Year."

And if Thanksgiving rolls around and Tauna is still single, she could read Wendy Stehling's how-to book on finding a spouse in 30 days. (No joke!)

I understand the anxiousness of being unattached. Every time wedding bells ring for a friend, my biological clock ticks a little louder. And when their firstborn cries, the ticking gets louder yet.

I'm a content, confident person, but it's impossible not to compare my personal life with a friend who's standing in front of the altar. And it's hard not to feel a bit behind.

Unlike some of my single friends, I enjoy weddings. I love getting dressed up, dancing and celebrating a happy union. So the "Save the Date" cards accumulating on my fridge don't depress me. (I'm already planning my outfits.)

There's just one moment

I dread: the bouquet toss. We single ladies are displayed before the entire group. There's a palpable sense of desperation, the embarrassing notion that we should elbow and claw each other for the coveted prize. I hide in the middle of the pack and lay low when the flowers fly.

Pop culture lends a sense of urgency to the pursuit of a partner. Romance is the endpoint of the romantic comedy. Despite ascending planes or pounding rain or oncoming traffic, our fearless stars always connect before the credits roll.

Getting married is the object of reality TV and the subject of women's chatter. It is the goal and the cure. "She's made it now." Sigh. "She's married."

A bare ring finger can seem like a defect. The single life can feel achingly single. And more Catholics are experiencing that ache as the average age of a bride and groom keeps inching older.

For many of us, it creates a conundrum. In waiting on God's will, are we being passive? In acting on our will, are we defying his?

That's the issue my friend Emily wrestled when she joined www.catholic singles.com. "I was having one of those panicky moments where I could visualize myself as still single, 50-years-old, and only buying

Christmas gifts for nieces and nephews," she recalled. "I must have sat for five minutes before hitting the 'Enter' button on the registration page, pondering if my act was desperation or if I was simply taking charge of my possibilities."

I know Emily lifts these questions to the Lord, and I believe that's important. Pray along the path to marriage — or religious life or single life. Pray for patience. Pray for trust.

The first reading for Feb. 14 is fitting for singles struggling with that in-your-face holiday. After 40 long days afloat, Noah sends out a dove. "But the dove could find no place to alight and perch, and it returned to him in the ark."

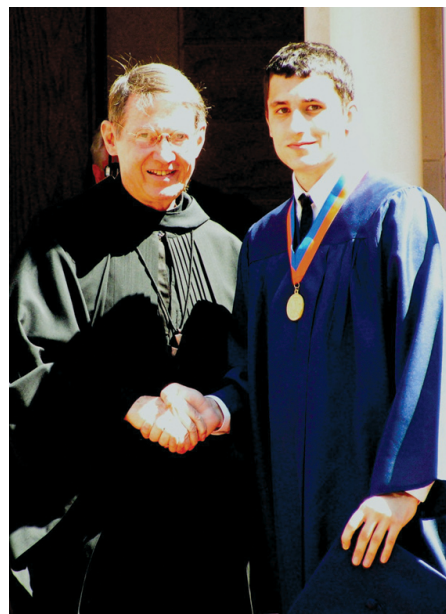
Noah is tired and seasick, so he tries again. And finally, the dove returns with an olive leaf. Hallelujah!

If you're feeling tired and seasick from the romantic quest, hang in there. Your dove will find a place to perch — in God's perfect timing, according to his infinite wisdom. He's writing a script that's way better than Steven Spielberg's. (And the soundtrack rocks.)

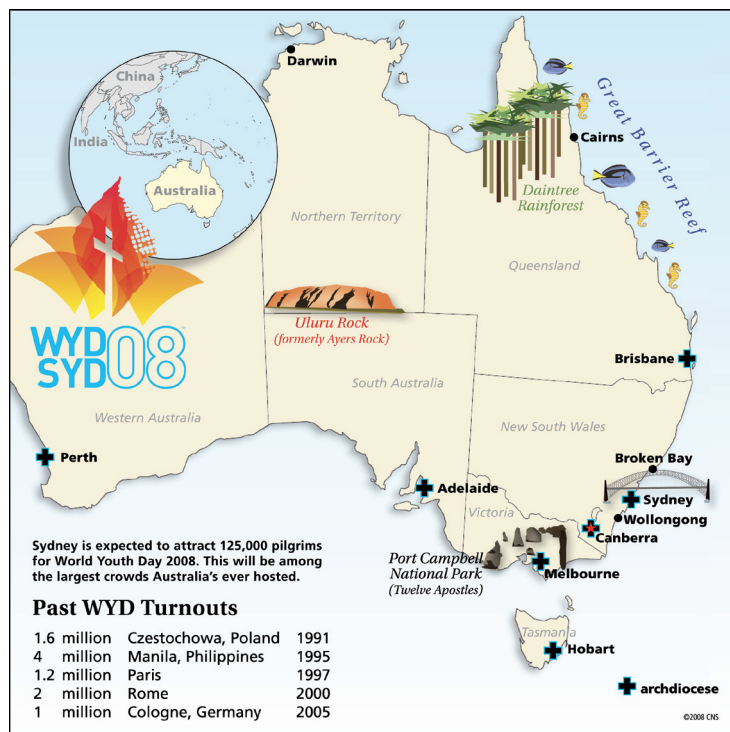
The longer it takes, the more ready you'll be for your mate, and the better you'll fit together.

So go dance the electric slide with crazy Aunt Sue. I'll see you at the bouquet toss. Meet me in the middle.

Christina Capecchi is a freelance writer from Inver Grove Heights, Minn. E-mail her at christinacap@gmail.com.



FORMER VICTORIA YOUTH WINS HONORS AT SUBIACO ACADEMY—Subiaco Academy proudly announces that Hunter Brendel, son of Dr. William and Cathy Brendel of Corpus Christi, formerly of Victoria, received the Gold Medal for Excellence in Literary Composition during the academy's graduation ceremony. Above, Abbot Jerome Kodell, OSB, president of Subiaco Academy congratulates Hunter. Subiaco Academy is a college preparatory boarding and day high school in northwest Arkansas dedicated to Catholic Benedictine traditions of service to God, respect for self and others, mutual support, and the value of work.



New Chaplain Named for the University of Dallas

IRVING, TEXAS — This summer the University of Dallas will welcome Rev. Anthony M. Densmore as the new university chaplain and rector of the Church of the Incarnation, located on the university's campus in Irving. Rev. Densmore will begin his new calling on July 1.

"I am excited to welcome our alumnus, Father Densmore, back to the University of Dallas community and work with him to continue the strong community of faith we have developed at the University and at the Church of the Incarnation," said Dr. Francis M. Lazarus, president of the University of Dallas. "I also look forward to collaborating with Father Densmore in maintaining and strengthening the Catholic values and religious commitment the university was founded upon."

Rev. Densmore was ordained to the priesthood on June 5, 2004, at the Cathedral Shrine of

Our Lady of Guadalupe in Dallas, Texas. Since his ordination, he has served as Parochial Vicar of St. Elizabeth Ann Seton Catholic Church in Plano, Texas. He received his bachelor's degree in chemistry from the University of Dallas, his master's degree in chemistry from Indiana University, and attended seminary at St. Meinrad Seminary in Meinrad, Ind. He is currently training to be a chaplain in the US Air Force Reserve, Non-Active Duty.



Rev. Anthony M. Densmore

About the University of Dallas: The University of Dallas is a Catholic, co-educational, liberal arts university with more than 3,000 students enrolled in undergraduate and graduate programs through the Constantin College of Liberal Arts, the College of Business, the Graduate School of Management, the Braniff Graduate School of Liberal Arts, and the School of Ministry.

Knights of Columbus set charitable record

NEW HAVEN, CT — The Knights of Columbus have set a new all-time record for charitable giving and volunteer service hours in 2007.

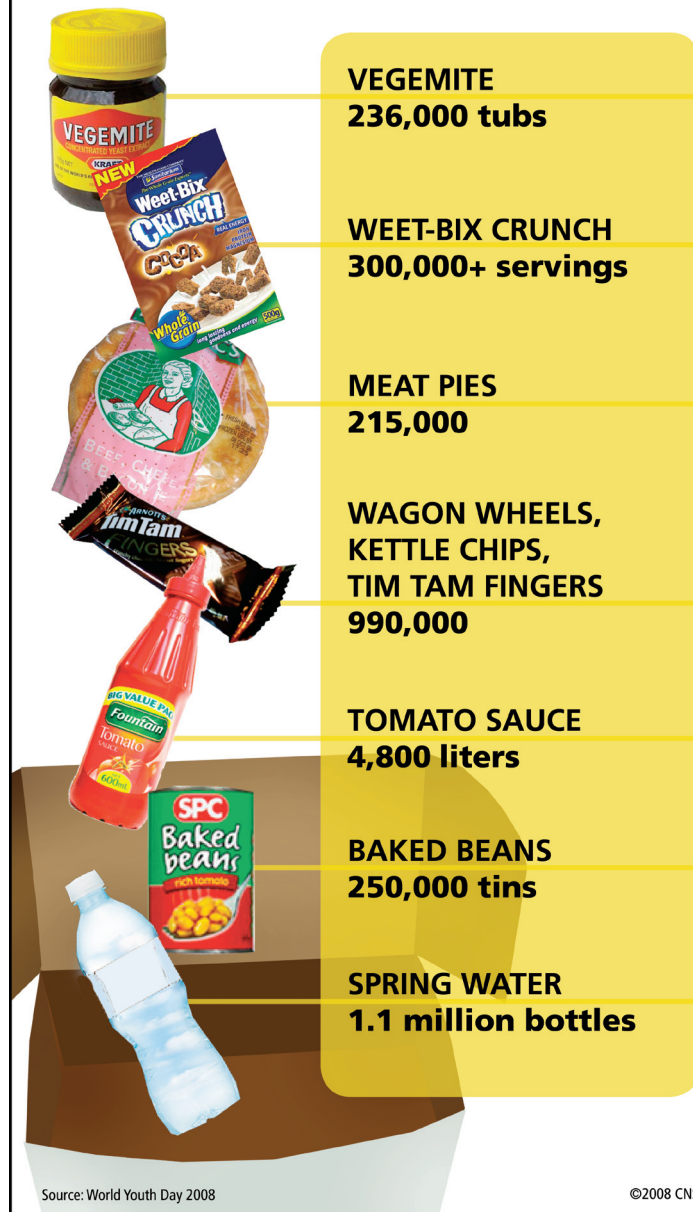
The results of the Order's Annual Survey of Fraternal Activity for the year ending December 31, 2006, show that total contributions to charity at all levels reached \$144,911,781 — exceeding the previous year's total by more \$1 million. The figure includes \$31,235,220 donated by the Supreme Council, and \$113,676,561 in charitable donations from state and local councils, Fourth Degree assemblies, and squire circles.

The survey also shows that the reported number of volunteer hours by Knights for charitable causes grew to 68,270,432 hours, up more than 400,000 hours from 2005. There were 393,030 Knights of Columbus blood donors during the year, and Knights made more than 5.5 million visits to the sick and bereaved.



Feeding the Flock

Pilgrims at World Youth Day 2008 will discover some Aussie favorites in their meal boxes. Some items being prepared for the international youth fest in Sydney:





Cardinal Mahony, Rwandan Genocide Survivor, Government Officials, to speak at National Migration Conference

WASHINGTON—Cardinal Roger Mahony, Archbishop of Los Angeles; Edwidge Danticat, Haitian immigrant and author; U.S. Representative Chris Smith (R-NJ), a long-time advocate for global human rights and assistance to victims of human trafficking; Immaculee Ilibagiza, Rwandan genocide survivor and author; Marcelo Suarez-Orozco, renowned migration expert and university professor on globalization; and representatives of the U.S. Departments of State, Health and Human Services and Homeland Security are all part of this year's program of the National Migration Conference.

With the theme *Renewing Hope, Seeking Justice*, the conference is sponsored by the Migration and Refugee Services department of the United States Conference of Catholic Bishops (MRS/USCCB) and the Catholic Legal Immigration Network, Inc. (CLINIC), and will take place July 28-31 in Washington.

As the keynote speaker, Cardinal Mahony will assess the role and importance of church involvement in the national immigration debate. He will draw upon the Holy Father's new encyclical, *Spe Salvi* (Saved By Hope) and the theme of the conference, which looks at the Church's mission to "welcome the stranger."

At the same opening plenary session, Marcelo Suarez-Orozco, Ph.D., professor of Globalization and Education at the Steinhardt School of Education of New York University, will speak on global migration to bring a broader focus to the immigration debate and an examination of the factors that compel the movement of persons within and across borders.

The next morning, a panel of U.S. Government officials will outline efforts to restore the U.S. refugee admissions program to pre-2001 levels, and note recent efforts targeted at Iraqis and others. Sam Witten, Acting Assistant

Secretary of State, U.S. Department of State, Bureau of Population, Refugees, and Migration; David Seigel, Acting Director, U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, Office of Refugee Resettlement; and Lori Sciallaba, Associate Director for International Operations and Special Representative on Iraqi Refugees, U.S. Department of Homeland Security, Bureau of Citizenship and Immigration Services, are scheduled to participate on this panel. Conference participants will have the opportunity to question each official about the status of the program and make suggestions for improvement.

Edwidge Danticat will recount her immigrant story as a child coming to the United States and how that experience has influenced her life journey since then. She will also tell the story of her uncle who was caught up in the U.S. detention system with life and death consequences.

Representative Chris Smith (R-4th, NJ) will give a Capitol Hill perspective on migration issues being considered by Congress, including human trafficking, refugee protection and immigration reform, and will offer suggestions for how the Catholic community can influence Congress to enact positive legislation.

Immaculee Ilibagiza will speak from her experience of having endured and survived great suffering and loss as a result of the Rwandan genocide of the early 1990's. Despite this hellish experience, hers is a story of incredible faith, forgiveness, and redemption.

Mauricio Farah Gebara, who currently serves as Inspector General of the National Commission of Human Rights of Mexico, will speak about the numerous cases of violation of human rights he handles and talk about international migration and human rights.

The National Migration Conference will also include Capitol Hill visits, a celebration of CLINIC's 20th anniversary and the MRS and CLINIC Service Excellence Awards. More information can be found in the Conference web page: <http://nationalmigrationconference.org>.

Iraqi Refugees and U.S. Admissions

More than 2 million Iraqis displaced by war live outside their country.



Numbers are from February 2007 through March 2008.

Source: U.N. High Commissioner for Refugees © 2008 CNS

What's all this about "gay marriage?"

To assist readers to learn the truth about what the church teaches regarding homosexuality and gay marriage I would like to recommend United States Conference of Catholic Bishops and Vatican documents relating to the issues.

"Always Our Children: A Pastoral Message to Parents of Homosexual Children" at: <http://www.usccb.org/laity/always.shtml>;
See *What's all this about*, p. 16

'Palliative care' or murder?

(OneNewsNow.com) — The Alaska Supreme Court has intervened to protect the life of a disabled patient that an Anchorage hospital wants to stop treating and allow to die. Less than one month ago, on May 9, Mari Chamberlain's heart temporarily stopped, and she is now in a coma. Doctors at Providence Hospital in Anchorage, Alaska, believe there is no hope for her to recover. Anchorage attorney Kenneth Kirk is working with the Alliance Defense Fund, representing the Chamberlain family. "And the hospital, which is Providence Hospital, is trying to put her on what they call 'palliative care,' which just simply means put her on pain killers and such and let her die," Kirk explains. A state court ruled in the hospital's favor, but the Alaska Supreme court extended a temporary restraining order indefinitely until the family has exhausted their legal appeals. However, the hospital immediately filed an appeal asking the court to reconsider.

Faithful Citizenship DVD available

The *Faithful Citizenship* DVD is now available for shipping from USCCB Publishing. It is designed to provide a lively but brief overview of the bishops' statement for use by small groups, in classrooms, at conferences, and in other settings. The DVD includes three ten-minute segments—one for adults in English, one for adults in Spanish, and one for teens in English. To order, go to <http://www.usccbpublishing.org/productdetails.cfm?PC=981>. The three segments of the *Faithful Citizenship* DVD can also be viewed on the *Faithful Citizenship* Web site at www.faithful-citizenship.org.

More Supply or Less Demand?

With the recent spike in gasoline prices, politicians and pundits have begun calling again for energy independence for America. Ethanol refiners continue lobbying Congress for massive subsidies, while electric utilities and coal producers promote clean coal and a nuclear renaissance. Oil executives, complaining that U.S. restrictions have hampered developing new sources of oil, advocate opening the Arctic National Wildlife Refuge to oil drilling. For the present, traditional forms of energy are needed to find the glide path into the terrain of alternative energy sources, yet in the future, the emphasis cannot rest solely on supply.

People of faith recognize the market functions by supply and demand, and now, at least in the near term, some demands appear unsustainable and too costly for the common good. To produce enough ethanol to fill one tank of gas in an SUV takes 450 pounds of corn. To supply all U.S. gasoline through ethanol would require planting 71 percent of American farmland in fuel crops.

In 1950 a single family car might be parked near a house averaging 1,100 square feet, but in 2005 probably several cars would stand in driveways

of houses that doubled to 2,340 square feet with fewer occupants and lots more space to heat and cool. Currently, the U.S., with less than 5 percent of the world's population, uses one-third of the world's electricity produced annually. With drained wetlands, clear-cut forests and paved-over top soil the capacity of the planet to carry life is rapidly being exhausted by human habits and lifestyles.

If energy were the coin of the realm, that coin would have two worn sides: first, the problems associated with global warming, and second, the challenges posed by energy security. "Energy independence" has morphed into code for "drill it all, dig it all and double it all."

Global warming could initiate a new sense of community among all countries, since "everyone lives down stream" of hostile climate change. About one hundred million people in the world live one meter above sea level. With increased global warming exacerbated by burning fossil fuels, the melting ice caps would inflict unimaginable flooding of these poor populations, plus introduce diseases previously unknown in temperate regions.

Known world petroleum reserves will last 80 to 100 years, natural gas 70 to 90 years. The

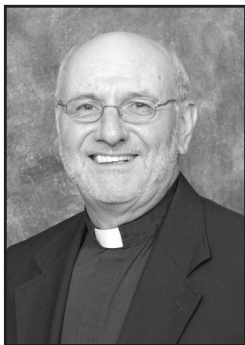
geopolitical imperatives to secure control of energy resources mount. Question: was the invasion of Iraq more about weapons of mass destruction or controlling the oil supply? People of faith see a simpler lifestyle and a more intentional use of resources as an essential component of peace building.

Pope Benedict XVI in his 2008 World Day of Peace Message said, "We need to care for the environment: It has been entrusted to men and women to be protected and cultivated with responsible freedom, with the good of all as a constant guiding criterion." The "good of all" extends to succeeding generations who equally deserve a healthy, and not degraded, earth.

Two approaches make sense. First, mount intense and massive national investment on the scale of the moon race to develop renewable (solar, wind, geothermal, biomass, etc.) and high-tech (hydrogen-generated power, fuel cells, nuclear fusion, etc.) energy sources.

Second, adopt an ethic of "less and local" to address the short term urgency. More oil can be "found" in Detroit by designing more fuel-efficient cars than from ANWR. More electricity can be "generated" from retrofitting homes with better insulation than from another coal-fired plant.

A new energy consciousness begins with numerous personal choices that collectively grow into the political will to change.



By Fr. John S. Rausch

Building Peace in Northern Ireland

CINCINNATI—Even though Northern Ireland has suffered conflict and violence for decades, an association of Catholic and Protestant clergy called the "Ballynafeigh Clergy Fellowship" has been working to bring healing to a battered Belfast. And their work has paid off: During the restoration ceremony of Good Shepherd Catholic Church in December 2007, attendance of Protestant clergymen proved that peace continues to flourish in the Ballynafeigh District. The story of the "Ballynafeigh Clergy Fellowship" is featured in St. Anthony Messenger's July cover article titled, "Northern Ireland's Fellowship of Peace," by Mary Taylor, a resident of Belfast. The article is posted at: <http://www.AmericanCatholic.org>.



50 Promises For Marriage

1. Start each day with a kiss.
2. Wear your wedding ring at all times (if job safety allows).
3. Date once a week.
4. Accept differences.
5. Be polite.
6. Be gentle.
7. Give gifts.
8. Smile often.
9. Touch.
10. Talk about dreams.
11. Select a song that can be "our song".
12. Give back rubs.
13. Laugh together.
14. Send a card for no reason.
15. Do what the other person wants before he or she asks.
16. Listen.
17. Encourage.
18. Do it his or her way.
19. Know his or her needs.
20. Fix the other person's breakfast.
21. Compliment twice a day.
22. Call during the day.
23. Slow down.
24. Hold hands.
25. Cuddle.
26. Ask for each other's opinion.
27. Show respect.
28. Welcome the other person home.
29. Look your best.
30. Wink at each other.
31. Celebrate birthdays in a big way.
32. Apologize.
33. Forgive.
34. Set up a romantic getaway.
35. Ask, "What can I do to make you happier?".
36. Be positive.
37. Be kind.
38. Be vulnerable.
39. Respond quickly to the other person's request.
40. Talk about your love.
41. Reminisce about your favorite times together.
42. Treat each other's friends and relatives with courtesy.
43. Send flowers every Valentine's day and anniversary.
44. Admit when wrong.
45. Be sensitive to each other's sexual desires.
46. Pray for each other daily.
47. Watch sunsets together.
48. Say, "I love you" frequently.
49. End the day with a hug.
50. Seek outside help when needed.

Forwarded from the Inspiration List / www.inspirationlist.com/index.html

Marriage Preparation encouraged to form Healthy Marriages

Texas Catholic Conference Austin, Texas

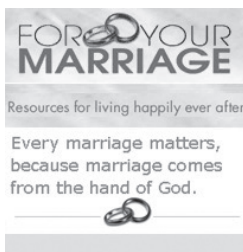
Beginning September 1, 2008, Couples who complete an eight-hour marriage preparation course will have their state marriage licensing fee waived. After taking the course, the couple will receive an attendance certificate that is valid for one year for obtaining the license.

These new rules are part of "Together in Texas-Healthy Marriage Initiative," a program based on a law passed by the Texas Legislature during the 2007 legislative session. The Healthy Marriage initiative in Texas promotes free, skills-based marriage education and provides couples with the tools they need to manage the challenges inherent in relationships. Research has shown that couples who receive premarital and marriage education improve their communication

skills and increase their marital satisfaction which benefits child well-being.

The Catholic Church has a long history of helping couples to prepare for marriage. Because the Church wants couples to form strong, lasting marriages, couples who wish to marry in the Catholic Church are asked to attend an approved marriage preparation program. There are many different formats for marriage preparation programs ranging from intensive weekends, to a weekly series, to "in home" mentor couple programs.

For more information on Catholic Marriage resources, for engaged couples, married couples, or others who are interested, you can visit the U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops "For Your Marriage" Web site at www.foryourmarriage.org/.



FAMILY PUZZLE CONTEST

WORKS OF MERCY II

www.wordgamesforcatholics.com

D	W	X	S	G	N	O	R	W	R	A	E	B	V	Z
E	A	F	P	T	C	N	J	S	I	N	N	E	R	S
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O	W	E	D	A	E	D	P	S	M	R	Q	V	L	Q
S	Y	R	O	S	U	D	L	U	M	L	I	U	I	H
I	U	V	T	V	A	O	P	I	Q	G	H	P	O	L
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P	B	T	Y	N	F	B	V	O	K	Z	E	U	V	J
M	D	T	R	N	L	T	F	W	W	L	L	E	D	E
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AFFLICTED
BEAR WRONGS
DEAD
DOUBTFUL
FORGIVE

HOMELESS
HUNGRY
IGNORANT
IMPRISONED
JUSTICE

NAKED
PRAY
SICK
SINNERS
THIRSTY

Family Puzzle Contest Winners

Margie Kocian of Sacred Heart Parish in Hallettsville is the June Family Puzzle Contest winner and has won a copy of "In the Footsteps of Francis and Clare" by Roch Niemier, OFM, published by St. Anthony Messenger Press.

Brenna Munsch (9) of St. Anthony Parish in Columbus is the winner of the youth puzzle contest. She will receive a gift from the Incarnate Word Gift Shop.

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

The winner of next month's contest will win a copy of "Marriage – It's a God Thing" by William P. Roberts and published by St. Anthony Messenger Press. 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 for a chance to win "Marriage – It's a God Thing." Send to: Family Contest, *The Catholic Lighthouse*, P.O. Box 4070, Victoria, TX 77903. Only youth need to include age.

"Marriage: It's a God Thing," to be July Family Puzzle Contest Prize

Marriage is not a mere social convention or an "inferior" way of following Christ, but truly a vocation. Rather than providing obstacles to spiritual growth, author William P. Roberts says, marriage can be the very vehicle by which it is achieved. By offering practical tips on what might seem to be a difficult subject to understand, this book can help a couple achieve a deeper intimacy with one another and God by understanding the importance of their relationship and responding to its challenges with prayer, honesty and introspection.

"A much richer understanding of the meaning of Christian Marriage as a sacrament has evolved. This book ... in concrete, practical ways tries to show how that can

make a difference in the day-to-day lives of the couple striving for a happier, more fulfilling and holier marriage" (from the forward).



Marriage: It's a God Thing is published by St. Anthony Messenger Press and can be purchased from their Web site at <http://catalog.american-catholic.org/> for \$13.95.

William P. Roberts has a doctorate in theology from Marquette University and is professor of theology at the University of Dayton. His books include *Prayers for Reflective Christians* (University of Dayton Printing and Design). He is coeditor of *Christian Marriage and Family: Contemporary Theological and Pastoral Perspectives* (Liturgical Press).

What's all this about "gay marriage?"

Continued from p. 15

"Ministry to Persons with a Homosexual Inclination: Guidelines for Pastoral Care" at: <http://www.usccb.org/dpp/Ministry.pdf>; and Pontifical Council For The Family – Family, Marriage And "De Facto" Unions at: http://www.vatican.va/roman_curia/pontifical_councils/family/documents/rc_pc_family_doc_20001109_de-facto-unions_en.html or there is a copy of the document in the chancery library.



The Works of Mercy

The traditional corporal works of mercy, those that tend to bodily needs, are:

- To feed the hungry;
- To give drink to the thirsty;
- To clothe the naked;
- To shelter the homeless (welcome the stranger);
- To visit the sick;
- To ransom the captive (visit the imprisoned);
- To bury the dead.

The spiritual acts of mercy, those providing for the needs of the spirit; are:

- To instruct the ignorant;
- To counsel the doubtful;
- To admonish sinners;
- To bear wrongs patiently;
- To forgive offences willingly;
- To comfort the afflicted;
- To pray for the living and the dead.

From the Catholic Encyclopedia at www.newadvent.org/cathen/10198d.htm

The Counseling Corner

Making Your Vacation A Time For Relaxing, Not Stressing Out

By the American Counseling Association

Summer vacation is a time to rest, recharge and get away from the demands of work or school. At least, that's the theory.

Unfortunately, many summer vacations produce enough stress that people look forward to getting back to their work schedule in order to rest up from their "vacation."

Making a summer vacation truly relaxing isn't difficult. It simply requires making a few careful, sensible choices. It isn't about how much time you have off or where you go, but rather about what you do with that time and the choices you make to help you relax.

Trying to do too much is one source of vacation stress. Experts suggest staying in fewer places for longer periods of time as one way to increase relaxation. They also advise against trying to pack in too many activities. It's fine to schedule, but every minute doesn't need to be filled. Plan some relaxing down time that's simply for you.

For a family vacation, reduce conflict and complaining by planning activities that will satisfy at least some of the needs of all family members. Help your children understand that there will be trade-offs. Some things on the vacation list will certainly be to keep them happy, but others will be there to help keep mom and dad happy, too.

Being realistic about work obligations can also reduce vacation stress. If you find you can't just forget your work obligations, you're not going to relax.

So, instead of worrying or constantly calling the office, plan some specific work time. Schedule one afternoon for the family to disappear while you check with the office and clear up those nagging problems. Plan that time, get the work done and then refocus on

the vacation.

Vacation time can and should be restful and fun. If it's stressful instead, it's because you're making it so. Do you worry about a vacation "schedule" or are you able to be flexible and take advantage of whatever looks like fun? Do you have a selection of activities from which to choose, or have you set a packed schedule of sightseeing and activities that's likely to leave everyone tired, cranky and feeling overwhelmed?

Make a decision that your vacation time is going to be fun and relaxing, and then make vacation choices to make that a reality. Keep it simple, under-scheduled, and flexible, and you just might come back refreshed and reinvigorated.



"The Counseling Corner" is provided as a public service by the American Counseling Association, the nation's largest organization of counseling professionals. Learn more about the counseling profession at the ACA Web site, www.counseling.org.



Substitute Adorers Needed

St. Mary's Adoration Chapel in Victoria is always in need of substitutes. At this time, the chapel is in particular need of volunteers for the hours of: Wednesdays, 2 – 3 p.m.; Thursdays, 8 – 9 a.m.; Fridays from 2 – 3 p.m. and 5 – 6 p.m. If you could commit to one of these hours, or if you are willing to fill in when an adorer needs a substitute, please sign up to volunteer. Call Cleo Boldt at 573-6161 or St. Mary Rectory at 573-4328.

Fourth of July Prayer

Dear Lord,

There is no greater feeling of liberation than to experience this freedom from sin and death that you have provided for me through Jesus Christ. Today my heart and my soul are free to praise you. For this I am very thankful.

On this Independence Day I am reminded of all those who have sacrificed for my freedom, following the example of your Son, Jesus Christ. Let me not take my freedom, both physical and spiritual, for granted. May I always remember that my freedom was purchased with a very high price. My freedom cost others their very lives.

Lord, today, bless those who have served and continue to give their lives for my freedom.

Amen



Sunday readings from July 13 to August 10

July 13 — 15th Sunday in Ordinary Time

Isaiah 55:10-11
Psalm 65:10, 11, 12-13, 14
Romans 8:18-23
Matthew 13:1-23

July 20 — 16th Sunday in Ordinary Time

Wisdom 12:13, 16-19
Psalm 86:5-6, 9-10, 15-16
Romans 8:26-27
Matthew 13:24-43

July 27 — 17th Sunday in Ordinary Time

1 Kings 3:5, 7-12
Psalm 119:57, 72, 76-77, 127-128, 129-130
Romans 8:28-30
Matthew 13:44-52

August 3 — 18th Sunday in Ordinary Time

Isaiah 55:1-3
Psalm 145:8-9, 15-16, 17-18
Romans 8:35, 37-39
Matthew 14:13-21

August 10 — 19th Sunday in Ordinary Time

1 Kings 19:9a, 11-13a
Psalm 85:9, 10, 11-12, 13-14
Romans 9:1-5
Matthew 14:22-33

Child Car-seat Safety

HELPFUL TIPS & ADVICE FOR PARENTS

Meriden, CT—The widespread use of children's car seats has reduced the number of injuries and fatalities on American roads, but experts agree that more needs to be done.

"Every state requires that children under the age of four are secured while riding in a car," noted Ray Palermo, director of public information for Teachers' Insurance Plan™. "Yet despite the laws and warnings, car crashes are still the single largest cause of death among children under the age of fourteen." It is estimated that half of the approximately 1,500 fatalities each year could be prevented with the proper use of a child car seat.

Although State laws vary and parents should check to ensure they are complying with all local regulations, the insurer offered some general guidelines for parents to follow.

Start Out Right: The best way to get children in the habit of using safety restraints is to learn from their parent's example. The driver, all adult passengers and all infants and children should be safely secured before starting the engine.

Infants Up to 20 Pounds: Infants from birth to 1-year old and under 20 pounds in weight should be secured in an infant car safety seat on the back seat of the vehicle, facing the rear. This avoids injury from an inflated airbag and will be less of a distraction for the driver. If your vehicle does not have a back seat, deactivate the airbag for that trip, but be sure to reactivate it when an adult is the passenger.

Infants 20+ Pounds: Infants from birth to 1-year who weigh more than 20 pounds should be either secured in a convertible safety seat or in an infant seat approved

for their weight. The seats should be secured on the back seat of the vehicle, facing the rear.

Children 20 to 40 Pounds: Children older than 1-year who weigh 20 to 40 pounds should be secured in a child safety seat on the back seat of the vehicle, facing forward.

Children 40+ Pounds: Chil-

dren who have outgrown their child safety seat, but are still too small (less than 4' 9") to use the standard adult safety belt in the car, should use a booster seat. The lap belt should sit across the hips and the shoulder belt should not cross the neck or face.

Teachers' Insurance Plan also offered these cautions: Be sure to read the manufacturer's instructions on proper installation or check with your local police or fire department, who are often certified to inspect car seats. When buying a car seat, look for the DOT tag. Do not use a car seat that is broken or missing parts.

For more information go to the Safety Information Center at www.teachers.com/safety.

For Safety Tips for families taking their pets on the road, go to www.victoriadiocese.org/lighthouse/lighthouse.htm and click on July 2008 Extras.



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Renovando La Fe, Buscando La Justicia Lema De La Conferencia Nacional Sobre Migración 2008

WASHINGTON La Conferencia Nacional sobre Migración 2008 tendrá como tema Renovando la Fe, Buscando la Justicia. Entre los principales ponentes se encuentran el Cardenal Roger Mahony, Arzobispo de Los Angeles; Edwige Danticat, inmigrante y escritora haitiana; Christopher Smith, Representante republicano de Nueva Jersey y tradicional defensor de los derechos humanos y de asistencia a las víctimas del tráfico de personas; Immaculee Ilibagiza, superviviente del genocidio de Ruanda y escritora; el doctor Marcelo Suárez-Orozco, conocido experto sobre el fenómeno migratorio; Mauricio Farah Gebara, de la Comisión Nacional de Derechos Humanos de México; y representantes del Departamento de Estado, el Departamento de Salud y el Departamento de Seguridad Interna de Estados Unidos.

La Conferencia tendrá lugar en Washington, D.C. del 28 al 31 de julio y está patrocinada por Migration and Refugee Services de la Conferencia de Obispos Católicos de Estados Unidos y por Catholic Legal Immigration Network, Inc. (CLINIC son sus siglas en inglés). Las conferencias se ofrecerán en inglés, aunque un servicio de traducción simultánea al español durante las sesiones generales está disponible para aquellos que lo soliciten.

El Cardenal Mahony será el principal ponente de la sesión inaugural. En su ponencia el cardenal hará una valoración del papel de la Iglesia y la importancia de que ésta se involucre en el debate migratorio a nivel nacional. La charla incluirá pensamientos tomados de la encíclica Spe Salvi (Salvados por la esperanza) del Santo Padre y, de acuerdo al tema de la conferencia, explorará la misión que tiene la Iglesia de dar la bienvenida al extranjero.

En la misma sesión plenaria, el doctor Marcelo Suárez-Orozco, profesor de Globalización y Educación en la Steinhardt School of Education de la Universidad de Nueva York, hablará sobre el fenómeno migratorio global para traer un enfoque más amplio al debate sobre inmigración. En su ponencia examinará los factores que llevan al movimiento de personas tanto al interior como a través de las fronteras de los países.

Durante la mañana siguiente, un panel de oficiales del gobierno estadounidense describirá los esfuerzos actuales por restaurar el programa de admisión de refugiados a niveles anteriores al 2001, haciendo mención especial de iniciativas recientes dirigidas a iraquíes y personas de otras nacionalidades. El panel incluirá a Sam Witten del Buró de Población, Refugiados y Migración del Departamento de Estado; David Seigel, de la Oficina del Asentam-

iento de Refugiados del Departamento de Salud y Servicios Humanos; y Lori Sciallaba, de la Oficina de Operaciones Internacionales del Departamento de Seguridad Interna, Buró de Servicios de Ciudadanía e Inmigración (CIS son sus siglas en inglés). Los participantes tendrán la oportunidad de hacer preguntas a cada oficial sobre el estado y progreso de los programas para refugiados que manejan sus oficinas.

Edwidge Danticat compartirá su experiencia de haber emigrado a Estados Unidos de pequeña y cómo esa experiencia ha marcado su vida desde entonces. También contará la historia de su tío, quien quedó atrapado en el sistema estadounidense de detención de inmigrantes con consecuencias de vida o muerte.

El Representante republicano por Nueva Jersey, Chris Smith, ofrecerá una perspectiva desde adentro del Capitolio sobre los asuntos migratorios que considera actualmente el Congreso, incluyendo tráfico ilegal de personas, protección de refugiados y reforma migratoria. También dará sugerencias sobre cómo la comunidad católica puede influir en el Congreso para que se erija legislación positiva a este respecto.

Immaculee Ilibagiza hablará desde la experiencia de haber padecido y sobrevivido el dolor y la pérdida causados por la masacre sucedida en Ruanda a principio de la década de los 90. A pesar de esta horrible experiencia, la suya es una historia de increíble fe, perdón y redención.

Mauricio Farah Gebara, quien sirve en la actualidad como Inspector General de la Comisión de Derechos Humanos de México, hablará sobre los numerosos casos de violaciones a los derechos humanos de los que es testigo desde su posición y sobre la migración y los derechos humanos a nivel internacional.

La Conferencia Nacional sobre Migración incluirá también visitas de cabildo al Capitolio nacional, la celebración del 20º aniversario de CLINIC y los Premios a la Excelencia en el Servicio otorgados cada año por MRS/CLINIC.

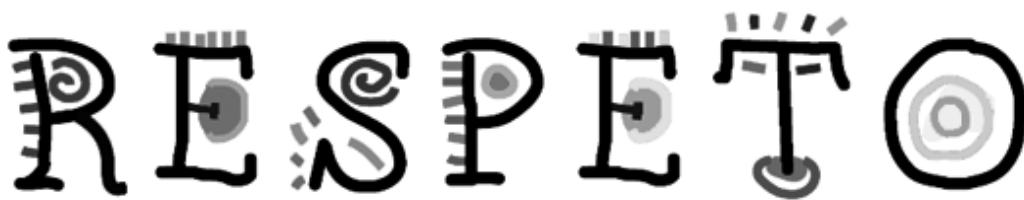
Para más información (en inglés) pueden visitar la página electrónica de la conferencia: <http://nationalmigrationconference.org>.

RESPETO: Un programa de estudios para la formación del liderazgo juvenil latino

¿Es usted un adulto que sirve en la pastoral juvenil? ¡El más reciente programa de MACC, RESPETO, es un recurso indispensable para usted! Este entrenamiento dará una vista general del programa RESPETO y proveerá estrategias para implementarlo en la parroquia. RESPETO es un proceso bilingüe de formación que dura un año ofrece 21 sesiones

idiomas, ha desarrollado este programa de estudios y lo ofrecerá tanto en inglés como en español en el verano de 2004. El programa tiene veintiuna sesiones que fomentan la reflexión orante y enseñan habilidades valiosas para el liderazgo, tales como escuchar, resolver conflictos, discernir y planear.

líderes adultos que puedan facilitar las sesiones. Las 21 sesiones duran aproximadamente de 2 a 3 horas y pueden ofrecerse cada dos semanas. También se pueden combinar dos sesiones en un retiro mensual de un día entero. Las sesiones tienen mejores resultados con grupos no más grandes de 30 jóvenes aproximadamente. RESPETO mezcla con creatividad



¿Para quién es RESPETO?

RESPETO es especialmente para adolescentes México-americanos (entre los 14 y 18 años) que ya muestran potencial de liderazgo en sus escuelas, barrios, o en grupos juveniles de iglesia. Con un poco de creatividad, puede adaptarse RESPETO para otros jóvenes latinos. El programa es intensivo y requiere cierto nivel de madurez, disponibilidad y el compromiso de un año.

¿Por qué se desarrolló RESPETO?

La juventud latina menor de 18 años es el grupo que aumenta más rápidamente en Estados Unidos; representa una tercera parte de toda la población hispana. Es importante invertir tiempo y recursos hoy para moldear líderes jóvenes que puedan ofrecer sus habilidades y valores en servicio de la comunidad. Hay una gran necesidad de recursos bilingües y apropiados culturalmente para la formación del liderazgo juvenil. Especialmente las comunidades de fe necesitan recursos para invitar a jóvenes latinos a que participen activamente en la vida y misión de la Iglesia de hoy y de mañana.

¿Cómo se ofrece RESPETO?

El programa RESPETO está diseñado para ofrecerlo en un ambiente de parroquia. Requiere un pequeño equipo de

actividades de juego, compartir en grupos, desarrollo de habilidades, y conocimientos culturales. El plan de estudios incluye claramente los objetivos de cada sesión y los materiales que se necesitan para su implementación.

¿Cuándo se ofrece RESPETO?

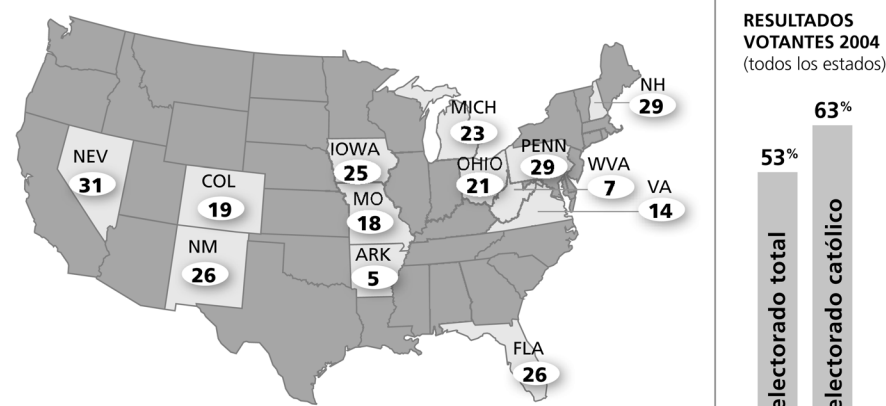
El programa RESPETO está diseñado para empezar a mediados de septiembre y terminar después de Pascua. El programa sigue el año litúrgico y resalta algunas celebraciones especiales de los México-americanos tales como Día de los Muertos y la fiesta de Nuestra Señora de Guadalupe. RESPETO culmina cuando los participantes desarrollan e implementan proyectos de servicio que mejoran a su comunidad. Por lo tanto, los proyectos continúan en parte del verano.

¿Cómo puedo obtener más información sobre RESPETO?

MACC ofrecerá varios entrenamientos este año para equipos interesados en introducir RESPETO. Se pueden ofrecer becas parciales. Para más información: The Mexican American Cultural Center; Atención: Dr. Arturo Chávez, Ph.D.; 3115 West Ashby Place; San Antonio, TX 78228-5104; Teléfono (210) 732-2156 Fax (210) 732-9072; Correo electrónico: achavez@maccsa.org visite nuestra página web www.maccsa.org

Estados Católicos Fluctuantes

Probables estados fluctuantes en las elecciones del 2008 y su porcentaje de población católica



Fuentes: Pew Forum on Religion & Public Life, U.S. Religious Landscape Survey; Center for Applied Research in the Apostolate at Georgetown University

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Capitol Comments

By Jennifer Carr Allmon
Associate Director
Texas Catholic Conference

My Immigrant Story— What's Yours?

AUSTIN—I was lucky to be born to native Houstonian parents at Houston's Hermann Hospital in the 1970's. My dad owned an Irish restaurant and pub and my Sicilian grandpa taught me about baseball and had secret ingredients shipped to Houston on dry ice to make the best cannoli south of Chicago. My upbringing was distinctly Irish, Italian and American, but I never thought of my family as an immigrant family.

When the United States Conference of Catholic Bishops began the Justice for Immigrants campaign in 2005 it occurred to me that the struggles of today's immigrants reminded me of stories my grandpa told of his dad, who came to Chicago from Sicily. As a new immigrant, his dad was poor, spoke Italian, worked in manual labor, and struggled to provide for his family. He came to America and endured discrimination and poverty to assure that his children would lead a better life.

That Thanksgiving, I asked my great uncle why dad's family came to the U.S. from Ireland. The story he told was remarkable. My great-great-grandmother was kidnapped from Northern Ireland and brought to the United States in the 1820's to work as a slave on a plantation in South Carolina. After several years of hard labor she escaped with my great-great-grandfather. Eventually, they made their way to the region that became Texas.

What's the point of this little family history? To illustrate that many of today's immigrants face the same struggles with discrimination and poverty. Unfortunately, human trafficking and forced slavery continue today as well. On a hopeful note, hard-working people still come to America seeking a better life for their families and victims of human trafficking have the opportunity to become Americans. (For information on Human Trafficking, call the National Trafficking Hotline: 1.888.3737.888)

The percentage of the U.S. population that is foreign-born now stands at 11.5%; in the early 20th century it was approximately 15%. Similar to accusations about today's immigrants, those of a century ago often initially settled in mono-ethnic neighborhoods, spoke their native languages, and built up newspapers and businesses that catered to their fellow émigrés. They also experienced the same types of discrimination that today's immigrants face, and integrated within American culture at a similar rate. If we view history objectively, we remember that every new wave of immigrants has been met with suspicion and doubt and yet, ultimately, every past wave of immigrants has been vindicated and saluted. (USCCB, www.justice-forimmigrants.org, & 2002 Census Data).

This Independence day, pause to remember your immigrant roots and you may find they are not too different from recent immigrant to the U.S. While I am proud to be an Irish-Italian Texan, the only label that really matters is that I am a child of God. Are not our immigrant brothers and sisters also children of God, first and foremost?

Jennifer Carr Allmon is the associate director of the Texas Catholic Conference. She is a newlywed married to a French-Dutch-Irish-Scottish American who calls himself a mutt.

Immigrant Prayer:

**Blessed are You, Lord God
King of all creation.
Through Your goodness, we live in
this land
that You have so richly blessed.
Help us always to recognize our
Blessings come from You
and remind us to share them
with others, especially those who
come
to us today from other lands.
Help us to be generous, just, and
welcoming,
as You have been and are generous
to us.**



Although thousands of books were saved, most of the library collection on site was lost. Photo Credit: National Czech & Slovak Museum & Library in Cedar Rapids, Iowa.



Dolls to be cleaned at the Czech and Slovak Museum & Library in Cedar Rapids, Iowa.

Flood '08 hits Czech Museum in Ohio

CEDAR RAPIDS — An historic and catastrophic flood that hit Cedar Rapids, Iowa, this spring, also affected the National Czech & Slovak Museum and Library (NCSML). According to the Cedar Rapids city Web site, some areas of downtown were under more than 10 feet of water, and a railroad bridge collapsed downtown acting as a dam making the water even higher. Over 10,000 homes are currently without power. Over 25,000 have been evacuated. Over 430 city blocks were underwater with hundreds of streets and all but one bridge closed.

Crews of NCSML staff, board members, volunteers and friends old and new have been working non-stop since they were allowed to begin clean-up efforts last Thursday.

Two semi-loads of artifacts were moved to high ground before the flood and many artifacts were moved to attics in the museum and its collections facility. "We moved as much as we could before we were ordered to evacuate," stated President/CEO Gail Naughton. "Of course, along with everyone else around us, we are coping with losses. Nobody predicted a flood of this magnitude."

Jan Stoffer, the museum's director of operations and education said nine mannequins moved to tables wearing kroje — Czech folk costumes — were nearly untouched by the floodwaters.

Other items didn't fare as well.

Floodwaters moved heavy benches that normally would take several people to move. A table broke through a window at the museum's entrance.

So far, recovery efforts have focused on 1) removing artifacts from the upper levels that were untouched by flood waters and moving them to a clean, dry and secure location 2) removing flood-affected artifacts to be cleaned and preserved and 3) removing debris from the interior of the building to prepare for sanitization.

By Saturday afternoon, hundreds of artifacts had already been retrieved and were being cleaned and sorted. The Chicago Conservation Center was on-site to help ensure that delicate textiles were properly handled. Wash tubs, drying racks and clotheslines were parked in the museum lot and mud-soaked linens were coming surprisingly clean, thanks to tedious efforts. "People have been working so hard," explained Naughton. "You just can't imagine working in the sludge and smell—and now the dust as things dry out. It's amazing what people will do in a crisis."

Although staff have found interior walls dissolved like wafers and windows shattered by upended desks turned battering rams, they gave examples of some happy surprises. A painted ostrich egg, found in the Museum

See Flood '08 hits Czech Museum in Ohio, p. 21

TCC Advocates for Adult Stem Cell Research

Texas Catholic Conference, Austin

"There is a basic moral principal to do good and avoid evil. All morality is built on that. And using adult stem cell research is a good. There is a moral imperative to move ahead with this," stated Rev. John A. Leies, S.M., S.T.D., a professor of moral theology at St. Mary's University in San Antonio, who represented the Texas Catholic Conference at the May 21 Adult Stem Cell Research hearing before the Texas House Appropriations Committee.

"Adult stem cells are a way in which life, the spark of divine divinity within us, will be protected and enhanced. Both from a practical and a moral standpoint, cell experimentation should be confined to the use of adult stem cells."

The Adult Stem Cell Research hearing was convened to review an interim charge regarding the potential clinical and economic benefits of using state funding for current and increased adult stem cell research, including cord blood stem cells.

Contrasting adult stem cell research, which the Church supports, with embryonic stem cell research, which the Church opposes, Rev. Leies stated, "We do not believe that we are supposed to create life in order to destroy it. Adult stem cell research has proven itself. And the moral problem of the destruction of life is avoided."

During his testimony Rev. Leies also advocated for public cord blood banks. "There are over 70 diseases that have been treated with cord blood stem cells. At the present time the United States has some 17,000 units of cord blood in 20 public banks. And more is needed evidently."

Born and raised in Chicago, Illinois, Rev. Leies, a member of the Society of Mary, obtained a bachelor's of science in education from the University of Dayton, Ohio and continued his education, receiving a Licentiate in Sacred Theology (S.T.L.) and a Doctorate in Theology (S.T.D.) from the University of Fribourg in Switzerland. Rev. Leies is a consultant for the National Catholic Bioethics Center, and was former President and Academic Vice-President for St. Mary's University in San Antonio.

For more information on the TCC's position on stem

cells or to view our entire legislative agenda, go to www.victoriadiocese.org / [Lighthouse Newspaper](http://LighthouseNewspaper) or www.txcatholic.org/ESCR.asp.

Spring Meeting at a Glance

At the U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops' spring meeting in Orlando, Fla., the bishops:

- ✦ Approved a 2,000-word policy statement calling embryonic stem-cell research "gravely immoral."
- ✦ Failed to reach a conclusion on the fate of a 700-page translation of the proper readings of the Roman Missal.
- ✦ Gave permission for work to begin on new ethical guidelines on medically assisted nutrition and hydration.
- ✦ Heard an interim report on the causes and context of child sex abuse by priests.
- ✦ Began a dialogue with priests' representatives on fallout from the clergy sex abuse scandal.
- ✦ Declared Sept. 26, 2010, as National Catholic Charities Sunday to mark the 100th anniversary of the network of Catholic social service agencies.
- ✦ Agreed to change the Spanish word "vosotros" to "ustedes" in Spanish-language Masses in the U.S.
- ✦ Voted to keep the 2009 assessment on dioceses at the same level as 2008.
- ✦ Heard presentations on the implications for church life of recent surveys.
- ✦ Got an update on the work of task forces focusing on five USCCB priority areas.
- ✦ Spent nearly half of the meeting in closed regional meetings, executive session or in prayer





Flood '08 hits Czech Museum in Ohio

Continued from page 20

Store, was sitting completely unharmed in the middle of muddy debris. In the Homelands exhibit, much of the glassware and Royal Dux porcelain were found in upended cases, intact and cushioned by water. Another pleasant finding was an original letter written by the late Reverend Kun, an ordained minister from Bohemia who became the first Protestant preacher in Ely, circa 1860. Library Director, Dave Muhlena reported that the letter was a little damp, but in very good shape.

The museum, which opened in 1995, was built above the 100-year flood plain. The museum is facing what may be the greatest challenge in our entire 34 year history. The unprecedented flooding affecting so many others has done overwhelming damage to our museum. We have flood insurance on the collection which is paying for initial treatment — but it won't go far enough. The building was not insured for flood and the loss will be in the millions. Recovering from this setback is a huge task that is overwhelming in its enormity. Our minds and hands are busy with the immediate disaster now and it will take time to step back and assess where we are and where we want to go.

Of one thing we are sure — we will rebuild and will be even better than ever. Czechs and Slovaks are strong from having survived many trials in their history and we are counting on their resilience.

Gifts may be made at any Wells Fargo Bank location in the U.S. or by mailing a check to: National Czech & Slovak Museum & Library, 30 Sixteenth Avenue SW, Cedar Rapids, Iowa 52404. Many people have contacted us asking how they can help.

To view more pictures and updates go to: www.NCSML.org

New Latin patriarch concerned for Iraqi refugees

JERUSALEM (CNS) — Christians in the Holy Land can become instruments of change with the help of Jesus, said Latin Patriarch Fouad Twal of Jerusalem during his first Mass as patriarch at the Church of the Holy Sepulcher. The new patriarch prayed June 23 for Christians to have the strength “to tear down ... all the social, political and denominational barriers and become ... instruments of change for the better. We will be the voice that announces the happiness and the peace to come, the voice that denounces and combats injustice, hatred and intrigue,” he said. In his remarks published June 15 on the Web site of the Franciscan Custody of the Holy Land he stated that the influx of Iraqi refugees into Jordan as well as continuing Israeli-Palestinian tensions are two of his major concerns. He called Jordan “the heart of the Latin Patriarchate,” which also includes Cyprus, Israel and the Palestinian territories. Jordan deserves particular attention, the patriarch said, because it includes two-thirds of the patriarchate's faithful, half of whom are of Palestinian origin. “In spite of its stability, this part of the diocese is also in crisis, especially economic crisis, with the influx of Iraqi refugees,” he said. “Christian emigration has started to strongly affect the Jordanian population, too. We must work, as we do here, to give them hope, reasons to hope, to remain Christians in the Middle East.” Patriarch Twal had been coadjutor of the Latin Patriarchate for nearly three years prior to his installation as patriarch this past month.

Environmental exegesis: Two sets of commandments

Continued from p. 1

ality, removed from human intervention. Thus, human intervention that modifies some characteristics of living things is not wrong, as long as it respects their place in the ecosystem.

6. The politics of development must be coordinated with the politics of ecology, and every environmental cost in development projects must be weighed carefully.

7. Ending global poverty is related to the environmental question, remembering that the goods of the earth must be shared equitably.

8. The right to a safe and clean environment needs to be protected through international cooperation and accords.

9. Environmental protection requires a change in styles of life that reflect moderation and self-control, on a personal and social level. That means moving away from the logic of consumerism.

10. Environmental issues also require a spiritual response and a greater awareness that the created world is a gift of God.

Msgr. Carlo Rocchetta, who works as a sort of chaplain to Italian farming organizations, took a more traditional approach and used the Ten Commandments schema -- though his adaptation would never fit on stone tablets:

1. I am the Lord your God: You shall not cause situations of danger or death in the order of nature, especially if they can become permanent and uncontrollable.

2. You shall not commit violence to the created world and its integrity: There exists an “ecological sin” that offends me, just as a personal or social sin offends me.

3. Remember to respect the unity of the life-system and the interdependence that exists among beings: The future of humanity is at stake. Seek a lifestyle that is moderate, just and respectful of nature and the common good.

4. Honor the variety of living creatures, flora and fauna: It is a gift and a richness for all; do not impoverish or destroy it. Appreciate biodiversity; value and promote it.

5. You shall not kill economic democracy, social justice and solidarity in the name of economic and financial powers that cancel the freedom, creativity and initiative of smaller entrepreneurs.

6. You shall not use the genetic patrimony and the knowledge of the human genome for profit or gain: All that is written in creation is shared and should serve the good of all humanity.

7. You shall not steal or create new forms of poverty and exploitation of the weakest, using a perverse economic system in which the poor make the rich richer.

8. You shall not bear false witness to consumers, lying about products, generating food insecurity or even disease. Respect life in all its forms and work to produce safe foods.

9. You shall not desire agriculture without farmers, anonymous and unconnected to the land. Value the task of “custodian” and “cultivator” that I entrusted to man from the beginning.

10. You shall not destroy traditional regional products or those of quality, the tastes and flavors of the earth; do not contaminate healthy seeds and livestock with cultures and fodder that may not be safe. Intervene in nature to improve it, not to threaten or do violence to its delicate balance.

Whichever version of the “environmental commandments” are used, it's clear that following them closely would challenge the current system of agricultural economics and personal consumption.

It bears remembering that the Vatican itself has, to some degree, tried to go greener: installing solar panels, for example, and collaborating in a reforestation project in Hungary designed to offset carbon emissions from Vatican City.

Last year, Pope Benedict suggested that Sunday be considered “the church's weekly feast of creation.” It's a theme he's expected to develop in his upcoming social encyclical.

Holocaust-surviving Jews thank Pope

Pope Benedict XVI welcomed a group of Jewish Holocaust survivors June 18. Arranged by the Pave the Way Foundation, the group personally thanked the pope for the Catholic Church's intervention in saving their lives in Italy during World War II. Catholic League president Bill Donohue addressed this event today: “Despite attempts by embittered ex-priests and seminarians, and others, to discredit Pope Pius XII's heroic efforts in rescuing Jews during the Holocaust (as many as 860,000 were saved), the evidence is mounting that Pius was a ‘Righteous Gentile.’ What is happening in the Vatican today is another reminder of just how great a man he was. “October 9 marks the 50th anniversary of Pius' death. To mark this important event, the Vatican announced yesterday that a convention will be held November 6-8 to honor his work; a photo exhibit will be on display in the colonnade of St. Peter's Square from October 21-January 6. Millions of Catholics hope that eventually Pius will be beatified and then canonized. The Catholic League certainly supports this process. “Those who disagree with this assessment have a lot of explaining to do. For example, the true test of the Catholic Church's role in rescuing Jews was in Italy, and nowhere in Europe were more Jews saved—fully 85 percent—than in Italy. Also, the chief rabbi in Rome during the German occupation, Emilio Zolli, once said that ‘no hero in all of history was more militant, more fought against, none more heroic, than Pius XII.’ Indeed, Zolli was so moved by Pius' work that he became a Catholic after the war, taking the pope's name as his baptismal name. “Finally, today's meeting of Jewish Holocaust survivors thanking the pope for what the Church did to save their lives says it all. No amount of revisionism can change that.”

Susan A. Fani Director of Communications Catholic League for Religious and Civil Rights catalyst@catholicleague.org New York, NY 10123 212-371-3191 212-371-3394 (fax) <http://www.catholicleague.org/release.php?id=1447>

Vatican views finer points of global food crisis

VATICAN CITY (CNS) — As world leaders were meeting in Rome to work out a response to the global food crisis, the Vatican weighed in on two levels — morality and macroeconomics. Pope Benedict XVI laid out the moral principles in a message June 3 to the World Food Security Summit, saying that hunger and malnutrition were unacceptable in a world that has sufficient levels of agricultural production and resources. The pope said a chief cause of hunger was lack of solidarity with others, and he emphasized that protecting the right to life means helping to feed the hungry. The pope also spoke of structural changes needed in the global agricultural economy, but he didn't get into particulars. Those finer points, however, were examined in unusual detail in a little-noticed briefing paper produced by the Pontifical Council for Justice and Peace. The document offered the Vatican's take on the mechanisms behind the food crisis headlines. On one of the most hotly debated issues today, it came down squarely against developing biofuels from food crops at a time of global hunger. The United States -- which has boosted the production of biofuels, made largely from corn, to reduce dependence on foreign oil — says only 2 to 3 percent of the recent rise in worldwide food prices can be attributed to biofuels, which removes crops from human and animal consumption. Other countries contend that the impact of biofuels on soaring food prices is much greater.

St. Joseph Catholic Mission Boling, Texas

*** 40th Annual Bazaar ***

Sunday, August 3, 2008
Boling Community Center
(County Rd. 162)

BBQ Beef, Chicken, & Sausage

bacon & onion potatoes, pinto beans, coleslaw,
and trimmings Serving begins @ 11 a.m. – 2 p.m.

Dine-In or Drive-Thru

Pre-Sale tickets \$7.50 (tickets available at Holy Family Rectory during office hours)

Donation of \$8.00 per plate



Music by:

Johnny Underwood
Solo Sound

Free Music to Dance to:

10:30 a.m. – 1:00 p.m.

and

4:00 – 5:30 p.m.

under St. Joe's Pavilion

Auction @ 1:00 p.m.

under St. Joe's Pavilion

Keep cool with water-cool fans!!!

Raffle after the Auction!!!

Country Store • Cake Walk • Pastry Booth •
Ring-a-drink • Ferris Wheel •
Fish Pond • Football/Basket Ball throws •
BIG WATER SLIDE • Toy Shop



Special Collections

Retired and Need Priest of the Diocese — Sept. 7 Ongoing Events

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

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

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

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

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

Extraordinary Form of the Roman Latin Rite (Traditional Latin Mass) — is celebrated every Sunday at Sts. Cyril and Methodius Church, Shiner at 11:00 a.m. For more info. call (361) 594-3836.

Engaged Encounter—Register as soon as you have contacted your pastor due to limited space. **It is strongly recommended that you attend an encounter weekend four to six months prior to your wedding date.** For a registration form, contact your pastor, visit the **Web site at www.victoriadiocese.org/family/ee.htm**, or write to: Engaged Encounter, P.O. Box 4070, Victoria, Texas 77903. The weekend is held at the Spiritual Renewal Center. The dates for 2008 are: Nov. 14-16. The dates for 2009 are: Feb. 6-8; March 13-15; April 24-26; June 26-28; Sept. 11-13; and Nov. 20-22. For more info., call (361) 573-0828 ext. 50. All registrations are on a first come, first serve basis. Fee must accompany registration form.

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

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

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

Young Adults—Between the ages of 21 and 45 meet for an evening of fellowship and good company every 1st and 3rd Thursday at Holy Family at 7:00 p.m. Call Jim Wearden at (361) 579-9737 or (361) 649-9157.

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

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

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

Picnics, Activities, etc.

July

Dubina—Sts. Cyril and Methodius Parish Picnic July 6

Rockport—Sts. Cyril and Methodius Church in Shiner is sponsoring the Stastny Hácek (Lucky Hook) Fishing Tournament to be held on July 11-12. This is a fund-raiser for the religious education endowment fund of the Shiner Catholic School. For registration and other information go to www.shinerreef.com.

Philadelphia—The Convention for the Common Good, July 11–13, Philadelphia, Penn. During the 2008 Election season, Catholic groups and other social justice organizations will come together to try to change the national conversation to include a substantive discussion of government for the common good. They’ll help affirm a platform that addresses many of the pressing social justice issues of the day – health care, poverty, economic justice, immigration, global warming and promoting a culture of life. For more information in forming small groups

to help prepare, contact Sr. Elizabeth Riebschlaeger at (361) 676-2921 (cell) or go to www.networklobby.org/.

Moravia—Ascension of Our Lord Parish Picnic July 20 (located at FM 957 and FM 532) with Mass at 10:00 a.m. followed by a fried-chicken and stew dinner at 11:00 a.m. at \$7.00 p/p and children \$4.00, with drive-thru plates (\$7.00 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. and a prize drawing at 8:00 p.m.

San Antonio—Fiesta of Life, Saturday, July 26, is a free, day-long celebration in honor of the 40th anniversary of Humanae Vitae (Of Human Life). This is the apex of a yearlong push to promote awareness in the Archdiocese of San Antonio of this landmark encyclical. Come to St. Mark’s Parish located at 1602 Thousand Oaks, San Antonio, from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. for Mass with Archbishop Gomez, great talks, events for youth, food, entertainment and fun for all ages. To register for this free event, please call (210) 734-1649 or e-mail sharon.whitley@archsa.org, or send your name, # of adults, # of teens and # of children to Fiesta of Life!; c/o Office of Marriage and Family Life; 2718 W. Woodlawn Ave.; San Antonio, TX 78228

August

Palacios—St. Anthony’s Annual Shrimporee starts on Friday, Aug. 1 with a teen dance from 8:00 p.m. to 12:00 a.m. at the KC Hall at \$5 p/p. Music provided by DJ “Rudy C.”

Palacios—St. Anthony’s Annual Golf Tournament Aug. 2 at Palacios Golf Course with tee off time at 8:00 a.m. Entry fee is \$220/team or \$55/person includes green fee, cart, meal and raffle ticket. For information and registration call Isidro Castanon at (361) 972-6006 or Tony Garcia at (361) 972-2720.

Yoakum—St. Joseph School reunion Aug. 2 with Mass at 5:00 p.m. followed by a reception and dinner at the St. Joseph Family Center. Call the recory for tickets at (361) 293-3518.

Boling—St. Joseph Annual Bazaar Aug. 3 at the community center (County Road 162). A barbecue-beef, chicken and sausage dinner served from 11 a.m.-2 p.m. at \$7.50 p/p pre-sale or \$8 p/p at the door. See ad on pg. 21 for more information.

When & Where



Frelsburg—Sts. Peter and Paul Annual Country Festival Aug. 3 on the parish grounds. The day begins with Mass at 8:15 a.m. A fried-fish dinner begins at 11:00 a.m. at \$7.50 p/p large and \$4.50 small (drive-thru available at \$7.50 p/p). The auction starts at 1:00 p.m. featuring a trophy whitetail deer hunt. There will be a country store, grocery walk, silent auction, cakewalk, children’s games, horseshoe pitching and much more. Music during the day by Douglas Polasek. A free dance with Red Ravens from 4:00 to 8:00 p.m.

Yoakum—St. Joseph Parish Picnic Aug. 3 at the community center. A picnic stew, sausage dinner will be served starting at 10:30 a.m. with dine-in or drive-thru available at \$7 p/p. There will be a country store, cakewalk and other games during the afternoon along with a horseshoe tournament. The auction begins at 12:30 p.m. Mexican food will also be served in the afternoon.

Palacios—St. Anthony Shrimporee Aug. 3 starting with the blessing of the fleet at 8:00 a.m. at Turning Basin No. 3 followed by Mass at the amphitheater (across from City Park) at 8:30 a.m. The days events will be held at the Recreation Center and grounds (2401 Perryman). A shrimp, barbecue-beef or chicken (choice of one) dinner will start at 11:00 a.m. for \$7 p/p. The auction begins at 1:00 p.m. There will also be refreshments, boat raffle, games, rides and food booths. Live music by Texas Sound Check and DJ “Rudy C.” Fun for all ages! For more information or questions, contact Elizabeth Guerra at (361) 972-2446.

Weimar—St. Michael Harvest Feast Aug. 10 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, cakewalk and much more. Music throughout the afternoon and evening. There will be an auction in the a/c hall.

Praha—St. Mary Parish Picnic “Prazska Pout” Friday, Aug. 15 on the parish grounds (821 FM 1295). The day begins with Mass at 10:00 a.m. followed by a fried-chicken and Praha stew dinner until 2:00 p.m. Plates will be \$7 p/p for adults and plates-to-go and \$4 p/p for children. There will be a country store, cakewalk, games, souvenirs and more. The auction starts at 1:00 p.m. Music throughout the day and night starting at 11:00 a.m. -7:00 p.m. with Central Texas Sounds, Czech and Then Some and from 7:00-11:00 p.m. The Czedhaholics. Hamburgers available after 4:00 p.m. There will also be an extra Holy Day Mass at 5:00 p.m.

Hillje—St. Andrew Summer Festival at the parish hall (270 Andrew St., just off U.S. Hwy. 59) Aug. 17 starting with a prime-beef barbecue and homemade sausage dinner at 11:00 a.m. at \$7 p/p. There will be bulk sales in the kitchen. The indoor auction begins at 12:30 p.m. There will also be a country store, bake sale, cakewalk, games and music.

Victoria—Knights of Columbus Council 1329 chicken-barbecue fund-raiser Aug. 17 at the KC Hall. The price is \$6 per chicken. Beans and Spanish rice available for \$1 per pint. Sale starts at

8:30 a.m. Proceeds benefit council’s projects.

Victoria—Catholic Daughters Court St. Ann Games Party, Aug. 18, at the KC Hall from 6:00-9:00 p.m.; admission is \$6 p/p with refreshments served. Also featured will be a bake sale of homemade items, raffle and a silent auction. For reservations call Diane Beaty at (361) 575-7042 or Patty Schaar at (361) 578-2603.

Cistern—Sts. Cyril and Methodius Parish will have the Annual Homecoming Picnic Aug. 24. The day starts with a trail ride leaving from the corner of Hwy. 95 and Hwy. 154 at 8:00 a.m. with the destination of Cistern. Mass will be celebrated at 9:30 a.m. followed by a meal of fried-chicken, V&V Sausage and trimmings served from 11:00 a.m. - 1:00 p.m. There will also be an outdoor auction, music, games and more. Something for everyone! Come and enjoy the day.

High Hill—St. Mary Parish Picnic on the parish grounds (2833 FM 2672), Aug. 31, starting with a flag-raising ceremony at 9:30 a.m., followed by a Polka Mass at 10:00 a.m. A fried-chicken and stew lunch served at 11:00 a.m. at \$7 p/p for adults and \$4 p/p for children; drive-thru starts at 10:30 a.m. with plates at \$7 p/p. The auction begins at 1:00 p.m. Music during the day by Texas Sound Czech and Mark Halata/Texavia, and a free dance at nigh by Texas Dream. Booths include a cakewalk, country store, duck pond, ring toss, train ride, the famous souvenir booth and much more. Hamburgers, nachos and more available all day and a spectacular fireworks show at 10:00 p.m.

Cuero—Our Lady of Guadalupe Parish Jamaica Aug. 31 at the parish hall. Dinner served from 11:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. with dine-in the hall or drive-thru plates-to-go available. Many activities throughout the day with the auction beginning at 1:00 p.m. in the parish hall.

Shiner—Sts. Cyril and Methodius Picnic Aug. 31 at the American Legion Park. A sausage, stew and fried-chicken dinner will be served in the a/c dining room from 10:30 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. with drive-thru plates-to-go available from the KC Hall (Hwy. 90A East) from 10:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. There will be a country store, arts & crafts, games, cake and plant wheels and much more for the whole family. The big auction begins at noon. Music throughout the day and night.

Hallettsville—Sacred Heart Festival Aug. 31 at the KC Hall. A country-fried chicken, stew and cornbread dressing dinner served from 10:30 a.m. to 1:30 p.m. with dine-in or drive-thru plates-to-go available. The auction begins at 1:00 p.m. There will be games, horseshoe pitching and washer pitching contest, free dance under the outdoor pavilion-biergarten from 1:00 to 10:00 p.m. There will be hamburgers and much more in the afternoon.

Nada—St. Mary Parish Festival and Homecoming Aug. 31 at the community center. A barbecue-beef and sausage dinner served from 11:00 a.m. to 1:30 p.m. for dine-in or drive-thru plates-to-go available. The auction begins at 1:00 p.m. There will be music, games and entertainment throughout the day.

Vanderbilt—St. John Bosco Picnic Aug. 31 at the Trinity Family Center. A barbecue-brisket and sausage dinner will be served from 11:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m. The auction begins at 1:00 p.m.; games, refreshments, cakewalk, religious and craft store and much more for young and young at heart.

Upcoming Events

Inez—St. Joseph Annual Parish Picnic, Sept. 14, at the community center.

Yorktown—Holy Cross Festival, Sept. 14 at the community hall. A barbecue plate with homemade sausage dinner will be served from 11:00 a.m.-2:00 p.m. There will be a live auction beginning at 12:30 p.m., music, country store, children’s games, bingo, cakewalk and much more.

Moulton—St. Joseph Annual Parish Picnic, Sept. 21, at the KC Hall. Open-air Mass at 10:00 a.m. at the city park. A kettle-fried chicken and stew dinner begins at 10:30 a.m. Music outside from 10:30 a.m.-1:00 p.m., outdoor auction and games.

Port Lavaca,—Our Lady of the Gulf Festival, Sept. 21 at the Bauer Community Center. A shrimp dinner will be served starting at 11:00 a.m. The auction will begin at 12:30 p.m. Food that will be served throughout the day along with a variety of booths, games and children’s activities.

Victoria—Knights of Columbus Council 1329 chicken-barbecue fund-raiser Sept. 21 at the KC Hall. The price is \$6 per chicken. Beans and Spanish rice available for \$1 per pint. Sale starts at 8:30 a.m. Proceeds benefit council’s projects.

Victoria—Diocese of Victoria XXI Annual Conference for Catechesis and Ministry, Saturday, Sept. 27 at Holy Family Parish. Rev. Ron Rolheiser, O.M.I., the president of the Oblate School of Theology in San Antonio, will be the keynote speaker. There will be many workshops on important catechetical, liturgical, spiritual and social topics. For more information or to register call the catechetical office at (361) 573-0828 ext. 24 or e-mail: calvarezz@victoriadiocese.org.

Bloomington—St. Patrick Turkey Dinner Sept. 28

El Campo—St. Philip the Apostle Parish Picnic Sept. 28 at the KC Hall.

Sweet Home—St. John the Baptist, Koerth, Parish Picnic Sept. 28 at the community center. A stew and sausage dinner will be served starting at 11:00 a.m. There will be an auction, games and other entertainment all afternoon.

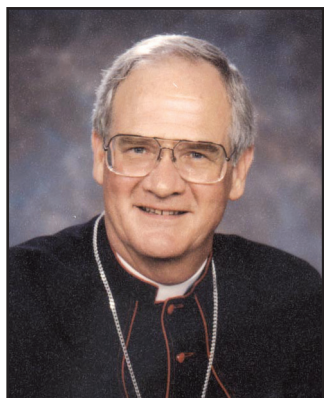
Meyersville—Sts. Peter and Paul Annual Festival Sept. 28 on the church grounds.

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

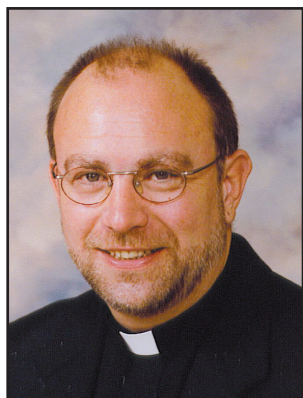


The Diocese of Victoria XXI Annual Conference for Catechesis and Ministry

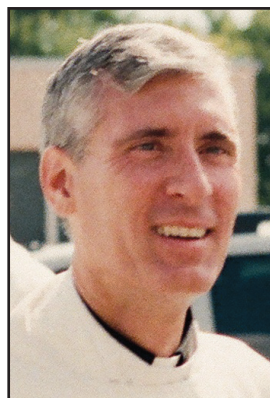
Saturday, September 27, 2008 – Holy Family, Victoria



Bishop David E. Fellhauer



Rev. Bob Knippenberg



Rev. Gary Janak

Everyone is invited to attend the XXI Annual Conference for Catechesis and Ministry on Saturday, September 27, 2008, at Holy Family Parish in Victoria. In addition to the keynote presenter, Rev. Ronald Rolheiser, O.M.I., three workshops will be given by local clergy.

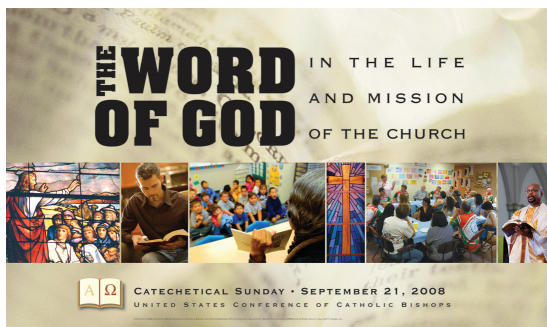
Pope Benedict XVI has declared this as the Year of St. Paul; therefore, the Most Rev. David E. Fellhauer has agreed to give a workshop presentation on St. Paul. Bishop Fellhauer will briefly discuss St. Paul's life and the themes that are found in his writings.

Rev. Bob Knippenberg, pastor of Sts. Cyril & Methodius Parish in Shiner, will present a workshop based on the 2008 Catechetical Sunday theme "The Word of God in the Life and Mission of the Church." Using The Dogmatic Constitution on Divine Revelation, Rev. Knippenberg will explore the mission of the Church, which is to bring the message of salvation to the whole world so that through it, they may believe and have hope, which comes from the God of love.

Rev. Gary W. Janak, pastor of St. Philip Parish in El Campo, will present Family Wellness and Communication: Unlocking the Door to a Healthy Christian Family. In this workshop, Rev. Janak will give an overview of the basic components of family wellness and offer suggestions for developing and practicing effective communication skills within the family system.

The conference will also again feature a wide variety of well-known speakers and experts in their particular fields who will present workshops pertaining to areas of catechetical and liturgical ministry, prayer, Scripture, and Catholic Social Teaching. Catholic publishers and vendors will exhibit throughout the day. Bishop Fellhauer will celebrate the Sunday Liturgy at the conclusion of the day.

For more information about this annual conference, call the catechetical office at 361-573-0828 or email calvarez@victoriadiocese.org.



ADDITIONAL WHEN & WHERE

Victoria—Men's ACTS Retreat – sponsored by Holy Family Parish, Victoria, August 21-24, 2008. Spiritual Renewal Center. Cost 150.00 (includes 3 nights lodging). For additional information or applications contact: Bob Oakley at 361.576.1515 or e-mail at rfoak49@msn.com.

Victoria—Victoria County Annual Czech Heritage Festival, Sept. 28, beginning with a 9:00 a.m. Czech-English Mass at Our Lady of Victory Cathedral with Father Joseph Hybner presiding. Following Mass, there will be lots of entertainment, demonstration and more at the community center. For more information go to: www.vccbs.homestead.com.

Galena Park—Fashion Show sponsored by Knights of Peter Claver and Ladies Auxiliary Council and Court No. 139 on Sept. 28. The show will be held at Alvin D. Baggett Community Center (1302 Keene St. [near Houston]) from 1:00-4:00 p.m. with a donation of \$20. Contact: Grand Knight Caldwell Prejean at (281) 686-7023 or Grand Lady Patricia Clark at (281) 457-1142 for more information.

Victoria—Spirit Wind Ministry is pleased to present a weekend retreat led by lecturer, columnist and author Father Ronald Rolheiser, OMI, who is currently serving as president of the Oblate School of Theology in San Antonio. His books, including *The Shattered Lantern*, *The Holy Longing* and *The Restless Heart*, are popular throughout the English-speaking world. Retreat to be held Oct. 3-5 at the Spiritual Renewal Center. Cost - \$150 (includes all meals and two nights lodging). For info contact: S. Oakley (361) 576-1515 or (361) 649-6391 or e-mail smoak53@msn.com.

Summer Activities

Victoria—Our Lady of Victory Summer Program: bowling, miniature golf, arts and crafts, swimming, movies, Gymagic classes and lots of fun activities! Hours are 7:00 a.m. to 5:30 p.m. Call the Early Childhood Center at (361) 575-0498 for registration and fee information.

Victoria—St. Mary VBS July 14-18, contact Marie 572-3863

Springtime Evangelization Catholic Family Conferences

Arlington—August 23-24 – The Gospel According to St. Paul Where: Arlington Convention Center, 1200 Ballpark Way, Arlington, Texas 76011. Speakers include: Dr. Scott Hahn, founder of The St. Paul Center of Biblical Theology, Michael Barber, Dr. Brant Pitre, Steve Ray and a concert by Eric Geniis. Four ways to register: On the Web: www.FullnessOfTruth.org; Call toll-free 1-877-218-7884; Fax: 281-358-9170; or mail: Fullness of Truth, P.O. Box 5308, Kingwood, TX 77325-5308

Humble—November 15 and 16 – Come and discover the true Thanksgiving meal: "The Holy Sacrifice of the Mass" Houston, TX (Humble, TX). Speakers: Father Mitch Pacwa; Johnnette Benkovic; Father Stan Fortuna; and Michael Cumbie

Corpus Christi—March 23 -24, 2009 – Why Be Catholic? When You Can Be Anything Else! Corpus Christi, Texas. Speakers Father Mitch Pacwa, Steve Ray, Tony Melendez, and more TBA.



For more information on the above conferences and tickets, please call 1-877-218-7884 or visit www.FullnessOfTruth.org

Twenty-Nine Complete Pastoral Institute Extended Program

The Liturgy of the Eucharist was celebrated by the Most Reverend David E. Fellhauer in the Chancery Chapel on Saturday evening, June 7, 2008, for the people who recently completed the Pastoral Institute three-year Extended Program at either the Victoria or Wharton centers, their families, and Pastoral Institute instructors.

The Liturgy was followed by a dinner and the presentation of certificates. Those who completed the extended program were given an opportunity to share what the Pastoral Institute meant to them. Many expressed how much they learned about Scripture and the Catholic faith by attending the Pastoral Institute and the effect it had on their spiritual lives. Others thanked Bishop Fellhauer for sponsoring and supporting the program of adult faith enrichment. Most importantly, they expressed a desire to continue to learn and asked that other classes be offered for on-going learning.

The following persons completed the Extended Program which consists of 12 six-week courses, a total of 144 clock hours of study: Sister Jacinta Benavidez, IWBS from Blessed Sacrament - San Antonio; Honour Philomena Brinlee, Deacon David and Debra Valdez - Our Lady of Mount Carmel, Wharton; Tim Duyka, Blanche Hlavinka, Benedict and Valeria Hundl, Georgia Krenak, Vivian Stammann, and Pam Turner - Holy Family, Wharton; Gladys Gavanovic - St. Joseph, Boling; Carolyn Garrison - St. Michael, Weimar; Anthony and Marilyn Hensley - Assumption of the Blessed Virgin Mary, Ganado; Judith Michulka, Daniel Pesek, Brenda Polak, and Dorothy Twardowski - Holy Cross, East Bernard; John Rother - St. Anthony of Padua, Palacios; Virginia Ruschhaupt - St. Michael, Cuero; Kathy Gerdes and Joyce Wagner - Our Lady of Victory, Victoria; Russell Donohue, Richard Duelberg, Rob-

ert and Bernadette Seale, William Spellacy, and Joe Tibiletti - Holy Family, Victoria.

Deacon David Valdez also received an Advanced Catechist Certificate for completing all the catechetical courses in the Pastoral Institute Short-Term Program as well as all the courses in the Pastoral Institute Extended Program.

Bishop Fellhauer and Sister Digna congratulated these adults for their perseverance and dedication to learning more about the Catholic faith and Scripture. Sister emphasized the importance of adult Catholics studying Scripture and the beliefs of the Church in order to share these with their children and others.

The Diocese of Victoria Pastoral Institute program was established to provide theological and Scriptural courses for

the continuing faith enrichment for adult Catholics. Recent church documents such as the General Directory for Catechesis issued by the Congregation for the Clergy, *Our Hearts Were Burning Within Us*, and the new National Directory for Catechesis (2005) issued by the United States Catholic Conference of Bishops all state very clearly that adult catechesis is the primary form of catechesis in the church. Disciples on the Journey, a Lenten faith-sharing process in the diocese, *Generations of Faith*, a process for whole community catechesis, and ACTS retreats have given impetus to many adults to seek greater understanding of Scripture and their Catholic faith. Look in the August issue of the Catholic Lighthouse for a complete schedule of the Pastoral Institute Extended Program courses for the fall.



2008 Pastoral Institute graduates honored by Bishop David Fellhauer and Sister Digna Vela, IWBS. Pictured: (front row, l. to r.): Sister Digna Vela, IWBS, Brenda Polak, Carolyn Garrison, Bernie Seal, Dorothy Twardowski and Bishop David Fellhauer; (2nd row, l. to r.): Joyce Wagner, Kathy Gerdes, Blanche Hlavinka, Sister Jacinta Benavidez, IWBS, Pam Turner and Debra Valdez; (3rd row, l. to r.): Tim Duyka, Deacon David Valdez, Judith Michulka, Anthony Hensley and Vivian Stammann; and (4th row, l. to r.): Joe Tibiletti, Russell Donohue, John Rother and Robert Seal.



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