

The Catholic Lighthouse

The Cradle of Texas Immigration



VOL. 22, NO. 2 OFFICIAL PUBLICATION OF THE DIOCESE OF VICTORIA IN TEXAS

New superintendent selected for diocese's schools

By Cynthia Brewer

Bishop David E. Fellhauer is pleased to announce the appointment of Mr. John Quay as the new superintendent of Catholic Schools for the Diocese of Victoria. He will begin his tenure with the diocese on June 2.

John Quay has over 25 years experience in education with 17 of those years in Catholic schools in the Los Angeles area. He has taught for 13 years and has been a principal for 14 years.

John received a BS from Louisiana State University in Baton Rouge and a master's in educational administration from California State University in Los Angeles.

Currently he lives in Missouri City, Texas, employed with Houston Learning Academy, a private high school that is part of the Nobel Learning Community.

He recently moved to the Houston area as he wanted to live in a place more similar to his upbringing. "I wanted a change in environment that was more conducive for my son," he said, "something more reminiscent of what I'd grown up with." His son, John Charles, is 10 years old.

Before going to college in Baton Rouge



Mr. John Quay

and working in Los Angeles, John had lived in the small town of Oakdale, La., between Alexandria and Lake Charles. He was baptized at Sacred Heart Catholic Church in Oakdale.

He states that while in the Los Angeles area he spent more than 25 happy and rewarding years as a member of St. Bernadette Catholic Church (16 as its choir director), located in the picturesque Baldwin Hills area of Los Angeles.

Since his interview with the diocese, he has spent some time exploring Victoria and its surrounding towns. "I've made a couple of trips to tour your parade of homes," he said. This

gave him a chance to see towns outside of Victoria, including Inez and Cuero. "I wanted to give myself some time, so I started early," he said.

Of taking the leadership position of the diocese's 15 Catholic schools, John said, "I'm really looking forward to the challenge and taking the reins from Sister Gloria, standing on her shoulders and learning as much as I can about the wonderful Diocese of Victoria."

John concluded saying, "I depend a lot on the Holy Spirit to guide me."

Priests for Life to visit diocese

By Cynthia Brewer

Priests For Life Rev. Denis G. Wilde, OSA, has been invited by the Hallettsville Knights of Columbus Council #2433 to speak at their KC Hall Sunday, June 29. The public is invited to this event, which will begin at 7 p.m.

Father Wilde will be coming to Texas from Drexel Hill, Pa., where he works from his home for Priests for Life. He will concentrate his Sunday evening talk on the Four P's of Pro-life: Prayer, Persuasion, Presence, and Politics, while including an overview of the 30-plus years of the abortion culture in homilies at the Saturday and Sunday, June 28 and 29, Masses in Hallettsville.



"When prayer, persuasion and presence begin to take root," Father Wilde said, "that (culture and politics) will change automatically."

Politics has a lot to do with the availability of abortion in the United States, and much of pro-life work is about getting pro-life people into public office, Father Wilde said. However, "the election will be over in November, but the principles will

go on," he said. "The principles are what will bring about a change of heart. It has to be a change of heart."

Father Wilde has been actively involved in pro-life concerns since before Roe v. Wade. In the 80s he personally witnessed to the "rescue" movement and thereby developed ecumenical ties from the expression of common faith in God as the Author of Life.

As a member of the Augustinian Province of St. Thomas of Villanova, Father Wilde was associate professor of music at Villanova University from 1977 to 1998 before joining Priests for Life full time. He received his Ph.D. in music from The Catholic University of America (1984) and had been professionally engaged as choral director at Villanova and as guest conductor on five continents.

As a professional pianist, he continues his music ministry by presenting piano recitals around the country in conjunction with pro-life ministry. Through these concerts and recitals he raises funds for pro-life groups. Father Wilde feels a unique

See *Priests for Life*, p. 8

One ordination this year for diocese

One gentleman from the Diocese of Victoria has decided to dedicate his life to the Lord through the ministry of the priesthood.

Tommy Chen of St. Ann Parish in Point Comfort will be ordained to the priesthood in June at Our Lady of the Gulf Church in Port Lavaca. Tommy, the son of Kun-Ming and Lucy Chen of Point Comfort, will be ordained on June 21, 2008.



The story on the ordination will appear in the July issue of *The Catholic Lighthouse*.

Pope authorizes granting of indulgences for Pauline year events

By John Thavis

Catholic News Service

VATICAN CITY (CNS) -- Catholics who participate in events connected with the 2008-2009 jubilee year of St. Paul can receive a special indulgence, the Vatican said.

Pope Benedict XVI authorized the granting of a plenary, or full, indulgence in order to highlight the Pauline year and open the way to the "interior purification" of the faithful during its celebration, a May 10 Vatican decree said.

The decree was signed by U.S. Cardinal J. Francis Stafford, head of the Vatican tribunal that deals with indulgences and with matters related to the sacrament of penance.

An indulgence is a remission of the temporal punishment a person is due for sins that have been forgiven.

Pope Benedict established the Pauline year to run from June 28, 2008, to June 29, 2009, to mark the approximately 2,000th anniversary of the saint's birth.

The plenary indulgence is being offered to pilgrims who come to Rome, to Catholics who participate in local events connected to the jubilee year, and to those who may be too ill or otherwise prevented from physical participation.

It can be granted on behalf of the individual petitioner or on behalf of departed souls.

Cardinal Stafford said conditions for the special Pauline year indulgence include the normal requirements set by the church for all plenary indulgences: that the person goes to confession, receives the Eucharist and prays for the intentions of the pope.

The decree explained in detail some specific requirements for the plenary indulgence:

"Those visiting the Basilica of St. Paul

See *Pope authorizes granting*, p. 14



Faithful Citizenship

Part IV -Final

What Does the Church Say About Catholic Social Teaching in the Public Square?

Seven Key Themes

A consistent ethic of life should guide all Catholic engagement in political life. This Catholic ethic neither treats all issues as morally equivalent nor reduces Catholic teaching to one or two issues. It anchors the Catholic commitment to defend human life and other human rights, from conception until natural death, in the fundamental obligation to respect the dignity of every human being as a child of God.

Catholic voters should use Catholic teaching to examine candidates' positions on issues and should consider candidates' integrity, philosophy, and performance. It is important for all citizens "to see beyond party politics, to analyze campaign rhetoric critically, and to choose their political leaders according to principle, not party affiliation or mere self-interest" (USCCB, *Living the Gospel of Life*, no. 33). The following themes of Catholic social teaching provide a moral framework for decisions in public life.(2)

The Right to Life and the Dignity of the Human Person

Human life is sacred. Direct attacks on innocent human beings are never morally acceptable. Within our society, life is under direct attack from abortion, euthanasia, human cloning, and destruction of human embryos for research. These intrinsic evils must always be opposed. This teaching also compels us as Catholics to oppose genocide, torture, unjust war, and the use of the death penalty, as well as to pursue peace and help overcome poverty, racism, and other conditions that demean human life.

Call to Family, Community, and Participation

The family, based on marriage between a man and a woman, is the fundamental unit of society. This sanctuary for the creation and nurturing of children must not be redefined, undermined, or neglected. Supporting families should be a priority for economic and social policies. How our society is organized—in economics and politics, in law and public policy—affects the well-being of individuals and of society. Every person and association has a right and a duty to participate in shaping society to promote the well-being of

See *What Does the Church Say*, p. 7



Bishop Fellhauer's Schedule

June	
3	4:00 p.m., Mass, farewell reception for Father Leon Rubaj, chaplain, Incarnate Word Convent, Victoria
5	6:30 p.m., Serra Club Priests' cookout, St. Mary Church, St. Mary (Hallettsville)
7	5:00 p.m., Mass, presentation of certificates to participants who have completed the Pastoral Institute Extended Program, with a meal following, Chancery Office
8	9:30 a.m., Confirmation Mass, St. Peter Church, Blessing
	3:00 p.m., Mass, Celebration of Father John C. Bily's 50th anniversary of ordination, St. Michael Church, Weimar
11-14	United States Conference of Catholic Bishops, Spring meeting, Orlando, Florida
15	8:30 a.m., Confirmation Mass, St. Mary Church, Praha
	2:00 p.m., Mass of Thanksgiving celebrated by Father Justin Gillespie, St. Mary Church, Victoria
17-18	5:00 p.m., Mass, celebrating the 25th anniversary of episcopal ordination of Archbishop Michael Sheehan, Archdiocese of Santa Fe, New Mexico
21	10:00 a.m., Mass, Ordination to the Priesthood of Rev. Mr. Tommy Chen, Our Lady of the Gulf Church, Port Lavaca
23	4:00 p.m., Mass, Girls' Vocation Camp, Frelsburg
29	10:15 a.m., Mass, blessing of stained glass windows and barbecue stand, Sts. Peter and Paul Church, Meyersville
July	
10	6:30 p.m., Knights of St. Gregory Bishop's Charity Banquet, Victoria Country Club, Victoria

Official Appointments By Most Rev. David E. Fellhauer

Effective June 16, 2008, the Rev. **Gabriel Bentil** is relieved of his appointment as parochial vicar of Our Lady of Victory Cathedral and assigned as Parochial Administrator of St. Joseph Church, Inez.

In Memory of...

Sister Leonita Barrón's mother Rafaela

EDNA - Rafaela Gómez de Barrón, loving wife of Ysabel Barrón (deceased) and mother of James Barrón, Jane Barrón Hope (deceased) Nicholas Barrón (wife, Linda), Felix (Fr. Clemente, CP) Barrón and Delfina (Sr. Leonita, IWBS) Barrón, was called to her heavenly home by the Lord on May 21, 2008, at the age of 95. She



was born on Oct. 24, 1912. Ysabel, her

husband of 71 years, preceded her in death

on Sept. 14, 2006. She was the last of her

13 brothers and sisters to die.

Rafaela is also survived by her grandchildren, Rebecca Barrón Flores, Michael Barrón and wife Suzanne, Nicholas Barrón II and wife Darcy, Renée Barrón and husband Michael Rowley, and Stephen Barrón and wife Dianna. Her surviving great-grandchildren are Adriana and Iliana Flores, Ashley and Michael Barrón, Olivia, Sofia and Nicholas Stephen Barrón, and Julia and Karena Rowley.

Rafaela's talents and gifts were recognized quite early by all who knew her. She became well known for her cooking and baking, sewing and mending, and nursing and mentoring young mothers. She opened her doors to clergy, sisters and missionaries, serving them delicious meals and providing lodging for them. Most of all, she was completely dedicated to church ministry. She was an active member of the Catholic Daughters for over 60 years, the Legion of Mary, the Council of Catholic Women, St. Vincent de Paul Society, the church choir, the Guadalupanas, to name a few of the organizations to which she belonged. She was especially pleased with the ministry she did with those who had fallen away from the Catholic faith. Most of all, she loved teaching catechism, which she did for more than 40 years. She visited almost every Catholic home in Edna over the many years she lived there, and was a sponsor at numerous baptisms.

As dedicated as she was to the church and the community, she was even more devoted to her family. There was no doubt that her husband and children were her life.

In lieu of flowers, the family is asking that a donation be made to the St. Vincent de Paul Society of St. Agnes parish or Our Lady of Victory School, 1311 E. Mesquite, Victoria, Texas 77901-3427.

Father Guido Quiroz

Father Guido Miguel Quiroz, a priest of the Diocese of Victoria who has been residing in Washington, DC, for several years, passed away on May 15, 2008.

Father Quiroz came into the diocese in 1982 as a religious Franciscan and served with the Trinitarians at Our Lady of Sorrows in Victoria.

He joined the diocese in 1986 and retired in 1988.

May the souls of the faithful departed rest in peace.



Rev. Justin Gillespie's Mass of Thanksgiving – June 15

Father Justin Edward Gillespie, the son of Hank and Judy Gillespie of Victoria, will be returning to America for a visit and to celebrate a Holy Mass of Thanksgiving at his home parish.



The Mass will be held Sunday, June 15, at 2 p.m. at St. Mary Parish, 402 S. Main in Victoria; a reception will follow.

His family asks everyone to please join them for this special occasion.

Father Justin was ordained to the priesthood at St. Eugenio Basilica in Rome on May 26, 2007. He has just recently completed his doctorate of theology from the Pontifical University of the Holy Cross in Rome. This will be his first visit to America since his ordination and the completion of his doctorate.

Capital Campaign Money At Work

SRC MULTI-PURPOSE BUILDING GOING UP—Construction and renovation continues at the Spiritual Renewal Center. To date, all four cement walls of the basement (bottom photo) of the multi-purpose building have been poured. The main floor to the building is currently being framed (top photo) for the pouring of the beams of the foundation. Above in this picture two of the center's original buildings can be seen. Nazareth, a dorm, on the left, and Galilee, a dorm that has been converted into a meeting room while the chapel is unavailable, is on the right. Everything is still on schedule with just a few short delays. The anticipated completion date for the chapel has been moved to September 2008, and the multi-purpose building is expected to be completed by May 2009.



Diocesan Services Appeal '08

To date our records indicate a pledged amount of \$503,739.42 and the amount paid-to-date of \$413,460.59.

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

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

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

Stewardship Thought

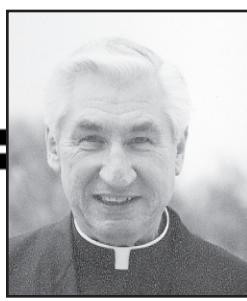
"Do not neglect good deeds and generosity. God is pleased by sacrifices of that kind." (Hebrews 13:16)



FAITH POINT

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

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



Gay Marriage — Again!

Gay marriage is like a vampire that refuses to die. The California Supreme Court on May 15, 2008, decided that forbidding marriage to same sex couples was opposed to the California constitution even though Proposition 22 restricting marriage to a man and a woman passed by 62 percent of California voters in 2000.

This decision is an example of judicial activism at its worst and gives a legal imprimatur to what is euphemistically called a lifestyle that should be forbidden on the grounds of health if not deviancy.

The court concluded, contrary to all precedent, that "sexual orientation" deserved the kind of constitutional protection afforded to categories such as race and sex. Race and sex are fixed characteristics. Skin color cannot be compared to behavior patterns. Society does not accord civil rights based on behavior patterns. Whether homosexual orientation is innate or acquired may be debated, but there is some evidence that the orientation is subject to change. Persons with a homosexual orientation have functioned in heterosexual situations and persons with a heterosexual orientation have learned homosexuality, as in prison.

The court could find no compelling interest "in retaining a tradition that excludes an historically disfavored minority group from a status that is extended to all others." A footnote contradicts this assertion that "all others" are entitled to marriage. It said the decision would not extend to polygamists or those interested in incestuous marriages. Why not? Are they not disfavored minorities? Are the justices afraid that someone might push their principle to its logical conclusion and reveal its absurdity? Or are they deferring the battles over incest, polygamy, and polyandry to another day?

The right to one's own definition of marriage is not and never was a part of the constitution. It is only an assertion of four of the judges. They are not interpreting the constitution—they are amending it by legislating from the bench.

The California justices broke the covenant between the court and the people, which calls upon them to exercise judicial restraint. That covenant cannot be bro-

ken because judges consider themselves enlightened and well-intentioned. It was judicial overreach, a raw and illegitimate exercise of judicial power, which nullified the previous democratic exercise of the people and usurped the role of the legislature.

The court ignored contrary precedent in other states. In state supreme courts

as diverse as New York, Washington, and Maryland marriage is defined a union of husband and wife because marriage has something to do with responsible procreation — bringing together men and women to make

and raise the next generation together. How a society views families determines the success and continuation of that society. The preponderance of studies shows that divorce and illegitimacy have already weakened our next generation. Redefining marriage as having no connection with reproduction and rearing of children further weakens the family.

The chief purpose for pursuing identification of homosexual unions as marriage is to put a cosmetic face on a disordered lifestyle. If homosexuals are legally "married" then as a matter of law homosexuality is as normal as heterosexuality. Homosexuals do not wish merely to be tolerated but want to be celebrated. In Canada criticisms of homosexuality and even quoting Scripture texts condemning homosexuality are treated as hate crimes.

Far from being tolerated, homosexual unions and homosexual activity should be discouraged and not just on moral or religious grounds. Studies of gay pairs show that they do not establish healthy households. Domestic violence among them is rampant: 31 percent of lesbians and 22 percent of gay men report physical abuse by a partner in the preceding year. Homosexual persons have double to triple the rates of drug abuse, alcoholism, and depression as heterosexuals. Homosexual persons are fourteen times more likely to attempt suicide. The risk of sexual abuse for children in homosexual households is fifty times greater than for children raised by their biological parents. Children living in households with adults unrelated to them are eight times more likely to die in childhood than are children raised by their biological parents.

There should be a warning label that homosexual activity is hazardous to your health. ...

There should be a warning label that homosexual activity is hazardous to your health. "An epidemiological study from Vancouver, Canada, of data tabulated between 1987 and 1992 for AIDS-related deaths reveals that male homosexual or bisexual practitioners lost up to 20 years of life expectancy. The study concluded that if 3 percent of the population studied were gay or bisexual, the probability of a 20-year-old gay or bisexual man living to 65 years was only 32 percent, compared to 78 percent for men in general.

The impact on length of life may be even greater than reported in the Canadian study. First, HIV/AIDS is under-reported by as much as 15-20 percent, so it is likely that not all AIDS-related deaths were accounted for in the study. Second, there are additional major causes of death related to gay sex.

For example, suicide rates among a San Francisco cohort were 3.4 times higher than the general U.S. male population in 1987. Other potentially fatal ailments such as syphilis, anal cancer, and Hepatitis B and C also affect gay and bisexual men disproportionately."

The damaging effects of cigarette smoking pale in comparison (to the effects of homosexual activity)—cigarette smokers lose on average about 13.5 years of life expectancy. To discourage smoking there are large taxes on tobacco companies, warning labels on cigarettes, and extensive educational efforts to deter smoking and induce smokers to quit. Homosexuality, by contrast, which deprives one of twenty or more years of life is supposed to be enshrined as a civil right, to be promulgated and promoted as normal through the public school system without any parental objection.

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No society should adopt deviant behavior as a positive model for family life. Children raised by their married biological parents are the healthiest children by an astonishing margin, measured by physical and emotional health as well as educational achievement. The studies in this area

confirm common sense: The natural family is the best and only format that should be held up as a model for our society. This model alone renders the most critical service to the nation: The natural family bears, raises, and educates successful, contributing members of society. Special consideration is given to families because they undertake burdens of reproduction and education that benefit society.

Redefining marriage to accommodate an unnatural act would change the meaning of marriage for all of society. Bluntly, the new meaning would be that sex has no meaning beyond pleasure. This philosophy imperils marriage. Sex for pleasure and nothing greater devalues men and women, reducing them to gratifying objects. It is not sexual activity that defines marriage as is evident from the thousands of cohabiting but unmarried couples.

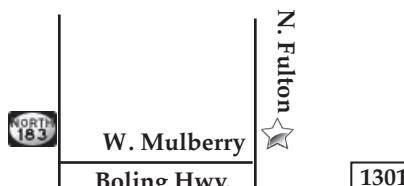
Love does not define marriage because members of the same family have a loving relationship without marriage. Why should homosexual pairs be given such advantages as tax breaks and not college roommates? Cohabitating pairs offer no compelling interest to society. Marriage is a "privileged status" because spouses assume grave responsibilities on behalf of society.

Much more could be said on this topic, but I will conclude with four points. (1) Homosexuals are highly dysfunctional and destructive to themselves and to society. (2) No provision should be made for civil unions that extend the substantive benefits of marriage to homosexuals because this is nothing but marriage light, and civil unions offered the California justices an excuse to say that homosexuals were being deprived of equal treatment. (3) Homosexuals deserve our compassion and help but not approval of their activity. (4) We should vote for candidates for office who will uphold the traditional definition of marriage and will support judges who do the same.

20th Annual Holy Family Church, Wharton BAZAAR

June 29, 2008

Join in the fun at the
Knights of Columbus Hall
2820 N. Fulton



Masses:
Saturday: 5:30 p.m.
Sunday: 10:00 a.m.

Country Store

Pastry Booth

Cakewalk

Plant Walk

Various Children's Games

Music Featuring
Holy Family's
Czech Singers

Auction Begins 12:00 noon

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Dine-In or Drive-Thru

**\$7
in advance** **\$7.50
at the door**



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 May 20, 2008

TOTALS

— Rev. John C. Bily Seminary Burse

Previously reported \$2,717.00

In honor of Rev. John C. Bily's 50th

ordination anniversary by

Joe and Monica Melnar 100.00

In memory of Kyle Janca by

Bea and Leila Dornak 5.00

In memory of Jim and Mary Rosenauer by

Eugene and Gladys Rosenauer 10.00

In memory of Matilda Kosler Palmer and

Steve Kosler, Sr. by

Eugene and Gladys Rosenauer 10.00

In memory of Henry G. Kana by

John P and Patty Kana 10.00

In memory of Mark Luhrs and in honor of

Rev. John Bily's birthday and ordination

anniversary to the priesthood by

Richard and Mary Luhrs 200.00

In memory of Clayton Janecka and

Thomas Hunter Guy by

Lorine Holub 10.00

An anonymous donation to the burse 5.00

Total \$3,067.00

— Rev. Charles Kolek, OSB, and John and Mary Kolek Seminary Burse

Previously reported \$2,380.00

In honor of M/M Albert Mutas' 50th

wedding anniversary by

M/M Raymond Vecera 50.00

Total \$2,430.00

**Stocks • Bonds • CDs
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HIGH HILL—The St. Ann's Society of High Hill is beginning plans for a 150th anniversary cookbook, to be compiled with "old family recipes" as well as family pictures, histories and stories that people may want to share.

Recipes and copies of photographs can be sent to St. Ann's Society Cookbook Committee, 2833 FM 2672, Schulenburg, Texas 78956

Deadline for receipt of this material has been set for December 31, 2008.

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

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

Reporting Abuse

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

- Call the Chancery at (361) 573-0828 and ask to speak with the bishop or the chancellor;
 - Call Rev. Gary Janak (979) 543-3770 or Sr. Emilie Eilers (361) 575-7111, Coordinators of Pastoral Care and Outreach;
 - Write to: Most Rev. David E. Fellhauer
Diocese of Victoria
P.O. Box 4070
Victoria, TX 77903
Mark your letter "Personal and Confidential"
- We will also help you bring your concerns to Church officials outside the diocese if the abuse occurred elsewhere and you now reside in the Diocese of Victoria.

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



KJZT OPENS SIXTH SEMINARY BURSE—The Catholic Family Fraternal of Texas (KJZT) presented nearly \$6,000 to Bishop David E. Fellhauer recently to go toward the Diocese of Victoria KJZT Clerical Endowment Fund. The contributions come from KJZT members and friends of the societies located in the Diocese of Victoria and the State Office to support the education of young men studying for the priesthood in the diocese. With the funds, KJZT was able to complete their fifth seminary burse and open a sixth. Above, KJZT State Director Mary Ann Marek of Shiner presents a check for \$5,976.90 to Bishop Fellhauer.

Franciscan Friars Celebrate 150 Years

Sacred Heart Province

Franciscan Friars

St. Louis/Chicago Province

The Franciscan Friars of the Sacred Heart Province (Chicago-St. Louis) are celebrating a Year of Jubilee 2007-2008, remembering their German roots. It was on September 14, 1858, when the friars from Saxony (modern-day Germany) stepped foot on land in New York and eventually made their way to Teutopolis, Illinois, and beyond. Throughout these 150 years the Sacred Heart Province has given to the Church 3,305 men, including four bishops, to share the charism of St. Francis of Assisi and to serve the People of God.

Several Franciscan Friars staffed parishes in the Diocese of Victoria from 1986 to 2002. Father Benet Fonck, OFM, was the first friar to arrive in the diocese. He lived at Our Lady of Lourdes in downtown Victoria and worked as the spiritual director for the diocese - being available to all parishes and organizations of the diocese for days of recollection and parish missions. He also was appointed by Bishop Grahmann to promote the new diocesan retreat house (Spiritual Renewal Center).

According to Father Benet, Father Clarence Korgie, OFM, came into the diocese in the summer of 1987. When he arrived, he and Father Benet took up residence at St. Joseph Church in Inez. Father Clarence was the pastor, while Father Benet continued his work in the diocese as spiritual director.

Father Fonck was also instrumental in getting the Poor Clares into the Diocese of Victoria. He lived and worked in the diocese from February 1986 to the summer of 1988, and Father Clarence left sometime after him.

Father Larry Brummer, OFM, was assigned to the diocese as director of the Spiritual Renewal Center upon Father Benet's departure. He was joined by Father Ted Haag, OFM, who stayed until July of 1999.

A group of friars began to staff Our Lady of Guadalupe Parish in Bay City. According to Father Benet, Father Tom Ess, OFM, was the first friar pastor. Father Ed Mundwiller, OFM, helped him as a parochial vicar at one point, and Father Ed Boren, OFM, was the last Franciscan friar to pastor the church, leaving July 15, 2002. He was the last Franciscan to leave the Diocese of Victoria.

The province has also sent missionaries to China, Brazil, Zaire (Congo), and Alaska. Missionaries have served as well in Morocco, Russia, and Singapore. The friars of the province have, moreover, staffed one university (Quincy University), two high schools, and three retreat

houses. In addition they have staffed parishes in Alaska, Hawaii, Illinois, Indiana, Iowa, Louisiana, Minnesota, Missouri, Nebraska, Ohio, Tennessee, Texas, and Wisconsin. Friars have facilitated retreats, parish missions, days of recollection, and workshops throughout the United States from the very beginning of the Franciscan Foundation 150 years ago.

The Year of Jubilee began in August of 2007 with a gathering of the friars in Mundelein, Illinois, and has continued with various regional celebrations and service opportunities throughout the province.

The most recent event was on April 16 – the day when Francis of Assisi received oral approval for his rule of life; the friars in regional celebrations publicly renewed their Franciscan commitment before members of the Church.

The final event of the sesquicentennial is an assembly in St. Louis, Missouri. The friars and many guests will gather on the evening of Sunday, September 14, 150 years to the day that their ancestors began their mission in the United States. On Monday afternoon, September 15, at 3:00 p.m., they will celebrate a Eucharist of Thanksgiving at St. Anthony of Padua Church, followed by a banquet and evening of festivities.

Happy Father's Day June 17

Luxury Guided

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Twenty Something

By Christina Capecchi



Don't let your résumé become your identity

I arrived at the career fair with high hopes, 20 résumés and dozens of story ideas turning in my mind.

I had prepared meticulously, ironing my suit, straightening my hair, frying everything into submission. I had memorized the morning's news, donned my glasses for a scholastic effect and applied a dab of lip gloss. I was set.

The recruiters quickly lowered my lofty expectations. The heavy hitters weren't exactly interested. Neither were the middle-of-the-roaders. The warmest reception I got came from the editor of a teensy-tiny paper offering a year-long internship for meager pay and no benefits. *Is that all I'm worth?* I wondered as I filed into a long line.

Finally my turn came to talk to the recruiter of a big-time paper where I had applied for an internship. My application had arrived with that much-hyped distinction, the recommendation of a staff member, and I was eager to follow up with an in-person introduction.

The recruiter spent less time reading my résumé than it had taken to print, proceeding to point out everything it lacked. "Come back in 10 years," she growled.

As I walked home, a car raced by, splattering mud on my heels and shins. It felt like a physical expression of the emotional damage the fair had reaped.

The job hunt can be a rude awakening to young adults with super-supportive parents and super-expensive degrees. Not

only are many head hunters hostile, so is much of the job-searching advice.

"Your present résumé is probably much more inadequate than you now realize," cautions one website. "A job often attracts between 100 and 1,000 résumés these days, so you are facing a great deal of competition."

"No jewelry is better than cheap jewelry," another site asserts. And when selecting attire, "avoid rayon blends."

Of course, that's presuming you're lucky enough to land an interview. There are a gazillion ways to fatally botch a résumé: failing to state an objective, foolishly stating a hobby, overlooking a typo.

And whatever you do, don't you dare use high-quality résumé paper: "Employers HATE pretentious parchment paper. They think they're phony and toss them out."

That is, be polished, but not too polished. Get it?

I'm watching friends conform to these standards, stripping their colorful, three-dimensional personalities to black bullet points. So much is lost between the gifts we possess and the credentials we submit.

The good news is our faith defies all these silly rules. Enough with the generic verbs and padded résumés, St. Paul writes: "Stop lying to one other another...Here there is not Greek and Jew, slave and free, but Christ is all and in all."

While career consultants preach neutrality (one ring per hand, light makeup), St. Paul urges us to pile it on liberally. "Put on then, as God's chosen ones, holy and beloved, heartfelt compassion, kindness, humility, gentleness and patience."

While career consultants induce panic, St. Paul instills peace: "Let the peace of Christ control your hearts. And be thankful."

We are thankful because we have been granted the greatest mission on earth. No matter what company name is stamped on our paychecks, we are ambassadors of Christ, "heralds impelled by the Gospel," as Pope Benedict XVI put it recently.

God overlooks our typos, seeing us for who we are — and who we might become.

When we seek his kingdom first, everything else is added onto us. Take it from me: I survived that awful career fair one year ago, and four months later, the big-time paper that had rejected me ran my article on its front page.

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

PRINCIPAL POSITION AVAILABLE

St. Cecilia Catholic School in Houston, Texas, is seeking a faith-filled principal for the 2008-2009 academic year. Reaccredited in 2007, and recently expanded, St. Cecilia is a Pre-K through 8th-grade school with an enrollment of 550+ students. Applicants must have a master's degree in education, administration and supervising experience, and a minimum of 5 years teaching experience.

Interested applicants should visit the archdiocesan Web site at www.archgh.org to download application forms and other information.

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Pope says charism of consecrated virgins can help all people

By Carol Glatz

Catholic News Service

VATICAN CITY (CNS) -- While the rest of the world may think chastity is something "unintelligible and useless," the order of consecrated virgins is a charism that can be fruitful and beneficial to all people, Pope Benedict XVI said.

"With your righteous life, you can be the stars that guide the journey of the world," he said in a May 15 private audience with about 500 consecrated virgins from across the globe.

He said he wished to encourage them in their vocations and hoped they would

grow daily in their awareness that this charism is "as bright and fertile in the eyes of faith as it is unintelligible and useless (in the eyes) of the world."

The women were in Rome as part of a May 14-17 international congress of consecrated virgins discussing how to foster the order and how it is lived in the world.

Consecrated by her local bishop, a consecrated virgin makes a promise of perpetual virginity, prayer and service to the church while living independently in society.

The order of virgins is one of the oldest forms of consecration in the church.

Pope Benedict said the desire to live as a consecrated virgin is linked to the desire to mirror Mary and her "loving, free choice" to do the will of God.

The pope asked that the soul of Mary be in each one of them. Quoting St. Ambrose, he said Mary "is the one mother of Christ according to the flesh, yet according to faith, Christ is the fruit of all."

"Every soul receives the Word of God, provided that, immaculate and immune to vice, it guards its chastity with inviolate modesty," he said, quoting the saint.

Monastery Vocations Retreat in July

SUBIACO, Ark. — Attention prayerful single men and women! Subiaco Benedictine Abby (for men) in Subiaco, Ark., and the St. Scholastic Monastery (for women) in Ft. Smith, Ark., will be hosting an exciting "Live-in Experience" vocational retreat July 3 – 7. There is no cost, but space is limited. Work and pray with the monks and nuns and hear the vocational talks. These retreats are held only once a year and are popular, so make your reservations early. For more information, please call 1-800-221-1807

Youth Minister Position Open

The combined parishes of St. Anthony, Sts. Peter & Paul and St. Roch in the Columbus, Texas area (70 miles West of Houston) is accepting applications for a youth minister. Responsibilities will include CCE and confirmation trainings as well as various youth ministry activities. The primary focus at this time is young people in grades 9th through 12th. The salary for this full time position is commensurate with applicants training and experience. Interested applicants may request a job description and/or submit their resumes to kahlichd@catholic.org.

HYDE PARK, N.Y. (CNS) -- On the corner of Peace Avenue and Joy Street in a Hyde Park community dedicated to Mary, more than 250 members of the Focolare movement gathered May 10 in the name of world peace. They came together for Run4Unity 2008, a day of fun, songs, games, athletics, prayer, Christian camaraderie and interfaith dialogue. Similar events took place in all 24 time zones around the world. First held in 2005, Run4Unity promotes sports, games and camaraderie as instruments for peace. In Hyde Park, the event was held in the Mariapolis Luminosa community. Established in 1986, it describes itself as "the little city of the Focolare movement for North America." "Mariapolis" is Greek for "city of Mary." "Luminosa" refers to the oldest friend of the late Focolare founder Chiara Lubich and one of the first people to join Lubich's new lay spiritual movement, which began in Italy in 1943. Run4Unity was launched by Young for Unity, the Focolare movement's youth branch. It brings together youths of different cultures, languages and ethnic backgrounds in 182 nations to live for a more united world, spreading a culture of giving, peace and brotherhood.

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— Sr. Joyce Jilek, CDP — Honored Parish Catechetical Leader of the Month

By Cynthia Brewer

Sister Joyce Jilek, a sister of the Congregation of Divine Providence and the pastoral associate at St. Anthony Parish in Columbus, is being honored as the parish catechetical leader (PCL) of the diocese for the month of June. She has been the pastoral associate at St. Anthony Parish for the last 11 years.

While at St. Anthony's, Sister Joyce has ministered to the children of the religious education program, as well as directed the Rite of Christian Initiation for Adults (RCIA) program. She was hired by St. Anthony Parish specifically for those two positions. She also held these positions for six years in Granger, Texas, prior to coming to Columbus.

Since 2005, St. Anthony Parish has been using the Generations of Faith (GOF) program to minister to the whole parish community, while continuing classes for children preparing for sacraments. There are eight to 10 GOF sessions held at St. Anthony's each year (with a choice of Sunday or Wednesday participation each month).

Currently there are 54 children registered for GOF, while 29 youth are in the confirmation group and 18 youngsters are in the first reconciliation/first Eucharist group, for a total of 101 youth.

"Generations of Faith attendance varies from about 25-30 persons on our Sunday presentation to about 50-60 on Wednesday nights," Sister Joyce said. "Many more adults and families are registered each year."



Sister Joyce Jilek

What Sister Joyce finds most challenging is getting the upper level parents involved in the religious education programs and getting the non-sacrament students to

come to all that the parish offers them. "Unfortunately GOF is secondary to all other events and choices," Sister Joyce said.

However, there are also moments of joy. "The most happy moments are probably seeing our juniors continue to be a part of the parish, even after their confirmation," she said. Some get involved in the choir, teaching younger brothers and sisters, and helping (when old enough) with Habitat for Humanity.

Assisting Sister Joyce with the religious education program are seven

catechists serving as core-team members for GOF and two catechists for the confirmation and first reconciliation/Eucharist sacrament classes.

She also serves the parish by playing the organ at some weekend Masses, and twice monthly she is part of three adult Bible-study groups which prepare participants for the following Sunday liturgy.

Outside of the parish, Sister Joyce also keeps busy, saying, "I have been on the board for the Colorado County Habitat for Humanity and I am a charter member of our Columbus Christian Women's group, having served eight to nine years."

Sister Joyce celebrated the golden jubilee of her religious profession in June of 2003 at St. Anthony Parish.

"I greatly enjoy ministering in St. Anthony Parish," she said. "So many parishioners have touched my life deeply."

Sister Joyce was educated in both public and Catholic schools in Kenedy,

Flatonia, Moulton and Schulenburg. She went to Our Lady of the Lake Convent in 1947 where she completed high school and two years of college. She entered the novitiate on June 21, 1952, where she received the name of Sister Mary David and made her first profession of vows on June 22, 1953.

Her first mission was at St. Thomas Aquinas School in Dallas in the field of music. Subsequently, Sister Joyce ministered in grade schools in San Antonio and Abilene, Texas, before becoming a high school science teacher. She received her B.S. in education from Our Lady of the Lake University in 1963, and she earned a master of science in biology from A&T State University in Greensboro, North Carolina, in 1972. Besides teaching in various Catholic schools in San Antonio, she had taught 21 years in several Texas public schools.

Pastoral Institute Short-Term Summer Classes '08

1	Liturgy	St. Mary Activity Ctr./Victoria	6/2 & 6/3	6-9 pm
2	Sacraments	OL of Sorrows CCD Ctr.	6/7	9-3:30 pm
3	Church	Plum	6/11 & 6/18	6:30-9:30 pm
4	I Believe/We Believe	OL of Sorrows CCD Ctr.	6/14	9-3:30 pm
5	Church	St. John the Baptist/Hungerford	6/17 & 6/24	6:30-9:30 pm
6	Getting Started as a Catechist	Chancery	6/24	9-11 am
7	Roles of the Catechist	Chancery	6/24	12-2 pm
8	Person of the Catechist	Chancery	6/24	2:30-4:30 pm
9	Prayer/Spirituality	Shiner/Activity Ctr.	6/25 & 7/2	6:30-9:30 pm
10	Sacraments	Columbus	7/8 & 7/9	6-9 pm
11	Methodology (Grades 1-8)	OL of Lourdes	7/9	7-9 pm
12	I Believe/We Believe	OL of Victory	7/15 & 7/17	9 am-12
13	Catholic Morality	St. Mary Parish Hall/Hallettsville	7/19	9-3 pm (bring lunch)
14	Intro. to the Learner	Ganado	7/21 & 7/23	6:30-9:30 pm
15	I Believe/We Believe	OL of Victory	7/22 & 7/24	6-9 pm
16	Intro. to the Learner	Flatonia	7/26	9-3:30 pm
17	Intro. to the Learner	Chancery	7/28	9-3:30 pm
18	Intro. to the Scriptures	Edna	7/29 & 7/31	6-9 pm
19	Intro. to the Scriptures	East Bernard	8/5 & 8/7	7-10 pm
20	Sacraments	St. Philip/El Campo/RE Bldg. #1	8/5 & 8/7	6:30-9:30 pm
21	Liturgy	Hostyn	8/6 & 8/13	6:30-9:30 pm
22	Church	Bloomington	8/6 & 8/13	6:30-9:30 pm
23	I Believe/We Believe	Bay City OLG	8/16	9-3:30 pm
24	Sacraments	Yorktown/Activity Ctr.	8/16	9-3:30 pm

Call (361) 573-0828, or e-mail bparkan@victoriadiocese.org to register or to receive more information.

Diocese of Victoria XXI Annual Conference for Catechesis and Ministry

"The Word of God in the Life and Mission of the Church"

Saturday, September 27, 2008 – Holy Family, Victoria

Ronald Rolheiser, a Roman Catholic priest and member of the Missionary Oblates of Mary Immaculate, is president of the Oblate School of Theology in San Antonio, Texas. He is a community-builder, lecturer and writer. His books are popular throughout the English-speaking world, and his weekly column is carried by more than sixty newspapers worldwide.

His address, *Naming the Present Faith-Moment: The Struggle to be Missionaries to our own Children* is based on his book *Secularity and the Gospel: Being Missionaries to our Children*.

The annual conference sponsored by the Diocese of Victoria, in addition to the keynote address, offers many workshops on important catechetical, liturgical, spiritual, and social topics for the on-going education and formation of people serving in various ministries in the parishes of the diocese. Other workshops of general interest are offered for anyone wanting to learn more about Scripture, the Catholic faith, spirituality, social justice and other pertinent topics.

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

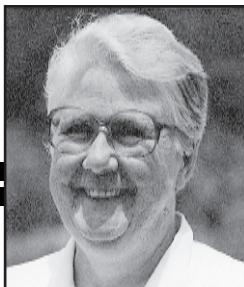


Rev. Ron Rolheiser, O.M.I.
Keynote Speaker



SISTERLY THOUGHTS

By Sister Mildred Truchard, IWBS



The Catholic Church in China

During my recent tour to Beijing, China, I asked for the directions to the nearest Catholic Church. I was told that there was only one Catholic Church in all of Beijing, the East Church. Prior to my trip, I had done some internet exploring about the Catholicism in China. I realized that there were various degrees of practice of the faith. First of all, there were the Catholics who had gone underground to escape persecution after the establishment of Mao Zedong's communist regime in 1949 and again after the



East Church, the only recognized Catholic Church in Beijing, China.

Communist "Cultural Revolution" in the mid-sixties. Many of these Catholics had been imprisoned and/or martyred. Nonetheless, the "Underground" Church has kept its loyalty to the Holy Father and its bishops are appointed by the Holy See in Rome. At the other end of the spectrum are the Catholics who belong to the "Chinese Catholic Patriotic Association" or "Open" Church in which the bishops and priests are appointed by the government, but are not in communion with the Roman Catholic Church. In between these two extremes are "legitimized" "Open" Church bishops who have been appointed by the government, but have then contacted the Holy See (often secretly) and have been recognized by the Pope and "licit" (lawful in the eyes of the Holy See) "Open" Church Bishops, who before their government-appointed ordination, had

sought and received approval by Rome. Often worshipers do not know whether or not their Church is in communion with Rome because in many cases the communion with Rome is kept secret.

Pope Benedict XVI has been trying to reach out to and bring reconciliation

to the Catholic Church in China; however, current Chinese-Vatican relations are not conducive to cooperation between the Chinese government and the Holy See.

After I had the hotel service desk attendant write — or should I

say draw in neat Chinese characters — the directions to East Church, my sister, her husband, and I took a taxi to the church.

I was surprised at the European style of the large building with the school attached. A young church volunteer who had taught himself English proved to be an excellent guide. The people in the church must have been having some kind of Bible study the Saturday afternoon that we visited. We were handed a sheet of neat Chinese script, which our new friend tried to interpret for us. I gathered that it was the story of the Prodigal Son. The people of all ages seemed engrossed in the session.

I found the history of the church edifice very interesting. Somehow, its turbulent past seemed to mirror that of the recent history of Catholicism in China. Its story began in the mid-1600's when Portuguese and Italian missionaries had arrived and

had built a small church and named it in honor of St. Joseph. Then in 1720 the church was destroyed by an earthquake. It was rebuilt and again destroyed — this time by fire caused by lightning in 1807. Again it was rebuilt, only to be razed during the bloody anti-Western, anti-Christian Boxer Rebellion in 1900. After the end of the Boxer Rebellion in 1901, the church was once more rebuilt and services resumed until the Communist takeover in 1949, when all foreign missionaries were expelled. Finally, during the Cultural Revolution, the doors were bolted shut until recently, when the government spent over

two million dollars to restore the building, which was opened with great fanfare in the year 2000. I was really saddened to see this prominent tourist attraction touting the Chinese government's religious tolerance, when in fact its parishioners are deprived of fully practicing their faith in communion with the Holy See. So, I would like for us to pray for the people of China that they may soon experience the freedom to openly worship — a freedom that we so often take for granted. And let us pray for the many Chinese victims who have suffered the loss of life or of loved ones in the recent earthquake.

What Does the Church Say About Catholic Social Teaching in the Public Square?

Continued from p. 1

Rights and Responsibilities

Every human being has a right to life, the fundamental right that makes all other rights possible. Each of us has a right to religious freedom, which enables us to live and act in accord with our God-given dignity, as well as a right to access to those things required for human decency — food and shelter, education and employment, health care and housing.

Corresponding to these rights are duties and responsibilities — to one another, to our families, and to the larger society.

Option for the Poor and Vulnerable

While the common good embraces all, those who are in greatest need deserve preferential concern. A moral test for society is how we treat the weakest among us — the unborn, those dealing with disabilities or terminal illness, the poor and marginalized.

Dignity of Work and the Rights of Workers

The economy must serve people, not the other way around. Economic justice calls for decent work at fair, living wages, opportunities for legal status for immigrant workers, and the opportunity for all people to work together for the common good through their work, ownership, enterprise, investment, participation in unions, and other forms of economic activity.

for vulnerable human beings now and in the future.

Conclusion

In light of Catholic teaching, as bishops we vigorously repeat our call for a renewed politics that focuses on moral principles, the defense of life, the needs of the weak, and the pursuit of the common good. This kind of political participation reflects the social teaching of our Church and the best traditions of our nation.

Notes: (2) These themes are drawn from a rich tradition more fully described in the Compendium of the Social Doctrine of the Church from the Pontifical Council for Justice and Peace (Washington, DC: United States Conference of Catholic Bishops, 2005). For more information on these seven themes and for a wide range of educational and other resources to help share Faithful Citizenship, see www.faithfulcitizenship.org.

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Benedictine Life Weekend

Are you searching for God's direction in life? Do you wonder if monastic life could be the right fit? Would you like the chance to check it out? If so, we invite you to visit our community for a Benedictine Life Week, June 27 - July 3, 2008, at Monastery Immaculate Conception, Ferdinand, Indiana. Open to single, Catholic women, ages 19-40, discerning religious life. Contact Sister Agnes Marie Dauby or Sister Michelle Sinkhorn at 802 E. 10th Street, Ferdinand, IN, 47563 or call 800-738-9999, or e-mail vocation@thedome.org.

18th Annual Czech Kolache-Klobase Festival

Saturday, June 14, 2008 - 10:30a - 8p
RIVERSIDE HALL - EAST BERNARD, TEXAS

Admission: \$7 per person * Children 12 & under: FREE

Mark Halata & Texavia * Vrazil Polka Band
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Al Sulak's Country Sounds * Legacy of East Bernard *
Keller Academy Dance Group * EB Dance/Tumbling & Cloggers
Water Fan Cooked Pavilion * Outdoor Canopy
PLATE LUNCH SERVED 11 am
Sausage * BBQ Chicken * Trimmings
Drive Thru Plates-To-Go - 11 am - 1 pm
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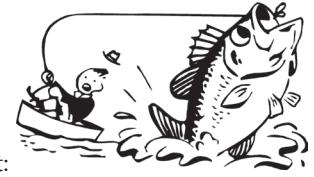
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For more information contact: Bryan Ellis (361) 578-0877 or Dennis Lockstedt (361) 573-9505





Divine Providence music celebration planned

SAN ANTONIO—Did a Sister of Divine Providence (CDP) touch your life with music?

Revive those memories and share your personal stories to be recorded in a Memory Book for a September celebration honoring all CDP music teachers.

Since the early 1900s music teachers of the Congregation of Divine Providence (CDP), headquartered in San Antonio, Texas, have served thousands of students in numerous schools and parishes. These extraordinary women musicians taught individuals from elementary through graduate level in Arkansas, California, Louisiana, New Mexico, Oklahoma, and Texas.

A special day of recognition of their music ministry will be held on Septem-

ber 21, 2008 at Our Lady of the Lake University and Convent Center in San Antonio, Texas. There will be a Mass, luncheon and performances to celebrate the contributions of these remarkable music teachers.

As part of this celebration we are reaching out to the sites where the Sisters exercised their music ministry. We want to cast a wide net to contact students whose lives were enriched by these CDP musicians and who would send personal memories of them to the organizing committee.

Send to: CDP Music Celebration Committee, Our Lady of the Lake Convent, 515 SW 24th Street, San Antonio, TX 78207

Or:

E-mail: musiccdp@yahoo.com



Bishop David E. Fellhauer joins in the farewell celebration for Sister Gloria Cain, superintendent, left, and Sister Dawn Achs, associate superintendent, right, of the Diocese of Victoria Catholic Schools Office on May 7, 2008 at the chancery.

School superintendent and associate leave diocese

By Cynthia Brewer

The three School Sisters of Notre Dame who minister in the Diocese of Victoria are preparing to leave. As mentioned in the May issue of *The Catholic Lighthouse*, Sister Gloria Cain, SSND, is going to be the new superintendent of Catholic schools in the Dallas Diocese and Sister Dawn Achs, SSND, is working with her provincial leadership concerning several ministry options for next year. Sister Barbara Bacak, SSND, has been appointed Vocations Director for the Dallas Province of the School Sisters of Notre Dame. Her story will be in the July issue.

Parties have been held by the diocesan chancery staff, diocesan school council and by principals and faculty of each school to bid farewell to Sisters Gloria and Dawn.

Each has parting words for the people of the Diocese of Victoria and coworkers of theirs have also offered words to express their appreciation of their service to the diocese. Some of these messages were collected at going away parties for the sisters. They are included below:

Sister Gloria Cain, SSND

What can you say of your experience here in the Victoria Diocese?

“The people of the Diocese of Victoria have been community and family to me from the first day I arrived in Victoria and I take nothing but fond memories of them with me. People have been so gracious.”

What are your thoughts about going to Dallas and supervising 41 schools?

“It will be both a challenge and opportunity to serve the 41 Catholic schools of the Diocese of Dallas in such a way that each school develops/enriches its own

unique charism and, at the same time, all schools grow into a strong Catholic educational community in the growing Church of Dallas.

“It will take time to get to know pastors, principals, and the gifts/challenges of each of the 41 schools. One of the first things I want to do when I begin work in July is to visit with every school pastor and principal at their site in order to become familiar with each school from their perspectives.”

What are some of the feelings you experienced when you found out you had been selected as the new superintendent of schools for the Diocese of Dallas?

I feel humbled to be chosen for this position. I am excited, challenged, and pray that the Lord will give me the energy and strength to be a good leader, able to make a contribution to the Church of Dallas.”

What are your thoughts on the parties?

“They have given all kinds of farewells for us and I really appreciate it. I truly appreciate every single gesture of friendship.”

Sister Dawn Achs, SSND

What can you say of your experience here in the Victoria Diocese?

“As I prepare to leave the Diocese of Victoria, I do so with a mix of emotions. I certainly did not come to Victoria anticipating that my stay here would be so short. Life’s journeys sometimes take us along long paths with God’s people, and sometimes the path is short. My time here has been one of those short trips. However, the memories that have been created will remain with me much longer than was my stay here.”

“During these two short years, I have

learned much and been greatly enriched by my ministry of working with the schools and by my opportunity to come to know so many wonderful people here in the diocese, especially during the Capital Campaign receptions. I am grateful to have been blessed with the warm welcome and the support of so many. My ministry with the 15 schools of the diocese has been wonderful. I cannot begin to put into words the joy it has brought to me to work with the principals, to observe the dedicated teachers in their classrooms, the enthusiastic students eager to learn, and the commitment of parishes and parents to continue to provide the opportunity for children to receive a Catholic education.

“As I move on to where God calls me next, the Church of the Diocese of Victoria will go with me and will be very specially remembered in prayer.”

What are your thoughts on the going away parties?

“I am very grateful to the diocesan staff and the Diocesan School Advisory Council for providing an opportunity to visit one last time with pastors and principals at the recent “Going Away Reception” held at the chancery in May. I am also grateful to the principals for the planning of a wonderful evening with them and past principals of the diocese. It is never an easy thing for me to have to take leave of those with whom I have ministered, but having opportunities to visit and reminisce certainly was a blessing.”

Words from Friends

“Sister Gloria was a pioneer as she developed and made the School Office for the Victoria Diocese a reality. We appreciate her enthusiasm, her sense of humor, her dedication, her work ethic, her ability to challenge and stretch us to be viable schools that have grown under her guidance. I, as a principal, always found her supportive and willing to help in any way she could. Her presence will be missed. We thank her for her leadership and guidance.

“Sister Dawn, even though here for a short while, had a tremendous impact on our schools, especially in the area of curriculum. We appreciate her willingness in taking the time to visit our classrooms and visit with teachers giving guidance in how we could be schools that have a positive impact on our students as we strive to embrace new methods with traditional Catholic values. We thank her for challenging us to continue to grow and strive for excellence in our Catholic Schools.

May the Holy Spirit continue to be with her as she embarks on her new ministry.

“The impact of the SSND’s in our diocese will be an everlasting one. We wish them the best as they continue to touch the lives of educators and students bringing the Good News of Christ’s love for all. God’s blessing be on your new ministries.”

—Sister Kathleen Goike, IWBS, Principal, St. Michael School in Weimar

“I want to thank Sister Gloria and Sister Dawn for their dedicated time and service to the Catholic schools in the Diocese of Victoria. We have been blessed to have their Catholic education expertise and wish them well in their new endeavors.” — David Smolik, Principal, Sacred Heart Catholic School

“I believe that there are still a few of us who were principals when the Diocesan School Office began. I have many fond memories of those early years as we began our journey to establish a Catholic School Office in Victoria. Sister Gloria brought with her many new ideas and we shared with her what we felt would work. As the years passed and the office began to take its own personality and character, we began to see our schools thrive under her leadership. By no means did we spend all our time working. There was one thing that Sister Gloria believed in and that was, along with hard work, we must make time to play. So she leaves us with this motto: ‘Whatever you do, do it well and whenever you play make sure you have a great time.’” — Sister Leonita Barron, IWBS, Principal of Our Lady of Victory, Victoria

“It has been a privilege to work for and know both Sister Gloria and Sister Dawn. They are wonderful leaders of example and support. Our schools have been enriched and will continue to thrive because of their strong guidance. May others benefit and they find happiness as their journey continues.” — Rosanne E. Gallia, Principal, St. Rose of Lima Catholic School, Schulenburg

“Sister Gloria has been an outstanding administrator and an inspiration to our Catholic Schools. She challenges each and every school to be the best it can be and to continue to move forward as education continues to evolve. We will certainly miss Sister Gloria.” — Mr. Bill McArdle Jr., Principal, St. Joseph High, Victoria

Priests for Life to visit diocese

Continued from p. 1

interest in relating music and pro-life ministry, much as the heart is moved through beauty in life. Beyond preaching and teaching on campus, he has now traveled to over 450 venues in 43 states delivering the Gospel of Life and supporting the local pro-life efforts of clergy and laity.

“When I am in your area I want to get to know as many people as possible, and help them get to know me,” Father Wilde said in a letter to the KC event organizer, Andrew Pesek of Hallettsville. He intends to inspire and instruct those who work to defend life against abortion, bringing up-

dates on pro-life strategy and projects that are turning the tide on abortion throughout the land.

The Masses at which Father Wilde will speak include the 5:30 p.m., Saturday, June 28, Sacred Heart Mass, the 8 and 10:30 a.m. Sunday, June 29, Sacred Heart Mass; and the 9:15 a.m. St. Mary’s, St. Mary, Sunday, June 29 Mass. Sacred Heart is located at 400 E. Fifth Street in Hallettsville; St. Mary’s is located at 1648 FM 340; and the KC Hall is located about ½ mile south of Hallettsville on Highway 77 South.



Youth Calendar of Events

June 20-22 – D-week Staff Development, Spiritual Renewal Center
June 23-26 – Girls Vocation Camp at Stony Creek Camp in Columbus
June 23-26 – D-week, Spiritual Renewal Center
July 5-13 – Rocky Mountain High in Pagosa Springs, Colorado
July 15-18 – Boys Vocation Camp at Stony Creek Camp in Columbus

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

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

Quo Vadis? Vocation Camp

For young men ages 15-21 at Stoney Creek Ranch
near Columbus Texas

Tuesday, July 15-18, 2008

The week will include discussion on discerning God's call in your life. The retreat will be facilitated by priests and seminarians of the Diocese of Victoria.

The cost of this four-day experience is \$50.00 and includes a t-shirt, transportation from key locations in diocese, food, and lodging.

Sponsored by the Office of Vocation and the Office of Youth Ministry. Visit our Web site at www.victoriadiocese.org and click on vocation office for a brochure. Or contact the youth office at 361-573-0828



**Spaces are limited –
registration deadline is
June 18, 2008!**

St. Theresa Vocation Camp

For young women in grades 7th through 12th
at Stoney Creek Ranch near Columbus, Texas



**Spaces are limited register
TODAY!**

Monday, June 23-26, 2008. The week will include discussions on discerning your call from God.

The cost of this four-day experience is \$50.00 and includes a t-shirt, transportation from key locations in diocese, food, and lodging.

The retreat is sponsored by the Office of Vocation and the Office of Youth Ministry. Visit our Web site at www.victoriadiocese.org and click on vocation office for a brochure. Or contact the youth office at 361-573-0828.

Hats off to all graduates!

Continued from p. 20

stand up to the adult pressures and temptations teens face.

For a college student to start cracking the books without Mom, Dad or a teacher cracking the whip.

For a young employee to get used to a 9-to-5 routine while trying to safely negotiate the Byzantine maze known as office politics.

We're only fooling ourselves if we think receiving that high school diploma or college degree is our last graduation. Over and over, we complete one chapter in our lives and move on to the next.

If there's anxiety when the change is something we choose, something we want, it's not surprising there's a feeling of panic when that new chapter in our life is one we'd prefer to avoid, one we would love to

just push away but we know we can't.

Chronic illness strikes. We lose our job. Our child is born with a disability. Our spouse dies. The list is long and varied, and none of us escapes having some of its items on our personal resume.

What can we do when there's no running or hiding from what life has brought us? These are a few suggestions:

Take it day by day. That's how we learn, that's how we adjust, that's how we grow, that's how we cope.

Don't get down on yourself just because you're a rookie. (No one is an instant expert.)

Don't be too proud or too timid to ask for help. Others have faced similar situations and want to help.

Pray. Remember, no matter how you may feel at this moment, you're not alone, and you are loved.

On the Web: Commencement Advice

What have guest speakers said to graduates? You'll find a few choice quotes here: www.quotegarden.com/graduation.html.

Bill and Monica Dodds are the founders of the Friends of St. John the Caregiver and editors of My Daily Visitor magazine. Their Web site is www.FSJC.org. They can be contacted at MonicaDodds@YourAgingParent.com.

*May God Bless
the Graduating
Class
of 2008
in their future
endeavors!*

Catholic elementary schools' highest level recognized

Holy Cross School Bay City

6th Graders:

Lindsey Abshier, Karinna Benavidez, Ryan Denby, Zachary Dibbern, Tyler Elkins, Sam Fusaro, Allyse Gros, Kristen Harris, Emily Hager-Hahn, Shelby Herman, Julie Hoang, Alex MacLennan, Jake Merendino, Lydia Pruitt and Ashley Smith

Saint Anthony School Columbus

8th Graders:

Jacob Christen, Matthew Delgado, Taylor Gannon, Jordan Glueck, Marissa Linkhart, Maggie O'Neil, Matthew Rodriguez and Jordi Theut

St. Michael School Cuero

6th Grader:

Skylar Saenz

St. Philip School El Campo

8th Graders:

Nicholas Aparicio, Jessica Fucik, Heather Graham, Lauren Gregurek, Kathryn Hancock, Sally Johnson, Patricia Kocurek, Amber Kresta, Eli Kresta, Dakoda Leopold, Kyle Pierce, Kirby Quintero, Janae Saucedo, Shelby Snyder and Paige Sparks

Sacred Heart School Hallettsville

8th Graders:

Madison Allen, Katie Blaschke, Cole Bludau, Colton Brown, Kelsie Buchanan, Cody Greer, Jordyn Hicks, Hannah Hines, Nathan Hollas, Kendall Jansky, Jared Krischke, Shelby McElroy, Casey Mueller, Caitlin Orsak, Nickolas Patalik, Shyanne Schlauch, Drew Shimek, Amber Smolik, Mary Dru Wagner and Cole Wick

Our Lady of the Gulf School Port Lavaca

8th Graders:

Tyler DeLaGarza, Nathan Gonzales, Blanca Hernandez, Cynthia Lopez, Philip Lyssy, Cody Malaer, Kori Malone, David Muniz, Steven Reagan and Jordan Weaver

St. Rose of Lima School Schulenburg

8th Graders:

Lucian Blaschke, Matthew Holub, Freeman James, Emily Kossa and Emily Seyl

St. Ludmila Academy Shiner

8th Graders:

Derek Duke, Erin Easterling, Brett Hodges, Kali Kocian, Heriberto Leyva, Mary Beth Marcak, Kaci Pesek and Marrissa Ynclan

Nazareth Academy Victoria

8th Graders:

Chance Bedwell, Madelyn Buhler, Jiselle Cervantes, Laura Chapa, Emily Conti, Dillon DeLaGarza, Dobie Drost, Denise Egressy, Megan Flores, Shelby Hardin,

Meghann Hawes, Lauren Heller, Brandon Hoelscher, Timothy Hubbell, Paige Kelton, Ashley Luster, Lauren Moreno, Cecilia Padilla, Kevin Parma, Brandon Rivera, Matthew Rojas, Marcus Salinas, Lindsay Sanders, Humberto Sandigo, Ervin Simmons III, Patrick Sohrt, Kathryn Streeter, Dalton Tucker, Joseph Tucker, Kate Tucker and Kristene Yahagi

Our Lady of Victory School Victoria

8th Graders:

Joseph Adams, Cameron Becker, Hannah Bigham, Kaitlyn Bigham, Marjori Bradicich, Kaitlyn Cantu, Dominic Cavazos, Austin Crocker, Christian Culak, Sean Ferrell, Cody Fisher, Maddie Foxell, Katherine Fray, Jennifer Galvan, Robby Gonzales, Brent Gray, Sarah Hermes, Elisabeth High, Emily Janak, Erin Johnson, Lakan Jordan, Trace Jordan, Emily Koch, Kyle Loescher, Chris Mason, Shay McDaniel, Zach Miles, Katherine Null, Jarrett Ortmann, Holly Parenica, Pooja Parikh, Taylor Pollock, Brenham Pozzi, Tyler Pratt, Zara Qadri, Clayton Reinecke, Logan Spahn, Jacob Uresti, Roman Vasquez, Christian Vu, Christian Wenske and Julie White

St. Michael School Weimar

8th Graders:

Kendall Baumbach, Dylan Blaha, Chase Firkins, Daniel Gordon, Tyler Heger, Jessica Koenig, Maddie Laitkep, Clayton Langhoff, Daniel Ortiz, Ashley A. Phelps, Makaila Ramirez, Ryan Ramirez, Daesha Rerich, Ryan Rerich, Kaitlyn Sestak, Colten Smith, Hannah Treptow, Reid Vrana and Gus Williams

St. Joseph School Yoakum

8th Graders:

Christine Bittick, Courtney Carroll, Jacob Coull, Ryan Hagan, Regan Hall, Emma Holley, Katherine Hull, Hogan Lauer, Thomas Mabry, John Patek and Davi Spaeth

Heritage Center Presents 2008/09 Tours

Branson June 20-25 (few seats left)
New England Fall Foliage Oct. 1-12
Greece Nov. 6-13
(One Hotel in Athens)

Tours are led by
Patti Fitzpatrick,
and profits benefit the Calhoun
County Senior Citizens.

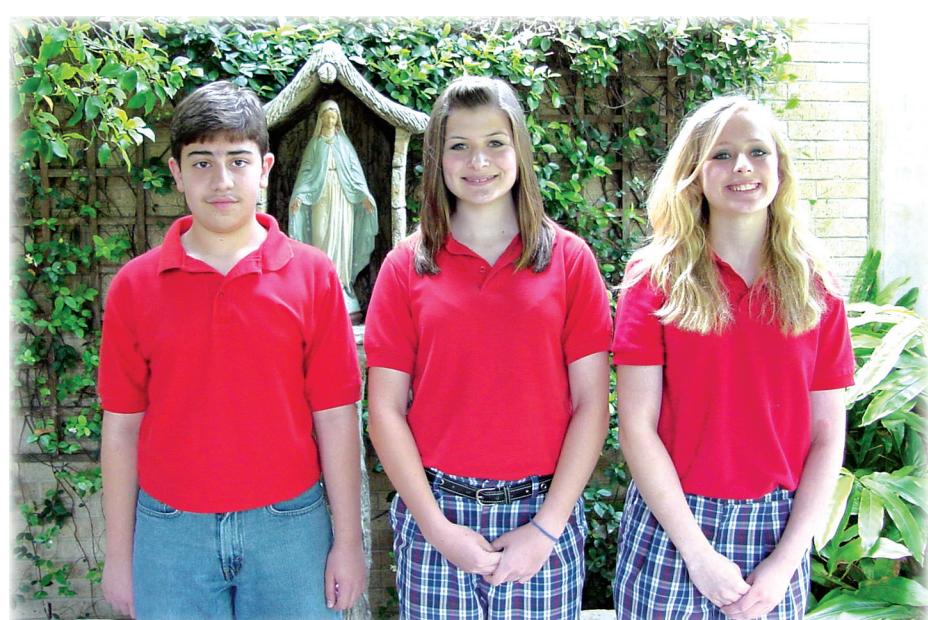
Call today for more
information and brochure.
361.552.2695 or 361.920.3216



VOLUNTEERS HONORED—The Eleventh Annual Mother Elizabeth Ann Seton Awards were presented recently in Shiner by the Office of Catholic Schools. A dinner was served, followed by the presentation of the awards. Making the presentations were Bishop David E. Fellhauer and Sister Gloria Cain, SSND, school superintendent. Flanked on the left and right by Sister Dawn Achs, SSND, associate superintendent; Bishop Fellhauer and Sister Gloria, are the recipients of the award for the year 2008: (back row) Charles Slaten, Nazareth Academy, Victoria; Vicki Zalman, St. Philip School, El Campo; Genevieve Matusek, St. Joseph School, Yoakum; Steve Volkmer, St. Joseph High School, Victoria; Ronnie Austin, Our Lady of Victory School, Victoria; Letty Delgado, St. Anthony School, Columbus; Lynette and Darryl Pesek, St. Paul High School, Shiner; front, l-r: Maria Cantu, Holy Cross School, Bay City; Charlene Pillow, Sacred Heart School, Hallettsville; Charlene Bradbury, Sacred Heart High School, Hallettsville; Amy Adamek, St. Ludmila Elementary, Shiner; Lorine Meitzen, St. Michael School, Cuero; Irma Rerich, St. Michael School, Weimar; Anna Marie Huebner, St. Rose of Lima School, Schulenburg; and Pam DeLa Garza, Our Lady of the Gulf School, Port Lavaca.



OLV CDA STATE WINNERS—The 2008 Catholic Daughters of the Americas State Education Contest winners from Our Lady of Victory School in Victoria are: (front) fourth grader Emily Weaver-3rd place-Division I- Computer Art; (l-r) seventh grader Bailey Knippa-1st place-Division II-Essay; and sixth grader Hannah Adams-2nd place-Division II-Computer Art. Bailey's essay advances to the CDA National Contest.



Pictured are the newly commissioned members of the most recent Gabriel Project parishes: Assumption in Ganado and St. Agnes in Edna. They are 1st row from left: Kari Scott, Daniel Rodriguez, Maggie Perez, Melissa Fowler and Tenna Genzer; 2nd row from left: Jennifer Pilat, Rose Chovanec, Analee Tegeler, Mollie Hubenak and Missie Landry; 3rd row: Father Michael Lyons. Not shown: Mike Sablatura, Jamie Sulak and Toni Lewis. Angela Pettrash and Lou Ann Tupa were unavailable for the commissioning but were trained.

Gabriel Project extends to Ganado and Edna

By Cynthia Brewer

GANADO—The Gabriel Project, a volunteer organization that helps women who experience an unexpected pregnancy, has recently extended to parishes in Ganado and Edna.

On Saturday, May 17, 15 people from Ganado and Edna attended “Angel (volunteer) training” at Our Lady of Lourdes

in Victoria. The “Angels” were commissioned by Father Michael Lyons, pastor of Assumption Church in Ganado, at two Masses on Sunday, May 18.

The co-coordinators for the project include Jennifer Pilat of Ganado and Kari Scott of Edna. The president of the Victoria region Gabriel Project, Esther Trevino,
See Gabriel Project extends, p. 12

OLV DUKE TIP STATE QUALIFIERS—The Duke University Talent Identification Program (TIP) recognized top-scoring students from the program’s annual Seventh Grade Talent Search. Our Lady of Victory School seventh graders: Ahmad Sabbagh, Kristen Jurica and Kayla Headley qualified for State Recognition in the 2008 Duke University Talent Identification (Duke TIP) Program. They will be honored at the State Recognition Ceremony in June. Ahmad also qualified for Grand Recognition and was honored at the Grand Recognition Ceremony at Duke University in Durham, North Carolina in May. The Duke TIP Program identifies and invites academically talented seventh graders to take the ACT or SAT college exams to learn more about their abilities. This year of the 66,198 Duke TIP participants 32 percent qualified for state recognition and 3 percent qualified for grand recognition.



ST. ROSE ANNOUNCES PSIA STATE WINNERS—St. Rose students competed with 109 schools in the state PSIA Meet held in Fort Worth on Saturday, May 3. Qualifying for state is a great honor and to place at state is a wonderful achievement. State winners include from left: Christopher Kunz, 2nd place in Maps Graphs and Charts; Kirsten Heger, 6th place in Maps Graphs and Charts and 5th in Poetry Interpretation; Emily Seyl, 2nd place in Ready Writing; and Emily Kossa, 1st place in Listening Skills and 1st place in Vocabulary.



SHCS Band Wins TAPPS 3A State Music Championship

HALLETTSVILLE—The Sacred Heart Catholic School Band won the TAPPS 3A State Instrumental Music Championship on Saturday, April 12, 2008, at the University of Mary Hardin Baylor in Belton, Texas. The Sacred Heart Catholic School Band received a 2nd division in the Concert competition and a 1st division in the Sight Reading competition.

The Sacred Heart Jazz Combo also received a 1st division rating at the state contest. Members of the combo were: Nic Barton (12) – Electric Bass, Matthew Herndon (11) – Electric Guitar, Amber Smolik (8) – Piano, Jeffery Tuttle (9) – Trap Set, Andrew Herndon (12) and Christopher Vanek (11) – Tenor Saxophone and James Hemmi (9) – Trombone.

At the State Competition, points are awarded for 1st division ratings on solos and ensembles, as well 1st division ratings in Concert and Sight Reading and also Jazz Band. The points are totaled and the school with the most points is crowned Overall State Champion in their classification. The Sacred Heart Indian Band won the Overall State Champion for Class 3A. This is the fourth time for the band to win the state championship.

Sacred Heart Band students also competed in solos and ensemble on the same day. The band students won a total of 41 medals for their solos and ensembles.

Those students receiving a 1st division and medal for their solos were:

Caitlin Orsak (8) – Flute solo
Tiffany Buchanan (12) – Clarinet solo
Kaylie Steffek (11) – Clarinet solo
Hannah Hines (8) – Trumpet solo
Ensemble members winning a medal were:

Flute trio – Madison Allen (8), Kelsie Buchanan (8) and Shelby McElroy (8)

Flute trio – Jennifer Kallus (11), Megan Pavlicek (10) and Amaris Wick (10)

Flute trio – Haylee Grahmann (9), Rebekah Krischke (9) and Destiny Ruthart (9)

Flute Quartet – Haylee Grahmann (9), Caitlin Orsak (8), Amber Smolik (8) and Rebekah Krischke (10)

Clarinet Trio – Anna Hemmi (11), Serena Remmers (11) and Kaylie Steffek (11)

Clarinet Quartet – Alexandra Bludau (9), Jordan Pettus (9), Sarah Romine (9) and Mary Dru Wagner (8)

Miscellaneous Woodwind Quartet – Tiffany Buchanan (12), Kaylie Steffek (11), Jennifer Kallus (11) and Megan Pavlicek (10)

Brass Quartet – Michael Adams (11), Wade Brown (11), Matthew Herndon (11) and Aaron Schaefer (11)

Brass Quintet – Collin Brewer (9), Hannah Hines (8), James Hemmi (9), Morgan Meyer (9) and Charles Steffek (9)

Percussion ensemble – Katelynd Allen (9), Cole Bludau (8), Cody Dornak (9), Andrew Shimek (8) and Jeffery Tuttle (9)

A special thank you to SH Band Director, Mr. William Harrison. Mr. Harrison also directs the St. Paul Band in Shiner, which won the 2008 TAPPS 2A State Instrumental Music Championship. He is the first band director in Texas (parochial, private or public schools) to win two state band championships in the same year with two different bands. Congratulations Mr. Harrison and the Sacred Heart Band!

PICTURED: The Sacred Heart Catholic School Band (front row, l-r): Twirler Sarah Romine, Twirler Tessa Stoner, Drum Major Jennifer Kallus, Twirler Carly Osina and Twirler Morgan Meyer; (second

row, l-r): Jordyn Hicks, Caitlin Orsak, Amber Smolik, Shelby McElroy, Kelsie Buchanan, Madi Allen, Haylee Grahmann, Amaris Wick, Megan Pavlicek, Rebekah Krischke, Destiny Ruthart and Flag Corps Tiffany Buchanan; (third row, l-r): Cody Greer, Haley Patek, Cole Bludau, Kaylie Steffek, Erin Krischke, Kayla Harmon, Cassidy Henke, Jordan Pettus, Mary Dru Wagner, Anna Hemmi and Serena Remmers; (fourth row, l-r): Flag Corps Kelsey Jansky, Jeffrey Tuttle, Andrew Shimek, Ricky Fenner, Christopher Vanek, Jamie Vanek, Ariel Fojt, Cameron Hager, Ryan Fojt, Cole Wick, Whitney Snider and Flag Corps Katie Allen; (fifth row, l-r): Calum Klesel, Cody Dornak, Landon Hatfield, Colby Mikes, Wade Brown, Matthew Herndon, Joey Janak, Collin Brewer, Regan Johnson, Hannah Hines, Shyanne Schlauch and Katie Blaschke; (sixth row, l-r): Dillon Hollas, Clay Bludau, Nathan Hollas, Colton Brown, Michael Adams, Kelsey Hartensteiner, Amy Klimtchek, Daniel Halata, Ryan Kubena, James Hemmi and Roger DeLaRosa; (top row, l-r): Flag Corps Alexandra Bludau, Justin Brown, Kendall Jansky, Stephen Jansky, Jared Krischke, Kevin Rainosek, Seth Machicek, Matthew Lanik, Aaron Schaefer, Andrew Herndon, Nic Barton, Nickolas Patalik, Charles Steffek and Flag Corps Amanda Shimek.

The Lenten Sacrifice of 'Unity and Love' is made by Texas CDA members Libby Ramirez, Duchess Collins, Carolyn Bachmann, Eve Trevino and Carolyn Malik. They traveled to Mexico City in March to assist with a Habitat for Humanity home construction.

Catholic Daughters of the Americas have experience of a lifetime

By Carolyn Malik, Second Vice Regent, Texas State Court

Eighteen enthusiastic Catholic Daughters, family and friends traveled to Mexico City on March 15, 2008, from various areas of the United States to participate in a once in a lifetime experience assisting with the Habitat for Humanity home construction in Mexico.

Participating were: National Regent Claudia Bosch and husband, Jim, from South Dakota; National Regent-Elect Libby Ramirez from Victoria, Texas; National Secretary Treasurer and National Habitat for Humanity Chairman Shirley Seyfried with husband, Dave, and son, Dan, from Minnesota; National Director Duchess Collins from Sugar Land, Texas; Texas State Regent Carolyn Bachmann from

Scotland; Minnesota State Regent Kathy Kennedy and husband, Fred; Second Vice State Regent Carolyn Malik from Shiner, Texas; Texas State Treasurer Eve Trevino from Corpus Christi; Minnesota State Treasurer Margee Keller and husband, Walt; Lindsay Jenson, Habitat for Humanity-AmeriCorps VISTA from Minnesota; Bob and Louise Van Leeuwe, local court regent from Marshall, Minnesota; and Tina Quinones, CDA member from Marshall, Minnesota. Habitat personnel assisting us daily were Jim from Canada, Megan from Los Angeles, California, and Tanya from Habitat Mexico.

"What a humbling experience!" said Carolyn Malik. Scratching concrete off

See Catholic Daughters, p. 15



ST. MARY, ST. MARY, HONORS ITS GRADUATES—The 2008 high school graduates from St. Mary Catholic Church in St. Mary near Hallettsville, each received a scholarship to further their education. The scholarships are funded by the church's annual picnic. From l. to r. are Tamara Klekar, daughter of Francis and Charlene Klekar; Father John Peters, pastor; Kaley Rother, daughter of Robert and Carol Rother; and Steven Dobbs, son of Glenn and Dedie Dobbs. All are graduates of Hallettsville High School.



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Clarinet Quartet – Alexandra Bludau (9), Jordan Pettus (9), Sarah Romine (9) and Mary Dru Wagner (8)
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See Catholic Daughters, p. 15



Our Turn

By Therese J. Borchard
Catholic News Service



Golden Locks on Father's Day

It's not just because it's Father's Day that I miss my dad.

Every time I comb my son's gorgeous golden locks, I remember my father, from whom my 9-month-old inherited his good looks. As I lather up that blond hair with baby shampoo, moisture forms in my eyes thinking how I wish my dad were here to dry off his grandson's little body after his bath.

My father is gone, but his memory lives in my son, in the highlights of his hair.

Maybe the memory is better anyway.

I'll never know. I was just beginning a relationship with him when he passed on, at age 56.

I was 23 and had just graduated with my master's degree in theology. I thought if you studied holy things you would become holy. But I was less than holy in my dealings with my dad.

I blamed him for everything. You name it. Dad was the reason.

As he lay in his sterile hospital room after the last and lethal attack of bronchial pneumonia, I sat on my bed at my mom's house composing a laundry list of gripes -- nice reading material in case Jerry Springer reruns no longer proved entertaining.

That was my way of mending the wide chasm that had developed between us in more than two decades of co-existing. By addressing my resentments, I would be able to let go of them.

Just as I got to my treatise's sixth page, a wise friend suggested another route. "Don't you think your dad already feels extremely guilty for all those things?" she asked me. "I think it would be better to tell him how much you love him. Maybe he doesn't know you do."

So, halfway to the finish line, I changed course. I wrote him a love letter instead. For the first time in my life, I took responsibility for the many things I had done wrong in the relationship.

"I'm sorry for distancing you so much throughout my life and for not giving you a chance to love me," I wrote. "I'm sorry for alienating you."

"I love you so much," I continued. "And you are very beautiful to me."

I was not there when he received my letter. But I knew he had read each word carefully, over and over again, when I went to visit him at his house a few weeks later, two months before he died.

It was a crisp October morning, the orange and pink hues of the autumn foliage fully visible from each window in his

Gabriel Project extends to Ganado and Edna

Continued from p. 10

and former president and current PR coordinator, Barbara McCain, were present for the commissioning. Jennifer Pilat said that they're excited about beginning this ministry in their area. "We are already off to a great start," she said, "thanks to the generous support of the local Catholic Daughters, Knights of Columbus, and KJZT members, as well as our fellow parishioners."

The Gabriel Project's motto is "Protecting the unborn ... supporting the expectant mother," and its mission is "To respect all life — at any age, in any circumstance." This means that they are profoundly com-

solarium, which had been transformed into a hospital room of sorts, with IVs and oxygen tanks in between his tasteful oak furniture.

I sat on a stool beside his hospital bed and held his hand.

I wasn't expecting much to happen. I just wanted him to know that the letter I wrote wasn't a school writing exercise, that I meant what I'd said. My words were unconditional. It was OK if he didn't return the favor or the sentiments.

And that's why it happened.

My dad, who never apologized for anything in his life, said this to me that day:

"I'm sorry, too, for making some bad choices in my life. I hope that you can forgive me."

It was a powerful moment of reconciliation that was able to transform 23 years of hurt into a loving memory of my father.

So, on this Father's Day, seven years after my dad's death, I brush my son's straight, thin beautifully golden hair and think tender thoughts of the man who gave him those locks.

Children's author focuses on sports to get boys excited about reading

ST. LOUIS (CNS) — Mary Shaw wrote a series of children's books because she saw a need for getting boys excited about reading. A member of Incarnate Word Parish in Chesterfield, Mo., the Canadian native said that when her son, Brady, was 5 or 6 years old she was trying to get him to love reading just as his older sister, Taylore, had done. "Brady was a huge sports fanatic, still is, and hockey was his passion. I'd take him to the bookstore or library and would say, 'Please, Brady, pick out a book so we can bring it home to read,'" she said. But few books appealed to him, so Shaw started writing stories with a hockey-related theme. Shaw, who majored in history and English at Wilfrid Laurier University in Waterloo, Ontario, was asked to do a series of books based on hockey and focusing on a young boy and his teammates. The "Brady Brady" series was born with the book "Brady Brady and the Great Rink." The first 10 books in the series are about hockey, with the next two based on the children playing baseball and football. A book with a soccer theme is to be published early in 2009. Google "Brady Brady books" to find Web sites from which to order.

FAMILY PUZZLE CONTEST

PARABLES

www.wordgamesforcatholics.com



FIG TREE

GOOD SAMARITAN
LABORERS
LOST SHEEP
MUSTARD SEED

PEARL
PRODIGAL SON
RICH FOOL
SALT
SOWER

TEN VIRGINS
TENANTS
WEDDING FEAST
WIDOW'S MITE
YEAST

Family Puzzle Contest Winners

Doyleen Drozd of Sacred Heart Parish in Hallettsville is the May Family Puzzle Contest winner and will receive "Chicken Soup for the Christian Soul 2 — Stories of Faith, Hope and Healing" published by Health Communications, Inc.

Everett Payne (9), grandson of Sewall Wilde of Sts. Peter & Paul Parish in Freelsburg is the winner of the youth puzzle contest. He will receive a gift from the Incarnate Word Gift Shop.

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

The winner of next month's contest will win a copy of "In the Footsteps of Francis and Clare" by Roch Niemier, OFM.

Ask anyone who has been there — Assisi is a special place. The events in the lives of Francis and Clare seem to have charged the very rocks with a power that can still be felt today. Our guide, Father Roch Niemier, is intimately acquainted with the places close to the saints of Assisi — Rocca Maggiore, San Damiano, the Porziuncola, San Rufino, La Verna, Greccio, Maddalena, the Piazza Comune and the streets of Assisi. His exploration of the spirituality of place makes even the armchair pilgrim understand the meaning of these locals, and provides an unforgettable remembrance for those who have made the journey themselves.

Roch Niemier, OFM, is past president of Franciscan Pilgrimage Programs, a position he held for nearly a quarter century. He was recently honored by citizens of Assisi for bringing pilgrims from over 50 nations to tour the holy places of Francis and Clare.

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 June 25 for a chance to win "In the Footsteps of Francis and Clare." Send to: Family Contest, *The Catholic Lighthouse*, P.O. Box 4070, Victoria, TX 77903. Only youth need to include age.

Movie Classifications

By Catholic News Service

NEW YORK (CNS) — The following is a classification of movies recently reviewed by the Office for Film & Broadcasting of the U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops.

"Indiana Jones and the Kingdom of the Crystal Skull" (Paramount) — USCCB Office for Film & Broadcasting classification, A-II — adults and adolescents. Motion Picture Association of America rating, PG — parental guidance suggested. Some material may not be suitable for children.

PG-13 -- parents strongly cautioned. Some material may be inappropriate for children under 13.

"The Chronicles of Narnia: Prince Caspian" (Disney) — USCCB Office for Film & Broadcasting classification, A-II — adults and adolescents. Motion Picture Association of America rating, PG — parental guidance suggested. Some material may not be suitable for children.

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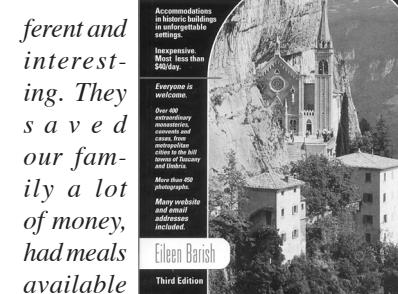




BEAT THE EURO... stay in monasteries where popes, saints and kings have stayed

SANTA BARBARA, Calif. — Families, groups and individuals who have yearned to travel to Europe, but have been unable to deal with the high cost of hotels and the weak dollar, now have a very affordable option. Three new guidebooks explore an extraordinary way to experience the centuries-old spirituality of Italy, France and Spain... all at heavenly lodging rates.

The Guide To Lodging in Italy's Monasteries, The Guide To Lodging in France's Monasteries and The Guide to Lodging in Spain's Monasteries reveal the unknown secret of cost-effective European travel. The only guidebooks of their kind, award-winning author Eileen Barish



introduces travelers to almost a thousand European monasteries, convents and casas where the resident nuns and monks will warmly welcome them.

Stay in the room where Pope John Paul II stayed, it's about \$40/night including breakfast and dinner. Travel as Europeans have for centuries and experience a sense of unhurried, uncrowded tranquility. Spend a night or a week at a monastery and come away filled with the true essence of the country, its history, art, culture, architecture and local customs. Many are in historic centuries-old castles, chateaus and villas and most of the monasteries offer delicious, inexpensive meals. Others have kitchens where guests may prepare their own food.

Travelers will have the opportunity to stay in extraordinary places, be exposed to hidden art treasures and view ancient architecture. During the extensive research of each institution with the sisters and brothers, local lore, customs and often overlooked history came to light. This infor-

Along with some of Catholicism's most significant saints, most of these institutions share a colorful history of visiting royalty and popes. The Foyer du Sacré-Coeur, Burgundy, France, for example, entertained Pope John Paul II. He stayed in room number 4. (*The Guide to Lodging in France's Monasteries*, page 123). Each religious house offers cleanliness, graciousness, spirituality, safety and a sense of unhurried, uncrowded tranquility. Just look at what some travelers to monasteries have said:

"I bought your book last year and used it on my month long trip. Spiritual experience. Wonderful resource. Fantastic adventure."

"I love your book! We used it to stay at 3 places... outside Naples at a monastery and a convent in Umbria and a convent in Miramare. They were all very dif-

mation has been woven into each monastery vignette to provide a collection of insights not readily available in other travel guides.

"The three book set is an invaluable reference source of travel information for anyone who wishes to experience Italy, France or Spain from a spiritual perspective — one that until now has been enjoyed by only a handful of people," Barish said.

Guides simplify reservation process, even if you don't speak the language.

Each comprehensive lodging description contains the address, telephone and fax numbers, the name of the contact person and both driving and public transportation information. Reservation forms in English/Italian, English/French and English/Spanish are included to simplify the reservation process. Many listings include e-mail addresses and web sites as well.

Available at all major bookstores and at www.monasteriesofitaly.com. A specially priced three-volume collection is also available from the publisher by calling (800) 496-2665 or visiting the publisher's web site, www.monasteriesofitaly.com

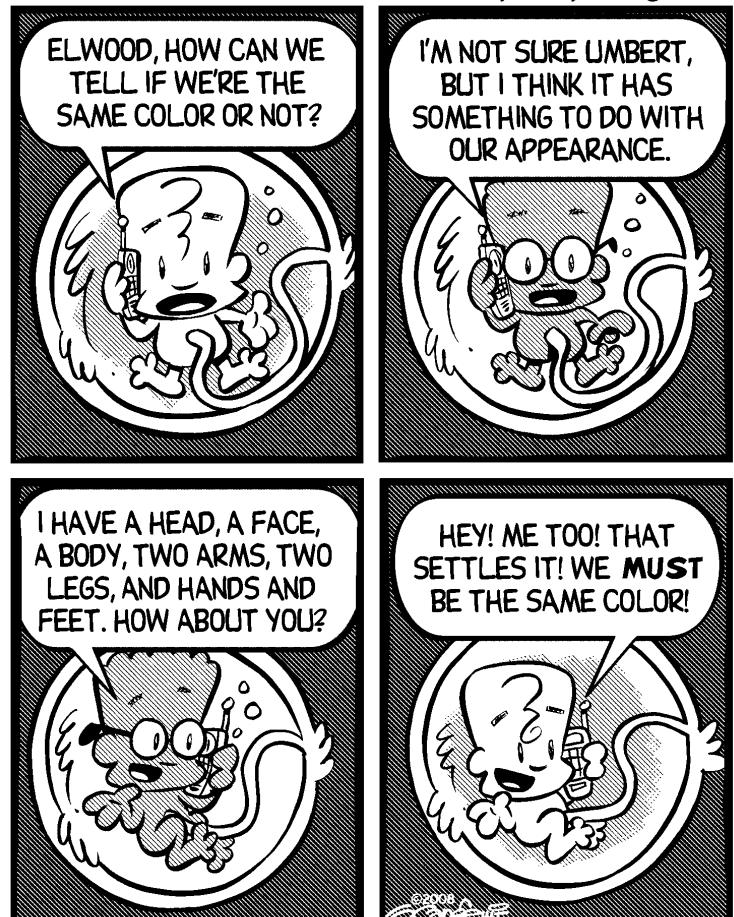
Eileen Barish is a multiple award-winning author who has published more than a dozen books on unique travel experiences. She has been a contributing writer to *National Geographic Traveler, Guest Informant, Newsweek* and other publications. Her books have been favorably reviewed by more than 500 major publications including *The New York Times, Wall Street Journal, Men's Health, Gourmet Magazine, Library Journal, Travel & Leisure, USA Today, Los Angeles Times* and the *San Francisco Chronicle*.

Books, DVD aim to ready preschoolers for learning Catholic faith

WASHINGTON (CNS) — After nearly 30 years of teaching religious education to children ages 3 to 14, Peggy Olds of Willowbrook, Ill., was convinced of one thing. Although parents spend a lot of time teaching their preschoolers their ABCs, numbers and other information needed to prepare them for first grade, she said, they don't do the same to ready their children for learning the basics of their Catholic faith. Olds hopes to fill that gap with her "Questions for God" series, which aims to tell salvation history in a way that children can learn and retain it as easily as their ABCs. Through 10 books of 16 pages each and a 50-minute DVD, the series takes on children's questions from "God, Who Are You?" through "God, How Did Jesus Save Us?" to "God, When Will We Be With You?" The DVD and book series combination costs \$54.95 or the DVD alone costs \$14.95. Orders may be placed by phone at: (866) 774-2001, or online at: www.questionsforgodbooks.com.

Umbert the Unborn

by Gary Cangemi



Sunday readings from June 8 to July 13

June 8 — 10th Sunday in Ordinary Time

Hosea 6:3-6
Psalm 50:1, 8, 12-13, 14-15
Romans 4:18-25
Matthew 9:9-13

June 15 — 11th Sunday in Ordinary Time

Exodus 19:2-6a
Psalm 100:1-2, 3, 5
Romans 5:6-11
Matthew 9:36 — 10:8

June 22 — 12th Sunday in Ordinary Time

Jeremiah 20:10-13
Psalm 69:8-10, 14, 17, 33-35
Romans 5:12-15
Matthew 10:26-33

June 29 — Sts. Peter & Paul, Apostles

Acts of the Apostles 12:1-11
Psalm 34:2-3, 4-5, 6-7, 8-9
2 Timothy 4:6-8, 17-18
Matthew 16:13-19

July 6 — 14th Sunday in Ordinary Time

Zechariah 9:9-10
Psalm 145:1-2, 8-9, 10-11, 13-14
Romans 8:9, 11-13
Matthew 11:25-30

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

What are the Most Popular Baby Names in Texas for 2007?

Ramona Schuenemeyer, Social Security Regional Commissioner, today revealed the most popular baby names in Texas for 2007. Continuing a popular Mother's Day tradition, last week the federal government's top official for baby names, Michael J. Astrue, Commissioner of Social Security, announced the nation's most popular baby names.

How does Texas compare to the rest of the country? Jose and Emily topped the list. Nationally, Emily and Jacob were the most popular baby names.

Please click on the Most Popular Baby Names link at Social Security's Web site — www.socialsecurity.gov — to see the top baby names for 2007. The top five boys and girls names for 2007 in Texas were:

Boys:

- 1) Jose, 2) Jacob, 3) Daniel, 4) Christopher and 5) Angel

Girls:

- 1) Emily, 2) Mia, 3) Isabella, 4) Madison and 5) Abigail

In addition to each state's top baby names, Social Security's website has a list of the 1,000 most popular boys' and girls' names for 2007 and a list of the top 100 names for twins born in 2007. Jacob and Joshua are the most popular twin's names. The website also offers lists of baby names for each year since 1880. Social Security started compiling baby names in 1997.

To read more about pop culture's influence on the nation's most popular baby names go to www.socialsecurity.gov/pres-office/pr/baby-names2007-pr.htm

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Jewish School Psychologist Teaches Jesus' Solutions to Bullying

As schools are trying desperately to combat bullying, only to discover that their anti-bully programs and policies usually have mediocre results or even make the problem worse, a Jewish school psychologist and psychotherapist, child of Holocaust survivors, has been teaching kids – and adults – how to stop being bullied with near-miraculous results.

He claims his techniques are completely consistent with Jesus' teachings. The reason bullying is skyrocketing in our country, says Kalman, is that anti-bullying policies violate the teachings of Jesus.

Izzy Kalman, who for over five years has been teaching mental health professionals and educators throughout the country his unique techniques for dealing with bullying and relationship problems, says that Jesus was a great psychologist who knew the solution to bullying better than today's anti-bullying experts. Rather than preaching against bullies, Jesus taught people to stop thinking like victims. Unfortunately, the idea of an anti-bullying crusade is so seductive that even Christians fail to see that the anti-bullying policies they are embracing would make Jesus sick.

Jesus taught the practice of the Golden Rule, the universal principle of wisdom and morality. Zero-tolerance for bullying, teaching kids to identify others as bullies and instructing them to tell school authorities when kids bully them, violate the Golden Rule as explicated by Jesus, who instructed us to love our enemies, turn the other cheek, don't judge others, communicate directly with those who wrong us, and be nice to people when they are mean to us.

"Had you told me ten years ago that I would soon be traveling around the country teaching Christians [and others] to understand Jesus, I would have said you were crazy," Kalman is fond of saying.

He began developing his methods for teaching people how to stop being victims about two decades ago. "When I took the time to read the New Testament a few years ago, I discovered that Jesus had been teaching the solution to bullying two thousand years before me. It's so nice to discover that the most famous Jew in the world was doing what I've been doing – teaching people how to turn their bullies into buddies. Unfortunately, the world hasn't understood the message very well, and it needs to be taught now more than ever."

Kalman claims a personal success rate of at least 90 percent in counseling individual victims of bullying, with dramatic improvement usually occurring within one week. The professionals who learn to use his techniques are also finding themselves able to help kids quicker than ever. The whole-school bullying reduction

program Kalman has developed is currently undergoing a multi-year research study by Cleveland State University in conjunction with PSI Solutions, Inc. – Partners for Success and Innovation – providing school psychological and other related services to schools throughout the USA, and results are promising.

"We at PSI were so impressed with the simplicity and common sense of the Bullies to Buddies program that we had to make it our own. We have partnered with Izzy Kalman and Cleveland State University to bring this program to the thousands of students that PSI serves," says psychologist Steve Rosenberg, PhD, president of PSI Solutions. Jeannie

Brewer, a school counselor in Las Vegas, asserts, "In http://thewisdompages.com/book.html my 15 years as a school counselor, I have never seen a more effective social skills program.

This one is pure genius."

His company, Bullies to Buddies, Inc., has recently produced a DVD package called *Victim-Proof Your School*, which he claims will quickly and dramatically reduce bullying in schools, and is backed by a money-back guarantee. Free manuals for dealing with bullying have been available for years on his website, <http://www.Bullies2Buddies.com>.

*Nationally renowned speaker and psychotherapist Israel "Izzy" Kalman offers a unique perspective on the issue of bullying. Kalman, a Nationally Certified School Psychologist and author of *BULLIES TO BUDDIES: How to Turn Your Enemies Into Friends*, is a sought-after lecturer on anger control, bullying, and relationship problems, and has developed a quick, powerful method for teaching people not to be victims.*



Irena Sendler, a Catholic social worker who saved an estimated 2,500 Jewish children from the Nazis, poses at her home in Warsaw, Poland, in this March 14, 2007, file photo. Sendler died in Warsaw May 12 at the age of 98. (CNS photo/Katarina Stoltz, Reuters)

Polish Catholic woman who saved children from Nazis dies at 98

WARSAW, Poland (CNS) — Polish church leaders paid tribute to Irena Sendler, a Catholic social worker who saved approximately 2,500 Jewish children from being killed by the Nazis during the Holocaust.

"Everyone who survived the war is very much aware that her kind of heroism could be born only in someone with a very great heart," said Bishop Tadeusz Pieronek, former secretary-general of the Polish bishops' conference. "Irena Sendler was one of those people able to resist the greatest evil that rampaged through the world in the past century. It's a pity her greatness was not noticed by the international institutions even after her actions were brought to light."

Sendler, who died at 98 in Warsaw May 12, was buried May 15 in Warsaw. She was awarded the Righteous Among the Nations honor by Israel's Yad Vashem in 1965 and Poland's highest honor, the White Eagle, in 2003 for smuggling children from Warsaw's Jewish ghetto

to safe homes, orphanages and Catholic convents in Poland. Poland's U.S.-born Chief Rabbi Michael Schudrich said Sendler had demonstrated "the need to be moral and ready to help others." He said Sendler had denied being a hero and had insisted she "simply stayed normal when the whole world had gone mad."

Sendler, who headed the children's unit of an underground organization called the Council for Aid to Jews, or Zegota, was arrested and tortured by the Gestapo and sentenced to death in 1943. She escaped when Zegota bribed her German guards, and she continued rescuing Jewish children.

Her work was forgotten largely after World War II, when Poland's communist regime suppressed records of the underground's wartime role, but became known internationally when Norman Conard, an American teacher in Uniontown, Kan., produced a play about her in 1999.

THE POPE SPEAKS

Pope
Benedict XVI



CNS photo from Reuters

Pope: Families in crisis need help from government, church, community

By Carol Glatz
Catholic News Service

VATICAN CITY (CNS) — Families in crisis desperately need help from the government, church and local communities, Pope Benedict XVI said.

"There is an increasingly urgent need for a common commitment to support families by every means available, from the social and economic point of view as well as the juridical and spiritual," he said.

The pope spoke May 16, the day after the International Day of the Family, in a special audience with several European Catholic family associations.

He praised their efforts at fostering awareness among government officials and the public about the importance of stable families based on marriage between a man and a woman.

It is this kind of union "of life and love" that "represents an irreplaceable good for all of society" which should never be confused or equated with other types of unions, he said.

The pope said the Vatican's Charter of the Rights of the Family, issued 25 years ago, offers a proper "model and point of reference for the fleshing out of adequate legislation" supporting the family.

The pope said he is well aware of the challenges today's families face and how difficult it is "to achieve the ideal of fidelity and solidarity in conjugal love, to bring up children and to preserve the harmony" of the family household.

While there are examples of "good families open to the culture of life and love ... sadly, an increasing number of marriages and families are in crisis," he said.

These families "in a worryingly precarious state" are crying out for help, he said, and are clamoring for "a response from civil authorities, from ecclesial communities and from the various educational agencies."

He thanked the associations for their dedication to the Family-Friendly Fiscal Policy initiative in Europe which urges governments to back policies that "give parents a real possibility of having children and bringing them up in the family."

Pope authorizes granting of indulgences for Pauline year events

Continued from p. 1

Year of St. Paul

In the New Testament canon, between the Acts of the Apostles and Revelation, there are twenty-one documents that take the form letters or epistles. ... Of the letters or epistles most of these are actual letters, but some are treatises. ... Fourteen of the twenty-one letters have been traditionally attributed to Paul. One of these, the Letter to the Hebrews, does not itself claim to be the work of Paul. When it was accepted, after much discussion, it was attached at the very end of the Pauline Corpus. ... The following books of the Bible have Paul as their author: Romans, First Corinthians, Second Corinthians, Galatians, Ephesians, Philippians, Colossians, First Thessalonians, Second Thessalonians, First Timothy, Second Timothy, Titus and Philemon. Then there is Hebrews. ... The genuine letters of Paul are earlier in date than any of the written Gospels (taken from St. Joseph Bible).

Catholics impeded by sickness or other serious cause, as long as they have the intention of fulfilling the other conditions as soon as possible, can obtain a plenary indulgence by joining spiritually in a jubilee celebration in honor of St. Paul and offering their prayers and suffering for Christian unity.

The decree said individuals can obtain more than one plenary indulgence during the jubilee year, but not more than one per day.

The Catholic Lighthouse will include a quote from one of St. Paul's epistles each month during the Year of St. Paul.



Buscando Vida

Por Moises Sandoval
Servicio Noticiero Católico



Mi homenaje a tres figuras del padre

Al acercarse el día del padre pienso de mi padre, fallecido ya 27 años, y el papel que jugó en mi vida.

Era un campesino muy rígido quien nos trabajaba a mi y a mis hermanos tan duro que nuestras piernas temblaban de fatiga al terminar el día. Si éramos lentos en aprender como poner en arreos a un equipo de caballos o a apilar las gavillas de trigo o maíz, arriesgábamos un azoteo con las riendas.

Por lo tanto nos sentíamos alegres cuando iba a Wyoming a trabajar como obrero en el ferrocarril para aumentar los ingresos de la familia. No apreciamos hasta mucho más tarde lo que sacrificó por nosotros.

Aunque éramos muy pobres, yo recibí lo que necesitaba para superarme. Como las máquinas de escribir me encantaban, Mamá y Papa de algún modo hallaron un juguete de máquina de escribir para utilizar en mis estudios.

Después consiguieron una antigua máquina Underwood de mi abuelo. Cuando el director de nuestra escuela me dijo que podría avanzar un grado con simplemente asistir escuela de verano en Las Vegas, N.M., mi padre pasó sin mi ayuda en el rancho para que fuera. Vivíamos muy lejos de la escuela superior cuando gradué del grado ocho. Por eso Mama y Papa mudaron la familia a Colorado.

Siendo que era el mayor de 10 hijos, tuve que deferir mis estudios universitarios por tres años para ayudar a la familia. Pero cuando tenía 21 años, mi padre me dijo, "Ya nos has ayudado bastante."

La paternidad corresponde no sólo a la biología sino también las relaciones.

Con su ayuda, interés en mi futuro y amistad, dos otros hombres cumplieron el papel de padre en mi vida.

Uno era el Padre Roy Figlino, el pastor en la parroquia de San Agustín en Brighton, Colo., y el otro era Jeremiah L. O'Sullivan, el decano del Colegio de Periodismo en la Universidad de Marquette.

El Padre Figlino y yo fuimos amigos por medio siglo, desde mis días como

monaguillo en los 1940 hasta los 1990 cuando ya se había jubilado.

En estos días de tanto escándalo, es necesario decir que el Padre Figlino era un sacerdote de recta moralidad. El único modo que tocaba a los monaguillos, a demás de apretón de manos, era un puñetazo al hombro.

Como mi Papa, tenía poca paciencia con nuestros fallos. Siempre nos decía que éramos capaces e insistía que hicéramos lo mejor que podíamos.

En 1990 cuando publique un libro sobre la historia de la Iglesia hispana, escribió para felicitarme. Le envié un ejemplar del libro y él correspondió con un cheque por \$50 que pasé a las misiones de Maryknoll en su nombre.

Jeremiah O'Sullivan se interesó en mí desde el día que yo llegué a Marquette con apenas dinero suficiente para pagar la cuota.

Éramos de antecedentes similares, ambos de familias pobres, la suya de Kansas. Arregló con la madre viuda de un ex-alumno que me brindara hospedaje en cambio por hacer algunas tareas de la casa.

Me ayudó a conseguir empleo a tiempo parcial como reportero. Si no me desempeñaba bien en algún curso me citaba a su oficina para ver que pasaba.

Cuando me casé, mi padre, careciendo de los medios, no pudo venir, pero el decano O'Sullivan estaba allí presente en la Misa de boda para felicitarnos.

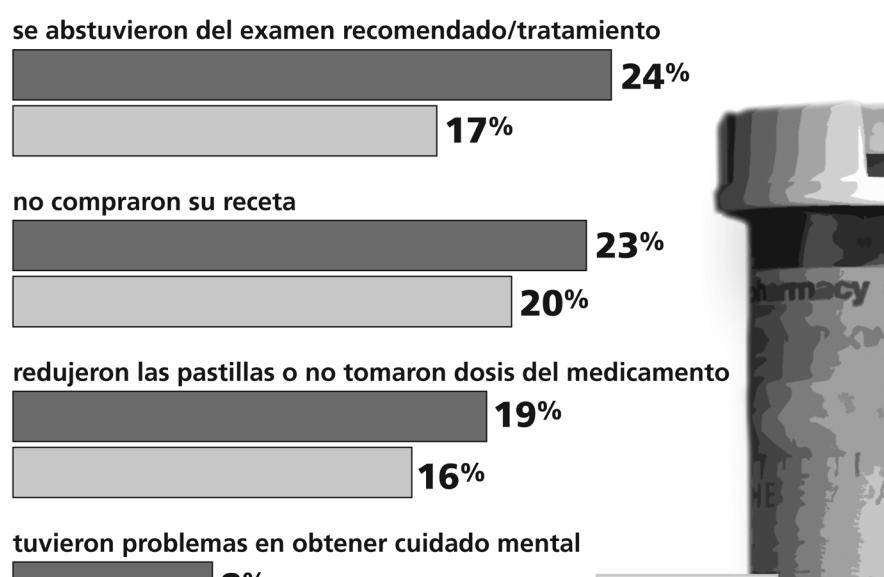
Cada hombre puede desempeñar el papel de padre con jóvenes que necesitan beneficiarse de su fe, ejemplo, experiencia y apoyo.

Yo doy gracias a Dios por lo que mi padre, Roy Figlino, y Jeremiah O'Sullivan compartieron conmigo.

**iFeliz Día de Padre!
Junio 15**

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Porcentaje de los que dijeron que ellos o un miembro de su familia decidieron, el año pasado, lo siguiente por el alto costo:

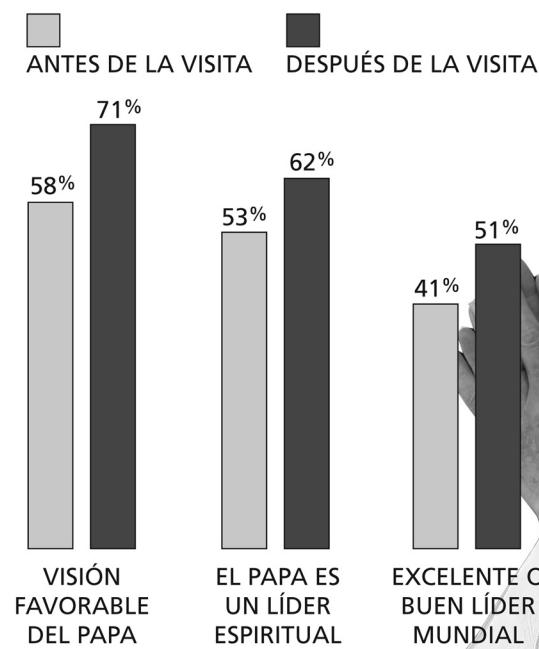


Fuente: Kaiser Family Foundation
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Español

Visiones Positivas

La reciente visita del Papa Benedicto XVI a Estados Unidos tuvo un impacto positivo en la imagen que el público tenía sobre él, según los resultados de una encuesta realizada después de su visita.



Catholic Daughters of the Americas have experience of a lifetime

Continued from p. 11

brick walls, breaking and chipping bricks, carrying concrete in buckets for the roofs, installing plumbing fixtures, cutting styrofoam for the roof/ceilings, pulling electrical casings for electricity, mixing cement, sifting sand, building walls, shoveling dirt and gravel including hauling material in wheelbarrows!

These tasks were all part of the 2008 excursion to remote villages south of Mexico City for the four day Lenten Build with Habitat for Humanity Mexico DF in Pahuacan and Ayapanga.

Bachmann, Trevino and Malik arrived in Mexico City and were met by Collins who had been left waiting at the airport for over three hours due to confusion with her arrival schedule. Pablo was also there with his BIG Habitat sign to welcome us and eventually take the group to the Tulip Inn Ritz hotel for the night.

After attending Palm Sunday Mass and services the following day, the CDA volunteers began their journey to Amecameca, their home for the next five days. Amecameca is situated in the valley of the Sierra Mountains south of Mexico City with a population of approximately 60,000.

Two volcanoes, Iztaccihuatl and Popocatepetl, tower over the city and surround it. They say 'Popo' is inactive, however volunteers were reminded daily of the reality and magnitude of a volcano by the constant bellow of steam.

The volcano 'Izta' is in the formation of a lady lying down sleeping. An Indian legend says that Popo, her husband, went off to war and Izta died of a broken heart. When he returned from the war, he stationed himself on the next mountain and

continues to watch over her to this day.

CDA volunteers traveled on Monday to Pahuacan in the Ayapanga municipality, a village of approximately 225 houses with 900 inhabitants. Ten of the 2008 Lenten Habitat Build homes built are in this community. Another ten homes were built north of Mexico City in Hidalgo in the State of DF. The Catholic Daughters of the Americas sponsored four of the twenty homes built this year. (The "40 Homes in the 40 Days of Lent" that Habitat originally planned to build did not materialize due to the inability to secure funding for all 40 homes.)

A basic Habitat house is 23 feet x 23 feet in size, with two 9'x11' bedrooms, one 4'x8' bath, and a 13'x23' kitchen/living room combination. The cost is approximately \$8,000. Owners (Catholic Families) make payments of \$60 per month for ten years to repay their loan from Habitat. Land is not purchased by Habitat. The land is provided by the owner of the house. It is usually family land, which has been divided up into sections.

The livelihood of these Habitat homeowners varied from retirees, corn farmers, laborers, domestic workers, military soldiers, and policemen. "The recipients were very appreciative and grateful for the work that we did and for our sharing our time, talents and resources with them," said Malik.

Malik added, "I believe that in their eyes we were Jesus walking on earth for them. This truly was a wonderful Corporal Work of Mercy to share with our neighbors to the south during Holy Week and an unforgettable experience."

Substitute Adorers Needed

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

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University seeks support, prayers following devastating fire

By Catholic News Service

SAN ANTONIO (CNS) — The skyline of San Antonio was changed the night of May 6 as a massive fire gutted the historic Main Building at Our Lady of the Lake University, destroying some of the structure's unique silver spires and severely damaging other majestic steeples that adorned the top of the more than century-old facility.

Built in 1895, the imposing Gothic-style structure was designed by renowned architect James Wahrenberger and was a crown jewel in the impoverished west side neighborhood that is home to the coeducational liberal arts institution. More than 2,800 students are enrolled in the university, which was founded in 1895 by the Congregation of Divine Providence, which has a convent and a convalescent home located on the campus.

The four-alarm blaze illuminated the evening sky and was fought by 120 firefighters and close to three dozen fire trucks from the San Antonio Fire Department, more than half the city's resources.

With flames still visible on the roof of the Main Building, university President Tessa Martinez Pollack and San Antonio Archbishop Jose H. Gomez spoke to a crowd of hundreds of students on the library steps just across the street from the fire, with the school leader saying, "We were very blessed not to have any injuries of any kind."

A small number of students were in classes in the building when the fire alarm went off around 7:30 p.m., and they

quickly evacuated the facility. Administrative offices, including the president's work space, are located on the first and fourth floors of the structure, with classrooms and faculty offices on the second and third floors.

A cafeteria sits behind the tan brick building, with the Theresian Hall dormitory located above the cafeteria. Following the blaze, 35 residents of Theresian Hall were relocated to other dorms on campus, along with 83 students from Providence Hall. That building was not damaged, and school officials say the move is only a temporary, precautionary measure.

The San Antonio Fire Department's Arson Investigation Unit is now conducting an investigation into the cause of the fire. On May 5, a written bomb threat forced the evacuation of the campus for several hours, prompting some speculation among students that the blaze was intentionally set. However, fire department and police officials are currently discounting the connection between the two incidents, as it appears the blaze began in the attic of the Main Building.

The university maintains building insurance and business interruption insurance, and adjusters are assessing potential damage estimates.

The day following the tragedy, a prayer service of thanksgiving was held at the University Wellness and Athletic Center for students, faculty and staff. Although classes had been canceled for the day, the gym was filled to capacity with several hundred people.



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FIREFIGHTER SPRAYS WATER ON MAIN BUILDING OF UNIVERSITY IN SAN ANTONIO — A firefighter sprays water on the historic Main Building of Our Lady of the Lake University in San Antonio, Texas, May 6. The four-alarm blaze illuminated the evening sky and was fought by 120 firefighters and close to three-dozen fire trucks from the San Antonio Fire Department, more than half the city's resources. (CNS photo/William Luther, San Antonio Express-News via ZUMA Press)

Franciscan Father David Gutierrez, campus chaplain, began the service by saying, "We give thanks that no lives were lost, and we give thanks to those praying for this community. We give thanks that we are united, expressing our concern and embracing each other."

Gloria Urrabazo, vice president for mission, echoed those remarks. "We thank God for the miracle that happened last night; that no lives were lost," she said. "We are a community of faith and perseverance. We are loved. We are blessed."

Our Lady of the Lake is accepting donations to help their recovery. Currently, donations are being accepted at Our Secure Online Giving Page <https://www.ollu.onlinecommunity.com/ng/Default.aspx?TabId=12021>. Checks will also be accepted: please make payable to OLLU and mail to OLLU Development Office, 411 SW 24th Street, San Antonio, Texas 78207. In addition, Frost Bank has set up the "Our Lady of the Lake Rebuilding Fund" to also accept donations. If you wish to make a gift in this way, visit any Frost Bank location and donate to account number 01-0494593.

To learn more about the Our Lady of the Lake University fire, please go to: <http://www.ollu.onlinecommunity.com/ng/>

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Dallas priest ordained as new bishop for Diocese of Shreveport, La.

SHREVEPORT, La. (CNS) -- The Diocese of Shreveport has a new leader, following the May 19 episcopal ordination of Bishop Michael G. Duca in the Cathedral of St. John Berchmans in the Louisiana city. In an ornate ceremony complete with a full orchestra, the former rector of Holy Trinity Seminary in Irving, Texas, was officially elevated from monsignor to bishop and becomes the second bishop of Shreveport. Video coverage of his ordination Mass was made available on the diocese's Web site. Then-Msgr. Duca's appointment to Shreveport — made by Pope Benedict XVI some 16 months after he accepted the resignation of Bishop William B. Friend — was announced in Washington April 1 by Archbishop Pietro Sambi, apostolic nuncio to the United States. Bishop Friend retired Dec. 20, 2006, at age 75, the age at which a canon law requires a bishop to turn in his resignation. Bishop Friend, who attended the ordination, was named bishop of Alexandria-Shreveport in 1982 and the first bishop of Shreveport when it was split off from Alexandria to form a separate diocese in 1986.

Minister apologizes to Catholics; some question if politics behind it

WASHINGTON (CNS) -- After the Rev. John Hagee, a San Antonio televangelist, sent a letter to the head of the Catholic League for Religious and Civil Rights apologizing for any comments he made "that Catholics have found hurtful," the league's president, William Donohue, said that "the case is closed." Other Catholic leaders said the gesture toward reconciliation should be graciously accepted but that there was a ring of partisan political maneuvering to the publicity about Rev. Hagee's anti-Catholic rhetoric and the apology. The words of the minister, the pastor of the Cornerstone Church in San Antonio, became an issue because of his endorsement of a presidential candidate. Richard R. Gaillardetz, professor of Catholic studies at the University of Toledo in Ohio, said while Rev. Hagee's May 12 letter "goes beyond the garden variety 'I'm sorry if someone was offended' apology," the way the controversy has played out seems to have political motivations in addition to concern for decrying anti-Catholicism. When presumptive Republican presidential nominee Sen. John McCain received a highly publicized endorsement by Rev. Hagee, Donohue blasted the Arizona senator for seeking the support of someone who "has waged an unrelenting war against the Catholic Church." McCain has condemned Rev. Hagee's remarks.

Church moves to help families after Iowa's largest immigration raid

DAVENPORT, Iowa (CNS) -- The arrest of more than 300 employees at an Iowa meatpacking plant has left countless families in a "state of terror" and once again shows the need for comprehensive immigration reform, according to Archbishop Jerome G. Hanus of Dubuque. "Some of the weakest members among us are bearing the brunt of the suffering, while legislators and other leaders, as well as many of us in the general public, have failed to give this issue the priority that it deserves," the archbishop said in a statement following the largest immigration raid in the state's history. In a statement posted on its Web site, U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement said its agents executed a criminal search warrant May

12 at Agriprocessors Inc. in Postville for evidence relating to aggravated identity theft, fraudulent use of Social Security numbers and other crimes, as well as a civil search warrant for people illegally in the United States. The plant is in the Dubuque Archdiocese. Scrambling to assist the many people affected by the raids is the newly formed Immigrant Safety Network, which aims to improve services and communications in response to such a raid. It is comprised of numerous social service agencies in the Des Moines area, including Catholic Charities of the Des Moines Diocese.

Catholic-Muslim dialogue looks at U.S. interreligious education

WASHINGTON (CNS) -- Interreligious education was the focus of the Mid-Atlantic Muslim Catholic Dialogue conducted April 23-24 in Washington. The meeting explored teaching about different religions in private and public institutions. According to a May 9 news release, it was a follow-up to a 2007 meeting during which a speaker described the development of a Muslim-Catholic educational exchange between the Archdiocese of Chicago and the Council of Islamic Societies of Greater Chicago. In the April meeting, Father Gregory Fairbanks, a faculty member at St. Charles Borromeo Seminary in Wynnewood, Pa., and director of the Archdiocese of Philadelphia's Office for Ecumenical and Interreligious Affairs, presented a curriculum for ecumenical and interreligious training required by Catholic seminaries and recommended for clergy and lay leaders. Father Fairbanks cited documents of the Second Vatican Council and other, more recent church documents. He highlighted U.S. Catholic pastoral concerns, including interreligious marriages, social justice cooperation or tensions, and the education of non-Catholic children in Catholic schools.

Ten Commandments seen as basis for secular arguments on modern issues

NEW YORK (CNS) -- Catholic and Jewish presenters at an April 30 interfaith consultation held in New York pointed to the Ten Commandments as the basis for secular arguments on contemporary social issues. Abortion, embryonic stem-cell research and same-sex unions are among the issues that could benefit from such an approach, according to papers presented during the consultation. A May 7 news release from the U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops reported details of the meeting, which focused on religion and public morality in U.S. society today. The Catholic-Jewish consultation, which meets twice a year, includes representatives of the USCCB, the Union of Orthodox Rabbis and the Rabbinical Council of America. Both Catholics and Orthodox Jews view judicial and legislative efforts to broaden the definition of marriage to include same-sex unions as harmful to both family life and the common good of society. Consultation participants recently drafted a statement, defending marriage between one man and one woman, which is expected to be published in the coming weeks.

Pope urges Christians to stay in Israel as force for peace, stability

VATICAN CITY (CNS) -- Welcoming Israel's new ambassador to the Vatican, Pope Benedict XVI urged Israel to help its Christian citizens remain in the country where they could be a force for peace and



SEN. KENNEDY PICTURED DURING 2007 PRESS CONFERENCE IN WASHINGTON—U.S. Sen. Ted Kennedy, D-Mass., is pictured during a press conference on Capitol Hill in Washington in 2007. Kennedy, 76, was released from Massachusetts General Hospital in Boston May 21, a day after he was diagnosed with a malignant brain tumor. He had a biopsy conducted after he suffered a seizure May 17 at his home in Cape Cod, Mass. (CNS photo/Paul Haring) (May 21, 2008)

understanding. "Christians are not alone in suffering the effects of insecurity and violence as a result of the various conflicts in the region, but in many respects they are particularly vulnerable at the present time," the pope told Mordechay Lewy, the new ambassador. Presenting his letters of credential to the pope May 12, Lewy said, "We shall do our utmost to help strengthen the Christian communities in Israel as their essential presence in the Holy Land is deeply rooted and historically self-understood." The ambassador also asked the Catholic Church to continue working with Israel and Jewish groups in combating anti-Semitism, and he warned about increasing instability in the region, apparently in reference to Iran's nuclear program.

Chinese priest calls for end to search for loved ones in debris

DUJIANGYAN, China (CNS) -- Four days after the deadly earthquake shook his parish in the Diocese of Chengdu, a priest asked his parishioners to refrain from searching for their relatives and friends in the debris. "I'm afraid other dangers may emerge," such as an outbreak of disease and further collapse of buildings, said Father Francis Wang Fuxuan of the Dujiangyan parish. Father Wang told the Asian church news agency UCA News May 16 that the most urgent thing is to help the people living in tents outdoors because they lost homes or do not feel safe in them amid still-frequent aftershocks. Hygiene in the city has worsened due to the accumulation of corpses, he said, with flies, mosquitoes and rats rampant. But Father Wang thanked God that almost all of the rural Catholics in his parish survived the earthquake. Dujiangyan is only 15 miles from the epicenter of the magnitude 7.9 earthquake that shook Sichuan province in southwestern China May 12. In Mianyang, China, Sister Zhang Yimei expressed gratitude to God for protecting her younger brother, a priest, during the

recent earthquake, but is concerned for the well-being of the family of another nun serving in her parish. "My brother, Father Francis Zhang Yiqiang, was preparing for the centenary of the former seminary in Bailu town and just happened to be out buying things for the celebration when the church building collapsed," she told the Asian church news agency UCA News. The siblings serve in different parts of the Chengdu Diocese, near the epicenter of the magnitude 7.9 earthquake. Sister Yimei, 35, who serves at Our Lady of Lourdes Church in Mianyang, told UCA News May 14 that the other nun, who was only identified as Sister Zhan, could not reach by phone her parents, one sister and two brothers-in-law in Bailu after the quake. She said Father Zhong Cheng, the parish priest, had driven to her home to find out what happened.

Myanmar cyclone victims try to survive amid devastating losses

LEIEINTAN, Myanmar (CNS) -- Paschal Than Hlaing is just one of many who are grieving in Leieintan, a village where only one house is left standing and the Baptist and Catholic churches had their roofs torn open. Than Hlaing mourns the death of two of his three children. "One of my sons was swept away when the water level was up to his neck," the 31-year-old Catholic father told the Asian church news agency UCA News May 9, referring to his 6-year-old boy. Cyclone Nargis hammered the Irrawaddy delta region early May 3 as it blew in from the Bay of Bengal, sending a wall of seawater inland for miles. Several days later, Than Hlaing's 3-year-old son "passed away after he caught a cold." Now he and his wife are left with their remaining son; they are being sheltered in the Baptist church because their home was destroyed. A small Catholic Church volunteer group from the Yangon Archdiocese that arrived within days of the cyclone began assisting Than Hlaing and the rest of the 3,000 residents of the village about 75 miles southwest of Yangon.



NUN WALKS PAST DAMAGED BUILDINGS IN EARTHQUAKE-RAVAGED VILLAGE—A nun assisting with relief efforts walks past damaged buildings in Renhe village in the earthquake-hit area of Shifang, in China's Sichuan province, May 21. (CNS photo/Aly Song, Reuters)



For The Journey

By Effie Caldarola
Catholic News Service



Sarah Palin: A politician who lives her truth

In a country where politicians spout a lot of pro-life rhetoric to gain votes but don't always follow up, it's so refreshing to meet a politician who lives her truth.

Let me begin by introducing the governor of Alaska, my state.

Alaskans have a love affair going with their governor. Sarah Palin, a former "Miss Wasilla" who later became mayor of her little town of Wasilla, has enjoyed an unbelievable 82 percent favorable rating in the polls as governor.

What politician can match that?

With an appealing personality and a handsome, snow-machining husband who calls himself "the First Dude," the governor has even been mentioned as a running mate for John McCain. An Alaskan who knows how to clean fish as well as catch them, she's "hot" enough to have landed a fashion spread in *Vogue*.

This small-town girl was elected by catching an anti-corruption wave that rolled across the state and carried her straight to the governor's mansion. In a wealth of embarrassment for Alaska, state legislators have been convicted of bribery, and two of the three members of our congressional delegation are under federal investigation.

Palin based her campaign on honesty and transparency, and that's what Alaskans craved.

I confess her lack of experience discouraged my vote. But do I like her? As the saying goes: What's not to like?

This week, I like Sarah Palin a whole lot more.

Over a month ago, her office announced that the 44-year-old and her husband Todd were expecting their fifth child in May. It was a secret the beguiling brunette, a runner, managed to keep from even her staff.

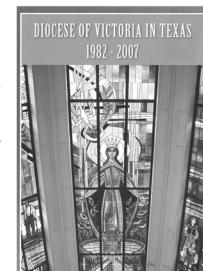
Then, April 18, she surprised us again by giving birth a month early to Trig Palin, 6 pounds, 2 ounces. In true Sarah fashion, her amniotic fluid leaked in Texas, she gave a speech at a Republican Governors Association convention as scheduled anyway, and then returned to Alaska to deliver.

Immediately the family made this announcement: "Trig is beautiful and already adored by us. We knew through early testing he would face special challenges, and we feel privileged that God would entrust

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.

us with this gift and allow us unspeakable joy as he entered our lives."

Trig Palin has Down syndrome. Early prenatal testing alerted the Palins to this chromosomal abnormality, as it is alerting more and more families in the early stages of pregnancy.

Unfortunately, because of early screening, more children with Down syndrome are aborted and fewer and fewer are being born.

Children with Down syndrome do bring "unspeakable joy" into this world. I know the laughter and blessings my 5-year-old nephew, Ethan, with Down syndrome, has

Conference examines Homeland Security's handling of immigration

WASHINGTON (CNS) — Five years after the Department of Homeland Security was created as an umbrella agency, its handling of immigration-related situations came in for harsh criticism at an immigration law and policy conference May 20. "DHS's increasingly aggressive immigration enforcement treats all immigrants as dangerous criminals," said Lisa Powell, chief investigative counsel for the oversight subcommittee of the Senate Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs Committee. "It was a bad idea when it was started, it was poorly executed and it's still a bad idea," said Charles Kuck, managing partner of an Atlanta and Miami immigration law firm who is president-elect of the American Immigration Lawyers Association. Powell and Kuck were among panelists at a daylong conference co-sponsored by the Catholic Legal Immigration Network, known as CLINIC, the Migration Policy Institute and Georgetown University's Law Center. Other sessions at the conference addressed the current state of immigration legislation and policy and the role immigration issues are likely to play in the November election.

President to meet with Pope Benedict during European trip in June

WASHINGTON (CNS) — Two months after hosting Pope Benedict XVI at the White House, President George W. Bush and first lady Laura Bush will visit the Vatican during a June 9-16 European trip, the White House announced May 20. "The president will begin his trip by participating in the annual U.S.-European Union summit in Slovenia," the announcement said. "Following the summit, the president and Mrs. Bush will visit Germany, Italy, the Holy See, France and the United Kingdom." Although the White House released no itinerary and the Vatican did not officially confirm the president's visit, Vatican sources said it was expected to take place June 13. The White House said the Bushes' trip to Europe was designed "to strengthen the trans-Atlantic partnership and to celebrate the enduring friendship between our nations based on shared democratic values." The president and Mrs. Bush's visit will also commemorate the 60th anniversary of the Marshall Plan and the Berlin Airlift.

brought to our family. But how do you explain this joy to a perfection-at-any-price world?

Politicians rarely help. How many politicians are ever called upon to really walk the walk in their lives?

One-issue voters often reward someone with a vote just because they mouth the right words on abortion but seldom examine what that politician has actually done to make abortion less common, or what he's done to add to the conversation.

Our governor is fortunate in that she has a loving family and tremendous support, something many women do not. Again, those pro-life politicians often fail the very women who need help the most.

As Christians, we know the example of witness is profound.

Palin, a politician who has been eloquent in her defense of life before birth, has now proven with her own life how much she truly "walks the walk."

Thank you, Sarah, for a beautiful witness given to us through a little one whose Norse name, Trig, means "brave victory."

Muslim, Jewish, Christian leaders meet in Qatar, call for tolerance

DOHA, Qatar (CNS) — Muslim, Jewish and Christian leaders holding an interreligious dialogue meeting in Qatar said all religions and all schools must teach tolerance for religious diversity and respect for human life. The sixth annual Doha Conference on Interfaith Dialogue was held in mid-May and included participation by Cardinal Jean-Louis Tauran, president of the Vatican's Pontifical Council for Interreligious Dialogue. The theme of the gathering in Qatar was "Religious Values: Perspectives on Peace and Respect for Life." At the end of the meeting, participants issued a declaration saying they had discussed not only the values and ideals of their faiths, but also "some of the difficult and tragic issues which disfigure our world and create violence and injustice in so many contexts." The statement said, "In particular, we examined the ethical dimensions of issues such as suicide, abortion, euthanasia, human trafficking, sale of organs, violence in the media and desecration of religious symbols."

Prelate tells South African Catholics to stay out of xenophobic mobs

CAPE TOWN, South Africa (CNS) — Archbishop Buti Tlhagale of Johannesburg has forbidden Catholics in his archdiocese to be involved in attacks against foreigners that have left more than 20 people dead and dozens injured. "Everyone who takes a step in a march in a township to protest 'foreigners' is taking a step closer to hell," said Archbishop Tlhagale, president of the Southern African Catholic Bishops' Conference, in a May 15 statement. Noting that the Ten Commandments "extend to our treatment of foreigners," Archbishop Tlhagale said, "attacks on those who were not born in South Africa are a cause of real shame and concern." Up to 1,000 people are seeking shelter at police stations in Alexandra, a township in northern Johannesburg, where the violence began May 11 following a community meeting to address social problems in the area, reported the U.N.'s IRIN news agency. The attacks occurred mostly in townships in Gauteng province, which includes Johannesburg.

Archdiocese builds family communication network

PHILADELPHIA (CNS) — A Guatemalan woman in the United States converses with her mother half a continent away. Their hands fly with gestures, forming words of news, of love, of distance temporarily bridged. The conversation is possible only because they are visible to one another on-screen in a videoconference. The gift of technology makes possible what was once impossible, at least for those without the financial means and access to the technology. And now, thanks to the vision and commitment of a Catholic couple from St. John Vianney Parish in Gladwyne, Jim and Jacki Delaney, and the archdiocesan Office of the Vicar for Hispanic Catholics, access to technology in the form of videoconferencing will be available to all who might not otherwise be able to afford it. "It is the church reaching out," said Jim Delaney during a demonstration of the technology at the Catholic Institute for Evangelization in Philadelphia.

St. John's Parish Picnic

Mass at 9:30 a.m. Visit the 120-year-old church

Friday, July 4, 2008

St. John's Parish Hall
FM 957 — 6 miles SW of Schulenburg

Flag Raising Ceremonies at 10:30 a.m.
American Legion and VFW members
Vietnam Veterans and all persons
interested in the patriotic cause are invited

Stew & Fried-Chicken
Dinner at 11:00 a.m.

Plates - Adults \$7.00 • Children \$4.50

LIVE MUSIC

- Shiner Hobo Band
- The Dujka Brothers
- Red Ravens

Games

Room for Dancing under Main Pavilion

Auction at 1:00 p.m.
Raffle - 8:00 p.m.

Drinks

Hamburgers

Cakewalk



'Choosing To Forgive' An Interfaith Religion Special To Air Sunday, June 8, On CBS

WASHINGTON — *Choosing to Forgive*, an interfaith religion special on the meaning and practice of forgiveness, will be broadcast Sunday, June 8, on the CBS Television Network. For exact airing time check your local station.

Choosing to Forgive presents the idea of forgiveness from both a religious and a scientific point of view. Several major faiths teach we must forgive those who do us wrong. In recent years, the subject has interested psychologists who have studied it as a potentially effective means of getting past wrongs and injustices.

This special presentation is produced in

cooperation with the Interfaith Broadcasting Commission (IBC), including the National Council of Churches, the United States Conference of Catholic Bishops (USCCB), a consortium of Jewish organizations and the Islamic Society of North America.

"IBC suggests a variety of ideas to the CBS production staff. We look for topics that relate to many faiths. Forgiveness seemed a natural topic for all," said Ellen McCloskey, assistant director of the USCCB's Office of Digital Media.

The broadcast features Robert Enright, Ph.D., author and professor of psychology at the University of Wisconsin-Madison,

who has championed the cause of forgiveness therapy as a scientific tool. He and his wife have introduced forgiveness education into the curricula of elementary schools (the first in Belfast, Northern Ireland; and then Milwaukee and Madison, Wisconsin) as a way of training children to cope peacefully with stress and challenge.

The broadcast also includes interviews with several individuals who have moved successfully in life despite terrifying experiences. Some have done so through an act of faith and others have had therapy.

Lynn McGuinn and Talat Hamdani lost

loved ones in the 9/11 attacks on the World Trade Center; Eric Wurzel, whose mother deserted him as a child, became addicted to drugs and alcohol for 30 years and was able to forgive himself and his family; Rev. Walt Everett, whose son was murdered in 1987, befriended the killer over time and the two have appeared together to tell their stories and speak about forgiveness.

The special also includes a visit to St. James Catholic School in Madison, to see first graders learn the basic steps in forgiveness. The program hopes to aid them in choosing to forgive throughout their lives.

Special Collections

Black and Native American, Catholic Communications Campaign and Catholic University of America (all three combined) — June 1

Ongoing Events

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

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

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

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

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

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

Engaged Encounter — Register as soon as you have contacted your pastor due to limited space. **It is strongly recommended that you attend an encounter weekend four to six months prior to your wedding date.** For a registration form, contact your pastor, visit the Web site at www.victoriadiocese.org/family/ee.htm, or write to: Engaged Encounter, P.O. Box 4070, Victoria, Texas 77903. The weekend is held at the Spiritual Renewal Center. The dates for 2008 are: Sept. 26-28 and Nov. 14-16. 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: sanantonioibe@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.actmissions.org.

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

June

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

St. Mary — St. Mary Parish Picnic June 8 at the parish hall. Mass will be celebrated at the church beginning at 9:15 a.m. A stew and sausage dinner begins at 10:30 a.m. at \$6.50 p/p with dine-in or drive-thru available. There will be games, plants, cakewalk, train ride and country store. Hamburgers will be sold in the afternoon. Auction begins at 1:00 p.m. Dance to live music from 10:30 a.m. to 9:00 p.m. with Texas Sound Czech, Czechaholics and Red Ravens.

When & Where

Schulenburg — St. Rose of Lima will hold its annual parish picnic on June 8 at the Knights of Columbus Hall. Masses will be held Sunday at 7:30 a.m. and 10 a.m. A meal featuring fried-chicken, sausage and all the trimmings will be served from 11:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. at the K. of C. Hall (famous sauerkraut served in the hall only). Adult plates will be \$7, children under 12, \$3. Drive-through adult plates will be available. Hamburgers, iced tea and other food and refreshments will be served all afternoon and evening. The biergarten will open at noon. The Shiner Hobo Band will be featured from 11:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m.; Lazy Farmers Band will provide music from 1:00-4:30 p.m.; and Mark Halata & Texavia from 4:30-8:00 p.m. One of the highlights of the picnic will be the big auction starting at 1:00 p.m., featuring cattle, quilts, antiques and much more. Other activities at this year's picnic will include bingo in the air-conditioned St. Rose Family Life Center, as well as amusements and games, including a country store, cakewalk, country walk, rides for children and pull tab bingo.

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

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

Tivoli — A seven-week Catholic Journey of Faith will be held at Our Lady of Guadalupe Catholic Church beginning Tuesday evening, June 17. The journey will include fellowship, building friendships, praise and worship music, the Word of the Lord, Bible study and discussion time to develop a personal relationship with Jesus Christ. Interested persons will meet Tuesday evenings from 7:00 to 8:45 p.m. at OLG Parish on William Street. Volunteers are needed in the following areas: team leaders, children's ministry, hospitality ministry, administrative assistants, St. Michael's Squad and prayer team. Call or e-mail Dale (below) to sign up for training dates. To register for the Catholic Journey of Faith, please contact Father Gabriel at (361) 286-3349 or Dale Pittman at (361) 289-2373 or e-mail at dale@icflycas.com.

Pilgrimage to Italy for Deaf — Official American Catholic Del-

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

Victoria — Our Lady of Victory Fishing Tournament June 28. For more information go to www.ourladyvictory.org.

Hallettsville — Priests For Life Father Denis G. Wilde has been invited by the Hallettsville Knights of Columbus Council #2433 to speak at the KC Hall Sunday evening at 7 p.m., June 29 (the public is invited). Father Wilde will also speak at all the Masses at Sacred Heart Church June 28-29. He will inspire and instruct those who work to defend life against abortion, bringing updates on pro-life strategy and projects that are turning the tide on abortion throughout the land.

Plum — Sts. Peter and Paul celebration June 29 beginning with Mass at 10:00 a.m. followed by a dinner until 1:30 p.m. At that time the auction starts. There will be games, food, and much more on the grounds and a free dance (7:00 p.m. until ?). Five percent of the profit will be donated to La Grange Volunteer Fire Department.

July

St. John — St. John Annual Parish 4th of July Picnic on the parish grounds (7026 FM 957 - 6 miles SW of Schulenburg). Mass at 9:30 a.m. followed by flag raising ceremonies at 10:30 a.m. A stew and fried-chicken dinner begins at 11:00 a.m. at \$7.00 p/p (adults) and \$4.50 p/p (children). The auction starts at 1:00 p.m. There will be children's games, cakewalk, refreshments and other activities throughout the day. A free dance will be held under the main pavilion with music by Shiner Hobo Band, The Dujka Brothers and Red Ravens.

Dubina — Sts. Cyril and Methodius Parish Picnic July 6

Philadelphia — The Convention for the Common Good, July 11-13, 2008, 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.

Upcoming Events

Frelsburg — Sts. Peter and Paul Annual Festival Aug. 3

Yoakum — St. Joesph Parish Picnic Aug. 3

Palacios — St. Anthony Shrimpree Aug. 3

Weimar — St. Michael Harvest Feast Aug. 10

Praha — St. Mary Parish Picnic Aug. 15

High Hill — St. Mary Parish Picnic Aug. 31

Shiner — Sts. Cyril and Methodius Picnic Aug. 31

Hallettsville — Sacred Heart Festival Aug. 31

Bloomington — St. Patrick Turkey Dinner Sept. 28

Meyersville — Sts. Peter and Paul Annual Festival Sept. 28

Vacation Bible School

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 — Feel the Power! Vacation Bible School June 23-27 from 9:00 a.m. to 12 noon at Our Lady of Lourdes Education Building for grades kindergarten to 5th ('07-'08). Older youth are welcome as volunteers. Meet new friends, make amazing crafts, wacky snacks, mind-blowing Bible adventures, hyper-speed games and incredible music. Registration deadline is June 5 to guarantee materials, but late registrants are welcome. For more information call Michelle Yates at (361) 576-9819 or Deidra Kalina at (361) 576-5235.

East Bernard — Holy Cross Vacation Bible School June 23-26

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



Diocese of Victoria Catholic High School's 2008 Top Graduates

Sacred Heart High
Hallettsville



Erin Krischke
Valedictorian
Parents:
Stuart & Joanie Krischke



Heather DeLaRosa
Salutatorian
Parents:
Roger & Sandra DeLaRosa



Sara Grahmann
Historian
Parents:
Ms. Rhonda Grahmann &
Mr. Tommy Grahmann Jr.

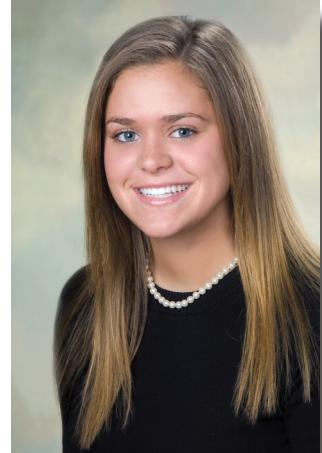
St. Joseph High
Victoria



Emily Sue Zapalac
Valedictorian
Parents:
Marc & Patty Zapalac



Valerie Rochelle Gilliam
Salutatorian
Parents:
Dan & Jamie Gilliam



Kathleen D. Cullen
Historian
Parents:
Kevin & Jean Cullen

St. Paul High
Shiner



Thomas Wayne Raabe
Valedictorian
Parents:
Ralph & Lori Raabe



Maria Claire Wenske
Salutatorian
Parents:
Benedict & Elizabeth Wenske



Sacred Heart Catholic School, Hallettsville, Graduating Class of 2008 — front row, l-r: Casey Leopold, Stephanie Tobola, Heather Saulnier and Miranda Fojt; second row: Sara Grahmann and Aaron Klesel; third row: Kendra Krupala, Erin Krischke, Heather DeLaRosa, Emily Gallia, Tiffany Buchanan and Clayton Mikes; top row: SHCS Principal David Smolik, Marshall Sevcik, Garet Pustejovsky, Andrew Herndon, Brandon Bludau and Nicholas Barton.



St. Joseph High School, Victoria Senior Class of 2008



St. Paul High School, Shiner Class of 2008 — Top Row l - r: Kevin Hybner, Greg Siegel, Kurt Knesek and Jeff Markham; next row: Kevin Patek, James Blackman, Stephen Novosad, Beau Broussard, Thom Raabe and Alton Pohl; bottom row: Elizabeth Valenta, Megan Zella, Maria Wenske, Cheritan Matias, Courtney Panus, Brittany Vesely, Kelsey Knesek and Shalane Matula

Hats off to all graduates!

By Bill and Monica Dodds
Catholic News Service

Let's start with a top-four countdown of "Ways to Spot a Soon-to-Be Graduate" (who has completed all assignments and exams):

4. He's busy practicing moving his mortar board tassel from one side to the other.

3. She breaks into deep sighing and spontaneous giggles.

2. Her parents are sighing more deeply and giggling even more.

1. He's certain that from here on out, his life is going to be all smooth sailing.

Hmm. All smooth sailing?

It takes optimism to move from high school to college or from school to "real life." And it takes courage, too. Thank God -- really, thank God -- that most young people have plenty of both.

Life is nothing if not a series of these "rookie seasons." Again and again, we step into new situations feeling awkward, uncomfortable and unsure.

It can help to remember that, not just so we'll cut ourselves some slack when we need it, but so we'll have more compassion and understanding for others

who find themselves in that situation.

It's not easy:

For a 5-year-old, used to preschool only a few days a week, to adjust to kindergarten, or for a first-grader to get used to full days.

For a middle-schooler to get into the rhythm of five distinct classes and five distinct teachers. (Not to mention changing classrooms and mastering the combination on a locker.)

For a high school student to

See Hats off to all graduates!

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CATHOLIC SCHOOLS SNAPS

A quick take on issues and statistics



Source: National Center for Education Statistics: *Characteristics of Private Schools in the United States: Results from the 2003-2004 Private School Universe Study*, U.S. Department of Education, Institute of Education Sciences, NCES 2006-319, Washington, D.C. 2006.; Public High School Graduation and College-Readiness Rates: 1991-2002, Jay P. Greene and Marcus Winter, Manhattan Institute for Policy Research, 2004; Dropout Rates in the United States: NCES, 2002. Statistics, U.S. Department of Education, 2006.