

The Catholic Lighthouse

The Cradle of Texas Immigration



VOL. 22, NO. 1

OFFICIAL PUBLICATION OF THE DIOCESE OF VICTORIA IN TEXAS

May 2008



POPE ARRIVES TO CELEBRATE MASS AT YANKEE STADIUM—Pope Benedict XVI arrives to celebrate Mass at Yankee Stadium in New York April 20. (CNS photo/Mike Segar, Reuters) See 4-page pull-out section on pope, pgs. 9-12.

Tragedy strikes Our Lady of the Lake University

SAN ANTONIO—A four-alarm fire destroyed the main building of Our Lady of the Lake University Tuesday evening, May 6. The university is owned by the Sisters of Divine Providence.

The university facility was considered by the community as the “Gem of the Westside” of San Antonio. The main building which houses the administration offices, classrooms, a computer lab and dormitories was built in 1895.

“This will be a test of our beliefs in providence,” said OLLU President Dr. Tessa Martinez Pollack on KENS5 television, “but I’m confident we’ll get through this.”

The fire was reported around 7:30 p.m. by a security guard who had told the fire department there was heavy smoke on the fourth floor of the building. San Antonio’s KENS5 television station reported live coverage from the scene from about the time the fire was reported until 10:30 p.m.

According to a www.mysa.com (Ex-



The administration building of Our Lady of the Lake University in San Antonio is pictured fully engulfed by flames. The fire that destroyed the building, which is over 100 years old, began Tuesday evening, May 6. The Sisters of Divine Providence own and run the university. Photo credit: *San Antonio Express-News*, William Luther

press News ad KENS5) news story, dormitory residents displaced by the fire were relocated on campus by Red Cross and university officials. About 35 students from the Theresian dormitory, which was located in the main building, were af-

fected along with 83 Providence dormitory residents. The Providence dormitory was closed out of safety concerns.

It was reported on the OLLU Web site that because so many community mem-

See *Tragedy strikes*, p. 2

School Sisters of Notre Dame to leave diocese

The School Sisters of Notre Dame, having served in the Diocese of Victoria since 1996, will leave at the end of June, 2008.

It was announced on May 1st, that Bishop Kevin Farrell has appointed Sister Gloria Cain, SSND, the superintendent of Catholic schools for the Diocese of Dallas, effective July 1, 2008. Bishop David Fellhauer appointed Sister Gloria superintendent in 1996 when the Office of Catholic Schools was established to serve 3,500 students in the 16 Catholic schools of the diocese. Sister Gloria will now head a school system of 41 Catholic schools with 15,000 students.

Sister Barbara Bacak, SSND, currently the pastoral life delegate for St. Joseph Parish in Inez has been appointed Vocations Director for the Dallas Province of the School Sisters of Notre Dame. Sister Barbara will reside in San Antonio with other School Sisters of Notre Dame. Sister Barbara will be responsible for vocation work in the seven state geographical area of the Dallas Province and will also collaborate with all other vocation directors of the School Sisters of Notre Dame in the other five provinces in the United States and Canada.

Sister Dawn Achs, SSND, arrived in Victoria in 2006 to assume the position of associate superintendent of Catholic schools. In this role, Sister Dawn has been instrumental in the advancement and enhancement of curriculum and instruction in the Catholic schools of the diocese.

See *School Sisters of Notre Dame*, p. 2



Faithful Citizenship

Part III

How Does The Church Help Catholics To Address Political And Social Questions?

A Well-Formed Conscience

The Church equips her members to address political questions by helping them develop well-formed consciences. “Conscience is a judgment of reason whereby the human person recognizes the moral quality of a concrete act. . . . [Every person] is obliged to follow faithfully what he [or she] knows to be just and right” (Catechism of the Catholic Church, no. 1778). We Catholics have a lifelong obligation to form our consciences in accord with human reason, enlightened by the teaching of Christ as it comes to us through the Church.

The Virtue of Prudence

The Church also encourages Catholics to develop the virtue of prudence, which enables us “to discern our true good in every circumstance and to choose the right means of achieving it” (Catechism of the Catholic Church, no. 1806). Prudence shapes and informs our ability to deliberate over available alternatives, to determine what is most fitting to a specific context, and to act. Prudence must be accompanied by courage which calls us to act. As Catholics seek to advance the common good, we must carefully discern which public policies are morally sound.

A good end does not justify an immoral means. At times Catholics may choose different ways to respond to social problems, but we cannot differ on our obligation to protect human life and dignity and help build through moral means a more just and peaceful world.

Doing Good and Avoiding Evil

There are some things we must never do, as individuals or as a society, because they are always incompatible with love of God and neighbor. These intrinsically evil acts must always be rejected and never supported. A preeminent example is the intentional taking of human life through abortion. It is always morally wrong to destroy innocent human beings. A legal system that allows the right to life to be violated on the grounds of choice is fundamentally flawed.

Similarly, direct threats to the dignity of human life such as euthanasia, human cloning, and destructive research on hu-

See *How does the church help Catholics*, p. 18



Bishop Fellhauer's Schedule

May

10 5:00 p.m. Confirmation Mass, St. Rose of Lima Church, Schulenburg
11 10:30 a.m., Confirmation Mass, St. John Bosco Church, Vanderbilt
12 7:00 p.m., Confirmation Mass, St. Anthony Church, Palacios
14 7:00 p.m., Confirmation Mass, St. Agnes Church, Edna
17 6:00 p.m., Confirmation Mass, Holy Family Church, Victoria
18 8:30 a.m., Confirmation Mass, St. Joseph Church, Inez
11:30 a.m., Confirmation Mass, Our Lady of Sorrows Church, Victoria
3:00 p.m., Confirmation Mass, St. Patrick Church, Bloomington
19 Installation of Bishop-elect Michael Duca as Bishop of Diocese of Shreveport, Louisiana
20 6:30 p.m., Knights of Columbus Council 9088 Catholic Schools appreciation dinner, Holy Family Activity Center, Victoria
21 7:00 p.m., Confirmation Mass, St. John Church, New Taiton
24 6:00 p.m., Confirmation Mass, Immaculate Conception Church, Goliad
25 9:00 a.m., Confirmation Mass, St. Joseph Church, Moulton
12:30 p.m., Farewell reception for Sr. Barbara Bacak, St. Joseph Church, Inez
31 11:00 a.m., Serra Club cookout for Religious Sisters in the Diocese, Incarnate Word Convent, Victoria
6:00 p.m., Confirmation Mass, Ascension of Our Lord Church, Moravia, including St. John Church, St. John

June

1 9:30 a.m., Confirmation Mass, Sts. Peter and Paul Church, Plum, including Holy Rosary Church, Hostyn
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)
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

Official Appointments By Most Rev. David E. Fellhauer

Effective May 6, 2008, the **Rev. Joseph Madhuravely, CMI**, will conclude his assignment as parochial vicar at Sts. Peter and Paul Church, Plum, in order to return to his religious community.

Effective June 9, 2008, the **Rev. Donald Hayden, OSST**, will conclude his assignment as parochial vicar at Our Lady of the Gulf Church, Port Lavaca. He will subsequently serve as chaplain at Incarnate Word Convent, Victoria.



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Publisher
The Most Rev. David E. Fellhauer

Editor

Cynthia Brewer — e-mail: cbrewer@victoriadiocese.org

Production/Advertising

Regina Matus-Janak — e-mail: janakr@victoriadiocese.org

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Letter to the Editor

Be Proud of Being Catholic

Excerpts of an article originally printed on the official Web site of The Catholic Diocese of Cleveland of a speech by Sam Miller, prominent Cleveland Jewish businessman – (NOT Catholic) made in March of 2003.

"Why would newspapers carry on a vendetta on one of the most important institutions that we have today in the United States, namely the Catholic Church? Do you know - the Catholic Church educates 2.6 million students everyday at the cost to the Church of 10 billion dollars, and a savings on the other hand to the American taxpayer of 18 billion dollars. Your graduates go on to graduate studies at the rate of 92 percent, all at a cost to Catholics. To the rest of the Americans it's free. The Church has 230 colleges and universities in the U.S. with an enrollment of 700,000 students. The Catholic Church has a non-profit hospital system of 637 hospitals, which account for hospital treatment of 1 out of every 5 people - not just Catholics - in the United States today. But the press is vindictive and trying to totally denigrate in every way the Catholic Church in this country. They have blamed the disease of pedophilia (translate that to homosexuality) on the Catholic Church. Let me give you some figures that you as Catholics should know and remember. For example, 12 percent of the 300 Protestant clergy surveyed admitted to sexual intercourse with a parishioner; 38 percent acknowledged other inappropriate sexual contact. In a study by the United Methodist Church, 41.8 percent of clergymen reported unwanted sexual behavior; 17 percent of laymen have been sexually

harassed. Meanwhile, 1.7 percent of the Catholic clergy has been found guilty of pedophilia (Homosexuality). Ten percent of the Protestant ministers have been found guilty of pedophilia (homosexuality). This is not a Catholic Problem. Meanwhile, the media continues to push for sodomy & lesbian rights to abuse children. A study of American priests showed that most are happy in the priesthood and find it even better than they had expected, and that most, if given the choice, would choose to be priests again in face of all this obnoxious PR the church has been receiving. The Catholic Church is bleeding from self-inflicted wounds. The agony that Catholics have felt and suffered is not necessarily the fault of the Church. You have been hurt by a small number of wayward priests that have probably been totally weeded out by now. Walk with your shoulders high and your head higher. Be a proud member of the most important non-governmental agency in the United States. Be proud to speak up for your faith with pride and reverence and learn what your Church does for all other religions. Be proud that you're a Catholic."

Submitted by Paul Tasin, Victoria. Please go to www.dioceseofcleveland.org/communications/kangaroo_journalism.htm to read the full article.

Son of OLG parishioner to be ordained to Dominican Order

The Dominican Friars of the Province of St. Joseph and the Vietnamese Vicariate of St. Vincent Liem joyfully announce the ordination of five brothers (one from Port Lavaca).



Brother John Martin Ruiz-Mayorga, OP

Brother John Martin Ruiz-Mayorga, OP, son of Alba Mayorga of Port Lavaca, will be ordained to the Dominican Order of Priests through the imposition of hands and the invocation of the Holy Spirit by Most Rev. Christopher Cardone, OP, bishop of Auki, Solomon Islands, May 23, 2008, at The Church of St. Dominic in Washington, DC.

His mother, brother and sister are members of Our Lady of the Gulf Parish in Port Lavaca. Father John Martin will celebrate his Mass of Thanksgiving at Our Lady of the Gulf Church on June 1.

To send him a note or gift of congratulation, you may contact him at: Dominican House of Studies, 487 Michigan Ave. NE, Washington, DC 20017.

Tragedy strikes Our Lady of the Lake University

Continued from p. 1

bers have asked how they can help, Frost Bank has set up an account for those who wish to donate to the Our Lady of the Lake University Rebuilding Fund.

Diocesan Services Appeal '08

To date, total pledges equal \$466,001.92 with paid contributions of \$374,678.59.

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

Remember, the chancery is now accepting donations through automatic bank withdrawals or credit cards. You may select to have your donation automatically withdrawn from your bank account each month or charge your donation to a credit card. For more information, please call Sharon Jones in the Business Office at (361) 573-0828.

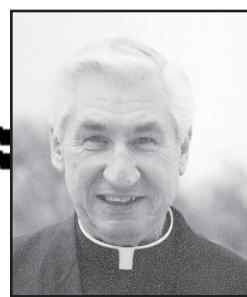
A pledge may be a one-time gift or a monthly payment for the remaining eight months of this year.

Chancery Business Office



FAITH POINT

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



The Word of God, Please

On a Pro-Life Sunday I was preaching about the need to vote in support of human life. An usher reported to me that a man stormed out of the church during my talk muttering that he came to hear the word of God and not politics.

I am wholly in agreement that the word of God should be preached at Mass. However, the last time I checked, the word of God contained some commandments relative to the question of abortion, You shall not kill, You shall love your neighbor as yourself, and more pointedly, "Nor shall you stand by idly when your neighbor's life is at stake" (Lev. 19:16). To me that sounds like we have an obligation to try to stop the practice of abortion and that extends to the polling booth.

Additionally, the word of God tells us to listen to our shepherds as they apply the word of God to current situations. "Whoever listens to you listens to me" (Lk. 10:16). The Holy Father and the bishops also tell us to use our vote to halt abortion.

The attitude of the gentleman who saluted forth from church because he thought that I was preaching politics rather than religion is not unique among Catholics. Some of them never suspect that morality has something to do with voting, and others stoutly maintain that religion has no bearing on such a secular enterprise.

There is a strong tendency to delimit the scope of the moral law. If the Church favors collective bargaining, it is interfering in business. If it condemns embryonic stem cell research, where small human beings are destroyed for their stem cells, it is dabbling in science where it has no competence. The truth is that every truly human act — one in which we freely choose among options — is governed by the moral law. The act is either in accord with sound morality or it is not. Morality extends also to our choices in the voting booth.

Herewith is a brief catechism on how Catholics should conduct themselves in voting if they want to vote with a clear conscience:

There is an obligation to vote. The Catechism of the Catholic Church says, "Submission to authority and co-responsibility for the common good make it morally obligatory ... to exercise the right to vote" (2240). The person who does not vote is already violating the moral law according to the Catechism.

Know the candidates. Voting is more than a matter of pulling levers or touching screens in some random fashion. It is frustrating to be in a polling booth and have to choose among names of persons whose stands on moral issues are altogether unknown to us. One might as well choose candidates by tossing coins or throwing darts at a list of names. Voting with a clear conscience requires that we do our homework to learn about the stands of the candidate long before Election Day. Candidates themselves have Web sites. There are many pro-life Web sites that track the votes and positions of candidates. Elected officials have a public voting record, which can be accessed at many places. Reject candidates that disqualify them-

selves for office. Any candidate who supported terrorism would be rejected no matter what his position on health care might be. Abortion is widespread terrorism against innocent, unborn human beings. So any candidate who says that he approves the choice of killing unborn human beings should be eliminated. His or her support for abortion demands that we block that person's election. In "Living the Gospel of Life" our bishops said, "...we urge our fellow citizens to see beyond party politics,...and to choose their political leaders according to principle, not party affiliation or mere self-interest" (n.34).

Candidates who support abortion must be rejected even if they have good positions on other policies. Pope John Paul II put it this way: "Above all, the common outcry, which is justly made on behalf of human rights—for example, the right to health, to home, to work, to family, to culture—is false and illusory if the right to life, the most basic and fundamental right and the condition for all other personal rights, is not defended with maximum determination" (Christifideles Laici, 1988). Health care does not benefit one whose life is ended by abortion.

Vote against any politician who supports any of the following list of non-negotiable items:

- the killing of the tiniest humans through destructive embryonic stem cell research;
- the killing of infants already partially born (through partial-birth abortion);
- the killing of the disabled and the advocacy of euthanasia and assisted suicide;
- the denial of religious freedom, such as the freedom of doctors, nurses, pharmacists and institutions to refrain from actions they hold to be immoral.

Voting for policies of themselves evil is endorsing evil and partaking in it. The Sacred Congregation for the Doctrine of the Faith in its "Doctrinal Note On some questions regarding the participation of Catholics in political life," wrote in 2002: "[A] well-formed Christian conscience does not permit one to vote for a political program or an individual law which contradicts the fundamental contents of faith and morals" (n.4).

Since parties as well as individual candidates sometimes take immoral positions, consider the political party of a candidate. The same questions that you ask about the candidates' positions on fundamental issues have to be asked about the political party's platform. Is it possible that the balance of power might shift as a result of the outcome of this particular race? Keep in mind that the party in power controls the committees responsible for initiating legislation. A pro-abortion party will not normally allow pro-life legislation to come forward or pro-life judges to be nominated. Do not just look only at whether the candidate is pro-life. Consider whether or not, if he or she wins, the pro-abortion party will come into power.

Avoid the error of considering all issues dealing with human dignity and life as equivalent. The United States Confer-

ence of Catholic Bishops in their "Forming Consciences for Faithful Citizenship: A Call to Political Responsibility (2007)" wrote: "Two temptations in public life can distort the Church's defense of human life and dignity: The first is a moral equivalence that makes no ethical distinctions between different kinds of issues involving human life and dignity. The direct and intentional destruction of innocent human life from the moment of conception until natural death is always wrong and is not just one issue among many. It must always be opposed. The second is the misuse of these necessary moral distinctions as a way of dismissing or ignoring other serious threats to human life and dignity" (n.27-29).

What if all candidates for an office are pro-abortion? Pope John Paul II addressed this issue in his 1995 encyclical, "The Gospel of Life." In section n. 73 he says that public officials under certain conditions can support legislation that limits — but does not ban — abortion. "When it is not possible to overturn or completely abrogate a pro-abortion law, an elected official, whose absolute personal opposition to procured abortion was well known, could licitly support proposals aimed at limiting the harm done by such a law and at lessening its negative consequences at the level of general opinion and public morality. This does not in fact represent an illicit cooperation with an unjust law, but rather a legitimate and proper attempt to limit its evil aspects." Voters would do well to follow the same principle. Someone is going to be elected. Pick the candidate who will do the least

harm. For example, one might be totally pro-abortion but another may support a ban on partial-birth abortion. Choose the latter as the less harmful alternative.

I submit that these points represent the word of God. They reflect the teaching of the Scriptures and the teaching of our bishops, the successors of the apostles, to whom Jesus tells us to listen. If all Catholic voters followed the word of God in voting, they could prevent the election of most pro-abortionists and most assuredly eliminate a pro-abortion president. So listen to the word of God, please, and be "doers of the word and not hearers only" (Jas. 1:22).

Personal Note: There are still slots available for a pilgrimage to the Holy Land October 19-30. Write Msgr. James C. Brunner, P.O. Box 2448, Victoria, TX 77902-2448 or call 361-573-4328 or e-mail stmaryvic@suddenlinkmail.com for full details.

GO ASTROS BASEBALL PACKAGES FOR THE FAMILY

KC Member Reduced Price
ASTROS vs. PHILLIES
May 22, 08 – Night Game 7:00PM

ASTROS vs. BREWERS
June 12, 08 – Day Game 1:00PM

Package – Chartered Bus +
Field Level Box Seats
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FINDING NEW WORDS FOR IMAGES OF GOD—JoAnn Jalufka and Barbara Wilcox stand with Father Kirby Hlavaty, pastor of the Catholic Community of Cuero, for the Holy Family (Victoria) Altar Society Lenten Mini-Retreat. The day began with Mass then followed with Father Kirby directing about 85 women and a few men in finding "new words for images of God" through Scripture, art, songs, or poetry. The event concluded with a soup and sandwich luncheon.

St. Mary's Parish Picnic

Sunday, June 8

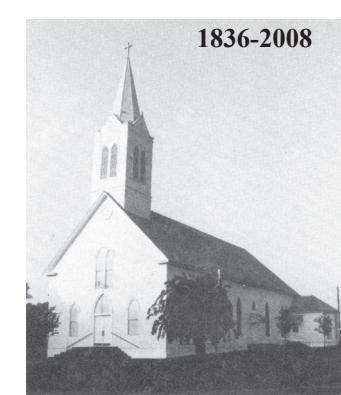
St. Mary's Parish Hall
Hallettsville, Texas

Beer • Popcorn • Soda
Water • Snowcones
• Hamburgers •
Ice Cream and
More



Games

Bingo • Ball Throw • Ring
Toss • Cake & Plant Walk
• Train Ride • Fish Pond
• Country Store w/Arts
& Crafts, Canned Goods
Kolaches, etc.



Mass 9:15 a.m.

Meal Begins at 10:30 a.m.

Featuring Special St. Mary's Stew &

Sausage & all the Trimmings

PLATES: Adult: \$6.50

Children: \$3.50 (dine-in only)

Dine-in or Drive-thru

Music 10:30 a.m.-9:00 p.m.

Texas Sound Czech

Czechaholics

Red Ravens

Auction @ 1:00 p.m.



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 April 30, 2008		TOTALS
— General Seminary Burse		
Previously reported	\$91,539.00	
In honor of Linwood and JoAnn Berger's golden wedding anniversary by Edmund and Lucille Zissa	50.00	
	Total	\$91,589.00
— Rev. Jerome J. Stryk Seminary		
Previously reported	\$10,787.50	
In memory of Sr. Bernard Stryk by Georgia Cerny & Stazy Hajek	15.00	
Gift to the burse by a friend	2.00	
In memory of Alvin E. Berger by Douglas and Sheryl Berger	25.00	
	Total	\$10,829.50
— Rev. John C. Bily Seminary Burse		
Previously reported	\$2,610.00	
Gift to the burse by a friend	2.00	
In memory of Alvin E. Berger by Douglas & Sheryl Berger	25.00	
In memory of the Gregory Lopez Family by Neill and Erlene Sumner	15.00	
In honor of our Children and Grandchildren by Neill and Erlene Sumner	15.00	
In memory of Cecil and Flo Stavinoha by Bernice Stavinoha	50.00	
	Total	\$2,717.00
— Rev. John C. Peters Seminary Burse #4		
Previously reported	\$1,489.00	
In memory of John Peters Jr. and Otilia Peters by Angela Hermes	50.00	
In honor of Rev. John C. Peters by Catholic Life Br. #22, Hallettsville	300.00	
	Total	\$1,839.00
— Rev. Theophil Okruhlik & Rev. Vincent Verdarame Seminary Burse		
Previously reported	\$8,432.00	
In memory of Nell Yendry by M/M Anton Schoener	15.00	
	Total	\$8,447.00
— Josephat R. Janak Seminary Burse #2		
Previously reported	\$123.77	
In honor of Rev. Gary Janak's 20th Ordination Anniversary to the Priesthood by Rose Marie Janak and Family	20.00	
In honor of Rev. Gary Janak's 20th Ordination Anniversary to the Priesthood by Evelyn Janak and Family	20.00	
In honor of all living and deceased members of the Rudolph and Julia Janak Family by the Rudolph and Julia Janak Family Reunion	100.00	
	Total	\$263.77

— Rev. Jerome J. Stryk Seminary	
Previously reported	
In memory of Sr. Bernard Stryk by Georgia Cerny & Stazy Hajek	
Gift to the burse by a friend	
In memory of Alvin E. Berger by Douglas and Sheryl Berger	
Total	\$10,829.50

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

— Rev. Marcus Valenta
— Rev. Godfrey F. Kuratko
— Rev. Msgr. John Hanacek
— Rev. Msgr. Michael Harrold
— Holy Rosary Parish – Hostyn
— Rev. Joseph Koebel
— St. Mary's Church – Praha
— St. Mary's Church – High Hill
— Holy Rosary Church – Hostyn Burse #2
— Deceased Priests of Praha
— Knights of Columbus 4th Degree Victoria Assembly #1126
— Knights of Columbus 4th Degree Yoa-kum Assembly #1128 Burse #2
— Knights of Columbus 4th Degree Victoria Council #1329 Burse #3
— Knights of Columbus 4th Degree St. Michael's Assembly Weimar #1527
— Knights of Columbus Holy Family Council #9088
— Knights of Columbus Council #3204 – Ganado Rev. Joseph Hybner
— Catholic Daughters of Americas Court Our Lady Queen of Peace #1374, El Campo
— Catholic Daughters of St. Ann #369, Victoria
— Catholic Family Fraternal of Texas KJZT Burse #5

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.



SERRA CLUB NORTHWEST WELCOMES NEW MEMBERS—The Serra Club of the Diocese of Victoria, Northwest, was pleased to welcome 12 new members to the organization at their monthly first Saturday Mass for Vocations held at the Assumption of the Blessed Virgin Mary Church in Praha. The club meets on the third Tuesday of each month at 7 p.m. at Jalisco's Café in Hallettsville and will celebrate their next First Saturday Mass for Vocations at St. Mary Church in High Hill on June 7 at 8:30 a.m. (rosary at 8 a.m.). Visitors are always welcome at the monthly meeting or the First Saturday celebration, with continental breakfast immediately following Mass. Pictured front row, l. to r., Ed Scherer (club president), Candy Hines, Tim Hines, Shirley Johnson, Mike Johnson, Virginia Lell, Joe Jakubik (trustee); back row, l. to r., Elsie Farek, Jerome Pesek, Rev. John Peters (club chaplain), Welden Lell, Theresa Pesek; not photographed: Johnny Scherer, Pat Scherer and Jeannie Targac.

Native of Cuero celebrates Jubilee of Religious Profession

Sister Elizabeth Riebschlaeger, a member of the Sisters of Charity of the Incarnate Word of San Antonio, will join six other members of her congregation in celebrating the 50th anniversary of their first religious vows with a Liturgy at 10:00 a.m. in the Chapel of the Incarnate Word on Saturday, May 31, 2008; a dinner for guests will follow in Marian Hall on the campus of the University of the Incarnate Word. On Sunday, May 25, a Mass of Thanksgiving will be offered at the 9:15 a.m. Mass at St. Michael Church in Cuero. A brunch for parishioners will follow in St. Michael's Parish Hall.

Sister Elizabeth was born in Cuero to the late Charles J. and Evelyn Klecka Riebschlaeger. Baptized in St. Michael Catholic Church in Cuero, she was taught by the Sisters of the Incarnate Word and Blessed Sacrament in St. Michael's School. After graduating from Cuero Public High School, she attended her mother's alma mater, Incarnate Word College for two years, and then entered the congregation. In 1964, she received a Bachelor of Arts degree in music education from Incarnate Word and in 1972 a master's degree in religious studies from the Pastoral Institute at Incarnate Word. Other studies were done at Loyola University in New Orleans, the University of Dallas and the Mexican American Cultural Center in San Antonio.

Sister taught in parish schools in San



Sister Elizabeth Riebschlaeger

Antonio, Eagle Pass, and San Angelo, Texas, and Metairie, Louisiana, Incarnate Word High School in San Antonio and Archbishop Chapelle High School in Kenner, Louisiana. At Sacred Heart Cathedral School in San Angelo, she also served as secretary of the Diocesan Liturgical Commission and on the board of the Southwest Liturgical Conference, the regional body of the National Liturgical Conference. Sister Elizabeth also served as instructor of music in the Department of Music at Incarnate Word College for three years.

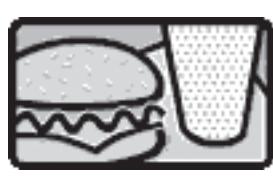
After receiving her master's degree in religious studies, Sister Elizabeth served as pastoral associate in St. Joseph and St. Agnes parishes in Ft. Stockton, Our Lady of Guadalupe Church in Corpus Christi, and St. Philip the Apostle and St. Robert Bellarmine parishes in El Campo, Texas. In El Campo, she was also instrumental in the founding and growth of The Blessing Cup Storehouse, Inc., an ecumenical social service ministry and in bringing the Head Start Program to El Campo. At present she serves as a member of the United States Province Coordinating Team for her congregation, whose offices are in San Antonio.

Sister Elizabeth has been active in local ecumenical organizations and served as Catholic representative on the CWS/CROP State Steering Committee, as well as a delegate from the Diocese of Victoria to the Texas Conference of Churches.

Our Lady of Guadalupe - Bay City

Annual Jamaica/Bazaar – June 8

Held on church grounds (Avenue D & 12th Street) 11:00 a.m. to Dusk



12th St.
Ave. D
(35)



Fun For All Ages
Music
Children's Games & Rides
Country Store
Cakewalk
Silent Auction

Food Booths (9:00 a.m. open)

Will Feature: Gorditas, Egg Rolls, Kolaches, Tacos, Burgers, Fajitas, Pizza, Snow Cones, Aguas Frescas and More...



Twenty Something

By Christina Capecchi



All that glitters: Chasing glamour, inviting beauty

I have been watching Dancing with the Stars with an interest that verges on addiction. I enjoy the dancing, but it is the costume and makeup magic that draw me in every Monday night.

The tricks are wide ranging: spray-on tanner, fake eyelashes, body glitter, ornate costumes. Swirled together, they create aesthetic fireworks.

During commercials, I grab my 5-pound weights and do tricep curls, huffing and heaving into toned conformity. Wedding and swimsuit seasons have arrived, and I'm not quite ready.

It seems nearly impossible for a young adult — even a grounded, faith-filled one — to resist bouts of beauty yearning and seeking. The pursuit can be a rollercoaster, ascending to arrogance, dipping to despondency, jerking you back and forth.

And yet, my understanding of beauty is deepening, and as a result, the rollercoaster is leveling off. The catalyst: a book by the late, great Catholic thinker John O'Donohue called "Beauty: The Invisible Embrace."

In the book's introduction, O'Donohue makes a profound distinction, writing, "It has become a habit of our times to mistake glamour for beauty." Though glamour can be alluring, it is fickle and hollow, fool's gold next to beauty.

Most of what the media presents as beauty — the images we mimic with calisthenics and cosmetics — is actually glamour. It can be applied and achieved because it is superficial.

"Beauty," on the other hand, "cannot be forced."

This simple sentence brought me great relief. If we cannot manufacture beauty, then we need not chase it with such vigor. Sit ups, teeth-whitening strips, high-volume mascara — they may achieve glamour, but they do not lead to beauty.

Rather, beauty is marked by "its ability to surprise," O'Donohue writes. "With swift, sheer grace, it is like a divine breath that blows the heart open." It is not plucked or tweezed, scrubbed or squeezed. It arrives on a gentle breeze of the Holy Spirit.

Here's another reassuring insight: Beauty is not a limited commodity to be coveted and clawed at, as reality TV and beauty pageants often imply. It is infinite, and it multiplies when celebrated and shared.

"When we say from our heart to someone: 'You are beautiful,' it is more than a statement or platitude, it is a recognition and invocation of the dignity, grandeur and grace of their spirit," O'Donohue writes.

It is a prayer.

And prayer polishes the soul, which surfaces outwardly. "Ultimately, it is the soul that makes the face beautiful."

That may sound suspiciously like what your mom always said, but it's true. And I've got it on good authority, verified by Miss America 2001, Angela Baraquio, a nationally recognized beauty.

"To me, a beautiful person is kind, loving, generous, humble, respectful, honest, considerate, self assured and speaks from the heart," Angie told me. "The funny thing is, the more beautiful you are on the inside, the more beautiful you become on the outside, because beauty really does

come from within."

In Angie's crowning moment, her inner and outer beauty converged. Here was a young woman who had honored her Catholic principles and gut instincts along the path to the pageant. She consulted her priest. She supported other contestants. She prayed backstage. She embraced her personal style, eschewing the big hair and sequined dresses in lieu of a parted chignon and an unadorned satin dress so simple that it shocked some contestants.

But when she walked onstage, she caught the light and shimmered.

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

Dallas Benedictine Experience Retreat

DALLAS — The 11th annual ecumenical Dallas Benedictine Experience Retreat will take place at The Catholic Conference Center in Dallas from Wednesday, June 18, to Sunday, June 22, 2008. This retreat is presented by The Friends of St. Benedict, Washington, D.C. Participants will live at the conference center for five days, forming a temporary monastic community to experience the balanced way of life of the Rule of St. Benedict as it divides each day into private and group prayer, study, work, and leisure. Four Benedictine Offices (Lauds, Sext, Vespers, and Compline) will be sung each day in Gregorian chant. There will also be two classes each day on Benedictine spirituality. The retreat will be led by two nationally-known religious figures. Bishop Nicholas Samra is a bishop of the Melkite (Byzantine) Catholic Church, one of the Eastern-Rite Catholic Churches. Sister Mary Donald Corcoran, O.S.B.Cam., prioress of Transfiguration Monastery (Roman Catholic) in Windsor, New York, is a Camaldolese Benedictine nun. Please call 214-339-8483 or e-mail dallasbenedictine@yahoo.com for more information.

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

U.S. Catholic Colleges

251 Catholic institutions of higher learning

oldest Georgetown University in Washington, founded in 1789 by the Jesuits

newest Wyoming Catholic College in Lander, Wyo., founded in 2006

686,000 total students enrolled

Pennsylvania the state with the most Catholic colleges and universities at 29, followed by New York with 28

10 enroll only women



Source: Association of Catholic Colleges and Universities
©2008 CNS

Austrian, Swiss churches plan evangelization drive for Euro 2008

By Jonathan Luxmoore

Catholic News Service

OXFORD, England (CNS) — Catholic Church leaders in Austria and Switzerland plan an evangelization drive for the Euro 2008 soccer championship in June.

"Sport isn't the most important thing in human life, but it's an occasion for bringing people from very different backgrounds together," said Erich Leitenberger, spokesman for the Archdiocese of Vienna, Austria. "Vienna itself is home to Christian communities of every European language, and we hope to make approaches to the thousands coming here with their help. The government and sports organizations have welcomed our church initiatives."

This year's Union of European Football Associations Cup tournament will be held in eight cities in Austria and Switzerland. The tournament is held every four years, and the associations cover 54 European countries.

Leitenberger told Catholic News Service April 30 that Auxiliary Bishop Franz Lackner of Graz, who heads the Austrian church's sports commission, would outline plans for the championship during a May 7 meeting with Pope Benedict XVI; Reinhold Lopatka, Austria's state secretary for sports; and players from the soccer league.

He added that the churches' program, "On the Ball for 2008 Years," had been inspired by sports references in St. Paul's letters and would help make the tournament an opportunity for building understanding among young Europeans.

"When so many people come together, there are always problems, so we'll be

helping those in need, as well as witnessing to Gospel truths in a simple, direct way," said Leitenberger. "At least 300 young missionaries will distribute leaflets and talk about life's key questions, as well as offering hospitality and friendship to the enormous crowds expected here."

Sixteen national teams are competing in the June championship, which kicks off June 7 with matches between Switzerland and the Czech Republic in Basel, Switzerland, and Portugal and Turkey in Geneva. The finals are scheduled for Vienna's Ernst Happel Stadium June 29.

Among church initiatives for the contest, which was won by Greece in 2004, a "festival of faith" is to be staged during the final and messages in lights are to be screened above the stadiums in four cities.

Ecumenical services are also to be held in all churches, and a special red and white scarf with the logo "Churches 08" will be distributed for the competition.

In a pastoral letter last December, Cardinal Christoph Schönborn of Vienna said soccer, like the Christian faith, required "teamwork where each participant trains for a common aim" and "one gets ready to take the place of the other and a sense of clean struggle reigns."

"These soccer events will offer young people from various countries a chance to meet," said the cardinal, who heads the Austrian bishops' conference.

Heritage Center Presents 2008/09 Tours

Galveston-Bahamas Cruise

May 17-24, 2009 Deposit of \$25.00 deadline - May 20, 2008

Branson June 20-25 (10 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





Pastoral Institute Short-Term Summer Classes '08

Course	Parish/place	Date	Time
Sacraments	OL of Sorrows CCD Ctr.	6/7	9-3:30 pm
I Believe/We Believe	OL of Sorrows CCD Ctr.	6/14	9-3 pm
Getting Started as a Catechist	Chancery	6/24	9-11 am
Roles of the Catechist	Chancery	6/24	12-2 pm
Person of the Catechist	Chancery	6/24	2:30-4:30 pm
Sacraments	Yorktown/Activity Ctr.	8/16	9 am-3:30 pm
Morality	St. Mary Parish Hall/ Hallettsville	7/19	9-3 pm (bring lunch)
Intro. to Learner	Chancery	7/28	9-3:30 pm
I Believe/We Believe	Bay City OLG	8/16	9-3:30 pm
Church	Plum	6/11 & 6/18	6:30-9:30 pm
Liturgy	St. Mary Activity Ctr./Victoria	6/2 & 6/3	6-9 pm
Prayer/Spirituality	Shiner/Activity Ctr.	6/25 & 7/2	6:30-9:30 pm
I Believe/We Believe	OL of Victory	7/22 & 7/24	6-9 pm
Scripture	Edna	7/29 & 7/31	6-9 pm
Sacraments	Columbus	7/8 & 7/9	6-9 pm
Liturgy	Hostyn	8/6 & 8/13	6:30-9:30 pm
Church	Bloomington	8/6 & 8/13	6:30-9:30 pm
Methodology (grades 1-8)	OL of Lourdes	7/9	7-9 pm

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

Bishop David Fellhauer Golf Tournament raises over \$23,000 for the Youth and Vocation offices of the Diocese of Victoria

A cool spring northern and horizontal rain greeted the 120 enthusiastic golfers at the eleventh annual Bishop David Fellhauer Invitational Golf Tournament sponsored by the Knights of Columbus 9088 of Holy Family in Victoria, which was held April 4, 2008, at Colony Creek Country Club in Victoria. The less than idyllic day did not dampen the spirits of these dedicated athletes as the 30 teams took to the course for a day of fun, good-natured banter and the opportunity to raise some serious money.

On the 16th hole, Frost Alexander, a member of the St. Joseph Golf Team, gave the players a welcome hiatus as for a small contribution he putted for the various teams. Patsy Brown, Bernice Kruger and Gaylan Duncan provided the comedy relief on this hole. The club house was also an extremely popular venue as people gathered all afternoon for rowdy hands of cards and dominoes.



Wet, cold, rainy day for golfers.

As the teams were coming off the course, they were treated to a delicious gumbo meal prepared by some of the amazing chefs that are also members of the KC 9088. Otto Bleier, along with his team, spent many hours cooking the delicious gumbo, rice and bread pudding that left everyone fully satisfied.

Monroe Rieger, tournament chairperson and his committee, Gerald Bludau,

Robert Bryarly, Ed Lehnert, Debbie Vanelli, Jo Ann Martinez, Hardy McCullough, John Pribyl, Bill Reichert, Tommy Treybig, Bennie Vitek and George Wenzel, worked for several months on the numerous details that made this day such



The Holy Family KC Council presents Father Dan Morales, Bishop David Fellhauer and Debbie Vanelli with a check of \$23,200. Proceeds are to benefit both the youth office and the vocation office. Pictured Golf Committee members include Jo Ann Martinez, Hardy McCullough, Bennie Vitek, Gerald Bludau, Bob Bryarly, Tommy Treybig and Monroe Rieger.

a success. In addition to the work of these dedicated people, many members of this KC organization kept the day flowing in a seamless manner.

Congratulations are in order for the winners of this tournament:

1st Flight Winners in First Place with a score of 49.7 - Tommy Chilek, Larry Chumchal, Dennis Kutach and Charlie Migl. Second Place with a score of 51.2 - Bill Bommer, David Heyer, Lee Pribyl and Bob Vincent.



Monroe Rieger presents prize to a winning team.

2nd Flight Winners in First Place with a score of 48.4 - Robby Burdge, Mike Cavazos, Matt Klacman and Ron Ripple. Second Place with a score of 49.7 - Bob Melnar, Darrell Melnar, Gilbert Melnar

and Swinford Wilson.

3rd Flight Winners in First Place with a score of 46.2 - Ken Adams, Susan Adams, Jerry Cheatham and Mary Cheatham. Second Place with a score of 47.1 - Gerald Bludau, Janette Stiles, Mike Francese and Ed Lehnert.

4th Flight Winners in First Place with a score of 37.1 - Thad Engelbart, Dennis Leita, Wayne Leita and David Marshall. Second Place with a score of 45.1 - Tim Braaten, Brian Kooiman, Bill Sanders and Wanda Sanders.

A special congratulations is in order for Wayne Leita who shot a hole in one on no. 2!

The entire proceeds of this tournament sponsored by the KC's benefited new youth and vocations programs and will subsidize existing programs. Our diocese is blessed



Left, Frost Alexander tells a golfer that he guarantees to hit a tee shot on the green for a donation.

to have very active youth and vocation ministries that work hand in hand to minister more effectively to the young people of the diocese. Unfortunately, due to limited resources, some young people are unable to participate in the various activities. The funds from this tournament will help alleviate that situation, as well as provide opportunities for new and innovative programming, to be introduced.

More photos of the golf tournament can be seen at www.victoriadiocese.org.

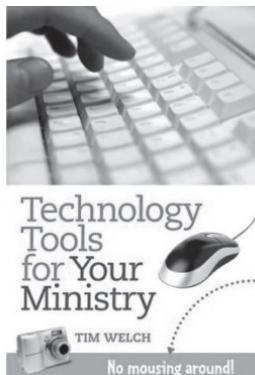
Parish Catechetical Leaders to Gather for Training

The Diocesan Office of Catechetical Ministry is hosting a summer training for Parish Catechetical Leaders (PCL's) and their assistants on July 11 and 12, 2008, at the Hampton Inn Conference Room on Friday and St. Joseph High School on Saturday. The two-day training seminar is intended as an on-going training and formation for those who run the parish catechetical programs (religious education) in the 50 parishes in the diocese.

Joyce Springer, who has many years of experience in catechetical ministry and who recently retired as the director of East/Southwest Region Sales for Silver Burdett Ginn Religion, will be the Friday presenter. Joyce will help the PCL's prepare for the coming catechetical school year with many practical ideas to enhance the parish catechetical program.

Saturday's presenter, Tim Welch, who recently published the book "Technology Tools for Your Ministry," will explain and demonstrate the technology tools now available to parish ministers. He will tackle topics like having the right computer, the necessary software, and ways to effectively use the Internet and e-mail. He will suggest tools for working with spreadsheets and managing data, ways to create and share PDFs, tips for using Power Point or Keynote, ideas for making your own presentations with iTunes and podcasts, methods of creating a parish website, and so much more.

This is a great introduction to the world of technology for parish ministers, but it is more than that. It is a challenging invitation to use every means available today to effectively announce the reign of God. This hands-on workshop will take place in the computer lab at St. Joseph High School in Victoria.



NOTICE

The Parish Catechetical Leader of the Month will be presented in the June issue of The Catholic Lighthouse.

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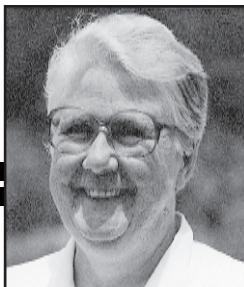
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SISTERLY THOUGHTS

By Sister Mildred Truchard, IWBS



Is God Honored in China?

Can you believe it? I've just returned from a tour in China! Last year my sister promised me a trip as a gift for my 70th birthday and 50th anniversary of religious profession. She told me to choose a trip and the two of us would go together. So happily, I explored various possibilities; however, many of the ones that really looked good had huge price tags. Then I received a flyer from the Alumni Association of Our Lady of the Lake University in San Antonio where I had received my school administration degree. The flyer described an upcoming trip to Beijing which is preparing for the 2008 Summer Olympics



which will be held in August. The price was very reasonable! So, as a joke, I gave the flyer to my sister – never intending to pursue it. That very night she e-mailed me to say that her husband Jim wanted to go with us. That clinched it! We were going to Beijing!

When people asked, "Why Beijing?" I interiorly wondered the same thing; however, I soon learned to respond, "Why not?" As the time for the trip grew nearer, I read a lot about China and its political and religious condition. I knew that China still has a Communist government and the many freedoms that we take for granted are very limited for the Chinese. Now, as I reflect on my experience, I can more fully appreciate the suffering of the people who told us of the nightmare the country

suffered during the cultural revolution brought about by the Communist party. They told us about fathers or grandfathers who had died as a result of imprisonment for crimes such as being a Christian, being a doctor, owning property, or working with Westerners. We heard stories of land being confiscated; of people having to pay

rent for using that land which now belongs to the government. We saw many families with one little boy. Generally, families are restricted to one child in order to curb population growth. Abortion is used as a means to control family size and to prevent some of the girls from being born since most families prefer boys.

Traditionally the Chinese have been a peaceful people seeking harmony with nature and one another. Now, because of government policy there is a minimum of any kind of public religious practice. Moreover, the government has developed the largest military force in the world—over seven million troops. Those facts and the atmosphere in which young Chinese are growing up without any affiliation with some religion kind of depressed me. In a future article, I plan to write about the history and current status of Catholicism in China. At this time, I would like to ask you to pray for the people of China. Please pray that the visitors attending the Olympic Games will be an inspiration to the Chinese people and that the tight rein of the Communist party may be loosened.

SACRED HEART PARISH SPRING PICNIC

SUNDAY, MAY 25, 2008

at the K.C. Hall in Hallettsville, Texas



Dinner: Serving from 10:30 AM till 1:30 PM
~~ Drive thru Plates-to-Go: 10:30 AM till 1:00 PM ~~



**COUNTRY FRIED CHICKEN, STEW,
HOMEMADE CORNBREAD DRESSING
WITH ALL THE TRIMMINGS**



Adults \$7.00

Children \$4.00

AUCTION
Beginning at 1:00 PM

BINGO inside the
air-conditioned K.C. Hall
Noon - 4:00 PM

Kiddie Rides all afternoon!!!

Horseshoe Pitching Contest - 2:00 PM
Washer Pitching Contest - 5:00 PM

Karaoke
5:30 - 8:30 PM



Music on the Main Pavilion

J & S Playboys

11:00 AM to 1:00 PM

FREE DANCE
On the Polka Pavilion –
Biergarten

Music by
Tony Janak's Polka Band
- and -
Leroy Rybak Polka Band
FEATURING CHRIS RYBAK
1:00 PM - 9:00 PM

*Delicious hamburgers, french fries,
popcorn, nachos, funnel cakes and
sno-cones available all afternoon!!*

**Tractor-churned
Ice Cream**

Social Security PSA

Help Your Mom Save \$3,600!

People all over the country are helping their moms save as much as \$3,600 per year on the cost of prescription drugs. You can too!

We all know the high cost of medicine can be a burden on mothers who have limited income and resources. But there is *extra help* – available through Social Security – that could pay part of her monthly premiums, annual deductibles and prescription co-payments. The *extra help* could be worth up to \$3,600 per year.

To figure out whether your mother is eligible, Social Security needs to know her income and the value of her savings, investments and real estate (other than the home she lives in). To qualify for the *extra help*, she must be receiving Medicare and also have:

- Income limited to \$15,600 for an individual or \$21,000 for a married couple living together. Even if her annual income is higher, she still may be able to get some help with monthly premiums, annual deductibles and prescription co-payments. Some examples where income may be higher include if she or her spouse:

— Support other family members who

live with them;

— Have earnings from work; or

— Live in Alaska or Hawaii; and

- Resources limited to \$11,990 for an individual or \$23,970 for a married couple living together. Resources include such things as bank accounts, stocks and bonds. We do not count her house and car as resources.

Social Security has an easy-to-use online application that you can help complete for your mom. You can find it at www.socialsecurity.gov. To apply by phone or have an application mailed to you, call Social Security at 1-800-772-1213 (TTY 1-800-325-0778) and ask for the *Application for Help with Medicare Prescription Drug Plan Costs* (SSA-1020). Or go to the nearest Social Security office.

To learn more about the Medicare prescription drug plans and special enrollment periods, visit www.medicare.gov or call 1-800-MEDICARE (1-800-633-4227; TTY 1-877-486-2048).

So this Mother's Day, help your mom save up to \$3,600 a year on her prescription drugs. Long after the candy and flowers are gone, the *extra help* through Social Security will keep on giving.

Three diocesan youth win state titles in KC Free Throw contest

Continued from p. 20

Kristynik of Moulton with 20; 12-year-old division, Callie Witte of Yoakum with 17; 13-year-old division, Ashley Anderson of Lissie with 16; and 14-year-old division, Destinea Williams of Nada with 19.

Boys' first-place winners of the diocesan contest were: 10-year-old division, Zachary Albers of Moulton with a score of 18; 11-year-old div., William Maraggia of Inez with 21; 12-year-old-div., Cameron Pratka of El Campo with 15/4 tie; 13-year-old div., Jacob Novosad of Moulton with 22; and 14-year-old div., Cody Harris of Rock Island with 18.

Each contestant is given 25 free throw attempts. The contestant making the most free throws out of the 25 attempts becomes the winner. If a tie occurs among the top

three places, a five-shot shoot-off is held until a winner is determined. Contestants are divided among age groups ranging from 10 to 14 years.

The 10 and 11-year-old, boys and girls contestants use a women's regulation-size basketball and shoot from a 12-foot foul line at a 10-foot-high basket. The 12, 13 and 14-year-old contestants shoot from the regulation foul line (15 feet) at a 10-foot-high basket; girls use a regulation-size women's basketball and boys use a men's basketball.

The regional contest was supervised by Diocesan Deputy Alvin Kulak of Louise. He was assisted by Assistant Diocesan Deputy Robert Stryk and district deputies from throughout the diocese.

Pilgrimages For 2008

Italy/Rome/Venice/Assisi/Audience with the Holy Father June 8 - 20 (very limited space left) Spiritual Director – Rev. Michael Rother

Madrid, Spain/Lourdes, France/Fatima/ Toledo and much more. To be in Lourdes for the 150th anniversary of the apparitions of Our Blessed Mother to Bernadette June 15-26th. Spiritual Director: Father TO.R. Blanco

USA and Canada Sept. 8 - 16 (Only 5 or 6 seats left)

Paris/Fatima/Lourdes/La Salette/ and much more. Sept. 30 - Oct. 15 — the 150th Anniversary of Lourdes (Oct. 13th) and Anniversary of Fatima – Spiritual Director – Rev. Anthony Odiong

Holy Land ... Nov. 8 -18. Spiritual Director – Rev. Gabriel Maison

After traveling over twenty years as a pilgrimage director, I can honestly say now that traveling will get harder and harder and with the US dollar falling in worth compared to the Euro, it will get so expensive to travel. If in your heart you want to go on a pilgrimage and are planning to go 'sometime,' don't wait. I have noticed the pricing already going up because of gas and surcharges.

Betty Urbanovsky



For more information and inquiries,
Please Contact Betty Urbanovsky at:
911 Fahrenhold, El Campo, Texas 77437
Tel: (979) 543-2333 or E-mail: burbanovsky@sbcglobal.net



Youth Calendar of Events

June 1 – Rocky Mountain High Staff Development and parent/participant meeting at the Chancery

June 6-8 – Camp David Staff Development at the Spiritual Renewal Center

June 8-13 – Camp David, Spiritual Renewal Center

June 20-22 – D-week Staff Development, Spiritual Renewal Center

June 23-26 – Girls Vocation Camp at Stony Creek Camp in Columbus

June 23-26 – D-week, Spiritual Renewal Center

July 5-13 – Rocky Mountain High in Pagosa Springs, Colorado

July 15-18 – Boys Vocation Camp at Stony Creek Camp in Columbus

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

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

What in the world is going on at the Shiner Catholic School?

By Jennifer Pilat, Edna, and Cynthia Brewer, editor

SHINER — When four sisters from the Incarnate Word of the Blessed Sacrament founded St. Ludmila Academy in 1897, there were only 57 students. Now, the school serves 263 students, with the help of three Vietnamese Dominican sisters.

If you were to visit the St. Ludmila Academy or St. Paul High School campuses several decades ago, you would have found only Shiner area students. Due to the exceptional education that is offered at both schools and the consistently high graduation rates, the school is garnering lots of attention from all over South Central Texas.

Today, Shiner students still make up a majority of the student body, but the number of students from all four of the neighboring communities of Yoakum, Moulton, Gonzales and Hallettsville is increasing. In addition, there are also families that travel from Waelder, Harwood, Luling, and even Edna to attend Shiner Catholic School! Currently, the school runs a bus route to and from Gonzales, and additional routes are in the planning phase.

Shiner Catholic School has much to offer your child. The school provides a faith-based education for students from Pre-K through 12th grade. The school's mission statement, "Preparing the Children of God for the Kingdom of God," clearly states the goal of the staff and administration at SCS. All students are challenged academically by a rigorous curriculum. St. Paul students consistently excel on the state level in various academic meets. Shiner Catholic School students' SAT scores are the highest within a 50-mile radius and almost 100 percent of their graduates pursue some form of post-secondary education. In 2007, a graduating class of 23 students was offered a total of \$224,100 in scholarship money. St. Paul High School offers dual credit classes on campus, and students can graduate with up to 18 college credits.

Randy and Connie Thomas of Harwood (just north of I-10) have sent their two youngest children, Tiffany Anne – 2nd grade, and Cassidy Faith – 5th grade, to St. Ludmila Elementary for the past three years. They have three older children who've already graduated.

Connie said she sent her two youngest children to Shiner Catholic Schools looking for the faith. I not only found that at this school, but found improved academics as well, she said. "I feel so blessed my kids can pray and learn their faith while learning their ABC's," Connie said.

She understands that faith starts at home, but she is so glad that her children will continue to learn to love and respect others at school; that's something we're losing in the public schools, she said.

I can't imagine why any Catholic living in Shiner wouldn't send their kids to

the Catholic school. "I see the reward, and I don't think it's that expensive," Connie said. "If we couldn't afford it, I'd just have to go to work there to help pay."

Paul and Ginger Easterling of Luling also send their three, school-age children to Shiner Catholic Schools.

Ginger said she had heard so many good things about the Catholic schools in Shiner. As their children were getting older, she and her husband became disappointed with the public schools. She felt it was really important that they either go to a Catholic school or be home schooled.

Because Dylan, 15, likes band, and Erin, 14, likes sports, they decided on the Catholic school program. Her kids fell in love with it right away, and they've never had second thoughts, Ginger said.

On average, 95 percent of SCS students participate in extracurricular activities. The sports program is very active and includes football, volleyball, softball, baseball, basketball, golf, tennis, track, and cross-country. All students are welcomed and encouraged to play and are valued as part of a team. Shiner Catholic School teams have consistently competed on the state level and receive extensive community support. The St. Paul High School Athletic teams have accumulated 19 TAPPS State Championships. In addition to sports, the school offers a state champion band, theatre arts program, cheerleading and choir. There are also several clubs and organizations, such as: National Honor Society, Fellowship of Christian Athletes, Student Council, and Club Med – a club for students interested in going into the medical field as a profession. Keeping the students active and busy is not a problem!

Pre-registration is currently underway at Shiner Catholic School for the 2008-2009 school year. If you are interested, call (361) 594-2313 in order to schedule a tour or request any additional information. Visit www.shineratholic-school.org and view a six-minute informational video that automatically starts as soon as the website is accessed. You might even want to set up an appointment with Mr. Rob Whitworth, the principal of the school, to discuss the merits of a parochial education with an emphasis on the educational, spiritual, and athletic opportunities available to your children.



The Chancery Office will be closed May 26 for Memorial Day.

Reach nearly 20,000 Catholics in South Texas by advertising

Consider advertising in *The Catholic Lighthouse*. Support your local Catholic paper while reaching 19,500 Catholic households monthly in the Diocese of Victoria (the ten counties of Calhoun, Colorado, DeWitt, Goliad, Jackson, Lavaca, Matagorda, Victoria, Wharton, and the part of Fayette County west of the Colorado River). We have the best advertising rates: Church rates: \$8 per column inch; or private business: \$10 per column inch; deadlines: third Tuesday of the month for the following month's paper (printed the first Wednesday of the month). To advertise in *The Catholic Lighthouse*, please contact Regina Janak at (361) 573-0828, ext. 30 or janakr@victoriadiocese.org.



Exchange Students need hosts

Student American International (SAI), a non-profit high school exchange organization is looking for a few good people interested in other cultures to host 15-18-year-old high school exchange students for the fall semester and academic year beginning August 2008. All students speak English, have their own spending money and health insurance and are eager to learn about and participate in American life. Hosts may be single, married, retired, and with or without children. Hosts provide room, board and friendship to their students, whose legal guardian remains SAI. SAI has been actively sponsoring exchange students in the Central Texas area under the guidance of the same coordinator for the past 16 years. For more information or to select your student, please call Richard Manson at 800-639-0564, or visit the Web site at www.studentamericaninternational.com.

Alternative to Australia WYD open to teens in USA

LOUISVILLE, KY — High-school-age youth who can't attend World Youth Day will have an affordable alternative this July — a dynamic, joyful and faith-filled youth conference held right here in the USA!

IGNITE YOUR TORCH! was first organized and held in 2005 at the suggestion of a teen who had attended the WYD in Toronto and wanted all his peers to be able to have the same wonderful experience he had.

In response to enthusiasm and continued requests by youth, the fourth annual IGNITE YOUR TORCH! conference will be held again this summer from July 24-27 on the campus of Bellarmine University in Louisville. It will feature dynamic Catholic speakers, daily Eucharist, adoration, discussion panels, recreation and music.

An important goal of IGNITE is to help youth become leaders in passing on the Good News of Jesus Christ.

One low fee of \$140 (early registration cost — if received by June 2) covers housing for three nights, all meals and activities. Final deadline for registration is July 3.

For more information call 800-764-8444 and ask for IGNITE conference information, or go to www.igniteyourtorch.org.

Christian Homes Needed

SHARE! Is looking for Christians — with or without children — willing to share their homes, love and understanding with a youngster for a school year or semester. The children, ages 15 – 18, are covered by insurance and bring their own spending money. They are coming from over 25 countries and will arrive in August for enrollment in their new school. Host families provide room, board and a loving environment. If you would like a rewarding and educational experience for your family next school year, please call Yvette Coffman: 800-941-3738 or visit www.shareouthwest.org. Please help us promote peace by SHARE!ing your Heart and Home.



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

--- DINNER ---

10:30 a.m. – 2:00 p.m.

Dine in A/C Dining Room

Shiner Picnic Stew Country

Sausage Fried Chicken Trimmings

Includes tea and dessert

Adults: \$7.00 Kids Under 11: \$4.00

DRIVE THRU "PLATES TO GO"

FROM 10:30 a.m. TO 12:30 p.m. AT

SHINER KC HALL ON HWY 90A EAST

BIG COUNTRY AUCTION

12 Noon.

Cattle Auction: 2:30 p.m.

▼▼▼▼▼

Drawing

Prizes given away at 10 p.m.

ARTS & CRAFTS

Booths Spaces: \$50

Call (361) 594-2024

COUNTRY STORE

Canned Goods

Kolaches Pigs-in-Blanket

Served from 8 a.m. until ...

Shiner Catholic

Church

Spring 2008

PICNIC

Sunday, May 25

Legion Park - Shiner

□□□□□

FREE MUSIC &

DANCING

Inside A/C Hall

11 a.m. to 4 p.m.

Polkas, Waltzes, Old Favorites

11 a.m. – 2 p.m.

Accordion Music

2 - 4 p.m.

Shiner Hobo Band

DANCE

9 p.m. – 1 a.m.

EMOTIONS

\$7 Admission charge inside

hall beginning at 8 p.m.

Dance for the Children

8-11 p.m.

Ages: 3-11 and 12-15

□ Hamburgers □

□ Chicken Fried Steak Sandwiches □

□ Shiner Beer Brauts and Dogs □

□ Bingo With Cash Prizes Only □

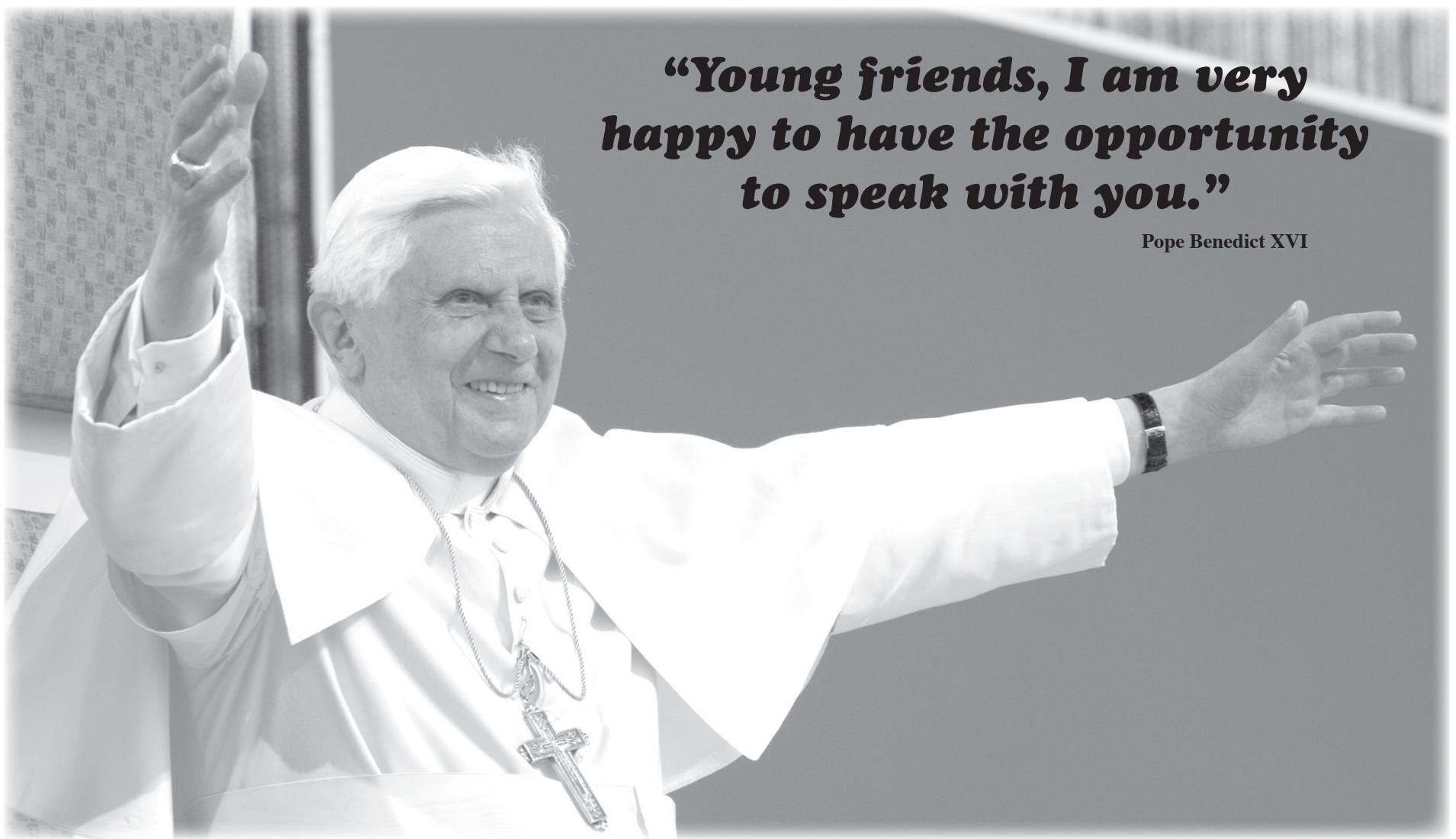
□ Cake & Plant Wheels □

□ Kiddie Rides □ Games □

Fun for the Whole Family !!!

For more information call: (361) 594-3836

Website: www.shinercatholicchurch.org



“Young friends, I am very happy to have the opportunity to speak with you.”

Pope Benedict XVI

Waiting for the pope: Planning to chat with him about peace and cats

ANDREWS AIR FORCE BASE, Md. (CNS) -- Hundreds of military personnel and their families and dozens of students from a nearby Catholic high school perched on bleachers set up at the edge of the tarmac at Andrews Air Force Base to greet Pope Benedict XVI on his first U.S. visit as pope. As they watched last-minute preparations, some of them talked about what they'd like to discuss with the pope if given the chance to sit down with him. "I want to talk to him about his cat," said 8-year-old Katie Lengyel. She and her mom, Sally Lengyel, live on the base, where their dad and husband, Col. Joseph Lengyel, is assigned with the Air National Guard. Katie had been given the day off from St. John the Evangelist Catholic School in Clinton, Md., for the occasion. Katie explained that her teacher had read the class a story about the pope and his cat, and she wanted to compare notes with him about her cat, Kona, named for the black sand beach in Hawaii. She also might let him know that she used to live in Germany, which she learned is the pope's homeland.

Pope hopes to help heal wounds of priestly sex abuse during U.S. trip

ABOARD THE PAPAL FLIGHT TO THE U.S. (CNS) -- Pope Benedict XVI said he hoped to help heal the wounds of priestly sex abuse during his visit to the United States and promised steps to ensure that such acts do not happen again. The pope made his remarks to reporters aboard his chartered Alitalia jet April 15, about an hour after taking off from Rome for his April 15-20 visit to Washington and New York City. The pope stood at the front of the coach class of the plane and answered four questions chosen in advance, touching on topics of immigration, church-state relations and the United Nations. Asked what he would have to say about the clerical sex-abuse scandal in the U.S., the pope said the church should work for justice and help the victims as much as possible. "Really, it is a great suffering for the church in the United States and for

The Experience of a Lifetime

By Debbie Vanelli, Director of Youth Ministry

The date April 17, 2008, will always be a defining point in time for me. I had the opportunity to travel to Washington DC to attend the Papal Mass in Nationals Park. The diocese was fortunate to receive 28 tickets to this moment of grace. Also in attendance were 46,000 Catholics from every ethnic, cultural and economic group, all gathered together in one place, and for one singular purpose. The concept of "One, Holy, Catholic, Apostolic Church" was personified. Reflecting back, the hand of God was evident on every part of the trip from the time we got on the plane until the time we returned home. Just the logistics of having 46,000 additional people converging on one city is pretty mind boggling. We experienced some of the most incredible hospitality and genuine kindness throughout our short stay in Washington DC.

It is impossible to pinpoint a singular defining moment, as there were too many to choose from. To experience the enthusiasm of the people in Washington, both Catholic and non-Catholic, as they talked excitedly about Pope Benedict coming to their city, to celebrate the Eucharist with Christ's Vicar on Earth, to hear and see the humbleness of the man that God has chosen to lead and guide his people, was truly a grace-filled experience.

Below are quotes from a few of the 28 people from the Diocese of Victoria who attended the April 16 Mass in Washington, DC.

When Pope Benedict rode into Nationals Park in the popemobile, Acts 5:15 became personal for me. Acts 5:15 says people were lining up the sick along the road "so that when Peter came by, at least his shadow might fall on one or another of them." Pope Benedict XVI is the anointed Successor of St. Peter and the Vicar of Christ! He is Peter among us, and he was among us, in the United States of America, and I was personally in the presence of this man. When I received Holy Communion,

I wept tears of joy. How great is our God! How great it is to be Catholic! — **Rev. Michael Lyons, pastor, Assumption of the Blessed Virgin Mary in Ganano**

I felt very blessed to be able to attend this Mass when tickets were so limited. I was also very happy to be in the company of so many faithful Catholics, many of whom were from the Diocese of Victoria. It was the opportunity of a lifetime for me and I will cherish the Mass and seeing Pope Benedict XVI for the rest of my life. — **Melanie Ledwig, Victoria**

My overwhelming experience at the papal Mass was the great sense of church as one, holy, catholic and apostolic. To celebrate Mass with the chief shepherd, the American apostles (our bishops), so many clergy and religious, and the great swarm of laity representing darn near every ethnic group and culture on the planet made the "one, holy, catholic and apostolic church" truly incarnate right before my eyes! It was truly overwhelming to see the fullness of Christ's Church "in the flesh" and to be part of that experience surpasses words that can adequately describe the wonder of our Catholic faith! — **Rev. Bob Knippenberg, pastor, Sts. Cyril and Methodius in Shiner**

Grace upon grace ... that is the only description that, for me, adequately describes our pilgrimage to the Papal Mass in Washington, DC. The words of the Holy Father gave us an indication of the gift that he is to the Church and to the world. Many have commented that his visit gives us the opportunity to better know our new pope. We saw a holy, humble leader who brought a message of peace, hope and grace. — **Rev. Dan Morales, pastor, Our Lady of the Gulf in Port Lavaca**

It was truly a sanctifying experience. The magnitude of the gift of our Catholic faith overwhelmed me as we renewed our baptismal promises by responding to The

See The Experience of a Lifetime, p. 12

the church in general and for me personally that this could happen," he said. "If I read the histories of these victims, it's difficult for me to understand how it was possible that priests betrayed in this way their mission to give healing, to give the love of God to these children," he said. "We are deeply ashamed and will do all possible that this cannot happen in the future," he said.

Pope Benedict greeted by Bush as he begins first U.S. pastoral visit

ANDREWS AIR FORCE BASE, Md. (CNS) -- Welcomed by U.S. President George W. Bush and an array of church officials, Pope Benedict XVI began his first pastoral visit to the United States as pope April 15. The papal plane landed under an almost cloudless sky at Andrews Air Force Base in Maryland at 3:51 p.m. EDT, nearly 10 minutes ahead of schedule. The pope was to spend the next two days in Washington before traveling to New York April 18. Among those greeting the pope were Cardinal Francis E. George of Chicago, president of the U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops; Archbishop Pietro Sambi, apostolic nuncio to the United States; Archbishop Donald W. Wuerl of Washington; Archbishop Timothy P. Broglio of the U.S. Archdiocese for the Military Services; Bishop Gerald F. Kicanas of Tucson, Ariz., USCCB vice president; and Mary Ann Glendon, U.S. ambassador to the Holy See. Although the two spoke privately for less than 10 minutes in a building on the air base grounds, neither Bush nor the pope delivered any formal remarks at the air base. The pope's official welcome was to take place the next day at the White House.

**Special 4-page
pull-out section on
Pope Benedict's
visit to the
United States**

For pope's texts, go to:
www.uspapalvisit.org



Pope's U.S. Visit

Pope: U.S. should uphold traditional role of religion in public life

WASHINGTON (CNS) -- Pope Benedict XVI, meeting at the White House with President George W. Bush, said it was important to preserve the traditional role of religion in American political and social life. Religious values helped forge "the soul of the nation" and should continue to inspire Americans as they face complex political and ethical issues today, he said. The pope spoke April 16 — his 81st birthday — at a ceremony on the South Lawn of the White House, where he was warmly welcomed by Bush and thousands of cheering well-wishers. It was the pontiff's first official encounter after arriving in Washington the day before. The pope smiled and beamed as the standing-room-only crowd of 13,500 sang an impromptu "Happy Birthday." It was their first visit to the White House, said some of the arriving U.S. bishops, dressed in the formal cassocks common around the Vatican, but rarely seen in official Washington. The bishops were interspersed with groups of Boy Scouts and Girl Scouts and Knights of Columbus and Catholic Daughters of the Americas, each of whom were put in sections of the lawn where they could see well, but had to stand for the duration. Even members of Congress were relegated to standing-room areas.

Pope presents special chalice to show solidarity with Katrina victims

WASHINGTON (CNS) -- At the end of his remarks to the U.S. bishops April 16, Pope Benedict XVI acknowledged "the immense suffering endured by the people of God" in the New Orleans Archdiocese because of Hurricane Katrina in 2005. The pope also praised "their courage in the challenging work of rebuilding" in the aftermath of the storm. As a sign of his "prayerful solidarity" with the faithful of the archdiocese, he presented a special chalice to Archbishop Alfred C. Hughes of New Orleans. Pope Benedict said the chalice also was a sign of his "personal gratitude for the tireless devotion" that Archbishop Hughes and retired Archbishops Francis B. Schulte and Philip M. Hannan have shown "toward the flock entrusted to their care." The gift of the chalice was "a complete surprise" to the New Orleans church leaders, archdiocesan spokeswoman Sarah Comiskey told Catholic News Service April 17.

Pope urges U.S. Catholic educators to lead students to deeper faith

WASHINGTON (CNS) -- In an address to U.S. Catholic educators April 17, Pope Benedict XVI thanked them for their work and urged them to continue to bring their students to a deeper understanding of faith "which in turn nurtures the soul of a nation." He spoke to more than 400 Catholic college presidents and diocesan education representatives at The Catholic University of America. The pope was cheered by several hundred students who gathered on the lawn of the campus, and he was warmly applauded when he entered the Edward J. Pryzbyla University Center. He delivered his address while seated on a wooden throne designed by Catholic University students. Weeks prior to the address many had speculated that the pope might have harsh words of reprimand for college leaders, but instead the pope spoke warmly to the group, calling them "bearers of wisdom" and telling them of his "profound gratitude" for their "selfless contributions" and dedication. He made

See Pope urges U.S. educators, p. 11



Pope urges U.S. Catholics to renew their missionary energy

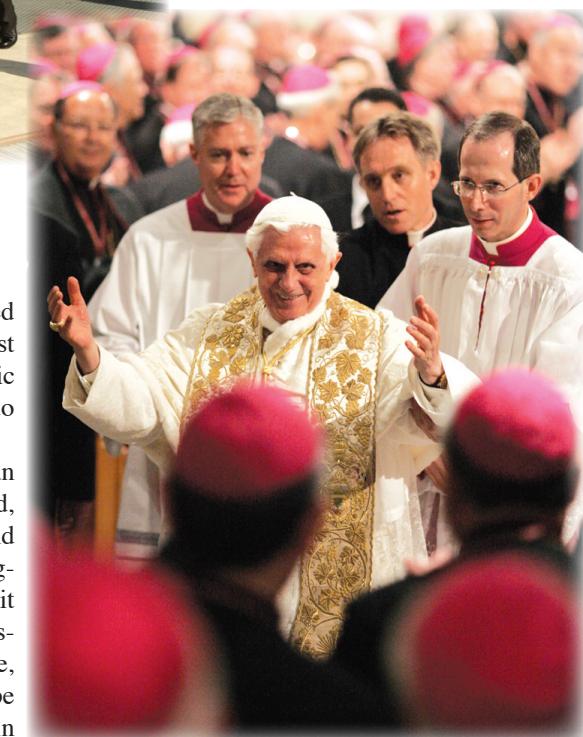
WASHINGTON (CNS) -- Celebrating Mass in a Washington baseball stadium, Pope Benedict XVI urged U.S. Catholics to renew their missionary energy at a time when American society is at a moral crossroads.

The pope warned of "signs of a disturbing breakdown in the very foundations of society" and said people need the church's message of hope and fidelity to the demands of the Gospel.

He also confronted the question of clerical sexual abuse of minors, acknowledging the damage done to the church and asking all Catholics to help assist those who have been hurt.

The Mass April 17 at a packed Nationals Park was the pope's first major encounter with the Catholic faithful on his six-day visit to Washington and New York.

The liturgy, celebrated on an altar platform in deep center field, was a Mass of the Holy Spirit and featured multiethnic choirs singing in four languages. The spirit was evident among the enthusiastic crowd of about 45,000 people, who cheered the 81-year-old pope as he rode through the stadium in his popemobile.



Above, Saman Hussain presents a gift to Pope Benedict XVI during an interfaith gathering at the Pope John Paul II Cultural Center in Washington April 17. The book contains poetic verses from the Quran, the holy book of Islam. The verse presented to the pope by the young Muslim woman emphasizes the encounter with God as light. (CNS photo/Nancy Wiechec)

Bishops' president says U.S. church finds great hope in pope's visit

WASHINGTON (CNS) -- The bishops, priests, deacons and laypeople of the United States "find great encouragement" in the visit of Pope Benedict XVI, the president of the bishops' conference told the pope April 16. "Because of the bonds of ecclesial communion, you are not a foreign visitor but a father and friend in Christ," Chicago Cardinal Francis E. George said shortly before the pope addressed the gathering of bishops at the Basilica of the National Shrine of the Immaculate Conception.

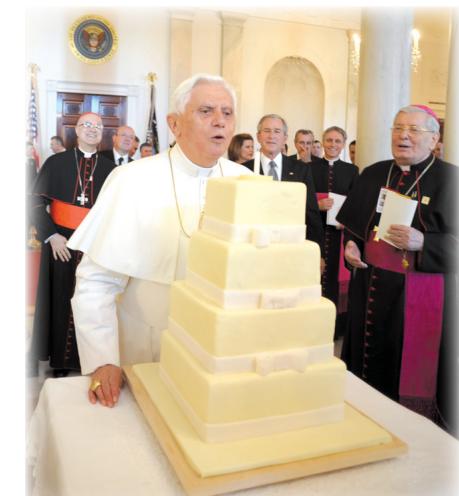
For the pope's birthday, the U.S. bishops presented Pope Benedict XVI with a birthday gift from Catholics across the country — \$870,000 to support his charitable works. At the end of a vespers

service Cardinal Francis E. George of Chicago, president of the U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops, told the pope the bishops were privileged to be sharing his 81st birthday with him. He presented him with the money without specifying how it had been collected.

The bishops from across the country left their meeting with Pope Benedict feeling more hopeful and optimistic about their work and the future of the U.S. Catholic Church. From the issue of the clergy sex abuse scandal to challenges posed by an increasingly secular society, bishops said the pope's message of hope grounded in deeper prayer, renewal and strong leadership is one which they can take back to their home dioceses.

POPEMOBILE BRINGS PONTIFF TO DC MASS—Pope Benedict XVI arrives in the pope-mobile for Mass in Nationals Park April 17 in Washington. (CNS photo, Owen Sweeney III, *Catholic Review*)

POPE GREETS U.S. BISHOPS AT BASILICA OF THE NATIONAL SHRINE OF THE IMMACULATE CONCEPTION—Pope Benedict XVI greets U.S. bishops as he leaves a meeting with them at the Basilica of the National Shrine of the Immaculate Conception in Washington April 16, 2008. (CNS photo/Paul Haring)



MULTIPLE CHORUSES OF 'HAPPY BIRTHDAY' MARK THE POPE'S 81ST—At 5:21 a.m., the disc jockey on a country music radio station in Fredericksburg, Va. — 50 miles south of Washington — invited listeners to join her in singing "Happy Birthday" to Pope Benedict XVI. On the South Lawn of the White House, dignitaries, bishops and guests joined in an impromptu rendition of the song. Later, opera star Kathleen Battle led the song again, and the pope blew out candles on a four-tier cake. Pope Benedict celebrated his 81st birthday in Washington April 16 and heard "Happy Birthday" numerous times. He also ate a birthday luncheon of special Italian fare with U.S. cardinals and received some uncommon gifts from Catholic school students. (CNS photo/Alessia Giuliani, Catholic Press Photo)



Pope meets privately with victims of priestly sexual abuse

By John Thavis
Catholic News Service

WASHINGTON (CNS) -- Pope Benedict XVI held an unscheduled meeting with victims of priestly sexual abuse, shortly after pledging the church's continued efforts to help heal the wounds caused by such acts.

The Vatican said the pope met privately in a chapel at the apostolic nunciature with "a small group of persons who were sexually abused by members of the clergy." The group was accompanied by Cardinal Sean P. O'Malley of Boston, which was the epicenter of the abuse scandal.

"They prayed with the Holy Father, who afterward listened to their personal accounts and offered them words of encouragement and hope," a Vatican statement said.

"His Holiness assured them of his prayers for their intentions, for their families and for all victims of sexual abuse," it said.

Jesuit Father Federico Lombardi, Vatican press spokesman, told journalists

the meeting involved victims from the Archdiocese of Boston and lasted about 25 minutes. During the encounter, each of the five victims had a chance to speak personally to the pope, who spoke some "very affectionate words," he said.

Father Lombardi said it was a very emotional meeting; some were in tears.

"It's what I've wanted since 2003," said Bernie McDaid of the papal meeting, "and now I finally got it." He was one of numerous youngsters abused in the 1960s and '70s by then-Father Joseph Birmingham, who has since been laicized.

Faith Johnston, 23, who as a young teen was abused over several months by a Colombian priest inside her parish's rectory, told CNN of the papal meeting, "I had my mother's rosary beads, which she gave to me before I left home, and I was clutching those and praying for the strength to say the right thing."

Johnston added, "I didn't end up saying anything (to Pope Benedict). I got up to him and I burst into tears. But honestly, I don't think any words I could have said ... my tears alone -- it just spoke so much."

Olan Horne, abused by Birmingham after he was transferred by Boston archdiocesan officials from McDaid's parish to his own, told CNN April 17 that one thing he, McDaid and Johnston had to do during the meeting "was to allow the Holy Father to be the Holy Father. And I think there was a great balance between that and him hearing us."

"I've been hopeful; I've been hopeful for eight years. I have struggled in my spirituality. But hope has been my faith, and my hope was restored today. From what I heard, and I believe we received a promise today, and I believe not only myself but a lot of people received a promise today," he said, adding that he believed Pope Benedict spoke sincerely and addressed the issue at the Mass at Nationals Park.

McDaid told CNN: "Today's (papal) Mass did something. I don't go to Mass, but today I went with my mother, and his sermon there and his apology about the sexual abuse blew me away, and I had tears in my eyes that I wasn't expecting to have. It was an incredible moment for me."

Johnston said Pope Benedict "congratulated me on my upcoming wedding, and he said he would pray for me and my future husband and for our future family."

Horne told CNN the meeting with the pope "was unscripted, it was free-flowing. There was no filter to it whatsoever. We had unfiltered access. Nobody told us we couldn't say what we want. And everybody in that room did say exactly what they wanted to say," and that Pope Benedict was "forthright" in his responses to their questions.

At the end of the meeting with the victims, Cardinal O'Malley gave the pope a book listing the first names of the approximately 1,000 victims of sexual abuse in the archdiocese within the last several decades, Father Lombardi said, so the pope could remember them in his prayers.

The pope has spoken three times about clerical sexual abuse since he left Rome April 15 for his six-day visit to the United States, expressing the sense of shame he and other church leaders feel about what he called a "tragic situation."

On each occasion, he made a point to encourage church leaders and all Catholics to help those harmed by the abuse.

On the plane taking him to the United States April 15, Pope Benedict told reporters: "If I read the histories of these victims, it's difficult for me to understand how it was possible that priests betrayed in this way their mission to give healing, to give the love of God to these children."

Addressing the U.S. bishops April 16, he said sexual abuse was one of the "countersigns to the Gospel of life" and lauded their efforts to ensure these acts will not happen again.

At a Mass in Nationals Park April 17, he said that "no words of mine could describe the pain and harm inflicted by such abuse. It is important that those who have suffered be given loving pastoral attention."

The pope lauded the efforts to deal "honestly and fairly with this tragic situation and to ensure that children -- whom Our Lord loves so deeply and who are our greatest treasure -- can grow up in a safe environment."

"I encourage each of you to do what you can to foster healing and reconciliation and to assist those who have been hurt. Also, I ask you to love your priests, and to affirm them in the excellent work that they do," he said.

Pope urges U.S. educators
Continued from p. 10

one specific reference to Catholic college presidents, near the end of his address, telling them he wished to "reaffirm the great value of academic freedom." He also noted that any appeals to academic freedom "to justify positions that contradict the faith and teaching of the church would obstruct or even betray the university's identity and mission."

Pope meets interreligious leaders, says dialogue discovers truth

WASHINGTON (CNS) -- Pope Benedict XVI encouraged interreligious leaders to work not only for peace but for the discovery of truth. The pope told about 200 representatives of Islam, Jainism, Buddhism, Hinduism and Judaism gathered at the Pope John Paul II Cultural Center in Washington April 17 "to persevere in their collaboration" to serve society and enrich public life. "I have noticed a growing interest among governments to sponsor programs intended to promote interreligious dialogue and intercultural dialogue. These are praiseworthy initiatives," Pope Benedict said. "At the same time, religious freedom, interreligious dialogue and faith-based education aim at something more than a consensus regarding ways to implement practical strategies for advancing peace. "The broader purpose of dialogue is to discover the truth," he said. Milwaukee Auxiliary Bishop Richard J. Sklba, chairman of the U.S. bishops' Committee on Ecumenical and Interreligious Affairs, introduced the pope to the interreligious leaders, who wore traditional garments to identify their faiths.

Pope compares U.N. workers to family, where strong protect weak

UNITED NATIONS (CNS) -- Reflecting the organization's mission, U.N. workers form a kind of family in which the strong protect the weak, Pope Benedict XVI said. Addressing the staff of the United Nations April 18 following his address to the General Assembly, the pope said they laid the foundation for the organization's mandate of monitoring how well various governments protect their own citizens. Expressing appreciation for their work, he said U.N. personnel represent a "microcosm of the whole world, in which each individual makes an indispensable contribution from the perspective of his or her particular cultural and religious heritage." The pope noted the similarity between the United Nations and Vatican City State: Both are surrounded by large cities, and both strive to fulfill a "worldwide mission to promote peace and justice."

Pope urges U.S. church to 'put aside all anger' and unite

NEW YORK (CNS) -- Pope Benedict XVI urged the Catholic Church in the United States to move past divisions and scandal toward a "new sense of unity and purpose." The pope, celebrating Mass in St. Patrick's Cathedral April 19 with bishops, priests, religious and seminarians, once again addressed the damage and suffering caused by the clerical sex abuse scandal and called for a time of purification and healing. More generally, he said it was time to "put aside all anger and contention" inside the church and embark on a fresh mission of evangelization in society. The pope was celebrating the third anniversary of his election, and he arrived to congratulations from New York

See Pope urges U.S. church, p. 12



DEACON DISTRIBUTES COMMUNION AT YANKEE STADIUM MASS—A deacon distributes communion in the upper deck of Yankee Stadium in New York April 20. Pope Benedict XVI celebrated a Mass attended by approximately 60,000 people at Yankee Stadium on the final day of his pastoral visit to the U.S. April 20. (CNS photo/Rick Musacchio)

'Move forward' in faith, pope urges Catholics at Yankee Stadium Mass

NEW YORK (CNS) -- At Yankee Stadium, transformed into an open-air church April 20, Pope Benedict XVI urged more than 57,000 Catholics to "move forward with firm resolve" in continuing the legacy of faith set in motion by the country's first Catholics.

"Follow faithfully in the footsteps of those who have gone before you!" he told the stadium congregation on a cool, breezy and overcast afternoon.

"Past generations have left you an impressive legacy," he said, adding that "on these solid foundations the future of the church in America, must even now begin to rise."

The congregation welcomed the pope by waving gold and white handkerchiefs and cheering "Benedetto" ("Benedict" in Italian) upon his arrival and immediately after his homily.

They cheered loudly and yelled, "We love you" while waving handkerchiefs upon the pope's final procession from the ball field on his last Mass during his six-day visit to the United States.

During the pope's homily they applauded his message of defending the rights of the "unborn child in the mother's womb" and his encouragement to young men and young women to "follow in the

footsteps of Christ, who was willing to lay down his life for his friends."

The crowd also applauded at the pope's final words of his homily, saying that Jesus is the way that leads to eternal happiness ... and the life who brings ever new joy and hope, to us and to our world."

Our Holy Father Pope Benedict XVI is here in the United States of America. Oh, what a joy!

He comes to visit and to know more about us, his American Catholic Church family, the third largest congregation in the world. He is also here to help renew us in the faith, in which we were baptized.

If only I could speak to him, kiss his ring or be close by, I would tell him his presence make me feel closer to our Lord Jesus Christ. Thank you Pope Benedict for being concerned, guiding and praying for us.

Magdalena Rodriguez, 75
Our Lady of Mt. Carmel
Wharton



Pope urges U.S. church

Continued from p. 11

Cardinal Edward M. Egan and an ovation from the 3,000 people who packed the cathedral. Describing himself as "the poor successor of St. Peter," Pope Benedict XVI thanked Americans for their prayers and love. "I can only thank you for your love of the church, for the love of Our Lord and that you give also your love to the poor successor of St. Peter," he said. "I will do all that is possible to be a real successor of the great St. Peter, who also was a man with his faults and some sins, but he remains finally the rock for the church," he said.

Pope urges young people to banish evils of drugs, poverty, racism

YONKERS, N.Y. (CNS) -- Addressing a crowd of 25,000 young people and seminarians, Pope Benedict XVI spoke of the "monster" that cast a shadow over his own childhood and urged the current generation to banish the darkness that exists today. Speaking April 19 at a boisterous rally on the grounds of the Archdiocese of New York's seminary in Yonkers, the pope said that while young people now enjoy democracy's freedom, "the power to destroy does, however, remain." Pope Benedict offered a personal reflection on his own youth in Germany, "marred by a sinister regime that thought it had all the answers." Nazism, he said, "banished God and thus became impervious to anything true and good." The pope was forced to enroll in Hitler Youth as a boy but soon stopped going to meetings. Last year he said at a youth meeting in Germany that he decided to become a priest after witnessing the Nazis' brutality. At St. Joseph's Seminary, the pope said the evils of substance abuse, homelessness and poverty, racism, violence and the degradation of girls and women result in people being treated as objects and the denial of God-given human dignity. Pope Benedict called the manipulation of truth "particularly sinister." When freedom disregards absolute truth, relegating it instead to the private sphere of the individual, relativism takes hold, he said. Truth is neither an imposition nor a simple set of rules. "Ultimately truth is a person: Jesus Christ," he said.

Pope blesses disabled youths at Yonkers seminary event

YONKERS, N.Y. (CNS) -- In the most intimate public event of the papal visit so far, Pope Benedict XVI blessed 56 disabled youths and their caregivers in the chapel of St. Joseph's Seminary in Yonkers April 19. "God has blessed you with life, and with differing talents and gifts. Through these you are able to serve him and society in various ways," the pope said. "While some people's contributions seem greater and others' more modest, the witness value of our efforts is always a sign of hope for everyone." He said, "Sometimes it is challenging to find a reason for what appears only as a difficulty to be overcome or even pain to be endured. Yet your faith helps you to break open the horizon beyond your own selves in order to see life as God does. "God's unconditional love, which bathes every human individual, points to a meaning and purpose for all human life," he continued. "Through his cross, Jesus in fact draws us into his saving love and in so doing shows us the way ahead — the way of hope which transfigures us all, so that we too, become bearers of that hope and charity for others."



POPE BENEDICT PRAYS AT GROUND ZERO SITE — Pope Benedict XVI prays at site of the destroyed World Trade Center towers in New York April 20. He spoke with family members of some of the victims of the 2001 terrorist attacks and with those who were first responders to the disaster. (CNS photo/Nancy Wiechec)

To read the pope's prayer, please go to:
www.victoriadiocese.org/lighthouse/light-house.htm

U.S. Catholics give warm welcome to a previously unfamiliar pope

By Carol Zimmermann
Catholic News Service

NEW YORK (CNS) -- As they prepared to meet Pope Benedict XVI for his first papal visit to the United States, many U.S. Catholics couldn't help but compare him to Pope John Paul II, whom they had known for nearly three decades.

In part, that was because they just didn't know much about Pope Benedict, who began the fourth year of his pontificate during his April 15-20 trip to the United States. The third anniversary of his election was April 19.

He has often been portrayed as being strict and scholarly and lacking the charisma of his predecessor.

But that perception seemed to change during his six-day visit.

"A lot of people thought he couldn't replace (Pope) John Paul, but he can," said Carol Henglein, a parishioner from St. Virgilius Church in Queens prior to the April 20 Mass at Yankee Stadium.

She described the 81-year-old pontiff as having "an aura about him" and being a "wonderful inspiration to young people."

And sure enough, the young people seemed to "get him," especially during the April 19 rally for seminarians and young people on the grounds of St. Joseph's Seminary in Yonkers, which was reminiscent of a World Youth Day with Pope John Paul.

During the rally, the 25,000 participants frequently cheered for Pope Benedict and he in turn, much like his predecessor at youth events, seemed visibly invigorated.

At the rally, the pope smiled broadly and even spontaneously moved to the first few rows to grasp hands with the youths. During his address the crowd repeatedly interrupted him with applause and cheers, unlike the crowds at most venues of the pope's visit, where the applause interruptions were fewer.

If the clapping was restrained in some cases, it may have been because his listeners did not fully understand the pope, who delivered his speeches in a soft voice with a German accent.

And sometimes the words were just not sound-bite material that would generate a cheering response. Many of his talks reflected his scholarly background and

might have to be read and reread to unpack their meaning.

Several priests and women religious at the April 19 Mass for clergy and religious at St. Patrick's Cathedral told Catholic News Service they wanted to get a copy of the text and look at it closely. Catholic college presidents said the same thing after he spoke to them April 17 at The Catholic University of America in Washington.

But even if they didn't pick up every word of the pope's remarks, those who heard him still came away with a familiarity with the pontiff they hadn't had before, along with a deeper appreciation for him.

Father Joseph Ferraro, pastor of St. Anthony Parish in Belleville, N.J., left the Mass at St. Patrick's Cathedral overwhelmed by the experience but also with a sense that the pope was not a distant leader but "just like one of the family."

The pope also showed a humility that did not go unnoticed. At the end of the cathedral Mass, Pope Benedict made impromptu remarks thanking the priests and women religious for their love of the church, the Lord and also for their "love to the poor successor of St. Peter."

"I will do all that is possible to be a real successor of the great St. Peter, who also was a man with his faults and some sins, but he remains finally the rock for the church," he told them.

Sister Elizabeth Worley, a Sister of St. Joseph who is chancellor of administration and chief operating officer for the Diocese of Orlando, Fla., said she wanted to read the pope's homily to absorb it all, but she was impressed with how he described himself as a "poor successor of St. Peter."

Throughout Pope Benedict's U.S. visit, reminders of Pope John Paul were not hard to find. Pope Benedict quoted him on several occasions. Many places Pope Benedict visited — the White House, the United Nations, The Catholic University of America and Yankee Stadium — repeated stops his predecessor had made.

Many who were analyzing the U.S. papal trip noted that during his six-day visit Pope Benedict came out from under Pope John Paul's shadow. And one television commentator comparing the two popes put it this way: "Pope John Paul II made us feel. Pope Benedict makes us think."

The Experience of a Lifetime

Continued from p. 9

Holy Father. Tears of joy streamed down my face as the Pope consecrated the Eucharist, and again when Placido Domingo sang *Panis Angelicus* following Holy Communion. I was most touched by the pope's humility, by his sense of genuine love for all people. It was an incredible moment as a mother to share this legacy of our faith with my son, Kevin, who sat close by my side during the entire celebration. I'll always hold memories of these special blessings in my heart. — **Gail Janecka, Victoria**

Being a part of the Papal Mass made me want to have a better attitude toward life and toward other people. It was an awesome experience to be in the presence of the holiest person on earth and be a witness to his Mass. In seeing the Pope give the Mass, it brought me a new kind of joy. I was amazed at how energetic the pope was in giving the Mass. — **Kevin Janecka, Victoria**

For me the best part of the Mass was as we walked into the stadium. Seeing so many people who were excited to be there to see the pope was great. It's not often that you see people, especially young people, who are excited about the Church, so it was really good to see that enthusiasm in the crowd. — **David Brown, Victoria**

Simply stated, I had a WOW moment. Many times in my lifetime, I can say that God has made his presence known to me, but the experience of the Papal Mass at Washington's Nationals Stadium was for me an unsurpassed revelation. That day I experienced the reality of God and his loving plan for all mankind through his son Jesus Christ in the present Vicar of Christ, Benedict XVI. I saw throngs, hordes and waves of humanity as far as I could see with my naked eye giving glory, praise and thanksgiving to the Father through his Son. It was the Mystical Body of Christ. I was just one small person in this sea of humanity. All present were of one heart, mind, soul and purpose. We were all connected. It was too much for my mind to grab hold of right away. But as I gazed at, over, and through the masses of faces with the assistance of some very good binoculars, lo and behold, there across the outfield was my very own thread of connection, Bishop David Fellhauer, apostolic succession in the flesh. That was my WOW moment. Seeing Bishop Fellhauer was the "slap on the forehead," the WOW revelation, that through my Baptism and Catholic faith, I am a part of the living, breathing Body of Christ. Thank you, thank you Lord, for my Baptism, and my faith; and, yes I heard the message, Papa Benedict. I am to bring hope to all the faces of Christ that I encounter. His message of Hope, and how our lives are lived differently when there is hope, is for all mankind. I will do my best to live the Body of Christ and spread the kingdom of God. — **Emily Yeary, Victoria**

It was an amazing experience, when Placido Domingo sang *Panis Angelicus* and then quickly bent to kiss the ring of the Holy Father; we all lost it. It was such an honor and privilege to be a part of this experience. The Holy Father was so pastoral and spoke just as a father would, admonishing our shortcomings, but giving us encouragement and inspiration for the future. — **Rev. Kirby Hlavaty, pastor of the Catholic Community of Cuero**



John Carroll's unique gifts made U.S. church succeed, archbishop says

By Catholic News Service and Sue Thompson in Baltimore

BALTIMORE (CNS) -- Without Archbishop John Carroll's organizational genius, U.S. Catholics might have remained a tiny minority in the new country or been subject to a foreign-born superior for years, Milwaukee Archbishop Timothy M. Dolan said in the first of a series of lectures honoring the first U.S. bishop.

"Had he not stepped into the wasteland, either the microscopic Catholic Church would have languished, with members leaving, clergy adrift, souls lost to the faith and the church never quite 'making it' in the new country, or Rome would have appointed a foreign superior ... thus making the Catholic Church seem even more an outsider than ever," the archbishop said April 22 at the Basilica of the National Shrine of the Assumption of the Blessed Virgin Mary in Baltimore.

Among the greatest challenges Archbishop Carroll faced was that of remaining canonically

loyal to Rome while balancing "the unique traits of American constitutionalism that codified religious freedom and the separation of church and state," said Archbishop Dolan.

But Archbishop Carroll's status as "a deeply committed Catholic, a faithful, pastorally zealous pastor, a quintessential Marylander (and) a patriotic American citizen" made him uniquely suited to lead the fledgling church, he added.

"That such an intelligent, articulate, wealthy, broad-minded, unapologetically patriotic, quintessentially American gentleman could at the same time be a proud, convinced, ardent Catholic went a long way in convincing the new republic's movers and shakers that America and the Catholic Church were indeed compatible," the Milwaukee leader said.

According to Archbishop Dolan, Archbishop Carroll's passion for the Catholic Church drove his efforts to create "a structured, organized, regularized, respected, visible" church, loyal to Rome and ready to face the challenges of the

developing American culture.

Archbishop Carroll's efforts in developing an organizational structure for clergy, creating and fostering Catholic educational institutions, including Georgetown University in Washington and St. Mary's Seminary in Baltimore, and advocating for a visible Catholic presence laid the groundwork for the continued growth of Catholicism in the United States, he said.

Though deeply committed and loyal to the bishop of Rome, then-Father Carroll petitioned for the ability to name an official bishop to provide the canonical leadership necessary to guide the developing church through the turbulent political and social culture in America.

In 1789, the Holy See designated Baltimore as the first diocese of the United States and John Carroll as its bishop.

Continued growth of the church in America led to the need for additional leadership, and Baltimore was designated an archdiocese in 1808, with Boston, New York, Philadelphia and Bardstown (now Louisville, Ky.) as its suffragan sees.

Paul Barker, principal of John Carroll School in Bel Air and one of nearly 400 people who attended the lecture, found Archbishop Dolan's presentation enlightening.

"(Archbishop) Carroll understood what it was to be a loyal Catholic, but he also understood that for the church to grow in an American culture that has democratic values sometimes causes tension with the value of loyalty to the mother church," Barker said.

Archbishop Carroll's struggle with the relationship between religion and politics struck a chord with Jim O'Hara, who is a retired legal historian and professor from Loyola College in Baltimore. O'Hara was impressed by Archbishop Dolan's response to the question about the implications for the church today.

"(Archbishop) Dolan made the comment that the church, as a church, can't be partisan, but the church as citizen can and has the obligation to bring its moral insights into the political debate," said O'Hara, stressing the need for the church to participate actively in the formulation of the moral side of debate surrounding the issues that people must decide.

Dominican Sister Elizabeth Anne Allen, principal of Mount de Sales Academy in Catonsville, found the lecture an affirmation of Catholic identity, adding, "I think it was perfectly timed, especially following our Holy Father's visit and a wonderful way to start our bicentennial."

In the nine countries, he said, "the sense that God is near is anything but extinct and religious practice is anything but marginal."

"The Bible is seen by the vast majority of the population as a source of truth, as the source of a message that has something to do with one's life," he said.

See 75 percent Americans, p. 14

Archbishop John Carroll is seen in a painting by Gilbert Stuart. (CNS photo/courtesy of Georgetown University Library, Special Collections Research Center)



Charity announces plans for Marian statue in London

By Simon Caldwell
Catholic News Service

LONDON (CNS) -- A charity has announced plans to erect a statue of Mary in London in memory of the medieval Catholic shrines destroyed in the Reformation.

The work will be called "Mary Most Holy" and will stand on land once owned by St. Thomas More, alongside the Thames River at Chelsea. St. Thomas was the lord chancellor of England and was beheaded in 1535.

It has been commissioned by the Art and Reconciliation Trust, a charity set up to promote awareness of the negative effects iconoclasm has on culture; the work will cost approximately \$2.5 million.

The sculptor who will make the statue is Paul Day, whose previous work includes a memorial of the Battle of Britain in central London.

The proposed work, a bronze triptych on a granite plinth, will feature a statue of Mary holding up the child Jesus against the backdrop of ruins. Two side panels show reformers beheading the statues of saints and destroying a crucifix.

Unveiling a model of the

sculpture in London April 29, Day said its purpose would be "to recall events in Chelsea's local history that were of national importance and whose effects can still be powerfully felt in present-day Britain."

"The destruction of England's medieval shrines and devotional images, conducted by Thomas Cromwell, was part of Henry VIII's program for reform," he said, noting that Cromwell ordered "the most important Marian shrines in England be brought to Chelsea so that he could witness their destruction."

Day expressed hope that the statue could be situated "on or near the location where the foremost Marian shrines were burned."

Day said the sculpture would create a place for faith communities to reflect on reconciliation by confronting the truth of the past.

Eighty-four shrines were destroyed in England and Wales during the 16th century, and hundreds of statues of Mary were burned.

Frances Scarr, chairman of the Art and Reconciliation Trust, said it is hoping to unveil the memorial Oct. 13, 2009, the feast of St. Edward the Confessor, patron of England.

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Becoming a Marian family

By Bill and Monica Dodds
Catholic News Service

We've written a number of books over the years, but "Encyclopedia of Mary" (Our Sunday Visitor, 2007) is the only one we began with an apology. After several years of researching and writing, we knew there was no way to include all the variations of all the Marian devotions and traditions worldwide.

We also knew -- for certain -- that Mary is loved. In country after country and culture after culture, people have chosen her as "theirs" and they see themselves as "hers." It's an amazing display of affection and trust that goes back to apostolic times.

The month of May -- dedicated to Marian devotion since the 16th century -- is a good time to consider how your family can develop or deepen its own love for the mother of God. Here are a few suggestions:

- Imitate Mary's openness to God's will in her life. The Gospel of Luke tells us that God's invitation that she become the mother of the Messiah startled her but she immediately answered yes. Pay attention to where, when and how God is asking you or your family to do something and, imitating Mary, accept that invitation.

- Choose a family Marian devotion or image. There are countless Marian images and devotions, many with fascinating histories or pious legends. Find one that "fits" and place that sacramental (that image) in your home.

- Ask for Mary's intercession to help your family. Say the rosary as a family, or a decade of the rosary. Add a Hail Mary to grace before dinner.

- Learn more about the four Marian doctrines of the church: Mary as the mother of God, her Immaculate Conception, her perpetual virginity and her assumption. Learn, too, about the particular devotion

shown to Mary, which isn't "worshiping" her. Only God is worshipped. Only God is adored. The theological term used to describe homage shown to the saints is "dulia," and to Mary it's "hyperdulia." Adoration of God is "latraria."

- Design a "Mary garden" or at least plant a few "Mary plants." It was a medieval custom to plant small gardens with flowers, herbs and shrubs associated with Mary. That tradition was revived in the mid-20th century in the United States and Europe. There are hundreds (yes, hundreds!) of plants that tradition and custom associate with Mary. To name just a few, there's baby's breath (our Lady's veil), columbine (our Lady's slippers), daffodil (Mary's star), forget-me-nots (eyes of Mary), marigold (Mary's gold), rose (emblem of Mary) and tulip (Mary's prayer).

- Set up an outdoor or indoor shrine. It doesn't have to be elaborate: a print or statue, a few flowers, a candle. A reminder that your family can turn to "your mother" for help.

- Attend your parish's May crowning. Have your own service at home.

- Make a pilgrimage to a Marian shrine in your area.

On the Web: The Marian Library/International Marian Research Institute

The University of Dayton, a Marianist school, is home to the Marian Library and the International Marian Research Institute. As their Web site ("The Mary Page") explains: "Our goal is to gather and present information about the Virgin Mary and to lead people to a loving knowledge of her. Learning more about Mary, we develop a fuller knowledge of Christ, his church and Christian life." This is a fantastic — and fascinating — resource. Go to: <http://campus.udayton.edu/mary>.

Prom Night Advice for Parents & Teens

MERIDEN, CT — Prom night is probably the most anticipated night of the year for teens and one of the most dreaded by their parents. Although most teens think they know everything about how to stay safe, parents know otherwise. And, according to safety experts, it will take more than just talk to ensure a safe evening for all.

"No matter how strong the family relationship, many parents are still unaware of the choices teens face every day," said Ray Palermo, director of public information for Teachers' Insurance Plan™. "For parents to successfully reach their kids, they'll have to approach safety issues in new, often more direct ways." Teachers' offered several tips that go beyond "don't drink and drive."

Parents:

- Get involved in planning prom night.
- Talk specifically about what they should say or do in certain high-risk situations.
- Consider having a mutually agreed



on "contract" for the night. Set out rules regarding post-prom parties or other activities — with whom they will be, where, for how long and what they will be doing.

- Get the names of other prom-goers and phone numbers of their parents.
- Set a curfew based on past behavior, but be reasonable. This is a special night. Have your teen call if there is a delay.
- Send your teen a text message during prom night telling them to have fun, but reminding them not to do anything that could ruin a great time.
- Limit the number of passengers in a car.
- Be on call for a ride home or other emergency.
- Have a "no questions asked" policy on getting home safely.
- Join with other parents and rent a limo for them.
- Be the chauffeur for the night, but don't meddle. Rent a vintage car to make it more special.

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75 percent of Americans surveyed read Bible passage in last year

Continued from p. 13

The other interesting thing, he said, is that those who took a "fundamentalist" approach to the Bible, affirming that it is the "direct word of God" and must be taken literally, were not those who knew the Bible best.

And, Diotallevi said, the U.S. residents who reported reading the Bible most often did not have a significantly greater knowledge of its contents than those who did not read the Bible often.

Biblical knowledge was tested by asking these questions: Are the Gospels part of the Bible? Did Jesus write one of the books of the Bible? Was Paul or Moses a figure from the Old Testament? Which of the following wrote a Gospel: Luke? John? Paul? Peter?

Family Puzzle Contest Winners

Linda Lockhart of St. Mary Parish in Victoria is the April Family Puzzle Contest winner and will receive "A Civilization of Love: What Every Catholic Can Do to Transform the World" by Carl Anderson.

Esmeralda Rodriguez (8) of St. Agnes Parish in Edna is the winner of the youth puzzle contest. She will receive a gift from the Incarnate Word Gift Shop.

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

The winner of next month's contest will win *Chicken Soup for the Christian Soul 2 — Stories of Faith, Hope and Healing*; see page 15 for review.

If you have not won the puzzle contest within the past six months, please send completed puzzle, name, address, phone number and parish name by May 22 to: Family Contest, *The Catholic Lighthouse*, P.O. Box 4070, Victoria, TX 77903.

Teens:

- Always buckle up.
- In short, follow your parent's rules.
- Teachers' Insurance Plan, which is underwritten by members of the Response Insurance Group of Companies, is a car insurance program designed for educators. Information on safe driving tips, saving money on auto insurance and other issues are available at: www.teachers.com/safety

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The Joyful Catholic

© 2008 By Rick Hermann
E-mail: RH222@sbcglobal.net



First broken, then blessed

One morning at breakfast a farmer said he felt like a window.

When asked why, the old man smiled and replied, "Full of panes, full of panes."

Sometimes we feel like that old farmer. Life can be a pain.

It hurts when we fall and scrape a knee or accidentally hit a thumb with a hammer.

More seriously, we may suffer a painful medical condition, a jagged-edged experience or a broken relationship.

Life can break our hearts and shatter our dreams. We may fear it is impossible to put the pieces of our lives back together again.

In the midst of our suffering and brokenness, we may recall that our King allowed himself to be broken by being crucified.

His fear caused him to sweat drops of blood, and he pleaded with God by saying "let this cup pass from me."

Yet Jesus allowed himself in humility to be broken. Why? Because he trusted his father's promise that on the third day he would rise again.

We can trust God the same way. Whenever God allows us to be broken, we believe that he promises to bless us with new life.

The Master Craftsman wants us to turn toward him so he can rebuild us better than ever, in his image and likeness.

First we are broken, and then we are blessed.

Our faith does not take away pain. Faith instills pain with consecrated meaning and gives

us supernatural hope.

"Offer it up," my grandfather would say about sufferings both great and small.

Do it now. By resting in God's hands you will find new courage, greater strength, and unexpected peace in the midst of distress.

A young woman I know was diagnosed with a frightening type of cancer. Her doctor arrived with a downcast face and announced, "I'm afraid I have some bad news."

With a serene smile she responded, "Oh doctor, you don't have to worry about me, I'm a Christian."

She believed deep down that our Creator's blessings are contained in every situation, giving her "the peace of God that surpasses understanding" (Phil. 4:7).

Jesus demonstrated and embodied this mystery of brokenness during the Last Supper. He took the bread, broke it, blessed it, and said "Take this, all of you, and eat it. This is my body, which will be given up for you."

Jesus was soon broken on the cross, and then God blessed him.

In the same way, when we are broken, God will bless us, too.

Just when we fear we can no longer bear our pain, the darkness that overshadows our brokenness is wonderfully penetrated by a great light, and all our troubles melt away with the rising sun of a new day.

So instead of fearing our brokenness as an enemy, we may embrace it as a friend. Just as we

bless our enemies, we may also bless our pains and heartbreaks, trusting they are blessings in disguise.

We do not enjoy suffering, yet we may accept it gracefully when it comes. We know God allows it as a prelude to blessing us beyond our imagination.

While our suffering is a great mystery, God promises to put us back together again. This is our faith and hope.

Our darkness is temporary. Love and laughter will return, often in the midst of the darkness, multiplied like loaves and fishes.

Remember the disciples who despaired after Jesus was crucified? When he reappeared, they did not recognize him. During supper Jesus again broke the bread and blessed it. "With that their eyes were opened and they recognized him" (Luke 24:30).

First we are broken, and then we are blessed. Then our eyes are opened and we see God.

Hermann is a Catholic author and speaker. His popular columns appear nationwide.

Sunday readings from May 11 to June 15

May 11 —
Pentecost Sunday

Acts of the Apostles 2:1-11
Psalm 104:1, 24, 29-30, 31, 34
1 Corinthians 12:3b-7, 12-13
John 20:19-23

May 18 —
Most Holy Trinity

Exodus 34:4b-6, 8-9
Daniel 3:52, 53, 54, 55
2 Corinthians 13:11-13
John 3:16-18

May 25 —
Most Holy Body and
Blood of Christ

Deuteronomy 8:2-3, 14b-16a
Psalm 147:12-13, 14-15, 19-20
1 Corinthians 10:16-17
John 6:51-58

June 1 — Ninth Sunday
in Ordinary Time

Deuteronomy 11:18, 26-28, 32
Psalm 31:2-3, 3-4, 17, 25
Romans 3:21-25, 28
Matthew 7:21-27

June 8 — Tenth 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 — Eleventh
Sunday in Ordinary Time

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

"When a Child Dies" — Bereavement Publication

Title: When A Child Dies

Subtitle: Footsteps of a Grieving Family

Author: Jim O' Shea

Publishers: Veritas Company Ltd, 7/8 Lr Abbey Street, Dublin 1, Ireland

Price: €9.95 / £6.95 / \$15.87 including VAT

Publication Date: January 2008; Extent: 144pp

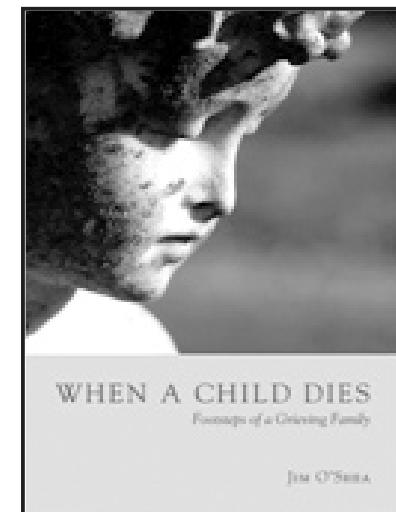
When a Child Dies is an experiential book in which the reader is invited into the minds and hearts of a family devastated by the death of their youngest member, Cathal, who was killed in a road accident in February 1990. Through the voices of the child's parents and siblings, this book explores the many feelings and thoughts experienced following this tragedy. The feelings of shock, anger, rage, sadness, fear, terror, denial, yearning, guilt and loneliness are palpable throughout, showing how the family coped, and what helped them to come to terms with their loss.

When a Child Dies ultimately uncovers a family slowly emerging from darkness and chaos to reach some kind of acceptance, and to make the decision to live

rather than to merely exist.

This is not an academic book, but shows the heartrending feelings surrounding serious bereavement. Every member of the family has a voice, and each voice is articulate and honest. The book is unusual in that it allows siblings to reveal their thoughts and feelings, rather than have them articulated by their parents. It is based upon diaries, questionnaires and conversations with every family member. It shows how each member was in those early years and how they are now, eighteen years after the tragedy.

The book was written not to honour this young boy, but to validate the feelings of parents and siblings who have suffered serious bereavement. It is a sad book, and it is the author's hope that any tears shed by readers will be for their own losses.



A word from the author:
Death and loss is a universal experience bringing the same pain to all people irrespective of class, color, creed or nationality.

The book can be obtained directly from Veritas (www.veritas.ie) — major credit cards accepted. It will also be on Amazon at some stage. Veritas is the leading Catholic publishing company in Ireland, and has nominated "When a Child Dies" as the book of

the month. I am receiving a lot of feedback from bereaved people saying that it has given them comfort and consolation. I am promoting the book for this reason. The royalties from this book will be given to the Children's Hospital, Crumlin, Dublin. Jim O'Shea lives in Thurles in Co. Tipperary, Ireland. He runs a counseling service from his home.

"Chicken Soup for the Christian Soul 2" will be May Family Puzzle Contest Prize

"Chicken Soup for the Christian Soul 2 — Stories of Faith, Hope and Healing" by Jack Canfield, Mark Victor Hansen and LeAnn Thieman will be the May Family Puzzle Contest prize.

"The themes of forgiveness, faith, hope, charity and love in 'Chicken Soup for the Christian Soul 2' will lift your spirits and warm your hearts. Each story is a reminder of the daily miracles you can discover when you've welcomed Christ into your life.

As you read these powerful stories, you will deepen your compassion for others, be inspired to greater acts of charity and remember to forgive others and yourself. Most of all, you'll be reminded that you are never alone or without hope, for He is always walking by your side."

Jack Canfield and Mark Victor Hansen, #1 New York Times and USA Today bestselling co-authors, are professional speakers who have dedicated their lives to enhancing the personal and professional development of others. LeAnn Thieman has

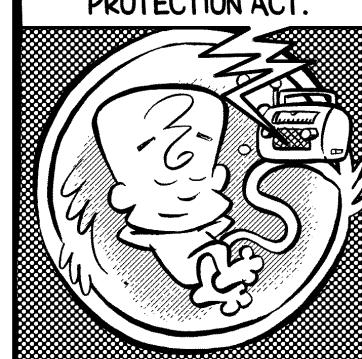
been a nurse for 32 years. She is a professional speaker and the coauthor of *Chicken Soup for the Christian Woman's Soul*.

"Chicken Soup for the Christian Soul 2," 352 pages, is sold for \$12.95 U.S. at www.chickensoup.com or www.hci.com.

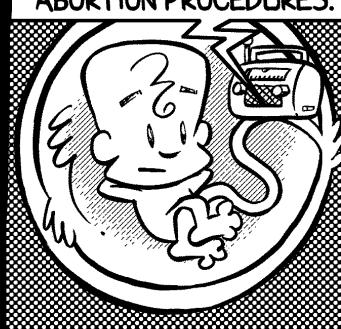
Send in your completed Family Puzzle Contest entry to *The Catholic Lighthouse* by May 22 to be eligible for a chance to win a copy of "Chicken Soup for the Christian Soul 2."

Umbert the Unborn

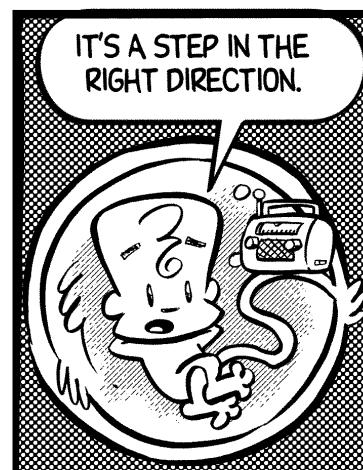
TODAY WE'RE DISCUSSING
THE BORN ALIVE INFANT
PROTECTION ACT.



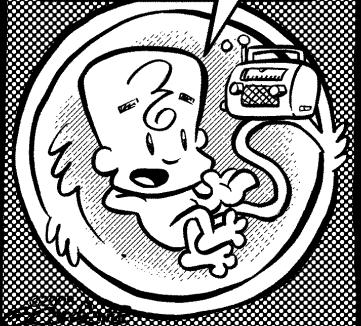
THIS LAW WAS CREATED
TO PROTECT THE LIVES
OF BABIES WHO SURVIVE
ABORTION PROCEDURES.



IT'S A STEP IN THE
RIGHT DIRECTION.



NOW ALL WE NEED IS A
"CONCEIVED-ALIVE INFANT
PROTECTION ACT."



by Gary Cangemi



Tras la visita del papa, muchos quieren estudiar su mensaje

Aunque ya han pasado varias semanas de la visita del Papa Benedicto XVI a Estados Unidos, sus palabras todavía resuenan

con fuerza en los corazones y las mentes de muchos.

La emoción y el deseo de ver de cerca al Santo Padre han

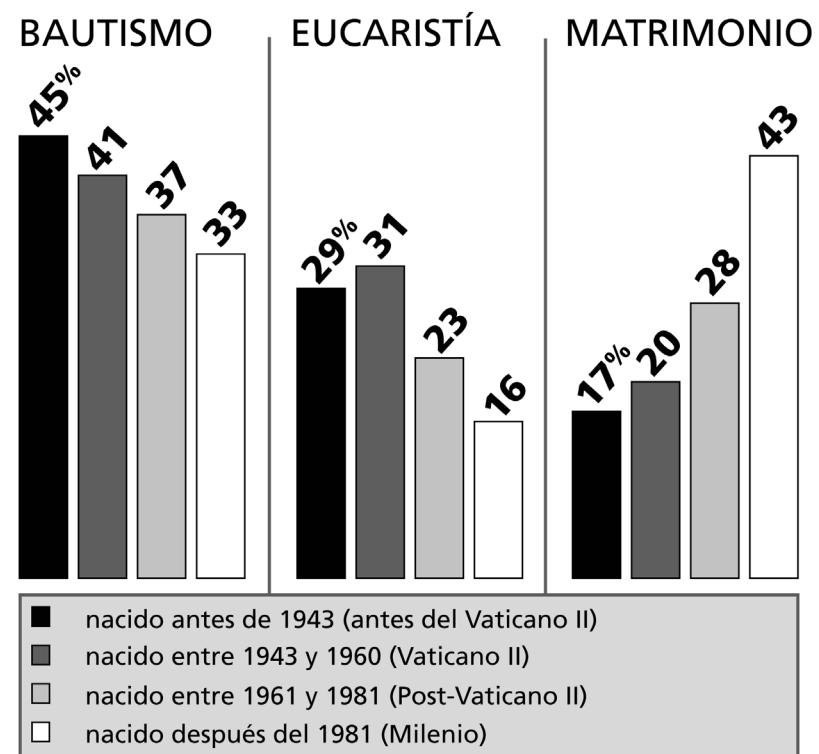
dado paso ahora a un deseo de asimilar mejor sus mensajes. Muchos grupos y parroquias se han dado a la tarea de compartir y estudiar las homilías y discursos que el Papa ofreció en todos los eventos durante la apretada agenda que lo llevó a Washington y Nueva York.

El Papa abordó sin miedo el tema de los abusos sexuales y ofreció un mensaje de esperanza y reconciliación a obispos, educadores, fieles católicos, jóvenes, miembros de otras religiones y otras denominaciones cristianas, sacerdotes y religiosos. También celebró en territorio americano su 81º cumpleaños y el tercer aniversario de su elección como pontífice.

Aunque el Papa saludó en español en varias ocasiones durante su visita a los católicos de habla hispana, el texto íntegro en español de cada uno de sus discursos públicos puede encontrarse yendo al sitio oficial de la visita: www.uspapalvisit.org. Haga click en la palabra "Spanish" bajo cada uno de los eventos.

El más significativo

Los católicos de distintas generaciones piensan diferente sobre el sacramento más significativo para ellos.



Fuente: Centro por la investigación aplicada en el apostolado

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Artefactos Religiosos

Católicos en los EE.UU. que dicen...



59%

tener en casa un retrato o estatua de María



32%

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29%

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23%

poner o tener encima un rosario



9%

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Fuente: Centro por la investigación aplicada en el apostolado

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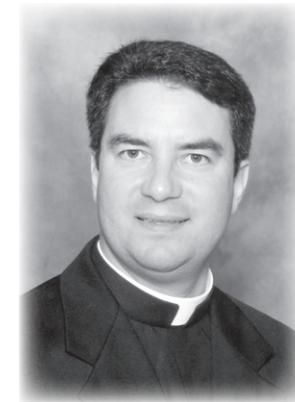
Knights of Columbus bring Our Lady of Charity to parishes

Continued from p. 20

the Blessed Mother holding the Christ Child was found in Cuban water by three, young men. As the story has been passed down, the three, young men who found the statue were rowing in search of salt to preserve meat for the copper miners of El Cobre. Halfway across the bay, the young men sought shelter from a storm and encamped for the night. In the morning, they saw a white bundle floating toward them. It was a statue attached to a board that was inscribed with the words, "I am the Virgin of Charity." A shrine was erected in her honor, and devotion to Our Lady of Charity spread throughout Cuba.

Our Lady of Charity also had a special place in the ministry of Pope John Paul II when he preached the Gospel during his historic pastoral trip to Cuba in January 1998. In a solemn ceremony, attended by thousands of Cuban Catholics, the pope crowned the statue of Our Lady of Charity, which was carried in procession through the streets.

The statue will be in District 153 (Victoria and Goliad parishes) from Apr. 2 – May 18; Dist. 146 (Ganado, Port Lavaca, Edna) May 19 – June 15; Dist. 152 (Yoakum, Cuero, Yorktown, Meyersville) June 16 – July 13; Dist. 151 (Hallettsville, Moulton, Shiner, Flatonia) July 14 – Aug. 3; Dist. 150 (Weimar, Schulenburg, Columbus, Freiburg) Aug. 4 – 31; Dist. 149 (East Bernard, Wharton, Eagle Lake, Mentz) Sept. 1 – 28; Dist. 148 (El Campo, Nada, Louise) Sep. 29 – Oct. 26; and Dist. 147 (Blessing, Palacios) Oct. 27 – Nov. 16.



Bishop-designate
Oscar
Cantu

Pope names Houston priest auxiliary bishop of San Antonio

By Catholic News Service

WASHINGTON (CNS) — Pope Benedict XVI appointed Father Oscar Cantu, a priest in Houston, as auxiliary bishop of San Antonio April 10. Archbishop Pietro Sambi, apostolic nuncio to the United States, announced the appointment in Washington.

Father Oscar Cantu, 41, pastor of Holy Name Parish in Houston, will be the 25th active U.S. Hispanic bishop upon his episcopal ordination and also will be the youngest U.S. bishop. He succeeds Auxiliary Bishop Shelton J. Fabre of New Orleans for the designation as youngest. Bishop Fabre was 43 at the time of his episcopal ordination in March 2007.

Bishop-designate Cantu, who was born Dec. 5, 1966, received his bachelor's degree in English from the University of Dallas and his master of arts and master of divinity degrees from the University of St. Thomas in Houston. He was ordained a priest in 1994. He did graduate studies in theology at the North American College from 1998 to 2002.

His prior pastoral experience includes parochial vicar assignments at St. Christopher Parish, St. Cecilia Parish and St. Frances Cabrini Parish, all in Houston. His episcopal ordination will be June 2.

"As I take on a new role in the church and added responsibility, I ask for the prayers of the church," he said in a statement. "I become a successor to the apostles — an awesome responsibility, indeed!"

Act was introduced in the House April 24 by Rep. Chris Smith, R-N.J. Identical legislation was introduced in the Senate last fall by Sen. Sam Brownback, R-Kan.

"I commend Sen. Brownback and Rep. Smith for their leadership in seeking to prohibit the creation of human-animal hybrids," said Cardinal Rigali in an April 30 statement. "While this subject may seem like science fiction to many, the threat is all too real," he added, noting that England is preparing to authorize the production of cloned human embryos using human DNA and animal eggs, setting the stage for the creation of embryos that are half-human and half-animal.

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White House summit examines plight of urban faith-based schools

By Carol Zimmermann
Catholic News Service

WASHINGTON (CNS) — Educators, school lobbyists and business and government representatives gathered at a White House summit April 24 to examine ways to reverse the trend of faith-based schools being closed in U.S. cities.

Although the term "faith-based schools" was used throughout the day and representatives from a variety of religious schools were present, the majority of attendees represented Catholic schools, and many of the presentations focused on the benefit these schools provide, the reality of their closing and steps already taken to keep them open.

The White House Summit on Inner-City Children and Faith-Based Schools included several panel discussions and an address by President George W. Bush, who told the group of about 250 participants at the Ronald Reagan Building and International Trade Center in Washington that faith-based schools in America's cities are "a critical national asset."

"We have an interest in the health of these institutions," the president said, noting that he hoped the summit would highlight the problem and let people know

"it's in the country's interest" to help these schools stay open.

According to the National Catholic Educational Association, enrollment in Catholic elementary schools has dropped 15 percent nationwide since 2001-02, and more than 212 U.S. Catholic schools were closed or consolidated during the 2006-07 school year. White House officials noted that from 2000 to 2006, nearly 1,200 inner-city faith-based schools closed, displacing about 425,000 students.

In his half-hour address, the president outlined ways the federal and local governments could help faith-based schools and also stressed the need for community and business support.

He mentioned a program that he proposed in his State of the Union address in January that would provide \$300 million in scholarships to "children trapped in failing public schools."

Bush said the program, called Pell Grants for Kids, would be similar to grants offered to college students. He stressed the importance of continuing the federally-funded school choice program in Washington, which requires reauthorization by Congress in 2009. The president also called attention to tax credits, particularly

Pennsylvania's Educational Improvement Tax Credit, a program in which businesses can contribute to school scholarship programs for low-income students.

The president also highlighted innovative Catholic school programs already in place, such as Cristo Rey schools, which provide a work-study program where high school students help pay their tuition; Jubilee Schools in Memphis, Tenn., where eight Catholic schools that had been closed have recently reopened; and the University of Notre Dame's Alliance for Catholic Education, known as ACE, which places college graduates as volunteer teachers in Catholic schools.

At panel discussions later in the day, representatives from these programs said they were glad to get recognition and further explained the work their programs have done.

When asked by a moderator how they would explain their success, Mary McDonald, superintendent of Catholic schools in the Memphis Diocese, said donors came forward to help Catholic schools in Memphis because they remembered what Catholic schools had done years ago to help children in cities and they "want them to do it again."

B.J. Cassin, founder and chairman of the Cassin Educational Initiative Foundation, a major supporter of Cristo Rey schools, noted that there is "a reservoir of people" who are willing and "ready to invest" in schools that help students in inner cities.

"Every school has a story behind it," he said of the 19 schools that are currently part of the Cristo Rey Network, reemphasizing the "wellspring of people" supporting the endeavor.

While some focused on the need to tap into other funds either through businesses or private philanthropists, Holy Cross Father Timothy Scully, founder of Notre Dame's ACE program, likened the work of finding creative alternatives to keep Catholic schools open to a spiritual quest.

"The Holy Spirit will not be thwarted," he said to applause. "People will always be hungry for God."

Cardinal seeks meeting with Giuliani about Communion at papal Mass

NEW YORK (CNS) — New York Cardinal Edward M. Egan will request a meeting with Rudolph Giuliani, saying in a statement he deeply regretted that the former New York mayor received Communion during a Mass celebrated by Pope Benedict XVI at St. Patrick's Cathedral April 19. A statement issued by Cardinal Egan April 28 said that when he first came to the archdiocese and Giuliani was mayor the two of them "had an understanding ... that he was not to receive the Eucharist because of his well-known support of abortion." Giuliani has long opposed efforts to limit access to abortion and supported state funding of abortions for poor women in New York. He was widely described as a pro-choice candidate during his run for president that ended earlier this year. Cardinal Egan's statement said he would be "seeking a meeting with him to insist that he abide by our understanding." Giuliani was among guests invited to attend the Mass at St. Patrick's Cathedral celebrated by Pope Benedict. The Mass was described as being for clergy, deacons and religious, although there were

other invited guests including Giuliani and current Mayor Michael Bloomberg, who is Jewish. Giuliani told reporters as he left the Mass that he had received Communion.

President welcomes pope; other U.S. actions send a different signal

WASHINGTON (CNS) — The official words from the U.S. president to the pope were an interesting contrast to simultaneous actions being taken by two arms of the U.S. government April 16. As President George W. Bush was telling Pope Benedict XVI on the South Lawn at the White House that the United States is "a nation of compassion," the U.S. Supreme Court, with a majority of its justices who are Catholics, was upholding the constitutionality of a form of capital punishment that the church opposes in nearly all circumstances. In a splintered ruling, six justices wrote separate opinions that, added together, constituted a 7-2 majority upholding the legality of lethal injection. In another ironic bit of timing, immigration agents in several states were conducting raids of workplaces where largely Hispanic immigrants work, while back at the White House April 16 Bush was telling the pope at the official welcoming ceremony for him that "Americans believe that the measure of a free society is how we treat the weakest and most vulnerable among us." At that hour in half a dozen states, Immigration and Customs Enforcement agents were processing hundreds of workers, suspected of being in the country

illegally, detained that morning at poultry processing plants, a doughnut factory and a chain of Mexican restaurants.

Philadelphia cardinal praises proposed human-animal hybrid ban

WASHINGTON (CNS) — Philadelphia Cardinal Justin Rigali, chairman of the U.S. bishops' Committee on Pro-Life Activities, praised legislation introduced in the House in late April that would ban the creation of human-animal embryos for research. The cardinal said he welcomed the ban as "an opportunity to rein in an egregious and disturbing misuse of technology to undermine human dignity." The Human-Animal Hybrid Prohibition

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.

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Arab-American Comedians Showcased on PBS, May 11

— *Follow Five Rising Comedians as They Observe the Mess They're In* —

WASHINGTON, DC—Terrorism, racial profiling and U.S. relations with the Middle East may not seem to be laughing matters. But wait until you meet the five hilarious, insightful, courageous Arab-American comedians showcased in the latest special in the acclaimed PBS series, *America at a Crossroads*.

STAND UP: Muslim-American Comics Come of Age explores the emergence of Muslim- and Arab-American comedians in the wake of 9/11, showing how they use humor to take on stereotypes about their religion and their politics. The film highlights five performers, their comedy and the way everyday tribulations shape their art. Some of these comics are Arab, some are Muslim, and some are both. All are Americans, and this is the story of how each of these men and women felt the aftershock of 9/11 personally. At a time when people of Middle Eastern origin were advised to lay low, they all chose to stand up...and crack jokes. The program airs nationally on PBS Sunday, May 11, at 9 p.m. CDT (check local listings).

Most Americans might view the phrase “Muslim comics” as an oxymoron. But these five artists — Ahmed Ahmed, Tissa Hami, Dean Obeidallah, Azhar Usman and Maysoon Zayid — succeed in

Pope expresses deep sadness over cyclone's destruction in Myanmar

VATICAN CITY (CNS) — Pope Benedict XVI expressed deep sadness and “heartfelt sympathy” after hearing news of “the tragic aftermath” of Cyclone Nargis, which killed tens of thousands in Myanmar. News agencies reported May 6 that more than 22,000 people had been killed and 41,000 were missing after the cyclone’s heavy rains and winds of up to 120 mph swept over southern Myanmar May 3. The cyclone damaged at least three major cities, including Yangon, the capital of Myanmar and its largest city. In a telegram sent on behalf of the pope by the Vatican secretary of state, Cardinal Tarcisio Bertone, Pope Benedict said he was praying for the victims and their families and called for “divine strength and comfort upon the homeless and all who are suffering.” As of May 5, Catholic aid agencies were assessing the humanitarian situation in the country. Caritas Internationalis, a confederation of 162 Catholic relief, development and social service organizations, said in a statement May 5 that it was gathering information in Myanmar and was concerned about the humanitarian crisis. “There is an urgent need” for aid workers to get “to the affected areas so that we can assess the damage, start to provide food, shelter, clean water and medical assistance,” said Dolores Halpin-Bachmann, Caritas emergency response team leader, in the statement. About 1 percent of the population of junta-ruled Myanmar is Catholic. A great majority of its citizens are Buddhist.

cutting through the fear, loathing and misunderstanding to accurately convey the vibrant Muslim-American community in America. Their tool is laughter. But there is much more than humor in their motivation. As Ahmed says, “We can’t define who we are on a serious note because nobody will listen. So the only way to do it is to be funny about it.”

Behind their comedy is genuine wisdom. “No one wants to laugh with the enemy,” Ahmed says in the film. “They want to look for an excuse to hate you.” The comics all take pride in their ability to make people laugh, but hold equal pride in their dual heritage as Muslims and Ameri-

cans. “We are Muslims; we are Americans; and there is no contradiction,” Usman observes in the documentary. “We are onstage expressing ourselves and there is nothing more quintessentially American than stand-up comedy.”

Editor Note: *The DVD sent to me as a preview stated: “This program contains edited language; viewer discretion is advised.” I’m not sure if the program as shown on PBS will have the language edited; even if it is edited, there is still some language that viewers, such as myself, would find offensive. But I don’t believe the language is as bad as most television (cable stations’) comedy.*

Capitol Comments:

Setting Prisoners Free

By Jennifer Carr-Allmon
Associate Director, Texas
Catholic Conference

“The Spirit of the Lord is upon me, because he has anointed me to bring glad tidings to the poor. He has sent me to proclaim liberty to the captives, and recovery of sight to the blind, to let the oppressed go free, and to proclaim a year acceptable to the Lord.” (Luke 4:18)

Jesus proclaims these words when he begins his ministry in Galilee; it is the inaugural address for the Kingdom of God. In this intense political season I hope that others will share in these goals.

Who are the captives and oppressed in the world? In the United States? In Texas? In our communities and in our families? One such group is the group that struggles daily with addiction to drugs and alcohol. These children of God are held captive to the disease of addiction and are often physically imprisoned as a result of their addictions. A study by Dr. Nancy Lavigne, presented to the Travis County Reentry Round Table in July 2007, found that 80 percent of prisoners returning to Houston admitted to pre-prison drug use. Dr. Nora D. Volkow, director of the National Institute on Drug Abuse, reports that “providing drug abusing offenders with comprehensive treatment saves lives and protects communities.”

In the last legislative session, the Texas Legislature, led by the House Corrections Committee and Senate Criminal Justice Committee, turned in earnest toward solving crime and reducing incarcerations by increasing treatment funds for offenders. This effort, one of our best successes in the 80th session, was a significant move away from a sole focus on punitive measures to deter crime and incarceration, previously endorsed by the state—a focus that studies consistently find to be ineffective. In the next legislative session we will continue to seek community-based treatment alternatives to prison.

Alcoholism and drug addiction touch all of our lives in one way or another. There are the social

impacts that we cannot deny when faced with the statistics of those in prison. But we must also have the eyes to see it in our own families and in our lives. We can bring the glad tidings of recovery: Treatment doesn’t have to wait until prison! We can follow Jesus’ command to set the prisoners free from addiction in our very own families by seeking treatment and recovery.

In 1950, Father Ralph Pfau (1904-1967) founded the National Catholic Council on Alcoholism and Related Drug Problems (NCCA). Through his dedication and commitment, many Catholic priests, religious and laypersons found recovery and were restored to the faith family and are leading productive and hopeful lives. To receive the prayer booklet, “Prayers for Addicted Persons and Their Loved Ones,” e-mail NCCA@guesthouse.org.

In our call to join Jesus in setting prisoners free, we must remember that in addition to our legislative actions and taking steps to heal our families, we must do all things in prayer and with prayer. We pray with St. Francis of Assisi that our legislative actions and our desire to heal our families will bear fruit: Lord, make me an instrument of Thy peace:

where there is hatred, let me sow love;
where there is injury, pardon;
where there is doubt, faith;
where there is despair, hope;
where there is darkness, light;
and where there is sadness, joy.
O Divine Master,
grant that I may not so much seek to be consoled as to console;
to be understood, as to understand;
to be loved, as to love;
for it is in giving that we receive,
it is in pardoning that we are pardoned,
and it is in dying that we are born to Eternal Life.

Amen.

You can e-mail Jennifer Carr-Allmon at jennifer@txcatholic.org.



HAITIAN STUDENT WALKS PAST BAGS OF GROCERIES FOR SALE

A Haitian student walks past bags of groceries for sale with a sign that reads “Here not credit” in the slum of Cite-Soleil in Port-au-Prince, Haiti, April 28. Leading figures from the United Nations met in Switzerland April 28 to chart a solution to the dramatic food price increases that have caused hunger, riots and hoarding in poor countries around the world. (CNS photo/Eduardo Munoz, Reuters)

Guatemalan bishop known as mining critic receives death threat

GUATEMALA CITY (CNS) — While a Franciscan nun was walking along a road leading to the main highway in Tajumulco, Guatemala, a masked man in a car pressed a gun into her side. The man told the nun, who works in the Diocese of San Marcos, “Tell that good-for-nothing bishop — Ramazzini — that his days are numbered and that he should stop getting involved in things that are none of his business.” He was referring to Bishop Alvaro Ramazzini Imeri of San Marcos, an outspoken critic of environmentally harmful mining practices in his rural Diocese of San Marcos and a defender of human rights. After the incident, the man sped off down the road. The nun, whose identity is being withheld for her protection, was not hurt. When asked who he thought issued the death threat, Bishop Ramazzini declined to speculate. “This could have come from any number of people who may not be happy with me,” he told Catholic News Service at the Guatemalan bishops’ conference headquarters in Guatemala City April 8.

How Does The Church Help Catholics To Address Political And Social Questions?

Continued from p. 1

man embryos are also intrinsically evil and must be opposed. Other assaults on human life and dignity, such as genocide, torture, racism, and the targeting of noncombatants in acts of terror or war, can never be justified. Disrespect for any human life diminishes respect for all human life.

As Catholics we are not single-issue voters. A candidate’s position on a single issue is not sufficient to guarantee a voter’s support. Yet a candidate’s position on a single issue that involves an intrinsic evil, such as support for legal abortion or the promotion of racism, may legitimately lead a voter to disqualify a candidate from receiving support. (1)

Opposition to intrinsically evil acts also prompts us to recognize our positive duty to contribute to the common good and act in solidarity with those in need. Both opposing evil and doing good are essential. As Pope John Paul II said, “the fact that only the negative commandments oblige always and under all circumstances does not mean that in the moral life prohibitions are more important than the obligation to do good indicated by the positive commandment” (*Veritatis Splendor*, no. 52).

The basic right to life implies and is linked to other human rights to the goods that every person needs to live and thrive—including food, shelter, health care, education, and meaningful work. The use of the death penalty, hunger, lack of health care or housing, human trafficking, the human and moral costs of war, and unjust immigration policies are some of the serious moral issues that challenge our consciences and require us to act.

Making Moral Choices

Difficult political decisions require the exercise of a well-formed conscience aided by prudence. This exercise of conscience begins with always opposing policies that violate human life or weaken its protection. “Those who formulate law therefore have an obligation in conscience to work toward correcting morally defective laws, lest they be guilty of cooperating in evil and in sinning against the common good” (*Catholics in Political Life*, 2004).

When morally flawed laws already exist, prudential judgment is needed to determine how to do what is possible to restore justice—even if partially or gradually—with ever abandoning a moral commitment to full protection for all human life from conception to natural death (see *Evangelium Vitae*, no. 73).

Prudential judgment is also needed to determine the best way to promote the common good in areas such as housing, health care, and immigration. When Church leaders make judgments about how to apply Catholic teaching to specific policies, this may not carry the same binding authority as universal moral principles but cannot be dismissed as one political opinion among others. These moral applications should inform the consciences and guide the actions of Catholics.

Notes: (1) For more on the moral challenge of voting, see *Forming Consciences for Faithful Citizenship*, nos. 34-39. Visit www.faithfulcitizenship.org.

To be continued next month.

EVENTS

The Catholic Lighthouse
Page 19 — May 2008



TV program notes — week of May 18

By Harry Forbes
Catholic News Service

NEW YORK (CNS) — Here are some television program notes for the week of May 18 with their TV Parental Guidelines ratings if available. They have not been reviewed and therefore are not necessarily recommended by the Office for Film & Broadcasting.

Sunday, May 18, 12:30-2:30 p.m. CDT (EWTN) "In Concert: Monteverdi: Vespers of the Blessed Virgin Mary." Jacqueline Leary-Warsaw hosts this performance by the Gachinger Kantorei and the Bach-Collegium, conducted by Helmuth Rilling.

Wednesday, May 21, 8-10 p.m. CDT (PBS) "Depression: Out of the Shadows."

A 90-minute documentary about clinical depression is followed by a half-hour panel discussion with mental health experts, hosted by Jane Pauley, to discuss the issues raised in the film (TV-PG — parental guidance suggested).

Thursday-Friday, May 22-23, 9-10:30 p.m. CDT each night (EWTN) "St. Rita." This drama about the life of Rita of Cascia, the saint of the impossible and advocate of desperate cases, reveals the great faith of a woman who endured many hardships and difficulties on her journey to God.

Forbes is director of the Office for Film & Broadcasting of the U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops.

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](http://www.victoriadiocese.org/family/ee.htm), or write to: Engaged Encounter, P.O. Box 4070, Victoria, Texas 77903. The weekend is held at the Spiritual Renewal Center. The dates for 2008 are: Sept. 26-28; and Nov. 14-16. For more info., call (361) 573-0828 ext. 50. All registrations are on a first come, first serve basis. Fee must accompany registration form.

Marriage Encounter — Marriage Encounter weekend is held at the Spiritual Renewal Center. For more information or to register, write or call Milton and Diane Rejcek, 2512 Hillcrest, Bay City, Texas 77414; (979) 245-0323; register@mevictoria.org 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: sanantonio@ yahoo.com; phone: (210) 734-2146.

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

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

ACTS Retreats — For more information see the ACTS Web site at www.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 Sympto-Thermal Method in the Victoria area, contact Rudy and Estella DeLos Santos (361) 894-6950. Introductory presentations on the **Creighton Model Ovulation Method** are offered in Wharton at Our Lady of Mount Carmel Church and in East Bernard at Holy Cross Catholic Church. Please contact Melissa Morse at (979) 335-7306 for more information or to register for classes. **Natural Family Planning is the only church approved form of family planning.**

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

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

Picnics, Activities, etc.

May

Wharton — Our Lady of Mt. Carmel Annual Bazaar and Barbecue May 11 at 506 S. East Ave. A barbecue-chicken and sausage dinner will be served from 11:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. at \$7 p/p with dine-in or plates-to-go available. Live auction begins at 1:00 p.m. There will be games, moonwalk, raffle, music by La Soleda, Victor Martinez and DJ Rene G. All this plus, much more to enjoy on Mother's Day!

Cuero — St. Michael Annual Parish Spring Festival May 18 on the parish grounds. A roast-beef dinner including dessert, will be served from 11:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. at \$7 p/p dine-in or drive-thru line for plates-to-go. There will be a live auction, country store, raffle and fun-filled assorted game booths for all ages. Proceeds will benefit St. Michael Church and School.

Victoria — Knights of Columbus Council 1329 chicken-barbecue fund-raiser May 18 at the KC Hall. The price is \$6 per chicken. Beans and Spanish rice available for \$1 per pint. Sale starts at 8:30 a.m. Proceeds benefit council's projects.

Hallettsville — Sacred Heart Parish Spring Festival May 25 at the KC Hall. A fried-chicken and stew dinner will be served from 10:30 a.m. to 1:30 p.m. at \$7 p/p. with plates-to-go available. Music throughout the day and night. The auction begins at 1:00 p.m. There will be games, entertainment and a train ride for the children. Horseshoe pitching (2:00 p.m.) and washer pitching (5:00 p.m.) contests will be held.

Shiner — Sts. Cyril and Methodius Spring Picnic May 25 at the American Legion Park. A stew, fried-chicken and sausage dinner will be served from 10:30 a.m. to 2:00 p.m. The auction begins at 12:00 p.m. There will be a country store, cake wheel, plant wheel, kiddie rides and games. Music day and night.

When & Where

Upcoming Events

Flatonia — Sacred Heart Spring Picnic June 1 with a fried-chicken and stew dinner beginning at 11:00 a.m. Music throughout the day. There will be an auction, country store and more.

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.

Schulenburg — St. Rose of Lima will hold its annual parish picnic on June 8 at 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.; 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

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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; and 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) 289-3349 or Dale Pittman at (361) 289-2373 or e-mail at dale@icfbcas.com.

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

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.

Dubina — Sts. Cyril and Methodius Parish Picnic July 6

St. John — St. John Annual Parish 4th of July Picnic

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 13

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

Yoakum — St. Joesph Parish Picnic Aug. 3

Palacios — St. Anthony Shimporee Aug. 3

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, amazing crafts, wacky snacks, mind-blowing Bible adventures, hyperspeed 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



KJZT SOCIETY 101 CONTRIBUTES TO VICTORIA SENIOR CITIZENS—KJZT Society 101 of Victoria recently held a bake sale with its proceeds going to the Senior Citizen's Center in Victoria. The donation was in the amount of \$2,020, which includes a KJZT state contribution. Pictured above are Rosie Olsovsky, vice-president; Carolyn Nevrud, treasurer; Debra Shoup, former Senior Citizen Center director; and Irene Brosch, secretary. Not pictured is Evelyn Dierlam, president.



OLV QUILTERS TREATED TO LUNCH IN HOUSTON—Rosie Carrabba, right standing, recently hosted a luncheon honoring the quilters from Our Lady of Victory Cathedral, Victoria, at her restaurant, Carrabba's Italian Grill on Voss Road in Houston. Those who enjoyed the four-course meal were, left to right standing, Dolores Berger, Dorothy Simek, Gail Scheiblhub, Pat Hessler, Roxana Blanton, Betty Beam, Judy Bellanger, Joan Schramek, Estela Matus, Carolyn Franz; seated left to right, Myrtle Hennessey, Nelda Thibodeaux, Peggy Lee and Paula Kainer. Also in attendance were Roland Berger and Renee Baggett. Following the meal and fellowship, Mrs. Carrabba arranged for the group to go to the new Co-Cathedral of the Sacred Heart in downtown Houston where they took a special guided tour. Gerard Thibodeaux escorted them. Mrs. Carrabba is a long-time patron of the Our Lady of Victory quilt auctions held annually in October.



Knights of Columbus bring Our Lady of Charity to parishes

Traveling icon of Our Lady of Charity brings Catholics from all over the world together to pray. The Knights of Columbus have sponsored a Marian Hour of Prayer program since 1979. As part of this program the Knights of Columbus distribute pilgrim icons depicting the Blessed Virgin Mary under her various images.

An icon travels on a yearlong journey from KC council to KC council in each of the order's jurisdictions throughout the world. These Marian icons serve as the focal point for prayer services held in council homes, churches or other locations.

The devotion to Our Lady of Charity dates to the early 1600s when a statue of

See Knights of Columbus, p. 16

**Happy
Mother's Day,
God Bless You!**

May 11



ST. ROSE CULTIVATES POETS—Meet our newest upcoming authors. These young author's poems were selected to be published in the Anthology of Poetry by Young Americans, 2008 edition. The publication will be coming out in August 2008. Pictured from left to right are Seth Patten, Kristen Osina, Sara Vecera, Haley Olsovsky, Kate James and Tyler Allan. These students are in Mrs. Pam Wick's second grade class at St. Rose of Lima Catholic School. Congratulations students!



ST. JUDE'S MATH-A-THON SUCCESS—St. Rose School in Schulenburg set a goal to raise \$1,940 for St. Jude's Cancer Research based on collecting \$20 per student. The School surpassed its own goal by collecting a total of \$3,174.56, which will be used for children's cancer research! The sixth grade class had 100 percent participation, earning themselves a free dress day and root beer floats. The top three donors were Kyra Mays, third grade - \$640, Blair Guentert, second grade - \$505, and John Corbitt, first grade - \$241.40. Thanks to jr. high teacher Laura Fogle for coordinating this charitable fundraiser.



Three diocesan youth win state titles in KC Free Throw contest

HALLETTSVILLE—Three youth from the Diocese of Victoria won state titles in the 2008 Texas State KC Free Throw contest, one having won titles two years in a row. The competition was held amongst 115 participants, ages 10-14 years, from 15 Texas dioceses. The state-wide contest was held at the Antonian College Preparatory High School in San Antonio March 8.

Callie Witte of Yoakum took 3rd place for the 12-year-old girls. She also placed in state last year. Malori Mitchon of Moulton placed 3rd for the 10-year-old

girls' division and William Maraggia of Inez, placed 2nd for the 11-year-old boys' division.

The state contestants were determined at the regional (diocesan) free throw contest held February 23 at Sacred Heart School in Hallettsville. All first-place regional winners then went on to the state tournament at Antonian College Prep.

First-place winners of the girls' diocesan contest were: 10-year-old division, Malori Mitchon of Moulton with a score of 22; 11-year-old division, Kendall

See Three diocesan youth win, p. 7