

The Catholic Lighthouse

The Cradle of Texas Immigration

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OFFICIAL PUBLICATION OF THE DIOCESE OF VICTORIA IN TEXAS

November 2007

First cardinal from Texas

Pope names 23 cardinals, including two from U.S.

By Cindy Wooden
Catholic News Service

VATICAN CITY (CNS) — Pope Benedict XVI named 23 new cardinals, including U.S. Archbishop John P. Foley, grand master of the Knights of the Holy Sepulcher, and U.S. Archbishop Daniel N. DiNardo of Galveston-Houston, the first cardinal from a Texas diocese.

The pope announced the names at the end of his weekly general audience Oct. 17 and said he would formally install the cardinals during a special consistory at the Vatican Nov. 24.

Cardinal-designate Foley was in St. Peter's Square when the announcement was made; he told Catholic News Service he had gone into the square, wading into the midst of the crowd, after going to a doctor's appointment.

While rumors were running strong that the pope would name cardinals at the end of the audience and his nomination was almost a given, Cardinal-designate Foley said he was shocked to be the second name announced by the pope. The order in which the cardinals are announced determines their seniority with the College of Cardinals, which has little practical effect except in liturgical processions.

Naming 18 cardinals under the age of 80, the age limit set for voting in a papal conclave, Pope Benedict said he was setting aside the limit of 120 potential papal electors established by Pope Paul VI and confirmed by Pope John Paul II. After the new cardinals are installed in late

See Pope names 23 cardinals, p. 17

In This Issue

Christians warned about atheistic agenda of "The Golden Compass" movie and books
See pg. 13



Holy Trinity Chapel dedication
See pgs. 15 and 20

Pope completes second encyclical
See pg. 17

Parish	City	Campaign Goal	Total Pledged	% of Goal	% of Participation
St. Joseph, Boling		\$48,652	\$68,893	142%	27%
Holy Cross, East Bernard		\$306,499	\$428,765	140%	32%
St. Robert Bellarmine, El Campo		\$166,422	\$77,089	46%	18%
Sacred Heart, Hallettsville		\$293,582	\$399,365	136%	36%
St. Ann, Hochheim		\$17,276	\$23,775	138%	46%
St. John the Baptist, Hungerford		\$123,823	\$261,080	211%	48%
St. John the Baptist, Koerth		\$39,751	\$50,580	127%	27%
Ascension of Our Lord, Moravia		\$27,666	\$32,680	118%	32%
St. Joseph, Moulton		\$87,194	\$87,750	101%	17%
St. Mary, Nada		\$88,854	\$96,105	108%	27%
St. John Nepomucene, New Taiton		\$73,075	\$137,820	189%	28%
St. Anthony of Padua, Palacios		\$142,729	\$218,864	153%	31%
Sts. Cyril & Methodius, Shiner		\$413,481	\$373,602	90%	19%
St. John the Baptist, St. John		\$21,607	\$29,520	137%	28%
St. Mary, St. Mary		\$28,698	\$39,030	136%	23%
Queen of Peace, Sweet Home		\$66,045	\$51,620	78%	43%
Our Lady of Lourdes, Victoria		\$163,782	\$320,450	196%	33%
Holy Family of J.M.J., Victoria		\$757,222	\$1,169,343	154%	25%
St. Mary, Victoria		\$270,965	\$474,935	175%	18%
Our Lady of Victory Cathedral, Victoria		\$639,747	\$1,305,044	204%	17%
Holy Family, Wharton		\$177,803	\$440,740	248%	39%
Our Lady of Mt. Carmel, Wharton		\$130,087	\$132,404	102%	17%
St. Joseph, Yoakum		\$132,486	\$258,545	195%	18%
Block 1 Totals:		\$4,217,446	\$6,477,999	154%	25%
Amounts as of 10/26/07					

Capital Campaign Block I results are in!

By TCL Staff

The results are in and the Block I parishes have succeeded! They have met and exceeded their campaign goals and defied the averages of participation. Block I has 20 parishes (87%) that have gone over their goal, and 16 parishes (70%) have over 20% participation.

The Block I parishes are completing their follow-up phases, so, if you are in a Block I parish and still have yet to participate, there is still time. You can obtain a pledge envelope from your parish office or by contacting the campaign office at the chancery.

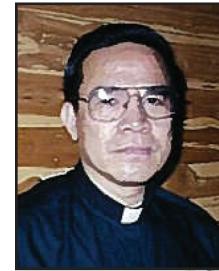
The Guidance In Giving, Inc. campaign staff is ecstatic about the outcome of Block I and is already beginning receptions for Block II. There are 40 parishes conducting the campaign in Block II and with such amazing results from Block I, the hopes are high for participation in Block II.

"Block I has been a success. See Capital Campaign, p. 3

Vietnamese community in Palacios loses leader of 31 years

By Cynthia Brewer

PALACIOS — The Catholic Vietnamese community of Palacios lost its beloved leader of over 30 years, Father Joseph Pham duc Trinh, Tuesday, October 16, 2007. He died at the age



of 64 at Methodist Hospital in Houston after suffering a major stroke two days earlier on Sunday, October 14.

Father Pham was born April 9, 1943, in Quang Ninh, Vietnam. He was ordained into the Catholic priesthood on April 29, 1970, in Vietnam and served as a Catholic priest in Vietnam. In 1976 he came to St. Anthony of Padua Parish in Palacios where he served as parochial vicar at Assumption Chapel, Vietnamese Apostolate, for the past 31 years.



The Vietnamese community of Palacios meet at Assumption Chapel for a Mass and Eulogy for Father Joseph Pham duc Trinh on Thursday, October 18, just one of many Masses the community said for their beloved leader throughout the week. Father Pham came to the United States as a refugee of the Vietnam War and helped to form the Vietnamese Community in Palacios in 1976.

The group worked on fishing boats in Port Isabel before some of them moved to the Edna and Palacios area. Father Pham came with six families to Palacios in 1976.

There was no Vietnamese community

in Palacios when they arrived. The people from the six families contacted family members in the United States and asked them to unite with them in Palacios.

All those who gathered in Palacios purchased a trailer for Father Pham, who converted half of the trailer into a chapel. As the Vietnamese community continued to grow they purchased land and developed Bethany Park, where most of the community in Palacios live today. There, as the community grew, they built Assumption Chapel and a hall and education building.

Deacon Tran said the community had just finished a new rectory that Father Pham was planning to move into October 20th or 27th.

"He did so much for the community; we lost our leader," said Deacon Tran. Father Pham was the only one who knew a little bit of English upon arriving in Texas, so he helped everyone in the community — to taking tests to taking women to have their babies, Deacon Tran said.

"I went to California that weekend for an Asian Pacific Deacons Conference," said Deacon Tran. "When I flew back (on Sunday) and got to the Houston airport I turned on my phone and there was a message from my wife that said to call home right away."

Deacon Tran was told of Father Pham's stroke and that he'd been flown to Methodist Hospital in Houston, so he went directly to the hospital, but Father Pham was not

See Vietnamese community, p. 2



Bishop Fellhauer's Schedule

November

10-15 United States Conference of Catholic Bishops, General meeting, Baltimore, Maryland

16 7:00 p.m., Reconciliation service, Spiritual Renewal Center, Victoria

26 7:00 p.m., R.C.I.A. presentation, Our Lady of Victory, Victoria

27 4:30 p.m., Building Board meeting, Chancery

December

1 1:30 p.m., The Sons of the Republic of Texas, Presidio La Bahia Award, Goliad

5 6:30 p.m., Equestrian Order of the Holy Sepulchre of Jerusalem, Christmas gathering, Victoria Country Club, Victoria

7 Noon, presentation, Serra Club, Colony Creek Country Club, Victoria

8 5:00 p.m., Mass, Holy Day of Obligation, Spiritual Renewal Center

6:30 p.m., Christmas dinner, benefiting multi-purpose building, Spiritual Renewal Center

9 9:00 a.m., Mass, Institution of Acolytes and Rite of Candidacy for the Permanent Diaconate, St. Joseph Church, Moulton

Vietnamese community in Palacios loses leader of 31 years

Continued from p. 1

responsive. He died two days later.

Father Nguyen Van Thu, (spiritual godson of Father Pham) who is now serving at St. Francis of Assisi Parish in Grapevine, Texas, planned viewing services, rosaries and Masses at the Vietnamese Apostolate Hall throughout the week preceding the final Funeral Mass Saturday, Oct. 27, officiated by the Most Rev. David E. Fellhauer. Interment followed at Palacios Cemetery in Palacios.

He is survived by his brothers, Mr. and Mrs. Pham Khac Nghia, their children and grandchildren of New Mexico, Australia, and Vietnam; Mr. and Mrs. Pham Dinh Khoi, their children and grandchildren of Minnesota; Pham Ngoc Quynh, his wife and children of Vietnam; and Pham Minh Chau, his wife and children of Vietnam; his sister, Pham Thi Ngoc, her husband and children of Vietnam; his cousins, Pham Duc Thanh, his wife and children of Palacios; Pham Ngoc Son, his wife and children of Palacios; Pham Thi Ngoc Hanh, her husband and children of Palacios; by his aunts, wife of Pham Duc Khanh, Pham Thi Lan of Vietnam, and Pham Thi Lien of Australia; and by his godsons and goddaughters, the Rev. Toma Nguyen Van Thu of Grapevine; the Rev. Giuse Nguyen Dung of Cancun, Mexico; Sister Teresa Hoang Thi Sen, Dominican Order of Vietnam; Sister Maria Clara Nguyen Thi Xinh, Sister Agnes Nguyen Anh Dao, Sister Maria Teresa Nguyen Kim Hong, Sister Catarina Nguyen Kim Phuong, and Sister Maria Teresa Nguyen Thanh Nga, all of the Dominican Order of Houston.

Online condolences may be sent to the family at www.taylorbros.net.

In Memory of ...

Sister M. Roberta Lev, IWBS

Sister M. Roberta Lev, 86, of Victoria, died Sunday, Oct. 21, 2007. She was born Oct. 31, 1920, in Praha (Flatonia), to the late Frank Julius and Marie Anna Novak Lev. She was a member of the Incarnate Word and Blessed Sacrament.



Sister Roberta attended St. Mary's School in Praha, Praha Public School and Blessed Sacrament Academy in San Antonio. She entered Blessed Sacrament Convent as a postulant on June 3, 1939, and became a novice on June 10, 1940, at Nazareth Convent in Victoria. She made her final profession on Aug. 24, 1944.

She received a B.A. degree with a major in English and a minor in Spanish from Incarnate Word College in San Antonio. She held elementary and high school professional Texas teacher certificates.

Sister Roberta ministered as a teacher in the following schools: Sacred Heart in Hallettsville, Dubina Public School, Ammansville Public School, Holy Cross in Bay City, St. Leo and Blessed Sacrament Academy in San Antonio, St. Ludmila Academy in Shiner, Falls City Public School, Sacred Heart in Floresville and Our Lady of Perpetual Help in Selma. She also served in the CCD program at Holy Trinity Parish in Falls City.

Sister Roberta's additional years of ministry included many activities assisting others at Blessed Sacrament Academy and Incarnate Word Convent. Some of these activities were chauffeuring, sewing and household duties. Her specialty was making Raggedy Ann and Andy Dolls.

Survivors: brother, Emil and wife Mary Ann Lev of Flatonia; sister, Cecilia Lev of Flatonia; sisters-in-law, Vicki Lev of Schulenburg and Brigid Lev of Flatonia;

and beloved nieces and nephews.

Preceded in death by: parents; brothers, John Lev and Charlie Lev; and sisters, Mary Lev Okruhlik, Agnes Lev Jasek, Stazie Lev Stryk and Judith Lev Tofel.

A rosary was recited Monday, Oct. 22, at Incarnate Word Convent. A wake service with evening praise and sharing of memories was held at the convent.

Funeral services were held at the convent with the Rev. Leon Rubaj presiding. Burial followed at Catholic Cemetery No. 3.

Pallbearers were her nephews, Robert Lev, Kenneth Lev, Rudy Okruhlik, Tommy Tofel, Bennie Jasek, Danny Stryk, Stephen Lev and Stanley Stryk.

Memorials: Incarnate Word Convent or donor's choice.

Deacon John McCourt's mother is mourned

IRELAND—Mary Ann (McCann) McCourt of Coalisland, Derrylaughan, Co. Tyrone, Northern Ireland (N.I.), died peacefully at home, September 21, 2007, at the age of 93 years. She was born April 14, 1914.

She was the beloved wife of the late James (1910 – Dec. 8, 1968) and the devoted mother of sons John (La Grange, Texas) Harry and Jim, daughters Ann Mc Neece, Bridie Donaghy, Patricia Fitzpatrick, and baby Catherine (deceased).

The Rest in Peace Funeral Mass at St. Bridgets Church, Brocagh, N.I., was celebrated by Father Benedict Fee, assisted by Mrs. McCourt's son, Deacon John, with interment in the adjoining cemetery.

On her soul, Sweet Jesus have mercy.

Deeply regretted by her sorrowing daughters and sons, brother James, sisters Alice Whelan, Phoenixville, Pa., and Sarah Fruggero, Cherry Hill, Pa.; daughters-in-law: Eileen, La Grange, Texas, and Mary and Marie, Dungannon, Northern Ireland; sons-in-law, Paul, Alec and Gerald; sister-in-law, Isabella McElkenny, Armagh, N.I., Alice Ann McCann, Coalisland, Pat McCourt, Portstewart N.I.; brother-in-law Patrick O'Holleran, Co. Clare, Ireland; 30 grandchildren, nine of whom reside in Texas, 21 great-grandchildren, 15 of whom reside in Texas, and numerous nieces and nephews.

Deacon John, his wife and family deeply appreciate the many Mass offerings, messages of sympathy and prayer cards.

2007 DSA MONTHLY REPORT

Can one person make a difference? One person did over 2,000 years ago! Because he made a difference for us, we choose to make a difference in the world around us. Thank you for supporting our Diocesan Services Appeal. Each gift *DOES* make a difference.

Currently our records indicate a total pledged amount of \$684,837 and a total paid amount of \$651,526. To those who have been unable to contribute, please continue to pray for our success in reaching our goal.

Jeri Joseph
DSA Coordinator

Stewardship Thought:

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

Half
way

\$1,263,145

pledged amount

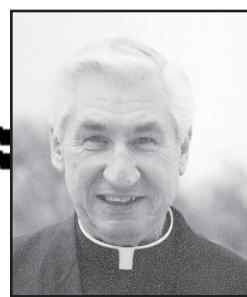
\$684,837

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FAITH POINT

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



Morality in the Polling Booth

Christians have an obligation to vote whenever moral issues are at stake. Since the Roe v. Wade decision of 1974 nullifying all state prohibitions against abortion, there has been a moral issue present. Since that decision, the morality of the situation demands first, that you vote, and secondly, that you vote in support of life.

Many persons on hearing this will object that they do not want the Church to tell them for whom to vote and there is a separation of Church and State in this nation.

Let me say a word about the separation of Church and State. There must be a separation of the two and a division of labor. Church leaders should not appoint persons to political office nor should public officials appoint priests and bishops. Each operates legitimately in its own sphere. But each of them is bound by morality. If public officials pass immoral laws like the so-called right to abortion they must be replaced.

Everyone admits that it is wrong to kill an innocent human being. So, if a fetus is a human being, it is immoral to destroy it. The Supreme Court in Roe v. Wade pretended not to know whether or not the fetus is human. Then it said that the fetus is not a person protected by the Constitution. Science shows that the fetus is certainly a human person. It has its own human genetic code sequence with 46 chromosomes, which is neither the father's nor the mother's. From conception to death no new genetic information is needed to make this unborn entity a human being. There is a continuity of the organism from the moment of conception to natural death. It would certainly be immoral and barbaric to kill a premature infant in an incubator. It is equally immoral and barbaric to kill a fetus in the womb, nature's incubator. Frequently, religious people are accused of holding unscientific views. In this case the abortionists fight the reality of science. When their ideology contradicts reality, it is reality, not their ideology, that must be adjusted. The Court said a child is not a person until birth. Transit through the vaginal passage does not confer humanity on the fetus. It is absurd to make humanity dependent upon geography—on this side of the line you are human, but on the other side you are not.

Some state that self-awareness is needed to establish humanity. But that leads to awkward conclusions. It would follow that we could kill those who are asleep, the unconscious, or the comatose. Newborns are incapable of rational acts until several months after birth. Actual possession of self-awareness is not the basis of respect, but possessing a nature basically capable of self-awareness. A substance cannot come in degrees. We are at all stages of life equally human and thus

It would certainly be immoral and barbaric to kill a premature infant in an incubator. It is equally immoral and barbaric to kill a fetus in the womb, nature's incubator.

equally entitled to respect.

When politicians promise to assure that women always have a right to kill a fetus they are claiming the prerogative of deciding which human life is worthy of preserving and which can be eliminated. Since the Court has arrogated to itself the right to decide which human life is protected and which is not, it was not difficult for a judge to condemn Terri Schiavo to death by starvation. In our country, so far, protection has been removed from the unborn, the comatose, and the elderly. In other countries at other times the right to kill innocent humans extended to such groups as Jews and gypsies, priests, the handicapped and political opponents. Once a nation approves the principle that, for reasons that seem good to itself, it may kill innocent human life, then it becomes merely a matter of fashion and taste as to what groups the principle will apply. If innocent human life is not sacred in the womb, it is really not safe anywhere.

Politicians may pretend that they have power to decide who lives and who dies, but in our country we have a power that they do not have. We decide whether or not they get elected. And if we put into office persons who support abortion, euthanasia and destruction of human embryos for their stem cells we are complicit in the evil that they do. We act immorally. You would not vote for a politician who pledges to protect the right of terrorists to kill. Neither should you vote for one who supports a right to kill unborn human babies.

Catholics sometimes say that they do not want to impose their morality on others. That is as ridiculous as saying that we will abolish laws against murder because prohibition of killing is imposing our morality.

Some may object that abortion, euthanasia and destruction of human embryos are not the only issues to be considered in voting for a candidate. Of course there are many other issues: health care, immigration, social security reform, housing, war and peace, and education. But pro-life issues are like the foundation of a house. The foundation is only a part of the house but without it the crossbeams, the walls and roof are useless. Abortion strikes at the house's foundation. What good is health care or education to someone who has been ripped apart in the womb? Being right on a range of issues does not justify putting someone into office who will make a direct attack on innocent human life.

It is wrong to say that capital punishment is equivalent to abortion. Capital punishment affects the guilty, not innocent preborn babies. A more innocent human being could scarcely be imagined. Abortionists kill more humans in any five-day period than have been killed by capital punishment from the beginning of our his-

tory. To accuse people of not being pro-life if they support killing in war is nonsense. Military force is used as a last resort in defense of life against those who threaten our lives and not a destruction of it. In neither capital punishment nor war do we deliberately target children. The very meaning of abortion is targeting for death innocent preborn children.

Being Christian means being pro-life and that extends to the polling booth. It is not moral to vote in automatic pilot mode—to vote for someone because of the D, R, or I after the candidate's name. Party loyalty has to take second place to loyalty to God and Christian principles.

In all probability beginning in 2009 there will be need to replace three Supreme Court Justices. The wrong sort of president nominating the justices and the wrong sort

Abortionists kill more humans in any five-day period than have been killed by capital punishment from the beginning of our history.

of senators could make the Court a permanent 5-4 pro-abortion Court for decades. Roe v. Wade would not be overturned for another generation and the slaughter of the innocents would continue—all this, thanks

to the support of Catholics who empower them. If Catholics in the United States unanimously supported pro-life candidates, abortion supporters in most states could not be elected.

Be sure that you are registered to vote and that you vote intelligently after inquiring as to which candidates are pro-life and which are not. Also, even though you have only one vote, you can work to influence the votes of thousands of other voters. You can help strike a decisive blow against the culture of death in our nation.

If pro-life does not win, nobody wins. There is no victory in death.



SCHULENBURG KNIGHTS PRESENT DONATION TO SRS—The Schulenburg Knights of Columbus made a donation of \$15,000 to the St. Rose of Lima Catholic School Bus Fund through its Back to School Raffle. Pictured making a check presentation are Eugene Berger, Kenneth Miksch, James Sommer, Rosanne Gallia, St. Rose principal; Randy Mican, KC Grand Knight; and Guy James. The Knights wish to thank everyone for supporting their raffle, which will support bus maintenance and help pay the balance on the second bus that was purchased last year. The raffle could not have been successful without all the continued support received from so many people. Thanks to all who purchased raffle tickets, those who worked so hard at selling tickets and those who donated all the wonderful prizes. The KC's wish all the best to the ten lucky winners and hope they enjoy their prizes! Thank you and God bless!

Capital Campaign Block I results are in!

Continued from p. 1

cess due to the hard work, dedication and prayers from our Block I pastors and committees. It is remarkable that parishes of all shapes and sizes have been able to run the campaign plan and not only exceed their monetary goals, but also show strong participation levels. It is with great excitement and anticipation that we begin working with Block II parishes," said Jackie Perry, GIG executive director.

There are 53 campaign receptions scheduled for Block II. Campaign receptions are the informational gatherings that each parish will host to help explain the elements of the campaign and give parishioners the opportunity to ask questions. The campaign staff asks everyone to try to attend one of these important receptions so parishioners are educated on the *A Reflection of Faith, A Vision of Hope, A Gift of Love Capital Campaign*. Parishes included in Block II range from Hostyn to Port Lavaca to Yorktown to Bay City.

The committees have been positive and are excited and encouraged by the Block I results. Block I reminder statements will begin to be sent early in November based upon parishioner's wishes to pay monthly, quarterly, semi-annually or annually. Please allow up to 60 days for your pledge to be processed and the appropriate

reminder to be sent.

Congratulations to all Block I parishes and best wishes to Block 2 participants.

Editor's note:

The Diocesan Capital Campaign will provide assistance for each individual parish and mission, increase the Priest Pension Fund, provide support for Catholic schools, support religious education and faith formation, and provide for the renovation and expansion of the Spiritual Renewal Center. Retirement for religious sisters and brothers is met by the national Tri-Conference Fund for Retired Religious, collected each year. This year the collection falls on December 8/9, 2007.

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Seminary Burses

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

As of October 23, 2007

	TOTALS
— General Seminary Burse	
Previously reported	\$91,279.00
In memory of Jeanette Kubicek by DeWayne ad Adeline Dvorak	50.00
Total	\$91,329.00

— St. John the Baptist, Burse No. 2 In Honor of Rev. Brian Crookes

Previously reported	\$4,346.00
In memory of Hermina Rybak by Albert and Dorothy Olsovsky	10.00
In memory of Hermina Rybak by Ervin & Bernice Neskora	10.00
In memory of Julia Olsovsky by Milton and Helen Shimek	10.00
Total	\$4,376.00

— Rev. Roman M. Janak & Rev. Msgr. Hubert J. Janak Burse

Previously reported	\$13,934.84
In memory of Joe and Cecilia Fikac, August Fikac, Alvin Janak, & Leon Klekar Sr. by the family members of Joe and Cecilia Fikac	50.00
Total	\$13,984.84

— Rev. Theophil Okruhlik & Rev. Vincent Verdarame Burse

Previously reported	\$8,332.89
In Thanksgiving by Gilbert and Anita Pena	25.00
Total	\$8,357.89

— Louis and Edith Hickl Family Burse

Previously reported	\$1,500.00
In memory of all deceased family members of John Hickl Sr. and Vince Vacek by Edith Hickl	1,500.00
Total	\$3,000.00

— Rev. John C. Peters Burse No. 4

Previously reported	\$60.00
In honor of Rev. John Peters' birthday by friends	120.00
Total	\$180.00

SERRA CLUB APPRECIATION DINNER HELD FOR PRIESTS—The Serra Club of Victoria hosted an appreciation dinner for the diocese's priests October 18 at Holy Family Church in Victoria. Otto Bleier, president of the Victoria Serra Club, introduced each priest after the dinner. Each one said a word of appreciation for the dinner and for the Serra Club members' prayers. About 17 priests attended the event. John Stevenson, Serra Club district governor, reported that the Victoria Serra Club agreed to be leaders to start a new Serra Club in San Antonio.



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.

DIOCESE

Letter to the Editor

Leadership Conference of Women Religious, Region XII — McAllen, TX
October 19, 2007

Editor:

As the Leadership Conference of Women Religious representing four states and fifteen religious congregations gathers in "The Valley" for our Fall Conference, we recall the unique and historic role this region of Texas has always played in the story of Texas and the United States of America. We respect the centuries of hard work of the people of The Valley that has blessed the nation with abundant products and rich culture. We respect the historic collaboration of the peoples of the valley from both sides of the Rio Grande that has been the cornerstone of friendship between the national neighbors of Mexico and the United States.

We also grieve with the people of the valley and the nation as we wrestle with the challenges caused by the poverty and desperation on both sides of this river. We salute and support the witness of so many women religious from various congregations who have spent not just years, but decades in service to the people of The Valley in the name of the Gospel of the Lord Jesus Christ. We are grateful for their inspiring witness.

We want to take the occasion of our presence here in the valley to publicly thank Bishop Raymundo Pena of the Diocese of Brownsville for his stand against the construction of a Border Wall that cannot be effective and will serve as a symbol of division.

We call upon public officials at all levels to articulate just and equitable comprehensive immigration reform. To reiterate, we specifically oppose the building of "The Border Wall" as the expression of the failure of our government to provide real and lasting solutions that honor the values and traditions of The Valley peoples and of the nation. We support The Valley mayors in their efforts to offer real solutions to common problems.

Respectfully,

The Leadership Women Conference of Women Religious
Region XII: Texas, New Mexico, Arizona and Arkansas

LENT 2008 DISCIPLES On The Journey

Faith-Sharing Book
For Small Groups
Cycle A



The Diocese of Victoria is publishing the 5th edition of *Disciples on the Journey*, a Lenten resource for small faith-sharing groups of adults, families, and teens. Call (361) 573-08728 or e-mail dj@victoriadiocese.org

Order Now!
Lent Begins Feb. 6, 2008

Note of Thanks

Your Excellency,

I want to thank you for the check in the amount of \$5,141.84.

The Black and Indian Mission Office does not interfere with diocesan evangelization but assists by disbursing the collection returns in the form of grants. The grants given through the collection assist needy archdioceses and dioceses to continue to implement on-going programs of evangelization, as well as, add new ones where necessary.

The terrible damage and destruction in the Gulfport area from the devastating hurricanes will be present for many years to come. Thus, again this year, special grants were made to enable these archdioceses and dioceses to continue to get back to where they were before the devastation.

I again thank you on behalf of your brother bishops who seek the commission's help to provide apostolic service to the Black and Native Americans evangelization programs. Please continue being supportive to the annual National Black and Indian Mission Collection.

With best wishes and continued blessing on your work, I am,

Sincerely in Our Lord,
Rev. Wayne C. Paysse
Executive Director
Black and Indian Mission Office

Dear Bishop Fellhauer:

I sincerely thank you and the people of the Diocese of Victoria for heeding the call to become personally engaged in addressing the needs of the poorest of the poor around the world. Your generosity and thoughtfulness allows Catholic Relief Services (CRS) to help those we serve achieve a fuller life. This letter will serve as the formal acknowledgement of your recent donation to CRS for the following gift from the diocese:

- \$101,848.85 for Operation Rice Bowl

Your gift allows CRS to address the root causes of poverty, promote social justice, form bonds of solidarity and bring hope to those in need. On their behalf, I thank you for your commitment and leading the faithful in the Diocese of Victoria to live their faith in solidarity with the poor and marginalized people overseas.

May God bless you for your generosity and concern,

Ken Hackett
President,
Catholic Relief Services

Your Excellency,

With prayerful best wishes and on behalf of the Congregation for the Evangelization of Peoples, I greet you and send you and the generous people of the Diocese of Victoria our profound thanks for your donations in 2006 to the Pontifical Mission Societies in support of the mission *ad gentes*.

We are grateful for the donation of \$28,529 to the Society for the Propagation of the Faith which supports more than 1,150 mission dioceses. Additionally, the offering of \$200 for the Holy Childhood Association affirms the commitment of the children in your diocese to accept the call of baptism to be missionaries.

Our gratitude also extends to your diocesan mission director, who provides the lifeline between your faithful and the poor in mission lands who wait to know Christ and to receive the "Good News" of the Gospel from missionaries.

Sincerely in Christ,
Ivan Cardinal Dias,
Prefect Congregation for the
Evangelization of Peoples



Young U.S., Mexican Catholics find unity at a retreat on the border

By J.D. Long-Garcia
Catholic News Service

NOGALES, Mexico (CNS) — The teens and young adults who filed off buses for Mass along the U.S.-Mexico border Oct. 21 confronted the wall that separates the two countries. While others see division, they saw unity.

The 100 or so young Catholics, who came together in Nogales for an educational retreat Oct. 19-21 at Casa Misericordia, saw artists' renderings of hope and fear painted on the border barrier.

One mural depicted an immigrant caught by a Border Patrol agent while illegally crossing the border. Above the image, someone had written in Spanish, "Live to be free. Die to stop being a slave." Other metallic images, called "milagros," hung from the wall: caricatures of hands, coyotes, skulls and dollar signs.

The teens and young adults, from the Phoenix and Tucson, Ariz., dioceses and the Archdiocese of Hermosillo saw these images in a different light after they spent time together.

The weekend experience, which grew out of a partnership between the three dioceses and Catholic Relief Services called "Diocese Without Borders," helped Catholics from the United States and Mexico get to know each other.

"You could feel the excitement. You

Killing Kids is Not Student Service

Pittsburgh, Penn. — Last Saturday first-year students from Robert Morris University in Pittsburgh spent service time participating in abortions.

By sending 30 freshmen to one of 15 abortion sites around the Pittsburgh area, the Robert Morris Office of Community Service sent a clear message that they are out to destroy the community rather than build it. Students were apparently unaware of where they were working, as one student left the building, called her mother and cried as the RMU faculty member demanded she return into the abortion clinic. The student thankfully refused.

"A lot of colleges want to educate students on issues of community concern, and yet the Robert Morris administration is teaching how to destroy a community," Kristan Hawkins, Executive Director of Students for Life of America, said. "Planned Parenthood targets minorities and the poor, and now Robert Morris is showing students that view is acceptable and that the poor are worth less than the privileged who can attend their expensive private school."

Planned Parenthood was founded in 1916, and founder Margaret Sanger was notorious for her racist views, seeking to create a "race of thoroughbreds" by promoting birth control and abortion among minorities and the poor. Over 70% of the 742 abortion clinics in the country are in urban areas.

Students for Life of America has held an annual conference since 1988, and has the only national field program starting new campus pro-life groups since 2006. There are currently 359 active campus pro-life groups around the country.

Outraged citizens and alumni are urged to contact University President Dr. Gregory Dell'Omo at Robert Morris University; 6001 University Boulevard; Moon Township, PA 15108-1189 or phone (412) 262-8322

could tell they wanted to be there," said Jose Robles, director of Hispanic ministry for the Diocese of Phoenix. "They were showing a lot of respect for each other."

This is the second stage of an ongoing project that the Phoenix diocesan Office of Peace and Justice began in 2005. The first stage was a series of three immersion experiences with youths in each diocese.

"We can decide to go places and talk about what we did here," Tricia Hoyt, the office's director, told the group.

While many of the participants were bilingual, others communicated in broken English or Spanish.

Groups from each diocese took turns presenting an aspect of the complex immigration issue, from causes to possible solutions.

On the morning of Oct. 20, the group watched "Dying to Live," a documentary about why immigrants leave their native land and what hardships they suffer on their journey.

The young Catholics then examined newspapers and magazines for other "borders," or social divisions. The group then discussed what values they had in common and where they differed.

Erica Dahl-Bredine from CRS, the U.S. bishops' overseas relief and development agency, spoke about the economics of immigration, explaining that the structures in place in the U.S. and Mexico predate the current immigration situation.

"The U.S. has to play an important part in the economic growth of both countries," said Ignacio Rodriguez, associate director of the Office of Ethnic Ministries for the Phoenix Diocese.

The weekend was an eye-opener for Gerardo Ramos, a teen from San Felipe de Jesus Parish in Nogales, Ariz.

"I didn't know some of the things immigrants have to struggle with to get here," he said, referring to those who cross into the United States illegally. "A lot of them don't make it."

CRS' Marcos Martinez said, "We need to get to know our brothers and sisters on either side of the border. The youth are more open to it."

By listening to each other's stories, "we realize that we are one human family," Martinez said.

Drew Eppehimer, a student at Brophy College Preparatory, a Phoenix Catholic school, said meeting others helped him understand the different perspectives.

"People in the U.S. are quick to criticize people crossing the border," he said. "But what they'd realize is that if the roles were reversed, they'd be doing the same thing."

Christmas gift suggestion avoids secularism

During the holy season consider giving a gift from the heart. Food for the Poor, Inc. has a Christmas '07 Gift Catalog packed full of gifts that change the lives of those who have nothing. Delight your loved ones with a gift given to the poor in their honor. You can give the gift of life by feeding a malnourished child; give a poor family who sleeps in a leaky shack a real home; or choose to give small farm animals that will provide income and nutrition for a poor family. There are many other gifts from which to choose. To view gifts that will change a life, please go to www.foodforthe poor.org and click on the Christmas '07 Gift Catalog logo or call (954) 427-2222 for catalog.

Twenty Something

By Christina Capecci



iWant an iPhone: unleashing the grip of greed

"I want the world. I want the whole world. I want to lock it all up in my pocket. It's my bar of chocolate. Give it to me — now!"

Veruca Salt's declaration of greed in the 1971 film "Willy Wonka and the Chocolate Factory" would make an apt anthem today for many Americans, aiming for acquisition and prodded by retailers, who seem to have fully and irretrievably wedged the commercial Christmas season into November. Now we craft wish lists before we even pause to consider that antiquated notion of giving thanks.

Well-oiled ad campaigns are designed to make our material lives feel incomplete, sorely lacking accessories, utterly mute of bells and whistles. We come to see the holes in our wardrobe, the gaps in our entertainment center, the lags in our home office.

We are keenly aware of what we wish we had.

And though the gimmes are nothing new, what has changed is the sheer volume of products on the market, along with the complexity of high-tech toys. Millions of Americans decided they wanted an iPhone before they understood how it functioned. It was a flashy badge for the early adaptor before it became a useful tool.

We have become less discerning consumers, coveting gadgets without considering their practical benefits to our lives. We are seized by iWant, a modern brand of avarice that allows no space to separate person from product. Novelty morphs into necessity at first sight.

iWant may seem like a seasonal blip, but it is a serious spiritual malady. It compels us to dismiss the blessed lowly and chase the rich and famous, trying to forge the kind of "fabulous life" documented on VH1.

Pope John Paul II admonished materialism with fervor and frequency. He preached about its dangerous grip during his first papal visit to the United States. He addressed the subject again in his 1986 encyclical "On the Holy Spirit in the Life of the Church and the World."

"In principle and in fact," Pope John Paul wrote, "materialism radically excludes the presence and action of God, who is spirit, in the world and above all man."

A year later, he told young people gathered in New Orleans, "The modern technological world can offer us many pleasures, many comforts of life. But what the world can never offer is lasting joy and peace."

Two decades later, his message is more relevant than ever. We can honor our late pontiff by heeding his warning.

Here's an exercise to get you started: Instead of pining away for the things you wish you had this November, be grateful for the things you don't have. If any of these scenarios have eluded your home or heart, consider yourself blessed: a bad habit, a loud neighbor, a family grudge, an expensive addiction, a hostile enemy, a criminal record, an intolerable boss, an insatiable ego, a dangerous addiction.

If you don't attract the paparazzi, be glad. If you don't have a reason to go on The Jerry Springer Show — or the desire

to — count yourself fortunate. If you don't star in your own reality TV show, let out a sigh of relief. If you don't possess the kind of fortune that calls for a prenuptial agreement, know that you're better off.

We are urged to "have it all." Seldom do we hear about the freedom that comes from having none of it. What advertisers portray as a void in your life might just be an abundance of blessings.

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

Victoria College Catholic Student Association News

The Victoria College Catholic Student Association has elected officers for the school year; they are President Jeremy Sanchez; Vice President Orlando Barrera; Secretary Anita Garza; and Treasurer Kaci Smith.

This executive council recently hosted a Halloween Carnival on campus on the evening of Oct. 26. They are now busy preparing for participation in an upcoming Thanksgiving Campus Mass and Social; Christmas Adoration and Supper; and invitation to attend a Winter Young Adult Retreat in January at the Spiritual Renewal Center. Watch for details!

The CSA welcomes all full or part time Victoria College students to join us and learn more about our organization. For more information contact: Catherine Heath: (361) 573-3291 ext. 3276 or Melanie Ledwig: (361) 573-3291 ext. 3250.

Theology at the Well continues



November 15 — Theology at the Well
— Deacon Steve Borowicz will present the topic: **"Livin' the Catholic Life."**

For young adults; 6:45–8:30 p.m. at Tejas Cafe in Victoria.

This highly successful program is geared toward young adults, married or single. Those attending will hear interesting discussions on current issues in the Church and have the opportunity to meet other Catholics while enjoying good food and drinks.

For more information, please contact: Debbie Vanelli at the Office of Youth Ministry at (361) 573-0828 ext. 32 or email at dvaneli@victoriadiocese.org / JoAnn Martinez at ext. 50 or e-mail at jmartinez@victoriadiocese.org or visit our website at www.victoriadiocese.org/youthoffice; or Jim Wearden at (361) 649-9157



DIOCESE OF VICTORIA PASTORAL INSTITUTE

Extended Program Classes

The Pastoral Institute is committed to making adult education a high priority in the Diocese of Victoria. As Catholics, in today's world, we need to be able to understand and live our faith; hence, a lifelong commitment of growing and responding to God's love in our everyday lives.

Rev. Eddie Winkler will teach **Catholic Morality** beginning Monday, January 7, 2008, from 7:00 - 9:15 p.m. at Holy Family Parish in Wharton.

Mr. Ron Friedel will teach **Church** at the Chancery beginning Tuesday, January 8, 2008, from 7:00 - 9:15 p.m.

There is a \$15.00 registration fee for each six-week course.

For more information, visit www.victoriadiocese.org, call (361) 573-0828, e-mail bparkan@victoriadiocese.org, or check your parish bulletin.

NFP Q & A 60

By Father Matthew Habiger, OSB
Web site: www.nfpoutreach.org
E-mail: mhabiger@kansasmunks.org



Contrasts between contraception and NFP

I believe life begins at the moment of conception, so what is wrong with using pills that prevent conception? Why is NFP so important? Being a woman myself, it takes a long time to really even know when it is "safe" and when it's not "safe." Both NFP and this pill that prevents conception, aren't they doing the same thing?
--Melanie

Dear Melanie,
There is a world of difference between contraception and NFP.

What is most important here is to understand and appreciate God's plan for marriage and the spousal act. In God's plan, marriage is designed to endure "until death do us part," and it requires total fidelity.

What is the spousal act supposed to express and accomplish, as God designed it? The Catholic Church teaches, under the inspiration of the Holy Spirit, that every spousal act must be open to a love-giving (unitive) dimension and also to a life-giving (procreative) dimension. In the marital act the spouses are renewing their marriage covenant. This calls for making the total gift of self to the other: no conditions, no reservations, nothing held back. This includes our fertility.

When couples abide by God's plan for spousal love, then they have a strong marriage and a healthy, happy family. When they reject God's plan, and substitute their own plan (contraception, sterilization and abortion), then they fall into a cultural trap where today, in this country, there is a 50 percent divorce rate, a lack of male responsibility, 35 percent of children born

outside of marriage, dysfunctional families and increased abortions.

NFP is completely different from contraception when used as a means to space your babies.

1) NFP respects God's plan. Contraception does not.

2) NFP respects human fertility, and never turns against it. Contra (against)ception does not respect your fertility. Instead, it sterilizes it, either temporarily or permanently.

3) NFP regards fertility as something good and natural. Contraception regards it as a disease.

4) NFP requires self-sacrifice and self-giving. Contraception wants instant gratification.

5) NFP compels a couple to take their relationship seriously. Contraception focuses everything on orgasm.

6) The divorce rate among users of NFP is less than 5 percent. For users of contraception, it is 50 percent plus.

7) The Pill causes all sorts of problems for a woman's body. Read a list of all the counter indications that come with the prescription. NFP is completely natural. It is God's way and nature's way for spacing pregnancies responsibly in a morally good way.

I suggest that you read the encyclical HUMANAE VITAE. Go to GOOGLE and find it there.

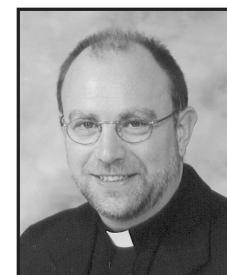
Let's spread the good word about NFP, so that it can benefit everyone.

Cordially yours,
Fr. Matthew Habiger, OSB

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

Renewal Center



Rev. Bob Knippenberg
Retreat Director

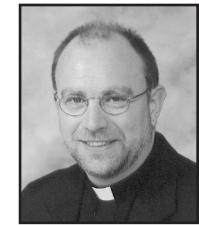
The Diocesan Office of Catechetical Ministry is sponsoring an Advent Retreat at the Spiritual Renewal Center on December 7 and 8. The theme of the retreat is "Let the Walls Come Down: Experiencing Victories as Dramatic as Jericho." The retreat is open to any man or woman who would like to get away for a short time from the hustle and bustle of Christmas preparations to pray, reflect and spend quiet time with God.

Father Bob Knippenberg, pastor of Sts. Cyril and Methodius Catholic Church in Shiner, will be the retreat director. He is a frequent workshop presenter and also gives parish missions and retreats throughout the diocese.

Arrival time is 5:00 p.m. on Friday and the retreat will conclude with a Liturgy celebrated by Bishop David Fellhauer and Father Bob Knippenberg at 5:00 p.m. Saturday. The cost of the retreat is \$45, which covers three meals, overnight stay and retreat materials. For more information or to register call (361) 573-0828 or e-mail bparkan@victoriadiocese.org. Please register by Tuesday, December 4, 2007.

From The Pastor's Desk

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



Last time I told the story of the Alaskan Eskimo's trap for the wolf and how this trap resembles the allure of sexual sin. I also said that I believe that one of the challenges we face as Christians is that we need to unmask the lies given to us by the modern culture and then have the courage to choose what will actually satisfy us.

There are so many ways to grab someone's attention these days, but I don't think too many would argue that none is more popular in American culture than splashing sexual images, lyrics, innuendos, jokes, stories or actions into our lives. We have become conditioned by all of these messages in the popular media showing the "language of sexuality" and may no longer question the truth of these messages. As the hungry wolf was tricked into thinking the bloody knife would satisfy his hunger, we are often tricked into thinking our deepest desires will be met by sexual pleasure. One of the keys to satisfying our deepest desires is to learn the language of the body and learn to "speak it" well.

Without having to say a word, the body

is capable of speaking its own language. This "language of the body" can be something positive like a hug, or negative like a not-so-friendly gesture when we're driving. Since the body is capable of speaking, it is also capable of lying. For example, consider when Judas kissed Jesus while betraying Him (see Mk 14:45). Judas' body said one thing, but his heart clearly said another.

Pope John Paul II taught that the language of the body is not only a language of love but a language of divine love. The love of God is unconditional. Remembering that we are created in the image and likeness of God, this language of divine love is the body's "native" language. It's the language our bodies were created to speak: the truth.

Over the next couple of months, we will explore the language of the body more in depth so as to better understand how sometimes we use our bodies "to lie" rather than to speak the truth of the language of divine love.

Diocese of Victoria Library & Media Center

Visit www.victoriadiocese.org to search the library catalog or call 361-573-0828. Library hours are Monday - Friday 8:30 a.m. - 4:30 p.m.

Missing Videos

We need your help!

The following videos have disappeared from our shelves.

- 270 Blessed Are the Peacemakers
- 395 Passion in Jerusalem: The Easter Story
- 413 The Song of Bernadette
- 500 Training the Eucharistic Minister
- 527 The Mass for Children
- 570 Lenny Learns about Lent
- 988 Ministers of Communion
- 1141 Let Justice Flourish
- 1190 This Sacred Meal
- 1193 Work of God's Hands
- 1354 Why Catholics do What They do
- 1433 Diary of a City Priest

If you happen to find any of the videos listed, please return them to our office or call (361) 573-0828. Thank you.

Book of the Month

Simplicity: The Freedom of Letting Go This book will assist those who are struggling to find meaning in personal prayer. Author Richard Rohr presents his prophetic message with authority, sincerity and strength.

ADVENT

Video of the Month

An Advent and Christmas Journey Five-Video Series: Hope in the Darkness

Father Himes goes in-depth into the spirituality and theology of Advent and Christmas. He refers to biblical passages used in this season without relying on one particular liturgical cycle.

If you are not yet a Library Patron, call (361) 573-0828 and receive a Patron number, which will enable you to check out videos and books throughout the year.

Make Christmas a time of Evangelization

Proclaim Christ in your outdoor Christmas decorations through beautiful nativity scenes. Nativity scenes can be purchased at Victoria Market Days, from various wood-workers, from various Web sites, such as www.u-bild.com, www.catholicsupply.com/churchs/nativities-ch.html or even local stores.

Remember, Jesus is the Reason for the Season!

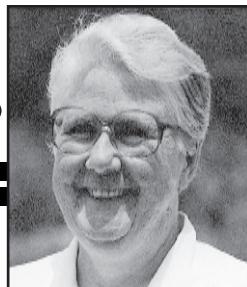
December 7-8

Advent Retreat



SISTERLY THOUGHTS

By Sister Mildred Truchard, IWBS



Sharing Our Blessings!

Recently I had the opportunity to attend a conference in the Rio Grande Valley. Included in the agenda was a visit to a community center that was built in response to the needs of the people who lived in the “colonias” in the area. Colonias are usually settlements of poor people who lack water, electricity, surfaced roads, etc. However, due to current regulations, this area had the basic services with housing that ranged from barely-there to sturdy brick buildings.

The mission center began as a dream of two Missionary Sisters of the Immaculate Heart of Mary (ICM) who saw a great need and went from house to house to gather information from the residents. Then with great faith - but no money - one of them went to the developer to investigate the possibility of acquiring a piece of land for the project. Unknown to her, he had previously tried to donate land for a community center in his development; but plans had fallen through. So after some consultation with his mother, this developer offered two acres for the project - provided the center would be built within two years. The deadline was easily met with his help and that of many generous donors. The dream was realized when the center opened in August 2004. The building has since been expanded twice to meet the demand for services. Each expansion was met with generous benefactors coming forth and investing in the “mission”.

The story of the acquisition of per-

sonnel is as phenomenal as the story of the building itself. Five ICM Sisters now serve on the permanent staff. One of them was told that she was too old to work in California, so she said, “I’m going to Texas,” where she now does various ministries including preschool. The sisters are joined by volunteers from the area, by senior citizens who travel South for the winter, by college students and by doctors and dentists who volunteer to rotate for Saturday clinics.

The services offered for human development are as varied as the needs of the people and the abilities of the staff allow. Community-building, tutoring and classes in human development, Christian doctrine, English, cooking, sewing, budgeting, computer, dance, and whatever is needed are provided. Since there is no church nearby, Mass is celebrated by the Catholics in the area on Sunday evenings. The center is truly the fulfillment of a dream - and a lot of faith.

I was most edified by the spirit of sharing of money, time and love that make the center a preview of the coming of God’s Kingdom. I am challenged and would invite you to share the challenge of showing gratitude for what we have received by sharing with others. Whether it’s financial help, giving of one’s time, or using one’s talents to improve the lives of others, I think this is an excellent way of expressing our thanks for what we have received.

Happy Thanksgiving!



ST. PHILIP SCHOOL RECEIVES KJZT DONATION—KJZT No. 72 of El Campo recently donated \$1,000 from their 2007 People Helping People project to St. Philip Catholic School in El Campo. Accepting the donation (seated l-r) is Principal Gwen Edwards from Josephine Rucka, president. KJZT officers, Jeraldine Socha, treasurer, and Rose Mary Janak, secretary, are standing (l-r).

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Cynthia Brewer and other award winners pose with their HCEF awards amongst three West Bank, Christian mayors at the 9th Annual HCEF International Conference October 26, 2007 in Washington, DC. From left: Dr. Victor Batarseh, mayor of Bethlehem; Cynthia Brewer, HCEF President’s Award recipient, Victoria; Hani Naji Hayek, mayor of Beit Sahour; Ms. Janette Michael, mayor of Ramallah; Patty Parma, HCEF President’s Award recipient, San Antonio; and Father Robert Waller, Milford, Ohio, HCEF Award recipient.

HCEF President’s Award winner thanks diocesan organizations

By TCL Staff

Cynthia Brewer, the co-chair of the Holy Land Christian Ecumenical Foundation’s support network in Victoria, received the non-profit foundation’s President’s Award at HCEF’s 9th Annual International Conference in Washington, DC, October 26, 2007.

She accepted the award on behalf of the organizations in the Diocese of Victoria that have helped her hold olive wood sales in support of the indigenous Christians of the Holy Land.

After expressing thanks for Bishop David Fellhauer’s support, she informed the banquet’s audience that she could not have contributed \$33,000 toward the Holy Land Christians without the help of those who held olive wood sales in their parishes: the Catholic Daughters of the Americas, the Knights of Columbus, youth groups, including the Young Neighbors; altar societies, and the Guadalupañas.

Victoria, Texas, was put on the map for five West Bank, Christian mayors who were present for the conference and the award’s banquet.

“I feel so honored that through their mayors, the Christians in Ramallah, Bethlehem, Beit Sahour (Shepherd’s Field), Beit Jala, and Birzeit will learn that the people of the Victoria Diocese in Texas have supported them so generously,” said

BLESSING OF ANIMALS

Our Lady of Victory School children and their families along with parishioners gathered on October 4 for the Feast of St. Francis to have their pets blessed. The smaller grades brought photos of their pets to be blessed. The football field was filled with large and small animals which included dogs, cats, horses, rabbits, birds and many more different pets, including a squirrel. Msgr. Michael Harrold and Father Gabriel Bentil were on hand to bless the animals. (TCL photo by Regina Matus-Janak)



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& Much More



Nazareth Academy 7th grade students selected as the 2007-2008 Duke University Academic Talent Search honorees pose on their school's playground. The students qualifying for this prestigious achievement include Jason Trevino, Clayton Davidson, Neil Zamora, Stephanie Rivera, Charlie Holloway, Nicole Sontheimer, Kathrine DeGand, Ashley Kolar, Gideon Luck (pushing swing), Katie Gray, Allison Johnston, Clara Allen, Hannah Garza and Madalynn Kainer.

Nazareth Academy students achieve academic excellence

Fourteen Nazareth Academy 7th grade students have been selected as the 2007-2008 Duke University Academic Talent Search honorees. Students qualifying for this prestigious achievement include: Clara Allen, Clayton Davidson, Katie DeGand, Hannah Garza, Katie Gray, Charles Holloway, Allison Johnston, Madalynn Kainer, Ashley Kolar, Gideon Luck, Stephanie Rivera, Nicole Sontheimer, Jason Trevino and Neil Zamora.

The Duke University Academic Talent Search is conducted by Duke University, located in North Carolina. Since 1980, Duke University has been a national leader in identifying academically talented students.

Students are selected to participate in the Duke Academic Talent Search, by virtue of their outstanding scores on the Stanford Achievement Test administered in the

6th grade. In order to qualify, students must score in the 95 percentile or greater (this means they must score better than 95 percent of all 6th graders taking the test nationally) in one or more of the following academic subjects: Total Reading, Reading Vocabulary, Reading Comprehension, Language, Social Science, Science, Total Math, Problem Solving, and Mathematics Procedures.

These fourteen students from Nazareth Academy have also earned academic privilege of taking the SAT college admission examination along with juniors and seniors in high school on January 26, 2008.

Nazareth Academy Catholic School is devoted to inspiring excellence in education, and recognizes the fourteen above named students, for their extraordinary academic achievement.



Employees of Schumacher Air are on the roof of St. Michael School receiving one of the units hoisted by a crane to the top of the school in Cuero. St. Michael School is the recipient of a \$25,000 grant from the Kenedy Foundation.

St. Michael School receives grant

CUERO — St. Michael's Catholic School is the recipient of a \$25,000 grant from the John G. and Marie Stella Kenedy Foundation. The St. Michael's Catholic School Advisory Council, the school's principal, Ms. Judy Roeder, and Rev. Kirby Hlavaty, pastor, have initiated the Capital Improvement Project to include the upgrading of the existing air-conditioning/heating units, the necessary wiring and plumbing work and the removal of obsolete equipment. A total of 12 units will have been replaced since the project began.

Sarita Kenedy East established The John G. and Marie Stella Kenedy Foundation in 1960 in Corpus Christi. The pur-

pose of the foundation is to fund Catholic Charities within the State of Texas, and pursuant to such purpose, 90 percent of its grants are made to Catholic entities within Texas and the remaining 10 percent is distributed to nonsectarian charities within Texas.

This grant is the culmination of a two-year effort to sustain funding for this project. St. Michael's Catholic School has also received a \$5,000 grant for the Capital Improvement Project from the Wood Family Memorial Trust. In addition, Schumacher Air of Cuero has provided in-kind donations throughout this project. The project should be completed by the end of October.

Catholic school conference speaker revitalizes teachers

Continued from p. 10

"They (students) are looking to us for guidance on how to be a young man or woman. If they don't hear it from us or from their parents at home, they're not going to hear it on MTV," he said, then reminding them, "We are called by the Lord to meet the needs of the kids in this historic moment."

He then spoke on the reason for Catholic schools: "Big ideas are not enough. We have to be radical (going to the root of something). The root of the Big Idea is the Gospel!" he said.

"FLASHCARD! Catholic education is up to us and we darn well better have our heads on straight to do this holy work God has given us to do."

Parents are going to ask, "What is so special that I should send my children to them (Catholic schools), when I can go somewhere free?"

You must convince parents that the tuition is worth it — radical — that it will make a difference, he said.

"We're not just teaching calculus, art; we're teaching the Gospel — big time stuff," he said.

"We just teach math, music, art on the side. Any good school will teach a kid how to multiply. Wonderful public school teachers teach kids how to spell," he said. "We don't want to be nothing more than little Sylvan Schools that say grace before meals."

Mr. Findlater suggested that the audience follow St. Benedict's teaching, "Your way of acting should be different than the world's way."

"Absolutely everything is teaching — how you drive in the parking lot, what you say about your principal behind his or her back. They don't miss a trick. They're there to soak you in," he continued.

"Unless the tongue catches fire, God will not be spoken. We have to feel the smoke, feel the heat and know how profoundly different our Catholic Schools

are," he said. "So people in town will say 'Those people are out of their minds. But who wouldn't want to be a kid from there?'

After closing, Jean Howze, Weimar middle school teacher, said, "He was fantastic; he was a great speaker and a big inspiration. We needed it right now!"

"I loved the part where he said, 'You are doing holy work in a sacred place,' and 'Make everyday count, for it could be our last day,'" said Carol Dipple, OLV 2nd grade teacher.

The Chancery Office will be closed for the Thanksgiving Holiday, November 22 and 23. Have a Blessed Holiday with family and friends.

Pilgrimage to Our Lady of Guadalupe — The Patroness of the Americas — and the Shrine of the Holy Infant of Good Health

April 19 — 28, 2008

Contact Betty Urbanovsky at (979) 543-2333 or E-mail: burbanovsky@sbcglobal.net

Our Lady of Lourdes Annual Fall Festival • Nov. 11 at the Victoria Community Center

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Serving from 11:00 a.m. to 1:30 p.m.

Plates-to-go @ \$7 p/p drive-up outside or pick-up inside
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Youth Live Their Faith Out Loud at Fiesta!

By Cynthia Brewer

In a lively atmosphere of Christian music, Mexican decorations and lots of balloons, 250 youth met for the 2007 Jr. High Fiesta Sunday, November 4, at Holy Family Parish in Victoria.

Junior high youth of the Diocese of Victoria were challenged by keynote speaker Sommer Stowe to "Live Your Faith Out Loud."

Sommer is a singer and songwriter who, after teaching theol-

ogy for five years at Bishop Lynch High in Dallas, has just released her first solo album "Back to Home." She is now sharing her faith through music full time at conferences throughout the United States.

She taught the youth how to live their faith "out loud" by referring to the six basic questions journalists use when writing a story: who?, what?, where?, when?, why? and how?!

Who? Everyone!

What? Should live their faith out loud!

Why should I live my faith, when those who aren't seem to be doing OK? We need spiritual nourishment to sustain us!

Where? Everywhere!

When? All the Time!

Why? Even though it's hard, we persevere in living our faith to reap the benefits of God's loving reward!



Junior High youth meet for the Jr. High Fiesta under the banner of the theme: "Living Your Faith Out Loud."



Kara and Cassidy (l. to r.) join other girls from Holy Cross Parish in East Bernard at the Jr. High Fiesta!



Keynote speaker Sommer Stowe guides Jr. high youth in "Simon Says" to help them reflect if they're just following the crowd or if they're following God's plan for them.



Sommer Stowe sings one of the songs she wrote titled, "Under your Grace." Carlos Longoria of the OLS Youth Band provides backup drums for her.

played her guitar and sang songs from her album.

Debbie Vanelli, director of the youth and young adult office, was pleased with the 2007 Jr. High Fiesta saying, "Sommer really engaged the youth."

The day ended with Mass said for the youth by Bishop David E. Fellhauer and other priests from throughout the diocese.



Kevin Camacho and friends of Immaculate Conception Parish in Goliad enjoy the Our Lady of Sorrows Youth Band's spiritual songs.

How? Follow God's recipe for our happiness to a "T," and if we mess up, God allows U-turns!

In between Sommer's lessons she

Youth Calendar of Events

November 15 — Theology at the Well — (formerly Theology on Tap) - Deacon Steve Borowicz will present the topic: "Livin' the Catholic Life," for young adults from 6:45 – 8:30 p.m. at Tejas Cafe in Victoria

November 17 — Basic Youth Ministry Certificate Course – Class No. 3 - **Leadership Development** – planning and programming – at the Chancery from 8:30 a.m. – 12:30 p.m. Pre-registration is required

November 17 — Basic Youth Ministry Certificate Course – Class No. 7 - **Retreat Formation** – at the Chancery from 1:30 – 5:30 p.m. Pre-registration is required

November 18 — Youth Leadership Training, 8:45 a.m. – 4:30 p.m., Holy Family, Victoria

December 1 — Diocese of Victoria Evangelization (DOVE) Team Training from 1:00 - 5:00 p.m. at the Chancery

December 2 — Youth Leadership Training, 8:45 a.m. – 4:30 p.m., Holy Family, Victoria

December 8 — Bishop Fellhauer Christmas Dinner at the Spiritual Renewal Center.

December 9 — Diocese of Victoria Evangelization (DOVE) Team Training from 1:00 - 5:00 p.m. at the Chancery

January 5-6, 2008 — Youth Leadership Retreat at the Spiritual Renewal Center.

January 12, 2008 — Basic Youth Ministry Certificate Course – Class No. 4 - **Prayer and Worship** – at the Chancery from 8:30 a.m. – 12:30 p.m. Pre-registration is required

January 30 - February 2, 2008 — Annual Membership Meeting – Little Rock, Arkansas

February 16, 2008 — Basic Youth Ministry Certificate Course – Class No. 5 - **Justice and Service** – at the Chancery from 8:30 a.m. – 12:30 p.m. Pre-registration is required

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

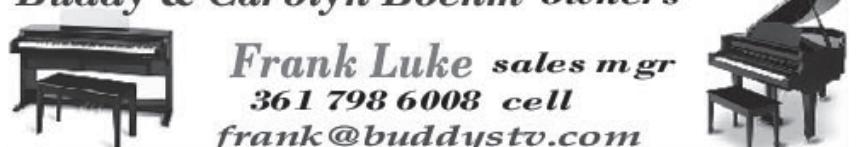


GIRL SCOUTS RECOGNIZED—Girl Scout members received recognition recently at a Mass at Our Lady of Victory Cathedral with Bishop David Fellhauer as celebrant. The following Girl Scout members have received their Girl Scout Religious Recognition Medals: adults l-r, Diana Starnes has been awarded the "St. Elizabeth Ann Seaton" Medal for over seven years of service to her church and to the Girl Scout Religious Program. Diana is a member of St. Mary Church in Victoria and has served as a Girl Scout volunteer for 12 years. Martha Nichols has been awarded the "St. Anne" Medal for 12 years of service to her church and to the Girl Scout Religious Program. Martha is a member of Our Lady of Lourdes Church in Victoria and has been a Girl Scout volunteer for 12 years. Rianna Twilley, left front, has been awarded the "Family of God" Medal. She is a Brownie Girl Scout and a member of Girl Scout Troop 5113 at Smith School. Tess Yarbrough (back) and Rachel Gohlke (front) have both been awarded the "Spirit Alive" Medal. The girls are Senior Girl Scouts and are members of Girl Scout Troop 577.

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Bishop spends the day at St. Rose School, Schulenburg

SCHULENBURG—On October 4, students, faculty, staff and many friends of St. Rose of Lima Catholic School



The second grade class prepared the morning's Liturgy. During the Mass the Bishop gave them a special blessing.

welcomed the Most Reverend David Fellhauer, bishop of the Diocese of Victoria, to their campus for a very special and memorable visit. What began as a generous donation by Mr. and Mrs. Fred Lero later became a spectacular memorial, a beautiful display of community and faith and ultimately the inspiration for the day's events.

The Leros answered a request in the local parish bulletin to purchase a St. Rose of Lima statue for the parish school. Shortly thereafter, Mr. Lero lost his battle with cancer and his wife Patricia requested the statue be given in his memory. "He was a firm believer in Catholic Education and a big supporter of St. Rose School," Mrs. Lero said of her husband Fred. Other memorials also came in to the school and it was these donations that made the Mary Garden and Walking Rosary projects a reality for St. Rose School. It was the blessing and dedication of these two

Freeman James begins the rosary for his grandfather.

al vicar, presided over the morning's Liturgy prepared by the second grade class and teacher, Pam Wick. During the homily, Bishop Fellhauer discussed his own roots in Catholic Education, saying he knew at a very young age he was called by God to serve his church as a priest. He asked the students to be open to that call in their very own lives. During



The St. Rose of Lima Statue and Rosary Garden were made possible by donations made in the memory of Mr. Fred Lero. Two of his grandchildren Freeman and Cate James attend St. Rose School.



Mrs. Lero prays the rosary with the student body as part of the rosary garden dedication. Her family and friends are gathered behind her.

Mass he also bestowed a special Latin blessing on the second grade class. After Mass, a breakfast reception for the bishop and other special guests, including Sister Gloria Cain, superintendent of Catholic schools; Sister Dawn Achs, associate superintendent, and Mrs. Patricia Lero and her family and friends, was held in the school cafeteria. Shortly after, everyone gathered at the front of the school for

two very special blessings and a time of prayer and reflection. St. Rose School Principal Rosanne Gallia welcomed the Lero Family especially, and spoke of Mr. Fred Lero with these words: "I only knew him a short time but you could see the pure joy he had in his grandchildren, the love of all children, and the sincere love of St. Rose

School. You could truly see and feel the presence of Christ and goodness in him." She then provided a brief background of the patron saint of the school, St. Rose of Lima, to begin the dedication ceremony. She

asked everyone to open his or her hearts and lives to Christ as St. Rose of Lima did. "She lived a selfless life of penance for Jesus Christ. She knew what it was to love Jesus with a generous heart. She despised the world's vanities in order to embrace his cross," Mrs. Gallia said. Mrs. Gallia also spoke of the Blessed Mother Mary Garden, which is filled with various flowers, all significant to Mary. Inside the garden is also a statue of the Blessed Mother. Intertwining through the garden are stepping-stones that are part of a Walking Rosary.

Following a special blessing of all of these items by the bishop, students and guests prayed the rosary. Part of the opening prayer read "and the favor which we ask of you in this Rosary—for Mr. Fred Lero, his family and friends and the St. Rose of Lima School Family, friends and benefactors." Each student leading a prayer then stepped onto the appropriate stone, using the walking rosary for the first time.

"It was so very special. Seeing the children saying the rosary was heartwarming," Mrs. Lero said. "It touched my heart."



In honor of the feast day of St. Francis of Assisi, students, faculty and parish members were invited to bring their pets and animals for a prayer service and blessing.

Catholic school conference speaker revitalizes teachers ... “Nothing you do with kids, be it ever so small, is not profound”

By Cynthia Brewer

Like a mantra, Mr. John Findlater, the keynote speaker of the 10th Annual Catholic School Seminar, stressed throughout his presentation: "We are called by the Lord to meet the needs of our students in this historic moment."

The Diocese of Victoria held its annual Catholic School Seminar Friday, October 12, at the KC Hall in Hallettsville — the most central location among the diocese's 15 Catholic schools.

Sister Gloria Cain, SSND, superintendent of the diocese's Catholic schools, welcomed the schools' faculty and staff and introduced Bishop David Fellhauer who thanked the Catholic school faculty and staff for fulfilling a very important part of the church's mission, that of teaching.

"Christian Education has a duty to develop the whole life of the whole person," Bishop Fellhauer said. "The Church's role is especially evident in Catholic Schools as its specific function is to develop an atmosphere of spirit, of liberty and charity based on the Gospel," he continued.

Sister Dawn Achs, SSND, associate superintendent of Catholic schools, introduced the keynote speaker, John Findlater, an education consultant from Detroit, Michigan, who has been actively involved in Catholic education for over 30 years as a teacher and principal. His presentation's theme was "Making Your Catholic School Classroom a Dangerous Place to Be."

As he has worked on every level of Catholic School education: elementary,

middle and secondary grades, he was able to relate to the teachers' experiences and kept them in stitches with his wacky sense of humor.

Joking, he said Pope Benedict just made a declaration that all middle school teachers will be assumed into heaven directly, for all of the penance they do at their jobs.

He told the principals if they ever have a chance to open up a brand new school as he has done, "Take it!" he said. "No one will ever say, 'We didn't do it that way last year.'"

Then on a more serious note, he spoke of how much the world has changed since the teachers were students, as well as the

importance of making Catholic Schools radically different from public schools.

Students are not who we were when we were their age, Mr. Findlater said. "And if we persist that they are, then we're not doing our job."

There has been enormous social change since parents' and teachers' school days.

"We're called to be prophetic: to think ahead because everything

has changed," he said. "We need to try to figure out what they need today, so they're prepared for the future."

"If we're running Catholic Schools like 1958 or 1986, we're not doing our jobs." Things have changed. The school system was developed in the 1900's around farm schedules, he said, when most mothers were home everyday. Today 75 percent of women in the nation with school age children are working, he said.

In his inner-city school he suggested that high schools stay open from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. so teens won't have that free time from 3 – 5 p.m., when parents aren't around. "It's the scariest time for parents," he said.

"What used to be high school issues are now middle school issues," Mr. Findlater said.

He reminded us that when we watched TV shows growing up, all the married couples on TV had separate twin beds. Now kids can see more explicit sex on TV than adults have seen in their whole lives, he said.

Because boys and girls develop differently from each other, physically and psychologically, he suggests that beginning in 5th grade, schools segregate the boys and the girls, with men teaching the boys and women teaching the girls.



Diocesan Catholic schools' staff and faculty applaud John Findlater, the keynote speaker for the 10th Annual Catholic School Seminar at the KC Hall in Hallettsville.

See Catholic school conference, p. 8



Sacred Heart Church continues to celebrate its 125th anniversary with a staff appreciation!

HALLETTSVILLE—Sacred Heart Parish and School of Hallettsville continue the 125th anniversary of the founding of the parish and school. Each month during the year, the parish does something to celebrate.

The overall chairman for the year is Tommie Claire Zimmerman. The chairman for the month of October is Madeline Migura. Madeline, along with her committee, has arranged that individuals or groups in the parish would provide refreshments or little gifts to the staff of the parish and school each week during October to show the parish's appreciation for all that the staff does.

The staff is truly grateful for the appreciation shown by the parishioners.



(left) Permanent Deacons l-r: Deacon Joey Targac and Deacon Sonny Rogers



Religious Education Staff (above): front row l-r — Rhonda Henneke, Virginia Gafe, Christie Steffek, Janice Busselman (director); Barbara Leopold, Gail Kallus and Jackie Bludau; back row l-r — Father Michael Rother, Todd Schindler, Sandra Satsky, Pat Mladenka, Judy Jalufka, Beverly Jansky, Karen Steffek, Pam Etzler, Sharon Leopold, Dottie Leopold, Lisa Hermes, Carlotta Henry, Beverly Haas, Terry Wick, Sarah Wick and Father John C. Peters (pastor). Not pictured: Mary Leopold and Laura Boehm.



Sacred Heart Early Childhood and Day Care Center staff l-r: Kulah Grant, Ashley Moccabee, Minshell (Me-Me) Crayton, assistant director; Stacy Davenport, Stephany Hendricks, Amy Shimek, director; Elizabeth Longoria and Father John C. Peters, pastor. Not pictured: Lakeshia Jackson, Kourtney Hartmann, Dorothy Laas, Pickle Cash and Ashley Dornak.



Sacred Heart Catholic School Staff: front l-r: Debi Bludau, Joyce Smolik, Sharon Timm, Sister Colette Kouba, Theresa Brewer, Doris Fenner, Ruth Barton, Geralyn Klimitchek and Sherry Hale; middle row: Candace Hines, Sandi Koerth, Wanda Orsak, Sally Kolos, Shanna Clark, Christina Halata, Pam Bohuslav, Rachel Winkenwerder, Janice Bludau, Erin Warzecha, Kim Henke, Irene Matula, Frances Franta, Kathy Haas and Father John C. Peters (pastor); back row: Pat Henke, William Harrison, Harvey Appelt, Joe Cash, David Smolik (principal); Brenda Etzler, Trey Kraatz, Michael Tankersley and Karen Zavesky. Not pictured Father Michael Rother, Sister Emiliana Gafe, IWBS; Kay Jones, Robert Svetlik, Dorothy Treptow, Pickle Cash, Agnes Huser, Virgil Gutierrez, Amy Powell, Mark Migl and Sandy Zaruba.



Preparing for Diaconate Jerry Timm



Religious Staff l-r: Sister Colette Kouba, IWBS, and Sister Emiliana Gafe, IWBS



Rector Staff (above) l-r: Dorothy Jansky, Father John C. Peters (pastor); Margaret Dornak, Jackie Pettus, Joan Corte, Father Michael Rother (parochial vicar); and Carol Bludau.



Custodian, Forrest Sevcik (l), and Groundskeeper, Kenneth Renger (r)



Cafeteria Staff l-r: Diana Wenske, Margaret Henneke, Delores Renger and Barbara Grahmann



Family Puzzle Contest Winners

November Family Puzzle Prize is "The Flock"

The winner of the November Family Puzzle Prize will win "Well-Drawn Faith, featuring 'The Flock.'"

This is an ideal gift book for all who seek a deeper understanding of discipleship and a more intimate relationship with God.

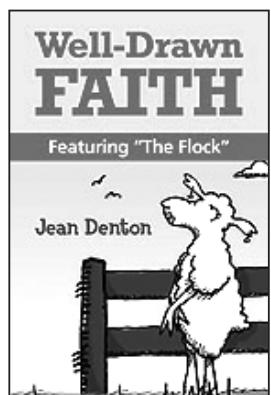
What better way to celebrate and honor our loving God than through humor! Jean Denton's "The Flock" cartoons offer wise and humorous glimpses of our fumbling and fallible human efforts to be good and holy children of God. She uses her popular sheep images to help readers understand and appreciate the patience and tender love of our God.

Through twenty-six A to Z cartoons, she offers meditations based on important aspects of faith and discipleship, for example, "Acceptance," "Blessings," and

being "Chosen." Each cartoon is accompanied by an inspiring spiritual reflection and a prayer response.

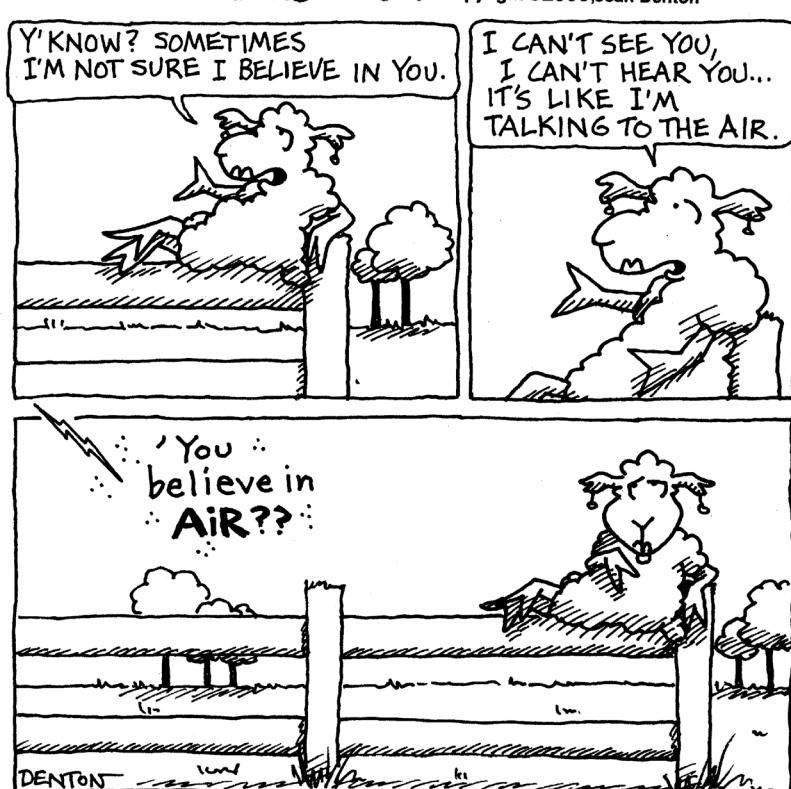
The winner of the October Puzzle Contest is Evelyn Albrecht of Our Lady of the Gulf. She will receive "Father Like a Tree" by Matthew S. Field and published by Matting Leah Publishing Company. The youth contest winners are Bethany Nevlud (8) of Sts. Cyril & Methodius Parish in Shiner and Scott Edward Wenske (8) of St. Joseph in Moulton.

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



The Flock

By Jean Denton
Copyright ©2005, Jean Denton



Texas Renaissance Festival

1974 2007

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October 6th - November 25th

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TRIBULATION

Thanksgiving Day: Of Gratitude and Grace

By Father John Catoir
Catholic News Service

On Thanksgiving Day we offer gratitude to God for all his blessings and graces. In this column I want to explain the church's teaching on grace, to help you be even more exuberant in your gratitude.

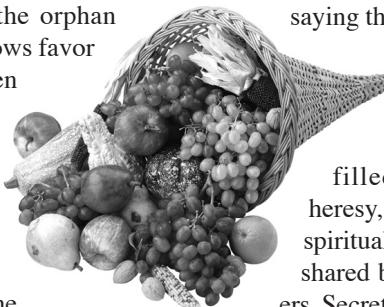
The Hebrew Bible uses the verb "hanan" to signify grace: "the act of showing favor." God has shown favor toward you all through your life. He is also depicted in the Bible as showing favor to the poor, the needy, the widow, the orphan and so forth. Yahweh shows favor by delivering his children from distress (Psalms 4:2).

The New Testament uses the Greek word "charis" for grace, also meaning "the good favor of God." Here we have the added notion of the saving will of God. St. Luke refers to our future heavenly reward as God's favor, which is given to us through the loving self-sacrifice of Jesus on the cross (6:32-34).

The word "grace" also refers to the life and power that God bestows upon us (Cf. Jas 4:6 & 1 Pt 5:5). The first martyr, St. Stephen, was full of grace and power when he gave up his life (Acts 6:8). The apostles were terrified at times, but they overcame their fear by the grace of the Holy Spirit (Rom 12:3).

Grace is the gift of God that empowers us to perform holy deeds. Actual grace is God's way of showing us favor and helping us in times of trial.

The fruits of grace are faith, hope, love and optimism. The spirit of joy and optimism is one of God's wonderful gifts.



Jesus said, "I have come that your joy may be full." A happy life is one filled with acts of sacrifice for others.

Over the centuries there have been some serious challenges to the church's teaching on grace. The Gnostics in the second and third centuries claimed that salvation was not for all but only for the enlightened ones who possessed some special knowledge (thus the word "gnosis," which is Greek for "knowledge").

The church condemned this view, saying that God's love is universal.

He wants everyone to be saved, not merely a few insiders.

New Age religions are filled with the old Gnostic heresy, claiming to harbor many spiritual secrets which can only be shared by an elite group of insiders. Secret sharing is always alluring and often a source of financial revenue. Beware!

In the fifth century, the Pelagians held erroneously that grace was not necessary for salvation. They maintained that we can save ourselves through the exercise of the natural virtues.

In the 16th century, Luther taught that grace cannot wash away our sins, it can only cover them over. He believed that the soul remains essentially corrupt. The Council of Trent condemned this idea, quoting Greek Fathers of the church who taught that God communicates himself to us through the Holy Spirit. As a result we are truly divinized, purified and made holy with God's life living in us. This is a far cry from being "essentially corrupt."

These are my reasons for giving special thanks on this Thanksgiving Day.

Final Texas Renaissance Festival winners announced

Winners of the October Texas Renaissance Festival give-away are: Janice Simons of St. Mary, High Hill, and Susan V. Wall of Sts. Peter & Paul in Plum. They will each receive a pair of tickets. **Congratulations!** These were the last tickets to be given away by *The Catholic Lighthouse* for 2007. There was a lot of participation; thank you to all who submitted entries.



Sunday readings from Nov. 11 to Dec. 9

November 11 — Thirty-second Sunday in Ordinary Time	2 Maccabees 7:1-2, 9-14 Psalm 17:1, 5-6, 8, 15 2 Thessalonians 2:16 — 3:5 Luke 20:27-38
November 18 — Thirty-third Sunday in Ordinary Time	Malachi 3:19-20a Psalm 98:5-6, 7-8, 9 2 Thessalonians 3:7-12 Luke 21:5-19
November 22 — Thanksgiving Day	1 Kings 8:55-61 Psalm 145:2-3, 4-5, 6-7, 8-9, 10-11 1 Corinthians 1:3-9 Luke 1:39-55
November 25 — The Solemnity of Our Lord Jesus Christ the King Last Sunday in Ordinary Time	2 Samuel 5:1-3 Psalm 122:1-2, 3-4, 4-5 Colossians 1:12-20 Mark 11:9, 10
December 2 — First Sunday of Advent	Isaiah 2:1-5 Psalm 122:1-2, 3-4, 4-5, 6-7, 8-9 Romans 13:11-14 Matthew 24:37-44
December 8 — Holy Day Solemnity of the Immaculate Conception of Blessed Virgin Mary	Genesis 3:9-15, 20 Psalm 98:1, 2-3ab, 3cd-4 Ephesians 1:3-6, 11-12 Luke 1:26-38
December 9 — Second Sunday of Advent	Isaiah 11:1-10 Psalm 72:1-2, 7-8, 12-13, 17 Romans 15:4-9 Matthew 3:1-12

Safety for families

Meriden CT — The high season for car crashes with deer is October through December. Each year, they account for more than 150 human and nearly one and a half million deer fatalities. Experts attribute the problem to the combination of deer mating and migration habits and shortened daylight hours. "More drivers are on the road at dawn and dusk, the very time of day when deer are most active," cautioned Ray Palermo, director of public relations for Response Insurance, a national car insurer. "A car striking a 200-pound adult deer can not only result in the death of the deer, but also incur an average of two thousand dollars in damage to the vehicle." Palermo suggested a few basic cautions for drivers.

- Scan a wide swath of the roadside. Slow down when approaching a deer standing near the side of a road and be prepared. If startled, the deer can bolt onto the road and into your path. If necessary, honk your horn and flash your lights to try to scare it away.
- Be alert for more deer than you may see at that moment. Where there is one deer, there are often more nearby.
- In many instances, it is best not to swerve around the deer since the deer may move in the same direction. You may also inadvertently hit another vehicle, or go off onto a dangerous shoulder. Unless certain



of those road factors, it is often best to simply brake and continue in your lane of traffic.

- Be particularly careful at dawn and dusk and when driving either over a hill or around a curve, where visibility is limited. Use your high beams to give you a greater area of visibility and allow you to see the deer's eyes sooner.
- Deer whistles or ultrasonic deer avoidance systems attached to vehicles have never been proven to work by independent studies and may give drivers a false sense of security.
- Take deer crossing signs seriously, particularly those installed specifically for this time of year. Be particularly cautious in wooded and agricultural areas where there is little distance between the road and the woods. More driver safety information is available at www.response.com/safety.

prevented a book, "The Golden Compass: Agenda Unmasked."

The Catholic League wants Christians to boycott this movie precisely because it knows that the film is bait for the books: unsuspecting parents who take their children to see the movie may be impelled to buy the three books as a Christmas present. And no parent who wants to bring their



GENERATIONS OF FAITH CONTINUES—The Catholic Community of Cuero, St. Michael and Our Lady of Guadalupe parishes, use Generations of Faith on a monthly basis as a means of teaching the Catholic faith to their whole community — from toddlers to grandparents. One month GOF is held at St. Michael's, the next it's held at Our Lady of Guadalupe. Generations of Faith committee members from St. Mary Parish in Victoria attended Cuero's GOF session October 10 to become more familiar with its format as they will begin holding GOF sessions at their parish on a quarterly basis, beginning with their first session Sunday, November 18. Above, Sister Louise Miksch, CDP, introduces the topic of Cuero's October GOF session, The Creed, I Believe.

Major protest launched against "The Golden Compass" ... Film sells atheism to kids ...

The Catholic League is calling for a boycott of *The Golden Compass*; the movie opens December 7 and stars Nicole Kidman. It is based on the first book of a trilogy titled, *His Dark Materials*.

The author of this children's fantasy is Philip Pullman, a noted English atheist. It is his objective to bash Catholicism and promote atheism to kids. "The Golden Compass" is a film version of the book by that name, and it is being toned down so that Catholics, as well as Protestants, are not enraged.

The second book of the trilogy, *The Subtle Knife*, is more overt in its hatred of Catholicism than the first book, and the third entry, *The Amber Spyglass*, is even more blatant. Because *The Golden Compass* is based on the least offensive of the three books, and because it is being further watered down for the big screen, some might wonder why a boycott is warranted.

The Catholic League wants Christians to boycott this movie precisely because it knows that the film is bait for the books: unsuspecting parents who take their children to see the movie may be impelled to buy the three books as a Christmas present. And no parent who wants to bring their

children up in the faith will want any part of these books.

We are launching a major educational campaign designed to alert the public to Pullman's game plan. To that end, we have



Nicole Kidman and Dakota Blue Richards star in a scene from the movie "The Golden Compass." The film, which is set to debut in theaters Dec. 7, is based on one volume of a trilogy of children's books that many say is anti-Christian. Hollywood reports say the film will make no direct references to the Catholic Church, but critics of the trilogy remain skeptical about the film adaptation. This film has not yet been rated. (CNS photo/New Line)

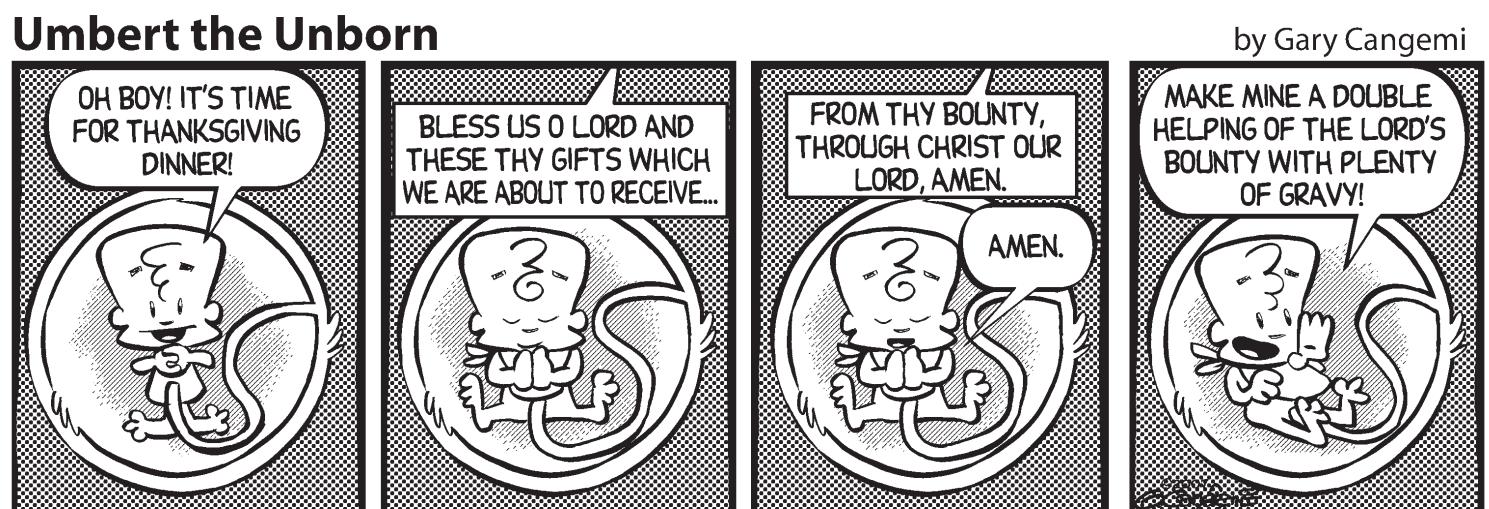
Pullman represents the new face of atheism: it is aggressive, dogmatic and unrelenting. It is also fueled by hate — by a crusading hatred of all religions, but most especially of ours. His side is counting on our side to lie down and die. He may have experienced little resistance in England, but it's a different story here.

The reason we are starting our protest early is because it takes time to get the word out, and besides, the media love it when we give them something to chew on. The booklet is being mailed to thousands of influential persons, including film critics and Christian leaders.

While Roman Catholicism is the evil force in Pullman's writings, his real goal is to put a positive face on atheism, getting children to buy his message. Thus, we expect more than Catholics will join our protest.

If you would like to order copies of "The Golden Compass: Agenda Unmasked," you can do so by sending \$5 (includes shipping and handling) to: Catholic League; Publications Dept.; 450 Seventh Avenue; New York, NY 10123; or go to www.catholicleague.org to order online. On orders of 10 or more, the cost is \$3 per copy.

by Gary Cangemi





Over 2,000 Rosary Rallies held Oct. 13 throughout U.S.

Christian Newswire and Cynthia Brewer

All across the country, Catholics gathered in public squares, busy intersections, city parks, and in front of town halls or local abortion clinics to take part in more than 2,000 public rosary rallies held on October 13 in honor of the 90th anniversary of the Marian apparitions of Our Lady at Fatima in Portugal.

The American Society for the Defense of Tradition, Family and Property (TFP) and its America Needs Fatima campaign sponsored the event. At the same time, over 2,000 red roses representing every rally organizer were placed at the locale of the apparitions in Fatima.

In Victoria, Texas, the Rosary Rally was held at DeLeon Plaza in downtown Old Victoria at the Gazebo. Singers from Our Lady of Sorrows and St. Mary Parish in Victoria added song after each decade of the rosary.

Before the prayer, Sister Miriam Perez, MCHS, spoke on the history of Our Lady of Fatima's devotion. The official recognition was given 13 years after the apparition, on Oct. 13, 1930, and throughout the years different popes have mentioned her in different ways, she said.

On Oct. 13, 1942, on the 25th anniversary of the apparition, Pope Pius XII consecrated the world to Our Lady of Fatima; and on Nov. 21, 1964, during the sessions of the Vatican Council, Pope Paul VI said, "We entrust the care of this heavenly mother, the entire human family with its problems and anxieties with its legitimate aspiration and ardent hope."

On the 50th anniversary, an exhortation was written in 1967 titled "Mary Mother of the Church." It says: "We urge all members of the church to consecrate themselves once again to the Immaculate Heart of Mary to translate this pious act into concrete action in their daily lives. In this way they will compile ever more closely with God's will as imitators of their heavenly queen, they would surely be recognized

Faithful throughout diocese come for Padre Pio's blessing

People from throughout Victoria and as far away as Shiner and El Campo packed St. Mary Parish in Victoria October 13, 2007, to receive a blessing from Padre Ermilindo Di Capua of San Giovanni Rotondo, Italy. Following the recital of the rosary and Saturday morning Mass, Padre Ermilindo blessed each person with the glove that had covered one of Padre Pio's palms, both of which reportedly bore the stigmata of Christ. Padre Ermilindo encouraged the faithful to form prayer groups in honor of St. Pio. A reception was held following the blessings. The Padre Pio Prayer group in Victoria, the only one in Texas, organized the priest's visit at St. Mary's.

as her offspring." Sister Miriam Perez said, "How beautiful of a reminder that it's not just prayer that we say from the lips; it's a prayer that we have to say from the heart. It's a prayer that we have to convert into our daily lives into witnessing what we believe in."

Pope John Paul II, at the 65th anniversary (1982), made a pilgrimage to Fatima in thanksgiving for the Virgin's intercession for saving his life when he was shot May 13, 1981.

"This is the anniversary of Our Lady of Fatima and it is worldwide, everybody is celebrating it. It is such a very spe-

cial day," said participant Maria Dikanoski.

In closing, Msgr. Peter Agbenu, parochial vicar at Holy Family in Victoria, spoke of Mary's role in the life of the church as a big role, "She is mother of God, mother of Christ, mother of the Church."

Dr. Lisa Heinrich-Null commented that the Blessed Mother is very powerful, "I have said many rosaries for her intercession, and she has come through."

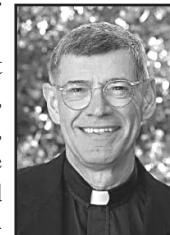
Cities within the diocese that also held Rosary Rallies were Bay City, Hallettsville, Ganado, El Campo, East Bernard and La Grange (just outside diocese).



Approximately 30-40 people attended the America Needs Fatima Prayer in El Campo at Evans Park. Members of St. Robert Bellarmine participating in "America Needs Prayer" Saturday, Oct 13, were (pictured front left to right) Ella and Margie Merta, Terri Beltran, Lydia Schoellman; back row: Charlie Merta, Pete Quintana, Frank Milder and Father Larry Matula, pastor.

Ways of Knowing God

By Father Oscar Lukefahr



If you want to know God, Saint Paul says, just look at the world around you. Every human being can know God, for... "Ever since the creation of the world his eternal power and divine nature, invisible though they are, have been understood and seen through the things he has made" (Romans 1:19-20).

This was true in Paul's time. It is true today. And as science learns more about the nature of creation, it can help us achieve a better knowledge of God. Stargazers of Paul's day probably numbered stars in the thousands; they knew God had to be great to create such a universe. Today's astronomers say that our Milky Way galaxy contains more than a hundred billion stars, and that the universe contains more than a hundred billion galaxies. God IS great!

People have always marveled at the mystery of life, but now we're told things previous generations could hardly have imagined. The average adult human body, for example, contains about 75 trillion cells. Each second, every one of these cells produces two thousand proteins from three hundred to one thousand combinations of amino acids. God likes vastness...and intricacy!

Such scientific findings have brought new meaning to Paul's words in the first chapter of

Romans. Dr. Fritz Schaefer said in an interview with U.S. News & World Report (December 23, 1991): "The significance and joy in my science comes in the occasional moments of discovering something new and saying to myself, 'So that's how God did it!'" Dr. Francis Collins in his book, *The Language of God*, points to God's handiwork in the discoveries of the genome mapping project directed by Collins. Science shows God to be greater than the ancients could have imagined.

So what the author of the Book of Wisdom wrote more than two thousand years ago about created things rings out clearer than ever: "And if people were amazed at their power and working, let them perceive from them how much more powerful is the one who formed them. For from the greatness and beauty of created things comes a corresponding perception of their Creator" (Wisdom 13:4-5). For a fine discussion of this, see Fritz Schaefer's paper, "Scientists and Their Gods" (www.lead-eru.com/offices/schaefer/docs/scientists.html).

Another way people can come to know God is through the moral law, as C. S. Lewis argues in his book, "Mere Christianity". Human beings agree that certain things, like torturing a baby for fun, are evil. On a personal level, most people (even philosophers!) will say you can't walk into their house and take something that belongs to them. Such concepts of right and wrong imply a universal moral law that judges all

THE POPE SPEAKS

Pope Benedict XVI



CNS photo from Reuters

Parishioners who model Christ are most effective teachers, says pope

By Carol Glatz Catholic News Service

VATICAN CITY (CNS) — Clergy, lay catechists and parishioners who model their lives according to Christ represent the most effective tools for teaching the word of God, Pope Benedict XVI said.

"Whoever teaches the faith cannot risk appearing like a sort of clown who just performs a role for one's job," the pope said Oct. 24 at his weekly general audience in St. Peter's Square.

The catechist should not go through the motions, but "must be like the beloved disciple who rests his head on the heart of his Master" to hear and learn how to think, speak and act, he said.

Continuing a series of audience talks about early church theologians, Pope Benedict focused his remarks on St. Ambrose, a fourth-century bishop of Milan, Italy, and a doctor of the church.

St. Ambrose would prepare his catechumens by going over the moral teachings of sacred Scripture "until they were following in the footsteps of divine laws," the pope said.

Reading sacred writings is crucial for learning "the art of living well," which is "living in conformity with divine revelation," he said.

St. Ambrose was a model catechist, he said, as his teaching was inseparable from how he prayed and lived.

The way he and his parishioners "prayed and sang close knit like one single body" amazed a young St. Augustine, a professor of rhetoric in Milan still searching for the truth, he said.

In fact, seeing the word of God being concretely lived by its believers marked the turning point which finally convinced St. Augustine to convert to Christianity and be baptized by St. Ambrose, the pope said.

He said St. Augustine learned from St. Ambrose the importance of reading and listening closely to the word of God so that it is lived.

This is especially important for clergy, deacons and catechists so that none of them will become "an empty preacher of the word of God outwardly, who is not a listener to it inwardly," the pope said, citing a quote by St. Augustine in the Second Vatican Council's Dogmatic Constitution on Divine Revelation, "Dei Verbum."

This inward listening and attentive reading of Scripture can be done through the practice of "lectio divina," a form of prayerful meditation on the word of God which St. Ambrose introduced to the West, said the pope.

This prayerful reading will lead the reader to truly absorb the word of God into his or her own heart and bring one to Christ, he said.

people. It must come from mind, not from matter. Therefore, there must be a Mind above us all, namely God.

The moral law for God's existence has been much debated, but a reading of Lewis' arguments is both worthwhile and persuasive.

Dr. John Patrick tells a story showing how people readily admit the reality of objective right and wrong when it involves them. A student worked hard on an essay to prove that right and wrong are subjective. He did his research, wrote well, turned in the paper, and received a "C" as his grade. He was upset and went to argue with the teacher. The professor agreed that the paper was excellent, then added, "But I hate blue folders!" The student got the point, realizing that if right and wrong were indeed subjective, the professor could grade any way he wished. (See Patrick's excellent paper on the myth of moral neutrality at www.augustinecollege.org/papers/JP_myth.htm).

There are other philosophical arguments to demonstrate God's existence and attributes. Saint Thomas Aquinas offers five classical arguments from motion,

causality, contingency, perfection and design. These arguments have been the subject of debate for centuries. They don't seem as convincing to moderns as do the findings of science, but they can help us appreciate the careful, intelligent reasoning that leads many to belief in God.

A modern philosopher who spent his lifetime studying the great thinkers of history, including Aquinas, was Mortimer Adler. Born in 1902, he wrote *How to Think About God* in 1980, refining earlier arguments about God's existence and presenting them to the modern world. Soon afterward, he became a Christian, and in 2000 (at the age of 98!), a Roman Catholic.

Is there a God to be known? Yes, Paul proclaims, from the things God has made. Scientists study the universe. Thinkers consider the moral order. Philosophers reflect on the nature of being. They agree with Paul that there is a God to be known. But to know God in a personal way, we need for God to reveal himself. Fortunately, as we shall see, God has done just that.

See next month's column.



Dedicatoria de la Capilla de la Santísima Trinidad

Por Cynthia Brewer y
César Hernández

Después de 40 años de espera, la creciente comunidad de la capilla de la Santísima Trinidad, en el corazón de Silver City en Victoria finalmente tiene un templo digno. En una celebración por la noche del miércoles, 17 de octubre del 2007, el Obispo David Fellhauer bendijo y dedicó la capilla para la comunidad hispana de aproximadamente unos 400 miembros.

La dedicación, realizada casi totalmente en español, comenzó con la procesión de los parroquianos y clero cantando "Me Alegre", mientras caminaban desde el salón de la iglesia, Silver City Social Center, hacia la nueva capilla en el 2901 Pleasant Green. Al llegar a la entrada, El Obispo Fellhauer felicitó a los miembros de Nuestra Señora de los Dolores, parroquia Madre, y especialmente a los de la capilla de la Santísima Trinidad por todo su trabajo y esfuerzo al realizar el sueño de la nueva capilla.

"Me siento orgulloso... Es una iglesia hermosa. En realidad es una labor de amor y ameritaba la espera" dijo el Obispo Fellhauer, "estoy muy complacido con y por ustedes." Con mucha emoción, las puertas principales se abrieron, permitiendo que el Obispo bendijera las pilas de agua a la entrada de la Iglesia, y enseguida dio la bienvenida a los parroquianos para entrar a la iglesia por primera vez.

Aproximadamente unas 450 parroquianos llenaron el cuerpo de la iglesia, adornada con vitrales de diferentes santos, combinando con el nuevo vía crucis. El vía crucis y los vitrales fueron hechos en México.

La guardia de honor de los Caballeros de Colón del cuarto grado hicieron valla dando la bienvenida a la procesión del clero al santuario para la iniciación de la misa de dedicación. Al entrar al santuario, el Obispo Fellhauer roció con agua bendita a todo el interior de la capilla; la estatuas del Sagrado Corazón de Jesús y de Nuestra Señora de Guadalupe, las paredes, ventanas, vía crucis, bancas y a los parroquianos.

Al frente esta la imagen de la Santísima Trinidad. Reflejada sobre un crucifijo donde se encuentra al Padre, al Hijo y al Espíritu Santo con un fondo de hoja de oro que lo hace resaltar, trabajado y pintado a mano especialmente por escultores mexicanos de Guadalajara.

Concelebrando la misa con el Obispo Fellhauer estaban los Padres Trinitarios, Juan Vázquez, párroco de Nuestra Señora de los Dolores y la capilla de la Santísima Trinidad, Alberto Rodríguez, Luke Manella, Juan Antonio Pérez, Pedro García de Miami, Florida, Raphael Baido, párroco de la Inmaculada Concepción en Goliad; sirviendo como diáconos de la palabra y del altar respectivamente estaban, los Diáconos Edward Molina y Jesús Pérez.

Después de la celebración de la Palabra, el Obispo comentó que la dedicación de una iglesia es una ceremonia muy elaborada y solemne de la Iglesia. Y dijo, "Llamamos a Dios, de quien reconocemos está en todo lugar, pero la iglesia es un lugar especial donde nos encontramos con el Señor de una manera mucho muy

especial; a través del sacramento de bautismo, alimentado con la misma palabra de Dios y ahora reunidos para compartir la Eucaristía."

Enseguida el párroco, Juan Vázquez dio la homilía en español.

los estudiantes), y Santa Rita de Cascia (abogada de las causas imposibles).

Las reliquias inmediatamente fueron selladas por el parroquiano Cesar Hernández. El Señor Obispo consagró las cuatro esquinas del altar con aceite de crisma y

Señora de los Dolores y por ultimo fue el Padre Provincial de la Orden Trinitaria.

Después de haber sido ser incensado el altar, las damas del altar vistieron el altar con nuevos manteles y colocaron plantas y flores en el santuario. El Diácono Pérez encendió el Cirio Pascual y se la presentó al Señor Obispo quien después de decir la oración de la luz de Cristo, regresó el cirio al Diácono, quien a la vez encendió las velas del altar y las velas de las cuatro esquinas de la capilla.

Con la bendición y dedicación de la nueva capilla de la Santísima Trinidad continúo la celebración de la Eucaristía.

Richard Pérez, parroquiano, dijo que desde el inicio de la primera capilla en la calle Ozark hace 40 años, la meta de una capilla más amplia ha sido el sueño de la comunidad. La recaudación de fondos desde las jamaicas anuales y las barbacoas finalmente han logrado la nueva capilla. "Hace cuarenta años se realizó la compra del terreno para la capilla; hace 20 años se acabó de pagar" dijo el Señor Pérez. Los parroquia nos han trabajado en la recaudación de fondos para el edificio y estacionamiento con capacidad para 80 carros.

Ray Montelongo, hijo mayor de Jesús y Amelia Montelongo de Victoria dijo, "Mi corazón siempre estará en Silvia City."

El regresó a su parroquia natal donde sirvió de monaguillo por diez años. Hoy día es Gran Caballero en su parroquia de Houston, San Justin Martir. También es caballero del cuatro nivel y sirvió en la guardia de honor en la dedicación de la capilla.

Verónica Zapata, parroquiana de Nuestra Señora dijo, "Mi corazón está aquí. Aquí es donde crecimos."

Hermana De La Misericordia Y Mexican American Cultural Center En San Antonio Recibirán El Premio Arzobispo Patrick Flores

WASHINGTON - El Comité de Obispos para Asuntos Hispanos de la Conferencia de Obispos Católicos de los Estados Unidos (USCCB) publicó el 5 de octubre los nombres de dos nuevos galardonados con el Premio-Medalla "Arzobispo Patrick F. Flores al Liderazgo en el Ministerio Hispano". En esta ocasión, los recipientes serán la hermana María Elena González, RSM y el Mexican American Cultural Center (MACC), ambos de San Antonio, Texas. La ceremonia oficial de entrega tendrá lugar el 11 de noviembre de 2007 en Baltimore, en la reunión del Comité para Asuntos Hispanos, que coincide con la reunión general de la Conferencia Episcopal Estadounidense.

El Obispo Plácido Rodríguez de la Diócesis de Lubbock, Texas, presidente del Comité, dijo que los Obispos otorgan este premio "para reconocer personas o instituciones de gran liderazgo en el ministerio hispano y para alentar la continuación y la surgimiento de ese tipo de liderazgo por todo el país".

La hermana González, Hermana de la Misericordia del Instituto de las Américas, quien recibirá el galardón por una vida de servicio, liderazgo y dedicación, tiene una larga y variada carrera. Recientemente se despidió de su cargo como presidenta de MACC, posición que ocupó durante catorce años. Fue la primera mujer canciller en la Diócesis de Lubbock y una de las primeras mujeres cancilleres diocesanas en

después unto toda la superficie. Enseguida prosiguió a ungir las cuatro esquinas del templo.

El nuevo altar se colocó en memoria del Reverendo Raúl Rendón quien fue asignado a la capilla recién ordenado sacerdote. Sirvió como párroco de Nuestra

todo el país. También sirvió como consultora del Comité de Obispos para Asuntos Hispanos de la Conferencia Episcopal de 1994 a 2002, como miembro del Subcomité de Obispos para el Encuentro 2000, el Comité de la Oficina del Censo sobre Raza y Grupos Étnicos para el Censo 2000, la Junta Asesora Comunitaria del San Antonio Express News y el Equipo de Liderazgo de la Hermanas de la Caridad. También fue maestra de escuela elemental y misionera en Guatemala.

Ha recibido numerosos premios, incluyendo la Medalla Pro Ecclesia et Pontifice del Papa Juan Pablo II. Recientemente le fueron otorgados dos doctorados honoris causa

por la Universidad Salve Regina y la Universidad St. Edward's en Austin, Texas. Considera que tiene corazón de educadora y se ha dedicado al servicio y educación de los pobres y oprimidos.

"Es un gran honor para mí recibir este prestigioso premio al mismo tiempo que MACC", dijo la hermana González al enterarse del premio. "Significa mucho para

mí recibir un premio que lleva el nombre del Arzobispo Flores. Ambos venimos del mismo lugar. Ambos fuimos migrantes. Es uno de los fundadores de MACC. Es simplemente un gran honor".

MACC fue establecido en 1972 en la "capital de la frontera", San Antonio, Texas. Creado inicialmente para desarrollar materiales pastorales para los millones de personas de habla hispana que viven en los Estados Unidos, el centro luego evolucionó para convertirse en un centro intercultural para el estudio de teología, ministerio pastoral, estudio de los idiomas inglés y español, investigación y estudio de la realidad hispana.

"Es un gran honor para MACC recibir el Premio Arzobispo Patrick Flores", dijo el Doctor Arturo Chávez, presidente de MACC. "Como uno de los co-fundadores de MACC, el Arzobispo Emérito Flores ha marcado de forma profunda nuestra institución. A través de su vida, demuestra un profundo amor por la fe y orgullo de su cultura que han dado forma a la misión de MACC. Dios nos pide que nos amemos unos a otros, que cuidemos unos de otros, especialmente de los más vulnerables en nuestra sociedad", dijo Chávez. "Esto es válido también para la misión de MACC, especialmente en el trabajo con nuestros hermanos y hermanas inmigrantes".



Hermana María Elena González

por la Universidad Salve Regina y la Universidad St. Edward's en Austin, Texas. Considera que tiene corazón de educadora y se ha dedicado al servicio y educación de los pobres y oprimidos.

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POPE AND SAUDI ARABIA'S KING POSE FOR PHOTOS—Pope Benedict XVI and Saudi Arabia's King Abdullah Aziz pose for photos during their meeting at the Vatican Nov. 6. The pope raised concerns about restrictions on Christian worship in Saudi Arabia in the first meeting ever between a pope and a reigning Saudi king. (CNS photo/L'Osservatore Romano via Reuters)

Bush to nominate new ambassador to Vatican

WASHINGTON (CNS) — President George W. Bush will nominate Mary Ann Glendon, a U.S. law professor and president of the Pontifical Academy of Social Sciences, as the new U.S. ambassador to the Vatican. The White House made the announcement late Nov. 5. She will succeed Francis Rooney, a businessman who has held the post since October 2005. Glendon, 69, a law professor at Harvard University in Cambridge, Mass., has been a member of the social sciences academy since its founding in 1994. In March 2004 Pope

John Paul II named her president of the academy, marking the first time a woman has been named president of one of the major pontifical academies.

Chaldean Catholics said key to boycott of Miller over poster flap

DETROIT (CNS) — Chaldean Catholic Bishop Ibrahim N. Ibrahim credited the support of Chaldean Catholics in metro Detroit for the success of a boycott of Miller Brewing Co. products that he said resulted in the company pledging to never again support events that insult and offend religious sensibilities. "We were a big factor in

that," said Bishop Ibrahim, who heads the Southfield, Mich.-based Eparchy of St. Thomas the Apostle, the Chaldean Catholic diocese for the eastern half of the United States. In metropolitan Detroit, Chaldean Catholics own about 2,000 party stores — about 90 percent of the total of the area's independent neighborhood convenience stores that sell food and other items, including alcoholic beverages. Bishop Ibrahim worked with Chaldean ethnic and business groups to boycott Miller products after the company's logo appeared on a poster for a Sept. 30 San Francisco street fair that mocked Leonardo da Vinci's painting of "The Last Supper" and had what critics described as a sadomasochistic theme. The New York-based Catholic League for Religious and Civil Rights and other Christian groups expressed outrage, and the league immediately called for a boycott of Miller until the company apologized for its association with the poster and the fair. On Oct. 31 the Catholic League said it was dropping the boycott after the company extended its Oct. 26 apology about the logo to acknowledge "disrespectful activities" at the fair.

Efforts made to reach out to wildfire refugees

SAN DIEGO (CNS) — As the fierce Santa Ana winds abated, giving firefighters a chance

Fire Fallout



evacuees	900,000
destroyed homes	2,000
estimated damage	\$1 billion+
total burn area	780 sq. miles

Sources: Associated Press, United States Geological Survey, National Interagency Fire Center

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to make headway on wildfires that have scorched more than 500,000 acres in Southern California, Catholic groups and other relief agencies likewise took the opportunity to make headway in helping those fleeing the flames. Catholic Charities agencies in four California dioceses have been helping evacuees find shelter and comfort. Despite the scope of the blazes, which destroyed 2,767 structures —

including more than 2,000 homes — and caused the evacuation of hundreds of thousands of Southern California residents, there was relatively little personal injury. St. Bartholomew Church, a mission church on the Rincon Reservation, and several homes on the reservation were destroyed in one of the fires, according to Bo Mazzetti, a councilman for the Luiseno tribe on the reservation.

Politics, religion, music among issues bishops are facing in November

WASHINGTON (CNS) — When the U.S. bishops meet in November, they will debate and vote on how Catholics should participate in the political process, what Catholic high school students should learn in religion classes and how to best ensure that liturgical music is both doctrinally sound and pleasing to the ear. They also will begin a new era in the history of the U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops by electing a new president and vice president, voting on revised bylaws and filling several committee posts created by the USCCB restructuring process. Other items on the agenda for the Nov. 12-15 fall general assembly in Baltimore are a document on education for chaste living and a revised norm defining "acts of extraordinary administration" that require a bishop to obtain the consent of his diocesan advisers. Two liturgical documents — on revised readings during Lent and weekday celebrations of the Liturgy of the Word — also will come before the bishops, who will also vote on a Spanish-language version of the latter document. The USCCB Committee on Pro-Life Activities will ask the bishops for permission to draft a pastoral document on reproductive technologies to respond to the "great confusion among lay Catholics regarding the church's teaching" on the subject.

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Cardinal: Ghana's Catholics learn Islamic texts to further dialogue

By Simon Caldwell
Catholic News Service

LONDON (CNS) — Catholics in Ghana are being taught the Quran and Islamic scriptures to further interreligious dialogue and community cohesion, said the country's first cardinal.

Cardinal Peter Turkson of Cape Coast, Ghana, said in an Oct. 15 interview with Catholic News Service that relations between Catholics and Muslims in Ghana were "pretty cordial," but he acknowledged that rising Islamic militancy around the world presented new challenges to relations between Christians and Muslims in his country.

Cardinal Turkson said that any rising tensions were being countered by a "dynamic program of action."

"We are promoting the study of the Quran among Catholics so there is no ignorance about or intolerance of what it stands for," the cardinal said.

"We have what we call a dialogue of action," he said. "We come together to undertake common projects.

"If a well needs digging for water, we will drill the borehole together, for example, and we build schools together," he said.

Catholics account for 15 percent of the predominantly Christian West African nation's nearly 23 million people. Muslims make up about 16 percent of the population.

"But all over the world there is the changing face of Islam," the cardinal added. "With the collapse of communism there is an ideological vacuum to be filled,

and some people are pushing Islam to fill that."

"There are quite a few tensions over what others conceive Islam should be," he added. "We are challenged to deal with such situations of tension that every now and then arise."

Cardinal Turkson, 59, spoke during an Oct. 15-21 visit to England to strengthen existing links between England and Ghana and to highlight the importance of World Mission Sunday Oct. 21.

He also spoke of his gratitude to England for sending Catholic missionaries to Ghana in the 19th century, when Ghana was part of the British colonial territories.

He said he believes that Africa now has a duty to support the Catholic Church in Europe, if needed, with priests and religious men and women.

Pope names 23 cardinals, including two from U.S.

Continued from p. 1

November, there will be 121 potential voters. The 23 new cardinals will bring the total membership of the College of Cardinals to 202.

The nomination of Cardinals-designate Foley and DiNardo brings to 17 the number of U.S. cardinals; after the consistory, the U.S. contingent will include 13 potential papal electors.

The new cardinals represent 15 countries on five continents. Eight of the new cardinals are current or retired Vatican officials, 13 are current or retired heads of archdioceses around the world and two are former rectors of the main pontifical universities in Rome.

Cardinal-designate John P. Foley

Cardinal-designate John P. Foley, who will turn 72 Nov. 11, became pro-grand master of the Knights of the Holy Sepulcher in late June. He had been president of the Pontifical Council for Social Communications for more than 23 years.

A native of Philadelphia and a graduate of the New York's Columbia University School of Journalism, he was ordained to the priesthood in 1962. Between stints in



Cardinal-designate Foley stands with crosier during Mass in Washington (CNS photo/Nancy Wiechec)

U.S. Cardinal-designate DiNardo chats with nun at catechetical conference in the Diocese of Rockville Centre, N.Y. (CNS photo/Gregory A. Shemitz, Long Island Catholic)

the 1960s as assistant editor of Philadelphia's archdiocesan paper, the Catholic Standard and Times, he studied in Rome, where he covered the Second Vatican Council from 1963 to 1965.

In 1970, he was appointed editor of the Catholic Standard and Times and was still running the newspaper in 1984 when Pope John Paul II named him an archbishop and head of the Vatican office for social communications.

As grand master of the Knights of the Holy Sepulcher, Cardinal-designate Foley assists knights from around the world in fulfilling their commitment to the chivalric organization, which is dedicated to supporting the Latin Patriarchate of Jerusalem and to responding to the needs of Catholics in the Holy Land.

Cardinal-designate Daniel N. DiNardo

Cardinal-designate Daniel N. DiNardo of Galveston-Houston, a former Vatican official, was born May 23, 1949, in Steubenville, Ohio. He was ordained a priest for the Pittsburgh Diocese in 1977. From 1984 to 1990 he was a staff member of the Vatican Congregation for Bishops.

From 1990 to 1997 he held pastoral posts in the Pittsburgh Diocese, where he taught in the ongoing formation program for priests and was assistant spiritual director at St. Paul Seminary.

He was named coadjutor bishop of Sioux City in 1997 and became bishop the following year.

In Sioux City, he was known for a strong focus on vocations, the strengthening of adult religious education programs, a continued emphasis on the value of Catholic schools and the creation of safe environment programs for children.

He became coadjutor of the Archdiocese of Galveston-Houston in 2004 and became archbishop in February 2006 with the resignation of Archbishop Joseph A. Fiorenza.

Cardinal-designate DiNardo received bachelor's and master's degrees from The Catholic University of America in Washington, where he is currently a member of the board of directors. He also received licentiate in theology from Gregorian University in Rome and a degree in patristics, the study of the fathers of the church, from the Augustinianum in Rome.

During his time in Rome, he also served as director of Villa Stritch, the residence for U.S. priests working at the Vatican, and taught a theology seminar in methodology at Gregorian University.

After the consistory, the U.S. contingent will be second in size only to the Italians. Of the 17 U.S. cardinals, 13 will be under age 80 and eligible to vote in a conclave to elect a new pope.

The U.S. cardinals under age 80 will be Daniel N. DiNardo of Galveston-Houston; Edward M. Egan of New York; John P. Foley, grand master of the Knights of the Holy Sepulcher; Francis E. George of Chicago; William H. Keeler, retired archbishop of Baltimore; Bernard F. Law, archpriest of Rome's Basilica of St. Mary Major and retired archbishop of Boston; William J. Levada, prefect of the Congregation for the Doctrine of the Faith; M. Mahony of Los Angeles; Adam J. Maida of Detroit; Theodore E. McCarrick, retired archbishop of Washington; Sean P. O'Malley of Boston; Justin Rigali of Philadelphia; J. Francis Stafford, head of the Apostolic Penitentiary and former archbishop of Denver.

The four U.S. cardinals over age 80 are William W. Baum, former archbishop of Washington and former head of the Apostolic Penitentiary, a Vatican court; Anthony J. Bevilacqua, retired archbishop of Philadelphia; Avery Dulles, a Jesuit theologian; Edmund C. Szoka, former president of the commission that governs Vatican City State and former archbishop of Detroit.

Collection for the Tri-Conference Fund For Retired Religious Dec. 9

Pope completes second encyclical, a meditation on Christian hope

By John Thavis
Catholic News Service

VATICAN CITY (CNS) — Pope Benedict XVI has completed his second encyclical, a meditation on Christian hope, Vatican sources said.

The text, tentatively titled "Spe Salvi" ("Saved by Hope"), is about 65 pages, sources said Oct. 16. No release date has been set for the document.

The working title comes from St. Paul's letter to the Romans, in which he wrote: "For in hope we have been saved." The encyclical is said to explore the Christian understanding of hope, with reference to modern philosophy and the challenges of disbelief.

The pope worked on the encyclical this summer, when he had time to write during his sojourns in northern Italy and at his villa outside Rome. At the same time, he was working on a third encyclical that deals with social themes, Vatican officials said.

The pope published his first encyclical in late 2006. Titled "Deus Caritas Est" ("God Is Love"), it called for a deeper understanding of love as a gift from God

to be shared in a self-sacrificial way.

The pope spoke about the importance of the virtue of hope in 2005, when he addressed Mexican bishops on their "ad limina" visits to Rome.

"Confronted by today's changing and complex panorama, the virtue of hope is subject to harsh trials in the community of believers. For this very reason, we must be apostles who are filled with hope and joyful trust in God's promises," the pope told the bishops.

From a pastoral standpoint, he added, hope means reminding Christians that God never abandons his people and is alive and active in the world.

"In contemporary society, which shows such visible signs of secularism, we must not give in to despair or a lack of enthusiasm in pastoral projects," he said.

In introducing a section on hope, the Catechism of the Catholic Church states: "Hope is the theological virtue by which we desire the kingdom of heaven and eternal life as our happiness, placing our trust in Christ's promises and relying not on our own strength, but on the help of the grace of the Holy Spirit."

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Texas Bishops Respond to Amnesty International

We, the Bishops of Texas are instructing all parish and diocesan staff and other Catholic organizations to no longer support financially nor through publicity, nor participate in joint projects or events sponsored by the organization known as Amnesty International. This instruction is based on Amnesty International's decision to limit its human rights agenda by promoting abortion as a way to curb violence against women, especially women in developing countries. In promoting abortion, Amnesty divides its own members, many of whom are Catholics, and others who defend the rights of unborn children and jeopardizes its support by people in many nations, cultures and religions who share a consistent commitment to all human rights. Our assessment is that Amnesty International is now violating its original mission to protect human rights worldwide and has lost its moral credibility.

While no human rights organization should turn away from the suffering that women face daily in the form of sexual violence, it should not prioritize a mother's life above that of her unborn child. It is better to advocate advancing her educational and economic standing in society and resist all forms of violence and stigmatization against her and her child. Abortion is an act of violence against both the child and its mother. Any organization truly committed to women's rights must put itself in solidarity with women and their unborn children.

Discontinuing participation with Amnesty International does not mean the Catholic Church in Texas will cease to protect human life and promote human dignity in all circumstances. We will continue to oppose the use of the death penalty, unjust incarceration and the crushing effects of dehumanizing poverty in our state. We will continue to stand with refugees, migrants, and other oppressed

peoples. But, we will seek to do so in authentic ways, working most closely with organizations who do not oppose the fundamental right to life from conception until natural death.

Cardinal Renato Martino, president of the Pontifical Council for Justice and Peace, stated that individuals and Catholic organizations must withdraw their support for Amnesty International if it continues with this new policy, because, in deciding to promote abortion rights, Amnesty International has betrayed its mission. This statement has been sup-

ported by the U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops. We, therefore, call upon Amnesty International to act in accord with its noblest principles, reconsider its error, and reverse its policy on abortion. Until then, parishes, diocesan staffs, and other Catholic organizations should no longer work with Amnesty International. We also encourage the lay faithful to examine their consciences and prayerfully consider their personal involvement with Amnesty International.

For more information, visit www.txcatholic.org.

UNFPA Loses \$34 Million in U.S. Funding this Year

FRONT ROYAL, Virginia (Christian Newswire)—The population controllers at the United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA) will have to pinch pennies for another year. This fall, for the sixth year in a row, President Bush has invoked the Kemp-Kasten Amendment and withheld \$34 million in U.S. funding from the United Nations Population Fund. We at PRI applaud this decision.

The groundwork for this decision was laid by PRI, which sent teams of investigators to China, Peru, Vietnam, and Pakistan between 1998 and 2002 to look into U.N. Population Fund activities there. What they found was that the UNFPA was deeply involved in programs of forced abortion and coercive sterilization. We presented our evidence both to the U.S. Congress and to two presidential administrations. The evidence, which included video and audio testimony from victims of these abuses, left no doubt that the UNFPA was violating the rights of women, not to mention the Kemp-Kasten Amendment itself.

The Population Research Institute (PRI) was founded in 1989 by Fr. Paul Marx, OSB, Ph. D., and is dedicated to: (1) ending

human rights abuses committed in the name of "family planning," (2) opposing outdated social and economic paradigms premised on the myth of overpopulation, (3) informing the public about the social and economic benefits of moderate population growth, and (4) promoting pro-natal and pro-family attitudes and policies worldwide. Steven Mosher, president of PRI, is the author of numerous books, including *A Mother's Ordeal*, available in 11 languages. His next book is due in the fall of 2007. E-Mail: pri@pop.org; Web site: www.pop.org.

Cathedral serves as refuge for flood evacuees in southeastern Mexico

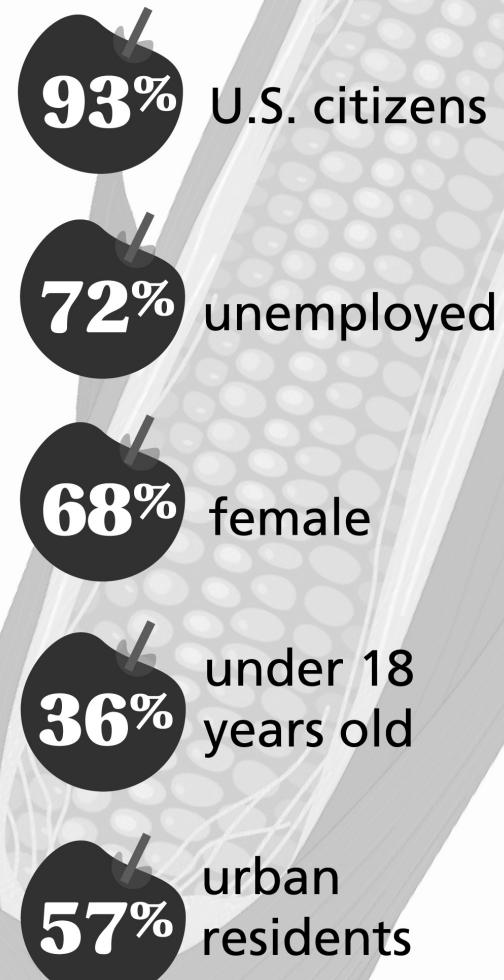
VILLAHERMOSA, MEXICO (CNS) — Wailing babies crawl about on heaps of mattresses and blankets in front of the altar. Exhausted grandmothers lie down on the pews and stare up at the stained-glass murals. The elegant cathedral in the Tabasco state capital of Villahermosa has transformed into one of the principal centers for evacuees fleeing floods that devastated southeastern Mexico in late October, leaving at least 10 dead and hundreds of thousands homeless and turning sections of this city into a hazardous swamp. More arrive daily to take shelter in every corner of the cathedral and throughout its patio and gardens. Each one brings a story of personal tragedy: how filthy waters enveloped their homes; how they fled from rooftops onto boats and helicopters moving over the riverlike streets; how they lost sight of their loved ones in the chaos.

U.N. official says Darfur crisis will continue if stalled talks fail

ZALINGEI, Sudan (CNS) — The already perilous situation in Darfur will continue to worsen if stalled peace talks fully collapse, said a top U.N. official for the western region of Sudan. U.N. envoy Jan Eliasson, in a radio interview with the British Broadcasting Corp., expressed optimism Nov. 5 that peace talks might eventually succeed. However, he warned that a successful political process is needed to help

Food Aid in America

Food banks and soup kitchens feed more than 25 million clients each year. Percentage of those receiving food aid who are...



Data taken from interviews with 52,878 clients at selected food pantry and kitchen program sites in the America's Second Harvest national network of food banks.

Source: "Hunger in America 2006," by America's Second Harvest
©2007 CNS

check a shifting and increasingly deteriorating situation in Darfur, the site of a grave humanitarian crisis for more than four years. "I have seen myself the desperation, the anger, the frustration in the camps. I have seen also the beginning of tribal battles, fighting over land," Eliasson told the BBC. "And all these factors lead me to the conclusion that we have to now really take advantage of the beginning of a political process." Talks between the Sudanese government and several rebel groups stalled almost immediately when they began Oct. 27 in Sirte, Libya. Several prominent rebel groups, including the Sudan Liberation Army, boycotted the talks.

Pope calls for peaceful solution to tensions between Turkey, Iraq

VATICAN CITY (CNS) — Pope Benedict XVI called for a peaceful solution to mounting tensions between Turkey and northern Iraq. Recent events unfolding along the border between Turkey and Iraq "are a cause of concern for me and for everyone," he said Nov. 4 after praying the Angelus in St. Peter's Square. Turkey has threatened to launch a major incursion into northern Iraq if more is not done to combat Kurdish rebels

who have been striking targets in Turkey from northern Iraq. Some 100,000 Turkish troops — backed by tanks and military aircraft — have been deployed along the Iraqi border.

Vatican official says religion promotes peace when it defends freedom

VATICAN CITY (CNS) — Religions promote peace when they defend the religious freedom of all, help members learn more about their own religion and encourage them to get to know the beliefs of others, said Cardinal Jean-Louis Tauran. "Ignorance is the first and, perhaps, the principal enemy in the life of believers," said the cardinal, president of the Pontifical Council for Interreligious Dialogue.



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EVENTS

The Catholic Lighthouse
Page 19 — November 2007



Special Collections

Campaign for Human Development - Nov. 18
Tri-Conference Fund for Retired Religious - Dec. 9

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: Feb. 1-3; April 4-6; June 27-29; Sept. 26-28; and Nov. 14-16. For more info., call (361) 573-0828 ext. 56. A date cannot be reserved for any couple unless a cashier's check or money order is sent in the amount of \$190 for weddings being held within the Diocese of Victoria or \$245 for weddings being held outside the Diocese of Victoria.

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

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

The Beginning Experience — An international ministry that helps divorced, separated and widowed individuals resolve their grief surrounding the loss of a marriage partner. 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.actsmissions.org.

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

Goliad — Presidio La Bahia Museum and Visitor Center — a National Historic Landmark — is the only Spanish fort remaining in the possession of the Catholic Church in North America. A tour program is available to groups. The presidio is open daily from 9:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. and is closed on major holidays. Admission is \$3 for adults and \$1 for children under 12. The fort is handicapped accessible. For more information call (361) 645-3752. **Upcoming events: Dec. 1** — 20th Annual Pony Express ride between Goliad and San Antonio; 22nd Century Re-Enactors Frontier Rendezvous; Christmas in Goliad Las Posadas Procession - a traditional Mexican Cultural event recalling Mary and Joseph's search for lodging; 40th Annual La Bahia Awards Presentation - a ceremony honoring authors/writers of Spanish Colonial Texas History held in the chapel of Our Lady of Loreto and sponsored by the Sons of the Republic of Texas. **Dec. 9** — Christmas Concert featuring Mary Ann Williams and Becky Johns. See the Web site at www.presidiolabahia.org for more information.

Picnics, Activities, etc.

November

Victoria — The Our Lady of Victory Parish and School 50th Anniversary Family Day Celebration will be held Saturday, Nov. 10, beginning at 10:00 a.m. on the school grounds. Join in a fun-filled day with lots of food, games and entertainment for the entire family.

Praha — 45th Anniversary Veterans Memorial Service Nov. 11 at 9:30 a.m. beginning with Mass followed by an assembly, Veterans Memorial Service, flyover by United States Air Force and flyover by Commemorative Air Force, flower drop, display of WWII relics and more (bring lawn chairs, seating is limited). Guest speaker is Bill Powers of the Commemorative Air Force. There will be a fried-chicken dinner at \$6.50 p/p for adults and \$3 for children starting at 11:30 a.m. For more information call (361) 865-3560.

Victoria — Our Lady of Lourdes Annual Fall Festival Nov. 11 at the community center featuring their famous traditional turkey and dressing dinner. Serving from 11:00 a.m.-1:30 p.m. at \$7 p/p (adult) and \$3 p/p (children under 12). Drive-up outside or pick-up inside for to-go-plates starting at 10:30 at \$7 p/p. Live music in dining area, live auction at 12:30 p.m., silent auction from 10:00 a.m.-3:00 p.m., large arts and crafts booth, country store, cakewalk, children's games, refreshments and much more.

Victoria — Knights of Columbus Council 1329 chicken-barbecue fund-raiser Nov. 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.

December

New Taiton — The Oblate Club of St. John will be hosting their annual games party Dec. 2, at 6:00 p.m. at the community center. There will be games, door prizes, a live and silent auction and plenty of good refreshments! Come and join the fun!

Victoria — St. Mary's Altar Society will host its Annual Harvest Bazaar on Thursday, Dec. 6, from 10:00 a.m.- 4:00 p.m. in the St. Mary Activity Center (401 S. Liberty). Sandwiches, soup and drink will be served, desserts will also be available. Serving begins at 11:00 a.m.; carry out plates will be available. The bazaar will have something for everyone, Christmas items, decorations, placemats, baby quilts, baked goods, live poinsettia plants decorated for Christmas, canned jellies, candies, cookies and many more items - too many to name.

Schulenburg — St. Rose of Lima School annual Christmas Around The World children's carnival on Saturday, Dec. 8, at the KC Hall. Festivities will begin at 4:00 p.m. with a Christmas pageant and band concert followed by a homemade stew dinner. Lots of activities for the children: pony rides, train rides and inflatable activities. Get a picture taken with Santa from 6:00-8:00 p.m. A live auction begins at 5:30 p.m. Admission is free. For more information call the school office at (979) 743-3080.

Victoria — The Guadalupe Society of Our Lady of Sorrows announces a triduum celebrating the apparition of Our Lady of Guadalupe Dec. 9-12. The Guadalupe Society is a Catholic organization whose purpose is to promote devotion to Mary, the Mother of Jesus Christ who appeared as our Lady of Guadalupe and who under that title is the Patroness of the Americas. Devotion under this title is meant to give glory to God the Father through Jesus Christ, Son of God and Son of Mary. The society is currently seeking practicing Catholics as new members. If you and your family would like to join, contact officers Mary T. Gonzales at (361) 571-4980 or Janie Saldaña at (361) 572-8536.

Upcoming Events

Southwest Liturgical Conference — 46th Annual Study Week January 16-19, 2008, at The Hotel Arizona at Tucson, Arizona. Early registration deadline is Dec. 10. For more information please go to: www.swlc.org. A Border-Crossing Event will be held Jan. 14-16; to register for this event, contact Anna Huth at Catholic Relief Services: ahuth@crs.org or (210) 366-3884, ext. 3 before Dec. 14.

Victoria — Knights of Columbus Council 1329 chicken-barbecue fund-raiser Jan. 20 at the KC Hall. The price is \$6 per chicken. Beans and Spanish rice available for \$1 per pint. Sale starts at 8:30 a.m. Proceeds benefit council's projects.

Victoria — Spirit Wind Ministry's 9th annual "Gathering of Women" retreat with Paula D'Arcy will be held at the Spiritual Renewal Center beginning Sunday evening, Feb. 10, and ending with lunch Wednesday, Feb. 13, 2008. The cost of the retreat is \$300, which in addition to Paula's fee and travel, includes 3 nights lodging and meals. So that everyone attending has their own cabin, and to keep the retreat small and intimate, we limit the retreatant number to no more than 23. A non-refundable deposit of \$100 will guarantee your reservation, with the balance of \$200 being due on Dec. 1, 2007. Please make your check payable to Spirit Wind Ministry and mail in c/o Susan Oakley, 103 Woodmere, Victoria, TX 77904. (There are a limited amount of small grants available.) Questions, please call: Susan Oakley (361) 576-1515; Mary Cox (361) 576-3003; Madeline Dodson (361) 573-2583; or Father Kirby Hlavaty (361) 277-9062.

Victoria — Knights of Columbus Council 1329 chicken-barbecue fund-raiser Feb. 17 at the KC Hall. The price is \$6 per chicken. Beans and Spanish rice available for \$1 per pint. Sale starts at 8:30 a.m. Proceeds benefit council's projects.

Corpus Christi — "Why We're Catholic When We Could Be Anything Else!" Fullness of Truth Catholic Family Conference in Corpus Christi Feb. 23-24, 2008, to be held at the American Bank Convention Center & Selena Auditorium. Register at www.fullnessoftruth.org or call 1-800-731-4500.

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.

Campaign for Human Development November 18

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After 40 years of preparing, Holy Trinity Chapel is dedicated

By Cynthia Brewer

After waiting 40 years, the community of the Holy Trinity Chapel in the neighborhood of Silver City in Victoria finally has a fitting chapel for its growing family. In an evening ceremony, Wednesday, October 17, 2007, Bishop David E. Fellhauer blessed and dedicated the chapel for use by

with a sprinkling of holy water; the statues of the Sacred Heart of Jesus and Our Lady of Guadalupe, the walls, windows, Stations of the Cross, pews and parishioners were blessed.

Concelebrating Mass with Bishop Fellhauer were Rev. Juan Vazquez, the pastor of Our Lady of Sorrows and Holy Trinity

parishioner César Hernandez. The altar was then anointed by pouring holy Chrism oil on each of its four corners and then smoothed over the entire surface by the bishop. The bishop then anointed each of the four corners of the church with the holy Chrism.

The new altar was placed in memory of Father Raúl Rendón who was assigned to the chapel right after he was ordained a priest. He was the pastor of Our Lady

the first chapel on Ozark Street 40 years ago, this large chapel had been the community's goal. The accumulation of funds from the annual Jamaica to barbecues finally brought the new chapel into reality.

"Forty years ago the land (for the chapel) was purchased; twenty years ago it was paid off," Mr. Perez said. The parishioners then worked towards raising funds for the building and a parking lot that would ac-



Most Reverend David E. Fellhauer, the bishop of the Diocese of Victoria, blesses the new chapel, its contents and parishioners with holy water at the dedication of the Holy Trinity Chapel October 17, 2007.

the Spanish speaking community of about 400 members.

The dedication, done almost completely in Spanish for this Hispanic community, began with a procession of parishioners and clergy walking from the old chapel located on Ozark Street to the new chapel at 2901 Pleasant Green, singing "Me Allegre." Upon the procession's arrival to



Ladies from the Altar Society dress and prepare the new altar after it had been blessed.

the chapel's breezeway, Bishop Fellhauer congratulated the members of Our Lady of Sorrows, the mission's mother parish, and especially Holy Trinity, for all their hard work in bringing the new chapel into being.

"How proud I am. ... This is a beautiful church. It is truly a labor of love and worth waiting for," said Bishop Fellhauer. "How pleased I am with and for you."

With excitement, the front doors were opened, allowing the bishop to bless the holy water font at the entrance of the church. The parishioners were then welcomed into the church by the bishop for the first time.

About 450 parishioners filled the church's nave, which is adorned with stained glass windows of saints alternating with new Stations of the Cross. Both the Stations of the Cross and the windows were created in Mexico.

The honor guard of the Fourth Degree Knights of Columbus then welcomed the procession of clergy to the sanctuary for the opening of the dedication Mass.

Upon entering the sanctuary, Bishop Fellhauer blessed the chapel and its contents

Chapel; Fathers Alberto Rodriguez, Luke Manella, Juan Antonio Perez, Pedro Garcia of Miami, Florida, and Raphael Baidoo, pastor of Immaculate Conception in Goliad, all Trinitarian priests; deacons Edwardo Molina and Jesus Perez, deacons of the Word and the altar respectively, assisted.

After the Liturgy of the Word, Bishop Fellhauer spoke saying that the dedication of a church is one of the most elaborate and solemn ceremonies of the Church.

"We call upon God who we acknowledge is everywhere, but a church is a special place where we meet the Lord in a very special way: through the sacraments of baptism, nourished with God's very Word and here we come together to share the Eucharist," he said.

Father Juan Vasquez followed the bishop with a homily in Spanish.

Father Juan and Bishop Fellhauer then received the relics of St. Michael the Archangel (patron of cancer patients); St. Ignatius of Loyola (patron of students); and St. Rita of Cascia, Italy, (patron of impossible cases) from Deacon Jesus Perez, which they deposited in the aperture of the altar. The relics were then immediately sealed by



Father Juan Vazquez looks on as Bishop Fellhauer anoints the altar with holy Chrism oil after installing relics of three saints into the top of the altar.

commode about 80 cars.

Ray Montelongo, the adult son of Jesus and Amelia Montelongo of Victoria, said, "My heart will always be in Silver City."

He returned to his childhood parish where he had been an altar boy for 10 years.

He is now the Grand Knight at his parish in Houston, St. Justin the Martyr. He is also a Fourth Degree Knight and served in the honor guard at the chapel's dedication.

Veronica Zapata, a parishioner of Our Lady of Sorrows, said, "My heart is here. This is where we grew up."



Bishop Fellhauer blesses the four corners of the chapel with holy Chrism oil; Deacon Jesus Perez assists him.



of Sorrows and then became the Provincial Father of the Trinitarians.

Following the incensing of the altar, the ladies of the parish Altar Society dressed the altar with altar linens and put plants and flowers in the sanctuary. Deacon Perez

lit a candle from the

Paschal candle and

presented it to the

bishop who, after

saying a prayer about

the Light of Christ,

returned the candle

to the deacon, who

then lit the candles

on the altar and on

the stands in each of

the four corners of

the chapel.

With the blessing and dedication of the new Holy Trinity Chapel, Mass continued with the Liturgy of the Eucharist.

Richard Perez, a

parishioner, said that

from the opening of



Deacon Edwardo Molina assists Bishop Fellhauer as he lights the candle that witnesses to Christ's eucharistic presence in the tabernacle.