

# The Catholic Lighthouse

*The Cradle of Texas Immigration*



VOL. 21, NO. 6

OFFICIAL PUBLICATION OF THE DIOCESE OF VICTORIA IN TEXAS

October 2007



Breaking ground for the mausoleum expansion at Resurrection Cemetery in Victoria were Bishop David E. Fellhauer and Msgr. Eustace Hermes (center) and (from l. to r.) Dale Lacina, Victoria Electric; Phil Schroeder and Henry Schroeder of Schroeder Air Conditioning; Gary Rangnow, cemetery director; Paul Raymond, Acme Mausoleum; Frank Bodeau, Architecture Concrete Products Inc.; and Mariah Raz, cemetery associate. (TLC Photo by Cynthia Brewer)

Construction started this month on the mausoleum expansion at Resurrection Cemetery in Victoria. The addition to the existing mausoleum will enlarge the building to the rear and more than double the capacity for internments.

There will be several features including an etched-in-granite, life-size image of the risen Christ, a waterfall feature, a nine-foot cross and stained glass. The new addition will also be air conditioned, including the existing portion of the mausoleum.

There was a ground breaking and blessing ceremony with Bishop David Fellhauer and Msgr. Eustace Hermes before the start of construction.

Construction is scheduled for comple-

tion in July of 2008.

Crypts are now being sold at pre-construction discounted prices. Many crypt locations are selling quickly. Contact Gary Rangnow at (361) 573-0828 as soon as possible.

## Two more cities to hold Rosary Rallies

By Cynthia Brewer

Upon checking The American Society for the Defense of Tradition, Family and Property Web site at [www.tfp.org](http://www.tfp.org), I've noticed two more October 13 Rosary Rallies set for the Diocese of Victoria.

Joining the group are Ganado and El Campo. This makes at least five Rosary Rallies in the diocese.

Father Michael Lyons was excited to see the Rosary Rally article in last month's Lighthouse and wrote saying, "As soon as I read the story, I said, 'We want in on this, too.' Within an hour, we had a captain and a location." The Ganado Rally will be held on the vacant lot owned by First State Bank. It is at the intersection of the only traffic light in Ganado, State Highway 172 and Business 59. The El Campo Rally will be held at the Gazebo on Moserett Street.

*See Two more cities to hold Rosary Rallies, p. 5*

## Diocese found in compliance with charter — bishop not surprised

By Cynthia Brewer

The Diocese of Victoria Safe Environment program of the Office of Youth and Child Protection has received a positive report for its 2007 Full Audit.

The Gavin Group, the independent auditing firm hired by the United States Conference of Catholic Bishops, carried out the weeklong audit the week of August 27.

"I'm pleased, but not surprised," said Bishop David E. Fellhauer.

"I really commend the hundreds of people throughout the diocese who cooperate in this program for the well-being of children," he continued.

The audit examines the level of compliance with the Charter for the Protection of Children and Young People, which was adopted by the USCCB in June 2002.

The report, dated September 22, stated, "Based on the analysis of the results of the 2007 Full Audit of the Diocese of Victoria, you have been found to be in compliance with the Charter for the Protection of Children and Young People."

The conclusions reached as to the compliance were based on the completeness

*See Diocese found in compliance, p. 3*

## Statement for Respect Life Sunday

**Cardinal Justin Rigali**  
**Archbishop of Philadelphia**  
**Chairman of the USCCB Committee on**  
**Pro-Life Activities**

Since 1972 the Catholic bishops in the United States have set aside the first Sunday in October as Respect Life Sunday. On October 7, Catholics will again pray for – and renew their resolve to bring about – a culture of life and an end to the killing of innocent human beings, especially those who are vulnerable due to their age, size, health or dependency.

The theme of the 2007 Respect Life Program – *The Infant in My Womb Leaped for Joy* – calls to mind an extraordinary scene in Luke's Gospel (1:39-56). Mary, newly pregnant with the Lord Jesus, is visiting her elderly cousin Elizabeth whose son, John, will soon be born. The moment

Mary's greeting reaches Elizabeth's ears and John's, the tiny prophet announces to his mother the Messiah's arrival, as if his entire being were exclaiming: Behold! The Lamb of God! There was no confusion as to what and who were nestled under their mothers' hearts. Yet 2,000 years later, many well-educated people do not know – or claim they do not know – the truth about human life before birth.

In April the U.S. Supreme Court upheld the federal ban on partial-birth abortion, in an opinion that explicitly recognizes the humanity of unborn children and the grief women experience after abortion. Yet the killing of unborn children at any stage of pregnancy remains legal, provided that the lethal act is performed while the child is mostly inside his or her mother's body.

In June, President Bush vetoed a bill to fund stem cell research requiring the de-

struction of human embryos, and directed his administration to investigate alternative means of producing pluripotent stem cells "by ethically responsible techniques." Yet some supporters of embryonic stem cell research continue to dismiss concerns about destroying human embryos, because they are "no bigger than the period at the end of this sentence."

We will not see the day when all human life is respected and defended unless we address a deeper problem. As Pope Benedict XVI has said: "If truth does not exist for man, then neither can he ultimately distinguish between good and evil. And then the great and wonderful discoveries of science become double-edged: they can open up significant possibilities for good, for the benefit of mankind, but also, as

*See Statement for Respect Life Sunday, p. 16*



The Victoria Padre Pio Prayer Group, formed in 2002, invites all to meet their Italian guest, Padre Ermelindo Di Capua, Saturday, October 13.

## Victoria's Padre Pio Prayer Group expects visit from good friend of saint

By Andre Chappa and  
Cynthia Brewer

The Padre Pio Prayer Group of Victoria is looking forward to a unique experience this October. They will receive a visit from Padre Pio's close friend and religious companion, Padre Ermelindo Di Capua. He is a priest from San Giovanni Rotondo,

Italy, where Padre Pio, now St. Pio, ministered and is buried. Padre Ermelindo spent the last three years of Padre Pio's life with him.

Padre Ermelindo will visit St. Mary's Parish on Saturday, October 13, 2007, to

*See Victoria's Padre Pio Prayer Group, p. 3*



## Bishop Fellhauer's Schedule

### October

6 10:30 a.m., Mass, Permanent Deacons' Retreat, Spiritual Renewal Center, Victoria

8-11 Canon Law Society of America Convention, Costa Mesa, California

12 8:30 a.m., Catholic Schools Seminar, Knights of Columbus Hall, Hallettsville

13-14 Equestrian Order of the Holy Sepulchre of Jerusalem Convention, Oklahoma City, Oklahoma

16 6:30 p.m., Catholic Daughters of the Americas and Knights of Columbus Council Awards Banquet, Knights of Columbus Hall, Victoria

17 4:30 p.m., Diocesan Building Board meeting, Chancery Office

7:30 p.m., Mass, blessing of Holy Trinity Chapel, Victoria

18 6:30 p.m., Victoria Serra Club Priests' cookout, Holy Family Parish Hall, Victoria

### November

1 8:15 a.m., School Mass, Nazareth Academy Gym, Victoria

4 5:00 p.m., Mass, Junior High Fiesta, Holy Family Church, Victoria

7 10:00 a.m., Presbyteral Council meeting, Chancery Office

7:00 p.m., Memorial Mass for deceased parishioners in the past year, St. Joseph Church, Inez

8 6:00 p.m., Mass, Serra Club orientation for new members, Chancery Office

12-15 United States Conference of Catholic Bishops, General meeting, Baltimore, Maryland

## A Reminder ....

If you'd like a copy of the Diocese of Victoria's 25th anniversary history book, please order from Martha Pearson-Vela at the Chancery Office — (361) 573-0828; or from your local pastor. This book contains the histories of each parish in the diocese.

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PS Form 3526, September 2006 (Page 2 of 3)		

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

Effective September 13, 2007, the following have been appointed as members of the Diocesan Liturgical Commission: Lupita Montelongo and Mary Kay Heffley.

## 2007 DSA MONTHLY REPORT

Since our last issue of *The Catholic Lighthouse* our pledged amount has increased to \$666,450. The total paid amount is \$619,801, which is 49 percent of the goal needed. Thus far, 4,257 of 22,049 registered families have responded to the bishop's appeal. Your contributions are the support of the Diocese of Victoria. Please consider joining these faithful members of our diocesan family and pledge a gift to further and maintain God's word. Your gifts are sincerely appreciated.

Jeri Joseph  
DSA Coordinator

### Stewardship Thought:

Giving and sharing are learned responses. It is our responsibility to teach our young people this lesson.

pledged amount

\$666,450

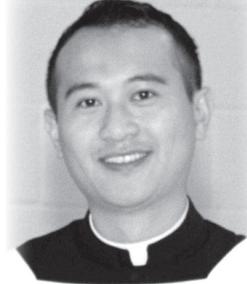
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\$1,263,145

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## Seminarian Tommy Chen to be ordained

Seminarian Tommy Chen of St. Ann Mission in Point Comfort will be ordained to the Order of the Diaconate Saturday, November 10, 2007, at St. Michael Catholic Church in Houston. He will be ordained through the imposition of hands and the invocation of the Holy Spirit by the Most Rev. Daniel E. Flores, auxiliary bishop of Detroit.



Tommy is scheduled to be ordained to the Sacred Order of the Priesthood on June 21, 2008, at Our Lady of the Gulf Church in Port Lavaca.

He is the son of Kun-Ming and Lucy Chen of Point Comfort.

## The Diocese of Victoria in Texas announces the Seminarians for the 2007-2008 school year

**Tommy Chen**  
St. Ann, Point Comfort  
Birthday: November 2

**Patrick Knippenberg**  
Sts. Cyril & Methodius, Shiner  
Birthday: December 3

**St. Mary's Seminary**  
9845 Memorial Drive  
Houston, TX 77024

**Philip Brune**  
Sts. Peter & Paul, Frelsburg  
Birthday: January 24  
Holy Trinity Seminary  
P.O. Box 140309  
Irving, TX 75014

**Jacob Koether**  
Holy Cross, Bay City  
Birthday: September 14

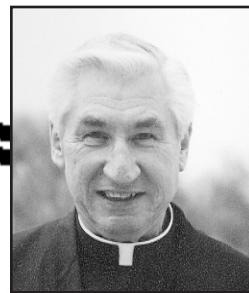
**Griffin Brown**  
Holy Family, Victoria  
Birthday: February 24

**Franciscan University**  
1235 University Blvd.  
Stuebenville, OH 43952



## FAITH POINT

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



### Pagan Morality Legislation

**T**here has been much legislation and attempted legislation focused on so-called “hate crimes,” those that involve violence motivated by prejudice against a person’s color, race, religion, national origin, gender, or sexual orientation. H.R. 1592 titled “Local Law Enforcement Hate Crimes Prevention Act of 2007” passed the House and, at this writing, its counterpart is stalled in the Senate. President Bush has promised to veto the bill because it is “constitutionally questionable.” Besides this bill there have been related court decisions and local legislation. Christians should be aware of the fallout of various laws against “hate crimes” and discrimination because of sexual orientation because these laws are a smokescreen for stifling dissent on debate about sexual orientation, gender identity, and religion.

These laws will require churches to hire homosexuals. If a male teacher in a Catholic school suddenly appeared in class wearing a dress his conduct would be protected and the school would not be allowed to fire him.

It will dissolve parental control over imparting values to their children. Public school children would be subject to state-sponsored and state-required indoctrination in the goodness of homosexuality. A Massachusetts man was handcuffed and hauled to jail after objecting to a public school’s advocacy of homosexuality to his kindergarten-aged son. The Judge, Mark Wolf, said students needed such instruction to become “engaged and productive citizens” and that if Christian parents objected they could remove their children and go elsewhere.

These laws will mandate what may be preached from our pulpits and give government the prerogative of determining the content of religious belief, thus making a mockery of the constitutional rights of religious practice and of free speech. Supporters of homosexual activity would have untrammelled freedom to express their opinions without fear of lawsuits but not persons who consider homosexuality immoral.

Oregon has a legislative plan to “eliminate attitudes” opposing homosexual activity. Churches would have to hire homosexuals at least in areas like social outreach. This would restrict religious liberty. Churches would be subject to state control in their beliefs, practice, and employment. In effect they would state the content of religious practice. Do secularists want the separation of church and state that they are always yelling about, or not? If so, they can begin by not pursuing attempted control of the content of preaching.

Morality aside, homosexuality should be rejected for health reasons alone. AIDS has killed more men in the US than six Vietnam wars combined and 83 percent of all cases in the US are white homosexual

men. AIDS is only one of the problems of gays. Homosexuals who are 1-2 percent of the population have 50 percent of the nation’s syphilis cases. Seventy-eight percent of them are afflicted with at least one STD. They account for half the cases of gonorrhea of the throat and intestinal infections. They have abnormally high rates of hepatitis A, B, and C, herpes, enteric infections, cancers and tumors. Gays who die from AIDS have a median life span of 39. Gays who die from other causes have median life spans of 42. By contrast unmarried men in general live to 57 and married men to 75. Nearly half the homosexual and bisexual men aged 20 today will not reach their 65th birthday.

Gays have a 40 percent shorter lifespan than heterosexuals.

Cigarette smokers by comparison lose about 13.5 years of life expectancy. Yet there are fierce campaigns to induce people to quit smoking, lawsuits against tobacco companies, widespread restrictions on where smoking is allowed, and warnings placed on cigarette packages.

Medical Care in its

November 2006 issue reported the findings of a study led by Dr. Bruce Schackman of Cornell Medical College on the cost of treating AIDS patients. The average cost is \$2,100 per month. The projected life expectancy of those on optimal care is 24.2 years. The lifetime cost is \$618,900 per person. The 1993 life expectancy of an HIV-infected person was 6.8 years. The Center for Disease Control (CDC) has estimated that 40,000 new individuals are infected each year in the US. Future treatment costs will come to \$12.1 billion for a disease that is totally preventable and is spread mainly by homosexual sex.

Given the grim realities of the homosexual lifestyle it should be discouraged with even greater vigor than tobacco usage. It is not compassionate public policy to promote this behavior, nor is it hateful or discriminatory to discourage it.

There are already penalties for crimes against individuals of any sort. There is little point to adding additional punishment for “hate crimes” against homosexuals. If a homosexual is killed why should there be two death sentences or two life imprisonments? (Presumably these sentences would run concurrently.) The only purpose for enhancing the punishment for bias crimes is to punish the offender’s politically incorrect opinions and viewpoints. In the end this legislation is not about hate or even crime but about outlawing peaceful speech that asserts that homosexuality is morally wrong. Hate crime laws are intended to punish people for what they think, feel, or believe.

The thought police is already at work. The idea of arresting people for stating their religious beliefs that homosexuality is wrong is no longer something that

“may” happen in the future.

Here is what so called “hate crimes” legislation has already done in America. It is no longer a matter of debate:

Madison, Wis.: David Ott, a former homosexual, was arrested for a “hate crime” for sharing his testimony with a homosexual at a gas station. He faced a \$10,000 fine and one year behind bars. Seven thousand dollars in legal fees later, he was ordered to attend re-education classes at the University of Wisconsin conducted by a lesbian.

St. Petersburg, Florida: Five Christians including two pastors were arrested at a homosexual rally for stepping onto the public sidewalk instead of staying caged in their officially designated “free speech zone.”

Elmira, N.Y.: The Elmira police arrested seven Christians for praying in a public park where a homosexual festival was getting started.

Crystal Lake, Ill.: Two 16-year-old girls are facing felony “hate crime” charges for distributing flyers critical of homosexual conduct.

Philadelphia, Pa.: Arlene Elshinnawy, a 75-year-old grandmother of three, and Linda Beckman, a 70-year-old grandmother of 10, and nine other women were arrested for sharing their faith on the

**AIDS has killed more men in the US than six Vietnam wars combined and 83 percent of all cases in the US are white homosexual men.**

public sidewalk.

There is no doubt that “hate crimes” bills will criminalize Christianity. Homosexual proponents want to dismantle the constitutional right of free speech.

In June of this year the much overturned Ninth US Circuit Court of Appeals upheld the decision of Oakland, California, administrators to exclude pro-family speech as “divisive and hateful.” To say that marriage is the foundation of the natural family and upholds family values could be a hate crime in Oakland. Putting restrictions on freedom of speech guaranteed by the First Amendment can be constitutional only if the speech presents an actual danger of causing a breach of the peace. The constitution does not guarantee everyone freedom from unpleasant speech. In New Jersey it is a “hate crime” to communicate in a manner likely to cause “annoyance or alarm.” I have experienced great irritation from secularists’ speech. Perhaps I should take them to court.

Our political representatives and judges must be chosen carefully. It would be extreme idiocy (hate speech?) for Catholics to vote for candidates who promote immoral positions such as special rights for homosexuals and the right to abort. It would not only be stupid but immoral.

### Texas Catholic Conference hosts 24th Annual Scripture Seminar

AUSTIN, Texas—The Texas Catholic Conference is hosting the 24th Annual Scripture Seminar from October 8-11, 2007 at the Hilton Austin Airport hotel. This year’s seminar theme is Matthew in Dialogue with Paul: Jesus and the Kingdom of God in Matthew and Paul and Jesus as the Wisdom of God in both Matthew and Paul.

Guest speakers for the seminar are Rev. Andreas Hock, assistant professor at Saint John Vianney Theological Seminary in Denver, and Judith Ryan, assistant professor at the University of St. Thomas School of Theology at St. Mary’s Seminary in Houston. Presentation topics include Reward and Punishment, Love and Inner Forces, and A New View of Old

Blessings.

TCC encourages anyone interested in learning more about scripture to attend. The registration fee is \$225 and covers the cost of seminar materials as well as some meals. For more information on registering for this year’s Scripture Seminar, contact Becky Sierra at (512) 339-9882 or [becky.sierra@txcatholic.org](mailto:becky.sierra@txcatholic.org)

The Texas Catholic Conference is the association of the 15 Roman Catholic dioceses of the State of Texas. The primary purpose of the conference is to encourage and foster cooperation and communication among the dioceses and the ministries of the Catholic Church in Texas. For more information on the Texas Catholic Conference, visit [www.TXCatholic.org](http://www.TXCatholic.org).

### Victoria’s Padre Pio Prayer Group expects visit from good friend of saint

*Continued from p. 1*

meet with the prayer group and celebrate the Eucharist.

The Victoria Padre Pio Prayer Group invites all to St. Mary Church Saturday morning to meet Padre Ermelindo and receive his message and special blessings. It is hoped that he will bless participants with Padre Pio’s relics. The morning will begin with a Rosary at 8:30 a.m., followed by Mass at 9:00 a.m. After the Mass, a reception will be held at the parish annex

building. The group plans to finish up in time for visitors to go to the noon Rosary Rally to be held at De Leon Plaza just three blocks north of St. Mary’s.

The Padre Pio Prayer Group of Victoria is the only Padre Pio Prayer Group in Texas that is officially sanctioned by the Vatican. The group meets on the second Saturday of each month at the St. Mary Church hall and begins promptly at 7:30 a.m. All are invited.

### Diocese found in compliance with charter — bishop not surprised

*Continued from p. 1*

and accuracy of the information furnished by the diocese to The Gavin Group, Inc.

Melissa Perales, the director of the Safe Environment Program of the Victoria Diocese, said of the audit, “It was a total group effort.” She was very pleased with the result and thankful for the support of all those involved.

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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 September 25, 2007

<b>TOTALS</b>	
<b>— General Seminary Burse</b>	
Previously reported	\$91,179.00
In memory of Aurel "Buster" Bruenig by DeWayne and Adeline Dvorak	50.00
In memory of Margot Vanelli by M/M Bob Bochat	25.00
In memory of Russell Fox by M/M Bob Bochat	25.00
	<b>Total \$91,279.00</b>
<b>— Knights of Columbus Victoria Council 1329 Burse No. 3</b>	
Previously reported	\$7,037.50
In memory of Russell Louis Fox by K of C Victoria Council 1329	100.00
	<b>Total \$7,137.50</b>
<b>— Catholic Daughters of Americas Court Our Lady Queen of Peace No. 1374 Burse</b>	
Previously reported	\$3,457.72
In memory of Angeline Slovak by Floyd and Margaret Watz	100.00
In memory of Angeline Slovak by Leonard and Patricia Leopold	10.00
	<b>Total \$3,567.72</b>
<b>— Rev. John C. Peters Burse No. 3</b>	
Previously reported	\$13,260.00
In memory of Joe and Benita Pavlu	1,740.00
	<b>Total \$15,000.00</b>
<b>— Rev. John C. Peters Burse No. 4</b>	
In memory of Joe and Benita Pavlu	\$60.00
	<b>Total \$60.00</b>

**— Rev. Theophil Okruhlik & Rev. Vincent Verdarame Burse**

Previously reported \$7,995.00  
In memory of Ernest Kabela by Willie and Tina Hubenak 20.00  
**Total \$8,015.00**

**Additional Burses for donations:**

Rev. Jerome J. Stryk  
Catholic Daughters of St. Ann No. 369  
Rev. Msgr. Julius Petru Burse No. 2  
Rev. Joe Levy  
Rev. Marcus Valenta  
Rev. Godfrey F. Kuratko  
Rev. Msgr. John Hanacek  
Catholic Family Fraternal of Tx KJZT Burse No. 5  
Sophie Schmidt  
Rev. Sean Donohue Burse No. 2  
Rev. Msgr. Robert Schmidt  
Rev. Msgr. Vaclav Bily  
St. Mary's Church - Praha  
St. Mary's Church - High Hill  
Holy Rosary Church - Hostyn Burse No. 2  
Rev. Charles Kram  
William L. Schmidt  
Deceased Priests of Praha  
Sr. M. Perpetua Hawes, IWBS  
Jim Vacek Burse No. 2  
K of C Council 3204 - Ganado Rev. Joseph Hybner

Those wishing to begin a burse or to contribute to an existing seminary burse may do so by sending their contributions with the appropriate burse designation to:  
**Seminary Burse, P.O. Box 4070,  
Victoria, Texas 77903**

### St. Bernard Abbey to Host "Come and See Men's Vocation Retreat"

CULLMAN, AL—Life itself is a mystery. It would follow that major aspects of life are involved with mystery. Birth and death, marriage and childbirth — these are really a mystery to most of us. Response to mystery can be positive, however. It is through vocation discernment that man meets the unknown and the unfathomable. This is, in fact, the only way to encounter God and those times we come closest to God. It is a time of looking within, asking ourselves what God wants us to do. It is an honest attempt to get all the hints that God is giving us about what HE would like us to do with our life. If you think you have an answer to the question of whether you have a religious vocation and are at a stage in which you can take the next step, then consider attending the next "Come and See" vocation retreat at St. Bernard Abbey. The monastery will host a vocation retreat on January 11-13, 2008. It is designed for men between the ages of 18 and 45 years of age. It is at this time that young men and adults will be able to experience first hand, not only the life of the monk, but gain insight into their calling to serve Christ in the

Church as a monk and priest, especially as it relates to their attitude and aptitude to monastic life.

It is also a time of being able to have someone who speaks for the Church validate your vocation. However, they cannot accept you until they get to know you and see how you do when you try to follow this particular type of lifestyle. Those in attendance will participate in the Liturgy of the Hours, celebration of the Eucharist and have enough time to visit the Blessed Sacrament chapel where one can encounter Christ in the silence of their heart. You will also hear from members of the community speak and discuss in conference format about the Rule of St. Benedict, the monastic vocation, and various aspects of the liturgy and musical, work and formation programs. To obtain more information about the retreat, contact Br. Mark Worsham, Vocation Director, St. Bernard Abbey, Cullman, Alabama, by calling (800) 722-0999, ext. 137, or using his e-mail address: [stbernardmonastery@yahoo.com](mailto:stbernardmonastery@yahoo.com). Space is limited. There is no charge for the retreat.

### 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.



Pictured with Sister Emiliana Gafe, director; Bishop David E. Fellhauer, celebrant; and Sister Evelyn Korenek, superior general, are recently consecrated associates of the Incarnate Word and Blessed Sacrament. Front row: Dora Haas, San Marcos; Wanda Wenetschlaeger, Yoakum; and Geraldine Jurica, Cris Uresti and Cathy Lara, Victoria; second row: Antonio and Alice Escobar, Telferner; and Cheryl Benavidez and Jennifer Houston of Victoria.

### Incarnate Word celebrates associates' consecrations

#### By Sister Emiliana Gafe, IWBS

On Sunday, September 9, 2007, 75 associates renewed and celebrated their commitment as Incarnate Word and Blessed Sacrament Associates. Six of these were making their consecration for the first time. Family members also came to celebrate with them as they made their Act of Consecration and received their emblem and Spiritual Guide, a prayer book which helps them to develop the spirituality of their foundress, Jeanne Chezard de Matel.

Bishop David E Fellhauer celebrated the Mass and offered the homily. Assisted by Sister Emiliana Gafe, director of the

associates, and Sister Evelyn Korenek, superior general, the bishop also presided over the ceremony of the consecration and renewal.

Three women made their perpetual vows. They were Dora Haas of San Marcos, Wanda Wenetschlaeger of Yoakum and Geraldine Jurica of Victoria.

The six who made their first consecration were Antonio and Alice Escobar of Telferner, and Cheryl Benavidez, Jennifer Houston, Cris Uresti and Cathy Lara of Victoria.

Following the Mass and ceremony, the sisters hosted a reception in the associates honor.

### Women invited to experience monastery life

FERDINAND, INDIANA—Single Catholic women, ages 18 to 40, who want to experience the Benedictine way of life are invited to attend a Benedictine Life Weekend October 19-21 at Monastery Immaculate Conception in Ferdinand, Indiana.

The weekend will focus on the theme "Obedience in Monastic Life." Participants will have the opportunity to experience the rhythm of the monastic schedule, pray with the sisters, and participate in community life, as well as meet other women who are considering religious life.

There is no charge for the program, which runs from 7:00 p.m. CDT Friday to 1:00 p.m. Sunday. Women wishing to reg-

ister or obtain more information can call Sister Anita Louise Lowe or Sister Agnes Marie Dauby at (800) 738-9999 or e-mail them at [vocation@thedome.org](mailto:vocation@thedome.org).

Registration is also available online at [www.thedome.org](http://www.thedome.org), where there is more information about the vocation program of the Ferdinand Benedictines.

Founded in 1867, the Sisters of St. Benedict of Ferdinand, Indiana, are 180 religious women who minister in schools, parishes, church institutions, health care facilities, retreat centers, and social service agencies. They currently serve in Indiana, Kentucky, Illinois, Maryland, Italy, Peru, and Guatemala.

## OUR LADY OF VICTORY CATHEDRAL ANNUAL PARISH FESTIVAL



**Sunday, October 14  
at the Victoria Community Center**

**Doors open at 11:00 a.m.**

*Fall*

**Buffet style barbecue-beef and sausage dinner  
with all the trimmings**

**Adults, \$6.50; children under 12 years, \$4.50**

**All plates to go \$6.50**

**Booths and games for the entire family  
Auction begins at 12:30 p.m. in the Community Center Annex**



**YOUNG PEOPLE SING DURING SERVICE ABOARD SHIP IN AUSTRALIA**—Australians Joshua Gallagher, 15, and Carly Forsyth, 16, sing aboard the HMS Broome as the World Youth Day cross is taken out to the Great Barrier Reef off the coast of Cairns, Australia, Sept. 22. The Australian naval vessel and its crew escorted a group of local Catholic youths to a spot where they dipped the cross into the sea following a prayer service aboard the vessel. World Youth Day will hold its International celebration in Sydney (Australia) on 15-20 July 2008. (CNS photo/Nancy Wiechec)



## New Catholic Student Association formed at VC campus

The Catholic Student Association, CSA, at the Victoria College Campus has just been formed and held its first gathering Friday, September 14, at the Cove/Subway on VC campus. Since then they've also offered social Tuesday in the evenings in the VC Student Center Rooms C-D.

The purpose of the Catholic Student Association is to provide a regular opportunity on VC campus where Catholic students can gather to reclaim their heritage. The club will allow for all students, both Catholic and non-Catholics, to explore their faith more fully. Our mission is to empower students to take responsibility and pride in their role as active disciples.

CSA eligibility requires the following: you must be a full or part time VC student or employee, must be a Catholic or an individual seeking to explore their relationship with Christ and must be willing to participate regularly in club activities.

CSA plans to meet at least once a month for Mass and host a Bible study each semester. The focus for this year will be to host speakers who can answer questions and address the four vocational callings in the Church: married, single, religious and ordained life.

We encourage VC students from our

## Volunteer keeps blog as resource for others

WASHINGTON (CNS) — "You leave your family, you leave your friends, and you know that you're going to be gone for two years," said Patrick Furlong. "A lot changes. When I get back, I don't know what it's going to be like." Leaving the United States for two years, living on \$60 a month and washing his laundry by hand wasn't where Furlong expected to find himself in five years when he graduated from high school and left his native Albuquerque, N.M., to attend Loyola Marymount University in Los Angeles. But Furlong's experiences in college led him down a path of service that continues to inspire and amaze not just him, but anyone who reads the Web log, or blog, he writes as a witness to his life. Furlong was with the Holy Cross Associates for a year, working in Chile, and now he volunteers with another organization in Ecuador. He keeps his blog -- <http://pjfurlong.blogspot.com> -- with the hope that college students considering volunteer work after graduation might catch a glimpse of what it is like in the trenches.

diocese to join this group for organized social gatherings. To gain guidance and insight, we hope to build strong relationships with Victoria Diocese parishes, particularly its priests.

For more information, please contact: Catherine Heath, [Catherine.heath@victoriacollege.edu](mailto:Catherine.heath@victoriacollege.edu), (361) 573-3291 ext 3276, Language 100C; Kim Heinemann, [Kim.heinemann@victoriacollege.edu](mailto:Kim.heinemann@victoriacollege.edu), (361) 573-3291 ext 3215, Science 109C; Melanie Ledwig, [Melanie.Ledwig@victoriacollege.edu](mailto:Melanie.Ledwig@victoriacollege.edu), (361) 573-3291 ext 3250, Johnson Hall 100A; Gail Janecka, [Gail.Janecka@victoriacollege.edu](mailto:Gail.Janecka@victoriacollege.edu), (361) 582-2458, Continuing Education 104B or Judy Seiler, Holy Family Catholic Church, Youth Office, (361) 573-5445.

## Theology at the Well continues



**October 18** — Theology at the Well — (formerly Theology on Tap) — Father Bryan Heyer will present the topic: "The Eucharist: Is it Real?"

**November 1** — Theology at the Well — Ron Friedel will present the topic: "Mary, Our Mother."

**November 15** — Theology at the Well — 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.

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 [dvanelli@victoriadiocese.org](mailto:dvanelli@victoriadiocese.org) / JoAnn Martinez at ext. 50 or e-mail at [jmartinez@victoriadiocese.org](mailto:jmartinez@victoriadiocese.org) or visit our website at [www.victoriadiocese.org/youthoffice](http://www.victoriadiocese.org/youthoffice); or Jim Wearden at (361) 649-9157

## Twenty Something

By Christina Capecci



### 'Never forget' this spiritual tip

"I could never do that," my grandma said while admiring her neighbor's newly installed cupboards. Her neighbor's 4-year-old, Olivia, who visits Grandma often, responded matter-of-factly. "That's because you're old," she said. "But you know how to play," she added, "and you'll never forget that." In her youthful candor, Olivia delivered a profound compliment.

To know how to play is to know how to be fully human, which is as physical as it is spiritual. Preserving that muscle memory in contemporary culture is a rare and sacred feat.

The value of our lives — professional and personal — is measured by productivity. Do you have a stuffed inbox? A long to-do list? A packed schedule? The goal is to answer in the affirmative. If you run into someone who asks how you've been, the proper answer is, "Busy!" It excuses the lack of contact while conveying an important degree of activity. Somewhere along the assembly line of pagers and smartphones, being busy became vogue. It's the idea that you should always be in motion, having just completed one duty, heading to another. It's the concept that life should be a continuous string of tasks, lined up with no breathing room in between.

But there's a difference between constant motion and meaningful productivity — a distinction that's often lost today — and

### Spirit Wing Records announces Catholic Music 2008 and Catholic Christmas!

On the heels of the overwhelming success of their Catholic Music 2007 project, Spirit Wing Records proudly announces the upcoming release of two new projects, Catholic Music 2008 and Catholic Christmas. Catholic Music 2008 features 34 Catholic recording artists, giving music fans a rich sampling of the diverse styles in Catholic music today, from Opera to Rock and Roll. Catholic Christmas features 17 Catholic recording artists offering heartwarming music celebrating the birth of our Savior.

The creators of Catholic Music 2008 and Catholic Christmas, Gary Gersin of Cleveland, Ohio, and Mike Beloud of Los Angeles, California, hope to continue to bring awareness to the variety of Catholic music ministries that exist today.

"Gary and I really took a leap of faith when we 'volunteered' to spearhead the Catholic Music 2007 compilation project. We had no idea that the response was going to be so overwhelming; it has been a very fun and exciting ride to be able to share this wonderful music with people everywhere," said Beloud, member of the Catholic-rock group Rise.

"Praise" is first of the two CDs on the Catholic Music 2008 compilation, which features modern upbeat music, while Disc 2 "Worship" is more traditional/prayerful music. Catholic Christmas is a heartwarming and spirited Christmas compilation from 17 of today's talented Catholic Artists.

Copies of Catholic Music 2008 and Catholic Christmas can be ordered by visiting the Spirit Wing Records Web site at [www.spiritwingrecords.com](http://www.spiritwingrecords.com).

setting aside playtime actually boosts the kind of productivity that is satisfying and valuable.

Just ask Dr. Stuart Brown, the founder and president of the National Institute for Play. A recovered workaholic, Dr. Brown has become an advocate of "pleasurable, apparently purposeless activity." That notion, the late author Brenda Ueland once wrote, "makes us busy, efficient" Americans "with our accomplishment-mania feel uneasy and guilty." But your guilt will dissolve once you hear Dr. Brown's wide-ranging list of the benefits of play. An actively playful life develops a sense of self, energizes the body, accelerates learning, prevents violence, upholds trust, reduces stress and improves problem solving. And get this, young adults: play directs us to carve lives in accord with our intrinsic talents. (So cancel that appointment with the career counselor and go shoot hoops!)

Of course, Dr. Brown wasn't the first advocate of play. More than seven centuries ago, St. Thomas Aquinas preached that play is medicine for the soul. "It is requisite for the relaxation of the mind," he wrote, "that we make use of playful deeds and jokes."

A dozen centuries before that Jesus proclaimed, "Let the children come to me and do not prevent them; for the kingdom of God belongs to such as these." To be childlike, Jesus suggested, is to leapfrog many barriers to a free-flowing well of faith.

As young adults, we are instructed to depart from youth immediately, entirely. We must assume firm handshakes and long hours. It's fine to demonstrate professionalism with a blazer and briefcase, but if those props lead to taking yourself too seriously, your spirit will suffer. This October, as companies turn their focus to fourth-quarter earnings, make time for play. Jump in a pile of leaves. Experiment on a pumpkin's face. Step into a zany Halloween costume. "Apparently purposeless activity" serves a holy purpose.

*Christina Capecci is a freelance writer from Inver Grove Heights, Minn. E-mail her at [christinacap@gmail.com](mailto:christinacap@gmail.com).*

## Two more cities to hold Rosary Rallies

*Continued from p. 1*

All Rosary Rallies begin at 12:00 p.m. (noon) to coincide with the 90th anniversary of the Miracle of the Sun at the apparition of the Blessed Mother that took place before 70,000 people in Fatima.

The Rosary Rally in Victoria will be at De Leon Plaza. It will be bilingual with decades alternating in English and Spanish. Faithful are welcome to bring lawn chairs.

The crusade in East Bernard will be held at the Outdoor Rosary between the Chapel and the CCD Building of Holy Cross Church. They will also have the Consecration to Jesus through Mary.

The Rosary in La Grange will be held at noon on the Square on the corner of Colorado and Washington (across from Prosperity Bank).

There's still time to hold a Rosary Rally; just remember to add it to the Web site.



Chancery/Victoria

## Trinity

*Mr. Ron Friedel, instructor*  
October 23 - November 27, 2007  
Tuesdays, 7 - 9:15 p.m.

*Participants will examine the Catholic belief of the three persons of the Holy Trinity, their relationships to each other and to us.*

*There is a \$15.00 registration fee for each six-week course. To pre-register, call 361-573-0828 or email [bparkan@victoriadiocese.org](mailto:bparkan@victoriadiocese.org), or you can register the first day of class.*

## DIOCESE OF VICTORIA PASTORAL INSTITUTE

### Extended Program Classes

#### Holy Family/Wharton

#### Liturgy

*Rev. Bob Fisher, instructor*  
Oct. 22 - November 26, 2007  
Mondays, 7 - 9:15 p.m.

*This course will focus on the principles of the liturgy as taught by Vatican II: the structure of the Mass, the history of the liturgy, and much more.*

*There is a \$15.00 registration fee for each six-week course. To pre-register, call 361-573-0828 or email [bparkan@victoriadiocese.org](mailto:bparkan@victoriadiocese.org), or you can register the first day of class.*

## Diocese of Victoria Library & Media Center

Visit [www.victoriadiocese.org](http://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.

#### Book of the Month

##### *Catholic Customs & Traditions*

This is a book that encourages a respect for and enjoyment of the varied traditions which give flesh to the Roman Catholic Church. It contains simple and concise information pertaining to Mary, the saints, rosary, feast days, and more.

#### More Books

- *Gospel Spirituality & Catholic Worship*
- *Early Christian Worship*
- *Praying the Rosary*
- *Your Sorrow is My Sorrow: Hope and Strength in Times of Suffering*
- *Eucharist: Exploring the Diamond of Our Faith*

*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.*

## Register for Adult Catholic Knowledge Bowl

Remember to be forming your teams-of-four now for the Adult Catholic Knowledge Bowl. The bowl will be held at Holy Family Catholic Church in Victoria from 1:30 to 4:30 p.m. on February 24, 2008.

Start studying now by reviewing the study questions posted at the diocesan Web site at: [www.victoriadiocese.org/catechetical/knowledgebowl.htm](http://www.victoriadiocese.org/catechetical/knowledgebowl.htm).

Teams may also register at the same site from November 1 through January 14.

All adult, Catholic laity are eligible to participate. Excluded are clergy, religious, chancery staff and Knowledge Bowl committee members.

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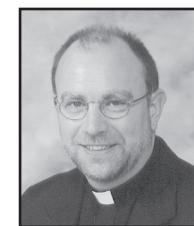
**CZECH CHOIR IS COLLABORATIVE EFFORT**—The Czech Choir, the collaboration of choir members from throughout the diocese, sang at the Sunday, Sept. 23, Mass at Our Lady of Victory Cathedral for the opening of the 22nd Annual Victoria County Czech Heritage Festival. The Mass was celebrated in both Czech and English. The choir is made up mostly of choir members from the Assumption of the Blessed Virgin Mary Church in Ganado with members joining from Victoria, El Campo, Wharton and Rosenberg. “We have done the Mass for the past 10 years for Father Joe,” said Director Alice Wright of Assumption Church. The choir sang beautifully and professionally. Those in the choir/band were Alice Wright, director; Carl Wright, organist; Mike Martinak and Alan Kristynik, the brass section which included the trumpet, Flugelhorn and cornet; and the choir: Frances Vesely, Gladys Rod, Ella Merta, Theofil Kocian, Johnny Dornak, Dorothy Srubar, James Cantu, Charlie Merta, Angie Nelson, Mary L. Spacek, Hattie Kristynik, Mary F. Spacek, Mildred Howard, Leon Kristynik, Bill Spacek and Virginia Balusek.

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**

## From The Pastor's Desk

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



## Unmasking the lies of modern culture

When an Alaskan Eskimo becomes aware of the presence of a wolf in his territory, he is forced to protect his herds and family. But rather than face the wolf, the hunter uses the animal's own appetite to bring it down. He begins by slaughtering one of his smaller goats and pouring its blood over the blade of a knife. The weapon is left to freeze in the arctic temperatures, and once the first coating of blood is set, more blood is placed on the knife. This process is repeated until the entire blade is covered with frozen blood.

Before nightfall, the Eskimo hikes outside of his property and buries the handle of the knife in the ground, leaving the blade protruding from the snow. Since wolves can smell blood from miles away, it doesn't take long for one to track the scent, find the knife, and begin cautiously licking the frozen blood. As taste excites the animal, it begins to lick more aggressively.

Before long, parts of the blade are exposed and the wolf's tongue is nicked. But since its tongue has been numbed by the icy blood, the animal is unaware of the

## Holy Trinity Chapel to be blessed Oct. 17

priests will also be present.

The community invites everyone to this historic event. The new chapel is located at 2901 Pleasant Green, between Port Lavaca Hwy. and Callis Street in the Silver City community of Victoria.

The chapel community also invites the whole Catholic community to its Jamaica which will be celebrated November 4.

## Msgr. Thomas C. McLaughlin marks 25th anniversary as Chancellor

The Reverend Monsignor Thomas C. McLaughlin was appointed the first Chancellor of the Diocese of Victoria in Texas on October 29, 1982, by the most Reverend Charles V. Grahmann, the first bishop of the diocese. October 29, 2007, marks his 25th anniversary at this position.

In a letter to Msgr. McLaughlin, dated October 29, 1982, Bishop Grahmann stated, “On behalf of the priests, people and myself, I want to thank you for the great work you are doing as the Officialis of the Diocese. You are rendering a special service to all of us. Your dedication to your work since the diocese was established has been exceptional. We want you to know that we appreciate it very much.”

“All of us look forward to the opportunity of continuing to work with you as our Chancellor. May God Bless you! Our prayers are with you,” he continued.

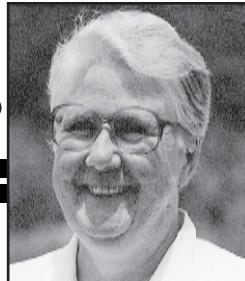
Congratulations to Msgr. McLaughlin on this great accomplishment.





## SISTERLY THOUGHTS

By Sister Mildred Truchard, IWBS



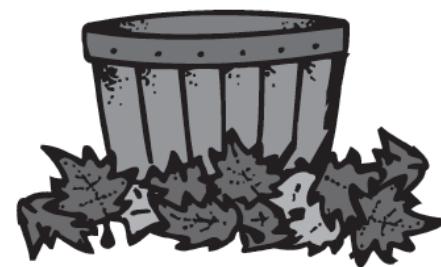
### Autumn –Time for Reflection!

**Y**es, autumn is being seen and felt in South Texas. The season beckons me to appreciate and enjoy the pleasant mornings and evenings. It tempts me to spend more time outdoors in activities through which I am reminded of the splendor of God's scheme of creation. I never cease to marvel at the dead-looking seeds, which with a little help from me, sprout and grow and eventually resemble the illustration on the outside of the seed packet. As I till and remove unwanted weeds and grass, I realize that, in my spiritual life, I must be constantly vigilant to prevent unwanted habits from creeping into my life. And, as I apply water and fertilizer, I'm reminded of the need to nourish my spiritual growth through all the means that our Church provides for us.

As I walk or sit and look about me, I am surrounded by the many lessons that the season provides. The green colors of spring and summer growth change into the autumn colors of red and yellow and brown shades of ripened foliage reminding

me of my own maturation. The trees have given of their fruits and nuts, reminding me of my duty to share my gifts. The days are getting shorter, reminding me to use whatever time I have productively. As I watch the leaves fall, I wonder if I can divest myself of things that I no longer need. Perhaps I can reflect on how my unnecessary possessions can be shared with others as I rake and recycle leaves by using them as mulch or compost.

Yes, autumn provides so much food for reflection. Let us look around us and rejoice in the wisdom we can glean to illustrate our life journeys. Happy reflecting!



The seventh-grade class at St. Rose of Lima School in Schulenburg holds a benefit for Jamie Hernandez. The students were impressed by Jamie's artwork and are proudly displaying a few of her artistic drawings. Pictured are the seventh-grade students with Jamie and her mother: front l-r: Mary Kossa, Mrs. Larry (Guadalupe) Hernandez, Jamie Hernandez, Caitlin Surman; back: Mrs. Phyllis Venghaus (teacher), Caitlyn Bennett, Colton Bubela, Victor Mondragon, Molly McCourt, Christopher Kunz, Kirsten Heger, Dax Dittrich, Baylie Fietsam and Mrs. Donna Kunz (teacher).

#### Bake Sale benefit held for 15-year-old cancer patient

SCHULENBURG—The St. Rose seventh-grade class recently met 15-year-old Jamie Hernandez, a Schulenburg resident, and were touched by all she has been through in the past three years. Jamie was diagnosed with cancer in 2004 and has been battling this disease since. The family doesn't have medical insurance so the students wanted to try to help ease some of the family's financial burden. They held a bake sale on September 25, following the luncheon for National Family Day at

school. St. Rose families visited the sale and signed a prayer-poster for Jamie. The Hernandez family was touched by the students' concern and generosity. The bake sale brought in \$186.38, but the class is still receiving and accepting donations from parents, students and the community. Jamie is currently undergoing treatment at MD Anderson Hospital in Houston. The students and family ask that you remember her in your prayers.

#### Heavenly Helpers



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& Much More



Sister Evelyn Korenek, general superior of the Incarnate Word Sisters, and Sister Donna Bonorden, directress of initial formation, present Sister Louise Marie her black veil and crucifix at her initial profession of vows Sunday, Sept. 30, 2007. (TCL Photo by Cynthia Brewer)

#### Sister Louise Marie Jones makes first vows

By Cynthia Brewer

Sister Louise Marie Jones of Victoria made her initial profession of vows to religious life Sunday, September 30, 2007, at an afternoon Mass at Incarnate Word Convent Chapel.

Sister Donna Bonorden, directress of initial formation, called Sister Louise Marie forth to religious profession, after which Sister Louise Marie presented her request to Sister Evelyn Korenek, the general superior of the Sisters of the Incarnate Word and Blessed Sacrament.

Bishop David E. Fellhauer questioned Sister Louise Marie on her readiness to dedicate herself to God; she then consecrated herself to God through the vows of consecrated chastity, evangelical poverty and religious obedience for one year.

Prior to the presentation of the signs of religious profession, Sister Louise Marie sang Psalm 116, accompanied by Sister Ann Frances Shimek on guitar and the IWBS choir on the response.

Bishop Fellhauer blessed Sister Louise Marie's black veil and crucifix, which Sister Evelyn and Sister Donna presented to her.

Present for her special day, beyond many friends and relatives, were Sister Louise Marie's father and mother, Ivan and Fredoline Navjar of Victoria; her sister, Nylece Putnam of Lubbock; her son and daughter-in-law, Michael and Laura Jones and their three children, Daniel, William and Emily; and her daughter Traci Jones and son, Hunter. Brother Brian Najvar of San Antonio was unable to attend.

Concelebrating the Mass with Bishop Fellhauer were Rev. Leon Rubaj, chaplain at IWBS convent; Rev. Celestino Say, Sister Louise Marie's former boss and

pastor of Our Lady of Lourdes Parish in Victoria; Rev. John Peters, pastor of Sacred Heart Church in Hallettsville, and Rev. John Bily, pastor of St. Michael in Weimar. Sister Louise Marie spent her apostolic year at both the Hallettsville and Weimar parishes.

Sister Louise Marie said she received her calling to the religious life when she made her Cursillo, 10 years ago, but she had felt the initial call in 1963 during the open house of the present IWBS Convent, when she had walked into the chapel and saw the crucifix. She said her favorite saying, which was also on her reception cake, is "With God all things are possible," a trustworthy saying for this mother of two, grandmother of four and newly professed Sister of the Incarnate Word and Blessed Sacrament. She will make her final profession in three to five years.

#### The World Mission Sunday Collection – Oct. 21

By Baptism, all Catholics are called to participate in the mission of the Church, called to share their faith as missionaries. World Mission Sunday, Oct. 21, 2007, gathers support for the pastoral and evangelizing programs and needs of more than 1,150 mission dioceses in Africa, Asia, the Pacific Islands, and remote regions of Latin America. The funds gathered on World Mission Sunday are distributed in the pope's name by the Society for the Propagation of the Faith—a Pontifical Mission Society.

Please visit [www.worldmissions-catholicchurch.org](http://www.worldmissions-catholicchurch.org) for more information.



## Holy Cross Catholic Church

Bay City, Texas



## Fall Festival & Turkey Dinner

**Sunday, November 4**  
**Knights of Columbus Hall • Hamman Road • Bay City**

**Turkey Dinner Served**  
**11:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. - Dine-in or Drive-up at \$7 p/p**

**Outdoor Mass at 9:30 a.m.**  
**Raffle Drawings**  
**Polka Band**



**Auction - 12:30 p.m.**  
**Country Store**  
**Children's Games & More!**



## In search of antique and old, passed — down recipes from previous members of St. Mary Church, Victoria

The St. Mary's Altar Society of Victoria, Texas, is currently in the process of gathering recipes from the very, early days of the church to the present time. They are looking forward to publishing a cookbook that will feature both new as well as many old and treasured recipes — not only from the current members, but also of members who at one time belonged to St. Mary Church.

The cookbook committee is attempting to reach individuals who may have attended St. Mary as far back as the 1920s, but many are no longer with us and have left only their treasured recipes they passed on to their children and relatives. Many of these relatives may live in other towns

### The Pumpkins Are Coming!

CUERO — Pumpkins of all shapes and sizes will be available at St. Michael School in Cuero! Pick your favorites while supplies last! Bring your family, friends, neighbors and your camera for some great fall photo opportunities. The school held its Pumpkin Patch Grand Opening October 2 with face painting, pumpkin painting, storytelling, refreshments and games all evening. The Pumpkin Patch will be open until Tuesday, October 30. Hours will be Monday thru Friday 2:00 to 6:00 p.m.; Saturday, 9:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m.; closed on Sundays. Pumpkins will be located at St. Michael's School gym on Church Street. Follow the signs! This project is sponsored by St. Michael's School PTC.

### Goodbye, Ballet Folklorico de Victoria

*Continued from p. 20*

register, as many of the families couldn't afford extracurricular expenses.

The Hernandezes only had their expertise knowledge in folklorico dance gained from years of helping with the Our Lady of Sorrows Church folklorico group.

Other folklorico groups are around, including the Our Lady of Sorrows group, Mrs. Hernandez said. The children will have somewhere to go.

"The community was behind us 100 percent from the very beginning and we're grateful for that," Mr. Hernandez said.

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

Featuring Our Celebrated Turkey and Dressing Dinner  
@ \$7 p/p

And much more! See ad next month for more information.



in the diocese and it is hoped that these relatives would be so kind to share copies of some of their recipes for publication in this cookbook. Also, if you have recently retired and have moved to another town, yet are in the Victoria Diocese we hope to receive recipes from you.

Please send any recipes, and any special notes, i.e., "this was a favorite at holiday time, hay hauling, etc.", it would be greatly appreciated. There will be many categories and whatever you send in will be used. Either type or print the name and recipe, approximate amount of servings, your first and last name, phone number, as well as in memory of your relative's first and last name (if deceased or living). Deadline to send in is October 31, 2007.

You may send the recipes to: Sandy Hausman, St. Mary's Altar Society Cookbook chairman, 401 Maplewood Drive, Victoria, Texas 77901.



### OLS invites Rev. Michael De Leon of Laredo for Day of Evangelization

Our Lady of Sorrows Prayer Group in Victoria invites all to a bilingual Day of Evangelization Friday and Saturday, October 19 and 20.

The two-day event will include singing, praising and laying on of hands. Special guest and celebrant will be Father Michael DeLeon of Laredo, Texas, as well as the Prayer Team from Divine Mercy Church, also of Laredo.

The Day(s) of Evangelization will be held at OLS Trinity Hall, 204 W. River St. in Victoria on Friday from 7:00 to 10:00 p.m. and Saturday 9:00 a.m. to 6:00 p.m. A \$10 donation per person is asked for the two-day registration and Saturday noon meal (register at the door).

For more information, please contact Mamie Trevino at (361) 550-9231 or Lupe Chacon at (361) 575-5127.

### Rental Property

Highway 30A,  
Panhandle of Florida  
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Beach side, Over 5000 square feet,  
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## Strudel Makers Wanted: No Experience Necessary, Really!

By Jennifer Pilat

SHINER — Kolaches, sauerkraut, strudel... just a few of the delicious foods that I have become accustomed to over the past few years. While many of you cannot imagine a family meal without these traditional treats, a decade ago I had no idea what they were, let alone how to make them.

My whole family was introduced to Czech cuisine at my wedding, in Shiner, in 1999. Since then, I have had several relatives call me over the years, to ask for jars of sauerkraut, or recipes for strudel (most of the time, they don't remember the names, they just ask "What was that stuff we had at your wedding?").

Until last year, I had to tell them, "I'm sorry; I still don't know how to make a strudel." You see, I was intimidated by the thought of trying to do something that seemed to require so much skill, practice and natural ability. I just could not imagine myself being able to produce a strudel that anyone would want to eat!

Then, last year, Lois Pilat (my mother-in-law) invited me to attend the Strudel Bake at Sts. Cyril & Methodius. It sounded like fun, but I was really nervous. I told her that I would go and peel apples, wash dishes, or something like that. I was worried that someone like me, with no strudel making experience what-so-ever, would just be in the way.

We arrived that morning, and I was instantly surprised. Instead of working in a kitchen, we grabbed one of the many tables set up in the gym. Mere moments later, my mother-in-law began showing me how to set up my workspace, and her preferred method of flouring a rolling pin. There were men busily coring and slicing apples, students darting around as they kept strudel makers well supplied, and women intently rolling, filling, or folding as they visited with those around them. My apprehension grew as I watched the speed with which the women worked — they knew what they were doing. Mrs. Pat Kurtz, the woman to my right, made approximately six strudels in the time that it took for me to make my first! But, over time, I began to feel more comfortable, and as my anxiety faded, the day became rather enjoyable!

The Strudel Bake Committee members have done an awesome job streamlining

### Good Sportsmanship and a Christian Attitude

and the school we are visiting.

We leave our area clean after a game.

We are aware of the many sacrifices parents make to send their children to a Catholic school, and we congratulate you on your efforts. We know that you want the very best for your children, and so do we as principals. So, we are asking for your cooperation to enforce the points that the main objectives of all our sports activities are to teach sportsmanship and basic skills, not just to win.

Let us share with you a passage from the Texas Association of Private and Parochial Schools in regard to athletic events: "This contest is governed by the rules and regulations of the Texas Association of Private and Parochial Schools. The officials are our guests during this game and their decisions should be respected at all times. Sportsmanship should prevail both on the court or field and in the stands. We thank you for your cooperation."

*From the Catholic school principals of the Victoria Diocese*

the process and thought of just about everything that can possibly be done to make such an event as easy and enjoyable as possible. For example, I never had to leave my workstation. Dough, ingredients, directions; everything I needed in order to make a strudel seemed to instantly appear at just the right time. Eager, young students happily brought around baggies of pre-measured ingredients, buckets of apples, and pitchers of melted butter.

At the end of four hours, I had produced about 20 strudels (I really don't know the exact number, because I was having so much fun). Not bad for a first-timer! More than that, I had learned something new — a skill that before that day had seemed impossible for me to consider ever doing. And, I had shared this experience with a gym-full of people. There were old friends, family groups (some of which included three generations), kids of all ages, and a few priests - yes, Father Bob and Father Frank even rolled out some dough!

All of us there were working toward a common goal: making the strudels that would fill the orders in order to collect the money that would help the church and school.

I'm sure you can see that tons of time and effort go into this annual event. It takes a lot of behind-the-scenes coordinating by Mrs. Mary Rose Barta and her team, and many, many hours of planning and preparation by countless individuals.

I am ready for this year's bake on November 10, 2007. I hope to make at least 30 strudels, that is, if I can remember to keep count. I know that if we all work together, it will be a productive day. It's nice to think that some lucky family will be enjoying MY strudel as they gather during the holiday season.

Whether you're from Shiner or not, you're welcome to come and roll with us; grab a friend, some family members, and a rolling pin, and come on over to the 21st Annual Shiner Strudel Bake — no experience necessary! To volunteer and reserve your spot at a table, please call: Mary Rose Barta at (361) 594-3836. To reserve a baked or unbaked Strudel, place order by Nov. 8 (see phone numbers on page 19 — When & Where — Shiner 21st Annual Parish Strudel Bake).



# Jr. High Fiesta

Sunday, November 4, 2007

"Living Your Faith Out Loud"

Grades 6-8th  
Holy Family Catholic Church  
704 Mallette Drive  
Victoria, TexasIntroducing:  
**Sommer Stowe**

Born in Seoul, South Korea, Sommer, along with two of her three siblings, was adopted at the age of five. This unique early life would leave a lasting mark on her ensuing years of formation and leave its indelible seal on her perspective of life. It is this very perspective that gives

Sommer's music such a distinctive quality. Her musical experience includes a stint with a nationally touring Catholic band. During that time, she performed at World Youth Day, EWTN's Backstage, in addition to recording with the band on their third album. Sommer's solo career includes the release of her first solo album *Back to Home*. She has also been privileged to perform across the country for conferences, retreats and coffee houses including a performance at the National Catholic Youth Conference. Other past experiences from which Sommer draws inspiration come from five years teaching high school theology at Bishop Lynch High School in Dallas, Texas.

For more information contact your parish coordinator or Debbie Vanelli at the Office of Youth & Young Adult Ministry (361) 573-0828, [dvaneli@victoriadiocese.org](mailto:dvaneli@victoriadiocese.org) or Jo Ann Martinez, [jmartinez@victoriadiocese.org](mailto:jmartinez@victoriadiocese.org)

Doors open at 10:30 a.m.,  
Program begins at  
11 a.m. and concludes  
at 5:30 p.m., after Liturgy.  
Snack bar available  
Lunch is provided  
Liturgy—4:30 p.m.  
The Most Rev. David Fellhauer

**Early Registration deadline:**  
Thursday, November 1, 2007  
\$15.00 per-person  
Group Rate \$12.00 per-person (8 or more)  
(\$7.00 per-adult)  
(\$20.00 at the door **NO EXCEPTIONS**)

All fees must be mailed to the office before the event.  
**NO REFUNDS AFTER November 1, 2007**

We cordially invite you to  
Christmas Dinner on  
Saturday, the 8th of December  
Two Thousand and Seven  
6:30 p.m. Social and  
Dinner at 7:00 p.m.

Spiritual Renewal Center  
718 Gussie Schmidt Road  
Victoria, Texas

Special Guest: Most Rev. David Fellhauer

\$85 per couple  
Limited Availability  
80 Guests

All proceeds go to the Multi Purpose Building Fund  
Sponsored by: The Office of Youth and Young Adult Ministry  
Diocese of Victoria  
1505 E. Mesquite Lane, Victoria, Texas 77901  
(361) 573-0828

For reservations contact Jo-Ann Martinez at ext. 50

Entree: Grilled Choice Beef Tenderloin  
Grilled Chicken breast  
Rice Pilaf  
Sautéed Asparagus  
Mixed Greens Salad  
Dinner Rolls

Dessert: Chocolate Squares  
Cheese Cake with Raspberry sauce  
Tea and Coffee

Alimento Catering

Saturday, December 8, 2007 (Holy Day of Obligation)  
Immaculate Conception -we will provide Mass at 5:00 p.m. for those  
who wish to join us.

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## Youth Calendar of Events

October 7 – Youth Leadership Training, 8:45 a.m.– 4:30 p.m., Chancery Office  
October 14 – Diocese of Victoria Evangelization (DOVE) Team training from 1:00 - 5:00 p.m. at the Chancery.

October 18 - Theology at the Well – (formerly Theology on Tap) - Father Bryan Heyer will present the topic: "The Eucharist: Is it Real?" for young adults from 6:45 – 8:30 p.m. at Tejas Cafe in Victoria.

October 26-28 – Youth Ministers Conference, sponsored by the Archdiocese of Galveston-Houston; Wyndham Greenspoint Hotel, Houston.

November 1 – Theology at the Well – (formerly Theology on Tap) - Ron Friedel will present the topic: "Mary, Our Mother," for young adults from 6:45 – 8:30 p.m. at Tejas Cafe in Victoria.

November 4 – Junior High Fiesta – for all junior high young people at Holy Family in Victoria.

November 8-11 – National Catholic Youth Conference – Columbus, Ohio.

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

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

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

## Fan the Flame & Ignite the Fire Gathering

The music ministries of Holy Family Praise & Worship and Our Lady of Sorrows Life Teen are joining up to offer a Praise and Worship afternoon Sunday, Oct. 21, at Holy Family Activity Center.

The music groups are reaching out with their slogans to invite everyone: Have a life-changing experience and need to be refueled? Feeling stressed, down, depleted, or unworthy? Come and turn your Sorrows or Joys into Dancing! Re-ignite

the passion in your hearts!

The event will be held Sunday afternoon from 2 to 5 p.m. There will be a cost of a \$1 donation and refreshments will be sold with all proceeds benefiting the Crisis Pregnancy Center in Victoria.

Call Holy Family Youth Office at (361) 573-5445 to reserve spots. Groups need chaperones and permission/medical forms for all teens.

Everyone is invited to attend.

September 14, 2007

Dear Editor:

This September, three families in Victoria will enjoy a special experience by welcoming into their homes high school exchange students from Germany, Czech Republic and France. These volunteer host families are participating in the SHARE! Student Exchange Program for the 2007-2008 school year. These international exchange students are eager to learn about how Americans live. I am prompted to write an expression of enormous gratitude to the host families, the high schools and community. As the regional director for this program, I have helped local coordinators find the host families and helped them select a student who best fits their family.

Local coordinators and our regional office staff will supervise and monitor our families and exchange students throughout their stay.

There are still several outstanding candidates awaiting host families. If anyone has thought about hosting, now is an excellent time to start.

Please contact me as soon as possible. This is a great opportunity to SHARE! your heart and home with the rest of the world. My thanks to the host families, their teachers and high schools, and the members of the community for extending such a warm welcome to these exchange students who have chosen to travel thousands of miles away from family and friends to learn about our unique American culture.

The students will always remember the welcome that they received from the people in Victoria.

Sincerely,

Yvette Coffman, SHARE! Southwest Regional Director





Emily Seyl of St. Rose School in Schulenburg wins National Catholic Daughters of the Americas Essay Contest. Pictured from l-r is Colleen Seyl, Emily's grandmother; Dee Seyl, Emily's mother; Bill Seyl, Emily's grandfather; Emily, District Deputy (CDA) Judy Evanicky.

## St. Rose 8th Grade Student Wins National CDA Award

SCHULENBURG—Catholic Daughters Court St. Rose No. 1597 was notified recently that Emily Seyl, an eighth-grade student at St. Rose School, was awarded first place in the Essay Category of the National Education Contest.

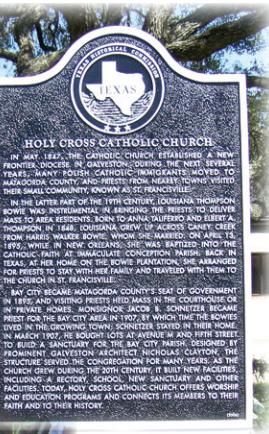
Each year, the Catholic Daughters of the Americas sponsors the National Education Contest with local courts initiating competitions in their communities. The themes are selected by the national court which encourage lively imagination and freedom of thought to bring out students' talent. The contest enables students in the community, schools and CCD classes to compete for awards while following fixed rules. It is divided into different age divi-

sions and categories such as poetry, essay, art, music and photography.

Seyl's essay, titled 'The Beauty of God's Creation,' was chosen as the first-place winner on the local level earlier this year. All first-place winners were forwarded for competition on the state level, where her essay was again chosen as the first-place winner from all sponsoring courts in the state of Texas. Winning entries were then sent to the national competition.

The court congratulates Emily, her family, and her teachers for receiving this award. The court also congratulates Phyllis Venghaus, education chairperson, for her work on the project.

## 100th Anniversary Dedication



Holy Cross students greet Bishop Fellhauer at the dedication of their church's Texas Historical Marker which honors its 100th-year-anniversary.

## Holy Cross students provide floral tribute at historic marker's dedication

BAY CITY—Holy Cross students participated in the dedication of the Texas Historical Marker, which was held Friday, September 14, 2007, in honor of the 100th anniversary of Holy Cross Catholic Church in Bay City.

There were many special guests including the Most Reverend David E. Fellhauer who gave the invocation and blessed the marker, Father Casimir Jarzombek, pastor of Holy Cross Church, Boy Scout Troop 45 color guard, who are students at Holy

Cross School, David Holubec, who did the research of the church; Mary Belle Ingram, Matagorda historian; floral tribute by the Holy Cross students and music by the Life Teen Band.

The unveiling of the marker was done by the Marcella Naiser Schraub and the Thomas F. Orsak Sr. Families who have children at Holy Cross School.

Guests and students enjoyed refreshments in the Holy Cross School cafeteria.

## Holy Family parishioners build Habitat Home and grow as a faith family

### By Cynthia Brewer

Becky Barfield and her three children now have a beautiful home they can call their own, thanks to parishioners of Holy Family Church in Victoria.

Holy Family took on as a parish project the building of Victoria's tenth of 14 Habitat for Humanity houses to be built in Victoria this year.

Dennis Lockstedt, a Knights of Columbus member of Holy Family Parish Council 9088, said this house, the 57th house done by Habitat in Victoria, was the first house done totally by one parish.

Holy Family donated \$25,000 to offset the cost of the house and added a lot of hard work toward the building of the home, said Dennis.

Because of the \$25,000 donation, the local "Grace Like Rain" group, which works with Habitat for Humanity, was able to receive a matching grant from the state of Texas "Boot Strap" fund-raiser to supplement the cost of the home's building project.

Ms. Barfield said it was just wonderful to have a new home. "My twin daughters (13-years-old Shanequa and Shawnte) share their room, my son (14-year-old Damain) has his own room and so do I," she said.

Once a star basketball player for the former Stroman High School, Becky is now the head custodian of O'Connor School, where she's been for many years. She's known as the "adored" head custodi-

an said Leslie Ruta, resource development manager of Habitat for Humanity.

Regarding the sweat equity the family



Father Greg Korenek, pastor of Holy Family Catholic Church, presents Becky Barfield with the key to her new home. She, her children and Holy Family parishioners built the home, as well as other Habitat for Humanity homes, over the past eight months.

put in, Ms. Barfield said, "We worked for about eight months, every Saturday from 8 a.m. to noon."

"We worked on all the neighbors homes. It was a wonderful way to get to know our neighbors, now we can all watch over each other's homes," she continued.

A group of homes provided by Habitat for Humanity are located on E. Hiller Street.

The 57th home was blessed by Holy Family pastor, Father Greg Korenek, on August 11. On that day he presented the Barfield family with the key to the house, and Dennis presented the family a new Bible.

Dennis said he'd recommend building a Habitat for Humanity house as a parish project, "I definitely recommend it. That's what Christianity is all about – giving folks a home, a place to live, and helping your neighbor."

### Active KC council

The Holy Family Knights of Columbus have been involved in the labor of 15

Habitat for Humanity homes, said Dennis.

"A group of KC men work on constructing Habitat homes every Monday morning from 8 a.m. to 12 p.m.," he said. "As many as nine or 10 or as little as four."

"Ted Sheblak, David Heyer and Bill Spellacy can take a house from ground up and build it," he said. "And David Heyer's good with trimming, kitchen cabinets."

When Otto Bleier is not cooking on Mondays, he's out there with Joe Jasek and Bob Purdy.

They're becoming great carpenters; they've really honed some specialty talents, Dennis said.



Flanked by two of the most dedicated Habitat for Humanity volunteers in Victoria are Becky Barfield and her son, Damain, and daughters, Shanequa and Shawnte. On the left is Bill Spellacy and on the right is Dennis Lockstedt, who was just recently hired as a full-time employee of Habitat for Humanity. They both are members of Holy Family Parish, KC #9088 and fellow ACTS brothers.



## Sweet Home cemetery directory available

**SWEET HOME**—The St. Ludmila's KJZT Society No. 12 of Sweet Home has completed its cemetery directory project. The society had bake sales in 2006 and 2007 to complete the job. The ladies of the society baked kolaches, cakes, cookies, pies and homemade noodles, etc. Members unable to bake were very generous with monetary donations. With the donation from the KJZT main (state) office, the total for the project was \$4,619.

Mr. Harvey Matusek, a member of Queen of Peace Parish in Sweet Home, took the time to draw the map,



the index and list the names, which took many hours.

St. Ludmila's KJZT Society No. 12 thanks everyone who helped with the

success of the project and ask the public to come visit the cemetery.



**WELCOMING NEWCOMERS**—As part of its 125th anniversary celebration, Sacred Heart Parish in Hallettsville recognized newcomers to the parish at the weekend Masses August 11 and 12. At each of the Masses, those individuals and families who had joined Sacred Heart in the last five years were introduced to the parish family. After each Mass, the pastoral advisory council hosted receptions to welcome the new members.

### Shiner CDA present religion awards

**SHINER**—The Catholic Daughters of the Americas at Sts. Cyril and Methodius Parish in Shiner, Court St. Paul, No. 1604, recently presented its CDA Religious Pin Medals.

Receiving the "Family of God" medals were Kristen Schacherl, Nicolette Siegel, Abby Irvin, Emily Malinovsky, Juliette Siegel, Samantha Siegel and Ashlyn Patek. Receiving the "I Live My Faith" medal were Mary Adamek and Emily Pokluda.

Ashley Kloesel received the "Mary, the First Disciple" medal for her Marian Project.



*Shiner's CDA, Court St. Paul No. 1604, presents religious medals to young women in the parish. Pictured recipients are (front row, l - r): Abby Irvin, Kristen Schacherl, Emily Malinovsky, Emily Pokluda, Juliette Siegel; second row: Mary Adamek, Nicolette Siegel and Ashlyn Patek. Pictured in the back row are Rev. Robert Knippenberg, Pastor and Chaplain; Ashley Kloesel, Carolyn Malik, CDA Second Vice State Regent; and Katherine Caka, Local JCDA court chairperson.*

## Shiner St. Paul graduate receives the national CDA scholarship

**SHINER**—The National Office of the Catholic Daughters of the Americas annually awards one \$1,000 scholarship to a Junior CDA member entering college. It was recently announced that this year's recipient is Jamie Pilat of Shiner, Texas. Jamie is a 2007 graduate of St. Paul High School who has been a JCDA member for the past nine years. She is a former officer of the Shiner JCDA and the outgoing 2nd Vice Regent of the



Texas Junior CDA.

Jamie's parents are Denise and Curtis Pilat of Shiner. Her mother, as well as her grandmother Mrs. Mary Bujnoch, are members of the Catholic Daughters. Jamie is attending Texas A & M at College Station.

Court St. Paul No. 1604 is proud of Jamie's accomplishments and congratulates her on being a National JCDA Scholarship recipient.

Jamie Pilat



**OLV NATIONAL ART WINNER**—Our Lady of Victory sixth grader Olivia Creager was a winner in the Catholic Daughters of the Americas 2007 National Education Contest. She placed first in the CDA National Computer Art Contest, Division I. Olivia's computer generated art illustrated the contest's theme "The Beauty of God's Creation" that won first place at the local and state level to qualify her for the national competition. The contest is sponsored annually by the Catholic Daughters of the Americas Court Saint Ann No. 369 in Victoria. Olivia was presented a first place national award certificate at the CDA Court Saint Ann's August meeting. Olivia is the daughter of Greg and Yolanda Creager.



**CUERO KICKS OFF READER PROGRAM**—Third and fourth graders of St. Michael Elementary in Cuero helped kick off the St. Michael's Accelerated Reader Program for this school year with a pep rally on Tuesday, September 4. The cheerleaders encouraged the students to "Read a Book" and led them in cheer and song. Leading the pep rally were Rebecca Hernandez, Leah Buske, Teresa Spears, Abigail Kainer and Cheyenne Miller.



**MASSES RESUME FOR WHARTON CENTER**—Residents of Wharton Nursing and Rehabilitation Center are enjoying again the celebration of Holy Mass every Thursday morning at the center. They are joined by residents in the community who are finding out that it is very convenient to drive to the center for 10:00 a.m. Mass. Father Augustine Antwi-Boasiako, Father Dominic Antwi-Boasiako (brothers), and Father Bryan Heyer take turns celebrating the Mass. They are joined by seminarian Tommy Chen whenever he is in Wharton. After Thursday Mass, they enjoy a cup of coffee and donuts or cookies and socialize awhile. Holy Communion is given on Sundays at 11 a.m. and on Tuesday, the holy rosary is prayed, one group in Spanish and another in English, led by one of the residents. Each group keeps a statue of the Sacred Heart and the Blessed Mother and rotates it to a different resident each week allowing them to keep the statue in their room for the week. Pictured standing, l to r, are seminarian Tommy Chen, Bessie Hlavinka, Father Augustine, Ernesto Soto; sitting: Lydia Gutierrez, Maria Riojas, Marie Laitkep, Innocence Minks and Lena Brandl.



## The Communion of Saints

By Denise Bossert

In February 2005 I attended a funeral Mass with my husband. John's cousin had just lost his young wife to cancer. Lori left behind a grieving husband and three small children (ages seven, five, and nine months). This wasn't the way it was supposed to go. Lori and Tommy had both attended Catholic grade schools in the Archdiocese of St. Louis. They met at a football game between St. Philippine Duchesne High School (hers) and Chaminade College Preparatory School (his). From that moment on, Tommy was determined to win the cheerleader's heart. He would have to wait six more years for that first date, but eventually the two started dating, married and began a family.

They were the picture-perfect couple. They were supposed to raise half-a-dozen children, make it to their fiftieth wedding anniversary, and live to see their great-grandchildren. They were supposed to set the standard for the rest of us by living out what it means to be a strong Catholic family. Tragedy wasn't supposed to strike here. But when Lori was pregnant with their third child, she was diagnosed with cancer.

Lori's funeral Mass was the first Catholic funeral I had attended since beginning my journey into the Church. With the loss of my own father just a year earlier, grief was still like a familiar piece of clothing that fit all too well. Enough time had passed that I was able to step out of the garment of grief long enough to reflect and process my thoughts. But the loss was recent enough that I still hungered for a deeper understanding of Catholic teaching on the communion of saints and prayers for the dead.

I still had days in which I wondered how any of us could truly go on after a loved one passes away. As Protestants, we held to the belief that we were cut off (until we die) from the one we loved. Sure, we have Jesus to get us through, and we consoled ourselves with the thought that one day we would all be together again. But that had to be enough to see us through the dark night of grief. It seemed to me that something was lacking in Protestant theology, and it was obvious that whatever that "something" was, every person who goes

through grief should have access to it.

For Catholics, there is the communion of saints. For Catholics, there is unending love and intercession. For Catholics, there is a mysterious moment every time they go to Mass. In that moment the veil lifts, heaven touches down, and through the Most Blessed Sacrament, we are joined with Our Eucharistic Lord and with the faithful who have gone before us. We reach across the Great Divide and hold hands once again. In that moment, we can almost hear the prayers of that Great Cloud of Witnesses (as it says in Hebrews chapter 12). And we know that they are praying for us.

We are not on our own in this valley of tears.

Those who have known us and loved us most dearly are even now alive-in-Christ and praying that we will have every grace we need in order to run the course marked out for us.

In the two years that have passed since Lori's death, Tom has picked up his cross and kept on going. He is raising their three children, has published two inspirational children's books and has started a publishing company. He draws great strength from his eternal connection to Lori. "There is not a day that goes by that I don't think about Lori and talk to her out loud," he says.

When a loved one dies, the chasm that separates us seems so great – and yet we know it really can't be much of a distance. Someone we have known intimately, someone we have loved deeply has crossed the divide and passed into eternity, and that overwhelming truth brings heaven very close. The truth of the communion of saints is written in our hearts.

It is precisely in that moment – in that valley of the shadow of death – that we cling tightly to the words of the Creed. I believe in the communion of saints. I believe in the resurrection of the body. I believe in life everlasting. Thank God, I believe!

And until the day we lay our own cross down, we keep on going, and if we listen very carefully, we can hear the cheering from the other side.

Tommy and Lori continue to be that

*See The Communion of Saints, p. 13*

**Texas Renaissance Festival**

1974 2007

**Saturdays, Sundays**  
and  
Thanksgiving Friday

**October 6<sup>th</sup> - November 25<sup>th</sup>**

**Special Discount Tickets**

Adult \$18.00 Child (5-12) \$8.00 (under 4 free)  
Tickets at the gate - Adult \$21.00 Child \$10.00

**Discount Tickets available at**

**H-E-B** **WOODFOREST NATIONAL BANK** **Randalls**  
**APPLETREE** **ClicknPrint TICKETS** **Market Basket**

[www.texrenfest.com](http://www.texrenfest.com)

## FAMILY PUZZLE CONTEST

### SAINTS OF THE MODERN ERA

[www.wordgamesforcatholics.com](http://www.wordgamesforcatholics.com)



**DON BOSCO**  
**KIM**  
**KOLBE**  
**LWANGA**  
**NEUMANN**

**PALLOTTI**  
**SAVIO**  
**SETON**  
**STEIN**  
**VIANNEY**

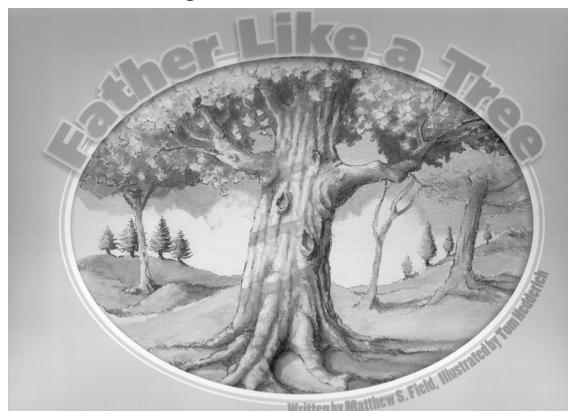
### Family Puzzle Contest Winners

The winner of the September Puzzle Contest is Margaret Holik of St. Procopius in Louise. She will receive "Jesus in the House – Gospel Reflections on Christ's Presence in the Home" by Allan F. Wright. The youth contest winner is Stacie Garcia, 15, of Our Lady of Sorrows in Victoria. She will receive a gift from the Incarnate Word Gift Shop.

The prize for the October Puzzle Contest will be the children's book "Father Like a Tree" by Matthew S. Field (pen name) and published by Matting Leah Publishing Company.

What started as a bedtime story he told his four-year-old daughter one night has become a real-life fairytale for New York author, Matthew S. Field. In October 2005, Field's book 'Father Like A Tree' ranked #2 among all illustrated children's books and was 136th among all books sold by Amazon.com. See mention of author in *Communion of Saints* column on this page.

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



**Winners of the September Texas Renaissance Festival give-away are:** Doug Nevlud of Sts. Cyril & Methodius Church in Shiner; Linda Pohl of St. John the Baptist in Koerth; and Ralph A. Cormier of Our Lady of the Gulf in Port Lavaca. **Congratulations!** Still two pairs of tickets to be given away in October.

### Texas Renaissance Festival Give-away

Tickets to the Texas Renaissance Festival will be given away through *The Catholic Lighthouse* drawing in October (2 pairs). Tickets are valued at \$21 each; good for any weekend Oct. 6 – Nov. 25. The festival is held at 21778 FM 1774, Plantersville, Texas. Please fill out one form per household and send by Oct. 25 to: The Catholic Lighthouse, P.O. Box 4070, Victoria, TX 77903. If you have already submitted your name for the drawing, no need to re-send, name is in the drawing.

NAME: \_\_\_\_\_

ADDRESS: \_\_\_\_\_

CITY: \_\_\_\_\_ STATE: \_\_\_\_\_ ZIP: \_\_\_\_\_

PHONE NUMBER: \_\_\_\_\_

PARISH: \_\_\_\_\_



## Sunday readings from Oct. 14 to Nov. 11

October 14 —  
Twenty-eighth Sunday  
in Ordinary Time

2 Kings 5:14-17  
Psalm 98:1, 2-3, 3-4  
2 Timothy 2:8-13  
Luke 17:11-19

October 21 —  
Twenty-ninth Sunday  
in Ordinary Time

Exodus 17:8-13  
Psalm 121:1-2, 3-4, 5-6, 7-8  
2 Timothy 3:14 — 4:2  
Luke 18:1-8

October 28 —  
Thirtieth Sunday  
in Ordinary Time

Sirach 35:12-14, 16-18  
Psalm 34:2-3, 17-18, 19, 23  
2 Timothy 4:6-8, 16-18  
Luke 18:9-14

November 1 —  
Solemnity of All Saints

Revelation 7:2-4, 9-14  
Psalm 24:1-2, 3-4, 5-6  
1 John 3:1-3  
Matthew 5:1-12a

November 4 —  
Thirty-first Sunday  
in Ordinary Time

Wisdom 11:22 — 12:2  
Psalm 145:1-2, 8-9, 10-11, 13, 14  
2 Thessalonians 1:11 — 2:2  
Luke 19:1-10

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

## Tracing the Traditions

By Patricia Kasten

### From Hauntings to Hallows: “Tracing Halloween”

Witches, toads and souls of the dead. Definitely Halloween stuff. Most of us know Halloween dates back to pagan harvest celebrations, the end of the year and feasts of the dead. But did you know that All Saints Day and All Souls Day share these pagan roots? And that many of the notions we now associate with Halloween rose out of practices tied to All Souls Day on Nov. 2? Let's start with All Saints Day.

A feast day commemorating the saints goes far back into Christian history. It arose from feasts honoring martyrs, the first formally acknowledged saints. Early Christian churches were often built over the tombs of martyrs. For a while, the first Sunday after Pentecost was a preferred day for this feast. However, by 610 A.D., that changed.

That year, Pope Boniface IV received the Roman Pantheon and converted it into a Christian church. The Pantheon — with its famous open dome — was originally built (and rebuilt in 125 A.D.) to honor the vast array of Roman deities. When Pope Boniface received the Pantheon from the Byzantine Emperor, he followed an already common tradition of rededicating pagan temples for Christian use; he dedicated the Pantheon to Mary and the growing pantheon of Christian martyrs. The day of the new church's dedication was May 13, 610.

It was a carefully chosen date. In imperial Rome, May 9, 10 and 13 were the days of Lemuria, a festival to appease the gods. So not only did Boni-

face re-engineer a temple into a church, he rearranged a pagan holiday into a feast honoring the Church's saints.

The May 13 date for All Saints Day continued until the time of Pope Gregory III (731-41). Pope Gregory had to deal with iconoclasts, who opposed all religious icons and destroyed many images of Christ and the saints. Gregory finally excommunicated them. And, perhaps to make the message plain, he dedicated a chapel in St. Peter's Basilica to “all the saints” on Nov. 1. The feast day's date has stuck ever since.

Gregory III doesn't have the only claim to setting the Nov. 1 date. That also goes to Irish monks and grew out of Celtic traditions. In the Celtic calendar, Nov. 1 was the start of winter. The druidic celebration of Samhain fell on the night before because that was when Samhain, the Lord of the Dead, was believed to call together all the souls of wicked people who had died during the past year. Again the tactic of converting pagan celebrations to Christian use came into play. Rather than try to abolish Samhain, the monks set their own festival celebrations of All Saints on Nov. 1 and co-opted the celebrations of the night before. The vigil of All Saints Day became known as All Hallows Eve, eventually

**The Chancery Office will be closed  
November 1 for All Saints Day**  
**(Holy Day of Obligation)**  
**Will re-open November 2 at 8:30 a.m.**

## Coming of Age

By Erick Rommel  
Catholic News Service



### The prayer part of a Halloween rhyme

Every year in October a Halloween rhyme pops into my head that I must have learned in elementary school. “Ghoulies and ghosties and long-legged beasties and things that go bump in the night.”

This year, when the phrase made its annual appearance, I chose to research its origin. I thought that finding the original story might remind me of my childhood and why I deemed this piece of knowledge, above many others, worthy to recall a quarter century later.

In my extensive review of the data, which consisted of typing the phrase into a popular search engine and clicking on a link, I discovered I probably never will track the origin of this phrase.

shortened to “Halloween.”

All Souls Day follows All Saints, and is a time to pray for the souls in purgatory. It dates at least to the fifth century, when a day of prayer for the dead was held on the Monday after Pentecost. St. Odilo (962-1049) gets credit for moving the feast to after All Saints Day, at least for the monks in the abbeys of his order, the Cluniacs. Their practice spread, as the monks traveled — most especially into the British Isles. There they met the traditions of the Samhain harvest festivals.

Some of those traditions tied were eventually transferred to the feast of All Hallows, and then to our secular beliefs about Halloween. First, since November 1 was the end of the growing season and the start of the New Year, it was marked by large harvest festivals, complete with bonfires, pumpkins and scarecrows made from straw and other harvest leftovers.

Also, people believed that, at the turning of the year, the souls of the dead — especially the recent dead — could roam free and return to haunt those who had wronged them in life. These souls could take many forms, but preferred witches and toads. People could placate angry souls with gifts, especially of food. In other words, angry souls could be prevented from playing tricks by the offering of treats.

Today, we believe that praying for the souls of the faithful at any time — but especially on All Souls and during all of November, the month of All Souls — helps shorten their stay in purgatory and helps them gain the full joys of eternal union with God. That's an amazing treat.

ture saints. Because vigils could not be celebrated on feast days, the vigil for both feasts occurred Oct. 31, the day before the Feast of All Saints.

As with many church celebrations, these feasts coincided with pagan ceremonies in areas still converting to Christianity. Through the melding of custom and faith, the Vigil of All Saints and All Souls became All Hallow's Eve, a time when, supposedly, the souls of the dead were freed from purgatory and allowed temporarily to return to their homes.

These lost souls were the ghoulies and ghosties from whom the people saying the prayer needed protection.

In folklore, that protection came in the form of beggars who prayed for the dead of a household in exchange for special shortbread made by the homeowner called a “soul cake.”

The simplification of the church calendar in 1956 ended the vigil for these feasts, but the secular meaning has remained and even grown. Today, the ghoulies and ghosties that we face on All Hallow's Eve are children in costume, and the food we give is candy designed to make them so hyper that their parents need to be saints to survive.

That doesn't mean the day's traditional roots should be forgotten. We each have our own personal ghoulies and ghosties and need protection all year, not just one day. Halloween reminds us that we must continually face these demons and always rely on the Lord to deliver us from things that all too often go bump in the night.

I may not remember where I first learned the phrase that started this academic journey, but it's clear that it deeply influenced me, especially the part I long ago had forgotten. “Good Lord, deliver us” sounds like a simple prayer, and maybe it is, but it's a short prayer with power. It's a prayer that reminds us about God's authority over all things while demonstrating our willingness to submit to that strength.

“Good Lord, deliver us.” It's a prayer that should always pop into our mind — and not just at Halloween.

## The Communion of Saints

Continued from p. 12

strong Catholic family. That's the irony of it all. Tragedy did not have the final word. The cheerleader is still cheering, only the team she is rooting for is a team of four.

**Editor's note:** The Family Puzzle Contest Prize will be this author's relative's book, *Father Like a Tree*. One can also find Tom's book *Father Like a Tree* and his new release *The Three Pigs, Business School, and Wolfe Hash Stew* under the pen name Matthew S. Field at [www.MattingLeahPublishing.com](http://www.MattingLeahPublishing.com). He is a member of St. Stephen the Martyr Catholic Church in Warwick, New York



Catholic actor, producer Eduardo Verastegui (CNS photo/Deborah Gyapong, Canadian Catholic News)

### Mexican actor gives up fame to make movies that touch lives

OTTAWA (CNS) — If the story of the rich young man from the Gospel of Matthew had a sequel updated for modern times, it might resemble the life of actor Eduardo Verastegui, a Catholic who stars in the film “Bella,” opening in theaters Oct. 26. In the Gospel account, Jesus tells the young man to sell all he has and follow him, but the man goes away sorrowful. In the modern-day sequel, Verastegui sells all he has and is prepared to give up his budding acting career to follow Jesus. Verastegui had reached the zenith of Mexican celebrity as a soap star and singer who had toured at least 13 countries to sold-out crowds. His resumé includes music videos and films. But while studying English in Los Angeles, he found himself drawn to a deeper faith in Jesus through the example of his Catholic teacher, and began to see all the reasons he had wanted to be an actor — fame, money and pleasure — as empty and vain. In 2004 he met movie producer Leo Severino while attending daily Mass. Not long after, Verastegui and Severino co-founded Metanoia Films to produce movies that could change lives and hearts. “Bella,” released in 2006, is Metanoia's first film. It won the coveted People's Choice Award at last fall's Toronto Film Festival.



## Is there a God to be known?

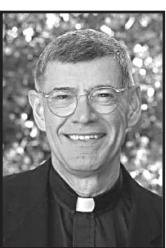
By Father Oscar Lukefahr

"God made us to know him." If we are seriously to consider the issue of knowing God, we must first ask whether there is a God to be known. Today, polls show that the vast majority of human beings believe in God. But there are also those who deny God's existence, atheists. And because of modern means of communication, atheists can spread their message worldwide in moments.

It has been said that nobody talks more about God than people who deny God's existence. They now seem to be more desperate in their denials than ever. At least their voices are shriller. In his book, *The God Delusion*, and in a series aired on British television, atheist Richard Dawkins rails against those who believe in God and claims that parents who teach religion to their children are guilty of child abuse. He declares, "You won't find any intelligent person who feels the need for the supernatural, unless [he was] brought up that way."

Is he right? Let's begin with the last statement. It's clearly false. Dr. Francis Collins, the brilliant medical doctor-scientist who led the human genome mapping project, was brought up in a home where religion was not taken seriously. He was an atheist until his doctoral studies and his experiences with dying patients led him to belief. He now sees God's handiwork in the magnificent complexity of life, as he explains in his book, *The Language of God*.

The list of intelligent former atheists who have become believers is long and impressive. Here I will name a few we'll



be meeting in future columns. They come from every field of science, philosophy, and academics: Dr. Allan Sandage, a renowned astronomer; Mortimer Adler, founder of the Great Books of the Western World; Dr. Diane Komp, M.D., professor of pediatric oncology at Yale University; Dr. Howard Storm, chairman of the art department at Northern Kentucky University; C. S. Lewis, one of the great authors and thinkers of the twentieth century; Lee Strobel, former investigative journalist at the Chicago Tribune; Andre Frossard, a French journalist; Antony Flew, a philosopher at four British universities and a champion of atheism for over fifty years; and ... the list could go on indefinitely. But I'll just quote the humorous remark of an atheist teetering on the brink of belief, "I'm still an atheist, thank God."

There are many reasons why atheists become believers. Allan Sandage determined that in the universe, with its incredible vastness and beauty, there is nothing that causes it to be. He reasoned that it could not have come from nothing; therefore, there must be a Being outside the universe who gave it existence. Antony Flew was converted by recent scientific discoveries, especially the findings of DNA research. Mortimer Adler and Lee Strobel were drawn to God by philosophical reasoning and careful study. Diane Komp found God in the remarkable spiritual experiences of dying children. Others, like Howard Storm, Andre Frossard, and C. S. Lewis, encountered God as a Person who broke through their consciousness in ways that turned darkness to light, leaving them utterly convinced of the reality of God's existence.

So why do some atheists remain in disbelief? They make

the fundamental error of supposing that the only real knowledge is gained by scientific means. Atheists say, "If I can't measure God or examine God under a microscope, God cannot exist." But IF God exists, he must transcend the material universe and be beyond measurement, or he cannot be God. Faith does not, and cannot, put God under a microscope. But faith is reasonable because it finds good cause to believe in God. Scientists become believers because they see magnificence and order in creation and realize that it must come from God or it must come from nothing. They find it more reasonable to believe in God than in nothing.

Because atheists can't see God under a microscope, they claim God cannot exist. Therefore, they say, everything must come from nothing. But nothing can't be found under a microscope either. Atheists must make a far more difficult leap of faith than those who believe in God...a leap from everything to nothing!

An increasing number of scientists find faith in God more reasonable. Allan Sandage says that the world is too complicated to be due to chance alone: "I am convinced that the existence of life with all its order in each of its organisms is simply too well put together...This situation...becomes more astonishing every year as the scientific results become more detailed. Because of this, many scientists are now driven to faith by their very work." ([www.leaderu.com/truth/ltruth15.html](http://www.leaderu.com/truth/ltruth15.html))

Richard Dawkins may rail against believers, but more and more scientists are saying, "I'm no longer an atheist, thank God!"

### Priest says his cure was miracle through Mother Teresa

GUWAHATI, India (CNS) — The sainthood cause of Blessed Mother Teresa of Calcutta could cross its last hurdle if the Vatican approves an allegedly miraculous cure a priest claims he experienced on the 10th anniversary of her death. Salesian Father V.M. Thomas says Mother Teresa's intercession was responsible for the disappearance of a half-inch kidney stone in his lower ureter, reported the Asian church news agency UCA News. The stone disappeared in an unexplainable manner after Father Thomas celebrated Mass and prayed to Mother Teresa Sept. 5, the day before he was scheduled for surgery. UCA News reported that Archbishop Thomas Menamparambil of Guwahati gave the agency a copy of the priest's files and medical records and, according to the priest's notes, the surgeon affirmed "the disappearance of the calculus (stone) was beyond medical explanation." Father Thomas, 56, was associated with Mother Teresa from 1979 until her death in 1997. The priest had been suffering from severe abdominal pain since Feb. 13.

## Christmas Arts & Crafts Sale

Sponsored by the Sisters  
Incarnate Word Convent  
1101 N.E. Water Street  
(across from Hopkins School)

Sat. & Sun., Nov. 3 & 4

Sat, 9:00 a.m. - 4:00 p.m.  
Sun. 10:00 a.m. - 4:00 p.m.

Afghans, African Violets,  
Angels, Aprons, Decorations,  
Doilies, Pillow Cases, Scarves,  
Quilts, Quilt Tops, Pillows,  
Pot Holders and  
Much, Much More!

Benefit:  
Health Care  
for Retired Sisters

# SPIRITUALITY

## THE POPE SPEAKS

Pope  
Benedict XVI



CNS photo from Reuters

## Children must be guided early on with God's law, says pope

By Carol Glatz Catholic News Service

VATICAN CITY (CNS) — Young children must be guided from a very early age with moral law so that they will have direction as they weather life's storms and resist its temptations, Pope Benedict XVI said.

"God's law must be impressed on the soul from the beginning 'like on a piece of wax,'" the pope said, citing the teachings of St. John Chrysostom at his Sept. 19 weekly general audience.

Early infancy "is in fact the age that is the most important" because it marks the time when "the great directives that point to the right course to (take in) life" really take hold in a person, he said.

Pope Benedict returned briefly to the Vatican from his papal summer villa south of Rome for the weekly audience in St. Peter's Square.

The pope dedicated his talk to the life and writings of St. John Chrysostom, the fourth-century doctor of the church and archbishop of Constantinople, now Istanbul, Turkey. The 1,600th anniversary of his death is being celebrated this year.

The saint saw that humanity must strive to first accurately know "true doctrine" and then translate it into one's own life by following moral principles and virtues, the pope said.

He said St. John Chrysostom urged people to provide children early on with the "spiritual weapons" they would need to protect themselves later during adolescence and the teen years from "the violent winds" of lust and other strong desires.

Aided by the virtue of temperance and a solid Christian formation, "well-prepared married couples thus block off the road to divorce," he said.

Everything in life will unfold "with joy and (parents) can teach their children the virtues," the pope said.

With the birth of a child, "the three become just one flesh" as the child is the bridge that connects the two parents creating "a tiny church" -- a domestic church, he said, quoting St. John Chrysostom.

St. John Chrysostom also reminded the lay faithful that they are responsible for the salvation of others, the pope said.

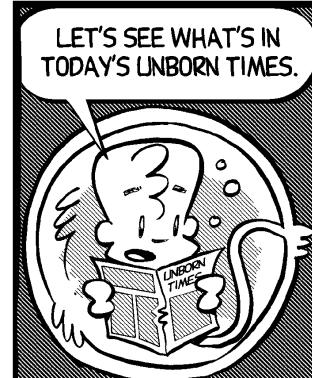
St. John Chrysostom said that as social beings people are not meant to just be interested in themselves, said the pope. Through baptism, every Christian becomes "king, priest, and prophet" who is responsible for bringing the truth of Christ to the world, the pope said.

Among the 15,000 faithful gathered in the square were Cardinal Sean P. O'Malley of Boston and Greek Orthodox Metropolitan Methodios of Boston. The two leaders were heading a 100-member Catholic-Orthodox ecumenical pilgrimage from the United States to Rome, then Istanbul, Turkey, and ending in St. Petersburg, Russia.

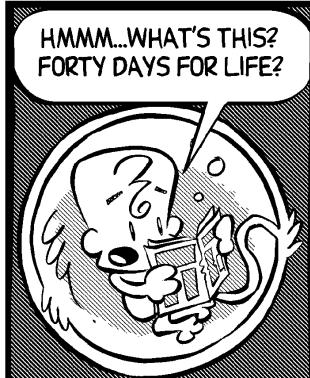
St. John Chrysostom, whose Western feast day was Sept. 13, led the church of Constantinople before the split between the Christian East and West and is venerated as a doctor of the church by Catholics and Orthodox.

## Umbert the Unborn

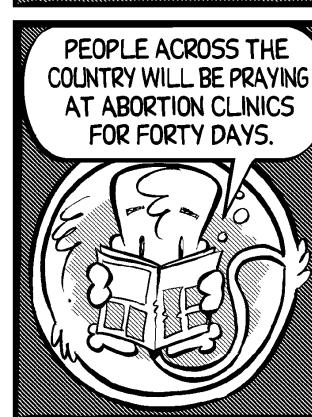
by Gary Cangemi



LET'S SEE WHAT'S IN TODAY'S UNBORN TIMES.



HMM...WHAT'S THIS?  
FORTY DAYS FOR LIFE?



PEOPLE ACROSS THE COUNTRY WILL BE PRAYING AT ABORTION CLINICS FOR FORTY DAYS.



ANOTHER GREAT STRATEGY IN THE WAR ON UNBORN TERROR.



## Sacerdotes Por Vida

Por Father Frank Pavone  
Director Nacional



### Teología de la donación.

Los bienes de la tierra nos han sido dados para todos. Debemos compartir esos bienes, no solamente aquellos que no necesitamos, sino también los que resultan necesarios para nosotros. De hecho existe una teología de la donación.

Dar, ya sea tiempo, talento o dinero se basa en la imitación del ejemplo que Dios nos da cuando crea y cuando muere por nosotros. El mismo nos enseñó el significado de dar cuando no existen motivos para hacerlo y también dar de nuestra sustancia, nuestra vida misma.

Después de observar como los ricos depositaban sus donaciones en el tesoro del templo, Jesús vio a una pobre viuda que hacía una contribución. Al verla dijo: "En verdad os digo que esta viuda pobre ha echado más que todos; pues todos éstos han echado como ofrenda algo de lo que les sobra, ella, en cambio, en su necesidad ha echado todo lo que tenía para su sustento." (Lucas 21:3-4)

Muchos damos algo a alguna obra de caridad de vez en cuando, y la mayoría damos lo que no necesitamos. Pero ¿cuántas veces damos aquello que sí necesitamos? Nos excusamos diciendo: "De verdad lo necesito." Sin embargo esa es precisamente la razón por la que tenemos que compartirlo.

Somos un cuerpo. Las necesidades del otro no son simplemente sus necesidades, son las nuestras. Somos uno, enseña san Pablo. "Porque así como el cuerpo es uno y tiene muchos miembros, y todos los miembros del cuerpo, aún siendo muchos, son un solo cuerpo, así también Cristo..."

### Vaticano dice alimento, el agua debe ser proporcionada a pacientes vegetativos

Por John Thavis  
Catholic News Service

VATICAN CITY (CNS)—En un documento breve aprobado por Papa Benedicto XVI, el Vaticano dijo que fue generalmente una obligación moral de proporcionar alimento y agua a pacientes en un estado vegetativo.

La nutrición y la hidratación, aún por medios artificiales, no pueden ser terminadas simplemente porque médicos han determinado que una persona nunca recobrará el conocimiento, el Vaticano dijo septiembre 14.

Las excepciones pueden ocurrir cuando pacientes pueden no asimilar alimento y agua o en los casos "raros" cuando nutrición e hidratación llegan a ser excesivamente pesadas para el

Dios ha dispuesto el cuerpo... para que no haya división en el cuerpo, sino que todos los miembros se preocupen por igual unos de otros. Si un miembro padece, todos los miembros padecen con él; y si un miembro es honrado, todos los miembros se gozan con él. Vosotros sois cuerpo de Cristo, y cada uno de sus miembros de él." (1 Cor. 12:12, 24-27)

¿Cuánto debemos dar a una causa que nos consta que es buena? La medida de nuestra donación debe ser la necesidad que el otro tiene de nuestro aporte, y no cuanto lo necesita el donante.

No hay gente más necesitada en nuestra sociedad que los niños por nacer. Están privados del derecho a su propia vida. Se gasta más dinero en este país para matar a los no nacidos que lo que se gasta para salvarlos. Hay personas muy ricas que contribuyen miles de millones de dólares a los mismos grupos que promueven el asesinato.

"Si alguno posee bienes de este mundo y, viendo que su hermano padece necesidad, le cierra su corazón, ¿cómo puede permanecer en él el amor de Dios?" (1 Juan 3:17) Dado que el mayor de los "bienes de este mundo" es la vida misma, podríamos parafrasear el versículo diciendo: "¿Cómo puede permanecer en él el amor de Dios, si viendo que su hermano está en peligro de muerte le cierra su corazón?

Cuando damos a partir de nuestra propia necesidad, estamos dando vida a otros. Esto se convierte en realidad patente cuando damos para contribuir con los esfuerzos para acabar con el aborto.

paciente, dijo.

El texto fue preparado por la Congregación para la Doctrina de la Fe en forma de una respuesta a preguntas levantadas por la conferencia de obispos de EE.UU. Fue firmado por EE. UU. William cardinal J. Levada, el prefecto de la congregación doctrinal, y aprobado por el Papa antes de la publicación.

### Estado Vegetativo

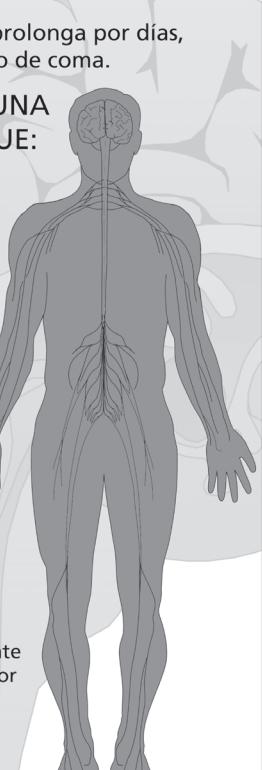
Una severa lesión cerebral ocurre cuando se prolonga por días, semanas o meses un estado de inconsciencia o de coma.

#### EL ESTADO VEGETATIVO DESCRIBE UNA LESIÓN CEREBRAL SEVERA, EN EL QUE:

- Una persona puede responder a estímulos, pero no hay habilidad de interactuar con su entorno.
- Abrir los ojos puede ser espontáneo o en respuesta a un estímulo.
- Las respuestas al dolor existen (aumento del ritmo del corazón, de la respiración o sudando).
- Son evidentes los ciclos de sueño interrumpido, las funciones respiratorias y digestivas.

No hay una prueba para diagnosticar específicamente el estado vegetativo. El diagnóstico es hecho sólo por repetidas evaluaciones neurológicas.

Source: Brain Injury Association of America  
Reviewed by Carlos H. Espinel, M.D.  
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### La nueva capilla de La Santísima Trinidad esta ya terminada!

Por Caesar Hernandez

Después de un largo proceso y espera, finalmente la construcción de la nueva capilla de La Santísima Trinidad esta ya terminada. La bendición de esta se llevara a cabo el día 17 de octubre del 2007 a las 7:30 p.m. por el Señor Obispo David Fellhauer Obispo de Victoria y el padre Juan Vázquez Rubio párroco de Our Lady of Sorrows Church de Victoria TX con la concelebración de los padres trinitarios

El sueño de la comunidad hispana se ha hecho realidad tener una iglesia más grande y amplia para poder seguir adorando a Dios padre, Dios Hijo y Dios Espíritu Santo. Les invitamos a todos a asistir en esta ceremonia que es histórica en la comunidad católica hispana. La capilla esta localizada 2901 Pleasant Green en Victoria, entre Port Lavaca Hwy. y Callis St.

### Buscando Vida

Por Moises Sandoval  
Servicio Noticiero Católico



### Buenos Samaritanos para hoy

La mujer enloquecida, de 38 años, estaba ante la baranda del Puente Tappan Zee mirando la superficie del Río Hudson 120 pies para abajo.

Como el puente lleva el tráfico de dos carreteras interestatales. A las 12:30 p.m. de ese domingo auto tras auto giraba alrededor del auto de la mujer, estacionado en la pista derecha rumbo norte.

El puente, aproximadamente una milla de largo, es sitio de muchos suicidios; en los últimos 10 años, 27 personas han muerto brincando del puente, según el reportaje de Caren Halbfinger, del periódico Gannett Journal News.

Sin embargo, esta vez el puente no reclamaría otra vida. Fue una parábola moderna del evangelio del Buen Samaritano que habíamos escuchado varios domingos antes.

En este caso, el Buen Samaritano fue Jamitha Fields, de 31 años, de New City, NY, asistente ejecutiva del vicepresidente de General Electric. Al punto de girar alrededor como los otros autos, se dio cuenta que la mujer, quien no fue identificada, parecía estar físicamente enferma. Prendió sus luces de peligro y se paró.

"Viendo que ella estaba sola, fuí a hablar con ella", Fields le dijo a Halbfinger. "Le pregunte si estaba bien y dijo que no. La abrace y le dije que aunque parezca que no hay esperanza, siempre la hay". A ese momento llega un policía estatal de Nueva York quien lleva a la mujer al Centro Médico de Westchester.

Ese incidente sobre el puente, como el evangelio del Buen Samaritano, trata de ayudar a personas extranjeras. Ayudar a una persona que uno no conoce requiere una generosidad de espíritu extraordinaria.

Cuando ocurre, uno pregunta sobre su génesis y desarrollo. ¿Qué en los an-

tecedentes de una persona que responde no está presente en las multitudes que no responden?

La respuesta de Tabitha Fields a la mujer oscilando al suicidio recordó otro incidente aún más extraordinario el 2 de Enero de este año.

Wesley Autrey, un obrero de construcción de 50 años esperaba con sus dos hijas, de cuatro y seis años, al tren subterráneo en la estación de la calle 137 y la avenida Broadway en Nueva York. Otro pasajero, Cameron Hollopeter, de 20 años, sufrió un ataque de apoplejía, y se cayó de la plataforma al momento que llegaba el tren.

Autrey inmediatamente brinco al carril para levantar a Hollopeter pero, viendo que no tenía tiempo, inmovilizó al joven en el hueco entre los carriles y el tren paso sobre los dos. El joven salió ilesos y Autrey sufrió sólo pequeñas lesiones.

Autrey es africano americano y Hollopeter blanco. Autrey arriesgó su vida para salvar la vida de una persona de una raza que históricamente y quizás aún hoy día da menor valor a la vida de un africano o de cualquier otra minoría.

Ese hecho da esperanza que después de tantos siglos podamos conquistar el racismo. Hubiera sido tan fácil para Autrey justificar inacción por razón de edad, raza o obligación a sus niñas.

Quizás salvar una vida es el fin de un proceso de responder a largo plazo a necesidades menos urgentes. Pero todos podemos empezar reconociendo la humanidad de los extranjeros de nuestros tiempos y siquiera saludarlos cuando los encontramos.

Las Escrituras nos dicen que en los ojos de Dios nadie es ilegal y que en el juicio final Cristo dirá a los que entran al reino, "Cuando era extranjero, ustedes me recibieron". (Mt 25:35).



**NCCW PRESIDENT ADDRESSES ANNUAL CONVENTION IN OHIO** — Ellen Bachman, president of the National Council of Catholic Women, addresses the organization's annual convention in Columbus, Ohio, Sept. 20. More than 1,000 people attended the Sept. 20-23 meeting. (CNS photo/Jack Kustron, *The Catholic Times*)

### Church official calls current immigration reform debate inflammatory

WASHINGTON (CNS) — The current tone in the immigration reform debate has “inflamed fears and misunderstanding among some portions of the American public, leading to a polarized and vitriolic atmosphere,” said a U.S. church official. Bishop Gerald R. Barnes of San Bernardino, Calif., chairman of the U.S. bishops’ Committee on Migration, noted that while “voices of division and fear are loud” the “truth about immigration and migrants in this country ultimately will prevail.”

The bishop, in a Sept. 27 statement issued in Washington, said migrant workers, including the undocumented, make important contributions to the nation’s economy through their work in agriculture, construction and service industries. He faulted the United States for refusing “to acknowledge these contributions” and relegating migrants to “a permanent underclass of workers, without full rights.” The failure of the U.S. Senate to pass comprehensive immigration reform legislation this summer has set back, but not ended, attempts to repair the immigration system, according to the bishop.

### U.S. religious leaders meet with Iran's president, stress diplomacy

NEW YORK (CNS) — U.S. religious leaders are “deeply concerned about the prospect of war with Iran,” said a professor from a Catholic college who was part of an interfaith delegation that met with Iranian President Mahmoud Ahmadinejad Sept. 26 in New York. But Joseph Fahey, professor of religious studies at Manhattan College in Riverdale, said he left the meeting feeling hopeful because of statements Ahmadinejad made about the “renunciation of war and the quest for peace.” “This meeting was an attempt to build bridges with Iran despite the generally hostile reception President Ahmadinejad received here in New York City,” Fahey said in a statement issued after the meeting. “We strongly believe that only through formal and informal diplomacy and respect for international law can there be peace between Iran and the U.S.” Protests greeted Ahmadinejad while he was in New York to address the U.N. Security Council Sept. 25. He spoke to an audience at Columbia University the same day.

### Connecticut Catholic hospitals agree to comply with new law on Plan B

HARTFORD, Conn. (CNS) — Connecticut’s four Catholic hospitals will provide emergency contraception to rape victims without requiring an ovulation test, in compliance with a new state law that takes effect Oct. 1. In a joint statement Sept. 27, the Catholic bishops and leaders of Catholic hospitals in the state said that, although they continue to believe that the law is flawed and should be changed,

they would revise current protocols at the hospitals that call for both a pregnancy test and an ovulation test before the “morning-after” pill marketed as Plan B is administered. “To administer Plan B pills in Catholic hospitals to victims of rape, a pregnancy test to determine that the woman has not conceived is sufficient,” the statement said. “The administration of Plan B pills in this instance cannot be judged to be the commission of an abortion because of such doubt about how Plan B pills and similar drugs work and because of the current impossibility of knowing from the ovulation test whether a new life is present.” Plan B, containing a high dose of birth control pills, usually prevents pregnancy if taken within 72 hours of unprotected sex.

### Spokane Diocese moves toward bankruptcy end with \$5 million payment

SPOKANE, Wash. (CNS) — In what Bishop William S. Skylstad called “just one small step toward healing for the victims,” the Diocese of Spokane was to wire \$5 million Oct. 1 to a trust account set up to pay the claims of those sexually abused by clergy in the diocese. The payment to the Plan Trustee Trust Account, as stipulated by the bankruptcy reorganization plan approved in April, brings the diocese “one step closer to fulfilling the requirements of the plan and concluding the Chapter 11 reorganization,” Bishop Skylstad said in a Sept. 27 statement.

## Statement for Respect Life Sunday

*Continued from p. 1*

we see only too clearly, they can pose a terrible threat, involving the destruction of man and the world. We need truth” (Homily at Marianzell, Austria, Sept. 8, 2007).

Days after Pope Benedict’s homily, the New Jersey Supreme Court claimed to have no way of knowing the truth about “when human life begins.” Dismissing a lawsuit against an abortion clinic which concealed the truth about abortion from women, the Court claimed there is “clearly no consensus” on whether, as matter of “biological fact,” the unborn child is a “human being.” The Court cited “moral, theological, [and] ideological” disagreement to ignore biological fact. We need truth.

Some ethicists suggest that patients who apparently lack conscious awareness — although otherwise healthy and not imminently dying — can be dehydrated and starved to death because their lives are not fully human but “vegetative.” This ignores the insight expressed in 2004 by Pope John Paul II and recently reaffirmed by the Holy See under Pope Benedict XVI, that “the intrinsic value and personal dignity of every human being do not change, no matter what the concrete circumstances of his or her life. A man, even if seriously ill or disabled in the exercise of his highest functions, is and always will be a man, and he will never become a ‘vegetable’ or an ‘animal.’” We need truth.

On this Respect Life Sunday, we ask Catholics and all people of good will to witness to the truth about the incomparable dignity and right to life of every human being. This is no sectarian creed. The “recognition of the inherent dignity and of the equal and inalienable rights of all members of the human family is the foundation of freedom, justice and peace in the world” (Preamble, United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child, 1989). And that is the truth.

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## In message to Muslims, cardinal touches on violence, terrorism

VATICAN CITY (CNS) — In a message to the Muslim world, a leading Vatican official denounced terrorism and all violence committed in the name of religion. The message also took aim at religious discrimination, saying the rights of all believers must be protected during the “troubled times we are passing through.” The text, released by the Vatican Sept. 28, marked the end of Ramadan, the Islamic month of prayer and fasting that concludes in mid-October. It was written by Cardinal Jean-Louis Tauran, who took over as head of the Pontifical Council for Interreligious Dialogue earlier this year. Christians and Muslims, the cardinal said, need to intensify their dialogue so that younger generations “do not become cultural or religious blocs opposed to each other.” Cardinal Tauran began and ended his message by expressing the church’s “warmest greetings” to the Islamic world. But the text touched on a number of sensitive issues, especially those of religious liberty, violence and terrorism.

## Catholic from Myanmar expresses agony over violence in her country

MANILA, Philippines (CNS) — A Catholic woman from Myanmar living in Manila said she is agonizing over the violence erupting in her country as she watches the news reports. She said she was grateful that people were rallying in front of the Myanmar Embassy to the Philippines to protest the crackdown on monks, students and other protesters in Yangon, Myanmar’s capital, because her fellow citizens are afraid to speak out or congregate, even outside their country. The woman wrote her thoughts in a commentary for the Asian church news agency UCA News, which published them Sept. 28 without releasing her name. “It seems all of us (Philippine-based people from Myanmar) are suffering very painfully and quietly,” the woman said. “We cannot move in any way because we fear our government will give us trouble here in the Philippines or give our families trouble back home.” She said Myanmar people in the Philippines “don’t like to get together here because we are very afraid of our embassy. Whatever move we make, they will report back to Burma (the former name for Myanmar), and they can revoke our passport within an hour.”

## Priest from Jesuit Refugee Service killed in Sri Lankan blast

KILINOCHCHI, Sri Lanka (CNS) — Father Nicholas Pillai Pakiaranjith, 40, was killed in a blast from a claymore mine while he was driving food and supplies to displaced people near Kilinochchi, in an area under the control of Tamil rebels. Father Pakiaranjith coordinated the work of Jesuit Refugee Service in Sri Lanka’s Mannar district, where control is divided between government forces and the Liberation Tigers of Tamil Elam. The priest died Sept. 26; his funeral was scheduled for Sept. 29. One of the priest’s assistants also was injured in the blast. “We call upon the international community and all men and women of good will to condemn this killing and effectively voice their strong condemnation of the ongoing senseless war,” Bishop Rayappu Joseph of Mannar said in press release. The bishop praised Father Pakiaranjith’s deep commitment to the poor and marginalized. “It is a heinous crime to attack and kill such peace-loving and unarmed heroes of our society,” the bishop said. “Enough blood has flowed on this little island nation. This blood cries for peace and not for vengeance.”

## Vatican says food, water must be provided to vegetative patients

By John Thavis  
Catholic News Service

VATICAN CITY (CNS) — In a brief document approved by Pope Benedict XVI, the Vatican said it was generally a moral obligation to provide food and water to patients in a vegetative state.

Nutrition and hydration, even by artificial means, cannot simply be terminated because doctors have determined that a person will never recover consciousness, the Vatican said Sept. 14.

Exceptions may occur when patients are unable to assimilate food and water or in the “rare” cases when nutrition and hydration become excessively burdensome for the patient, it said.

The text was prepared by the Congregation for the Doctrine of the Faith in the form of a response to questions raised by the U.S. bishops’ conference. It was signed by U.S. Cardinal William J. Levada, prefect of the doctrinal congregation, and approved by the pope before publication.

The congregation’s document strongly reaffirmed points made by Pope John Paul II in a landmark speech in 2004, when he said nutrition and hydration, even by “artificial” means such as feeding tubes, should generally be considered ordinary care and not extraordinary medical treatment.

That was a key point, because the church teaches that “extraordinary” means of treatment for unresponsive patients can sometimes be discontinued.

The late pope’s speech prompted questions in the theological and medical communities, and the U.S. bishops’ Committee on Doctrine submitted questions to the congregation in 2005 to clarify the issues.

After a lengthy study, the congregation released its responses to two basic questions.

First, it said, administering food and water to a patient in a vegetative state is morally obligatory “to the extent to which, and for as long as, it is shown to accomplish its proper finality, which is the hydration and nourishment of the patient.”

“In this way suffering and death by starvation and dehydration are prevented,” it said.

Second, the congregation said it was not morally acceptable to discontinue such care even when physicians judge that the patient will never regain consciousness.

“A patient in a ‘permanent vegetative state’ is a person with fundamental human dignity and must, therefore, receive ordinary and proportionate care which includes, in principle, the administration of water and food even by artificial means,” it said.

The congregation’s accompanying commentary explored the reasons behind the church’s teaching and explained a few scenarios where exceptions might apply.

It noted that the very expression “vegetative state,” which the church reluctantly uses because it is a common medical term, is unfortunate and misleading. Patients in this state maintain full human dignity, right

up to natural death, it said.

Moreover, such patients are not necessarily terminally ill and generally carry on basic metabolic functions. They are simply unable to feed themselves, it said.

“If they are not provided artificially with food and liquids, they will die, and

### Vegetative State

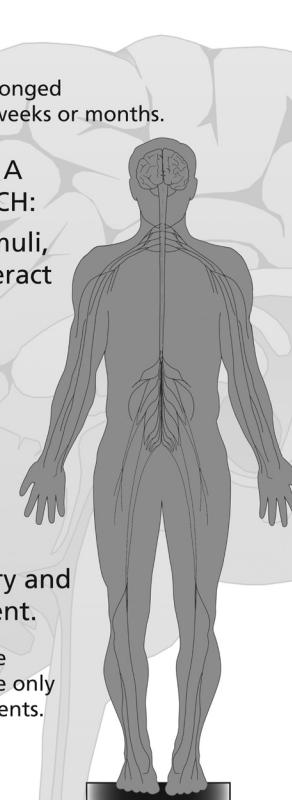
Severe brain injury occurs when a prolonged unconscious state or coma lasts days, weeks or months.

VEGETATIVE STATE DESCRIBES A SEVERE BRAIN INJURY IN WHICH:

- A person can respond to stimuli, but there is no ability to interact with the environment.
- Eye opening can be spontaneous or in response to stimulation.
- General responses to pain exist (increased heart rate, respiration or sweating).
- Sleep-wake cycles, respiratory and digestive functions are evident.

There is no test to specifically diagnose vegetative state. The diagnosis is made only by repetitive neurobehavioral assessments.

Source: Brain Injury Association of America  
Reviewed by Carlos H. Espinel, M.D.  
©2007 CNS



the cause of their death will be neither an illness nor the ‘vegetative state’ itself, but solely starvation and dehydration,” it said.

The commentary said the artificial administration of food and water usually does not impose a heavy burden on the patient or the relatives, although it acknowledged that the burden could become notable when such treatment continues for months or years.

Nutrition and hydration does not require excessive expense and does not of itself require hospitalization, it said.

“It is not, nor is it meant to be, a treatment that cures the patient, but is rather ordinary care aimed at the preservation of life,” it said.

In that sense, it said, the general ethical principle is that “the provision of water and food, even by artificial means, always represents a natural means for preserving life and is not a therapeutic treatment. Its use should therefore be considered ordinary and proportionate, even when the ‘vegetative state’ is prolonged.”

That was also the conclusion of Pope John Paul’s 2004 speech and reflects the development of church statements over the last 50 years, the Vatican said.

**October is the month in which Mary, Most Holy Queen of the Holy Rosary, is venerated.**

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In a brief discussion of exceptions to this basic moral principle, the congregation outlined three possible situations:

— In very remote or impoverished places, artificial provision of food and water may be physically impossible.

— Because of complications, a patient may be unable to assimilate foods and liquids, so their provision becomes useless.

— In some rare cases, artificial nourishment and hydration may be excessively burdensome for the patient or may cause significant physical discomfort.

## Pope warns against undermining democracy in fight against terrorism

By Catholic News Service

CASTEL GANDOLFO, Italy (CNS) — Pope Benedict XVI warned politicians against undermining the foundations of democracy in their fight against terrorism.

“Terrorism is a serious problem whose perpetrators often claim to act in God’s name and harbor an inexcusable contempt for human life,” he told a group of politicians promoting Christian democracy.

Countries have a right to defend themselves, he said, “but this right must be exercised with complete respect for moral and legal norms, including the choice of ends and means.”

The pope’s comments came during a Sept. 21 audience at his summer residence in Castel Gandolfo with some 200 members of the executive committee of Centrist Democratic International, an international association of political parties promoting Christian democracy.

Pope Benedict said that in democratic nations “the use of force in a manner contrary to the principles of a constitutional state can never be justified.”

He questioned how a nation or group could claim to be protecting democracy “if we threaten its very foundations” by acting unconstitutionally.

Governments must strike a balance of keeping “careful watch over the security of civil society and its citizens while at the same time safeguarding the inalienable rights of all.”

He said terrorism must be fought effectively and with determination, but without forgetting that while “the mystery of evil” is everywhere in the world, people’s solidarity with one another out of love and goodness “is an even more pervasive mystery.”

The pope also urged communities to be respectful of religions and to help promote religious freedom and tolerance.

“All authentically religious traditions must be allowed to manifest their own identity publicly, free from any pressure to hide or disguise it,” he said.

By supporting every person’s right to practice his or her religion, he said, communities can help “counter the charge that society has forgotten God, an accusation shamelessly exploited by some terrorist networks in an attempt to justify their threats against global security.”



## It Costs More to be Poor

By Father John S. Rausch

*Father John S. Rausch, a Glenmary priest, is the recipient of the 2007 Pax Christi "Teacher of Peace" award. Social justice is something he defines as charity with Gospel analysis.*



A row of identical signs arranged like landing lights at an airport repeat the appealing offer: "Borrow \$200, Repay \$203." This modern spider-to-fly invitation displayed in front of the office of payday lenders appeals to hard strapped workers who just need a boost till payday. What's three bucks? Technically, since the loan spans only 14 days, three bucks in this case represents 39 percent interest (APR). After this introductory offer, the second \$200 loan will demand a \$230 repayment—or 390 percent APR!

Payday lenders, together with pawnshops, check-cashers, tax refund lenders, rent-to-own stores and "buy here/pay here" used car lots represent the fringe economy. The term "fringe economy" refers to those businesses that engage in financially predatory relationships with low-income or heavily indebted consumers by charging excessive interest rates or exorbitant fees and prices for goods and services. Other parts of the fringe economy include credit card companies charging sky-high late payments or over-the-credit-limit

ership after 61 weeks. This arrangement doubles the cost of the furniture, and if the customer misses one payment, the item can be repossessed.

Other examples from the fringe economy include tax refund anticipation loans with fees and interest that take 16 percent of the tax refund. "Buy-here/pay-here" used car lots frequently charge 28 percent APR for a high-mileage, grossly overpriced vehicle, and money transfers from the United States to Latin America can easily exceed 9 percent of the transferred amount.

**Corporations participating in the fringe economy argue their high interest rates and fees reflect the increased risks of dealing with the economically unstable. However ...**

Corporations participating in the fringe economy argue their high interest rates and fees reflect the increased risks of dealing with the economically unstable. However, ACE Cash Express reports transaction losses for check cashing at less than one percent, and pawnshops generally loan only 50 percent of the item's value to buffer themselves against loss. Tax preparers are guaranteed repayment when the refund check arrives, and payday lenders require a post-dated check.

While credit should be helping low-income people improve their lives, the fringe economy encourages people to live beyond their means and takes advantage of their lack of financial sophistication. Fringe economy firms are basically growing rich from their financing arrangements and from keeping customers continually enmeshed in debt.

**Fringe economy firms are basically growing rich from their financing arrangements and from keeping customers continually enmeshed in debt.**

penalties, cell phone providers pushing excessive prepaid plans and subprime mortgage lenders hiding the real cost of the mortgage.

The scope of the fringe economy reveals a structure for the poor and credit-challenged that parallels the mainstream economy for the middle class. Fully 10 percent of U.S. households, more than 12 million, have no relationship with a mainstream financial service provider, such as a bank or credit union. These "unbanked" must rely on the fringe economy for services like check cashing, bill payments, short-term loans and appliance rentals.

The exorbitant fees and prices demonstrate why the poor pay more for basic services. The \$6.6 billion a year rent-to-own (RTO) industry, for example, serves 2.7 million households with 8,300 stores. Typically, a dinette table and chairs might rent for \$11.99 per week till full customer own-

Around the world the poor have fought the money lenders through collective action with institutions like the Grameen Bank and credit unions. These are structures people of faith can explore as more middle-class families slide into the ranks of the working poor. Universal health care would save countless families from bankruptcy, while a standard living wage would shrink the pool of the financially desperate. Add to this stricter and enforced usury laws and you create rungs on the ladder for moving up.

The vision: replace the spider-to-fly economy with one permitting a-place-at-the-table for everyone.

### Editor's note:

*"If you lend money to one of your poor neighbors among my people, you shall not act like an extortioner toward him by demanding interest (usury) from him (Exodus 22:24).*

## Make a Difference when you Shop this Christmas Season

By Cynthia Brewer

As we prepare to purchase that special gift for that special someone this Christmas, why don't we look into finding a unique, one-of-a-kind gift that supports religious communities or helps individuals around the world receive a fair-trade wage.



So far this year, I've already received information on three such sources, then of course I've got to plug my own non-profit passion.

### HCEF

The Catholic Daughters, Knights of Columbus and various organizations are planning, once again, to help me hold Olive Wood Gift sales for the non-profit Holy Land Christian Ecumenical Foundation (HCEF) at parishes this Advent season. Please be generous when you see them at your parish, as your purchases and donations support the Christians in the Holy Land, [www.heef.org](http://www.heef.org).

### Augustinian Press

The Augustinian Press is pleased to announce the release of its 2007 line of Christmas cards. Their beautiful cards were created by artists Brother Jack Stagliano, O.S.A., and Father Richard Cannuli, O.S.A., and all proceeds support the care of elderly and infirm friars of the Province



of Saint Thomas of Villanova.

The cards come in a variety of styles including oil, watercolor and photography. There are also a variety of subjects: hand-crafted, nativity scenes, Madonna and child, Saint Nicholas icons and general holiday scenes. The Augustinian Press publishes books, artwork, cards and music rich in Augustinian tradition. To order, visit [www.augustinianpress.org](http://www.augustinianpress.org) or call 888-275-0571.

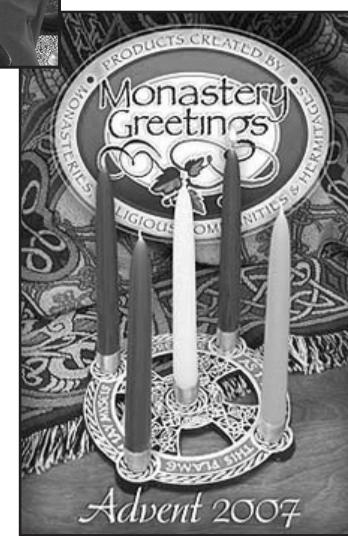
### Catholic Relief Services

Catholic Relief Services (CRS) is celebrating Fair Trade Month this October. They have an assortment of items at their Web site that support fair trade.

CRS Work of Human Hands

features thousands of beautiful handcrafted items from dozens of countries around the world, and brings communities together in the United States in support of disadvantaged artisans overseas.

Chocolate is not just a yummy treat, but a delicious way to promote economic justice. Divine Chocolate helps cocoa farmers in Ghana earn extra income to invest in community services, such as water wells, schools and health clinics. It also empowers farmers to take greater control of their lives, since they own nearly half the company! CRS also sells Fair Trade coffees.



CRS Fair Trade network guarantees fair wages to disadvantaged artisans, farmers and workers. It also provides the technical and financial assistance that poor people so desperately need but so rarely get in the conventional trading system.



To see what they've got, please go to [www.crsfairtrade.org/](http://www.crsfairtrade.org/); to order crafts, click on Work of Human Hands, then click on the picture of the catalog.

### Monastery Greetings

Monastery Greetings is a Web site and catalog with products from monasteries, religious communities and hermitages.

At their site you will find products from more than 100 different communities in the United States and abroad, including many Trappist, Benedictine and Orthodox monasteries.

You may visit their Web site at [www.monasterygreetings.com](http://www.monasterygreetings.com) or call (800) 472-0425.

When you purchase items from these non-profit organizations, you not only receive a unique gift, you also help a worthwhile cause.

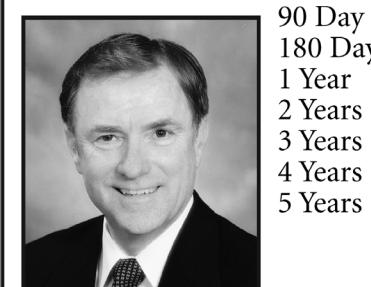
### Movie: "Trade"

Absorbing story of 13-year-old Mexican girl (Paulina Gaitan) kidnapped into the sex trade, after which her delinquent brother (Cesar Ramos) joins with a Texas cop (Kevin Kline) to rescue her before she is auctioned to the highest bidder online in the United States. Marco Kreuzpaintner's gritty and uncompromising film uses a standard TV procedural format to raise awareness of a problem that involves thousands of victims each year. Though the rough language and sexual content quotas are high, their inclusion is arguably justified in portraying the horrors these girls must endure, shedding light on the underpublicized issue of human trafficking. Extremely high quotient of rough and crude language and profanity, a brutal rape involving a minor, brief rear nudity, strong sexual content including implied situations with minors, brutal violence, a vigilante killing, pedophilia, drug use, suicide. The USCCB Office for Film & Broadcasting classification is L — limited adult audience.

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# EVENTS

The Catholic Lighthouse  
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## Special Collections

**Mission Sunday - Oct. 21**

### 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 2007 are: Nov. 30-Dec. 2. 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](mailto:register@mevictoria.org) [www.mevictoria.org](http://www.mevictoria.org)

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

**The Beginning Experience** — An international ministry that helps divorced, separated and widowed individuals resolve their grief surrounding the loss of a marriage partner. Weekend will be held Nov. 2-4 in San Antonio. For more information, please go to this Web site: [www.beginningexperience.org](http://www.beginningexperience.org); e-mail: [sanantonio@ yahoo.com](mailto:sanantonio@ yahoo.com); phone: (210) 734-2146; or The Beginning Experience of San Antonio, P.O. Box 790882, San Antonio, Texas 78279-0882.

**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](http://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. **For upcoming events or for more information: see the Web site at [www.presidiolabahia.org](http://www.presidiolabahia.org).**

### Picnics, Activities, etc.

#### October

**Flatonia** — Sacred Heart Parish Picnic, Oct. 7 with Mass at 9:30 a.m. followed at 11:00 a.m. with a turkey and dressing dinner.

**Hungerford** — St. John Annual Bazaar at the Hungerford Hall on Oct. 7. A barbecue-chicken, beef, sausage dinner with the famous sauerkraut will begin at 10:30 a.m. The auction begins at 12:15 p.m.

**Victoria** — Nazareth Academy Fall Festival, Oct. 7, at the community center. A turkey, dressing dinner will be served starting at 11:00 a.m. followed with silent and live auctions.

**Hostyn** — Queen of the Holy Rosary Festival, Oct. 7 beginning with a Polka Mass at 10:00 a.m. At 11:00 a.m. a fried-chicken and sausage dinner will be served at \$7 p/p (adults) and \$3.50

p/p (children under 12) with a drive-thru serving line for plates-to-go at \$7 p/p. Music throughout the day until 9:00 p.m.

**Mentz** — St. Roch Parish Picnic, Oct. 7 under the new pavilion (North of I-10 just east of Columbus). Mass at 10:00 a.m. followed by a barbecue-beef, pork and sausage dinner at \$7.50 p/p for adults and \$3.50 p/p for children. Live music by Texas Legacy Czech Band from 1:00 to 7:00 p.m.

**Shiner** — The Shiner Catholic School Fall Festival will be sponsored by the Home & School Association Oct. 7 at the American Legion Hall. A barbecue-chicken dinner served from 11:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. at \$6 p/p; drive-thru also available. Various games and concessions and the live auction will begin at 12:00 p.m.

**Austin** — Texas Catholic Correctional Ministries Conference, Oct. 12 – 13, at Wyndham Garden Hotel in Austin. The conference will focus on the overall picture of Criminal Justice in Texas and pinpoint specific areas for further development. TDCJ volunteer training will take place at this conference Friday morning, Oct. 12. New volunteers are asked to send a completed and signed volunteer application and bring the letter of approval to the training. All involved in criminal justice are invited. Pastors are asked to send their parish criminal justice coordinators for more instructions on implementing the Action Plan. Please contact Beverly Lincke, Victoria Diocese's Catholic Outreach Prison Ministry director, [blincke@sbcglobal.net](mailto:blincke@sbcglobal.net), for information.

**Hallettsville** — Sacred Heart Strudel Bake, Oct. 13 at the Family Center. Baked strudels for \$12 or unbaked for \$10 each and will be available for pick-up from 10:00 a.m.-5:00 p.m. To order call (361) 798-3224 or [charlene\\_bradbury@hotmail.com](mailto:charlene_bradbury@hotmail.com).

**Victoria** — St. Mary's Parish will host Padre Ermelindo Di Capua from San Giovanni Rotondo, Italy, on Saturday, Oct. 13. The Victoria Padre Pio Prayer Group invites all to meet Padre Ermelindo at St. Mary Church beginning with a rosary at 8:30 a.m. followed by Mass at 9:00 a.m. A reception will follow at the parish annex building.

**Throughout Diocese** — Public Square Rosary Crusade (Rosary Rally) at community squares throughout the diocese Saturday, Oct. 13, at 12:00 p.m.. Call America Needs Fatima organization toll free at 1-866-584-6012 or go to [www.tfp.org](http://www.tfp.org) for locations of a Rosary Rally in your area.

**Columbus** — St. Anthony Fall Festival Oct. 14, at the KC Hall (I-10 W Exit 693). A barbecue-beef dinner will start at 11:00 a.m.; Mexican food and hamburgers will be available in the afternoon. The auction begins at 1:00 p.m. Come join in lots of fun for young and old! Masses on Sunday will be 8:00 a.m. and 10:00 a.m. at the church (1602 Bowie Street).

**Victoria** — Our Lady of Victory Cathedral Annual Fall Festival, Oct. 14, at the community center with doors opening at 11:00 a.m. A buffet-style, barbecue-beef and sausage dinner will be served at \$6.50 p/p for adults, under 12-years - \$4.50 p/p, with drive-thru plates-to-go at \$6.50 each. Booths and games for the entire family. The auction begins at 12:30 p.m.

**East Bernard** — Holy Cross Parish Bazaar, Oct. 14, at the Riverside Hall. A barbecue-beef, chicken and sausage dinner along with homemade dressing will be served at 11:00 a.m. Hamburgers available after 3:00 p.m. Czech pastries, refreshments and country store items may be purchased during the day. The auction begins at 12:30 p.m. All kinds of games and entertainment will be available throughout the day. Attractions include a petting zoo, velcro wall and rock climbing wall. Making his 6th appearance will be "Patrick" the celebrity camel. There will be live music provided by the Texas Legacy Czech Band (12:00-3:30 p.m.); the Dujka Brothers (3:30-6:00 p.m.); and No Limit, local musicians providing country/rock music (6:00 p.m.-until?). There will be a raffle drawing.

**Beaumont** — All Souls Pilgrimage to Zacatecas and Monterrey Oct. 15-19 at \$350 p/p. Rev. Eduardo H. Garcia will be the spiritual director. For more information call (361) 358-3239 or e-mail: [eddiehgarcia24@hotmail.com](mailto:eddiehgarcia24@hotmail.com).

**Weimar** — Colorado-Fayette Medical Center Health Fair will be held Saturday, Oct. 20, from 9:00 a.m. – 1:00 p.m. The health fair features over 50 health care exhibits with assorted free screenings including cholesterol, blood pressure, blood sugar, pulse oximetry, and hearing, as well as information on home health, hospice, nutrition, and much, much more. Events included are Blood Drive, cake/toy/grocery walk and a huge silent auction. The Shiner Hobo Band returns for the fourth year. St. Michael's School will be selling hamburgers with all the trimmings and drinks and chips. For more information, visit their Web site [www.cfmctx.org](http://www.cfmctx.org) or call (979) 725-9531. Colorado-Fayette Medical Center is a non-profit hospital.

**El Campo** — St. Robert Bellarmine Parish Picnic, Oct. 21, at the KC Hall on Armory Road. There will be food stands, auction, games, rides, live music, Folklorico Dancers and lots of fun (no meal plates). For questions contact the parish office at (979) 543-4298.

**El Campo** — Catholic Daughters No. 1374 Turkey Dinner will be held Oct. 21 at St. Philip's hall, starting at 11:00 a.m. All plates are to-go only and are \$7 p/p (Depot Street).

**Goliad** — Immaculate Conception Fall Festival, Oct. 21, on the parish grounds. There will be a Mass at 10:00 a.m. followed by a barbecue-beef, buffet-style dinner. There will be a cakewalk, country store, ballet folklorico, music by the Rusty Steins, kids games and much more. The auction begins at 1:00 p.m.

**LaSalle** — St. Theresa Parish will have their annual fall festival Oct. 21. Turkey and cornbread dressing will be served at 11:00 a.m. until sold out at \$7 p/p, with dine-in or plates-to-go available. There will also be live polka and country music starting at 10:30 a.m. The auction starts at 12:30 p.m. Other activities include cakewalk, country store and plant sale, refreshments and various kids games.

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

**Victoria** — St. Mary's Altar Society will sponsor a retreat Tuesday, Oct. 23, at the St. Mary's Activity Center. Registration is from 9:00 to 9:30 a.m. at the center. Father David Berger, parochial vicar of Our Lady of Victory Cathedral will be the retreat master. Lunch will be served in the activity center after the noon Mass. The retreat will be concluded after the Mass. There will be no charge but you are asked to make reservations before Oct. 19 to Janell Kruppa at (361) 575-8166 or Pattie Stevens at (361) 573-2974.

**Alhambra Calif.** — "The Gospel of Life" Retreat For Medical Personnel (open to everyone) Oct. 26-28 at Carmelite Sacred Heart Retreat House in Alhambra, Calif. Begins at 5:00 p.m. Friday and ends at 12:30 p.m. Sunday. Cost, depending on room needs, is between \$135 and \$205 and includes 2 nights and 5 meals. Weekend will include: Holy Mass, sacrament of reconciliation, conferences by retreat master, rosary procession, eucharistic adoration and time for quiet and prayer. For more information or to make reservations: Sacred Heart Retreat House; 920 E. Alhambra Road; Alhambra, CA 91801; or [www.shretreathouse.org](http://www.shretreathouse.org); or (626) 289-1353, ext. 218.

**Columbus** — St. Anthony School Annual PTC Halloween Carnival on the school grounds, Saturday, Oct. 27 starting at 5:00 p.m. Activities to include costume contest at 5:00 p.m.; children's games including plinko, balloon bust, spin the witch, cookie monster, a haunted house and more. Activities for adults include a cakewalk, country store, gift card walk and silent auction. Goblin burgers served at 5:30 p.m. The live auction begins at 7:00 p.m. The evening ends with Punk-n-Rock, a lively musical entertainment performed by SAS 7th and 8th grade students, which begins immediately after the auction. For more information, see [www.stanthonysschool.homestead.com](http://www.stanthonysschool.homestead.com) and click on the Halloween Carnival link.

**Hillje** — St. Andrew Altar Society Turkey Dinner, Oct. 28 starting at 11:00 a.m. at \$7 p/p to-go or dine-in and much more.

**Hallettsville** — KC Falling Leaves Festival, Oct. 28 at the KC Hall. A fried-chicken and sausage dinner with dressing will be served from 10:30 a.m. to 2:00 p.m. The festival will include a cakewalk, country store and more. Polka and waltz music from 12:00 to 5:30 p.m.

**Blessing** — St. Peter Turkey Dinner, Oct. 28 at the church hall. A barbecue-turkey and dressing dinner starting at 11:00 a.m. at \$7 p/p with dine-in or drive-thru available. The auction starts at 12:30 p.m. There will be children's games and more.

### Upcoming Events

**Victoria** — The Catholic Cemeteries Office of Victoria will hold a Mass at Resurrection Cemetery Mausoleum (corner of Laurent and Mockingbird) on All Souls Day, Friday, Nov. 2, at 12:00 p.m. (noon).

**Bay City** — Holy Cross Fall Festival and Turkey Dinner, Nov. 4, at the KC Hall (Hamman Road). There will be an outdoor Mass at 9:30 a.m. The turkey dinner will be served from 11:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. at \$7 p/p with dine-in or drive-up available. The auction begins at 12:30 p.m. There will also be a raffle, polka band, country store, children's games and much more.

**Hungerford** — KJT Society No. 79 and KJZT Society No. 57 will be hosting their annual turkey and dressing dinner Nov. 4 at the community center. Serving begins at 10:30 a.m.

**Victoria** — Healing Mass at Our Lady of Sorrows Church on Wednesday, Nov. 7, with Father Gabriel Otoo. Rosary begins at 7:00 p.m.; Mass at 7:30 p.m.; at 208 W. River St.

**Shiner** — 21st Annual Parish Strudel Bake, Saturday, Nov. 10, 10:00 a.m. to 6:00 p.m. Sts. Cyril & Methodius Church. Fresh baked apple strudels: \$13 baked, \$10 unbaked (instructions included). To order strudels in Shiner, please call: (361) 594-3611; Yoakum: (361) 293-7789; Gonzales: (830) 672-7954; Victoria: (361) 573-5283; El Campo, Edna: (361) 782-6830; Ganado: (361) 771-3776. Place orders by Thursday, Nov. 8.

**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. For more information call (361) 865-3560.

**Victoria** — Knights of Columbus Council 1329 chicken-barbecue fund-raiser Nov. 18 at the KC Hall. The price is \$5 per chicken. Beans and Spanish rice available for \$1 per pint. Sale starts at 8:30 a.m. Proceeds benefit council's projects.

**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** — 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.



## A lot of Fun and Learning at the 20th Annual Conference for Catechesis and Ministry



At the first keynote presentation, Mr. Leif Kehrwald, project coordinator for Family and Intergenerational Services at the Center for Ministry Development in Portland, Oregon, taught that "learning, loving and living our faith raises serious questions and that the object is communion with Jesus Christ".



Bishop Fellhauer and participants visit amongst the exhibitor's booths during a break at the 20th annual catechetical conference.



As the second keynote speaker, Dr. Arturo Chávez, president of the Mexican American Cultural Center, taught that all are truly welcomed in God's house and that our church communities must be places of welcome, healing, and solidarity.



Msgr. Thomas C. McLaughlin discussed the challenges and blessings of marriage today in "Living Together, but not with Jesus."

### Diocese provides Spanish translation for first time

*This was the first year the diocese used translation transmitters to translate English to Spanish for its Spanish catechists. Sixteen used the devices this year; the catechetical office hopes to reach more mono-lingual catechists through technology next year.*

Teaching as Jesus did often centered around a meal; Deborah Desjean teaches catechists simple recipes to engage students' interest in a session titled, "Now We're Cooking, Christians!"



In both the Spanish and English workshops on "Our Lady of Guadalupe: Mother of All!", Sister Miriam Perez, MCSH, taught the social, historical and symbolic meanings of Our Lady's apparition in Mexico in 1531.



Members from St. Michael Parish in Weimar receive the bishop's blessing for catechists at the catechetical conference's closing Mass.



Bishop Fellhauer, assisted by Deacon Steve Borowicz, blesses over 80 men and women who have 20 or more years experience as diocesan catechists.

## Goodbye, Ballet Folklorico de Victoria

### Last performance to be at Sacred Heart Festival in Flatonia

**By Tara Bozick  
Victoria Advocate**

After 17 years, the time of the Ballet Folklorico de Victoria comes to an end as its founders plan to retire.

Lupe and Lupita Hernandez, both 70 and parishioners of Our Lady of Sorrows Church in Victoria, plan to close their studio on South Laurent Street, sell off the custom-made costumes and sit back while the younger generations of folklorico dance instructors take over.

"It's just getting to be too much," Mrs. Hernandez said. "This takes time. You have to be dedicated, committed."

The last recital in Victoria was Saturday, September 29, at the Victoria College Auditorium. The two-hour show featured 33 dancers and 30 traditional dances from 10 regions of Mexico. Mrs. Hernandez said dancers donned never-seen-before costumes.

"There's so many different regions, and they all have their own costumes and their own culture," Mr. Hernandez said.

After the group's last performance at Flatonia's Catholic Church grounds on Sunday, Oct. 7, Mrs. Hernandez said she would like to sell off the intricate traditional costumes and set up a scholarship fund at

The Victoria College for students studying dance or the culture.

"We don't want this to die," Mrs. Hernandez said. "We want this to continue."

When the money from the costumes runs out, barbecue fundraisers would help

feed the scholarship, Mr. Hernandez said. The couple plans to keep involved in supporting the community's youth.

Rebecca Pulido, 18, freshman at The Victoria College, danced with the group for 11 years. She plans to help the Hernandezes

finish off the group's last performances with Baja California dances.

Pulido said she misses the traveling and drama of the ballet dances. She would feel bonded to her fellow dancers as brothers and sisters.

"It's a little sweet sorrow," Pulido said. "It's sad to see them actually leave, but it's time."

The Hernandezes said they started the group mainly for their youngest daughter, Janet, who wanted to continue dancing through college after dancing all her life. Her daughter recruited some of her friends and met for the first time in July 1990.

The only place the group could afford to practice was the patio at Janet's apartment complex, Mrs. Hernandez said. They had no costumes, no music and no money.

"We started very humble in the beginning, very poor," Mrs. Hernandez said. "But as we did performances, we got donations. We had to be very careful."

With donations, the first coming from American Citizens' Social Club, Mrs. Hernandez bought fabric and ribbon and stitched together Jalisco and tropical dresses from patterns. She only charged \$10 annually for the young members to



Decorative fans used by Ballet Folklorico dancers frame the faces of Lupe and Lupita Hernandez who will retire after next week's recital. After 17 years, Ballet Folklorico de Victoria comes to an end as its founders ease into retirement. The couple plans to sell off the group's custom-made costumes.

*See Goodbye, Ballet Folklorico, p. 8*