

The Catholic Lighthouse

The Cradle of Texas Immigration

VOL. 22, NO. 6 OFFICIAL PUBLICATION OF THE DIOCESE OF VICTORIA IN TEXAS

October 2008

50th anniversary of the death of Pope Pius XII — Oct. 9



Pope Pius XII, who led the Catholic Church from 1939 to 1958, is seen in an undated formal portrait. This year, the Church celebrates the 50th anniversary of his death, which was on October 9, 1958. See stories on Pope Pius XII on page 14. (CNS photo)

Diocese found in compliance with charter, again

By Cynthia Brewer

The Diocesan Office of Child and Youth Protection has received a positive report for its 2008 data collection audit. The office was notified by a letter from the Gavin Group, the independent auditing firm hired by the United States Conference of Catholic Bishops, dated Sept. 16, 2008, stating that the diocese was in compliance with the Charter for the Protection of Children and Young People.

The findings were based on the data collection audit performed during the months of August and September 2008.

"This year's audit verified that the diocese continues to assure that all employees and volunteers have gone through, completed, and cleared the background checks before being placed in their positions and have attended, or will attend, the 'Keeping Kids Safe and Code of Pastoral Conduct' workshops," said Melissa Perales, director of the diocesan Office of Child and Youth Protection.

"This audit required the diocesan Safe Environment Office to submit data to The Gavin Group supporting its claims that all volunteers and personnel have completed the charter requirements," she said.

The audit is to examine the level of

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

"This is good, but no surprise," said Bishop David E. Fellhauer of the results. "We expect to receive acknowledgement that we are fully compliant."

"I continue to be grateful to the hundreds of people throughout the diocese who take part in our program to ensure a safe place for children and young people," he continued.

"The 2008 and 2009 audits will be data collection," said Melissa, "and in 2010 we will have full onsite audits to include the chancery office, schools and parishes; this means independent auditors will document and verify records stating that all employees and volunteers have completed and cleared the background checks and have attended the 'Keeping Kids Safe and Code of Pastoral Conduct' workshops."

The 2010 audit will also verify that all children in religious education programs and Catholic schools have attended, on an annual basis, a safe environment program on personal safety.

The auditing firm will also be conduct-

See Diocese found in compliance, p. 5



Our Lady of Victory School (inset - Sister Leonita Barrown, IWBS, principal)

OLV Named a 2008 Blue Ribbon School

Our Lady of Victory School was among 320 U.S. schools recently named a 2008 "No Child Left Behind-Blue Ribbon School." The "No Child Left Behind-Blue Ribbon School" award distinguishes and honors public and private elementary, middle and high schools for helping students achieve at very high levels and for making significant progress in closing the achievement gap. Our Lady of Victory was one of four private schools in Texas to receive this nationally recognized award.

In September 2007, Our Lady of Victory School qualified to apply for the "No Child Left Behind-Blue Ribbon School" award. The qualification required that the highest grade level in the school score in the top 10% in Reading and Math on a nationally recognized

standardized test. Our Lady of Victory administers the Stanford Achievement Tests (SAT) in the spring and met the standard and advanced to the final stage of the application process. Only 50 private schools in the United States receive this honor every year.

"We worked very hard to get this award," said OLV school principal Sister Leonita Barron, IWBS.

"As a school, we realized over the last few years that with our test scores we reached most of the qualifications in order to apply (to become a Blue Ribbon School)," she said.

Their eighth grade students' test scores were already in the top 10 percent of all U.S. students; they just needed

See OLV Named, p. 2



Mausoleum expansion celebrated

By Cynthia Brewer

The expansion and renovation of the mausoleum in Victoria's Resurrection Cemetery was completed one year from



Bishop Fellhauer blesses the "Death of St. Joseph" feature in the mausoleum expansion.

the month of the groundbreaking ceremony, which was held in September 2007.

On Sunday afternoon, September 21, 2008, a dedication and blessing of the expanded mausoleum was celebrated by Bishop David E. Fellhauer, assisted by Msgr. Eustace Hermes (former director of Catholic Cemeteries) and Deacon Dick Wearden. The current director of Catholic Cemeteries, Gary Rangnow, welcomed the crowd that came for the celebration.

The formal blessing included the reading of Scripture, prayer and the sprinkling of the building and its contents with Holy Water.

Bishop Fellhauer stated that in Canon Law there are two sacred places that must be blessed by a special blessing: churches, which include chapels, and cemeteries, which include mausoleums.

"We honor them because they contain the remains of loved ones," said the bishop, "and they remind us of our own mortality and our resurrection through Christ."

See Mausoleum, p. 10



Bishop Fellhauer's Schedule

Oct.	5	9:00 a.m., Mass, Vietnamese Dominican Sisters, Provincial House, Houston
	7	Diocesan Clergy Fraternity Day — dinner, Knights of Columbus Hall, Shiner
	10	8:30 a.m., Catholic Schools Seminar, Our Lady of Victory School Cafeteria, Victoria
	11	10:30 a.m., Mass, Deacons' retreat, Spiritual Renewal Center
	13-16	Canon Law Society of America Convention, Kansas City, Missouri
	18	11:00 a.m., Mass, Diocesan Council of Catholic Women, St. Agnes Church, Edna
	19	4:00 p.m., Mass and Annual Awards Banquet, Catholic Committee on Scouting, Holy Family Church, Victoria
	22	4:30 p.m., Diocesan Building Board meeting, Chancery Office
	23	10:00 a.m., Catholic School Advisory Council meeting, Chancery Office
	24	7:00 p.m., Reconciliation service, Spiritual Renewal Center, Victoria
Nov.	5	10:00 a.m., Presbyteral Council meeting, Chancery Office
	6	6:00 p.m., Mass, Serra Club orientation for prospective members, Chancery Office
	9-13	United States Conference of Catholic Bishops, general meeting, Baltimore, Maryland

Official Appointments By Most Rev. David E. Fellhauer

Effective September 16, 2008, the **Rev. Augustine N. Asante** is excardinated from the Diocese of Goaso, Ghana, and incardinated in the Diocese of Victoria.

Effective September 24, 2008, **Deacon Dennis Kutsch** is appointed Director of Permanent Deacons for the Diocese of Victoria. The **Rev. Gabriel Masi** remains as Director of Permanent Diaconate Formation.



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

Thank You Notes

Dear Mr. Brown,

We have received your recent check for \$3,501.34. This amount has been posted to the 2008 Collection for the Catholic Communication Campaign and will appear in our annual report.

I am grateful for your assistance in facilitating the generous gifts of the parishioners in your diocese.

Sincerely,
Mary Mencarini Campbell
Assistant Director for Promotions
USCCB Office of
National Collections

Fall Back

Don't Forget To Change Your Clocks Back One Hour

November 2 @ 2:00 a.m.

The Catholic Lighthouse

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Allegations of misconduct made against former Victoria priest

The following announcement was placed in Victoria's Catholic Church bulletins Sept. 20/21, 2008.

The Order of the Most Holy Trinity (Trinitarians) recently learned of an allegation of sexual misconduct against Father David Colella, O.S.S.T. The alleged misconduct would have occurred more than 18 years ago when he served as pastor of Our Lady of Sorrows Church in Victoria from July 1981 to July 1990. The Trinitarians are complying with all civil and church authorities in this matter. In accord with the policies and procedures of the Trinitarians' Code of Conduct, Father Colella has been placed on administrative leave and his faculties to perform public priestly ministry have been suspended, pending investigation of the allegation.

The Trinitarians are committed to protecting children and young people and helping to heal victims of abuse. We urge anyone who has any knowledge of child sexual abuse to come forward and to report it immediately to civil authorities. If church personnel are involved, please report it as well to the Diocese of Victoria, Office of the Bishop or Vicar General, at 361-573-0828. If Trinitarian personnel are suspected of abuse, we also ask that you contact the Trinitarians at 410-294-9673.

OLV Named a 2008 Blue Ribbon School

Continued from p. 1

a foreign language class.

"We didn't have a foreign language course (one of the requirements)," Sister Leonita said. "So a few years ago we planned to hire a foreign language teacher."

They had to make some adjustments, such as budgeting and letting go of their AV room, to provide a teacher and a classroom.

Once they had their Spanish teacher, Mr. Frank Soto, in place, they had only so much time to apply for the award.

"I know our parents were just thrilled to death that our school is one of the schools that strives to provide a strong academic program," Sister Leonita said, "but beyond that we provide a strong Catholic education."

"Our religious faith plays a very important role in the school life and in the lives of our children and their family," she said.

Our Lady of Victory School is the first school in Victoria to receive the Blue Ribbon School award and the second school in the Diocese of Victoria to receive this award. St. Michael Elementary in Weimar, Texas, was the first school of the diocese to earn it, winning the "No Child Left Behind-Blue Ribbon School" award in 2006.

Sister Leonita Barron and OLV's assistant principal, Dr. Linda Stuart, will attend an awards ceremony in Washington D.C. on October 21-22. A community recognition celebration will be held in November.

Diocesan Services Appeal '08

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

Currently our records indicate a total pledged amount of \$602,540 and a total paid amount of \$566,113. To those who have been unable to contribute, please continue to pray for our success in reaching our goal.

Sharon Jones
DSA Coordinator

Stewardship Thought

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

\$1,282,100

Goal

\$602,540

Amount Pledged

53% of the goal met



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 23, 2008

TOTALS

— Rev. John C. Bily Seminary Burse

Previously reported \$7,089.00

In memory of Ruth A. Barton by

Johnny A. Barton

100.00

Total \$7,189.00

— Rev. Sean Donohue Seminary Burse #2

Previously reported \$4,029.36

In honor of Willo and Frances Rodriguez's

50th wedding anniversary by

Bernard and Madeline Rother

25.00

Total \$4,054.36

— Knights of Columbus Victoria Council #1329 Seminary Burse #3

Previously reported \$7,937.50

In memory of Clinton Klare by

Imogene Klare

50.00

Total \$7,987.50

— Catholic Daughters Court of St. Ann #369 Seminary Burse

Previously reported \$6,208.99

In honor of Nat'l CDA Regent Libby

Ramirez by CDA Court St. Ann #369

25.00

In honor of Libby Ramirez by

Mary McQuillen

20.00

Total \$6,253.99

— St. John the Baptist Church, St. John Burse #2 In Honor of Rev. Brian Crookes

Previously reported \$4,396.00

In memory of Martha Hermis by

Forrest and Ann Dittrich

15.00

In memory of Martha Hermis by

Elsie Fark

20.00

Total \$4,431.00

— Rev. John C. Peters Seminary Burse #4

Previously reported \$3,264.00

In memory of Sr. Edith Mzyk

25.00

Total \$3,289.00

— Rev. Jerome J. Stryk Seminary Burse

Previously reported \$11,212.50

In honor of Bernard and Mary Jane Muras'

50th wedding anniversary

by Louis Stryk

20.00

In honor of Bernard and Mary Jane Muras'

50th wedding anniversary

by Lad and Helen Muras

10.00

Total \$11,242.50

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

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

Reporting Abuse

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

- Call the Chancery at (361) 573-0828 and ask to speak with the bishop or the chancellor;
- Call Rev. Gary Janak (979) 543-3770 or Sr. Emilie Eilers (361) 575-7111, Coordinators of Pastoral Care and Outreach;
- Write to: Most Rev. David E. Fellhauer
Diocese of Victoria
P.O. Box 4070
Victoria, TX 77903
Mark your letter "Personal and Confidential"

We will also help you bring your concerns to Church officials outside the diocese if the abuse occurred elsewhere and you now reside in the Diocese of Victoria.

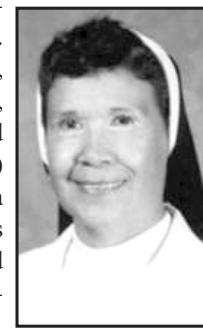
If you are unsure about bringing a complaint or would like further information, please contact: Rev. Gary Janak at (979) 543-3770.

DIOCESE

In Memory of ...

Sister M. Rosaria Estrada, IWBS

Sister M. Rosaria Estrada, 75, of Victoria, died Thursday, Sept. 18, 2008. She was born Jan. 27, 1933, in Floresville, to the late Jose G. and Julia Ana (De Leon) Estrada. She was a member of the Sisters of the Incarnate Word and Blessed Sacrament.



Sister Rosaria attended Sacred Heart School in Floresville and Nazareth Academy in Victoria. She entered Nazareth Convent as a postulant on Sept. 8, 1953, and became a novice on Aug. 25, 1954. She made her first profession of vows on Aug. 26, 1955, and final profession on Aug. 6, 1960.

Sister Rosaria received a B.A. degree with a major in art and a minor in Spanish from Incarnate Word College in San Antonio. She held Professional Texas Teacher Certificates for General Elementary Level and for Elementary Art.

Sister Rosaria ministered at Sacred Heart School in Hallettsville, Guadalupe School, and Nazareth Academy in Victoria, St. Leo School, St. John School, and Blessed Sacrament Academy in San Antonio, Sacred Heart School in Crosby,

Deacon Arthur "Dick" Wearden's daughter, Debra

By Catholic News Service

VICTORIA, Texas (CNS) — A funeral Mass was celebrated Aug. 4 for Debra Wearden Hampton, acting editor of the *Texas Catholic*, Dallas' diocesan newspaper, and the daughter of Deacon Arthur "Dick" and Theresa Wearden.



She died July 31, 2008, at her Dallas home after a quiet but hard-fought struggle with cancer. She was 48.

The funeral was in her hometown of Victoria at St. Mary's Catholic Church, followed by entombment in Resurrection Mausoleum.

A memorial service was held Aug. 16 at St. Joseph Catholic Church in Richardson.

Filling much of St. Mary's for her funeral were hometown friends and family, including nuns from the nearby 142-year-old convent of the Sisters of the Incarnate Word and Blessed Sacrament, who sang in the choir.

For the past three years Debra was managing editor of the *Texas Catholic*, and for the several weeks before her death had been acting editor, even as she grew weaker from the ravages of cancer.

"(Debra) was a very gracious lady and a dedicated journalist," said Annette Gonzales Taylor, director of communications for the Diocese of Dallas. "She continued to come into the office — even when she was very ill — to make sure the newspaper went out."

Prominent among the nuns singing at Debra's funeral was Incarnate Word Sister Bernarda Bludau of Victoria, who served until May as the longtime principal of St. Patrick School in Dallas. She taught Debra at Nazareth Academy, run by her order.

"I last saw her when she came to St. Patrick's to write a story about the new bishop's visit to the school," Sister Bernarda said. "We renewed our acquaintance. She was such a lovely person dedicated

and Holy Cross School in Bay City. Sister Rosaria excelled in teaching students in the lower-level grades. She was artistically gifted and delighted in drawing out the artistic talents of her students. She sewed, embroidered, and made all kinds of dainty novelties for bazaars and festivals. She was also in charge of the girl boarders at Blessed Sacrament Academy in the 1960s.

She is survived by her sisters, Sister M. Isabel Estrada of Victoria, and Albina and husband Norbert Lucius of Floresville; brothers, Joe A. and wife Alice Estrada of Floresville, and Eddie and wife Helen Estrada of San Antonio.

She was preceded in death by parents.

Funeral services were held Sept. 20, with the Rev. Donald Hayden, O.S.S.T. and the Rev. Casey Jarzombek co-celebrating. Burial followed at Catholic Cemetery No. 3.

Pallbearers were her nephews, Joey Estrada, Eddie R. Estrada and Roland Estrada; niece, Theresa Estrada; Sister Geraldine Pavlik, Sister Maria Goretti Warzecha, Jerry Lipinski, and Guadalupe Rodriguez.

Memorials: Incarnate Word Convent, Hospice of South Texas, or donor's choice.

Deacon Arthur "Dick" Wearden's daughter, Debra

to church work."

Debra was a member of St. Joseph Parish in Richardson at the time of her death. She volunteered in many parish capacities, including teaching in church programs and helping in pastoral ministries.

Inspired by the Second Vatican Council, she wrote a major feature story in 1985 that focused on how the council changed the church; it garnered her a Katie Award from the Press Club of Dallas.

Debra was valedictorian of St. Joseph High School's class of 1977 in Victoria. She received bachelor's degrees from Baylor University, in Waco, in journalism and French in 1981. She earned a master's degree in international journalism in 1982, also from Baylor.

She had internships at the *Victoria Advocate* daily newspaper and *Le Soleil*, a French-language daily newspaper in Quebec City. Debra joined the staff of *The Dallas Morning News* in 1983 as a copy editor, was named a fellow for the French-American Foundation and worked at the daily journal *Le Progres* in Lyon, France, in 1986.

After completing her fellowship, Debra rejoined the *News* and became assistant business editor, completing nearly 14 years of service at the daily newspaper before joining Thomas More Publishing, a religious-book publisher in Allen in 1997.

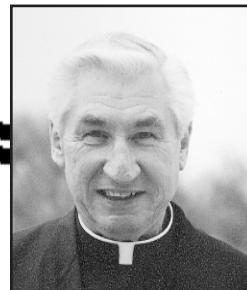
In 2005, she was hired as a feature writer for the *Texas Catholic* and was soon promoted to managing editor.

Debra is survived by her husband of 25 years, Jeff; her father, Deacon Arthur "Dick" Wearden of the Diocese of Victoria, and her mother, Theresa Wearden; a brother, James Wearden of Victoria; and a sister, Dr. Mary E. Wearden of San Antonio.

May the souls of the faithful departed rest in peace.
Amen.



FAITH POINT



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

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

Abortion and Elected Catholics

Speaker of the House Nancy Pelosi, an “ardent Catholic,” appeared on NBC’s “Meet the Press” and declared that doctors of the Church have not been able to define when life begins and therefore there is a time in which abortion is permissible. She cited St. Augustine who said that abortion does not pertain to homicide because there is not a live soul in a body that lacks sensation. This brought a reaction from some bishops that is unprecedented in my lifetime. Five bishops, two of them cardinals, immediately pounced on Pelosi’s statement and pronounced her statement as uninformed. Irrespective of the speculation of theologians about ensoulment based on the defective embryology of the times, the Church has always and everywhere condemned abortion at any and every stage of gestation. At best the defective ensoulment theories influenced the severity of the penalty for abortion. Never did they justify it.

Cardinal Egan of New York declared that what the Speaker said was not only uninformed but was incredible in our day and age. He pointed out that three-dimensional sonograms and modern embryology prove that human life is present from the moment of conception. “Anyone who dares to defend that they [fetuses] may be legitimately killed because another human being ‘chooses’ to do so or for any other equally ridiculous reason should not be providing leadership in a civilized democracy worthy of the name.”

Being Catholic means being pro-life. Denying that removes one from Catholicism in the same way that being polytheistic prevents one from being Muslim, or being in favor of apartheid disqualifies one from the civil rights movement. There is no other moral issue in which the Church has so clearly and consistently spoken as in the case of abortion. Christians from the beginning distinguished themselves from their pagan neighbors both doctrinally and morally. One of the earliest catechisms outside the Bible called the Didache (Teaching of the Twelve Apostles) reads, “Do not kill a fetus by abortion, or commit infanticide.”

“... modern science demonstrates that it (life) begins at conception. That is a scientific position; religion has nothing to do with it.”

Abortion is not only the most serious social injustice of our century – it is the most serious injustice of all times. Abortion defines an entire class of human beings, the unborn, as excluded from the rights and protections of other human beings. It is an injustice of unimaginable scale. Worldwide, 25-30 million abortions are performed annually, over a million a year in the US alone.

The most insidious thing uttered by Speaker Pelosi was not her falsification of Catholic teaching but the statement that it really doesn’t matter when life begins. “The point is that it shouldn’t have an impact on the woman’s right to choose.” In other words no matter when human life begins, a woman’s right to kill her unborn child prevails. Speaker Pelosi is free to hold any view of abortion that she likes. What she may not do is to present her distortions as being within the boundaries of Catholic doctrine.

One week after “ardent Catholic” Nancy Pelosi’s statements triggered swift reaction from the bishops, Catholic Senator Joseph Biden in the same venue, “Meet the Press,” compounded the problem by trying to justify his votes supporting abortion and his pro-abortion litmus test for prospective judges in the Judiciary Committee by maintaining that no one knows when human life begins. That is quite silly because modern science demonstrates that it begins at conception. That is a scientific position; religion has nothing to do with it. He repeated an exhausted argument that Catholics have been hearing for forty years, namely, that Catholics cannot impose their religiously based views on others. Abortion is a matter of human rights, not religion. All law is an imposition of someone’s view of life on the rest of the population, willing or not. The outlawing of slavery was an imposition of the religious principle that human beings may not be treated as cattle.

Senator Biden not only deviates from the teachings of the faith but from logic. He affirms a belief that human life begins at conception and then he passes laws that contradict that belief. Why would he support a right that, in his publicly stated belief system, is murder?

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Two bishops, Kansas City, Kansas Archbishop Joseph F. Naumann and Kansas City-St. Joseph Bishop Robert W. Finn, issued a joint pastoral on the forthcoming election. “With the approaching election this November, we believe this to be an important moment for us to address together the responsibility of Catholics to be well informed and well formed voters.” They teach that it is wise to consider a whole range of issues in deciding how to vote, but they hold, “There are, however, some issues that always involve doing evil, such as legalized abortion...as well as public policies permitting euthanasia...or destructive human embryonic stem cell research. A properly formed conscience must give such issues priority even over other matters with important moral dimensions.”

They go on to say they can envision no reason why a Catholic voter would ever support a pro-abortion candidate. They ask what could be a proportionate reason for the more than 45 million children killed by abortion in the past 35 years? “Personally, we cannot conceive of such a proportionate reason.” There is no justification for supporting a candidate who supports legal abortions when there is a candidate who opposes them. If all candidates for an office support abortion, Catholic voters should select the one who will do the least harm. We have an obligation to limit evil when we are unable to eradicate it.

Pro-abortionists keep dinging the word “choice” into our ears. Of course there is no choice for the unborn child. But the choice abortionists want is their

choice. A regulation proposed recently by the Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) would protect health care providers, physicians, nurses, hospitals, pharmacists, etc. from being discriminated or pushed out of the health care system because of their conscientious objection to participate in abortion. You would think that the pro-choice crowd would welcome a regulation in which health care providers exercise their choice. Instead they have responded with thousands of angry and ill-informed notes that the regulation be removed as an unprecedented attack on the health care system. Choice for me but not for thee. Having begun by treating others who are younger and weaker than they as nonhuman, they now treat those who want to exercise a different choice as second-class citizens. “Pro-abortion” and not “pro-choice” was the correct name all along.

Catholics constitute 25 percent of the voting public and as much as 30 percent in swing states like Pennsylvania, Ohio and Wisconsin. A majority of citizens is opposed to abortion laws as they exist now and want more restrictions on the practice even if some do not favor its elimination. We are closer than ever to victory in this area and we can win if Catholics vote according to the moral standards of the Church. Catholics who vote for abortion promoters have a lot for which to answer, 45 million counts of prenatal murder, which they had the power to stop by their votes. Use your ballot morally in November. The lives of millions of unborn children and your salvation are at stake.

Editorial

Does a Pro-Life president really matter?

Abortion Ban Act.

Again in 2004, he threatened to veto the Foreign Operations Appropriations bill if it contained a Senate provision overturning his pro-life Mexico City Policy.

He vetoed the Stem Cell Research Enhancement Act – which would have put into motion federal dollars to be used for research of Stem Cells derived from the destruction of embryos.

And he appointed two Supreme Court justices, John G. Roberts and Samuel Alito, both of whom support pro-life positions.

Unfortunately, like most of life’s decisions, they’re quick and easy to make, but very difficult to rectify, often requiring a long, slow journey to make up for mistakes.

That’s how it is with the Roe-vs-Wade decision of 1973. It was put into effect relatively quickly. Reversing it, will take a long time with lots of little steps.

It will require a majority of Supreme Court justices who are willing to look into the constitutionality of the Roe-vs-Wade decision and have the guts to vote for its reversal. But in order for that to happen the United States first needs a pro-life president to appoint those justices.

So don’t give up on “pro-life” politicians. Progress is being made, slowly, but surely.

Hope You Can Come & Join Us!
St. Theresa Annual Parish Picnic

in La Salle at the Parish Hall

County Road 325 & Hwy 616

Sunday, October 19

Turkey Dressing Dinner

(Catered by Robert Werner of Shiner, Texas)

Serving: 11:00 a.m.-2:00 p.m. • \$7 • Dine-in or Plates-to-go

Raffle

Craft/
Country Store

Games

Plant Sale

Cakewalk

Auction at 12:30 p.m.



UCC Marks a Century of Catholic Faith and Education at UT-Austin

AUSTIN — For the past 100 years, Catholic students, faculty, and staff at The University of Texas have found a spiritual “home away from home” at the Newman Club and then the University Catholic Center. Over the century, the ministry has evolved and grown to the huge congregation it is today.

Mass and social organized for Catholic college students at VC

Victoria College Campus Ministry Catholic Student Association (CSA) at the Victoria College will hold its first social of the year Tuesday, October 14, at 3:00 p.m. in the Student Center, rooms C-D. A Mass will be held, followed by refreshments and fellowship. Please make plans to come, and bring a friend.

Many events have been planned. If you would like to receive regular e-mails from CSA, please go to: <http://pirates.victoriacollege.edu/mailman/listinfo/csa> and subscribe.

Diocese found in compliance

Continued from p. 1

ing independent interviews with various pastors, priests, principals, employees and volunteers to ensure that the policy and procedures are known for reporting suspected or known child abuse.

The diocese continues to remind all individuals that suspected or known child abuse should be reported to Texas Department of Family and Protective Services (TDFPS) at 1-800-252-5400. Suspected or known abuse of a minor, which involves church personnel should first be reported to the TDFPS and then to the bishop or the chancellor of the Diocese of Victoria at (361) 573-0828, or to one of the Victim Assistance Coordinators: Rev. Gary Janak (979) 543-3770 or Sister Emilie Eilers (361) 575-7111.

Further information on Safe Environment may be obtained at: www.victoriadiocese.org.

Contraceptives affect environment too, water expert tells conference

CHERRY HILL, N.J. (CNS) — Mark W. LeChevallier agrees that natural family planning is safe, healthy and effective. But he would add one more characteristic: It's environmentally responsible. LeChevallier, director of innovation and environmental stewardship at American Water, the largest water and wastewater provider in North America, and his wife have been certified instructors of natural family planning for the last 25 years. In a talk July 26 to a national conference that brought together leaders from diocesan pro-life, family life and social justice offices around the country, LeChevallier spoke about the drastic effects that discarded contraceptive medicines and

In 1910, The Newman Club became the first and only Catholic Student Organization on the campus of The University of Texas at Austin. With headquarters in the St. Austin's Chapel, the Newman Club's mission was threefold: to promote religious, intellectual, and social activities among Catholic students in American Colleges and Universities.

This thriving organization eventually required its own facilities. Between 1914 and 1965 it had added three facilities to house its growth. The Catholic community outgrew a couple of these buildings in the 1990's, necessitating a larger facility to accommodate UT's Catholic community. In 2002, the University Catholic Center completed construction of a new structure, which includes a large chapel, a small Blessed Sacrament Chapel, a library, full kitchen, conference room, a computer lab, several classrooms and offices, and a basement that serves as a student lounge.

The Paulist Fathers have been faithfully serving the students, faculty, and staff at The University of Texas at Austin for the entire century. In extending an invitation to the Paulists to serve the UT community, Bishop Gallagher, the Bishop of Galveston in 1908, wrote, “My main and particular object is that your Fathers may exercise a special care and supervision over a very choice portion of our people, the Catholic young men and women who are students in the State University.”

The University Catholic Center promotes the six goals of campus ministry as outlined by the U.S. Bishops' Pastoral Letter on Campus Ministry, Empowered by the Spirit: forming the faith community, educating for justice, appropriating the faith, facilitating personal development, forming the Christian conscience, and developing leaders for the future.

For details on the 100th Anniversary festivities, please visit <http://utcatholic.org/anniversary.php>. If you have questions or would like more information, contact Vanessa Mena at vanessa@utcatholic.org or call her at (512) 476-7351 x23. To learn more about the University Catholic Center, please visit www.utcatholic.org.

devices have been having on the nation's water and animals, especially fish. Like secondhand smoke, he explained, “secondhand estrogens are being released into the environment,” and are devastating to wildlife. Because the synthetic estrogen is not absorbed well into the body, much of the drug is released into the environment through women's urine, he said, adding that used contraceptive rings and patches are having a further polluting effect. Touting the environmental benefits of natural family planning “can be a new way to evangelize youths” and attract them to the church-approved method of postponing pregnancy, he said.

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Twenty Something

By Christina Capecchi



Butterfinger guilt: Forgiving yourself is hard to do

I bought a dress that didn't fit in hopes it would on the day of my friend's wedding.

It seemed, at the time, like a powerful incentive to shed a few pounds. But as the wedding approaches, I'm starting to wonder whether it'll make its grand debut or if it'll stay in the closet.

I've succeeded in exercising more, but the Halloween candy is doing me in, particularly those innocuous seeming fun-sized candy bars.

They should carry a fine-print caution: You can eat one after another with ease and quickly consume a King-sized number of calories.

That happened to me the other night with Butterfingers. I went to bed with a stomach ache and a stinging guilt. How would the dress fit now? How could I let myself go like that?

I'm generally pretty good at forgiving others. Forgiving myself is another story. I hold myself to high standards and I'm bitterly disappointed when I don't meet them.

St. Francis de Sales once instructed, “Deal gently and lovingly with your heart, raising it up when it falls and longing ardently for its perfection.”

What an important reminder for us high-reaching, goal-setting Americans, strivers who cancel social events and forgo hard-earned vacation days to achieve more because “losing is not an option.”

But losing is an option. And we're rarely losing when we choose to rest or adjust an unreasonable expectation. We're winning, gaining wisdom, maturing.

When our hearts fall, we must raise them up — a mission we have never been taught; a mandate no textbook can explain. We must develop our own devices, crafting customized formulas that lift spirits and nurture wounds.

It begins by being patient — with God and with self. We learn this from the infinitely patient French saint. St. Fran-

cis waited years and years to pursue his religious vocation. When he attempted to convert the Calvinists back to Catholicism, he experienced defeat after defeat, door after door. Still, he pressed on. And the prolific correspondent never let a heap of unanswered letters unhinge him.

“I have more than fifty letters to answer,” St. Francis noted one day. “If I tried to hurry over it, I would be lost. So I intend neither to hurry nor to worry. This evening, I shall answer as many as I can. Tomorrow I shall do the same and so I shall go on until I have finished.”

I find that simple approach incredibly instructive in this era of high-speed Internet and multi-tasking. One by one. No sooner, no later. Inhale, exhale. Repeat.

Being gentle and loving with our hearts means acknowledging that sometimes we take on too much. We must give ourselves permission to occasionally miss the mark, to take a break, to cancel a meeting.

This is not an excuse for laziness or mediocrity; the second half of St. Francis' advice urges that, when our hearts are high, we must long ardently for their “perfection.” But some of us need to be reminded about the first half, the gentle bit.

Right now, I'm sipping my second cup of chai tea, wrapped in a worn quilt. A cinnamon candle is burning and I'm breathing easy. I'm not worrying about the Butterfingers or the uncrossed tasks on my to-do list; I'm focusing on the many tasks I have crossed off. I've accomplished a great deal.

God loves me unconditionally, readily forgiving me and bearing with me at all times. Out of deference to him, I ought to show myself a small measure of that goodness.

And as to that dress? It's on loan to my cousin. It fits her, and it's totally her style.

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

STOPandVOTE.org

Nonpartisan movement gets high participation from Millennials

NEW YORK CITY — A group of 10 college-aged summer interns has created a provocative viral voter registration campaign designed to give their generation a powerful political voice.

The campaign began as a project for the interns at The Concept Farm, a New York communications company. “I wanted to create an assignment that would make a real difference,” says Ray Mendez, a partner at the agency. “I’m tired of hearing people whine and complain about the state of the country. I needed to do something — not to express my anger, but to entertain people and get them to act.” So Mendez turned to the company’s summer interns.

He says, “Eighteen to 29-year-olds have so much at stake. But they don’t realize they have the power to shape this country’s future with their votes. So

that became their assignment: Create a campaign to drive their generation to the polls.”

For the interns, STOPandVOTE became a passion. “If our entire generation were to truly leverage our power in the political process, we believe our elected officials would have no choice but to hear and address our concerns. Regardless of which candidate wins,” says Yasin Abbak, political science major at Drew University, and one of the young “Farmhands” who co-founded STOPandVOTE.

Stop and Vote is a non-partisan political movement, which encourages the “millennial” generation to encourage their peers to vote... by any means necessary!

STOPandVOTE launched their Web site on September 11; to learn more about voting, go to www.stopandvote.org.



No 'Yahweh' in songs, prayers at Catholic Masses, Vatican rules

By Nancy Frazier O'Brien
Catholic News Service

WASHINGTON (CNS) — In the not-too-distant future, songs such as "You Are Near," "I Will Bless Yahweh" and "Rise, O Yahweh" will no longer be part of the Catholic worship experience in the United States.

At the very least, the songs will be edited to remove the word "Yahweh" -- a name of God that the Vatican has ruled must not "be used or pronounced" in songs and prayers during Catholic Masses.

Bishop Arthur J. Serratelli of Paterson, N.J., chairman of the U.S. bishops' Committee on Divine Worship, announced the new Vatican "directives on the use of 'the name of God' in the sacred liturgy" in an Aug. 8 letter to his fellow bishops.

He said the directives would not "force any changes to official liturgical texts" or to the bishops' current missal translation project but would likely have "some impact on the use of particular pieces of liturgical music in our country as well as in the composition of variable texts such as the general intercessions for the celebration of the Mass and the other sacraments."

John Limb, publisher of OCP in Portland, Ore., said the most popular hymn in the OCP repertoire that would be affected was Dan Schutte's "You Are Near," which begins, "Yahweh, I know you are near."

OCP is a nonprofit publisher of liturgical music and worship resources.

Limb said the company would be contacting composers to "ask them to try to come up with alternate language" for their hymns. But he said hymnals for 2009 had already been printed, so the affected hymns would not include the new wording for at least another year.

At Chicago-based GIA Publications, another major Catholic publisher of hymnals, no major revisions will be necessary, because of the company's longtime editorial policy against use of the word "Yahweh."

Kelly Dobbs-Mickus, senior editor at GIA Publications, told CNS Aug. 11 that the policy, which dates to 1986, was based

not on Vatican directives but on sensitivity to concerns among observant Jews about pronouncing the name of God. As an example, she cited Heinrich Schutz's "Thanks Be to Yahweh," which appears in a GIA hymnal under the title "Thanks Be to God."

Bishop Serratelli said the Vatican decision also would provide "an opportunity to offer catechesis for the faithful as an encouragement to show reverence for the name of God in daily life, emphasizing the power of language as an act of devotion and worship."

His letter to bishops came with a two-page letter from the Vatican Congregation for Divine Worship and the Sacraments, dated June 29 and addressed to episcopal conferences around the world.

The Tetragrammaton is YHWH, the four consonants of the ancient Hebrew name for God.

"As an expression of the infinite greatness and majesty of God, it was held to be unpronounceable and hence was replaced during the reading of sacred Scripture by means of the use of an alternate name: 'Adonai,' which means 'Lord,'" the Vatican letter said. Similarly, Greek translations of the Bible used the word "Kyrios" and Latin scholars translated it to "Dominus"; both also mean Lord.

"Avoiding pronouncing the Tetragrammaton of the name of God on the part of the church has therefore its own grounds," the letter said. "Apart from a motive of a purely philological order, there is also that of remaining faithful to the church's tradition, from the beginning, that the sacred Tetragrammaton was never pronounced in the Christian context nor translated into any of the languages into which the Bible was translated."

"Notwithstanding such a clear norm, in recent years the practice has crept in of pronouncing the God of Israel's proper name," the letter said. "The practice of vocalizing it is met with both in the reading of biblical texts taken from the Lectionary as well as in prayers and hymns, and it occurs in diverse written and spoken forms," including Yahweh, Jahweh and Yehovah.

Bishops vote to revise U.S. catechism on Jewish covenant with God

WASHINGTON (CNS) — The U.S. bishops have voted to ask the Vatican to approve a small change in the U.S. Catholic Catechism for Adults to clarify church teaching on God's covenant with

the Jewish people. The proposed change — which would replace one sentence in the catechism — was discussed by the bishops in executive session at their June meeting in Orlando, Fla., but did not receive the needed two-thirds majority of all members of the U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops at that time. After mail balloting, the final vote of 231-14, with one abstention, was announced Aug. 5 in a letter to bishops from Msgr. David Malloy, USCCB general secretary. The change, which must be confirmed by the Vatican Congregation for Clergy, would remove from the catechism a sentence that reads: "Thus the covenant that God made with the Jewish people through Moses remains eternally valid for them." Replacing it would be this sentence: "To the Jewish people, whom God first chose to hear his word, 'belong the sonship, the glory, the covenants, the giving of the law, the worship and the promises; to them belong the patriarchs, and of their race, according to the flesh, is the Christ'" (Rom 9:4-5; cf. CCC, No. 839).

Vatican approves new English translations for constant parts of Mass

WASHINGTON (CNS) — The Vatican has given its approval to a new English-language translation of the main constant parts of the Mass, but Catholics in the pew are unlikely to see any of the approved changes at Masses for a while to allow for catechesis on the reasons for the revisions.

The approved text, sent to the Vatican for "recognition," or confirmation, after a June 2006 vote by the U.S. bishops in Los Angeles, involves translation of the penitential rite, Gloria, creed, eucharistic prayers, eucharistic acclamations, Our Father and other prayers and responses used daily. But it is only the first of 12 units into which the third edition of the Roman Missal has been divided for translation purposes. It includes most of the texts used in every celebration of Mass including responses to the celebrant by people participating in a liturgy.

"In terms of the people's part, it's not going to require too much adjustment," Bishop Arthur J. Serratelli of Paterson, N.J., chairman of the U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops' Committee on Divine Worship, told Catholic News Service July 25. "It's a refinement of the language, a clearer theological language. 'Not much of the people's part is changed, and I think once or twice after they use it, they will hardly notice the change,' he said.

The most significant changes approved by Rome include:

- Whenever the priest says, "The Lord be with you," the people will respond, "And with your spirit." The current response is "And also with you."

- In the first form of the penitential rite, the people will confess that "I have greatly sinned ... through my fault, through my fault, through my most grievous fault."

In the current version, that part is much shorter: "I have sinned through my own fault."

- The Gloria has been translated differently and the structure of the prayer will have changes from the current text.

- The opening of the Nicene Creed changes from "We believe ..." to "I believe ..."; other changes in the prayer also have been made.

- Before the preface, when the priest says, "Let us give thanks to the Lord our God," instead of saying, "It is right to give him thanks and praise," the people will respond, "It is right and just."

- The Sanctus will start "Holy, Holy, Holy Lord God of hosts." The current version says "Holy, holy, holy Lord, God of power and might."

- The new response at the "Ecce Agnus Dei" ("Behold the Lamb of God") is: "Lord, I am not worthy that you should enter under my roof, but only say the word and my soul shall be healed."

In 2001 the Vatican issued new rules requiring liturgical translations to follow the original Latin more strictly and completely — a more literal translation approach called formal equivalence. The resulting new translation adheres far more closely to the normative Latin text issued by the Vatican.

While the changes have been approved, Bishop Serratelli said it will be awhile before they become part of regular worship at Mass. "I'm hoping for two years," he said. "I'm an optimist."

Christ Jesus, by your Gospel we realize that what counts above all is compassion. Grant us, then, hearts full of goodness (pg. 79 "Praying in Silence of Heart" ~Brother Roger of Taizé).

PARISH OF THE NATIVITY

Roman Catholic Church of Victoria Diocese

545 S. Austin Rd - Eagle Lake, TX

Pavilion Across from the Hospital

Annual Fall Festival

Sunday, October 19th, 2008

Eucharist

310 N Stevenson St.

Spanish 8:00 am

English 10:00 am

Barbecue Chicken

With all the trimmings

\$7.00 per plate

Serving from 11:00 am until 1:00 pm

CURB SERVICE WILL BE AVAILABLE

Live Auction 1:00 pm

RAFFLE DRAWING (AFTER THE AUCTION)

FIRST PRIZE \$1000.00 GIFT CARD

SECOND PRIZE \$500.00 GIFT CARD

Booths & Games

**Food Booths, Cake & Plant Walk, Country Store, Kids Games
Soccer Tournament, Horseshoe Tournament**

Come Enjoy the Day!

Something for Everyone!

LIVE MUSIC WITH DJ



Texans honored as active Catholic War Veterans

LANSING, Mich.—The 73rd National Annual Convention for Catholic War Veterans, USA, and 60th National Annual Convention for Catholic War Veterans Auxiliary, USA, were held in Lansing, Michigan, August 26–30.

Daniel Martinez, member of Catholic War Veterans, St. John's Post 1269, Victoria, and Lupita Martinez, member of CWV Auxiliary, St. John's Post 1269, Victoria, were in attendance at the National Convention in Lansing.

The Martinez' were both re-elected to the National Board. Daniel Martinez was re-elected as national historian on the CWV National Board. He has been serving on the CWV National Board since 2005.

Lupita Martinez was re-elected as first vice-president on the CWV Auxiliary National Board. She will be eligible to be elected national president next year. She has served on the National CWV Auxiliary Board since 2003 and is the first Auxiliary member from St. John's Post 1269, Victoria, to serve on the national board.

The convention was filled with many activities. It included Holy Mass at the beginning of each day. The state of Texas

was well represented by fellow Catholic War Veterans and Auxiliary members. It was an honor to have in attendance the Department of Texas CWV Chaplain Father Tom Diebel from Lubbock, who assisted in the concelebrated Mass each day. A memorial service was held honoring all the deceased Catholic War Veterans



Lupita and Daniel Martinez

and Auxiliary members from all posts and units throughout the United States. National First Vice-President Lupita Martinez was responsible for organizing and leading the memorial service.

St. John's Post 1269 Auxiliary, Victoria, received the following awards for their work during the year of 2007 – 2008. Toney Aguilar

received a first place award as First Vice-President in Catholic Action. Lupita Martinez received a first place award as Third Vice-President in Youth Activities. The following members of St. John's Post 1269 who serve as Department of Texas CWV Auxiliary officers also received awards for their work at the Department of Texas level: Lupita Martinez received second place award as First Vice-President in Catholic Action; Selina Driscoll received first place award as Third Vice-President in Youth Activities and Cecilia Garcia received first place award as Americanism and Civics Chairlady. Cecilia Garcia also received recognition for her work in public relations for St. John's Post 1269.

To finalize convention activities, a Convention Memorial Mass was held on Saturday, August 30, 2008. The main celebrant was Most Reverend Bishop Protector Richard B. Higgins. After the Mass, the most prestigious CWV Award, Saint Sebastian Award and Medal was presented to three veterans and the most prestigious award of CWV Auxiliary, Award of Saint Agnes and Medal, was presented to two auxiliary members. The State of Texas was honored to have two recipients of the St. Sebastian Award and Medal: Mr. Baltazar Garcia from Weslaco, and Mr. Delfino V. Garcia from Austin. Mrs. Annie Perez from Austin received the St. Agnes Award and Medal. The Mass was

“Polka Party Cruise”
Western Caribbean
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OUR LADY OF VICTORY CATHEDRAL ANNUAL Fall FESTIVAL



Sunday, October 12
at the Victoria Community Center
Doors open at 11:00 a.m.

Buffet style barbecue-beef and sausage dinner with all the trimmings
Adults, \$7; children under 12 years, \$4.50
All plates to go \$7 with curb service available

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

Fall

Ministry ... journey ... my story

Pat and Becky Kubala are members of St. John's – New Taiton. Pat is in the class to be ordained a permanent deacon next year. These are Pat Kubala's answers to an interview done with The Catholic Lighthouse in September 2008.

When did you first think about becoming a deacon for the church?

As our lives go, so goes the diaconate. I had never planned on it or gave it much thought.

Our lives are a mystery, known only to God, who reveals our life one day at a time. The call to the diaconate was the Holy Spirit entering my heart with a burning desire to serve, share, and proclaim the Gospel. I have been serving as an extra-ordinary minister of the Eucharist for several years. I am grateful that the late Msgr. Julius Petru asked me and three other gentlemen to be ministers of the Eucharist with him.



Pat and Becky Kubala

How did you go about looking further into the possibility of becoming a deacon; who did you contact? And what were your spouse's first thoughts/words when you told her of your interest?

In April 2005, the journey began. When I got home from the office, I told my wife that I needed to talk to her about something that has been on my mind for the last two weeks. She looked up at me and said, “You want to go through the diaconate program.” I was floored, and I asked her, “How did you know?” Her words were, “It just came to me.” I told her that the Holy Spirit must be working, and let's see what our next step is.

I contacted our pastor at New Taiton and Nada, the late Father Joseph Koebel, and Father Gary Janak at St. Philip the Apostle in El Campo. Both priests encouraged me to contact Father Gabriel Maison in Moulton. He is the Victoria Diocese Diaconate Director. At that time, I did not know where Moulton was. A meeting was scheduled in Moulton, and several couples attended the meeting.

We were told what the diaconate program was and how intense it would be. We were also instructed that if we wanted to pursue the program, we would have to obtain recommendation letters, and along with that, our sacramental papers, plus write a paper on why we were interested in the program and submit everything to

Father Gabriel.

How has Father Gabriel Maison helped you?

You ask a loaded question, with how has Father Gabriel Maison helped me. Let me start with: Father Gabriel believed in me when I did not. Through his formation and molding process along with our Spiritual Formation Director, Michael Fonseca,

they have guided me over humps that seemed very difficult for me. Father Gabriel takes his position seriously, and he pushes you out of your comfort zone, part of that molding process, which in turn, helps you grow in your faith, and in the program.

He has helped Becky and me to appreciate the bishop, priests, and deacons, in all that they go through, and do for the Church, the body of Christ, the people of God.

While I was a college student at Texas A & M, years ago, I respected and admired the professors who challenged me. Father Gabriel is in that same category. Not only has he challenged me, but he has helped me with personal issues. He has gone from someone who at first intimidated me, to someone whom I respect and love.

What have been some of the greatest joys of the journey?

The greatest joys of the journey have been the silent retreats. At first, I was skeptical about such an experience, but I have been deeply moved spending that much time alone with God. The retreat allows me to settle in and open my heart to the Holy Spirit.

What have been some of the most difficult times of your journey/schooling/ etc.?

I have not had any difficult times in the program to speak of. When you say yes to God, and let yourself indulge in the academics, it enhances your spirituality. SPIRITUAL GROWTH is the key in the journey.

What are you most looking forward to about your ordination?

The best thing about ordination is the dying of oneself and the rebirth to serving the Church.

See Ministry, p. 8

Immaculate Conception Fall Festival Goliad

October 19
Church Grounds

11:00 a.m. Barbecue Beef (Buffet Style) Dinner

1 p.m.: Auction

Music by Rusty Steins

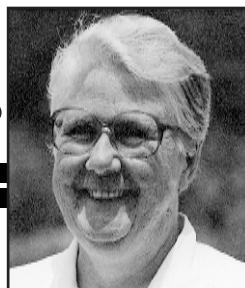
Lots of kids games, clowns and moonwalks





SISTERLY THOUGHTS

By Sister Mildred Truchard, IWBS



Autumn Reflections

As I write this, I am enjoying the crisp cooler air that the first front of the year has ushered in. Suddenly it's pleasant to be outdoors and the joys of a fall garden beckon me. Even more beneficial is the fact that there is so much wisdom that can be gleaned from garden reflections. No wonder Jesus used so many field metaphors in his parables. Let's look afresh at one of them and at some lessons that can be learned during the fall garden growing season.

One parable that readily comes to mind is that of the sower and the seed. Where the soil was properly prepared; the seeds sprang up and produced abundantly. Unfortunately, not all the seed had the same opportunity.

We all know how important it is to choose the proper site for our garden where the soil drains well and can be cultivated. We know how important it is to use fertilizer that has the correct pH and elements for our specific type of soil. Let us reflect upon ourselves as the soil; are we willing to allow ourselves to be drained of all that stifles God's action in our lives? Are we willing to let God cultivate us—even when it conflicts with what we would like to be or do. Are we willing to accept trials that challenge our specific weaknesses and help us develop into all that we were created to be? Are we willing to become



soil that produces abundantly?

Good soil provides moisture and nourishment; so as good soil, we are called to nurture the people that are placed about us. It's so easy to take those we love for granted and forget that they need our nurturing. Furthermore, another function of good soil is to support and anchor the plants in its midst; do we provide Christian support for those about us who need us—especially in times of trial, misfortune, or weakness?

So, let us use our gardening chores as opportunity to reflect on the lessons that Jesus tried to teach in his parables. Let the hope that springs up in the gardener at planting time each year permeate all aspects of our being and be transformed into that spiritual hope which sustains us in life's bleaker moments. Let the

lessons in patience—that waiting and watching for signs of life and growth promote—slow us down enough so that we can take time to see and hear God speak to us through the marvels of nature. And let us be filled with the wonder of God's creating power as we team up with God to produce fruit of the earth. Whether you are tending large fields or orchards, a backyard vegetable garden, a small flower bed, or several plants in containers, may you enjoy happy gardening with ample time for reflection.

Our Lady of Lourdes Annual Fall Festival • Nov. 9 at the Victoria Community Center

Featuring Our Famous Traditional Turkey and Dressing Dinner

@ \$7 p/p for Adults • \$3 p/p for children 12 and under
Serving from 11:00 a.m. to 1:30 p.m.
Plates-to-go @ \$7 p/p drive-up outside or pick-up inside
starting at 10:30 a.m.

Live Auction • 12:30 p.m.

Quilts • Antiques • Crafts • Collectibles
Silent Auction • 10 a.m.-3 p.m.

Large Arts & Crafts Booth • Country Store • Kolaches •
Cakewalk • Children's Games • B-B-Q on Buns • Nachos •
Soft Drinks • Bucket-of-Luck (booths open at 10 a.m.)



Women's Retreat Oct. 18 in Edna

The Victoria Diocesan Council of Catholic Women (VDCCW) is making plans for its annual mini-retreat to be held on Saturday, October 18.

The ladies of St. Agnes Parish in Edna will host the event. Father Michael Petering, newly appointed VDCCW moderator since the retirement of Father Michael O'Shaughnessy, invites all of the ladies of the Victoria Diocese to attend and become spiritually renewed while enjoying fellowship.

Those attending will have the opportunity to bid at a silent auction to be held as the CCW fund-raiser. Items are welcomed!

Registration will be held at St. Agnes Parish Hall from 8:30 – 9:00 a.m. along with refreshments. There is no fee to attend. The day will include spiritual reflections, Mass and lunch. The retreat will close at 1:45 p.m.

For more information, please call Janice Ohrt at (361) 575-2056.

dues-paying members in NCCW is critical at this place in history towards our very existence."

Therefore the women of Victoria Diocese are encouraged to become individual members for \$25 a year. This membership includes a copy of the bimonthly "Catholic Woman" magazine, and through the daily activities of the NCCW we are represented nationally on every important Catholic issue: we have a physical presence at the U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops' meetings and at the World Union of Catholic Women's Organizations and we partner and support programs with Catholic Relief Services, Catholic Charities, and other Catholic organizations.

The Catholic women of the Victoria Diocese are thanked for their continued parish affiliation dues and asked to please consider individual membership as well. At this time in history, we are called to secure the future of the National Council of Catholic Women. For information about individual membership and forms, please call Janice Ohrt at 575-2056.

Bishops issue ritual book for 'quinceanera' celebrations

WASHINGTON (CNS) -- "Quinceanera," the coming-of-age celebration for girls turning 15 years old, has long been a tradition in Latino families in the United States and a number of Spanish-speaking countries as a rite of passage from childhood to adolescence. The custom expresses thanksgiving to God for the gift of life and asks for a blessing for the years ahead.

National Council of Catholic Women members will observe November 20, 2008, as a Day of Fasting to stand in solidarity with hungry people around the world. The Victoria Diocese is encouraged to participate in this somber event in each parish.

The Victoria Diocese continues to support the Council of Catholic Women by paying parish affiliation dues. Our diocesan participation has been praised as the diocese in our province with the most NCCW support by parish affiliations.

The treasurer of NCCW, Debra Van Mele, has recently stated "the mode we have known for many years – membership through parish affiliation – is the foundation of our activities, but it can no longer solely sustain the financial foundation of the National Council of Catholic Women. The growth of our base of individual

WASHINGTON (CNS) -- "Quinceanera," the coming-of-age celebration for girls turning 15 years old, has long been a tradition in Latino families in the United States and a number of Spanish-speaking countries as a rite of passage from childhood to adolescence. The custom expresses thanksgiving to God for the gift of life and asks for a blessing for the years ahead. On Sept. 19 the U.S. bishops published the bilingual "Order of the Blessing on the Fifteenth Birthday," designed to help U.S. communities celebrate this ritual within and outside Mass, according to an announcement on its release. In a statement Jesuit Father Allan Deck, executive director of the USCCB's Secretariat of Cultural Diversity in the Church, emphasized the importance of developing a ritual that "helps Latino Catholics celebrate their cultural heritage and build new bridges to other Catholics in their communities." The "quinceanera" ritual book may be ordered online at www.usccb.org.

Ministry ... journey ... my story

Continued from p. 7

Do you have children? How many / how old are they?

Becky and I have two children. Jordan, age 27, and Haley, age 24.

My advice to someone considering the ministry of the diaconate is, if you have school-age children, wait until they have finished high school. Be unconditionally willing to sacrifice your personal time. If you feel that desire in your heart to serve, then call Father Gabriel in Moulton.

What is your profession/job? How has your journey/ministry affected your work?

I am the Wharton County Tax Assessor Collector, and my wife is a medical transcriptionist. This journey has had a positive impact on my employees. They tell me that I approach problems in the office completely different, and they are willing to share personal problems with me.

Any special thoughts? Stories?

Earlier I mentioned that I did not know where Moulton, Texas, was. I think I could get there in my sleep now! The relationship that is established with my fellow

**Pray for
Vocations**



New youth director, Kris, and her "helper-husband," Greg Hermes, are welcomed by parochial vicar, Father Michael Rother (l.); and pastor, Father John Peters (r.).

Sacred Heart hires youth director

HALLETTSVILLE—After months of searching, networking and interviewing, Sacred Heart Catholic Church in Hallettsville hired Kris Hermes as its youth director. She helped Father Bryan Heyer, the associate pastor at the time, get something started in the parish for the youth four years ago.

The program grew from a humble beginning with only six high school students to currently 25-30 high school students on a regular basis attending events that range from social gatherings and diocesan sanctioned events to leading an hour of adoration for the parish.

Before this past summer, Kris never thought of being in the lead position and today would rather remain out of the limelight.

She was a natural choice because she grew up in Hallettsville at Sacred Heart and has remained involved in parish life as a teacher in CCD for the past nine years and as a member of our Christian Mothers.

She is the sales manager for Blahuta Advertising, a family business in Hallettsville, and is active in the community with various organizations.

When she finally accepted God's call and requested an interview, there was one stipulation. She said that she would only do it as a joint effort with her husband, Greg. He too was with the program from its humble beginnings and has remained highly involved. They see the ministry as a God-given vocation and as a duty stemming from their baptismal promise to live a Christian life and spread the Gospel of Christ. For them, it is a family affair and

is all about the youth and strengthening their walk with our Lord.

Both have attended an ACTS retreat and they certainly exemplify the acronym's meaning: Adoration, Community, Theology and especially Service to their parish.

We at Sacred Heart are excited to see Kris accept this position and look forward to strengthening the youth in the parish with both Kris and Greg.

By Cynthia Brewer

After 13 years' employment with the Diocese of Victoria, Jo Ann Martinez, administrative assistant with the Office of Youth and Young Adult Ministry, has resigned.

With this change, the office created a new position: Associate Youth Director. The new position was filled by José Ortega on Sept. 10, 2008. José will be responsible for assisting the director of youth ministry in implementing the goals and vision of the Diocesan Youth and Young Adult Ministry Office.

José's background has always involved



Jo Ann Martinez at her going-away party.

youth ministry. Upon graduating from high school, he served with Net Ministries in Canada from 2001-2003. After that he began working as part-time youth minister at Our Lady of Victory Cathedral, where he served for two years. A full-time youth minister position opened at Our Lady of Sorrows Parish in Victoria in 2005. He was employed in that position with OLS for two and one-half years before becoming the associate youth director for the diocese.

"I'm definitely looking forward to serving the church," said Jose in an interview with *The Catholic Lighthouse*, "and to serve God ministering to the youth of

the diocese."

"I'm looking forward to the plans God has for me in this position, networking with the youth ministers and priests throughout the diocese," he said.

José is 26 years old and has been married to his wife, Kim, for four years. Of Kim, José says, "She has been vital as a strong supporter for all that I do, especially with youth ministry."

Debbie Vanelli, the director of the Youth and Young Adult office, wishes Jo Ann all the best in her future endeavors and is also very excited about the gifts and enthusiasm José brings to this position.

José can be reached at jortega@victoriadiocese.org and 361-573-0828 ext 50.



José Ortega



YOUTH DECLARE VICTORY—Members of St. Robert's Youth Group attended the Declare Victory!! High School Lock-in/Retreat in Hallettsville August 23. The event was hosted by the Sacred Heart Youth Group with the Josh Blakesley Band. The weekend included icebreakers/games, adoration and reconciliation, a live concert and a Mass celebrated by Bishop Fellhauer. The Blakesley Band has led music for the past 10 years at various Steubenville Youth Conferences throughout the U.S. and has worked with the Catholic Heart Work Camps and Life Teen Camps. Over 150 teens came to the retreat from all over the Diocese of Victoria. Pictured: Youth Minister Elisa Garcia (L), (front, L-R) Gabby Martinez, Crisanta Canales, Laura Echeverria and Jackie Leal; and (back, L-R) Ben Prochazka, Marcus Garcia, Roberto Torres and Jacob Gonzalez-Medina.

Jr. High Fiesta

Catholic to the Core

Sunday, November 9, 2008

Grades 6-8th
Holy Family Catholic Church

Mike Patin uses energy, humor and stories to affirm the goodness of God's presence among us while inviting others (and himself) to take the "next step" in our journey with God.

Mike has had the privilege of speaking in over 95 dioceses, to groups ranging from 10 to 10,000. He has addressed youth, adult and intergenerational (family) audiences in diocesan, regional, national and international settings. Mike Patin lives in Lafayette, LA, with his wife, Marlene, and his daughter, Megan.

For more information contact your parish coordinator or Debbie Vanelli at the Office of Youth & Young Adult Ministry (361)573-0828, dvaneli@victoriadiocese.org.

Doors open at 11:00 a.m., Program begins at 11:30 a.m. and concludes with Liturgy.

Lunch is provided

Snack bar available through the day!

Liturgy begins at 5:00 p.m.

Early Registration Deadline:
Thursday, November 6, 2008

\$15.00 per-person
\$12.00 per-person Group Rate (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 6, 2008



Deacon Wearden read the first Scripture reading and Psalms, while Msgr. Hermes read the Gospel. Bishop Fellhauer then sprinkled the new addition and its religious, decorative pieces with Holy Water.

Each of the new decorative items in the addition was selected carefully by Gary Rangnow to evoke spiritual sentiments of the resurrection, attained only through Jesus Christ.

The central, and one of the most striking additions is the life-size Resurrected Christ etched in green marble that is built into the south wall of the Chapel Alcove.

"The base-relief of the Resurrected Christ can be seen through the front glass doors of the mausoleum as you approach the building," Gary told those in attendance.



Catholic Daughters traveled from all towns within the diocese Sept. 7 to congratulate Libby Ramirez on becoming the CDA National Regent. Above, l. to r., are CDA members from Court Mary Queen of the Snows, #1588, of Columbus: Christi Kuhn, Darice Miksch, Libby Ramirez, Regent Ruth Kunz and Susan Archuleta, financial secretary.

Libby Ramirez honored as Regent of National CDA

Libby Ramirez, CDA National Regent, was congratulated on her achievement by CDA regents from throughout the Diocese of Victoria Sept. 7, 2008.

The congratulatory reception was hosted by Libby's home court, Victoria's St. Ann No. 369, at the Knights of Columbus Hall in Victoria.

Catholic Daughters from throughout the diocese, as well as state and national officers attended. Eve Trevino, state treasurer from Corpus Christi pointed out

Mausoleum expansion celebrated

Continued from p. 1

In the Salvation Wing (east wall) is one of the most beautiful pieces of art to be added to the mausoleum, a three by five foot, three-dimensional, hand-carved, framed feature depicting the death of St. Joseph, with Mary and Jesus by his side.

Under this feature is a three-foot fountain with pebbles the color of which complement the colors of the feature. The soft, gurgling sounds of the fountain reminds one of the living waters flowing from Christ.

In the Ascension Wing (west wall) is a nine-foot, solid Mesquite-wood cross, handcrafted and donated by Paul Adams and his family.

The existing mausoleum had in-floor ducts that needed to be sealed; therefore,

Gary felt it was a good opportunity to provide a means of tying the old and the new together by installing marble flooring etched with Bible quotes relating to the decorative features. Rev. 21:6 speaks of Christ as the Alpha and the Omega who will give the gift of life-giving water. Rev. 21:4 speaks of the resurrection when every



Top: Msgr. Hermes reads the Gospel in front of the "Risen Christ" wall; right: Worshipers stand in front of the nine-foot Mesquite wood cross; middle: Gary Rangnow explains the features of the new crypts.

tear will be wiped from their eyes; and Rev. 22:14 speaks of the tree of life.

Stained glass for the end wall of each wing was procured and matched to the glass in the original section of the mausoleum by stain glass-artist Lethie Albrecht and her husband Ronnie.

Examples of a single and a double crypt, which have been purchased and engraved with the owners' names, were available for everyone to view. The crypts in the new expansion have the names and dates engraved upon them as a sign of permanence, rather than the glued on letters of the crypts in the original part of the mausoleum.

One of the main improvements to the whole mausoleum was the addition of air-conditioning, which everyone in attendance thought was a fantastic enhancement.

Nineteen months passed from the original meeting until the completion of the expansion. "It has been a project, well worth the time and effort, that will provide a place of respect and dignity for our deceased families in the Victoria area," said Gary, "and it will complement the Catholic Cemeteries of the Victoria Diocese."



NA ASSISTS DISPLACED HURRICANE VICTIMS—Following Hurricane Ike, which hit the Galveston/Houston area September 13, Nazareth Academy learned through the Victoria Advocate, as well as NewsCenter25, that approximately 90 individuals from Texas City had taken shelter at Hearthstone Assisted Living Center. Concerned with their wellbeing after the devastation of Hurricane Ike, Nazareth Academy students initiated a clothing drive for these individuals in need. The response was tremendous. Special thanks to all who participated in donating clothing. Pictured from left are 8th Grader Ashley Kolar; Laura DeLeon, Marketing Director of Hearthstone; Cindy Kristek, director and general manager of Hearthstone; and 8th Grader Madalynn Kainer.



**Bishop Fellhauer
Christmas Dinner**

Save the Date

Saturday, December 13, 2008

**Spiritual Renewal Center
718 Gussie Schmidt Rd
Victoria, Texas**

More information to follow.....



NEW RECTORY BLESSED—Holy Family Parish in Victoria held the blessing of its new rectory, located just behind the parking lot of the church, on September 7, 2008. The new house, just like all of the parish's buildings has been paid in full and the parish is debt-free. The original rectory was located about a mile away from the current church; now Father Greg Korenek (pastor) and Msgr. Peter Agbenu can walk to work (church). Inset: Bishop Fellhauer blesses the rectory, while its occupant priests stand in the background.



NEW OFFICERS INSTALLED—The Serra Club of Victoria held their installation of new officers recently at Colony Creek Country Club. They were installed by District Governor John Stevenson. Seated, l.-r., JoAnn McCullough, Hardy McCullough, communications; Otto Bleier, president; and JoAnn Jalufka, vice president of programs. Standing, l.-r., John Stevenson, district govenor; David Wearden, president-elect; Dr. Mary Rea Finehout, membership; Jerome Janak, trustee; Mike Brown, vocations; Joe Morris, trustee; Dan Jalufka, vice president of programs; Charles Bluntzer, secretary; and Chris Krejci, treasurer. Not pictured Andrew Vasquez, trustee. Also, new members were recently installed by District Governor Stevenson; they were: Beth Hoffer, Christian Robinson, Judy Gillespie, Mark Westerman, Terry Robinson, Gilbert Melnar and Faye Melnar.



CATHOLIC DAUGHTERS FROM MOULTON VISIT RAPHAEL'S REFUGE—Catholic Daughters of the Americas Court No. 2018, from Moulton, visited Raphael's Refuge on Monday, September 15, 2008. After touring the chapel, the center of the Monument to the Innocents, the members enjoyed refreshments and joined in special prayers. The group donated \$50 to the project. "We are very grateful," said Midge Elam, Director, "as we are working hard to complete the construction. There are many expenses involved and we depend completely on donations. Raphael's Refuge is located two miles west of Flatonia — visitors are welcome during the day, seven days a week. There are 1,560 glass blocks, which form the chapel walls, 840 will be engraved with babies' names. When the long walls that will radiate outward from the chapel are constructed, thousand more blocks will be available for engraving. If interested in having a block engraved with the name of a baby who has died in infancy, or has been stillborn, miscarried, or aborted, contact Midge at 361-865-3021 (hm.), 361-258-1514 (cell), raphaelas@awesomenet.net, or 2715 W US Hwy 90, Flatonia, TX 78941. Pictured are CDA members, Father Joseph Kopp Court No. 2018, at prayer in the Chapel of the Innocents at Raphael's Refuge.



Bishop David Fellhauer blesses St. Ann's new pavilion and cemetery historical marker following a special Mass on the parish's feast day, July 26, the feast of Sts. Joachim and Ann. With Bishop Fellhauer, are parishioners, Father Matthew Huehlefeld, pastor; Deacon Louis Poth, altar servers Anna Catherine Adamek and Seth Adamek and Yoakum Fourth Degree Knights of Columbus.

Celebrations at Hochheim

HOCHHEIM—Each year St. Ann Parish, the little Church perched atop Hochheim Prairie, observes its patronal feast on July 26, the feast of Sts. Joachim and Ann, parents of Mary. This year — to coincide with several observances — the parish family gathered for a special Mass on Sunday, July 27, 2008, at 6:00 p.m. The presider was Bishop David E. Fellhauer (it was his first time to celebrate the Eucharist in the little church) who was assisted by Father Matthew Huehlefeld, pastor, and Deacon Louis Poth (a descendent of the original pioneering family who donated the land for the church and cemetery in 1906).

After Mass the community dedicated the Texas State Historical Marker for the St. Ann Cemetery (adjacent to the church). The Cemetery Historical Marker was a labor of love overseen by parishioners Jeanne Bitterly, Thomas and Roberta Wenzel and Anita Drozd. Attended by local DeWitt and Lavaca county dignitaries, and assisted by the Fourth Degree Knights of Columbus (Yoakum Assembly) and the Boy Scouts of America Troop #228 color

guard, the dedication of the marker took place immediately after Mass.

The final part of the festivities was the blessing and dedication of the new Parish Pavilion, which was recently completed. It serves as a gathering space for the parish family after Masses and for the Annual Feast Day. It also provides a restroom, storage area and kitchenette facility that will assist the parish family. Its decorative stucco front mirrors the stucco of the church and frames a large seven-foot diameter stained glass depiction of "Christ, Lord of All" with the inscription, *Dirige Nos Domine* (Direct Us, O Lord).

The small but dedicated parish family celebrates Mass each Sunday at 7:00 a.m. Their love and devotion for the little church on the prairie is reflected in their recent celebration and accomplishment.

The Catholic Lighthouse editor apologizes to St. Ann parishioners for misplacing their story and not printing it until the October issue.



ST. PHILIP RECEIVES \$1000 FROM KJT—The Catholic Union of Texas, The KJT, along with KJT Society #84 of El Campo, made a presentation to the St. Philip Catholic School in El Campo in the amount of \$1,000. The money was funded by the State KJT matching grant programs and an El Campo KJT bake sale. The money will be used in funding the school's growing computer programs. On hand to make the presentation were officers of El Campo Society #84, President Robert Leopold, Secretary Edward Dorotik, and Treasurer Leonard Leopold. Accepting the donation on behalf of the school were St. Philip's pastor, Father Gary Janak and St. Philip's School Principal Gwen Edwards. From left to right are Rev. Gary Janak, Gwen Edwards, Robert Leopold, Leonard Leopold and Edward Dorotik.



Former Colombian hostage says meeting pope was 'dream come true'

By Cindy Wooden
Catholic News Service

ROME (CNS) — Former Colombian hostage Ingrid Betancourt said it was "a dream come true" to meet Pope Benedict XVI.

Her voice still breaking with emotion a few hours after meeting the pope Sept. 1, Betancourt said she was fairly certain she broke Vatican protocol "because as soon as I went in, I hugged the pope and maybe I wasn't supposed to do that."

Betancourt, a former presidential candidate in Colombia, was freed by Colombian rebels in early July after more than six years as a hostage.

Immediately after her release she had said she wanted to meet Pope Benedict to thank him for his prayers and public appeals for her release.

Along with her mother, sister, her sister's children and a cousin, Betancourt spent 25 minutes with the pope at his summer villa in Castel Gandolfo. She spoke afterward at a press conference in Rome.

Jesuit Father Federico Lombardi, Vatican spokesman, told Vatican Radio the climate of the meeting was "very emotional."

"Her period as a prisoner was a time of great spiritual experience, of prayer, and so she really wanted to tell the Holy Father about the importance faith played in sustaining her during that very difficult period," Father Lombardi said.

Betancourt told reporters that during the audience she and the pope prayed together that God would "touch the hardened hearts, the cruel hearts" of the members



Freed Colombian hostage Ingrid Betancourt meets Pope Benedict XVI in a private audience, Sept. 1. The Catholic politician, who was abducted in 2002 while she was running for president of Colombia, had wanted to thank the pope for his support during her captivity. (CNS photo/L'Osservatore Romano via Reuters)

on the radio and I heard the voice of the pope saying my name. It was like a light and that is why, since the day of my liberation, I wanted to meet and embrace him."

She told reporters she and the pope also spoke about the Bible.

"Our pope is an immense, immense researcher and scholar of the Bible, this extraordinary instrument we have. Speaking with him, we concluded that it is necessary for people to know what the Bible is. For many people it is a dusty book that smells of mildew," she said.

"I had never read it before my kidnapping," Betancourt said. "In the jungle I read it and re-read it and found the answers to everything. It's a great book."

Her book is this month's puzzle contest prize.

of the Revolutionary Armed Forces of Colombia, or FARC, who continue to hold dozens of hostages.

She used the press conference to speak directly to her kidnappers: "The world is watching you. Open your hearts to something more than political and military calculations. Make room for peace in your minds."

Betancourt told the press that the pope listened to her story about her captivity and the sustenance she got from prayer and from reading the Bible, helping her see how sharing the story could benefit others.

"When I was in the jungle, they forced us to march from dawn to dusk, we were exhausted," she said. One day, at the end of a long trek through the jungle, "finally in my hammock, feeling deeply anguished, I turned

on the radio and I heard the voice of the pope saying my name. It was like a light and that is why, since the day of my liberation, I wanted to meet and embrace him."

She told reporters she and the pope also spoke about the Bible.

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Her book is this month's puzzle contest prize.

— FAMILY PUZZLE CONTEST —

SAINTLY POPES

www.wordgamesforcatholics.com

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

ANACLETUS
CALLISTUS I
CLEMENT I
CORNELIUS
DAMASUS I

FABIAN
GREGORY I
JOHN I
LEO I
LINUS

MARTIN I
PETER
PIUS X
SIXTUS II
SYLVESTER I

Family Puzzle Contest Winners

Victor Kahanek of St. Mary's Parish in Hallettsville is the September Family Puzzle Contest winner and has won "My Cousin the Saint" by Justin Catanoso and published by William Morrow.

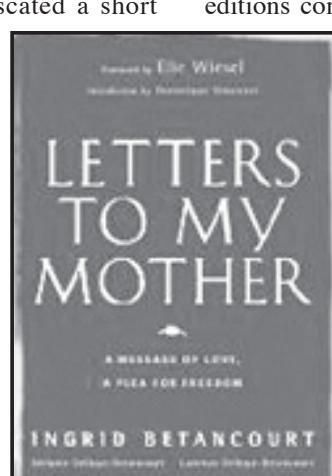
There were no youth contestants this month.

The winner of the October contest will win a copy of "Letters to My Mother – A message of Love, a plea for Freedom" by Ingrid Betancourt and published by Abrams Image. See review below.

If you have not won the puzzle contest within the past six months, please send completed puzzle, name, address, phone number and parish name by October 25 for a chance to win "Letters to My Mother." Send to: Family Contest, *The Catholic Lighthouse*, P.O. Box 4070, Victoria, TX 77903. Only youth need to include age.

"Letters to My Mother" to be contest prize

Ingrid Betancourt is a French-Colombian citizen who was captured on a Colombian road by the Colombian Revolutionary Armed Forces of Colombia (FARC) and held hostage by them since 2002. On December 1, 2007, during the arrest of several guerrillas in Bogotá, the Colombian police confiscated a short video clip of Betancourt. Accompanying the video was a 12-page letter, dated Oct. 24, 2007, written by Betancourt to her mother and family. This letter, a deeply moving prayer, is reproduced in "Letters to My Mother: A Message of Love, a Plea for Freedom," along with a response to Betancourt written by her two adult children, who have rallied public support for their mother's release since they were teenagers.



troubled humanity.

The book includes a preface by the Nobel Peace Prize Laureate Elie Wiesel. Originally released in January 2008 by French publisher Le Seuil, the book was a number one bestseller and has quickly attracted international attention, with editions coming out in Spain, Italy, the Netherlands, Greece, Portugal and throughout Latin America. Betancourt's letter to her mother – printed in English, French and Spanish – is an impassioned declaration of love to those dearest to her and an inspiring statement of courage in the face of barbarity.

"Letters to My Mother" is published by Abrams Image and costs \$14.95. It can be purchased on the Web at many sites.

"Letters to My Mother" will be the October Family Puzzle Contest prize. If you have not won the puzzle contest in the past six months, please send in completed puzzle by Oct. 25 to *The Catholic Lighthouse* for a chance to win. It may also be purchased on the Web at Amazon.com and Barnes and Noble.

St. Michael's School, Cuero

Fall Festival

Sunday, October 26

Chicken-fried Steak Dinner
with green beans, potatoes, tea and dessert

\$6.50 each with dine-in or take-out

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

Live Auction
12:30 p.m.

Costume Contest
3:00 p.m.

Bingo

Country Store

Silent Auction

Raffle Tickets
\$10 donation

Children's Booths

Cake and Toy Walk
Noon to 3:00 p.m.

Tickets available from any St. Michael student, school office or parish office

All Proceeds Benefit St. Michael School



"The Unborn Child"

The experts tell us to speak to the child, while it is still in its mother's womb. They tell us to say different things, and then feel how the baby will move. They say that if we read to the child, each and every day, the baby will learn faster, than children whose parents had nothing to say. Some parents will play them music by Bach, in hopes that the child will grow up in a conductor's box. For it's said what the child hears before it is born, will help him in school as he goes along. The unborn child knows of his parents' love, from the moment of conception, — a gift from above.

Now that it's been established, that the unborn can hear, let me tell you something that should bring you to tears. Think about all the unborn, still in their mother's wombs, in silence they live, there are no tunes. There are no tapes playing, so they can get smart, but what they do hear tears at their hearts.

Their mothers are angry, and saying they don't care, they want the baby aborted, they have nothing to share.

That little bitty baby, holding on with all its might, knows that its mother is planning to take away its life. If she could only listen to what her baby would say, she surely would hear it screaming, please don't take my life away.

I want to be born, just like any other baby; please, please change your mind, don't even consider maybe.

I want to be born, and see what life has to give, if you would only do one thing; please just let me live.

How can you even consider about taking away my life, don't you know that this will haunt you, for the rest of your life? So please dear mommy, help me, don't end my life today. I am a gift from heaven, And in your womb I want to stay.

Donated by Gene Adamek of St. Mary Parish in Victoria to The Gabriel Project, an alternative to abortion.

Sunday readings from Oct. 12 to Nov. 16

October 12 —
28th Sunday in
Ordinary Time

Isaiah 25:6-10a
Psalm 23:1-3a, 3b-4, 5, 6
Philippians 4:12-14, 19-20
Matthew 22:1-14

October 19 —
29th Sunday in
Ordinary Time

Isaiah 45:1, 4-6
Psalm 96:1, 3, 4-5, 7-8, 9-10
1 Thessalonians 1:1-5b
Matthew 22:15-21

October 26 —
30th Sunday in
Ordinary Time

Exodus 22:20-26
Psalm 18:2-3, 3-4, 47, 51
1 Thessalonians 1:5c-10
Matthew 22:34-40

November 1 —
All Saints (not a holy
day of obligation, as
it falls on a Saturday)

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

November 2 —
All Souls

Isaiah 25:6, 7-9
Psalm 23:1-3a, 3b-4, 5, 6
Romans 6:3-9
John 6:37-40

November 9 —
Dedication of the
Lateran Basilica in Rome

Ezekiel 47:1-2, 8-9, 12
Psalm 46:2-3, 5-6, 8-9
1 Corinthians 3:9c-11, 16-17
John 2:13-22

November 16 —
33rd Sunday in
Ordinary Time

Proverbs 31:10-13, 19-20, 30-31
Psalm 128:1-2, 3, 4-5
1 Thessalonians 5:1-6
Matthew 25:14-30

Fireproof

By Harry Forbes
Catholic News Service

NEW YORK (CNS) — You fireproof your home; why not your marriage?

Such is the obvious but unobjectionable theme of "Fireproof" (Goldwyn), a modest but heartwarming drama from Sherwood Pictures, the Albany, Ga., church-based studio that made "Flywheel" and "Facing the Giants," all on remarkably small budgets with a largely volunteer cast and crew.

Their latest concerns a small-town fire captain, Caleb Holt (Kirk Cameron, the film's only name performer), whose marriage to Catherine (Erin Bethea), the PR director at the local hospital, is on the rocks. They've lost patience with one another. Catherine accuses him of spending all his time looking at "trash" (i.e., pornography) on the Internet. He, in turn, complains she no longer shops or cooks for him. He's saving up for a boat; she'd like to use that money

to make improvements on the house. Each feels disrespected.

Under the guidance of his born-again father, John (Harris Malcom), whose own marriage to Caleb's mother, Cheryl (Phyllis Malcom), had once been in trouble, Caleb reluctantly promises his father he'll follow the instructions in a journal called "The Love Dare," which saved the older couple's marriage, in



Kirk Cameron stars in a scene from the movie "Fireproof." (CNS photo/Goldwyn)

order to rescue his own seven-year union.

Catherine remains obstinately unyielding, and disparages Caleb's sincere proffering of morning coffee, flowers, a candlelight dinner and sickbed duty, thinking he's merely buttering her up for better divorce terms. She's further reluctant to reconcile, as she's in thrall to the smarmy attentions of Dr. Gavin Keller (Perry Revell) at work.

The film is nicely if simply shot by directors Alex and Stephen Kendrick, though their script is not unlike a TV soap opera. The message that marriage is grounded in the knowledge that God loves us with all our faults — and so should we love our spouse — is incontrovertible, but it's clear the story is merely a vehicle for conveying

that message.

The script would also seem to imply that only committed Christians can have successful marriages, whereas from a Catholic perspective, marriage is a natural union as well as a sacramental one among the baptized.

Occasionally, the didactic tone goes over the top, as when Caleb takes to his computer and monitor — source of those alluring porno sites — with a baseball bat, rather than, say, exercising a little self-restraint. This comes on the heels of his father warning him about dangerous "parasites" — gambling and drugs included — to which one's heart can become addicted.

Though strongly evangelical, rather than Catholic, in tone — there are no references to the sacramental nature of marriage, and the approach to conversion is shown to be typically instantaneous — the stress on permanence, fidelity, forgiveness and reconciliation (as well as faith in a loving God) resonates well not only with Catholic belief and teaching but also with the pro-marriage campaign of the U.S. bishops. Details of the campaign can be found online at www.foryourmarriage.org.

Predictable though the film's outcome is, you'll be forgiven for a lump in the throat by the time of the sentimental fade-out.

The film contains domestic discord, extramarital flirtation and pornography references. The USCCB Office for Film & Broadcasting classification is A-II — adults and adolescents. The Motion Picture Association of America rating is PG — parental guidance suggested. Some material may not be suitable for children.

Forbes is director of the Office for Film & Broadcasting of the U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops. More reviews are available online at www.usccb.org/movies.

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50th Anniversary of Pope Pius XII's Death

By Margherita Marchione, author of "Did Pope Pius XII Help the Jews?"



On October 9, 2008, the 50th anniversary of the death of Pius XII, pilgrims from many parts of the world will join His Holiness Pope Benedict XVI as he celebrates Mass in St. Peter's Basilica.

People were awakened in Rome soon after dawn as Church bells tolled on Thursday the 9th of October, 1958. Eugenio Pacelli's career had ended. The Italian Government ordered three days of national mourning in Rome. Not only were Italian flags at half-staff, but all theatres and amusement places were closed. Pius XII died at 3:52 a.m., in a plain white iron bed, overhung with a white canopy, in his room on the second floor of the Papal villa in Castelgandolfo, his summer residence. He was the 262nd Pope, the leader of the world's almost 500 million Catholics during one of the most burdensome times in the 2,000-year history of the Catholic Church. His was a brilliant and energetic career as Pope for 19 years and 7 months.

During the hours he lay in state in Castelgandolfo, mourners filled the main square in front of the building as well as roads leading from the countryside. A motorcade proceeded along the Appian Way. Carlo Tei, who now resides in Hong Kong, wrote (March 12, 2008): "As a young student in

Rome, I joined the procession of the people accompanying the body of the Pontiff, from Castelgandolfo to the Vatican. We all felt we were accompanying a 'Saint' to the Holy city, the new and eternal Jerusalem."

Pius XII's body was taken first to the Basilica of St. John Lateran, the Pope's titular church in his capacity as Bishop of Rome. Then it was taken in solemn procession to the Vatican where he lay in state for three days under Michelangelo's gigantic dome in the Basilica of St. Peter. From 6 a.m.

on October 11th when the bronze doors of St. Peter's Basilica were opened to 8 p.m. when they were closed, thousands upon thousands of mourners walked around the pontiff's bier. This continued until noon of October 13th.

Deep emotion was evident and many shed tears as they passed near Pope Pius XII's corpse. People of all races knelt in prayer. Nine solemn funeral Masses were sung in St. Peter's Basilica. On

the 13th, the doors were closed at noon to prepare for the funeral ceremonies which began at 4 p.m. Representatives from governments around the world and diplomats accredited to the Holy See

were present, as well as his family and Sister Pascalina, who served him for forty years. During the singing of the "Miserere" the Pope's body was removed from the catafalque and placed in a strong box of cypress. A white silk mask was placed over his face and hands. At his feet a red velvet purse containing a sample of each coin and medal struck by the Vatican during the Pope's reign, which would serve as identification centuries later.

For the 50th anniversary of Pius XII's death, a new book, "The Truth Will Set You Free" (Paulist Press, 2008), by Margherita Marchione, challenges everyone to learn the truth and speak out courageously.



POPE PIUS XII — Footnotes to the Vatican document "We Remember: A Reflection on the Shoah" defended the diplomacy of Pope Pius XII during World War II. The pope has often been criticized by some Jewish groups as too timid in his criticism of Nazi actions. (CNS file photo)

sensibilities and those of Catholics worldwide. The caption states that Pope Pius refused to sign a 1942 Allied condemnation of the massacre of the Jews. Archbishop

Top Vatican official: Documents show Pius XII worked to help Jews

ROME (CNS) — Thousands of Vatican documents demonstrate that Pope Pius XII worked quietly but effectively to help Jews and others during World War II, a top Vatican official said. Cardinal Tarcisio Bertone, the Vatican secretary of state, said June 5, 2007, that the documentation of papal charity is the most convincing response to the "black legend" that has depicted the late pope as indifferent toward the victims of Nazism. The cardinal said a fair reading of history must recognize "the enormous work of charity that the pope promoted, by opening the doors of seminaries and religious institutes, welcoming refugees and the persecuted, and helping all."

Cardinal Bertone made the comments in Rome at the presentation of the book, "Pius XII, Eugenio Pacelli: A Man on the Throne of Peter," by Italian journalist Andrea Tornielli. The cardinal's lengthy talk came four weeks after the Vatican's Congregation for Saints' Causes declared that the late pope heroically lived the Christian virtues and recommended Pope Benedict XVI advance Pope Pius' sainthood cause. The cardinal did not refer directly to Pope Pius' sainthood cause, but he described the pope as a shining example of personal holiness and said his pontificate was "long, fruitful and, in my opinion, heroic."

Jewish leader says Pope Pius XII has been demonized falsely

By Carol Glatz
Catholic News Service

ROME (CNS) — Pope Pius XII has been demonized and his legacy of helping Jews during World War II has been poisoned by inaccurate and incomplete historical accounts, said the Jewish founder and president of Pave the Way Foundation.

"We have to change history" and tell the world the truth about this wartime pope "who saved so many lives," Gary Krupp, foundation president, told Catholic News Service.

He spoke at the start of a Sept. 15-17 symposium that studied the papacy of Pope Pius and unveiled new evidence of the pope's hidden acts and orders aimed at saving Jews from the Nazis.

The symposium, sponsored by the U.S.-based foundation, featured Catholic and Jewish speakers and video footage of interviews with people who were saved from the Holocaust through the church's intervention.

"The scholars, the historians have failed, they've simply failed over the last 45 years" to retrieve and present firsthand accounts from eyewitnesses, Holocaust survivors, diplomats and archival material, Krupp said.

Some authors also have based their accounts not on facts, but opinions and "nonsense" which "are poisoning the memory of this man," Krupp said.

He told CNS Sept. 15 he grew up hating Pope Pius, thinking the pontiff did nothing to stop the slaughter of 6 million Jews.

But years later, he was shocked to discover through his own amateur research that the pope had been far more active in directing a clandestine network of safe houses for people escaping Nazi persecution through the church's religious orders, communities, convents and seminaries in Europe.

He said experience showed that if a European leader was outspoken against Nazi persecution, it did nothing to reverse the injustices. On the contrary, it resulted in accelerated or widened persecution of the Jews and those speaking out on their behalf, he said. Therefore, keeping the pope and the church's good works hidden was crucial, he said.

Krupp said the time has come for the world "to forgive Pius XII for not talking the talk but truly command him for walking the walk."

After sending 'strong signal,' nuncio attends Holocaust ceremony

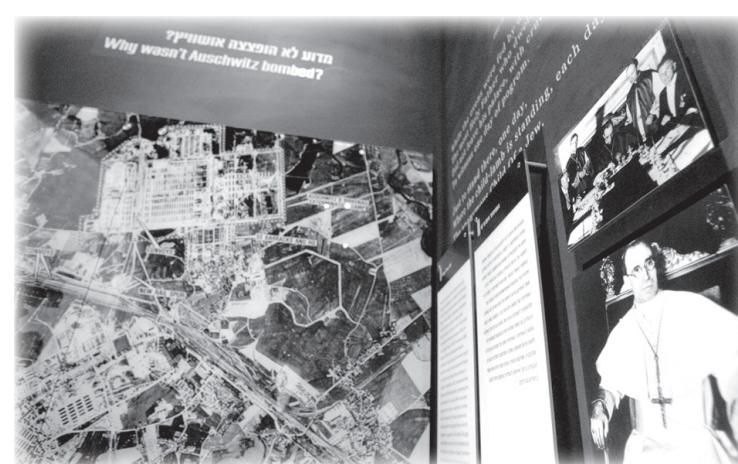
JERUSALEM (CNS) — In a reversal of an earlier decision, the papal nuncio to Israel attended a Yad Vashem Holocaust Memorial ceremony after receiving a personal letter from the memorial's chairman. Archbishop Antonio Franco said he decided to attend the ceremony April 15, the eve of Holocaust Remembrance Day, after receiving assurances from Chairman Avner Shalev regarding the memorial's willingness to review any new documentation regarding Pope Pius XII's actions during the Holocaust. Archbishop Franco said his earlier announcement that he would not attend the ceremony was meant to be a "strong signal" of the need to

reconsider the way Pius XII is presented at Yad Vashem." He said the depiction of the World War II-era pope in a photo caption at the museum was offensive to his

sensibilities and those of Catholics worldwide. The caption states that Pope Pius refused to sign a 1942 Allied condemnation of the massacre of the Jews. Archbishop

Franco said his intention had not been to dissociate himself from the commemoration or to "make a polemic statement" but to "reach an aim of consideration" of how the pope is presented.

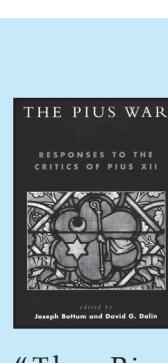
IMAGE OF POPE PIUS XII SEEN AT HOLOCAUST MEMORIAL — An image depicting Pope Pius XII is seen displayed at the Yad Vashem Holocaust Memorial in Jerusalem April 15. Archbishop Antonio Franco, the Vatican ambassador to Israel, had asked the museum to change the photo caption, which he said was offensive to him and to Catholics worldwide. (CNS photo/Yonathan Weitzman, Reuters).



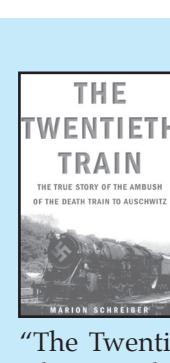
"Shepherd of Souls: A Pictorial Life of Pope Pius XII" by Sister Margherita Marchione



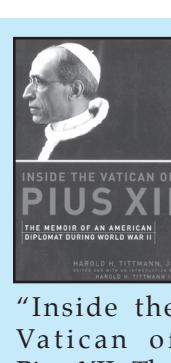
"The Yellow Star: The Persecution of the Jews in Europe, 1933-1945" by Gerhard Schoenberger



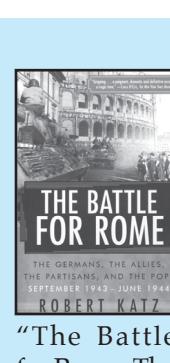
"The Pius War: Responses to the Critics of Pius XII" edited by Joseph Bottum and David G. Dalin



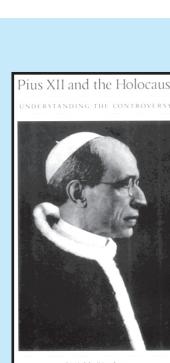
"The Twentieth Train: The True Story of the Ambush of the Death Train to Auschwitz" by Marion Schreiber



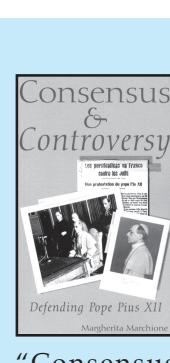
"Inside the Vatican of Pius XII: The Memoir of an American Diplomat During World War II" by Harold H. Tittmann Jr.



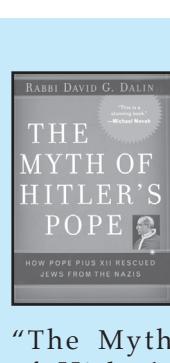
"The Battle for Rome: The Germans, the Allies, the Partisans and the Pope, September 1943-June 1944" by Robert Katz



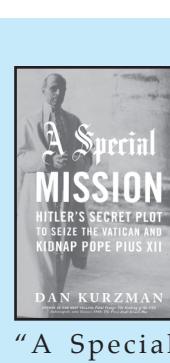
"Pius XII and the Holocaust: Understanding the Controversy" by Jose M. Sanchez



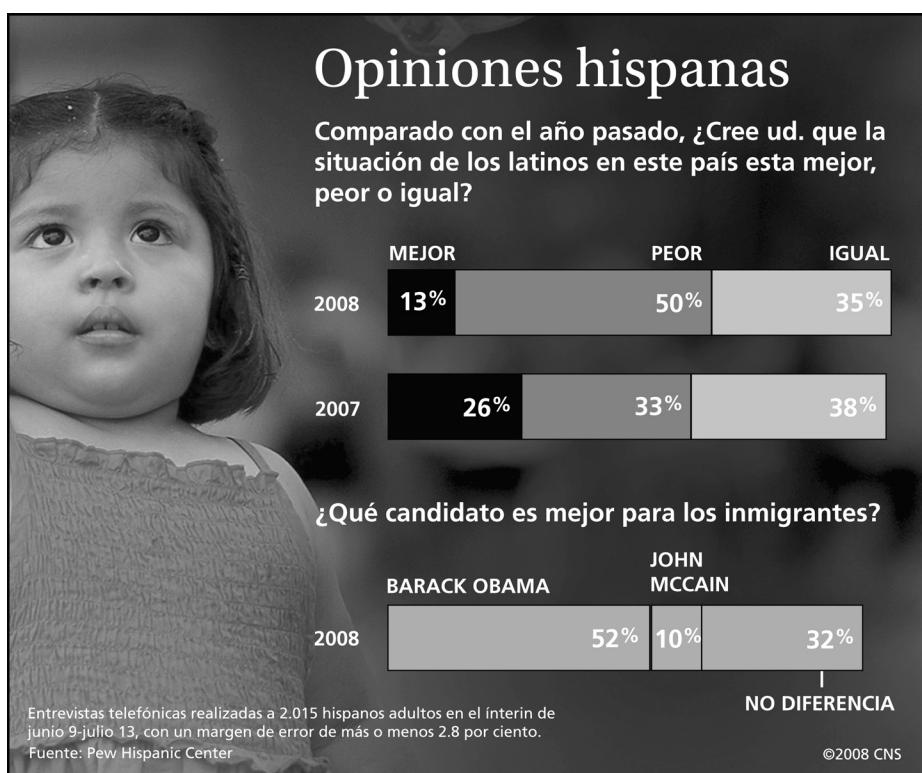
"Consensus and Controversy: Defending Pope Pius XII" by Margherita Marchione



"The Myth of Hitler's Pope: How Pope Pius XII Rescued Jews From the Nazis" by Rabbi David G. Dalin



"A Special Mission: Hitler's Secret Plot to Seize the Vatican and Kidnap Pope Pius XII" by Dan Kurzman



Capitol Comments: Una carta a los feligreses en relación con la ciudadanía fiel parte 1

Por: Andrew Rivas
Executive Director,
Texas Catholic Conference

Queridas Hermanas y Hermanos en Cristo:

Al acercarse las elecciones de noviembre, los Obispos Católicos de Texas animan a todos los católicos a ejercer el privilegio importante y la responsabilidad como ciudadanos de votar. La Iglesia Católica no apoya a ningún candidato específico ni ningún partido político. Sin embargo, sí apoya principios importantes mencionados por la Conferencia de Obispos de EEUU en el documento: "Ciudadanía Fiel". En este documento se incluyen los siguientes temas que se deben considerar:

1. Protección de la Vida Humana. Nuestra declaración de 1998: Vivir el Evangelio de la Vida declara: "El aborto y la eutanasia han llegado a ser una amenaza preeminentes a la vida y dignidad humanas porque atacan directamente la vida misma, el bien más fundamental y la condición para todos los demás" (núm. 5). El aborto, el matar deliberadamente a un ser humano antes de nacer, nunca es moralmente aceptable y siempre se le debe oponer. El clonar y el destruir embriones humanos para la investigación o aún para posibles curaciones es siempre malo. El quitar a propósito la vida humana por medio de la cooperación voluntaria al suicidio y la eutanasia no es una obra de misericordia, sino un asalto injustificable a la vida humana. El genocidio, la tortura, y el atentar directa e indirectamente contra personas no combatientes en la Guerra ni en actos terroristas son siempre malos.

2. Promoción de la Vida Humana. La familia es la célula básica de la sociedad humana. La función, responsabilidades y necesidades de las familias deberían ser el centro de las prioridades nacionales. El Matrimonio debe definirse, reconocerse, y protegerse como un compromiso de por vida entre un hombre y una mujer y como la fuente de la siguiente generación y el asilo protector de los niños. Las normas para los impuestos, el trabajo, el divorcio, la inmigración y el bienestar deberían ayudar a las familias a mantenerse unidas y recompensar la responsabilidad y el sacrificio por los hijos. Los Salarios deberían permitirles a los trabajadores mantener a su familia y debería ofrecerse ayuda pública a familias pobres para que vivan con dignidad. Tal ayuda debe ofrecerse de tal manera que promueva eventualmente

la autonomía financiera.

3. El Buscar la Justicia Social. Las decisiones e instituciones económicas deberían evaluarse según protegen o debilitan la dignidad humana de la persona. Las políticas sociales y económicas deberían promover para todos los que puedan trabajar, la creación de trabajos en condiciones decentes y con salarios justos. Las barreras que impiden la igualdad en el trabajo y en el salario, para las mujeres y para quienes enfrentan injustamente la discriminación, deben abolirse. La doctrina social católica apoya el derecho de los trabajadores para decidir si quieren organizarse, pertenecer a una unión y hacer tratos colectivos, y ejercer estos derechos sin represalias. También afirma la libertad económica, la iniciativa y el derecho a la propiedad privada. Los trabajadores, propietarios, patrones y uniones deben trabajar unidos para crear trabajos decentes, construir una economía más justa y avanzar el bien común.

4. El Practicar la Solidaridad Global. Un mundo más justo será probablemente un mundo más pacífico, un mundo menos vulnerable al terrorismo y a otras violencias. Estados Unidos tiene la responsabilidad de tomar el liderazgo para enfrentar el escándalo de la pobreza y del subdesarrollo. Nuestra nación debería ayudar a humanizar la globalización respondiendo a sus consecuencias negativas y repartiendo sus beneficios, especialmente entre los pobres del mundo. Estados Unidos también tiene la oportunidad singular de usar su poder junto con otros países para construir un mundo más justo y más pacífico.

Les pedimos que usen los principios cristianos para evaluar a los diferentes candidatos y lo que cada uno aportará en servicio de nuestro gobierno. También les pedimos que consideren los siguientes derechos y deberes como parte de la formación para su buena conciencia.

El Derecho y el Deber de Votar. Los católicos tienen los mismos derechos y deberes que los demás ciudadanos, pero están llamados a cumplirlos a la luz de la verdad de la fe y de la razón como lo enseña la Iglesia Católica. Por ejemplo, están llamados a respetar la autoridad humana y a obedecer a aquellos que gobiernan la sociedad "por la causa del Señor" (1 Pe 2, 13-17).

Para más información, visite la página web de la Conferencia de Obispos Católicos de Estados Unidos sobre Ciudadanía Fiel en www.FaithfulCitizenship.org.

Asistencia de Desempleo por Desastre de Huracán

Los trabajadores afectados por el Huracán Ike tienen 30 días para solicitar beneficios

familia.

Los reclamos radicados después del miércoles, 15 de Octubre de 2008, se considerarán tardes a menos que el individuo proporcione motivo justificado para radicar su reclamo después de esta fecha.

Un individuo debe proporcionar su número de Seguro Social, una copia de la más reciente declaración de impuestos federales o talones de cheques, o documentación que demuestra que estaba trabajando o trabajando por su propia cuenta cuando ocurrió el desastre. Para recibir los beneficios de DUA, se debe proporcionar toda documentación dentro de los 21 días después de haber sometido la solicitud para beneficios de DUA.

Para radicar un reclamo para DUA, puede visitar al <http://www.texasworkforce.org> o llamar al Tele-Centro de TWC más cercano, lunes a viernes, desde las 8 a.m. hasta las 5 p.m., Tiempo Central Oficial, al 800.939.6631.

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El Paso local: (915) 832-6400

San Antonio local: (210) 258-6600

Fort Worth local: (817) 420-1600

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Servicios para volver a emplear son disponibles por medio de los centros locales de la fuerza laboral o con visitar al <http://www.WorkInTexas.com> para más información.

La Comisión de Fuerza Laboral de Texas es una agencia estatal dedicada a ayudarle a los empleadores/patrones, trabajadores y comunidades Texanas a prosperar económicamente. Para obtener detalles sobre la TWC y los programas que ofrece junto con su red de consejos locales de desarrollo de fuerza laboral, llame al (512) 463-8556 o visite www.texasworkforce.org.

Rito Para Celebración De Quince Años Se Publicará En Septiembre

WASHINGTON— El ritual para la Bendición al Cumplir Quince Años, el rito de la quinceañera aprobado por la Conferencia de Obispos, será publicado el próximo 19 de septiembre. Este rito bilingüe puede celebrarse tanto dentro como fuera de la misa.

El Mexican American Cultural Center en San Antonio, Texas, desarrolló el texto original del rito en 1999. La oficina de publicaciones de la Conferencia de Obispos Católicos de Estados Unidos adquirió los derechos del texto en 2007 y ha colaborado con el Secretariado para el Culto Divino para completar el texto final.

El sacerdote jesuita, padre Allan Deck, director ejecutivo del Secretariado de Diversidad Cultural en la Iglesia, resaltó la importancia de desarrollar ritos que "ayudan a los católicos latinos a celebrar su herencia cultural y a construir nuevos puentes con otros católicos en sus comunidades". El padre Deck hizo referencia a un estudio conjunto de Pew Hispanic Project y Pew Forum on Religion and Public Life en abril de 2007 que dice que aproximadamente un tercio de todos los católicos en Estados Unidos en estos momentos son latinos y que el segmento de la población latina seguirá creciendo.

El padre Deck afirmó que el rito para la celebración de quinceañeras será uno entre "muchos recursos que los Latinos pueden usar para preservar su identidad católica y cultural".

Monseñor Anthony Sherman, director ejecutivo del Secretariado para el Culto Divino de la Conferencia, dijo que el rito para quinceañeras puede ayudar a los jóvenes católicos "a aprender más sobre la importancia de mantener las promesas bautismales en un espíritu de acción de gracias". El ritual de la quinceañera es una tradición de "presentación en sociedad" o paso a la adulzor de las jóvenes adolescentes, pero la participación del clero, los padrinos y otras personas en esta celebración comunitaria "permite a éstos involucrarse también y realizar la misma clase de compromiso agradecido", afirmó Mons. Sherman. El rito ofrece la oportunidad para que los padrinos de bautismo, u otras parejas que sirvan de padrinos para la ocasión, presenten artículos religiosos a la quinceañera.

El libro de la Bendición al Cumplir Quince Años estará disponible el 19 de septiembre y puede adquirirse vía Internet en <http://www.usccbublishing.org>.



Marsh grass and other debris litter the inside of St. Paul Church in Sabine Pass, Texas, Sept. 19, after Hurricane Ike hit the Gulf Coast Sept. 13 bringing with it a 15 foot storm surge. The church sits about 4 feet above sea level and has a foundation of about a foot. The altar and the bell tower were swept away and have not yet been found. (CNS photo/Sarah Dupre, East Texas Catholic)

St. Paul Church in Sabine Pass, Texas, is seen Sept. 19 after sustaining major damage from the storm surge of Hurricane Ike, which made landfall in the Gulf Coast area Sept. 13. The church also lost its detached bell tower, which survived Hurricane Rita in 2005. (CNS photo/Sarah Dupre, East Texas Catholic)



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Cardinal says main priority is to help people suffering after Ike

By Erik Noriega
Catholic News Service

HOUSTON (CNS) — Cardinal Daniel N. DiNardo of the Archdiocese of Galveston-Houston urged the local Catholic community to “be an example of good witness under the fire of some adversity” as the region recovers from the effects of Hurricane Ike.

“Be attentive to neighbors, especially the elderly. Share your goods,” he said in a Sept. 18 pastoral message.

The cardinal noted that Hurricane Ike “affected us all and has caused massive damage to our coastal communities, especially to the city of Galveston and the Bolivar Peninsula. Many people have lost

number of people lacking food, water, gasoline and electricity.

“We put our trust in the Lord and make significant efforts to help one another,” he added, pointing out that Catholic Charities and the Society of St. Vincent de Paul have been a visible presence since the storm hit the region Sept. 13.

“Our prayers and our support will be with all the faithful in Galveston and Bolivar,” Cardinal DiNardo said.

Aerial photos showed few buildings left standing in the Galveston community of Port Bolivar.

He also noted that parishes would be open for weekend Masses based on the assessment of their pastors after they have had a chance to review the damage and the ease of access to the church. Where churches are unable to open for Mass, the faithful are excused from Sunday Mass obligation, he said.

In remarks at a meeting of archdiocesan employees Sept. 17, the cardinal urged them to assist the local office of Catholic Charities and the Society of St. Vincent de Paul in assisting those in need.

“We have our own needs, but we also want to make sure we take care of our neighbors. We will eventually take care of our buildings, but we need to now take care of our people,” he said.

About half of the archdiocese’s 160 parishes sustained some damage from Hurricane Ike. The real issue for most parishes was lack of electrical power. It was the key problem plaguing most Catholic schools in the archdiocese as well.

A handful of schools had opened by Sept. 17 and others were scheduled to reopen as they were reconnected to the electrical grid.

Still unknown was the state of St. Mary’s Cathedral Basilica in Houston, the mother church of the state of Texas.

Diocesan officials were scheduled to visit the island of Galveston Sept. 18 with Federal Emergency Management Agency representatives. A major challenge the archdiocese faced was locating individuals, clergy or lay, with keys to the properties. Most people in the island community wisely fled as the storm approached.

Galveston Catholic, the archdiocese’s lone school on the island, had sustained major damage and arrangements were being made to relocate those students to nearby schools on the mainland.

Chancery officials also were working to ensure that parish employees would continue to get paid throughout the crisis and had formulated contingency plans to assist those parishes without electricity.

Local parishes were asked to bring payroll information to the downtown chancery, which was up and running and had sustained no damage, to process their payrolls.

Donations may be made to: Hurricane Ike; Catholic Charities; P.O. Box 907; Houston, TX 77001 or www.catholiccharities.org/en/cms/?643.

Parishes within diocese safe

All the parishes and missions within the Diocese of Victoria reported that they made it through Hurricane Ike, Sept. 13, without harm.

“We’re so grateful that we didn’t suffer any damage,” stated Bishop David Fellhauer, “but our hearts go out to those who suffered the force of Hurricane Ike.”

Several parishes cancelled their Sept. 13 parish festivals and other events because many parishioners evacuated for safety, but most of the parishes rescheduled and held their events on the following weekend, Sept. 21.



McCain and Obama woo Catholic swing vote

CHICAGO-The majority of Catholic voters has lined up with the winner of the popular vote in the last nine presidential elections. Don't think this fact is lost on the 2008 presidential nominees of both major parties. As the election season moves into its critical final phase, Senators John McCain and Barack Obama continue



U.S. Sen. Barack Obama of Illinois, the Democratic presidential nominee, addresses supporters with his vice-presidential running mate, Sen. Joe Biden of Delaware, at the Democratic National Convention in Denver Aug. 27. (CNS photo/Chris Wattie, Reuters)

their battle for the crucial Catholic swing vote in the pages of the October issue of U.S. Catholic magazine.

McCain and Obama answered a set of identical questions of interest to Catholics in interviews U.S. Catholic conducted with them via e-mail. The Chicago-based Catholic general-interest magazine asked questions that covered a wide range of issues—from abortion, stem cell research, and the death penalty to economic justice, the environment, universal health care, immigration, and the war on terror.

McCain pointed with pride to "my 25-year pro-life record in Congress" and reiterated his opposition to partial birth abortion and his support for the reversal of *Roe v. Wade*. Obama, meanwhile, strongly reasserted his pro-choice stance, but he told the magazine, "No one is pro-abortion, and I respect that people of good faith will disagree on this issue." Obama was more in tune with the Catholic approach to some of the other issues.

In the U.S. Catholic interview, McCain cautioned Catholic pro-lifers that "the reversal of *Roe v. Wade* represents only one step in the long path toward ending abortion. Once the question is returned to the states, the fight for life will be one of courage and compassion—the courage of a pregnant mother to bring her child into the world and the compassion of civil society to meet her needs and those of her newborn baby."

Obama continued his recent emphasis on working to reduce the number of abortions. "Much more can and should be done to address the underlying factors that may lead a woman into the difficult situation where she feels she has to make this decision." He said he wants to make comprehensive age-appropriate sex education more widely available to help prevent unintended pregnancies. And he wants to offer more support services for women who choose to have a child, including pre- and postnatal care, parenting education, and adoption and foster care services.

Obama told the Catholic magazine, "My own path to Christ was shaped in part by my work as a community organizer

with the poor and disadvantaged on the South Side of Chicago," and he noted that this work "was funded in part by Catholic churches." He said he wants to expand the earned income tax credit and "establish 20 'Promise Neighborhoods' in impoverished, crime-ridden areas to be modeled after the Harlem Children's Zone."

McCain emphasized the need to "help Americans who are hurting from soaring gasoline and food costs," again highlighting his plan for a "summer gas tax holiday" and his support for increased domestic oil drilling. He told U.S. Catholic that to help the poor he would also "overhaul unemployment insurance and make it a program for retraining, relocating, and assisting workers who have lost a job."

Obama pointed out that as an Illinois state senator he was a co-sponsor of the Bernardin Amendment, named after the late Chicago Cardinal Joseph Bernardin, "which set out that health care is a fundamental right." His health care plan, he told U.S. Catholic, would provide all Americans with "quality, portable, and affordable health care coverage" and would reduce health care costs for families to \$2,500.

For his part, McCain said he would use competition to improve the quality of health insurance and would reform the tax code to offer more choices beyond employer-based health insurance coverage. He said he also believes that "we can and must provide access to health care for every American."

The editors of U.S. Catholic quoted Pope John Paul II's reminder, spoken before the war in Iraq, that "war is always a defeat for humanity" before asking the candidates about their positions on the war on terror. In particular, the magazine wanted to know, "How would you respond to future challenges to global peace such as a terrorist attack on U.S. soil or an escalation of the situation in Iran?"

McCain answered, "Defeating radical Islamist extremists is the transcendent national security challenge of our time. Those who plan, train, and conduct terrorist attacks against America will feel the full wrath and weight of American power." He added, "There would be no sanctuaries and no mercy." But McCain also agreed that the United States cannot lead by virtue of its power alone. "Leadership in today's world means accepting and fulfilling our responsibilities as a great nation."

Obama acknowledged that "there may be times when force is necessary—to stop an imminent threat to America or an ally, for example." But he promised that it is "a decision I will never take lightly." He emphasized the importance of combining military power with "using tough, smart, and principled diplomacy." The Democratic presidential nominee expressed "deep respect" for Pope John Paul's opposition to the invasion of Iraq—not failing to mention his own opposition to the war—as well as for Pope Benedict XVI's "ongoing call for peace." He repeated one of his trademark campaign phrases: "Now we need to be as careful getting out of Iraq as we were careless getting in."

U.S. Catholic's editor, Claretian Father John Molyneux, said he was delighted

that both presidential candidates took the time to address the particular concerns of Catholic voters in their interviews with the magazine—a first in the history of the



U.S. Sen. John McCain of Arizona, the Republican presidential nominee, joins his vice-presidential running mate, Alaska Gov. Sarah Palin, after her address at the 2008 Republican National Convention in St. Paul, Minn., Sept. 3. (CNS photo/Brian Snyder, Reuters)

73-year old publication.

"The Catholic Church's positions don't fit neatly with either of the two major parties," said Molyneux. "Our strong commitment to respect for life is complemented by an equally proud tradition of Catholic social teaching, which promotes social justice, a preferential option for the poor, the common good, and peace."

A limited number of U.S. Catholic's special election year issue is available for parish bulk orders. To order, call 800-328-6515. U.S. Catholic magazine is published by the Claretians, a Roman Catholic religious community of priests and brothers. The full text of the interviews is posted on the U.S. Catholic website at <http://uscatholic.org/culture/social-justice/2008/09/talking-points>.

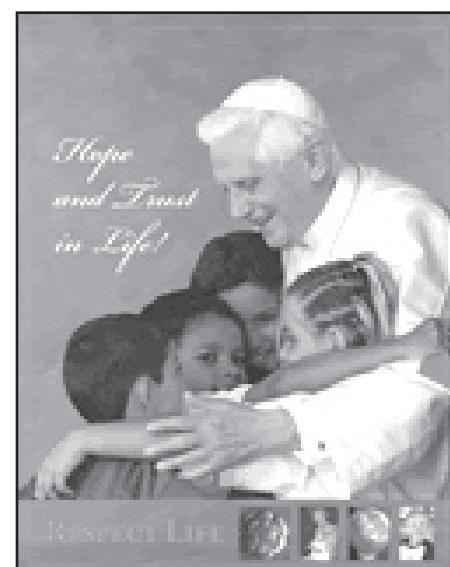
Vatican's security force to join Interpol

VATICAN CITY (CNS) — After setting up two new anti-terrorism units this year that work closely with international police, the Vatican's security force has plans to join Interpol. Vatican Radio reported Sept. 28 that the Vatican's security force will join the international police organization sometime before Oct. 10 in St. Petersburg, Russia. The announcement of the alliance was made during a Sept. 27 celebration at the papal summer villa in Castel Gandolfo, south of Rome. Pope Benedict XVI briefly appeared at the celebration and gave his "sincere thanks for the competence and dedication" of the security force, or gendarmerie corps. The feast day of St. Michael the Archangel, the corps' patron saint, is Sept. 29. The corps' director, Domenico Giani, said the force also is looking into forging an "agreement of cooperation with the Italian police," reported Vatican Radio.

Congressmen outline proposal to ban sex-selection abortions in U.S.

WASHINGTON (CNS) — Despite evidence that sex-selection abortions may be occurring in the United States, U.S. law affords "less protection from sex-based feticide" than India or China do, according to proposed legislation that is to be introduced soon in the House of Representatives. Republican Reps. Trent Franks of Arizona and Jeff Fortenberry of Nebraska discussed the Prenatal Non-discrimination Act at a Sept. 23 press conference on Capitol Hill. The proposed bill would "prohibit discrimination against the unborn on the basis of sex or race." Franks said it was hypocritical that the U.S. Congress and U.S. representatives at the United Nations had condemned the practice of sex-selection abortions in other countries but that it had been prohibited in only two U.S. states. "We put it forth in the backdrop of over 100 million little girls having been aborted simply because they were little girls instead of little boys," he added. "It is also put forward in the backdrop of the mind-numbing reality that today in America half of all African-American children are being aborted before they are born."

October is Respect Life Month



People must live morally, ethically, to save environment, says pope

CASTEL GANDOLFO, Italy (CNS) — The only way to put an end to environmental degradation is for people to live more simply and ethically, said Pope Benedict XVI. All of creation represents "an enormous gift from God to humanity" so people have a responsibility to "protect this treasure" and dedicate themselves "against an indiscriminate use" of the earth's resources, he said. The pope made his comments during a Sept. 27 audience with members of the Italian Tourist Youth Center and the Belgium-based International Bureau of Social Tourism. The audience also marked World Tourism Day which is sponsored by the U.N. World Tourism Organization. It was dedicated this year to the theme "Responding to the Challenge of Climate Change." The pope said, "Environmental degradation can only be stopped by spreading an appropriate culture of behavior that includes more sober lifestyles."



**Don't Forget To VOTE November 4
It Is Your Right To Voice Your Opinion By Voting**



Texas Cardinal to lead Pilgrimage for Life

AUSTIN—His Eminence Daniel Cardinal DiNardo of the Archdiocese of Galveston-Houston will lead the Pilgrimage for Life in Huntsville, Texas, on November 24, 2008.

The Pilgrimage is being hosted by the Texas Catholic Conference to promote reflection, prayer, and hope for fullness of Church teaching on the life and dignity of the human person, from conception to natural death.

“As Catholics we embrace and recognize human dignity in people at all stages of life,” said Texas Catholic Conference Executive Director Andrew Rivas. “This Pilgrimage embodies the Catholic teaching that all life is sacred, and encourages us to remember and pray for a Culture of Life.”

The Conference invites Catholic faithful from around the state to participate in the pilgrimage, which will begin with the celebration of Mass at St. Thomas Catholic Church in Huntsville. Pilgrims will then participate in a one-mile prayerful procession, led by the cardinal, from an abortion referral center to the Texas death row. Pilgrims may also choose to stay at the parish for adoration and guided reflection on the Stations of the Cross and Catholic social teaching.

For more information on the Pilgrimage for Life, visit www.TXcatholic.org and click on “Pilgrimage for Life” on the Events page.

The Texas Catholic Conference is the official public policy voice of the Catholic Bishops 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.

ROSARY RALLY



**SAT., OCTOBER 11, 2008
12 NOON @ DELEON PLAZA,
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Come and honor our Lord and His Blessed Mother in praying the Rosary for the needs of our country and our community of Victoria. In this 2008 Public Square Rosary we will join with Catholics all across America to ask Our Blessed Mother to intercede for our country's leaders and for the end of all moral offenses against God. There will be music, prayer, teachings, and testimonies. Please plan to bring a chair or blanket.

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Christmas Gift Giving Ideas

For the more organized folks, it's getting to be that time of the year to order thoughtful Christmas gifts that help religious, non-profit organizations.

This year we've got a list of at least five groups that have special catalogues to advertise their handmade, ethical, and eco-friendly gifts.

Catholic Relief Services

Catholics throughout the U.S. are joining Catholic Relief Services (CRS) in promoting fair trade, an ethical and eco-friendly alternative to conventional shopping that ensures that farmers and artisans get a fair price for their products. Last year, more than 130 Catholic dioceses held fair trade sales, selling handcrafts, coffee and chocolate through CRS' Fair Trade program. In 2007, CRS sold about \$2 million worth of fair trade products with the help of dedicated Catholics, a 53 percent increase over the previous year. By buying items through CRS' Work of Human Hands catalog, consumers ensure that artisans get a fair price for their products and access to the U.S. marketplace. Chocolate and coffee purchases also benefit disadvantaged farmers around the world. Through its Web site, CRS offers fair-trade coffee, chocolate and handcrafts, educational resources and tips on how to hold a fair trade sale. For more information, visit <http://www.crsfairtrade.org>.



The Best Coffee Roasted This Side of Heaven

Not many are aware of the Carmelite Monastery located in Clark, Wy., but many have heard of Mystic Monk Coffee, the fresh roasted gourmet coffee that the cloistered monks roast and sell locally and online. What makes their coffee special you may ask? It could be the fresh mountain air and pure water of Wyoming, or maybe it is because of the superior green coffee beans the monks search the globe for, choosing only the best for their heavenly roasts. The signature blend that made their mark in the coffee world is Mystic Monk Blend. As one customer put it, “This is the best coffee I have ever had.” Another customer states, “The Mystic Monk Blend is hearty, and yet smooth. In fact, it's the smoothest cup I've ever had.” The monks are very humble when it comes to the many 5 star reviews their customers give them; Brother David says, “We give God all the credit, after all he created the coffee bean, we just roast it!” Mystic Monk Coffee is available online at www.mysticmonkcoffee.com or by calling (877) 751 6377.



World Vision

More and more people are adopting earth-friendly “Green Living” practices, and World Vision is offering holiday shoppers the opportunity to convert to “Green Giving” with gifts from the 2008 World Vision Gift Catalog. The catalog features more than 100 gifts that truly make a difference in the world – gifts that benefit individuals, families, communities, and the environment. Gifts featured in the World Vision Gift Catalog range in price from \$10 to \$39,000 and can be purchased in the name of a friend, colleague or loved one. The gift recipient in turn receives a special card describing the gift that was purchased and the impact it will have in the life of a person in need.



This year's “green gifts” include: hybrid or drought-resistant seeds for a farmer - \$17; clean, safe water for a school - \$50 (per share); a deep water well - \$18,000, or a treadle pump for on-demand irrigation - \$392; 10 fruit trees to boost health and income - \$60; Goat and two chickens = milk and eggs - \$100; or stock a school in America with essential learning tools and supplies - \$100. World Vision gifts can be found at the Web site www.worldvisiongifts.org.

Food for the Poor

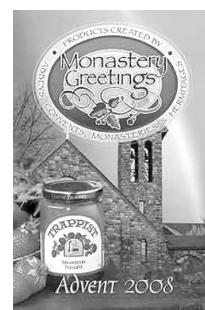
Food for the Poor also offers a variety of gifts for the world's poor, which one gives in the name of a loved one. Jesus taught a valuable lesson on sharing when he performed the miracle of feeding the 5,000. You can share your blessings by feeding a hungry, poor family



through Food for the Poor's Haiti feeding program. Feed a family for a month for \$9 or feed a child for a year for \$27. Other ideas include Three Little Piglets for \$100 to help a family's source of income, as well as a source of food; or 20 chicks for \$25. If you have a musical friend or family member, consider purchasing a musical instrument for a child or a whole band for her school in the friend's name: one snare drum is \$30; an entire marching band, \$3,644. Fruit trees, fishing supplies and the fish, homes, latrines and small businesses can also be purchased. Go to www.foodforthe poor.org to see and purchase all of their gift ideas.

Monastery Greetings

If you're looking for delicious treats, religious items or musical CDs, the best place to go is Monastery Greetings, which sells items made by the religious living in abbeys, convents, monasteries and hermitages. They search the world for the highest quality products from religious houses, which directly benefit from every purchase you make. Go to www.MonasteryGreetings.com or phone 1-800-472-0425.



The Holy Land Christian Ecumenical Foundation

HCEF offers olive wood items made by Christian artisans in Bethlehem, supporting the few remaining Christians who still live where Christianity was born. Besides olive wood gifts, child sponsorships, which support Christian schools in the Holy Land, may be maintained for \$25 per month. Journey to Bethlehem and Journey to Jerusalem sponsorships, as well as housing rehabilitation may also be sponsored. To learn more, please go to <http://gifts.hcef.org/merchant2/>



National Catholic Rural Life Conference Bulletin

Periodic news items and alerts about rural life and environmental justice issues can be found at the National Catholic Rural Life Conference Web site at: <http://www.ncrlc.com>. Click into Weekly E-Bulletin for live links. You'll also see other items of interest under WHAT'S NEW. Recent (Sept. 29, 2008) contents include Water and Energy Tensions Rise with Climate Change; Federal Prosecutors Probe Food-Price Collusion; Tribal Nations Seek Sacred Lands Protection; McCain, Obama Respond to Farm Bureau Questionnaire; What It Means to be Catholic: Beyond Politics and Labels; and Call for Presentations On “Globalization,” Loyola University.

Christmas Arts & Crafts Sale

*Sponsored by the Sisters Incarnate Word Convent
1101 N.E. Water Street
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*Sat, 9:00 a.m. - 4:00 p.m.
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EVENTS

The Catholic Lighthouse
Page 19 — October 2008



World Mission Sunday - Oct. 19



“...all of us committed to the worldwide mission of Jesus.”

Special Collections

Mission Sunday — October 19

Ongoing Events

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

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

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

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

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

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

Engaged Encounter — Register as soon as you have contacted your pastor due to limited space. **It is strongly recommended that you attend an encounter weekend four to six months prior to your wedding date.** For a registration form, contact your pastor, visit the [Web site at www.victoriadiocese.org/family/ee.htm](http://www.victoriadiocese.org/family/ee.htm), or write to: Engaged Encounter, P.O. Box 4070, Victoria, Texas 77903. The weekend is held at the Spiritual Renewal Center. The dates for 2008 are: Nov. 14-16. The dates for 2009 are: Feb. 6-8; March 13-15; April 24-26; June 26-28; Sept. 11-13; and Nov. 20-22. For more info., call (361) 573-0828 ext. 30. All registrations are on a first come, first serve basis. Fee must accompany registration form.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Goliad — Presidio La Bahia Museum and Visitor Center — a National Historic Landmark — is the only Spanish fort remaining in the possession of the Catholic Church in North America. A tour program is available to groups. The presidio is open daily from 9:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. and is closed on major holidays. Admission is \$3 for adults and \$1 for

Register If You Suffered Hurricane Damage

If you suffered damage from Hurricane Ike, you may be eligible for federal disaster assistance. Help is available through FEMA, but first you have to register. Go online anytime to www.fema.gov or call 1-800-621-fema (1-800-621-3362). The TTY number is 1-800-462-7585. Assistance may help cover your short-term housing costs; essential home repairs, medical and dental bills, or funeral and burial expenses.

This is a public service announcement.

children under 12. The fort is handicapped accessible. For more information call (361) 645-3752 or see the Web site at www.presidiolabahia.org.

Picnics, Activities, etc.

October

Bay City — Holy Cross Fall Festival and Turkey Dinner Oct. 5 at the KC Hall (Hamman Road) starting with Mass at 9:30 a.m. in the multi-purpose building next to the KC Hall. A turkey and dressing dinner will be served from 11:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. at \$7.50 p/p with dine-in or drive-thru available. There will be live and silent auctions starting at 12:00 p.m. Also available will be children's games, cakewalk and much more.

Hungerford — St. John's Bazaar Oct. 5 with a barbecue-chicken, -beef and -sausage dinner including the ladies famous sauerkraut starting at 10:30 a.m. The auction begins at 12:15 p.m. There will be entertainment throughout the day including a country store, kids rides and games just to name a few.

Mentz — St. Roch Annual Picnic Oct. 5 on church grounds. The day begins with Mass at 10:00 a.m. followed by a barbecue beef, pork and homemade sausage dinner until 2:00 p.m. Dine-in a/c comfort or under pavilion with plates at \$8 p/p for adults and children under 12 at \$4 p/p. Hamburgers will be sold in the afternoon starting at 3:00 p.m. The auction begins at 1:00 p.m. Music throughout the day by The Czechaholics. There will be games, grocery walk, country store, cakewalk and much more.

Shiner — Shiner Catholic School HSA Fall Festival, Sunday, Oct. 5, will have a barbecue-chicken dinner at the American Legion Dining Hall; drive-thru or dine-in from 11:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. There will be a live auction, games and battle of the classes.

Victoria — Nazareth Academy Fall Festival Oct. 5 at the community center. A turkey and dressing dinner will be served starting at 11:00 a.m., followed with silent and live auctions. There will be games and entertainment for all to enjoy.

When & Where

Victoria — Rosary Rally to be held at De Leon Plaza in downtown Victoria at noon on Saturday, Oct. 11. Come and honor our Lord and his Blessed Mother in praying the rosary for the needs of our country and our community of Victoria. There will be music, prayer, teachings and testimonies. Please plan to bring a chair or blanket.

Columbus — St. Anthony Fall Festival Oct. 12 at the KC Hall (I-10 West / Glidden Exit). A barbecue-beef and -sausage dinner begins at 11:00 a.m. Also serving pit barbecue, Mexican food and hamburgers. There will be lots of booths, auction and something for everyone to enjoy. Mass at church (located on the corner of Bowie and Bonham) will be at 8:00 and 10:00 a.m.

East Bernard — Holy Cross Parish Bazaar Oct. 12 at Riverside Hall. A barbecue beef, chicken and sausage dinner along with homemade dressing will be served starting at 11:00 a.m. Hamburgers will be served starting at 3:00 p.m. Czech pastries, refreshments and country store items available during the day. The auction begins at 12:30 p.m. There will be games, moonwalk, velero wall and rock climbing and much more. “Patrick” the celebrity camel will make an appearance. Live music starting at noon see page 8 for more information.

Seadrift — St. Patrick Parish will hold its Annual Turkey Dinner on Oct. 12. Turkey, dressing and all the trimmings will be served in the parish hall beginning at 11:00 a.m. Desserts and egg rolls will also be sold.

Victoria — Catholic War Veterans Auxiliary — Annual Turkey Dinner will be held on October 12 at CWV Hall, 1008 S. Main Street — plates will be \$6 p/p and will be served from 11:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. Auction will be held at 1:00 p.m. Proceeds to benefit community projects.

Victoria — Our Lady of Victory Cathedral Parish Festival Oct. 12 at the community center; doors open at 11:00 a.m. A buffet style barbecue beef and sausage dinner will be served for \$7 p/p, children under 12 \$4.50 p/p and all plates-to-go at \$7 p/p. There will be booths and games for the entire family to enjoy. Auction begins at 12:30 p.m. in the annex.

Austin — Diocese of Austin 2008 Ministry Conference will be held Oct. 17 & 18 at the Austin Convention Center. Friday evening's presenters will be author and speaker Matthew

Kelly of Sydney, Australia, and musician and singer Jaime Cortez. Saturday will provide fifteen workshops from which to choose. \$25 advance registration fee; for information and to register, go to www.austindiocese.org.

Victoria — Silver City — The first anniversary of the dedication of Holy Trinity Chapel will be celebrated with a Mass of Thanksgiving Oct. 17 at 7:00 p.m.

Benedictine Life Weekend — Are you searching for God's direction in life? Do you wonder if monastic life could be the right fit? Would you like the chance to check it out? If so, we invite you to visit our community for a Benedictine Life Week, October 17-19, 2008, at Monastery Immaculate Conception, Ferdinand, Indiana. Open to single, Catholic women, ages 19-40, discerning religious life. Contact Sister Agnes Marie Dauby or Sister Michelle Sinkhorn at 802 E. 10th Street, Ferdinand, IN, 47532 or call (800) 738-9999, or e-mail vocation@thedome.org.

Edna — The Victoria Diocesan Council of Catholic Women will hold its annual mini-retreat Saturday, Oct. 18, at St. Agnes Parish Hall. All ladies from the diocese are welcomed to attend. The day will include spiritual reflections, Mass and lunch. Registration will be held at the hall from 8:30 – 9:00 a.m. A silent auction will be held — items welcome. See story on page 7.

Eagle Lake — Parish of the Nativity Picnic at the pavilion located at 545 South Austin, Oct. 19. The meal will be served from 11:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. The auction begins at 1:00 p.m. Food will be served throughout the day along with a variety of booths, games, activities and a dance.

El Campo — Catholic Daughters Annual Turkey Dinner Oct. 19 at St. Philip Parish Hall. Serving will begin at 11:00 a.m. at \$7 p/p (plates-to-go only will be available on Depot Street).

Goliad — Immaculate Conception Fall Festival Oct. 19 on the church grounds starting with Mass at 10:00 a.m. Starting at 11:00 a.m. there will be a beef-barbecue buffet style dinner. There will be a cakewalk, games, moonwalks, ballet folklorico, music by Rusty Steins, auction (1:00 p.m.) and much more.

LaSalle — St. Theresa Annual Parish Picnic Oct. 19 at LaSalle Hall serving turkey and dressing dinner from 11:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m. dine-in or plates-to-go available at \$7 p/p. The auction starts at 12:30 p.m. There will also be cakewalk, craft/country store, ring toss, plant sale and much more.

Victoria — Knights of Columbus Council 1329 chicken-barbecue fund-raiser Oct. 19 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 on Wednesday, Oct. 22, at the St. Mary's Activity Center. Registration is from 8:45-9:15 a.m. at the center. Father David Berger from Our Lady of Victory will be the retreat master. Lunch will be served after the 12:05 p.m. Mass, which will be held in the activity center. The retreat will conclude after the Mass. There will be no charge for lunch and retreat, but you are asked to make reservations before Oct. 20 to Janell Kruppa at (361) 575-8166 or Geraldine Jurica at (361) 573-3949.

Cuero — St. Michael's Catholic School Fall Festival Oct. 26 at the parish hall (104 McLeod St.). A chicken-fried steak dinner will be served from 11:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m., dine-in or take-out at \$6.50 p/p. There will be a live (12:30 p.m.) and silent auction, games, country store, costume contest, and cake and toy walks.

Upcoming Events

Victoria — Holy Trinity Jamaica will hold a potluck dinner and social Nov. 2 after the Mass at the Silver City social center. It starts at 11:00 a.m. and goes all day.

Hungerford — KJT Society 79 and KJZT Society 57 will be hosting their annual turkey and dressing dinner Nov. 9 at the community center. Serving begins at 10:30 a.m. with drive-thru or dine-in available. Pastries will be available.

Victoria — Our Lady of Lourdes Annual Fall Festival Nov. 9 at the community center, featuring their famous traditional turkey and dressing dinner. Serving from 11:00 a.m. to 1:30 p.m. at \$7 p/p for adults and plates-to-go (starting at 10:30 a.m. at the curb or pick-up inside); and \$3 for children (12 and under). There will be a silent auction (10:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m.) and a live auction beginning at 12:30 p.m. There will be children's games, cakewalk, kolaches and food during the day.

Humble — Nov. 15 and 16 — Come and discover the true Thanksgiving meal: “The Holy Sacrifice of the Mass” (near Houston). Speakers: Father Mitch Pacwa; Johnnette Benkovic; Father Stan Fortuna; and Michael Cumbie. For more information please go to: www.FullnessOfTruth.org.



How can we be missionaries to our secular culture?

By Cynthia Brewer

Our secular culture has both good and bad in it, and we're called to be missionaries to it; however, sometimes that can make us feel schizophrenic, said the keynote speaker for the 21st annual Catechetical Conference.

The 21st Annual Catechetical Conference for Catechesis and Ministry was held at Holy Family Parish in Victoria September 27, 2008, and its keynote speaker was Rev. Ron Rolheiser, a Roman Catholic priest and member of the Missionary Oblates of Mary Immaculate (OMI). He is an author, lecturer and is the president of the Oblate School of Theology in San Antonio.

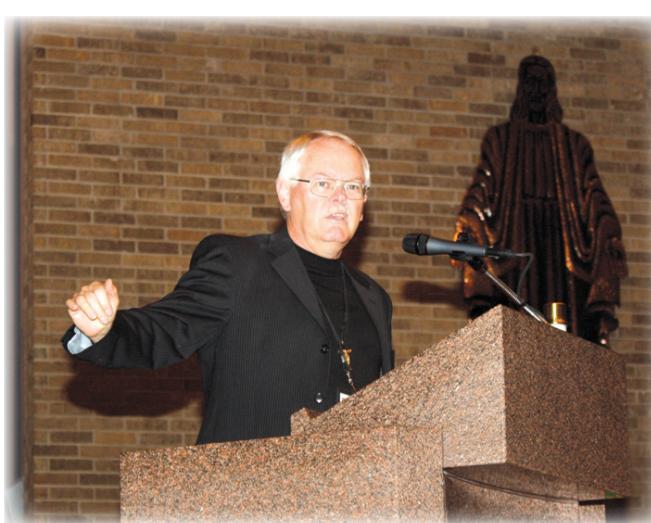
In his keynote address, titled "Naming the Present Moment—'Being Missionaries to our own Children,'" he outlined three things to do: 1) highlight the problem; 2) identify key insights into our culture — secularity; and 3) learn how to become missionaries inside of secularity.

Highlighting the Problem

As a Missionary Oblate, Rev. Rolheiser is at heart a missionary. He said the Oblates are in 70 countries around the world. But he said, "The toughest mis-

San Antonio, 150,000 Catholics will attend Mass, but there are 1.5 million Catholics in San Antonio. It's not so impressive when only one out of 10 San Antonian Catholics practice their faith.

The problem in our present moment is



Rev. Ron Rolheiser, OMI, keynote speaker of the 21st Catechetical Conference

not so much that we're post Christianity.

"We're not post Christian, yet," he said. "We're post ecclesial — post church."

Rev. Rolheiser noted that only five percent of Americans are atheists, while 95 percent say they believe in



Bishop David Fellhauer answers questions from Reuben Petrusuk and Bob and Laurie Bautista following his presentation on "The Life and Times of St. Paul."

God. Eighty-five percent still associate with some church; the 15 percent who don't are between 18-30 years of age. They're searching, he said.

"The real strug-

gle is with church" he said, "not so much with God or Christ."

Identifying Key Insights into Our Culture

In identifying key insights into our culture, Rev. Rolheiser compared "our children" with "our secular culture," for to our Christian faith, the secular culture is its child, he said.

Judeo-Christianity gave us feminism, democracy, the principals of church and state, the dignity of the human person, he said.

The opposite of secularity isn't the church — it's the Taliban.

We stopped burning witches not be-

cause we stopped reading the Bible, he said, but when we read Scripture long enough. He said it is the same for slavery and the death penalty.

It took nearly 1,800 years for the Christian Church to say slavery is wrong and nearly 2,000 years to say capital punishment is wrong. Now that we've made it this far, we'll never go back and accept slavery or capital punishment because it goes against Christ's teachings.

"If this is true," Rev. Rolheiser asked, "then why is the secular world so belligerent — so against the Christian Church?"

"Because secularity is like a 17-year-old in front of his parents," he said.

came a baby lying in an animal's manger; he emptied himself, took on a human form, then went further and became a slave. "Christ dissolves into humanity."

The triumphal Christ, the risen Christ ascending into heaven, is experienced among us at adoration of the Eucharist, in Corpus Christi processions, at World Youth Day with colors and banners.

We need both of them!

We also need a biblical Catholic attitude — God loves the world in all its goodness and its badness.

Missionaries have to go into the culture in order to convert it, just as Christ did. And with that, "Our Christian Baptism calls us to be schizophrenic," Rev. Rolheiser said, "for it calls us to 'be in the world, but not of the world.'" He said that we need to love the world as God loves it, to love it in spite of its opposition and sin, that our first reaction should be love.

God is the father in the parable of the Prodigal Son. He loves both sons. He's not angry with the son when he returns, nor is he angry with the son who resents the prodigal one, he said. He loves them both. He doesn't ask the sons to repent; he embraces them.



Sister Odilia Korenek, IWBS, proclaims Christ's hope in "On Christian Hope."

And God loved the world even when it killed him, he said.

"Jesus was the freest person — he went to singles bars, the darkest places," Rev. Rolheiser said. "Yet, he never sinned. He brought light to that darkness."

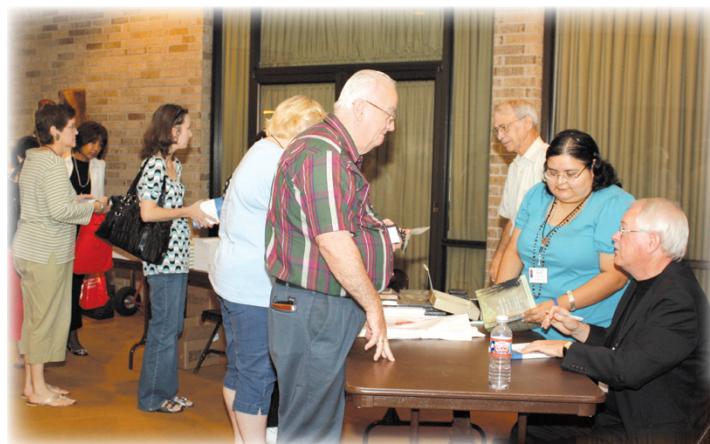
"We think we're mature, and we aren't," he said. "When a child yells, 'Mom, you don't trust me,' we cower down and say, 'Of course I do.' Our response should be, 'Of course I don't trust you. I would have a hard time trusting myself in that situation.'"

"We need to radiate that maturity by walking in Christ's freedom and not abusing it," he said, "to carry properly the love of the world and love of God."

"The best witness is to a new maturity," he concluded. "Our words are important, but not the most important."

We need missionary principles, which always makes our first reaction love; in this way, we name the present moment and are missionaries to our children.

Throughout Rev. Rolheiser's talk, I felt overwhelmed. At times I felt as if I were a Pharisee listening to Jesus in the synagogue; at other times, I felt as if I were hearing the "Good News" for the first time. I guess that was how Jesus' message was first received in his day. Maybe I'm like Nicodemus, a Pharisee who snuck back to Jesus in the night to learn more, for I went back to Rev. Rolheiser's book signing and purchased his book, "Secularity and the Gospel" — also to learn more.



Rev. Rolheiser signs a copy of his book, "Secularity and the Gospel," for Deacon Linard Harper of Yoakum.



A large crowd filled the auditorium to hear Rev. Gary Janak's talk on Family Wellness and Communication.



Sister Miriam Perez, MCHS, speaks on "Renewing the True Meaning of the Quinceañera."

youth at Toronto's World Youth Day, he was also aware that there were 50 million youth that weren't there. He said it's impressive to hear that on this weekend in

our child.

"We love our children even when they're bad; therefore, we need to be missionaries to our culture," he said, "just as we need to be missionaries to our children."

Modernity has a complex face, he added.

Learning How to be Missionaries to our Children, to our Culture

Going deeper into Scripture has turned around our thoughts about slavery, death penalty, etc., but it has also "triggered the tension in our churches between preaching the 'kenotic' Christ and the 'triumphal' Christ."

The kenotic Christ is the God who be-