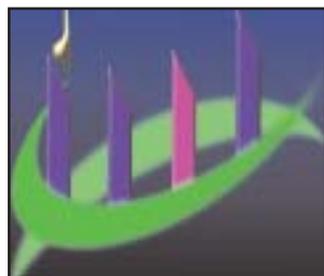


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FIRST SUNDAY OF ADVENT  
Sunday, November 27, 2005

# West Texas ANGELUS

Serving the Diocese of San Angelo, Texas

Volume XXVI, No. 11

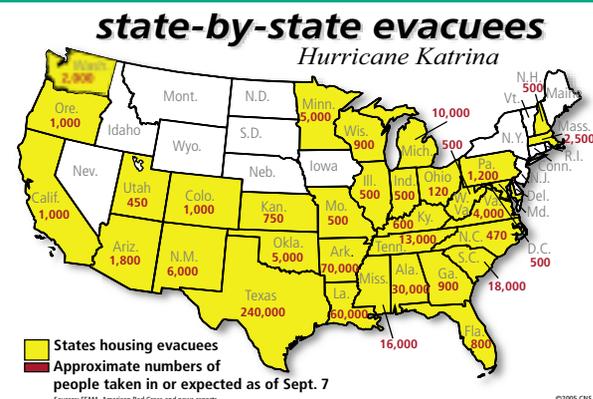
NOVEMBER 2005

## Diocese gives \$428,000 to victims of Katrina, other natural disasters

Appeals made in parishes throughout the Diocese of San Angelo over the last several months have brought a total contribution of \$428,634 to relief efforts necessitated by natural disasters such as hurricanes Katrina and Rita, and the tsunami that struck Asia 11 months ago, Bishop Michael Pfeifer confirmed Monday.

### ● BISHOP'S LETTER/Pg. 4

"I am very grateful for our people's generous response and for the way West Texas Catholics have lived out the Gospel of Christ in responding to the many appeals I have made," said the Most Rev. Michael D. Pfeifer, Bishop of San Angelo."



The Most Rev.  
Michael D. Pfeifer, OMI,  
Bishop of San Angelo

### From the Bishop's Desk

Bishop Michael Pfeifer presents reflections on the dignity and sacredness of human life in his monthly column.

-- Page 3

### We Need Your Help

We'd like to ask your assistance on two matters ... first, if you know of someone doing something special in your community or for your parish, we'd like to hear about it. Please tell us what makes him or her stand out in his or her good works. Drop us a note so we can consider a profile story in an upcoming Angelus. Email [JimmyLPatterson@grandecom.net](mailto:JimmyLPatterson@grandecom.net) if you have any helpful ideas. And, if you'd like to tell us what your parish is doing special to celebrate advent, we'd like to run a list or schedule of events from parishes around the diocese. Take a few moments and let us know about it. Drop us an email at the above address.

— Jimmy Patterson, Editor, *The Angelus*

### Rosa Parks 1913-2005



Look back on the life of this remarkable woman,

Page 14

### ALSO INSIDE ...

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# MOUNTAINS of DEBT

## Bankruptcy law changes will have an effect on us all

By Jimmy Patterson  
Editor  
*West Texas Angelus*

Debt is not prejudice. It knows no denominational boundaries, and affects millions of unsuspecting people who, if not careful, can spend years digging out and starting over.

When changes in the U.S. Bankruptcy laws took effect in October, filing bankruptcy became more difficult, more expensive and more time consuming for everyone. For many, it ceased to become an option,

which is seen as not such a bad thing for many creditors and officials in both the government and business worlds.

The week before the new bankruptcy laws went into effect in October, 356 bankruptcies were filed in the Midland office of the U.S. Government's Texas Western District, according to a bankruptcy official. During the same period last year, 29 were filed. In Abilene the numbers were similar: 364 this year, 22 during the same week in '04.

Some people have seen

bankruptcy as an easy out; for others, extensive medical bills, for instance, necessitate it. With the new laws, filings will plummet and people who file will be required to enter into debt counseling before repaying creditors. Chapter 7, which excuses consumers from debt, is now much more difficult to file.

For many, restructuring or curtailing their personal spending habits will be very difficult.

"People should put back a little every month even if they (See MONEY/9)

### Common Sense Savings Tips for Kids

- ▶ Know the difference between need and want.
- ▶ Handling money takes practice; receiving allowance can help.
- ▶ Money most appreciated is money earned.
- ▶ Patience pays off.

More Tips/Pg. 8-9

Father Webster: Defining Our Faith

## Why we follow a liturgical calendar, what it means



With the beginning of the church year November 27, West Texas Angelus apologist Fr. Webster discusses the liturgical calendar, why we abide by it and what it is.

Angelus: What is the liturgical calendar? Is it the same as the calendar on my wall?

Fr. Webster: The church has a special way of celebrating our faith within a framework called the "liturgical year." It is not the same as our regular calendar, but centers around the mystery of Christ. It is a way of helping us to reflect on various aspects of Christ, throughout various seasons of the year.

The liturgical year is divided like this: Advent/Christmas/Baptism of the Lord; Ordinary Time, Pt. I; Lent/Easter/Pentecost; Ordinary Time, Pt. II

Angelus: Are the days of the week the same as our calendar?

(See Fr. WEBSTER/14)

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Story suggestions, calendar items,  
parish briefs and all other  
submissions should be emailed to  
JimmyLPatterson@grandecom.net.  
**COPY, PHOTO DEADLINE:**  
Third Friday of every month.

Photos should be sent in jpeg format.

Letters to the editor are welcome, and  
should be emailed to  
JimmyLPatterson@grandecom.net.  
Letters to the editor are printed at the  
discretion of the editor and identities of  
the writer are subject to  
verification. Please include name,  
address and phone number when sub-  
mitting letters.



## From The Editor

# Is marketing the answer to church growth?

**C**atholicism is deeply rooted in tradi-  
tion, and so entrenched in biblical  
and Christian  
history that it seems  
unlikely that great  
change or alteration in  
public perception will  
come any time soon.  
Marketing and  
Catholicism often seem  
-- and are -- mutually  
exclusive.



Patterson

And therein lies a  
fundamental challenge:  
on the one hand you have the largest  
Christian religion in the world, ours. On  
the other, you have the exponential, explo-  
sive growth of evangelical Christianity,  
rapidly winning people from other faith

practices

Bishop Pfeifer showed me an article in  
*Business Week* magazine recently. It dealt  
with the growing popularity of the mass  
appeal of this form of Christianity.

The Church is still 1.1 billion strong,  
but with its recent scandals, a shrinking  
priesthood and an apparent unwillingness  
to take leaps to ensure its vitality, don't  
expect substantial growth anytime soon.

Given a little thought, we could market  
our faith in the fashion the evangelicals  
seem to have cornered, and maybe retain  
some of the faithful who may be ventur-  
ing elsewhere. Perhaps we could consider  
a few things, such as:

► **Small Faith Communities, Home  
Churches.** We've done this to an extent  
in the diocese and elsewhere with Renew,

but in some instances, more tradition-  
laden, veteran parishioners are often  
unwilling to share their faith experience  
with others, perfectly understandable for  
those who have grown accustomed to  
practicing a particular way. Renew is a  
wonderful program and it's a shame it  
hasn't caught on to a larger extent. It  
makes people think and talk about their  
spirituality and their feelings. Perhaps,  
taking it another step, Catholics could just  
take it upon themselves to invite a few  
friends over once a month, and then just  
keep doing it month in and month out. It  
would take a grassroots effort and it  
would take years, but the "home church  
movement" has become a big success for

(Please See PATTERSON/14)

## DIOCESAN BRIEFS

### Rowena Festival, Nov. 13

ROWENA. St. Joseph will have its 83rd Annual  
Fall Festival **Sunday, November 13**, in **Rowena**.  
This year's theme is "Thanks for the Giving."  
German Sausage, Turkey & Dressing Meal will  
be served from 11 a.m.-2 p.m. and will also fea-  
turing an auction, games and a country store.

### Diocesan Youth Event

SAN ANGELO. "Spirit of God: Source and  
Strength," a Diocesan High School Youth Event is  
scheduled for **Saturday, November 19**, from 10  
a.m.-8 p.m. at the **San Angelo Convention  
Center**. Guest presenter 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 jour-  
ney with God. A native of Louisiana, he is the  
former Director of Youth Ministry for the Diocese  
of New Orleans. Tickets are \$18, which includes  
registration, a t-shirt, supper and dance.

### Criminal Justice Seminar

SAN ANGELO. A Criminal Justice (CJ) seminar  
will be held on **Saturday, November 19**, at **Christ  
the King Retreat Center** in **San Angelo** from 9  
a.m. to 3 p.m. All clergy, volunteers working in the  
ministry and anyone interested in learning more  
about the ministry are encouraged to attend.

The theme for this seminar will be: "What role  
can I play in the rehabilitation and restoration of  
my incarcerated brothers and sisters?"

#### Speakers include:

**Mr. Edward Riley** – Chaplain at TDCJ Wallace  
& Ware Units in Colorado City

**Mr. Bryan Cooper** – Chaplain at TYC Ron  
Jackson State Juvenile Corrections Complex in  
Brownwood

**Mr. Roy Robb** – Former Tom Green Juvenile  
Probation Director (the juvenile facility in San  
Angelo is named after him)

**Mr. Joe Hernandez** – Ex-offender and pastor  
of a Christian Church in Big Spring

**Mrs. Donna Kleman** – Chaplain for the  
Abilene Police Department

The format will include each speaker talking for  
about 20-30 minutes with follow-up time allotted  
for questions. In the afternoon following the last

speaker's presentation, there will be a roundtable  
discussion with the invited guests answering  
questions from the audience.

If you plan to attend, please call 325-651-5352  
and RSVP the retreat center staff so sufficient  
food can be prepared for lunch. If you have  
questions about the seminar program, contact  
Deacon Bob Leibrecht at 432-889-3858.

### High School Retreat

MIDLAND. All high school students are wel-  
come to attend St. Stephen's Catholic Church,  
**Friday, December 2**, from 7-10 p.m., and Sat.  
Dec. 3 from 10-4 p.m. Guest speaker will be  
Chris Roth, a dynamic youth minister from  
Denver, Colo. Also included, talks, skits, games,  
adoration, music, food, fellowship and fun.  
Contact Dennis Robson for more information  
(432) 520-3065

### Living Our Catholic Faith Series

MIDLAND. "Living Our Catholic Faith is pre-  
sented by St. Stephen's-Midland Pastoral  
Associate Tony Frasco **Sundays from 6:30-8  
p.m.** in the Parish Hall. Bring your Bibles, pen  
and paper  
All are welcome to attend!!!

#### The schedule:

**December 4:** What it Means to be Catholic  
**December 11:** Mary: Our Great Mother and  
Model

**December 18:** Confession: Cleansing our  
Souls

**January 8th:** The Eucharist: Our Spiritual Food  
**January 15th:** Prayer: Conversing with God.

Any questions call the parish office at 520-  
7394, or e-mail Tony Frasco at tfrasco@st.wtx-  
coxmail.com

### Study Week 2006

**Liturgy Evangelizing Life/  
La Liturgia Evangeliza La Vida  
January 18-21, 2006  
Austin**

AUSTIN. The 44th Annual Southwest Liturgical  
Conference Study Week, Liturgy Evangelizing  
Life/La Liturgia Evangeliza La Vida is being co-

hosted by the Diocese of Austin and the  
Southwest Liturgical Conference, **January 18-21,  
2006** at the Doubletree Hotel at IH35 and 290 in  
Austin.

### Community Thanksgiving Service

WALL. The Wall Community Thanksgiving  
Service (20th Anniversary) will be at **7 p.m.  
Wednesday, November 16**, at the **Wall High  
School Gym**. A collection is taken during the  
service which will go toward the Community  
Thanksgiving Scholarship Fund for a 2006 gradu-  
ating senior at Wall High School. Everyone is  
welcome to attend.

### Centennial Planning Begins

ROWENA. On **Sept. 1-2, 2007**, St. Joseph's in  
**Rowena** will celebrate its parish Centennial.  
Plans are underway to construct a memorial to all  
veterans who were in the armed forces while  
parishioners at St. Joseph's. Please contact Pat  
Vancil at jvranch1880@yahoo.com or call 325-  
365-2525 for more information.

### St. Mary's celebrates 50

ODESSA. St. Mary's Church in Odessa cele-  
brated its 50 year at its present location Saturday,  
Nov. 5 in Odessa. The church was first formed in  
1938 under the diocese of Amarillo. In 1969, St.  
Mary's came under the diocese of San Angelo. A  
visual presentation of the history of the church  
preceded Mass.

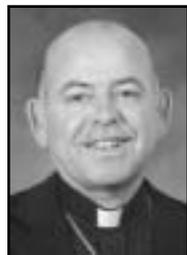
### St. Charles reports good festival

EDEN. St. Charles Catholic Church participated  
in the annual Fall Fest in Eden. Our own Father  
Romanus joined in the Fall Fest Fun Run and  
came in third in the men's division. Next year he  
said he wanted to win first place. We invite all of  
you to come next year and encourage Father  
Romanus in this event. The Fun Run was spon-  
sored by the Fermin Villarreal and Carlos  
Anzaldua families. The Christian Mothers sold  
tamales and burritos. Christian Fathers sold  
turkey legs and roasted corn. This is the big  
money making event of the year for St. Charles.  
Thanks to all who helped make this annual event  
a big success.

**DIOCESAN DATES/Pg. 5**

From the Bishop's Desk

## Reflections on the dignity and sacredness of human life



**By Bishop Michael Pfeifer, OMI**  
Diocese of San Angelo

I present for your consideration some reflections on the dignity and sacredness of human life that comes from the Word of Life of the Pro-Life Office of the U.S. Catholic Bishops.

1. "Created in the image of God, human beings are by nature bodily and spiritual men and women made for one another, persons oriented toward communion with

God and with one another, wounded by sin and in need of salvation, and destined to be conformed to Christ, the perfect image of the Father, in the power of the Holy Spirit." (International Theological Commission, "Communion and Stewardship: Human Persons Created in the Image of God," September 2004.)

2. "There are no lives that are not worth living; there is no suffering, no matter how grave, that can justify killing a life; there are reason, no matter how noble, that make plausible the creation of human beings, destined to be used and destroyed." (Pope John Paul II, "Medicine is Always at the Service of Life," November 12, 2004.)

3. "If adult stem cell research has already demonstrat-

ed conditions for success and raises no ethical questions, it is only reasonable that it should be pursued before science embarks on cloning embryos as a source for stem cells, something which remains problematic both scientifically and ethically. Does this mean we are opposed to scientific progress? Rather, we would say that the choice is not between science and ethics, but between science that is ethically responsible and science that is not. Thousand of lives have been saved by adult stem cells." (Archbishop Migliore, "Cloning Concerns the Nature and Existence of Human Life Itself," Statement to 6th Committee of U.N. General Assembly, October 22, 2004.)

Del Escritorio del Obispo

## Reflexiones sobre la dignidad y lo sa grado de la vida humana

**Por el Obispo Miguel Pfeifer, OMI**

Presento aqui para su consideración algunas reflexiones sobre la dignidad y lo sagrado de la vida humana tomadas de la Palabra de Dios de la Oficina de Pro-Vida de los Obispos Católicos de los Estados Unidos.

1. "Creados a la imagen de Dios, los seres humanos por naturaleza son hombres y mujeres en cuerpo y alma hechos el uno para el otro, son personas orientadas hacia la comunión con Dios y consigo, heridas por el pecado y necesitadas de salvación, y por el poder del Espíritu Santo, destinadas a conformarse a Cristo, la imagen perfecta del Padre." (Comisión Teológica Internacional,

"Comunión y Corresponsabilidad: Personas creadas a la imagen de Dios," Septiembre de 2004.)

2. "No existen vidas que no merezcan ser vividas; no hay sufrimientos, por mas dolorosos que sean, que puedan justificar la eliminación de una existencia; no hay razones, por mas altas que sean, que hagan plausible la "creación" de ser humanos destinados a ser utilizados y destruidos." (Papa Juan Pablo II, Carta a los participantes en la XXIII Asamblea Nacional Italiana de Medicos Católicos," 12 de Noviembre de 2004.)

3. "Si la investigación en células estaminales adultas ya ha demostrado condiciones de éxito y no plantea cuestiones éticas, es razonable que se prosiga con ellas

antes de que la ciencia se embarque en la clonación de embriones como fuente de células estaminales, algo que sigue siendo problemático tanto científica como éticamente. "Significa que nos oponemos al progreso científico? Mas bien diríamos que la elección no es entre ciencia y ética, sino entre ciencia que es éticamente responsable y ciencia que no lo es. Miles de vidas han sido salvadas por células estaminales adultas." (Arzobispo Migliore, "La clonación concierne a la naturaleza y existencia de la vida humana misma." Declaración al 6º Comité de la Asamblea General del 22 de Octubre de 2004.)

## World AIDS Day brings awareness

**By Rev. Michael Pfeifer, OMI**  
Bishop of San Angelo

World Aids Day, December 1, is a call to examine how we are confronting HIV/AIDS in the context of the healing mission of Jesus Christ, who came to bring God's compassion to the sick and suffering.

The spread of HIV/AIDS is staggering. In 2004 an estimated 40 million people were living with HIV/AIDS. More than 20 million persons have already died, including 2.6 million just in 2003. Worldwide, the main cause of infection has been heterosexual intercourse.

In some countries, the epidemic begins with injecting drug use and then the spread through sexual contact. While Africa has been hardest hit, the epidemic is now moving into the world's most populous countries: China and India.

HIV/AIDS is devastating to developing countries. Over 90%

of persons with aids live in these countries. Because of AIDS, nations already reeling from other hardships face many more deaths, a reduction in the number of workers, and greater economic/political instability.

These alarming statistics have led many AIDS researchers to conclude that when HIV enters a population, it always goes to those people already experiencing poverty, oppression, disease and marginalization.

In this context of global suffering, as people of God we turn to Sacred Scripture for guidance as how to confront this problem. Flowing from the principles of Scripture, we are reminded that AIDS is not a punishment sent by God; and that we need to deal with those with the symptoms of HIV/AIDS with the same compassion and care that Jesus manifested to the sick and afflicted. Our Judeo-Christian principles also challenge us to question and to

change structures of society that oppresses people.

To confront this AIDS crisis in a holistic manner we need to heed the words of Pope John Paul II: "The AIDS epidemic calls for a supreme effort of international cooperation on the part of governments, the world medical and scientific community, and all those who exercise influence in developing a sense of moral responsibility in society."

HIV/AIDS is devastating to the lives of individuals and families, communities and countries. Reason and faith offer gifts of healing and light, challenge and hope as we confront this critical issue.

To deal with this crisis, we are to respond with care and compassion to those infected and affected by HIV, crossing the boundaries of fear and prejudice. We need to take on the attitude of the compassionate Christ as we reach out to these brothers and sisters.

*"Federal judges have the duty to interpret the Constitution and the laws faithfully and fairly, to protect the constitutional rights of all Americans, and to do these things with care and with restraint ..."*

— Alito at the announcement of his nomination to the Supreme Court



**SAMUEL ALITO JR.**

**AGE 55**

Born April 1, 1950, in Trenton, N.J.

**EXPERIENCE**

1990-present 3rd U.S. Circuit Court of Appeals

**EDUCATION**

1975 JD, Yale Law School  
1972 AB, Princeton University

1987-1989 U.S. attorney for the District of New Jersey

**FAMILY**

Married with two children

1985-1987 Deputy assistant U.S. attorney general

**RELIGION**

Catholic

1981-1985 Assistant to U.S. solicitor general

## Archdiocese of New Orleans

Temporary Office of the Archbishop  
1800 S. Acadian Thruway  
Baton Rouge, LA 70808

October 4, 2005

Most Reverend Michael D. Pfeifer  
Diocese of San Angelo  
Box 1829  
San Angelo, TX 76902-1828

Dear Bishop Pfeifer:

I am deeply humbled and grateful to you for the generous sacrificial check which you have sent in support of our relief efforts to those who have been impacted by Hurricane Katrina. Thank you for the remarkable way in which you give to the mission of the church.

Obviously, Hurricane Katrina has presented to us all a human catastrophe of overwhelming proportions. I assure that your gift will enable us to reach out in an effective way to those who are now suffering because of the hurricane.

May God bless you abundantly for your magnanimous gift.

Gratefully in the Lord,

Most Reverend Alfred C. Hughes  
Archbishop of New Orleans

## Diocese of San Angelo

The Most Rev. Michael D. Pfeifer, OMI  
Bishop of San Angelo  
804 Ford St.  
San Angelo, TX 76905

October 2005

### THANKS FOR GIVING, AND GIVING, AND GIVING SOME MORE.

My dear kind and generous sisters and brothers of the Diocese of San Angelo:

At various times during this past year, I pleaded for your spiritual and financial assistance for our sisters and brothers who were suffering and are suffering and in great need from recent natural disasters. Some of these sisters and brothers are close by, and some others are thousands and thousands of miles away, but together we all make up the human family and are the Body of Christ.

Because of the tremendous need of so many of our suffering sisters and brothers of the human family, I felt obligated to turn to you for your assistance and you have responded in an outstanding manner, and I am indeed very grateful to you for your generous response, for the way you have lived out the Gospel of Christ in responding to the many appeals I have made. Here I would like to share with you the results of some of the major appeals that I have made to you since the beginning of this year, actually beginning right after Christmas of 2004 with the Tsunami disaster:

--response to help the victims of Tsunami	\$110,864.71
--response to help the victims of Hurricane Emily	\$10,423.58
--response to help the victims of Hurricane Katrina	\$221,737.60
--response to help the victims of Hurricane Rita	\$55,798.51
--response to help the victims of the earthquake in Pakistan (an appeal was just made recently; funds are just coming in)	\$18,747.11
--response to help the victims of Hurricane Stan (that struck southern Mexico, Guatemala and other parts of Central America) (an appeal was just made recently; funds are just coming in)	\$11,062.50
<b>Total funds collected as of 10/21/05 for all these appeals -</b>	<b>\$428,634.01</b>

(LETTER continued, Pg. 14)

## YOUTH: St. Mary's shares with St. Helena's youth

(From 5)

who were present. To cap off the meal, we even had a birthday blessing and celebration for one of our youth. On Friday and Saturday evenings, the entire group met in the Chapel for reflection and discernment. During which times, the retreat team presented each of the retreatants a wooden cross and a small cross medallion as a gift and a reminder of what their mission in life was to be.

The retreat ended with Liturgy on Sunday and was followed by a slide presentation to the families of the youth showing the activities of the weekend. During this weekend there was a good deal of laughter and a good deal of tears. The Circle of Friends bonded extremely close to our youth. In fact, one of their members was present when our youth were confirmed on Saturday, October 15th. Everyone who attended this retreat came

away with an entirely different outlook on what Christ has commanded all of us to do in this world. Each of our young people who attended the retreat said that this was a very worthwhile activity and many are willing to continue doing work similar to this. St. Mary's youth who have been confirmed have been invited by the Circle of Friends to come to Hobbs, NM, and assist them in putting on a retreat for the youth of that parish.

St. Mary's Parish has been blessed to have the Circle of Friends Youth Evangelization Team come and share this experience to our young people. Our mission this year for our youth at St. Mary's is to "COME AND MEET JESUS". Our friends at St. Helena's have opened the hearts of our young people thru their ministry, and we are happy to know that many of our youth, met Jesus for the very first time!

-- Submitted by Greg Daniel

## Pope Leo the Great

c. 400 - 461

feast - November 10

A Roman deacon who advised two popes, Leo was elected pope in 440 while on a diplomatic mission to Gaul, now France. He is one of three popes called "the Great." His title was earned for his teachings, in 143 letters and nearly 100 sermons that survive, and his administration, in which church governance was consolidated, the primacy of Rome stressed, and liturgical, pastoral and canonical uniformity urged. He also persuaded Attila the Hun not to sack Rome and was named a doctor of the church.



**DIOCESAN DATES****Bishop's Calendar****November**

10 -- San Angelo, Diocesan Pastoral Center – Joint Meeting of the Diocesan Finance Council and Presbyteral Council for Annual Audit – 11- a.m.-2 p.m.

13-17 Washington – Meeting of United States Conference of Catholic Bishops

19 -- San Angelo – Convention Center – Diocesan Youth Event; Christ the King Retreat Center – Criminal Justice Workshop

20 -- Rowena, St. Joseph - Mass, 9:30 a.m.

24 -- San Angelo, Sacred Heart Cathedral – Thanksgiving Day Mass, 9 a.m.

25-27 -- Rest and Prayer

**December**

1 -- San Angelo, Sacred Heart Cathedral, Noon Mass, World Aids Day.

2-3 -- Dallas, Mass for Holy Spirit Circle

4 -- San Angelo, Fort Concho Chapel, Christmas Mass, 11 a.m.

5 -- San Angelo, Diocesan Pastoral Center, Staff Mass, 8:30 a.m.

5-8 -- McAllen

9 -- Staff Meeting, Diocesan Pastoral Center, San Angelo

9 -- Midland, St. Stephen, Advent Night of Prayer with all priests, sisters, deacons and wives of Midland-Odessa Deanery, 7 p.m.

11 -- San Angelo, St. Margaret - Mass at 11:30 a.m.

12 -- Mass of Our Lady of Guadalupe, 6:30 p.m., Sacred Heart Cathedral, San Angelo.

13 -- Presbyteral Council, 11 a.m., Christ the King Retreat Center, San Angelo

13 -- Bishop's Annual Christmas Party, all priests, sisters, deacons and wives, 5:30 p.m., Christ the King Retreat Center, San

Angelo

14 -- San Angelo, San Angelo Ambulatory Center - Christmas Mass, 11 a.m.

14 -- Bishop's Residence - Annual Christmas Party for Staff, 6 pm.

15 -- Advent Night of Prayer with all priests, sisters, deacon and wives of the San Angelo Deanery, Sacred Heart Cathedral, San Angelo, 7 p.m.

16 -- San Angelo, Angelo Catholic School - Sacred Heart Campus - Annual Christmas Mass at 8:30 a.m.

16 -- Eden, Detention Center - Christmas Mass at 1 p.m.

17-18 -- Parish Finance Council Members, Christ the King Retreat Center, San Angelo.

18 -- Mass, St. James Church, Sanderson, 11 a.m.

20 -- Christmas Mass, 11 a.m., Baptist Memorial, San Angelo.

20 -- Penance Service, 7 p.m., Sacred Heart Cathedral, San Angelo.

24 -- Mass, 9 a.m., 10 a.m., Tom Green County Jail, San Angelo.

24 -- Christmas Vigil Mass, midnight, Sacred Heart Cathedral, San Angelo.

25 -- Christmas Day Mass, 9 a.m., Goodfellow Air Force Base, San Angelo.

26-29 -- Rest and Prayer.

**Ethics Workshops****Midland/Odessa Deanery**

November 10, 7:00-10:00 pm -- St. Joseph, Fort Stockton

November 17, 7:00-10:00 pm -- St. Ann, Midland

November 18, 6:30-9:30 pm -- St. Mary, Odessa

**Abilene Deanery**

November 17, 7:00-10:00 pm -- Holy Family, Abilene

**Christ the King Retreat Center Schedule****November 2005**

10 -- Presbyteral Council & Finance Council Lunch

10-13 -- Men's Walk To Emmaus

14-Heart of Mercy Prayer Group

15-Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament

17-Beta Sigma Phi

19-Criminal Justice Ministries Seminar

Immanuel Baptist Choir Seminar

20-Natural Family Planning As A Lifestyle

21-Heart of Mercy Prayer Group

22-Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament

24-25 -- Thanksgiving- Office Closed

28 -- Heart of Mercy Prayer Group

29 -- Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament

**Chancellor's Calendar****November 2005**

10 -- Presbyteral and Finance Councils -- Annual Audit at Pastoral Center, 11 a.m.

12 -- Advanced Formation, St. Mary's, Odessa, 8:45 a.m.

12 -- New Parish Finance/Pastoral Councils Training, St. Joseph's, San Angelo .

17-19 -- National Pastoral Life Convention, Fort Worth/

19 -- Diocesan Youth Event, San Angelo Convention Center

20 -- Campaign For Human Development Collection

24-25 -- Thanksgiving, DOSA Office Closed.

**Necrology-November**

10 -- Rev. James Coleman (2002)

19 -- Rev. Frank Zimmerman, CM (1999)

23 -- Rev. Colm Mulligan MSC (2003)

27 -- Rev. Michael Dwyer MSC (1997)

**Collection for Retirement Fund, December 10-11**

*My dear sisters and brothers in Christ:*

The annual collection for the Retirement Fund for the Religious will take place on the weekend of December 10-11, 2005. I sincerely thank you for all the past generous donations that you have made to support our dedicated and generous retired religious who have served us so well in the past. Now they need our help and support. I encourage you to please be generous in this special collection and please offer prayers for all of these dedicated servants of God.

Catholic religious institutes were faced decades ago with financial shortfalls for elder care. Through sacrifice and strategic planning-and simply doing with less-institutes have kept their average cost for skilled nursing care to \$126 per day, compared to the national average of \$145.

How your donation helps

- ✓ Last year, 91 monasteries that are sites for ongoing contemplative prayer received grants for critical retirement needs.

- ✓ 437 religious institutes that minister to poor received grants that help ensure adequate elder care.

How you benefit In addition to the satisfaction you may derive from the aid you provide to our elderly religious, you are remembered in the daily prayers of thousands of women and men who benefit from this appeal.

Please continue to share in the care for our wonderful elderly religious. I ask God's abundant blessings upon you for you being so generous to this worthy cause.

Your servant in Christ and Mary,

*Most Reverend  
Michael Pfeifer, OMI  
Bishop of San Angelo*

**Reluctant retreat-goers warm to spiritual weekend**

*"Do not let anyone look down on you because of your youth, but set an example for the believer in your speech, conduct, faith, love and purity." 1 Timothy 4:12*

On the weekend of September 30th, a dramatic miracle happened to 30 young people who participated, completed, and experienced a retreat at Odessa's St. Mary's Parish. The Holy Spirit made a visit to this parish and imparted some of His gifts on 30 youth. This retreat was to complete the requirement for conference of the Sacrament of Confirmation. The retreat was put on by a group called the Circle of Friends Youth Evangelization Team from St. Helena's Parish in Hobbs, NM. All of the members of the retreat team are youth who have been confirmed and who have elected to have this as their ministry. The retreat team paired up with members of St. Mary's youth who were confirmed last year (now called the Ex Cons, Examples of Confirmation). The Circle of Friends travels throughout the Diocese of Las Cruces giving retreats to all levels of grades 9-12 and for all types

of retreats (one day, three day, Confirmation I & II, and youth rallies).

Almost to a person, none of the participants "wanted" to attend this retreat. As part of the requirements, the retreatants, retreat team, and adult supervisors, were required to stay overnight for the entire time (a lock in). On Friday evening and on Saturday, the meals were prepared by a group of ladies from the parish. Breakfast on Sunday morning was prepared by the Knights of Columbus. The meals were excellently prepared and we are so thankful for those who helped in this preparation. As part of the experience, no cell phones, no radios, no CD players, or video games were allowed. The attendees were slightly negative in their attitude but were at least willing to give it a chance. By the morning of the second day, a transformation began to take place. This transformation was nearly completed at the period of the reading of the "Palanca" letters. These letters are a tradition at all Confirmation II retreats in the Diocese of Las Cruces. These are love letters from their parents and family members. So often as parents, we forget to tell our

youth how much we love and appreciate them. So this is the opportunity for them to express their feelings to their sons and daughters.

The activities started on Friday evening with an ice breaker. There were many fun games and activities which were geared to teach a lesson and help bring about community to the group. Some of the fun activities were: the banana peel song, the peanut butter eating contest, and the hand washing contest. On a more serious note, throughout the weekend, there were five talks given by each member of the retreat team followed by small group discussions and reporting back to the large group. The subjects of those talks were: speech, conduct, faith, love and purity. This also happened to coincide with the theme of the retreat. There was an opportunity for the Sacrament of Reconciliation on Saturday afternoon. For the Saturday evening meal, the youth were led down an aisle of candles to their places at the table. The meal was served to them by the adults

(See YOUTH/4)



Ralph Castille and Bryan Lucas fill in a sub-floor in San Pedro Sula.

## Happiness of Hondurans a lasting memory for those who made trip

**Editor's Note:** Eight members of St. Ann's Parish in Midland traveled to Chamelecon, San Pedro Sula, Honduras, on a mission trip, July 19-26. One of those, Kirby Castille, gave the following presentation at a recent Sunday Mass. Ralph Castille's reflections will be published in the November *Angelus*.

By Kirby Castille

SAN PEDRO SULA. Óla...

I certainly didn't know what to expect when I decided to go on the mission trip to Honduras. Although we met as a group several times before the trip, reviewed booklets discussing overseas trips, prayed together for safe travel, and even met with Fr. Tom when he was in Midland, I was not expecting everything that occurred during our visit!

Our travels from Midland to San Pedro Sula, Honduras were easy – although getting up at 4 a.m. was a little early, but I was ready to go. Our adventures and experiences had already started! Our first encounter with our new friends from Chamelecón began at the airport where they picked us up. Two miniature Toyota pickups, loaded with our 24 overstuffed suitcases and storage containers, 11 adults, and about 15 excited kids all piled on top of the luggage, made the journey through the cane fields to our new home. Their smiles and love started from our first encounter.

Just as they say music crosses all cultures and knows no boundaries, I think the same can be said about Futbol – or soccer. Before the trip, I sent a letter to all of my soccer friends, asking them to help donate any used jerseys, shorts and shoes they had. I was overwhelmed with everyone's generosity, and we filled several containers with soccer stuff. Considering the Hondurans play soccer every day after work, I hoped they would enjoy these gifts.

After our first full day of work, we came back to the mission, where they set up a couple of goals to play 3v3 in the church yard. They had already heard about my special gifts, so I went inside to get a new ball and several of the jerseys. They were thrilled – the jerseys were immediately pulled on, and the game began. (Some of the guys even wore the jerseys for the next 3 days straight!) I was accepted into their group, and after scoring a couple of quick goals, we exchanged high fives and cheers, as our team continued to win several games! It was then that I realized.... I am just like them.... having the same God to thank for all my blessings.... only from a different part of the globe.

My most memorable occurrence was working and playing alongside a young man named Henry. Although he is already 30 years old, he looks even older, for he has had a very difficult life. Henry was previously in a gang, and has tattoos over most of his

(See HONDURAS/7)

## Celebrating four years of solidarity with San Pedro Sula

The weekend of September 10-12 was designated as a time to remember. On the evening of September 11, 2001, after witnessing the incredible loss of human life and massive destruction, the Dioceses of San Pedro Sula, Tyler, and San Angelo, signed a Covenant of Partnership pledging love, respect, and communion.

Four years later, Newman Center students and faculty gathered to pray, learn, and share a meal. Miguel Diaz proclaimed a section of Psalm 22, Jamie May King lead



S. Malachy

the group in intercessory prayer, and Missy Garza prayed linking the destruction wrought by hurricane Mitch in Honduras (1998) and that of Katrina. The concluding prayer was one written by Jim Smith of Tyler. Gifts from Honduras decorated the prayer space. For some students, especially freshmen, this was a "beginning experience" of the solidarity we share with brothers and sisters from a Third World country.

For the meal at this celebration, Lydia Martinez prepared red beans and rice, a specialty in southern Louisiana. We spoke about how this partnership began due to the devastation caused by Hurricane Mitch, and now our country is currently living in the aftermath of Hurricane Katrina and the destruction caused to our own "superpow-

er" country.

On Monday of this commemorative weekend, Lydia Martinez entered Angelo Catholic School where there was a display of gifts from Honduras to be shared with the young students. According to their teacher, Ms. Terry Munoz, the children had already been taught a lesson during prayer time about the partnership with Honduras and the numerous events that have taken place throughout these four years of solidarity. At lunchtime, the students would enjoy cake provided by the Newman Center, decorated with the Honduran flag and "Celebrating Four Years of Solidarity" beautifully written on it. Over the school year, the students will become pen pals with students from Casa Aurora in Honduras, a

school run by two United States Dominican sisters, Sister Doris from Columbus, Ohio, and Sister Joan from Grand Rapids, Michigan.

Students young and "old" across the city of San Angelo celebrated this strong partnership among the dioceses of San Angelo, Tyler, and San Pedro Sula, Honduras. On Monday, students at the Newman Center concluded the weekend celebration by reading aloud the prayer for hope by Archbishop Oscar Romero which ended with these words, "What if WE are the leaders we have been waiting for?"

Submitted by: Lydia Martinez and Sister Marie Malachy Griffin, O.P.

## Confirmands: 'God will be with us through all the bumps in life'

[Reflections by newly confirmed young people from and St. Isidore Mission in Lenorah]

In preparation for the celebration of Confirmation in each parish, I write a letter to all the candidates, sharing with them my reflections on the beautiful Sacrament of Confirmation and the new coming of the Holy Spirit into their lives. I then invite the class to send me a letter in which they share with me their understanding of the Sacrament of Confirmation and how the Holy Spirit will be present with them in a new way in their lives. I share here the reflections that were sent to me in a letter from the Confirmation Class of St. Isidore Mission in Lenorah.

The reflections here from the letter represents the many inspiring and challenging thoughts that the Confirmation candidates have expressed in their letters written to me during this past Confirmation season.

Dear Bishop Pfeifer:

We the confirmation class of the Mission of St. Isidore in Lenorah would like to be confirmed in the Catholic Church. We have completed all our community service and have been studying diligently for the past two years. As teenagers we can not wait to be adults and to be on our own, not really understanding the responsibilities

that come with being an "Adult."

When we finally get to that level we feel sometimes that life gets thrown in our faces and all we want is to give life back. Well, in becoming an adult in the Church it is totally different. We feel that we might not be fully ready for the adult life as the world demands; however, we feel we are ready to become adults in our Catholic Faith. Our Faith has grown so much throughout the years and will continue to grow as we experience life as Adults. God will be with us through all the bumps in our life and as long as we do not let go He will provide us

(See CONFIRMANDS/14)

## Reaffirming out commitment to Catholic education

By Bishop Michael Pfeifer, OMI

At their meeting in June, the U.S. Catholic Bishops, in a statement entitled, "Renewing our Commitment to Catholic Elementary and Secondary Schools in the Third Millennium," asked that we all revisit and reaffirm our commitment to Catholic Schools, which are an invaluable instrument in proclaiming the good news from one generation to the next. In this statement, the Bishops point out that making "Catholic Elementary and Secondary Schools available, accessible and affordable to all Catholic parents and their children, including those who are poor and middle class, is the entire Catholic community's responsibility."

In the Diocese of San Angelo, we are blessed to have three Catholic schools located in San Angelo, Midland, and Odessa. I am deeply grateful to the priests and parishes, school boards, our parents, principals, teachers and all school personnel who give their untiring support to these schools, making them of the highest quality for our students. In the cities where these schools are located, I ask our priests and the entire Catholic community to give their personal and financial support to these schools so that we can keep providing special Catholic education to our young people.

In the rest of this article, I share with you some reflections from the recent Bishops' statement on why we value our Catholic schools.

"Young people of the third millennium must be a source of energy and leadership in our church and our nation. Therefore, we must provide young people with an academically rigorous and doctrinally sound program of education and faith formation designed to strengthen their union with Christ and his church. Catholic schools collaborate with parents and guardians in raising and forming their children as families struggle with the changing and challenging cultural and moral contexts in which they find themselves.

Catholic schools provide young people with sound church teaching through a broad-based curriculum where faith and culture are intertwined in all areas of a school's life. By equipping our young people with a sound education rooted in the Gospel message, the person of Jesus Christ, and rich in the cherished traditions and liturgical practices of our faith, we ensure that they have the foundation to live morally and uprightly in our complex modern world. This unique Catholic identity makes our Catholic elementary and secondary schools "schools for the human person" and allows them to fill a critical role in the future life of our church, our country, and our world ("Catholic Schools on the Threshold"9).

It is made abundantly clear in an unbroken list of statements from the documents of the Second Vatican Council to Pope John Paul II's 1999 exhortation "The Church in America" (Ecclesia in America) that Catholic schools play a vital role in the evangelizing mission of the church. They are "the privileged environment in which Christian education is carried out. . . Catholic schools are at once places of evangelization, of complete formation, of inculturation, of apprenticeship in a lively dialogue between young people of different religions and social backgrounds" ("Catholic Schools on the Threshold of the Third Millennium," 1 1)."

I take this opportunity to express my deepest gratitude to all those individuals who staff the Catholic elementary schools of our Diocese, dedicated priests, laity and religious, our dedicated principals, our School Boards, our teachers, our parents, our Superintendent, and all school personnel. I applaud their professionalism, personal sacrifices, daily witness to faith, and efforts to integrate learning and faith in the lives of our students in order to accomplish the very purpose of evangelization: the incarnation of the Christian message into the lives of our people. I take this opportunity to encourage all who are devoted to working in Catholic schools to persevere in this most important mission.

## Charismatic group together for 32 years in San Angelo

By JoAnn E. Turner

In his October article on the Catholic Charismatic Renewal, Bishop Pfeifer noted, "The Catholic Charismatic Movement is one of the many fruits of the Second Vatican Council, which, like a new Pentecost, led to an extraordinary flourishing in the Church's life of groups and movements especially sensitive to the action of the Holy Spirit." For the past 32 years, San Angelo has been blessed with just such a group, meeting in various Parishes throughout the city. It has been a meeting place and foundation for those seeking to receive, and use, the power of the Holy Spirit in their lives.

Jesus is our model for accepting the Holy Spirit. We can see evidence of the Spirit after His baptism - in His teaching, healing, ability to pray and the events in His life. We also have Mary and the saints who are models of surrender to the Spirit. Mary

answered a complete and unqualified YES to the call of God! She walked a path no human before or since has walked and she did it in faith, knowing that God would always be there with her. What a model for us to follow!

Many people say that the miracles that occurred on Pentecost and in the work of Christ and His apostles do not happen in our day and age. When the power of the Holy Spirit is released, wonderful miracles do occur. People are healed, physically, emotionally and spiritually. When we open ourselves to the gifts of the Holy Spirit, we become a well of God's love. And, as that well fills up, we want to empty it by sharing the joy and love that comes from our unique relationship with God. We learn that when we empty ourselves to others, God constantly refills us, and we see that the Holy Spirit is indeed alive, well and very active in our time.

A Spirit-filled life includes many ways of sharing what we have found

with others. God sets our hearts on fire, like the disciples on the road to Emmaus. "They said to each other, "Wasn't it like a fire burning in us when he talked to us on the road and explained the Scriptures to us?" (Luke 24:32)

The Heart of Mercy Prayer Group now meets every Monday night at 7: p.m. at Christ the King Retreat Center. And, on the last Monday of the month we have a delicious potluck dinner.

All are invited to join us, and we will be truly blessed by your presence. Become filled with a joy that is indescribable -- let God set your heart on fire!

If you are not in San Angelo and want to find a prayer group near you, go to <http://nsc-chariscenter.org> and click on resources. Or you may call our Diocesan contacts, Daniel and Sandy Seidel at (325) 223-1509 if you have any questions.

## Pfeifer commends work done to eliminate pornography

By Bishop Michael Pfeifer

To commemorate Pornography Awareness Week, October 30-November 6, 2005, Americans throughout our great nation participated in various ways to express their opposition to obscenity, especially on the Internet and in support of obscenity law enforcement. The White Ribbon Against Pornography Campaign [WRAP] is a vivid reminder to support all efforts to overcome this terrible cancer in our society.

Hardcore pornography presents a false and distorted image of human sexuality which is devoid of love, commitment, and responsibility. Individuals of all ages can easily become addicted to hardcore pornography, which interferes

with the development of healthy sexuality and contributes to the breakup of marriages.

Sadly, much hardcore pornography features adultery, sexual degradation, sexual violence, teen promiscuity, and unsafe sex in an era when divorce, sexual harassment, rape, out-of-wedlock teen pregnancies, statutory rape, and sexually transmitted diseases are all epidemic.

Hardcore pornography, including much of what is called "pseudo child porn," is used by pedophiles to sexually arouse themselves and to desensitize and instruct their child victims. Hardcore porn leads to children molesting other children in imitation of what they see in hardcore pornography.

The proliferation of businesses, including Internet web sites, that

market hardcore pornography, undermines the right of the nation to maintain a decent society. There are Federal obscenity laws on the books, including laws prohibiting the mailing, importation, cable, satellite and Internet transmission and interstate distribution of obscenity.

These obscenity laws are grounded in contemporary community standards of decency. The United States Supreme Court has repeatedly held that obscenity is not protected speech under the First Amendment.

Pornography Awareness Week is an annual occasion for all of us to recognize this terrible cancer that pervades our society, and to work together as we call upon our elected leaders to take action against this disease that corrupts society.

## HONDURAS: Mission trip a life-altering experience

(From 6)

body. After several years of being on the dark side, Henry decided to straighten out his life. He now attends the Mission work program every day, and is focusing on growing closer to God. But the difficult thing for Henry is his need to hide his tattoos. To disassociate himself from the gangs, he can't let others see his arms and legs - he therefore has to wear long pants and a long-sleeved shirt every day. I was sweating in my shorts and T-shirt,

and there Henry was fully covered in jeans and 2 shirts!!! That is true determination! And on top of that, Henry is going to the clinic to have his tattoos surgically removed! It is going to take a long time, as they can only burn off a small section at each visit, due to the pain and chance of infection - so I ask for your continued prayers for the people of Chamelecón, especially Henry.

Like my dad, I also want to thank everyone for their support while we were gone. I know this experience will positively affect my life forever, and I hope to be able to continue to

support my new friends in their years to come. I also want to thank Msgr. Droll for coordinating this trip, and most importantly for going with us.

His love and support for Fr. Tom and the barrio of Chamelecón was very apparent;

His kind words and encouragement for the group was always appreciated;

And his leadership and devotion for St. Ann's parish is something we should never take for granted.

I hope several of my fellow church members will be able to experience a journey like this in the years to come - I promise you will come back as a different person.

"Qué Dios les bendiga" - God Bless You.

## Money problems can affect spirituality

By Father Peter J. Daly  
Catholic News Service

Money, money, money. Everybody fights about money.

It's the main thing married couples fight about — sometimes about how to get it, but mostly about how to spend it. Even households with good incomes have bad financial problems.

All this fighting makes money a spiritual problem. That is why our parish sponsored a two-day workshop on financial planning from a Catholic perspective. We had a home-grown expert to help us.

One of our parishioners, Bill Gorman, runs a financial advising service called Faithful Servant. Gorman actually manages money for clients to help them invest according to the church's teachings.

Drawing on Scripture, the catechism, the writings of the bishops and the saints (especially St. Francis de Sales) as well as the usual financial tools, he guides people in their use of money as part of their spiritual life.

Gorman's basic thesis is that most of our money problems come from the seven deadly sins: pride, avarice (greed), lust, envy, anger, gluttony and sloth. As long as we suffer from these sins, more money won't help.

When you think about it, he is right. Pride makes us buy things we don't need just for an ego boost. Greed make us want more, whether we need it or not. Lust, related to greed in our desire, makes us spend on our sinful appetites rather than on our true needs. Anger moves people to use money as a weapon against one another.

Gluttony, like greed and lust, relates to a common phenomenon, hoarding. We buy even when we already have. (Look in most people's garages. Sometimes they can't even get the car in.)

Sloth or laziness has obvious financial consequences, but to most people's surprise not so much in the making

of money as in the lack of discipline in spending.

Over two nights Gorman showed us how giving in to the seven deadly sins can lead to financial ruin.

The antidote to the financial malaise of the seven deadly sins is the vaccine of the four cardinal virtues: prudence, justice, temperance, fortitude.

The basic problem is confusion about goals. Most people, says Gorman, do not really identify what they need for their vocation. Some need more, some less.

A real-estate agent might need a fancy car, but not a parish priest. According to Gorman, if we are clear about our primary vocation, the question of what we need comes immediately into focus.

As a layman, Gorman could say things I know to be true but could not say because it would look self-serving. For instance: When we put God first in our use of time and treasure, including tithing for the church, everything else falls into its proper place.

Two-thirds of the parables of Jesus have something to do with money, from the story of the clever servant to the widow's mite. Jesus knew that the material things are important. The Lord's Prayer recognizes this, when he tells us to pray for our "daily bread."

But Scripture is in conflict with a "consumer" culture. Our culture tells us that we should perpetually want more. We become the servants of our wants, not their master.

Jesus told his disciples: "No servant can serve two masters. He will hate one and love the other.... You cannot serve both God and money."

Reflecting on the spiritual use of our money is an essential part of the spiritual life of the parish. It certainly was worth two nights of our time. Next year we will make it a requirement for all couples preparing for marriage.

I'm sure the Lord wants us all to be "faithful servants."

buy a new computer.

I told him he was doing no such thing.

You can probably fill in his response: "Why not? It's my money!"

Now, if he didn't have a computer, my answer might have been different. But the fact is he's got a perfectly decent system that, even in these times of rapid obsolescence, is quite capable of doing everything he needs it to do.

Except, I discovered, play the very latest, cutting-edge games.

"So," I concluded, "you want to spend \$1,000 on something on which you can play games?"

Now, my son is fairly good-natured, as

I'm sure you are too, and he knows his mother well enough to understand that, at that point, pushing his case for his totally independent use of his money would only lead to unforeseen consequences like paying rent or something. So he let it drop, but not before we struck a deal.

I told him that in a few months his life was going to change quite a bit and his priorities along with it, in a way that he wasn't quite aware of right now.

—First, he'd be driving, and along with that comes expenses, the most burdensome of which is insurance, especially if you're a male under 25.

—Second, he'd be a junior and ready to start thinking a lot more seriously about college — about where he wanted to go and how much it was going to cost.

Using his money to buy a new, faster computer might seem great now, but how was it going to seem in a few months when he couldn't drive because he didn't have money for insurance and he was having to start his college money fund all over again — all because he'd purchased a machine on which to play games.

Learning how to spend your money is always a challenge. You just can't think about your present desires. You have to

## MONEY: Saving, cutting back on card dependence essential

(From 1)

can't afford it. That's been told to us forever," said Charlie Evans, a deacon in Odessa and Andrews and a financial planner and insurance agent. "A lot of people bring home their money, and put it all on bills and food and they have none left for themselves. You need an emergency fund."

Evans also advised people to look down the road to help with financial planning.

"See what the worst-case scenario would be for yourself," he said. "Ask yourself, 'If my husband died today, could I take care of my expenses? The bills? The house payment? College?'"

Evans said ideally if people put \$5,000 into a savings account and then set back \$20 a month for 20 years at a modest 5 percent interest the savings would amount to over \$20,000.

Evans said a lot of people say they can't afford \$20, but invariably end up "spending \$20 a month renting movies or going out to eat."

Life insurance, Evans said, is another matter people should seriously consider.

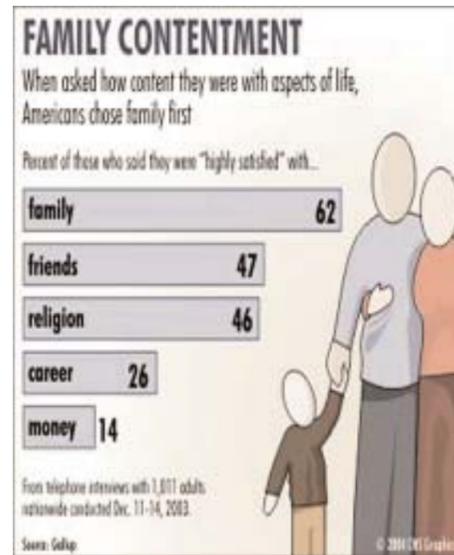
"People should have life insurance that amounts to 7-10 times their annual income," he said. "A lot of families really should have a \$200,000-500,000 policy today to take care of the family after a death. Once you figure your mortgage and have enough to replace the monthly income to they have used to establish a standard of living, it takes quite a bit of insurance."

But how can a family effectively plan for the future if it can't even control it's day to day, week to week or month to month cash flows? Simple: avoid credit whenever possible.

"Credit card interests are higher these days, and the amount you pay back is always a lot more than what you spend. The longer you take to pay back the more you pay back."

Financial guru Dave Ramsey advises his indebted listeners the first thing to do when trying to get out of debt is to make a list of your credit card debt. Pay off the smaller amounts first, he says, and then gradually pay off the larger amounts, which will be made simpler because consumers will slowly accrue more and more money to pay off the larger debts.

It's a long and difficult road. The only option is not to get in debt in the first place. The only viable option for many of us is to plan wisely and act responsibly to get out of debt. And with the new bankruptcy laws, for many of us, it will be the only way to dig out.



## 'Knowing the difference between need and want' and other wise tips

By Bill and Monica Dodds  
Catholic News Service

Younger children think ATMs are money-making machines. Punch in the code, grab the cash. Older children think parents are ATMs.

Teaching fiscal responsibility can be tough because it's hard to be fiscally responsible in an era when credit cards are so easy to get. Even so, helping children understand the basics hasn't changed.

1. As one great-grandfather recently said, describing how his own father taught him about personal finance, "It's knowing the difference between what you need and what you want."

2. Handling money takes practice, and receiving an allowance can help. Budgeting is an acquired skill. A percentage goes to savings, another percentage to church; a percentage is put away toward a large-ticket item, another percentage is allotted to fun and games. It's by budgeting that children learn not only how to do those things but why it's to their advantage to do them.

3. Money most appreciated is money earned. That's true whether it's a little bonus for extra help around the house for the youngest children, money earned through baby-sitting or a newspaper route for those in their middle years, or a "real job" for teens.

4. Patience pays off. Impulse buying is cost-

ly. Waiting for an item to go on sale is money in the bank.

5. It's easy to spend more than you earn, no matter how much you earn. (Or how old you are.) Spending more than you earn, no matter how much you earn, always leads to trouble.

6. A big difference between a savvy consumer and a sucker is knowing and recognizing marketing techniques.

**On the Web: Don't Buy It!**

Advertisers rely on a proven — not secret — formula. Recognizing their techniques in commercials and print ads is a game children enjoy. The PBS site for children points out favorite gimmicks at: [pbskids.org/dontbuyit/advertisingtricks/](http://pbskids.org/dontbuyit/advertisingtricks/).

**Compound Interest: Friend or Foe?**

Is compound interest a friend or foe? Teens can make their lives much, much easier by recognizing it can be either.

Because credit-card companies have older teens and young adults as primary targets, children in that age range can feel as if strangers just want to give them money. Obviously, these strangers don't. What they want is to get that generation into debt to their companies — and to have those young people making minimum payments so that, because of compound interest, it takes forever to get that obligation paid off.

## Coming of Age: It's your money, right? So ... be sure to use extra caution

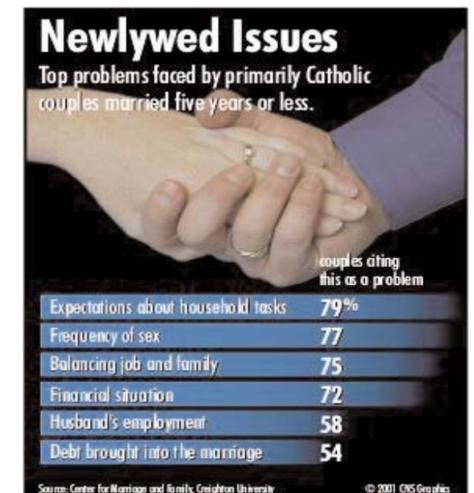
By Amy Welborn  
Catholic News Service

It's your money, right? You should be able to do what you want with it, right? Theoretically, that seems reasonable.

Here you are, you've got your first job. You're the one bagging the groceries, serving the fries and stocking the shelves.

Why shouldn't you use the fruits of your labor for anything you please?

We're currently having that very discussion in my house. After a couple of months working at his first job, my 15-year-old son announced he was going to



## DIOCE-SCENES



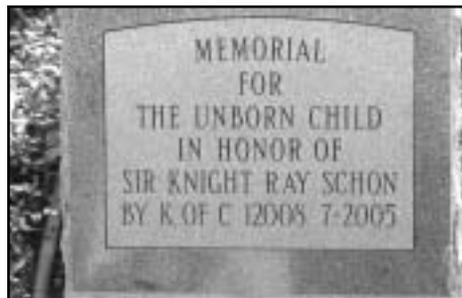
**EDEN.** Eden parishioners, at left, celebrated their Fall for Fitness, which saw Fr. Romanus complete a marathon.



Below left, the St. Joseph Junior High Youth Group in Rowena recently gathered to bake cookies for the Kairos Prison Retreat.



**HEALING SERVICE & MASS** -- Bishop Michael Pfeifer, at left, and with Fr. Ralph DiOrio during Fr. DiOrio's healing service, attended by more than 3,000 at Midland's Chaparral Center in early October.



**MEMORIAL FOR THE UNBORN**

Members of San Angelo's Knights of Columbus 12008, near left, dedicated a Memorial for the Unborn Child recently.



Youth from Odessa's St. Mary's celebrate in retreat.



**NCYC** -- A bus loaded with young people left Midland Oct. 26 bound for Atlanta, Ga., and the three-day National Catholic Youth Conference.

## LETTER: Natural disasters bring out the generosity in all of us

(From 4)

I know that many financial demands are made on you, beginning with taking care of your own families. Then you generously give yourselves and funds to our parishes and offer your time, talent and treasure for so many worthy projects in the communities where you live. At the same time, you responded in a very generous and outstanding manner to these special appeals. I am very proud of you and I am deeply grateful to you for your generosity.

The offerings you have sent me directly or through our parishes have been sent, and are being sent, directly to assist the thousands and thousands of suffering sisters and brothers whose lives have been greatly affected by these terrible catastrophes. From my travels throughout the Diocese, I also realize that you have offered many prayers and have offered spiritual sacrifices to ask God's assistance for the suffering members of our human family, the Body of Christ. You have also reached out personally and through our Good Samaritan Teams in a very loving and caring manner to hundreds and hundreds of evacuees who

came into our diocesan territory.

The response to my appeals for assistance has been immediate and generous. For this I am forever grateful. However, the greatest challenge perhaps still lies ahead: the hard work of helping hundreds of thousands of people rebuild their lives after the catastrophes of the Tsunami, Hurricanes Katrina, Rita and Stan, and the earthquake in Pakistan.

The work ahead requires time, effort, and financial assistance. It also requires confronting the ingrained prejudices and assumptions that contributed to the humanitarian crisis, especially along the Gulf Coast and that have affected decisions about recovery efforts. The basic question is: Why weren't we better prepared, especially for Hurricane Katrina?

In the efforts to assist the victims affected by these catastrophes, some mistakes were made which cannot be erased, although we certainly should learn from them for future emergencies and act more conscientiously. While we learned from the hurricanes that struck the Gulf Coast area, it needs to be stressed that in the future we need to give priority for evacuation to the

most vulnerable, identifying shelters for large numbers of people before the need arises, and allocate federal funds to make necessary improvements to the infrastructure in impoverished areas, particularly those susceptible to natural disasters.

Hurricanes Katrina and Rita ripped through social and economic and racial lines, but it didn't erase them. Those in the upper and middle classes can begin to recover from a better starting point than the poor. However, the poor have no financial foundation. The upper and middle class lost much, but the poor lost everything. We must consider these differences during the recovery process.

Those directing the recovery efforts need to include the poor, vulnerable, and minorities in decision-making. This means moving beyond charitable hand-outs which are necessary in the short term, to providing opportunities for employment, job training, education and low-cost housing, which will allow everyone to move toward long-term self-sufficiency.

My sisters and brothers in Christ, once again I express my deepest gratitude to you for the outstanding generous manner in which you replied to my request to

help our sisters and brothers who are still in such great need due to the disasters mentioned above. Some of these disasters struck close by. Others are thousands of miles away. I encourage you to keep being generous to assist all of our suffering brothers and sisters whose lives have been affected by these terrible catastrophes. Keep praying for them, and keep encouraging others to be conscious of the needs of our suffering brothers and sisters, especially as we prepare to celebrate the beautiful feast of Thanksgiving and the season of Advent, and Christmas.

No amount of assistance or charity can heal the wounds of those who have lost their families or friends. We, however, can address the issues of racism, disempowerment, and poverty, as we move forward with the recovery effort. Perhaps we can't do away with our mistakes, but we can stop perpetuating them, we can all make new efforts to live out the Gospel of Christ, in a more positive and loving manner—beginning right where we live.

-- Your servant in Christ and Mary,  
Most Rev. Michael D. Pfeifer, OMI  
Bishop of San Angelo

## The 2005 Bishops' Synod

## Signs of hope on priest shortage, Skylstad says

VATICAN CITY -- In its effort to deepen appreciation of the Eucharist, the Synod of Bishops highlighted the need for good liturgies, powerful preaching and improved religious instruction for the world's Catholics, said the head of the U.S. bishops' conference.

Bishop William S. Skylstad of Spokane, Wash., president of the U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops, said the bishops also explored the effects of priest shortages around the globe, but a strong majority felt the problem should be tackled without relaxing the rules on priestly celibacy.

"I would say very few (at the synod) would have called for a married clergy," Bishop Skylstad said in an interview with Catholic News Service Oct. 21.

The synod concluded Oct. 22 by approving 50 final propositions and publishing a message to the world. The



Skylstad

three-week assembly brought together more than 250 bishops in what Bishop Skylstad described as an enriching and collegial experience.

While the issue of married priests grabbed headlines during the first phase of the synod, he said the bishops did not see that as an "easy fix" to the problem.

One reason, he said, is that people today have high expectations of priests and insist on good preaching, good liturgies and good theological preparation. That means priestly formation necessarily involves specialized training of several years.

Bishop Skylstad said the bishops were not trying to downplay what they acknowledge as an "acute need for more priests" in certain parts of the world, but said they were looking at a broader response, including a new push for vocations, redistribution and sharing of priests, and promotion of a new missionary spirit in the clergy.

The synod, while it was not the final word on the subject, elicited signs of

hope in all those areas, he said.

Bishop Skylstad said the synod ended up giving a strong endorsement to the liturgical reforms of the Second Vatican Council and putting "very little focus" on liturgical abuses.

"Great things have happened since the Second Vatican Council. We can do it better and we should be doing it better. But let's look at the positive aspects of this first and foremost, because it has tremendously impacted the church," he said.

Bishop Skylstad said that in discussing the Eucharist the bishops were focusing on a sacrament that is "absolutely vital to us in our church life." They emphasized the importance of good liturgies and effective preaching, recognizing that "if you do the sacraments well, they do have their impact."

The synod's final documents did not mention wider use of the Tridentine Mass, a long-standing request of followers of the late excommunicated Archbishop Marcel Lefebvre, and the issue was barely mentioned during

synod discussions, Bishop Skylstad said.

"I think there's a very strong feeling that we need to continue the reforms of the Second Vatican Council," he said.

He said bishops "need to be sensitive to those who are out of communion with the church," but also recognize that "those who are outside of the church need to be open to the goodness of the Second Vatican Council, and they need to buy into where the church is today."

In addition to liturgy, the synod focused on the need to better teach the faithful about the Eucharist, Bishop Skylstad said.

"That's tied in to a broader problem in the church, the faith formation in general of our people. We have an unfortunate situation in the church: Once Catholics have been confirmed or been through high school, they think that's all they need to know," he said.

Especially in complex and rapidly changing times, the church simply cannot afford for its people to be uneducated about the faith, he said.

## Where to go from here

As synod ends, will pope be 'all write' with proposition?

By John Thavis  
Catholic News Service

VATICAN CITY -- The Synod of Bishops on the Eucharist drew to a close in late October, bequeathing to Pope Benedict XVI something he's probably not eager to receive: the raw material for a new document.

The pope, who said bluntly in mid-October that writing more documents was not the mission of his pontificate, appeared to be stuck with the task this time. Bishops have come to see the follow-up text by the pope as confirmation of their work at the synod.

As the synod wound down, some at the Vatican were whispering the unthinkable: that the pope might choose not to write the usual "apostolic exhortation" on the synod, or that he might offer a brief reflection on a few key issues instead of an all-encompassing summary of every synod theme.

The pope seemed to scotch those rumors when he said, at the close of the synod Oct. 23, that the bishops' reflections and proposals would receive further treatment in a follow-up exhortation.

Post-synodal documents have become

so routine that they're taken for granted. After every regular synod, Pope John Paul II wrote one -- encyclopedic tomes that touched all the topics but usually broke no new ground.

It wasn't always like that, however. The first three synods in 1967, 1969 and 1971 ended by submitting written advice to the pope, but there was no follow-up document.

In 1974, Pope Paul VI decided to take things a step further, using the synod's recommendations to write his landmark apostolic exhortation on evangelization, "Evangelii Nuntianti." Ever since then, papal documents have been a post-synod tradition.

There were reasons to think the pope might change that.

Many bishops took note when the pope said in an interview Oct. 16: "My personal mission is not to issue many new documents, but to ensure that (Pope John Paul's) documents are assimilated."

This particular synod may have had even less need for a new papal text: It was preceded by Pope John Paul's encyclical on the Eucharist in 2003 and by a major Vatican document on liturgy last year.

For Pope Benedict, writing about the Eucharist would be covering familiar ground. In 2001, he wrote an entire book on the theology of the Eucharist, and in earlier works he explored liturgical issues in depth.

During the synod, in fact, it was hard to think of a topic of discussion that has not been addressed in detail by the pope in his many earlier writings, including the Eucharist as more than a communal meal, the real presence of Christ (understood not as material transformation but as something "more profound"), Communion in the hand ("perfectly reasonable" if done with reverence), eucharistic adoration as an extension of Mass and not individualistic piety, and the need to recognize that Communion is not for every person at every Mass ("the Eucharist is not worthless if one does not receive Communion").

Pope Benedict's expertise on these questions helped explain why several bishops who addressed the synod quoted



Bishops converse outside of the 2005 Synod, conducted at the Vatican.

his writings on the Eucharist.

Why should the pope prepare another document on the topic?

Father Joseph W. Tobin, superior general of the Redemptorists and a synod participant, said that, despite all that's been written about the Eucharist, there remain unanswered questions that need to be clarified.

And the pope, a teacher at heart, would not want to let that opportunity pass, Father Tobin said.

It was Pope John Paul who added most to the growing list of Vatican documents over the last 25 years. He published his first encyclical less than five months after his election, and within his first year had written three other important documents.

**FAMILY**

From the Easy Chair

**Grow them up, let them go ... there may be no better feeling**

Appreciation of personal parenting is one of those events that comes to you little by little; dawning like a slow-rising sun that eventually instills a feeling of warmth and satisfaction at the end of a long day through the spectacular paint of the dimming evening sky.

When we are the parents of babies we are overjoyed with our little bundles, and we thrill to the possibilities that lie ahead for them and us. As they grow, we pick up the phones and call grandparents and share with them a first tooth, first step and a first word. The '2's' come and go and we somehow survive and so do they.

Children continue to make us proud as they set out for their first day of school, get their first report card and play in their first sporting event or piano recital. At some point in their pre-teen years, firsts



Patterson

are replaced by a slow building maturity and appreciation for things that was not once a part of their makeup.

The kids hit high school and learn to drive, get jobs and graduate we beam anew like first-time moms and dads at our kids' accomplishments. By the time high school graduation comes around, it often becomes apparent what kind of person we've helped make.

It is a bittersweet day, then, when college beckons and our kid crams all her worldly belongings into a compact car and drives off to her new life. Moms, dads and siblings are left in the wake of goodbye, wiping away tears and wondering if their lives will ever be the same again.

They will and they won't.

I don't pretend to speak for all parents, all college-age kids, all families. Not for a minute. But I can give a best-case scenario.

Our oldest daughter Jennifer left for Lubbock almost three months ago.

Last month, Karen, my wife and some-

one I am honored to have as the mom of our children, had a girls' weekend with her. The two went to Mass at St. Elizabeth's, where all the college kids go; they went out to eat, took in a movie and stayed up talking like, well, like a couple of college girls. At least one of them fit the bill. The other at least *felt* young again.

When Karen returned from their weekend, she did so with an inner peace in her that had not been there before, at least not to the extent it now existed.

Our daughter is happy. She has stayed away from the temptations a lot of college kids face, and she makes decisions that have been good and responsible. There's still a lot of kid in her, thank God, but she has developed a maturity about her that belies explanation. As if it happened overnight.

She is no longer a child. Not even a youth. She may technically be a teenager, but only for a couple more months. Yet she is far beyond that limiting parameter. She is a young woman, and to sit back and take

that all in ... to sit back and think that the little person that grew up in our home for 18 years may in fact really be ready to tackle the world on her own. And to be a part of that maturation, even as an indirect participant, is overwhelming and so positive.

I don't know if all fathers do this or not, but I have always wondered if I've been a decent enough dad or if the mistakes I've made over the last 18 years have been ones that will have some sort of negative effect on our children. But when one of the kids goes out on her own and shows us just what she has become, losing that inherent self doubt is an indescribably good feeling. And it is sort of a reward for years of toil and hard work and wondering whether what you are doing is satisfactory. And seeing your kiddo grow into a mature responsible young lady may in fact be the best part of life there is. At least until grand-babies come along.

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Jimmy Patterson is editor of the Angelus.

## Your Family

**Advice to new moms and dads**

By Bill and Monica Dodds  
Catholic News Service

It's easy to forget how hard it was being a new parent. Apparently, fear and lack of sleep have an effect on one's ability to store memories.

Most moms and dads describe that period as a blur.

The baby is coming. The baby is born. Something, something, something. Kindergarten. That may be a bit of an exaggeration, but not by much.

Almost every rookie parent left alone with his or her newborn for the first time has thought, "Someone should be here with the baby." And then the chilling realization that "I am that someone!"

Adding to that pressure -- just what new parents need, more pressure -- is the fact that family

members and friends want to see the new baby. Among those visitors are veteran parents. There are moms and dads of many, many years who will be watching this new mother and father. Watching. Every. Move. They. Make. Or so it seems.

With that in mind, a few words of advice on giving a few words of advice:

✓ Look for the good and praise it! "The baby is so content sleeping in your arms." "Oh, you have baby's room fixed up so nicely." "It's obvious this is a baby who's mommy and daddy love her!"

✓ Share a few of your own early parenting experiences that show you were afraid or made a few mistakes. Years later they seem pleasantly silly, but confessing them is a way of making new moms and dads realize what they're feeling is very normal. ("I remember thinking 'I'm going to drop the baby,'" and then the nurse said, "If you can hang on to a football you can ..." "I just couldn't sleep the first two nights the baby was home, and I wondered if I'd ever sleep again." "I didn't realize I had

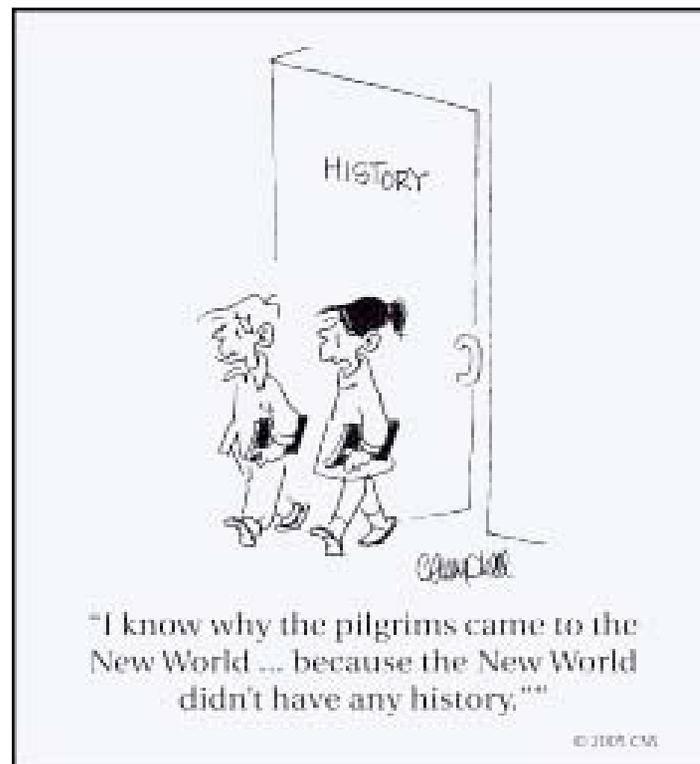
bought the wrong size diapers so when I tried to ..."

✓ Keep to yourself your strongly held opinions on any aspect of parenting, no matter what side of the particular debate you're on. ("You 'are' going to nurse the child until she's at least 3, aren't you?" "You 'aren't' going to be part of that la leche nonsense, are you?" Or, "I think all good families home-school. It's not too early to start his education." "Please don't tell me you're going to be one of those home-school families!")

✓ Remember, you're not the mama or the papa. Think about how you would have felt (or did feel!) when a visitor butted in. But realize, too, that we all appreciate sound advice tactfully presented. As is so often the case, whether at home or on the job, how and when we're given advice greatly influence how we accept or reject it. There's a big difference between "You should ..." and "One thing that worked for me is ..."



Bill &amp; Monica Dodds

**Answers:**

1. Paul
2. Lot
3. Timothy
4. Yahweh
5. Haggai
6. Isaac
7. Christ

# JUST 4 KIDS



## Ezekiel speaks the word of God

**M**y name is Ezekiel. I am a priest. Since the time I lived among the exiles in Babylon I have seen the heavens open up. I have seen many visions. I have heard the voice of the God of Israel. When the word of the Lord is given to me as a message for my people, I deliver it. Sometimes the people listen and obey. Sometimes they do not.

When they complain about difficult times or a poor crop or other misfortunes, the Lord hears them. If they say following God's laws is too hard for them, the Lord hears that as well. Here is what he told them in reply.

"You say, 'The Lord's way is not fair!' When a virtuous man turns away from virtue to commit iniquity, and dies, it is because of the iniquity he committed that he must die. But if a wicked man, turning from the wickedness he has committed, does what is right and just, he shall preserve his life. ... Is it my way that is not

fair, house of Israel, or rather is it not that your ways are not fair?"

have told my people the words God has given me because of his great love for them. I have seen fiery clouds in the sky, I have seen ferocious beasts with wings. I have seen scrolls appear before me that I was told to eat. For a time, as a lesson to all, including myself, the Lord made me unable to speak. My faith is often tested, but I remain faithful to my God.

Many of the messages God gives are about his great forgiveness.

"Turn and be converted," he has said. "Cast away from you all the crimes you have committed, and make for yourselves a new heart and a new spirit. Why should you die, O house of Israel? For I have no pleasure in the death of anyone who dies. ... Return and live!"

God has given us a message to hear. He wants us to live and not to die. May we all do as the Lord bids us so that we may live.

### READ MORE ABOUT IT:

Ezekiel 18

Q&A

1. When did Ezekiel start having holy visions?
2. What did God say we would receive if we cast away our crimes?

### BIBLE ACCENT

When we were born our parents gave us names. We may have been named after another family member or because our names had a certain meaning.

In the Bible God is referred to by several names, each of which has a special meaning. Abba means "father." Yahweh was a very holy name for God which meant "I who am." A variation of this name is Jehovah.

When Jesus taught people to pray he started his prayer with "our Father."

Jesus also had several names, many of which are very poetic. Alpha and Omega, based on letters of the Greek alphabet, mean "the first and the last." Christ, or the Messiah, both mean "the anointed one." He is also the Prince of Peace, the Son of God, the Word and our Teacher.

The word "Christian" comes from the name of Christ.

### SPOTLIGHT ON SAINTS

#### St. Michael

Michael, Duke of Chernigov, was one of the first Christians to be recognized as a martyr from Russia. Many others perished for their faith when Russia was invaded by barbarians in the 13th century.

When he first faced danger, Michael fled from the city of Kiev

to a safer hiding place. Unable to bear the thought of his people being killed by the invaders, Michael returned to Kiev and entered one of the barbarian camps. Their leader, Bati, offered him bribes if he would worship their gods in front of the Russian Christians. He refused and was taken prisoner.

Michael's friends wanted to help him escape, but he did not want them to risk their own safety for him. He was a brave man and a faithful Christian who died in 1246.

We honor St. Michael of Chernigov Sept. 21.

### BIBLE TRIVIA

At Mass we hear three readings. One is from the Old Testament. Where are the other two from?

Answer: New Testament and Gospel.

### PUZZLE

Can you fill in the Bible characters that correctly solve this puzzle? The last letter of one name is the first letter of the next name. Example: Esther, Ruth, Hosea. Two letters have been given as hints. Not all names in the list will be used:

List: Paul, Peter, Ruth, Timothy, Lot, Job, Yahweh, Hannah, Joseph, Isaac, Haggai, Christ, Philip, John

1. \_ \_ \_ \_ \_
2. \_ \_ \_ \_
3. \_ i \_ \_ \_ \_ \_
4. \_ a \_ \_ \_ \_ \_
5. \_ \_ \_ \_ \_ \_ \_
6. \_ \_ \_ \_ \_
7. \_ \_ \_ \_ \_ \_ \_

## Coming of Age

# The sociology of Googling -- search engine can be a friend finder

By Renee LaReau  
Catholic News Service

A couple of weeks ago my husband and I met up with some old friends and acquaintances for an out-of-town wedding. As we all chatted animatedly late into the night, I noticed that our conversations bypassed some of the usual superficial questions that usually begin a catch-up chat, questions like "Where do you live?" and "Where do you work now?"

Sadly, it wasn't because we've all done a good job of keeping in touch, it was

because we all had Googled each other in the weeks and months before the wedding.

"You've been writing a ton lately," said one of my Los Angeles-based friends who had read some of my articles online. (We hadn't spoken in months.)

Meanwhile, one of my husband's high school acquaintances was asking him how he liked his current job, a job she had learned of after Googling him. (They hadn't spoken in more than 10 years.)

Later, the groom's mother (whom I hadn't spoken with since my college gradua-

tion nine years ago) said she had bought a book I'd recommended on my blog.

Perhaps a couple of years ago we wouldn't have admitted to this stealthy satisfaction of our curiosity. Now, however, Googling is so commonplace that we all freely admitted to "researching" one another's lives, and the conversation proceeded from there.

After college, there's no simpler, more efficient way to get caught up with friends than plugging their names into a search engine. In a matter of seconds, provided a person doesn't have a common

name, you can learn all kinds of things about old pals: if they've run in a race recently, where they work, which organizations they belong to and, thanks to those ubiquitous online genealogies, their ancestral history.

In some ways, it also seems that Google searches have become some sort of arbiter of social importance. In other words, you're only as good as the number and types of hits your name generates.

Take trend stories that appear in newspa-

(Please See AGE/14)

## WEBSTER: Lent, Easter the height of the church year

(From 1)

**Fr. Webster:** Just like our regular calendar the liturgical calendar's week begins on Sunday. The cycle of seven days is found throughout the Bible, the commandment to observe the Sabbath is found in all law, and the writers of the gospel grounded the seven-day week in creation itself. We Christians make the first day of the week our gathering to celebrate the Eucharist. Through the years the liturgical calendar also came to include stages in the life of Christ's mother and memorials of the martyrs and saints. All Christian feasts are celebrated in the context of a mass.

### Angelus: What is the seasonal cycle?

The seasonal cycle is the more important cycle. This cycle of feasts and seasons is based upon the life of Christ. This calendar, not at all like our regular calendar, focuses on the mystery of Christ. It is a way of helping us to reflect on various aspects of Christ's life, his birth, death, and resurrection throughout the entire year.

### Angelus: How come some special days like Christmas are always on the same date but others, like Easter change each year?

**Fr. Webster:** The church year is regulated in part by the sun and moon. Movable feasts like Easter are determined by seasonal changes and phases of the moon. Easter, for example, occurs on the first Sunday fol-

lowing the first full moon after the spring equinox. Then, counting back, this date then determines Ash Wednesday and the beginning of Lent. Immovable feasts, such as Christmas and the Feast of Saints, are based on the solar or, secular, calendar. Christmas, for example, is always on December 25th.

### Angelus: What about the other times of the year, Advent, Ordinary Time, etc?

**Fr. Webster:** The first Sunday of advent is the first day of the church's New Year. The Catholic Church's liturgical year begins on the first Sunday of advent.

The second time period is Christmas time. Next to the yearly celebration of the paschal mystery, the Church holds most sacred the memorial of Christ's birth. This includes the birth of our Lord, the Epiphany, and the baptism of our Lord.

The next time period is ordinary time and occurs twice during the year, the first time immediately following Christmas time and then again after Easter. The length of time is 33 or 34 weeks depending on the particular year. During this period of time, the church celebrates Sunday by listening to the scriptures and inviting all of us open our hearts to whatever God wants to say to us in the word, the homily, the prayers, and songs of each of the Sundays.

Lent, the Triduum, and Easter times are three very closely related seasons. This is the most important time in the church year. Lent is a preparation for

the celebration of Easter. It is a time of purification and enlightenment for the elect, that is, for those preparing to receive the sacraments of initiation (Baptism, Confirmation, and Eucharist) at the Easter Vigil. It is a time for us who are already baptized to deepen our own baptismal commitment to the Lord through the traditional penitential practices of prayer, almsgiving, and fasting.

The Easter Triduum (Holy Thursday, Good Friday, and Easter Vigil/Easter Sunday) is next, marking the days of Jesus' passion and resurrection. It is the holiest time of the church year; the Triduum is the three-day celebration of the death and resurrection of Christ.

When Lent ends we stand at the center of the Christian year. Easter time is the next fifty days. We celebrate the risen Christ during this time. Easter is the principal feast of the ecclesiastical year. It celebrates the death and resurrection of Christ, the corner-stone of our faith.

## CONFIRMANDS: Reliance on God grows

(From 6)

with all the guidance and wisdom we need. We thought that we did not really have the Faith necessary to make decisions on our own. We came to realize that Faith is not a feeling but it is an experience. We have experienced Faith in the shoulder you cry on, the one that will always have the answers to all our questions and can help solve our problems, and its that miracle in disguise that will always be there when we need it.

In the years we have learned to rely more and

more on God and to try and be role models for our younger brothers and sisters.

We feel that as Catholic Christians we are ready to be confirmed and are ready to take the responsibilities that are expected of us. We realize that this journey is only the beginning and hope to learn much more as we go forth in life. We are ready to teach and be taught and to spread the Word of God every where we go. We are asking for your prayers and the prayers of the Church as we embark on our journey. Thank you for your support. -- *Confirmation candidates, St. Isidore.*

## AGE: Good way to catch up

(From 13)

pers and magazines, for example. Someone's cultural worth is determined by the number of Google hits his or her name receives. Even prestigious publications like The New Yorker and the Los Angeles Times couple hard statistics with Google's numbers to illustrate the rising (or plunging) popularity of everyone from Britney Spears to Howard Dean.

Woe to you who aren't in Web-friendly professions. (Those of us who are writers or work in the tech sector have a decided advantage in our online "biographies.")

On the other hand, if you work in a technologically challenged field, have a common name or changed your last name when you got married, you'll be lost forever to your acquaintances as far as the Web is concerned.

But, as my recent reunion with

friends demonstrated, the most valuable, memorable things about a person will never make it into Google's search engine. A Google search doesn't allow you to observe that your best friend and her new fiance make a perfect match or to learn that your high school track buddy's mom was just diagnosed with breast cancer. Google doesn't tell you that your old college roommate looks like she is battling an eating disorder again.

But as more and more friendships span far and wide across the globe, Google is still sometimes the best we can do in terms of catching up with someone. Though we may express it in unusual ways, our obsessive Google searches indicate that we still prize connectedness.

In other words, to say "I Googled you" is our generation's way of saying, "Hey, you still matter to me, and I want to know how you're doing."

## PATTERSON: Is marketing the way to sustain church attendance?

(From 2)

Protestants.

► **Encourage teenage prayer groups and fellowship.** The young people of today are the church leaders of tomorrow ... unless of course they leave the Church. Then we sit back and we scratch our heads and try to figure out what we did wrong. Teen prayer groups and youth groups often should be handled by young adults who identify or relate to the concerns that teenagers face. If run by someone with no knowledge of teens, it stands a good chance of failing.

► **We need some sort of nationwide charismatic voice; someone who will be known by those who do not watch EWTN.** The evangelicals have Joel Osteen and James Dobson, and countless other good men and women who have brought their form of worship to what it is today. Among them you can even count Dave Ramsey. Not an evangelist and not associated with a specific religious group to my knowledge, Protestants have taken hold of him and made him one of their own. Obviously the Pope notwithstanding, Catholics do not

have a central, dynamic individual around which people of all faiths can rally and enjoy. And it is doubtful we will get one until we ...

► **Begin an ad campaign that debunks the myths and prejudices Protestants have developed about our faith.**

You know what those are. And until we can convince people what we are about, to many, Protestants will always be Christians and Catholics will be thought of as Catholics. Seems a simple enough place to start: Since some people don't consider us Christians, how about boldly marketing ourselves as such ... so other people will once and for all be resolved of their ignorance about our faith? We simply must permanently etch into people's minds that Catholics *are* indeed Christians and we are not that different from Protestants. Yet until we remove the "Are You Christian or Catholic?" stigma, our faith faces another growth roadblock.

► **Wear t-shirts.** Really. It has become a huge way to market individualism and personal beliefs. You can tell a lot about a person by the t-shirts he wears. If the Vatican had a marketing department, it would do well to develop a t-shirt campaign like the "GodSpeaks" billboard campaign from a few years ago.

► **Have more "stars" share their faith.** Catholics are in great number and they are influential and respected. Contract with some of today's most popular secular stars from movies, music, television and the news media to publically espouse their Catholicism. There's more to us than just Mel Gibson.

► **Bring Notre Dame a national football championship.** Well, it won't happen this year and it seriously would do little for the growth of our faith, but another story about the Christ that overlooks the Fighting Irish's home stadium in South Bend is always good for intrigue.

The Vatican would likely never agree to the strategies you've just read. The appeal of the church to many of the faithful is its adherence to history and tradition. Most believe we don't need a Joel Osteen or a James Dobson to inject some cross-denominational enthusiasm into our faith. But with a little effort, and if handled by top professionals working with ample amounts of tact, a marketing campaign might just work wonders for the Church's growth.

*Jimmy Patterson is Director of Communications for the Diocese of San Angelo.*



The body of Rosa Parks lies in the capital rotunda following her October death.



## Rosa Parks, hailed as 'prophet' of equality, honored in Capitol rotunda

DETROIT (CNS) — Rosa Parks, the civil rights pioneer who became the first woman to lie in honor in the Capitol Rotunda Oct. 30, “changed the history of our nation” and “forced us to recognize the dignity of every person,” said Cardinal Adam J. Maida of Detroit.

“She was a prophet — a common instrument of God inviting us and challenging us to a new vision of solidarity, equality and justice,” the cardinal said of Parks, who prompted a more-than-year-long bus boycott in Montgomery, Ala., after her arrest on Dec. 1, 1955, for refusing to give up her seat on a bus to a white man.

Parks died Oct. 24 at the age of 92. President George W. Bush ordered the U.S. flag to be flown at half-staff over all public buildings Nov. 2, the day of Parks’ funeral and burial.

Cardinal Maida had urged priests of the archdiocese to refer to Parks in their homilies at Masses Oct. 29-30 as a way of affirming ongoing efforts to combat racism in the Detroit area and around the country.

He also asked each priest to include this petition in the prayer of the faithful at weekend Masses: “As we give thanks to God for the humble and courageous witness of Rosa Parks, we ask you, Lord, for the strength to resist any form of racial prejudice in our minds and hearts; renew our desire to create a nation where the dignity and value of every person will be respected and affirmed, we pray to the

Lord.”

An estimated 30,000 people passed by Parks’ casket during its eight hours in the Rotunda over two days. Parks also was only the second African-American to lie in honor at the Capitol, the first being Capitol Police Officer Jacob J. Chestnut, killed in the line of duty in 1998.

Parks, a member of the African Methodist Episcopal Church for her entire life and a resident of Detroit since 1957, attended an interfaith prayer service in St. Louis led by Pope John Paul II at the Cathedral Basilica of St. Louis in 1999. She met the pope privately afterward, rising from her wheelchair to shake the pope’s hand.

But it was “in her own simple way,” as Cardinal Maida put it, that Parks sparked the boycott that led to the U.S. Supreme Court’s 1956 order integrating Montgomery buses and gave impetus to the civil rights movement in the South.

In her 1992 autobiography, “Rosa Parks: My Story,” she said many believe she did not give up her seat because she was tired from working, but that was not true.

“I was not tired physically, or no more tired than I usually was at the end of a working day,” Parks wrote. “I was not old, although some people have an image of me as being old then. I was 42. No, the tired I was, was tired of giving in.”

Born Rosa Louise McCauley on Feb. 4, 1913, in Tuskegee, Ala., she twice quit school to care for ailing relatives but even-

tually earned her high school diploma in 1933, a year after marrying barber Raymond Parks. He died in 1977.

After her arrest and payment of a \$14 fine, Parks lost her job as a seamstress at a Montgomery department store. Her husband quit his job after his employer banned any talk of Rosa Parks’ case in the workplace. The family moved in 1957 to Detroit. Parks worked there as a seamstress and then, from 1965 to 1988, she worked as a staff assistant to U.S. Rep. John Conyers, D-Mich. She retired in 1988.

In a 1993 interview with Catholic News Service, Parks cited two Detroit Catholics — Father William Cunningham, co-founder of Focus: Hope, and Auxiliary Bishop Thomas J. Gumbleton — as among those carrying on the civil rights struggle for a new generation.

“These are two outstanding (Catholic) people that I know of,” she said. Sadly, she added, “there was none in Alabama” at the time of the Montgomery bus boycott.

Parks received the Presidential Medal of Freedom, the nation’s highest civilian award, in 1996 and the Congressional Gold Medal in 1999. Other honors bestowed on her included the Spingarn Award of the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People in 1979; the Martin Luther King Jr. Nonviolent Peace Prize in 1980; the Eleanor Roosevelt Women of Courage Award in 1984; and honorary doctorates from some 40 colleges and universities.

Earlier this year, she received the Cardinal John Dearden Peace Medal for her contributions to U.S. civil rights.

### EDICTAL SUMMONS

The Tribunal of the Catholic Diocese of San Angelo to Gary Shayne Ferguson and his whereabouts unknown.

You are hereby summoned to appear before the Tribunal of the Catholic Diocese of San Angelo, at 804 Ford Street, San Angelo, Texas 76905, on or before the 30th day of November, 2005, to answer to the Petition of Tamara Renee LaLonde (Burdine), now introduced before the Diocesan Tribunal in an action styled, "TAMARA RENEE LaLONDE (BURDINE) VS. GARY SHAYNE FERGUSON. Petition for Declaration of Invalidity of Marriage," said Petition being identified as LaLONDE (BURDINE) - FERGUSON Protocol No.: SO 05/39, on the Tribunal Docket of the Diocese of San Angelo.

You may communicate with the Tribunal in person or in writing. Failure to communicate within the prescribed period of time will be considered your consent for the Tribunal to continue its proceedings in the above-named case.

Given at the Tribunal of the Diocese of San Angelo on the 1st day of November, 2005.

-- Reverend Tom Barley,  
J.c.L.  
Adjutant Judicial Vicar

### EDICTAL SUMMONS

The Tribunal of the Catholic Diocese of San Angelo to Wanda Hill (Merrick) and her whereabouts unknown.

You are hereby summoned to appear before the Tribunal of the Catholic Diocese of San Angelo, at 804 Ford Street, San Angelo, Texas 76905, on or before the 30th day of November, 2005, to answer to the Petition of Darwin Inglas Mead, Jr., now introduced before the Diocesan Tribunal in an action styled, "DARWIN INGLAS MEAD, JR. VS. WANDA HILL (MERRICK). Petition for Declaration of Invalidity of Marriage," said Petition being identified as MEAD - HILL ( MERRICK) Protocol No.: SO 05/32, on the Tribunal Docket of the Diocese of San Angelo.

You may communicate with the Tribunal in person or in writing. Failure to communicate within the prescribed period of time will be considered your consent for the Tribunal to continue its proceedings in the above-named case.

Given at the Tribunal of the Diocese of San Angelo on the 1st day of November, 2005.

-- Reverend William R. DuBuisson, OMI,  
MCL, JCL Judicial Vicar

## THE BACK PAGE

# The sky really is falling ... believe it

By David DiCerto  
Catholic News Service

NEW YORK — The poster of Disney's "Chicken Little" jokingly announces, "The end is near." If the movie is any indication of things to come, that just might be true for Disney's storied reign as the gold standard of animated entertainment.

The studio recently abandoned its traditional hand-drawn operations to compete with the digital dominance of Pixar ("Toy Story," "Monsters Inc.," "Finding Nemo" and "The Incredibles") and DreamWorks ("Shrek"), so "Chicken Little" marks its first fully computer-animated feature film.

Sadly for the mouse house, this "Chicken" is a bit of a turkey.

Based on the classic children's story, the movie centers on a confidence-challenged chick (voiced by Zach Braff) who sounds the apocalyptic alarm by reporting that the sky is falling, sending his panicked neighbors into a tizzy. It all turns out to be a humiliating mistake, but not before half the town is ruined, along with his reputa-

tion.

To salvage some dignity and win the approval of his disappointed dad, Buck Cluck (voiced by Garry Marshall), Chicken Little joins his school's baseball team and lifts his squad to an upset victory over their archrivals, exorcising the bad taste of his recent embarrassment.

But no sooner has he redeemed himself than a piece of sky really does conk him on the head, heralding what appears to be an alien invasion. But will anyone believe



Chicken Little is now open in wide release.

him this time?

Much zaniness ensues, as Chicken Little — aided by buddies Runt of the Litter (Steve Zahn), Abby Mallard, aka Ugly Duckling (Joan Cusack), and Fish Out of Water (Dan Molina) — races to save face and his hometown.

## 'Faith Works' is a triumph

NEW YORK (CNS) -- If, as St. James writes, "faith without works is dead," than that of the men and women profiled in "Faith Works: Across the U.S.A. 2005" can be truly said to be alive.

Produced as part of the "Vision & Values" series -- an interfaith consortium which provides religious programming to network television -- by the U.S. bishops' Catholic Communication Campaign, "Faith Works" will be shown on ABC stations throughout November (check local listings for time and date).

Divided into seven segments, the program spotlights different individuals and groups from diverse communities across the country, who all share -- and have responded to -- a call to faith-motivated service. Taken together, they form a beautiful mosaic of compassion bearing shining witness that God's love can be found in barrios, bayous and simple backyards.

The one-hour special starts in Houston, where Catholics open their hearts -- and homes -- to reach out to those displaced by the devastation of Hurricane Katrina. Among them is recent college graduate Hanh Nguyen, who forfeited a trip to Paris to volunteer and help find storm victims new homes.

This inspiring and uplifting viewing. So if you're "desperate" for something more spiritually nourishing than "Housewives," you may want to keep an eye out for this most worthy program.

## Pope Benedict, influenced by Vatican II, can now shape its implementation

By John Thavis  
Catholic News Service

VATICAN CITY — Pope Benedict XVI, a man deeply influenced by the deliberations of the Second Vatican Council, now stands in a position to shape the way the church implements its teachings.

Years ago, he warned that the church had experienced a "progressive process of decadence" in the name of a presumed "spirit of the council." He was particularly critical of liturgical reforms launched by Vatican II.

Yet, in his first sermon as pope in April, he said there should be no doubt that the council and its authoritative rereading of the Gospel would remain the "compass" for his papacy.

"As the years have passed, the conciliar documents have lost none of their timeliness; indeed, their teachings are proving particularly relevant to the new situation of the church and the current globalized society," he said.

In many ways, Pope Benedict embodies the full spectrum of the Vatican II experience in the church:

■ As a theological adviser to German Cardinal Joseph Frings of Cologne, then-Father Joseph Ratzinger attended all four sessions of the 1962-65 council, enthusiastically embracing its early work and its bold approach to renewal.

■ He began to have misgivings in later sessions and worried that the council could leave the impression that the church worked like a parliament and that "the faith could be changed."

■ After the council's conclusion, he cautioned against wrong turns in implementation and eventually helped found a theological journal to counterbalance what he called the "ecclesial politics" approach to theology.

■ As the Vatican's top doctrinal official for nearly 24 years, he worked to curb abuses and clarify the council's teaching in areas that included theological experimentation, liturgical texts, biblical schol-

arship, lay ministries, the role of bishops' conferences, and interreligious and ecumenical dialogue.

U.S. author and scholar George Weigel said that as a young theological expert Father Ratzinger understood a crucial truth about Vatican II: that "aggiornamento," or church updating, must be based on "ressourcement," a return to the sources of Christian wisdom and a deepening of the church's understanding of itself.

"Ratzinger ... understood that the two have to go together — that 'updating' without 'deepening' turns the church into simply another voluntary organization dedicated to good works," Weigel said.

Weigel, who addresses the subject of Pope Benedict and Vatican II in his new book, "God's Choice: Pope Benedict XVI and the Future of the Catholic Church," said the new pope has already had a huge impact on the council's implementation under the pontificate of Pope John Paul II.

## Catholic Bestsellers

### Hardcover

1. "Mother Angelica." Raymond Arroyo (Doubleday)
2. "The Rhythm of Life." Matthew Kelly (Beacon/Fireside)
3. "Rediscovering Catholicism." Matthew Kelly (Beacon)
4. "Catechism of the Catholic Church." (Doubleday, Our Sunday Visitor and USCCB)
5. "The Holy Eucharist Prayer Book." Alfred McBride (Our Sunday Visitor)
6. "The Book of Courage." Matthew Kelly (Beacon)
7. "The Holy Longing." Ronald Rolheiser (Doubleday)
8. "Facing Pain, Finding Hope." Daniel Hurley (Liturgical Press)
9. "Gospels and Acts: The Saint John's Bible." Donald Jackson (Liturgical Press)
10. "Catholic Prayer Book for Mothers." Donna-Marie Cooper O'Boyle (Our Sunday Visitor)

### Paperback

1. "Catechism of the Catholic Church." (Doubleday, Our Sunday Visitor and USCCB)
2. "Waiting in Joyful Hope." Katherine L. Howard (Liturgical Press)
3. "Handbook for Today's Catholic." A Redemptorist Pastoral Publication (Liguori)
4. "A Year of Sundays Gospel Reflections 2006." Upchurch & Yeary (Liturgical Press)
5. "Amazing Grace for Married Couples." Cavins, Pinto & Armstrong (Ascension)
6. "Traveling With the Saints in Italy." Lucinda Vardey (Paulist)
7. "National Directory for Catechesis." (USCCB Publishing)
8. "I Am Not Being Fed." Jeff Cavins (Loyola)
9. "The Devil's Advocate." Morris West (Loyola)
10. "Theology of the Body for Beginners." Christopher West (Ascension)

### Children and Young People

1. "The Catholic Faith Handbook for Youth." Brian Singer-Towns (St. Mary's Press)
2. "Tear Soup." Schwiebert & DeKlyen (ACTA/Grief Watch)
3. "Handbook for Today's Catholic Teen." Jim Auer (Liguori)
4. "My Rosary Coloring & Activity Book." Virginia Helen Richards (Pauline)
5. "I Pray the Rosary!" Margaret Rose Scarfi (Pauline)
6. "Making Things Right." Jeannine Timko Lechner (Our Sunday Visitor)
7. "Blessings and Prayers Through the Year." Elizabeth McMahon Jeep (Liturgy Training Publications)
8. "Handbook for Today's Catholic Children." Francine M. O'Connor (Liguori)
9. "The Holy Eucharist Coloring & Activity Book." Halpin & Richards (Pauline)
10. "My Guardian Angel Coloring & Activity Book." D. Thomas Halpin (Pauline)