Pope tells Latin Americans to meet challenges by focusing on Jesus

By John Thavis

APARECIDA, Brazil (CNS) — On a five-day visit to Latin America, Pope Benedict XVI identified a host of social and religious challenges and said the church should respond by focusing more clearly on the person of Jesus Christ.

“This is the faith that has made America the ‘continent of hope.’ Not a political ideology, not a social movement, not an economic system: faith in the God who is love — who took on flesh, died, and rose in Jesus Christ,” the pope said on the final day of his May 9-13 visit to Brazil.

It was a sentiment echoed in many of his encounters, which included a rally with young people, the canonization of the first Brazilian-born saint, and the inauguration of the Fifth General Conference of the Bishops of Latin America and the Caribbean.

The pope cited inroads by secularism, threats against the family and the institution of marriage, and an erosion of traditional Latin America values, and said that in response, the church needs to put greater emphasis on the religious education of its own members.

One big reason the evangelical sects have attracted Catholics, he told Brazilian bishops, is that many Catholics are insufficiently evangelized and their faith is weak, confused, and easily shaken.

In a country where televangelism is a youth minister at St. Mark Church in Denton, diocesan officials announced Friday.

Kelly B. Bayer was terminated by Vicar General Father Michael Olson Thursday after Bayer admitted engaging in improper acts with a minor in 2001. He was removed from the school immediately Thursday night. The Denton police are now conducting a criminal investigation.

Bayer had taught religious education classes at Sacred Heart School for the last two school years. No incidents of improper sexual conduct with minors have been reported while Bayer has taught at Sacred Heart School.

A possible incident involving Bayer and a minor was reported to diocesan officials recently by two female retreat participants.

Vatican tones down papal remarks on pro-abortion Catholic politicians

By John Thavis

SAO PAULO, Brazil (CNS) — Pope Benedict XVI’s comments on excommunication for pro-abortion Catholic politicians touched on huge and sensitive issues — so sensitive that the Vatican issued a toned-down version of his remarks the following day.

Speaking with journalists on the plane taking him to Brazil May 9, the pope left the impression that he agreed with those invoking excommunication for pro-abortion Catholic politicians.

Immigration bill takes shape behind scenes; debate to begin in late May

By Patricia Zapor

WASHINGTON (CNS) — Negotiators were closer May 16 to crafting a Senate immigration bill that could be introduced as soon as May 23.

The bill seemed likely to include a legalization plan for most of the nation’s illegal immigrants, but was viewed as far from ideal by the director of migration and refugee policy for the U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops and other supporters of a comprehensive immigration reform bill.

Director Kevin Appleby said that among the problems with the bill, it would make it much more difficult for relatives to join their family members in the United States, making spouses and children wait eight years before they could immigrate legally.

Other provisions would eliminate some categories of family visas, such as those for adult children of legal residents, and cut in half the number of visas available to the parents of adult immigrants.

On May 15 Senate Majority Leader Harry Reid, D-Nevada, postponed for the second time in a week plans to put an immigration bill up for consideration on the Senate floor.

With progress being made on negotiating legislation behind the scenes, Reid said he would wait until May 23 to open floor debate. If a negotiated bill was not ready by that date, debate would be based on the immigration bill passed by the Senate in 2006 as a “placeholder.” The 2006 bill died at the end of the 109th Congress.

Teacher fired for inappropriate behavior with a minor about six years ago

Editor’s Note: The following news release was sent to news media outlets in the Diocese of Fort Worth, Friday, May 18.

A 30-year-old religion teacher at Sacred Heart School in Muenster has been fired after admitting to Diocese of Fort Worth officials to improper sexual conduct with a minor approximately six years ago while he was serving as a youth minister at St. Mark Church in Denton, diocesan officials announced Friday.

Kelly B. Bayer was terminated by Vicar General Father Michael Olson Thursday after Bayer admitted engaging in improper acts with a minor in 2001. He was removed from the school immediately Thursday night. The Denton police are now conducting a criminal investigation.

Bayer had taught religious education classes at Sacred Heart School for the last two school years. No incidents of improper sexual conduct with minors have been reported while Bayer has taught at Sacred Heart School.

A possible incident involving Bayer and a minor was reported to diocesan officials recently by two female retreat participants.

By John Thavis

NEW YORK (CNS) — More than 800,000 children in the U.S. are expected to receive their first Communion this year.

“Place holder.” The 2006 bill died at the end of the 109th Congress.
Pentecost brings with it the freshness of the Holy Spirit’s fire; may the Spirit purify, illumine, and renew our church

Dear Friends in the Diocese of Fort Worth,

We are now in the final weeks of our Easter season and the next high point will be Pentecost, the “birthday” of the Church. I would like to share with you a paragraph from the Catechism of the Catholic Church on this great feast of Pentecost.

731 On the day of Pentecost when the seven weeks of Easter had come to an end, Christ’s Passover is fulfilled in the outpouring of the Holy Spirit, manifested, given, and communicated as a divine person: of his fullness, Christ, the Lord, pours out the Spirit in abundance.

Pentecost is the gift, our birthday gift, of abundant life promised to us by Christ.

Pentecost, the fulfillment of Christ’s Passover, is the Lord’s way of remaining with each one of us and uniting us in His One Body, the Church, all through the power of his Holy Spirit. Christ came so we may have life and have it abundantly; Pentecost is the gift, our birthday gift, of abundant life promised to us by Christ. The gift of the Holy Spirit is a pure gift because it is God’s gift of himself to each one of us, and all of us together, as his Church. We celebrate not only on Pentecost but also at each celebration of the Sacrament of Confirmation.

To all of those that are receiving the Sacrament of Confirmation during these days, ... Congratulations on receiving the fullness and abundance of the life in Christ through his Holy Spirit! Now I invite you to live this abundance of life as Christ lived it. Christ teaches us that the more one gives one’s life for others, for goodness itself, the more abundantly the river of life flows within the Church and each one of us.

A special thanks to all those wonderful catechists who prepared our confirmands by their sharing the Good News of Jesus Christ, which is at the center of our catechesis, and by the faithful witness of their lives. Their commitment and dedication is another sign of the presence of the Holy Spirit in the Church today. Thank you to all our priests, deacons, and religious for guiding these Spirit-filled celebrants. You truly are examples of all that we can accomplish when men and women not only give their lives to Christ but also open their hearts to the love and power of the Holy Spirit. Thank you for all that you do to make this “birthday” celebration a special one.

It is now our task to be open to the Holy Spirit and share with others the fruits of His presence through an integral evangelization, void of any relativistic tendencies that only water down the truths of our faith, and loving service that demonstrates our true love for one another.

To maintain and grow in this Holy Spirit which is alive and present within us, I recommend to all a sure path that has been around in the Church since the beginning, the meditative reading of the Word of God. In the Holy Father’s recent trip to Brazil he said to the bishops of Latin America and the Caribbean that an indispensable pre-condition to the clear proclamation of Christ, his life, and his teaching is profound knowledge of the word of God:

...To achieve this, we must train people to read and meditate on the word of God. This must become their staple diet, so that, through their own experience, the faithful will see that the words of Jesus are spirit and life (cf. John 6:63). Otherwise, how could they proclaim a message whose content and spirit they do not know thoroughly? We must build our missionary commitment and the whole of our lives on the rock of the word of God.

As we celebrate this great feast of Pentecost may we as the Church of North Texas ask our heavenly Father to once again send us an outpouring of the Holy Spirit, a presence of fire which fills, purifies, and illumines our lives, our parishes, and our Diocese with love, truth, and community.

God bless you and your loved ones as we celebrate once again our “birthday” as Church.

Theme of papal book may be hallmark of papacy

WASHINGTON (CNS) — The emphasis on Jesus’ centrality to the Catholic faith in Pope Benedict XVI’s first book as pope is likely to permeate his papacy, panelists told a Washington audience during a book launch event for Jesus of Nazareth May 15.

Bishop William E. Lori of Bridgeport, Connecticut, and Vatican analysts George Weigel and John Allen discussed the book at the Pope John Paul II Cultural Center in Washington. The event was hosted by Archbishop Pietro Sambi, apostolic nuncio to the United States, and Bill Barry, publisher in the Doubleday religious publishing division.

Jesus of Nazareth, published in April in Italian, German, and Polish, was launched in the United States, Canada, and the United Kingdom May 15.

“It’s not easy to present a book of your boss,” said Archbishop Sambi with a laugh. “But I am happy to do so because the author is a very competent and learned teacher, and the subject is a fascinating one.”

Allen, Vatican reporter for the National Catholic Reporter, CNN, and other media, said Pope Benedict had demonstrated his commitment to the centrality of Jesus during his just-completed trip to Brazil.

The three “news flashes” from the trip — the pope’s comments on abortion and Catholic politicians, his condemnation of drug dealers, and his criticism of both capitalism and Marxism — were reported as distinct from one another but had a common thread in “the false promises of ideologies” that seek to replace Jesus in people’s lives, Allen said.

In his talk to the bishops of Latin America and the Caribbean, Pope Benedict made clear that “preaching Christ is not a distraction from working for social justice; it’s working for justice,” he added.

The new book “is much more than an academic exercise,” Allen said. “It is the Magna Carta of Benedict’s pontificate.”

Bishop Lori said the book arose from Pope Benedict’s “pastoral concern over distorted and relativistic views of Jesus,” such as those promoted by author Dan Brown in The Da Vinci Code, also published by Doubleday.

“Much more than an academic exercise or an “exposition of theory,” the pope’s book “aims to open our hearts and minds to Jesus,” he said.

Bishop Lori recalled riding in a small plane in rough weather years ago with then-Cardinal Joseph Ratzinger, who became Pope Benedict. Despite feeling ill, the cardinal patiently answered questions from others in the plane.

“He was like a revered professor and a gentle pastor all rolled up in one,” the bishop said. “And now that person is shared with a worldwide audience.”

Weigel noted that Jesus of Nazareth was written by “a man who at the core of his person is a teacher ... who wants to invite everyone into the conversation about who Jesus is.”

Pope Benedict, “a man of deep prayer,” issues through his book “an invitation to think while we’re praying,” Weigel added.
Single young adults invited to attend Vocation Awareness Program weekend, July 13-15

Single Catholic men and women, ages 18 to 40, are invited to attend the 2007 Vocation Awareness Program to be held at Holy Trinity Seminary, 3131 Vince Hagan Drive in Irving, July 13-15. The weekend is sponsored by the Serra Clubs of the Fort Worth and Dallas dioceses, in partnership with the diocesan vocation offices.

The Vocation Awareness Program (VAP) offers single young adults the opportunity to participate in a weekend of vocational discernment and reflection. The weekend will include presentations on the process of discerning a religious vocation; panel discussions on the life styles of clergy and religious men and women; question and answer sessions; and the opportunity for private conversations with the priests, sisters, and brothers who serve as leaders during the weekend.

There is no charge for the program, which includes accommodations in private rooms and meals at the seminary. For more information about the VAP weekend, contact Father Kyle Walterscheid, diocesan director of Vocations, at (817) 366-0439, or by e-mail to kwalterscheid@fwdioc.org.

Mt. Carmel Center to offer summer programs

A morning program, entitled “Celebrating Creator and Creation,” will be held at the Mt. Carmel Center, located at 4600 W. Davis Street in far west Dallas. The focus will be upon the dialogue between science and religion, with references to the book The Gift of Being: A Theology of Creation by Zachary Hayes, OFM. The program will be held Saturday, June 2, from 10 a.m. to noon.

“An Altar Server.” a series of three presentations on The Interior Castle by St. Teresa of Avila, will be offered at Mt. Carmel Center Aug. 4, 11, and 18. Each session will be held from 10 a.m. to noon. A donation of $25 per session is requested for all morning programs held at Mt. Carmel Center. All are invited to bring their own lunches for continuing education following the programs. Drinks and desserts are provided for those bringing their lunches.

For more information about the programs offered by Mt. Carmel Center or to register, call (214) 331-6224 ext. 314.
Knights to host Memorial Day rosary May 28

The Knights of Columbus, Bishop Dunne Council in Fort Worth, will host a rosary May 28 to share in a special Memorial Day rosary. The rosary will begin at 7:15 p.m. Monday, May 28, at the Knights of Columbus Hall, located at 4500 Columbus Blvd., four blocks west of 7000 Hulen in southwest Fort Worth.

According to the Knights, the rosary will be “dedicated to all those who have made the supreme sacrifice in the armed services of the United States of America.” All members of the armed services and veterans, who gave or offered their lives in defense of our faith and freedom will be remembered.

St. John’s to host 40 hours of eucharistic adoration, beginning June 8

The Stewardship Council of St. John the Apostate Parish, 7541 Glenview Drive in North Richland Hills, will sponsor 40 hours of eucharistic adoration in celebration of the feast of Corpus Christi. The devotion will begin Friday, May 25, at 7 p.m., and the bilingual Mass will be celebrated at 7 p.m., followed by an outdoor eucharistic adoration.Extras scheduled for the May 25–26 period will include a rosary at 9 p.m. and a eucharistic adoration at 7 a.m. The Mass will be celebrated at 7 a.m. on Sunday, May 27, at 8 a.m. and at 10:30 a.m.

Fr. Wilde, an Augustinian priest and recent priest, Fr. Wilde received his doctorate in music from the Catholic University of America and has served as a choral director at Villanova University and as guest director of other chooral churches. He has been active in pro-life work as a speaker, activist, musician, and leader in the Helpers of God’s Precious Infants movement. He has also worked with the national Rachel’s Vineyard retreats offered to mothers and other family members seeking healing following abortion. Donations will be accepted but are not required for admission to the concert. For more information, contact Father Hector Medina of Our Lady of Guadalupe, 2601 North Freeway in Houston. The program will be led by an Honor Guard of the Fourth Degree Knights, and wreaths will be placed in North Fort Worth located at Grand and Gould streets in the historic Oakwood Cemetery, the site of General Worth Assembly, Fourth of July, at 4500 Columbus Trail, four blocks west of 7000 Hulen in southwest Fort Worth.

For more information, call Father Hector Medina at (817) 295-4101 or by e-mail to hmedina@brenndowed.com.

Rachel’s Vineyard retreat, June 1-3, to offer post-abortion healing

A Rachel’s Vineyard retreat, designed to offer healing for women and men struggling with the psychological, emotional, and spiritual pain of abortion, will be held June 1-3 in Fort Worth.

Rachel’s Vineyard retreats offer a safe, non-judgmental, and supportive environment to those struggling with abortion’s aftereffects. The retreat team provides the confidential support needed to help participants work through issues of guilt, shame, and grief, so that they may go on to experiencing the healing love and mercy of God.

Mothers, fathers, grandparents, and former participants in the abortion industry — anyone who has been hurt by abortion — are welcome to attend.

For more information or to register for a retreat, call the confidential help line at (817) 927-4957 or e-mail to forgiventhemselves@rachel.org.

University of Dallas announces plans for fall ministry conference

The University of Dallas recently announced plans for a new conference event. The UD Ministry Conference is scheduled for Sept. 6-8 at the Westin Park Central, 12720 Merit Drive in Dallas. Sponsoring the UD Ministry of University in association with the Diocese of Dallas, the conference will have as its theme “Walking Together in Faith.”

Keynote and major presentations are to be given by Father Ronald Rolheiser, Bishop Ricardo Ramirez of Las Cruces, New Mexico; and Steven Ellair. Workshops will be offered in both English and Spanish, focusing on a wide variety of topics, including adult catechesis, apologetics, art and environment, music, parish leadership, prayer, social justice, theology, young adult ministry, and youth ministry.

The cost is $40 for a single day and $70 for the full conference. Registration is submitted before July 9. After that date, the conference fee is $50 for a single day and $80 for the full conference. Meals are extra.

Group discounts are available. A limited number of guest rooms at the conference rate of $99 have been reserved. For room reservations, call (972) 383-5000.

For more information, visit our UDallasConference.com, e-mail to info@UDallasConference.com, or call the conference registration, T.M. Enterprises, at (815) 532-7894.

Fullness of Truth conference to be held June 23-24 in Houston

The New Springtime of Catholic Evangelization” Summer Family Conference will be held June 23-24 at the Intercontinental Hotel, 2332 West Loop South in Houston. The conference, sponsored by the Fullness of Truth Catholic Evangelization Program, will offer participants insights into understanding, explaining, and defending the Catholic Church in contemporary culture.

Author and speaker Dr. Scott Hahn, a professor of Scripture and theology at the Franciscan University of Steubenville, will keynote the event. Other conference speakers will include Archbishop Daniel DiNardo, president of the U.S. Conference of Bishops, and Michael Barber, and Dr. Brant Pitre.

Ticket prices for the conference range from $35 per person up to 17 to $95 for family groups. Meals and accommodations may be paid for separately. For more information, call 719-715-0996 or visit the Fullness of Truth Web site at www.fullnessoftruth.org.

Faith and Fiction group to meet June 21

Faith and Fiction: Conversations for Catholics who seek a venue for discussing novels and films with themes that shed light on a journey of faith, will meet Thursday, June 21, at the Catholic Renewal Center, 4501 Bridge Street in Fort Worth. The topic of discussion is Charles Vess’s graphic novel “The Blue, Water,” by Michael Dorris.

Those planning to participate are asked to read the book, reflect on it in light of personal experience, and come to the session with questions, insights, or observations to share. A poor table will close at 7:30 p.m., and the discussion will take place from 7 p.m. to 8:30 p.m.

For more information about the annulment process or to register for the workshop, contact Alice Curran at (817) 927-5383.

Two Sisters of Namur to celebrate significant jubilees Aug. 18

The Sisters of St. Mary of Namur will be celebrating the significant jubilees of two of their congregations with a Mass Saturday, Aug. 18, at St. Andrew Church, 5371 Stadium Drive in Fort Worth. Sister Mary Meridian, SSNM, will be marking her 50th year of religious life, and Sister St. John Bergendal, SSNM, will be celebrating her 65th year as a religious sister.

For more information, contact Our Lady of Victory Center at (817) 925-3901.

Workshop on marriage, divorce, and annulment set for May 31

A workshop on marriage, divorce, and the annulment process titled “Until Death Do Us Part?” will be offered Thursday, May 31, from 7 p.m. to 9 p.m., at St. Andrew Church, in the parish pastoral center.

The program presenter is Father Hector Medina, pastor of St. Matthew’s Catholic Church in Arlington. Fr. Medina, who works with the diocesan Marriage Tribunal, has studied at the Catholic University of America and has workshops for the North American Conference of Separated and Divorced Catholics at Notre Dame.

The workshop is described in promotional materials as an opportunity to explore the scriptural, historical, and traditional understanding of marriage, the reality of divorce, and the process of the declaration of nullity. “In recognizing the pain of separation and divorce and knowing that we are called to peace,” the church uses the annulment process to bring recognition to the deep hurt of a broken marriage,” the material states. Those who seek to understand more about the annulment process or to serve as volunteers in the Tribunal ministry are invited to participate in the workshop.

Childcare is available by calling (817) 927-5383 at least 48 hours in advance. To RSVP by May 28, contact Alice Curran at (817) 927-5383.

Knights Memorial Day obser-vance to be held May 27

The 48th annual Memorial Day observance, sponsored by the General Worth Assembly, Fourth Degree Knights of Columbus, will be held Sunday, May 27, at 2 p.m. in the Calvary Cemetery section of the historic Oakwood Cemetery, located at Grand and Gould streets in North Fort Worth.

The procession will be led by an Honor Guard of the Fourth Degree Knights, and wreaths will be placed in remembrance of Major Horace Carwell, a Congressional Medal of Honor recipient, military veterans, and the clergy, religious, and the Catholic pioneers who helped develop the Fort Worth area.

Each participant will conclude the conclave with a prayer service and blessing. The public is welcome to participate.

Official Assignments

The following assignments have been made by Bishop Kevin Vann:

Father John Robert Skeland has been assigned pastoral adminis-tration of the Lady of Guadalupe Parish, Wichita Falls, effective June 1.

Father Mel Besselloue has been assigned pastor of St. Ann Parish, Burleson, effective Aug. 1.

GIRLS ON THE RUN — Shannon Migliaccio, a third grader at Holy Trinity School in Grapevine, crosses the finish line, taking first place honors in the Girls on the RunWonderGirl 5K race April 28 at Bob Woodruff Park in Plano. The race was the culmination of a one week training program for girls, in which they gained knowledge about pursuing a lifetime of self-respect and healthy living. They learned not only about running, but about physical health, nutrition, spirituality, teamwork, and community involvement. A total of 90 girls, ages 8 through 11, competed in the 5K race, with the largest team of 32 girls coming from Holy Trinity. As part of their team’s community service project, the girls collected clothing and other items for Christ Haven.

Calix support group meets monthly at Holy Family

Calix, a monthly support meet-ing for Catholics who are alcoholic or who are struggling with addiction and seeking recovery, is offered the first Saturday of each month at Holy Family Church, 6150 Pershing Avenue in West Fort Worth. The next meeting will be held June 2, beginning at 10 a.m. in the church library.

Calix meetings focus on en-hancing spiritual growth through sharing, discussion, and fellowship.

For more information, call Deacon Joe Milligan at (817) 757-6767 ext. 105 or Tim a. (817) 755-1519.

Junior high band camp to be held at Coolidge Catholic High School

A summer band camp for junior high students at Coolidge Catholic High School, 4501 Bridge Street in East Fort Worth, from Mon-day, June 4, through Friday, June 8. There are at least 20 students enrolling, including the fifth grade through those completing the eighth grade.

Student director of the NGHS band program, and Chuck Compper, associate director, will serve as hosts for the camp. Concert band, jazz band, ensembles, and instrument master classes will be offered. An optional field trip to Dallas is also possible.

The fee is $75 per student, plus an additional $7 for the Burger’s Lake outing. For more information, con-tact the NGHS band department at (817) 979-2920. 1538.e-mail to bstandridge@nolancatholichs.org.
Catholic Life announces local recipients of All American Scholar Award
Catholic Life Insurance of San Antonio recently announced that six of the 25 graduating high school senior students selected to receive Catholic Life’s All American Scholar awards come from the Diocese of Fort Worth. Trey Berend of Windthorst, Gretchen Ettridge of Pilot Point, Angela Schad of Valley View, Jennifer Schroeder of Lindsay, John Lee Players of Muenster, and Johnathan Zermoor of Gannettville were designated American Scholars.

The program, open to Catholic Life members who are graduating seniors, recognizes students whose community service, leadership skills, and academic achievement set them apart from others, according to Ashley Bates, Catholic Life representative.

The seniors were required to submit an application including a letter of recommendation and an essay describing their most memorable volunteer experience.

Each recipient was awarded a $1,000 non-renewable award to offset their college tuition costs. Berend will attend the University of North Texas; Ettridge will attend Tarleton State University; Schad will attend the University of Notre Dame; Schroeder and Walterscheid will attend Midwestern State University; and Zermoor will attend Tennessee Tech University.

Hispanic Pastoral Musicians Conference set for July 26-29 in Albuquerque
The fifth annual Hispanic Pastoral Musicians Conference, sponsored by the Southwest Liturgical Conference Region X and hosted by the Archdiocese of Santa Fe’s Office of Worship, will be held July 26-29 at the Wyndham Albuquerque Hotel in Albuquerque, New Mexico.

The conference and banquet, hotel and transportation, is $110. The cost for accommodations at the Wyndham is $62.50 per night and includes breakfast.

For more information, visit the conference Web site at www.nhlc.org or e-mail to workshops@archdioceseasantafe.org or call (505) 831-8914.

Information on participating in Scouting Religious Emblem programs is available
Catholic religious emblem programs for Cub Scouts, Boy Scouts, and Girl Scouts, according to information from the diocesan Catholic Committee on Scouting, provide “an outstanding religious education supplemental for your son or daughter and are available throughout the diocese from trained instructors.”

For information on these programs, contact Teresa Hamer at (972) 744-4456 or contact the director of Religious Education, Father Antonio Mahony, for associate pastor at St. Patrick Cathedral in Fort Worth. Dr. D’Ambrosio will also speak for the teen track conference Wednesday, 3 a.m. to 6 p.m.

For sign up for the time of adoration, call Kim Barton at (817) 926-0019 or (452) 386-3862. For more details on the youth track, call Karen Rangel at (817) 237-0466. To register for the teen band, call Janeiro Sandoval at (817) 980-3558. For information about the Rosary Workshop, call Father John Benedict O’Brien at (972) 204-5759 or visit online at www.altoinstituto.org.

Scholar Academy to hold Disciple Sunday
Subiaco Academy, a Catholic college preparatory boarding and day school for young men in grades 9-12, will host a Disciple Sunday for parents and prospective students, June 10 between 8 a.m. and 4 p.m.

Those visiting will have the opportunity to meet members of the administration and faculty, and take a guided tour of the campus. Interested students may also take the preparatory placement exam. Ettredge will attend Midwestern State University; Berend will attend the University of Notre Dame; Ettredge will attend the University of South Carolina; and, Brian Smith, offers a challenging program of Subiaco Abbey, the academy, located in the Arkansas River Valley approximately 50 miles east of Fort Smith, offers a challenging program in academics, the arts, athletics, and various activities. According to the school’s admission office, Subiaco tests a college placement rate of 100 percent.

The school’s diverse student population, representing various states from California to Connecticut, includes international students from countries such as China, Germany, Mexico, Canada, South Korea, and Taiwan.

For more information, contact the Subiaco Admission Office at (888) 304-7284, e-mail to admission@subi.org or visit online at www.subi.org.

Nolan Catholic High School to host Jazz Band Camp June 11-15
A Jazz Band Camp will be held June 11-15 from 5 a.m. to 2 p.m. at Nolan Catholic High School (NGS), 4501 Bridge Street in East Fort Worth, in the school’s Music Hall, located in the Activity Center. The camp is open to all public or private school students who have completed eight through 12 middle school students will be admitted following the director’s approval.

The camp will include full jazz band rehearsals and performances, sectional rehearsals, music theory and improvisation, and jazz history and listening sessions. Featured clinicians on the camp are professional musical artists and band directors, including Chuck Compher, NGJS Jazz Band director and leader of the Jazz Monsters Big Band, which is a co-sponsor of the week-long camp.

A concert featuring the camp musicians will be held Friday, June 15, at 2 p.m. and is open to the public. Confirmed bands will be announced at the camp.

Tuition for camp is $100 prior to June 1 or $120 after that date. Refer- ence to the school: June 30 for information about the Rosary Workshop, call the parish office at (940) 423-6687. For more information about the June 3 celebration, call the parish office at (940) 423-6687.

Catholic Divorce Ministry to hold annual international conference at Notre Dame July 5-7
Catholic Divorce Ministry (CDM), the ministry of the North American Conference of Separated and Divorced Catholics, invites all divorced and separated individuals, members of the clergy, and pastoral professionals to its 35th annual international conference, to be held at the University of Notre Dame, South Bend, Indiana, July 5-7.

With the theme “Water in the Desert,” the conference will offer participants the opportunity to hear keynote presenters and authors Kathy Brewor Gorham and Bill Dye, to attend workshops, and to experience fellowship with other conference attendees.

Workshops will address topics such as “Healing through rituals,” “Recovering from difficult life events,” “Forgiveness,” “Remarriage,” “Helping children cope with divorce,” and “The annulment process.”

Pre-conference leadership seminars will also be held July 2-5. Participation in the seminars is available for a $300 registration fee. Registration costs for the international conference range from $170 to $775. For more information about the conference, contact David Veitenheimer at (817) 251-1162 or by e-mail to mjnagy@fredhall-dfw.com.

Catholic Life Insurance of San Antonio is a national property and casualty insurance company. Catholic Life has provided life insurance, homeowners insurance, and other insurance products to millions of Catholics since 1910.

North Texas Catholic deadline for submission
The North Texas Catholic is published twice monthly, except in odd numbered months March, May, July, and August when it is published monthly. The deadline for submission is noon on the Wednesday of the week before the paper is published.

Deadline for June 24 issue must be received by noon on Wednesday, June 13. Items for the July 27 issue must be received by noon on Wednesday, July 18.
Deaf retreaterants urged to become spiritual leaders by presenter who shares their life experience

Have you ever felt like your world was upside down? Have you felt out of sync with people and the places where you happen to be? Deacon Patrick Graybill, who serves at Emmanuel Church of the Deaf in the Diocese of Rochester, New York, had answers for questions such as these at the Deaf Ministry Program’s spring retreat, held in April at Camp Glen Lake in Glen Rose.

Twenty-one people of the Diocese of Fort Worth deaf community attended the retreat led by Deacon Graybill, who grew up in a family where five of the seven children, including himself, are deaf. Each year, the Deaf Ministry Program invites a deaf presenter serving as a role model and mentor to the deaf community to come and visit with the deaf community and to present a program on a religious topic. Using American Sign Language, Deacon Graybill suggested to the retreatants that, contrary to the wide variety of advertisements that suggest material goods like a special vacation or an energy drink can cure one’s ills, what people really need is God. We all “hunger for God,” he stressed, and when we have God in our life, everything rights itself and the world is good.

Deacon Graybill, who recently celebrated his 25th anniversary as a deacon, grew up in Overland Park, Kansas, and attended the Kansas State School for the Deaf. He received a master’s in deaf education from Gallaudet University. In May 2005, he earned his doctorate from St. Thomas University in Miami, Florida, where he was part of a planning committee to initiate a new master’s degree program for pastoral ministries with the deaf. Deacon Graybill now serves as a missionary for the International Catholic Deaf Association, presenting workshops nationally and internationally.

“The influence this deaf religious leader has on the Catholic deaf community cannot be overemphasized,” said Mary Cinatl, director of the diocesan Deaf Ministry Program. “Such an advisor can relate to and explain things to the deaf community in ways a hearing mentor cannot. A common language, shared experiences, and similar goals all help bring the message of God home to those who do not hear,” she added.

Reflecting on how retreat participants left feeling energized and refreshed, Cinatl explained that Deacon Graybill advocated for deaf people to become spiritual leaders, empowering them to respond to their baptismal call to evangelize. As a result, the deaf community will be more able to rely on themselves in nourishing their faith and be less dependent on hearing people. Although religious mentors who hear are still appreciated, Cinatl emphasized that “there is an authenticity, a real community, a feeling of welcome, to learning about God through the eyes of someone who shares the same life as you do.”

Carolyn Bachmann of Scotland is elected state regent at CDA state convention

“Women of God, Be Not Afraid” was the theme of the 45th Texas state convention of the Catholic Daughters of the Americas (CDA), held April 26-29 at the Fairmont Hotel in Dallas. The event included daily Mass, a variety of keynote presentations and workshops, reports from various CDA courts in Texas, and festive meals, including a Friday evening luau and a Saturday evening awards banquet.

The convention opened with Mass the evening of April 26, at Cathedral Santuario de Guadalupe, located in the Dallas Arts District. Bishop Armando Ochoa of El Paso, who serves as the CDA Texas state chaplain, and Bishop Charles Grahmann, then apostolic administrator for the Diocese of Dallas, consecrated the liturgy, which was attended by CDA members and their guests. Approximately 850 CDA members registered for the convention.

Throughout the weekend, convention participants listened to reports about service work that is being done by CDA volunteers through organizations and projects such as Missions of Mercy, Read Across America, Habitat for Humanity, Juarez Mission School, and the Bishop Fulton J. Sheen Foundation. Additionally, CDA officials announced that over $28,000 in scholarship funds had been awarded to graduating high school seniors within the state of Texas.

After two full days of reports, awards, and presentations, the 2007-2009 state officers were installed at the Sunday morning Mass. New officers include Carolyn Bachmann, state regent, Scotland, within the Diocese of Fort Worth; Sheila Martinka, first vice state regent, Pasadena; Carolyn Malik, second vice state regent, Shiner; Peggy Rosales, state secretary, Austin; Eve Trevino, state treasurer, Corpus Christi.

Special events held during the convention included luncheons for the past regents and for chaplains and other male guests at the convention, as well as an appreciation luncheon for state chairs and district deputies. There are currently 22 state chairs and 54 district deputies among the 16,012 members within the 225 Texas CDA courts. The 2009 state convention is to be held in McAllen.

The Catholic Daughters of the Americas is a non-profit organization for Catholic women over the age of 18 who are interested in doing spiritual, charitable, and educational work. For more information, visit the national Web site at www.catholicdaughters.org or the Texas CDA Web site at www.texascda.org.
DCYC 2007

Young people from grades 6-12 and their adult leaders are invited for this exciting weekend when we bring young people from all over the Diocese together to experience their faith, make new friends, have fun and come away from the conference with a greater sense of their Church, their community and who they are!

Registration

Please register through your parish or school so check with your Youth Minister or Campus Minister!

www.fwdioc.org

Faith Formation / Youth Ministry & Catechesis

Youth Ministry

Diocese of Fort Worth
Deacon Raul Garcia Sr., former prison ministry chaplain, dies at age 73

Deacon Raul Garcia Sr., 73, died May 14 in Keller. Avigil was held at the Forest Ridge Funeral Home May 15. The Mass of Christian Burial was celebrated May 16 at Deacon Garcia’s home parish, St. Michael Church in Bedford, with Bishop Kevin Vann presiding. Msgr. Joseph Schumacher and Father Michael Holmberg served as concelebrants. The interment took place at the Dallas-Fort Worth National Cemetery in Dallas.

Deacon Garcia, ordained to the diaconate in 1982, grew up in Mexico. A Korean War veteran, he served in the United States Army before leaving the service in 1958. An agricultural businessman, he traveled extensively through Mexico while based in the Rio Grande Valley with his wife, Maria, whom he married in 1955. He and his wife and six children relocated to North Texas and attended Catholic churches in Dallas and Irving before working to help found St. Michael Church in Bedford in 1977.

After his diaconate ordination, Deacon Garcia became deeply committed to prison ministry and served as a chaplain for the county jail for more than 20 years. “He was a very special man. Raul was one in a million,” said Ralph McCloud, director of Prison Ministry for the Diocese of Fort Worth. “He was revered among the inmates and staff members at the jail, and he would spend all the time they needed with him. He was a wonderful listener, and he had a very soothing, pastoral, insightful way with the people who reached out to him for help,” McCloud said.

“He was one of the true pioneers of prison ministry in this diocese,” McCloud continued. “He was very much respected by members of the administration at the jail, and they would ask for him if a particularly difficult message needed to be delivered to an inmate in a pastoral way.”

Deacon Garcia’s son, Luis Garcia of Dallas, fondly recalled his father’s habit of wearing cowboy boots and his ability to minister effectively with people in all walks of life. “He was an inspiration for so many people,” said Garcia. “He was extremely influential in shaping lives. He was a leader, and he cared for everyone whose life he touched. He was a wonderful man, who truly served those in need.”

Deacon Garcia’s wife, Maria, who shared his commitment to ministry, died in 2005. He is survived by children Rosalinda, Sandra, Raul, Sara, Javier, and Luis; four brothers, two sisters, twelve grandchildren; and six great-grandchildren.
Diocesan Pastoral Council seeks new members; nominations being accepted

The Diocese of Fort Worth Diocesan Pastoral Council — formerly known as the Diocesan Pastoral Advisory Council (DPAC) — is seeking new members, said Joe Rodriguez, who serves as staff to the council. Members of the current council have worked extensively with an advisor, Barbara Ann Cusack, to clarify the role of the council and to develop methods for identifying new candidates. Cusack, a canon lawyer, serves as chancellor and director of administrative services for the Archdiocese of Milwaukee.

The council’s mission statement, developed at a Transition Planning Meeting of the DPC on April 27, describes the newly-defined function of the council: “The Pastoral Council is a body of Catholics, ordained and lay, who are active in and in touch with the life of the church in the Diocese of Fort Worth. The members of the Pastoral Council reflect on their faith, experience, and information presented in order to investigate, consider, and propose practical resolutions so as to advise the bishop on areas of policy and future direction.”

Council meetings will be held three to four times per year or more frequently, as needed, according to Rodriguez. Bishop Yové will provide over-time training or education. Some members of the Presbyteral Council will also serve as members of the Diocesan Pastoral Council. The Presbyteral Council will continue to function under its own mission and objectives, but the bishop may request that members of both councils work together on committees to address particular issues.

Prospective council members representing both genders, various geographical areas, age groups, ethnicities, languages, and perspectives are sought, said Rodriguez. Up to 24 Catholics from the diocese will be selected to serve on the council for terms of approximately three to five years.

“We ask that pastors, pastoral administrators, staff members, current Diocesan Pastoral Council members, and parish pastoral council members, identify practicing Catholics who are open-minded, visionary, and experienced at putting their faith into action,” said Rodriguez. “We are asking that all Catholic leaders begin to prayerfully consider if you, or someone you know, might be called to the ministry of consultation within the Diocese of Fort Worth.”

Rodriguez also noted that potential candidates for the council are welcome to submit their own names. The deadline for submitting candidates’ names is June 22.

For more information, contact Joe Rodriguez at (817) 560-3300 ext. 115 or by e-mail at jrodriguez@fwdioc.org.

Diocesan Pastoral Council nomination form

Bearing in mind the Diocesan Pastoral Council mission statement, I nominate the following person to serve on the council:

(A person also may use this form for self-nomination to DPC)

Name _______________________
Parish _______________________
Address _______________________
City, Zip Code ________________
Phone/Cell Phone _______________________
E-mail: _______________________

On an attached sheet of paper, explain what gifts/talents/experience this nominee possesses for this ministry.

Mail to: Diocesan Pastoral Council Selection Committee Attn: Joe Rodriguez 800 West Loop 820 South Fort Worth, TX 76108

By June 22, 2007

Signature _______________________
Date _______________________

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Beginnings Plus Institute to be held at Holy Trinity Seminary

The Initiation Experience: Beginnings Plus Institute, cosponsored by The North American Forum on the Catechumene and the Diocese of Fort Worth, will be held Aug. 1-4, at Holy Trinity Seminary in Irving.

The institute, according to a press release, will focus on the vision of the Rite of Christian Initiation of Adults (RCIA) process and provide an experience of the flow, steps, and periods of the rite, in order to deepen one’s understanding of the conversion journey. Participants will learn the skills necessary for local implementation while taking part in opportunities for individual reflection, faith sharing, and liturgical celebration.

Experienced pastoral ministers, liturgists, catechists, and theologians, including Nelson Bonet, Kevin Bourassa, Sister Gaeil Gensler, OSF, and Father Joe Scardella, will serve as institute leaders. In three-and-a-half packed days, according to the press release, participants will walk through the entire RCIA process, from Inquirium to Mystagogia, including the rites and liturgies that are part of the process. Spanish dialogue sessions will be offered.

Completely self-contained at Holy Trinity Seminary, the Beginnings Plus Institute is accessible to long-distance travelers (minutes from DFW Airport) and local participants alike. The cost is $385 for commuters or $427 for those staying at the seminary. Early-bird discounts, parish team discounts, and scholarships are available.

Check-in for the institute will take place the evening of July 31, from 3 p.m. to 7 p.m. or Aug. 1 at 8 a.m. For complete information and a registration form, see the North American Forum on the Catechumene’s Web site at www.naforum.org or contact Debbie Stark, local coordinator, at (817) 485-2851 or e-mail to ddstark@sbglobal.net.

Teacher fired after admitting inappropriate sexual conduct with minor about six years ago

FROM PAGE 1 with whom the victim shared the information. The report was made in accordance with the diocese’s Safe Environment Program that requires persons with knowledge of possible sex abuse of a minor to report immediately that information. The diocese’s Safe Environment Program requires that diocesan leaders establish “safe environment” programs and gives the necessary elements of such a program.

Dioceesan officials contacted Denton police immediately upon learning of a possible improper incident with a minor who was 14 years old at the time, and began a diocesan investigation. The victim in the 2001 incident has declined to meet with diocesan officials. Beyer admitted to the incident during the course of the diocesan investigation and was fired immediately. Sacred Heart School staff, students, and parents were informed Friday through meetings and letters of Bayer’s dismissal. Sacred Heart School enrolled approximately 235 students in grades pre-kindergarten through 12. Counselors will be on hand at the school Monday.

St. Mark Parish also has been informed of the incident.

The Diocese of Fort Worth invites anyone who wishes to report sexual misconduct by Bayer or by someone who serves the church to contact Victims Abuse Coordinator Judy Locke at (817) 560-2452 ext. 201 or Father Michael Olson at (817) 560-2452 ext. 107.
**Viewpoints**

**Change & growth intertwine as tools of the Spirit**

By Dan Luby

In the muggy afternoon heat they stand togeth-er on the sidewalk, a still point of friendship and affection in a noisy, swirling crowd.

Twenty-somethings all, they are nicely dressed, as if for church or a family dinner or some other important, if not entirely formal, event. One of the young men sports a tie, and most of the women are in dresses, and all of them have a freshly scrubbed, happy look which speaks to their earnest good will and their pleasure in one another’s company.

Bound by shared feelings and aspirations and memories more intense than their cheerful chatter might suggest, the tight human circle sways in the current of the bustling walkway. It breaks apart only at the insistence of some of its members, and morphs into two lines facing each other.

In one, cameras are brought to squinting eyes, arms and hands move in animated gestures, and voices shout over the din of the surrounding masses of people.

In the other line, the object of all this photographic micro-management, four members of the group collect themselves and stand together, their common status revealed by the tasseled and extravagantly purple hats perched atop their heads. Arms around each other’s shoulders, their faces pointing toward the cell phone and pocket cameras poised to record the momentous occasion, they smile happily. Theirs are smiles of satisfaction, of relief, of excitement and pride and affirmation.

Behind the smiles, authentic as they are, a loving eye catches glimpses of other feelings, less joyful, more shaded with complexity, and all the more meaningful and important because of it.

They are graduates, of course, and with diplomas in hand, they are teetering on the doorway of a new life. Here in the sweetening pre- thunderstorm heat, with the late afternoon sun layering the towering thunderheads to the north with drama and beauty, they are facing their futures in a piercing amalgam of joy and heartache.

Behind them lies a rich time of intellectual stimulation and spiritual deepening and transformative friendships. The sadness that adds poignancy to their smiles arises from an acute awareness that this privileged time has come to an end.

Ahead of them, in the hazy distance, lies the promise of new lives. Dreams as yet unfulfilled could still come true there. New jobs, new careers, new relationships, even new identities beckon from tomorrow and the days beyond.

The anxiety and loss of goodbye wrestles with the excitement and hope of helix.

What’s happening to them is what happens at major transitional moments in all our lives. The paradox of change as a constant, always present in the background of our days, flashes like lightning in the dark, revealing in its momentary brilliance how loss and gain are intertwined, happy anticipation mixed with wretched sadness, yearned for future with wishful past.

This paradox is part of our life as the Church as well, at different times and in varying situations and for multiple reasons. As individuals and as communities, we whose sacred calling it is to be Christ’s presence in the world are confronted with the challenge to move beyond our spiritual comfort zones into new modes of service.

It’s hard to say goodbye to what has fulfilled us, to success and comfort and certainty. Starting over, with new people, new ways of doing things, new circumstances, new challenges — it’s easy to resent whatever pushes us forward.

As the Church celebrates again the feast of Pentecost, when the Spirit of Jesus first filled the community of disciples with the divine presence and animated the Body of Christ, we remember that such moments of crisis and challenge are part of our story, part of who we are.

Christ calls us, not to an unchanging routine, nor matter how satisfying, nor to a pattern of safety, nor matter how appealing. He calls us to a life of growth and adventure, to mission.

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**Remembering is a path to healing**

By Mary Morrell

“There is an appointed time for everything— a time to weep, and a time to laugh, a time to mourn, and a time to dance...” —Ecclesiastes 3:1, 4

Today, as I make plans to attend yet another wake for a friend, I do what most of us do in times like this — remember what was.

The meeting of friends and family at the funeral parlor, the familiar routine of the wake service and Mass, the images and symbols of the cemetery are certain to evoke memories of loved ones lost and grief experienced.

For me, at this moment, the prospect has brought to mind the burial of my very dear uncle so many years ago, someone much loved and cherished — and missed.

That morning, as we stood silently by the graveside, waiting for the priest to begin the last prayers, I noticed a small child toying with the baskets of flowers that led to the canvas tent.

The bright pink and purples of her dainty clothes were in stark contrast to the somber hues of the adults nearby.

In a world of her own, as if unaware of the soft drizzle of fall rain or what was taking place around her, she hummed a quiet tune and touched the silken petals of fresh-cut roses.

Though my heart ached at the painful thought of my dear Uncle Stan being laid to rest, I had to smile at the little girl who reminded me that life goes on.

Then I was the grieving niece, the anguished daughter, having recently lost my father, and brought baskets of flowers to my parents’ graves. I was touched and thought about how much I loved my family.

The smiles that accompanied their gesture turned to laughter as someone remarked that, even after a year, there was no grass growing on my mother’s grave, remembering her oft-quoted desire to rest in a mausoleum.

Not your ordinary “drawer in a wall” mausoleum, mind you, where she would share space with other families’ loved ones, but a private mausoleum of grandiose proportions.

“She’s not going to let the grass grow over HER!” someone quipped.

“Hope my father doesn’t have to hear about it for all eternity,” I had chuckled, remembering the good-natured, quick-witted darts that would often fly between them.

Reflecting on the number of family members who were “resting” nearby, my cousins and I had considered the possibility of a family picnic.

The remembering is so often painful, especially when we are alone. But shared with people who knew our loved ones or who love us in our pain, it can be powerfully healing.

Now, as I remember times past with my parents, I continue to remember a favorite uncle who made me laugh, who beat us to Lyons Lake on summer Saturdays to cook breakfast over an open grill, who served us Syrian bread and olives when we visited after church, whose nonchalant approach to driving evoked spontaneous prayer from anyone who drove with him, who opened his heart and his home to everyone, and who loved his children and grandchildren with unabashed openness.

Sitting here today, as my father’s birthday nears, another thought enter my mind. I remember vividly my cousin’s wedding when the DJ played the Pointer Sisters’ song, “We Are Family.” “Get up everybody and dance!” they sang. And we did, all of us, together. We danced together, as we laugh together, cry and grieve together. There is a time to dance — and to remember.
This Court has begun to see
By Richard Doerflinger

The Supreme Court’s new ruling on partial-birth abortion has near-term and long-term implications. Both should give us new hope in the struggle to build a culture of life.

The immediate impact is that after a decade of political and legal struggle, Congress is finally allowed to pass, or a late-term abortion procedure “so horrible that the most clinical description of it evokes a shudder of revulsion.” (The quote is from Justice Antonin Scalia, dissenting from the Court’s ruling seven years ago allowing partial-birth abortions to continue — and if you think he exaggerates, find Justice Kennedy’s new majority opinion in Gonzales v. Carhart online and read the first three pages.) By allowing a ban on the deliberate delivery and direct killing of the mostly-born child, the Court has at least prevented abortion from sliding entirely over into infanticide.

But as many have said, the ban itself will not prevent many abortions. More important in the long run are the signs that “the abortion distortion” — the Court’s past refusal to apply the same rules of decision-making in abortion cases as in other cases — may be a thing of the past. No longer will protective laws be struck down simply because the legislators are motivated by ethical concerns, or because their factual findings were disputed by some abortion doctors, or because a plaintiff cobbled together a hypothetical future case where the law may someday have an impact.

The new decision sets aside past evasions about not knowing “when human life begins,” and simply acknowledges that, “by common understanding and scientific terminology, a fetus is a living organism while within the womb, whether or not it is viable outside the womb.” The Court calls the victim of abortion an unborn child and clearly recognizes abortion as a form of killing. This Court has begun to see life.

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With the nest empty, sometimes it’s ...

JUST ME AND THE CHICKENS

By Kathy Cribari Hamer

Yesterday I bought a chicken, and that may seem normal, in fact mundane, to people who frequent grocery stores, (pretty much everybody who is not a chicken).

But the question about those people who buy chickens and the chickens those people buy is this: “Do they dance?” The chickens, not the people.

You see, my chicken does. This new chicken is the tenth dancing chicken I now have at my house, and they all do the same thing, with small variations. The new one, clad in feathers, diploma and mortar board, and operated by two AA batteries, marches to “Pomp and Circumstance,” then stops, changes its poultry little mind, and morphs its actions into the Chicken Dance. I like that part. Especially when it flaps its diploma-clutching wings.

I am disappointed in my children’s reactions to the growing brood of chickens — 10, as of yesterday, when the last auction ended on eBay.

I was the only one bidding in this particular chicken-dancing chicken auction, and that surprised me. It wasn’t as much fun bidding by myself, but it was easier to win because I didn’t turn out to be much of a competitor, and for once the opponent didn’t have more money than I had.

When she heard about it, my daughter Julie had only one thing to say: “Ma-ahm!” She divided the affectionate title into two distinct syllables, much like a second-grader on the playground might sing-song, “My dad is stronger than yo-ours.”

“Ma-ahm,” she chanted, “you’re kidding, right?”

“About the chickens? No. About bidding against myself? Sort of. When I figured it out I lowered my maximum bid.”

Julie, I fear, wishes I would collect something more mainstream, like Lalique crystal, Southwestern retablos or Santos, ceramic angels, or anything from Department 56, the company that’s a collector’s dream.

Understandably, I was thrilled when, one day on eBay, I discovered an item sure to please my oh-so-practical and prissy daughter, and also me.

“I wonder what Department 56 makes a chicken-dance chicken. I’m really excited about it.”

“Not knowing if Julie was referring to the chicken or the excitement itself, I acknowledged, “Sickness? Perhaps. But it is also a bargain. I paid more for the shipping than I did for the chicken. Expensive shipping is eBay’s secret, you know. I still don’t know what Victoria’s Secret is.”

“About what chickens? No. About bidding against myself?”

Julie interrupted, aghast. Now that I think about it, seeing your

See: Hamer, p. 22
Through the cheering throng.

Of Rio de Janeiro. "There's got to be fervor," said Juliana Moura, 21, busloads of passing bishops. Tambourines as they walked toward the de Carvalho soccer stadium for the pope said.

"Stretching out in front of you, my dear friends, is a life that all of us hope will be long; yet it is only a life in unison. Do not let it pass in vain. Do not squander it.

Living charity, daily, growing in holiness, is central to missionary task, says pope

\[Pope- Bênedito XVI\]

By John Thavis

Santo!

Pope John Paul II.

Pope Benedict XVI addressed a stadium full of enthusiastic Brazilian youth, telling them that a life lived without moral responsibility is a life wasted.

When people see the beauty of fidelity, drug use, and unethical sexual responsibility, he said.

He added.

The canonization "is important for faith formation, he said, and at From the Papal Visit points:

The canonization is "a model for those who want to be in the Brazilian countryside.

As the saint's relics were brought into the Brazilian countryside, they are not aware of the need to change the world.

\[Pope Benedict XVI\]

Pope Benedict XVI canonized a 19th-century Franciscan friar who was a model for those who want to dedicate their lives to God, the pope said.

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SAINTHOOD

SAINTHOOD

CAUSE — Pope Pius XII, who led the Catholic Church from 1939 to 1958, is seen in this detail of an undated formal portrait. The Congregation for Saints’ Causes reportedly has recommended that Pope Benedict XVI declare Pope Pius II venerable.

(Special Collection: Catholic Relief Services)

Avoid ‘compromised’ message in sex education, says Cardinal Rigali

WASHINGTON (CNS) — The chairman of the U.S. bishops’ Committee on Pro-Life Activities urged two congressional committees to maintain current funding levels for abstinence education and said programs that promote “safe sex” and contraception offer young people a “compromised” message.

In a May 9 letter to members of the House and Senate Appropriations committees, Cardinal Justin Rigali of Philadelphia said the more than 500 abstinence education programs currently in place in the U.S. are necessary in order to educate young people about the decisions they face, empowering them to make healthy choices that do not jeopardize their health and future.

But for every $1 the federal government spends on abstinence education, through the Adolescent Family Life Act, Title V of the Personal Responsibility and Work Opportunity Reconciliation Act of 1996 and the Community-Based Abstinence Education Education Program, it spends $12 on “safe sex” and contraceptive programs, he said.

“While programs incorporating the latter emphasis are sometimes called ‘comprehensive’ sex education, they are more accurately described as compromised education: The abstinence message is mentioned but then undermined with the false message that premature sexual experimentation does no real harm if steps are taken to avoid pregnancy,” Cardinal Rigali wrote.

If the federal government makes “that ‘comprehensive’ or internally directed approach” the norm in U.S. sex education, “the result will not be to expand diversity and pluralism in this field but to eliminate it,” the cardinal said.

“Catholic schools and other organizations truly dedicated to the message of personal responsibility and abstinence before marriage will be unable to participate in government programs,” he added. “America’s youth people would be the real victims of this misguided approach.”

The cardinal’s letter was sent as the House and Senate committees were beginning discussions of appropriations bills for fiscal 2008.

Sainthood congregation recommends Pope Pius XII be named venerable

By Cindy Wooden

VATICAN CITY (CNS) — Members of the Congregation for Saints’ Causes met May 8 to consider the cause of Pope Pius XII and apparently voted to recommend that Pope Benedict XVI formally declare him venerable.

Passionate Father Ciro Benedictetti, vice director of the Vatican press office, confirmed the congregation had met, but since the result of the vote still had to be presented to the pope he would not say May 9 what the result was.

Italian newspapers, citing unnamed sources, said the congregation’s cardinals and archbishops recommended that Pope Benedict formally recognize that Pope Pius lived the Christian virtues in a heroic manner.

Once the pope issues a decree recognizing heroic virtues, the candidate is referred to as venerable. Before a candidate can be formally declared venerable, the pope also must be present or declare the candidate’s intercession. A second miracle is required for canonization.

The newspaper Corriere della Sera reported May 9 that a minority of the congregation members had voted “no,” urging Pope Benedict to delay issuing a decree until there is “a more favorable climate,” particularly regarding the ongoing controversy over Pope Pius’ actions during World War II.

However, a Vatican source told Catholic News Service in Rome May 9 that the congregation’s vote was unanimously in favor of issuing the decree.

Jesuit Father Peter Gumpel, the promoter of Pope Pius’ cause, was out of town May 9 and unavailable for comment.

Pope Pius led the Catholic Church from 1939 to 1958; immediately before his election, the then-Cardinal Eugenio Pacelli was secretary of state for Pope Pius XII, who led the Catholic Church from 1939 to 1958, and apparently voted to recommend that Pope Benedict XVI declare Pope Pius II venerable.

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Once the pope issues a decree recognizing heroic virtues, the candidate is referred to as venerable. Before a candidate can be formally declared venerable, the pope also must be present or declare the candidate’s intercession. A second miracle is required for canonization.

The newspaper Corriere della Sera reported May 9 that a minority of the congregation members had voted “no,” urging Pope Benedict to delay issuing a decree until there is “a more favorable climate,” particularly regarding the ongoing controversy over Pope Pius’ actions during World War II.

However, a Vatican source told Catholic News Service in Rome May 9 that the congregation’s vote was unanimously in favor of issuing the decree.

Jesuit Father Peter Gumpel, the promoter of Pope Pius’ cause, was out of town May 9 and unavailable for comment.

Pope Pius led the Catholic Church from 1939 to 1958; immediately before his election, the then-Cardinal Eugenio Pacelli was secretary of state for Pope Pius XII, who led the Catholic Church from 1939 to 1958, and apparently voted to recommend that Pope Benedict XVI declare Pope Pius II venerable.

Avoid ‘compromised’ message in sex education, says Cardinal Rigali

WASHINGTON (CNS) — The chairman of the U.S. bishops’ Committee on Pro-Life Activities urged two congressional committees to maintain current funding levels for abstinence education and said programs that promote “safe sex” and contraception offer young people a “compromised” message.

In a May 9 letter to members of the House and Senate Appropriations committees, Cardinal Justin Rigali of Philadelphia said the more than 500 abstinence education programs currently in place in the U.S. are necessary in order to educate young people about the decisions they face, empowering them to make healthy choices that do not jeopardize their health and future.

But for every $1 the federal government spends on abstinence education, through the Adolescent Family Life Act, Title V of the Personal Responsibility and Work Opportunity Reconciliation Act of 1996 and the Community-Based Abstinence Education Education Program, it spends $12 on “safe sex” and contraceptive programs, he said.

“While programs incorporating the latter emphasis are sometimes called ‘comprehensive’ sex education, they are more accurately described as compromised education: The abstinence message is mentioned but then undermined with the false message that premature sexual experimentation does no real harm if steps are taken to avoid pregnancy,” Cardinal Rigali wrote.

If the federal government makes “that ‘comprehensive’ or internally directed approach” the norm in U.S. sex education, “the result will not be to expand diversity and pluralism in this field but to eliminate it,” the cardinal said.

“Catholic schools and other organizations truly dedicated to the message of personal responsibility and abstinence before marriage will be unable to participate in government programs,” he added. “America’s youth people would be the real victims of this misguided approach.”

The cardinal’s letter was sent as the House and Senate committees were beginning discussions of appropriations bills for fiscal 2008.
Bishops’ conference is ‘cautiously optimistic’ that workable immigration bill can be negotiated

APPLEBY SAID THERE HAVE BEEN SOME IMPROVEMENTS OVER PROPOSALS FLOATED RECENTLY. FOR INSTANCE, FEES ASSOCIATED WITH THE PROCESS OF LEGALIZATION FOR THE ESTIMATED 12 MILLION ILLEGAL IMMIGRANTS IN THE COUNTRY HAVE BEEN REDUCED SIGNIFICANTLY, HE SAID.

Rep. Zoe Lofgren, D-California, who chairs the House immigration subcommittee, said at an April conference that under a White House proposal it would cost a family of five $64,000 to apply for legalization. Appleby said fees have been negotiated to a more reasonable level of perhaps $5,000 per person, payable over the eight-year period.

Sen. Ted Kennedy, D-Massachusetts, has been pushing for a comprehensive immigration bill. Under the Kennedy version of the bill, immigration service agencies, dioceses, and community groups are being advised by the Catholic Legal Immigration Network Inc., known as CLINIC, to prepare for a possible federal program to legalize the status of millions of people in the country. A program for temporary workers that protects the rights of employees and includes a realistic process for the workers to apply to stay in the United States; preservation of the current family-based priority system for legal immigration.

In a May 1 teleconference with representatives of some of the largest organizations in a coalition that includes the USCCB, Frank Sharry, director of the National Immigration Forum, said some of the proposals being considered are “deeply troubling” and don’t meet “the standards of workability.”

WASHINGTON (CNS) — Immigration service agencies, dioceses, and community groups are being advised by the Catholic Legal Immigration Network Inc., known as CLINIC, to prepare for a possible federal program to legalize the immigration status of potentially millions of people within the next few years.

No such program yet exists, but it is a key component of comprehensive immigration reform legislation being considered in Congress this year. Should a law pass, it would likely be months before a program would begin.

Here are some suggestions by CLINIC for preparations that can be started in anticipation of the opening of a nationwide legalization program:

For dioceses and immigration service agencies:

— Recruit volunteers for eventual programs. If necessary, begin whatever background screening may be required.

— Begin reaching out to immigrants and providing information about services.

— Make clear the differences between church- or government-affiliated agencies and “notarios.” In many immigrants’ home countries “notarios” have legal training and authority to act as legal representatives. Notaries in the United States do not have that authority but some unscrupulous “notarios” have been known to prey on people’s confusion, complicating some customers’ legal cases.

— Apply for recognition and/or accreditation by the Bureau of Immigration Affairs for agencies to be accredited to help process applications.

— Make sure the agency is a member of CLINIC.

Set up a system, such as e-mail list-serves, for contacting people who may be eligible for legalization.

— Encourage immigrants to register in parishes. It may help serve as a record of residency.

— Offer classes in English as a second language.

For potential applicants for legalization:

— Gather and keep materials that prove employment and U.S. residency. Pay stubs, bank receipts, letters from employers, hospital bills, and school enrollment records may serve that purpose. Compile names and contact information for employers and dates of employment.

— People who have been arrested and are not sure what kind of record they may have should consult an immigration attorney and consider getting access to their FBI files so they know whether that record would preclude participating in legalization.

— Never falsely claim to be a U.S. citizen or attempt to register to vote. False claims of citizenship may be used to disqualify applicants for legal residency.

— Pay federal and state income taxes. Those without a legitimate Social Security number should get an Individual Tax Identification Number from the Internal Revenue Service. These numbers also allow people to pay their taxes without using a Social Security number. The information is not provided to immigration authorities.

CLINIC offers tips to prepare for possible legalization program for immigrants

IMMIGRATION RALLY — People gather for an immigration rally in downtown Chicago May 1. Demonstrators marched in cities across the United States May 1 to demand legal rights for illegal immigrants, but the demonstrations were much smaller than last year’s massive rallies. The Senate is expected to begin debate on immigration legislation in late May. (CNS photo/Frank Polich, Reuters)

TRIDENTINE MASS

Latin Indult Mass
5:30 P.M. Sundays
St. Mary of the Assumption Church
509 W. Magnolia, Fort Worth
High Mass Second and Fourth Sundays
Low Mass First and Third Sundays
Pope says Latin America needs ‘courageous, effective’ missionaries

Aparecida, Brazil (CNS) — Celebrating Mass at Latin America’s biggest Marian shrine, Pope Benedict XVI said the church needs “courageous and effective missionaries” to revitalize the region’s Christian identity.

More than political platforms or social movements, it is the church’s promotion of faith in Christ that will bring relief to the suffering and needy, the pope said May 13.

“This is the priceless treasure that is so abundant in Latin America, this is her most precious inheritance: faith in the God who is love, who has shown us his face in Jesus Christ,” he said.

The pope was winding up a five-day visit to Brazil with a series of events aimed at all of Latin America. The Mass, attended by about 150,000 people on an esplanade in front of the Basilica of Our Lady Aparecida, opened the Fifth General Conference of the Bishops of Latin America and the Caribbean.

Later in the retreat they prayed lectio divina again, this time with the second section of the creed. Their responses grew more confident and heartfelt as they became more comfortable with the prayer and each other. In the meantime, their other activities focused on their personal relationship with God and with each other as a community of faith. It was part of their preparation for the sacrament of confirmation.

Finally toward the end of the retreat they prayed lectio divina for a third time, reading the last part of the creed: “I believe in the Holy Spirit....” When their leader said a final “Amen” at the end of their meditation, the group remained quiet for several moments. Then one teen said, “It’s really cool how we get the same words, but we all hear something a little different.” Another added, “Yeah, it’s like everybody has a little piece of the puzzle.”

So began a free-flowing discussion about their basic, shared belief in God the Father, Son, and Holy Spirit. Better than a teaching on the Holy Spirit, it was an experience of the Holy Spirit — provided by none other than the Spirit itself.

Those young people, who a few months later would receive the fullness of the Holy Spirit in the sacrament of confirmation, learned that the Spirit is given to each, according to one’s unique gifts, for the sake of all.

Like the disciples in this week’s reading from Acts, each one heard and responded to God in his or her own “language.” By joining their understanding together they received the wholeness of God’s Spirit.

“T o each person the manifestation of the Spirit is given for the common good.”

— 1 Corinthians 12:7

**QUESTION:**

When have you had an experience of the Holy Spirit that was deepened by your relationship with others? Describe how the “pieces of the puzzle” fit together.

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The Paraclete may have a text message for you

By Dan Luby

E verything in the crowded workplace refrigerator is labeled with someone’s name. Frozen meals in manufacturers’ packaging, leftovers in plastic tubs, badly wrapped slices of cheese hardening at the curling edges, cans of soda, containers of yogurt, and zippered bags of ancient salad — all are marked to indicate private ownership. The lines between what’s ours and what belongs to others are sharply drawn.

The Gospel for Trinity Sunday hints powerfully at a different vision of reality where such distinctions are provisional, a stage in our development which we are called to transcend.

Gathered with his disciples at table, Jesus speaks passionately about the mutuality of God. The “Spirit of truth,” that he promises to send “will not speak on his own,” but will reveal that truth which resides in God’s inner life.

“Everything the Father has is mine,” Jesus reminds us. Within the heart of that divine community of Persons which we call the Trinity, there is no possessiveness. Nothing is held back from the other divine Persons who make up the community. Nothing is marked “mine.”

Made in the divine image and likeness, we are not on our own either. We are built for communion, with God and with each other. We are destined for life within God’s own heart, where petty distinctions and false dichotomies are, once and for all, dissolved. We cannot see it clearly yet. The Lord acknowledges that our capacity to take in the sublime truth to which the doctrine of the Trinity points is limited: “You cannot bear it now.”

The time will come, though, when everything that separates us from Him and from one another will vanish. In the meantime, we continue the journey of faith in confidence, knowing that because “the love of God has been poured out into our hearts,” as Paul tells us, we have a hope that “does not disappoint.”

QUESTIONS:

About what in my life do I tend to be unnecessarily possessive? What’s one specific way I can deepen my communion with someone from whom I feel separated?

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NORTH TEXAS CATHOLIC, May 25, 2007     Page 17
**Pentecostés, una presencia de fuego que llena, purifica, e ilumina nuestras vidas con amor**

Estimados Amigos de la Diócesis de Fort Worth,

Ya estamos en las últimas semanas de la época de Pascua y el próximo momento que resalta es el de Pentecostés, el “cumpleaños” de la Iglesia. Quisiera compartir con ustedes un párrafo del Catecismo de la Iglesia Católica sobre esta gran fiesta de Pentecostés.

731 El día de Pentecostés (al término de las siete semanas pascuales), la Pascua de Cristo se consuma con la efusión del Espíritu Santo que se manifiesta, da vida al discípulo, ilumina nuestras vidas, parroquias y el tránsito de la fe. La Pascua de Jesús, 732 El día de Pentecostés, es el “cumpleaños” de la Iglesia. Pentecostés es el don, “nuestro regalo de cumpleaños”, de la vida abundante que nos prometió Cristo.

Pentecostés, la consumación de la Pascua, es el modo en que el Señor se queda con cada uno de nosotros y nos une en su único cuerpo, la Iglesia, todo por medio del poder de su Espíritu Santo. Cristo vino para que tuviéramos vida y la tuviéramos en abundancia. Pentecostés es el don, “nuestro regalo de cumpleaños”, de la vida abundante que nos prometió Cristo. El don del Espíritu Santo es un don puro y limpio pues es el don de Dios mismo entregándose a cada uno de nosotros, y en todos nosotros unidos, como su Iglesia. Un don que celebramos no solo en Pentecostés sino también en cada celebración del Sacramento de la Confirmación.

A todos los que están recibiendo el Sacramento de la Confirmación durante estos días… Felicidades en recibir la plenitud y la abundancia de la vida de Cristo por medio del Espíritu Santo! Ahora los invito a que vivan esta abundancia de vida como Cristo la vivió. Cristo nos enseñó que mientras más enriquezcan nuestra vida por los demás, por la bondad misma, más abundantemente fluyan los ríos de agua viva dentro de la Iglesia y en cada uno de nosotros.

 unas gracias especiales a todos aquellos maravillosos catequistas que prepararon a nuestros confirmados por medio de compartir la Buena Nueva de nuestro Señor Jesucristo que es el centro de la catequesis, y por medio del fiel testimonio de sus vidas. Su compromiso y dedicación es otro signo de la presencia del Espíritu Santo en la Iglesia hoy. Gracias a todos nuestros sacerdotes, diáconos, religiosos y religiosas por guiar estas celebraciones tan llenas del Espíritu. Ustedes son verdaderos ejemplos de todo lo que podemos lograr cuando hombres y mujeres no sólo entregan sus vidas al Señor sino que también abren sus corazones al amor y poder del Espíritu Santo, gracias por todo lo que hacen por hacer de estos “cumpleaños” uno especial.

Ahora nos corresponde estar abiertos al Espíritu Santo y compartir con otros los frutos de su presencia por medio de una evangelización integral libre de tendencias relativistas que solo aguan las verdades de la fe y el servicio amoroso que demuestra nuestro verdadero amor unos por otros.

Para mantener y crecer en este Espíritu Santo que vive y está presente en nosotros les recomiendo a todos un camino seguro que ha estado acompañando a la Iglesia desde sus comienzos, la lectura orante, meditativa, de la Palabra de Dios. El Santo Padre en su reciente viaje a Brasil les dijo a los Obispos de Latinoamérica y del Caribe que una precondición indispensable para una clara proclamación de Cristo, su vida y sus enseñanzas es un profundo conocimiento de la Palabra de Dios. Por esto, hay que educar al pueblo en la lectura y meditación de la Palabra de Dios: que ella se convierta en su alimento para que, por propia experiencia, vean que las palabras de Jesús son espíritu y vida (cf. In 6,63). De lo contrario, ¿cómo van a anunciar un mensaje cuyo contenido y espíritu no conocen a fondo? Hemos de fundamentar nuestro compromiso misionero y toda nuestra vida en la roca de la Palabra de Dios.

Al celebrar esta gran fiesta de Pentecostés que nosotros como la Iglesia del Norte de Texas nos unamos en una oración para pedirle a nuestro Padre celestial que una vez más derrame su Espíritu Santo sobre nosotros. Una presencia de fuego que llena, purifica e ilumina nuestras vidas, parroquias y Diócesis con amor, verdad y comunión.

Que Dios los bendiga a cada uno de ustedes y a sus seres amados a volver una vez más a celebrar el “cumpleaños” de la Iglesia.

El Papa dice a latinoamericanos enfrentar desafíos enfocándose en Jesús

APARECIDA, Brasil (CNS) — En una visita de cinco días a Brasil el Papa Benedicto XVI identificó muchos retos sociales y religiosos y dijo que la iglesia debe responder enfocándose más claramente en la persona de Jesucristo.

“Ésta es la fe que ha hecho a América el ‘continente de la esperanza’. No una ideología, no un sistema económico; la fe en Cristo, dijo el Papa el último 13 de mayo.

“Es un mensaje cuyo contenido y espíritu no conocen a fondo. Hemos de fundamentar nuestro compromiso misionero y toda nuestra vida en el roca de la Palabra de Dios.

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El Espíritu Santo
Alma de la Iglesia y maestro de lo revelado
Por Pedro A. Moreno, OPL
Director, Instituto Luz de Cristo

ES impresionante cómo en los últimos cuarenta y tantos años ha crecido entre los hispanos, entre todos los católicos, el amor por la Palabra de Dios, la Biblia. Son muchos los señalamientos de la Iglesia pidiéndole a cada bautizado que se acerque a la Palabra de Dios para recibir alimentación y nutrición espiritual de forma regular.

Cada misa de noche deberá tener una Biblia y cada bautizado debe leerla con el mismo Espíritu con que fue escrita. El mismo Espíritu que llegó a la Iglesia en Pentecostés y que vive en cada bautizado sea obispo, sacerdote, diácono, religioso, religiosa, laica o laico que viven en fidelidad a esa Palabra es el maestro principal de lo revelado por Dios.

Curiosamente, me he tropezado con varias personas que al decir que el Espíritu Santo vive en nosotros se les olvida que una parte muy importante del “nosotros” donde vive y se manifiesta el Espíritu Santo es también los pastores y demás líderes de la Iglesia y no solo el grupo en que están participando. Me entristece muchísimo que personas devotas del Espíritu Santo vivan equivocadas al pensar que solo en sus grupos, o solo según su modo de vivir su espiritualidad, se manifiesta el Espíritu Santo. Es triste cuando personas devotas del Santo Espíritu de Dios no se dan cuenta de la gran variedad de modos y maneras como se manifiesta el Espíritu de Dios en la Iglesia. Estas ideas solo provocan división y no la unidad que busca lograr el Espíritu Santo en la comunidad de fe.

El Espíritu Santo guía al magisterio (los Obispos) y ellos a cambio son la voz y los instrumentos del Espíritu Santo que nos guían y nos invitan a la lectura y meditación de la Palabra de Dios según ese mismo Espíritu que vive y se manifiesta en la Iglesia desde aquel primer Pentecostés.

La ventaja de leer la Palabra de Dios con el mismo Espíritu con que fue escrita en la Iglesia es que la asistencia de la Iglesia Católica, columna y fundamento de la Verdad (1 Tim 3:15), nos asegura de no contradecir lo que el Espíritu Santo ya le ha revelado a la Iglesia en el pasado. Las verdades reveladas por Dios pueden progresar, podemos profundizar en ellas, pero no puede haber nuevas supuestas “revelaciones” o “interpretaciones” que vayan a contradecir lo que ya es segura revelación de Dios.

Contradecir lo ya revelado por Dios por el Espíritu Santo a la Iglesia es faltarle el respeto al Espíritu Santo y dudar de El. Por esto es que una parte importante de estudiar la Biblia es también estudiar lo que ya dice Dios, por el Espíritu Santo, le ha revelado a la Iglesia. Esto se puede llegar a conocer al estudiar el Catecismo de la Iglesia Católica y leer todas las referencias bíblicas y del magisterio que acompañan a cada enseñanza. Todo esto nos sirve de preparación para la lectio divina, la lectura espiritual y meditativa de la Palabra de Dios.

ACTOR CATOLICO, PRODUCTOR EDUARDO VERASTEGUI — Eduardo Verastegui es cofundador de Metanoia Films, que lanzó su película de debut, “Bella”, el año pasado. El actor mexicano protagonizó en la película, la cual ganó el Premio Selección del Público en el festival de cine de Toronto en el 2006. (CNS/Foto cortesía Canadian Catholic News)
El Papa les dice a los entusiastas jóvenes brasileños que vivan plena y responsablemente

SAO PAULO, Brasil (CNS) — El Papa Benedicto XVI les dirigió la palabra a entusiastas jóvenes brasileños que llenaban un estadio, diciéndoles que una vida que no se viva con responsabilidad moral es una vida desperdiciada.

Ante una concentración de gente, el 10 de mayo en Sao Paulo, el Papa se pronunció en contra de la infidelidad sexual, el uso de drogas y los atajos faltos de ética para alcanzar el éxito, y dijo que el deseo de construir una sociedad más justa depende del seguimiento de la ley de Dios.

“Frente a ustedes, mis queridos amigos, se extiende toda una vida que todos esperamos ser larga; sin embargo, es solamente una única vida; no la dejen pasar en vano; no la malgasten”, dijo el Papa.

“Vivanla con entusiasmo y gozo; pero, antes que nada, con sentido de responsabilidad”, dijo.

Cerca de 40,000 jóvenes se apretujaban en el estadio de soccer Paulo Machado de Carvalho para el encuentro con el Papa; y muchos otros se desparramaban en terrenos de la vecina Pacaembu de Sao Paulo. Muchos llegaron horas antes del evento.

Un gran contingente de jóvenes proveniente de Rio de Janeiro cantaba y tocaba tamborzos, mientras caminaban hacia el estadio, y se detenían para saludar con la mano a los camiones que pasaban en donde iban los obispos.

Después de pasar en su vehículo papal en medio de la multitud, el Papa se sentó sobre una plataforma blanca construida en forma de paloma y escuchó a un joven católico, Rodrigo Mendes, el cual le dijo: “hemos vivido vida de amor, de servicio en Brasil, especialmente entre los pobres y enfermos...”.

Después de dirigirse al Papa, le besó el anillo pontificio y le dio un abrazo.

En el programa se incluyó una canción en la que se pide la protección para el medio ambiente y el término a los incendios y asesinatos en la región del Amazonas. Mientras se desarrollaba la música, se mostraron proyecciones en una pantalla gigante de las especies de animales en riesgo en la región del Amazonas.

El Papa se dirigió al Papa, le besó el anillo pontificio y le dio un abrazo.

Por Judith Sudilovsky

HERODIUM, Cisjordania (CNS) — Después de tres décadas y media raspando esta ladera de montaña polvorienta y chamuscada por el calor, arqueólogos israelitas dijeron que finalmente han encontrado la evasiva tumba del rey Herodes el Grande.

La localización y naturaleza única de las hallazgos, así como el registro histórico, no dejan duda de que los hallazgos son los restos del lugar de sepultura del rey a pesar de no haber inscripciones, dijo Ehud Netzer, el profesor de arqueología de la Universidad Hebrea que ha dirigido excavaciones en Herodium desde 1972.

La excavación reveló varios edificios en el lugar elevado y cómico que el rey Herodes, quien gobernaba Judea a nombre de Roma del 37 antes de Cristo a 4 antes de Cristo, había construido.

Sólo uno o dos sarcófagos de este tamaño y esta calidad monumentales han sido descubiertos, dijo el. “No todo ciudadano judío rico de ese tiempo podía costear un sarcófago como este”, dijo el. “Es verdaderamente uno de realeza. El trabajo en piedra es muy diferente. Es verdaderamente un monumento importante y bien ejecutado. Es una gran satisfacción (haberlo encontrado). Yo mismo no estoy seguro de que lo he digerido completamente todavía”.

Debido a los textos antiguos los arqueólogos han sabido durante mucho tiempo dónde el rey Herodes fue sepultado, pero ellos no habían sido exitosos hasta este momento en su búsqueda del mausoleo en sí.

Durante los últimos tres años un equipo liderado por Netzer comenzó a circular hacia el centro de una zona en la ladera noreste de la colina que el antiguo rey, bien conocido por sus hábitos arquitectónicos, había construido a unas nueve millas al sur de Jerusalén en conmemoración de una victoria militar. Se decía que el complejo del palacio que él construyó en la cima estaba entre los edificios más espectaculares de sus proyectos de construcción y fue aquí donde él escogió que se repusieran sus restos.

Arqueólogos israelitas dicen haber encontrado tumba de rey Herodes
Bioethicist calls California suicide bill ‘implicitly anti-Catholic’

SAN FRANCISCO (CNS) — Calling proposed California physician-assisted suicide legislation “strongly and implicitly anti-Catholic” and accusing its advocates of “trying to bend the Catholic Church’s moral teaching to the will of the culture of death agenda,” an international expert on bioethics urged listeners at a May 7 lecture to do everything in their power to defeat the controversial bill. Entitled the California Compassionate Choices Act, the Assembly Bill 374 would allow physicians to prescribe a lethal dose of medication to people diagnosed with a terminal illness, giving them less than six months to live, and declared mentally competent. Wesley J. Smith, keynote speaker at the annual public policy breakfast sponsored by the San Francisco Archdiocese’s Office of Public Policy and Social Concerns and held at St. Mary’s Cathedral, said the measure seeks to establish “ending life as an appropriate way to relieve suffering.” Once that premise has been established, he said, it becomes logical to extend what would be seen as “a legitimate medical treatment” to the casually ill, the terminally ill at any stage, individuals in intractable pain, and even those who are depressed.

Effective use of Internet is key to church communications, says Osman

WASHINGTON (CNS) — As the U.S. bishops’ new communications chairman and the Vatican’s point of contact for the church, Pope Benedict XVI and his secretary of state said the entire message of the Catholic Church’s support for immigrants, love, and justice, on our appreciation for the changes the council brought. Reaching these Catholics is one of the church’s biggest communications challenges, he said.

Fatima: The secret’s out, despite claims to the contrary

VATICAN CITY (CNS) — Despite claims there are still secrets connected to the Marian apparitions of Fatima, President of the Pontifical Commission for the Study of the Fatima Phenomenon, Jesuit Father Federico Lombardi, said the official Vatican communication of pro-abortion politicians in Mexico City were still debating whether the lawmakers had been excommunicated “latae sententiae,” meaning excommunication may have been automatic following their vote, with no need for a formal church declaration. He said Mexican church officials would be ready to follow any orders from the pope.

Church recognizes immigrants’ God-given rights, says Cardinal Mahony

PHILADELPHIA (CNS) — The basic moral principle that everyone is entitled to God-given human rights is the key to understanding the Catholic Church’s support for immigrants, said Los Angeles Cardinal Roger M. Mahony May 8 in the annual John M. Templeton Jr. Lecture on Economic Liberties and the Constitution in Philadelphia. The current U.S. immigration system is unfair, he said, because it punishes those who find work, taxes, and purchasing power of immigrants who are separated from their families, Cardinal Mahony said, and yet millions of them who are in the country illegally are not protected by laws. “While such a system might meet our economic needs and demands for instant growth, it fails to meet the broad definition of ‘okonomia,’ or the call of Scripture,” he said. “‘Okonomia’ is the Greek word at the root of the word ‘economy’ — but which first means the arrangement of a household, he explained. In early Christian history, ‘okonomia’ referred to the way God’s household — in which holiness, truth, justice, love, and peace prevailed — is ordered, he said.

Pope’s remarks about Catholic pro-abortion politicians are softened in Vatican transcript

FROM PAGE 1

Catholic legislators in Mexico City who had voted in April to legalize abortion.

When reporters pressed the pope on whether he supported the excommunication of the Mexican deputies, he answered: “Yes, this excommunication was not something arbitrary, but is foreseen by the Code of Canon Law. It is simply a part of church law that the killing of an innocent baby is incompatible with being in communion with the body of Christ.”

Referring to Mexican bishops, the pope continued: “Therefore, they did not do anything new, surprising, or arbitrary. They only underlined publicly what is foreseen in [canon] law, a law based on the church’s doctrine and faith, on our appreciation for life, and for the idea of individuality from the first moment.”

On May 10, the Vatican press office released the official transcript of the pope’s 25-minute session with reporters. The pope’s opening “yes” to the direct question about excommunication had disappeared, and so had the references to Mexican bishops.

The tweaked version of the pope’s remarks began: “Excommunication is not something arbitrary, but is foreseen by the Code of Canon Law. Therefore, it is simply part of church law that the killing of an innocent baby is incompatible with going to Communion, in which one receives the body of Christ.”

In the rest of the edited version, some of the pope’s verbs were changed to make his remarks more generic.

Asked about the changes, Jesus Father Federico Lombardi, the Vatican spokesman, told reporters May 10 that it was routine for the Vatican Secretariat of State to review the pope’s extemporaneous remarks and clean them up a little for publication.

That the pope’s comments had potential for controversy was apparent immediately after he made them, Fr. Lombardi quickly circulated among reporters on the plane and found that they the pope was not announcing a new policy on Catholic politicians.

Fr. Lombardi also noted confusion over what the Mexican bishops had and had not done. The Mexican bishops had not announced any new policy on Catholic politicians.

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POPE SPEAKS WITH PRESS

— Pope Benedict XVI speaks with journalists during the flight from Rome to Sao Paulo, Brazil, May 9. The pope reiterated church teaching “that the killing of an innocent baby is incompatible with being in communion with the body of Christ.”

(CNS photo/Alessia Giuliani, Catholic Press Photo)

Contributing to this story was Jonathan Roeder in Mexico City.
By Judith Sudilovsky

HERODIUM, West Bank (CNS) — After three and a half decades of scouring this dusty, heat-scorched mountainside, Israeli archaeologists said they have finally found the elusive tomb of King Herod the Great.

The location and unique nature of the finds as well as the historical record leave no doubt that the finds are the remains of the King’s burial site, despite there being no inscriptions, said Ehud Netzer, the Hebrew University professor of archaeology who has led the excavations at Herodium since 1972.

The dig uncovered the various buildings at the towering cone-shaped site which King Herod,Herodium, the desert site of King Herod the Great’s fortress and palace about nine miles south of Jerusalem, is seen in this May 25, 1998, photo released by the Israeli Government Press Office. King Herod ordered the slaughter of the innocents after he learned of the birth of Jesus. (CNS photo/Yaakov Saar, Israeli Government Press Office via Reuters)

who ruled Judea on behalf of Rome from 37 B.C. to 4 B.C., had constructed.

Only one or two other sarcophagi of this monumental size and quality have been discovered, he said.

“Not every rich Jewish citizen of the time could afford a sarcophagus like this,” he said.

“It is really a royal one. The stone work is very different. It is really an important, well-executed monument. It is a great satisfaction (to have found it). I am not sure I myself have fully digested it yet.”

Because of ancient texts, archaeologists have known long where King Herod was buried, but they had been unsuccessful until now in their search for the actual mausoleum.

Over the past three years a team led by Netzer began circling in on an area on the northeastern slope of the hillside which the ancient king, well-known for his architectural feats, had constructed some nine miles south of Jerusalem in commemoration of a military victory. The palace complex he built at the summit was said to be among the most spectacular of his building projects, and it was here that he chose to have his remains buried.

“It is wonderful to have found pieces of the sarcophagus. (Ancient Jewish historian) Josephus Flavius is perfectly clear that Herod was buried there,” said Father Jerome Murphy-O’Connor of the French Biblical and Archaeological School of Jerusalem, noting that it would not surprise him if no inscription was found because of the ancient custom of blotting out any mention of a reviled leader such as King Herod. Jews of the period despised the ruler as an instrument of the Roman Empire.

“Herod was detested by everyone,” said Father Murphy-O’Connor. “He was hated by everyone because his rule was very strict, and there was an erosion of civil liberties, although there was economic growth.”

Riddled with disease and on his death bed in Jericho, King Herod collected all the nobility of the city and gave the order that they be killed upon his death so that “Judea would weep,” said Father Murphy-O’Connor.

Josephus, who left a well-preserved historical record, described the site of Herodium and the king’s funeral in great detail but did not mention the tomb.

He wrote that the lavish funeral procession that began in Jericho was attended by family members, a contingency of foreign guards — all in war garb — from around the ancient world and 500 of King Herod’s servants carrying spices. King Herod was carried on a bier of solid gold studded with precious stones with a covering of purple. The body itself was also covered in a purple robe, and a gold crown was placed on the head, with a scepter beside his right hand.

None of the riches described by Josephus has been discovered at the site and may have been looted centuries ago.

By Jean Denton

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MEMORIAL DAY CEREMONY
The General Worth Assembly, Fourth Degree Knights of Columbus, microchip a Memorial Day observance May 27 at 2 p.m. at Calvary Cemetery located inside the Gateway Mall of North East and Gould Streets in Fort Worth. An Honor Guard of the Fourth Degree Knights will lead the procession and the American flag will be placed in honor of Major Horace Carstairs. The ceremony will conclude with a prayer service and blessing. All are invited to this ceremony.

PREGNANCY CENTER BENEFIT
Father Denis Wilde, OSA, will celebrate Mass at St. Ann Parish, 100 S.W. Airlusty Blvd., Fort Worth, at 5 p.m. on Friday, June 1 at 8 a.m. and 10:30 a.m. Fr. Wilde, also a concert pianist, will perform at a benefit concert for the Pregnancy Center and will sign copies of his autobiography, "An Obedience That Says Yes:" 1151 The Zoe Collection, 2920 SW 10th St. Fort Worth. Admission is a free-will offering.

RACHEL'S VINEYARD
A Rachel’s Vineyard retreat, designed to address the psychological and spiritual pain of abortion, will be held June 1-3 in Fort Worth. The retreat, offered by Rachel’s Vineyard – Fort Worth, is a safe, non-judgmental, and supportive environment to those struggling with abortion’s aftermath. For more information or to register for a retreat, call the confidential helpline at (817) 923-4757 or e-mail to forgiven@rachelsvineyard.org.

YOUTH ACTIVITY AT NR200
Each summer junior high youth from across the diocese gather for a day of fun at NR200. The annual event, coordinated by the Diocesan Youth Congress; envelopes, dance, and an outdoor eucharistic procession on the first Saturday of June at 3 p.m. in the community with Michael Hargis from Illume Travel. For more information, contact the Diocesan Youth Congress; www.saintjohnthepastor.com (for info on the 4th Annual eucharistic procession June 16, the feast of the Immaculate Heart of Mary. For information on the Rosary of Our Lady of Fatima on June 13 and 15, the feast day of Our Lady of Fatima. For more information, contact Mary Jane Nady at (817) 226-1110 or by e-mail to mjnady@fresh-dw.com.

CATHOLIC COUNCILS
The Knights of Columbus #2381 invites all to share in a special Memorial Day rosary. This rosary will be prayed at May 27 at 7:15 p.m. at the Knights of Columbus Hall, located at 4500 Columbus Trail, tubes west block at 7800 Hulen in Southwest Fort Worth. The rosary is dedicated to all those who have made the supreme sacrifice in the armed services of the United States.

COURAGE SUPPORT GROUP
Courage DFW, a spiritual support group for those striving to live chaste lives according to the Catholic Church’s teachings on human sexuality, offers a night of prayer and conversation for adults June 28 at 7 p.m. at the Catholic Church on Valley St., Ft. Worth. For more information, call 817-230-6294 or e-mail to courageDFW@cdcf.org or call 978-291-5433.

SUMMER BAND CAMP
A summer band camp for students entering grades 8-12 will be held June 26-29 at GCPS Music Hall, 4501 Bridge St., Fort Worth. This camp is sponsored by the St. Mark Youth Band. For more information, call (817) 926-0919 or (423) 386-3862, or Bonnie Sager at (817) 294-5579.

CATHOLIC SCOUTING
Subiaco Academy, an all-boys Catholic boarding and day school in Northern Ar- kansas, is now accepting applications for the open house for parents and prospective students. June 10 between 8 a.m. and 10 a.m. You are invited to meet members of the administration and faculty, and have a guided tour of the campus. Contact the Subiaco Academy, 3500 Highway 78 East, Subiaco, AR 72877, (501) 765-0617, or e-mail to admissions@subiaco.org, or visit the Web site at www.subiaco.org.

MINISTRY WITH GAYS / LESBIANS
The Fort Worth Diocesan Ministry with Gays/Lesbians, or DMCGL, is seeking theaxual and Other Sexual Minorities, and Their Families will offer an evening of prayer and conversation for gays, lesbians, their families, and friends June 28 at 7 p.m. at the Catholic Recruiter Center, 4503 Bridge Street in East Fort Worth. For more information, contact Father Warren Murphy, TFP coordinator of the ministry, encourages those interested to join for prayer and shar- ing. The event will be open to all and is free. Contact Father Murphy at (817) 927-5383 or Dotti and Hank Cummins at (817) 861-5772.

FORTY HOURS OF DEVOTION
The Stewardship Council of St. John the Baptist Parish, 123 North Street, Richland Hills, will sponsor a 40 hours of eucharistic adoration on the feast of Corpus Christi June 15, from 6 a.m. to 9 p.m. Friday, June 8, at 2 a.m. A bilingual Mass will be celebrated at 7 p.m. followed by an ecumenical eucharistic procession, which will continue through to the 8 a.m. Sunday Mass, June 10, except for the five p.m. Sat- urday Mass. For more information, contact Fr. Wilde is a member of the Augustinian Province of St. Thomas of Villanueva and is a priest associate of Priests For Life. For more information regarding the event, contact the parish office at (817) 295-4101.

ANNULMENT WORKSHOP
A workshop on marriage, divorce, and the annulment process will be presented by Dr. John G. Peck, Ph.D., May 21-26. The workshop will be held at Towers of Westlake, 2920 SW 10th St., Ft. Worth. Fr. Medina works with the Marriage Tribunal of the Diocese of Fort Worth. He has studied and taught marriage and family law in America and has given workshops for the Northern American Conference of Separated and Divorced Catholics at Notre Dame. Class availability is by calling (817) 924-6581 or at least 48 hours in advance. Call by May 21, call Alice Curran at (817) 927-5383.

CATHOLIC AVENUE
Single Catholics ages 18 to 40 are invited to attend the 2007 Catholic Avenue Program to be held at Holy Trinity Leminary, 3120 E. Lancaster Ave., Fort Worth, July 13-15. The weekend is sponsored by the Serra Clubs of the Fort Worth and Dallas dioceses, in partnership with the diocesan vocations office. There is no charge for the program, which includes accommodations in private rooms and meals at the seminary. For more information, contact Father Kyle Watterscheid, director of Vocations for the Diocese of Fort Worth, or by e-mail to kwatterscheid@fwdioc.org.

ST. AUGUSTINE’S GROVE
St. Augustine’s Men’s Purify Group, a ministry focused on intervening with personal, spiritual, and moral impurity issues on the internet and other sources, meets every Tuesday at 7 p.m. in Room 213 at St. Elizabeth’s Parish, 1400 S. O’Hara Ave., located at 2016 Villa Lane, Keller, and Sundays at 7 a.m. at 1301 Paxton (Padre Pio House) in Arlington. For additional information, visit the Web site at www.seamenspurity@yahoo.com.

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Catholic Church would like to clean your home or office and/or maintain your yard. Call (817) 692-8434.

Jazz Monsters Professional Swing Big Band For appearance schedule or booking information www.jazzmonsters.com

ST. MARY, WINDSORSTH
St. Mary Parish in Windorsont, located at 101 Church St., will celebrate its 115th birthday June 3. Activities will be held in the parish hall, the parish high school, and on the school campus adjacent to the church beginning at noon. In addition, there will be a golf tournament June 2; for more information, contact the parish office at (817) 927-6780. Included in the activities will be held by a priest with daily Mass and rosary. Those attending the event are encouraged to support the Catholic Diocese of Fort Worth. For more information regarding the event, contact Jill Haslett at (817) 283-8052 or by e-mail to whジャンソン@Hotmail.com. For more information regarding the chaplainship aid program, contact Steve Zeber at (817) 251-1162 or by e-mail to patron@cast.org. All Scoulers holding Ad Altare Dei award classes are required to be approved by the Catholic Commission on Scouting (CCS) for the Diocese of Fort Worth.

SUBIACO
Subiaco Academy, an all-boys Catholic boarding and day school in Northern Ar- kansas, is now accepting applications for the open house for parents and prospective students. June 10 between 8 a.m. and 10 a.m. You are invited to meet members of the administration and faculty, and have a guided tour of the campus. Contact the Subiaco Academy, 3500 Highway 78 East, Subiaco, AR 72877, (501) 765-0617, or e-mail to admissions@subiaco.org, or visit the Web site at www.subiaco.org.
MOVIES THAT TOUCH LIVES

By Deborah Gyapong
Catholic News Service
Ottawa, Canada

If the story of the rich young man from the Gospel of Matthew had a sequel updated for modern times, it might resemble the life of actor Eduardo Verastegui, a Catholic who stars in the film “Bella.”

In the Gospel account, Jesus tells the young man to sell all he has and follow him, but the man goes away sorrowful. In the modern-day sequel, Verastegui sells all he has and is prepared to give up his budding acting career to follow Jesus.

Verastegui had reached the zenith of Mexican celebrity as a soap star and singer who had toured at least 13 countries to sold-out crowds. His résumé includes everything from appearing as Jennifer Lopez’s love interest in a music video to a starring role in the 20th Century Fox movie “Chasing Papi” and a co-starring role in the independent film “Meet Me in Miami.” Verastegui also has been listed as one of the 50 most beautiful people in the world in the magazine People en Español.

But while studying English in Los Angeles, he found himself drawn to a deeper faith in Jesus through the example of his Catholic teacher, and he began to see all the reasons he had wanted to be an actor — fame, money, and pleasure — as empty and vain.

He also realized that he had been typecast into portraying the unfaithful, lying Latin lover, which promoted negative stereotypes. He said the media portrayal of Hispanics in general demeaned both men and women, resembling nothing like the dignity and beauty of his mother and sisters in Mexico.

Verastegui said he discovered he had hurt people through his work, and the messages in his movies were “poisoning society.”

“It broke my heart,” he said at the annual Rose Dinner in Ottawa May 10, following the 10th annual March for Life in Ottawa. “I realized I had offended God.”

He said he spent “many months in tears.”

Verastegui sold his possessions, wondering if God was calling him to be a priest, perhaps in the jungles of South America. His spiritual adviser, however, told him: “Hollywood is a bigger jungle.”

He vowed to refuse parts unless they affirmed life and human dignity. For three years, he went without work, because all the parts offered him involved the “same negative stereotypes.”

“We are not called to be successful, we are called to be faithful,” Verastegui said. “I wasn’t born to be famous or rich; I was born to know and love and serve our Lord Jesus Christ.”

Then in 2004 he met movie producer Leo Severino while attending daily Mass.

Severino, who also spoke at the dinner, returned to Canada the next year and invited Verastegui to co-found Metanoia Films with the intention to produce movies that could change lives and hearts.

“Bella,” released in 2006, is Metanoia’s first film. It won the coveted People’s Choice Award at last fall’s Toronto Film Festival. Severino and Severino co-founded Metanoia Films with the intention to produce movies that could change lives and hearts. “Bella,” released in 2006, is Metanoia’s first film.

Severino said the media, especially film and television, are “shaping our culture.” He said the movie “Million Dollar Baby,” promoted euthanasia and “Cider House Rules” glorified abortion. “Natural Born Killers” influenced the Virginia Tech shooter, he said.

“Art and morality go hand in hand,” he said, urging young people to guard their eyes and ears and their innocence. “God does not use evil means,” he said.

Deborah Waters Gyapong’s journalism career spans more than 20 years in television, print, and radio, including 12 years as a producer for the Canadian Broadcasting Corporation’s television news and current affairs programming. Deborah now covers religion and politics primarily for Roman Catholic and evangelical newspapers.