Diocese ordains two priests
Father Manuel Holguin
born in Mexico and
Father Michael Moloney
born in Ireland

Story by Joan Kurkowski-Gillen
Photos by Juan Guajardo

“I always knew he would be a priest.”

Two families, with origins in different corners of the world, expressed that same sentiment as they waited inside St. Patrick Cathedral June 9 for the ordination of Cruz Manuel Holguin Ogaz and Michael Eugene Gerard Joseph Moloney to the Sacred Order of Presbyter.

Sitting in the front pew of the cathedral, Guadalupe Ogaz beamed with pride as she touched the gold colored vestments her son, Manuel, would soon wear.

“I’m very thankful, happy, excited, and proud,” the native of Jimenez, Chihuahua, Mexico said in Spanish. “This is the first priest in our family. It’s a blessing and will set a good example for the grandchildren.”

Across the aisle, Marian Laningham and Ellen Fung remembered their brother’s long journey to the priesthood. During his career as a medical doctor, Michael Moloney was as concerned with the underlying causes of a patient’s illness as he was with the disease itself.

“We aren’t surprised by Michael’s vocation. We knew it would eventually get there. His interest in the Church is something we noticed when he was 13 or 14,” says Marian,

SEE FATHER MANUEL... P. 16

Deacons Manuel Holguin (right) and Michael Moloney prostrate themselves before the altar of St. Patrick Cathedral as the Litany of the Saints is sung, just before Bishop Kevin Vann ordains them to the priesthood for the Diocese of Fort Worth, Saturday, June 9.
The Solemnity of the Body and Blood of Christ, gives us the perfect occasion to reflect on God’s great gift and give thanks

Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

In this month of June, we once again celebrate the Solemnity of the Body and Blood of Christ. This great feast day of the Eucharist is acknowledging the true presence of Christ in our midst at each Eucharistic celebration and the pilgrimage of our daily lives. Jesus has left for us his real, perpetual, and substantial presence in the Eucharist, so that He can be continuously present to and working through the Church and through each and every one of us to consecrate the world to God. This is why we call the celebration of the Eucharist the “Mass”—from the Latin word missio which means mission or to be sent. Jesus Christ comes to us in the Eucharist, fully present in his Body, Blood, Soul, and Divinity to not only be intimately present to us in his love and mercy, but to transform us to become more like Him to then go out into the world to witness and evangelize: “Go in peace, glorifying the Lord by your life.”

In these challenging days, as we face the many challenges of our daily lives, and especially the current threats to religious freedom, and threats to human life and dignity that are prevalent in our modern culture, we need all the more the transforming power of the Eucharistic Lord so that we can go out into the world to truly make a difference. Only when we truly participate and truly open ourselves fully to the Lord at each and every Mass can this transformation truly happen in us. As Pope Benedict XVI states:

We must all work together to celebrate the Eucharist ever more profoundly: not only as a rite, but as an existential process that touches me in the very depths of my being, more than any other thing, and changes me, transforms me. And in transforming me, it also begins the transformation of the world that the Lord desires and for which he wants to make us his instruments.

— Meeting with the clergy of the Archdiocese of Rome, Feb. 26, 2009

The word Eucharist also means “Thanksgiving,” and it is in the celebration of the Eucharist that the Body of Christ the Church gathers together to give thanks to God for the great gift of salvation that is accomplished in Christ. During the Mass we offer ourselves with Christ as a living sacrifice to the Father in the Holy Spirit, but specifically a sacrifice of praise and thanksgiving for all that God has given us in Christ: “Lift up your hearts…let us give thanks to the Lord our God.” As the Catechism states:

The Eucharist is a sacrifice of thanksgiving to the Father, a blessing by which the Church expresses her gratitude to God for all his benefits, for all that he has accomplished through creation, redemption, and sanctification. Eucharist means first of all “thanksgiving.” (1366)

Thus, this feast of Corpus Christi, which stands in the Church’s liturgical calendar before the long span of Ordinary Time begins, gives us the perfect occasion to reflect on thanksgiving and gratitude to God, especially for all of those who have ministered and served in our parishes, missions, and institutions these past months. May and June are full of so many celebrations: Confirmations, first holy Communions, graduations from our Catholic schools, diocesan and priesthood ordinations and more. None of these grace events could be accomplished without the faithful witness, dedication, and hours of work by our pastor priests and deacons, pastoral ministers, directors of RCIA, catechists, sponsors, and more. To all of them, during the time of reflection on the Eucharist on the feast of Corpus Christi — we need to thank them personally for all they do and are. I want to personally thank all of you who work so faithfully and tirelessly in doing the good work of Christ in the parishes. Through your witness and dedication, you bring Christ to all of the lives that are entrusted to you and continue to build up the Body of Christ, the Church.

I also want to emphasize strongly the centrality of the Eucharist in any of our ministries and work in the Church. As the Second Vatican Council teaches, the Eucharist is the “source and summit of the Christian life.” Therefore, the Eucharist is also the source and summit of our ministry and activity in the Church — our communion with the Real Presence of Christ is the source of his strength and power that encourages us and strengthens us in whatever the Lord has called us to do. As Pope Benedict teaches:

How very significant is the bond between the Church’s mission and the Eucharist. In fact, missionary and evangelizing action is the apostolic diffusion of love that is, as it were, concentrated in the Most Blessed Sacrament. Whoever receives Christ in the reality of his Body and Blood cannot keep this gift to himself; but is impelled to share it in courageous witness to the Gospel, in service to brothers and sisters in need, in pardoning offenses. For some, then, the Eucharist is the seed of a specific call to leave all and go to proclaim Christ to those who still do not know him.

— Angelus, October 23, 2005

This is also a time of year of change, often for our parishes and parish priests. Also it is not unusual for pastoral ministers to change position, or move for other reasons. All of this is a cause for reflection on who we are as the Body of Christ: not one individual institution or parish, but part of the greater body of Christ that is the communion of the Church. And in moments of change there are moments of grace and blessing as the Lord continues to work in our lives to build up his Body here on earth. Like the Eucharistic processions of Corpus Christi — we keep moving on toward the goal of a deeper union with Christ and his Church, and eternal life, because in the end, it is all about salvation:

For this reason, the Feast of Corpus Christi is characterized particularly by the tradition of carrying the Most Holy Sacrament in procession, an act of full meaning. By carrying the Eucharist through the streets and squares, we desire to immerse the Bread come down from heaven in our daily lives. We want Jesus to walk where we walk, to live where we live. Our world, our existence, must become his temple. On this feast day, the Christian Community proclaims that the Eucharist is its all, its very life, the source of life that triumphs over death.

— Pope Benedict XVI, Angelus, June 18, 2006

I pray that you all have a blessed and joyful summer, and you and your families will remain in my prayers.

+Kevin W. Vann+
+Bishop Kevin W. Vann, JCD, DD+
+Diocese of Fort Worth+

Pope Benedict XVI leads the Corpus Christi procession from the Basilica of St. John Lateran to the Basilica of St. Mary Major in Rome June 7

Our
Shepherd Speaks

Bishop Kevin Vann

(©36 photo/Shaun洪-eng)
Good-Bye magapaper, hello magazine
The newly re-designed NTC will premier with the September/October issue

As hard as it may be to believe, the North Texas Catholic is changing frequency of publication and format — again.

The new incarnation of your diocesan publication will be published six times a year, not 12, as has been the case since October of 2010. And the size of the publication will change from regular tabloid format to the same size as Time or Newsweek.

There are two major factors pushing this change: cost and the changing nature of how we receive the news. Even the most devoted fans of the physical product of publications — newspapers, magazines, and books — find ourselves getting more and more of our news on our smartphones and computers and tablets.

With the 24/7 news cycle, we find ourselves impatient when the morning newspaper runs the story we heard the previous evening on the radio or read on the Web. We simply can’t get news to the people of the diocese fast enough through monthly publication. So much of the news of events and major breaking news will now be posted to a re-designed website that will still be accessible from the diocesan site, but will also be available at northtexascatholic.org, beginning some time this summer.

The Calendar Page, as it is currently, will no longer exist, but upcoming diocesan, parish, and organizational events will be updated daily on the Web.

Because the print edition will be published only every other month, more of its content will be feature-oriented, but you’ll continue to see many of the familiar elements that have been part of our identity over the years. There will be more Good Newsmakers. The Word to Life Scripture commentary on the Sunday readings will still be a part of the mix. The Bishop will still speak to us personally, and there will still be a place for your favorite columnists like Kathy Cribari Hamer.

So stay tuned. Look for event announcements on the Web, but keep us on the dining room table or by the couch. We want to continue to bring the Good News to the Diocese of Fort Worth and to you.

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So much we can't capture it all

This issue is packed full of great things happening in the Diocese of Fort Worth, and yet, we know that it is only the tiniest fraction of what is happening in our parishes and schools, our fraternal and charitable apostolates, our religious education and youth programs, and among our dedicated music and liturgical ministries. With the limitations of space and time for the re-telling of the works and devotions of God’s people, we know that what is captured in these 32 pages is but a glimmer of the light of God’s love that is shed abroad by his faithful people in the local Church in the Diocese of Fort Worth.

So let’s salute the untold stories of love, joy, patient endurance, kindness, faithfulness, gentleness, and self control in this season when we have celebrated so many confirmations, graduations, ordinations, welcomings and departings.

Having said that, you don’t want to miss the stories of ordinations to the diaconate and the priesthood in this issue. They are a cause of great joy. And reading John Henry’s recounting of the pilgrimage of the former Anglican priests just ordained to the transitional diaconate on Page 15, will help you better understand the complex issue of the Ordinariate of the Chair of St. Peter and its history.

As always, you can find out what’s going on behind the scenes at the Bishop’s Blog at www.fwdioc.org. And catch us on Facebook “North Texas Catholic Newspaper” or at fwdioc.org/NTC for fresh news. We’ll be back with a whole new look and way of doing things when we publish again in late August.

Jeff Hensley
Editor
New website ‘AnyGivenSunday’ helps young Catholics grow in their faith

WHEELING, W.Va. (CNS) — Young Catholics have a new website available to them featuring professionally written Catholic speakers, musicians, and comedians who have teamed up to help them grow in their faith.

“AnyGivenSunday”, reflections for the young church, features 45 national Catholic youth ministry personalities — including Steve Anspross, Chris Padgett, Matt Maher, Shannon Cerneka, and Jamie Calkins, among others. Each week, the site offers a reflection for the weekly Mass readings.

Each week, the site offers a reflection from one of the participating personalities. The site — www.anygivensundayproject.com — was created by Bob Perron, executive director of the Office of Youth Ministry for the Diocese of Wheeling-Charleston in West Virginia.

Bishops told they must embrace new media to engage fully in the New Evangelization

ATLANTA (CNS) — The new evangelization calls for using new forms of media to reach people in their everyday lives, said the chairman of the U.S. bishops’ Committee on Communications.

“Still decided to come to Philadelphia it could only host a significantly limited gathering. The first world meeting was held in Rome in 1994. Since then it has taken place in Rio de Janeiro, Brazil, in 1997; Rome in 2000; Manila in 2001; Valence, Spain, in 2006, and Mexico City in 2009. Almost every meeting has drawn more than a million people.”

Archbishop Chaput said he spelled out very clearly to the council the archdiocese’s financial struggles, saying it could only host a significantly limited gathering.

“We envision a gathering of 60,000 to 80,000, rather than 300,000, people,” he said.

Despite the limitations, the pope said he “still decided to come to Philadelphia knowing that it would probably be a different scale of celebration than they’ve been used to.”

The UTCB will continue to depend on traditional print forms of communication but also will utilize multimedia primarily through the Internet to reach new audiences and to draw non-practicing Catholics back to the church, the said.

Cardinal Timothy M. Dolan of New York, USCCB president, told the bishops that the effort will include the naming of a spokesperson for the conference who would be available around the clock to respond to media inquiries and to be pro-active in seeking to share church views and teaching.

“The USCCB is developing a new model business that incorporates best practices for its communications work and takes into consideration the way people seek information today and how they might seek information in the future. Communication has become a two-way street where people expect to interact with sources of information and the church must be able to offer people a chance to comment on the information they are receiving,” he explained.

The USCCB will continue to depend on traditional print forms of communication such as diocesan newspapers, but also will utilize multimedia primarily through the Internet to reach new audiences and to draw non-practicing Catholics back to the church, the said.

“We’ve got to figure out a way to be where people are getting their news,” Bishop Wester said. “The advantage is they are getting the news out there, then other messages are going to be sitting there... and then it’s settled in people minds.”

In a 20-minute presentation June 14 at the U.S. bishops’ spring meeting in Atlanta, Bishop Wester discussed a series of steps his committee is undertaking to build stronger relationships with millions of parishioners in American Jews.

He said there are serious questions revolving around how to effectively communicate the church’s work and remaining true to authentic church teaching.

“People want something, a chance to be heard,” Bishop Wester said.

Cardinal Sean O’Malley of Boston told the assembly that the church and the Vatican is a poor job of “communicating around controversial topics.” He said a spokesperson would be welcome and would help frame information in light of church teaching rather than having it distorted by voices in the media.

Maryknoll priest works to help the deaf join mainstream society in Cambodia

WASHINGTON (CNS) — In Cambodia, people who are deaf are pretty much an afterthought said U.S. Father Charles Dittmeier. They are almost always ignored and thereby given much imperception to participate in society, he said.

For 11 years, the priest from the Archdiocese of Louisville, Ky., has worked to change those perceptions in the Southeast Asian nation. As a Maryknoll lay missioner, Fr. Dittmeier has overseen the work of the Deaf Development Program in the Cambodian capital, Phnom Penh.

Over the years, he has helped develop language for Khmer, the country’s primary language. With the help of Cambodian staffers, he redirected the program to integrate classes that teach skills in barbering, motorcycle repair, metal work, woodworking, sewing and sewing-machine repair in allow deaf people to join the mainstream of Cambodian society.

Fr. Dittmeier, 68, said evangelization is hardy the program’s goal. His is a ministry of service, in line with the requirements of the memorandum of understanding Maryknoll signs with the Cambodian government in order to work in the country. The memo specifies the types of programs they lay missioners will carry out. In this case, it is services for deaf people, something the government does not provide.

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Bishop Vann leads Corpus Christi procession at St. Peter in Lindsay

By Joan Kurkowski-Gillen

FORT WORTH — Gigi Westerman, president of Strategic Image, Inc., and Sandra Brodnicki, president of Brodnicki Public Relations, Inc., received top honors at the first Worthy Awards celebration, hosted May 31 by the Greater Fort Worth Chapter of the Public Relations Association of America. The awards committee recognized the two professionals with a Worthy award in the category of Branding and Integrated Communications and an overall Best of Show award for their work on behalf of Catholic Charities Fort Worth (CCFW) and United Way of Tarrant County.

Westerman and Brodnicki worked together on a branding and strategic communications plan for “Money School,” a financial education initiative offered through a partnership between United Way and CCFW to assist individuals and families earning less than $50,000 per year.

“Financial education is an essential step to ending poverty, and the tools and techniques provided in this program teach individuals and families to manage their finances and make informed decisions,” said Christie Moseley-Eckler, Money School program manager for Catholic Charities Fort Worth. “Thanks to our new Money School brand and strategic communication plan, we’ve seen a significant increase in families seeking financial education. We are also capturing the hearts of community partners, which will help make this initiative even more successful.”

Nolan ends year-long 50th anniversary celebrations with Mass and picnic

By Joan Kurkowski-Gillen

FORT WORTH — Karen Mullen couldn’t attend her 60-year class reunion at Nolan Catholic High School, so participating in her alma mater’s final 50th anniversary gathering was a priority. The school shaped her values, encouraged an interest in ecology, and influenced the way she teaches.

“My years at Nolan totally formed how I teach art and the things I consider important in life,” says the 1971 graduate.

“I was here for the first Earth Day on April 20, 1970. We planted trees on campus.”

Mullen was able to visually measure the growth of those trees and view other changes on campus after a June 2 Mass and outdoor picnic held at the school.

The event was the culmination of Nolan Catholic’s 50th anniversary celebration which began last August and included special reunions, homecoming activities, and a golden Mardi Gras fundraiser at Cowboys Stadium. More than 200 turned out for the final event.

The school’s history dates back to 1961 when the Marist Brothers joined forces with the Sisters of St. Mary of Namur to open a co-educational secondary school on a plot of land donated by the Amon Carter Foundation in East Fort Worth.

Since then, Nolan’s student population and facilities have more than doubled in size.

According to the news release, the winner was extensively repaired. Another family had windows that were blown out.

Photo courtesy Joan Kurkowski-Gillen / North Texas Catholic

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Fr. Luke Robertson, TOR, former CCFW SOS team leader, moving to Austria

At a going-away reception held June 10, Daniel Pelc presents Father Luke Robertson, TOR, associate pastor at St. Andrew Parish in Fort Worth, with a travel case for a Novitiate he received as a gift in December of last year from Knights of Columbus Council 6036. Fr. Luke, who had served as the lead manager for Catholic Charities Fort Worth’s Street Outreach Service (SOS), has a homeless outreach program, is being transferred to Gaming, Austria, where he will serve as the campus chaplain for students of Franciscan University of Steubenville’s study abroad program.

National SVDP Council grants $5,000 to help Arlington families recover from tornadoes

ARLINGTON — The National Council of the Society of St. Vincent de Paul granted $5,000 in relief funds to assist families to recover from the April tornadoes that hit Arlington on April 2.

Funds were spent to help two families in the Arlington area. One family received two months of mortgage payments. The second family had windows that were blown out. They received replacement windows for their home.

Immediately after the tornado, $700 was spent on food for families in temporary need. A Sunday potluck supper was prepared for one neighborhood.

Members of the St. Vincent de Paul Conference did the home visits. The Fort Worth Council completed the application and administered the funds.

St. Andrew School third-graders take part in cabbage-growing program

St. Andrew School third-grader Rohdy Sagonako holds a cabbage. Rohdy’s class grew cabbages as a hands-on learning experience incorporating different subjects. The cabbages were later donated to St. Andrew’s Church Social Ministry Food Pantry.

Photo courtesy of Terry Verbois

Photo courtesy of Rose Hall

PSIA Director Pat Walters presents the third-place state trophy to KSC Academic Coach Tre Kaye during an assembly. From left to right are state winners Cristian Jimenez, Emma Wisker, Scott Wisker, Jamie Ordonez, Jillian Josefsberg, Derik Flores, Jessica Josefsberg, Hannah Jezek during an assembly. From left to right are state winners Cristian Jimenez, Emma Wisker, Scott Wisker, Jamie Ordonez, Jillian Josefsberg, Derik Flores, Jessica Josefsberg, Hannah Jezek during an assembly. From left to right are state winners Cristian Jimenez, Emma Wisker, Scott Wisker, Jamie Ordonez, Jillian Josefsberg, Derik Flores, Jessica Josefsberg, Hannah Jezek during an assembly. From left to right are state winners Cristian Jimenez, Emma Wisker, Scott Wisker, Jamie Ordonez, Jillian Josefsberg, Derik Flores, Jessica Josefsberg, Hannah Jezek during an assembly. 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In Memory

Father Cal Giesen, OFM, former priest at St. Francis Village, dies at 90

By Jenara Kocks Burgess
Correspondent

Father Cal Giesen, OFM, 90, a retired priest who had lived at St. Maximilian Kolbe Friary in Crowley, died April 30 in Sherman, Illinois.

While living at St. Maximilian Kolbe Friary for 11 years, he also assisted parishes in the Diocese of Fort Worth by celebrating Mass and hearing confessions, including St. Patrick Cathedral, St. Joseph Parish in Arlington, and Holy Family, St. Andrew, and St. Bartholomew Parishes in Fort Worth. He also was part of the team of friars who serve the spiritual needs of St. Francis Village retirement community where the friary is located.

“He was everything to all men and all women,” said Father Lambert Leykam, OFM, who lives at St. Francis Village in Crowley and was friends with Fr. Giesen for 15 years. “He was a true companion and a true man, fashioned after St. Francis of Assisi. I would call him another Francis.”

Fr. Giesen was born Norbert Giesen Dec. 3, 1921, in Union Hill, Minnesota to the late, Mathias Giesen and Barbara (Klinkhammer) Giesen. He was baptized and confirmed there at St. John Parish. He entered the novitiate for Sacred Heart Province of the Order of Friars Minor on Aug. 14, 1941, receiving the name Callistus, which he later shortened to Cal. He professed solemn vows Aug. 19, 1945, and was ordained a priest Dec. 19, 1947, in Teutopolis, Illinois.

He taught at the high school and minor seminary level before serving in parish ministry across the country. Fr. Giesen taught at St. Joseph Seminary in Westmont, Illinois.

“He was very compassionate toward people and was loved by many people, especially his seminary students and fellow priests,” Fr. Lambert said.

Fr. Giesen also served at St. Peter Church in Chicago and Sacred Heart Parish in St. Paul and worked at missions in northern Louisiana.

Fr. Lambert said Fr. Giesen liked to play golf, and they golfed together while they both lived in Louisiana.

“He was a very kind confessor,” Fr. Lambert said.

In his last interview with the North Texas Catholic, when asked what he most wanted to see happen in the lives of those he served, Fr. Giesen responded, “I want them really to be Gospel-minded and loving from the first word in the Scriptures to the last but especially in Jesus’ own words and actions for humankind throughout the world for all time.”

In lieu of flowers donations can be made for the care of elderly Franciscan priests and brothers to Blessed Giles Friary, 113 Stardust Dr., Sherman, IL, 62684.

A funeral Mass was celebrated May 9 at St. Wenceslaus in New Prague, Minnesota, with interment at St. John’s Cemetery in Union Hill.

Fr. Giesen was preceded in death by brothers, Reinold, Clarence, Ermin, William, Melvin, Gerald, Leo, and sisters, Leona and Lorraine Giesen Knaeble.

He is survived by brothers Raymond Giesen of New Prague, and Francis (Harriet) Giesen of Marshal, Michigan; sisters Marian (Sam) Svoboda of Bloomington, Minnesota, Leona Weiers of New Prague, and Bernice Hauer of St. Paul; and sisters-in-law, Clara Giesen and Ludy Giesen, both of New Prague. He is also survived by more than 100 nieces and nephews.

“When I think of Fr. Cal, I certainly do miss him.”

“Fr. Giesen was a very kind confessor,” Fr. Lambert said.

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Washingtont (CNS) — Forty-three Catholic dioceses, schools, hospitals, special service agencies, and other institutions, including the Diocese of Fort Worth, filed suit in federal court May 21 to stop three government agencies from implementing a mandate that would require them to provide abortifacients, sterilization, and contraceptives to their employees, as part of their health insurance coverage.

Bishop Kevin Vann said the issue is an attack on religious freedom in the form of a Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) mandate that requires all employers to provide health plans to employees that cover abortion-inducing drugs, sterilization, and contraceptives. The mandate contains a very narrow exception for certain organizations that the government deems sufficiently “religious.”

“In effect,” Bishop Vann said, “the mandate’s definition of religion prohibits Catholics in the Diocese of Fort Worth from asking what we have asked since the first Catholic institution was created in the Fort Worth area in 1876: ‘Are you poor? Are you hungry? Do you need help?’”

Now the definition of religion used in the mandate would require us to ask ‘Are you Catholic!’ To remain a religious institution under this definition, we could only help if you are Catholic. If you are not, now we cannot help you.”

Cardinal Timothy M. Dolan of New York, president of the U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops, and the archbishop of New York, whose archdiocese is among the plaintiffs, said of the lawsuits, “We have tried negotiations with the administration and legislation with the Congress — and we’ll keep at it — but there’s still no fix,” Cardinal Dolan said. “Time is running out and our valuable ministries and fundamental rights hang in the balance, so we have to resort to the courts now. Though the Conference is not a party to the lawsuits, we applaud this courageous action by so many individual dioceses, charities, hospitals, and schools across the nation, in coordination with the law firm of Jones Day. It is also a compelling display of the unity of the Church ministries that serve the common good and that are jeopardized by the mandate,” he concluded, “ministries to the poor, the sick, and the uneducated, to people of any faith or no faith at all.”

“Through this lawsuit, plaintiffs do not seek to impose their religious beliefs on others,” said one of the suits, filed in U.S. District Court for the Northern District of Indiana by the Diocese of Fort Wayne-South Bend, Catholic Charities of the diocese, St. Anne Home and Retirement Community, Franciscan Alliance, University of St. Francis, and Our Sunday Visitor.

“They simply ask that the government not impose its values and policies on plaintiffs, in direct violation of their religious beliefs,” it added.

Catholic organizations have objected to the contraceptive mandate since it was announced Jan. 20 by Kathleen Sebelius, secretary of the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services. Unless they are subject to a narrow religious exemption or have a grandfathered health plan, employers will be required to pay for contraceptives, including some abortion-inducing drugs, and sterilizations as part of their health coverage.

Story compiled from a Catholic News Service story by Nancy Frazier O’Brien, a USCBC news release, and a Diocese of Fort Worth news release. For more resources, including press releases in English and Spanish, a copy of the lawsuit filed by the diocese, video messages from Bishop Vann and others, and a list of legislators to contact, visit the diocesan homepage at www.fwdioc.org.

Bishops’ Ad Hoc Committee on Religious Liberty.

In addition to the Baltimore and Washington litigies, national efforts include establishment of the Fortnight for Freedom website. The site hosts resources such as frequently asked questions about religious liberty, including quotes from the Founding Fathers, the Second Vatican Council, and Pope John Paul II and Benedict XVI. Another valuable resource is a study guide on Dignitatis Humanae, Vatican II’s document on religious liberty. In addition, the site provides seven one-page sheets outlining current threats to religious freedom both in the United States and abroad.

The website also lists samples of activities already planned in particular dioceses, as well as resources and recommendations for other local efforts, such as special liturgies and prayer services. Bell ringing is planned for noon on July 4 to remind citizens nationwide of the primary place of religious freedom in the history, law, and culture of the United States.

Envisioning Process moves forward based on insights gathered from diocesan leadership

By North Texas Catholic Staff

After one year of consultative work with representatives of the Catholic Leadership Institute under the direction of Bishop Kevin Vann, an envisioning team of parish and diocesan leaders have reached something of a milestone in generating all the details of what the CLI refers to as a Mutually Shared Vision for the Diocese of Fort Worth, for the next five years. When the bishop publishes his Pastoral Plan in September, after having prayerfully considered all the work they have done, their work will have come to fruition.

The outline of the “Envisioning Process,” according to Director of Catechesis for the diocese, Lucas Pollice, was arrived at through an extended period of what he termed “serious consideration” of the “ envisioning” conversations members of the envisioning team conducted at five sites around the diocese, where they heard from pastors, parish staff members, and leaders from various parishes gathered from around each region; a consultation with the deans of the diocese, one with the staff of the diocesan Catholic Center, and one with Hispanic leadership from around the 28 counties of the Diocese of Fort Worth. These consultations were themselves part of a prayerful and wide-ranging discussion of what direction the diocese should take over the next five years, all while seeking the guidance of the Holy Spirit and soliciting the prayers of the faithful of the diocese.

The current draft of the Mutually Shared Vision, which will ultimately operate as a set of guiding principles through 2017, begins with a brief statement of “Our Vision” which is to “Evangelize lives, strengthen communion, and honor cultures.”

The MSV draft continues with what it terms “Our Sacred Purpose — Why we exist as a diocese: The Catholic Diocese of Fort Worth, as a multi-cultural Church in urban, suburban, and rural settings, strengthens God’s Holy People in their relationship with Jesus Christ so as to fulfill their baptismal call in service to the New Evangelization.”

The next section of the MSV draft seeks to establish guiding principles for members of the local Church to keep in mind as they go about carrying out their ministries and in their daily lives as Catholics, seeking to bring the Gospel to life. It labels these “Our Core Values,” describing them as “How we will decide, communicate, and behave as a diocese.”

Four words are used to encapsulate those four values and each is given substance and definition by a sentence that follows it.

• Fidelity — We will be faithful to the Gospel of Jesus Christ as expressed in the teaching and Tradition of the Catholic Church.

• Communion — We, as Christ’s faithful, will work in unity to build up the communion of the local Church.

• Dignity of All — We will recognize and honor each person as created in the image and likeness of God.

• Evangelization — We, as witnesses to the Gospel of Jesus Christ, will inspire discipleship in all and for all.”

Then, in help ensure that these don’t simply remain glowing descriptions of what we hope to become, the Mutually Shared Vision draft has a final section called “Our Priorities” that identifies three areas in which the local Church is asked to concentrate its efforts for the next 24 months, through September 2014.

According to Lucas Pollice, staff liaison for the envisioning process for Bishop Vann, each of these three areas will have two goals attached to it, with other specific, measurable tasks flowing from each goal.

These specific, visible, and action-oriented items are expected to be developed within the next month and will be published on the diocesan website, www.fwdioc.org, and in the newly re-designed bi-monthly North Texas Catholic News Magazine when it is published in late August (see details about the NTCC’s changes elsewhere in this issue), having first appeared on the newly redesigned NTCC website: northtexascatholic.org in July.

Those overarching “Priorities” will include specific and measurable goals and subtasks of those in three areas: “Communication; Strengthening Catholic Identity; and Vocations.”

In September, Bishop Vann, after having thoughtfully considered all of this information, and having prayerfully sought to discern God’s will for the diocese, will publish a pastoral plan for the Diocese of Fort Worth, setting forth what will then be his vision and plan for the next five years of the life of the diocese.

As has been the case throughout this process, the bishop and those involved in the envisioning process seek and appreciate the prayerful support of all Catholics of the Diocese of Fort Worth that they will properly discern the will of God for the People of God and his Church in our 28 counties of North Texas.
2012 International Conference of the National Association of Catholic Family Life Ministers
Sponsored in Partnership with the Diocese of Dallas Marriage Ministries and the Diocese of Ft. Worth Marriage and Family Life Office.

STRENGTHENING MARRIAGES AND FAMILIES in Today’s Culture
July 25-28, 2012
HYATT REGENCY - DALLAS/FT. WORTH INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT

EMBRACING THE TRUTHS THAT MATTER MOST!

Featured Speakers and Conference Highlights
JULY 25 - JULY 27

**Wednesday Evening:**
“Strengthening Marriages and Families in Today’s Culture”
with Jeff Kemp

**Thursday Morning:**
“Catholics in the Public Square”
by Robert P. George, Ph.D.

**Friday Morning:**
“When Marriage Disappears and Why It Matters”
by W. Bradford Wilcox, Ph.D.

**Friday Afternoon:**
“Where have all the Cowboys Gone? Why making Marriages happen today became much more difficult”
by Mark Regnerus, Ph.D.

**Friday Evening:**
“Catholics, the Culture War, and Holiness in the Family”
by Tim Staples.

**Friday Evening:**
Concert dedicated to Blessed John Paul II:
“A New Springtime for Marriage and Family”
with singer and song writer Marie Belle.

**FESTIVAL**
SATURDAY, JULY 28

- Morning Prayer w/ music by Marie Belle & Keynote Guy Dowd: “Marriage-Building Begins at Home!”
- Morning Sessions
  - A: Marie & Bill Bell: “The Psychology of Marriage, How being open to Life changes Everything!”
  - B: Dr. Edward Sri: Men, Women and the Mystery of Love: A Theology of the Body.
  - C: Steve Bollman: “The thirst for Father”
  - D: Julie Alexander: Women – A Design by God.
  - E: Steve Markel: Develop Virtues in your Family...
- Luncheon Banquet & Keynote by Bishop Kevin Vann, Diocese of Fort Worth: “Marriage-Building in the Church...with the Married and the Divorced!”
- Marriage-Building Holy Hour, Vendors open
- Afternoon Sessions
  - F: Greg & Julie Alexander: Husband & Wife – A Recipe for Love
  - G: Steve Bollman: “The Family is the Foundation for the New Evangelization”
  - H: Dr. Ray Guenandi: MARRIAGE: The Doctor is In
  - I: Dr. Edward Sri: From Nazareth to Cana: Mary and the Word of God
- Closing Celebration of the Vigil Mass, Bishop Kevin Vann, Celebrant

Visit www.fwdioc.org to purchase tickets!

**Fiesta**
SATURDAY, JULY 28, 2012

- Marriage-Building Fiesta / Prayer
- CONFERENCIAS
  - S.1: La Experiencia Hispana en la Preparación Matrimonial - Lydia Pustina
  - S.2: Ministerio a Personas que Sufren la Infertilidad, Pérdida de Embarazo y el Aborto - Carmen Santamaria and Angelique Rubi-Lopez
  - S.3: Ministerio a Padres de Niños con Discapacidades - Dr. Ricardo Laczky, M.D.
  - S.4: Violencia Doméstica: Realidad y Recursos para Ministrar a Víctimas y Agresores en el Matrimonio y la Familia - Valentina Angua-McCoy, MDiv
- Break, Exhibitors
- CONFERENCIAS
  - S.5: Pastoral para Divorciados e Hijos de Divorciados: Retos y Recursos - Debbie Gonzalez
  - S.6: Manteniendo los Valores de la Familia y Padres Como Primeros Formadores en la Fe - Alicia Perez-Nano, Diocese of Dallas
  - S.7: Estableciendo Alianzas entre la Oficina de Vida Familiar y Los Movimientos Apostólicos de Vida Familiar - Andre's Arango, MTS
  - S.8: Teologia del Cuerpo: La Persona Humana Según Juan Pablo II, Segunda Parte - Fr. Daniel Ramirez-Portugal
- Luncheon Banquet W/ Bishop Vann
- Exhibitors / Holy Hour
- MESA REDONDA: Visión de Futuro para el Ministerio Hispano de Vida Familiar en E.U.: Uniendo Esfuerzos y Enfrentando Retos, Dirigido por Alejandro Aguilera-Titus, Director de la Oficina De Asuntos Hispanos de la Conferencia de Obispos Católicos De los Estados Unidos, y un panel de líderes hispanos de Pastoral Familiar
- Tallar Pastoral Sobre el Uso de la Pornografía entre Hombres
  - Casados - Dr. Carlos Gomez, PhD
  - Vigil Mass / Closing with Bishop Vann

To Register:
Register online at NACFLM.org or download PDF Registration Form at NACFLM.org and mail/fax (only through July 13) to: NACFLM, 300 College Park, Dayton, OH 45469-2512, FAX: 937-431-5443
Visit www.fwdioc.org to purchase tickets for the special Saturday ONLY Marriage-Building Festival on July 28, 2012. Tickets are $45 per person or $75 per couple for the Festival.
Diocese to host national marriage and family life conference, marriage-building festival July 25-28

Saturday program designed to strengthen local families

By North Texas Catholic Staff

The Diocese of Fort Worth will host the National Association of Catholic Family Life Ministers’ (NACFLM) 2012 International Conference at the DFW International Airport Hyatt Regency Hotel Wednesday through Saturday July 25-28, including a Marriage-Building Festival on Saturday July 28 sponsored by the diocese specifically for the North Texas community.

“This is the NACFLM annual conference,” said Chris Vaughan, diocesan director of Marriage and Family Life. “It is normally a three-day event, but because we wanted to do a family conference this summer anyway, we negotiated with the association to have some speakers stay over Saturday to present to the North Texas community.”

Keynote speakers for the conference include former NFL quarterback Jeff Kemp, speaking Wednesday evening on “Strengthening Marriages and Families in Today’s Culture”; Robert George, one of the formulators of the Manhattan Declaration, speaking Thursday morning on “Catholics in the Public Square”; Tim Staples, director of Apologetics and Evangelization at Catholic Answers, speaking Friday evening on “Catholics, the Culture War, and Holiness in the Family,” among several other noted Catholic apologists and theologians.

“The conference brings together family life ministers across the country to network and some top class speakers on the subject of marriage and family life,” Vaughan said.

In addition to keynote speakers, the conference will include tracks such as how to facilitate a divorce ministry program on Wednesday, and workshops such as building “Families of Character,” and “Youth Ministry: Serving the Domestic Church,” both on Friday morning.

“Stuff like this would be good for parish youth ministers to attend,” Vaughan said.

Participants can register for the Marriage-Building Festival on Saturday, July 28, independent of the other days’ events. Saturday’s program allows local parishioners to attend for $45 per person or $75 per couple. The festival will feature speakers such as Dr. Ray Guarendi, television host of EWTN’s “Living Right with Dr. Ray,” who will bring his “insights and experiences into fashioning a healthy, holy marriage,” according to the festival’s promotional material; and Greg and Julie Alexander, co-founders of the Alexander House Apostolate, will present “Husband and Wife — A Recipe for Love.” Bishop Kevin Vann, who also wrote What God Has Joined: A Catholic Teaching on Marriage for the Shepherd’s Voice Series, will present a keynote during a luncheon banquet titled “Marriage-Building in the Church... with the Married and Divorced!” — participants may buy lunch at the Hyatt, or bring a sack lunch. Bishop Vann will also celebrate a vigil Mass concluding the conference and festival at 4:45 p.m. Saturday evening.

“Our goal is to help Catholic spouses grow closer together, giving them the tools to raise their children, to keep Christ at the center of their marriage, and to teach their children to be disciples and lead them to sainthood,” Vaughan said.

For more information about the conference or festival, or to register for the conference or festival, visit the NACFLM website at www.nacflm.org, or contact Chris Vaughan at (817) 560-3300 ext. 209, or by e-mail at cvaughan@fwdioc.org.

To Report Misconduct

If you or someone you know is a victim of sexual misconduct by anyone who serves the church, you may:

• Call Judy Locke, victim assistance coordinator, (817) 560-2452 ext. 201 or e-mail her at jlocke@fwdioc.org.
• Or call the Sexual Abuse Hotline (817) 560-2452 ext. 900.
• Or call The Catholic Center at (817) 560-2452 ext. 102 and ask for the moderator of the curia, Father Stephen J. Berg.

To Report Abuse

Call the Texas Department of Family Protective Services (Child Protective Services) at (800) 252-5400 or visit www.cps.state.tx.us.

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www.ccdfw.org

Catholic Charities Spotlight: Financial Education Services

Twelve students from Cassata High School’s Life Skills class, accompanied by Principal Nancy Martin (far left), toured the Catholic Charities Fort Worth (CCFW) center on March 7 and learned about resources available through CCFW and spent time working in the agency’s donation center.

Tracy Rector, a parishioner at Good Shepherd Church in Colleyville, is the mother of three young adult children. A deeply involved volunteer at Cassata High School in Fort Worth since 2009, Rector has a parent’s passionate commitment to the needs of the futures of the students she has met at Cassata, a nonprofit, private high school of the Diocese of Fort Worth.

The school, founded in 1975, offers a quality education to students who have not been able to succeed in a traditional educational setting. Thirty-eight percent of the 2012 Cassata graduates were the first in their families to earn a high school diploma; nearly 20 percent are teen parents. Catholic Charities Fort Worth (CCFW) is a recent partner in the school’s continuous efforts to provide a wide variety of opportunities to its students, who range in age from approximately 14 to 24.

“Many of these students are dealing with significant challenges in their lives, and a lack of knowledge about money management is just one of those challenges,” says Rector. “Catholic Charities has been a wonderful partner with Cassata. We explained the need, and they enthusiastically stepped in to offer ‘Money School’ as part of our newly-developed Life Skills class. The kids loved it and they learned so much. It has been a tremendous success.”

Steven Ashbrook, a financial counselor at Catholic Charities, taught two five-week financial education sessions at Cassata during the past school year, using youth-friendly methods and interactive tools such as board games, with candies representing dollars, to spark-in-depth classroom discussions. “It has been so exciting to see these kids gaining skills and confidence as they set goals for themselves and plan for their futures,” he says, noting that the agency also offers Money School for adults at various sites, including parishes, nonprofit agencies, shelters, and other community organisations throughout Tarrant Country. “We address issues such as budgeting, taxes, credit contracts, insurance, financial institutions, and the importance of saving. Research shows that individuals need to have an understanding of these aspects of adult life in order to achieve financial success. We wanted to get the kids thinking long term, not short term, as they discussed their futures and their responsibilities.”

“The whole goal of this program is to help these young people to become self-sufficient and independent adults,” adds Rector. “Many of them will be out, living on their own, at a very young age. It was great to see, by the end of the program, how many of the kids were talking about their savings accounts, discussing the stock market, and saying that they are looking forward to setting up their own 401(k) accounts when they get their first real jobs. Catholic Charities and Cassata are both focused on helping people to change their lives for the better, so really, this has been a perfect fit.”

For more information about financial education services offered through CCFW, call (817) 289-0495 or visit www.catholiccharitiesfortworth.org/moneyclass. Classes are offered in English and in Spanish.

To Report Abuse

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Catholic Charities Spotlight: Financial Education Services

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Responding to God’s call

**Vocations**

**It’s Not About the Numbers**

When I started this job on April 1st, Palm Sunday, I could see the promise of several impressive candidates for seminary. It appeared to me that in the course of the next five years the Diocese of Fort Worth could have as many as 40 men studying for the priesthood.

The biblical symbolism of 40 inspired me, and I began to work hard to make the number a reality. Visions of the future of our Diocese bustling with priests enticed my ambition. Being part of the creation of an expansive presbyterate to hear more confessions, teach in schools, be more available and the like seemed like such a noble cause. I could taste victory.

Unfortunately, the focus on numbers turned into a fixation and I couldn’t stop thinking about how I might reach that number in order to prove how great a job I have been doing. It got to the point that it kept me up for several nights, and I noticed that my mind was subconsciously running scenarios in my head that would help me get there.

That was ridiculous. It’s not about the numbers. If anything, I should return to the biblical symbolism of 40 for guidance. Whether it was 40 nights of flood, 40 days in the wilderness or 40 days in the desert, the symbolism of 40 is powerful because it means, “a sufficient amount” for the task or goal at hand.

And now that I am sleeping better recalling that God’s work doesn’t depend on me totally, I gain solace knowing that I can still reach the biblical 40, and that God will provide sufficient workers for his vineyard.

**From Duluth to Tuam, US seminarian ordained for Irish Church**

By Sarah MacDonald

Catholic News Service

TUAM, Ireland — One of the Irish Church’s newest and youngest priests is from Minnesota.

Father Shane Sullivan, 26, was ordained June 3 along with 29-year-old Father Eugene O’Boyle in a ceremony at the Cathedral of the Assumption. They were the first ordinations for the diocese since 2006.

Fr. Sullivan initially studied for the priesthood in his home diocese of Duluth from 2004 to 2007, during which time he graduated with a degree in arts and philosophy. He then transferred to the Tuam Archdiocese in 2007 because he has links with the West of Ireland — his father is from Cill Chiarain and immigrated to the United States in the 1970s.

The new priest told Catholic News Service his decision to finish his training and serve as a priest in Ireland is linked to his “great love for my heritage.”

But he said “the real heart” of his vocation to the Irish Church was “a desire to serve in a place that is going through a particularly difficult time right now. There are many different places in the world that fit that description — places in America as well — but I just felt a very resounding attraction to Ireland and a great desire to pursue a vocation here,” he told CNS.

He credited his family, the example of some priests in his home parish in Minnesota and the parish youth group for his vocation.

“I really owe everything to my parents and the way they led their kids to God and taught them to pray — doing those sorts of things that lead to a vocation, but also instilling a good sense of right and wrong and challenging their kids to strive for excellence and do well,” he said.

“The local community also really fostered vocations. Some of my friends were really coming alive in their faith as high-schoolers. The youth group was hugely influential in opening me up to the thought of what does God have to do with my life or what does God have to say about how I live my life or the direction that my life takes.”

In addition, there were “a couple of really joyful great men of God in the priesthood in my parish,” he said. “God really prepared my heart through their work and friendship.”

Fr. Sullivan is the oldest of four children and was ordained in the presence of his parents, Bart and Kathleen, as well as his sisters Erin, 24, Megan, 21, and his brother Colm, 20, all of whom flew in from Baxter, Minnesota, for the ceremony.

Fr. Sullivan celebrated his first Mass in the Irish language June 4 for family, friends, and relatives living in the locality of the Cill Chiarain church.
Catechesis

The feast of Corpus Christi enriches the Church and reminds us of God’s empowering Presence in our lives

By Lucas Pollice

This month we once again celebrate the feast of Corpus Christi during which we commemorate the great gift of the Eucharist that stands at the heart of the life and mission of the Church. This feast is the time to not only celebrate this gift of Christ, but to also ponder its meaning and richness not only in the life of the Church, but in our own daily lives as Catholics as well.

THE BREAD OF LIFE DISCOURSE

Let us begin with the words and teachings of Christ Himself regarding the Eucharist by turning to the Scriptures. We will first turn to John Chapter 6 (which is Jesus’ long and elaborate teaching on this subject. In fact, Jesus teaches his disciples more clearly and more elaborately on the Eucharist than any other doctrine in Christianity.

Let’s examine closely what Jesus teaches us in this Bread of Life Discourse (John 6:22-71). First, he takes us back to the Old Testament, to the Book of Exodus where the Israelites are journeying through the desert. Remember, they had been freed from slavery to the Egyptians and were journeying toward the Promised Land. Now when they became hungry they grumbled against Moses, so God promised to send them bread from heaven. The next morning, when they awoke, there was bread called manna scattered all over the ground for them to eat and be nourished on their journey toward the Promised Land. God did this for his people all throughout their pilgrimage. Now Jesus says, “Your ancestors ate the manna in the desert, but they died.” His Father had sent bread that would provide life for his people. The Lord Jesus also gives us bread, “this bread given by the Father to me is true food and my blood is true drink.” In fact, four different times in this passage alone, Jesus commands us to eat his flesh and drink his blood in order to have eternal life! He even invites us to literally “feed on me.”

This is very clear and very graphic language used by Jesus in John’s Gospel. Jesus is teaching us very clearly and very passionately that He is the new manna, the new bread that comes down from heaven. He commands us to eat his flesh and drink his blood in order to have eternal life. For unlike the Israelites who ate the manna and died, those of us who partake of the Body and Blood of Jesus will not die and will have eternal life.

Jesus even knew that many did not believe and that as a result of this teaching would ultimately betray Him. In fact, after this teaching on the Eucharist, many of Jesus’ disciples left Him and no longer followed Him. Do you see Jesus chasing after them saying “No, stop, I really didn’t mean that”? No, because what He taught is the truth! “The words I have spoken to you are spirit and life” (John 6:64).

No excuses, no further explanation. Instead he turns to the Twelve and says, “Do you also want to leave?” It is Peter who again leads the Apostle’s in the truth and responds, “Master, to whom shall we go? You have the words of eternal life.”

Jesus wasn’t kidding. Jesus wasn’t teaching symbolically. And what He was teaching was so important and was so true that He risked everything: his whole mission, his whole reputation, all of his disciples and Apostles, and ultimately his life. That is how important and true the Eucharist was to Jesus, and that is why it is always at the heart of his Body, the Church.

THE LAST SUPPER

Of course, another passage in which we see Jesus speaking explicitly about the Eucharist was during the Last Supper on the night before He embraced the cross. The Last Supper was the celebration of the Jewish Passover meal in which all of Israel was celebrating and commemorating their deliverance from Egypt. In John’s Gospel, Jesus teaches us about the Eucharist, but it is during the Last Supper in the Gospels of Matthew, Mark, and Luke, that Jesus gives us the Eucharistic sacrifice of his Body and Blood.

First, Jesus does not say that “this is a symbol of my body,” or “this is like a cup of my blood,” but rather He said, “this IS my body” and “this IS my blood.” Taking this, in addition to what we have already seen in John Chapter 6, it is very clear that the bread and the wine literally and actually become the Body and Blood of Christ.

Now, if it is the Body and Blood of Jesus, why do Catholics believe that it is Christ totally present? We believe this because Jesus said in John 6:64 that HE is the bread of life — it is his whole person and divinity which is given to us for the life of the world. Another important aspect of the Last Supper is Jesus’ command, “Do this in memory of me.” He is commanding his Apostles to continue and repeat the actions of the Last Supper. Just as the Jewish Passover is the remembrance of the Israelite deliverance from slavery in Egypt, the Eucharistic sacrifice is to become the constant memorial or commemoration of Jesus’ new and eternal sacrifice on the cross for the forgiveness of sins.

With this command, Jesus gave the Apostles the authority and power to change bread and wine into Himself, so that He could be continuously present to his people, and that his same sacrifice on the cross could be constantly re-presented and made efficacious until the end of time.

Thus, every Catholic Mass is both a memorial of Christ’s life, death, and Resurrection, but is also a participation in the very same sacrifice which Christ made on the cross. It is not a re-crucifixion of Christ, but the same sacrifice miraculously made present again for the atonement of our sins. At the Mass, we are in all actuality at the foot of the cross, adoring, asking forgiveness, and offering ourselves to Christ who loved us even unto death, death on a cross. This was Christ’s command to his Church and the Church has faithfully followed this command unceasingly for almost 2,000 years.

In addition, at the Last Supper, Jesus associates the cup of his blood with the New Covenant. In fact, eating the Body and drinking the Blood of Christ is the most important and efficacious way in which we fulfill and participate in the New Covenant which God has made with man. Partaking of the Body and Blood of Christ is at the absolute heart and center of the New and Everlasting Covenant! Christ’s Church humbly remains faithful to this at the celebration of every Mass and honors Christ by centering all of its liturgical and sacramental life around this great mystery.

GO...proclaim the GOSPEL by your LIVES!

Finally, the Eucharist, by its very nature, heals, prepares, and strengthens us for evangelization and service. In fact, the entire goal and purpose of the Mass is so that we can come and be fed and transformed; so that we can then be sent out into the world to be Christ’s instruments, especially to those who are most in need, vulnerable, alone, and desiring God’s love and mercy. In fact, the word, Mass, comes from the Latin word missio, which means “to be sent.” Through the Eucharist we are intimately united with Christ our Savior, and we are then called by Him to continue his mission of building the Kingdom of God. We are his hands, his voice, and his instruments in a world that is crying out for the message of the Gospel. The Eucharist is truly the source of our mission of evangelization and service and our intimate communion as the mystical Body of Christ, the Church.
Sometimes we forget,
We are created in God’s image

I can vividly remember two Christmas presents from December 2004. My daughter gave my father a plastic horse. Jennifer turned five right before Christmas that year, and she was determined that she would pick out and purchase a gift for everyone in the family. She didn’t want money or opinions from anyone. It was her year to be a giver. She chose a plastic horse at the dollar store and declared, “This one’s for Grandpa.”

I guess that Christmas was the Year of the Horse, because one of my older children received the movie “Seabiscuit”. On December 28, we finished the evening meal and sat down to watch the movie as a family. The phone rang in the middle of our movie night, and I went to the bedroom to listen to the message as it recorded. It was my sister. She was calling to say that our dad had just passed away.

We turned off the movie, and we never went back to finish it. My mother gave Jennifer the plastic horse. “Here. Grandpa would want you to have it,” she said. Jennifer received the horse with a heavy heart.

This summer I am taking a class on social justice through the Paul VI Institute in St. Louis. Today, the instructor showed us a clip of a movie. Mr. Kraus reminded us that our neighbor is God’s special creation as in the likeness of God. And we fail to realize our neighbor is God’s special creation as in the likeness of God. And we fail to realize that God needed to get your attention, and that its number on you and you got pretty screwed up. God needed to get your attention, and that its number on you and you got pretty screwed up. God needed to get your attention, and that its number on you and you got pretty screwed up.

It’s been almost 10 years since we paused the movie and began a season of grieving. In time, that grief turned to conversion. And conversion awakened me to my calling.

And then he pressed play. The movie was “Seabiscuit.”

I swallowed hard and permitted the images and lines to wash over me. This was the movie I had refused to watch for nearly a decade. God seemed to say, it’s okay. You’re ready, and you know it.

This was the movie I had refused to watch for nearly a decade. God seemed to say, it’s okay. You’re ready, and you know it. I was created in the image and likeness of God! There is a dignity there. I am not created for sin or bitterness or confusion or anger or selfishness or exploitation by anybody. I am made to be Christ to the world. To be his mercy. His love. His joy!

I carry the mark of the risen Christ! But I had forgotten that.

I am an oblation. An offering back to my God. I am a libation. A pouring out of self for another.

In that same scene, Seabiscuit takes off and runs with such beauty and grace and strength that the jockey (Toby McGuire) yells out, “You are an amazing animal!”

It’s been almost 10 years since we paused the movie and began a season of grieving. In time, that grief turned to conversion. And conversion awakened me to my calling.

I remembered how to run with grace. I can hear my Jockey sometimes. He says, “Okay, let’s see what you’ve got.” And, like Toby McGuire, He laughs then and throws back his head, shouting with joy. “You are an amazing creation!”

Like Seabiscuit, there is a sweet release in each one of us when we realize that we are being healed. We run faster than we ever believed we could. Isaiah says it best in chapter 61. I proclaim a year of favor from the Lord. This is your vindication by your God. He will give you the oil of gladness . . . a mantle instead of a faint spirit . . . the planting of the Lord to show his glory.

Okay, so let’s see what you’ve got. It’s time to remember who you are. Giddy-up.

Denise Bossart has four children and is a member of Immaculate Heart of Mary Parish in New Melle, Missouri. Her column CATHOLIC BY GRACE has run in 46 diocesan newspapers. Check out her blog at catholicbygrace.blogspot.com.

Science says an awful lot, But remains full of mysteries...

T his was the movie I had refused to watch for nearly a decade. God seemed to say, it’s okay. You’re ready, and you know it.

By Denise Bossart

W e are created in God’s image

By David Mills

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By David Mills
When everything seems lost...

God can be our GPS — and brighten our day with love

By Kathy Cribari Hamer

T
he directions to and from the place where Larry was going to work were simple. They were: right, left, left, left. Larry is meticulous, and his directions were well thought out and direct.

But I wasn’t really listening.

We were in the Hill Country, and the two days I would be driving him to work would always be enjoyable drives, no matter how many turns and how many dirt roads: I was on vacation!

So the first morning I dropped Larry off, I pulled out of the parking lot, and, took off. Hill Country here I come!

But at the end of the driveway, and out on the road for a couple seconds… Lost. Was I on the right road?

Barely out of the company driveway! Five minutes — five seconds maybe — and I didn’t know if I’d made the correct turn. So I consulted my GPS and typed in our hotel.

There was a time when we didn’t have that luxury, I thought. Getting lost was frightening, especially when it involved unfamiliar dirt roads, and possibly getting in trouble with Dad.

But this was easy. I re-started, found my way back to the right road, and back to the hotel.

I hadn’t been listening when Larry gave me directions, I admit now. And I know in other identical situations I will probably repeat that. My mind will wander, or I will presume I already know how to get there.

Often in our lives we take the wrong turns. Does it make a difference? Sure. Especially when the choices are big ones. But along with the change comes the assurance of stability we have in our lives that comes from knowing that no matter how much things around us change; no matter what changes in health or economic status we or our loved ones endure, certain things do not change.

God is still the rock beneath our feet. His Church still addresses the issues that ultimately matter. Love still undergirds the life of the Church and the service of the poor, knits our families together.

When it may seem there is little else we can depend on, the love of God poured out in Jesus Christ, keeps us aware that even interesting times cannot take from us our secure identities as children of God.

I spoke with a friend today who is moving to take a job in a distant city. His father is in ill health, and moving closer to the family home seems to be the right thing to do, the thing that he believes God is calling him to do.

Please forgive me if my example is too glowing, but once the move was planned and his house was on the market, it sold in one day. His family found a home they liked well enough to buy in the distant location almost as quickly.

When he told me the story of how smoothly things had gone, I commented that “God is good.”

His reply, and you don’t have to be a Calvinist to believe this, was, “Yes, way better than we deserve.” And I agreed.

I could say it this way: I was on the wrong road for a while, struggled to find my way, and made it to McDonald’s. They welcomed me. Is that the way it will be in Heaven?

“Thank you.”

Fascinating, I thought, “I was lost on the road — in fact I am usually lost. But in this particular McDonald’s in Kerrville, I am not lost; they seem to know me. Otherwise, why would he know I was the one who ordered the fruit and yogurt parfait?”

I hadn’t done anything noteworthy, or even clumsy, although usually I do that. I hadn’t dropped my purse or spilled change.

All I had done was to say, “Do you still have those yogurt things?”

Maybe yogurt parfaits weren’t chic anymore. Now that I think about it, they aren’t made of organic fruit, with yogurt made from grass-fed CreamLine milk. Maybe others are too haughty for yogurt parfaits, so they remembered me because I wasn’t.

We all want to be special in some way, though, and that day in the Kerrville McDonald’s, I felt I was. I could say it this way: I was on the wrong road for a while, struggled to find my way, and made it to McDonald’s. They welcomed me.

Is that the way it will be in Heaven? Maybe. I hope we find everyone and everything we love. McDonald’s yogurt? Maybe.

Entering our hotel that morning, I stopped for a bagel to go with my yogurt, got one, put it in the toaster, and all was fine. Or so it seemed.

But I had put it in the wrong side of the toaster, on top of another woman’s English muffin. Half her muffin was fraternizing with my bagel. Luckily my nails are long, so I reached in, pulling out my bagel. I apologized. She thought I was bonkers.

I finished off my breakfast with cranberry juice, which I carried in my left hand, along with the key card for our room. I approached the elevator, but the phone rang, so I stopped to answer it, balancing my plate and bagel in one hand, my juice and key in the other, talking to Larry with my ear pressed against my shoulder.

Predictably I dropped my key card, bent to get it, swayed, and splattered cranberry juice, that went trailing down the wall and over the “up” button of the elevator.

“Oh, I am not lost in the hotel four minutes and already have to wash the walls.”

I dashed back to the food place where I’d already embarrassed myself by throwing my bagel in with a stranger’s muffin. I speedily grabbed a handful of napkins to clean the wall, the floor and the elevator’s “up” button.

Then, with my food carefully balanced, I got in the elevator, heading for our room.

Standing in the elevator, I chastised myself. “What a morning! First you lose your way, you return to the hotel, where you make a handful of silly, avoidable mistakes before breakfast! You are such a fool,” I think.

“But don’t forget,” I remind myself. “They like me at McDonald’s.”

I relax then, push “up,” and the elevator begins closing its doors. They move slowly together, and meet in front of me, where, exactly at eye level, in tiny handwriting, I read, “I love you.”

Was the writing just graffiti? Probably. But after my morning, I chose to accept it as a message from God: “You’re okay. And, I myself, love you.”

I looked up at the place I thought of Heaven. He was, and said, “Thank you. Please guide me. Let me find your ways, and someday return to you.”

“Will you be wanting a yogurt parfait?” I imagined God replying. And I smiled.

“You are such a fool,” I think.

“Do you still have those yogurt things?” I asked. The writing just graffiti again?

“No, Mary,” God said, “I like you at McDonald’s.”

I was on the wrong road for a while, struggling to find my way, and made it to McDonald’s. They welcomed me. Is that the way it will be in Heaven?

We all live in interesting times.

No matter how much some things change...

By Jeff Hensley

Editor, North Texas Catholic

By the time I realized that the supposedly Chinese phrase “May you live in interesting times” was not as benign as it had first seemed, I had been an adult for two or three decades. Yes, it is indeed intended as a curse.

We all live in interesting times. Change happens at such a rapid rate that today’s state of the art laptop or smartphone is outdated almost before it comes to market.

Many of our problems today come because change in fields such as medicine and science are coming at us at such a rapid rate that we can’t grasp the moral consequences of new technologies before they’re already in use. Whether it’s birth control medications, weaponized drone aircraft, computers that engulf our attention, or computer chips in everything from our automobiles to our toaster ovens, the cascading stream of change can overwhelm us.

But along with the change comes the assurance of stability we have in our lives that comes from knowing that no matter how much things around us change; no matter what changes in health or economic status we or our loved ones endure, certain things do not change.

God is still the rock beneath our feet. His Church still addresses the issues that ultimately matter. Love still undergirds the life of the Church and the service of the poor, knits our families together.

When it may seem there is little else we can depend on, the love of God poured out in Jesus Christ, keeps us aware that even interesting times cannot take from us our secure identities as children of God.
Jesus calls us to love but not everybody in the same way

By Jeff Hedglen

Life is full of so many different kinds of relationships. We all have some combination of parents, grandparents, siblings, cousins, aunts, uncles, friends, coworkers, roommates, spouses, or romantic “significant others,” not to mention, neighbors, acquaintances, and the people we pass by in the supermarket, or those who live on our street but we have never met, or even those who live across the world. Each of these people has at least one thing in common with each of us: we are called to love them.

Let me be clear, we don’t necessarily have to like them all, but if we are to follow the teaching of Jesus, we are to love them: “I give you a new commandment: love one another. As I have loved you, so you also should love one another” (John 13:34). Liking someone involves how we feel about him or her and whether or not we enjoy spending time with them. Certainly we like many of the people we love, but there are probably plenty of people we don’t really like, yet are called to love.

Love in the context of Jesus’ command has to do more with a decision than an emotion. I have heard love described this way: To want the good for another and being willing to do what it takes to make that good happen. Another way of saying it comes from Father Raphael Eagle: You can tell how much you love by how much you sacrifice. If you sacrifice a lot, you love a lot; if you sacrifice little, you love little.

Jesus’ calling us to love one another as he loves us embodies these two definitions of love, for as we know, his love for us led him to the ultimate sacrifice in the service of achieving a good for us: reconciliation with the Father.

But how do we have this kind of love in the context of all these relationships that span family, friends, and community both near and far? Is it even possible to achieve this goal? I suppose the short answer is, "Completely? No." A little more each day? Yes, with a lot of grace and hard work.

It is exactly this topic that is being addressed by the second annual Emerging Conference for young adults ages 18-25+. We chose this topic because this age group of people sees most of the relationships in their lives in some degree of flux.

Parental relationships change so much from high school to young adulthood; friendship circles grow, change, and sometimes fall apart. Romantic relationships take on new significance now that marriage is becoming a real possibility. New situations with co-workers and roommates cause unique challenges and the need for boundaries.

Add to all of this the reality that no one was given a handbook for how to deal with all these relationships, let alone the changing nature of them in this tumultuous time of life, and we have a perfect topic for a conference aimed at these emerging adults.

The keynote presentations will be geared to inspire the participants to love as Jesus commands us, as well as give some basic building blocks to healthy relationships. The workshops will be presented by mental health professionals with the goal of giving real, practical tools for managing things like healing from loss and grief, setting boundaries, tips for knowing when you have found "the one," and how to have conversations about big topics with those you love. In addition to working on our human relationships, we will spend time strengthening our relationship with God through participation in the sacraments, adoration and praise and worship.

The very fabric of how we experience life and become who we are is tied up in the relationships that we encounter daily. The people in our lives also deeply impact our faith, as we are a part of the Body of Christ. By focusing on Jesus’ command to love as he loves us, we can unite our faith, as we are a part of the Body of Christ. By focusing on Jesus’ command to love as he loves us, we can unite our faith, as we are a part of the Body of Christ.

To learn more about the Emerging Conference and to register, go to http://www.fwdioc.org/yam. Jeff Hedglen is campus minister at UTA and assoc. dir. of Young Adult Ministry.
Bishop Vann ordains six former Anglican priests to diaconate for U.S. Ordinariate

By John Henry / Correspondent

A group of local former Anglican clergy took yet another significant step in their pilgrimage toward Rome May 29 when six men were ordained to the Roman Catholic diaconate for service in the Personal Ordinariate of the Chair of St. Peter at St. Mary of the Assumption Church in Fort Worth.

Bishop Kevin Vann accepted the recommendation that Mark Cannaday, Charles Hough III, Charles Hough IV, Timothy Perkins, Christopher Stainbrook, and Joshua Whitfield were worthy of the office of deacon, and he ordained them as they knelt prostrate before him.

The six next will be ordained priests of the Roman Catholic Church at 9 a.m. June 30 at St. Elizabeth Ann Seton Church in Keller.

The men will serve in parishes and communities of the Ordinariate, established by Pope Benedict XVI earlier this year that allows individuals as well as full congregations of Anglican churches to enter the Roman Catholic Church, while maintaining aspects of their own traditions.

Bishop Vann told the men the evening’s Gospel reading of St. Mark, who gave voice to St. Peter in the excerpt, spoke to them and their journey to Holy Orders.

“They are the men who gave a voice to the St. Peter of the Gospel this evening, who spoke to them and their journey to Holy Orders,” Bishop Vann said, reciting the words of Peter, who spoke them, the bishop said, “perhaps in frustration.”

“By giving yourself over completely to the Lord, one commentary on this Gospel would say ‘to shed yourself,’ you have nothing and yet possess everything,” Bishop Vann said. “The ministry of the deacon in word and charity will show you that again and again.”

Bishop Vann concluded his point by saying that Pope Benedict instructs in Jesus: The Apostles and the early Church, that Peter succeeded in entrusting himself to that Jesus who adapted himself to his poor capacity of love. And, in this way, He shows us the way, notwithstanding all of our weakness. We know that Jesus adapts himself to this weakness of ours. … It was a long journey for Peter that made him a trustworthy witness, a ‘rock’ of the Church, because he was constantly open to the action of the Spirit of Jesus.”

The men’s journey to Holy Orders was paved more than 450 years ago, reconciliation has been ongoing since the schism of Henry VIII in 1534.

The recent developments, Msgr. Steenson said, “are tangible signs of Christ at work in our midst.”

The U.S. Ordinariate, based in Houston at Our Lady of Walsingham Church, the Ordinariate’s principal parish in Houston, is a diocese, communities of Anglicans, in some cases, entire congregations, are being welcomed into full communion with the Church while being allowed to retain some of their Anglican traditions of liturgy and spirituality.

Most notably this includes the use of many elements of the Anglican Book of Common Prayer in The Book of Divine Worship (revised in 2003). Msgr. Steenson was installed to his post and conferred with the title “Monsignor” during a Mass at the Co-Cathedral of the Sacred Heart in Houston on Feb. 12 of this year.

Though he is a voting member of the U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops, Msgr. Steenson cannot be a ordained a bishop because he is married.

The U.S. Ordinariate, based in Houston at Our Lady of Walsingham Church, was the second to be formed worldwide in response to increasing requests in recent years from Anglican priests, individuals, and communities to join the Roman Catholic Church. The first was formed in England and Wales last year, the Ordinariate of Our Lady of Walsingham. A third, for Australia, was formally announced in May, the Ordinariate of Our Lady of the Southern Cross, under the patronage of St. Augustine of Canterbury, to be established officially June 15.

Though Pope Benedict’s Anglicanorum Coetibus is the most significant measure of reconciliation since the schism of Henry VIII more than 450 years ago, reconciliation has been a recurring theme over the centuries. The most noteworthy was the 19th century’s Oxford Movement, whose organizing principle held that the Anglican Church was one of three branches of the Catholic Church — Roman Catholics, Eastern Catholics, and Anglican Catholics. One of the movement’s preeminent scholars was Blessed John Henry Newman, an Anglican theologian and priest who eventually found the three-brand concept insufficient in theological base and became a Catholic. He later rose to the rank of Cardinal within the Church’s hierarchy, and continues to enjoy recognition as one of the most notable Catholic theologians in history.

“Perhaps one more recent set of voices joining this chorus are the voices of the Oxford Movement and their impetus toward Christian unity, and the healing of the wounds to communion in the Body of Christ,” Bishop Vann said. “We are all part of this living history here this evening, and must listen to one more voice in this chorus: Blessed John Henry Newman.”

“As Pope Benedict said in England, ‘Newman teaches us that if we have accepted the truth of Christ and committed our lives to him, there can be no separation between what we believe and the way we live our lives. Our every thought, word, and action must be directed to the glory of God and the spread of his Kingdom.’”

The more recent motivation of Anglicans desiring reunification has been caused not only by the persuasive voices of theology but also by decisions made within Anglican leadership that were considered by many living within its faith tradition to be contrary to Christian belief and doctrine, and that these decisions could be determined by a vote.

“The six new deacons are among 60 current or former Anglican priests who are preparing for Holy Orders for the Ordinariate.”

Father Eric Bergman made history by becoming the first priest incardinated last month in Scranton, Pennsylvania. Fr. Bergman, who first became a Catholic priest five years ago under Pope John Paul II’s Pastoral Provision, has lead St. Thomas More Parish at St. Joseph Church in Pennsylvania for four years. The congregation has been a part of the Catholic Church, but has recently been accepted into the new Ordinariate.

“Fr. Bergman follows a history that began with Our Lady of the Atonement Parish in San Antonio in 1983, and includes the experience of the Diocese of Fort Worth when St. Mary the Virgin Parish of Arlington and their pastor, Father Allan Hawkins, sought full communion with the Church under the Pastoral Provision in 1991.”

The ordination of the six deacons at St. Mary was only a few days after about 60 members of the former St. Timothy Episcopal Church in Fort Worth were received into the Ordinariate at the same Fort Worth Parish. The parishioners announced their desire to become Catholic almost immediately after the formation of the Ordinariate was announced in early January.

Acceptance into the Ordinariate requires an application process and weeks of formation and catechesis. The recent developments, Msgr. Steenson said, “are tangible signs of Christ at work in this new undertaking.”

“I have learned something truly wonderful over the recent years of this journey,” Deacon Tommy Perkins said. “And that is that truly faithful Christian friendship breeds Christian friendship. Those of us who have been ordained started our journey long ago as close friends.”

Dcn. Perkins added that they found themselves warmly accepted by Bishop Vann’s friendship.

“I rejoice with you in the unity that is the very gift of God to us.”

The six new deacons are among 60 current or former Anglican priests who are preparing for Holy Orders for the Ordinariate. The six new deacons are among 60 current or former Anglican priests who are preparing for Holy Orders for the Ordinariate.

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The six new deacons are among 60 current or former Anglican priests who are preparing for Holy Orders for the Ordinariate.
who left County Waterford, Ireland and fol-
lowed her brother to Houston in 1979. “He
challenged everyone in the family spiritu-
ally.”

Family and friends of both men packed
the downtown cathedral on a Saturday
morning to watch Bishop Kevin Vann confer
the sacrament of Holy Orders during a Mass
rich in symbolism and pageantry. The crowd
of well-wishers broke into spontaneous ap-
plause as the bishop announced, “Relying
on the help of the Lord God and our Savior
Jesus Christ, we choose these, our brothers,
for the Order of the Priesthood.”

Following an examination of the can-
didates and promise of obedience, Deacons
Holguin and Moloney prostrated themselves
before the altar in an act of submission as
the congregation prayed the Litany of the
Saints. Rising from prayer, the men then
kneled before the bishop. In the most solemn
moment of the ordination rite, Bishop Vann
laid hands on each deacon while praying for
the gifts of the Holy Spirit. The ancient sign
of ordination continued with fellow priests
laying hands on each candidate.

As the cathedral choir sang Veni Creator
Spiritus, each of the newly ordained priests
donned a stole and chasuble assisted by vest-
ing priests Father Kyle Walterscheid, Father
David Bristow, and Father Jim Pemberton.
The ritual continued with Bishop Vann
anointing the palms of the men with Sacred
Chrism — a visible sign indicating they are
now priests forever.

In his homily, Bishop Vann explained
how the faith journey of both deacons began
in different parts of the world but eventually
found a home in the Diocese of Fort Worth.

“The two paths of faith and family in
Ireland and Mexico has been a journey where
the Lord’s call has led you here to preach the
Gospel and to build up the Body of Christ
with courage and love,” he continued.

Addressing the deacons, Bishop Vann
said Sacred Scripture is more than words on
a page.

“It must be living in your lives and form
your priestly ministry,” he cautioned. “Be
shepherds who will always have a heart for
your people in need. Sing the praise of God
by your lives, always putting your trust in
Him.”

Their ministry should remind people
again and again, “where did we come from
and to Whom are we going?”

“The banner of Our Lady of Guadal-
upe, carried by the Mexican people, gives us
a path to follow from this moment,” he add-
ed. “Mary, as the Mother of God — whether
she is known as Our Lady of Guadalupe or
Our Lady of Knock, is a model of disciple-
ship for you. She teaches us again and again
to trust in God, to always rejoice in what He

has done in our lives and to always say yes to
whatever her Son asks us to do.”

Lives, lived in holiness, will lead to holi-
ness in others.

“Michael and Manuel, as you celebrate
Mass, hear confessions, baptize, witness mar-
rriages and more, always say ‘yes’ fully and
without reservation to whatever the Lord asks
of you,” he advised. “Your lives, lived in hol-
iness, will lead to the holiness of those whom
you serve and care for.”

Following the Mass, family members
and friends gathered in the parish hall to
receive a blessing from the new priests. Some
traveled from as far away as New York,
Oklahoma, and West Texas to witness the
ordination.

Vicki Estrada led a contingent from
Christ the King Church in Lubbock who
came to offer congratulations to Father Mo-
loney. The group became friends with the
physician turned priest 10 years ago when he
was part of their Bible study group.

“He was always very spiritual and com-
passionate. We thought he would make a
great priest long before he knew it,” Estrada
said.

Watching the ordination of a close friend
made her cry.

“I was just so happy for him,” she said,
emotionally, during the reception. “It was an
honor to receive his blessing.”

Rolando Monroy traveled from Oklaho-
ma with sons, Leonel and Eric, so they could
meet his boyhood friend, Father Holguin.
Both men grew up in the same town in Mexi-
co and attended middle school together.

“Watching someone you grew up with
become a priest is a good feeling,” Monroy
said in Spanish. “It surprised me but it’s a
good surprise.”

Both Fr. Moloney and Fr. Holguin
celebrated their first Mass in the presence of
family members the following day on Corpus
Christi Sunday.

“He has a lot of people who love him
and we are so proud,” said Maria Pardo, Fr.
Holguin’s sister who witnessed his first Mass
at Immaculate Conception Church.

The newly ordained priest served his
diaconate year at the Denton parish and will
continue his duties there as parochial vicar.
During the Mass, he wore gold vestments
purchased by his family as a gift.

Fr. Moloney celebrated his first Mass at
St. Patrick Cathedral where he will serve as
parochial vicar effective July 1. Immediate
plans include visiting his 84-year-old mother,
Anna, and brother, Tom, who live on the
family dairy farm in Ireland.

Visiting from Houston, Marian Lan-
ingham noticed a change in her brother,
Michael.

“Although he’s had a lot to do, he seems
much more at peace,” she said. “I like to
think it’s the Holy Spirit at work.”

FROM PAGE 1
come to the diocese as gifts from Mexico and Ireland.

LEFT TOP: Bishop Vann addresses the candidates for ordination and the assembly on the role of the priest. To his right are pictures of Dcn. Holguin and his family (top) and Dcn. Moloney and his family.

MIDDLE LEFT: Dcn. Holguin pledges his obedience to the Bishop of Fort Worth, placing his hands inside Bishop Vann’s.

BOTTOM LEFT: Fr. Kyle Walterscheid looks on as Fr. Jim Pemberton and Fr. Rodrigo Benitez, rector of Seminario Hispano in Mexico City where Fr. Holguin did his studies, lay hands on the heads of the two newly ordained, invoking the Holy Spirit.

TOP ABOVE: The two candidates prostrate themselves before the altar as the Litany of the Saints is sung.

ABOVE: Bishop Vann invokes the Holy Spirit as he lays hands on Michael Moloney, ordaining him to the Order of Presbyter.

SIX PICTURES AT RIGHT, CLOCKWISE FROM TOP LEFT:
- Bishop Vann anoints Fr. Holguin’s hands with the holy oil of chrism, as a sign of their sanctification to God’s service.
- Fr. Moloney blesses a friend at the reception after the ordination.
- Fr. Moloney embraces his friend Anthony Clark at the reception following the ordination.
- Fr. Holguin blesses Yanet Gallardo and her daughter Mariana, 9, members of Immaculate Conception Church, Denton.
- Fr. Holguin hugs a friend at the reception.
- Fr. Moloney accepts a chalice from Bishop Vann, symbolic of his ministry of the Body and Blood of Jesus at the altar.
Bishop Vann ordains Khoi Tran and James Wilcox as transitional deacons

By Michele Baker Correspondent

On May 22 Bishop Kevin Vann ordained Khoi Tran and James Wilcox to the transitional diaconate at Vietnamese Martyrs Parish in Arlington.

The evening Mass began just as the sun was setting and the church shimmered with color, movement, and hushed tones. Bells tolled the call to the transitional diaconate at Vietnamese Martyrs Parish in Arlington.

Worth. Suddenly, amid trumpet blast and organ

the members of St. Timothy gathered at St. Mary

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Personal Ordinariate of the Chair of St. Peter.

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St. Timothy’s Episcopalian Church in Fort

Christopher Stainbrook, pastor of the former

The Anglican Ordinariate welcomes St. Timothy community into Catholic Church

By Michele Baker Correspondent

“J'ai été ordonné pour 20 ans,” said Christopher Stainbrook, pastor of the former St. Timothy’s Episcopal Church in Fort Worth, to his community. “But never in my life have I felt the surge of emotion I felt as when I stood with you as we professed our faith and were received into the one, holy, catholic, and apostolic Church: the faith handed down to the Apostles from Christ.”

That joyous, historic profession of faith took place on May 27 when 60 members of St. Timothy’s were received into the Personal Ordinariate of the Chair of St. Peter. These members of the former Episcopal community are now in full communion with the Roman Catholic Church. And while apostolic succession may not be dinner table conversation for the average “cradle Catholic,” it was echoed repeatedly this Pentecost Sunday.

When the day of Pentecost came it found the members of St. Timothy gathered at St. Mary of the Assumption Catholic Church in Fort Worth. Suddenly, amid trumpet blast and organ chords, there arose a breathy, angelic sound as the choir sang the prelude, “Vivat Aquam” (I Beheld Water). Moments later, celebrants and altar servers gathered at the rear of the Church, flames dancing on the candles in their stands and incense spiraling heavenward.

“What a moment this is,” exclaimed Father David Bristow, pastor of St. Mary of the Assumption. “I’ve been ordained for 20 years,” said Christopher Stainbrook, pastor of the former St. Timothy’s Episcopal Church in Fort Worth, to his community. “But never in my life have I felt the surge of emotion I felt as when I stood with you as we professed our faith and were received into the one, holy, catholic, and apostolic Church: the faith handed down to the Apostles from Christ.”

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“What a moment this is,” exclaimed Father David Bristow, pastor of St. Mary of the Assumption. “Today we have asked you to share our faith in the Church handed down to the Apostles and the answer is a resounding, ‘Yes!’ Come, share our faith; share our life; come share with us the peace of the resurrected Christ!”

Fr. Bristow, also a former Episcopal priest, had the distinct honor of celebrating this Confirmation Mass. Although the liturgy might have been confusing to some, as it merged practices from both Roman Catholic and Anglican traditions, everyone participated fervently. An unmistakable warmth permeated the church as the candidates for Confirmation received the sacrament, led by their pastor, Christopher Stainbrook, who would be ordained to the Catholic transitional diaconate in that church just two days later.

“I’d be willing to wager that everyone in this room understands what it feels like to accomplish something difficult, something long awaited,” Fr. Bristow said in his homily. “It is accompanied by a sense of peace, gratitude, and a kind of quiet, solemn happiness.”

For St. Timothy’s, the journey to this day began in November of 2011 when they petitioned to become part of what was to become the Personal Ordinariate of the Chair of St. Peter. The Ordinariate, which was officially established Feb. 12 of this year, is similar to a diocese in that it is made up of parishes, groups, and religious communities of Anglican (Episcopalian) heritage that are in full communion with the Catholic Church while maintaining elements of their distinct liturgical practices and traditions. In the wake of a number of Episcopal communities choosing to reunite with the Catholic Church, the Vatican has created this mechanism for organizing, catechizing, and receiving those communities. St. Timothy’s is the second Episcopal congregation in the Diocese of Fort Worth to become Catholic and the first Vietnamese as sung by the Vietnamese Martyrs church choir under the direction of Bach Phan.

“I think I’m really blessed to serve in a multicultural, diverse diocese,” Deacon Tran said in an interview. “I’m trying my best to learn Spanish and learn the different cultures, so that I can serve in whatever capacity Bishop Vann needs me to serve.”

Deacon Tran, who hails most recently from Wichita, Kansas, was born in Vietnam and immigrated to the United States with his family when he was ten years old. After graduating from high school in 2002, he joined the Redemptorists where he began his formation for the priesthood but in 2007 left the order.

“The Redemptorists are more missionary in their focus,” he explained. “And I am very much indebted to them for my formation. But I was feeling more and more that I was called to work at a diocesan parish.”

Even so, Deen Tran’s command of three languages might have served him well in missionary work. As a deacon he’s already had a taste of multi-lingual ministry.

“The first Mass that I served as a deacon was in Vietnamese,” he said. “It was at Our Lady of Fatima in Fort Worth. So the first time I proclaimed the Gospel and the first homily I gave was in Vietnamese.” Yet, a few days later he found himself at the predominantly Hispanic parish of St. George in Fort Worth, where he’s assigned for the summer.

“I’m still very nervous with my Spanish,” he said with a laugh. “But it’s a good opportunity to learn.”

At the ordination Mass, however, Bishop Vann emphasized that all the learning the two transitional deacons had done was to be put into serving God’s people. He put forth the image of the disciples staring at the sky after Jesus’ ascension as an example.

“The time between the Ascension and Pentecost is a time of waiting,” Bishop Vann conceded. “But as you finish your studies and enter into ministry, it is as if the same angels are saying to you, ‘Why are you waiting? Go now and live what you have learned.’”

Dallas native Dcn. Wilcox is glad that at least some of the waiting is over.

“He was always involved with the Church,” said his mother, JoAnn Wilcox. “He was always playing the piano, organ, any instrument, really!”

Yet despite his active parish life at St. Pius X Parish and his attendance at Bishop Lynch High School, it wasn’t until after college that he began to seriously consider the priesthood. While he was working his way through college, he moved to Carrollton and started attending St. Catherine of Siena Parish.

“They needed someone to play the piano for some of the Masses,” Dcn. Wilcox recalled. “I played there for years: from my early twenties until I entered the seminary. I think that was a ‘God thing’ because that’s where I was when I decided to go into the priesthood.”

And now that he’s been ordained to the diaconate, priestly ordination can’t seem to come fast enough for the 39-year-old deacon.

“I always knew being ordained would be truly wonderful,” he said. “But this is beyond my expectation. Even though I’ve only been a deacon for a couple of weeks, it’s awesome being able to serve in this way. I’m happier each and every day that I’m a deacon. I cannot even begin to imagine what it will be like to be a priest.”

Anglican Ordinariate welcomes St. Timothy community into Catholic Church

By Michele Baker Correspondent

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Reflections on the 10th Anniversary of the Charter

By Judy Locke
Diocesan Victims’ Assistance Coordinator

To acknowledge the 10th anniversary this month of the U.S. Bishops’ document, Charter for the Protection of Children and Young People, is to acknowledge and express deep gratitude to the men and women of the Diocese of Fort Worth. Since 2002, soon after the promulgation of the Charter, thousands have committed their time, effort, and faith to ensure that the Catholic parishes, schools, and apostolates of the diocese remain communities of safety and nurture, freely celebrating the healing presence of the risen Jesus.

Our thanks go out to the two bishops of the diocese who have supported the implementation of the Norms of the Charter and who have insisted on the development of strategies for improving safety measures, education, and outreach to victims, their families, and to parish and school communities.

The support of priests, deacons, principals, teachers, and leaders throughout the diocese sustains efforts to educate clergy, employees, and volunteers about the nature of sexual abuse and its consequences. The implications for the statement, “It takes a village to raise a child” have been broadened and heightened by the awareness that every person has the responsibility to ensure the safety of our children and youth.

Our deep gratitude must go out to the hundreds of women and men throughout the diocese who serve as Safe Environment Program Coordinators and Safe Environment Trainers. Most of these individuals receive no pay for their efforts, yet have served for years because of their unwavering commitment to ensuring the well-being and faith of children and young people.

We have only to read the newspaper or watch the news to know that children and youth are at risk for exploitation and abuse, often from the most unlikely sources, including technology. Many individuals, as a result of the training they received in their parishes or schools, recognized the signs of abuse and intervened on behalf of children, preventing or stopping sexual abuse. Such knowledge and awareness empowers everyone to be proactive and mutually supportive.

When the disciples wanted to prevent children from seeing Jesus, the Lord “called the children to himself and said, ‘Let the children come to me and do not prevent them; for the kingdom of God belongs to such as these” (Luke 18:16). The abuse and exploitation of children and youth prevents victims and, in many cases their families, from coming to Jesus and to the Church, often for a lifetime. The breach of trust by anyone associated with the Church, with God, and with the development of faith, can leave lasting wounds, affecting every aspect of victims’ lives. The effort of so many in our diocese to prevent such devastation must continue. Ensuring the safety of the vulnerable in our parish and school communities does not end after 10 years. As former Austin Bishop, now New Orleans Archbishop Gregory Aymond has said, “We are in this for the long haul; we are in this for eternity.”

Protecting our children and hence, caring for each other, is a mission which belongs to us all.

Charter is framework for making abuse response ‘part of our culture’

By Carol Zimmermann
Catholic News Service

WASHINGTON — The Charter for the Protection of Children and Young People — now 10 years old — was not meant to be “the last word” in solving the abuse crisis, according to the chairman of the U.S. bishops’ Committee on the Protection of Children and Young People.

Instead, Bishop R. Daniel Conlon of Joliet, Illinois, said the Charter has provided a framework for ongoing efforts. Its requirements are “not a temporary fix” but have to “become part of our culture,” he added.

The Charter was part of the U.S. bishops’ response to the clergy abuse scandal that was a top concern when they met 10 years ago in Dallas.

Their June meeting took place just five months after The Boston Globe began publishing articles about the sexual abuse of minors by priests and accusations of a systemic cover-up by Church officials. The reports prompted other victims to come forward with allegations of abuse that put the scandal in the national spotlight.

The bishops responded by developing a national policy to oust priests and protect children. They adopted the Charter and approved a set of legislative norms to initiate implementation in all dioceses. They also established a lay-run National Review Board to monitor compliance, commission studies of the causes and context of the crisis, and recommend further actions. Later that year, the bishops formed a national Office for Child and Youth Protection.

“In the ten years since the U.S. Bishops adopted the Charter, our eyes have been opened to the damage to human lives and communities affected by the tragedy of sexual abuse in the Church,” said Monsignor Stephen Berg, vicar general for the Diocese of Fort Worth. “At a Church we have been moving, over the past decade, from a posture of shock that this tragedy ever could have happened, to a posture of resolve that it will never happen again. We have been called to be agents of permanent change. Over 40,000 individuals have received training in our diocese in order to ensure a safe environment for our children and young people. We now recognize that safety is the primary right and the first prerequisite to all ministry in the Church.

“As we move forward, Bishop [Kevin] Vann has renewed and strengthened the focus of the diocese: that all who do ministry in the Church receive training according to the Charter; that victims of abuse receive healing; and that the nature and effects of the horror of abuse be fully understood by all who minister,” Msgr. Berg added. “In this way, Bishop Vann is calling for a renewed partnership of all who participate in ministry in the Church, to the eyes, ears, and voice for the young in order to guarantee a Safe Environment. In this partnership we will renew our commitment to work together and be accountable to ensure the safety of our children so that they can hear, learn, and grow to love the Word of God.”

The National Review Board was scheduled to report on the effectiveness of the bishops’ response to the abuse crisis at their June 13-15 meeting in Atlanta.

According to Al J. Notzon, III, chairman of the review board, “striking changes” have occurred in the Church’s efforts to prevent and report abuse but said more work still needs to be done.

The Charter outlined how the Church leaders would provide a safe environment for children and young people in church-sponsored activities. It established uniform procedures for handling sex-abuse allegations and adopted a “zero tolerance” policy. It also required background checks and training in child protection for Church employees and required diocesan boards of education to make policies to protect students.

The bishops’ level of commitment to the issue proves they know the Charter is something that needs to be “supported over time,” he added, noting that the review board’s role is to “continually hold up a mirror to the bishops to say, ‘Here is your commitment and here is your response.’”

A report released in April on the implementation of the Charter showed that nearly all U.S. dioceses are in full compliance.

Deacon Nojadera said healing is still a major aspect of the crisis as the Church continues its outreach to survivor victims and families and address how abuse affected the entire Church.

Editor’s note: This story was adapted to include quotes from local sources.

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Keynote Speaker
Roy Petitfils

Roy Petitfils earned his Masters in Counseling from the University of Louisiana, Lafayette and is a proud alumnus of St. Joseph Seminary College in Covington, LA. For two years he studied ministry and spirituality in Rome, Italy at the Angelicum, the Pontifical University of St. Thomas Aquinas.

For eight years he served as a Religion Teacher and Director of Campus Ministries at St. Thomas More Catholic High School. Following his time at STM he served as a counselor and administrator at St. Cecilia School in Broussard, LA. Today he is a Counselor Intern at Pax Renewal Center in Lafayette, LA. His counseling ministry draws upon his own experience of the therapeutic process.

Roy has written the following books: A Practical Guide to High School Campus Ministry (2007), What I Wish Someone Had Told Me About the First Five Years of Marriage (2010), God Wears Running Shoes: Spiritual Reflections for Those Ministering to Young People (2009), What Teens Want You to Know But Don’t Tell You (IN PRESS-2012)

Visit his website at: www.roypetitfils.com

Online Registration: www.fwdioc/yam
All Saints School receives President’s Award from Fort Worth Museum

By Crystal Brown
Correspondent

Hydroponics and ecology lessons infused into the daily curriculum at All Saints Catholic School have earned the school accolades with the Fort Worth Museum of Science and History. All Saints was awarded the President’s Achievement Award by the museum on May 18 during a school-wide assembly. Museum President Van A. Romans presented the award to the school’s principal Christina Mendez, and to Father Stephen Jasso, TOR, pastor of All Saints Parish which sponsors the school.

The President’s Achievement Award recognizes Fort Worth schools that demonstrate an exemplary learning environment.

During Romans’ presentation of the award he commented that when the museum began as the brain child of five teachers in 1939, All Saints School was already 35 years old.

“You were way ahead of the curve when the museum was just being imagined by five teachers,” he said.

“What made the early museum so special was the teachers who started it understood the importance of discovery learning — that children learn best by doing, discovering, and playing. That is what the President’s Award is really all about. We recognize you for your vision, in creating so many amazing community partnerships. These partnerships have resulted in wonderful discovery-learning opportunities for the school, the teachers, and the students.”

Among All Saints partnerships are the University of Notre Dame, Texas Christian University’s College of Nursing, the University of North Texas, and most recently the Fort Worth Museum of Science and History.

“We’ve seen many things happen at All Saints,” Mendez, the school’s principal, said. “We’ve seen this new building come up. We’ve seen our community partnerships grow over the past five years. So many members of the community are willing to come forward and help us succeed here at All Saints — whether they are helping us to grow programs [or] to grow scholarship money for more students to attend All Saints — we have many great and wonderful community partners.”

Among those community partners is the city of Fort Worth’s District 2 Councilman Sal Espino, who also attended the presentation and spoke to the students about his time at All Saints taking catechism classes and preparing for his first Communion and Confirmation.

“The North Side has always been a welcoming community, whether your name is Jim Riscky and your folks came from Poland and you started up a business, or if your folks were immigrants from Greece and came to the North Side in search of a better opportunity, or whether you were immigrants from Mexico that came during the Mexican Revolution, or those who have come in recent waves of immigration,” Espino said.

“The North Side has always been a family — a close-knit institution. All Saints Catholic School has been the shining light that provides an opportunity for young children, male and female, to achieve their best. In the best of Catholic tradition, in the best of Catholic formation, indeed there is something special going on in this school every single day.”

Diocesan Superintendent of Schools Donald Miller agreed with Espino.

“For over 100 years, in one form or another, this school, this faith community has been a part of the North Side of Fort Worth,” Miller said. “It has been a part of the fabric of this community.”

It is, after all, part of the Catholic faith, to be part of the community and to be of service to one’s community, he said.

“That means that we are formed in a community of faith, and we are obligated to reach out and be of service to other people,” Miller said. “That can only work with other models in the community who reach back to us and serve us and assist the school in its mission going forward. I am very proud of this school.”

We need the ‘light of faith,’ Bishop Vann tells eighth-graders at annual Mass

Story and Photos by Joan Kurkowski-Gillen
Correspondent

Two Catholic school moms shared a bittersweet moment May 16 as they waited for the annual Eighth Grade Mass to begin inside Good Shepherd Church in Colleyville. Mary Ann Williams and Michelle McDonald were looking forward to the upcoming graduation of their children from Immaculate Conception Catholic School in Denton. At the same time, the milestone signals big changes next fall.

Enrolled in the school since kindergarten, Alex Williams will continue his studies in a public high school. Kace McDonald, will begin her freshman year at Faith/US/Arts Academy in Irving. Both mothers agree Immaculate Conception prepared their youngsters academically and spiritually for the next chapter in their lives.

“I think my son is coming away with a really strong foundation that will help him stay true to himself and his faith,” Williams said.

A schoolteacher herself, McDonald chose a Catholic learning environment for her five children because of the way religion is integrated into the curriculum.

“The sacrifices you make are worth it,” she insists. “It’s a choice I’d make all over again because I see the fruit.”

Hosted by the diocesan Catholic Schools Office, the pre-graduation event brought together 438 eighth-graders with parents, pastors, and teachers to celebrate their achievement and pray for continued success in high school.

Bishop Kevin Vann concelebrated the Mass with several priests from parishes with Catholic schools. Using Good Shepherd’s sunshine-filled sanctuary to illustrate his point, the bishop encouraged his young listeners to be “the light of Christ to others” as they go out into the world.

“...To see the path marked out in front of us in this life, you need light — especially the light of faith,” he said in his homily. “As you finish the eighth grade, we all hope and pray the Catholic education you received will be that light in your life that guides you in high school and beyond.”

He asked the students to remember their parents and others in the community who sacrificed to provide a Catholic education. The light of Christ will allow them to understand, more clearly, the love of their parents and the fullness of the Catholic faith.

“Know you don’t walk that path by yourself,” the bishop assured. “We all walk it together. Whatever challenges you may find, the light of Christ will show you the way. Above all, it will show how much God loves you.”

The eighth-graders also heard from diocesan Schools Superintendent Don Miller who told the youngsters confidence comes, “...serve others. The class ‘mini me’ projects were

He then offered the audience the same advice given to him by a pastor at his own eighth grade graduation 55 years ago.

“Whatever you become, is your gift back to God,” he explained. “It is our hope that you will become the light of Christ for others.”

To prepare for the special liturgy each eighth-grader colored a cutout figure of themselves and listed special traits and talents they will use to serve others as a reflection of what they are dedicating to God.

Bishop Vann noted the students have been the light of Christ for you.”

He then offered the audience the same advice given to him by a pastor at his own eighth grade graduation 55 years ago.

“What you are is God’s gift to you. What you become, is your gift back to God,” he explained. “It is our hope that you will become the light of Christ for others.”

To prepare for the special liturgy each eighth-grader colored a cutout figure of themselves and listed special traits and talents they will use to serve others. The class “mini me” projects were carried up in baskets during the offertory.

“It is a reflection of what they are dedicating to God,” explained Chad Riley, principal of Holy Rosary School in Arlington.

The principal hopes his eighth-graders leave Holy Rosary with an understanding that Catholic education is a gift to be shared. “Their education and formation is not just for themselves. It’s a gift from God,” Riley continued. “Ultimately, it’s for the service of other people.”

David Hernandez and Kevin Le from St. Rita School were two of the 14 students who performed with the all-school band during the Mass. Hernandez, a clarinet player, and Le, a guitarist, plan to join the Viking Band at Nolan Catholic High School in August.

Uniforms, rules, and religion classes have readied them for the next phase in their education. “My time at St. Rita definitely made my faith stronger,” Le explained.

His classmate agrees.

“The big difference is that we have religion in school,” adds Hernandez, a former public school student. “And there’s more discipline.”

Awards: (From left to right) Fort Worth Museum of Science and History President Van A. Romans, Fort Worth City Councilman Sal Espino, Bishop Kevin Vann, All Saints Principal Christina Mendez, All Saints pastor Father Stephen Jasso, TOR, and diocesan Superintendent of Schools Don Miller gather for a picture following the presentation of the museum’s President’s Award to All Saints School for demonstrating an exemplary learning environment. • Romans: Dynamo the Dinosaur, the museum’s mascot, greets All Saints students following a school-wide assembly May 18.

Students from multiple schools bring the gifts to the altar, including baskets containing their class ‘mini me’ projects.

To prepare for the special liturgy each eighth-grader colored a cutout figure of themselves and listed special traits and talents they will use to serve others as a reflection of what they are dedicating to God.
Lucas Pollice, who has served as director of Catechesis for the Diocese of Fort Worth for the past five years, has taken a position at the Augustine Institute in Denver, Colorado.

For the Denver native, who has made his home in this diocese for the past 14 years — nine of those as director of Faith Formation at St. Maria Goretti Parish in Arlington — the return to Colorado is bittersweet.

“It'll be great to be with my family,” Pollice said in a recent interview. “My parents and my sister and her family live there. But working at the diocesan level has given me a sense of the intricacies of parish life and the ways in which they connect with the diocese. I'll miss that.”

Yet this very insight is what makes Pollice such a natural choice for his new position at the Augustine Institute where he will be developing catechetical materials.

Pollice, who was conferred with the Benemerenti Medal by Pope Benedict XVI last year upon Bishop Kevin Vann’s recommendation, is a natural teacher who has built his ministry on the concept put forth in the General Directory for Catechesis (GDC) that the RCIA process is the model of all catechesis. To this end, he has worked to develop a comprehensive standard of catechesis that can be seen at work in various programs throughout the diocese.

While helping to develop the Catholics Respect Life Office, serving as diocesan liaison for the University of Dallas Ministry Conference, re-vamping the John Paul II Institute School of Lay Ministry, or even working toward bringing a satellite post-graduate theology degree program to the diocese through Ave Maria University, Pollice has helped to create catechetical opportunities for people from all walks of life, all levels of ambition, all languages, and all roles.

“It is very humbling to see so many hard-working people and empowering them to do strong catechesis,” Pollice said. “I think what I will take away is the great privilege of working with so many wonderful and dedicated people in catechesis and evangelization.”

And while Pollice looks forward to the challenges of his new position, he takes with him fond memories of his tenure in the Diocese of Fort Worth.

“Working with Bishop Vann has been an honor,” he said. “Not so many bishops come by your office just to say ‘hi.’ And I've been impressed by how vibrant the life of the Church is here. People are so active. We've been very blessed here in Texas.”

By Michele Baker
Correspondent

Lucas Pollice offers a presentation during the 2012 Diocesan Day of Communio themed “Rediscovering the Gifts of Vatican II.”

Bishop Kevin Vann places the Benemerenti medal on diocesan Director of Catechesis Lucas Pollice at a Vespers Service held Dec. 13, 2011, honoring laypeople and religious who had received papal honors.

Lucas Pollice presents “An Overview of the Mass,” a workshop during the 2011 Diocesan Day of Communio themed around the changes to the English translation of the Roman Missal. An admirer of the late Archbishop Fulton Sheen, who used a chalkboard while catechizing the public on national television, Pollice once said “Give me a chalkboard any day,” in reference to his own teaching style.

Diocesan Director of Catechesis Lucas Pollice is moving to Denver, but not before having made his mark on the Diocese of Fort Worth

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Readings Reflections

July 1, Thirteenth Sunday in Ordinary Time.
Cycle B. Readings:
   Psalm 30:2, 4-6, 11-13
2) 2 Corinthians 8:7, 9, 13-15
   Gospel) Mark 5:21-43

By Jean Denton

Through a series of bad decisions, Jay found himself sucked into a culture of illegal activity. He didn't know he was being watched by law enforcement authorities. Then in one frightening evening, as police swarmed onto his lawn and barged into his home to confiscate evidence and arrest him, he saw his successful, happy life go down the tubes.

Jay was ashamed and remorseful. He admitted that what he had done was wrong. He never denied that his behavior was immoral and against the law. He knew that his choices deeply hurt his family.

After the initial shock wore off, he began to see the black hole in front of him. He faced lengthy jail time in a state that has meager resources for, and little interest in, rehabilitation of convicted criminals. As the time to serve his sentence approached, this once confident young professional's voice quavered as he imagined no hope ahead for his life: “My career is gone and by the time I get out, all my experience, education, skills will be useless. I’ll have nothing to offer.”

He started to enumerate more reasons for his despair, but his wife interrupted with practical plans for how, while he serves time, she would prepare for his future return home. His neighbor chimed in to suggest contacting certain individuals to develop channels of communication he can use during the time he is in prison.

In today’s Gospel passage, shortly after a synagogue official asks Jesus to heal his daughter, the child apparently dies. When Jesus offers the hope that she is only asleep, people ridicule him. He sends them out explaining to the others, “Just have faith.” The child lives.

The reading from Wisdom shows that faith in God’s healing can be found in understanding God’s fundamental desire for life he creates: that it will not die. “God did not make death,” Wisdom states, “nor does he rejoice in the destruction of the living… For God formed man to be imperishable.”

Likewise, Jay’s wife and friend had faith in the value of his life — and its renewal even after jail.

They would not allow his lack of faith to dispel theirs. They insisted that he live with hope for a new life that lies ahead.

QUESTIONS:
When have you despaired about the future? How does faith that God created human life to be imperishable help you deal with life and death issues?

July 8, Fourteenth Sunday in Ordinary Time.
Cycle B. Readings:
1) Ezekiel 2:2-5
   Psalm 123:1-4
2) 2 Corinthians 12:7-10
   Gospel) Mark 6:1-6

By Jeff Hedglen

Everyone has a bad day from time to time. We all have days when everything seems to go wrong, when our sin gets the better of us, when people do not respect us or when everything we do seems to go against what we believe.

Even people in the Bible go through rough stretches. Take, for instance, this week’s readings. In Ezekiel, we find the chosen people of God described as “hard of face and obstinate of heart.” Then St. Paul reveals to the faithful in Corinth that he suffered affliction from a “thorn in the flesh.” Scholars have wondered for years what this “thorn” actually was, as Paul never reveals exactly what he is referring to, but there was something in his life that he struggled with and could not overcome completely.

In Mark’s Gospel, we even see Jesus having a bad day. He goes home to preach in the synagogue. I imagine it was a big moment for him to share the love of his Father with those he had known since he was a child. But instead of opening up their hearts to God’s word, the Gospel says, “They took offense at him.” Questioning his authority to teach them, they asked, “Is he not the carpenter, the son of Mary?”

Each of the readings reveals that we are not alone in having a “bad day” or “rough stretch.” But the Scriptures also reveal that we are not alone and powerless in these moments. God sees the hardened hearts of his chosen people and instead of forsaking them, sends the prophet Ezekiel to point them in the right direction.

Even as Paul laments the thorn in his side, he boasts in his weakness, reminding us all that in our weakness Jesus is strong.

Lastly, we see Jesus rejected by the people closest to him. The Gospel says, “He was not able to perform any mighty deed there, apart from curing a few sick people by laying his hands on them.” So even when Jesus has a bad day a few people are healed!

These readings speak to our human weakness and the power of God not only to overcome it, but also to walk through it with us.

QUESTIONS:
What are some ways God has come to you in your weakness? Who is a prophet in your life, bringing God’s word to you?
July 15, Fifteenth Sunday in Ordinary Time.
Cycle B. Readings:
1) Amos 7:12-15
Psalm 85:9-10, 11-12, 13-14
2) Ephesians 1:3-14
Gospel) Mark 6:7-13

By Sharon K. Perkins

In 1939, as Great Britain was entering the Second World War, an anxious monarch delivered an unlikely address to his subjects via radio broadcast. That monarch — King George VI — had suffered from a debilitating stammer all his life and had no desire to be in the public eye. Nonetheless, the abdication of King Edward VII in 1936 thrust his younger brother “Bertie” into the limelight and into a position which he had not sought but for which he was ultimately well-suited, despite (or perhaps because of) his handicap. As a wartime leader, the king inspired a nation facing great adversity through the example of his own courageous personal struggle.

In a similar vein, Amos did not expect to be a prophet at all; he was a “shepherd and a dresser of sycamores” whom God called away to the land of Judah in order to deliver a scathing indictment against the peoples’ chronic injustices. This untutored shepherd, sharing no company with the professional prophets of his time, was an unlikely choice — yet when he made himself available, the Lord provided all the resources needed to fulfill his prophetic mission.

When Jesus sent the Twelve out in pairs as itinerant preachers, they probably doubted that they could accomplish what was asked of them with so little preparation or so few supplies. Surely a walking stick and a single tunic couldn’t be considered much in the way of sustenance! Still, when Jesus’ followers set forth, despite their misgivings, they “drove out many demons” and “anointed with oil many who were sick and cured them.”

Each of us is chosen, by virtue of our baptism, to take the “good news” of Jesus Christ into our particular spheres of influence. This is what is meant by “evangelization.” Most of us consider ourselves ill-equipped or unprepared for such a mission and are tempted to relegate it to someone else. But we’re more prepared and better equipped than we think, having been given “every spiritual blessing in the heavens.”

St. Paul assures us that it is the Lord who accomplishes all these things “according to the intention of his will.” We have simply to make ourselves available.

QUESTIONS:
What misgivings or anxieties do you have about answering Christ’s call to evangelize? In what ways can you make yourself available this week to share the Good News within your own sphere of influence?

July 22, Sixteenth Sunday in Ordinary Time.
Cycle B. Readings:
1) Jeremiah 23:1-6
Psalm 23:1-6
2) Ephesians 2:13-18
Gospel) Mark 6:30-34

By Jeff Hensley

As I sit here looking out the front window of my home, I listen to a video running in the background on my laptop, featuring Father Robert Barron, creator of the much-acclaimed “Catholicism” series that aired last fall.

Fr. Barron is going through the Scriptures, outlining Jesus’ claims to his position of authority as the Son of God and our savior. Fr. Barron goes on to outline how the values of Christianity underlie the respect for human rights that characterize our own and other democratic societies.

This week’s Gospel shows us Jesus arriving by boat at the shoreline of a lake crowded with great numbers of people waiting for his arrival and with it, his life-changing words and his healing touch.

As he disembarks, Jesus sees the vast crowd, and his heart is moved with pity for them, “for they were like sheep without a shepherd.”

Fr. Barron didn’t disembark from a boat and see great numbers of people starved for the word of God and a meaning of the transcendent. But he did respond to a sense of crisis in our world that motivated him to start his ministry, Word on Fire (www.wordonfire.org), to evangelize contemporary culture.

His bishop, Cardinal Francis E. George of Chicago, had asked him to see how he could contribute to that massive task. Cardinal George had himself been responding to a quote of Pope Paul VI from On Evangelization in the Modern World: “Modern man listens more willingly to witnesses than to teachers, and if he does listen to teachers, it is because they are witnesses.”

So it was that a Catholic seminary professor stepped out into the great desert of the electronic world, as St. Paul stepped into the public square of Athens, the Agora, where he approached the monument to “the unknown god.”

Fr. Barron, in his turn, stepped out into a virtual world populated not by crowds gathered in one place, but primarily by individuals tinted by the glow of television and computer screens. He sought to help them learn more deeply of the Savior who came to bring them joy and abundant life, through the proper ordering of their lives, through the example of the one who laid down his life for his friends. His goal: to reunite these scattered sheep with their shepherd.

QUESTIONS:
Are there words I can speak to my friends and family to help them remember that Jesus came to bring us joy and abundant life? How can I show them that love in my own example?
La solemnidad del Cuerpo y la Sangre de Cristo
es la ocasión perfecta para agradecer los dones de Dios

Queridos Hermanos y Hermanas en Cristo,

En este mes de junio celebramos de nuevo la Solemnidad del Cuerpo y la Sangre de Cristo. Esta gran fiesta eucarística recuerda la verdadera presencia de Cristo entre nosotros en cada celebración de la Eucaristía y en el peregrinaje de nuestra vida diaria. Jesús nos ha legado su presencia real, perpetua y sustancial en la Eucaristía, para que Él pueda estar continuamente presente en el mundo a Dios. Por eso llamamos la celebración de la Eucaristía la “misión”, de la palabra latina missio, que significa “misión”, o “ser enviado”. Jesucristo viene a nosotros en su cuerpo, sangre, alma y divinidad para no sólo estar íntimamente presente para nosotros en su amor y misericordia, sino también para transformarnos y hacernos más parecidos a Él y salir al mundo a dar fe de Él y evangulizar. “Id en paz, glorificando al Señor en vuestra vida.”

En estos tiempos difíciles, al enfrentar muchos retos en nuestras vidas diarias, especialmente las amenazas recientes a la libertad religiosa, y amenazas a la vida y dignidad humanas prevalentes en nuestra cultura, necesitamos aún más el poder transformador del Señor eucarístico para así poder salir al mundo y realmente hacer la diferencia, cambiarlo para bien. Sólo cuando nuestra vida es la “misión” de Cristo y por el cual Él quiere hacerse nuestros instrumentos.

—Reunión con el sacerdocio de la Arquidiócesis de Roma, 26 de febrero, 2009

La palabra Eucaristía también significa “acción de gracias”, y es en la celebración de la Eucaristía que la Iglesia, el Cuerpo de Cristo, se reúne para dar gracias a Dios por el don gran de la salvación que se nos ha dado en Cristo. Durante la misa nos ofrecemos con Cristo como sacrificio vivo al Padre en el Espíritu Santo, pero específicamente un sacrificio de alabanza y acción de gracias por todo lo que Dios nos ha dado en Cristo: “Levanten sus corazones… demos gracias al Señor nuestro Dios”. Como dice el Concilio, la Eucaristía es un sacrificio de acción de gracias al Padre, una bendición por medio de la cual la Iglesia expresa su gratitud a Dios por todas sus bondades, por todo lo que ha conseguido con la creación, redención y santificación. Eucaristía significa primero que todo “acción de gracias”.

Así, pues, esta Fiesta de Corpus Christi, que aparece en el calendario litúrgico de la Iglesia antes del inicio de la segunda parte del Tiempo Ordinario, nos da la ocasión perfecta para reflexionar sobre la acción de gracias y la gratitud hacia Dios, especialmente para todos aquellos que han servido en distintos ministerios en nuestras parroquias, misiones, e instituciones por estos últimos meses. Mayo y junio están llenos de tantas celebraciones: confirmaciones, primeras comuniones, graduaciones de nuestras escuelas católicas, ordenaciones de diáconos y sacerdotes, y más. Ninguno de estos eventos de gracia pudieran haber ocurrido sin la fiel presencia, dedicación y horas de trabajo de nuestros sacerdotes y diáconos parroquiales, ministros pastorales, directores de RCIA, catequistas, patrocinadores y tantos otros. A todos ellos, durante el tiempo de reflexión en la Eucaristía de la Fiesta de Corpus Christi — debemos agradecerles personalmente por todo lo que han hecho. Yo quiero agradecer personalmente a todos ustedes que trabajan tan fiel e incansablemente haciendo el trabajo de Cristo en las parroquias. Por su presencia y dedicación, traen a Cristo a todas las vidas confiadas a ustedes, y continúan construyendo el Cuerpo de Cristo, la Iglesia.

También quiero enfatizar fuertemente el lugar central de la Eucaristía en cualquiera de nuestros ministerios y trabajo en la Iglesia. Como nos enseña el Concilio Vaticano II, la Eucaristía es la “fuente y cúspide de la vida cristiana”. Por lo tanto, la Eucaristía es también la fuente y cúspide de nuestro ministerio y actividad en la Iglesia — nuestra comunión con la presencia real de Cristo, la fuente de nuestra fuerza y poder que nos anima y fortalece para lo que el Señor nos ha llamado a hacer. Como enseña el Papa Benedicto XVI:

“¿Cuán importante es el lazo entre la misión de la Iglesia y la Eucaristía? De hecho, la acción misiónica y evangeliante es la difusión apostólica de amor que está, por así decirlo, concentrada en el más santo sacramento. Quien recibe a Cristo en la realidad de su cuerpo y sangre no puede mantener ese don para sí mismo, sino es llevado a compartirlo como valeroso testigo del Evangelio, sirviendo a hermanos y hermanas en momentos de necesidad, perdonando ofensas. Para algunos de ellos, entonces, la Eucaristía es la semilla de una llamada específica a dejarlo todo e ir a proclamar a Cristo ante aquellos que todavía no lo conocen.”

— Angelus, 23 de octubre, 2005

Esta es también una época del año con muchos cambios, frecuentemente, para nuestras parroquias y sus sacerdotes. Todo esto es motivo de reflexión sobre quiénes somos como el Cuerpo de Cristo: no una parroquia o institución individual, sino parte del gran Cuerpo de Cristo que es la comunidad de la Iglesia. Y en tiempos de cambio hay momentos de gracia y bendición mientras el Señor continúa trabajando en nuestras vidas para construir su Cuerpo aquí en la tierra. Como las procesiones eucarísticas de Corpus Christi — nos mantenemos caminando hacia el objetivo de una unión más profunda con Cristo y su Iglesia, y la vida eterna, porque a fin de cuentas todo se trata de la salvación.

Por esta razón, la Fiesta de Corpus Christi está caracterizada particularmente por la tradición de llevar el Santísimo Sacramento en procesión, un acto de completo sentido. Al llevar la Eucaristía por las calles y plazas, queremos sumergir en nuestras vidas el pan manado del cielo. Queremos que Jesús cante con nosotros, que vida con nosotros. Nuestro mundo, nuestra existencia, debe devenir en su templo. En este día de festividad, la comunidad cristiana proclama que la Eucaristía es su todo, su verdadera vida, la fuente de vida que triunfa sobre la muerte.

— Papa Benedicto XVI, Angelus, 18 de junio, 2006

Pido a Dios porque todos ustedes tengan un verano lleno de regocijo y bendiciones, y ustedes y sus familias permanecerán en mis oraciones.

*Obispo Kevin W. Vann, JCD, DD Diócesis de Fort Worth*
La Diócesis ordena dos nuevos sacerdotes el 9 de junio:
Manuel Holguín, nacido en México, y Michael Moloney, nacido en Irlanda

Reportaje por Joan Kurkowski-Gillen
Fotografía por Juan Guajardo

“Yo siempre supe que el iba a ser sacerdote”.

Dos familias, originarias de diferentes esquinas del mundo, expresaron ese mismo sentimiento mientras esperaban en la Catedral de San Patricio el 9 de junio, para la ordenación de Cruz Manuel Holguín Ogaz y Michael Eugene Gerard Joseph Moloney a la Sagrada Orden de Presbítero.

Sentada en el banco del frente en la catedral, Guadalupe Ogaz radiaba de orgullo mientras tocaba la vestimenta dorada que su hijo Manuel pronto iba a llevar puesta.

“Yo estoy muy agradecida, feliz, entusiasmada y orgullosa”, dijo la chihuahuense nacida en Jiménez. “Este es el primer sacerdote en nuestra familia. Es una bendición y será un buen ejemplo para los nietos”.

Al otro lado de la nave, Marian Langiingham y Ellen Fung recordaban el largo camino de su hermano al sacerdocio. Durante su carrera como doctor en medicina, Michael Moloney estaba tan preocupado con las causas subyacentes de la enfermedad de su paciente como con la enfermedad misma.

“No estamos sorprendidas de la vocación de Michael. Sabíamos que eventualmente iba a llegar allí. Su interés por la Iglesia es algo que notamos desde sus 13 o 14 años”, dice Marian, quien dejó el condado de Waterford, en Irlanda, siguiendo a su hermano a Houston en 1979. “El cuestionaba espiritualmente a todos en la familia”.

Familiares y amigos de los dos hombres llenaron la catedral en el centro una mañana de sábado para presenciar la imposición del sacramento de las santas órdenes por el obispo de Fort Worth, Kevin Vann, durante una misa llena de simbolismo y esplendor. La multitud de admiradores aplaudió espontáneamente cuando el obispo anunció: “Confío en la ayuda de Dios Nuestro Señor y nuestro salvador Jesucristo, escogiendo a estos, nuestros hermanos, para la orden del sacerdocio”.

Luego de un examen de los candidatos y promesa de obediencia, los diáconos Holguín y Moloney se postraron frente al altar en un acto de sumisión mientras la congregación rezaba la Letanía de los santos. Levantándose de la oración, los hombres fueron a arrodillarse ante el obispo. En el momento más solemne del rito de la ordenación, el obispo Vann puso sus manos sobre cada diácono mientras oraba por los dones del Espíritu Santo. El antiguo signo de la ordenación continuó cuando los demás sacerdotes presentes pusieron sus manos sobre cada candidato.

Al canto de Veni Creator Spiritus, por el coro de la catedral, cada uno de los sacerdotes recién ordenados se invistió de estola y casulla, asistido por los padres vestidores Kyle Walterscheid, David Bratow y Jim Pember.
La Diócesis ordena dos nuevos sacerdotes: Manuel Holguín y Michael Moloney

Desde Página 27

El obispo Vann explicó cómo el caminar de la fe de ambos diáconos comenzó en lugares diferentes del mundo pero eventualmente encontró su hogar en la Diócesis de Fort Worth. "Los dos caminos de fe y familia en Irlanda y México han sido un viaje espiritual donde la llamada del Señor los guió hasta aquí para predicar el Evangelio y construir el Cuerpo de Cristo con valor y amor", continuó el obispo.

Dirigiéndose a los diáconos, el obispo Vann expresó que la Sagrada Escritura es más que palabras en una página. "Debemos estar en nuestras vidas y formar nuestro ministerio de sacerdote", advirtió. "Sean pastores que siempre tengan un corazón para su gente en momentos de necesidad. Alabén a Dios en sus vidas, siempre colocando su fe en Él".

Su ministerio debe recordar a la gente una y otra vez, "¿de dónde venimos y hacia Quién vamos?"

"El estandarte de Nuestra Señora de Guadalupe, llevado por el pueblo mexicano, nos muestra un camino a seguir desde este momento", añadió. "María, como Madre de Dios —ya sea conocida como Nuestra Señora de Guadalupe o Nuestra Señora de Knock— es un modelo de discípulo para ustedes. Ella nos enseña una y otra vez a confiar en Dios, a regocijarnos siempre en cuanto Él ha hecho en nuestras vidas y a siempre cumplir con lo que su Hijo nos pide".

Vidas, vividas en santidad, llevarán la santidad a los otros. "Michael y Manuel, al celebrar misa, escuchar confesiones, bautizar, presenciar matrimonios y más, siempre digan ‘sí’ completamente y sin reservas a cuanto el Señor les pida", aconsejó. "Vuestras vidas, vividas en santidad, llevarán a la santidad de aquellos a quienes ustedes sirvan y cuiden".

Luego de la misa, familiares y amigos se reunieron en el salón parroquial a recibir una bendición de los nuevos sacerdotes. Algunos habían viajado desde sitios tan remotos como Nueva York, Oklahoma y el oeste de Texas para presenciar la ordenación.

Vicki Estrada lideró un contingente desde la Iglesia Cristo Rey en Lubbock, que vino a felicitar al padre Moloney. El grupo entabló amistad con el médico ahora sacerdote hace 10 años, cuando era miembro de su grupo de estudio de la Biblia.

"El siempre era muy espiritual y compasivo. Nosotros pensábamos que sería muy buen sacerdote desde mucho antes de que él se diera cuenta de su vocación", dijo Estrada, Presenciando la ordenación de un amigo cercano la hizo llorar de emoción.

"Yo estaba tan feliz por él", dijo ella, emocionalmente, durante la recepción. "Fue un honor recibir su bendición".

Rolando Monroy viajó desde Oklahoma con sus hijos, Leonel y Erix, para poder reencontrarse con su amigo de la infancia, el padre Holguín. Ambos crecieron en el mismo pueblo en México y curaron en estudios medios juntos. "Ve a alguien con quien creiste convertirte en sacerdote es un buen sentimiento", dijo Monroy. "Me sorprendió, pero fue una buena sorpresa".

Ambos padres, Moloney y Holguín, celebraron su primera misa en presencia de familiares al día siguiente, el domingo de Corpus Christi.

"Yo tiene mucha gente que lo quiere y estamos muy orgullosos", dijo María Pardo, la hermana del padre Holguín, quien presentó su primera misa en la Iglesia de la Inmaculada Concepción.

El recién ordenado sirvió su año de diáconato en esa parroquia de Denton, y continuará sus obligaciones como vicario parroquial. Durante la misa, llevaba la vestimenta dorada que le regaló su familia.

El padre Monroy celebró su primera misa en la Catedral de San Patricio, donde servirá como vicario parroquial a partir del primer de julio. Entre sus planes inmediatos está el ir a visitar a su madre de 84 años de edad, Anna, y su hermano, Tom, quienes viven en la finca lechera familiar en Irlanda.

Visita desde Houston, Marian Lanning notó un cambio en su hermano, Michael. "A pesar de tener muchos quehaceres, se siente mucho más en paz", dijo ella. "Quiero creer que esto es el trabajo del Espíritu Santo en el".

Estatuto es marco de trabajo para hacer respuesta al abuso parte de nuestra cultura

WASHINGTON (CNS) — El "Estatuto para la protección de niños y jóvenes", ahora con 10 años, no tenía la intención de ser “la última palabra” en la solución de la crisis de abusos, según el director del Comité sobre la protección de niños y jóvenes de los obispos estadounidenses.

En vez, dijo el obispo R. Daniel Carlson de Joliet, Illinois, el estatuto ha provisto un marco de trabajo para esfuerzos en curso. Sus requisitos “no son un arreglo temporal”, sino que tienen que “convertirse en parte de nuestra cultura”, añadió.

El estatuto fue parte de la respuesta de los obispos estadounidenses al escándalo de abuso sexual por parte del clero que era una alta preocupación cuando se reunieron hace 10 años en Dallas.

Su reunión de junio se llevó a cabo solo cinco meses después que The Boston Globe comenzara a publicar artículos sobre el abuso sexual de menores en actividades patrocinadas por la Iglesia.

“Había un gran esfuerzo eclesiástico para prevenir y remediar este problema social. Dijo que la Iglesia necesitaba hacerle saber a otros que hay cosas que pueden aprender “sin el dolor por el cual la Iglesia tuvo que pasar”.

Notzon dijo que la Iglesia ha cambiado la forma en que trata a las víctimas, de “inmediatamente ponerse a la defensiva” con ellos a tomar un rol más pastoral.

Blessed John Paul II Institute’s School of Lay Ministry SUMMER CYCLE July 7-21 featuring Lecture Series by Fr. John Robert Skeldon, Workshops by Fr. Hector Medina, Fr. Jude Siciliano, O.P., Kevin Prevou, and others.

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gathering. Her mother, Olga, received her First Communion and also was confirmed. Fr. Tom Kennedy, who concelebrated the Mass with Bishop Vann, said the extra effort by students to include the Enriquez family in their Confirmation Day exemplifies what it means to be Catholic.

“It’s a confirmation of their sense of community and claiming their faith,” the pastor explained. “This is a lifetime memory of Church.”

Standing in front of the bishop, Alexis took the Confirmation name Sacred Heart of Jesus and was enriched with the special strength of the Holy Spirit. At the end of the Mass, she returned to the front of the crowded sanctuary to receive another sacrament — the Anointing of the Sick. As the congregation lifted their arms in prayer, Bishop Vann anointed the teenager’s hands and asked God to heal her body, mind, and spirit.

Alexis enjoyed visiting with friends, but the best part of her Confirmation Day were the prayers, she said.

“I felt it. They gave me courage,” the newly confirmed cancer patient explained before attending a low-key cake and punch reception in the hospital cafeteria. “Everything happens for a reason. I didn’t go to transplant because God needed me to be part of this.”

Confirmation candidates stand as they are introduced by Trish Baum, Holy Angels director of religious education.

Bishop Kevin Vann questions Confirmation students about the story of Noah’s Ark. A large stained-glass window, inside the chapel at Cook Children’s Medical Center, depicts the popular Bible passage.

Nurses at Cook Children’s Medical Center presented their patient, Alexis Enriquez, with her own celebratory Confirmation cake.

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We could go on, but that would be considered bragging.

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*Source: National Merit Scholarship Corporation’s Annual Report.
PASTORS/ADMINISTRATORS

Rev. Karl Schilken, appointed to one academic year of doctoral studies in Canon Law at the Catholic University of America in Washington, D.C., from pastor of St. John the Apostle Parish in North Richland Hills, Texas, effective July 1, 2012.

Rev. Hoa Nguyen, appointed pastor of St. John the Apostle Parish in North Richland Hills, Texas, from pastor of Sacred Heart Parish in Wichita Falls, Texas, effective July 1, 2012; Fr. Hoa is also appointed to the sabbatical program for priests at the North American College in Rome from Sept. 1, 2012 to Dec. 1, 2012.

Rev. Jack McKone, appointed pastor of Sacred Heart Parish in Wichita Falls, Texas, effective July 1, 2012, from pastor of Holy Family of Nazareth Parish, Vernon, Texas, St. Joseph Parish, Crowell, Texas, St. Mary Parish, Quanah, Texas, without prejudice to his appointment as Dean of the Northwest Deanery.

Rev. Joy Joseph, TOR, upon presentation by his religious superiors, appointed parochial administrator of Holy Family Parish Vernon, Texas, St. Mary’s Parish, Quanah, Texas, and St. Joseph Parish, Crowell, Texas, from parochial vicar of St. Patrick’s Cathedral, Fort Worth, Texas, effective July 1, 2012.


Rev. Park Augustine Kyung, upon presentation by the Cardinal Archbishop of Seoul, Korea, is appointed pastor of the King Parish, Fort Worth, Texas, effective March 30, 2012.

PAROCHIAL VICARS

Rev. Cruz Manuel Holguin, newly ordained, appointed parochial vicar of Immaculate Conception Parish, Denton, Texas, effective July 1, 2012.

Rev. Michael Moloney, newly ordained, appointed parochial vicar of St. Patrick’s Cathedral, Fort Worth, Texas, effective July 1, 2012.

Rev. Bede M. Tam Van Nguyen, CMC, upon presentation by his religious superiors, appointed to be parochial vicar of Christ the King Parish, Fort Worth, Texas, effective July 14, 2012.

Rev. Laurence Uhliman, TOR, upon presentation by his religious superiors, appointed parochial vicar of St. Maria Goretti Parish, Arlington, Texas, effective June 20, 2012.

Rev. John Shanahan, TOR, upon presentation by his religious superiors, appointed parochial vicar of St. Andrew Parish, Fort Worth, Texas, effective June 1, 2012.

Rev. Augustine J. Kolaparam, TOR, upon presentation by his religious superior, appointed parochial vicar of St. Catherine of Siena Parish, Carrollton, Texas, effective July 15, 2012.

OTHER

Rev. Robert Sieg, OFM, upon presentation by his religious superiors, appointed chaplain of St. Francis Village, Crowley, Texas, effective June 1, 2012.

SEMINARIAN SUMMER ASSIGNMENTS

Mr. Daniel Cochran, assigned to Language study in Queretaro, Mexico with residence at the Major Seminary for the Confraternidad Sacerdotal de los Operarios del Reino de Cristo.

Mr. Keith Hathaway, assigned to Language study in Queretaro, Mexico with residence at the Major Seminary for the Confraternidad Sacerdotal de los Operarios del Reino de Cristo then Immaculate Conception Parish Denton, Texas, (Internship).

Mr. Stephen Hauck, assigned to Holy Angels Parish, Clifton Falls, Texas.

Mr. Maurice Moon, assigned to Language study in Queretaro, Mexico residing at the Major Seminary for the Confraternidad Sacerdotal de los Operarios del Reino de Cristo.

Mr. Justin Conover, assigned to Language study in Queretaro, Mexico residing at the Major Seminary for the Confraternidad Sacerdotal de los Operarios del Reino de Cristo.

Mr. Michael Greco, assigned to Language study in Queretaro, Mexico residing at the Major Seminary for the Confraternidad Sacerdotal de los Operarios del Reino de Cristo.

Mr. Ronald Mercado, assigned to Clinical Pastoral Education at Baylor Medical Center in Dallas, Texas, then St. George Parish, Fort Worth, Texas (Internship).

Mr. Michael Galbraith, assigned to St. Vincent de Paul Parish, Arlington, Texas.

Mr. Gary Picou, assigned to St. Joseph Parish, Arlington, Texas.

Mr. Raul Martinez, assigned to Sacred Heart Parish, Wichita Falls, Texas.

Mr. Juan Carlos de Jesús, assigned to summer school in Mexico.

Mr. Nghia Nguyen, assigned to pastoral work at Catholic Charities, Fort Worth, Texas.

Mr. Matt DiGiavanni, assigned to pastoral work at Catholic Charities, Fort Worth, Texas.

Mr. Thomas Jones, assigned to pastoral work at Catholic Charities, Fort Worth, Texas.

Mr. John Martin, assigned to St. Peter Parish, Lindsay, Texas.

Mr. Bruce Kleinschmidt, assigned to St. John the Apostle Parish, North Richland Hills, Texas.

Mr. Matthew Tatyrek, assigned to Spanish language study in Avila, Spain.

Mr. Joe Keating assigned to Spanish language study in Avila, Spain.
As part of that change, this page, the Calendar Page, is moving to the Web.

No longer will there be a full bulletin board of diocesan, parish, and organizational events in the print version of the North Texas Catholic. Instead, there will be a constantly updated Calendar of Events at fwlisc.org; fwlisc.org/ntc; or, coming up perhaps as early as the end of July, on the totally re-designed and much more attractive northteascatholic.org website.

The publication itself will only be published six times a year, making more of its content feature-oriented, with timely breaking news added daily to the electronic version of the publication. The North Texas Catholic News magazine will be the same size as Time or Newsweek and run to 44 pages most months — some months 52 or more. You’ll continue to see many of the familiar features that have been part of our identity over the years. There will be more Good Newsmakers. The Word to Life Scripture commentary on the Sunday readings will still be a part of the mix. The Bishop will still speak to us personally, and there will still be a place for your favorite columnists like Kathy Cribari Hamer, David Mills, and of course pro-life commentary on the USCCB’s Respect Life Office.

So stay tuned. Look for event announcements on the Web, but keep us on the dining room table or by the couch. We want to continue to bring the Good News to the Diocese of Fort Worth and to you.
Alexis Enriquez was sitting in a hospital room at Cook Children’s Medical Center May 14 when doctors delivered some disappointing news. The 15-year-old high school freshman, undergoing treatment for a third bout of leukemia, was scheduled for a curative bone marrow transplant May 24. But troubling lab results forced her medical team to postpone the surgery.

The setback would have devastated most people. Not Alexis. The hopeful teenager from Clifton, just northwest of Waco, found a silver lining in the situation. Preparing for a transplant would have meant high doses of chemotherapy followed by isolation to prevent infection. Instead, Alexis sat in the front pew of a hospital chapel on May 19 and received the Sacrament of Confirmation with the rest of her friends.

After spending two years studying catechism, attending retreats, and performing community service together, 11 Confirmation students at Holy Angels Church in Clifton told Trish Baum, the parish’s director of religious education, they didn’t want a large parish celebration. Receiving the sacrament alongside their hospitalized classmate was more important.

“It was their idea,” Baum said, recalling how the teens approached her about having the Confirmation Mass at Cook Children’s where Alexis has been a patient since February.

Initially, the teenagers were told the ceremony might take place without their ailing friend. The bishop would confirm Alexis in Fort Worth, and they could drive up to witness the service. Baum asked the group to consider that scenario.

“They said, ‘no. We’re a class and we want to do this as a class,’” the youth leader said, remembering the exchange. “Knowing how sick Alexis is, they didn’t want to do this without her.”

Baum wasn’t sure the group’s request for Confirmation in a hospital chapel was even possible. After receiving permission from Holy Angels pastor Father Tom Kennedy and Bishop Kevin Vann, the D.R.E. had to get the OK from hospital administrators and doctors treating Alexis’ leukemia.

Winning the approval of parents was another challenge. Moving the ceremony 100 miles away from Bosque County to Tarrant County meant a two-hour car ride for families and limiting the guest list. The intimate chapel, which has a unique feature, a tabernacle housing the Blessed Sacrament, comfortably seats about 35 people.

Today’s young people are often described as self-absorbed and self-entitled. Baum called the decision made by the Confirmation class “self-less.” Confirmation in the small, rural town is a big community event.

“Everyone is invited and there is a big reception in the hall,” she said explaining the parish celebration. “For 15-year-olds to consider putting someone else’s needs above their own is just amazing. I was surprised and proud.”

Shelden Dowden, 15, and Lesley Rivera, 14, have known Alexis since kindergarten and said the class never second-guessed its decision to move Confirmation to a Fort Worth hospital.

“We didn’t want her to feel left out or abandoned. We wanted her to know she was going to be a part of us no matter what,” Rivera said.

To show their support, members of the youth group participated in fundraisers at Clifton High School to help pay for their classmate’s medical expenses.

“I hope this conveys to her that she’s not alone,” Dowden explained. “Her being here with us makes the day extra special.”

Alexis’ presence wasn’t the only highlight of the