40th Anniversary Mass draws more than 6,000 to celebrate Christ in his Church in North Texas

By Joan Karkowski-Gillen Correspondent

Rosemary Cortez interrupted the five-week long vigil she’s kept at her niece’s hospital bed for a good reason. Wanting to connect with other believers and surround herself in prayer, the St. Vincent de Paul parishioner came to a special eucharistic liturgy held in the Fort Worth Convention Center Aug. 9 to celebrate the 40th anniversary of the Diocese of Fort Worth.

The uplifting music and majestic pageantry of the Mass, celebrated by Fort Worth Bishop Kevin Vann, comforted the distraught aunt who watches her 15-year-old niece battle a spine infection and paralysis at Cook Children’s Medical Center.

“My family is going through a difficult time, and I want to model to my daughter, Victoria, that we should be thankful for what we have and pray for the things we need,” Cortez explains. “And I wanted to do that in the spirit of community.”

Bishop Vann has selected Communion — our communion with one another in the Body of Christ and our wider communion with the universal Church — as the theme for the jubilee year.

“In this day which truly the Lord has made, we come together as a family, as a communion of Faith, to give thanks to God for the blessings of these 40 years of faith. We set out once more in a journey full of hope, but one in which we must always look to the Lord to know how to follow and where to go, and bow to journey together as a people of faith.”

— Bishop Kevin Vann in his homily to the 40th Anniversary Mass assembly

Bishop Vann encourages support for life in public debate over health care reform bill

Bishop Kevin Vann addressed the following brief letter to the Catholics of the diocese Aug. 20:

Dear brothers and sisters in the Lord,

As Catholics in these United States, we have an obligation to be informed, and involved in, the current debate on health care reform. We cannot absent ourselves, and our convictions, from the current historical and critical time. We must be “at the table” at this moment in time, and engage this debate and formation of health care policy with our voices for the protection of life, the protection of conscience, and the necessity of health care reform, so that it is accessible in this country which has so many blessings. At the same time, our voices cannot be shrill or strident, like much of the e-mail and blogs these days.

With my background in health care (I was a medical technologist before entering the seminary) and as the Bishops’ Conference liaison to the Catholic Health Association, I know firsthand of the public statements of these groups in the defense of life and their hard and diligent work in Washington at this very moment.

Yet, it is not up to these groups alone. Every Catholic has the obligation to contact their senators and representatives about this matter and not just leave this to the Bishops’ Conference, individual bishops, or other groups alone. However, this must always be done in a clear, yet respectful tone.

I would encourage you to go to the USCCB Web site (usccb.org), and read the words of Bishop William Murphy or Cardinal Rigali on these matters. For example, Bishop William Murphy of Rockville Center says that “genuine health care reform that protects the life and dignity of the elderly”.

[See BISHOP, p. 17]

Eunice Kennedy Shriver remembered as a woman of faith and action

Eunice Kennedy Shriver attended a meeting of Democrats for Life at the Massachusetts Statehouse during the 2004 Democratic National Convention in Boston. Shriver founded the Special Olympics and was a member of one of the most prominent American Catholic political families of the 20th century. (CNS photo/Gregory L. Tracy, Pren) See story, p. 25
Msgr. Charles King reflects on life spent serving as a priest

Pope Benedict XVI declared a “Year for Priests” beginning with the Solemnity of the Sacred Heart of Jesus on June 19 and will conclude in Rome with an international gathering of priests on June 19, 2010. The NORTH TExAS CATHOLIC celebrates the spiritual leaders of the Diocese of Fort Worth with a series of profiles on priests and their vocations beginning with this visit with Msgr. Charles B. King, dean of the North Deanery.

By Nicki Prevou

Editorial Assistant

The first time Mary Wolfe ever heard Father Charles King preach was on All Saints Day in 1988. The articulate, thoughtful, and “incredibly brilliant” priest made such an impression upon her and her family that she has never forgotten that occasion, she says.

“It was the first Mass he said when he was assigned to our parish [St. John the Apostle Church in North Richland Hills],” she remembers. “He talked about how much he loved his vocation, how he had never lost the joy of that calling.”

Little did she know that the earnest spiritual leader would become the pastoral secretary’s “wonderful boss” of more than 21 years. “He’s very saintly,” she says. “He prays every day. His love for God is the most important thing in his life. His mission has been to bring as many people to God [as he can]. He’s never crabbby. And he’s totally honest.” She laughs. “For instance, if he sends out a personal card because he knows his own stamp. He would never use one that belongs to the parish!”

It’s true that Charles Bernard King, Jr., who has served the Diocese of Fort Worth as a priest for 46 years, was “one of a kind” by many of his brother priests who know him well and by thousands of admiring current and former parishioners.

Born and raised in Wichita Falls, he was nurtured by devoutly Catholic parents and encouraged by priests of his home parish, Sacred Heart Church, where the young “Charlie King” began assisting as an altar server while a grade school student at the Academy of Mary Immaculate.

“My father and mother’s example had a profound impact on my life,” he says. “My vocation to the priesthood really started with them in our home where my younger sister and I lived with them in Wichita Falls, and the years I spent at Sacred Heart serving Mass, attending Benedictine, and saying the rosary on Sunday afternoons.”

As a young man discerning his future, he thought about a religious vocation for the first time. “It suddenly dawned on me,” Msgr. King recalls. “I thought, ‘I want to be a priest and to serve the people I’ve seen working the best with people are priests. What would it be like to be a diocesan priest?’”

That question led him to Gregorian University in Rome the following September, where the 22-year-old began studies as a seminarian for the Diocese of Dallas, following his graduation cum laude from Georgetown University in Washington, D.C. He was ordained in December of 1956, and his first assignment was to St. Pius X parish in Dallas in September of 1957.

He loved “every minute” of his first several years of priesthood, he says. Driving the two-door 1956 Dodge coupe that “sort of became my trademark,” the young Fr. King developed marriage preparation programs, was active as a leader in the Christian Family Life movement, and taught religion classes to Catholic school students while also teaching inquiry classes to adults.

“That became a real love in my life, the programs we developed for bringing people into the Church,” he says. He soon found himself accepting invitations to speak at area churches, explaining the implications of Vatican II and enjoying the potluck dinners and dialogue.

“For me it was fascinating and a learning experience, to be a part of that dialogue, and it led me to becoming the ecumenical officer for the diocese. From 1965 until this day I’ve been involved with that work,” he says. “My prayer is always, ‘that we all may become one.’”

The following years included assignments in teaching and summers spent working to attain graduate degrees in religious education and in pastoral counseling at Loyola University in Chicago.

He served as rector at Holy Trinity Seminary in Dallas until he was asked in March of 1969 to come back to Fort Worth to serve as pastor of St. Andrew Church, which was in the planning stages, shortly before the Diocese of Dallas and the Diocese of Fort Worth became two separate entities in August of 1969. It was his first assignment as a pastor, and he “absolutely loved” his ten years at the church, recalls Msgr. King.

“Every place I was assigned, the people were wonderful, and I loved being with them,” he says. Those assignments included nine years in Wichita Falls at his home parish of Sacred Heart Church, following a devastating tornado that hit Wichita Falls in 1979, and 12 years at St. John’s. “It was wonderful to be back in Wichita Falls and to be active in the community again, and especially to try to help repair the devastation after the tornado,” he says. The energetic pastor plunged into the leadership roles he relished, working to establish and develop interfaitj organizations to provide disaster relief, food pantries, and other services.

He came to his current parish — Immaculate Conception Church in Denton — in 2000, a community of approximately 1,500 families. Thanks to his leadership, and his commitment to serving the needs of the growing Hispanic community, the parish is now comprised of about 4,000 families.

At the request of Bishop Kevin Vann, Fr. King — who became a “monsignor” in 1973 — was given the highest of honorary titles by Pope Benedict XVI in May of 2008: Protonotary Apostolic.

A sobering bout with bile duct cancer in 2007 led to six months of radiation and chemotherapy. Fortunately, the only apparent lasting effect of his illness is the need for regular blood transfusions.

His schedule is full, his days and nights filled with unending responsibilities to the people of his parish and beyond, but he continues to be known for his disciplined approach to lengthy daily prayer, which keeps him grounded in the purpose of his mission to serve the Church. “It’s been all joy,” he says, simply. “I feel so fortunate.”

Catholic Schools Office announces free/reduced-price lunch and milk programs

The diocesan Office of Catholic Schools has announced its policy for free and reduced-price meals for children who are unable to pay for meals served under the National School Breakfast, Free Milk, or Commodity School programs.

The following parochial schools will participate in the National School Lunch Program: All Saints, St. George, Our Mother of Mercy, and Our Lady of Victory, all in Fort Worth; Sacred Heart, Muenster; Notre Dame Elementary, Wichita Falls; and St. Mary’s, Gainesville.

St. Maria Goretti School in Arlington will participate in the free and reduced-price milk program.

Under current guidelines, applicants for the free and reduced-price lunch program must list the Social Security numbers of all adults living in the household. All incomes must also be listed by source, such as Social Security, wages, child support, and pension.

Everyone wanting to participate in the program must apply again this year at their respective schools, including children who had tickets for the last school year. A child must be registered in school before an application will be accepted. Participants will be notified within one week after applying if their children qualify for free or reduced-price lunches or milk.

In the operation of child-feeding programs, no child will be discriminated against because of race, color, sex, national origin, age, or handicap.
Scott Hahn speaks at Legatus monthly chapter meeting

Scott Hahn, well-known theologian and author, spoke at the Fort Worth Chapter of Legatus’ monthly meeting at the Fort Worth Club on Friday, August 14.

Hahn, a well-known orator and teacher who has given many talks nationally as well as internationally, spoke about his book, *Hail Holy Queen: The Mother of God in the Word of God*, following a Vigil Mass for the Assumption of the Blessed Virgin Mary at St. Patrick Cathedral with Bishop Kevin Vann.

Special guests included Mr. and Mrs. Dennis Marrou. The Legatus Fort Worth Chapter, one of 80 chapters across the country, is celebrating its 20th anniversary.

A stronger Church will require a multiplication of nuns

By Father Kyle Walterscheid

We do not have the time to sit back and let the status quo be sufficient if we desire to have stronger parishes, schools, and families. We need a multiplication of nuns and we need them now!

Like the multiplication of loaves in the Bread of Life discourse in our Sunday Gospels in August, we can, in a real sense, see that the sisters who have served our Church, our diocese, and our parishes have been the bread of Christ that fed the hungry multitude for generations as they fed us the Word of God, catechized us, disciplined us, led us to holiness, and nursed us back to health when we were ill. Can you believe that we have sisters who have served our diocese 50, 60, and even 70 years?

The dire reality is that in 1960 there were about 180,000 sisters serving the church in the U.S., and today there remain about 60,000 sisters, with the majority in their retiring years, still laboring away. You may ask, “Why has the sisterhood dwindled?” To that I will provide some brief explanations, but more than that, I want to help young women back into the community for the education, health care, and service they provided. But many things changed back then. You may ask, “Why has there been a systemic problem that frustrated their attempts to find personal maturity, as they often lacked the freedom to make their own decisions, forced instead to take on whatever duties their superiors ordered them to.

Contrast that with the many new opportunities that were coming available to women at the same time in the work force. Careers for women were no longer the lower salaried jobs, as opportunities opened up to climb the career development ladder in the fields of their choice. Overnight, culturally speaking, secular careers opportunities for women replaced dreams of becoming a nun.

To remain a nun in that time period had to be difficult. Depending on the religious community, as many as half of the sisters left their communities during this time period. When someone leaves the community to live elsewhere, it is always difficult, and for the religious sisters, it would be no different.

In this regard, I am sure many of the nuns felt that many of the nuns felt that many of the others felt that called by God, will bring great joy, fulfillment, and service to the next generation of Catholics, Christians, and even non-Christians. I have had a great number of people approach me with their concerns for the future of the religious sisters.

The near universal sense of Catholics who grew up with nuns in the classroom is that they have a great admiration for them. Most begin to gain with happiness as they remember the nuns who taught them, even the ones who got in trouble a lot and were disciplined by nuns with rulers or paddles, a pinch on the neck, or the infamous note to the parents. But many things changed in the Church in the ’60s and ’70s. For many centuries the most educated of all women were nuns, as they were vital contributors to medical health care, education, and even many of the sciences. However, one could say that the internal structure had become too restrictive upon the individual members of the religious communities. Often a systemic problem existed that frustrated their attempts to gain personal maturity, as they often lacked the freedom to make their own decisions, forced instead to take on whatever duties their superiors ordered them to.

The only way to deal with that frustration is as half of the sisters left their communities. Hardest hit, I suppose, would have been the teaching sisters and later the sisters involved in hospitals, nursing, and health care. Why? For the teaching sisters, most Catholic schools, with few exceptions, required that one had to be a sister, brother, or priest to teach, but now one could teach and not be a vowed religious person. Nursing would likewise be hit hard. Today, I suspect, there are two fields — teaching and health care — that still attract the largest groups of single women among the many career options available.

You and I cannot wish single women back into the convent, but as God often tests us under trial for a greater good, women do, in fact, have many great opportunities to give ourselves unto the Lord (to become sisters) while serving in these two capacities mentioned above, as well as many other fields of service.

Let us pray together for the master of the harvest to send out more laborers into the harvest as the harvest is abundant and the laborers are few. Can we not ask our Lord to send us 20 women to commit to the religious life for our diocese, to break open new doors in the next five years, or pray to the Lord that He send 100 women in the next 10 years? That’s my prayer and I hope you make it your own prayer as well.

Please see the announcement in the back inside cover to learn more about the Women’s Monthly Discernment night the third Monday of each month at St. Patrick’s Cathedral or go to www.fw-dioc.org/vocations and click on Vocation Events.

Father Kyle Walterscheid, director of the Office of Vocations, is shown walking out of Sacred Heart Parish in Muenster following his ordination to the priesthood in May 2002. Even then, he appeared to be inviting people to ask if they were being called to a vocation.
Catholic Scripture Study to be offered at St. Vincent de Paul Parish

Catholic Scripture Study International will be offered at St. Vincent de Paul Parish Wednesday mornings from 9:30 a.m. to 11 a.m. beginning Sept. 9 and Thursday evenings from 7 p.m. to 8:30 p.m. beginning Sept. 10, and at Most Blessed Sacrament Parish on Thursday evenings from 9:45 a.m. to 11:15 a.m. beginning Sept. 10 and Monday evenings from 7 p.m. to 8:30 p.m. beginning Sept. 14.

CSSI is one of the fastest growing Catholic Bible studies in the church today, according to promotional material. CSSI provides an in-depth study of one book of the Bible each year during a course of 25-28 lessons. Each class consists of small group discussion of study questions and a video lecture given by a Catholic priest. Written by scholars such as Dr. Scott Hahn, Mark Shea, Steve Ray, and others, this year's study will focus on St. Paul's letter to Ray, and others, this year's study is a doctrinally based Catholic Scripture study program, will be held weekly, be able to defend your faith, and [to] develop friendships with like-minded believers. CSS sessions will be held weekly and will include class discussion; program materials provide for daily reflection and questions. Each class consists of small group discussion of study questions and a video lecture given by a Catholic priest. Written by scholars such as Dr. Scott Hahn, Mark Shea, Steve Ray, and others, this year's study will focus on St. Paul's letter to the Romans. Frequent interaction on the classes will be offered at St. Vincent de Paul Parish, 5819 W. Pleasant Ridge Dr., Arlington, contact Rhea at (817) 466-2530, or for classes at Most Blessed Sacrament Parish, 2100 N. Davis Dr., Arlington, contact Eileen at (817) 405-4480. To learn more about the CSSI visit the Web site www.catholicscripturestudyinc.org.

Free concert to be offered at St. Elizabeth Ann Seton Parish

St. Elizabeth Ann Seton Parish, 2016 Willis Lane, Keller, will host a free concert Saturday, Aug. 29, at 7 p.m. The concert is being sponsored by St. Elizabeth Ann Seton Youth Ministries and Our Lady Of Grace High School will feature a performance by parishan Eric Genius. For more information, contact the parish office at (817) 451-0551.

The Auxiliary to the Discalced Carmelite Nuns, represented by Francie Allen (left), president, and Nancy Dollon, Treasurer, are shown presenting a $25,000 check to Mother Maria at the Carmelite Monastery of the Holy Trinity in Arlington. Also pictured are Sisters Frances Therese and Sister Teresa Agnes. Proceeds from the parish's fundraising activities, dues, and donations make this annual gift possible.

Catholic Re-

currence Center to host retreat with Br. Joseph Schmidt

The Catholic Renewal Center will host a retreat featuring Brother Joseph Schmidt, OFM. Our Feelings with St. Therese of Lisieux” will be held Friday, Sept. 11, at 7:30 p.m. and Saturday, Sept. 12, from 9 a.m. to 9 p.m. Overnight accommodations are optional and an $80 fee will be provided. The cost for the retreat is $100.

Program material states, “Soc-

ial violence is destroying our world and feelings of hurt and violence are destroying our souls. Many saints have spoken in favor of Gospel peace, but St. Therese of Lisieux gives a way to peace with her life example. The retreat is designed to explore St. Therese’s ‘Way’ that will help bring some degree of peace.” Br. Joseph will be leaving in October for Nairobi, Kenya to conduct retreats and serve as a spiritual director for young men in the Brothers’ scholastic house. Organizers encourage all to take this final opportunity to experience a retreat with Br. Joseph.

For more information and reservations, contact the Catholic Renewal Center at (817) 429-2920. The reservation deadline is Sept. 8.

Carmelite Auxiliary — The Auxiliary to the Discalced Carmelite Nuns, represented by Francie Allen (left), president, and Nancy Dollon, Treasurer, are shown presenting a $25,000 check to Mother Maria at the Carmelite Monastery of the Holy Trinity in Arlington. Also pictured are Sisters Frances Therese and Sister Teresa Agnes. Proceeds from the parish’s fundraising activities, dues, and donations make this annual gift possible.

NVC publication deadlines

The North Texas Catholic is published twice monthly, except during the month of June, July, and August when it is published monthly. The deadline to submit information is noon on the Wednesday of the week before the paper is published. Items for the Sept. 18 issue must be received by noon on Aug. 27.

Cursillo weekend ends to be held in October

A Cursillo is a short course in Christianity, consisting of a series of talks and meditations examining one’s life in relation to Jesus Christ. Many that have gone through this experience have found it helpful in developing a deeper understanding of their faith, enabling them to be a positive force for Christ in the world. Separate weekend courses for men and women will be held this coming October. The men’s Cursillo will be held Oct. 8-11 and the women’s Cursillo will be held Oct. 22-25. Both weekends will be held at the Fort Worth Cursillo Center, 2223 S. W. 7th Street in Fort Worth. The weekend courses will be presented in English.

For more information, contact Florence Marcucci at (972) 291-6817 or e-mail maruccie@ sbglobal.net.

Stephanie Wood to speak at Magnificent breakfast Sept. 19

Stephanie Wood Wettlaufer, a longtime pro-life advocate, will speak at FWTN’s Global Catholic Radio Network which also serves as the vice president of operations for the Family Life Communication Network, will be the guest speaker during Magnificent’s Fall prayer breakfast. Sponsored by the Grapevine chapter in North Texas, the breakfast will be held at the Hilton Garden Inn, 785 State Highway 121, Lewisville, on Saturday, Sept. 19, Magnificent is a national ministry to Catholic women. Wettlaufer, the oldest of eight children and a convert to Catholicism, will give her personal testimony at the Magnificent breakfast and speak on the call of Christian womanhood.

Tickets for the breakfast are $18, and can be purchased through Sept. 15 at the following Catholic bookstorekeepers: Keepsakes Catholic Gifts and Books, 2401 S. W. 7th Street Center, Arlington, Little Angels Catholic Store, 600 E. Sandy Lake Rd., Coppell, Catholic Art and Gifts, 2761 Valley Pkwy. Farmers Branch; and, St. Anthony’s Bookstore, 3121 McCart Ave., Fort Worth.

For more information on the pro-life breakfast or to reserve tickets call (817) 632-2470 or e-mail vcriest www.catholicsrespectlife.org.

Catholic Scripture Study to be offered at St. Mark’s

Catholic Scripture Study (CSS), a doctrinally based Catholic Scripture study program, will be offered at St. Mark Church, 2800 Peninsula/ivy Drive in Denton, beginning Sept. 14. According to promotional material for the program, “CSS has been formally endorsed by Bishop Weinert, the oldest of eight children and a convert to Catholicism, will give her personal testimony at the Magnificent breakfast and speak on the call of Christian womanhood.

Tickets for the breakfast are $18, and can be purchased through Sept. 15 at the following Catholic bookstorekeepers: Keepsakes Catholic Gifts and Books, 2401 S. W. 7th Street Center, Arlington, Little Angels Catholic Store, 600 E. Sandy Lake Rd., Coppell, Catholic Art and Gifts, 2761 Valley Pkwy. Farmers Branch; and, St. Anthony’s Bookstore, 3121 McCart Ave., Fort Worth.

For more information on the pro-life breakfast or to reserve tickets call (817) 632-2470 or e-mail vcriest www.catholicsrespectlife.org.
Knights of Columbus donate $181,000 to Bishop Vann at dinner for priests and religious

By Nicki Prevou
Editorial Assistant

The US Conference of Catholic Bishops (USCCB) has asked Catholic Charities within the Diocese of Fort Worth to welcome record numbers of refugees this year.

Cheatham estimates that as of Sept. 30, the end of the agency’s fiscal year, Catholic Charities will have served approximately 500 refugees; that number will increase to about 650 for the 2009-2010 fiscal year. Because the recession has hit other states so severely, a number of agencies in those areas have been forced to turn incoming refugees away, she explained.

“A great number are being diverted to Texas and to us in Fort Worth, as the bishops have asked us to accept more than our usual number,” she said. “We value being a responsive agency to needs. It means hard work for us, but we’ll do our share to help provide a place for these refugees to come.”

It is a tremendous challenge to provide such a large number of individuals and families with new homes where they can live in dignity, as well as safety, said Cheatham. “Here at Catholic Charities, we desperately need the help of the Catholic community to partner with us in welcoming those who are coming to the Fort Worth area,” she said. “One of the most significant ways to help is to donate items to assist refugees in outfitting their new homes.”

The new arrivals step off the airplane with a plastic bag containing a few essentials, and little else, said Cheatham. Anyone who can assist with donations of furniture, dishes, household items, linens, towels, and personal hygiene items is asked to give as generously as possible. Those who are able to donate cash or items or to volunteer assistance to arriving refugees are asked to contact Amy Board at Catholic Charities at (817) 920-7733, ext. 271 or at aboard@ccdofw.org.

“Any and all donations are appreciated,” said Cheatham. “The new arrivals step off the airplane with a plastic bag containing a few essentials, and little else, said Cheatham. Anyone who can assist with donations of furniture, dishes, household items, linens, towels, and personal hygiene items is asked to give as generously as possible. Those who are able to donate cash or items or to volunteer assistance to arriving refugees are asked to contact Amy Board at Catholic Charities at (817) 920-7733, ext. 271 or at aboard@ccdofw.org.

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Seventh annual Pro-Life Boot Camp inspires area high-schoolers to fight for life.

Story and Photos by Joan Kurkowski-Gillen
Correspondent

The teenagers attending the Youth for Life Boot Camp held at the University of Dallas sat motionless as Jill Stanek described what it was like to watch an aborted baby die in her arms.

While working the night shift at Christ Hospital in Chicago, the registered nurse saw a co-worker carrying a very premature baby boy to the soiled utility room to die. The infant, the size of a fist and fully formed at 21-22 weeks of development, was aborted because he had Down Syndrome.

“When she told me what she was going to do, I couldn’t bear the thought of this suffering child dying alone,” says Stanek, a labor and delivery nurse. “So I cradled and rocked him for the 45 minutes he lived. He didn’t move much because he was using all of his energy to breathe.”

After his heart stopped beating, the caretaker tied his little hands together with a string, wrapped him in a shroud and took him to the morgue.

“Feelings of helplessness flooded back to me,” says Stanek who had watched another child die in a car accident years earlier. “Once again I was in a situation where a baby was dying and there was nothing I could do to save him.”

The cruel reality of infants born alive after late-term abortions shocked many in the young audience including Liz Radford. As president of the pro-life group at Our Lady of Grace High School in Roanoke, the high school junior thought she was pretty well informed about the abortion issue.

“Jill Stanek’s story is something I didn’t know and it was very disturbing,” she said. “It makes you realize how wrong abortion is and how hard we need to pray.”

Stanek was one of several speakers who offered personal testimonies and information to the more than 90 teenagers — 31 from the Diocese of Fort Worth — who attended the seventh annual Youth for Life Boot Camp. Sponsored by the Fort Worth Catholics Respect Life and the Dallas’ Catholic Pro-Life Committee of North Texas, the weeklong camp provided opportunities for group worship, community service projects, and public prayer outside local abortion facilities.

Keynote speaker for the event was Father Frank Pavone, national director of Priests for Life, who discussed the myths and the reality of the abortion controversy. Fr. Pavone, who travels to at least four states each week promoting pro-life efforts, told the North Texas Catholic, “We need to increase awareness about the abortion issue. Our generation is key. The more we know, the more we can impact change.”

Today’s teenagers and young adults grew up with ultrasound images of themselves before birth. For them, there’s a connection between life inside and outside the womb.

“Today, you can see what a child is like before he is born and realize that there is a right to life,” said Stanek, one of several stories of personal motivation to be in a pro-life career.

“I want to end abortion,” said Matthew Hunter a freshman who credits his pro-life volunteer. “The more I learn, the more I want to stand up for life.”

“I didn’t know, the more we can make him a more committed pro-life volunteer,” said Fr. Pavone, who uses popular Internet Web sites like Facebook and YouTube to reach tech-savvy teens. “Young people are a joy to work with because they eagerly take the pro-life perspective we offer and put it into practice.”

Matthew Hunter said attending the YFL boot camp will make him a more committed pro-life volunteer.

“The more I learn, the more I want to end abortion,” said the Nolan Catholic High School freshman who credits his mother, Tricia, for introducing him to pro-life activities. He also participated in the “spiritual adoption” of unborn babies while a student at Holy Family School in Fort Worth.

Hunter said hearing the true life experiences of people who have witnessed the horror of abortion has a greater impact than just reading about studies or statistics. Jill Stanek’s story, and her decision to stay at the hospital and work to change its abortion policy, impressed the 14-year-old.

“The nurse’s tenacity, which eventually brought the plight of abortion’s tiny victims to public attention and helped pass the Born Alive Infant Protection Act, gave Hunter an example to follow.

“We need to increase awareness and take action,” he de-
The Bishop’s Annual Catholic Pro-Life Banquet

Benefitting the Ministries of Catholics Respect Life of the Diocese of Fort Worth

“I CAME SO THAT THEY MAY HAVE LIFE”

Saturday, September 26th, 5:00pm
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Keynote Speaker
Mother Agnes Mary Donovan
Superior General, Sisters of Life

With a PhD in Psychology, she has extensive experience as a clinical psychologist, dealing with family intervention, mother/child relationships and familial factors favoring children's learning. She is responsible for anchoring a new religious community in its charism and guiding it to holiness, and is often called on across the country to share the message of reverence for human life, the gift and patrimony of the Institute she leads.

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Catholic Pro-Life Banquet

Catholics Respect Life is committed to advancing the Culture of Life. It is our mission to serve the parishes and families within the Diocese of Fort Worth through Education, Pastoral Care, Prayer and Worship and to work in union with parishes and families to change Public Policy and Legislation in an effort to restore the dignity due to every human life from conception to natural death. Through these acts we hope to stand as a moral community and answer the appeal made by John Paul II in The Gospel of Life, “...in the name of God, respect, protect, love and serve life, every human life.

To carry out this work we have established several ministries which work together to foster a Culture of Life and to serve the needs of the people within the Diocese of Fort Worth. The Bishop’s Annual Catholic Pro-Life Banquet is our primary fundraiser. Our help is desperately needed and so is yours. With every year our ministry has grown, so have the needs within our community. We strive to meet these needs, but we need your help. We need volunteers with generous hearts, but we also need your generous financial support. Be part of the action and join us for the Bishop’s Banquet and help us make a difference in Life.

PRAYER - In our ministry efforts, we acknowledge that the foundation must be continuous heartfelt prayer for the success of pro-life efforts and for the conversion of hearts from abortion and the culture of death.

GABRIEL PROJECT - Is a parish-based outreach to mothers experiencing a crisis pregnancy which utilizes trained volunteers called “Gabriel Angels” who offer spiritual guidance, emotional support, and practical help when necessary. Helpline 800-545-5935

CIVIC ACTION - Works to educate voters and restore laws that protect life from conception to natural death.

PARISH RESOURCE - Helps to facilitate pro-life activities in the parish and creates a network for the Parish Coordinators within the Diocese of Fort Worth to promote a Culture of Life in the Parish.

PRAYERS

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RACHEL MINISTRIES - Offers an opportunity for healing to women and men suffering the emotional or spiritual pain of abortion. They offer hope and healing through a variety of programs and services. Individual and group support is available. Helpline 817-923-4757

YOUTH FOR LIFE - Is a peer-based outreach designed to help today's youth become more pro-life.

SIDEWALK PRAYER & ADVOCACY - An ongoing prayerful presence outside Fort Worth abortion centers for the conversion of hearts.

40 DAYS FOR LIFE - Starting September 23rd, a 40 Day campaign of Fasting and Prayer, Community Outreach and a 24 hour a day, 7 days a week prayer vigil outside of Planned Parenthood Fort Worth.

CIVIC ACTION - Works to educate voters and restore laws that protect life from conception to natural death.

PARISH RESOURCE - Helps to facilitate pro-life activities in the parish and creates a network for the Parish Coordinators within the Diocese of Fort Worth to promote a Culture of Life in the Parish.

Diamond $5,000
Premium table & VIP reception for 10, 5 valet parking passes, full page ad in banquet program, hotel room for 2 on banquet night

Platinum $2,500
Premium table & VIP reception for 10, 2 valet parking passes, and 1/2 page ad in the banquet program

Gold $1,000
Premium table & VIP reception for 10

Table for 10

Individual $600

VIP Reception from 5:00 - 6:30 pm with Bishop Kevin Vann & Mother Agnes

Reservation Deadline is September 16th

Visa and MC accepted

Join Bishop Kevin Vann &

Catholics Respect Life Ministries

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Brother Mariano, a longtime parishioner at St. Elizabeth Ann Seton Church in Keller, formerly known as Jonathan Demma, took his final vows as a member of the Christian Friars of the Renewal (CFR) religious order during a joyous celebratory Mass, held Aug. 2 at Our Lady of Good Counsel Church in Manhattan.

The former Texas A&M engineering student was joined in New York by his parents, Michael and Alana Demma, also of St. Elizabeth, and by his five brothers, their spouses and children, his grandmother, and many other relatives and friends, including Bishop Kevin Vann.

Br. Mariano, 28, who joined the order over five years ago, has lived and worked at the Sacred Heart of Jesus friary near Our Mother of Mercy Church on Terrell Avenue for the past year and a half. The friars came to Fort Worth in 2007 at the request of Bishop Vann. Members of the friary operate St. Benedict's Mission in downtown Fort Worth to assist those in need. Brother Patrick, 32, has been “like a son” to the Demma family during his stay in Fort Worth, added Demma. “Mariano has now been assigned to the CFR mission in the South Bronx, offering service in one of the most destitute sections of New York City,” he said. “And Br. Patrick is now back in a community in Ireland. They will be missed in Fort Worth, but they know that they are following God’s plan for their lives and their ministry.”

By Nicki Prevou
Editorial Assistant

Fort Worth Friars of the Renewal make final vows

Br. Mariano poses with Bishop Vann at St. Crispin’s friary in the Bronx, where a Holy Hour and musical talent show was held on Saturday, Aug. 1 for friends and family members of the friars. Bishop Vann delighted the appreciative audience by “jamming” with the friars on the keyboard.

Hundreds of friends and family members gathered in Our Lady of Good Counsel Church in Manhattan to attend the Aug. 2 Mass and final vows ceremony of Br. Mariano, Br. Patrick, and other members of the religious order.

Diocesan Special Collection: Operation Rice Bowl

ABOVE: Br. Mariano receives the embrace of a brother CFR following his profession of his final vows.

LEFT: Fr. Bernard Murphy, CFR, extends his hands in blessing over Br. Mariano (left) and Br. Patrick. The two had just come forward to declare their intention to make their final vows as members of the Christian Friars of the Renewal.

Prepare by the Accounting Dept. for the Catholic Diocese of Fort Worth
Please forward all questions and comments to Debbie Lanford

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Photos by Jason Spoolstra

Diocesan

By Nicki Prevou
Editorial Assistant

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By Nicki Prevou
Editorial Assistant

Photos by Jason Spoolstra

Diocesan
Correspondent

By Nora Hamerman

Kimbell Art Museum to display Michelangelo’s first painting

Picture one of the most venerable Christian saints, in a cosmic struggle against evil; add a famous engraving that circulated all over Europe; join this to the talents of a 12-year-old youth, the future great sculptor of the Pieta and painter of the Vatican’s Sistine Chapel, then learning to draw and mix colors; and throw in a dash of unlikely survival and detective work enhanced by modern technical analysis. Put it all into a panel, barely 13 inches by 18 inches, and you have “The Torment of St. Anthony,” the first painting of Michelangelo Buonarroti (1475-1564), recently purchased by the Kimbell Art Museum in Fort Worth, and on view until Sept. 7 at New York’s Metropolitan Museum of Art. The Kimbell announced Aug. 19 that the painting would go on display in Fort Worth Sept. 26.

The panel, as Michelangelo described it to his biographer Condivi 65 years later, was an exercise for the aspiring artist who had been walking around Florence drawing the most celebrated works of the past. The lad did not merely copy and “colorize” a 1475 engraving by the German printmaker Martin Schongauer; he transformed the design into his first painting, using hues of lavender and acid green that later appeared in the Sistine ceiling. And according to another Michelangelo biographer, Vasari, the work was created when he was apprenticed to the Florentine artist Ghirlandaio in 1488. According to press information from the Kimbell Art Museum in Fort Worth, and on view until Sept. 7 at New York’s Metropolitan Museum of Art, the Kimbell announced Aug. 19 that the painting would go on display in Fort Worth Sept. 26.

The panel depicts the gifted young Michelangelo adapting an older Florentine artist’s design into his first painting, using Schongauer’s monsters to give a further colorization to the “Torment of St. Anthony,” the first painting of Michelangelo Buonarroti (1475-1564), recently purchased by the Kimbell Art Museum in Fort Worth, and on view until Sept. 7 at New York’s Metropolitan Museum of Art. The Kimbell announced Aug. 19 that the painting would go on display in Fort Worth Sept. 26.

By Nora Hamerman

Kimbell Art Museum to display Michelangelo’s first painting

The landscape in the Kimbell panel shows the gifted young artist adapting an older Florentine master for his own ends. It quotes from a unique detail in the background of a Ghirlandaio’s altarpiece, the “Adoration of the Magi.” Metropolitan Museum curators Keith Christiansen told the Catholic Herald, newspaper of the Diocese of Arlington, Virginia, that in 1487, when he was not yet apprenticed to Ghirlandaio but had a kind of “gofer” role in the studio, the 12-year-old Michelangelo collected the payment for the “Adoration.” Ghirlandaio was one of the first artists to use such a harbor scene to symbolize the Virgin Mary’s role as the safe refuge of the human soul.

It is this panel described by Michelangelo’s biographers? The proof presented at the New York exhibit is compelling. Cleaning has revealed the artist’s typical palette and changes to the design, revealed by infrared reflectography, rule out any chance it is a copy. If it is less skillful than Michelangelo’s first sculptures — well, he was only 12.

Still, the brilliantly colored scales Michelangelo added to Schongauer’s monster give a further clue. Michelangelo told Condivi that he “would not paint anything without consulting nature, and so he went to the fish market, to study the form and color of the scales and eyes and every other part of the fish.”

St. Anthony would have smiled. When asked how he could spend his life in solitude without the companionship of books, he replied that nature was his great book.

Nora Hamerman teaches art and catechesis at Christendom’s Notre Dame Graduate School in Alexandria, Virginia.
Honor Graduates

As you enter a new phase of your life, the dawning of adulthood, the gathering light beyond you hold shadows of the future, shapes of things to come. The light will help to reveal what lies before you, and the light you carry within, the Light of Christ, will help you determine how you will respond to all that lies ahead.

May you walk boldly and humbly by the light of the Gospel, so that at the end of the long day of your lifetime, as the sun is setting, you will be able to look back and say: “I was faithful to God, to family, and to my responsibilities to those God called me to love and to serve.”

Begin with your goal in mind, and no matter how often you are drawn aside by distractions, the light of Christ, alive in your heart will show you the way to the Kingdom.

ARLINGTON
ST. JOSEPH CHURCH

Paul Ashour
National Merit Finalist
Paul Ashour, a home-schooled student from Grand Prairie, is a National Merit Scholar. He attends St. Joseph Parish in Arlington where he sings with the 9 a.m. Mass choir and has worked as a Vacation Bible School volunteer and altar server. As a member of the Totus Tuus, the local Catholic home-school youth group, he has served as president and second vice president. Paul is the son of Titus Tuus, the local Catholic home-school youth group, he has served as president and second vice president. Paul is the son of Titus and Diane Ashour. He will attend Texas A & M University in College Station.

DUBLIN
DUBLIN HIGH SCHOOL

Linda Anna-Maria Volleman
Valedictorian
Linda Anna-Maria Volleman is a parishioner at St. Mary Church in Dublin where she has been a member of the youth group, a CCD teacher, VBS teacher, eucharistic minister, and a participant in Camp Fort Worth. In addition to her parish activities, Linda has been involved with Christmas in Action, Relay for Life, National Honor Society, Thanksgiving canned food drives, and coordinator for blood drives. The daughter of Carl and Engeline Volleman, Linda will attend Baylor University in Waco.

Dublin High School Valedictorian Linda Anna-Maria Volleman was recognized with an Outstanding Senior Award. She attended Tarrant County College in the Spring of 2009 to receive dual academic credit. Her community service hours include work with Boys and Girls Clubs of Fort Worth and Cook Children’s Hospital where she worked with pre-school aged Cystic Fibrosis patients. Courtney plans to major in nursing at U.T.A. She is the daughter of Donna and Keith Butler.

Fort Worth
CASSATA HIGH SCHOOL

Peyton Honor Coughlin
Valedictorian
Cassata High School Valedictorian Peyton Honor Coughlin received an Outstanding Senior Award from her graduating class. A member of University United Methodist Church where she was part of the Youth Group, Peyton worked on the Cassata High School Yearbook staff. She plans to attend University of Texas at Arlington in the fall. Peyton is the daughter of Sean Coughlin and Portia Sinku.

John S. Maksimik, Jr.
Salutatorian
Fort Worth Academy of Fine Arts Salutatorian John S. Maksimik, Jr. is the son of Coletta and John Maksimik. An active member of St. Bartholomew Parish, he has served as an acolyte, a member of the confirmation preparation ministry, YSN high school religious education participant, and Camp Fort Worth participant. Outside of parish life, John has been involved with the National Honor Society, the Red Cross, and the Special Olympics. He will attend Texas A & M University in College Station.

Jessica Chung
National Merit Finalist
Jessica Chung, the daughter of Joseph and Maria Chung, is a National Merit Finalist from Nolan Catholic High School. Jessica played piano for the LifeTeen choir at St. John the Apostle Parish for three-and-a-half years. In addition to serving as a North Richland Hills Teen Court member and occasional attorney, she earned over 60 service hours with Habitat for Humanity. Jessica will attend the University of Chicago in Chicago, Illinois.

George Elkind
National Merit Finalist
National Merit Finalist George Elkind graduated from Nolan Catholic High School in Fort Worth. As a member of the Nolan Catholic High School Theatre Troupe, he performed in community shows throughout the Diocese of Fort Worth. The son of Peter Elkind and Catherine Colquitt, George plans to major in Radio/TV Studies at Northwestern University.

Chase Hattersley
National Merit Finalist
Chase Hattersley, a graduate of Nolan Catholic High School, is a National Merit Finalist. He attends St. Vincent de Paul Parish in Arlington. Chase has participated in Camp Fort Worth and was a River Legacy Parks volunteer. His plans to attend the University of North Texas in Denton.

Nolan Catholic High School graduate Gregory Hodges received the Chamimade Award for Outstanding Seniors. He earned more than 260 hours during his high school career. In addition to his church activities as altar server, eucharistic minister, and Deacon Peer Review Group member, Gregory has been active with the Trinity Chapter of Habitat for Humanity and built a prayer garden at Most Blessed Sacrament Church in Arlington — his home parish — for his Eagle Scout project. The son of Sharon and Charles Hodges, Gregory will attend the University of Texas in Austin.

“Show great love for God and our neighbor we need not do great things. It is how much we put in the doing, that makes our offering something beautiful for God.”

Blessed Mother Teresa of Calcutta

Victoria Kilianski
Valedictorian
Nolan Catholic High School Valedictorian Victoria Kilianski is a member of St. Francis of Assisi Parish in Grapevine where she was an altar server. Her community service involvement included Work Week at the Peace Lutheran Camp, providing general assistance with moving, cleaning and organization for Dawsen Middle School in Carroll, and serving as a science tutor. Victoria is the daughter of Joseph and Helene Kilianski. She will double major in biology and biomedical science at Texas A & M University in College Station.

Comanche
COMANCHE HIGH SCHOOL

Laura Gracia
Salutatorian
Comanche High School Salutatorian Laura Garcia is the daughter of Jose and Guadalupe Garcia. As a lifelong member of Sacred Heart Parish in Comanche, she has served as an eucharistic minister, lector and CCD teacher. In addition to her parish involvement, Laura has worked for numerous causes including Santa’s Helpers, Relay for Life, Adopt-A-Highway trash clean up, Cinco de Mayo, the John Wesley Harding Day Town Festival, and the Comanche Community Clinic. She will attend the University of Texas at Arlington this fall.

Cortni Breen
Marian Award
Cortni Breen received the Marian Outstanding Senior Award for Nolan Catholic High School. She is a member of St. Andrew Parish where she served as a Vacation Bible School teacher. Cortni has been involved with numerous organizations including Habitat for Humanity, Big Brothers and Big Sisters, Loretto of Love and the Stephen Breen Memorial Foundation. Cortni Breen is the daughter of Jim and Kathy Breen and will attend St. Louis University in St. Louis, Missouri.

Jennifer Dayrit
National Merit Finalist
National Merit Finalist Jennifer Dayrit of Nolan Catholic High School was recognized as an Acorn National Merit Scholar. A member of St. Maria Goretti Church, she volunteered her time in the Office of Faith Formation and with the Big Brothers and Big Sisters Program. Jennifer has served as president of both the National Honor Society and the National Spanish Honor Society and was the co-captain of the speech and debate team. Jennifer is the daughter of Paulino and Janice Dayrit. She will attend Rice University in Houston.

Victoria Kilianski
Valedictorian
Victoria Kilianski is the daughter of Paulito and Janice Kilianski and a National Merit Finalist. She attended Tarrant County College this fall. Victoria is the daughter of Mark and Josephine Kilianski. Victoria plans to attend the University of Notre Dame in South Bend, Indiana this fall.

Cassata High School

Courtney June Freeman
Salutatorian
Cassata High School Salutatorian Courtney June Freeman of Cassata High School was recognized with an Outstanding Senior Award. She attended Tarrant County College in the Spring of 2009 to receive dual academic credit. Her community service hours include work with Boys and Girls Clubs of Fort Worth and Cook Children’s Hospital. Courtney plans to major in nursing at U.T.A. She is the daughter of Donna and Keith Butler.

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Cassata High School Valedictorian Peyton Honor Coughlin received an Outstanding Senior Award from her graduating class. A member of University United Methodist Church where she was part of the Youth Group, Peyton worked on the Cassata High School Yearbook staff. She plans to attend University of Texas at Arlington in the fall. Peyton is the daughter of Sean Coughlin and Portia Sinku.

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Comanche High School Salutatorian Laura Garcia is the daughter of Jose and Guadalupe Garcia. As a life-long member of Sacred Heart Parish in Comanche, she has served as an eucharistic minister, lector and CCD teacher. In addition to her parish involvement, Laura has worked for numerous causes including Santa’s Helpers, Relay for Life, Adopt-A-Highway trash clean up, Cinco de Mayo, the John Wesley Harding Day Town Festival, and the Comanche Community Clinic. She will attend the University of Texas at Arlington this fall.

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Victoria Kilianski
Valedictorian
Victoria Kilianski is the daughter of Paulito and Janice Kilianski and a National Merit Finalist. She attended Tarrant County College this fall. Victoria is the daughter of Mark and Josephine Kilianski. Victoria plans to attend the University of Notre Dame in South Bend, Indiana this fall.
Honor Graduates

Amber Nortman

SALUTATORIAN

Lindsay High School Salutatorian Amber Nortman is a member of St. Peter Church. Parish activities include participation in youth group as a teen leader, membership in St. Peter’s youth choir, confirmation class aide, and volunteering for parish functions. In addition to her church involvement, she has tutored elementary school children, volunteered with the Media of Honor Program, and helped with the Keep Lindsay Beautiful trash pickup. Amber is the daughter of Danny and Linda Nortman. She will attend Texas A & M University in College Station.

Susan Matassa

SALUTATORIAN NATIONAL MERIT FINALIST

Nolan Catholic High School Salutatorian Susan Matassa is a National Merit Finalist. As a member of St. John the Apostle Parish in North Richland Hills, she has been a member of the choir throughout her high school career. In addition to her ministry at church, she participated in 40 Days of Life Prayer, was a Big Brothers, Big Sisters volunteer and a Nolan Catholic High School Ambassador. The daughter of Alex and Theresa Matassa, Susan plans to major in Materials Engineering at Auburn University in Auburn, Alabama.

LINDSAY LINDSAY HIGH SCHOOL

Nick Bezner

VALEDICTORIAN

Lindsay High School Valedictorian Nick Bezner is a member of St. Peter Parish in Lindsay. He has served as a youth group leader and eucharistic minister. He earned over 120 service hours performing a variety of tasks from serving as a church camp volunteer to cleaning the church during the summer months. The son of Andy and Susie Bezner, Nick plans to attend Texas A&M University in College Station.

MUNSTER SACRED HEART HIGH SCHOOL

Joe Hesse

OUTSTANDING SENIOR AWARD

Joe Hesse of Sacred Heart High School in Muenster received the Outstanding Senior Award for his graduating class. As a three-year member of Sacred Heart Church, he has been an altar server for nearly ten years and has helped remove, repair and reinstall the communion rails and altar for the church. For his Eagle Scout project, he did beautification and landscaping for a local pro-life outreach organization. Joe is the son of Bert and Christy Hesse and will attend Southern Methodist University in Dallas.

MUNDAY MUNDAY HIGH SCHOOL

Robert Lee Dillard, Jr.

VALEDICTORIAN

Munday High School Valedictorian Robert “Rob” Lee Dillard, Jr. is a member of St. Joseph Parish in Rhinelander. He has served his parish community as an altar server, lector, eucharistic minister, CCD teacher’s aide, and Junior Youth volunteer. An accomplished athlete in several sports, Rob plans to major in sports medicine at the University of Notre Dame in South Bend, Indiana. He is the son of Robert and Janet Dillard and the grandson of Blie Jake and Dot Myers of Rhinelander.

POOLVILLE POOLVILLE HIGH SCHOOL

Hannah Renee Henson

VALEDICTORIAN

Scholar athlete Hannah Renee Henson was the valedictorian for Poolville High School. Active in a wide range of sports throughout her high school career, she earned regional and district recognition in tennis her junior and senior years and was recognized as an academic as well. In athletics, she was a member of a district and state basketball team, volleyball, track, and tennis all four years. Hannah is a member of the St. Stephen Parish in Weatherford and the daughter of Tony and Diana Henson. She will attend Weatherford College this fall.

NOTRE DAME HIGH SCHOOL

Mark Andrew Szczerba

SALUTATORIAN

Salutatorian Mark Szczerba graduated from Notre Dame High School and belongs to Our Lady Queen of Peace Parish where he participated in the Ministry Formation Day and was a youth group volunteer. School and community service involvement included Key Club, Teens Make A Difference, volunteer work for the Hotter’n Hell Hundred Bike Race, and running lights for sound for the school drama department. Mark was also a member of the Student Council and the National Honor Society. He is the son of Arthur and Maria Szczerba.

Lord, make me an instrument of Thy peace; where there is hatred, let me sow love; where there is injury, pardon; where there is doubt, faith; where there is despair, hope; where there is darkness, light; and where there is sadness, joy.
O Divine Master, grant that I may not so much seek to be consoled as to console; to be understood, as to understand; to be loved, as to love; for it is by giving that we receive, it is in parding that we are pardoned, and it is in dying that we are born to Eternal Life.
Amen.
Prayer of St. Francis
Year of the Priest reminds us of the role of clergy in the life of the Church

Let us take a more detailed look at each.

**Episcopal Orders**

The episcopate (bishop) is the highest degree of Holy Orders, that is, bishops possess the fullness of Holy Orders and share fully in the apostolic ministry. They are the high priests of the Church and the New Covenant. By receiving the fullness of the apostolic ministry, they are the direct successors of the apostles. Within the Catholic Church there is a real and historically unbroken line of apostolic succession from the apostles themselves to the bishops today. As successors of the apostles, the bishops, in communion with the Pope, receive the authority from Christ himself to teach, minister and govern the Church. For example, they are the representatives and interpreters of the Word of God passed on through sacred Scripture and sacred Tradition. They are the ministers of the sacramental life of the Church and have the authority to perform all of the sacraments, including ordaining other bishops, priests, and deacons. They also have the authority to govern the Church both spiritually and materially.

Most bishops are the leaders of what is called a diocese or a local church comprised of several parishes. He is the shepherd of his diocese; he teaches, ministers, and governs his local church. All bishops and their diocese are in communion with the Pope who is the Bishop of Rome. Thus while each bishop shepherds his own diocese, the Church is one through communion with the successor of Peter, the Pope.

While all bishops possess the fullness of Holy Orders and the apostolic ministry, there are different levels of bishops that denote different levels of governance in the Church. In other words, some bishops have greater responsibilities than others.

1. **The Pope:** The Pope is the successor of Peter and has universal and supreme authority in the Church. Like Peter, he is given by Christ the keys to the kingdom and has the power to bind and loose in the name of Christ. He is the visible center of unity and communion in the Church, and has authority over all of the other bishops, who are all in communion with him. All new bishops are appointed by him and are ordained with his blessing. The Pope preserves and maintains the visible and spiritual communion of the Church.

2. **Cardinals:** The cardinals are the highest level of bishop. The word “cardinal” comes from the Latin word meaning “hinge,” as they are considered the hinges or ambassadors of the Pope. Cardinals wear the red zucchetos (skullcaps) and in almost all cases assume a very great responsibility in the Church. Many of them work in the Roman Curia which is the Pope’s governing offices within the Vatican. It is very similar to the president’s cabinet containing the heads of specific governing offices and advisors. Many of the other cardinals are the head of a very large archdiocese such as New York or Chicago. The cardinals are also responsible for electing a new Pope. For most of the history of the Church, while not strictly necessary, the Pope has been chosen from the cardinals.

3. **Archbishops:** Archbishops shepherd a large diocese called an archdiocese. An archdiocese is also the metropolitan or principle diocese in a certain region that oversees other dioceses. Thus, the archbishop of a diocese has certain oversight and authority over the bishops in the dioceses of his region. For example, the Archdiocese of San Antonio oversees the dioceses of Amarillo, Lubbock, Fort Worth, Dallas, San Angelo, and El Paso. Unless an archbishop is a cardinal, he wears a violet zucchetto.

4. **Bishops:** Bishops shepherd a diocese and also wear the violet zucchetto. Some bishops as well as archbishops may not head a diocese but are in charge of a department or organization within the Church. Bishops also have and wear special symbols that point to their unique role and mission:
   - The ring: bishops wear a ring which is a symbol of his authority and points towards heaven from which his authority comes. This “crown” of authority is not to lord over the People of God, but to serve the faithful in bringing them to the truth of Christ.
   - The crozier or shepherd’s staff: the crozier is a symbol that he represents Christ the Good Shepherd, and that he, like Christ, shepherds his flock towards heaven.
   - The ring worn by the bishop: the ring is a sign of authority and in generations past was used to seal letters and was the authoritative stamp of the bishop. However, the ring also symbolizes the bishop being wed to the Church and accepting the Church as his bride. The bishop’s role is to protect and serve his unblemished Bride, the Church.

**Presbyterate Orders**

The presbyterate (priesthood) is the second degree of Holy Orders. While they do not possess the fullness of Holy Orders and the apostolic ministry, through the bishop they do share in the apostolic ministry and ministerial priesthood. They act as the associates of the bishop, assisting him in preaching and administering the sacraments in his diocese. Thus, the authority and ministry of priests is intrinsically connected to the bishop and comes from him. Priests receive their sacramental authority from the bishop, however, they cannot ordain other priests or bishops, and can only perform the sacrament of Confirmation with delegation or explicit permission from the bishop.

**Diaconate Orders**

The diaconate is the third degree of Holy Orders. Deacons fundamentally differ from bishops and priests in that they do not possess the apostolic ministry or ministerial priesthood. However, they are still ordained through the sacrament of Holy Orders and are given a special gift of and grace of the Holy Spirit to preach the Word of God and act in service to the People of God. Thus, the main function of the deacon is to assist the bishops and priests in preaching, at the altar, and in serving the faithful through various ministries. Because deacons do not share in the ministerial priesthood, they can only baptize and witness marriages.

There are two types of deacons in the Church, transitional and permanent. A transitional deacon is a man in his final year of preparation for the priesthood. Thus, the diaconate is the transition between the lay state and the priesthood. A permanent deacon is a man who is ordained a deacon without the intention of becoming a priest. A permanent deacon may be married and serves a unique role in that he lives in the secular world, but also has an ordained role in the Church.

Next month, we will look at the signs and effects of the Sacrament of Holy Orders as well as discuss celibacy in the priesthood and the reservation of Holy Orders to men alone.

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**By Lucas Pollice**

In June, Pope Benedict XVI decreed that June 2009 to June 2010 be the Year of the Priest. This upcoming year provides for us many ways to celebrate the priesthood and to thank our priests for their lives of service and dedication to us and to the Church.

In commemoration of the Year of the Priest, I am offering a two-part column on the Sacrament of Holy Orders so that we can better appreciate and understand the great gift of the priesthood that has been established by Christ himself to continue his work of teaching, sanctifying, and governing the Church.

The sacrament of Holy Orders is called the sacrament of “apostolic ministry.” Christ entrusted the apostles with the ministry of teaching, ministering, and governing his people. It is through this sacrament that this “apostolic ministry” has been handed on throughout the history of the Church. Men who are ordained with the sacrament of Holy Orders come to share in apostolic ministry and thus through the power and presence of the Holy Spirit teach, minister, and govern with the authority of Christ.

The word “order” comes from the Roman tradition meaning a recognized governing body. To receive orders or to be ordained means to become a member of that body. Thus, bishops, priests, and deacons, through the sacrament of Holy Orders are consecrated or set apart by Christ to be his instruments in teaching, guiding, and ministering to his Church.

Holy Orders is also one of the sacraments in service of the communion of the Church. While it confers great authority and responsibility, it is an authority which serves the People of God, faithfully dispenses the graces of the sacraments, and preserves the communion and oneness of the Church by faithfulness to the truth revealed by Christ. Holy Orders is not about power and prestige, but it is about being a sign and presence of Christ who washed the feet of the apostles.

The sacrament of Holy Orders has three degrees or levels of participation: the episcopate (bishops), the presbyterate (priests), and the diaconate (deacons).

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Lucas Pollice is director of Catechesis and Adult Faith Formation and RCIA for the diocece. Lucas holds a degree in theology from the Francis- can University of Steubenville and has a master’s degree in theological studies from the Institute for Pastoral Theology of Ave Maria University. He is an adjunct professor of theology with the Cardinal Newman Institute in Fort Worth. Lucas and his wife, Mary, have five children, Cecilia, Nicholas, Timothy, Christian, and Julia.
Yesterday was one of those days. You know the kind, when your mind is pulled in every direction; 10 people have already asked you for something, and it’s only nine o’clock in the morning.

So I decided to take a break and call my husband, though I can’t remember why.

I dialed his cell number from my office phone and, wouldn’t you know, as soon as I got through my cell phone started to ring. I hung up on his call and answered my phone.

“Hello?”

I heard a woman’s voice but then she hung up on me. I was really annoyed. It sounded like my co-worker. I had called her yesterday from my phone so maybe she was just returning my call. I decided to try my husband again before checking with my co-worker. I dialed his number and was interrupted by another call on my cell.

“Hello?” I said sharply.

“Hello?” I heard her reply, but nothing more, so I hung up.

God, this is so annoying, I thought. It was speechless for a few seconds. There was a lot to unpack in what he was saying, not the least of which was wondering if he was speaking from experience.

Certainly, I have had a fair share of emails from people who would empathize with the words of Dolly Parton’s song, “Hello, God.”

She asks the question, “Hello, God, are you out there? Can you hear me, are you listenin’ any more? Hello God, if we’re still on speakin’ terms can you help me like before?”

I imagine King David would emphasize, as well.

So many of his psalms seem to be asking, “Are you listening to me?”

One of my favorites is Psalm 13, when David asks, “How long, Lord? Will you utterly forget me? How long will you hide your face from me? How long must I carry sorrow in my soul, grief in my heart day after day?”

This is a man on the edge, but one who is confident enough in God’s love to hold God’s “feet” to the fire. Without fear, he entreats God, “Look upon me, answer me, Lord, my God!”

Still, in spite of his painful situation and the lack of God’s response, David ends his psalm by saying, “I trust in your faithfulness. Grant my heart joy in your help, that I may sing of the Lord, ‘How good our God has been to me!’”

Renowned Rabbi Abraham Heschel has said, “A religious man is a person who holds God and man in one thought at one time, at all times, who suffers harm done to others, whose greatest passion is compassion, whose greatest strength is love and defiance of despair.”

I think he considered it right up there with the time I cooked my glasses on the turkey for Thanksgiving dinner.

He suggested the phone call story would make a good column, but I reminded him that I needed a spiritual connection.

That’s when he hit me with, “Well, sometimes talking to God is like talking to yourself. You don’t get an answer and all you hear is the sound of your own voice.”

I was speechless for a few seconds. There was a lot to unpack in what he was saying, not the least of which was wondering if he was speaking from experience.

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This is a man on the edge, but one who is confident enough in God’s love to hold

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### Renowned Rabbi Abraham Heschel has said, “A religious man is a person who holds God and man in one thought at one time, at all times, who suffers harm done to others, whose greatest passion is compassion, whose greatest strength is love and defiance of despair.”

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I imagined that the joy of children bring to our lives is very enriching, but for those who are raising their grandchildren, other factors seem to bring a variety of challenges. In a Time magazine article, “Recycled Parents,” Deborah Edler Brown writes: “Isolation is a common complaint among second-time parents, social lives dwindle, late-life dreams get put on hold, while the expenses of child-rearing create new financial challenges. One grandfather came out of retirement when he acquired three new mouths to feed. Now 75, he works nights and sleeps during the day with a 30-mile commute. There is also an emotional fallout: fear of losing a child to dysfunctional parents, grief at losing the grandparent role and anger at the adult child who won’t parent. And there is the simple reality of age.”

How do our schools welcome and work with these new grandparents? While dining recently with my coma’de, Virginia Sanchez, our conversation centered on this very topic. Virginia has been working at SS. Cyril and Methodius Catholic School in Corpus Christi for the past 30 years and remarked on how much she admired one woman at the school. The woman experienced health issues, financial pressures, and the loss of her husband while trying to provide her grandchildren with a Catholic education. She was an example of whom the grandparents of the world to the protection of Sts. Joachim and Anna.

The late Karl Menninger once said “The central purpose of each life should be to dilute the misery in the world.” What wonderful examples of unsung “saints” we have in these truly holy people.
FORT WORTH — The Diocese of Fort Worth has experienced explosive growth in numbers, diversity, and ministries, offering to more than 600,000 Catholics living in North Texas. Part of the growth of the flourishing faith community has been the recent dramatic rise in vocations to the priesthood. Many of the 32 men currently in formation took time from their studies to attend the anniversary Mass.

“We’re participating, like most people here, by our presence,” said first-year collegiate seminarian Daniel Cochran. “I think it’s important for people to see how many seminarians there are. It’s a sign of vibrancy in the diocese.”

Seminarian Ronald Mercado agrees. “This is a very jubilant moment for us,” says the 36-year-old pre-theology student whose interest in the priesthood was sparked by his parish’s participation in the chalice program. “My hope for the future of the diocese is that we not only increase vocations to the priesthood and religious life but also promote the sanctity of the sacrament of marriage which is the first vocation.”

Seminarians, who helped serve the Mass, led the procession into the convention center arena which was transformed into a place of worship with help from a backdrop of religious-themed banners created by local Carmelite nuns. Members of the Knights of Columbus Fourth Degree stood as honor guards for the Knights and Ladies of the Holy Sepulchre, the Knights and Ladies of Peter Claver, 65 deacons, 30 diaconate candidates, about 90 priests, and 12 bishops from New Mexico, Texas, Louisiana, Oklahoma, and Arkansas. Archbishop José Gomez of San Antonio and Cardinal Daniel DiNardo of the Archdiocese of Galveston-Houston also participated.

In a display of ecumenism, representatives of the Anglican Communion—including Bishop Jack Iker and several priests—participated in the procession. During the presentation of offertory gifts, Bishop Iker gave Bishop Vann a hand-painted icon of St. Michael the Archangel to commemorate the jubilee.

Providing music before and during the Mass were Fort Worth’s St. Andrew Parish handbell choir, singers from the African community of Arlington’s St. Joseph Parish, the Tongan community of St. Michael Church in Bedford, and a Caribbean group from Midwestern State University in Wichita Falls. A special eucharistic prayer, Misa Luna was commissioned for the 40th anniversary and composed by Peter Kolar.

“It’s a blessing that you’re here today,” Bishop Vann said, acknowledging the crowd of worshippers. “Thanks to all of you who made this celebration possible and do so much with the Gospel and live the faith here in North Texas.”

Among the invited guests were members of Bishop Cassata’s family. The late bishop’s crosier and matching chalice were used for the special liturgy.

“We came to celebrate this occasion and honor my great uncle,” said Judd Fruia, who was three years old when his uncle became Bishop Kevin Vann offers intercessory prayers in American Sign Language. (Photo by Thanh Nguyen)
the first bishop of Fort Worth.

Now a resident of Highland Village, Fruia recalled when Bishop Cassata had the garage of his home converted into a chapel, and the family would gather there for Mass.

“I would be his altar boy,” the nephew reminisced. “It enhanced our family’s spirituality. We keep a picture of him, dressed in his vestments, in our home.”

Steve Landregan, a local church historian and the archivist of the Diocese of Dallas remembered the discussions that led to the birth of the Diocese of Fort Worth. At the time, the boundaries of the Diocese of Dallas-Fort Worth touched Texarkana, Shreveport, and went beyond Wichita Falls.

“They were trying to make smaller dioceses so the bishops could be closer to the people,” Landregan explained.

Growth in two competing metropolitan areas was another factor. When Thomas K. Gorman was named coadjutor bishop of Dallas in 1952, he recognized the importance of Fort Worth and set up a hyphenated diocese with a co-cathedral. He recommended the diocese split into two entities after announcing his retirement in 1969.

Bishop Cassata’s placement in Fort Worth as auxiliary bishop eased the transition.

“Parishioners were delighted. I think the people of Fort Worth always felt shortchanged,” Landregan continued. “They were always overshadowed by Dallas.”

Over the years, Jeanette Seifert, a member of St. Mary Church in Dublin, has watched the Diocese of Fort Worth grow in stature and numbers. When she moved to Stephenville in 1967, there were about 65,000 Catholics living in the 28-county area.

“Back then if you told someone you were Catholic you were considered dirt,” she said, remembering the prejudices that once defined rural society, “so things have definitely changed.”

In recent years, outreach to Catholics living in outlying areas has improved and Seifert anticipates even greater developments in the future. The diversity demonstrated during the 40th anniversary Mass through music and language is one of the diocese’s great strengths. Another is leadership.

“Bishop Vann is a real people person, and he’s been wonderful for the diocese,” she added. “It’s nice to be part of a diocese that’s growing.”

Catholics representing parishes from across the diocese served as members of the anniversary Mass choir. (Photo by Donna Ryckkaert)

The diocese would like to extend special thanks to Kenneth Copeland Ministries and its employees for the donation of the use of the stage, the blue backdrop for the altar and the Carmelites’ banners, and videotaping equipment, display screens and their technical services in a grand gesture of ecumenical cooperation.

Bishops from Texas, New Mexico, Louisiana, Oklahoma, and Arkansas process from the convention center arena at the conclusion of the liturgy. (Photo by Donna Ryckkaert)
Parishioners from throughout the diocese attended the Jubilee Mass and brought their own stories to tell.

**Diocesan**

**GIFT OF LOVE**

**Correspondent**

**STORIES TO TELL**

**Jimmy Parker was there on the day the Diocese of Fort Worth was formally instituted. In fact, he had a special seat.**

First he drove Bishop John Casatta’s parents from the airport, after their arrival from Houston. Then he sat with them in the first row of St. Patrick Cathedral, when they watched their son assume his seat as the diocese’s first bishop.

“Watching Bishop Cassata take the oath was the most wonderful thing to see,” said Parker, a St. Andrew parishioner who has been active in the Knights of Columbus and Serra Club for more than three decades. “That day meant a lot to me.”

“IT was good that they began our diocese, because of the number of people it could serve,” said St. Andrew parishioner Bob Connelly, legendary supporter of Catholic Scouting and other ministries, “not just Fort Worth, but other places like Wichita Falls, Breckenridge, Vernon.... I thought it was a worthwhile thing, because of the number of people we were serving.”

“At the 40th anniversary, the thing that impressed me most—that gave me goose bumps—was the multicultural and inclusive nature of it,” said St. Patrick parishioner Robert Devine, an international affairs consultant, who volunteered in the diocesan Peace and Justice ministry under Bishop Joseph Delaney. “The liturgy reflected the universality of our faith.”

“It’s been fun to watch the families grow up here,” said Dr. Chris Huull, a St. Andrew parishioner, whose family has actively supported the diocese for more than 25 years. “It’s been interesting to see all the priests come and go and to see the bishops change. Bishop Vann’s leadership is phenomenal. It’s such an open presence.”

**GIFT OF LOVE**

**The Catholic Diocese of Fort Worth gave Tom Byrd a wonderful gift — his wife.**

“I’ve been in the diocese since I’ve been married,” the Our Mother of Mercy parishioner said. “I’ve been married 37 years; I’ve been a Catholic 35 years.”

Byrd’s conversion to Catholicism came naturally: “I married a Catholic schoolgirl,” he said, adding she was an OMM schoolgirl. Our Mother of Mercy Parish and School held a revered place in diocesan history, having been founded in 1929, by Bishop Patrick Lynch as Fort Worth’s parish for the African-American community.

The Knights and Ladies of St. Peter Claver, the United States’ only African American, Catholic fraternal organization, played a big part in the 40th anniversary celebration. The liturgy was multi-cultural in music and participation, with additional participation from other fraternal groups, including the Knights and Ladies of the Holy Sepulchre and the Knights of Columbus.

Dexter Patterson, a lifelong Catholic originally from Tulsa, processed with the Knights of Peter Claver, and said he was happy to be part of the grand celebration. “I grew up in a Catholic church,” he said, “and was baptized when I was six years old. This was a wonderful event — very extravagant, very organized. I learned a lot and met a lot of people. The diocese did a good job.”

“I enjoyed this celebration as much as I did Bishop Vann’s ordination when he came here,” Byrd said. The Knights were part of that one, too, and that was special. Seeing all the different Catholics all together at one time is wonderful.

“And seeing all the bishops here—I enjoyed it very much.”

**TASTE OF HOME**

Juliana Mleg came from Micronesia to the United States and Texas, where she has worked at Arlington’s St. Maria Goretti Parish for 10 years. But at the diocese’s 40th anniversary she thought she had gone to heaven.

“The occasion was so beautiful,” she said, at the reception. “I’m so grateful to God to be able to come here and see so many priests and religious—it’s just like heaven.”

Some 90 diocesan priests, 11 bishops and archbishops, and Cardinal Daniel DiNardo of Galveston-Houston concelebrated the anniversary liturgy with Bishop Kevin Vann. Also vested were 65 diocesan deacons, 30 seminarians, as well as a number of Anglican priests and their Bishop Jack Iker.

“The anniversary was a landmark,” said Margaret Mary Akintolayo, of SMG. “Forty years is like a generation. We could look back on 40 years and look forward to the future.”

Akintolayo is originally from Nigeria, came to America in 1970, then returned to Nigeria where she taught high school for 16 years and her children finished school. Back in the States, she lived in Washington, D.C., 10 years, and the past 15 have been in the Diocese of Fort Worth.

“I love my parish,” she said.

“The pastor is wonderful, everyone is friendly, holy, and beautiful. St. Maria Goretti reminds me of the churches in Nigeria. It is like going home.

“Our diocesan anniversary celebration was once-in-a-life-time—a beautiful thing! And our bishop is wonderful—a very holy father.”

**PICTURE OF HISTORY**

With camera in hand, Rosie Steinman makes memories for all the people she cares about—but her own memories do not need photos. Steinman is a charter member of Fort Worth’s St. Thomas the Apostle Parish, which was built in 1937, designated to serve the Fort Worth neighborhood with the greatest number of Czechoslovakian families. Steinman remembers the dedication, but she also remembers her family helped clear the land for the church, still standing in its original location, on Azle and Macy Streets.

At the anniversary, Steinman photographed memorable moments, she said, and her favorite was when Lucille Kaballa proclaimed the prayer of the faithful in Czech. Kaballa is a member of Seymour’s Sacred Heart Parish, where she has been choir director for some 50 years.

Steinman, the only member of her family who attended the celebration, appreciated the multicultural liturgy, especially the inclusion of her Czech heritage.

Keyna Harris from St. John the Apostle Parish in North Richland Hills is acquainted with Steinman from Sokol, a Czech organization, and she said she enjoyed the liturgy’s music.

“I like to go to a lot of parishes, with all different choirs,” she said.

Steinman, who came from a family of eight children, remembers when St. Thomas’s first Mass was celebrated, Aug. 8, 1937. “It was in a house; there were 60 people there, and I was with Mother and Daddy.”

At the anniversary liturgy, she recorded more memories—especially of the woman who read the prayer of the faithful in Czech.

“It thrills me to death that I heard the prayer in Czech,” Steinman said, “and that I understood it!”

**VOICE OF THE SPIRIT**

The songleader knew the responsive hymn well, had heard and sung it many times, frequently as a communion hymn, she said. She was accustomed to singing it in a straightforward way, as written.

At the Diocese of Fort Worth’s 40th anniversary, however, Joan Grabowski sang the song’s refrains as she had never done before. Her rendition brought tears to worshippers’ eyes, became, as one attendee said, “a moment of conversion,” and, lyrically, presented a facet of one of the diocese’s many rich cultures. Grabowski, of St. Rita Parish, See Profiles, p. 17

Joan Grabowski (left) receives hugs from Bishop Jack Iker. See Profiles, p. 17.
Bishop Vann encourages Catholics to speak up on health care plans before Congress — civilly

I was very happy and very proud of our history when I saw these beautiful items being used during the anniversary Mass.

— Kay Fialho
St. Patrick Cathedral Historian and Archivist

Cardinal Rigali criticizes abortion provisions in House health reform bill

Cardinal Rigali said the committee "created a legal fiction, a paper separation between federal funding and abortion" through which those in the public plan and in private insurance plans that cover abortion would pay an out-of-pocket premium of at least $1 a month to cover abortions beyond those eligible for federal funds under the Hyde amendment.

An illusion" because "funds paid into these plans are fungible, and federal taxpayer funds will subsidize the operating budget and provider networks that expand access to abortion."

In addition, he said, "those constrained by economic necessity or other factors to purchase the 'public plan' will be forced by the federal government to pay directly and specifically for abortion coverage... even if they find abortion morally abhorrent."

The cardinal had praise, however, for amendments to the bill that stipulate that health reform legislation will not pre-empt rights of conscience; and preserves pluralism, with respect for rights of conscience; and restraints costs while sharing them equitably," Cardinal Rigali said, reiterating points from Bishop Murphy's letter.

"Much-needed reform must not become a vehicle for promoting an 'abortion rights' agenda or reversing long-standing policies against federal funding and mandated coverage of abortion," the cardinal said. "In this sense we urge you to make this legislation 'abortion-neutral' by preserving long-standing federal policies that prevent government promotion of abortion and respect conscience rights."

Profiles... From page 16

With Rendell James, immediate-past music director at St. Francis of Assisi Parish in Grapevine, improvised a setting of the 34 "Taste and See" composed by James Moore. They did it in Gospel style.

"I had never met Rendell before the dress rehearsal," Grabowski said, "when he sat down at the piano and started rockin' out with this Gospel thing. It electrified me and I just started singing." James was choir director for the diocesan anniversary Mass.

"Before we began, I was a little intimidated," Grabowski said. "All the bishops were sitting behind me, and until then, the music had been so beautiful, and very Western European, and very classical. I thought, 'This is gonna stick out.' Plus, the day before, Rendell had played it in double time, twice as fast as I'd ever heard it. But when he began, at the anniversary Mass, he was playing it slowly."

"'Well, okay!' I thought. 'I was really excited. I just went off and did that improvisation thing."

"I think the item is the Holy Spirit component..." At the anniversary celebration reception, Grabowski paused every few minutes for children to hug her, or for someone to thank her for the music.

"With humility she always answered the same way: 'I'm glad you were blessed.'"

"When I sing I have no idea what it's going to be. The Holy Spirit says, 'Why don't you go high here; why don't you go low here...? Why don't you emphasize this word here...?'

"That's when I know it's not me, that it's the Holy Spirit. I mean yes, I'm the vessel, and the Holy Spirit works through me, but when people say 'I was crying,' or I was so touched,' that's me and the Holy Spirit. That's not just me."

"And that's the part that is so fun," the beloved vocalist said, "I can't do that just by myself."
**Cuban-American confirmed as ninth U.S. ambassador to the Vatican**

WASHINGTON (CNS) — Catholic theologian Miguel Diaz was confirmed by the U.S. Senate Aug. 4 as the ninth U.S. ambassador to the Vatican. A professor of theology at the College of St. Benedict in St. Joseph, Minnesota, and St. John’s University in Collegeville, Minnesota, Diaz is the first Hispanic to serve in the post. Diaz issued a statement through St. John’s University Aug. 5, saying he was grateful to President Barack Obama “for the confidence he has invested in me” and to the Senate for its vote. “I am honored to be given the responsibility of representing the people of the United States to the Holy See,” he said in the statement posted on the Web site of St. John’s University. “I very much appreciate the support of all those who have reached out to me and to my family with their prayers and best wishes during this process.” He also said he planned to move his family to Rome and present his credentials to Pope Benedict XVI as soon as possible. His wife, Marian, directs Companions on a Journey and CORAD: Heart Speaks to Heart at the College of St. Benedict and St. John’s University. The couple have four children.

**Bishops’ new Web site offers details, background on health reform views at usccb.org/healthcare**

By Nancy Frazier O’Brien Catholic News Service

WASHINGTON — The U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops has launched a Web site that seeks to clarify its position on the health care reform debate and to help Catholics add their voices to the discussions.

The Web site at www.usccb.org/healthcare features videos addressing various aspects of the health reform debate, answers to several frequently asked questions, copies of bishops’ documents and letters to Congress, facts and statistics about Catholic health care in the United States, and links to send messages to members of Congress.

The bishops also plan to offer specific “action alerts” on the site when Congress returns to work on health reform legislation in September.

The site urges Catholics to tell Congress that “health care reform should:

- Include health care coverage for all people from conception until natural death, and continue the federal ban on funding for abortions.
- Include access for all with a special concern for the poor.
- Pursue the common good and preserve pluralism, including freedom of conscience.
- Restrain costs and apply costs equitably among payers.

“Abortion is the opposite of health care; it kills the patient. We can’t support reform if it is going to turn doctors against some of their patients.”

— Richard M. Doerflinger, in a video on the Web site

In one of the videos on the USCCB site, Kathy Saile, director of domestic social development in the USCCB Department of Justice, Peace and Human Development, notes that the bishops have not taken a position for or against any particular piece of health reform legislation.

“A lot is happening in Congress. It changes daily, but our principles and criteria remain consistent,” she said.

“The bishops are right at the center of the debate,” Saile added. “But the debate is going to continue in Congress for several more months. There will be lots of opportunities to call, to e-mail, and to continue that dialogue with members of Congress.”

In other videos, Richard M. Doerflinger, associate director of the USCCB Secretariat of Pro-Life Activities, explains why the bishops are insisting that any health reform legislation be “abortion-neutral.”

“Abortion is the opposite of health care; it kills the patient,” he said. “We can’t support reform if it is going to turn doctors against some of their patients.”

At the same time, Doerflinger said, the bishops’ goal is not to “advance the pro-life cause through health reform legislation. We just want to preserve all major existing policies and provisions, so that (reform legislation) doesn’t forge new ground against the life of the unborn.”

The Catholic Health Association has a similar message on its Web site at www.chausa.org.

“CHA has not endorsed any of the health care reform bills, but our message to lawmakers is clear: Health reform should not result in an expansion of abortion, and it must sustain conscience protections for health care providers who do not want to participate in abortions or other morally objectionable procedures,” it says.

The association also has detailed information about its “vision for U.S. health care” on a separate Web page at www.ourhealthcarevalues.org.
U.S. religious freedom watchdog adds India to its watch list

By Carmen Blanco
Catholic News Service

WASHINGTON — Increasing violence against religious minorities, particularly Christians, and the government’s inadequate response to that violence in 2008 prompted the U.S. Commission on International Religious Freedom to add India to its 2009 watch list of countries where conditions of religious freedom require close monitoring.

The announcement was made Aug. 12, although the commission’s annual report was released in May. Earlier, the commission requested a visit to India to discuss religious freedom conditions with government officials, religious leaders, and activists, but the Indian government did not issue visas to the U.S. delegation.

Indian officials also failed to offer an alternative date to meet, as requested by the commission.

Leonard Leo, chairman of the commission, told Catholic News Service Aug. 13 that commission members were encouraged by Indians’ “democratic society and their growing relations with the U.S., but there are serious problems that require attention, and they can’t choose to stick their heads in the sand rather than have constructive discussions about the situation in Orissa,” the state in eastern India where the violence occurred.

The commission designated India as a “country of particular concern” in 2002 and 2003 following a sharp rise in communal violence against religious minorities after Hindu nationalist organizations gained support in communities. A combination of inadequate protection of religious rights and the 2002 and 2008 violence against Muslims and Christians led to India’s placement on the watch list this year, the commission said.

In making its announcement, the commission included extensive background on India’s history of violence toward religious groups, although it noted that “India is a multietnic, multireligious, multilingual democracy of more than a billion people that boasts the vibrant representation of all the world’s major religions.”

It noted that the country has an independent judiciary and media and numerous government watchdog groups.

“In practice, however, India’s democratic institutions charged with upholding the rule of law, most notably state and central judiciaries and police, lack capacity and have emerged as unwilling or unable to consistently seek redress for victims of religiously motivated violence or to challenge cultures of impunity in areas with a history of communal tensions,” the report said.

The commission recommended that India change certain laws that might undermine freedom of religion and put in place measures to prevent communal violence. The commission also suggested that India address the existing violence in two specific areas: Gujarat and Orissa states.

After a Hindu religious leader was murdered in 2008, a violent campaign began in Orissa. The attacks targeted Christians and resulted in at least 40 deaths and more than 60,000 Christians fleeing their homes.

“The inadequate police response failed to quell the violence, and early central government intervention had little impact,” the report said. “Mass arrests following the Orissa violence did not translate into the actual filing of cases. Also, efforts continue to lag to prosecute the perpetrators of the 2002 Hindu-Muslim riots in Gujarat, in which over 2,000 were killed, the majority of whom were Muslim.”

Failure to provide timely justice to victims has contributed to a feeling of impunity, the report said. For example, it said, it was not until this year that India’s Central Bureau of Investigation announced an investigation into one high-profile riot that occurred in 1993.

India’s National Commission for Minorities found that during the 2002 riots the Indian government not only failed to prevent the attacks against religious minorities but that government officials participated in the violence, the U.S. report said.

The restricted freedoms and rights of religious minorities in India, especially in Orissa, are also a cause of concern for the minority commission and the United Nations, the religious freedom report said, citing India’s quota system as one factor worsening tensions between Hindus and Christians.

It said the quota system was established to give dalits, or members of low castes once considered untouchables, a share of government jobs. However, dalit Christians and Muslims are not receiving the same benefits from the system as their dalit Hindu counterparts, the report added.

Vatican newspaper says Allied governments did little to stop Holocaust

VATICAN CITY (CNS) — In a lengthy article, the Vatican newspaper said the U.S. and British governments had detailed information about the Nazi plan to exterminate European Jews during World War II, but failed to act for many months and even suppressed reports about the extent of the Holocaust.

The newspaper, L’Osservatore Romano, contrasted Allied inaction with the quiet efforts undertaken by Pope Pius XII to save as many Jews as possible through clandestine assistance.

The article, published Aug. 13, reviewed historical information in support of an argument frequently made by Vatican experts. While critics have focused on Pope Pius’ supposed “silence” on the Holocaust, little attention has been given to documented evidence that the U.S. and British governments ignored or minimized reports of extermination plans.

The article quotes heavily from the diary of Henry Morgenthau Jr., U.S. secretary of the treasury during the war, who said that as early as August 1942, administration officials “knew that the Nazis were planning to exterminate all the Jews of Europe.”

Encyclical brings light to Economy of Communion movement

WASHINGTON (CNS) — Walking through the downtrodden areas of Sao Paulo, Brazil, and seeing the stark differences between the lifestyles of the “haves” and the “have-nots” pushed Chiara Lubich to question the effects of capitalism.

Her thoughts and actions sparked the Focolare Movement, which in 1991 birthed a new business philosophy called the Economy of Communion, which promotes operating a business “not only to make a profit and benefit, but as a means of participating in an alternative community.”

“L’Osservatore Romano” said the U.S. and British governments had little to stop Holocaust

WASHINGTON (CNS) — In a lengthy article, the Vatican newspaper said the U.S. and British governments had detailed information about the Nazi plan to exterminate European Jews during World War II, but failed to act for many months and even suppressed reports about the extent of the Holocaust.

The newspaper, L’Osservatore Romano, contrasted Allied inaction with the quiet efforts undertaken by Pope Pius XII to save as many Jews as possible through clandestine assistance.

The article, published Aug. 13, reviewed historical information in support of an argument frequently made by Vatican experts. While critics have focused on Pope Pius’ supposed “silence” on the Holocaust, little attention has been given to documented evidence that the U.S. and British governments ignored or minimized reports of extermination plans.

The article quotes heavily from the diary of Henry Morgenthau Jr., U.S. secretary of the treasury during the war, who said that as early as August 1942, administration officials “knew that the Nazis were planning to exterminate all the Jews of Europe.”

Encyclical brings light to Economy of Communion movement

WASHINGTON (CNS) — Walking through the downtrodden areas of Sao Paulo, Brazil, and seeing the stark differences between the lifestyles of the “haves” and the “have-nots” pushed Chiara Lubich to question the effects of capitalism.

Her thoughts and actions sparked the Focolare Movement, which in 1991 birthed a new business philosophy called the Economy of Communion, which promotes operating a business “not only to make a profit and benefit, but as a means of participating in an alternative community.”

“L’Osservatore Romano” said the U.S. and British governments had little to stop Holocaust
God awaits people willing to bring Christ into the world, pope says

By Sharon K. Perkins

Last week our three regional parishes held a Vacation Bible School which utilized the parish site’s community garden as the central focus. The children loved getting close up and personal with the various vegetables, herbs, and flowers, using their senses to connect in new ways with God’s creative goodness — and in the process they learned how bountifully the fresh garden produce helped to feed the hungry when given to local food pantries.

During one of those mornings, I was assigned the job of photographer. So before the children arrived, I took several close-ups of the vegetables waiting to be picked. The warm, sun-ripened cherry tomatoes proved too much for me to resist: I popped three of them into my mouth before remembering that I hadn’t washed them first. It didn’t matter. Standing there with the morning dew (and the organic compost!) soaking my shoes, I praised God while savoring some of the most delicious tomatoes I had ever eaten.

Today’s readings remind us that God’s gifts, presented for our use and delight, are often best received and appreciated in their simplicity. In the first reading, the Law was understood as that sort of gift to God’s people, best observed by not adding to or subtracting from it and thereby making it burdensome.

In the Gospel, Jesus notes that in exaggerating their traditions of food purification, the Pharisees had allowed their hearts to be dulled to the one who had provided the food. This in turn had the effect of making genuinely religious people hypocritical and less attentive to the real suffering of those around them.

Which brings us to another principle of gift-giving: The joy of God’s gift is multiplied when its recipients share it with others. The psalmist calls it doing “justice” — and it brings the giver into the “presence of the Lord.” The garden of God’s good and perfect gifts, when received with grateful simplicity and tended properly, provides more than enough for all to receive their fill.

“All good giving and every perfect gift is from above.”
— James 1:17

QUESTIONS:
What is one gift from God that you have forgotten to simply appreciate? Recall a time when you experienced the joy of sharing one of God’s gifts with another.

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August 30, Twenty-second Sunday in Ordinary Time.
Cycle B. Readings:
1) Deuteronomy 4:1-2, 6-8
Psalm 15:2-5
2) James 1:17-18, 21b-22, 27
Gospel) Mark 7:1-8, 14-15, 21-23

CASTEL Gandolfo, Italy (CNS) — Respecting human freedom, God waits for Christians, especially priests, to say “yes” to his desire to bring Christ to the world, Pope Benedict XVI said.

During his weekly general audience Aug. 12, the pope continued his new series of talks about the Year for Priests and connected the topic to the feast of the Assumption of the Blessed Virgin Mary Aug. 15.

Some 4,000 people gathered in the courtyard of the papal summer residence in Castel Gandolfo and in the square outside the villa to participate in the audience.

Pope Benedict said there is a special connection between priests and Mary that comes from the mystery of the Incarnation.

“When God decided to become man in his Son, he needed the freely given ‘yes’ of one of his creatures. God never acts against our freedom. Something truly extraordinary occurred: God made himself dependent on the freedom, on the ‘yes’ of one of his creatures,” he said.

The pope said, “The ‘yes’ of Mary was the door through which God could enter the world and become human. So Mary was truly, deeply involved in the mystery of the Incarnation and our salvation.”

Pope Benedict also said that before dying Jesus saw his mother and his “beloved disciple” at the foot of the cross. The disciple obviously was someone special, but he also was a symbol of all those who follow Jesus and, particularly, of priests, he said.

When the Gospel says that the disciple, presumably St. John, took Mary into his home, it means that he took her into his life and she became part of his very existence, the pope said. In the same way, priests are called to make Mary a part of their lives, he added.

Mary’s special relationship with priests is based on the fact that they are similar to Jesus in giving their lives for the salvation of others and because, like Mary, “they are committed to the mission of proclaiming, witnessing to, and giving Christ to the world,” Pope Benedict said.

Entrusting his mother to his disciples, Jesus gave all of them — but especially priests — the person who was most precious to him, the pope said.

Pope Benedict XVI greets a woman and child in Aosta, Italy, July 24. The pope visited the Italian city for a prayer service during his vacation in the Italian Alps. (CNS photo/L’Osservatore Romano)
When it was time for the homily the priest said there was a visiting missionary who was going to give the message. At that point the man from the steps rose from his place in the first row and took his place at the ambo. He began to preach on James 2:1-5:

My brothers and sisters, show no partiality as you adhere to the faith in our glorious Lord Jesus Christ.

For if a man with gold rings and fine clothes comes into your assembly, and a poor person in shabby clothes also comes in, and you pay attention to the one wearing the fine clothes and say, “Sit here, please,” while you say to the poor one, “Stand there,” or “Sit at my feet,” have you not made distinctions among yourselves and become judges with evil designs?

This Sunday’s readings challenge us to look past ourselves and to put on the mind of Christ who is bigger than all obstacles. It is one thing to have a strong faith, but it is another thing altogether to put that faith into action. Jesus did not just say powerful words, he did powerful things. We are called to walk in his footsteps.

QUESTIONS:
How have you seen people being the hands and feet of Christ in the world? What are some of the things that hold people back from putting their faith into action?
40 años de vida han traído consigo un crecimiento fenomenal en número y diversidad, pero aún así somos un solo cuerpo de Cristo celebrando

COMMUNIO

Por Joan Kurkowski-Gillen
Corresponsal

Rosemary Cortez interrumpió su larga vigilia de cinco semanas al lado de la cama de hospital de su sobrina por una buena razón.

Queriendo conectar con otros creyentes y rodearse de oración, la feligrés de San Vicente de Paul vino a una liturgia eucarística especial llevada a cabo en el Centro de convenciones de Fort Worth, el 9 de agosto, para celebrar el 40° aniversario de la diócesis de Fort Worth.

La música animadora y la majestuosidad de la Misa, celebrada por el obispo de Fort Worth, el monseñor Kevin Vann, sorprendieron a la asistente con una introducción que está siendo visitada por su sobrina de 15 años batalla con una infección y parálisis de la espina dorsal en el Cook Children’s Medical Center.

“Mi familia está pasando por un momento difícil, y quiero darle un ejemplo a mi hija, Victoria, que debemos ser agradecidos por lo que tenemos y pedir por las cosas que necesitamos”, Cortez explicó. “Y quise hacer esto en espíritu comunitario”.

El monseñor Vann ha seleccionado el Communio —nuestra comunión de unos con otros en el Cuerpo de Cristo y nuestra comunión más amplia con la Iglesia universal— como el tema para el año del jubileo.

“En este día que el Señor ha proclamado, venimos unidos como familia, en común de fe, para dar gracias a Dios por las bendiciones de estos 40 años de fe”, dijo el obispo en un sermón escuchado por más de 6000 católicos que llegaron a las 28 condados de la diócesis de este año de vida para el jubileo.

“Emprendemos una vez más un viaje lleno de esperanza, pero uno en el cual debemos mirar siempre al Señor para saber cómo seguir y hacer todo en lo que hemos hecho hasta ahora. Y qué empezó con la Misa de los Caballeros de Colón, que siguen con un ejemplo de vida y servicio”, dijo el monseñor.

El monseñor Vann recordó para la audiencia el año 1969, cuando nombraron al monseñor Juan J. Cassata, el entonces obispo auxiliar de la diócesis combinada de Dallas-Fort Worth, como primer obispo de Fort Worth. Era una época de altas y bajas en el país, pero no fue una decepción en Fort Worth. Era una época de altas y bajas en el país, pero no fue una decepción en Fort Worth.

“Todavía, en medio de todo esto, comenzaba una nueva vida”, continuó el monseñor. “La diócesis de Fort Worth, descansando sobre unos cimientos establecidos en los años anteriores en Texas, comenzó su viaje de fe”.

Cuarenta años después la diócesis de Fort Worth ha experimentado un crecimiento explosivo en números, diversidad, y en ministerios ofertados a más de 600,000 católicos que viven en el norte de Texas. Parte del crecimiento de la floreciente comunidad de fe ha sido la reciente alza dramática de vocaciones al sacerdocio. Muchos de los 32 hombres actualmente en formación salieron de sus estudios por un rato para asistir a la Misa de aniversario.

“Estamos participando, como la mayoría del pueblo aquí, con nuestra presencia”, dijo el seminario de primer año Daniel Cochran. “Pienso que es importante que el pueblo vea cuántos seminaristas hay. Es muestra de la intensidad de vida en la diócesis”.

El seminarista Ronald Mercado concuerda. “Este es un momento de mucho júbilo para nosotros”, dice el estudiante de pre-teología de 36 años, cuyo interés en el sacerdocio fue despertado por la pasión de un amigo, el monseñor Vann.

“Es una bendición que ustedes estén aquí hoy”, dijo el monseñor Vann, reconociendo a los miles de devotos. “Gracias a ustedes que han hecho esta celebración posible y hacen tanto con el Evangelio y viven la fe aquí en el norte de Texas”.

Entre los invitados había miembros de la familia del Obispo Cassata. Utilizaron el báculo y el...
La diócesis de Fort Worth. En aquel momento los límites de la diócesis de Dallas-Fort Worth llegaban a Texarkana, Shreveport, y más allá de Wichita Falls.

“Intentaban hacer diócesis más pequeñas para que los obispos pudieran estar más cerca del pueblo”, explicó Landregan.

El crecimiento de dos competitivas zonas metropolitanas fue otro factor. Cuando nombraron a Thomas K. Gorman como obispo coadjutor de Dallas en 1952, él reconoció la importancia de Fort Worth y fue entonces cuando se creó una diócesis escrita con guión (Dallas-Fort Worth) y con una nueva co-catedral. También recomendaron la división de la diócesis en dos entidades independientes después de anunciar su retiro en 1969.

Colocar al monseñor Cassata como obispo auxiliar en Fort Worth facilitó la transición.

“Aquel entonces, si usted le decía a alguien que era católico, era considerado basura”, dijo a alguien que era católico, decir a alguien que era católico, menospreciados”. Landregan continuó. “Siempre segundo, después de Dallas”.

A través de los años, Jeanette Seifert, feligrés de la iglesia St. Mary en Dublin, ha visto cómo ha crecido la diócesis de Fort Worth. Cuando ella se trasladó a Stephenville en 1967, había cerca de 65,000 católicos viviendo en 28 condados.

“En aquel entonces, si usted le decía a alguien que era católico, era considerado basura”, dijo a al recordar los prejuicios que definían una vez a la sociedad rural, “así que las cosas definitivamente han cambiado”.

En años recientes, el ofrecimiento de servicios a los católicos que viven en áreas periféricas ha mejorado, y Seifert anticipa incluso mayores progresos en el futuro. La diversidad demostrada durante la Misa del 40º aniversario a través de la música y variedad de lenguas es una de las grandes fuerzas de la diócesis.

A la derecha: Obispos de Texas, Nuevo México, Louisiana, Oklahoma y Arkansas salen en procesión de la arena del centro de convenciones al final de la liturgia. (Foto por Joan Kurkowski-Gillen)

ABAJO: El Obispo Vann, sosteniendo el báculo pastoral entregado al obispo Cassata hace 40 años, recibe los aplausos de la congregación al final de la liturgia. (Foto por Joan Kurkowski-Gillen)

ABAJO: Michael Fruia (al final a la derecha) and Judd Fruia (al final a la derecha), sobrinos-nietos del obispo Cassata, asistieron a la Misa con sus esposas e hijos. Ambas familias residen dentro de la diócesis de Fort Worth. (Foto por Joan Kurkowski-Gillen)
El cardenal Rigali critica provisiones sobre aborto en el proyecto de ley reformando el sistema de salud sometida a la cámara de diputados

WASHINGTON (CNS) — Aunque enmiendas al proyecto de ley en la cámara de diputados reformando el sistema de salud tuvo “leyes mejores” en la protección de la vida y la conciencia, permanecen características inaceptables que necesitan ser eliminadas, comentó el presidente del comité pro-vida de los obispos estadounidenses el 11 de agosto.

El cardenal Justin Rigali de Philadelphia, quien dirige el comité de actividades provida para los obispos, explicó que el proyecto de ley de salud aprobado por el comité de energía y comercio de la cámara de diputados el 31 de julio sería un “cambio radical” en la política de los Estados Unidos sobre el aborto. También habría incluido un beneficio obligatorio del plan de seguro público, que competiría con los seguros privados, y permitiría el uso explícito de fondos federales para pagar por abortos.

Dijo que el comité “crearía una ficción legal, una separación artificial entre el uso de fondos federales y el aborto”, por medio de la cual los afiliados al plan público a planes de seguro privado cubriendo el aborto pagarían por lo menos un dólar más al mes sobre la prima de seguro para pagar por abortos que no califican para fondos federales bajo la enmienda.

La enmienda de Hyde, promulgada como ley en varias formas desde 1976, prohíbe el uso de fondos federales para abortos excepto en casos de violaciones, inceso, o peligro a la vida de una mujer.

El cardenal Rigali dijo que la separación de fondos en la reforma del proyecto de ley “es una ilusión” debido a que “los fondos pagados a estos planes son consumibles, y los fondos federales de contribuyentes de impuestos subsidiarían los presupuestos y expandirían las operaciones de proveedores de servicios de aborto”.

Es más, explicó, “aquellas personas obligadas por necesidades económicas u otros factores a afiliarse al ‘plan público’, serían forzados por el gobierno federal a pagar directa y específicamente por la cobertura del aborto... aunque sea para ellos algo moralmente repugnante”.

Sin embargo, el cardenal habló las enmiendas al proyecto de ley que estipulaban que las reformas legislativas de salud no tendrán precedencia sobre leyes estatales regulando el aborto, y tampoco afectarán protecciones federales de conciencia sobre el mismo en efecto hoy en día.

También agradeció al comité la aprobación de una enmienda “prohibiendo a organizaciones gubernamentales que reciben fondos federales bajo esta ley de discriminar contra proveedores y compañías de seguros que rechacen o limiten su cooperar participación en el aborto”.

Los comentarios del cardenal Rigali fueron presentados a cada miembro de la cámara de diputados en una carta con fecha del 11 de agosto. Recomendó encarecidamente que pusieran atención a las prioridades y preocupaciones por la reforma de asistencia médica detallada en una carta anterior escrita por el obispo William F. Murphy, de Rockville Centre, Nueva York, presidente de los obispos en el Comité de justicia domestica y desarrollo humano.

Los obispos estadounidenses “hace mucho tiempo han apoyado una reforma de asistencia médica que respete toda vida y dignidad, desde la concepción hasta la muerte natural; que provea acceso a asistencia médica de calidad para todos, con preocupación especial para los inmigrantes y los pobres; que preservar el pluralismo, con respeto a los derechos de conciencia; y que reduzca los costos y los comporta equitativamente”, comentó el cardenal Rigali, repitiendo varios puntos de la carta del obispo Murphy.

“Una reforma tan necesaria no puede convertirse en vehículo de promoción de la agenda de ‘derecho al aborto’, o la revocación políticas existentes prohibiendo fondos federales y cobertura obligatoria del mismo”, explicó el cardenal. “En este sentido instamos a que está legislación sea ‘neutral hacia el aborto’; y que así preserve los derechos de conciencia de los que impiden la promoción gubernamental del aborto y afirme el respeto a los derechos de conciencia”.

Cubanoamericano confirmado como noveno embajador estadounidense ante Vaticano

WASHINGTON (CNS) — El teólogo católico Miguel Díaz fue confirmado por el senado de los Estados Unidos el 4 de agosto como el noveno embajador de los Estados Unidos ante el Vaticano y contiuar el trabajo de las relaciones normales con el Vaticano y fortalecer la relación entre católicos, sin importar su identidad acerca de la infl uencia sin par que Nuestra Señora de Guadalupe ha tenido en las Américas.

“La presencia de ustedes aquí hoy es un testimonio del poder del mensaje de amor que Nuestra Señora trajo a este hemisferio”, dijo Anderson al público. “Nuestra Señora de Guadalupe es la tempatrisa de las Américas. Ella nos llama a la unidad dentro del mensaje del Evangelio de su hijo”.

Cuando María le apareció a San Juan Diego en 1531 en México, los misioneros españoles habían tenido poco éxito evangelizando a la población indígena. Después de las apariciones, millones de indígenas se convirtieron.

Su aparición de hizo un llamado a los europeos y a las poblaciones indígenas para una nueva unión en su hijo, dijo Anderson, llamado que todavía están efecto hoy día para las Américas.

**Mecanismos para reportar la conducta sexual inapropiada**

Si usted o alguien que conoce es víctima de conducta sexual inapropiada por parte de cualquier persona que trabaja para la iglesia, sea voluntario, empleado, o miembro de la iglesia, puede reportarlo de las siguientes maneras:

- Llamar a Judy Locke, Coordinadora de asistencia para víctimas, al número (817) 560-2452, Ext. 201.
- Llamar al Centro Católico al número: (817) 560-2452, ext. 102 y preguntar por el canciller/moderador de la curia, el padre James Hart.
- Llamar al Ministerio de familias de Texas, Servicios de protección (Servicios de protección de niños) al número: (800) 252-5400.

**Festival especial honrando Nuestra Señora de Guadalupe atrae casi 22,000**

GLENDALE, Arizona — Casi 22,000 personas atestiguaron jobing. com Arena en el suburbio Glendale de Phoenix para un festival el 8 de agosto, honrando a Nuestra Señora de Guadalupe y presentando una fiesta religiosa: un pequeño pedazo de la famosa tumba de San Juan Diego.

Los Caballeros de Calón fueron anfitriones del evento, que fue seguido por el Congreso internacional de las Américas. Ella nos llama a la unidad dentro del mensaje del Evangelio de su hijo.

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“Todos nosotros somos ciudadanos de un hemisferio cristiano”, dijo en español.

Anderson dijo que el festival fue realizado cerca de Phoenix porque la ciudad es un microcosmos del futuro del país. Es un futuro que requiere unidad católica, sin importar su herencia cultural ni idioma, dijo.

Recomiendan esto que nos acerca al pueblo estadounidense como un país que cuenta con un祖国 que ha sido protegido desde casi 500 años, es mucho más grande que cualquier cosa que nos divida”, dijo Anderson. Una unidad compartida en la fe estuvo en exhibición durante todo el festival de cinco horas. Oradores y músicos de todo el globo entrevistaron y educaron a los feligreses.

Immaculee Ḭabihá defendió en la arena sobre su confianza en Jesús y María durante las secuelas del genocidio ruandes de 1994. Acreditó su supervivencia durante esos horrores a la influencia sin par que Nuestra Señora de Guadalupe ha tenido en las Américas.

“Nuestra Señora nos dijo que está especialmente interesada en aquellos que son víctimas de violencia. Eran víctimas de violencia en Ruanda”, dijo Anderson. “Ella nos decía que está especialmente interesada en aquellos que son víctimas de violencia.”

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Washingtonians praise Shriver for being woman of faith and action

Pellegrino praised Shriver’s legacy in founding the Special Olympics. "She has had a tremendous impact on me and on my son, and on the entire world. She’s really changed the way the world perceives individuals with disabilities, making sure they’re treated with dignity and respect," she added.

Edward Orzechowski, president of Catholic Charities of the Archdiocese of Washington, praised Shriver for her work on behalf of the Kennedy Institute, an agency of Catholic Charities. The institute is a program founded 50 years ago by the Archdiocese of Washington with the Kennedy Foundation and the Sisters of Notre Dame de Namur to educate youths and adults with developmental disabilities. Besides being an active supporter of the institute, Shriver volunteered there as a physical education instructor in the mid-1960s.

"Few people have lived their lives with the tireless energy that Eunice Shriver did in her lifelong dedication to individuals with developmental disabilities," he said. He said the institute’s “ability to serve and work with those individuals, and their families, is largely due to Mrs. Shriver’s very public compassion and advocacy on behalf of a group who had never before had a voice—or such a dedicated champion.”

Archbishop Donald W. Wuerl of Washington reflected in a statement that he had "the privilege of working with her in the 1990s to develop what became a nationally recognized religious education program for young people with disabilities.”

"Her strong faith, which motivated her and guided her work, was evident," he said, "and I cherish that time working with her and her commitment to assist children who had special needs grow stronger in their faith life.”

He said she “dedicated her life to serving the most vulnerable among us.”

In a 1995 interview with the Catholic Standard, Washington’s archdiocesan newspaper, Shriver said that the faith of her mother, Rose Fitzgerald Kennedy, was a guiding influence in her life. “She had a lot of faith and seemed to be able to find an answer to everything in faith, and when she couldn’t, she believed God loved her and would take care of her, whatever happened,” she said.

Shriver’s outreach to developmentally disabled children and adults began with a summer camp at her home in Potomac for 100 participants in 1963. She officially started the Special Olympics organization in 1968.

Francesca Pellegrino, a Blessed Sacrament parishioner who is the president and founder of the Catholic Coalition for Special Education, has a 17-year-old son, Alex, who has an intellectual disability. She noted that he began competing in the Special Olympics as an 8-year-old “who didn’t know which side of the basketball court he was on. Now he's winning gold medals.”

Special Olympics, Pellegrino said, learn to play as a member of a team, with the support of a community cheering them on and “the belief that everyone has something to offer and can achieve something.”

By Mark Zimmermann
Editor, CATHOLIC STANDARD
Archdiocese of Washington (CNS)

— Washington-area Catholics paid tribute to Eunice Kennedy Shriver, the founder of the Special Olympics who died Aug. 11, praising her as a woman of faith and action.

Her spirit and determination, they said, could be seen in her lobbying for legislation in the halls of Congress and cheering on the sidelines for athletes with disabilities.

Msgr. John Enzler, now the pastor of the Shrine of the Most Blessed Sacrament Parish in Washington, got to know her well when he was pastor of Our Lady of Mercy Parish in the Washington suburb of Potomac, Maryland, from 1990 to 2004, and Shriver was often a daily communicant at the parish church and at other nearby churches.

He said she played a key behind-the-scenes role in establishing the inclusion program for students with special needs at Our Lady of Mercy School.

The priest said she left a three-fold legacy: “Her commitment that all people are children of God, a complete respect for life from conception to natural death, and behind all that a faith that God’s always in charge.”

Special festival honoring Our Lady of Guadalupe draws nearly 22,000

GLENDALE, Ariz. (CNS) — Nearly 22,000 people packed Jobing.com Arena in the Phoenix suburb of Glendale for an Aug. 8 festival honoring Our Lady of Guadalupe and featuring a special relic — a small piece of St. Juan Diego’s famed cloak.

The event was hosted by the Knights of Columbus and followed the fraternal organization’s Aug. 6-8 International Marian Congress. During the festival, Supreme Knight Carl Anderson reflected on the unparalleled influence Our Lady of Guadalupe has had on the Americas.

“Your presence here today is a testament to the power of the message of love that Our Lady brought to this hemisphere,” Anderson told the crowd. “Our Lady of Guadalupe is the empress of the Americas. She calls all of us to unity within the Gospel message of her son.”

When Mary appeared to St. Juan Diego in 1531 in Mexico, the Spanish missionaries had had little success evangelizing the indigenous population. After the apparitions, millions of indigenous people converted.

Her appearance also called the Europeans and native populations to a new unity in her son, Anderson said, a call that is still in effect today for the Americas.

“We are all citizens of the Catholic hemisphere. Todos nosotros somos ciudadanos de un hemisferio cristiano,” he said.

Anderson said it was providential the festival was held near Phoenix, because the city is a microcosm of the future of the country. “It’s a future that requires unity among Catholics, no matter their cultural heritage or language, he said.

“Remember this: What unites us as a Christian family, as children of a mother who has watched over us for nearly 500 years, is far greater than anything that divides us,” Anderson said.

“And if we who live on the American continent have a shared past, we have a shared future as well: a future of unity in faith,” he said.

A shared unity in faith was on display throughout the five-hour event. Speakers and musicians from across the globe entertained the crowd, and a sack of Juan Diego’s famed cloak was brought to the arena about her reliance on Jesus and Mary in the aftermath of the Rwandan genocide of 1994. She credited her survival during those days to prayer and a rosary given to her by her father.

She lost her parents and three brothers, as well as numerous aunts, uncles and cousins, in the killing frenzy that left more than 1 million people dead. They were shot, burned alive or hacked to death by machetes.

Ibibigaza travels the world sharing a message about forgiveness.

Edward Verastegui, a popular Mexican model, singer and actor best known for his role in the pro-life movie “Bella,” told the crowd about his own experience after leading a spiritually vacuous life in Los Angeles.

“I had everything in my life, but in my heart, I had nothing,” Verastegui said. After feeling called to something greater, he vowed that he would never work in anything that would offend his faith, his family, or his Latino culture.

But for many attendees, the greatest highlight of that day was a small piece of St. Juan Diego’s “tilma,” or cloak. The relic was originally given to the archbishop of Los Angeles during a visit he paid to Mexico City in 1941.

When Mary appeared to St. Juan Diego, she left her image on his cloak, which hangs in Mexico City’s basilica.

Phoenix Bishop Thomas J. Olmsted processed around the arena floor with the relic, flanked by a bevy of altar servers from across the diocese.

In remarks to the crowd, the bishop said that in a faith filled with many truths, traditions and saints, Mary stands above the rest.

“The most beautiful of all the saints is the Virgin Mary, Our Lady of Guadalupe,” he said. “Mary is exquisitely beautiful because of the glory of her son.”

Then, Bishop Olmsted shouted, “Viva la Virgen de Guadalupe!” The thousands in attendance took up the chant shouting, “Viva! Viva la Virgen!”

Patty Garcia came to the festival with 56 other Catholics from San Felipe de Jesus Parish in Nogales. She noted the “marchitas” and the name “tilma” as high points of the event.

“For us, the Virgin is someone who is alive. She’s not an image," she told The Catholic Sun, Phoenix diocesan newspaper. "She’s someone who is with us and who carries us throughout our lives. That’s our faith. That’s our love for the Virgin Mother."

Contributing to this story was J.D. Long-Garcia.
Barba…

From page 24 about the faith, because he is very, very spiritual. He is very strong. He is 89, and he was the strongest influence on my life.

“We had a good patio — a big space in the middle of all our houses — and my brother and all my cousins and all the children played soccer there, and hit the ball. But every evening at 6:30 my grandfather went out and prayed his rosary under a big tree. When we saw that, we kept quiet. ‘Shhh. Our grandfather is praying. I think he was a good influence — for all of us, not just for me.”

Barba’s nine-year preparation for ordination began Monday Aug. 8, 2000 in Mexico City, and will end today, Sept. 8, at 6:30 p.m., God willing, at Our Lady of Guadalupe Parish in North Fort Worth.

In between, however, was a small yet significant event that happened while Barba was a university freshman, still dis慕容 a priestly vocation.

“When we finished our Saturday meetings, it was my custom before leaving the buildings of the seminary to enter into the chapel and pray a little bit. One day I was praying,” he said, “and I lifted my eyes and saw the tabernacle, and the door was open — just a little bit.

“And I felt, ‘Oh my goodness, this is the right way.’ I cannot explain what I felt. I felt all the emotions inside of me. And I decided to leave the university — finally. I thought, ‘OK the university is not for me — this is the way.’

“Now I am hoping to do my best in everything. ‘One day every time right?’ he laughed at his search for the correct English expression. ‘Here is my hope. I don’t worry about the future. Just one day at a time.

Family, friends praise former Philippine President Corazon Aquino at funeral Mass

By Catholic News Service

MANILA, Philippines — The daughter of former Philippine President Corazon Aquino said her mother’s words as she lay dying — “Take care of each other” — were “not meant just for our family.”

Through tears Kris Aquino-Yap delivered her family’s message to more than 2,000 people who attended her mother’s funeral Aug. 5 in the Manila cathedral, reported the Asian church news agency UCA News.

She spoke about her mother’s work after her presidency and highlighted the foundation Aquino set up to finance vocational projects for poor women and scholarships for young people.

Jesuit Father Catalino Arevalo, Aquino’s spiritual director, said it was precisely this concern for the country and its people that inspired Aquino to agree to run against dictator Ferdinand Marcos in the 1986 election.

In his homily for the two-hour Mass, the theologian said the former president offered herself completely to God, to her country and its people, and to her family.

Following the 1983 assassination of her husband, opposition Sen. Benigno “Ninoy” Aquino Jr., she ran against Marcos in a disputed election that spurred the “people power” revolution that swept her to office. She served as president until 1992.

Father Arevalo had accompanied the Aquinos through their struggles since the 1980s, when they lived in exile in Boston. He was with Aquino during her last days at Makati Medical Center, where she died Aug. 1 at age 76.

He recalled how her faithfulness impressed the late Korean Cardinal Stephen Kim Sou-hwan during his visit to Manila when she was president.

“She is pure of heart, with no desire for power,” the Jesuit quoted Cardinal Kim telling him after a 45-minute meeting with the president.

He said the tributes people paid her following her death showed that her sacrifices and service did not go unappreciated.

Outside the cathedral, thousands more mourners stood in the rain-drenched grounds on a day the government declared a national holiday in honor of Aquino.

Throngs of people lined the streets or walked behind the hearse as it took Aquino’s coffin to Manila Memorial Park, where she was to be buried next to her husband.

“Cory! Cory!” they chanted, in scenes reminiscent of her presidential campaigns. The streets were a sea of yellow T-shirts and confetti; yellow came to symbolize “people power.” Fire trucks along the way blasted their horns and shot water into the air in tribute.

East Timorese President Jose Ramos-Horta, in Manila for the funeral, recounted how the frail cancer-stricken Aquino insisted on seeing him when he visited the Philippines last year.

“I offered to go to her because she was a greater person, but she insisted on coming to my hotel,” Horta said. This made him feel “humbled,” he said.

Wan Azizah Wan Ismail, wife of Malaysian opposition leader Anwar Ibrahim, offered her family’s condolences to Aquino’s children at the Aug. 2 wake. She cited “Aquino’s generosity and support” during the six years Anwar spent in prison on what people have said were false charges.

Even Aquino’s personal bodyguard, speaking publicly on the eve of the funeral, remembered how she would offer him a bowl of hot noodles that she herself had cooked at the end of a long day. Aquino “made ordinary people feel special,” said business leader Ramon del Rosario Jr. at the same gathering. “She treated the business community not as piggy banks to be shaken, but as a resource to be tapped,” to make life better for people, he added.

He told former Cabinet members, politicians, civic and religious leaders who had joined Aquino’s relatives and friends that the greatest tribute to Aquino is to abide by the tenets by which she lived.

“She deserves her rest,” the business leaders said. He also urged fellow mourners to defend the democracy that Aquino “worked so hard to restore.”
CSAT At St. Vincent de Paul Catholic Scripture Study International will be offered at St. Vincent de Paul Parish in Fort Worth. Paris Wednesday mornings from 9:30 a.m. to 11 a.m. beginning Sept. 9 and Thursday evenings from 7 p.m. to 9:30 p.m. beginning Sept. 10, and at Most Blessed Sacrament Parish Thursday mornings from 9:45 a.m. to 11:15 a.m. beginning Sept. 10 and Monday evenings from 7 p.m. to 8:30 p.m. beginning Sept. 14. Written by scholars such as Dr. Scott Hahn, Mark Shea, and Eoin Kennedy, a new study will focus on St. Paul’s letter to the Romans. For information, on the classes to be offered at the various parishes, contact Fr. W. Pleasant Ridge Rd., Arlington, contact Ron Kuehner at (817) 486-2340; for classes at Most Blessed Sacrament Parish, Arlington, contact Ellen O’Neill at (817) 265-4844. To learn more about the CSS program visit the Web site www.cssprogram.net.

SVP Mission St. Vincent de Paul Parish, located at 5819 W. Pleasant Ridge Rd., Arlington, will host its annual mission retreat the weekend of Sept. 12-13 at the Fort Worth Cursillo Center, 2221 N.W. 26th St., Fort Worth. Both John Kuehner and Father Gan Nguyen will offer “Mysteries” will be offered on five consecutive evenings in the church’s main sanctuary from 7 p.m. to 8:30 p.m. on Friday through Sunday. Father John Kuehner and Father Gan Nguyen will serve as presenters. Childcare will be available on Saturday and Sunday. A social with refreshments will follow each evening’s presentation. For more information, contact our retreat coordinator at (817) 478-8206.

CURSILLO A Cursillo is a short course in Christianity, consisting of a series of talks and meditations examining one’s life in relation to Jesus Christ. Separate Cursillo weekends for men and women are held this coming October. The men’s Cursillo will be held Oct. 8-11 and the women’s Cursillo will be held Oct. 22-25. Those who wish to attend one weekend and experience it for themselves, are encouraged to gather in groups on a regular basis with those who have attended to exchange encouragement. For more information, contact Florence Marucci at (972) 291-8671 or marucci@bigblue.net.

MINISTRY FOR GAYS, LESBIANS, AND TRANSGENDERED MINISTRY Gay and Lesbian Catholics, Other Sexual Minorities and Their Families regularly meet the fourth Thursday of the month. The September meeting will be held Aug. 28 at 7 p.m. at the Catholic Renewal Center at 4530 Bridge St. in Fort Worth. For more information, contact Father Warren Murphy, TOR, at (817) 927-5383 or on Dcoin Rose at (817) 329-7370.

 COURAGE GROUP Courage OFW, a support group for those striving to live chaste lives according to the Catholic Church’s teachings on homosexuality, meets the first Thursday of each month. The next meeting will be held Friday evening of the month. For information, e-mail to CourageOFW@Catholic.org or call (817) 938-5433.

CALIX SUPPORT GROUP Calix, a monthly support meeting for Catholics who are alcoholic or addicted or who are struggling with any other issues of addiction, is offered the first Saturday of each month at 10 a.m. in the chapel of Holy Family Church, 61560 Pershing Ave., Carrollton. For more information and support, e-mail to calixaon@comcast.net or call Deacon John McGinn at (817) 737-6768 ext. 105.

ST. AUGUSTINE GROUP The St. Augustine Group is a discussion group for support group for men who struggle with issues of sexual misconduct by those friends. The St. Augustinian retreat ever, is offered the first Saturday of each month at 10 a.m. in the chapel of Holy Family Church, 61560 Pershing Ave., Carrollton. For more information and support, e-mail to calixaon@comcast.net or call Deacon John McGinn at (817) 737-6768 ext. 105.

DISCERNMENT DISCERNMENT The Diocese of Fort Worth mission Office will sponsor a Women’s Monthly Discern ment Night designed specifically for women ages 18 to 35. The next meeting will be held Sept. 21, at St. Patrick Cathedral, from 6 p.m. to 9 p.m. The evening will offer women the opportunity to share their current spiritual experiences, their vocations, call, listen to God, open break the Word, and to share a meal together. For more information, contact the Diocesan Life Office at (817) 560-3300 ext. 105. St. Patrick Cathedral is located at 1206 Throckmorton St., Fort Worth. For more information, go to www.thewho2009.org or call (817) 791-2629.

EVANGELIZATION CONFERENCE “Call to Holiness,” an evangelization conference featuring inspirational speakers from across the globe, will be held Sept. 11-12, at the Hilton Garden Inn Convention Center, located at 1001 Avenue de las Americas in downtown Dallas. On the first evening, the presenters will share the process of their own prayerful evangelization, Catholics can give to God’s kingdom in everyday business. The conference will include a youth track emphasizing prayer and mission. For more information or to register, go to the conference Web site at www.choly2009.org or call (254) 731-2609.

ST. ANDREW’S RUN FUN St. Andrew School invites all to participate in the Wild Run 5K and 1 Mile Fun Run event Saturday, Sept. 19, from 8 a.m. to 11 a.m. The annual race is a continuation of the legacy of the Judi K. Skinner run. Fees for the race are $20 per person or $50 per family Sept. 14 and will include class discussion: program materials provide for daily reflection and question time. The monthly sessions begin Sept. 14 and will be held from 9 a.m. to 11 a.m. Wednesday evening groups will begin Sept. 16 and will be held from 7 p.m. to 9 p.m. For more information about CSS at St. Mark Church, call Jim Hawk at (214) 325-1055. For more information visit our Web site at www.catholiccistersndyn.org.

MAGNIFICAT Stephanie Wood Weimer, a longtime talk show host for EWTN’s Global Catholic Revolution, is the president of organizations for Family Life Center International, will be the guest speaker during the Wild Run 5K breakfast at the Hilton Garden Inn, 785 State Highway 121, Lewisville, on Saturday, Sept. 19 from 9 a.m. to 11 a.m. Additional refreshments will be served beginning at 8 a.m. through 9:15 a.m. The following Catholic bookstores: Keepsakes Catholic Books and Gifts, 7271 W. Inwood Rd., Fort Worth; Little Angels Catholic Store, 600 E. Sandy Lake Rd., Coppell; Catholic Art Gifts and Gifts, 2781 Walwood Road, Grapevine; and St. Anthony Bookstore, 3121 McCart Ave., Fort Worth. For more information on Magnificat, contact Anita Gafken at (972) 938-4527.

ST. JOSEPH HOSPITAL PICNIC The St. Joseph Hospital golf outing will feature a round of golf, lunch, food and beverages at the Mission Hills Golf Club, 3255 Sarah St., Weatherford. Proceeds will benefit the Respect Life Office of the Diocese of Fort Worth. For tickets and information contact, Chaseree Ruth Killeen, director, Respect Life Office, at (817) 560-3300 ext. 201 or cruth-killeen@dow.org or Janell Wolf, Cameron你怎么能知道这个世界有尽头
Dcn. Barba studied theology in Mexico and English at UNT to become a priest who Transcends Borders

By Kathy Cribari Hamer
Correspondent

My friend Pedro in high school, he wanted to be a priest,” Deacon Alfredo Barba said. “And I wanted to be part of the army — a soldier. That was the plan.”

Born and raised in Taxalaca, Mexico, Barba, who now lives at the St. Mark Parish rectory in Denton and serves across town at immaculate Conception Parish, had an ordinary childhood, growing up with his father, Alfredo Barba Maravilla, his mother, Sara Rodriguez Sanchez, two sisters Maria and Florina, and one brother, Oliverio.

He grew up in a small town, attended public schools, had no childhood image of himself as a priest, and showed no hint of a vocation.

“Pedro told me his plans to be a priest,” Barba said, grinning, “but I wanted to be a soldier because I liked the uniforms, the ranks, and the discipline. The roles changed. He went to the army! And I started the seminary after the first year of college.”

God willing, Dcn. Barba will be ordained to the priesthood for the Diocese of Fort Worth Sept. 8.

When he finished high school, Barba had enrolled at the University Metropolitan of Mexico, to begin studying physics and engineering. During that year he encountered a youth group and went with them on a retreat.

“I liked that, so I joined this group, and later, we went to the seminary to celebrate ‘young faithful day,’ and we met a lot of seminarians.” The seminarians provided students with information about the seminary, the priesthood, and the process of becoming a priest.

“But I didn’t care about any of it,” Barba said, explaining at that time he had his eye on a young lady at the university. “I took the seminary information and put it in my backpack.”

“Of course!” he laughed, flashing his signature million-dollar smile. “Well, you know, I was 18 years old!”

A month later, reviewing his papers, Barba found the information and thought, “What is that?? I decided to know more about this process.”

Dcn. Barba, a congenial 28-year-old, has an introspective side that belies his easy, smiling exterior. So he read every paper the seminary had given him, but this time he paid attention.

“Before I started the seminary I felt something empty inside of me,” he said. “The study of physics was very interesting, but not so much that it became my life — in physics, in teaching physics.

“Something was missing. Physics was not good enough.”

What changed the college freshman’s focus?

“When I read the information, I found some telephone numbers. I was calling maybe a couple of times and nobody answered me. I thought, OK, this is the last one, and finally when I called the fourth time, I found somebody.”

“His name was Fr. Martín Hernandez, and this father asked me, ‘OK, who are you?’ ‘Well, my name is Alfredo,’ the young man replied, telling the priest he was calling vocations directors in the area.

“Telling his story now, Barba restates his reply to Fr. Hernandez as though it still surprises him to hear it: ‘He asked, ‘do you want to be a priest?’ And I said, ’Well... yes!’’’

“After that, Barba continued university classes and his part-time job, but also went to the seminary for 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. meetings every Saturday. Fr. Hernandez guided him through that time and into his first year at the Seminario Conciliar de Mexico, where he would study for seven years.

“He explained to me what is the way of the fathers — the way the priests live. He explained, ‘if you start seminary, you have to do this and this and this.’ He explained all the process — what the seminarians have to do in the seminary and outside the seminary.”

His eighth year was at Seminario Hispano, which provides formation for priestly vocations among Hispanic communities in the United States and Canada. Then, in the summer of 2008, Barba moved to Denton for his pastoral year at immaculate Conception Parish, and intensive English study at the University of North Texas.

Dcn. Barba’s journey to the priesthood did not begin in childhood, like some of his classmates’ did. “Some of my classmates in the seminary told me ‘Well, I started when I was a child because I was an altar boy.’”

“But I never served in the church as an altar boy.

“My grandfather, Marcellino Barba, taught me everything I know.”

Inside... This issue of the NTC

The seventh annual Pro-Life Boot Camp brought 90 teens together to learn more about what they can do to help the unborn, hearing from national figures Father Frank Pavone and Janet Stanek. One of our own, Jonathan Demma, originally of St. Elizabeth Ann Seton Parish, took his vows as a Christian Friar of the Renewal brother in Manhattan, becoming Brother Mariano, Aug. 2.

This year’s honored high school graduates convey fresh enthusiasm for life and its challenges, achieving at a high level, even while responding to needs around them in service.

SEE DEACON BARBA, P. 22