Diocese continues to be vigilant in maintaining safe environment for youth, vulnerable adults

By Joanna Kurkowski-Gillen
Correspondent

When the Catholic clergy abuse scandal became headline news across the country in 2002, longtime diocesan employee Ruth Smith felt sad and confused. “I couldn’t believe it could happen in a sacred place,” she says, still remembering her frustration. “As a mother, it upset me.”

Since that time, the Diocese of Fort Worth has evaluated and increased already existing measures in order to better protect young people and vulnerable adults from sexual predators. Mandatory criminal background checks, code of conduct enforcement, and programs designed to create greater awareness have been effective in preventing further harm, and thousands of employees and volunteers have been educated about the unpleasant realities of sexual abuse.

The Diocese of Fort Worth’s original policies, which addressed the matter of sexual misconduct by clergy, religious, or lay leaders, were first adopted in 1993 and were further updated in 2002 to bring diocesan policies into accord with the “Charter for the Protection of Children and Young People.” The Charter, a comprehensive framework developed by the bishops and adopted at their national meeting in Dallas in June 2002, was created with the goal of ending the abuse of children and young people.

Respect Life materials focus on children as ‘cause for rejoicing’

WASHINGTON (CNS)—The U.S. bishops’ Secretariat for Pro-Life Activities has published materials for the 2007-2008 Respect Life program, using the phrase “The Infant in My Womb Leaped for Joy” as its theme.

Taken from the first chapter of the Gospel of Luke, the words refer to the pregnancies of Mary and her elderly cousin, Elizabeth — both “cause for rejoicing” despite their unusual circumstance, said a brochure published as part of the Respect Life package.

“The Old and New Testaments are filled with such passages extolling children as gift and blessing,” the brochure says. “It is disheartening, therefore, to see how far our culture has diverged from this view.”

A series of articles, also published in brochure form, addresses the issue. See Respect Life... p. 22

Immigration issues the focus of USCCB Labor Day statement

By Mark Pattison
WASHINGTON (CNS)—Immigration issues, including the “failed immigration debate” that preceded Congress’ unsuccessful vote to change U.S. immigration policy, were highlighted in the U.S. bishops’ annual Labor Day statement.

“This vital national immigration discussion polarized our people, paralyzed the Congress, and failed our nation,” said Bishop Nicholas DiMarzio of Brooklyn, New York, chairman of the bishops’ domestic policy committee, in the statement. “After this debate, we are a society more divided, a people more confused, and a nation unable to move forward on one of the most serious and complicated issues we face as a nation.”

Although members of Congress could not work together on immigration policy, some low-wage workers were able to work together to carve out a better life for themselves, one of the “signs of hope” pointed to by Bishop DiMarzio in his statement.


Bishop DiMarzio was critical of the immigration policy debate. “In my view, sometimes anger trumped wisdom, myths overwhelmed facts, and slogans replaced solutions,” he said. “We have to restart the discussion, to re-engage the hard issues, to search for practical and realistic solutions,” he added.

“This debate brought out some of the worst in us. Now we need to draw on the best in us if we are ever going to move forward as a whole, healthy society and nation,” the bishop said, calling for “reality, civility, morality, and consistency” as the starting point. See U.S. bishops’... p. 22

Working through parishes, church helps Peruvian earthquake victims

By Barbara J. Fraser
LIMA, Peru (CNS) — When it comes to dealing with disasters like the powerful earthquake that struck Peru’s southern coast Aug. 15, the Catholic Church has an advantage — the pastors know the people.

In responding to an emergency, “you build on your strengths,” said Aaron Skrocki, South American emergency program manager for Catholic Relief Services, the U.S. bishops’ overseas humanitarian and development agency.

In his presentation, Skrocki arrived in Peru the night after the earthquake and traveled Aug. 17 to Chincha, Pisco, and Ica, the three cities nearest the epicenter.

The scene was chaotic immediately after the earthquake, which killed more than 500 people, injured more than 1,500, and left at least 35,000 families homeless. Although more than 200 flights, carrying more than 600 tons of supplies, had arrived at the air force base in Pisco, distribution was slow.

“There was a lack of coordination,” said Luis Cordoba, emergency coordinator for CRS in Peru. “No one knew what assistance had arrived, what had been distributed, and what else was needed.”

Two days after the quake, people were “waiting all day in line for one one-liter bottle of water,” Skrocki said. “The longer this goes on, the more desperate people become.”

Part of the problem with distribution was logistical: Electricity was cut off; water could not be pumped; and roads and bridges were destroyed. People had to travel miles to find food and water. The scene was chaotic immediately after the earthquake, which killed more than 500 people, injured more than 1,500, and left at least 35,000 families homeless.

Although more than 200 flights, carrying more than 600 tons of supplies, had arrived at the air force base in Pisco, distribution was slow.

SEE SAFE ENVIRONMENT... p. 19

SAFE ENVIRONMENT PROGRAM — At a diocesan safe environment training session, Terri Liles (foreground) takes part in an exercise to differentiate the truths from the fallacies about sexual abuse. The session was offered at St. Philip the Apostle Church in Lewisville, Aug. 25. (Photo by Donna Ryckaert)
Faith must always be our starting point — ‘believe in order to understand’

Dear Friends in Christ in the Diocese of Fort Worth,

As I write these words on August 28th, I am reflecting on the fact that this day is the feast day of the great St. Augustine of Hippo, who is often termed the “Doctor of Grace.”

I (and many of my classmates and contemporaries at Kenrick Seminary in St. Louis, Missouri) have a great respect and love for his life and writings thanks to one of my professors in the seminary, Sister Zoe Glenski D.C.

St. Augustine’s writing and reflection clarified our beliefs in grace, original sin, the divinity of Christ, and human nature being created in the image and likeness of God. The story of his life, narrated in his Confessions, holds out great hope for all of us, in that the struggles of his life with his Faith, with faults, failings, and sin, ultimately led to the working of the grace of God and the love of Christ for him. He also reminds us that with the help of God, it is possible to live a life of Faith in a time of great change and turmoil. The environment of his time, at the Fall of the Roman Empire, was in some ways not too different than our time.

One of his sayings that is one of my favorites is “Do not try to understand to believe, but believe in order to understand” (De Magistro [On the Teacher] 11:37). This is not too much different than Pope Benedict’s words in Jesus of Nazareth when he says that when reading and studying the Scriptures we must take the “conviction of faith as our starting point for reading the texts with the help of historical methodology” … (xxiii). I would compare these words to a set of lenses [the lenses of Faith] with which we must view and understand all events of our life. Faith must always be our starting point — “believe in order to understand.”

If our starting point in all things is Faith, then we can see the presence of God in all moments of our lives, and know that the power of the Lord is with us to see us through and sustain us….

If our starting point in all things is Faith, then we can see the presence of God in all moments of our lives, and know that the power of the Lord is with us to see us through and sustain us.

If our starting point in all things is Faith, then we can see the presence of God in all moments of our lives, and know that the power of the Lord is with us to see us through and sustain us, to bring the light of God to all moments and challenges, to understand where we are being led in this world, both personally and as the living Body of Christ, and lead us to eternal life. And, among other things, to be grateful!

With that, I want to say a few words of thanks to who helped with, and were involved with the celebration of the ordinations of four new priests this past summer. This was a great day of hope for our local Church.

Let us thank all those who have been involved in parish religious education programs this summer. The presence of the Lord is in all of these moments.

I would like to say a special word of thanks to Mary McLarry and Dan Luby for their years of service to our local Church and for their kindness and help to me personally. Let us wish them well and pray for them as they begin this new time in their lives where the Lord has led them.

As we stand on the threshold of another new school and academic year, we can be grateful for all who will be involved in our faith and spiritual lives in the many programs and efforts that lie ahead. All of these endeavors are so that we may believe, and “believe in order to understand.”

(More on believing in order to understand next month)

God bless you always + Kevin W. Vann Bishop of Fort Worth

Faith must always be our starting point — ‘believe in order to understand’

Pope Benedict XVI greets the faithful from the balcony of his summer residence in Castel Gandolfo, Italy, as he leads a special audience for young people from the Archdiocese of Madrid, Spain, Aug. 9. (CNS photo/Dario Pignatelli, Reuters)

Pope Benedict XVI says young people are strongly attracted to Jesus Christ and the Gospel, contrary to what many think

CASTEL GANDOLFO, Italy (CNS) — Contrary to what many may think, young people are strongly attracted to Jesus Christ and the Gospel, Pope Benedict XVI told thousands of Spanish youths.

The pope urged some 5,000 pilgrims from Youth Mission of Madrid to continue to help their peers discover they are all loved by God and that his is “the only love that never fails and never ends.”

God and that his is “the only love that never fails and never ends.”

The pope spoke to the young people packed inside the courtyard of his papal summer residence, south of Rome, Aug. 9. Pope Benedict sat and listened from his balcony as five young adults described how they grew closer to God and the church through their evangelization efforts with Madrid’s Youth Mission missionary initiative.

The program, spearheaded by Madrid Cardinal Antonio Rouco Varela, helps prepare young Catholics to evangelize their peers.

The pope told his audience that people have not and will not always be receptive to the good news of Jesus Christ.

Just as the early disciples faced many obstacles and persecution, even today “you see many around you who have forgotten or do not want anything to do with” God, and instead remain “blinded by many fleeting dreams that promise much but leave the heart empty,” he said.

Faith in Jesus opens up “the horizon of a new life, authentic freedom, and hope without limits,” he said, but it needs missionaries to bring this saving power to everyone.

“Contrary to what many people think, the Gospel strongly attracts young people,” he said.
Vocation awareness — Mission: Sacraments are ‘channels of heaven coming to earth’

By Father Kyle Walterscheid

What is my mission in life? How can I be more certain that I am heading in the right direction with my life?

Several essentials are reading the Bible daily, having a daily prayer life, learning and following the teachings of the Church, and receiving the sacraments to be in communion with God and neighbor. In this column, I will cover the need for receiving the sacraments.

When I think of the significance of the sacraments, I often revisit the book of Genesis to remember the paradise in which we once lived. According to Genesis, chapter 2, mankind originally lived in a supernatural state of grace. In the garden of Eden, there was no pain or suffering, no division or hatred, no sin or death. How simple life was. You could imagine a land without limits, magnificent and spacious, tranquil and fruitful, a land in harmony with God except for that one isolated tree of knowledge of good and evil and the serpent who lived there — Satan. Adam and Eve could not resist even one temptation (now we have millions), and as a result God removed man from paradise and caused him to live in a fallen state of limited natural grace.

What I enjoy reading about the Old Testament, after the fall, is seeing God’s many covenants with Israel. These allowed a gradual rebuilding of God’s relationship with mankind. This is God’s pure and holy grace in action. But, even living as a chosen race was not good enough for humanity.

Rather, we (mankind) refused to listen to the prophets, obey God’s commandments, and remain faithful to his covenants (Matthew 21:33-46). Nevertheless, “God so loved the world that he gave his only Son, so that everyone who believes in him might not perish but might have eternal life” (John 3:16).

The sacraments of the Church are God’s pure and holy grace in action. The sacraments are the dispensing of God’s grace upon his disciples, a free gift that was given to Christ’s disciples by the Holy Spirit at Pentecost (Acts 2:1-47) and shall continue for all times.

The Catechism of the Catholic Church, article 1210, speaks of the sacraments and their importance: “Christ instituted the sacraments of the new law. There are seven: baptism, confirmation, the Eucharist, penance, the anointing of the sick, holy orders, and Matrimony. [Read this next part slowly and notice how the “all” is used.] The seven sacraments touch all the stages and all the important moments of Christian life: they give birth and increase, healing and mission to the Christian’s life of faith.”

Yes, the sacraments draw mankind back into God’s grace as we are given a new birth. We are forgiven; we are healed of all infirmity; and we are sent forth to proclaim the Gospel of Jesus Christ as our mission in life! With baptism we are reinserted into a paradise of supernatural grace.

Confirmation strengthens us and increases our conviction of salvation in Christ. In the Eucharist, the source and summit of the Church, we are united with Christ himself. In penance, through God’s mercy, we are reconciled to God and with our neighbors and the sense of sin. God heals us and brings us closer to his divine life. The bestowing of holy orders upon candidates to the diaconate, priesthood, and the episcopacy are God’s great graces to his Church, through devoted men, to continue to build his reign, bring his teachings to all, and unite his flock. And then comes the wonderful gift of grace in matrimony, the new birth of the life of husband and wife, so that the two become one body, ready to bring about a new family and a new generation of holy Christians because of their fidelity to one another, to Christ, and to his Church.

Through the seven holy sacraments that Christ gives his Church, all Catholics can enjoy a new spiritual paradise, living in Christ, in a supernatural state of grace. The sacraments are channels of heaven coming to earth! Division and hatred is ended; sin and death has no power over us; pain and suffering are united with Christ to purify us; and Christ our King reigns in a new paradise. Yes, I believe the sacraments solidify our meaning and mission in life! They lift up our souls to overcome all things; they point us to the right direction; they fill us with the grace and holiness of the Holy Spirit; and they send us forward to proclaim Christ to the world. Want to join in?

Lay Carmelites invite others to join twice a month

“Would you like to deepen your relationship with Jesus and Mary?” asks the Third Order of the Blessed Virgin Mary of Mount Carmel (Lay Carmelites). The Lay Carmelites invite those in search of this deeper relationship to join them on the second and fourth Sundays of the month for a time of prayer and fellowship. The next scheduled gatherings will be Sept. 9 and 23.

Those interested are asked to gather at 1:45 p.m. in the rectory每月的聚会

chapel of St. Mary of the Assumption Church, 509 W. Magnolia Avenue in Fort Worth. Formation will take place from 2 p.m. to 4:30 p.m. in the school building. For more information, call Phyllis Poth at (817) 457-1746.

New seminary residence hall seen as symbol of renewed interest in the priesthood

By Jordan McMorrough

Editor, Today’s Catholic

Archdiocese of San Antonio

Last fall, Assumption Seminary in San Antonio welcomed the largest class of men studying to become Catholic priests in decades. In just seven years, Assumption Seminary has grown from 34 to 96 students.

In anticipation of this remarkable growth at the seminary, a $13 million capital campaign was initiated in 2004. The funds were earmarked to restore the campus infrastructure and to build a new 50,000-square-foot residence hall named for San Antonio Archbishop Emeritus Patrick F. Flores. The new structure will soon be home to 80 students and four faculty members.

The dedication of the new residence hall was dedicated Aug. 15, the feast of the Assumption of Mary, is viewed as a sign of increased interest in vocations to the priesthood.

SEMINARIAN RESIDENCE HALL DEDICATED — Bishop Kevin Vann (second from right) is pictured with (l. t. r.) Bishop James Tamayo of Laredo; Bishop Emeritus Charles Grannahm of Dallas; Bishop Gerald Barnes of San Bernardino, California; Bishop Armando Ochoa of El Pasc; and Bishop Edmond Carmody of Corpus Christi at the dedication of the new residence hall at Assumption Seminary in San Antonio. The new 50,000-square-foot facility, which was dedicated Aug. 15, the feast of the Assumption of Mary, is viewed as a sign of increased interest in vocations to the priesthood. (Photo by Ruben Alfaro, Today’s Catholic)
Day of prayer planned in celebration of the Holy Cross, Sept. 14

A day of prayer, praise and reflection will be held Sept. 14 at Fort Worth’s St. Patrick Cathedral, 1206 Throckmorton Street in downtown Fort Worth. Participants are asked to bring their rosaries, prayer beads, and other prayer material to meditate on the crucifixion of Jesus Christ. The annual celebration of the feast of the Triumph of the Holy Cross will begin with the 7:30 a.m. Mass at St. Patrick Cathedral, followed by a 9 a.m. procession of the Blessed Sacrament to the St. Patrick Cathedral crypt. The day will conclude with adoration at 7:30 p.m. at St. Mary of the Assumption, 1000 Tinker Road in Fort Worth.

Beginning Sign Language Class to be offered at St. John’s

“Deaf Ministry Program will offer a beginning Sign Language Class. The classes will be held from 9:30 a.m. to 11:30 a.m. beginning Sept. 10, and in September evening classes from 6 p.m. to 8 p.m. beginning Sept. 29. For more information or to register, call Jim Hawk at (214) 552-8935.”

Catholicos Respect Life to offer Mass in honor of Our Lady of Fatima

Catholicos Respect Life, a pro-life ministry in the Diocese of Fort Worth, is sponsoring a Mass and procession: Saturday, Oct. 13, in honor of Our Lady of Fatima. The Mass will begin at 7 a.m. at St. Mary of Assumption Parish, 509 W. Magnolia in Fort Worth, with Bishop Kevin Vann as the main celebrant. The procession will immediately follow the Mass. More information is available on the diocesan Web site at www.fwdioc.org or by calling 817-773-8096.

St. Augustine Men’s Purity Group meets weekly

The St. Augustine Men’s Purity Group, a support group for men who struggle with sexual immaturity such as those found on the Internet, meets regularly at St. Elizabeth Ann Seton Parish School, 14th and Hello Street. Those men interested in attending are asked to arrive at 6:45 p.m. on the first night of class to register. More information is available on the diocesan Web site at www.fwdioc.org or by calling 817-428-8497.

Organizers of Scripture study classes at St. Mark’s Church in Denton ask, “Would you like to learn the Word of God from a uniquely Catholic perspective, be able to defend your Catholic faith, and develop friendships with like-minded believers?” Catholic Scripture Study is beginning a new year of classes at St. Mark Parish, located at 2800 Pennsylvania Avenue in Dallas, beginning Sept. 10. Each weekly session includes small group discussion, “pray and share” time, and a large group presentation on the week’s readings. “This Bible study has been formally endorsed by Bishop Vann, and it has been going strong to Catholics at over 200 parishes around the world,” wrote Scripture study organizer Jim Kuehner. “This year, we will be studying the first five books of the Bible, Genesis through Deuteronomy.” Participants may choose to participate in morning classes from 9 a.m. to 11 a.m. beginning Sept. 10, or Wednesday evening classes from 7 p.m. to 9 p.m. beginning Sept. 26. For more information or to register, call Jim Hawk at (214) 552-8935.

Family Life Office to hold golden anniversary celebration Oct. 14

The diocesan Family Life office will host the second annual golden anniversary celebration of the relaxation of the rules of the diocese for all married couples. The celebration will be held Sunday, Oct. 14, at Most Blessed Sacrament Church, 2100 N. Davis Drive in Arlington. Couples who have received a special Mass at 2:30 p.m. Participating couples will have the opportunity to share their experiences in marriage and receive an annunciation blessing. A reception will follow in the parish Family Life Center.

We encourage you to contact the Family Life office at (817) 560-3302 or e-mail to rstojak@fwdioc.org or sorondo@fwdioc.org.

St. Vincent de Paul Church to host parish mission, Sept. 16-20

St. Vincent de Paul Church, located at 5891 W. Pleasant Ridge Road in Arlington, will host a parish mission, entitled “God is My Rock,” Sept. 16-20. The mission will be offered on five consecutive evenings from 7 p.m. to 8:15 p.m. will be held in the church’s main sanctuary. Redemptorist priests Father John Kuehner and Father Jack Down will serve as presenters during what event organizers call “five dynamic nights that will renew your faith!” Nightly themes of the mission include the “importance of prayer in our lives and our response,” “Who is Jesus for you?” “Sins, reconciliation, and healing,” “Jesus, the Bread of Life, is present among us” and “Mission — sharing the work of Jesus and the Church.”

All are welcome to attend. Childcare is available with prior reservation at no charge for children ages nine and under. A social hour will follow each evening’s presentation. For more information or to reserve childcare, call (817) 478-8206.

St. John’s to host 40 hours of eucharistic adoration, beginning Sept. 14

The Stewardship Council of St. John’s Church, 1500 Colleyville Blvd. in Colleyville, will conduct the 40 Hours of Eucharistic Adoration beginning Sept. 14, at 6 p.m. The event will conclude Saturday, Sept. 15, at 8:15 a.m. with the celebration of Mass at St. John’s, followed by a special Mass at 2:30 p.m. on Sunday, Sept. 16.

The parish will accept sign-ups for the adoration beginning Sept. 8. For more information, call Mary Anne Lemmon at (817) 427-0955.
**Diocesan Singles Masses planned for September**

The Catholic Committee on Scouting of the Diocese of Fort Worth has announced that the annual Catholic retreats for Boy Scouts will be held in September at South Ranch, near Palo Pinto.

The 10th annual Catholic Boy Scout Retreat will be held Saturday, Sept. 29, from 9 a.m. until 5 p.m. The retreat activities will include an opportunity to work on religious emblems, a historical remembrance, craft activities, games, songs, storytelling, and the celebration of Mass at Worth Ranch Chapel. Cub Scouts from each pack are encouraged to participate. The cost of the retreat for boy scouts is $10 per scout or a family maximum of $20.

**Czech Heritage Day to be held Sept. 15**

A Czech Heritage Day, celebrating the 100th anniversary of the town’s settlement in 1897, will take place at the current church building. Although the original church building was destroyed in 1936, this event will celebrate the rich history and culture of the Czech community in St. Boniface. The day will feature traditional Czech music, food, and dance.

**St. Michael Parish to celebrate feast day Sept. 29**

St. Michael Parish, 5713 Harwood Road in Bedford, will celebrate its anniversary feast day Saturday, Sept. 29, from noon until 5 p.m. The church community, which was established in 1977, began scheduling the annual celebration in 1985 with the dedication of their current church building. Although feast day activities have changed through the years, event leader Phil Faraco explains, “the major focus of the day has remained the same: to have a day of thanks, appreciation, and community building for the people of St. Michael.”

All are welcome to attend. “We look forward to seeing each and every one of you for a wonderful day filled with games, food, music, and fun,” says a parish press release. “But most of all, we look forward to coming together as a community to honor our parish, St. Michael.”

For more information, call the parish office at (817) 283-8780. For tickets, call (817) 624-3841.

**Czech Heritage Day**

The Czech Heritage Day at St. Michael Parish is being held to celebrate the 100th anniversary of the town’s settlement in 1897. The event will feature Czech music, food, and dance, with a Parade of Costumes at 6:20 p.m. The cost of admission is $8; children ages 12 and under are admitted free with a paid adult. A traditional Czech dinner will be served from 4 p.m. to 6:30 p.m. The cost of the dinner is $8 for adults, and $4 for children ages 12 and under. For more information, call (817) 624-3841.

**Tim Staples to speak at Magnificat breakfast Sept. 22**

A Magnificat Breakfast, sponsored by the Grapevine Magnificat chapter, will be held Saturday, Sept. 22, from 9 a.m. until 11 a.m. at Hilton DFW Lakes Executive Conference Center, 1800 Highway 26 East in Grapevine. Tim Staples, a Catholic convert to Catholicism after a lifetime of hearing and studying his faith, will serve as the featured speaker at the event. Bishop Kevin Vann is expected to attend.

**NOTRE DAME VISION CAMP**

— Teens and youth ministers from St. Vincent de Paul Parish in Arlington traveled to South Bend, Indiana, in July to attend Notre Dame University’s Vision Camp. Offered each summer since 2002, the camp brings high school students together in order to help them to recognize God’s call in their lives and to respond to that call with courage and faith. Pictured from the St. Vincent de Paul contingent are (l. to r.) youth minister Liz Shauffert, Heather Myers, Becky Boyd, Katie Mamash, (back) Joseph Crowley, Royal Brown, Nic Gutierrez, and youth minister Diane Donahue. (Photo courtesy of Patty Myers)

**People and Events**

**Cub Scout, Boy Scout retreats planned for September**

The Catholic Committee on Scouting of the Diocese of Fort Worth has announced that the annual Catholic retreats for Cub Scouts and Boy Scouts will be held in September at Worth Ranch, near Palo Pinto.

The 10th annual Catholic Cub Scout Retreat will be held Saturday, Sept. 29, from 9 a.m. until 5 p.m. The retreat activities will include an opportunity to work on religious emblems, a historical remembrance, craft activities, games, songs, storytelling, and the celebration of Mass at Worth Ranch Chapel. Cub Scouts from each pack are encouraged to participate. The cost of the retreat for cub scouts is $10 per scout or a family maximum of $20.

**NOTRE DAME VISION CAMP**

— Teens and youth ministers from St. Vincent de Paul Parish in Arlington traveled to South Bend, Indiana, in July to attend Notre Dame University’s Vision Camp. Offered each summer since 2002, the camp brings high school students together in order to help them to recognize God’s call in their lives and to respond to that call with courage and faith. Pictured from the St. Vincent de Paul contingent are (l. to r.) youth minister Liz Shauffert, Heather Myers, Becky Boyd, Katie Mamash, (back) Joseph Crowley, Royal Brown, Nic Gutierrez, and youth minister Diane Donahue. (Photo courtesy of Patty Myers)
Catholic Charities partners with TXU Energy to ease effects of summer heat on low-income residents’ energy bills

This summer, low-income individuals and families within Tarrant County have benefited from the long-standing partnership between Catholic Charities and TXU Energy. In order to aid Tarrant County citizens most in need of assistance, TXU will provide the social service agency with $625,000 to help low-income residents with temporary bill-payment assistance.

Catholic Charities participated in TXU’s summer safety awareness program, “Beat the Heat,” by offering low-income TXU customers energy bill-payment assistance and information about other services available through Catholic Charities. During the recent summer months, Catholic Charities and TXU Energy have worked together to distribute box fans, energy-efficient compact fluorescent light bulbs, and information about simple, low-cost ways to conserve energy and avoid heat-related emergencies.

In order to help needy families meet their needs for electricity, TXU Energy has administered a long-term community assistance initiative, “TXU Energy Aid.” Under this program, the company provides financial support to its customers in need through selected social service agency partners such as Catholic Charities. Since 1983, TXU Energy Aid has provided over $40 million to assist more than 300,000 families throughout Texas in paying their electricity bills.

The company has pledged $5 million to the TXU Energy Aid program in 2007. TXU also accepts donations for the program from customers and employees, matching such contributions at approximately $5 for every $1 donated. All TXU Energy Aid donations are returned to local communities in which they are donated, and donations are tax-deductible.

In 2006, Catholic Charities assisted more than 9,500 individuals with emergency financial relief and distributed more than $550,000 in TXU Energy Aid funds to over 2,000 of the company’s customers. Catholic Charities manages the temporary bill-payment assistance program in Tarrant County to help low-income households with their energy bills.

“Catholic Charities is committed to serving the people in our community. The working poor … each have a face, a story, and a need, and we are called to help them, particularly in the summertime when bills can be much higher.” — Heather Reynolds Catholic Charities

Ministry Formation Day in Wichita Falls will be held Oct. 6

“Encountering the Living Christ” is the theme of the diocesan Ministry Formation Day, to be held Oct. 6 at Notre Dame High School, 2821 Lansing Blvd. in Wichita Falls. The event is an opportunity for enrichment, fellowship, and development of practical skills for ministry.

Ministry Formation Day, to be offered in English and Spanish, will begin at 8 a.m. with the viewing of exhibits. Registration and a continental breakfast will follow from 8:30 a.m. to 9 a.m.

The keynote address, offered in English at 10 a.m., will be presented by Jesús López of Los Angeles. López works full time in evangelization ministry among the Hispanic community of Los Angeles. Born in Michoacán Mexico, López has offered conferences, courses, and retreats throughout the United States, and in Mexico, Peru, El Salvador, and Guatemala. López and his wife, Araceli, are the parents of three children.

During the English keynote address, a breakout session with Spanish-language workshops will be held, and while the Spanish keynote is offered, English-language workshops will take place. There also will be a second round of workshops in the afternoon, beginning at 1:30 p.m. Sessions will be offered on a variety of topics, including “Keeping Children, Youth, and Vulnerable Adults Safe,” “Personalizing the Gospels, Encountering Christ in Everyday Living,” “The New Evangelization for the Third Millennium,” and “What’s happening with Marriages Today: Developing an Effective Parish Ministry.”

After another opportunity to view exhibits at 2:30, Ministry Formation Day will conclude at 3 p.m.

All involved in parish or school ministry, whether volunteer or paid staff, are welcome to attend. The cost, which includes lunch, is $20 per person prior to Sept. 24; after that date, the cost is $25. Scholarships are available. For more information, call The Catholic Center at (817) 560-3300 or visit the diocesan Web site at www.fwdioc.org.
Diocesan / State

JCDA biennial state convention takes place in Wichita Falls

One hundred and twenty-five young women and their 58 adult leaders from around the state of Texas met June 29 through July 1 for the 22nd biennial Junior Catholic Daughters of the Americas State Convention, held in Wichita Falls.

Catholic Daughters of America Court Our Lady of Perpetual Help #296 of Windthorst served as the host court and prepared for the gathering, arranging all convention activities, including art projects, prayer services, Mass, and the convention banquet. Father John Peters, JCDA state chaplain, served as celebrant and spiritual leader for the convention.

Carolyn Bachmann, Texas state regent for the Catholic Daughters of America, served as guest speaker at the event, along with National CDA Regent Elect Libby Ramirez of Victoria. Ramirez offered congratulations to the delegates for an increase from 40 JCDA courts within the state of Texas to the current number of 52, an increase that occurred in the past two years. New officers were elected at the convention and were installed at the Saturday evening liturgy.

“The trip for many Junior Catholic Daughter members, [Fr.] John Peters, and the senior court representatives resembled preparations to board [Noah’s] Ark,” wrote Terrie Vacek, CDA state publicity chairman, in describing the event, noting that heavy rains during the event led to hotel evictions and closed roads due to area flooding.

“However, in the spirit of unity and charity and the JCDA three-fold program of ‘Message, Service, and Community,’ the attendees were led by the host court and the outgoing JCDA Board with humor, dignity, and confidence.”

JCDA, sponsored by the Catholic Daughters of America, is an organization for Catholic girls ages 8 to 18. The program promotes development of the whole person, service to the community and church, and spiritual growth.

For more information about JCDA or CDA, visit the national Web site at www.cda.org or the Texas site at www.texascda.org.

Seminary’s new residence hall is symbolic of growth in priestly vocations

From page 3 very dark time, according to the archbishop.

He continued, “The church doesn’t face persecution in our country. But the faith is seriously threatened by our culture. And a great sign of how,” Archbishop Gomez said. “I’m proud to say that Assumption Seminary is a pioneer in preparing men to meet that special calling — to proclaim God’s mercy and reconciliation in a society that is both bilingual and multicultural,” Archbishop Gomez concluded. “We are forming strong, prayerful, and virtuous men who have an intimate knowledge and friendship with Jesus Christ.”

Following the Mass, those in attendance processed to the Flores Residence Hall, where Cardinal George conducted a blessing.

The centerpiece of Flores Residence Hall is the Adoration Chapel, which includes antique stained glass windows that once adorned a church in Philadelphia and a silver tabernacle to hold the Blessed Sacrament. The chapel will eventually have additional stained glass windows, designed and crafted by San Antonio’s Cavallini Stained Glass Studio.

The completion of the enclosed courtyard and an outdoor prayer garden were delayed by this summer’s record rainfall, but will be completed in four to six weeks.

The Assumption Seminary Gala concluded the evening’s celebration. The event was held in a tented dining room on a Mexican American Cultural Center parking lot on French Street. Keynote speaker for the gathering was Cardinal George.

At the gala, Archbishop Gomez expressed his gratitude to the more than 500 guests in attendance for their support. He exclaimed, “People said it wouldn’t be easy to raise this amount of money, but it was an easy task because everyone was so open.”

Father Larry Christian, rector of Assumption Seminary, provided the concluding remarks at the gala. “The people of God wanted this and we were eager for it,” he said of the construction project.

Father Christian drew rousing applause when he said that 96 men total will be enrolled at the seminary this fall, and he thanked the lay faithful for their support of the seminarians. He elicited laughter when, looking directly at Archbishop Gomez, he smiled and said, “Archbishop, we’re almost out of room again. What do we do?”

Among the guests at the dinner were more than a dozen bishops, many with connections to the archdiocese or seminary. They included Bishop Kevin W. Vann of the Diocese of Fort Worth and several other bishops from throughout the state of Texas.
What is catechesis?

Catechesis comes from the Greek meaning “to echo.” It is the mission entrusted to the Church by Christ to “echo” or to faithfully hand on what Jesus has revealed to us through his Incarnation, his life and mission, and the Paschal mystery of his death, resurrection, and ascension into heaven. In fact, through catechesis, it is not so much what we hand on but Whom.

This indeed is a tall order, and we don’t do it perfectly! But, if we as catechists are to more faithfully echo the person and teaching of Christ, then we ourselves must see that we are immersed into his mystery in our own lives by contemplating and pondering the mystery of Christ through prayer, the sacraments, and our own personal study and ongoing “faith seeking understanding” and conversion of heart. The more we are rooted in Christ, the more perfect and clear will be our echoing of Christ and his truth. We see in Mary, who was the first catechist, the first to echo Christ and his truth, a profound living example for us who catechize. For often in the Gospel do we see Mary “pondering these things in her heart” (Luke 2:19). She allowed the mystery and truth of Christ to so penetrate her being that she was able to perfectly reflect the light of her Son. As John Paul explains:

Christ is the supreme Teacher, the revealer and the one revealed. It is not just a question of learning what he taught but of “learning him.” In this regard could we have any better teacher than Mary? From the divine standpoint, the Spirit is the interior teacher who leads us to the full truth of Christ (cf. John 14:26; 15:26; 16:13). But among creatures no one knows Christ better than Mary; no one can introduce us to a profound knowledge of his mystery better than his Mother (Rosarium Virginis Mariæ [On the Most Holy Rosary], 14).

Thus, it is especially when we ponder with Mary the mystery of her Son through the rosary that we sit at the “school of Mary” and come to a deeper knowledge and communion with her Son. Through the rosary we join with her in pondering in our own hearts the saving truth of Jesus Christ and come into a more intimate communion with him. This is why the rosary is above all a Christ-centered prayer in which we learn Christ with and through the intercession of his mother. Therefore, devotion to the rosary can be a powerful spiritual tool in helping us come to a deeper knowledge of Christ so that we may be ever more faithful in “echoing” Christ through catechesis.

May we all be more faithful to the role and example of Mary in bringing others into communion with her Son through our faithfulness in handing on the Catholic faith in the many different ways in which God calls us. We repeat with faith and love Mary’s words at the wedding at Cana: “Do whatever he tells you” (John 2:5).

By Lucas Pollice
Until recently, Amnesty International (AI) was officially neutral with regard to abortion, but now they have embraced abortion as a human right in false solidarity with women around the world.

In doing so, they propose violence to solve violence and discriminate against a whole class of voiceless human beings: the unborn. It’s a far cry from Catholic founder Peter Benenson’s principles in the 1960s and the spirit of their “Protect the Human” campaign in England only two years ago.

Their new policy calls for legalizing abortion in countries that currently protect women and their children from abortion. Spun as a reasonable measure to help survivors of rape during wartime, the resolution they passed is actually much broader than that. Their agenda includes promoting abortion access for women’s “health,” which AI fails to define.

Amnesty International’s new policy calls for legalizing abortion in countries that currently protect women and their children from abortion. Spun as a reasonable measure to help survivors of rape during wartime, the resolution they passed is actually much broader than that. Their agenda includes promoting abortion access for women’s “health,” which AI fails to define.

Amnesty International’s new policy calls for legalizing abortion in countries that currently protect women and their children from abortion. Spun as a reasonable measure to help survivors of rape during wartime, the resolution they passed is actually much broader than that. Their agenda includes promoting abortion access for women’s “health,” which AI fails to define.

To achieve the purpose for which they do not oppose the death penalty. If God has not been thwarted. As it says in Isaiah, “My word...will not return to me empty, but will accomplish what I desire and achieve the purpose for which I sent it.”

For the full text of Bishop Skylstad’s statement, visit: www.usccb.org/comms/archives/2007/07-136.shtml

Deirdre McQuade is director of planning and information at the Secretariat for Pro-Life Activities, U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops.
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>PARISH NAME</th>
<th>CITY</th>
<th>GOAL</th>
<th>PLEDGED</th>
<th>% of GOAL</th>
<th>PAYMENT % of GOAL</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>St. Mary/St. Brendan</td>
<td>Dublin/Stephenville</td>
<td>$11,705.00</td>
<td>$14,655.00</td>
<td>125%</td>
<td>$14,410.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>St. Francis Xavier</td>
<td>Eastland</td>
<td>$968.00</td>
<td>$125.00</td>
<td>13%</td>
<td>$455.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>St. Paul</td>
<td>Electra</td>
<td>$2,387.00</td>
<td>$3,085.00</td>
<td>125%</td>
<td>$2,777.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Immaculate Heart of Mary</td>
<td>Abbott</td>
<td>$6,013.00</td>
<td>$8,355.00</td>
<td>139%</td>
<td>$7,695.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>St. Michael</td>
<td>Bedford</td>
<td>$144,013.00</td>
<td>$233,408.99</td>
<td>162%</td>
<td>$187,615.17</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Jesus of Nazareth</td>
<td>Albany</td>
<td>$1,813.00</td>
<td>$1,845.00</td>
<td>102%</td>
<td>$1,423.33</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>St. Jerome</td>
<td>Bowie</td>
<td>$3,878.00</td>
<td>$4,670.00</td>
<td>120%</td>
<td>$4,060.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sacred Heart of Jesus</td>
<td>Breckenridge</td>
<td>$4,745.00</td>
<td>$8,886.00</td>
<td>187%</td>
<td>$6,660.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>St. John the Baptist</td>
<td>Bridgeport</td>
<td>$6,854.00</td>
<td>$17,165.00</td>
<td>161%</td>
<td>$7,771.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Holy Redeemer</td>
<td>Alexanor</td>
<td>$15,805.00</td>
<td>$15,906.00</td>
<td>100%</td>
<td>$15,906.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>St. Jude Thaddaeus</td>
<td>Burkburnett</td>
<td>$10,013.00</td>
<td>$8,513.00</td>
<td>85%</td>
<td>$7,534.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>St. Catherine of Siena</td>
<td>Carrollton</td>
<td>$60,033.00</td>
<td>$68,806.00</td>
<td>115%</td>
<td>$63,306.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Good Shepherd</td>
<td>Colleyville</td>
<td>$104,959.00</td>
<td>$116,507.00</td>
<td>111%</td>
<td>$112,336.65</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>St. Maria Goretti</td>
<td>Arlington</td>
<td>$94,954.00</td>
<td>$116,507.00</td>
<td>120%</td>
<td>$112,336.65</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sacred Heart of Jesus</td>
<td>Comanche</td>
<td>$2,207.00</td>
<td>$3,010.00</td>
<td>136%</td>
<td>$2,610.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>St. Paul</td>
<td>Arlington</td>
<td>$110,102.00</td>
<td>$158,388.97</td>
<td>144%</td>
<td>$146,973.97</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>St. Vincent de Paul</td>
<td>Arlington</td>
<td>$97,467.00</td>
<td>$85,029.83</td>
<td>87%</td>
<td>$78,449.83</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Most Blessed Sacrament</td>
<td>Arlington</td>
<td>$69,843.00</td>
<td>$63,947.00</td>
<td>92%</td>
<td>$53,044.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>St. John the Baptist</td>
<td>Arlington</td>
<td>$30,248.00</td>
<td>$24,511.77</td>
<td>81%</td>
<td>$19,661.77</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Holy Angels</td>
<td>Clifton</td>
<td>$4,926.00</td>
<td>$7,740.00</td>
<td>157%</td>
<td>$6,490.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Holy Rosary</td>
<td>Cisco</td>
<td>$2,207.00</td>
<td>$3,010.00</td>
<td>136%</td>
<td>$2,610.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>St. Joseph</td>
<td>Clute</td>
<td>$18,174.00</td>
<td>$27,233.00</td>
<td>153%</td>
<td>$18,297.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Holy Angels</td>
<td>Clute</td>
<td>$4,926.00</td>
<td>$7,740.00</td>
<td>157%</td>
<td>$6,490.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Holy Cross</td>
<td>Colony</td>
<td>$30,248.00</td>
<td>$24,511.77</td>
<td>81%</td>
<td>$19,661.77</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Most Blessed Sacrament</td>
<td>Arlington</td>
<td>$94,954.00</td>
<td>$116,507.00</td>
<td>120%</td>
<td>$112,336.65</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Holy Rosary</td>
<td>Cisco</td>
<td>$2,207.00</td>
<td>$3,010.00</td>
<td>136%</td>
<td>$2,610.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>St. Joseph</td>
<td>Clute</td>
<td>$18,174.00</td>
<td>$27,233.00</td>
<td>153%</td>
<td>$18,297.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Most Blessed Sacrament</td>
<td>Arlington</td>
<td>$94,954.00</td>
<td>$116,507.00</td>
<td>120%</td>
<td>$112,336.65</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Holy Rosary</td>
<td>Cisco</td>
<td>$2,207.00</td>
<td>$3,010.00</td>
<td>136%</td>
<td>$2,610.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>St. Joseph</td>
<td>Clute</td>
<td>$18,174.00</td>
<td>$27,233.00</td>
<td>153%</td>
<td>$18,297.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Holy Angels</td>
<td>Clute</td>
<td>$4,926.00</td>
<td>$7,740.00</td>
<td>157%</td>
<td>$6,490.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Holy Cross</td>
<td>Colony</td>
<td>$30,248.00</td>
<td>$24,511.77</td>
<td>81%</td>
<td>$19,661.77</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Holy Rosary</td>
<td>Cisco</td>
<td>$2,207.00</td>
<td>$3,010.00</td>
<td>136%</td>
<td>$2,610.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>St. Joseph</td>
<td>Clute</td>
<td>$18,174.00</td>
<td>$27,233.00</td>
<td>153%</td>
<td>$18,297.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Most Blessed Sacrament</td>
<td>Arlington</td>
<td>$94,954.00</td>
<td>$116,507.00</td>
<td>120%</td>
<td>$112,336.65</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Holy Rosary</td>
<td>Cisco</td>
<td>$2,207.00</td>
<td>$3,010.00</td>
<td>136%</td>
<td>$2,610.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>St. Joseph</td>
<td>Clute</td>
<td>$18,174.00</td>
<td>$27,233.00</td>
<td>153%</td>
<td>$18,297.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Most Blessed Sacrament</td>
<td>Arlington</td>
<td>$94,954.00</td>
<td>$116,507.00</td>
<td>120%</td>
<td>$112,336.65</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Holy Rosary</td>
<td>Cisco</td>
<td>$2,207.00</td>
<td>$3,010.00</td>
<td>136%</td>
<td>$2,610.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>St. Joseph</td>
<td>Clute</td>
<td>$18,174.00</td>
<td>$27,233.00</td>
<td>153%</td>
<td>$18,297.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Holy Angels</td>
<td>Clute</td>
<td>$4,926.00</td>
<td>$7,740.00</td>
<td>157%</td>
<td>$6,490.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Holy Cross</td>
<td>Colony</td>
<td>$30,248.00</td>
<td>$24,511.77</td>
<td>81%</td>
<td>$19,661.77</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Holy Rosary</td>
<td>Cisco</td>
<td>$2,207.00</td>
<td>$3,010.00</td>
<td>136%</td>
<td>$2,610.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>St. Joseph</td>
<td>Clute</td>
<td>$18,174.00</td>
<td>$27,233.00</td>
<td>153%</td>
<td>$18,297.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Most Blessed Sacrament</td>
<td>Arlington</td>
<td>$94,954.00</td>
<td>$116,507.00</td>
<td>120%</td>
<td>$112,336.65</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Holy Rosary</td>
<td>Cisco</td>
<td>$2,207.00</td>
<td>$3,010.00</td>
<td>136%</td>
<td>$2,610.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>St. Joseph</td>
<td>Clute</td>
<td>$18,174.00</td>
<td>$27,233.00</td>
<td>153%</td>
<td>$18,297.00</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Thank you for your generous gifts to the 2006-2007 Sharing in Ministry appeal. More than $3,200,000 was pledged - the highest amount in the history of the appeal. I am pleased to report that 100% of every dollar contributed remained in the Diocese of Fort Worth funding our most critical and immediate needs.

I am humbled by the commitment of our parishioners, pastors and staff to Sharing in Ministry. Together as the Church in North Texas we accomplish more than any one parish can. It is my prayer that this year’s appeal will continue to assist the mission of our local Church.

Thank you again for your generous response to the 2006-2007 Sharing in Ministry appeal. May God bless each of you always.

Kevin W. Vann
Most Rev. Kevin W. Vann, J.C.D., D.D.
Bishop of Fort Worth
Through Sharing in Ministry, your prayers and sacrificial gifts assure the continuation of a broad range of Catholic ministries and programs in the Diocese of Fort Worth focused on:

- Capital and Operating Grants for Needy Parishes
- Catholic Charities and Pastoral Ministries
- Catholic Family Life
- Catholic Schools
- Growing in Faith and Evangelization

All funds donated to Sharing in Ministry are restricted exclusively to support these local needs of the Church of North Texas.

Due to the generosity of all who contributed, we met and exceeded our 2006/07 appeal goal of $2,600,000 for local programs. Parishes earned rebates of 50% of every dollar contributed in excess of their assigned parish goal. All excess contributions past the campaign goal and parish rebates were restricted to the Center-City/Rural Parish & School Support Fund.

For more information, please contact:
Sharing in Ministry – Annual Diocesan Appeal
Office of Stewardship and Development
Diocese of Fort Worth
800 West Loop 820 South, Fort Worth, TX 76108-2919
(817) 560-3300
In the Diocese of Fort Worth, the man known for storytelling carries his ideas around in his pocket, handwritten in small notebooks. And after decades working at The Catholic Center, the educator and award-winning columnist has accumulated enough notebooks to fill a desk drawer.

Dr. Daniel Luby, STD, for the past 25 years, has been working in continuing education and adult formation, and most recently as the diocesan director of Christian Formation. His signature quality, as he speaks in parishes, at diocesan gatherings and workshops, and especially through his award-winning column in the *North Texas Catholic*, has been to teach and explain through stories.

Last month he modified his own story, moving from Fort Worth’s Catholic Center to the School of Ministry at the University of Dallas, where he will hold the endowed Tsosie Chair of Homiletics.

Dan and his wife Theresa began their Fort Worth ministry in 1975 at St. John the Apostle Parish, with Dan hired as director of adult education, and Theresa of youth education. “It was a ‘Camelot experience,’” Luby recalled, “because St. John’s was growing — and lay people working in the parish was still a brand new idea.”

Because most of the new staff was either single or newly married, the group spent so much time together they became like family, Luby said. When their first child, Kate, was born in 1977, the Luby’s last year at St. John’s, “No one wanted to miss the baby,” he said. “They were as thrilled as we were, and as our families were.”

So, at five days old, Kate attended her first parish staff retreat in her cradle, at a lake house, where she was held and rocked by a large extended family.

The next year Kate and her parents left “Camelot” for Rome, where mom and dad studied at the Pontifical University of St. Thomas Aquinas, or the Angelicum, for two years. On their return, they lived in Lewisville, where Theresa worked at St. Philip the Apostle Church, and Dan, writing the dissertation for his doctorate in sacred theology, taught at UD, and started his career at The Catholic Center.

At a reception honoring Luby and Mary McLarry, both of whom left their positions at the parish, Father Joseph Scantlin recalled the Luby’s stay in Lewisville when he was pastor at St. Philip.

“They had been involved with a program called The Happening, with Gail Schatzman at the Catholic Renewal Center,” he said. “And then they went to Rome, and all of a sudden they were back, with their new-found knowledge! Theresa worked in adult formation, and Dan went to the University of Dallas to do some teaching there.

“Now, when they come to Mass at Most Blessed Sacrament,” Fr. Scantlin said, of his current Arlington parish, “I see them out there … [and] I’m always a bit intimidated when Dan Luby walks into a church…. I know he can explain what I am trying to explain a lot better than I can … and my hands begin to sweat.”

Later, in his own remarks, Luby responded, with good humor, “If I had known that [Fr.] Joe Scantlin was intimidated by me, I’d have come to church more often.”

Throughout his diocesan career, Luby tackled high-profile projects, including directing the local expression of the spiritual renewal program RENEW, together with Andres Aranda, beginning in 1990.

Luby was also instrumental in developing the diocese’s dean formation program, remembering when Bishop John Cassata wanted to institute the program, and also when Bishop Joseph Delaney finalized the idea. Luby helped with plans, and assisted Dr. Ann Healey when she was hired as director of the program in 1984.

“It was a rich experience,” he said, “an opportunity to see God working in people’s lives, and to see people whose ministry you have contributed to, working in the parishes.”

Luby assisted with RCIA programs, catechesis, and the development of religious education programs in parishes, and while working with RENEW, he began writing the column that became a staple for readers of the *North Texas Catholic*.

“Some people were saying they wanted ways to connect the Sunday readings with the themes from RENEW,” he said, “so I started writing during Lent of 1991.”

Luby was asked to continue writing, and his column has three times been awarded first place in the national category of “Best Regular Column — Spiritual Life” by the Catholic Press Association of the United States and Canada.

“Writing has given me great opportunity for looking at the life of the local church and making connections with our traditions,” Luby said. “The work of writing the column helped me develop a habit of looking below the surface of things and sensing the presence of God in our daily lives.”

“It is a great privilege,” he said, “to express yourself in ways other people are going to appreciate. And there is that discipline of having a deadline every two weeks. Sometimes when I need an idea I pull out the desk drawer and go through the stacks of notebooks I’ve kept, and I’ll find something and think, ‘That will work!’

Two of his favorite columns, Luby said, were written when his son Peter, now 22, left for college, and when Bishop Delaney was dying of cancer.

Among high points in his diocesan career, Luby said, is “Harvest and Sow,” the celebration that finalized RENEW. “It was a huge public event in the convention center — culminating in a wonderful liturgy.” He also relishes the small faith communities that still meet today in 2007, after starting out during RENEW in 1990. “That is a long-term thing — for people to have made that commitment.

“And the Call to Easter Sacraments,” he added, “was the annual moment in the liturgical cycle when I thought Bishop Delaney shined more than any place. It was one of his favorite things to do — he loved it. And I would be standing at a podium saying the names one by one.

“I had the opportunity to look at the people’s faces as they came forward, and to see how much joy that gave him and how the church has been built up.”

At his retirement party, Luby spoke his thanks: “I was thinking [while] driving over here tonight about a poem I wrote several years ago,” he said. “It was kind of a mediocre poem, but I was going to put it in the *North Texas Catholic*, so I gave it to Sr. Cecile [Faget] to check it for me. She not only read it, but she read it aloud, and with such feeling and such caring and respect.

“I am aware that we have an opportunity when people share with us the stories that are the stuff of their lives, and they receive from us the stories that are the stuff of our lives.

“It is in those stories, where God makes himself manifest,” he said, and, “to receive those stories so respectfully, and to be received and have our own stories received so respectfully, is a huge privilege.

“For that I am deeply, deeply grateful.”
Catholic Home Missions Appeal

Special Collection: Catholic Home Missions Appeal

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

The diocesan Catholic Schools Office 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 program. 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, Munster; Notre Dame Elementary, Wichita Falls; and St. Mary’s, Gainesville.

2. Fenoglio family has supported Catholic Charities’ fundraising effort from the beginning

Henry and Juanita Fenoglio love a good party. Each summer, they begin to look forward to their favorite gathering of the year — a large-scale, festive affair, complete with exuberant music, fabulous food, enticing auction prizes, and hundreds of delightful guests.

Noche de Fiesta, Catholic Charities’ annual fundraising event, is the Fenoglios’ favorite kind of festivity — the kind of memorable evening that brings people together to raise hundreds of thousands of dollars to assist people in need. This year, Noche de Fiesta will be held Wednesday, Sept. 19, from 6 p.m. to 10 p.m. on the patio at Joe T. Garcia’s Mexican Restaurant.

The Fenoglios serve as will-ower’s chair, she and Henry expect the event to raise $260,000. Sept. 19 to assist Catholic Charities in providing services in 28 counties within the Diocese of Fort Worth. The need for funding is urgent, according to agency executive, modestly asserts that "We believe in their mission 100 percent. We are just so happy to be associated with Catholic Charities and with Noche de Fiesta. It just keeps getting better and better each year.”

For more information, to sponsor a table, to donate a prize, or to make a reservation at $75 per person, contact Catholic Charities by e-mail at simaker@cdaf.org, visit the Web site www.cdfatx.org, or call (817) 534-0814.

3. Noche de Fiesta to be held Sept. 19 at Joe T. Garcia’s Mexican Restaurant

Noche de Fiesta will be held Wednesday, Sept. 19, from 6 p.m. to 10 p.m. on the patio at Joe T. Garcia’s Mexican Restaurant, located at 2201 N. Commerce Street on the near North Side of Fort Worth.

Each September for the past 15 years, the Fenoglios — high school sweethearts who are celebrating 60 years of marriage this year — have worked hard to launch Noche de Fiesta. "It’s always just so much fun to see it all come together,” says Juanita.

As the event’s honorary chair and co-chair, she and Henry expect the event to raise $260,000 Sept. 19 to assist Catholic Charities in providing services in 28 counties within the Diocese of Fort Worth. The need for funding is urgent, according to agency executive, modestly asserts that "We believe in their mission 100 percent. We are just so happy to be associated with Catholic Charities and with Noche de Fiesta. It just keeps getting better and better each year.”

For more information, to sponsor a table, to donate a prize, or to make a reservation at $75 per person, contact Catholic Charities by e-mail at simaker@cdaf.org, visit the Web site www.cdfatx.org, or call (817) 534-0814.

4. Diocesan

Noche de Fiesta

Henry and Juanita Fenoglio love a good party. Each summer, they begin to look forward to their favorite gathering of the year — a large-scale, festive affair, complete with exuberant music, fabulous food, enticing auction prizes, and hundreds of delightful guests.

Noche de Fiesta, Catholic Charities’ annual fundraising event, is the Fenoglios’ favorite kind of festivity — the kind of memorable evening that brings people together to raise hundreds of thousands of dollars to assist people in need. This year, Noche de Fiesta will be held Wednesday, Sept. 19, from 6 p.m. to 10 p.m. on the patio at Joe T. Garcia’s Mexican Restaurant.

The Fenoglios serve as will-ower’s chair, she and Henry expect the event to raise $260,000. Sept. 19 to assist Catholic Charities in providing services in 28 counties within the Diocese of Fort Worth. The need for funding is urgent, according to agency executive, modestly asserts that "We believe in their mission 100 percent. We are just so happy to be associated with Catholic Charities and with Noche de Fiesta. It just keeps getting better and better each year.”

For more information, to sponsor a table, to donate a prize, or to make a reservation at $75 per person, contact Catholic Charities by e-mail at simaker@cdaf.org, visit the Web site www.cdfatx.org, or call (817) 534-0814.

Sponsored content: Catholic Home Missions Appeal

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

The diocesan Catholic Schools Office 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 program. 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, Munster; Notre Dame Elementary, Wichita Falls; and St. Mary’s, Gainesville.

2. Fenoglio family has supported Catholic Charities’ fundraising effort from the beginning

Henry and Juanita Fenoglio love a good party. Each summer, they begin to look forward to their favorite gathering of the year — a large-scale, festive affair, complete with exuberant music, fabulous food, enticing auction prizes, and hundreds of delightful guests.

Noche de Fiesta, Catholic Charities’ annual fundraising event, is the Fenoglios’ favorite kind of festivity — the kind of memorable evening that brings people together to raise hundreds of thousands of dollars to assist people in need. This year, Noche de Fiesta will be held Wednesday, Sept. 19, from 6 p.m. to 10 p.m. on the patio at Joe T. Garcia’s Mexican Restaurant.

The Fenoglios serve as will-ower’s chair, she and Henry expect the event to raise $260,000. Sept. 19 to assist Catholic Charities in providing services in 28 counties within the Diocese of Fort Worth. The need for funding is urgent, according to agency executive, modestly asserts that "We believe in their mission 100 percent. We are just so happy to be associated with Catholic Charities and with Noche de Fiesta. It just keeps getting better and better each year.”

For more information, to sponsor a table, to donate a prize, or to make a reservation at $75 per person, contact Catholic Charities by e-mail at simaker@cdaf.org, visit the Web site www.cdfatx.org, or call (817) 534-0814.

3. Noche de Fiesta to be held Sept. 19 at Joe T. Garcia’s Mexican Restaurant

Noche de Fiesta will be held Wednesday, Sept. 19, from 6 p.m. to 10 p.m. on the patio at Joe T. Garcia’s Mexican Restaurant, located at 2201 N. Commerce Street on the near North Side of Fort Worth.

Each September for the past 15 years, the Fenoglios — high school sweethearts who are celebrating 60 years of marriage this year — have worked hard to launch Noche de Fiesta. "It’s always just so much fun to see it all come together,” says Juanita.

As the event’s honorary chair and co-chair, she and Henry expect the event to raise $260,000. Sept. 19 to assist Catholic Charities in providing services in 28 counties within the Diocese of Fort Worth. The need for funding is urgent, according to agency executive, modestly asserts that "We believe in their mission 100 percent. We are just so happy to be associated with Catholic Charities and with Noche de Fiesta. It just keeps getting better and better each year.”

For more information, to sponsor a table, to donate a prize, or to make a reservation at $75 per person, contact Catholic Charities by e-mail at simaker@cdaf.org, visit the Web site www.cdfatx.org, or call (817) 534-0814.
For Mary McLarry, the evening of June 29 included what she referred to as a “feast” of many of life’s richest gifts. Communal worship in a beautiful, sacred space, with an organ joyously pealing; abundant, delicious food; a large, laughter-filled room, spilling over with loving friends; and the melodies from stringed instruments adding a sense of lively celebration to the gathering.

The friends who gathered at Most Blessed Sacrament Church in Arlington, representing a wide variety of treasured places and people in Mary’s life, were united in their resolve to gently tease, to thank, and to praise her for 21 years of devoted service to the Diocese of Fort Worth in her role as director of the Office of Worship.

Her special devotion to the people of God within this diocese seems natural, some point out, as she has lived most of her life within the boundaries of the diocese, even though she began life with a Baptist, rather than a Catholic, identity.

Mary’s gentle, artistic spirit was nurtured in her parents’ home in Wichita Falls, where she was born and raised, along with a younger brother, Rhea. Alice and Jess McLarry’s home was filled with music, and young Mary was already an accomplished pianist at the time of her mother’s death, when Mary was 12 years old.

“Their house was filled with music, and Mary was very much ensconced in it from an early age. She played all the time,” her brother, Rhea McLarry, said.

“She not only loved music, but she also loved life,” said Bill, a member of Our Lady of Victory Parish in Arlington and a past diocesan liturgy chairman.

...The Almighty has done great things for us through your faithful and devoted liturgical ministries. ...God has shown us his mercy in your spirit of compassion and reverence for clergy, religious, and laity... Through his servant, Mary, God has helped the Diocese of Fort Worth, with its diversity of cultures, languages, and religious heritages. ...”

— Reflections by Dr. Ann Healey at Most Blessed Sacrament Church June 29
Franciscan Friars of Renewal welcomed to Fort Worth with blessing of friary

Bishop Kevin Vann welcomed members of the Franciscan Friars of the Renewal religious order to the Diocese of Fort Worth Aug. 8 by presiding at the blessing of the Sacred Heart Friary, located on the Our Mother of Mercy Church campus at 1003 E. Terrell Avenue in Fort Worth. The facility is the former Our Mother of Mercy Church convent.

Four Franciscan friars arrived in Fort Worth July 5 and will reside at the friary. Father Michael Kmioterk, Brother Peter Marie Westall, Brother Mariano Joseph Demma, and Brother Patrick Crowley were invited to come to Fort Worth, said Bishop Vann, to carry out the mission of their congregation by serving the materially poor, particularly the homeless, and to evangelize through the preaching and teaching of the Gospel message.

For more information, visit their Web site at www.franciscanfriars.com.

DivorceCare sessions being offered at St. Paul Church

DivorceCare, a nationally recognized program designed to assist those who are experiencing separation or divorce, is currently being offered at St. Paul Church, 5508 Black Oak Lane in River Oaks. The program began Aug. 23 and continues to be held on Tuesdays evenings, from 6:30 p.m. to 8:30 p.m. through Nov. 15 in the parish cafeteria.

DivorceCare is comprised of 13 Scripturally-based weekly sessions and offers a supportive, confidential atmosphere in which to explore the emotions involved in the termination of a marriage. Facilitators provide leadership, structure, encourage-ment, and support during the program, which consists of videotaped presentations, small group discussion, and writing exercises.

All are welcome to attend. For more information, call program director Deacon Ron Aziere at (817) 738-9925, or visit the DivorceCare Web site at www.divorcecare.com.

Knights of Columbus respond to help brother in need

Reminiscent of an old-fashioned “barn raising” when a community would gather to support a neighbor in a time of need, several members of the Knights of Columbus and their wives recently answered the call to help a brother Knight in a desperate situation.

Former State Warden Jim Gallagher and his wife, Lynn, returned from the Knights of Columbus State Convention, held May 4-6 in Corpus Christi, to the devastating news that Jim had terminal cancer. And to compound their distress, the couple also discovered significant water damage in their home, the result of flooding from the recent torrential rains in North Texas.

A permanent solution was needed, and a group of concerned Knights from the Fort Worth Diocese stepped forward to help, said Leo Hanus, immediate past state deputy for the Knights of Columbus.

Knights of Columbus Council #2813 opened their hall, located directly behind the Gallagher’s home, as a staging area, meeting place, and meal site for the laborers. An underground pipe carrying excess water from the backyard to the street in front of the house was installed. Decorative rock was then added to facilitate drainage and enhance the beauty of the outdoor area.

Knights of Columbus Council #2813 opened their hall, located directly behind the Gallagher’s home, as a staging area, meeting place, and meal site for the laborers.

A local landscape company owned by a brother Knight donated all the pipe and materials to complete the work. Knights used their pickup trucks and tractors to haul rock and move dirt. A lot of muscle power and ditch digging made it all happen, said Hanus, and by mid afternoon the repairs were completed.

Jim and Lynn Gallagher offered their sincere gratitude to the tired workers as they went their separate ways at the end of a long but satisfying day. As one brother Knight was leaving, according to Hanus, he commented, “This is what the Knights of Columbus are all about.”

Editor’s Note: Jim Gallagher, 70, lost his battle with cancer on Aug. 1. His funeral Mass was celebrated at St. Andrew Parish in Fort Worth, with burial following at Mount Olivet Cemetery. Immediate Past State Deputy Leo Hanus commented, “This work was even more important now for his widow.”
HONORED GRADUATES

ARLINGTON
THE OAKRIDGE SCHOOL

Lauren Goodwin
Salutatorian
Lauren Goodwin, the daughter of Matt and Lisa Goodwin, achieved the honor of salutatorian for The Oakridge School in Arlington. She attends St. Francis of Assisi Church in Grapevine, where she has served as a teaching assistant for religious education and has assisted with several retreats at Good Shepherd Parish in Colleyville. Additional service hours include a mission trip to the Bahamas, participation in Teen Court, involvement as a Mavericks Ball Kid for four years, and work at Mission Arlington and GRACE. Lauren will attend the University of Southern California in Los Angeles.

CARROLLTON
HEBRON HIGH SCHOOL

Gera Lemke
Salutatorian
Gera Lemke, Dublin High School salutatorian, is a parishioner at St. Mary Church in Dublin, where she is active in youth ministry and Vacation Bible School as well as serving as a eucharistic minister and lector. In addition to her parish activities, she has participated in Camp Fort Worth, Christmas in Action, and the Life Chain Rally. The daughter of Trinker and Theresa Lemke, Gera will attend Temple College in Temple.

FORT WORTH
CASSATA HIGH SCHOOL

Richard James Bowling
National Merit Finalist
Richard James Bowling graduated from Nolan Catholic High School. A member of St. Andrew Parish in Fort Worth, he has donated considerable time to the Stephen Breen Memorial Foundation and various service projects through Boy Scouts of America Troop 9, Longhorn Council. Additionally, he has served more than 200 hours over the past year at The Warm Place, a grief counseling center for children who have lost a parent or sibling. Richard is the son of George and Victoria Johnson. He will be attending the University of Oklahoma in Norman, Oklahoma, this fall.

DUBLIN
DUBLIN HIGH SCHOOL

Eric Louis Berce
United States Military Academy, West Point
Eric Louis Berce has been appointed to the U.S. Military Academy at West Point, New York. He is a parishioner at St. Andrew Church in Fort Worth. A member of the National Honor Society, Eric has volunteered at Cook Children’s Hospital for three years, including the annual Christmas wrapping project, and has served as a Sunday school helper at First United Methodist Church. He is the son of Annie and David Berce.

CASSATA HIGH SCHOOL

Kara M. Pretzlaff
Valedictorian
Kara M. Pretzlaff has earned the distinction of being named valedictorian of Carrollton’s Hebron High School. A member of St. Catherine of Siena Parish in Carrollton, Kara served as a youth delegate to the pastoral council, lector, eucharistic minister, and choir member. Community service involvement includes participation in Camp Fort Worth as both a camper and an A Team leader, National Honor Society president, and Habitat for Humanity volunteer. Kara is the daughter of Deb and Eric Pretzlaff. She plans to major in biology at St. Louis University, a Jesuit college in Missouri.

FLORIDA
FLOWER MOUND
FLOWER MOUND HIGH SCHOOL

Virginia Patron
Salutatorian
Virginia Patron was named salutatorian of Cassata High School. This is the daughter of Michael and Michelle Patron. She is the sister of her two younger brothers, Luke and Matt. In addition to her on-campus activities, she served as the student body president and student senate president. She also served as the president of the National Honor Society and the president of the Catholic Student Council. Virginia has participated in multiple volunteer programs and organizations, including the Ronald McDonald House, the Boys and Girls Club of America, and the National Honor Society. She plans to major in biology and pursue a career in medicine.

NOLAN CATHOLIC HIGH SCHOOL

Christopher M. McCaulley
National Merit Finalist
Christopher M. McCaulley, a Nolan Catholic High School graduate, is a National Merit Finalist. He plans to attend the University of Oklahoma in Norman, Oklahoma, this fall.

CALLISBURG
CALLISBURG HIGH SCHOOL

Royce Daniel Krah
Salutatorian
Callisburg High School salutatorian Royce Daniel Krah is a member of St. Mary Parish in Gainesville. He participated in the Nolan Catholic High School National Honor Society and the Student Council, and he also served as a peer tutor in the Gifted and Talented Program. Royce has been involved in community theater at the Butterfield Stage and Whaley Conservatory. Royce is the son of Gary and Cathy Krah. He will study history and pre-med at Texas Tech University in Lubbock.

Eric Louis Berce
United States Military Academy, West Point
Eric Louis Berce has been appointed to the U.S. Military Academy at West Point, New York. He is a parishioner at St. Andrew Church in Fort Worth. A member of the National Honor Society, Eric has volunteered at Cook Children’s Hospital for three years, including the annual Christmas wrapping project, and has served as a Sunday school helper at First United Methodist Church. He is the son of Annie and David Berce.

Kara M. Pretzlaff
Valedictorian
Kara M. Pretzlaff has earned the distinction of being named valedictorian of Carrollton’s Hebron High School. A member of St. Catherine of Siena Parish in Carrollton, Kara served as a youth delegate to the pastoral council, lector, eucharistic minister, and choir member. Community service involvement includes participation in Camp Fort Worth as both a camper and an A Team leader, National Honor Society president, and Habitat for Humanity volunteer. Kara is the daughter of Deb and Eric Pretzlaff. She plans to major in biology at St. Louis University, a Jesuit college in Missouri.

CLEBURNE
CLEBURNE HIGH SCHOOL

Nicholas James Passaluco
Valedictorian
Nicholas James Passaluco is a National Merit Scholar at St. Francis of Assisi Church in Granbury, where he has been an altar server for seven years and a half years and has served as a lector. Nicholas has also been a member of the Knights of Columbus Fish Fry. Community activities include Christmas in April, Christmas Angels, and Thank-A-Soldier. Nicholas is the son of Paul and Nancy Passaluco. He will attend Texas A&M University in College Station this fall.

Eric Stradley
National Merit Finalist
Eric Stradley is a parishioner of St. Andrew Church in Fort Worth, where he is a lector and an altar server. He founded a peer tutoring group called SAIL and served on the planning committee for the Spirit Games in 2007. Additionally, Eric has volunteered 200 hours, which contributed to Cook Children’s Hospital Camp Broncho and school concessions. The son of Carrie and Scott Stradley, Eric will attend Rhodes College in Memphis, Tennessee.

CRAWFORDSVILLE

Matthew James Peterson
Valedictorian
Nolan Catholic High School valedictorian Matthew James Peterson is a member of St. Francis of Assisi Parish in Granville. He is a student at the Vacation Bible School, a baseball camp counselor, and has volunteered at Ronald McDonald House. The son of Joel and Lisa Peterson, Matthew plans to attend the University of Notre Dame in South Bend, Indiana, this fall.

Matthew James Peterson
Valedictorian
Nolan Catholic High School valedictorian Matthew James Peterson is a member of St. Francis of Assisi Parish in Granville. He is a student at the Vacation Bible School, a baseball camp counselor, and has volunteered at Ronald McDonald House. The son of Joel and Lisa Peterson, Matthew plans to attend the University of Notre Dame in South Bend, Indiana, this fall.

Wade Benjamin Smith
Salutatorian
Nolan Catholic High School salutatorian Wade Benjamin Smith is a member of St. Rita Parish in Fort Worth, where he was an altar server for six years and participated in the BASIC program. Volunteer hours were spent as an assistant coach for the St. Rita School junior high soccer team and the 6th grade boys’ basketball team. Wade will attend Texas A&M University in College Station. He is the son of Brad and Judy Smith.

Virginia Patron
Salutatorian
Virginia Patron was named salutatorian of Cassata High School. This is the daughter of Michael and Michelle Patron. She is the sister of her two younger brothers, Luke and Matt. In addition to her on-campus activities, she served as the student body president and student senate president. She also served as the president of the National Honor Society and the president of the Catholic Student Council. Virginia has participated in multiple volunteer programs and organizations, including the Ronald McDonald House, the Boys and Girls Club of America, and the National Honor Society. She plans to major in biology and pursue a career in medicine.

Christopher M. McCaulley
National Merit Finalist
Christopher M. McCaulley, a Nolan Catholic High School graduate, is a National Merit Finalist. He plans to attend the University of Oklahoma in Norman, Oklahoma, this fall.

Michael Keith Britton
Chaminade Award
Michael Keith Britton, a parishioner at St. Andrew Church in Fort Worth, is a member of the National Honor Society. Michael has volunteered at the Don Thompson Memorial Award Scholarship committee and has served as a volunteer for Nolan Catholic High School. Michael is the son of Judy and Charlie Britton. He will be attending the University of Tulsa in Tulsa, Oklahoma.

Michael Keith Britton
Chaminade Award
Michael Keith Britton, a parishioner at St. Andrew Church in Fort Worth, is a member of the National Honor Society. Michael has volunteered at the Don Thompson Memorial Award Scholarship committee and has served as a volunteer for Nolan Catholic High School. Michael is the son of Judy and Charlie Britton. He will be attending the University of Tulsa in Tulsa, Oklahoma.

Augustin Paulo
United States Military Academy, West Point
Augustin Paulo has been appointed to the U.S. Military Academy at West Point, New York. He is a member of St. Elizabeth Ann Seton Church in Keller, and he has been active in the Boy Scouts of America Troop 32, achieving the rank of Eagle Scout. Augustin is the son of Daniel and Suzanne Paulo.
Katherine Sayler

Katherine Sayler has been recognized as the Distinguished Student for 2006–2007 (Valedictorian) for Our Lady of Grace High School. A member of Immaculate Conception Parish in Denton, she served as the youth representative to the pastoral council and was active with the pro-life group. Katherine is the daughter of Stephanie and Michael Sayler. She will attend Lexington College in Chicago.

Kris Margaret Allen

Valedictorian

Tolar High School

Valedictorian National Merit Finalist Sacred Heart Catholic School valedictorian Paige Elizabeth White is also a National Merit Finalist. She is active in her parish as a eucharistic minister, soup kitchen/parish food pantry volunteer, Parish Unity Committee member, and Parish Fellowship Committee member. In addition to her church activities, she participated in Students Against Destructive Decisions as vice president, National Honor Society, and accumulated more than 300 community service hours during high school. Paige is the daughter of Andy and Leslie White. She will attend Villanova University in Villanova, Pennsylvania, this fall.

Kristen Margaret Allen

Valedictorian

Tolar High School

valedictorian Kristen Margaret Allen is a member of St. Frances Cabrini Church in Granbury. Her parish activities include participation in the youth group and youth council, serving as a eucharistic minister, assistant religious education teacher, and altar server. Kristen was an Adopt-A-Rat-tier mentor and took part in several community projects such as Relay for Life, the Granbury STOP Team, People Helping People, Car Wash for Life, and was a volunteer UCLA coach for the 6th grade calculator team. The daughter of John and Margaret Allen, Kristen plans to attend Texas Tech University in Lubbock.

Krystal Ann Wolf

Salutatorian

Krum High School

She plans to attend the University of Texas at Tyler.

Waylon Wolf

Salutatorian

Windthorst High School

Waylon Wolf, Windthorst High School salutatorian, is an altar server at his home parish. He devoted 80 hours to helping build a high school baseball field. Additional service hours were spent setting up flags for a fallen Marine and raising money for a car accident victim. Waylon, the son of Lloyd and Pam Wolf, will attend Texas A&M University in College Station.
I’m trying to tune in to God’s call, whatever that may be,” says Heyne, a former Southlake resident who is studying church history in England. “Choosing between medicine or religious life isn’t easy.”

The Cistercian High School and University of Dallas graduate hoped a weekend spent in prayer and reflection would help him decide which path to follow. Heyne was one of 33 young men and women who attended “Come and See,” a Vocation Awareness Program held July 13-15 at Holy Trinity Seminary in Irving. The annual event, sponsored by local Serra Clubs, the Young Serrans, and the vocation offices of the Fort Worth and Dallas dioceses, is designed to give participants the chance to meet priests, brothers, and sisters, hear their stories, and learn more about the different ways they serve God.

“I’m here to listen,” says the Bronx, New York, native. “I’m drawn to a religious vocation, and I want to see if God wants to open that door for me.”

Sarah Ignascio decided to attend the Vocation Awareness Weekend after seeing it publicized on the diocesan Web site. “All the sisters I’ve met are fun and down to earth,” she adds. “It’s exciting to be with them and learn from them. All their experiences are so different.”

“Choosing between medicine or religious life isn’t easy.”

“I’m trying to tune in to God’s call, whatever that may be,” says Heyne, a former Southlake resident who is studying church history in England. “Choosing between medicine or religious life isn’t easy.”

The Cistercian High School and University of Dallas graduate hoped a weekend spent in prayer and reflection would help him decide which path to follow. Heyne was one of 33 young men and women who attended “Come and See,” a Vocation Awareness Program held July 13-15 at Holy Trinity Seminary in Irving. The annual event, sponsored by local Serra Clubs, the Young Serrans, and the vocation offices of the Fort Worth and Dallas dioceses, is designed to give participants the chance to meet priests, brothers, and sisters, hear their stories, and learn more about the different ways they serve God.

“I’m here to listen,” says the Bronx, New York, native. “I’m drawn to a religious vocation, and I want to see if God wants to open that door for me.”

Sarah Ignascio decided to attend the Vocation Awareness Weekend after seeing it publicized on the diocesan Web site. “All the sisters I’ve met are fun and down to earth,” she adds. “It’s exciting to be with them and learn from them. All their experiences are so different.”

“Choosing between medicine or religious life isn’t easy.”
Safe Environment Advisory Council is formed to advise bishop on policies, resources which promote a culture of safety

The diocesan of the Church of Fort Worth is working to protect vulnerable individuals in diocesan offices, parishes, and schools. The council is an ongoing process we want to keep improving. By Dawn Eden

The council is an ongoing process we want to keep improving. The second annual “Conference on Immigration: Informing our Community on Themes of Immigration and Education” will be held Sept. 8 at the Tarrant County College South Campus.

The conference is an opportunity to learn about new laws and proposals in immigration law and education, with topics including family petitions, deportation cases, the citizenship application process, student visas, and much more. Guest speakers will include Lynden Melmed, chief counsel for U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services and Homeland Security, and Angela Barrows, district director for U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services and Homeland Security. For more information about the immigration conference, call Proyecto Inmigrante ICS at (817) 922-0280 or TCC at (817) 515-5186, or visit online at www.proyectoinmigrante.org.

GULF COAST RECOVERY — Workers unload a truck full of furniture and assemble desks in early July for the new St. Patrick Catholic High School, which opened Aug. 13 in Biloxi, Mississippi. Two years after Hurricane Katrina, Catholic schools and colleges in the Gulf Coast region are recovering, but enrollment figures have still not been restored to what they were prior to the storm. (CNS photo/Shirley Henderson, Guadalupe Carroll)

NORTH TEXAS CATHOLIC, August 31, 2007     Page 19

Immigration conference will be held Sept. 8 at Tarrant County College South Campus

The conference is an opportunity to learn about new changes and proposals in immigration law and education, with topics including family petitions, deportation cases, the citizenship application process, student visas, and much more. Guest speakers will include Lynden Melmed, chief counsel for U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services and Homeland Security, and Angela Barrows, district director for U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services and Homeland Security. For more information about the immigration conference, call Proyecto Inmigrante ICS at (817) 922-0280 or TCC at (817) 515-5186, or visit online at www.proyectoinmigrante.org.

The conference is an opportunity to learn about new laws and proposals in immigration law and education, with topics including family petitions, deportation cases, the citizenship application process, student visas, and much more. Guest speakers will include Lynden Melmed, chief counsel for U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services and Homeland Security, and Angela Barrows, district director for U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services and Homeland Security. For more information about the immigration conference, call Proyecto Inmigrante ICS at (817) 922-0280 or TCC at (817) 515-5186, or visit online at www.proyectoinmigrante.org.

The conference is an opportunity to learn about new laws and proposals in immigration law and education, with topics including family petitions, deportation cases, the citizenship application process, student visas, and much more. Guest speakers will include Lynden Melmed, chief counsel for U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services and Homeland Security, and Angela Barrows, district director for U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services and Homeland Security. For more information about the immigration conference, call Proyecto Inmigrante ICS at (817) 922-0280 or TCC at (817) 515-5186, or visit online at www.proyectoinmigrante.org.

The conference is an opportunity to learn about new laws and proposals in immigration law and education, with topics including family petitions, deportation cases, the citizenship application process, student visas, and much more. Guest speakers will include Lynden Melmed, chief counsel for U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services and Homeland Security, and Angela Barrows, district director for U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services and Homeland Security. For more information about the immigration conference, call Proyecto Inmigrante ICS at (817) 922-0280 or TCC at (817) 515-5186, or visit online at www.proyectoinmigrante.org.

The conference is an opportunity to learn about new laws and proposals in immigration law and education, with topics including family petitions, deportation cases, the citizenship application process, student visas, and much more. Guest speakers will include Lynden Melmed, chief counsel for U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services and Homeland Security, and Angela Barrows, district director for U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services and Homeland Security. For more information about the immigration conference, call Proyecto Inmigrante ICS at (817) 922-0280 or TCC at (817) 515-5186, or visit online at www.proyectoinmigrante.org.

The conference is an opportunity to learn about new laws and proposals in immigration law and education, with topics including family petitions, deportation cases, the citizenship application process, student visas, and much more. Guest speakers will include Lynden Melmed, chief counsel for U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services and Homeland Security, and Angela Barrows, district director for U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services and Homeland Security. For more information about the immigration conference, call Proyecto Inmigrante ICS at (817) 922-0280 or TCC at (817) 515-5186, or visit online at www.proyectoinmigrante.org.

The conference is an opportunity to learn about new laws and proposals in immigration law and education, with topics including family petitions, deportation cases, the citizenship application process, student visas, and much more. Guest speakers will include Lynden Melmed, chief counsel for U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services and Homeland Security, and Angela Barrows, district director for U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services and Homeland Security. For more information about the immigration conference, call Proyecto Inmigrante ICS at (817) 922-0280 or TCC at (817) 515-5186, or visit online at www.proyectoinmigrante.org.

The conference is an opportunity to learn about new laws and proposals in immigration law and education, with topics including family petitions, deportation cases, the citizenship application process, student visas, and much more. Guest speakers will include Lynden Melmed, chief counsel for U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services and Homeland Security, and Angela Barrows, district director for U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services and Homeland Security. For more information about the immigration conference, call Proyecto Inmigrante ICS at (817) 922-0280 or TCC at (817) 515-5186, or visit online at www.proyectoinmigrante.org.

The conference is an opportunity to learn about new laws and proposals in immigration law and education, with topics including family petitions, deportation cases, the citizenship application process, student visas, and much more. Guest speakers will include Lynden Melmed, chief counsel for U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services and Homeland Security, and Angela Barrows, district director for U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services and Homeland Security. For more information about the immigration conference, call Proyecto Inmigrante ICS at (817) 922-0280 or TCC at (817) 515-5186, or visit online at www.proyectoinmigrante.org.

The conference is an opportunity to learn about new laws and proposals in immigration law and education, with topics including family petitions, deportation cases, the citizenship application process, student visas, and much more. Guest speakers will include Lynden Melmed, chief counsel for U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services and Homeland Security, and Angela Barrows, district director for U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services and Homeland Security. For more information about the immigration conference, call Proyecto Inmigrante ICS at (817) 922-0280 or TCC at (817) 515-5186, or visit online at www.proyectoinmigrante.org.

The conference is an opportunity to learn about new laws and proposals in immigration law and education, with topics including family petitions, deportation cases, the citizenship application process, student visas, and much more. Guest speakers will include Lynden Melmed, chief counsel for U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services and Homeland Security, and Angela Barrows, district director for U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services and Homeland Security. For more information about the immigration conference, call Proyecto Inmigrante ICS at (817) 922-0280 or TCC at (817) 515-5186, or visit online at www.proyectoinmigrante.org.

The conference is an opportunity to learn about new laws and proposals in immigration law and education, with topics including family petitions, deportation cases, the citizenship application process, student visas, and much more. Guest speakers will include Lynden Melmed, chief counsel for U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services and Homeland Security, and Angela Barrows, district director for U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services and Homeland Security. For more information about the immigration conference, call Proyecto Inmigrante ICS at (817) 922-0280 or TCC at (817) 515-5186, or visit online at www.proyectoinmigrante.org.

The conference is an opportunity to learn about new laws and proposals in immigration law and education, with topics including family petitions, deportation cases, the citizenship application process, student visas, and much more. Guest speakers will include Lynden Melmed, chief counsel for U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services and Homeland Security, and Angela Barrows, district director for U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services and Homeland Security. For more information about the immigration conference, call Proyecto Inmigrante ICS at (817) 922-0280 or TCC at (817) 515-5186, or visit online at www.proyectoinmigrante.org.

The conference is an opportunity to learn about new laws and proposals in immigration law and education, with topics including family petitions, deportation cases, the citizenship application process, student visas, and much more. Guest speakers will include Lynden Melmed, chief counsel for U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services and Homeland Security, and Angela Barrows, district director for U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services and Homeland Security. For more information about the immigration conference, call Proyecto Inmigrante ICS at (817) 922-0280 or TCC at (817) 515-5186, or visit online at www.proyectoinmigrante.org.
Father Moses Nagy, former UD professor, dies at age 80

Father Moses Nagy, O.Cist., a professor at the University of Dallas for 43 years, died in Szekesfehervar, Hungary, Jan. 22 at the age of 80. The funeral Mass was celebrated in Szekesfehervar and burial was in Zirc, Hungary. Fr. Nagy had been ordained for 57 years at the time of his death.

Born in Dornesti, Romania, Jan. 5, 1927, one of 13 children born to parents Istvan and Emma Nagy, the young man moved to Hungary with his family and served in the Hungarian army. While in the army, he was captured and became a prisoner of the German army during World War II. Upon his release he returned home and began seminary studies. He traveled to Milwaukee, Wisconsin, to complete his studies and was ordained as a Cistercian Father in 1953.

Following his ordination, the young priest taught foreign languages at the University of Dallas in Irving. After earning his doctorate in Quebec, Canada, in 1958, Fr. Nagy went on to earn a second doctorate and was later knighted by the French government. According to longtime family friend Eloise Lievrouw, “Fr. Moses served in many churches on Sundays in Fort Worth and taught the catechism at Holy Family Church.” Calling Fr. Nagy a “devoted priest who served the University of Dallas for many years,” Lievrouw recalled that Fr. Nagy made arrangements for the Texas Boys Choir to have a papal audience in Rome in the early 1970s when the choir was on a European tour.

In 1968, Fr. Nagy helped to found the Paul Claudel Society, an organization of researchers, academics, and students with an interest in the Catholic poetry and prose of Paul Claudel. Fr. Nagy served as editor of the scholarly publication Claudel Studies for many years. Fr. Nagy is survived by two sisters, a brother, several nieces and nephews, and many friends and former students.

Brother Daniel Sharpe, SM, former Nolan faculty member, dies at age 83

Brother Daniel Sharpe, 83, a member of the Society of Mary (Marianists) for 65 years and a former faculty member at Nolan Catholic High School in Fort Worth, died in San Antonio July 23 of emphysema. A Mass of Christian Burial was celebrated July 26 at the Marianist Residence in San Antonio. Burial was at the Marianist cemetery on the St. Mary’s University campus.

Br. Sharpe, a native of Chicago, was born Sept. 26, 1923, the only child of Daniel and Elizabeth (Becker) Sharpe. His parents shared their respect for education and their devotion to the Blessed Mother with their son, who became close to the Marianists while attending St. Michael High School in Chicago.

The young man entered the Marianist postulancy in St. Louis in 1939 and professed first vows in 1941 and final vows in 1945 at Marynook in Galesville, Wisconsin.

He began his nearly 50 years as an educator in 1943 as a student teacher at South Side Catholic High School in St. Louis. After receiving his bachelor’s degree in education from the University of Dayton in 1944, he went on to teach at Central Catholic High School in San Antonio, at Don Bosco High School in Milwaukee, and then at St. Mary’s University in San Antonio until 1957, teaching religion, social studies, and Spanish. His fondness for Spanish prompted him to study in Mexico and to earn a master’s degree in Spanish in 1952 from Notre Dame University; he also earned a master’s degree in administration in 1964 from Marquette University in Milwaukee, Wisconsin.

After teaching for almost 20 years and moderating activities such as football, basketball, track, golf, and sodality (CLC), Br. Sharpe went on to serve as an administrator in high schools in Milwaukee and Chicago, and also served at St. Mary’s University as community director and vice president of student affairs from 1975-1979.

After serving on the provincial administration team of the former St. Louis Province from 1979 to 1987, Br. Sharpe returned to teaching and served at Nolan Catholic High School in Fort Worth until 1991, when he went to Mexico and worked as a missionary in Apatzingan and Querétaro, serving as a mentor to young Mexican candidates during their formation process. In 2001, due to health problems, Br. Sharpe retired to the Marianist health care center in San Antonio. He had no immediate survivors.

Memorial contributions may be sent to the Marianist Province of the United States, 4425 West Pine Blvd., St. Louis, MO 63108.
Aid is being channeled to quake victims as fast as possible, says Peruvian bishop

From Page 1

were damaged. But part of the problem, Skrocki said, seemed to be fed by political infighting over whether the central government or local and regional governments should oversee relief efforts.

"Unfortunately, it's a similar story [in] many other countries," said Skrocki, who has been involved in CRS disaster responses to Hurricane Stan in Guatemala in 2005, the eruption of the Tungurahua volcano in Ecuador in 2006, and flooding earlier this year in Bolivia.

By Aug. 21, the situation had improved in Ica. Bishop Guido Brena Lopez of Ica told Catholic News Service by telephone that electricity had been restored and some shops and markets were open again.

In Pisco, however, where more than 80 percent of the houses were destroyed, there was still no electricity. The bishop said relief efforts were concentrated in the center of the city, making it difficult for people in more remote areas to get assistance.

Bishop Brena noted that in Pisco and Ica people are still very nervous because there have been a lot of strong aftershocks.

"More aid is arriving through the church, and we are channeling it as rapidly as possible so that it reaches the outlying areas," he said.

Meanwhile, people are organizing themselves.

"One characteristic in Peru is that relatives and neighbors help one another," the bishop said. Many people, especially those with small children, are trekking north to take refuge with relatives in Lima, while southbound busses have carried a steady stream of people from Lima carrying food, blankets, and other supplies to family members in the affected cities.

On Aug. 18, government emergency agencies and international organizations such as CRS, the Red Cross and Red Crescent, Oxfam, and others set up a command center at the air force base in Pisco to exchange information and coordinate efforts.

"If a lot of agencies are involved and we don't organize well, it will only create more chaos," Cordoba said.

Security was the first obstacle. Shortly after the earthquake, looters struck, sometimes foraging for necessities and sometimes raiding the rubble of people's homes for anything of value. Although tents and shelters have been set up in all three towns, many people have camped out in front of the ruins of their houses to protect anything that might be left.

"I saw people sleeping on the street," Skrocki said. "They took the couch out of their house, put up a couple of chairs and put a sheet over the top, and that's where they're living."

That worried Dr. Manuel Peña, director of the Pan American Health Organization office in Lima. In an interview with the Channel N cable TV station, Peña warned that if people stayed near their homes the lack of water and toilets could lead to the spread of disease.

On Aug. 20, the Health Ministry dispatched health brigades to the cities to set up portable toilets, assist with hygiene, and provide vaccinations against illnesses such as hepatitis.

The full extent of the earthquake's effects remained unclear. The CRS emergency team visited several rural communities where the facades of adobe houses showed only cracks, but back rooms had collapsed. Cordoba warned that if inspectors make only a quick visual check of those communities, they will underestimate the damage.

CRS will work with Caritas Peru to provide essentials such as food, water, shelter, and medicine. Meanwhile, the agencies will be planning for the long-range, painstaking task of helping people rebuild their homes and their lives.

Caritas Peru is the local affiliate of Caritas Internationalis, the international confederation of Catholic aid agencies. CRS is part of the Caritas network.

Crossroads cross-country walkers mark 13 years of pro-life activism

By Mary Ann Wyand

INDIANAPOLIS (CNS) — They walk and pray and walk some more and pray again with one goal in sight.

Their destination is the nation's capital, and their goal is to educate countless Americans about how abortion kills babies.

Each of the more than 50 young adults are trying abortion with plans to arrive in Ottawa, the walkers have saved the lives of Canadian youths are walking across America to promote the dignity of human life. They left Vancouver, British Columbia, May 19, with plans to arrive in Ottawa Aug. 11.

"It's been a real joy in the journey," Fr. Pattee said July 21 in the midst of a weekend of pro-life activities in the Indianapolis Archdiocese.

"God slipped it into my heart," the priest said of his decision to join the nationwide pro-life walk at the invitation of several Franciscan University students.

"In October, I asked my superior, ‘Look, he’s penitentized me, go.’"

Fr. Pattee said. "Then I knew it was the work of the Lord."

From the Pacific coast, walkers on the central route crossed the arid desert in Nevada and Utah, then snow-covered mountain ranges in Colorado and continued on through the Great Plains states on their way to the Midwest and eastward to the District of Columbia, walking in all kinds of weather and temperatures that ranged from 25 degrees to 110 degrees.

"I am inspired by each one of the walkers," Fr. Pattee told The Criterion, newspaper of the Indianapolis Archdiocese.

"For them, this pilgrimage is personal because they are post-1973 babies who were born after women had a choice and could be pro-death," he said, referring to the year the U.S. Supreme Court handed down its Roe v. Wade decision legalizing abortion during all nine months of pregnancy.

"A lot of their peers have not made it into this world, and they feel that [loss]. To me, it’s been a real lesson on just how motivated this generation feels when they come on to the truth of what abortion is doing to their generation," the priest said.

Central walk leader Jason Spoolstra, youth director of St. Maria Goretti Parish in Arlington, was walking across the country for the second time.

"It’s the small gestures from people that really mean a lot to us," Spoolstra said. "In 2005, I did part of the southern walk then the rest of the way on the central walk. I told myself, ‘If God wills it, if God wants it, I’ll walk again, and here I am.’"

Beth Ann Flessner, a member of St. Francis of Assisi Parish in Madison, Mississippi, and a senior at the University of Dallas, joined the pro-life pilgrimage because she was born Jan. 22, 1986, the 13th anniversary of Roe.

Flessner said her birhday "always made me think that I was supposed to do something for the pro-life movement."

Prayer is an integral part of the pro-life movement for Tina Hardy, a member of Nativity of the Blessed Virgin Mary Parish in Buffalo, New York, and a recent graduate of Franciscan University.

"I wanted to do something pro-life after graduation," Hardy said. "There are days that are harder than others. It's important to get involved and pray. I think prayer is the most important thing you can do for the pro-life movement."
U.S. bishops’ annual Labor Day statement urges comprehensive immigration reform

From Page 1

points for a new discussion on immigration.

Bishop DiMarzio said, “There are some 12 million undocumented people among us, most of whom are workers. Our economy and communities depend on them. They bus our dishes, pick our vegetables, clean our offices and homes, and care for our children among other jobs.” These, he added, were some of the “inescapable facts” about immigration.

“The immigration status quo is unacceptable and unsustainable. The ‘system’ is broken. We need far-reaching and comprehensive reform,” he added. “There is no fence long enough, or high enough that can wall out the human and economic forces that drive immigration.”

He added, “Immigration reform cannot start or stop at our borders. U.S. policy must help overcome the pervasive poverty and deprivation, the violence and oppression that push people to leave their own lands. Policies on debt and development, foreign aid and global trade are essential elements of any effective immigration reform.”

Immigration issues should not be used for “partisan advantage, a ratings boost, or a fundraising tactic,” Bishop DiMarzio said. “We have to guard against policy disputes that encourage or excuse ethnic hostility or discrimination. We have seen the use of demeaning stereotypes, appeals to the worst in us, and one-sided advocacy pretending to be journalism.”

Bishop DiMarzio said, “Human dignity is a gift from God, not a status to be earned. Fundamental rights to work, decent wages, safe working conditions to have a voice in decisions, and the freedom to choose to join a union do not depend on where you were born or when you came to our nation.”

In calling for nationwide reform, Bishop DiMarzio said, “Immigration policy should not depend on where in the United States you work or live. A patchwork of conflicting policies, punitive measures, and local disputes cannot fix a broken federal system.”

Bishop DiMarzio praised the Coalition of Immokalee Workers, an organization of Florida tomato pickers that received funding from the Catholic Campaign for Human Development, for their years of hard work” in reaching agreements with McDonald’s and Yum! Brands — owners of Pizza Hut, Taco Bell, KFC, and other fast-food chains — “to get higher pay for their work and a new code of conduct in the fields.”

“They organized, protested, fasted, demonstrated, insisted, and would not be pushed aside. When no one gave them much of a chance, they stood up for their own lives, dignity, and rights,” Bishop DiMarzio said. “This small but impressive sign of hope is worth celebrating. It offers a call to all of us to stand with vulnerable workers who deserve our support and solidarity.”

Respect life materials available from USCCB

From Page 1

es some of the current threats to life and the programs aimed at restoring respect for life. Among the topics of the articles and their authors:

— Assisted reproductive technology and the family, by Helen Alvaré,
  “Peter’s Story: Discovering Hope and Love After an Adverse Pediatric Diagnosis,” by Mary Kellett,
  “The Person With Mental Illness: Bearing God’s Image,” by Father Richard Gill,
  Abortion and Catholic social teaching, by Father Thomas D. Williams,
  “The Prevention Deception: How Not to Reduce Abortions,” by Richard M. Doerflinger,
  “The link between abortion and breast cancer, by Dr. Angela Lanfranchi,
  “Caring for ailing loved ones,” by Monica and Bill Dodds,
  “Project Rachel: In the Heart of the Church,” about an international Catholic organization dedicated to post-abortion reconciliation and healing, written by staff members of the pro-life secretariat.

In addition to the articles, the Respect Life package includes a liturgy guide for Respect Life Sunday, Oct. 7 in 2007, a day of prayer and penance for life, Jan. 22, prayers for life throughout the year; a novena for life leading up the feast of the Visitation of the Blessed Virgin Mary, May 31 in 2008; and a rosary for life focusing on the joyful mysteries.

A compact disc included with the Respect Life package includes all the articles, the brochure, the liturgy guide, a poster, clip-art quotes, and a catalog, all in English and Spanish.

Editor’s Note: Respect Life packets may be ordered from the U.S. bishops’ Secretariat for Pro-Life Activities by calling toll-free (866) 582-0943. Downloadable copies of Respect Life materials are posted in English and Spanish online at www.usccb.org/prolife/programs/rlp.

Labor Day

Workers harvest watermelons at Maple Creek Farm, an organic family farm near Detroit in August. Labor Day, honoring working people of America, is marked Sept. 3 this year. In the U.S. bishops’ annual Labor Day statement, Bishop Nicholas DiMarzio emphasized the need for comprehensive immigration reform. (CNS photo/ Jim West)

Stem-cell research still a hot topic in U.S. Congress, states pro-life official

WASHINGTON (CNS) — As the U.S. Senate considers whether to try to override the presidential veto of a bill permitting federal funding of embryonic stem-cell research, funding of embryonic stem-cell research and cloning of embryos continues to be supported by the U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops, according to Richard M. Doerflinger, deputy director of the USCCB Secretariat for Pro-Life Activities, because “it will promote stem-cell research that showing real benefits in animal trials. The hype and public debate over embryonic stem cells has unfortunately diverted attention away from medical research that is already working, using stem cells that pose no moral problem,” he added.

Twenty years of stats show religious retirement needs still great

WASHINGTON (CNS) — Despite steady support by American Catholics for the national comprehensive Religious Retirement America Act over the past 20 years, the unfunded liability for the care of elderly U.S. men and women religious continues to grow, according to a new report. Annual national collections since 1987 have topped more than $529 million for the needs of retired religious, with more than $307 million being distributed to more than 500 religious congregations, the June statistical report of the National Religious Retirement Office showed. But a December 2006 survey of 527 women’s institutes and 154 men’s institutes showed that only 11 percent of women’s congregations and 12 percent of men’s congregations reported being “adequately funded” for the retirement needs of their members, based on designated assets and the reported cost of care. By contrast, 26 percent of women’s institutes and 19 percent of the men’s said their funding for retirement needs came to between 0 percent and 20 percent of the amount needed. At their June 2006 meeting in Los Angeles, the U.S. bishops approved a four-year yearly collection until 2017. It had been due to expire in 2007.

Long-lasting ‘Christopher Closeup’ show to end its 55-year run

NEW YORK (CNS) — “Christopher Closeup,” the television show sponsored by the organization that says it’s better to light one candle than to curse the darkness, will no longer be broadcast after the end of the summer. “Christopher Closeup” enjoyed a 55-year run on TV, exceeded only by CBS’ evening newscast, NBC’s “Meet the Press” and “Today,” and the CBS soap opera “Guiding Light.” “It was a very difficult decision,” said a statement by Christophers president and CEO Dennis Heaney, the show’s host, “but given the evolving media landscape, we think it’s time to bring another generation of Christophers viewers innovative technologies like podcasts and webcasts, as well as reinforcing our presence on broadcast and satellite radio.” Heaney added, “We take pride in the fact that we had such an outstanding run in a fickle TV universe where 10 years is considered a long time.”

In its heyday in the 1970s, “Christopher Closeup,” a syndicated half-hour public affairs program, reached 200-300 TV stations.

Catholic leaders praise Congress for votes on children’s health care

WASHINGTON (CNS) — Thanking the Senate and House for their approval of legislation reauthorizing and expanding the State Children’s Health Insurance Program, known as SCHIP, the heads of the Catholic Health Association and Catholic Charities said the hoped partisans would “set aside to get a final bill to President George W. Bush quickly.” The time for partisan bickering is over — it is now time for united support on behalf of children’s health coverage and a more solid foundation for our society’s future, said Sister Carol Zinn, executive director of Catholic Health Charities who is CHA president and CEO, in an Aug. 3 statement. “We applaud the Democrats, Republicans, and independents in Congress who have come together to support and strengthen this program,” said Father Lawrence Sensenbrenner, executive director of the Catholic Health Charities of the USA, in a separate statement Aug. 3. The House voted 225-204 late Aug. 1 in favor of the Children’s Health and Medicare Protection Act, known as CHAMP, which would provide health insurance for at least 3 million children currently uninsured and reauthorized funding for the more than 5 million children already covered by SCHIP. The program is due to expire Sept. 30. The Senate approved a different version of the legislation by a 68-31 vote Aug. 2.
Knights of Columbus’ 125th national convention

Cardinal Bertone says he’ll personally work on cause of Knights’ founder

By Andy Telli

NASHVILLE, Tennessee (CNS) — Cardinal Tarcisio Bertone, the second highest ranking official at the Vatican, told members of the Knights of Columbus that he is taking a personal interest in the beatification process for the order’s founder, Father Michael McGivney.

“I hope this recognition [of sanctity] will arrive soon, and I’ll personally work on this, so that this day will come soon,” Cardinal Bertone said during his homily, delivered in Italian, at the Aug. 7 opening Mass of the Knights of Columbus’ 125th annual national convention at the Gaylord Opryland Hotel in Nashville.

Cardinal Bertone’s comments on the sainthood cause of Fr. McGivney were met with applause from the Knights attending the Mass.

“I was thrilled,” Bishop William E. Lori of Bridgeport, Connecticut, the supreme chaplain of the Knights of Columbus, said of Cardinal Bertone’s comments.

“I think he appreciates what it would mean to have as a parish priest in the United States and around the world, to have one of their own canonized a saint,” Bishop Lori said in an interview on Eternal Word Television Network, which was broadcasting several events from the convention.

Fr. McGivney founded the Knights of Columbus at St. Mary’s Church in New Haven, Connecticut, in 1882. The fraternal organization, which I think is a lay Catholic organization in the world with more than 1.7 million members around the globe.

Cardinal Bertone, who celebrated the Mass in Latin, used his homily to praise the work of Fr. McGivney, who died in 1890 at age 39.

Referring to the story of Christ walking on water in the midst of a fierce storm, which was the Gospel for the Mass, Cardinal Bertone said: “In many respects the storm-tossed boat on the Sea of Galilee seems an apt image for the situation of the local church at the time of Fr. McGivney, when the plight of Catholics in America was far from easy.

“This holy priest, however, like Peter in the Gospel story, found the faith and the courage to walk steadfastly toward Christ, and to inspire others by his leadership,” added Cardinal Bertone.

“He recognized the need to promote the mutual support and solidarity of the Catholic community, and nothing would deter him from pursuing this noble goal,” he continued. “May your founder’s faith and courage serve as an inspiration to all of you as you devote yourselves to the pursuit of your apostolate.”

Like Peter in the Gospel, Cardinal Bertone said, Fr. McGivney answered God’s call when he became a priest.

“He also helped others to recognize the call that Christ addressed to them, and to respond generously,” Cardinal Bertone said. “This was the key to his apostolic vision in founding the Knights…. He knew that it is not only priests and religious who have a vocation, but that every Christian is called by Christ to carry out a particular mission in the church.

“He left a lasting legacy in the organization that he founded which has continued to provide opportunities for countless lay Catholics to play their part in building up the kingdom of God,” the cardinal said.

The process for canonization for Fr. McGivney was launched in December 1997 by the Archdiocese of Hartford, Connecticut. Fr. McGivney was ordained as a priest of the then-Diocease of Hartford.

The archdiocesan phase of the canonization process has been completed and the case has been presented to the Vatican Congregation for Saints’ Causes.

A miracle connected to Fr. McGivney has been reported from the congregation, but there has been no ruling on it yet.

The details of the miracle have not been released. Generally for sainthood, the church must accept two miracles attributed to the intercession of the prospective saint, one occurring before beatification and one occurring after beatification.

Cardinal Bertone continued his comments on Fr. McGivney, as well as on the theme of the convention, “Witnessing to the ‘Yes’ of Jesus Christ,” in his address during a special gala banquet in his honor Aug. 8.

The cardinal said Fr. McGivney “had a deep appreciation for the special characteristics of the lay vocation as being thoroughly immersed in the spheres of the family, civil society, and public life. He made it his goal to develop practical ways of ensuring that faith could be put into concrete action.”

But, the cardinal added, Fr. McGivney understood that good works lose their deeper meaning “if they are not rooted in faith.”

The laity face many obstacles to living a life of faith, Cardinal Bertone said. “It is no surprise then that Christians often encounter resistance, opposition, and even persecution in the world,” Cardinal Bertone said. “Pope Benedict reminds us that the only possible response for a Christian in the face of rejection is love…. The universal call to holiness is about patiently, deliberately, and ‘programmatically’ sharing this love with the world.”

Cardinal Bertone noted that during Pope Benedict’s recent pastoral visit to Brazil, he called on Catholic leaders in politics, the media, and academia to bring their “ethical and religious convictions” to their fields of endeavor.

“In short, being a Catholic in the world today takes courage,” Cardinal Bertone said, “yet it takes no more courage than it did when Jesus called his first disciples in Galilee.”

Cardinal Bertone said the church in America was active and vital. “Weshould be proud to belong to this church,” he urged the bishops, priests, and Knights attending the gala.

The Aug. 7-9 convention in Nashville drew more than 2,600 Knights and their families.

Nearly 100 cardinals, archbishops, and bishops participated in the Mass, making it the largest gathering of church hierarchy in Tennessee’s history.

Prelates at the convention included Cardinals Francis E. George of Chicago, Edward M. Egan of New York, Sean P. O’Malley of Boston, Justin Rigali of Philadelphia, Adam J. Maida of Detroit, Jaime Ortega Alarigo of Havana, and Juan Sandoval Iniguez of Guadalajara, Mexico.

Other Vatican officials included U.S. Cardinals Edmund C. Szoka, former president of the commission governing Vatican City State, and J. Francis Stafford, head of the Vatican’s Apostolic Penitentiary.

Also in attendance were Cardinal Theodore E. McCarrick, retired archbishop of Washington, Coadjutor Archbishop Fouad Twal of the Latin Patriarchate of Jerusalem, and Archbishop Pietro Sambi, apostolic nuncio to the United States.

As head of the Nashville Diocese, Bishop David R. Choby was the host bishop.

Cardinal Bertone also received the Gaudium et Spes Award from the Knights during the convention’s States Dinner Aug. 7.

It is the highest honor presented by the Knights of Columbus and recognizes individuals for their exemplary service to the church and humanity in the spirit of Christ as articulated by the work of the Second Vatican Council. Gaudium et Spes is the Latin name of Vatican II’s Pastoral Constitution on the Church in the Modern World.
Hyperbole — it’s a 50-cent word for a figure of speech that most of us have used a million times. We express the intensity of our convictions, the importance of our insights, or the urgency of our needs by extreme exaggeration. So we might say that a toothache is killing me or the freeway’s a parking lot or the new baby is the most gorgeous child on the planet.

When Jesus tells us in Sunday’s Gospel that we can’t be his disciples without hating our family members, he is not contradicting his law of love. He is speaking in hyperbole to heighten the urgency of his insight: Commitment to Jesus must take priority over everything else — even commitments as important and valuable as family — if the love we share with others is to be authentic.

Make no mistake: This level of commitment is costly. Jesus likens it to carrying a cross. It’s a cross that appears in many forms, depending on the circumstances of our lives. Yesterday it might have been shaped like the demands of raising children; today it may take the form of caring for failing parents; tomorrow the cross we bear could be the burdensome weight of an unpopular but necessary challenge to power.

The severity of this standard seems impossible to attain, and if hearing it rocks our confidence in our ability to change, that’s not a bad thing. Because the confidence which allows us to persist in the Christian life, which sustains us in the transformative but painful work of carrying the cross, does not reside in our strength of will. Our confidence rests on the sure and steady bedrock of Christ’s love.

In spite of the jarring harshness of Jesus’ hyperbole, it is communion with him that empowers us to truly love, not only our families and friends and strangers, but even our enemies.

QUESTIONS:
What do my actions in daily living suggest my priorities are? What’s one specific way I might seek help in carrying my current cross more peacefully?

By Dan Luby

**Scripture Readings**

September 9, Twenty-third Sunday in Ordinary Time.
Cycle C. Readings:
1) Wisdom 9:13-18b
Psalm 90:3-6, 12-17
2) Philemon 9-10, 12-17

**Pope says to follow Christ, show charity, solidarity with suffering**

By Cindy Wooden

Catholic News Service

VATICAN CITY — Charity and solidarity with the suffering are indispensable signs of truly following Christ, Pope Benedict XVI said.

Citing the teaching of St. Gregory Nazianzen on charity at his Aug. 22 weekly general audience, the pope again appealed for international assistance for the victims of the Aug. 15 earthquake in Peru.

"Once again I want to remember with great affection and spiritual closeness the beloved Peruvian people, so tried in these days, asking for gestures of Christian solidarity," he said.

The pope returned briefly to the Vatican from Castel Gandolfo for the weekly audience and continued a talk he began Aug. 8 about St. Gregory, the fourth-century doctor of the church.

Pope Benedict told the estimated 8,000 people gathered in the Vatican audience hall, "Gregory reminds us that as human persons, we must be in solidarity with each other.

He wrote, "We are all one in the Lord, rich and poor, slave and free, healthy and sick, and one alone is the head from which all derives — Jesus Christ."

Referring to the obligation to help the sick and the poor, the pope said St. Gregory taught that “this is the only salvation for our bodies and souls: charity toward them.

"Gregory emphasized that man must imitate the goodness and love of God, and so he recommends that ‘if one is healthy and rich, he must alleviate the needs of one who is ill and poor.’"

St. Gregory also emphasized the importance and necessity of prayer, the pope said.

"He affirmed that ‘it is necessary to think of God more often than taking a breath’ because prayer is the encounter of God’s thirst with our thirst. God thirsts for us to thirst for him,” said the pope.

Pope Benedict said that in prayer “we allow our masks to drop” and present ourselves honestly to God as an offering to be purified and transformed.
Scripture Readings

Word of Life

September 16, Twenty-fourth Sunday in Ordinary Time.
Cycle C. Readings:
1) Exodus 32:7-11, 13-14
Psalm 51:3-4, 12-13, 17, 19
2) 1 Timothy 1:12-17

By Jean Denton

I rummaged through closets and drawers trying to make as little noise as possible because I knew I was indulging in obsessive behavior. My grown son, visiting from out of town, heard me. “Mom!” he called from downstairs. I heard the familiar mix of amusement and mild irritation in his voice. “Are you still looking for my sunglasses? Stop. I’m just going to get another pair.”

Really, I know I have this obsession — spending way too long and hard looking for lost things. Maybe it’s that son’s fault. My memory is etched with the experience of a week when he, as an infant, lost his pacifier — the one and only that would, well, pacify him. It was “The Longest Week” as we tried numerous replacements to no avail and much wailing. Somehow we all survived, but I think it left me a little weird about going out of my way to find lost things.

However, that primal need for security is in all of us. It’s not so surprising that we constantly search for the ultimate security of being loved. The God of love placed that desire in us, reflective of his own desire for our love.

The Gospel parable of the lost coin could just as easily be for me the parable of the sunglasses. It tells me that just as I am irrationally driven to find this lost item, God can’t help but go out of his way to try to retrieve even one lost soul. In the vast eyes of God, not one of us can be replaced — so his desire and his effort to bring back the lost cannot be dissuaded.

Completing the parable of the sunglasses, imagine them falling from a car’s roof into the street where they are smashed under the wheels of a van then swept into a storm drain. Then imagine obsessive me finding one intact lens and following a trail of plastic bits into the storm drain and picking through the mud to find every last piece and miraculously (this would be me being God) re-storing them to their original condition of infinite coolness — the basic quality of sunglasses.

That’s a distant approximation of God’s desire to have us always with him.

QUESTIONS:
What experiences of loss speak to you about the joy of reunion with a loved one? When have you recognized God going out of his way to bring you, or someone close to you, back into his loving presence?

Imagining Yourself into the Bible

By Jeff Hedglen

Because the Bible was written so long ago, it sometimes can be difficult to make a real connection with the Word of God. A while back I was blessed to be able to take a trip to the Holy Land. On that trip I had an experience that brought the Scriptures alive in an unexpected way.

My first night in Israel was in a hotel by the Sea of Galilee. When we checked in, we were told that our hotel room key also opened a gate to a private shore line on the sea. Because of jet lag I was wide awake at 4 a.m., so I decided to take advantage of the opportunity and have my morning prayer as the sun came up over the Sea of Galilee.

In the dark I made my way through a windy garden and down some slightly unstable steps until I was on the rocky shore line. After some exploring I found a big rock to sit on and began my prayers just as the sky was getting light to the East.

As I was sitting there, it occurred to me that the rocks on the shore were probably not there when Jesus was here ... but the hills on the other side of the sea in modern day Jordan were, and the sun coming up over them was there. It was then that I realized that I was seeing with my eyes something Jesus saw with his eyes countless times. It was an amazing moment that I will never forget.

However, that primal need for security is in all of us. It’s not so surprising that we constantly search for the ultimate security of being loved. The God of love placed that desire in us, reflective of his own desire for our love.

The Gospel parable of the lost coin could just as easily be for me the parable of the sunglasses. It tells me that just as I am irrationally driven to find this lost item, God can’t help but go out of his way to try to retrieve even one lost soul. In the vast eyes of God, not one of us can be replaced — so his desire and his effort to bring back the lost cannot be dissuaded.

Completing the parable of the sunglasses, imagine them falling from a car’s roof into the street where they are smashed under the wheels of a van then swept into a storm drain. Then imagine obsessive me finding one intact lens and following a trail of plastic bits into the storm drain and picking through the mud to find every last piece and miraculously (this would be me being God) re-storing them to their original condition of infinite coolness — the basic quality of sunglasses.

That’s a distant approximation of God’s desire to have us always with him.

But since I don’t know Arabic, all I could do was stare in wonder at the biblical images that had just come to life before my eyes.

Granted, trips to the Holy Land are not typical, but having the Bible come alive can be a daily experience. With a little practice, patience, and imagination the stories from the Bible can be reenacted when we pray.

With a few simple steps, the time-tested practice of Scripture meditation can take pretty much any story from the Bible and transform it into a movie playing in our mind’s eye.

The first step is to choose a story (The Prodigal Son or The Call of the Apostles are good ones). Then read the story through. Now it’s time to enter the story. Choose a character from the story to be or choose to be a bystander who sees it all. Next put your imagination to work. Imagine the weather. Is it sunny or overcast? Is there a breeze or a chill in the air? What are the smells and sounds in the scene? Now begin to read the story again. It is important that you take your time here. Pause often to imagine what is happening. Really listen to the dialogue. Remember, take your time and enjoy the journey.

When you have finished your Scripture meditation it’s a good idea to journal about the experience. You might want to write about why you chose who you chose to be in the story. Was there anything that surprised you? What did you hear God saying to you in the story?

With a little practice you can take a trip to the Holy Land whenever you want. These simple steps can transport you back 2,000 years where you can enter the Scriptures and encounter Jesus. As a bonus you won’t need a passport or plane ticket, just your imagination and an open heart.

Jeff Hedglen, youth minister at St. Bartholomew Parish in Southwest Fort Worth, is the principal organizer of Camp Fort Worth each summer. Readers with questions can contact Jeff at jeff@stbartsfw.org.
### América

**La fe siempre deberá ser nuestro punto de partida... ‘creer para entender’**

Queridos Amigos en Cristo en la Diócesis de Fort Worth,

A 1 escribir estas palabras en el día 28 de agosto, estoy reflexionando sobre el hecho de que este día es la fiesta del gran San Agustín de Hipona, quien a menudo es llamado el “Doctor de la Gracia.”

Yo (y muchos de mis compañeros) participamos de estudios y contemporáneos en el Seminario de Kenrick en St. Louis, Missouri) teníamos un gran respeto y amor por su vida y escritos, gracias a una de mis profesoras en el Seminario, la Hermana Zoe Glenski D.C. Sus escritos y reflexiones clarificaron lo que creemos sobre la gracia, el pecado original, la divinidad de Cristo y la naturaleza humana creada a imagen y semejanza de Dios. La historia de su vida, narrada en su libro Las Confesiones, nos ofrece una gran esperanza para todos nosotros, pues sus luchas con la fe, con sus defectos, fracasos y pecados, lo llevaron a la gracia de Dios y al amor de Cristo. Él nos recuerda que con la ayuda de Dios, es posible vivir una vida de fe en tiempos de grandes cambios y conmoción. El ambiente de su tiempo, al caer el Imperio Romano, fue en cierta manera una época no muy distinta a la nuestra.

Sí nuestro punto de partida en todas las cosas es la fe, entonces podremos ver la presencia de Dios en todos los momentos de nuestra vida, y sabremos que el poder de Dios nos acompañará, nos guiará y nos sostendrá.

—Obispo Kevin W. Vann

---

**Clases del método natural para la planificación familiar**

El método natural para la planificación familiar es un método seguro, natural, de bajo costo, y altamente confiable para evitar un embarazo, lograr un embarazo, espaciar el tiempo entre cada nacimiento, o para aceptar y respetar su fertilidad, de modo que no comprometa su salud o sus valores personales. Las clases en español empezarán el domingo, 30 de septiembre, a las 10:30 a.m. en el salón parroquial de la Iglesia All Saints, 214 N.W. 20th St. en Fort Worth. Es muy importante que se registren lo más pronto posible. Si desean más información llame a Nicole Ruiz al (817) 481-2685 ext. 256.

---

**Clases de inglés ofrecidas en la parroquia de San Francisco de Asís en Grapevine**

Habrán clases de inglés ofrecidas en la parroquia de San Francisco de Asís en Grapevine, comenzando el 18 de septiembre. Las clases son dadas por Caridades Católicas de los Estados Unidos, son gratuitas, no hay costo para las clases, y jamás se cobrará por la ayuda. Se enseñará a hablar, leer y escribir en inglés. No se requiere ningún documento ni calificación para participar. Para más información llame a Nicole Ruiz al (817) 481-2685 ext. 23 o por e-mail a nruiz@sffrancisgrapevine.org.

---

**Obispo Kevin W. Vann**

Obispo de Fort Worth
Un nuevo credo en un nuevo siglo
Para católicos que viven entre muchos protestantes

Por Pedro A. Moreno, OPL
Director, Instituto Luz de Cristo

Nuestros hermanos de otras comunidades eclesiásticas a veces niegan verdades esenciales. Lo que hace más daño es cuando proponen “medias verdades”, que invitan a los oyentes a seguir caminos que se desvían de la verdad total y plena. Este nuevo credo puede ser una ayuda en tal situación.

Siete verdades que nos llevan a la plenitud, y abundancia, de la vida, la verdad y el amor junto a Dios.

1. CREO EN UN SOLO DIOS, LA TRINIDAD, que se da a conocer tanto en la Biblia como en la Tradición de la Iglesia. (2 Tesalonicenses 2:15) — Existe un mandato bíblico de guardar las tradiciones; Juan 20:30, Juan 21:25, 2 de Juan verso 12 y 3 de Juan 15 — No se puede encontrar todo lo revelado por Dios en la Biblia.

2. CREO EN JESUCRISTO COMO EL ÚNICO SALVADOR, la plenitud de los medios para alcanzar esa salvación se encuentra en la Iglesia Católica. (Hechos 13:47, 1 Timoteo 2:3 y 4 — La Iglesia es el instrumento que trae la salvación de Cristo al mundo.)

3. CREO EN EL ESPÍRITU SANTO, que guía a la Iglesia Católica, la única fundada por Cristo. Ella es el fundamento de la Fe y la Verdad, no la Biblia interpretada al margen del Magisterio. (Mateo 16:18 — Esa Iglesia no morirá; Juan 21:15 — Pedro vuelve a recibir autoridad; 1 Timoteo 3:15 — La Iglesia es el fundamento de la verdad; 2 Pedro 1:20 — La Biblia no debe ser interpretada en forma privada; Hechos 8:30-31 — La Biblia siempre debe ser leída a la luz del Magisterio de la Iglesia.)

4. CREO EN LA PRESENCIA REAL DE CRISTO en la Eucaristía y el perdón de los pecados en el Sacramento de la Reconciliación. Los sacramentos promueven la comuna- ción con Dios a través de la vida de la gracia. (Mateo 26:26, Marcos 14:22, 1Corintios 11:24 — Estos dos sacramentos son encargados a sus escogidos; el nombre de ellos hoy día: Juan 20:23 — El perdón de los pecados por hombres.)

5. CREO EN LA NECESIDAD DE ACEPTAR Y CREER en todas las verdades enseñadas por Cristo a través de la Iglesia Católica; no solo las que más me agradan o las que son más cómodas para mí. (Mateo 28:18-20 — El mandato a enseñar todo lo recibido del Señor; Juan 6:66 — Desde la época de Jesús han existido discípulos que no han estado de acuerdo con algunas de las enseñanzas del Señor; Hechos 20:29 y 30, 1 Timoteo 1:3-17 — Siempre han habido y habrá falsos profetas.)

6. CREO EN LAS OBRAS de caridad, justicia y misericordia, como esenciales en la vida del discípulo de Cristo. (Mateo 25:31-46, 7:21-23 y Santiago 2:17 — La fe sola no basta. Manifestamos la fe por medio de obras.)

7. CREO EN LA VIRGEN MARÍA, llena de gracia, como nuestra madre espiritual. Debemos venerarla. (Lucas 1:47-48 y 2:51 — Todas las generaciones la llamaran bienaventurada.)

Este Credo me compromete a estudiar mi fe y leer la Biblia a la luz del Magisterio. Después de conocer mejor nuestra fe nos debemos comprometer a compartir estas verdades como acto de amor. Amen.

El 6 de Octubre será el Día de Formación en Wichita Falls

“Encontrando a Cristo Resucitado” es el tema del Día de Formación. Este día se llevará a cabo el sábado 6 de octubre en Notre Dame High School, 2821 Lansing Blvd. en Wichita Falls. Este acontecimiento es una oportunidad para el enriquecimiento de todos los servidores y ministros de la diócesis, además de ser una oportunidad para compartir con compañeros y compañeras de la Iglesia diocesana. El Día de Formación es también una oportunidad para el desarrollo de habilidades y destrezas prácticas para la Evangelización en las diversas parroquias de la Diócesis.

Este Día de Formación, que será ofrecido tanto en inglés como en español, comenzará a las 8 de la mañana con la oportunidad de visitar a los diversos exhibidores de libros y materiales católicos. Inscripciones y un desayuno seguirán a partir de las 8:30 de la mañana hasta las 9.

Mientras la comunidad Hispánica participa de diversos talleres en español a las 10 de la mañana se ofrecerá la conferencia principal en inglés por el Padre Nathan Stone, Sj, de la casa de retiro de los Padres Jesuitas, Montserrat. El Padre, quien es nativo de Texas, pasó varios años como maestro voluntario en Chile. El modelo ignaciano lo inspiró, y entró a la Compañía de Jesús en 1992. Después de varios años de formación, fue ordenado sacerdote en el año 2000, como miembro de la provincia chilena.

La conferencia principal en inglés será a las 11:15 de la mañana y será presentada por Jesús López de los Ángeles. López trabaja a tiempo completo en el ministerio del evangelización en la comunidad hispana de Los Ángeles. Nacido en Michoacán México, López ha ofrecido conferencias, cursos, y retiros a través de los Estados Unidos, México, Perú, El Salvador, y Guatemala. López y su esposa Araceli, son los padres de tres niños.

Después del almuerzo habrá una segunda ronda de talleres que comenzará a la 1:30 de la tarde. Varios de los temas serán “Jesús ya hizo su parte, ahora te toca a ti...” Para instruir o dar temas hace falta mucho más que una lengua...” y “Los jóvenes también necesitan atención...” entre otros. Después de los talleres se ofrecerá una última oportunidad para visitar a los exhibidores y todo concluirá a las 3 de la tarde.

Todas las personas que participan ahora, o estén pensando en ofrecer sus servicios a la parroquia en el futuro, pueden asistir. El costo, que incluye almuerzo, es de $20 por persona si se inscriben antes del 24 de septiembre; después de esa fecha, el costo es $25. Hay becas disponibles. Para más información, llame el Centro Católico al (817) 560-3380 o visite nuestra página Web en www.fwdioc.org.
Por Patricia Zapor  
Catholic News Service  
WASHINGTON — Encuesta tras encuesta dice que el público estadounidense apoya un enfoque abarcador para arreglar los problemas de inmigración, pero los líderes de esfuerzos para aprobar tal ley federal reconocen que un mensaje opuesto está impulsando el debate.

Con un proyecto abarcador de ley de inmigración probablemente fuera de la mesa hasta después de la elección presidencial del año próximo, los defensores de los inmigrantes dijeron en teleconferencia del 3 de agosto que su estrategia ahora tiene que convertirse en lograr que más de esa mayoría del público se involucre en luchar por lo que ellos dicen que creen y desactivar el poder que los “restriccionistas” de inmigración han obtenido.

“Necesitamos contrarrestar las voces de la radio hablada”, dijo Appleby. “Bastante honestamente, las iglesias, incluyendo la Iglesia Católica Romana, necesitan hacer un mejor trabajo de educar a la gente sobre las realidades de la inmigración... ponerle una cara humana a la discusión.”

Cecilia Muñoz, vicepresidenta de investigación y representación en el Consejo Nacional de La Raza, dijo que según tomó que la corriente principal estadounidenses habla abiertamente para ayudar a traer las leyes de los derechos civiles de la década de 1960, más del público debe involucrarse en apoyar la reforma de inmigración.

“Tenemos que hacer más difícil que la gente se quede parada en las líneas laterales”, dijo ella. “Necesitamos un liderato fuerte para movilizar a la gente para que responsabilicen a sus líderes políticos con cambiar las leyes y políticas actuales. Él dijo que ha sido más fácil para los políticos dejar que el status quo permanezca que trabajar para un cambio.

Appleby describió el ambiente actual para la política de inmigración como tóxico y “un frenesí de alimentación” que ignora los seres humanos, cuyas vidas, empleos y familias están en riesgo.

Cuando 1,000 familias han tenido sus padres separados de su niños por redadas en los lugares de trabajo estos últimos meses, dijo Muñoz, “ellos están poniendo una luz en lo que significa verdaderamente tener una política de inmigración hostil”.

Murguia dijo en el discurso que una “minoría vocal, empujada por una turba enojada, ayudada e incitada por conocidos locutores chocantes de la radio hablada, hizo el Senado de Estados Unidos — el cuerpo deliberativo más grande del mundo — su peón”. En la teleconferencia del 3 de agosto Tom Snyder, director político de UNITE HERE, acrónimo de un sindicato internacional de trabajadores de vestimenta, textiles, servicios de alimentos y hospitalidad, dijo que el “enorme grupo en el medio” debe tener un liderato fuerte para movilizar a la gente para que responsabilicen a sus líderes políticos con cambiar las leyes y políticas actuales. Él dijo que ha sido más fácil para los políticos dejar que el status quo permanezca que trabajar para un cambio.

Appleby describió el ambiente actual para la política de inmigración como tóxico y “un frenesí de alimentación” que ignora los seres humanos, cuyas vidas, empleos y familias están en riesgo.

“Necesitamos contrarrestar las voces de la radio hablada”, dijo Appleby. “Bastante honestamente, las iglesias, incluyendo la Iglesia Católica Romana, necesitan hacer un mejor trabajo de educar a la gente sobre las realidades de la inmigración... ponerle una cara humana a la discusión.”

Cecilia Muñoz, vicepresidenta de investigación y representación en el Consejo Nacional de La Raza, dijo que según tomó que la corriente principal estadounidenses hablara abiertamente para ayudar a traer las leyes de los derechos civiles de la década de 1960, más del público debe involucrarse en apoyar la reforma de inmigración.

“Tenemos que hacer más difícil que la gente se quede parada en las líneas laterales”, dijo ella. “Necesitamos un liderato fuerte para movilizar a la gente para que responsabilicen a sus líderes políticos con cambiar las leyes y políticas actuales. Él dijo que ha sido más fácil para los políticos dejar que el status quo permanezca que trabajar para un cambio.

Cuando 1,000 familias han tenido sus padres separados de su niños por redadas en los lugares de trabajo estos últimos meses, dijo Muñoz, “ellos están poniendo una luz en lo que significa verdaderamente tener una política de inmigración hostil”.

Murguia dijo en el discurso que una “minoría vocal, empujada por una turba enojada, ayudada e incitada por conocidos locutores chocantes de la radio hablada, hizo el Senado de Estados Unidos — el cuerpo deliberativo más grande del mundo — su peón”.

Los sindicatos como UNITE HERE, las organizaciones de los derechos civiles como La Raza y las iglesias están trabajando para lograr que los inmigrantes se hagan ciudadanos y conseguir que ellos voten, dijeron los panelistas.

Un hombre fuerte para apoyarse en un momento difícil.

Estimado Caballero Supremo:

Cuando mi esposo se hizo Caballero de Colón, nos presentaron a nuestro agente de seguros, Mike Walter, e inmediatamente nos dimos cuenta que Mike se ocupaba de su carrera como si fuera un “ministerio” en vez de un cargo de ventas. Nunca me imagino en ese entonces lo que ese ministerio habría de significar para mi.

Durante nuestras reuniones, no fuimos fáciles de persuadir. Mike nunca se dio por vencido y siempre buscó la forma como demostrar que la necesidad existía. Nos ayudó hasta que por fin pudimos comprender el valor de contar con la protección de un seguro de vida.

Mi esposo murió repentinamente el otro día pasado. Su muerte fue un golpe para todos nosotros. Aunque desde el punto de vista médico no debería haber sucedido, me imagino que Dios pensó que había cumplido con su labor en esta tierra. Pude contar con Mike de inmediato. Estuvo en el velorio, asistió al funeral y permaneció a mi lado para ayudarme en cuanto fuera posible. Lloró por mi esposo igual que yo.

En este mundo en donde todos se preocupan sólo de las ganancias, presencie lo que los Caballeros son verdaderamente capaces de hacer. Pude contar con ellos cuando más lo necesité.

— Amber Díaz*