Pro-life official dismisses new stem-cell announcement as a sham

By Nancy Frazier O’Brien

WASHINGTON (CNS) — Highly touted research claiming that human embryonic stem-cell lines can be derived without harming the embryos is a sham, according to a pro-life official of the U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops.

“They didn’t do anything like what the headlines are saying they did,” said Richard Doerflinger, deputy director of the bishops’ Secretariat for Pro-Life Activities, in an Aug. 24 interview with Catholic News Service. “All they showed was that you can kill an embryo at an earlier stage than they did before.”

At the Vatican, Bishop Elio Sgreccia, president of the Pontifical Academy for Life, said the new technique did not remove ethical objections and may increase them.

Advanced Cell Technology Inc., based in Alameda, California, and Worcester, Massachusetts, announced Aug. 23 that a team of its scientists had “successfully generated human embryonic stem cells using an approach that does not harm embryos.”

An article on the research was published Aug. 23 in the online edition of the science journal Nature.

The technique involves removal of a single cell from an early, eight-cell embryo called a blastomere. The researchers claimed that the method has been successfully used in more than 1,000 cases of preimplantation genetic diagnosis, in which one cell is removed to test for genetic defects.

Katrina’s challenges, chances for renewal linger, says Biloxi Bishop Thomas Rodi

BILOXI, Mississippi (CNS) — Bishop Thomas J. Rodi of Biloxi said many people probably have mixed feelings about the first anniversary of Hurricane Katrina.

“There is some wisdom in wanting to get on with our lives and not giving attention to Aug. 29,” the day the hurricane made landfall in 2005, he wrote in the Aug. 18 issue of the Gulf Pine Catholic, Biloxi’s diocesan newspaper. “It may feel to some that we are giving the storm too much power over us if we recall and observe the day it hit.”

But he also noted that there is a need to “pause and to remember,” reflecting on all that was lost and destroyed by Katrina and remembering what was learned from the disaster.

He said the extensive losses from the storm caused many to reflect upon “what is truly important and what is truly lasting.”

“We have been reminded that people are more important than things. We have also been reminded how important it is to tell people we love them. We never know when we will be separated from them. Our priests and religious have been outstanding both in helping us to rebuild and to discern the greatest values in life,” he said.

Christ can be seen in faces of all people, pope says at sanctuary

MANOPPELLO, Italy (CNS) — All Christians should be on a never-ending search for Christ, who can be seen in the faces of all people, especially the poor and needy, Pope Benedict XVI said.

To be drawn and transformed by the splendor of Jesus’ face is to live in God’s presence on earth, the pope said during a brief visit Sept. 1 to the Sanctuary of the Holy Face in this small city some 120 miles east of Rome.

Some scholars believe the sanctuary houses “Veronica’s Veil,” the cloth used by Veronica to wipe Christ’s face prior to his crucifixion and which, according to tradition, now contains the image of Christ’s face.

“We will be filled with the presence of God” by imitating the lives of the saints who lovingly recognized the face of Jesus in their brothers and sisters, “especially the poorest and those most in need,” Pope Benedict said.

The pope flew by helicopter early in the morning from his summer home at the papal villa in Castel Gandolfo to visit the church that houses the 7-inch-by-9.5-inch transparent veil that portrays the image of a male face with long hair and a beard. Studies have found no pigments or paints were used to create the image.

The two-hour stopover marked the first time a pope visited this small city of 6,000 people and its sanctuary.

In a speech to priests, religious, and pilgrims who packed the long, narrow church, the pope quoted Jesus, “Whoever has seen me has seen the Father.”

Symposium examines Hispanics’ contributions, leadership in U.S.

By Roxanne King

ALLENSPARK, Colorado (CNS) — The burgeoning growth of the Hispanic population in the United States is neither a problem nor a threat, a Vatican official told attendees at a conference held in the Denver Archdiocese.

Rather, he said, it’s a blessing from God to give a renewed vigor and “a more complete catholic synthesis” to the mission of evangelization in this country, said Guzman Carriquiry Lecour, undersecretary of the Pontifical Council for the Laity.

Carriquiry, a layman originally from Uruguay, was one of the speakers addressing Catholic leaders in the United States and their responsibility to be leaders and to evangelize in today’s society. (CNS photo/James Baca, Denver Catholic Register)
As we begin our year of worship and imparting the Faith we are grateful for all who serve and for our new seminarians

Dear Friends in the Diocese of Fort Worth,

I would like to share the good news that this coming academic year, we will have 25 candidates for the priesthood enrolled in seminary formation programs in Texas and in other seminaries both in our country and overseas (in Rome at the North American College). I understand that this is the largest number in the history of the diocese.

Great. He was elevated to the Chair of St. Peter on Sept. 3, 590, and “proved to be a true shepherd by carrying out his office, helping the poor, spreading and strengthening the Faith. He wrote extensively on moral and theological subjects” (The Liturgy of the Hours). He stands as a model in balancing pastoral care with a strong life of prayer and devotion. His works on moral theology remind us of the importance of conversion of life and virtue. On Sept. 9, we celebrate the feast day of St. Peter Claver. He was born in 1580 and died on Sept. 8, 1654. He was a member of the Society of Jesus and worked tirelessly in Colombia in meeting the spiritual and temporal needs of the slaves brought to Colombia in the slave trade. He actually vowed to be “their slave forever.” His heroic work in a difficult age can cause us to examine our own attitudes toward racism. Looking at the civil calendar, the month of September opens with Labor Day. Although we tend to observe this as a last summer holiday, it calls us to be thankful for the work of our forbears who built up our country. But not only that, this could also be a time to reflect on the Church’s social teaching and longstanding tradition on what could be called a Theology of Work. That is especially to Dan Luby, Ralph McCloud, and all who helped to prepare a day of reflection on this topic recently at Holy Family Church in Fort Worth. Our daily work is a place where we can, with the grace of God, grow in holiness and “Seek the Kingdom of God and his righteousness” (Matthew 6:33).

Finally, I would like to share the good news that this coming academic year, we will have 25 candidates for the priesthood enrolled in seminary formation programs in Texas and in other seminaries both in our country and overseas (in Rome at the North American College). I understand that this is the largest number in the history of the diocese. (Actually a number of dioceses in Texas and elsewhere are also reporting higher numbers of candidates this year!) Thanks to all for your prayers for vocations and encouragement of vocations, especially the Serra Club. Please keep this up! A special thanks also to all who have been involved in our seminary admissions process this past year. The encouragement of a culture where the call to serve the Lord as priests and religious is absurdly vital and necessary for all of us.

God bless you always!

Pope: Worried parents should take heart in St. Augustine’s path

CASTEL GANDOLFO, Italy (CNS) — Pope Benedict XVI said parents worried about the waywardness of their children should take heart in the circuitous spiritual path of St. Augustine.

After a youth spent in pleasure-seeking and self-indulgence, St. Augustine embraced the faith and went on to become one of the most important figures in the development of Christianity, the pope said Aug. 27.

Much of the credit belongs to his mother, St. Monica, who despite her son’s “rebellious temperment” never gave up on him and accompanied him for years with “prayers and tears.” —Pope Benedict XVI are today in family relations, and how many mothers are anguished because their children take the wrong road,” the pope said.

“Monica, a wise woman and solid in her faith, invites them not to be discouraged, but to persevere in the mission of wife and mother, keeping firm trust in God and holding with perseverance to prayer,” he said.

He said St. Augustine, despite his selfish behavior in his early years, dedicated his life to the search for truth. The saint’s discovery of Christ came only after a long inner torment, he said.

The pope made the comments to several hundred pilgrims inside the courtyard of his summer villa outside Rome. The church celebrates the feast days of St. Monica Aug. 27 and St. Augustine Aug. 28.
Men of Permanent Deacon Formation class are Called to Candidacy

Thirty-five men from parishes throughout the Fort Worth Diocese have been admitted by Bishop Kevin W. Vann as candidates to the diaconate. Their admission to Candidacy was celebrated in a special rite Aug. 19 at the MacGorman Conference Center on the campus of the Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary in Fort Worth.

As part of the rite, Bishop Vann asked the consent of the wives of married candidates. Also in attendance were formation team members and priests.

The new candidates include:

- José Aragón and Bill Johnson, St. Joseph Parish, Arlington
- Bill Archer, Sacred Heart Parish, Wichita Falls
- Tom Bates, St. Francis of Assisi Parish, Grapevine
- Jim Bindel and Vincent Blake, St. Francis of Assisi Parish, Grapevine
- Jesús Cárdenas and Mauricio Hernandez, St. Stephen Parish, Weatherford
- Marcelino Carranza and Reyes Tello Jr., Immaculate Heart of Mary Parish, Fort Worth
- José Castañeda, St. Paul the Apostle Parish, Fort Worth
- Pete Castillo, Our Lady of Guadalupe Parish, Fort Worth
- John Clark, Jim Crites, and Larry Sandoval, St. Elizabeth Ann Seton Parish, Keller
- Bruce Corbett and Walter Stone, St. John the Apostle Parish, North Richland Hills
- Mike Darby, St. Joseph Parish, Cleburne
- Tommy Diaz, Sacred Heart Parish, Comanche
- Scott Franco, Holy Redeemer Parish, Aledo
- Gus Garcia, St. Mary’s Parish, Gainesville
- Martín García, All Saints Parish, Fort Worth
- Wendell Geiger, St. Peter the Apostle Parish, Fort Worth
- Eldon Gray, St. John the Baptist Parish, Bridgeport
- Terry Howard, St. Andrew Parish, Fort Worth
- Juan Jasso and Matías Lagunas, St. Matthew Parish, Irma
- Pat Lavery, Good Shepherd Parish, Cleburne
- Rigoberto Leyva, Our Lady of Lourdes Parish, Mineral Wells
- Simón Najera, St. Thomas the Apostle Parish, Fort Worth
- John Ban Nguyen, Vietnamese Martyrs Parish, Arlington
- Alfonso Ramirez, St. Thomas Parish, Pilot Point
- José Piedad Sanchez, Holy Family of Nazareth Parish, Vernon
- Barry Sweeden, Immaculate Conception Parish, Denton
- Sangote ‘Ulupano, St. Michael Parish, Bedford

“God entrusts us with the task of calling suitable and approved candidates,” said Bishop Vann in his homily focused on the pastoral ministry of the deacon in the church, “and of consecrating them by a special seal of the Holy Spirit to the ministry of God and of the church. Day by day, may you learn to live the life of the Gospel and deepen your faith, hope, and love.”

The candidates have just completed aspirancy, the initial year of diaconal studies. Candidacy marks the beginning of three years of ongoing study toward ordination as permanent deacons. The readiness of an individual for ordination is discerned by the church and by a candidate’s teachers and directors, according to Dr. Ann Healey, director of Deacon Formation. “Ordination is not a right, and admission to Candidacy is not a guarantee of a call to orders,” said Healey, referring to Roman guidelines and the U.S. bishops’ National Directory for the Formation, Life, and Ministry of Permanent Deacons. “Concentrated study of all aspects of our Catholic faith and extensive experience in ministry is required before a man is recommended to the bishop for ordination.”
Ministry invites those distanced from church to ‘Come Home’

Come Home ministry extends an open invitation for Catholics who are currently disconnected from the church to consider “coming home” to their Catholic faith. Sessions will begin Tuesday, Sept. 26, in the Pastoral Center at St. Andrew Church, 517 Stadium Drive in Fort Worth. Participants will meet from 7 p.m. to 9 p.m. each Tuesday evening through Oct. 24.

The parish’s Come Home team is composed of parishioners, some of whom were themselves distanced from the church, parish staff, and religious. For more information, contact Alice Curran at (817) 927-5583 or acuran@standrewc.cc.org for more information.

Workshop on marriage, divorce, and annulment set for Oct. 7

A workshop on marriage, divorce, and the annulment process, entitled “Until Death Do Us Part?”, will be offered Saturday, Oct. 7, from 9:30 a.m. to noon, at St. Andrew Church in the Pastoral Center.

The presenter for the day is Father Hector Medina, pastor of St. Matthew Church in Arlington. Fr. Medina has presented the parish or the school weekly since March.

For more information or to register, call the confidential help line at (817) 927-4577; e-mail to forgivencatholic.org or visit the St. Andrew Church Web site at www.standrewc.cc.org.

Grapevine Magnificat Breakfast to be held Sept. 23

A Magnificat Breakfast, sponsored by the Grapevine Magnificat Chapter, is scheduled for Saturday, Sept. 23, from 8 a.m. to 10 a.m. at the Executive Conference Center and Hotel, located at 1800 Highway 26 East in Grapevine.

The Magnificat Breakfast will feature the music of Tammie Cameron, a Cajun-inspired recording artist who performs spiritual music in nine languages. She will be performing “Struggles and Grace: My Journey of Faith.”

According to representatives of the organization, Magnificat’s mission “is to help Catholic women develop a closer relationship with Jesus Christ, experience the release of the power of the Holy Spirit, and [develop] an appreciation and love for Mary, our mother and the Church.”

Tickets must be purchased by Wednesday, Sept. 20, and may be obtained by contacting Lucy Gonzales at (972) 395-2518.
Bishop Vann will celebrate Singles Mass Oct. 7 in Keller

The annual Diocesan Singles Mass will be celebrated at St. Elizabeth Ann Seton Church, 2016 Willis Lane in Keller, Oct. 7. Bishop Kevin Vann will preside at the liturgy, which will begin at 7 p.m.

The annual Mass, sponsored by the singles' group, PeaceKnights, Diocese of Fort Worth, is open to Catholic singles of all ages, including those never-married, as well as those widowed, separated, and divorced. Singles are welcome to bring friends and family members.

A reception and dance will follow until midnight, with music provided by a DJ. The offertory collection at Mass will be used to support the after-Mass mixer, as well as in continuing singles ministry efforts, such as mailings and outreach projects.

Those attending are asked to bring non-perishable food items for donation to the local food bank.

Singles are also invited to arrive early and take part in the parish festival.

For more information or to volunteer for Mass ministry or the reception following, call Mike Wuter at (822) 292-9369 or e-mail to fwscsmn@earthlink.net.

Tea party to celebrate gifts of being female, Oct. 8

A tea party, offered especially for girls ages 10 to 13, and their mothers, grandmothers, or other female friends and relatives, will be held Oct. 8 from noon to 4 p.m. at the Cathedral Center, 800 West Loop 820 South in West Fort Worth.

The tea party after-school program, sponsored by the diocesan offices of Family Life and Natural Family Planning, is an opportunity for parents, grandparents, or guardians to come together to enjoy a tea party and celebrate gifts of being female. The Catholic Center will be transformed into a tea house, where tea or soda and a light lunch will be served.

Female speakers will share personal stories of celebrating their femininity and the gifts received from God to function in this role. Discussion from a faith-based perspective will concentrate on the physical, emotional, and psychological changes that occur in young women during the adolescent years.

The cost is $15 per person. Space is limited, so reservations will be accepted on a first-come, first-served basis.

To make a reservation call Kathy Stipkovic at (817) 773-8096 or Nancy Novak at (817) 656-9533.

St. Mary Goretti School to hold Katrina Kari-val Oct. 7-8

St. Mary Goretti School in Arlington, 10741 Highway 308 at I-20, will host its 21st annual Autumnfest Saturday, Sept. 23. The family-fun event with a carnival-like atmosphere will be held from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m.

For early risers, a 5K and a one-mile Fun Run will kick off the day, with registration to take place from 7:45 a.m. to 8 a.m. Later, all are invited to come enjoy games, arts and crafts, a silent auction, cake walk, and giant slide for all ages.

A world of food, including German bratwurst, Chinese specialties, Mexican food, and Italian fare such as hamburgers, hot dogs, and roasted corn, will be available throughout the day.

The annual event, which attracts more than 10,000 people each year, benefits St. Mary Goretti School.

For more information, contact the parish office at (940) 492-5237 or visit online at www.stmarygoretti.org.

Cub Scout, Boy Scout retreats planned for Oct. 6-8

The Catholic Committee on Scouting of the Diocese of Fort Worth has announced that the annual Catholic retreats for Boy Scouts and Cub Scouts will be held Saturday and Sunday, Oct. 7-8, at Meadowbrook Golf Course, near Palo Pinto.

The theme of this year’s Boy Scout retreats is “Ave Maria.” The retreat, to be held from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m., will include both indoor and outdoor events. Father Anthn, chaplain for the Catholic Scouts of the diocese, will offer the sacrament of reconciliation and Mass during the weekend. The cost for the retreat is $20 per person.

The ninth annual Catholic Cub Scout Retreat will be held at West Ranch Saturday, Oct. 7, from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. Cub Scouts will also have the option to stay overnight Friday and/or Saturday to participate in retreat activities which include a “Fort Knox Vox” program, work on the religious awards available to Cub Scouts, a historical re-enactment; a craft activity; and hiking. The cost is $15 for Cub-Scouts without overnight accommodations; other options range from $14 to $20.

For more information, visit the Web site at www.hesacs.org, or call Tom Moore at (972) 539-0257 for information about the Boy Scout retreat, or for information about the Cub Scout retreat, call Jeremy Stephens at (972) 436-8162.

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The National Center on Addiction and Substance Abuse (CASA) at Columbia University has announced that the sixth annual "Family Day — A Day to Eat Dinner with Your Children," will be held Sept. 25. Bishop Kevin Vann encourages local families to share a meal together in observance of Family Day, according to a press release from the diocesan Family Life Office.

Launched by CASA in 2001, Family Day is a growing national effort to prevent substance abuse in young people by encouraging parental engagement and increased parent-child communication through shared family meals. CASA's research has shown that the more often children eat dinner with their families, the less likely they are to engage in at-risk behaviors such as smoking, drinking, or drug use. Observance of Family Day, according to CASA, helps to remind busy families of the invaluable role that parental involvement plays in steering children and teens away from cigarettes, drugs, and alcohol.

"America's drug problem is not going to be solved in courtrooms or legislative hearing rooms by judges and politicians. It will be solved in living rooms and dining rooms and across kitchen tables — by parents and families," says Joseph A. Califano Jr., CASA's chairman and president, and the former U.S. Secretary of Health, Education, and Welfare. "Parent Power is the most potent and underutilized tool in preventing children from using substances or engaging in risky behavior."

According to CASA's The Importance of Family Dinners II report, teens who eat dinner with their families six to seven times a week are at almost half the risk of engaging in substance abuse as teens who eat dinner with their families twice a week or less. According to the report, teens who eat dinner with their families often are likelier to do well in school and are less likely than other teens to get into fights or be suspended from school. This pattern holds true regardless of a teen's sex, family structure, or family socioeconomic level.

Bishop Vann encourages all parishioners to celebrate Family Day by eating dinner together on Sept. 26 and as often as possible, says Deacon Richard Stojak, director of the diocesan Family Life Office. "More importantly," adds Deacon Stojak, "talk with your kids. During dinner, turn off the TV and let your answering machine record incoming calls. Involve the entire family in planning and cooking meals. If your schedules make it impossible to eat dinner together, try having breakfast together."

For additional information on Family Day, visit online at www.CASAFamilyDay.org.

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**Families asked to observe national Family Day Sept. 25 by dining together**

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**First of three Ministry Formation Days to be held Sept. 23 in Wichita Falls**

Ministry Formation Day, an enrichment opportunity for those involved in church ministry, will be offered Saturday, Sept. 23, at Notre Dame High School in Wichita Falls. The program, to be offered in English and Spanish, will begin with the opening of exhibitors' booths at 8 a.m., followed by registration and a continental breakfast at 8:30 a.m.

The keynote address — first in English, at 10 a.m., and then in Spanish, at 11:15 a.m. — will be presented by Father Anthony Basil Taylor. Fr. Taylor serves at Sacred Heart Parish in Oklahoma City. A Fort Worth native, he earned his doctorate in biblical theology from Fordham University, New York. Bilingual in English and Spanish, he serves a predominately Hispanic community.

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 will also be a second round of workshops in the afternoon, prior to the conclusion of the event at 2:30 p.m.

Workshop sessions will be offered on a variety of topics, including "Youth Ministry — Fun, Facts, Food, and Fellowship," "Making Sense of the Psalms in the 21st Century," "Transitioning from Youth Ministry to Young Adult Ministry and Campus Ministry," "Keeping Children, Youth, and Vulnerable Adults Safe, Part I," "Moral Issues in Today's World," and "When a Family is Hurting — Resources to Help."

All involved in parish or school ministry, whether volunteer or paid staff, are welcome to attend. The cost, which includes lunch, is $25 per person. Scholarships are available.

For more information about the Ministry Formation Day in Wichita Falls, call Connie Vasquez at (817) 560-3300 ext. 257, or visit the diocesan Web site at www.fwdioc.org.

Two other Ministry Formation Days will be held Jan. 6, 2007, at Nolan Catholic High School in Fort Worth, and March 3, 2007, at Our Lady of Lourdes Church in Mineral Wells.
The homilist’s humor was ideally suited to his congregation: a church full of traditional Catholics. In the assembly were Sisters of St. Mary of Namur, some of whom were celebrating significant jubilees, plus the colleagues, former students, and friends who support and love them.

“As we gather here to celebrate with these sisters their combined 585 years of professed religious life and ministry,” said Father Michael Olson, vicar general and great friend of the sisters, “in the presence of our bishop, of many priests, and of so many of their sisters and loved ones gathered here on this hot Saturday afternoon … we cannot help but be tempted to ask one question: ‘Does this Mass count for Sunday?’

The laughter that filled the St. Andrew sanctuary was a harmonious guffaw, as like minds traced their collective history of Catholic rules and their interpretations.

When the giggles subsided, Fr. Olson made clear his real point: “I say tempted because the jubilarians with whom we celebrate today have, with their sisters, dedicated their lives to transforming such questions of convenience and mere obligation into a desire for love of God and his people, the Church.”

Eight of the 10 Sisters of St. Mary of Namur celebrating jubilees gathered Aug. 12 at St. Andrew Parish in Fort Worth, as 400 people participated in a Mass celebrated by Bishop Kevin Vann. It was a demonstration of affection and respect from the lives the sisters had touched.

Recognized during the jubilee Mass were Sister Alice Hunter, for her 70 years in the congregation; Sister Mary Michael Dittoe, for 65 years; Sister Louise Smith, Sister Charles Marie Serafini, and Sister Charles Marie Fuhrmann, for 60 years; Sister Mary Helen Lopresto, Sister Rita Claire Davis, Sister Francesca Walterscheid, and Sister Ann Vincent Kucirek, for 50 years; and Sister Mary Rose Lopresto, Sister Rita Claire Davis, Sister Francesca Walterscheid, and Sister Ann Vincent Kucirek, for 60 years; and Sister Mary Helen Fuhrmann, Sister Bernice Knapek, and Sister Charles Marie Serafini, for 50 years. Sister Alice Hunter, Sr. Mary Michael, Sr. Louise Smith, Sr. Rita Claire Davis, all 60-year jubilarians; and Sr. Mary Michael Dittoe, a 60-year jubilarian, join the assembly in prayer.

“Sr. Francesca and Sr. Mary Rose both taught me at Holy Name, and others taught me at Nolan,” Hayes said. “I would never have survived without the nuns!”

The other three 60-year jubilarians included Sr. Ann Vincent, “an excellent teacher and principal,” Sr. Mary Rose, who taught art, and Sr. Louise, who became music archivist with the University of London in Ontario, Canada.

Golden jubilarian Sr. Mary Helen, pastoral associate at St. Mary’s Parish in Gainesville, is active in adult religious formation, and Sr. Bernice, former diocesan associate superintendent of schools, is principal at Holy Trinity School in Grapevine.

Sr. Charles Marie spent many years in the Congo and Rwanda, and, along with other sisters who worked in the missions, helps maintain that apostolate by speaking at parishes in the diocese. They tell the stories, and donations are sent to provinces in the Congo, Rwanda, Brazil, and Cameroon.

In the assembly were Sisters of St. Mary of Namur, founded in 1819 in Belgium, pioneered Catholic education in Texas, and this group of jubilarians included extraordinary educators, according to Sister Joan Markey, SSNN, development director for the province. Sr. Alice Hunter, an outstanding educator who has more than 40 years experience in school administration, also served on the faculty at the University of Dallas, where she was an instructor in education. From 1968 to 1972, she was a consultant for the Dallas Diocesan Education Office, and she ended her career at St. Mary’s School in Sherman, where she served as principal for 18 years.

“Sr. Mary Michael was one of our best music teachers,” Sr. Joan said. “She was a regular classroom teacher, but also taught piano and singing lessons.”

But music was not Sr. Mary Michael’s only talent. Together with Sr. Rita Claire, she spent the past several years in Knox City and Crowell at the western edge of the diocese, where St. Mary Michael worked on catechesis, and Sr. Rita Claire tackled immigration issues. “If the nuns were there,” Sr. Joan said, “there was a sense of continual presence. They were responsible for bringing many people into the church in North Texas.”

“This was a tribute to our pioneer sisters.”

Sisters of St. Mary of Namur celebrate significant jubilees

585 combined years of faithful service
DEAF MINISTRY ADVISORY BOARD — The Advisory Board for the Deaf Ministry Program gathered for a retreat over the summer to review the ministry’s activities for the past year. Time was spent evaluating programs and setting goals in alignment with diocesan objectives for the coming year. Participants in the retreat included (from l. to r. front) Beth White, Elizabeth Wilcox, (back) Paul Perez, Mary Jane Castrese, Leroy Terrio, and Steven Wanderscheid.

Religious formation classes for deaf, hearing-impaired are available throughout diocese

Religious formation classes for students who are deaf or hearing-impaired are offered at various parishes throughout the diocese by the Deaf Ministry Program. Students may choose to be mainstreamed into a regular religious education class with an interpreter. In this case, they may enroll in their home parish’s religious education classes and contact the Deaf Ministry Office for support services.

Other students may choose to participate in special classes taught by deaf adults or hearing adults who use sign language. In these special classes, consideration is given to techniques, learning styles, and culture aspects that help deaf children learn more readily. Young students will have the advantage of learning from deaf adults, who in many ways serve as role models for these students, sharing life experiences that only they could understand, according to Mary Cinatl, director of the Deaf Ministry Program.

Special classes for the deaf are offered Wednesday evenings at St. John the Apostle Church, 500 E. Dallas Street in Grapevine, Wednesdays or Sundays.

While deaf students attend religious education classes Wednesday evenings at St. John’s, their parents and siblings are invited to join a sign language class that will be offered at the same time.

Dr. Catherine Kenney Carlton, a noted osteopathic physician, dies at age 90

Dr. Catherine Kenney Carlton, 90, a retired osteopathic physician who served within the Catholic community in the Diocese of Fort Worth, died Aug. 22. The Mass of Christian Burial was celebrated Aug. 25 at St. Mary of the Assumption Church in Fort Worth, with Msgr. Joseph Schumacher presiding. Internment was at Mount Olivet Cemetery in North Fort Worth.

Born Oct. 20, 1915, in Laredo to Dr. Charles Kenney and Dr. Helen Larmoyeux Kenney, she and her family moved in 1919 to Fort Worth, where her parents established their medical practice. A graduate of Our Lady of Victory Academy, Catherine attended Incarnate Word College in San Antonio and the University of Texas at Arlington, and graduated from Kirkville College of Osteopathic Medicine in 1938. She joined her parents’ medical practice after her graduation.

One of the original staff members of the Fort Worth Osteopathic Medical Center, Dr. Carlton also served on the staff and as a department head for Manipulative Medicine and Distinctive Osteopathic Principles at the University of North Texas Health Science Center. She was a Thomas L. Northup Memorial lecturer, as well as a Fellow of the American Academy of Osteopathy.

An active member of St. Mary of Assumption Church in Fort Worth, Dr. Carlton’s commitment to service was also evident in her participation and leadership in several organizations, including the Catholic Women, the National Council of Catholic Women, the National Council of Christians and Jews, the Fort Worth Serra Club, and the Knights and Ladies of the Holy Sepulcher of Jerusalem.

She and her first husband, Dr. Elbert Carlton, practiced medicine together in the building that originally housed her parents’ home and medical practice, located at the corner of Lipscomb and Magnolia. She remained at that location until her retirement in 2002.

Dr. Carlton was survived by daughters, Cathy Landon and her husband, Steve; Helen McFall; and Jane Toone and her husband, John; and several grandchildren and great-grandchildren. Her memory may be honored with a donation to The Sisters of St. Mary of Namur, 909 W. Shaw Street, Fort Worth 76110.

St. Joseph Hospital reunion set for Sept. 30

All former employees, physician staff, nursing and allied health students, volunteers, and friends of St. Joseph Hospital are invited to attend the annual reunion picnic Saturday, Sept. 30, from 11 a.m. to 4 p.m. at the Arts Pavilion in Trinity Park in Fort Worth. Come “see old friends and share your experiences,” suggest picnic organizers.

Participants are asked to bring their own food and drinks, and a chair if desired.

For more information, call Connie Dankesreiter at (817) 244-3311 or e-mail to cdankswell.net.

Pedro Moreno to speak at DCCW meeting Sept 28

All women are invited to attend the quarterly luncheon meeting of the Central/East Texas Region of the National Council of Catholic Women Sept. 28 at St. Jude Parish, 500 E. Dallas Street in Mansfield. Registration will begin at 9:30 a.m.

Dr. Catherine Kenney Carlton

TRIDENTINE MASS
Latin Indult Mass
5:30 P.M. Sundays
St. Mary of the Assumption Church
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High Mass Second and Fourth Sundays
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Diocesan

Golden anniversary celebration planned for Oct. 15

A diocesan celebration honoring couples blessed with 50 years or more of married life will be held Sunday, Oct. 15, at St. Francis of Assisi Church, located at 861 Wildwood Lane in Grapevine. Bishop Kevin Vann will preside at the special Mass which will begin at 2:30 p.m. in the church.

Couples who have been married 50 years or more by the end of the year are invited to renew their marriage vows and to receive an anniversary blessing from the bishop. A reception with cake and punch will follow immediately afterward in the parish Family Life Center. Couples who were married prior to 1957 and want to be part of this special celebration are asked to call their parish office and to give their names, address, and date of marriage. Parishes are asked to submit this information to the diocesan Family Life Office.

For more information, contact Theresa Parish, Olney, at (325) 330-0924 or e-mail to dstojak@fwdioc.org or sordonez@fwdioc.org.

Knights to sponsor ranch rodeo in Graham

The second annual Brazos Valley Fall Gathering will be held Sept. 24 through Oct. 1 at the Young County Indoor Arena on Highway 308E in Graham. All proceeds from the daylong event sponsored by the Knights of Columbus Council #9634 from St. Mary Parish, Graham, and St. Theresa Parish, Olney, will be donated to the Young County Rural Volunteer Fire Department.

The WRCA-sanctioned Invitational Ranch Rodeo Competition will begin at 4 p.m. Friday, Sept. 29. The Ranch Horse Competition will begin at 8 a.m. Saturday, and will be followed by a Knights of Columbus Ranch Roping Competition at 2 p.m. There is no admission fee to attend the events.

The NRC deadlines for submission

The North Texas Catholic is published twice monthly except during the months of June, July, and August when it is published bi-monthly. The deadline to submit information is noon on the Wednesday of the week before the paper is published. Items to be considered for publication in the Sept. 22 issue must be received by noon on Wednesday, Sept. 13.

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**Viewpoints**

**Gathering of Directors of Religious Education reminds us of their important role in faith formation**

By Dan Luby

The parking lot is filled. A steady stream of people flows down the sloping sidewalks and in the front doors. The high ceiling and shiny brick floor of The Catholic Center foyer ring with echoes of cheerful greetings and questions about who’s here and where the restrooms are and how quickly can the caffeine addicts replenish their supply of coffee or tea or diet soda.

Push open the doors to the almost-refurbished conference room, and the noise level shifts to a more moderate buzz. Conversation flows up, past the empty ceiling grid awaiting new acoustical tiles, fading to silence in a funky silvery jungle of duct work and sheet metal. Here, at round tables, over coffee and rolls and fruit, initial greetings morph into continuing conversations among colleagues who may not have seen each other for months, and the beginnings of new friendships among those who’ve never met.

An attentive observer standing in a corner of the big room can overhear queries about unfamiliar faces and exchanges of e-mail addresses and hip pocket reviews of catechetical materials and speculations about whether or not those booklets on the table are free or for sale.

Ordinarily, Tuesday mornings at my office are not much different from other mornings, but today marks the semi-formal launch of the new catechetical year in parishes throughout the diocese. It is the annual gathering of parish directors and coordinators of religious education, dubbed by a clever colleague the “DRE Meet and Greet.”

Annually, for about 10 years, the Office of Children’s Catechesis has hosted this event. The atmosphere is a mix between pre-game pep rally and the first day of school. Its aim is as much to honor the DREs and CReS who labor so selflessly in the service of passing on the authentic faith of the church to the next generation of Catholics, as to share information about training requirements and promote networking and collaboration among parishes.

The bulk of those meeting and greeting are veteran catechists — most of whom began as volunteers working with kids — who have heard a call to do more. Some have been at the work of catechetical leadership for decades; others are here for the first time, newly recruited by pastors, and filled with questions.

They have pursued catechist certification through the Light of Christ Institute and other formation processes. Many have enrolled in degree programs, often continuing to do the heavy lifting of running a parish program while taking graduate courses at the University of Dallas’s Institute for Religious and Pastoral Studies or the Loyola Institute for Ministry Extension program (co-sponsored by the Diocese of Fort Worth) or other colleges and universities.

Some have mostly studied on their own, as time and circumstances have allowed, reading carefully The Catechism of the Catholic Church or The General Directory for Catechesis, consulting with their pastors and mentors, making application to their own parishes, their own lives.

All have moments of uncertainty and worry — will there be enough catechists willing to be trained; will parents support our efforts; will the programs being offered speak to the parish’s adults? At the same time, they are filled with a love of Christ and his church made visible in the countless hours of dedicated, sometimes unheralded effort they make. Surveying the room from the back, I am awestruck by the faith and grace and generosity represented by the people gathered here. I pray in gratitude for these catechetical leaders, and all those who serve with them in our parishes and schools.

The weekend of September 16 and 17 marks the annual celebration of Catechetical Sunday in the dioceses of the United States. In parishes all over the country, and all over our diocese, catechists will be recognized and thanked for their generous service.

May all of us take that opportunity to make a conscious effort, now and in the days to come, to express our thanks and offer our support to each and every one of them.

Dan Luby is the director of Christian Formation for the diocese.

**Another look at illegal immigrants**

By Jeff Hensley

There’s a lot of noise being made about immigration right now and whether to take care of the immigrant population that is already among us, serving us, working alongside us, without the benefit of legal status.

The church argues from a justice point of view, repeatedly reminding us that we are, after all, an immigrant nation. And Scripture admonishes us to act with an even hand toward the immigrant, desiring of our charity and our just actions.

But less frequently do I hear arguments from a demographic perspective rooted in self-interest.

Seldom do you hear anyone telling the body politic that the 12 million or so illegal immigrants in this country are replacing the much larger portion of our population lost to abortions in the past 30-plus years. Some set that figure at 30 million. Some use a higher number. If you want to throw in the number of children not born into smaller families resulting from all different manner of birth control, you add in multiple millions more who are not now present in our country.

And just who is going to be doing the work those tens of millions have done? Who is going to be paying into Social Security so that those of us currently in the work force will have the ongoing income from withholding taxes to fund our benefits?

I can give you part of the answer. A good bit of that shortfall is going to come from the taxes paid by illegal immigrants who have become naturalized citizens. If we’re smart, that is.

And just how much we do we want them to be paying into the system? A little bit? The portion that minimum wages jobs or just above that level will provide? I’ll bet not. I’ll bet every last one of us wants these new citizens to be paying in what high-paying jobs will allow. I’ll bet what we all really want is for these new immigrants and their children to have every opportunity we can provide, including better access to health care and education, so that they can earn well, live well, and pay into the system well.

Last issue of the NTC, I wrote about a hike I took in the Wichita Mountains National Wildlife Refuge, up above Wichita Falls. It was a very hot day, and another car was parked at the trailhead. Thinking myself kind and provident, I packed in a little more water and a couple more fruit and grain bars than I thought I would need, so I might be able to help the occupants of that car, should I meet them on the trail, and should they be in need of assistance. Little did I know I was packing for myself.

Well, guess what. We can see the trail ahead for the next 20 or 30 years, and there’s a huge shortfall of monies flowing into the federal coffers. There’s also a huge shortfall of labor to take care of the needs of our economy and our fast-growing body of elderly. Where will the provision for those needs come from?

I’m betting it doesn’t take a genius to figure out that justice and self interest line up pretty nicely about now, or that failure to act justly and providently toward our illegal immigrant neighbors will have drastically bad consequences — for us — just down the road.

Best we cast our bread upon the waters, and act with generosity, allowing us to participate in the Lord’s economy where giving comes first.
Amazing Encounters of the avian kind

By Antoinette Bosco

Numerous saints have been depicted as accompanied by a dove, including St. Thomas Aquinas and St. Gregory the Great. Whether we believe yes or no that birds are spiritual messengers, we can all agree that beautiful birds lift our spirits.

How do we explain what happened to then 17-year-old Nick Chirls, as he eulogized his mother, Catherine Ellen, who was killed Sept. 11 in the World Trade Center? As he eulogized his mother, a swallow lit on his head, making him for a brief while something of a celebrity.

The stories about bird symbolism can go on and on. Numerous saints have been depicted as accompanied by a dove, including St. Thomas Aquinas and St. Gregory the Great. Whether we believe yes or no that birds are spiritual messengers, we can all agree that beautiful birds lift our spirits.

Antoinette Bosco is the author of a number of books, including COINCIDENCES TOUCHED BY A MIRACLE, THE PROOMIZED HEART: FINDING PEACE THROUGH PAIN, CHOOSING MERCY, SHAKEN FAITH HANGING IN THERE WHEN GOD SEEMS FAR AWAY, AND A MOTHER OF MURDER VICTIM PLEADS TO END THE DEATH PENALTY, which received a 2002 Christopher Award. Her Web site has even more information about this remarkable writer who has worked as a writer and editor for more than 50 years: antoinettebosco.com.

Anger, loss, and sleeping on the train

By Kathy Cribari Hamer

The man was trying to find North Maywood, a Chicago neighborhood I had never heard of, and he said he had been on the trains since 8 p.m. the night before.

My silly son Andrew and I were on our way home from a Second City show, so we interacted with the man for a few minutes while we waited for the train. It was the red line.

In his hands, the man carried a map big enough to hold a paint-by-number reproduction of the Wrigley building. I wondered why, with all that information at his disposal, he could have been lost in the Chicago train system for 24 hours.

(These were smug thoughts, I realized, especially for a person who bypasses her own driveway every time she comes home after dark, unless there is lighted Christmas garland on the carport.)

The three of us got on the train, and the small, studious-looking man stood in back, brow furrowed and perusing his map as though it were a geography textbook on ancient Mesopotamia. He got off at the next stop. As far as we knew, he had still not found North Maywood.

During the rest of our ride, Andrew and I were people watching. Across from where we sat, we spotted a man who was asleep, his head tucked inside his sweatshirt, like a fat Tom turkey hiding on Thanksgiving. He slept deeply, like a relaxed cat, inhaling and exhaling in a soothing rhythm that belied the hurried nature of the train ride.

“The other day at work I was taking a nap during my lunch break,” Andrew said, “I usually can’t do that. Afterward, my friend Erika said, ‘You can only sleep in a room if the people there are those you trust. Sleeping and faith go hand-in-hand.’”

“When do you ever sleep on the train?” I asked Andrew. He said he couldn’t. “I always have my backpack clutched tightly,” he said, “and I jar myself awake every few seconds. ‘But it makes me feel bad,’” Andrew added, acknowledging a glinting gem of truth he had accidentally hit upon: “Homeless people sleep on the trains all the time. People who have nothing to lose have no reason not to trust.”

Andrew told me the story of a homeless man he encountered one day. He was a large man, with curly, graying hair, an old T-shirt, and very few teeth in his mouth. The reason you could see that he had no teeth, Andrew said, was simple: He always smiled.

“The first time I saw him, we were getting on the brown line to Sedgwick, and he had found a nearly-full 12-pack of Diet Cokes. I had seen the carton a few minutes earlier, balanced on a trash can.

“He walked around the train passing drinks around,” Andrew said, “and then took a can for himself. It seemed like he thought it was a drink he needed to shake before...”

See HAMER, p. 22.
A brief history of St. Catherine of Siena Parish

1977 — Small group of North Carrollton Catholics gather for meetings. 
1978 — CCD classes began with seven students at Holy Covenant Methodist Church; the first Mass was celebrated in May by Father Joseph Scantlin; Masses were celebrated at Woodlake Elementary School; the church was named a mission of St. Philip Church of Lewisville. 
1979 — Land was purchased, and building began on the community’s present education and fellowship buildings. 
1981 — Father Bob Whitfill was named first pastor to the community; the parish was officially named St. Catherine of Siena. 
1984 — The Community Center was completed and dedicated by Bishop Joseph Delaney March 17; the preschool program began. 
1986 — Father Richard Weaver was named pastor; the tradition of the parish “Autumnfest” began. 
1989 — Father Thomas Craig was named pastor; Father Jovian Lang became the priest in residence; the Youth Center was built. 
1997 — Franciscan priests Father George Themattil and Father Thomas Panickarupparpil joined the community. Construction began on the church. 
1998 — The church was dedicated Jan. 16 by Bishop Delaney, and the Family Center of classrooms, reception areas, and offices was opened. 
2002 — Father Antony Mathew became associate pastor. 
2003 — A larger church building was dedicated Nov. 16 by Bishop Delaney. 
2004 — Father Mathew Kavipurayidam, TOR, became pastor.

Adapted from the parish Web site at www.stcatherine.org.
A surprise guest that evening was Bishop Kevin Vann. Shortly beforehand, he had rearranged his schedule to attend the dinner party at the city’s Multipurpose Event Center. Bishop Vann gave the meal blessing and expressed kind regards for Fr. Koch. He joined Fr. Koch, emcee Dr. Tom Hoffman, with wife, Becky, and Jim McSorley, parish council president, at the head table.

Helping set a celebratory tone were a slide presentation of Fr. Koch’s Sacred Heart ministry, the fourth Degree Knights of Columbus Honor Guard procession, parish Boy Scouts posting colors, vivid table flowers, and an inviting dessert cake waiting to be cut by Fr. Koch.

Music provided by a city symphony string quartet and the Sacred Heart Chancel Choir — with an amusing, original rendition of “Thanks for the Memories” — further enhanced the catered celebration.

Toward the end of the night, gift presentations were made to Fr. Koch by parish service organizations, and a monetary gift for him from the overall parish was to be forthcoming.

Hoffman heartily welcomed the celebrants, which included several priests, chaplains, and deacons, along with representatives from the Sisters of the Holy Family of Nazareth and Sisters of St. Mary of Namur. Hoffman later extolled Fr. Koch for his 22 years of priesthood, commending him for answering his calling at age 54 and also overcoming numerous health obstacles to fulfill his ministerial duties.

As a seasoned Sacred Heart parishioner, Hoffman labeled his priest as “Three Men in One.” He elaborated these roles to be: 1) “Man of the Earth,” because of his love for nature’s beauty; 2) “Man of the Cloth,” because of his love for people and selfless desire to help them; and 3) “Man of Vision,” as exemplified in his commendable leadership in restoring, remodeling, and expanding the historic church and its parish hall, bringing the facilities into the new millennium.

Another testimonial was given by the Rev. Harold Elliott, 32-year chaplain for Arlington’s police department. In honoring Fr. Koch, who is in a local police chaplain, the Protestant minister declared his friend to be “a blessing in our life,” adding, “I am delighted to know you and to celebrate this time as you go into retirement.”

Fr. Koch offered gratitude to the Sacred Heart community for empowering him to make some significant strides during his almost two decades of leadership. He gave some humorous insights to offset stronger emotions involved in acknowledging his pending departure. Admiring Fr. Koch’s structure, he introduced Father Hoa Nguyen, formerly pastor of Burk-burnett’s St. Jude Parish, as his replacement, effective Sept. 1. Fr. Koch was born in What Cheer, Iowa, Nov. 5, 1930. Raised a Methodist, he converted to the Catholic faith in his 20s. Before ordination, his work positions included bartender, hometown mayor, divisional sales manager, and internal auditor, with major involvement in his family’s floral business. He has credited the latter as particularly useful in honing his business and people skills.

After study at the Sacred Heart School of Theology in Hales Corners, Wisconsin, Fr. Koch completed his 1982/1983 seminary pastoral year at Sacred Heart Parish. On June 16, 1984, he was ordained a priest. Before returning to Sacred Heart Parish in January 1989 as its pastor, he undertook various diocesan assignments. Among the parishes he served were St. Vincent de Paul, Arlington; St. Michael, Bedford; Our Lady of Mercy, Hillsboro; St. Mary, Henrietta; St. Jerome, Bowie; St. William, Montague; and St. Joseph, Nocona. Fr. Koch became a Knight Commander of the Equestrian Order of the Holy Sepulchre in 1986.

In a parting sermon the last weekend of Fr. Koch’s pastorate, he referenced himself with the words of the renowned military leader, Gen. Douglas MacArthur, by saying, “Old soldiers never die; they just fade away.” Yet, from what Fr. Koch and loyal supporters have conveyed, this scenario may differ for him.

Now residing at a local retirement center, Fr. Koch has stated that he remains available for service. He will continue his chaplain affiliation with Knights Council #10998, as well as his role as moderator for the Diocesan Council of Catholic Women. Other pastoral opportunities are likely to occur for this man who freely admitted in his official goodbye to fully loving his vocation, with its many life rewards.

U.S. seminaries receive new Program of Priestly Formation

By Jerry Filteau

WASHINGTON (CNS) — A new Program of Priestly Formation has been issued for use in all U.S. Catholic seminaries.

It places more emphasis on the human formation of seminarians, and especially on formation for celibacy, than did the fourth edition of the program, which had been in effect since 1992.

The 98-page revised version of the program, the fifth edition, has been posted on the Web site of the U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops at www.usccb.org.

The Program of Priestly Formation has governed seminary formation in the United States since the bishops issued the first edition in 1971.

The new version, reflecting the bishops’ recent response to the scandal of clergy sexual abuse of minors, says explicitly for the first time that any seminary applicant is to be accepted if he has not been involved in sexual abuse of minors.

It also incorporates stricter norms, adopted by the bishops in 1999, on evaluating an application for seminary admission from someone who previously left or was dismissed from a seminary or a formation program for religious life.

The bishops adopted the fifth edition of the program by an unanimous vote, 231-3, at their June 2005 meeting in Chicago. Last November Cardinal Ze- non Glichauskis, prefect of the Vatican Congregation for Catholi- cic Education, informed Bishop William S. Skylstad of Spokane, Washington, USCCB president, that his congregation had studied the new edition and approved it for a period of five years. Bishop Skylstad’s decree promulgating the document was dated Aug. 4, the feast of St. John Vianney.

In his letter Cardinal Glic- hauskis wrote, “The text is most appropriate. Of special benefit, in fact, will be the increased requirements for philosophical studies to a minimum of 30 credits and the lengthening of the pre-theology period to a minimum of two calendar years.”

Fifty years ago most priesthood candidates entered the seminary in high school or college and received the philosophical and other academic prerequisites for graduate theological studies in a college seminary setting. In the past two or three decades, however, more and more seminary candidates have come in with college degrees that included little or none of those prerequisites.

As a result, pre-theology pro- grams have become an increasingly important part of the academic programs of seminaries, and in fact many of those that had already become two-year programs before the new norms were adopted.

Like the 1992 edition, the new program speaks of four dimen- sions of formation that seminarians must develop and integrate as they prepare to become priests: intellectual, pastoral, spiritual, and human.

Those dimensions of forma- tion were outlined by Pope John Paul II in his 1992 apostolic exhortation, Pastores Dabo Vobis (I Will Give You Shepherds). Previous editions of the U.S. Program of Priestly Formation discussed the intellectual, pastoral, and spiritual development of priesthood candidates but did not specifically address issues of human development.
See Christ in others, pope encourages

FROM PAGE 1
In order to recognize Christ, especially in other people or in one’s daily life, people must have “innocent hands and pure hearts,” Pope Benedict said.

Having innocent hands means living one’s existence “enlightened by the truth of love that conquers indifference, doubt, lies, and selfishness,” he said. A pure heart, he added, is a heart that has been “captured by divine beauty” and houses Christ’s very image.

It was only after Jesus’ passion and resurrection that the disciples recognized him as the true Son of God, “the Messiah promised for the redemption of the world,” the pope said. According to tradition, the veil portrays the image of Christ’s face and no pigments or paints were used to create the image. (CNS photo/Max Rossi, Reuters)

Residents of Pentling, Germany, excited about pope’s visit

PENTLING, Germany (CNS) — Residents of the village of Pentling, where Pope Benedict XVI still owns a home, are excited that their favorite son is returning Sept. 13, and some want to be at the airport when he arrives in Munich Sept. 9.

“We are going to send a delegation of 20 people to welcome the pope at the airport when he arrives in our beloved Mississippi.”

‘With God’s help, we will rebuild wonderful communities…’, says Biloxi’s Bishop Rodi

From page 1
The bishop also stressed that the hurricane demonstrated people’s compassion especially at the local level. “We are fortunate to be able to see so much goodness in the world,” he added.

Bishop Rodi also noted that those directly impacted by the storm have had the opportunity to grow in faith even as they question why God would allow bad things to happen.

“We have had the opportunity to learn that God is with us both in the good times and in the struggles of life,” he said. “We have also had the opportunity to learn that God can bring good even out of the worst of times.

“If we open our eyes, we can see the hand of God guiding, helping, and strengthening us,” he said. “We do not come out after Katrina, but we can each be better. God can lead us to grow in wisdom, compassion, and faith because of all we have and are enduring.”

The bishop pointed out that many parishes and schools are planting an oak tree to observe Katrina’s anniversary as a memorial to those who have died and a tangible sign of “our commitment to church, to our community, and to our capacity to build together a new future for our beloved Mississippi.”

He said the trees will take time to grow, just as recovery takes time. “The road of recovery will be long and challenging,” Bishop Rodi wrote. “With neighbor helping neighbor, with the assistance we are receiving throughout our nation and our world, and with God’s help, we will rebuild wonderful communities with a great sense of place and a wonderful quality of life.”
With thanksgiving to God and gratitude for a nurturing family who supported his vocational call . . .

Father Walter McCauley, SJ, celebrates 50 Years of Priesthood

Story by Nicki Prevou

Below: Father Walter McCauley, SJ, and his mother spend time visiting at a reception following his first Mass at Blessed Sacrament Church in Toledo, Ohio. (Photo by Thomas Kuebler)

Left: A newly-ordained Fr. McCauley presides at his first Mass, celebrated June 17, 1956, in his home parish of Blessed Sacrament Church in Toledo, Ohio. Fr. McCauley attended Blessed Sacrament throughout his childhood and youth, attending the parish grade school and enjoying the friendship of Father Francis Geiser, who served as pastor at Blessed Sacrament from 1908-1958. (Photo by Thomas Kuebler)

Above: Fr. McCauley offers a blessing to a mother and child at the Benediction following his first Mass on June 17, 1956. Pictured are family friends Elizabeth Kuebler and her young daughter Karen. Karen Kuebler Wille is now a resident of Ennis. (Photo by Thomas Kuebler)

"I and the other men in my ordination group were ordained priests by then-Bishop Thomas J. O&#039;Sullivan of the then-Diocese of Mobile," wrote Fr. McCauley in the program for his jubilee celebration, held July 30 in New Orleans. "We have learned over the years the limitless fidelity and love of almighty God toward all his people… Our long life on this earth does teach us that God never forgets us."

Fr. Walter’s firm belief in God’s tender, redeeming love is his trademark, says Liz Moulin, and is “a blessing” to those who come to him for retreats and spiritual direction. “I’ve seen him ministering to others, and I’ve attended several retreats that he has given through the years,” she says. “Fr. Walter really follows the Lord, and he truly listens to the Holy Spirit. We’re so grateful for every day that he is here and for the way that he blesses everybody. Fr. Walter is my idea of a godly man.”

Fr. Walter’s vocation, he says, was nurtured through years spent in a happy, faith-filled home; within loving Catholic school and parish communities; and through close relationships with many dedicated religious and priests. Fifty years after ordination, the tender care he received from so many people of faith continues to enrich the lives of all who come to him at Montserrat.
VATICAN CITY (CNS) — Jesus excludes no one from his loving embrace because he came especially to save sinners and social outcasts, Pope Benedict XVI said.

The good news of the Gospels consists precisely in Jesus’ message that God offers his grace above all to those who seem furthest from being holy, the pope said Aug. 30 at his weekly general audience.

In front of some 8,000 pilgrims packed into the Paul VI Hall, the pope continued his series of audience talks about the life and Gospel of St. Matthew.

Matthew was a tax collector for the Roman occupiers in Israel and, therefore, like all the tax collectors at the time, was much hated by his fellow Jews, who considered him to be a public sinner.

But Jesus invited Matthew and other marginalized people to “follow me” and even invited them to eat with him, the pope said.

To those who were scandalized by Jesus associating with the community’s outcasts, the pope quoted Jesus as saying: “Those who are well don’t need a physician, but the sick do. I did not come to call the righteous, but sinners.”

“Jesus excludes no one from his friendship,” said the pope. Rather, he makes a special invitation to those who have humbly acknowledged their sins and are willing to leave their old ways of life behind for a new life with Christ, Pope Benedict said.

For example, in St. Luke’s account of the parable of the Pharisee and the tax collector, the humble sinner who begs God’s forgiveness will be justified in God’s eyes before the self-righteous person who proudly vaunts his or her moral perfection.

This seemingly paradoxical teaching is also reflected in the figure of St. Matthew, the pope said, since the person who seems furthest from being holy can become the first to enter the kingdom of heaven and act as an example of God’s welcoming mercy.

Matthew did not hesitate to answer Jesus’ call even though it meant leaving everything behind, especially his job — an occupation that had been his one sure source of income, but which was also often unjust and dishonest work, the pope said.

“Matthew understood that knowing Jesus would not allow him to continue an activity God disapproved of,” he said.

“Even today it is not admissible to be attached to things that are incompatible with following Jesus, such as is the case with dishonest wealth,” he said.

Just as Matthew decided to leave behind an immoral livelihood in order to follow Christ, the pope said all people are called to remove themselves from “a situation of sin” so as to embark on a new way of life and “follow Jesus completely.”

At the end of the two-hour audience, the pope individually greeted and blessed a long line of physically disabled children and adults, including an African woman who left behind her wheelchair to walk resolutely up to the pope using crutches and two artificial legs.

After greeting other pilgrims, the pope returned by helicopter to his summer residence in Castel Gandolfo, outside Rome.
M y young friend Ryan was accepted by several highly selective universities last spring. I thought this must be quite an ego trip considering all the acceptance offers that surrounded college admissions these days. Plus he lives in a community that overly touts the achievements of its high schoolers. Ryan seemed oblivious to all that. I’d known him for several years before I found out that he was a top-ranked student in the most difficult academic curriculum. All I knew was that his conversation about spiritual matters always ran deep and that a serious, mature relationship with God was at the heart of his love of social ministry projects.

So the prestigious Catholic university with its stimulating environment for intellectual, spiritually engaged young people seemed the perfect fit for Ryan. He turned it down. He couldn’t afford to go there. Instead he now attends a state university — not even a high-ranking one — that offered him full tuition and housing.

At first, I was dismayed that he was unable to go to the hotshot Catholic school, although Ryan himself didn’t seem disappointed. Then I began to tell my husband about Ryan: Of course, he’ll do extremely well at the college he’s chosen. One thing about it that excited him is that it has a medical school, and he wants to study medicine, hoping to become a pediatrician. And he should, I told my husband. He’s just the kind of person society needs as a doctor, compassionate, a servant-leader type — and he loves children! Also, he’ll be happy in a large city where he can serve the poor through campus ministry. By the time I’d finished describing the whole imagined scene, I was excited that Ryan would be where he belongs.

The servant-leader and child-loving aspects of Ryan’s character are what reminded me of him when I read this week’s Gospel. Jesus’ closest disciples were on a group ego trip about their individual accomplishments. Obviously embarrassed, they got a brief lesson on servant leadership. Then Jesus embraced an unassuming child in their midst — the one, he noted, who will bless those who accept him.

Ryan likely will hear these readings at Mass this Sunday: But he won’t recognize himself. He’ll be busy with the concerns of everyone else.

QUESTIONS:
What personal achievements tend to set you on an ego trip? How can you walk closer to Jesus to use your accomplishments to serve others, and who are those others?

Because God is God, there is good & evil & God’s good will prevail

OK, got that?

This is why prior to being selected to be the successor to John Paul II, Cardinal Joseph Ratzinger said that we are “moving toward a dictatorship of relativism … that recognizes nothing definite and leaves only one’s ego and one’s own desires as the final measure.”

As many as 30,000 people a day — many in America. I am awash with images of how far we have traversed. And the examples I have mentioned are just the tip of the iceberg.

It is pretty clear that ever since that bite was bitten from that forbidden fruit, suffering has followed. Many people assume that Eve ate an apple that day in the garden, but the actual fruit is never named, just the tree, and it is the name of the tree that might just shed some light on why there is all this suffering.

The tree was called “the tree of the knowledge of good and evil.” The reason God did not want us to eat from it is that he had already decided on what was good and what was evil, and he knew that anyone who eats from this tree could decide for themselves what is right and wrong.

If everyone can decide what is good and what is bad, there ceases to be any real standard, and every decision becomes relative. This is why prior to being selected to be the successor to John Paul II, Cardinal Joseph Ratzinger said that we are “moving toward a dictatorship of relativism … that recognizes nothing definite and leaves only one’s ego and one’s own desires as the final measure.”

If anyone wishes to rank first, he must remain the last one of all and the servant of all.”
—Mark 9:35cd

All around us we see the destruction wrought by a world feasting on the fruit of the tree of the knowledge of good and evil. Yet through the darkness of relativism shines the light of the truth of God’s love, mercy, compassion, forgiveness, and the doorway to eternal life.

When I think about all the evil in the world, I am often overwhelmed by it all, and I am tempted to give up hope. In moments like this I am happy I have done what my old Bible study teacher would challenge us to do — commit Bible verses to memory. The one that rescues me from doubt every time is John 16:33: “In the world you will have trouble, but have courage for I have overcome the world.”

With this verse in mind I realize that while we may be surrounded by relativism, there is at least one absolute — God is in control.

Jeff Hedglen, youth minister at St. Bartholomew Parish in South-west Fort Worth, is the principal organizer of Camp Fort Worth each summer. Readers with questions can contact Jeff at jeff@stbartsfw.com.
Mientras comenzamos este año de adoración e impartimos nuestra fe, reconocemos a todos los que brindan sus servicios y a nuestros nuevos seminaristas

Queridos amigos del Señor en nuestra diócesis,

Les estoy escribiendo en esta columna en el Día del Trabajo y desde Springfield, Illinois, donde celebré una boda para miembros de mi familia además de tener la oportunidad para pasar el fin de semana con algunos amigos y mis padres. Mi familia y amigos siguen muy agradecidos por la amabilidad y la calurosa bienvenida que me dieron tantas personas en Fort Worth, especialmente cuando celebré el vigésimo quinto aniversario de mi ordenación sacerdotal.

Ahora estamos comenzando los meses del otoño, la época en que los programas de la educación religiosa parroquial (Catequesis), además de los programas litúrgicos, de música, y otros programas de nuestras escuelas elementales y secundarias comienzan a funcionar de forma completa. Éstos son meses de gracia en la iglesia y es un tiempo para estar agradecidos por nuestros sacerdotes, diáconos, religiosos y religiosas, y todos los demás que están envueltos en los diversos ministerios de la parroquia, que se entregan tan generosamente para que nuestra fe pueda ser vivida y proclamada. Nuestro calendario eclesial no es la única fuente de enseñanzas y señales importantes, sino que a veces, nacionalmente, los meses los son también.

Por ejemplo, el 3 de septiembre es normalmente la fiesta de San Gregorio Magno. Lo elevaron a la silla de San Pedro el 3 de septiembre del año 590 y “demostró ser un verdadero pastor al desempeñar su oficio, ayudando a los pobres, promoviendo y fortaleciendo la fe. Escrito extensamente sobre temas de moral y teología.” (Liturgia de las Horas). Él es un ejemplo del equilibrio que debe existir entre el cuidado pastoral y una vida fuerte de oración y devoción. Sus obras de teología moral nos recuerdan la importancia de la conversión de vida y la virtud. El 9 de septiembre celebramos la fiesta de San Pedro Claver. Él nació en 1580 y murió el 8 de septiembre del 1654. Fue miembro de la Compañía de Jesús y trabajó incesantemente en Colombia resolviendo las necesidades espirituales y temporales de los esclavos que fueron traídos para vender a Colombia. Juró hacerse su esclavo para siempre. Su trabajo heroico en una época difícil nos puede llevar a examinar nuestras propias actitudes hacia el racismo.

Mirando el calendario civil, el mes de septiembre comienza con el Día del Trabajo. Aunque tendemos a observar este día de fiesta como el final del verano, este día nos llama a ser agradecidos por el trabajo de nuestros antepasados que construyeron a nuestro país. Pero no solamente eso, ésta también podría ser una época para reflexionar sobre la doctrina social de la iglesia y la larga tradición de lo que se podría llamar una teología del trabajo. Quiero agradecerle de manera especial a Dan Luby, Ralph McCloud y a todos los que recientemente ayudaron a preparar un día de la reflexión sobre en este tema en la Parroquia de la Sagrada Familia en Fort Worth. Nuestro trabajo diario es un lugar en donde podemos, con la gracia de Dios, crecer en santidad y “Buscar el Reino de Dios y de su justicia.” (Mateo 6:33).

Finalmente, quisiera compartir las buenas noticias que en este nuevo año académico que comienza, tendremos 25 candidatos al sacerdocio en diversos seminarios en Texas, y a través de la nación además de en Europa (Colegio Norteamericano en Roma). Entiendo que éste es el número más grande de seminaristas en la historia de la Diócesis. ¡(En realidad son muchas las diócesis en Texas, y otras partes, que están reportando un incremento en el número de seminaristas este año) Gracias a todos por sus oraciones y el estimular nuevas vocaciones, especialmente el Gran Serra, ¡Sigan con sus esfuerzos! Gracias especiales también a todos los que han estado envueltos en el procesamiento de las nuevas admisiones al seminario durante este último año. Necesitamos estimular una cultura donde la llamada a servir al Señor como sacerdotes, religiosos y religiosas sea para todos nosotros algo absolutamente vital y necesario. ¡Que Dios los bendiga siempre!

En declaración sobre el Día del Trabajo se enfatizan las demandas y los derechos de los inmigrantes

WASHINGTON (CNS)—Con una cifra de inmigrantes que integran el 15 por ciento de los trabajadores de los Estados Unidos, las cuestiones a analizar a propósito del Día del Trabajo es “considerar quién somos como nación, cómo se trata a todos los trabajadores dentro de nuestra economía, cómo les damos la bienvenida a los extranjeros que están entre nosotros”, dijo el presidente del Comité de Acción Política Interna de los obispos de Estados Unidos en la declaración anual comento de la celebración del Día del Trabajo.

“Las demandas de inmigración no solamente son exclusivamente en las fronteras, sino también en el mercado de trabajo”, dijo obispo Nicholas DiMarzio de Brooklyn en una declaración dada a conocer el 23 de agosto, fecha adelantada a la celebración del Día del Trabajo, el 4 de septiembre.

“El simple hecho es que muchos sectores de la economía de nuestra nación han llegado a ser dependientes de los trabajadores de inmigrantes”, dijo. La agricultura, las plantas procesadoras de carne y pollo, y las industrias de hoteles y restaurantes se mueven a base de la labor de trabajadores inmigrantes.

Sin embargo esta influencia ha sido incierta para muchas personas, dijo el obispo DiMarzio.

El obispo DiMarzio dijo que la situación actual le presenta muchas preguntas a la sociedad actual, que van desde “¿Cómo se puede definir lo que es un ‘americano’?” a “¿Cómo debemos manejar la realidad de que más de 10 millones de personas están aquí sin documentación legal, pero que, con algunas excepciones, llevan una vida que comparte nuestros valores de trabajo, familia y comunidad?” y “¿Cuál es nuestro punto de vista con respecto a algunos trabajadores, ciudadanos de Estados Unidos, que sienten haber sido dejados atrás o empujados hacia un lado? ¿Cómo debemos proteger nuestras fronteras de aquellos que tienen la voluntad de dañarnos?”

El obispo le pidió a la gente que meditara en esas preguntas a través de los ojos de:

— “Un padre de familia en México que no puede alimentar a su familia, o de un dueño de rancho cuya propiedad se ha convertido en camino peligroso donde transitán personas desesperadas, que amenazan su vida y su modo de vida.”
—”Un trabajador que no tiene estadio legal y que se dedica a contar carne para recoger fruta; o de un trabajador de los Estados Unidos que no cuenta con mucha educación y que tiene pocas habilidades y que está en busca de trabajo con salario decente.”
— “Un agricultor o dueño de negocio que no puede encontrar suficientes trabajadores; o de un dirigente de sindicato laboral que trabaja a favor de trabajadores que son explotados y carecen de representación adecuada.”
— “Un guardia fronterizo al que se le pide que haga lo imposible con limitados recursos; o de un legislador que tiene la dificil responsabilidad de tratar de reconciliar todas estas diferentes perspectivas en busca del bien común.”
La importancia de tener un corazón saludable, un corazón convertido

¡Cristo es el mejor cardiólogo!

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

En estas últimas semanas he estado reflexionando mucho sobre el corazón. Especialmente cuando nos referimos al mismo en diversas conversaciones. Frases como...

“Tengo una corazónada.” “Mi corazón me está diciendo…” “Estoy siguiendo a mi corazón.” “Lo hice de corazón.” “Cuando manda el corazón.” “Lo que dije fue de corazón.” etc., etc.

Lo curioso es que la mayor parte de las veces cuando escuchamos una de estas frases, u otras parecidas, se cree que es algo bueno. Les tengo una sorpresa, no es necesariamente así. Se pueden tomar decisiones del corazón que están equivo- cadas. Se puede seguir al corazón que nos lleva por mal camino. Se pueden seguir unas corazones que no dan pie a nada. En fin, solo porque algo sea “de corazón” no significa necesariamente que sea lo bueno, lo correcto o lo mejor. “De corazón”, puede ser, una gran equivocación. Incluso, a veces se dice que algo es “de corazón” sólo para engañar o tomar ventaja.

Tomamos algunos versos del Profeta Jeremías que nos ponen de aviso ante los peligros del corazón:

4:14: Limpia tu corazón del mal, Jerusalén, para que puedas salvarte.
5:23: Pero este pueblo, cuyo corazón es traidor y rebeldé, me ha vuelto la espalda y se ha marchado…
13:10: Este pueblo malvado que no quiere escuchar mi palabra y se deja llevar por su corazón endurecido y va tras otros dioses para servirlos y adorarlos, quedará como el cinturón que no vale nada.
16:12: Y ustedes, sí, ustedes, han actuado peor que sus padres; pues cada uno de ustedes hace lo que le aconseja su corazón duro y perverso en vez de escucharme.
48:30: Conocemos su soberbia, su arrogancia, su inso- lencia y la altanería de su corazón.

En el evangelio de Marcos, en su capítulo siete, Jesús mismo nos pone de aviso sobre los peligros del corazón:

Verso 6: Este pueblo me honra con los labios, pero su corazón está lejos de mí.
Versos 20 al 23: Lo que hace impura a la persona es lo que ha salido de su propio corazón. Los pensamientos malos salen de dentro, del corazón: de ahí proceden la inmoralidad sexual, robos, asesinatos, infidelidad matrimonial, codicia, maldad, vida viciosa, envidia, injuria, orgullo y falta de sentido moral. Todas estas maldades salen de dentro y hacen impura a la persona.

Como podemos ver el “corazón” puede ser el punto de origen de errores y pecados. Pero así como lo que sale del corazón no es necesariamente bueno tampoco lo es necesariamente malo. La distinción es cuan lleno está el corazón de Dios. Un corazón lleno de Dios es un corazón convertido. El mejor ejemplo de un corazón lleno de Dios, de donde todos sus frutos son buenos es el Sagrado Corazón de Jesús. Es el mejor cardiólogo.

Sagrado Corazón de Jesús, haz nuestro corazón semejante al tuyo, un corazón saludable. Amén.

Pedro Moreno es director diocesano del Instituto Luz de Cristo. Sus escritos espirituales han recibido múltiples premios de la Asociación de Periodismo Católico de los Estados Unidos y Canadá. Vive en el noreste de Fort Worth con su esposa María Mirta y sus tres hijas María, Patricía y Mirangela. Pedro es Laique Dominico.

Jornada Juvenil invitán a todos los jóvenes a un retiro

Los jóvenes de la Jornada Juvenil, invitan a todos los jóvenes, 16 años a 35, a un retiro de fin de semana, en español. Los retiros tendrán lugar en el Centro de Cursillos de Fort Worth, 2221 N.W. 26th St., Fort Worth. El retiro para muchachas será de sept. 15, viernes, desde las 7 p.m., hasta el domingo sept. 17; y el de muchachos, de sept. 22, viernes, desde las 7 p.m. hasta el domingo, sept. 24. Estos retiros son cerrados, y los jóvenes pasan el fin de semana en el Centro. Durante los retiros los jóvenes conviven con otros jóvenes, los dirigentes son jóvenes preparados para ello. Pláticas, juegos, dinámicas, música, convivio, oración y alegría reinan durante los retiros. Jóvenes, les esperamos a un retiro.

Retiro para parejas

Coronialmente invitámos a todas las parejas a una Jornada Familiar, es un fin de semana para toda clase de parejas, casadas por la iglesia o no. El retiro tendría lugar en el Centro de Cursillos (2221 NW 26th St., Fort Worth) de Sept. 8, viernes, comenzando a las 7 p.m. hasta el domingo, Sept. 10, en plenamente. Este retiro es una gracia de Dios, y ayuda a todos a escucharse, ayudarse a crecer en amor, fidelidad y paz. Para reserva u otra información, llame a Domingo y Norma Sanchez (817) 292-7170, o al Centro de Cursillos (817) 624-9411. “Le esperamos, El Padre Francis X. Fernández, OFM Cap.”

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Simposio examina contribuciones, liderato de hispanos en los Estados Unidos

ALLENSPARK, Colorado (CNS) — El crecimiento rápido de la población hispana en Estados Unidos no es un problema ni una amenaza, dijo un funcionario del Vaticano a los asistentes a una conferencia realizada en la Arquidiócesis de Denver.

En vez, dijo el, es una bendición de Dios para dar un vigor renovado y “una síntesis católica más completa” a la misión de evangelización en este país, dijo Guzmán-Carrquiry Lecour, sub-secretario del Consejo Pontificio Para el Laicado.

Carrquiry, laico originario de Uruguay, fue uno de los oradores que se dirigieron a obispos católicos y líderes empresariales reunidos en una casa de montaña cerca de Denver del 18 al 20 de agosto para discutir las contribuciones y las luchas de los hispanos de Estados Unidos y la responsabilidad de ellos de ser líderes y de evangelizar en la sociedad de hoy.

Copatrocinado por las arquidiócesis de Denver y San Antonio, el simposio fue la sesión inaugural realizada el 2004. Más de 30 personas participaron en el simposio. Los tópicos incluyeron la inmigración y las contribuciones económicas, culturales y espirituales de los hispanos a la sociedad y a la iglesia de América.

“Mi primera esperanza es que ustedes salgan de esta reunión determinados a ayudar a mover la discusión pública sobre la presencia hispana en Estados Unidos, apartándola de las consignas mal dirigidas sobre muros fronteizos y ‘deudores ilegales’ hacia a búsqueda de una verdadera asociación”, dijo el arzobispo Charles J. Chaput, de Denver, en su discurso de bienvenida.

El arzobispo Chaput exhortó a los participantes a reconocer que la fe católica de ellos está en el corazón de los dones que ellos traen a la sociedad, diciendo: “No pueden permitir perder su identidad católica. Sí en algún momento la pierden, perderán lo que son. Perderán su alma. Y todos seremos más pobres con esa pérdida”.

Otros obispos que participaron en la conferencia fueron el arzobispo José H. Gómez, de San Antonio, ex obispo auxiliar de Denver que ayudó a iniciar los simposios, y el obispo Thomas G. Wenski, de Orlando, Florida, director del Comité Sobre Política Internacional de la Conferencia Estadounidense de Obispos Católicos.

El Arzobispo Gómez habló sobre la espiritualidad del trabajo. “A través de su ocupación, su estado en la vida, Dios les llama a ser líderes, como hombres y mujeres empresariales, como estadounidenses y católicos, y como modelos de virtud y carácter moral”, señaló. “Dado que el comercio es el motor de nuestro país, cada uno de ustedes tiene una posición única para hacer una diferencia real y duradera en cada aspecto de nuestra cultura y sociedad”.

“La autoridad y el poder no provienen del rango social ni del dinero”, advirtió el prelado. “El verdadero liderazgo depende de sus relaciones personales con Jesucristo”.

El Arzobispo Gómez instó a los asistentes a leer el evangelio, el Catecismo de la Iglesia Católica, el Compendio de la Doctrina Social de la Iglesia y el “Catecismo en América”. Estos recursos no ofrecen soluciones para establecer directrices, indicó, sino “principios de reflexión, criterios de juicio y pautas para tomar medidas”.

Otros oradores fueron el empresario y artista Lionel Sosa, de San Antonio, soció de Sosa Consultation and Design y oficial ejecutivo en jefe de Mexicanos y Estadounidenses Pensando Juntos.

WASHINGTON (CNS) — Mejorar la cobertura de los seguros de servicios médicos debe ser una prioridad importante en la campaña para las elecciones de noviembre, dijo el director de la Asociación Médica Católica (CHA), señalando que el 46.6 millones de personas en Estados Unidos no tienen aseguración.

“Tenemos la esperanza que según se acerca la elección de medio término la gente en todo el país exigirá que sus candidatos a puestos expliquen cómo trabajaran para ampliar la cobertura y el acceso”, dijo la hermana Carol Keeshan, miembro de las Hijas de la Caridad.

“A nadie se le debe negar la oportunidad de buscar y lograr el sueño estadounidense porque está enfermo y no puede costear el tratamiento. Esta gran nación puede hacer algo mejor. Tiene que hacer algo mejor”, dijo ella.

La hermana Carol, presidenta y oficial ejecutiva en jefe de la CHA y ex directora del Hospital Providence, en Washington, comentaba respecto a las cifras del 2005 emitidas el 29 de agosto por la Oficina del Censo de Estados Unidos.

La oficina informó que 46.6 millones de personas en Estados Unidos no tienen seguro. Esto incluye a 8.3 millones de niños. Estos números representan “mujeres, hombres y niños que viven diariamente sin servicios médicos accesibles ni a precios módicos”, dijo la hermana Carol en un comunicado de prensa de la CHA el 29 de agosto. “Esto es intolerable”.

El número de personas sin seguro aumentó en 1.3 millones desde el 2004 y la subida del porcentaje fue de 15.6 por ciento a 15.9 por ciento, según las cifras de la oficina.

La Oficina del Censo ofreció desglose por grupos raciales, étnicos y minoritarios de la población que no tiene seguro.

La tasa de personas sin seguro, así como el número de personas sin seguro, permaneció sin cambios estadísticos del 2004 al 2005 entre los blancos no hispanos. Un 17.1 millones de blancos —o el 11.3 por ciento de la población blanca— no tienen seguro.

La tasa de personas que no tienen seguro aumentó de 13.5 millones a 14.1 millones.
Archbishop Gomez encourages business leaders to be ‘models of moral virtue and character’

FROM PAGE 1

bishops and business leaders gathered at a mountain lodge near Denver Aug. 18-20 to discuss the contributions and struggles of Hispanics in the United States and their responsibility to be leaders and to evangelize in today’s society.

Co-sponsored by the Denver and San Antonio archdioceses, the symposium was the follow-up to an inaugural conference held in 2004. Like the first event, it was held at St. Malo Retreat and Conference Center in Allenspark and used the late Pope John Paul II’s Ecclesia in America as its foundational document.

The pope’s 1999 apostolic exhortation calls on the church to consider the Americas as one continent in addressing issues such as drug abuse.

About 30 people participated in the symposium. Topics included immigration and the economic, cultural, and spiritual contributions of Hispanics to society and to the church in America.

Archbishop Gomez spoke on the spirituality of work.

‘By your position, your state in life, God is calling you to be leaders — as businessmen and businesswomen, as Americans, and as Catholics, and as models of moral virtue and character,’ he said. ‘Because commerce is the engine of our country, each of you is uniquely positioned to make a true and lasting difference in every area of our culture and society.’

‘Authority and power doesn’t come from social rank or money,’ warned the prelate. ‘True leadership depends on your personal relationship with Jesus Christ.’

Archbishop Gomez urged the attendees to read the Gospels, the Catechism of the Catholic Church, the Compendium of the Social Doctrine of the Church, and Ecclesia in America. These resources do not provide policy solutions, he said, but offer ‘principles for reflection, criteria for judgment, and guidelines for action.’
Sharing in Ministry helps make Christ present through a variety of ministries

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gelization programs, Catholic Charities, family life ministries, and needy parishes throughout the 28-county diocese. “Faithful Disciples in Christ” is the theme of the 2006-2007 campaign. The campaign will be kicked off over the weekend of Sept. 16-17 with a letter from Bishop Kevin Vann that will be distributed at all weekend masses.

“The campaign will stay in the diocese to fund a broad range of critically needed ministries, programs, and apostolates.

“Each gift is important, no matter the size—and shows your gratitude in a meaningful way to God for his many blessings,” Bishop Vann adds. “It’s a positive response to his call to be faithful stewards.

In past years, the generosity of parishioners has provided $9.3 million in operating and capital grants to rural or inner-city schools and parishes. This financial resource has helped small, financially strapped faith communities make needed improvements, hire personnel, and provide services. Since 1990, 42 rural and central city schools and parishes have benefited from the availability of SM grants.

“These funds are a hand-up—not a hand-out,” explains John Honaman, diocesan director of Stewardship and Development. “They supplement funds raised by each parish community to expand, renew, or maintain facilities.”

Parishioners will have the opportunity to fill out pledge envelopes or make outright gifts to the campaign during Sept. 30 and Oct. 1 Masses. Online giving is also available by logging on to the diocesan Web site — www.fdioc.org—and following the SIM prompts.

“Participation in the Annual Diocesan Appeal is a reflection of our response to God’s blessings,” Honaman continues. “He is the source of all we have, all we are, and all we will be. By extending a helping hand to our Catholic brothers and sisters in the faith, we can show our love to the Lord as his disciples.”

Fr. Walterscheid is grateful the Vocation Office is targeted to receive $25,000 from Sharing in Ministry. Efforts to highlight the need for more vocations through the parish-based Chalice Program, special prayers, and school activities like the Fifth Grade Vocation Day are producing results. To assist those men now contemplating a vocation, the energetic priest started a discernment group, hoping the meetings would answer questions, assuage fears, and build community. Five of the candidates who attended those gatherings have entered the seminary.

“I think we’re seeing the fruits of our work,” Fr. Walterscheid says. “Now we have to show our seminarians they are being supported, and we need Sharing in Ministry to make that happen.”

“God calls people to serve in many different ways, and money donated to the campaign also helps those who choose to marry and rear children. Helping couples in irregular marriages heal their pasts and return to the church led to the elimination of Tribunal fees for annulments in the Diocese of Fort Worth.

“Eliminating these fees will mean a considerable reduction in the diocesan budget. Nevertheless, if this leads to more Catholics returning to the faith, it will be well worth it,” the late Bishop Joseph Delaney said, announcing the change in July 2001.

The new policy has prompted a significant increase in the number of annulment requests in the diocese. Funds from Sharing in Ministry will help the Marriage Tribunal process its growing number of cases.

Larry and Kaye Schaapveld were married 20 years before having their union con-validated by the church in 2004.

“Life from that point on has been so much richer,” explains Kaye Schaapveld, who gained a sense of closure and tremendous peace after a previous marriage was annulled. “Saying our vows inside St. Thomas the Apostle Church was a marvelous coming together of two people who loved each other dearly, but now had God at the center of the relationship.”

Raised in Dallas as a Baptist, Schaapveld began attending the RCIA program with her husband, a cradle Catholic, during the an-nulment process. The couple’s experience with RCIA and the Marriage Tribunal Office was so positive and affirming, they decided to help other families.

“We thought marriage tribunal work was a wonderful min-istry, so we started training and attending seminars before our case was even completed,” says the parishioner of Holy Trinity Mission in Azle, who now inter-vistes witnesses, petitioners, and respondents as an auditor for the Marriage Tribunal Office.

The Schaapvelds view the annulment experience as a heal-ing ministry. The no-fee policy — supported by Sharing in Min-istry — shows applicants that the church cares about their personal struggles and is eager to welcome them home.

“Petitioners and respondents are people who are wounded and hurting,” Kaye Schaapveld adds. “By working with them, we give back the healing that was given to us.”
Adrian’s Floor & The Tile Dentist
4117 Decatur St., Fort Worth
(817) 733-2227

CART SERVICES NEEDED
The Deaf Ministry Program provides CART transcription services at the 10 a.m. Sunday Mass at Most Sacred Blood Church in Arlington. Those who are deaf, hard of hearing, or have speech impairments are encouraged to attend the 10 a.m. Mass. For more information, call Michael Goodenough at (817) 428-3927. If you or someone you know has difficulty hearing, please call or send an e-mail message to Michelle Hite at mshite@bellsouth.net. It is our goal to serve you. When hearing difficulties arise, please contact us. We will send you information on how to get CART service at this church or another church of your choice.

DCMW CONVENTION
All women are invited to attend the quarterly luncheon at St. Andrew Web site at www.standrewsch.com. This event will be held on the second Thursday of each month at 11 a.m. at St. Andrew’s Church in Grapevine. For more information, call Linda Brandon at (817) 587-2876.

GOLF TOURNAMENT
The Knights of Columbus Council #11423 will sponsor its 12th annual charity golf tournament at Brookside Golf Course in Fort Worth Oct. 8. The $65 entry fee includes the green fee, golf cart, and lunch. Prizes will be awarded for first, second, and third place in each flight as well as the longest drive and closest to the pin on par threes. For more information, contact Mike Goodenough at (817) 428-3927. If you or someone you know has difficulty hearing, please call or send an e-mail message to Michelle Hite at mshite@bellsouth.net. It is our goal to serve you. When hearing difficulties arise, please contact us. We will send you information on how to get CART service at this church or another church of your choice.

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The average person doesn’t relish spending more time at work, but Father Kyle Walterscheid views his job a little differently than most folks. As associate director of vocations for the Diocese of Fort Worth, monitoring and counseling a growing list of seminarians is a challenge he welcomes.

“We have more men than ever studying for the priesthood, and it’s likely the numbers will increase,” suggests the young priest who was ordained in 2002. “If our projections are correct, I’ll be making a lot more semester visits to seminarians over the next few years.”

There are currently 25 men studying to serve as priests for the Diocese of Fort Worth in three different seminaries in the United States. Fifteen candidates began the formation process in the past 13 months. To meet the demands of an increasing workload, the Office of Vocations will receive needed financial help from Sharing in Ministry. Educating new priests to serve the 400,000 Catholics living in the diocese is just one of the ways the Annual Diocesan Appeal helps carry out the mission of Jesus Christ in North Texas.

There are currently more seminarians studying for the priesthood for the Diocese of Fort Worth than at any other time in the history of the diocese. Sharing in Ministry provides a substantial part of the funding to make their seminary education possible.

**Inside... This issue of the NTC**

The Sisters of St. Mary of Namur celebrated a jubilee Mass at St. Andrew Parish recently. Their combined service totaled 585 years, ranging from 50 to 70 years each.  

Father Walter McCauley’s love of a good story — the telling and the hearing — has been a hallmark of his 50 years as a Jesuit priest, and a real asset in his work as a retreat master.

God’s people in St. Catherine of Sienna Parish in Carrollton celebrated 25 years as a parish community, remembering, laughing, and sharing the love of God with each other.

By Joan Kurkowski-Gillen Correspondent

**Good Newsmakers**

**Sharing in Ministry helps create the ‘Communio’ of the local Church**