Pope celebrates Mass, tells Lourdes pilgrims that Mary leads to Christ

By John Thavis
Catholic News Service
LOURDES, France — Pope Benedict XVI celebrated Mass for 150,000 international pilgrims at the Marian sanctuaries of Lourdes and told them that humble prayer to Mary was a true path to Christ.

The pope said Mary had appeared at Lourdes to invite everyone who suffers, physically or spiritually, to “raise their eyes toward the cross of Jesus” and recognize a love that is stronger than death or sin.

“The power of love is stronger than the evil that threatens us,” he said Sept. 14.

The pope traveled to Lourdes, a town in the French Pyrenees, to celebrate the 150th anniversary of Mary’s appearances to St. Bernadette Soubirous, a 14-year-old peasant girl.

After days of rain and cool weather, sunshine broke through the clouds over the pilgrims who filled a grassy field near the sanctuaries. They applauded as the pontiff processed to an altar covered with a sail-shaped canopy.

In his sermon, the pope placed himself among the pilgrim population, saying he, too, had come to pray at the feet of Mary, “eager to learn from her alongside little

See POPE, p. 15

USCCB Pro-Life Activities spokesperson McQuade to address two seminars on Faithful Citizenship at Most Blessed Sacrament, Oct. 16

Deirdre McQuade, assistant director for policy and communications for the Secretariat of Pro-Life Activities for the U.S. Conference of Bishops, will present two seminars on Faithful Citizenship, Thursday, Oct. 16, at Most Blessed Sacrament Parish, 5819 W. Pleasant Ridge Rd. in Arlington. The seminars, sponsored by the Diocese of Fort Worth’s Offices of Adult Catechesis and Respect Life and the Catholic Pro-Life Committee, Respect Life Ministry of the Diocese of Dallas, will be offered to deepen understanding and awareness of the unique and profound ties between our civic and moral obligations for the upcoming election and beyond, according to event organizers.

The first seminar will be for priests, religious, and parish staff members and will run from 9:30 a.m. to noon Oct. 16. McQuade’s first talk, “Faithful Citizenship: Living Out Our Baptism in the Public Square,” will be followed by a short intermission and a second talk, “Building the House of Human Rights from the Ground Up.” After each talk there will be an opportunity for questions. According to a news release on the presentations, “This seminar will give an in-depth look at Faithful Citizenship and how we as Catholics can have a positive influence in the public square through our voices and our vote. It will provide priests and parish ministers the tools to effectively teach and implement the bishops’ message in parishes.” A continental breakfast will be provided. Those wishing to attend must RSVP by contacting Josie Castillo at (817) 560-3300 ext. 255 or at jcastillo@fwdioc.org by Monday, Oct. 13.

McQuade will present a second seminar from 7 p.m. to 9 p.m. Oct. 16, “Truth, Dialogue and Jacob’s Well: A Scriptural Model for Faithful Citizenship.” This presentation will be open to the general public. McQuade will use the powerful story of Jesus’ encounter with the woman at the well as a context for describing the practical and spiritual tools needed to be persuasive in the public square through dialogue, witness, and action that are both effective and compassionate. No RSVP is required, say organizers, and all are invited to attend.

Deirdre McQuade serves the USCCB as the assistant director for policy and communications for the Secretariat of Pro-Life Activities and is the primary spokesperson on abortion and related life issues. In addition to overseeing the Second Look Project and other multimedia ad campaigns, she has appeared in Catholic and secular media to speak up for the sanctity of all human life.

For questions or more information contact Lucas Pollice at (817) 560-2452, x 260 or Chanacee Ruth-Killgore at (817) 560-2452, x 257.
I would like to offer some reflections for the month of September based on some of the Saints’ feast days in this month and the upcoming days.

On Sept. 3 we celebrated the feast day of St. Gregory the Great. He was born in Rome around the year 540. A brief knowledge of the history of this time tells us that this was the time of great chaos in society with the fall of the Roman Empire. The only force that offered any strength and stability was the Church. St. Gregory was reluctantly elevated to the See of Peter on September 3, 590, and the Liturgy of the Hours notes that “he was elevated to the Chair of Peter by the power of the Holy Spirit.”

On Sept. 27 is the feast day of St. Vincent de Paul. He was born in Gascony, in France, in 1581 and died in Paris in 1660. The Liturgy of the Hours notes concerning his life that “He founded the Congregation of the Mission to supervise the formation of priests and to give support to the poor. With the help of St. Louise de Marillac, he also founded the Daughters of Charity.” His descendants today, the Vincentians and the Daughters of Charity and the Society of St. Vincent de Paul, carry on his mission and vision of care for the poor in the name of Christ. I can say without hesitation that the life of the Church in present day Texas owes a debt of gratitude to one of St. Vincent’s spiritual heirs, Bishop John Marie Odin, CM. He labored in Texas in the very early and difficult years in the life of the Church here, from 1840 to 1861. We have inherited a legacy and life of the Church here that is owed in no small measure to his life and apostolic zeal and love of Christ. Local Catholic historian Dr. Patrick Foley notes that, even though Odin was reluctant to be elevated to the See of Peter in 1853, he was raised to the See of Baltimore in 1855 and subsequently named as yourself. Therefore, let us love God and adore him with pure heart and mind.”

October brings us also to Respect Life month, and the North Texas Catholic will be carrying more on this, including a letter by Dallas Bishop Kevin Farrell and myself for both of our dioceses for this important month.

On Oct. 4 we celebrate the feast day of St. Francis of Assisi. He was born in 1182 and “after a carefree youth, he renounced his paternal wealth and committed himself to God. He led a life of evangelical poverty and preached the love of God. He established a rule, which a number of his companions followed and which gained the approval of the Holy See. Subsequently, he founded an order of nuns and a society of laypersons who practiced penance while living in the world. He died in 1226” (Liturgy of the Hours for Oct. 4). There is much interest in St. Francis these days because of the current interest in ecology and the environment. Important as these may be, we should never overlook the fact of the life of St. Francis as an intense love of Christ, which resulted in a true spiritual reform of the Church.

It was important for Francis to have his first rule approved by the Bishop of Rome, so that his “Little Brothers” and their way of life would be a part of the Church, and never apart from her. His emphasis on penance, the love of the Crucified Christ, and the presence of Christ in the Eucharist should never be overlooked in favor of a more politically current emphasis. Our diocese is blessed by many members of the Franciscan family. If your parish or religious education programs or retreat/spirituality programs are served by someone of the Franciscan family in our diocese, please thank them and thank the Lord for them. St. Francis himself says “O how happy and blessed are those who love the Lord and do as the Lord himself said in the Gospel: You shall love the Lord your God with your whole heart and your whole soul, and your neighbor as yourself. Therefore, let us love God and adore him with pure heart and mind.” (From a letter written to all the faithful by St. Francis of Assisi.)

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Deadline for information for the months of June, July, and August when it is published monthly, by the Most Rev. Kevin W. Vann, Bishop of the Diocese of Fort Worth. 800 West Loop 820 South. Subscription rates are $24 for one year, $46 for two years, $68 for three years. Periodical postage paid at Fort Worth, Texas. POSTMASTER: Send address changes to North Texas Catholic, 800 West Loop 820 South, Fort Worth, Texas 76101.

For more information about Respect Life month, including a letter by Dallas Bishop Kevin Farrell and myself for both of our dioceses for this important month, please visit northtexascatholic.com. God bless you and thank you always.

Kevin W. Vann
Priests for Life returns to roots, drops plan to have its own seminarians

By Nancy Frazier O’Brien
Catholic News Service
WASHINGTON — In what the founder of Priests for Life Father Frank Pavone called a return to its roots, the organization has decided not to seek church recognition as a society of apostolic life that would accept and ordain its own seminarians.

Instead, Priests for Life and the related Missionaries of the Gospel of Life will continue to help priests, seminarians, and lay Catholics around the country become “ministers of the pro-life” within their own parishes and communities, said Fr. Pavone in a telephone interview Sept. 9.

“We got it right the first time,” he told Catholic News Service, noting that he founded Priests for Life in 1991 as a way to “in fuse the existing structures” of the church and society with the pro-life message.

Priests for Life and the Missionaries of the Gospel of Life will be one entity, “without the founding of a canonically distinct community,” said a joint statement from Priests for Life and the Diocese of Amarillo.

Fr. Pavone, who was originally ordained as a priest of the New York Archdiocese, was incardinated in the Diocese of Amarillo in March 2005 and became the first member of the new Missionaries of the Gospel of Life the following year. He will remain a priest of the Amarillo Diocese, he said.

“It seems best that the association remain focused specifically and exclusively on the pro-life work itself, and leave to dioceses and religious communities the specific task of forming men for the priesthood,” said a Sept. 8 news release from the organization. “Priests for Life is always working, however, to supplement that training, both before and after ordination, with specialized training in the many facets of the pro-life movement.”

In a Sept. 8 letter to supporters, Fr. Pavone said the pro-life movement was “entering yet another phase of this battle.”

“We are closer to victory than ever before, and now is the time to redouble every effort and to push over the finish line,” he said. “Now is the time to cut off any ‘dead wood,’ any projects that aren’t bearing fruit, any expenditures and efforts that are not actually moving us toward the goal of ending abortion, and any bureaucracy in our structures that is hindering rather than advancing the mission.”

Fr. Pavone said the organization would “vastly scale down the building projects that we have in the works.” The Missionaries of the Gospel of Life broke ground in August 2006 for a new house of formation and international headquarters in Amarillo.

“A big central headquarters isn’t necessary. A small one suffices,” the priest said. “I don’t want to divert all kinds of attention and resources to building anything that may prove superfluous. We’re closer to victory than ever before.” —Fr. Frank Pavone
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The joy of being a Catholic priest

I should have titled this the “Joy of Being Catholic,” because I hope that this article will help you see the joy we should all have in living our Catholic faith.

Most of my days are 12 to 16 hours long. I don’t punch a time clock; it just starts the moment I wake up. I am on a learning curve I often think is mathematically impossible. The pressures of leadership are immense. I juggle about 30 tasks at any given moment, and I hope at the end of the day I can say that at least one was completed. Every day seems to include a real emergency of someone in dire need of a priest’s heart and hand. And at the end of the day I am exhausted. This is not only my typical day, it also describes the schedule of most priests I know. So why is the priesthood still appealing?

In one sense it may have a herculean dimension, much like that of a soldier who engages the battlefield, but ours is a spiritual battlefield. A priest is called to shepherd souls, to be an instrument of God’s divine grace to be poured into the lives of the faithful as well as the lost. On the other hand, a priest is called to represent the faithful before God and to call out to God to plead for mercy. These are most notable in the sacraments of Eucharist and reconciliation.

A priest is consecrated and ordained into the sacrifice and victimhood of Christ in which he becomes an “alter Christus,” another Christ in the Mass. As a priest I see that time is short; people are in dire need of Christ in their lives; and the devil is working overtime to see to it that Christ is never made known to them. So, we must work overtime too. This is the life of a priest. But God’s joy accompanies us too.

The joy of my priesthood is not that different from the joy we should all share by being active members of our parishes. Joy comes at seeing God’s mercy in the sacrament of reconciliation wipe away all the sins of a person in a single moment as God replenishes the soul with his grace. It is a joyous occasion to participate in the baptism of a child as a child is sanctified and made a temple of the Holy Spirit by which God’s grace will be ever present.

Father Kyle Walterscheid, director of the Office of Vocations for the Diocese of Fort Worth. He can be reached by e-mail to kwalterscheid@fwdioc.org.

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Father Kyle Walterscheid, director of the Office of Vocations for the Diocese of Fort Worth. He can be reached by e-mail to kwalterscheid@fwdioc.org.
Carmelite Anniversar-y Luncheon and Mass to be held Oct. 9

Members of the Auxiliary to the Discalced Carmelite Nuns have issued an invitation to join them in commemorating their 25th anniversary Thursday, Oct. 9, at The University of North Texas Health Science Center at Fort Worth. Mass will be celebrated by Bishop Kevin Vann, who will also serve as the main speaker. Reservations are $10 per person. Those wishing to attend are asked to mail their RSVP to Nancy Daniel at 5613 Land Ends, Fort Worth 76119.

Rosary / prayers with focus on patriotism, elections to be held at cathedral

A patriotic rosary will be offered Monday, Sept. 29, from 7 p.m. to 8 p.m. at St. Patrick Cathedral, 1206 Thirteenth Street, Fort Worth. Each decade of the rosary will include a spiritual reflection written by a significant leader in American history.

According to organizers of the event, “As our nation continues to search for a new leadership, we must pray for the election of a morally good president and government leaders who will work to reveal the goodness and the foundational principles of the Declaration of Independence and the Constitution of the United States.”

For more information, call the Fort Worth Queen of Peace Center at (817) 244-7753 or (817) 558-9805.

Beginning Experience weekend to be held Oct. 24-26

The Beginning Experience is a ministry for those who have lost a spouse due to death, divorce, or separation. The weekend session will be offered Oct. 24-26 at the Catholic Renewal Center, 9053 Bridge Street, East, Worth, next to Nolan Catholic High School. The program is designed to help those grieving the loss of a spouse to put closure on the past and to create a new beginning in the present. The ministry, although rooted in the Catholic tradition, is open to people of all faiths.

For more information or to register, call metro (972) 601-4991 or e-mail at dwebe@hotmail.com.

Annual Life Chain to be held in multiple Metro Locations, Oct. 5

The annual Life Chain, a peaceful gathering of people praying for unborn children and publicly displaying pro-life messages, will take place at numerous locations in the Fort Worth Metro area Sunday, Oct. 5, from 2 p.m. to 3 p.m. The first Sunday of October is traditionally designated as Life Chain Sunday.

The Life Chain will be held in multiple locations throughout the United States and Canada, with thousands of participants each year. It calls upon the general public to embrace the sanctity of human life and to oppose the exploitation of women through abortion.

Calix support group meets monthly at Holy Family

Calix, a monthly support meeting for Catholics who are struggling with addiction and seeking recovery, is held the second Saturday of each month Holy Family Church, 6150 Pendergrass Avenue in West Fort Worth. The next meeting will be held Oct. 11, beginning at 10 a.m. in the chapel.

Calix meetings focus on enhances spiritual growth through sharing, and give different perspectives on different topics. For more information, call the Calix office at (817) 927-6767 or ext. 105.

Brother Paul McNullen, TOR, to be honored for 50 years as vowed religious

Brother Paul McNullen, TOR, will be honored at a celebration of his 50 years of vowed religious life as a member of the Third Order Regular (TOR) of St. Francis of Assisi. The celebration will take place at St. Bartholomew Church, 5615 Alkemade Blvd. in southwest Fort Worth, Sunday, Oct. 5, with evening prayer led by Bishop Kevin Vann, beginning at 5 p.m. The evening will follow in the parish hall. All are invited to attend.

Br. McNullen currently serves as pastoral administrator of St. Bartholomew Church. During his 14 years within the Diocese of Fort Worth he has also served as John the Apostle Church in North Richland Hills, St. Matthew Church in Arlington, and St. George Church in Fort Worth.

A native of Asheville, Pennsylvania, and the eldest of nine children, Br. McNullen first made his vows on the Feast of St. Francis of Assisi, Oct. 4, 1958. He served as a member of his order’s General Council in Rome from 1971-1977, and again from 1989-1995. He has also served within his religious order as a treasurer, vocation director, retreat director, associate director of formation, and regional minister for his province.

For more information about the celebration at St. Bartholomew Church, contact the parish office at (817) 292-7703.

Matthew Kelly speaks at parishes in Arlington Oct. 18, 19

Matthew Kelly, a best-selling author and internationally recognized speaker on the Catholic faith, will offer presentations at two Arlington parishes in October. Kelly, a native of Australia, will speak at St. Martha Goretti Church, 1200 S. Dave Dr. in Arlington at 7:30 p.m. Saturday, Oct. 18, on the topic “Becoming the Best Version of Yourself.”

Kelly’s books include his New York Times bestseller, The Rhythm of Life: Living Every Day With Passion and Purpose, as well as 11 other titles, which have been published in a dozen languages and have sold almost one million copies worldwide.

For more information about Matthew Kelly, visit his Web site at www.mathykelly.com. For more information about his appearance at St. Martha Goretti Church, call John Cox at (817) 274-0043 ext. 226. For more information about his appearance at St. Vincent de Paul Church, call Matthew Dietrich at (817) 678-8206 ext. 204.

Trophy Club to host site in national Rosary Rally

Trophy Club will serve as a host site for the second annual Rosary Rally to be held Saturday, Oct. 11. The rally is scheduled to begin at noon at the clock tower at the main entrance to Tom Landry Field, 900 W. Loop 820 S. in Fort Worth. Mass will be celebrated by Bishop Kevin Vann, following a youth rally hosted by the Youth Department of the diocese. knit, at 11:00 a.m. The first annual Rosary Rally was held in Fatima, Portugal. The national goal was to host 1,000 rallies, but more than 2,000 cities participated. Organizers have declared the goal of 3,000 rallies around the country on Oct. 11.

According to organizers, the intent of the rally is to publicly honor God and to ask Mary to intercede for special graces for America. “The timing for a Rosary Rally could not be better, in particular, with the elections on the horizon,” said Pat Rampelmini, local coordinator for the Rosary Rally in Trophy Club.

Rampelmini said participants need only bring a rosary. For more information or to lead a rally, call (866) 584-6112, or visit www.americandefamta.org.

Marriage Encounter weekend to be held Oct. 10-12 at CRC

A Marriage Encounter weekend will be held Oct. 10-12 at the Catholic Renewal Center, 4501 Bridge Street in East Fort Worth. Marriage Encounter, a marriage enrichment program, is centered on three principles: building communication between husband and wife, nurturing the commitment of couple and strengthening the couple’s faith.

“it is a great opportunity for a weekend away to deepen, renew, and refresh your marital love, according to Marriage Encounter materials. Reservations are required. For more information or to make a reservation, call Kathy or Terry Telger at (817) 294-2749. More information is also available online at www.ntexasme.org.

White Mass announced for health care professionals

The Medical Association of Catholic Students from the University of North Texas Health Science Center will host the annual White Mass Oct. 16. The White Mass, traditionally held for all physicians, nurses, health care workers, and for pastoral care ministers and students, will be celebrated at 6:30 p.m. at St. Patrick Cathedral, 1206 Thirteenth Street, Fort Worth. Bishop Kevin Vann will be the main celebrant.

“Traditionally, health care workers wear white attire. In the church, white symbolizes hope and comfort to the ill and hospitalized, and often event organizers. Participants in the liturgy are invited to wear their white coats.

For more information, contact Kathy or Terry Telger at (817) 294-2749.

NCTC deadlines for submission

The North Texas Catholic is published twice monthly, except during the months of June, July, and August, and it is published monthly. The deadline to submit information must be received by the day before the paper is published. Items for the Oct. 10 issue must be received by noon on Wednesday, Oct. 1. Items for the Oct. 24 issue must be received by noon on Wednesday, Oct. 15.

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

Catholic Scripture Study (CSS), a doctrinally based Catholic Scripture study program covering all of the major biblical books in a five-year cycle, will be offered at St. Andrew Church, 3230 W. Loop 820 S. in Fort Worth, beginning Oct. 6 and concluding in May of 2009.

According to informational materials for the program, CSS “nourishes a deeper love for Christ and for his Church. It is a five-year program that is designed specifically for mature adults. CSS is appropriate for persons with any level of Bible understanding, beginning, intermediate or truly versed.” Program materials also note that “CSS has as its foundation the teaching of the Catholic Church and is intended for Catholics who have an interest in Scripture and the Catholic Church.”

CSS sessions will be held weekly and will include class discussion; program materials provide for daily reflection and questions. Weekly classes will begin Oct. 6 and will be held from 9:30 a.m. to 11:30 a.m. Weekly men’s evening groups will begin Oct. 6 and will be held from 7 p.m. to 9 p.m. Women’s evening groups will begin Oct. 7 and will meet on Wednesday evenings. All groups will meet in the parish Pastoral Center.

The program, now used by thousands of Catholics in parishes throughout the country, began in 1985 when several Catholic women within the Diocese of Fort Worth asked their retreat director, Sister Marie Therese Wright, SSNN, (1917, 2002) for a program similar to a national ecumenical called Bible Study Fellowship (BSF). Sr. Marie Therese responded by writing a Scripture study program patterned after BSF but using Catholic doctrine. A letter from Bishop Vann to the BSF and the CSS website affirms the his personal support for the program. Bishop Vann writes that, in learning about CSS, “I see a need to see something which started here in Fort Worth, as a response to a felt need for a greater love of Sacred Scripture, and to stay ‘even further beyond the borders of our Diocese.’”

For more information about CSS or assistance with the diocese, call Curran or Michele Saladeo at (817) 927-5183. Children are available by calling (817) 924-5681. The CSS Web site may be found at www.catholicscripturestudyinc.org.

Diocesan Singles Mass at St. Bartholomew Church

The annual Diocesan Singles Mass, meeting the third Saturday of each month, will be celebrated at St. Bartholomew Church, located at 5061 Alameva Blvd in Fort Worth, Saturday, Sept. 27, at 7 p.m. The Mass will be fol- lowed by a reception and dance with music provided by DJ Kevin Vann. All are invited to stay and bring canned goods to contribute to the parish food pantry.

For more information or to volunteer, call the diocese at 817-294-5872. To assist with the Mass, preparation, or cooking, contact Elizabeth at (817) 294-5872.
Knights sponsor ecumenical pro-life rally Oct. 18
The Knights of Columbus, Council #14719, will sponsor an ecumenical pro-life rally Oct. 18 in the James Miller Community Center at St. Joseph Church, 1927 37 Green Oaks Circle in Arlington. The rally will begin at 10 a.m.

The council planned the event for October as a way of marking national Respect Life Month. Members of all area Christian churches are invited to participate in the rally, which will feature speakers and hymns.

For more information, contact Phil Hoffman at (817) 274-6705 or visit our web site at www.bsaccs.org.

Catholic Scout retreat scheduled
The 48th annual Catholic Boy Scout retreat will begin Friday, Oct. 10 and conclude Sunday, Oct. 12, at noon. The retreat will be held at Willow Scout Ranch, located near Palo Pinto, about 50 miles west of Fort Worth.

This year’s retreat will explore the myths, legends, and reality of the Holy Grail and will compare these legends with the search for faith. Father Anthi Tedesko, Scout chaplain and pastor of St. Francis of Assisi Church in Grapevine, will participate in the retreat and preside at the Saturday evening Mass.

Cost for the weekend is $20 per participant. Information and applications are available on the Catholic Committee on Scouting Web site at www.bsaccs.org.

St. Paul Parish to hold ‘Fun Fest’ Oct. 4
St. Paul the Apostle Church will host its annual fall festival Oct. 4, from 11 a.m. to 7 p.m. The “Fun Fest” will feature games, food, face painting, and includes lunch for the entire family will enjoy.

According to event organizers, “the primary purpose of the event is to bring the community together and raise funds for the children’s junior and senior high ministries.” St. Paul Parish is located at 16550 Oak Lane in River Oaks.

For more information, contact James Grudsky at (817) 231-4607.

Holy Redeemer, Aledo, to host Golf Tournament Oct. 11
Holy Redeemer Parish in Aledo is hosting its annual golf tournament Saturday, Oct. 11 at Canyon West Golf and Sports Club, 200 Canyon West Dr., Weatherford. A shotgun start will take place at 8 a.m. and the check-in starting at 7 a.m. The entry fee is $75 per person, which includes lunch, awards, and range balls. Sponsorships are available with a deadline date of Oct. 1. Extra lunch tickets may be purchased for $15 per person. Proceeds from the tournament will benefit the new church building.

For more information and to register, contact Cliff Valentine at (828) 365-8733.

St. Rita International Fair to be held Oct 4
St. Rita Catholic Community in Burleson invites all area Catholic community members to attend its annual Fair to be held Saturday Oct. 4. This celebration of multicultural cuisine, entertainment, and games will be held from 11 a.m. to 4 p.m., followed by the celebration of the Mass at 5 p.m. The church is located at 5550 E. Lancaster, Fort Worth. For more information, call (817) 451-5935.

St. Ann’s Men Club sponsors golf tournament in Burleson Oct. 18
St. Ann’s Men’s Club will host the organization’s first golf tournament Saturday, Oct. 18, at Southern Oaks Golf Club, 15765 Southern Oaks Dr. in Burleson. Tee-off is at 10 a.m. with a four-man scramble format.

Entry fee for individuals is $60 and includes lunch following the tournament. Prizes will be awarded for the longest drive and “closest to the pin” on par three holes.

Proceeds from the event will be used to purchase a statue of St. Joseph for St. Ann Church. The deadline for registration is Oct. 10.

For more information about registration and sponsorships, call Michael Hall at (817) 420-5897.

St. Andrew’s festival to be held Oct. 12
St. Andrew School’s annual fall festival will take place Tuesday, Oct. 12, from 11 a.m. to 5 p.m. on the St. Andrew School grounds, 3505 Dryden Dr., in the TUQ area of southwest Fort Worth.

Organizers promise “a lot of fun for the whole family,” featuring a cake walk, corn & basketball carnival games, confetti eggs, seven inflatable games, and much, much more. All are invited to enjoy a Los Vaqueros Mexican dinner in the school gym.

For more information, contact Annie Mason at (817) 447-5100.

St. Jude Church, Mansfield, hosts annual fall festival Oct. 4-5
St. Jude Church will host its annual fall festival Saturday, Oct. 4, from 11 a.m. to 11 p.m. The festival will take place at the church, 500 E. Dallas, in Mansfield.

According to organizers, the festival will offer “something for everyone,” including a wide variety of ethnic foods, games and rides for all ages, a cake walk, petting zoo, pony rides, silent auction, and a hot rod show.

Entertainment will include performances by members of the Ballet Folklorico, as well as performances by country musicians and Christian musicians. “Grupo Neen” will provide music from 8 to 11 p.m. For more information, call the parish office at (817) 473-6790.

St. Mary Goretti ‘Kountry Karnival’ to be held Oct. 4-5
St. Mary Goretti School, 1208 S. Davis Drive in Arlington, will host its annual Kountry Karnival festival Oct. 4-5. The event will run from 10 a.m. to 7 p.m. Saturday and 10 a.m. to 6 p.m. Sunday.

This year’s western theme is “Kickin’ It Up at the Kountry Karnival.” The festival will feature live entertainment throughout the weekend and will include a midway of games and activities for all ages, including inflatables, bingo, and a silent auction.

International food items, baked goods, and art and craft items will be available for purchase.

For more information, contact the school office at (817) 275-5081.

St. Jude Church, Mansfield, hosts annual fall festival Oct. 4
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According to organizers, the festival will offer “something for everyone,” including a wide variety of ethnic foods, games and rides for all ages, a cake walk, petting zoo, pony rides, silent auction, and a hot rod show.

Entertainment will include performances by members of the Ballet Folklorico, as well as performances by country musicians and Christian musicians. “Grupo Neen” will provide music from 8 to 11 p.m. For more information, call the parish office at (817) 473-6790.

St. Jude Thaddeus to host fall festival Oct. 26
The St. Jude annual St. Jude’s Church fall festival will be held Sunday, Oct. 26, from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. in the parish hall located at 600 Faby Dr. in Burkburnett.

The event, St. Jude’s main fundraising event of the year, features turkey and German sausage dinner with all the trimmings. In addition to the all-you-can-eat-meal, homemade baked goods, games for the kids, a silent auction will be part of the festivities. A drive through for carryout dinners as well as free delivery in Burkburnett will be available by calling (940) 569-8116.

Tickets are $8 for adults and $4 for children under 12. Children under five years old will be admitted free.

Introduction
The University of Dallas has announced it has started construction on a new 298-bed residence hall to help accommodate the increased number of students enrolling in its undergraduate program.

According to information provided by UD, the university welcomed its largest freshman class last year and this year’s class is comparable in size. The University of Dallas has its main campus in Irving, an international campus near Rome, Italy, and satellite campuses in North Richland Hills and Frisco. Planned use is architectural rendering of the new campus facility.

GIRL SCOUT TROOP #5053 — The sixth grade Girl Scout Troop #5053 from St. Andrew School spent an afternoon, Sept. 12, creating flag artwork cards to be sent inside care-boxes to soldiers serving in Iraq. The artwork was based on a flag painting by African-American artist Faith Ringgold. The girls also learned about the religious meaning behind the 13 folds of the flag ceremony. Picture above (left to right) are Emily B. and Jamie S.
Father Raniero Cantalamessa, OFM Cap, will serve as the keynote speaker at the Magnificat Breakfast Saturday, Oct. 4, from 9 a.m. to noon, at the Embassy Suites Outdoor World, 2401 Bass Pro Drive in Grapevine.

Following the breakfast, the sacrament of reconciliation will be offered from noon to 2 p.m. The breakfast is sponsored by the Grapevine chapter of the Magnificat international ministry for Catholic women. All men and women of the diocese are invited to attend at a cost of $18 per ticket.

Fr. Cantalamessa, a Franciscan Capuchin priest and a native of Ascoli Piceno, Italy, was appointed by Pope John Paul II in 1980 to serve as a full-time Preacher to the Papal Household. In this capacity, Fr. Cantalamessa preaches a weekly sermon during Advent and Lent in the presence of the pope, the cardinals, bishops, and prelates of the Roman Curia and the general superiors of religious orders. He also serves as the Spiritual Confessor for Pope Benedict XVI and is a frequent presenter at international and ecumenical conferences and rallies.

Fr. Cantalamessa was formally invited to the Diocese of Fort Worth by Bishop Kevin Vann, who asked the papal preacher to speak at the breakfast and to also provide a day-long retreat for priests of the diocese Friday, Oct. 3.

“The year 2008 is a year of preparation for the 40th anniversary of the foundation of the Diocese of Fort Worth,” wrote Bishop Vann in an April 30 letter to Fr. Cantalamessa. “Your presence would be a blessing for all of us as we look forward to a future of hope in Christ who makes all things new, as Pope Benedict recently reminded us during his visit to this country.”

More information about Fr. Cantalamessa may be found on his Web site at www.cantalamessa.org. Tickets to the breakfast are available at several area Catholic bookstores, listed at www.profidalas.org, or by contacting Nancy Ferri at (817) 498-7980. The deadline for purchasing tickets is Sept. 29; no tickets will be sold at the door.

Marriage Matters program to be offered Oct. 25 at St. Vincent de Paul Church

Marriage Matters, a seminar on Catholic teaching and truths regarding marriage and sexuality, will be offered Saturday, Oct. 25, 8:30 a.m. to 3:30 p.m. at St. Vincent de Paul Church, 5819 W. Pleasant Ridge Rd. in Southwest Arlington.

The seminar, presented by the diocesan offices of Family Life and Adult Catechesis, is designed for the benefit of clergy, married or engaged couples, catechists, marriage preparation staff members and volunteers, and singles of all ages, from teens to adults. The day will include presentations by Sister Renee Mirkes, OSF, who serves as the director of the Center for NaProEthics in Omaha, Nebraska.

Sr. Mirkes serves as a national consultant on issues related to ethics in medicine, philosophy, and theology. She will address the social and moral challenges of contemporary society and the ways that these challenges impact marriage. She will also speak on the papal encyclical Humana Vitae, and the Church’s understanding of love and life within marriage. In addition, Sr. Mirkes will discuss personalism and the nature of human sexuality, including details on Pope John Paul II’s understanding of the gift of self.

With registration prior to Oct. 15, the seminar is $10 per person and $15 per couple and includes a continental breakfast and lunch. Without prior registration, the cost is $15 per person or $20 per couple. Members of the clergy and vowed religious are invited to attend free of charge. For more information about the seminar, contact Susanna Ordonez at (817) 560-2452 x 256.

Ministry Formation Day, set for Oct. 11, Sacred Heart, Muenster — one of only two for ’08-’09

Author and speaker Marcellino D’Ambrosio will offer the keynote presentation at the first of two Ministry Formation Days to be offered by the diocese for the 2008-2009 school year. The first day will be offered Saturday, Oct. 11, at Sacred Heart Church in Muenster and will feature D’Ambrosio, a specialist in the interpretation of Scripture and tradition with a doctorate in historical theology from the Catholic University of America. His address will focus on the day’s theme, “Encountering the Living Word!”

Registration and a light breakfast will begin at 8 a.m.; opening prayer and welcoming remarks will be offered at 9 a.m. D’Ambrosio will make the keynote presentation in two sessions — in English and in Spanish. Three breakout sessions will be offered prior to and after the lunch.

Breakout sessions will include topics such as “Integrating Spirituality Across the Secondary/High School Curriculum,” “Challenges of Our Culture in Catechesis,” “The Road to Emmans: An Overview of RCIA,” “How to Plan Music for Liturgy,” “Effective Methods for Teaching Youth,” and a workshop, “Collaborative Ministry in a Parish,” presented by Father Ken Robinson and a panel of parishioners from Sacred Heart Church, Muenster.

“This annual event is an opportunity for ministry leaders, catechists, Catholic school educators, and all parishioners to benefit from the experience and inspiration offered by our presenter, our workshop leaders, and our exhibitors,” said Kevin Prevou, director of the diocesan Office of Youth, Young Adult, and Campus Ministry, coordinator of the event. “Ministry Formation Day helps participants to grow in their Catholic faith and to cultivate excellence in their own ministries.”

Ministry Formation Day will be offered twice during the 2008-2009 school year. The second MFD will be presented Saturday, Jan. 10, at Nolan Catholic High School in Fort Worth.

Early registration for the Oct. 11 event is $25 and includes breakfast, lunch, and materials. After Sept. 29 the cost is $30. Partial scholarships are available; parishioners may register as individuals or as members of a parish group. For more information about Ministry Formation Day in Muenster, call Kevin Prevou at (817) 560-3300 x 261, e-mail to kprevou@fwdioc.org, or visit the diocesan Web site at www.fwdioc.org and click on “Faith Formation.”

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**13th Annual Lebanese Food Festival**

**October 3rd, 4th, & 5th, 2008**

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Cardinal Daniel DiNardo, archbishop of the Archdiocese of Galveston-Houston, will lead the Pilgrimage for Life in Huntsville, Texas, Nov. 24. According to information provided by the Texas Catholic Conference (TCC), Catholics from around the state are invited to participate in the event, which begins at 9 a.m. Nov. 24 with the celebration of Mass at St. Thomas Church, 1323 16th St. in Huntsville. The pilgrimage hosted by Catholics from around the state of the Texas Death Row, at Huntsville — and will process to the Center at 2405 Ave. I in Huntsville. The pilgrimage will conclude at the prison site of the Texas Death Row, at Huntsville — and will process to the Center at 2405 Ave. I in Huntsville.

At 10:30 a.m., pilgrims will participate in a mile-long prayerful procession, led by the cardinal. Members of the procession will gather at an abortion referral site of the Texas Death Row, at Huntsville — and will process to the site of the Texas Death Row, at Huntsville Prison, 815 12th St. in Huntsville. The pilgrimage will conclude at the prison at noon.

Pilgrims may also choose to stay at St. Thomas Church for adoration and guided reflection on the Stations of the Cross and on Catholic Social Teaching. According to press materials, the pilgrimage hosted by the TCC is designed to promote reflection, prayer, and hope for fullness of Church teaching on the life and dignity of the human person, from conception to natural death.

“As Catholics we embrace and recognize human dignity in people at all stages of life,” said TCC executive director Andrew Rivas. “This pilgrimage embodies the Catholic teaching that all life is sacred, and encourages us to remember and pray for a Culture of Life.

The Texas Catholic Conference is the official public policy voice of the Catholic Bishops of Texas. The primary purpose of the conference is to encourage and foster cooperation and communication among the dioceses and the ministries of the Catholic Church in Texas. For more information on the Pilgrimage for Life, visit www.txcatholic.org and click on “Pilgrimage for Life” on the events page.

Cardinal DiNardo is one of the concelebrants at the vigil Mass for life at the Basilica of the National Shrine of the Immaculate Conception in Washington Jan. 21, 2008. (CNS photo/Paul Haring)

Cardinal DiNardo to lead TCC-sponsored Pilgrimage for Life Nov. 24 in Huntsville

Annual memorial Mass for infants set for Oct. 11

A Mass for children who have died prior to baptism will be held Saturday, Oct. 11 at noon, at St. Mary of the Assumption Church, 509 W. Magnolia Ave. in Fort Worth. The Mass, sponsored by Mother and Unborn Baby Care of North Texas and by Catholics United For Life of North Texas, will be followed by a light luncheon reception in the parish hall.

According to Chuck Pelletier, president of the two sponsoring organizations, “The intention of the Mass is to help the healing process for parents who have lost children through miscarriage, still birth, or abortion.” Close relatives and friends of parents whose children have died are also invited to attend. Individual flowers will be provided for parents to place at the altar during the Mass, should they wish to do so.

Reservations for the Mass are requested, but not required. For more information and for reservations prior to Wednesday, Oct. 8, call (817) 738-1086 or e-mail to mlucars@charter.net.

St. Michael’s offers seminar on suffering three Tuesdays in October

A three-week seminar on the mystery and theology of suffering will be offered at St. Michael Church, 3713 Harwood Road in Bedford, on three consecutive Tuesday evenings in October: Oct. 16, Oct. 23, and Oct. 30, from 7 to 9 p.m. at the church.

Father Tom Kennedy, associate pastor at St. Michael’s, will lead the Oct. 16 session, titled “Final Blessings.” The program will address issues such as the pastoral care of the dying, Catholic teaching about life after death, and the final sacraments.

Father Raphael Eagle, TOR, long-time chaplain at Cook Children’s Hospital in Fort Worth, will lead the Oct. 23 session, “Theology and the Mystery of Suffering.” The program will include discussions about the emotional, psychological, spiritual, and physical suffering, and the impact of faith and hope in the midst of pain.

Msgr. Phil Johnson, pastor of St. Michael’s, and Joanne Werner, director of liturgy and music for the parish, will present the Oct. 30 seminar, “Liturgy of Christian Funerals.” The session will address the church’s message in the celebration of funerals; the participation of family members in the funeral liturgy; and important aspects within the celebration of a Christian funeral.

According to the seminar’s organizers, “The presenters will offer teachings on the church on the mystery of suffering and current theological and spiritual development in this area. Through these presentations we hope to offer a theological and pastoral answer to the question of suffering. For more information about the seminars, contact Martin Peña at (817) 283-8746, ext. 30.

St. Philip’s, Lewisville, to offer Grief Recovery program beginning Oct. 14

St. Philip the Apostle Church, 1897 W. Main St. in Lewisville, will host a six-week education and support program for any person experiencing and coping with significant loss, such as the death of a loved one, divorce, life-threatening illness, or loss of employment.

The program will begin Tuesday, Oct. 14, and will continue each Tuesday evening through Nov. 18, from 7 to 9 p.m. in the Education Wing at St. Philip’s. The program is offered free of charge.

Participants may register by calling Deacon Ray Lamarre at (972) 219-1686, or by visiting the parish website at www.saphilip's.org, and clicking on the Grief Recovery Seminar link.

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I don’t have time to join another organization; why should I join the Knights of Columbus?

As a Knight, you can choose the projects with which you wish to be involved within your own parish. The Order is dedicated to family life and the many benefits it offers. From insurance to scholarships, to service and social activities, all are open to the whole family.

How to Join?

Contact your local parish office. Offered your parish will have its own local council and you might ask your parish priest or parish office, who to contact. Ask a friend in the Knights for help or call 1-800-524-3611 and ask for Fraternals Services.

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New Holy Trinity rector Father Olson shares vision for seminary

Fort Worth’s own Very Rev. Michael Olson was officially installed as rector of Holy Trinity Seminary in Irving Sept. 12. Father Olson, former vicar general of the Diocese of Fort Worth, was named to replace outgoing rector, Bishop Michael Duca of Shreveport, Louisiana, in May.

Holy Trinity Seminary is the main college-level seminary used by dioceses throughout Texas. Fr. Olson, a former formation director and adjunct professor in moral theology at St. Mary’s Seminary in Houston, shared his vision for Holy Trinity with the North Texas Catholic this past week.

NTC: What is your vision for the seminary?

Fr. Olson: “Holy Trinity Seminary is a college seminary. My vision is keeping with the program of priestly formation according to the USCCB in accordance with Pastors’ Days. A document Pope John Paul II made 15 years ago for priest formation today.

For college seminaries, the focus is for human formation: growth in healthy life, psychological and emotional make-up, integrity and theological virtues. My vision is for them to grow in the likeness of Christ, to be shepherds of His Church.

“Represent Bishop Farrell, and by extension, the bishops of Texas and Arkansas to make sure all their requirements are met.”

NTC: How is the seminary program different now than when you were in formation for the priesthood yourself?

Fr. Olson: “I think that dioceses across the board are doing a much more thorough job of screening candidates for entrance into the seminary than in my time. In many ways ... we’re getting younger candidates, people out of high school, maybe after a year in college.

“They’re still growing, as any healthy human being grows at 18-22, a collegian’s age ... Instead of being discouraged by the scandal the Church has gone through in recent years, they are encouraged in being a part of the solution in restoring integrity in the leadership of the Church in those areas where it has been hurt.”

NTC: In your opinion, why have vocations increased in recent years?

Fr. Olson: “Our enrollment at Holy Trinity Seminary is up by six men. [I attribute it to] God’s grace, people praying about vocations and parents encouraging vocations. Bishop Vann is making vocations a priority and encouraging vocations. Bishop Vann is keeping with the program in priest formation according to the USCCB. It’s making vocations a priority and something to be aware of and encourage people to do.”

NTC: What is a typical day in the life of a seminarian like?

Fr. Olson: “Here at Holy Trinity, the weekday begins with Morning Prayer at 6:30, followed immediately by Mass, then breakfast, then classes at the university. Of course there’s Evening Prayer. They take classes with other University of Dallas students, with men and women they’ll be serving as priests someday. In the late afternoon they have formation classes in the life and spirituality of a priest and engage once a week in a form of pastoral ministry supervised by people who have experience in the field.

“They’re required to have a spiritual director or guide to help them with their discernment in being called to be a priest. They participate in physical upkeep, both inside and outside the seminary, and recreational sports and games. Built into their calendar is a free weekend every month. Usually Saturday is our day off. [Ultimately] our graduates will go on to major seminaries throughout the United States and Rome.”

NTC: Do you see Holy Trinity Seminary eventually becoming a school for graduate studies?

Fr. Olson: “I don’t anticipate that happening during my time as rector. We’re going to maintain our focus right now, which is as a college seminary.”

NTC: How has your experience working at St. Mary’s prepared you for your role as rector?

Fr. Olson: “It introduced me to the needs of seminaries of today, the requirements of the particular ministries of priest formation. It’s helped me to grow as a listener [helping the young men with discernment, and taking part in the discernment] on the part of the Church. When a young man discerns the priesthood, the Church discerns if he has a vocation, so it is the rector’s job to discern if this young man has a vocation.”

NTC: Do you have any plans you’d like to implement in the seminary?

Fr. Olson: “Right now I am still learning. We do have plans to do some physical renovations at the seminary itself; the dining hall and student lounge for upkeep and to improve the physical environment.”

“Instead of being discouraged by the scandal the Church has gone through in recent years, [the seminarians] are encouraged in being a part of the solution in restoring integrity in the leadership of the Church in those areas where it has been hurt.”

— Very Rev. Michael Olson

Holy Trinity Seminary to host Seminarian Welcome Dinner Oct. 7

Holy Trinity Seminary will host its annual Seminarian Welcome Dinner Tuesday, Oct. 7, from 5 p.m. to 10 p.m. at the Fairmont Hotel, 1717 N. Akard Street in Dallas. This will be the first year the seminary’s new rector, the Very Rev. Michael Olson, will lead members of the Catholic community in welcoming new and returning seminarians. Father Olson served as vicar general for the Diocese of Fort Worth until he was appointed rector of the seminary, beginning July 1.

Bishop Michael Duca of the Diocese of Shreveport will serve as the keynote presenter at the dinner, say event organizers. Bishop Duca, who was ordained bishop in Shreveport May 19, served as rector of Holy Trinity Seminary from 1996 until his appointment this spring.

Bishop Kevin Vann and Dallas Bishop Kevin Farrell will also be present at the dinner. Bishop Vann will offer his services in the “priest prize package” auction at the event. Msgr. Charles King, pastor of Immaculate Conception Church in Denton, Father Dennis Smith, assistant pastor for St. Elizabeth Ann Seton Church in Keller, and Father James Flynn, assistant pastor of St. John the Apostle Church in North Richland Hills, will also participate as donors of priest auction packages.

The welcome dinner raised $200,000 for the seminary in 2007. Members of Catholic organizations within the dioceses of Fort Worth and Dallas each year sponsor tables and provide exciting options for door prizes and for silent and live auctions.

The evening will begin at 5 p.m. with a cash bar and reception, and will include “Bishop Duca’s Wine Cellar,” which will offer guests the opportunity to select top dollar wine bottles at $25 per try. Evening prayer with the seminarians will begin at 6:30 p.m.; the dinner, keynote presentation, and live auction will be held from 7 p.m. to 10 p.m. For more information about the event, sponsoring a table, or to purchase reservations at $100 per ticket, call the seminary at (972) 438-2212 or pay online at the seminary Web site at www.holytrinityseminary.com.
T he topic of immigration was the focus of a recent dialogue on the Church’s teachings that also shed light on the adversities and dangers immigrants encounter trying to make it into the United States.

More than 100 people turned out on Sept. 8 at St. Andrew Church for the dialogue, as priests, ministry leaders, representatives from Catholic Charities, and Bishop Kevin Vann spoke and answered questions for three hours on the issue.

At the completion of the half-hour long video “Dying to Live,” which explored the stories of several Mexican immigrants striving to get into the United States and the difficulties they faced, a panel of priests and church representatives held a question and answer session.

Luan Ibarra, a member of the St. Andrew’s Peace and Justice Task Force, organized the dialogue.

“The purpose of this is education,” Ibarra said. “We want to make people in the pews aware of Catholic Social Teaching, the dignity of man, and how it all ties into immigration. … We want to make sure that when we look at somebody who looks a little bit different than we do, that we still see the Lord in them.”

Brother Paul McMullen, TOR, pastoral administrator of St. Bartholomew Parish, served as the moderator of the dialogue and said one of his goals for the evening was to debunk some of the misconceptions regarding the issue.

“First of all, I think that as Catholics, we have to take it from the perspective of the church,” Br. Paul said. “We get so much misinformation from politicians and the press, and some of these talk shows that get into all kinds of things like scare tactics. I think it’s important for us to be aware of what the church is saying and what the facts are.”

Br. Paul said immigrants come to this country for a variety of reasons: needing work, being hungry, feeling they have no future in their own country, and feeling destitute.

Bishop Vann drew on his Irish-Catholic heritage as a product of the Irish immigration in the mid- to late-1800s, “...I knew that my great-aunts and -uncles were a product of the Irish immigration in the mid- to late-1800s. … And they talked about some of what they encountered, with signs that read N.I.N.A., which meant ‘No Irish Need Apply,’ and how they struggled with that.”

– Bishop Kevin Vann

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Bishop Vann drew on his own Irish-Catholic heritage as an example of the immigrant background all Americans share.

“Growing up in Springfield, Illinois, I knew that my great-aunts and -uncles were a product of the Irish immigration in the mid- to late-1800s,” Bishop Vann said. “They scraped around and earned a living … and they talked about some of what they encountered, with signs that read N.I.N.A., which meant ‘No Irish Need Apply,’ and how they struggled with that.”

Andrés Aranda, director of Hispanic Ministries for the diocese, said he felt the dialogue was important, given the ethnic makeup of the diocese itself.

“I think this is great,” Aranda said. “We have 50 percent of Catholics in the diocese that are Hispanic, so this is very important to me.”

Audience members were provided with a list of Bible verses that address immigration issues, including Hebrews 13:2, Exodus 23:9, and Zechariah 7:9, and Sister St. John Begaud, SSMN, addressed some of the social teachings of the Catholic Church.

“Social justice is broad,” Sr. St. John said. “It has to do with policies practiced by us as a society. The examinations of conscience I grew up with didn’t talk much about that. If it had, we would have recognized much earlier the social injustice of segregation and the laws that supported it.”

Sr. St. John then cited the Catechism of the Catholic Church in reference to equality and social justice, then used the Parable of the Good Samaritan to illustrate the teaching.

“…I knew that my great-aunts and -uncles were a product of the Irish immigration in the mid- to late-1800s. … And they talked about some of what they encountered, with signs that read N.I.N.A., which meant ‘No Irish Need Apply,’ and how they struggled with that.”

– Bishop Kevin Vann
Catholic Charities offers invitation, support for families with
devoted, neglected, and abused children.

Five-year-old “Lucy” loves to sing along with ‘Hannah Montana.’ She tenderly hugs her stuffed animals, giggles with joy at the prospect of ice cream, lavishes affection on her dogs, and exudes pure little girl charm.

“Sam,” her 9-year-old brother, looks forward to playing in his first soccer game. He, too, loves ice cream, Sponge Bob, and general silliness. He especially likes to play with his foster brother, who is also nine. Sam’s eyes are anxious. He holds his thin shoulders stiffly while waiting to see if he meets with the approval of a new acquaintance, but he grins widely when his foster father, his “Big Daddy,” calls his name.

Antoinette Johnson, lead foster family case manager for Catholic Charities since 1992, says that these children, who have lived with foster parents Tom and Sharon for several months, are thriving in their new home, thanks to the stable, loving environment.

“Children in foster care have seen too much, and at an early age,” says Johnson. “With Tom and Sharon, these children are doing amazingly well. We wish we could clone Tom and Sharon. We need a lot more foster families right now.”

The couple, longtime members of a Fort Worth parish, had three young adult children and one 12-year-old son in their blended family when they first considered signing up with a foster care agency. Both were experienced educators and social workers, and they were aware of the urgent need for more families to help care for abandoned, neglected, and abused children.

“We began fostering with one agency in 2002,” says Sharon, explaining that their youngest son, Dalton, came to them through the agency and was adopted at the age of three and a half. “Then, we began fostering with Catholic Charities, and we’ve gotten tremendous support through them. Catholic Charities does a great job.”

Kristina Bates, a family case manager with Catholic Charities, works intensively with the couple to make sure that any issues that arise with the children’s emotional or physical health, transportation, or school situation, are immediately addressed and resolved. Catholic Charities, says Bates, makes sure that all foster parents are offered 24-hour crisis support, along with day-to-day treatment services and quarterly meetings with the team of caring adults who work together to ensure the children’s progress.

“I talk to them almost every day,” says Bates. “We’re in communication all the time. They’re always willing to do anything for the kids, and they participate in classes, counseling, everything we offer to help our families.” All foster children’s expenses are covered, explains Bates, noting that every foster family also receives 14 days of respite care per year, giving them a day off from time to time, paid for through the agency.

Tom, one of 10 children, grew up in a tightly-knit, loving family with a strong connection to St. George Church and school in Fort Worth. His own mother was in foster care in South Texas as a child, and his parents regularly welcomed other children into the family, he says. Three of his sisters and a brother went on to adopt children of their own. Tom and Sharon have provided foster care to a total of ten children in the past six years.

“It’s what we were taught to do,” Tom says, simply. “There are so many kids who just need someone who will be there for them. You become a foster parent because you think you can make a difference.”

Catholic Charities staff members are eager to meet prospective foster parents, says Johnson. Single or married adults of all faith traditions and ethnic backgrounds, with or without children of their own, between the ages of 25 and 60, are welcome to apply to join the foster care program. Criminal background checks, interviews, and classes are conducted over an approximate three-month time period before an individual or couple is licensed to provide foster care.

“When you do become involved with Catholic Charities, you find you are part of a network of families who become a community,” says Sharon. The families with children in foster care come together for classes and for social gatherings, she says. “We know each other; we help each other with childcare; we bounce ideas off of each other. We really enjoy each other. We have a lot in common.”

And Catholic Charities is passionate about providing the services that make it possible for foster families to care for children who need help, says Anne Mason, director of development and public relations for the agency.

“It’s wonderful to hear foster parents talk about the improvement they see in the children they care for,” says Mason. “We’re giving them a chance, and that is why Catholic Charities is committed to providing foster care for the children, and committed to doing it well. There are hundreds of thousands of children across the country being removed from their homes every day. They deserve a chance. And Catholic Charities is here for them. Catholic Charities is in need of foster parents for children of all ages. The agency also seeks adults to serve as trained respite care providers; their expenses are paid by the agency. For more information about how to serve as a foster parent or respite care provider, contact Aimie Bentley at Catholic Charities at (817) 413-3925 or e-mail to abentley@cctdf.org.

“Lucy” sits with her foster mother, Sharon, as they work together on homework from the Catholic school the children attend.

Tom, known as ‘Big Daddy’ to his foster children, spends time each night playing with the children.

“Sam” plays on a warm September evening. He is looking forward to playing in his first soccer game.

Five-year-old “Lucy” plays with her dolls in her foster parents’ comfortable Fort Worth home.

Nine-year-old Dalton, foster brother to “Sam” and “Lucy,” smiles as the three children make music together on the family piano.
Family Matters conference addresses family planning, breast cancer

Story by Nicki Prevou
Editorial Assistant

Approximately 80 Catholics, representing 20 parishes within the Diocese of Fort Worth, gathered Sept. 6 for a day-long seminar that several participants called a “profound” learning experience.

Family Matters: Women and Family Issues From a Catholic Perspective,” held at St. Bartholomew Church in Fort Worth was presented by Bishop Kevin Vann and by the Catholics Respect Life organization. “…The importance of this, was to help Bishop Vann facilitate pro-life activities in the diocese,” explained Angela Walters, director of Catholics Respect Life. “We wanted families to understand the ramifications of artificial and chemical contraception, IVF, sperm and egg donation, and abortion.”

The effects of these issues on all individuals “and upon the family’s body, mind, and soul are significant within our culture,” said Walters. “We brought in speakers to talk about theology, biology, psychology, breast cancer, and family planning.”

Bishop Vann offered Mass at the beginning of the day of intensive presentations and dialogue, chatted with seminar participants at an informal breakfast, and thanked them for attending as he led the opening prayer. “It is so important to take time to study and to reflect upon these issues, as you are doing today,” the bishop said. “As we meet and encounter each other within this culture, we must engage that culture with the love of Christ in the fullness of the Gospel. By participating in this program today, we can become better informed about these very serious issues and become messengers of the Gospel of Life.”

Steve Kellmeyer, director of adult formation at St. Francis of Assisi Church in Grapevine presented on the topics of “Family Planning Theology and the Freedom of Choice,” and “Humana Vitae’s 40th anniversary,” offering insights into the “perfect exchange of persons,” that occurs between God the Father, Son, and Holy Spirit.

The total self-giving within the divine nature of each person within the Holy Trinity is important to remember as married couples make decisions about family life, said Kellmeyer. “We should always, as a family, be in the image and likeness of God,” he reminded his listeners. “God meant, from the beginning, that we participate in his divine nature. God is the original family planner.” Kellmeyer is also an author, lecturer, Catholic radio host, and the founder of Bridgework Press, a Catholic publishing company.

In her presentation, Dr. Angela Lanfranchi, clinical assistant professor of surgery at Robert Wood Johnson Medical School in New Jersey and co-founder of the Breast Cancer Prevention Institute, cited multiple scientific studies showing that breast cancer rates have increased in the United States by 40 percent over the past 35 years due to the legalization of abortion and the widespread use of chemical contraceptives.

The shocking reality is that terminated pregnancies, as well as the steroids found in chemical contraceptives, dramatically increase women’s exposure to estrogen, which leads to a significantly higher risk of breast cancers, explained Dr. Lanfranchi.

“I’m learning so much,” said Jon McManey, who, like his wife, Emelie, is an educator of special needs children. The couple, parishioners at Immaculate Conception Church in Denton, took careful notes throughout the day. “We’ve been married for three years, and we have been getting more and more interested in natural family planning issues.”

“Steve Kellmeyer gave an excellent presentation,” added Emelie McManey. “One thing he said really stuck me: some decisions are so important, they require prayer and fasting. I am going to really be thinking about that.”

Andrew Gill, a 29 year-old professional counselor residing in Irving, attended the seminar with his mother, Joanne Gill, a longtime parishioner at St. Stephen Church in Weatherford. “There are a lot of misconceptions in my generation,” mused Andrew Gill. “We’re still trying to uncover the cultural distortions. I learn a lot from coming to these kinds of programs. Like me, a lot of people in my age group have an eagerness to know the truth about these issues.”

Participants in the day did, in fact, learn a great deal of new and vitally important information, said Angela Walters. “And yet, it was all in-depth, not just surface facts,” she noted. “Our presenters authenticated, for example, the fact that natural methods of family planning are much more effective and healthier for a family than artificial methods. That is so important for people to know.”

Taped presentations from the Family Matters seminar will soon be offered on the Catholics Respect Life Web site at www.catholicsrespectlife.org. For more information, call the organization’s office at (817) 623-2430.
The Rosary points us to Jesus, using the words of Scripture; it is a powerful, historical prayer

By Lucas Pollice

When we pray the Rosary and meditate on its mysteries, we are led into a deeper communion with the mystery of Christ, of whom He is, and his saving mission and power.

On Oct. 7 the Church celebrates the great Feast of the Holy Rosary.

This feast was established by St. Pius V on the anniversary of the naval victory won by the Christian fleet at Lepanto on Oct. 7, 1571, which preserved Europe from the attack of Muslim Turks. The victory was attributed largely to the help and intercession of Mary, whose aid was invoked through the praying of the Rosary.

The Rosary has been a part of the Catholic tradition for over 800 years, and is one of the most identifying deviations of our faith. It has been prayed and recommended by countless saints, and most recently was known to be the favorite devotion of our late Pope John Paul II, who asked Catholics to pray the Rosary daily and devoutly as a powerful spiritual tool for conversion and peace.

Unfortunately, the Rosary is often misunderstood by many non-Catholics, and there are even many Catholics who do not really know why the Rosary Mary is such an effective and powerful prayer.

Many non-Catholics dismiss the Rosary as non-scriptural and as a vainly repetitive prayer. Often times, Catholics may say the Rosary, but do they pray the Rosary? All of this, of course, is due to the fact that many simply do not know this great devotion, or may just misunderstand what the Rosary is all about.

First, the Rosary is a very scriptural prayer. In fact, almost all of the prayers we say in the Rosary are explicitly scriptural. For example, the “Hail Mary” is a very scriptural prayer. We begin with the words of the Angel Gabriel from Luke 1:26: “Hail you who have been filled with grace, the Lord is with you.” We then repeat the words of Elizabeth who, filled with the Holy Spirit, greets Mary as the mother of her Savior in Luke 1:43: “Blessed are you among women and blessed is the fruit of your womb.” Thus, the “Hail Mary” is very much rooted in Scripture and acknowledges Mary as both the Incarnate Conception and the Mother of Christ. We also say the “Our Father” which is the scriptural prayer that Jesus himself has given us. In addition, of the 20 mysteries of the Rosary on which we meditate, 18 of them are explicitly from Scripture, recalling the events of life, death and resurrection of Christ as revealed in the Gospels. Thus, the prayers of the Rosary are both drawn from Scripture and draw us into Scripture.

Second, the Rosary is by its nature a Christ-centered or Christocentric prayer in which we meditate upon and contemplate the Person of Jesus Christ. When we pray the Rosary and meditate on its mysteries, we are led into a deeper communion with the mystery of Christ, of whom He is, and his saving mission and power. The Joyful Mysteries draw us into the mystery of the Incarnation. The Luminous Mysteries reveal the mysteries of Christ’s Messianic mission of his public ministry. The Sorrowful Mysteries unlock for us the merciful love of the passion and Christ. And finally, the Glorious Mysteries bring us into communion with the saving and transforming power of the Resurrection.

Thus, through the Rosary, we come into a deeper and more intimate knowledge and communion with Christ, and through it are able to better imitate his virtues and wisdom.

There is an even more profound aspect to the Rosary in the fact that we join our prayers and meditation with the prayers and intercession the Blessed Virgin Mary. Through the Rosary we do not pray on our own, but with and through Mary who is able to lead us to an even more intimate knowledge of Christ. Thus, we do not pray to Mary, but we pray to Christ in and through Mary. Her prayers and intercession are always to lead us into a deeper communion with her Son.

We see this most profoundly at the wedding feast at Cana. Mary is involved only to bring about the manifestation of the mystery of her Son so that we may believe and that we may “Do whatever he tells you” (John 2:5). Mary, being the Mother of Jesus, also has an intimate knowledge of Jesus that surpasses all others, and through our prayers and meditation joined with hers through the Rosary, she is able to bring us to a much more profound relationship with her Son. Therefore, when we pray the Rosary, we truly sit at the “school of Mary” in which we are brought more closely to Christ. As Pope John Paul II so beautifully explains: “Christ is the supreme Teacher, the revealer and the one revealed. It is not just a question of learning what he taught but of “learning him.” In this regard could we have any better teacher than Mary? From the divine standpoint, the Spirit is the interior teacher who leads us to the full truth of Christ (cf. John 14:26; 15:26; 16:13). But among creatures no one knows Christ better than Mary; no one can introduce us to a profound knowledge of life’s mystery better than his Mother… Contemplating the scenes of the Rosary in union with Mary is a means of learning from her to “read” Christ, to discover his secrets and to understand his message.

This school of Mary is all the more effective, if we consider that she teaches by obtaining for us in abundance the gifts of the Holy Spirit, even as she offers us the incomparable example of her own “pilgrimage of faith.” As we contemplate each mystery of her Son’s life, we invite us to do as she did at the Annunciation: to ask humbly the questions which open us to the light, in order to end with the obedience of faith: “Behold I am the handmaid of the Lord; be it done to me according to your word” (Luke 1:38). (Rosarium Virginis Mariae, On the Most Holy Rosary, 14)

Thus, the Rosary becomes a particularly efficacious tool in our spiritual life that enhances and confirms our union with and knowledge of Christ. Far from being a distraction from Christ, the Rosary, second to the Mass, is the most powerful way in which we can achieve union with Christ.

The challenge however, is the temptation to say the Rosary but not pray the Rosary. The goal of this powerful devotion is to draw our hearts and minds into the heart and mind of Christ through the intercession and help of Mary. As the Catechism of the Catholic Church so wisely states, “If our heart is far from God, the words of prayer are in vain” (2562). Indeed the Rosary can become vainly repetitious prayer, if we do not take the time to open wide our hearts to the power and fruits of this indispensible devotion and the mysteries it contains. As Pope John Paul II again states:

The Rosary…is an exquisitely contemplative prayer. Without this contemplative dimension, it would lose its meaning, as Pope Paul VI clearly pointed out: “Without contemplation, the Rosary is a body without a soul, and its recitation runs the risk of becoming a mechanical repetition of formulas, in violation of the adoration of Christ.” (In praying do not heap up empty phrases as the Gentiles do; for they think they will be heard for their many words. [Matthew 6:7]). By its nature the recitation of the Rosary calls for a quiet rhythm and a lingering pace, helping the individual to meditate on the mysteries of the Lord’s life as seen through the eyes of her who was given to him in marriage in this way the unfathomable riches of these mysteries are disclosed.” (Rosarium Virginis Mariae, On the Most Holy Rosary, 12).

Finally, Pope John Paul II asked all Catholics to pray the Rosary and pray it often, especially for peace in the world and peace in families. As we also celebrate Respect Life month in October, the Rosary is a powerful tool against the culture of death as particularly manifested in the hideous crime of abortion which takes over a million innocent lives each year in our country. The presence of the peaceful recitation of the Rosary before abortion clinics has saved the lives of many children and brought about the conversion of many mothers who sought an abortion.

From Sept. 24 to Nov. 2, the 40 Days for Life Campaign will be praying continuously in front of abortion clinics throughout the country. This is an opportunity for all Catholics to make a public stand for life, and to pray the Rosary for the end of abortion. To get involved in the campaign or for more information concerning the Fort Worth chapter of 40 Days for Life, visit the Web site www.40daysforlife.com/fortworth or contact Laura Barker at 40daysforlifeworth@gmail.net.

Mary, Queen of the Rosary, pray for us!

Lucas Pollice is director of Catechesis and Adult Faith Formation and RCLA for the diocese. Lucas holds a degree in theology from the Franciscan University of Steubenville and has a master’s degree in theological studies from the Institute for Pastoral Theology of Ave Maria University. He is an adjunct professor of theology with the Cardinal Newman Institute in Fort Worth. Lucas and his wife, Mary, have five children, Cecilia, Nicholas, Timothy, Christopher, and Julia.

Viewpoints
**Agenda Driven Science**

**is it really science?**

By Susan Wills

When scientists no longer pursue truth for its own sake, but use the tools of science to give credibility to a political agenda, no good can come of it. A public policy based on falsehoods will be seriously flawed, and science itself will be undermined.

A case in point is the Aug. 15 report of the American Psychological Association (APA) Task Force on Mental Health and Abortion. Despite scores of credible, wide-scale studies showing abortion-related mental health problems, the task force concluded that they “reviewed no evidence sufficient to support the claim that the observed association between abortion history and mental health was caused by the abortion per se, as opposed to other factors.” Naturally, the media reported this oddly nuanced, narrow conclusion as “there’s no evidence that abortion causes mental health problems.”

To get to such a conclusion, the task force begins by ignoring the nature of abortion — the violent slaying of a child — as if such an act has no inherent mental health implications.

To get to such a conclusion, the task force begins by ignoring the nature of abortion — the violent slaying of a child — as if such an act has no inherent mental health implications. In one, Soderberg et al. (1998) interviewed 854 Swedish women in depth, one year after abortion. Summarizing this study, Priscilla Coleman, Ph.D. states: “50-60 percent of the women experienced emotional distress of some form, (e.g., mild depression, remorse or guilt feelings, a tendency to cry without cause, discomfort upon meeting children), 16.1 percent experienced serious emotional distress (needing help from a psychiatrist or psychologist or being unable to work because of depression), and 76.1 percent said that they would not consider abortion again.”

A New Zealand study by Ferguson et al. (2006) evaluated a cohort of about 500 girls who underwent periodic mental health assessments to age 25. Abortion was found to increase the risk of every harmful effect studied. Among girls who had abortions between ages 15 and 18, for example, 78 percent had major depression, compared to 35 percent who had been pregnant but did not abort, and 31 percent who had not been pregnant. The APA task force nit-picked the study for “small” sample size, and for not controlling for the “want-edness” of the pregnancies.

A study by Mika Gissler et al. in Finland examined suicide and other causes of death in the year following birth, abortion, or miscarriage. The suicide rate among women who aborted in the previous 12 months was nearly six times higher than among women who had given birth (34.7 versus 5.9 suicides per 100,000 women). Post-abortion women had higher mortality from all causes (accidents, violence, and physical health) than those who’d given birth. The task force discounted these tragic findings by arguing that the miniscule risk of death directly “caused” by the abortion procedure is smaller than the miniscule risk of death from full-term labor/delivery (due to complications of pregnancy in mothers who already had health problems).

The APA’s biased report should have no place in science or public policy. It may fool some people unfamiliar with abortion aftermath, but not the tens of thousands who’ve suffered after abortion, who’ve counseled them, or simply read their heartbreaking stories on the Internet.

**Claymation was used to describe the work of Creation. Let’s see where things go from there...**

By Kathy Cribari Hamer

Natalie and Sam, my grandchildren, were watching Wallace and Gromit’s “Curse of the Were-Rabbit,” when they discovered a problem.

The movie characters had entered a scary house, and later had to break a window to get out. Sam thought about this and told his mom. “I’m troubled because I don’t know how they went into the house without a key.”

Their mother, Meredith, explained it was a just a movie and not real, so the characters didn’t need a key, but Sam and Natalie countered that it was “a real movie, so how did they get into the house at all, if they had to break a window to get out?”

“Curse of the Were-Rabbit” is an Oscar-winning film created with stop-action and plasticine clay characters that were moved slightly for each frame, and filmed one frame at a time.

Filmmakers produced 30 frames each day, and it took 25 frames to make one second of film: about a second of film per day. “Curse of the Were-Rabbit” took five years to produce.

So, that afternoon Meredith was chatting with two of her children, who were born about the same time production began on the animated movie they were watching.

Meredith explained how the movie was made, but the kids still pondered the improbability of characters walking freely into a room they later broke out of.

“I explained that they weren’t supposed to put this much thought into watching a movie like this,” Meredith told me. “But if only the filmmakers had sculpted a key! That would have made my explanations easier.”

Sam and Natalie are 7- and 5-year-olds with penchants for deep thinking, and they are developing thoughtfulness and empathy, qualities that, like clay figures, evolve with time.

Sam is a second-grader with curiosity, intensity, and a healthy sense of guilt. He gets that from his great-grandmother, Big Kate. She was Catholic and Italian. You do the math.

Frequently Sam realizes ahead of his parents when he has done something wrong, so he preemptively applies the consequence they might give — like less time playing computer games.

Nattie, a kindergartner, is zanier than Sam, but has his sense of right and wrong, such that if she has a bad day or argues with her mother, she spontaneously confesses to her dad. Natalie is prissy, wears frilly clothes and speaks in a way that combines zany with pensive.

See HAMER, p. 30
On a September afternoon filled with prayer, laughter, reminiscing, and expressions of profound gratitude, members of St. Joseph Parish in Arlington gathered to celebrate the parish community’s 20th anniversary and to watch as Bishop Kevin Vann dedicated a new statue of St. Joseph the Worker on the church’s grounds.

“It was an incredible day,” said Deacon Dean Hermann, pastoral administrator for the parish since 2001. “Everything went great, and everybody had a wonderful time. It was a glorious, multi-cultural celebration.” Prayers in English, Spanish, Filipino, French, Swahili, and Ghanian languages were offered during the Sept. 7 afternoon Mass, statue dedication, and reception. A crowd of over 1,700 current and former parishioners, staff members, and visiting priests attended the gathering, which was held in the light-filled, spacious church. A charted timeline of the church’s growth and a vivid photo display covered the west wall of the parish auditorium, where parishioners once gathered for Sunday liturgies before the present church was built.

The statue depicts a fatherly St. Joseph, tenderly instructing an intently listening young Jesus. The sculptor, St. Joseph parishioner Guillermo Becerra, installed the statue in May, and the now-retired Father Jim Miller, founding pastor of St. Joseph’s, blessed the statue on June 1 when he returned to the parish to celebrate his 40th anniversary of ordination to the priesthood.

Parishioners’ recollections of the early beginnings of the parish community were videotaped at the celebration, said Deacon Hermann. “When they first started out, it was a small group of Catholics meeting for Mass [moving among] a few different schools in the area,” he said. “People enjoyed having the chance to remember those early days.”
Pope points to Mary’s role in deepening our love of Jesus

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Then he made a point he has consistently emphasized when speaking of Marian devotion: that Mary turns one’s gaze to Christ.

He noted that Mary’s first gesture to St. Bernadette was to make the sign of the cross — an initiation into the mysteries of faith in Christ, he said.

“Mary comes to remind us that prayer which is humble and intense, trusting and persevering, must have a central place in our Christian life,” the pope said.

“Prayer is indispensable if we are to receive Christ’s power,” he said.

At Lourdes, he said, Mary also revealed herself as the Immaculate Conception: a person conceived without sin. In this way, she is “beauty transfigured, the image of the new humanity,” he said.

This special grace inspires people by reminding them that they are “marked by sin but saved in hope,” the hope of salvation that allows them to face daily life, he said.

“This is the path which Mary opens up for man. To give oneself fully to God is to find the path of true freedom,” he said.

Many came to the papal Mass in wheelchairs or on stretchers, part of a perennial pilgrimage of the sick who travel to Lourdes for spiritual or physical healing.

The assembly was multiculural and multilingual, and the liturgy featured readings, prayers, and responses in 10 languages, including Chinese.

Two young Catholic pilgrims from Myanmar said they had traveled halfway around the world to experience the “spirit of Lourdes” that they had heard about for years.

Zen Huai Mang, 23, said she was also seeking a personal turning point.

“I heard that Mary has done some wonderful things for sick people. I’m hoping for something positive in my own life, too,” she said.

Like many other pilgrims, she bathed in Lourdes water during her stay and said she felt “newborn” afterward.

Mang and her friend waited for five hours in the cold to see Pope Benedict when he arrived in Lourdes Sept. 13 and were back for a prime spot at the Mass the next morning.

She said her impression of Pope Benedict was that of “a very spiritual man” who shared their devotion to Mary. She said the pope may seem a bit remote at times to young people, but added quickly, “I think he’s lovely.”

At the Angelus blessing following Mass, the pope spoke about the motives that led some 6 million people to Lourdes every year. The main reason, he said, is that they feel they can entrust Mary to their most intimate thoughts.

“That which many, either because of embarrassment or modesty, do not confide to their nearest and dearest, they confide to her who is all pure, to her Immaculate Heart: with simplicity, without frills, in truth,” he said.

“Before Mary, by virtue of her very purity, man does not hesitate to reveal his weakness, to express his questions and his doubts, to formulate his most secret hopes and desires,” he said.

Arriving in Lourdes following a two-day stop in Paris, the pope immediately joined in the jubilee pilgrimage established to mark the 150th anniversary of the apparitions.

Cheered by tens of thousands who packed the streets of the mountain town, the pope first stopped at the parish church where St. Bernadette was baptized, then visited the small house — a former prison not much bigger than a cell — where the girl and her family lived in the mid-19th century. There, he kissed her rosary and said a prayer.

Next the pope went to the grotto at the base of a rocky cliff, where Bernadette experienced 18 apparitions of Mary from Feb. 11 to July 16, 1858. Like millions of pilgrims each year, he paused to take a drink of water from the spring she discovered there, a spring said to have miraculous powers.

Later that night, the pope closed a torchlight evening procession in Rosary Square. Addressing the overflow crowd of pilgrims, he paid tribute to simple devotion.

“At Lourdes, he said, Mary stirred hope and love “by giving pride of place to the sick, the poor, and the little ones.”

“In this shrine at Lourdes ... we are invited to discover the simplicity of our vocation: It is enough to love,” he said.

The traditional nighttime procession stems from St. Bernadette’s habit of lighting a candle when Mary would appear to her. Today, the pope said, the light from pilgrims’ torches represents a powerful symbol against the darkness of sin.

The procession expresses the mystery of prayer in a form that everyone can grasp, like a luminous path in the dark, he said. It should also remind Christians of those who suffer, he said.

“We think of innocent victims who suffer from violence, war, terrorism, and famine; those who bear the consequences of injustices, scourges and disasters, hatred and oppression; of attacks on their human dignity and fundamental rights; on their freedom to act and think,” he said.

The pope remembered those experiencing family problems, illness, unemployment, or loneliness, as well as difficulties related to immigration. Those who have suffered or died for Christ must not be forgotten, either, he said.

He described Lourdes pilgrims as leading to a spiritual place “between heaven and earth.” Pilgrims may come secretly hoping to receive some miracle, he said, but more often leave with a different kind of spiritual experience and a changed outlook.

“A small flame called hope, compassion, tenderness now dwells within them. A quiet encounter with Bernadette and the Virgin Mary can change a person’s life,” he said.

On the plane carrying him to France, the pope told journalists his April 16 birthday fell on the feast of St. Bernadette, and for that reason he felt very close to her.

At Lourdes, he said, people encountered Mary and find that “the mother’s love” is what provides true healing for all sickness and suffering.

“Thinking this is a very important sign for our era,” he said.

The pope returned to the Lourdes Mass site in the evening of Sept. 14 to close a eucharistic procession. After kneeling and praying in silent adoration before the Blessed Sacrament, he told pilgrims that the respect Catholics show the Eucharist reflects the awareness that Christ is truly present.

St. John the Apostle School’s Blue Ribbon recognition the result of teamwork

FROM PAGE 1

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The No Child Left Behind-Blue Ribbon Schools Program honors public and private elementary, middle, and high schools that are either academically superior or that demonstrate dramatic gains in student achievement to high levels. The schools are selected based on one of two criteria: schools with at least 40 percent of their students from disadvantaged backgrounds that dramatically improve student performance to high levels on state tests and schools whose students, regardless of background, achieve in the top 10 percent of their state on state tests or in the case of private schools, such as St. John the Apostle, achieve in the top 10 percent of the nation on nationally-normed tests.

A total of 413 schools nationwide can be nominated. This number is determined based on the number of K-12 students and the number of schools in each state, the District of Columbia, and Puerto Rico. The Council for American Private Education (CAPE) submits private schools’ nominations. The schools are invited by Secretary Spellings to submit an application for possible recognition as a No Child Left Behind – Blue Ribbon School. Principal Cindy Cummins and

faculty member Marla Tatum will fly to Washington, D.C., to be honored at an awards ceremony Oct. 20-21. St. John the Apostle School is planning a month of celebrations to thank the faculty, staff, students, parents, and parishioners for their roles in helping the school achieve at such a high level.
Diocesan pilgrims travel to Australia for World Youth Day

More than 100 teens, young adults and adult leaders representing 18 parishes within the Diocese of Fort Worth are still reflecting upon the powerful memories they made during their pilgrimage to the 2008 World Youth Day (WYD) in Sydney, Australia, July 15-20.

Kevin Vann told the Texas travelers in special Masses and blessing ceremonies held prior to their departures, was one that will profoundly affect their lives forever. “You, our young people, represent who we are as the universal church, as you are sent forth to be witnesses to your faith,” the bishop told WYD travelers at a Mass celebrated June 29 at Immaculate Conception Church in Denton. “You will bring your stories from this journey back to serve as an encouragement and inspiration to the rest of us here in the Diocese of Fort Worth.”

April Fisher, a 20-year-old parishioner from Immaculate Conception Church in Grapevine, had a chance to serve as an encouragement and inspiration to others. “This trip was absolutely worth it!” she said. “We’re busy now, planning a World Youth Day pilgrimage this year, working on fundraising and planning activities for our group of pilgrims from parishioners of St. Patrick Cathedral in downtown Fort Worth. ‘We’re never a solo affair; we belong to a very great family, of God, and you will experience that sense of family on this journey you’re about to undertake,’ Bishop Vann told the assembly, and we can’t wait to be able to go,” she said. “My family is so happy for me to have this chance!”

The theme of the international celebration, attended by Pope Benedict XVI and held every three years, was “You will receive power from on high,” the bishop explained, “when the Holy Spirit has come upon you.”

Indeed, say the North Texas pilgrims, the journey to Australia—despite hours of trudging travel, miles of walking, occasional gashes in food distribution, and minimal sleep — was “value for the experience.”

“Many of the past experiences at World Youth Days have provided in the days leading up to the WYD popemass. ‘We get to listen to different bishops from all over the world as they talked to us and answered our questions,’ said 18-year-old Brad Eckstrom, a St. Peter’s parishioner. “Also, a really special aspect of these gatherings was the day that we had Jesse Menaschg, an Australian Catholic musician who is known all over the world, come to lead the music for our group. He was phenomenal. Our group knows him from DCYC [Diocesan Catholic Youth Conference] and we felt so proud to say that he is from our diocese!”

Matthewson and his family are members of St. Frances of Assisi Parish in Grapevine. 

Elisabeth Victory, a parishioner at St. Patrick Cathedral, coordinated with her WYD pilgrimage this year, working on fundraising activities and holding planning meetings for her group of pilgrims from parishes of the Diocese of Fort Worth and St. Ann Church in Burleson for months prior to their July 10 departure. “I always become so inspired by the people I meet on each pilgrimage,” she said.

This year’s journey offered the opportunity to make even more new friends, said Victory. En route to Sydney, her group stopped on July 11 to participate in the “Aloha Spirit Youth Day” offered in Waikiki, Hawaii. The day included a Mass celebrated by Bishop Larry Silva of Honolulu, cultural activities, and prayer services, including a service of nativity on the beach. 

Bishop Webbe said the special times his group spent attending Masses, catechetical programs, prayer services, and liturgical music concerts during their 22 days in New Zealand and Australia added up to too many memorable moments to count.

Fr. Hoa Nguyen, pictured (far left) with his delegation from the Diocese of Fort Worth, concelebrated Mass with Bishop Larry Silva of Honolulu, St. Andrew Kim Church in Dallas and spent a week in Korea, visiting sacred sites such as the graves of Korean martyrs, before flying on to Sydney.

For everyone fortunate enough to participate in World Youth Day 2008, the event offered opportunities for spiritual growth and a deepened spirit of love for their Catholic faith, participants said. Seventeen-year-old Madison Stittmenger of St. Ann Church in Burleson recalled July 17, the day that Pope Benedict XVI arrived by boat at Bangwook, a harbor in Sydney.

“Hundreds of thousands of Catholics stood crowded together…an absolutely awe-struck moment he would come,” wrote Simmons in a letter to her bishop. “Hundreds of thousands of Catholic youth from all around the world watched the victory of early European powers and dusted off the treasures of the Sydney Opera House.

“Thousands participated in the July 18 Stations of the Cross, held at sites throughout Sydney. Approximately 500 million television viewers around the world watched the re-enactment of Jesus’ crucifixion, passion and death.

Blessed Mary MacKillop, who was beatified in 1995 and is expected to become canonized soon, was celebrated in a special Mass at Randwick Racecourse in Sydney. 

Youth from St. Ann Church in Burleson and St. Patrick Cathedral in Fort Worth had to cross the Sydney Harbor Bridge as they walked toward the Mass site on Saturday afternoon, July 19.

Pilgrims from the Diocese of Fort Worth prepare to cross the Sydney Harbor Bridge as they walk toward the Mass site on Saturday afternoon, July 19.

Brother Marious Donner, CPF, a member of the delegation sponsored by St. Maria Goretti’s, St. Elizabeth Ann Seton Church in Keller, and St. Andrews Church in Dallas, prepared for the overnight vigil service to begin.

By Nicki Prevou
Editorial Assistant

LEFT: Catholic musician Jesse Menaschg, pictured with pilgrims from the Diocese of Fort Worth at a cathedral site in Sydney.

RIGHT: The WYD delegation from St. Peter’s Apostolic Church in Fort Worth pose with a new friend who is an Aboriginal man from Sydney.

ABOVE: Over 400,000 pilgrims gathered at Randwick Racecourse in Sydney July 19-20 to participate in the overnight vigil and WYD Mass.

ABOVE: Pilgrims from St. Maria Goretti Church in Arlington, St. Elizabeth Ann Seton Church in Keller, and St. Andrews Church in Dallas join in prayer on the steps of the Sydney Opera House.

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Editor's Note: The following news release was issued by the Diocese of Fort Worth Tuesday, Sept. 12:

As a follow up to a Catholic Diocese of Fort Worth news release issued on September 8, 2008, diocesan officials have received two additional credible accusations of sexual abuse of a minor by a priest against deceased Benedictine Order priest Father Francis A. Zimmerer.

The new credible accusations occurred on separate occasions while Father Zimmerer served as the parish administrator of Assumption of the Blessed Virgin Mary Catholic Church, located at 1305 Deer Park Rd. in Decatur, from January 1975 through May 1981. Both victims were minors at the time.

The new credible accusations were lodged after the diocese’s announcement last week that a credible accusation was received on August 25, 2008 that a now 42-year-old man living out of state was abused in 1978 by Father Zimmerer, a member of the Benedictine Order based in Subiaco, Arkansas, when the victim was an 11-year-old member of the Assumption of the Blessed Virgin Mary Catholic Church.

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Additional credible accusations of abuse of a minor by priest now deceased are lodged with Diocese
Pope says Western efforts to marginalize religion would be disastrous

PARIS (CNS) — Pope Benedict XVI warned that Western cultural efforts to marginalize religion and believers would bring disaster for humanity and ultimately “play into the hands of fanaticism.” The pope made the remarks Sept. 12 in an address to academics at the College des Bernardins, a medieval landmark consecrated during the French Revolution and recently reacquired by the church for scholarly events. Vatican officials said the pope had worked long and hard on this speech, which took up one of his favorite topics, the relationship between faith and reason. He warned that if modern culture tries to drive the question of God into the realm of the merely subjective and unscientific, that would be “the capitulation of reason, the renunciation of its highest possibilities, and hence a disaster for humanity, with very grave consequences.”

At Paris Mass, pope urges Catholics to reject idols of money, power

PARIS (CNS) — Celebrating Mass in the center of Paris, Pope Benedict XVI urged Catholics to rediscover the power of the Eucharist and reject the modern idols of money and power. About 250,000 filled the sunny Esplanade des Invalides Sept. 13 for the liturgy, which was broadcast live on French national television. It was an unusual public display of the faith in a country that prides itself on secularism. As the 81-year-old pontiff arrived in his popemobile, he was greeted by cheers and a panoply of fluttering yellow flags. Many of the young people in attendance had spent the night in the square, after praying at a candlelight vigil. In his sermon, he recalled the preaching of St. Paul against the temptation of idolatry in the early Christian era and said the question was still relevant today. “Has not our modern world created its own idols? Has it not imitated, perhaps inadvertently, the pagans of antiquity?” he said.

Pontifical Council for the Family president says Catholic families lead by example

VATICAN CITY (CNS) — Italian Cardinal Ennio Antonelli said his first priority as president of the Pontifical Council for the Family is to help faithful Catholic couples and their children proclaim by their example the church’s teaching on marriage and family life. “The first priority is to build up Christian families,” said the cardinal, who was named president of the council in June. “We must care for normal Christian families and the World Meeting of Families in Mexico City.

Latvian priest to be honored posthumously for helping Jews in WWII

JERUSALEM (CNS) — The family of a Latvian priest to be honored posthumously for helping Jews in WWII says Catholic families lead by example

VATICAN CITY (CNS) — The current financial crisis pummel ing the Western world and beyond is a sign that the so-called “new economy” and its risky investments have failed, the Vatican newspaper said.

The booming growth of financial markets did not correspond to real growth or concrete development for society because it created an artificially robust gross national product, said a Sept. 24 article in L’Osservatore Romano.

The only real growth registered in this crisis has been “of the commissions, profits of the banks, and bonuses for the managers,” it said.

The article, with the headline “A costly illusion,” was written by Ernesto Tesei, an Italian economist and professor of financial ethics at the Catholic University of the Sacred Heart in Milan, Italy.

The U.S. financial meltdown has been blamed on “the greed of managers and lack of regulations. But curiously, no one ever refers to the indirect responsibility of the government’s economic policy” which, he wrote, tried to cover the lack of any real economic development with a booming Wall Street.

He said the U.S. government’s proposed bailout may stave off any worst-case scenario for its troubled financial markets, but it will not repair the root causes of the crisis.

“Despite various attempts, the Western world does not know how to map out a model of development that is capable of guaranteeing stable wealth,” he wrote.

The West has “not succeeded with its new economy project, it did not succeed with accelerating growth in Asia by transferring low-cost production (there), and it did not succeed after inventing a boom in the GNP through risky financial models that were poorly conceived and badly regulated,” it said.

“In order to maintain this sham GNP, the banks financed things that were not guaranteed” and that should not have been financed, like the subprime loans, it said. Financial institutions created an “economic growth out of debt and, therefore, (created something) very risky,” it added.

The article said the lesson to be learned is that nations cannot build a healthy economy or experience real development if it is not based on “balanced demographic growth.”

It said the world economy also needs to be run responsibly and transparently with precise rules.

Hurricane Ike reminiscent of 1900 storm that razed Galveston’s Catholic orphanage

By Carol Zimmermann

Catholic News Service

WASHINGTON — When Galveston Island was pummeled by Hurricane Ike Sept. 13, it may have called to mind stories of the Sept. 8, 1900, hurricane, or the Great Storm as it was called, that devastated the area. The 1900 storm, considered the worst natural disaster in the nation’s history, took the lives of more than 6,000 people. Among the dead were 10 sisters and 90 children from St. Mary’s Orphans Asylum, opened by the Sisters of Charity on Galveston Island in 1874.

The orphanage began as a place to care for children orphaned during the yellow fever epidemic in 1867. First located inside a hospital, the sisters also ran, it was moved to beach-front property. It consisted of two buildings located behind sand dunes along the beach; there was a two-story dormitory for boys and a two-story dormitory for girls.

During the storm the sisters brought all the children into the girls’ dormitory because it was a new and stronger building. In the first floor chapel, the sisters sang the children a French hymn, “Queen of the Waves.” When the storm intensified, they brought the children to the second floor and used pieces of cloth to attach themselves to the smaller children. But with wind speeds of more than 120 mph and a storm surge more than 15 feet high, the girls’ dormitory collapsed, killing the sisters and all the children except three boys who managed to get out of the house and ride out the storm clinging to the top of a tree. A report about the storm published by the Galveston County Daily News noted that the sisters were “buried wherever they were found, with the children still attached to them.” One sister died with two small children in her arms.

St. Mary’s Orphan Asylum reopened in Galveston in 1901 and remained there until it closed in 1967.

Members of the Congregation of the Sisters of Charity of the Incarnate Word sang “Queen of the Waves” every Sept. 8 in honor of the sisters and others who died in the storm.

On Sept. 8, 1994, a Texas historical marker was placed at the site of the former orphanage. Descendants of two of the survivors participated in the marker dedication on Galveston’s seawall Boulevard.

The very existence of Galveston’s seawall is the result in part of the work of Father James Kirwin, rector of St. Mary’s Cathedral in Galveston during the 1900 storm. The cathedral, dedicated in 1847, survived the storm intact.

The priest played a key role in the city’s post-hurricane recovery. According to the Texas State Historical Association, he helped organize a public safety committee to restore order after the disaster, and he also drafted an edict putting the city under martial law.

The priest, a native of Ohio, also supervised the burying of the city’s dead and served on a relief committee that helped survivors of the flood. He initiated plans to build a seawall to protect Galveston from future floods and delivered the opening prayer when its cornerstone was dedicated in 1902.

Sisters of Charity and children on the balcony of one of the buildings of the St. Mary’s Orphans Asylum facing the beach in Galveston, prior to the Sept. 8, 1900, hurricane. (CNS/courtesy Catholic Archives of Texas, Austin)
Catholic social agencies mobilize in Hurricane Ike relief efforts

By Jonah Dycus

The Texas Catholic Herald

Newspaper of the Archdiocese of Galveston-Houston

HOUSTON (CNS) — In the aftermath of Hurricane Ike, Texas Catholic social agencies have swiftly mobilized to offer assistance to those affected by the storm, which hit the region Sept. 12.

In mid-September, staff members and volunteers from Catholic Charities visited coastal communities such as Texas City, Dickinson, and Galveston, as well as Houston, to provide assistance and case management to those in need. They were continuing those efforts in the coastal area.

“Our goal is to take care of the immediate, basic needs by supplying water, canned goods, diapers, those kinds of items,” said Yolanda Gutierrez, on-site supervisor for Catholic Charities of the Archdiocese of Galveston-Houston.

“Since we also work with refugee resettlement, some of our staff and volunteers are also working with those families and individuals off-site to see how we can help,” she told The Texas Catholic Herald, the archdiocesan newspaper. “Down the road, we will conduct case management for people who have lost their homes.”

By coordinating relief efforts, Catholic Charities USA has opened a warehouse specifically for the purpose of delivery of goods to distribution sites.

“We are focusing on Galveston County, and the needs of far-reaching communities who have limited access to government-sponsored PODs (point of distribution),” said Jim Gajewski, Catholic Charities vice president of program services.

“We see our niche reaching out deeper into communities, the outskirts of the coastal areas who are impoverished and don’t have the means to get to these PODs,” he said.

Gajewski added that the Catholic agency was working closely with the Galveston County Evangelical Lutheran Church as well as Catholic parishes and other agencies.

Catholic Charities planned to continue its efforts in the field into the foreseeable future, as long as supplies lasted and the needs remained.

“We are taking it day to day; we really have to be flexible and keep our ear to the ground,” Gajewski said. “As long as the need is out there, we want to be providing for those needs.”

USCCB strongly supports draft HHS regulations protecting conscience

WASHINGTON (CNS) — Proposed regulations protecting the conscience rights of health care providers were especially needed in light of the “growing hostility on the part of some professional organizations and advocacy groups” to those rights, the U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops said in public comments to the Department of Health and Human Services. The comments came in a six-page letter Sept. 12 to Donna Z. Shero, assistant secretary for Legislation in the HHS Office of Public Health and Service from Anthony R. Picarello, USCCB general counsel, and Michael F. Moses, associate general counsel.

“Expressing strong support for the proposed rule,” the USCCB letter noted that an earlier leaked version of the HHS proposal had prompted “negative public reaction … by pro-abortion groups and some editorial writers.” It said, “The adverse reaction demonstrates, at best, a deplorable lack of understanding about the federal legislative rights of conscience on which the proposed regulations are based, at worst outright hostility to those statutory rights.”

Bishop Malooly says sanctity of human life ‘crucial’ to just society

WILMINGTON, Del. (CNS) — The new bishop of the Diocese of Wilmington said he intends “to build a supportive and trusting friendship” with U.S. Sen. Joseph Biden of Delaware and other public officials to help them and all citizens “understand how crucial the sanctity of human life is to a just society,” Bishop W. Francis Malooly made the comments in a statement Sept. 10 after leaders of the U.S. bishops’ conference had issued their own statement in response to Biden’s comments Sept. 7 on “Meet the Press” regarding church teaching on abortion.

Addressing the people of his diocese, the bishop said the U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops’ statement explained “the truth of the matter in a clear and concise way. As your bishop, I want you to understand our church teaching, embrace it, and promote it.” The bishop, who was installed Sept. 8 as the ninth bishop of Wilmington, then included the statement from Cardinal Justin Rigali of Philadelphia, head of the U.S. bishops’ pro-life committee, and Bishop William E. Lori of Bridgeport, Connecticut, head of the doctrine committee, before concluding: “It is my intention to build a supportive and trusting friendship with Sen. Biden and as many public officials as I can.”

Prayers offered at Capitol for poverty to become a campaign issue

WASHINGTON (CNS) — The needs of poor and marginalized people deserve the same attention from government officials as the current needs of Wall Street’s failing financial firms, a group of religious leaders said. Praying outside the U.S. Capitol Sept. 16, Catholic, Protestant, Islamic, and Jewish leaders invoked the words of the prophet Micah in calling upon candidates for public office in the Nov. 4 election to join with Americans of faith concerned about the growing hostility in the U.S. to work for justice for the poor.

“We religious people need to be as strong as we can be here in America,” said Rabbi Steve Gutow, executive director of the Jewish Council for Public Affairs, at the start of a horticultural program. “We need to build an army of faithful who wish to take our view of God’s message into the vineyards of public life and to the public square.”

Rabbi Gutow, who coordinated the service with Father Larry Snyder, president of Catholic Charities USA, said that the growing poverty in America threatens to undermine the spirit of justice promised by God. The prayer service closed an effort titled “Fighting Poverty With Faith: A Week of Action.”

NATIONAL NEWSBRIEFS

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National / State

North Texas Catholic, September 26, 2008     Page 21
Obama is for ‘right to choose;’ McCain ‘amendment to Constitution’; other life issues are not as clear cut

By Nancy Frazier O’Brien

Catholic News Service

WASHINGTON — On few topics do presidential candidates Sen. Barack Obama and Sen. John McCain diverge as sharply as on abortion. But on other life issues — embryonic stem-cell research, assisted suicide, and the death penalty — the differences are not always easy to ferret out.

On abortion, McCain’s campaign Web site said the Republican candidate “believes Roe v. Wade is a flawed decision that must be overturned” as “one step in the long path toward ending abortion.” Obama’s Web sites says the Democratic nominee “will make safeguarding women’s rights under Roe v. Wade a priority” and that he “opposes any constitutional amendment to overturn that decision.”

In their 2007 document, Forming Consciences for Faithful Citizenship: A Call to Political Responsibility, the U.S. Catholic bishops stress the importance of the life issues.

“The direct and intentional destruction of innocent human life from the moment of conception until natural death is always wrong and is not just one issue among many. It must always be opposed.”

By Chaz Muth

Catholic News Service

WASHINGTON — Representatives from the U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops and Catholic Relief Services in a telephone press conference Sept. 23 called on the major parties’ presidential candidates to lay out their foreign policy strategies in relation to the world’s poor and overseas assistance.

The campaigns of Democratic Sen. Barack Obama and Republican Sen. John McCain have failed to adequately address the global food crisis, the increasing role of the U.S. Defense Department in humanitarian work, the refocusing of U.S. foreign assistance, and how the government should help the poor adapt to climate change, said Bill O’Keefe, senior director for the advocacy department of the Baltimore-based CRS.

The Obama and McCain campaigns also have failed to sufficiently articulate if their foreign policy programs would promote religious equality, strengthen international law, support a safe haven for foreign refugees, or actively pursue a comprehensive resolution between the Israelis and Palestinians, said Stephen Colecki, director of the Office of International Justice and Peace for the USCCB.

“This topic is timely considering that this Friday night (Sept. 26) the candidates will be debating foreign policy,” O’Keefe said.

“These are critical issues that are crying out for attention.”

Both campaigns are currently focused on the domestic economic crisis and the Bush administration’s proposed bailouts of U.S. financial institutions, which could cost taxpayers $700 billion or more if it’s approved by Congress.

With approximately $88 billion currently being spent on foreign aid — which includes costs for foreign embassies and diplomatic missions — both men argued that money spent to address global poverty is a minimal expense in the federal budget in comparison to the proposed bailout of U.S. financial institutions.

“There is no doubt the next administration and Congress has tough financial problems they will have to deal with,” O’Keefe said.

“But there is a missed opportunity by the candidates to demonstrate their own leadership (on these matters) and to prove to the voters they can think comprehensively and broadly about comprehensive issues. The person who can demonstrate they can do that is more likely to win the election.”

If the U.S. government would invest in a solution to poverty in foreign countries, those nations would become better trade partners, Colecki said.

Nations with fewer poverty issues also tend to be more peaceful countries and more peace in the world would reduce “the amount that we have to spend on defense,” he said.

The USCCB and CRS representatives used the Sept. 23 press conference as a way of reaching out to the candidates to urge them to address these issues in their campaigns.

The USCCB also has submitted its November 2007 Faithful Citizenship statement — which address these and other moral issues — to both campaigns and has sought a meeting with each candidate to discuss the topics face to face, Colecki said.

O’Keefe also urged Catholics to bring up these issues with the candidates at campaign events and write letters to the editors at a variety of publications as a way of gaining support for moral considerations.

Ultimately, Catholics have the power to vote for the candidate they believe has best addressed these moral issues of conscience, he said.

Colecki said the U.S. Catholic bishops are calling for a new style of politics that focuses “more on the pursuit of the common good than on the demands of narrow special interests.”
Campaign ’08: Bettering environment may depend on political climate, say pundits

By Mark Pattison
Catholic News Service

WASHINGTON — The difficulties posed by the fouling of the environment — which takes in a wide array of issues such as climate change, fresh water availability, vehicle emissions, and pesticides and potentially fatal bacteria in crops — are daunting for any president to tackle.

As Democratic Sen. Barack Obama and Republican Sen. John McCain battle it out for the presidency, Catholic and other faith-based activists are studying the political environment to see how they can leverage environmental issues into policy come Jan. 20 and beyond.

In July, the Conference of Major Superiors of Men and the Leadership Conference of Women Religious, together with 80 bishops guiding more than 86,000 vowed men and women religious, jointly resolved to “seek concrete ways to curb environmental degradation, mitigate its impact on the poorest and most vulnerable people and restore right relationships among all God’s creation; and to foster a consciousness of care for God’s creation among all our members, colleagues, institutions, and those whom we serve.”

According to a report by the Commission to Engage African-Americans on Climate Change, African-Americans are more than twice as likely as whites to live in cities where the so-called “heat island” effect is expected to make temperatures increase more severe. At the same time, more blacks will “be fuel poor” as energy demand rises because of higher air-conditioning loads, population growth, and urbanization.

The National Catholic Rural Life Conference, as a member of the Sustainable Agriculture Coalition, is involved in developing a climate change position paper that will include a section on recommendations for education and research.

The Iowa-based rural life conference also will conduct “Raise Your Voice” workshops in dioceses for a year starting this fall to increase knowledge about climate change and its effects, and to demonstrate how Catholics can affect local, state, and federal policy through work with the media and elected officials — with an emphasis on the federal level,” said conference science and environmental education specialist Tim Kautza.

One such federal effort will surely be the proposed Climate Security Act, which would set a limit on greenhouse gas emissions and allow entities to buy and sell rights to emit such gases. Not enough time remains for the current Congress to pass it, said Paul Gorman, executive director of the National Religious Partnership for the Environment, of which the U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops is a member, but he said frank discussion with lawmakers kept the bill from being weakened.

Under the measure 10 percent of the revenues that would come from selling U.S. carbon emissions credits would provide assistance for poor nations affected by global warming. “Unless we can engage with developing nations, you’re not going to have agreements to curtail global warming,” Gorman said, adding that $200 billion-$300 billion in revenue was at stake.

Yet retiring Sen. John Warner, R-Va., a co-sponsor of the measure, excised that provision “under a lot of pressure from Republicans in the Senate and the White House,” Gorman told Catholic News Service. “When people in the faith community heard about this, there was really very, very fierce concern. They got together with Warner and with (Sens. Joseph) Lieberman (I-Conn.) and Barbara Boxer (D-Calif.) ... and said, ‘If you take out a provision like this, faith groups are not going to be able to support this bill.’”

Warner backed down and reinserted the provision. Why? “For the first time in the 18 years I’ve been working on this, it was the first time the religious community was unified,” Gorman said. “They were really committed to doing something about an actual piece of legislation, and they were able to constitute a significant political force and threat. The Senate committee got the message. They were really surprised.”

Added Gorman, “We were coming from authentic moral principle, we had done our homework and we made the case.”

In 1990, in the first paragraph of his World Day of Peace message, Pope John Paul II said that peace was threatened not only by war and aggression, but also by “lack of due respect for nature, by the plundering of natural resources, and by a progressive decline in the quality of life. The sense of precariousness and insecurity that such a situation engenders is a seedbed for collective selfishness, disregard for others, and dishonesty.”

Pope John Paul’s successor, Pope Benedict XVI, continues to preach on environmental themes.

“The concerns for nonviolence, sustainable development, justice and peace, and care for our environment are of vital importance for humanity.” (CNS/Photo/L’OSSERVATORE ROMANO, CPP)

Obama’s campaign platform calls for the creation of 5 million new “green-collar” jobs. Other planks in his platform include increasing to 10 percent by 2012, and to 25 percent by 2025, the amount of electricity coming from renewable sources; weatherizing 1 million homes annually; making greater efforts at energy efficiency; prioritizing the construction of the Alaska natural gas pipeline; and developing and deploying “clean coal” technology — although environmental advocates scoff at the concept, saying that mining practices and emissions from coal-fired plants means there’s no such thing as clean coal.

McCain’s campaign platform does not get into as many specifics as Obama’s, but does advocate for greenhouse gas emission cuts: returning emissions to 2005 levels by 2012, with subsequent benchmarks in 2020, 2030, and 2050, at which point emissions would be 66 percent below 2005 levels. McCain embraces the “cap and trade” process found in the proposed Climate Security Act.

“The key feature of this mechanism is that it allows the market to decide and encourage the lowest-cost compliance options,” the McCain campaign’s Web site says. McCain’s energy platform further calls for market-based solutions, technological advances, and international engagement to combat climate change.

“As the science has become clearer, the Congress and the current president have become more engaged in climate change. Most of those science questions,” said Dan Mishot, the executive director of the Catholic Coalition on Climate Change. “Congress needs to — and the current and future president need to — think about ways in which we can mitigate climate change.”

The next president “will need to demonstrate some fairly serious and significant leadership in terms of the environment, but significantly, in term of climate change,” Mishot added. “Someone has to be able to designate through very concrete ways that we need to put less greenhouse gases into the atmosphere,” he told CNS. “Besides the regulations and subsidies, if we change, they also need to include clear measures that will protect poor people from the effects of climate change, both at home and abroad.”
Cross shows true love does not exist without suffering, says pope

By Cindy Wooden
Catholic News Service

VATICAN CITY — God’s love poured out on humanity through the cross of Jesus offers healing and salvation to all people, Pope Benedict XVI said.

At his Sept. 17 weekly general audience, the pope reflected on his Sept. 12-15 trip to France, which he said had brought him many blessings.

“By a happy coincidence,” he said, Sept. 14 when he visited the Marian sanctuaries at Lourdes was the feast of the Exaltation of the Holy Cross, “the sign of hope par excellence because it is the testimony of maximum love.”

“In Lourdes, at the school of Mary, the first and perfect disciple of the crucified one, pilgrims learn to consider the crosses of their lives in the light of the glorious cross of Christ,” he said.

Pope Benedict told a packed Vatican audience hall: “The cross reminds us that true love does not exist without suffering; there is no gift of life without pain. Many learn that truth in Lourdes, which is a school of faith and hope because it also is a school of charity and of service to one’s brothers and sisters.”

He said that at his Sept. 15 Mass with the anointing of the sick at Lourdes, “I wanted to meditate on the tears of Mary at the foot of the cross and on her smile, which illuminates Easter morning.”

By appearing to St. Bernadette Soubirous in Lourdes, he said, Mary “opened in the world a privileged place for encountering divine love, which heals and saves.”

“In reality, we are all pilgrims” on earth, he said. “We need a mother to guide us. And at Lourdes, her smile invites us to move forward with great trust because God is good, God is love.”

Pope Benedict said that by starting his trip in Paris, meeting government officials, cultural leaders, young people, and religious, he had an opportunity to pay homage to the contributions of French Catholicism to European culture.

“It is interesting that it was precisely in that context that there matured the need for a healthy distinction between the political sphere and that of religion according to the famous saying of Jesus, ‘Render unto Caesar that which is Caesar’s and unto God that which is God’s,’” he said.

While Roman coins were stamped with the face of the Emperor Caesar, requiring a monetary tribute to him, the pope said, “In the heart of man there is the imprint of the Creator, the one Lord of our life. Authentic secularism is not doing without the spiritual dimension, but knowing that it is the radical guarantee of our freedom.”
October 12, Twenty-eighth Sunday in Ordinary Time.

Cycle A. Readings:
1) Isaiah 25:6-10a
Psalm 23:1-6
2) Philippians 4:12-14, 19-20
Gospel: Matthew 22:1-14

By Jean Denton

In the “First Principle and Foundation” of his spiritual exercises, St. Ignatius Loyola explained that God’s gifts are presented to us so that we can come to know him more easily and better return his love.

He added, “We appreciate and use all these gifts of God insofar as they help us develop as loving persons.”

This is the twofold message in today’s Gospel parable about the banquet God prepares before us: We must recognize the richness of his gifts and also reverence them. The first part of the story shows people simply ignoring the gifts; the second part shows people partaking in the banquet but with a total lack of appreciation for what they are offered and no clue as to what to do with it.

As Ignatius suggests, how we respond to the particular gifts God offers each of us is the foundation of our lived faith.

If we were in the parable, my friend Jackie probably would not have been on the original invitation list. She wasn’t born into privilege and wasn’t academically gifted. Struggling through school, she watched others go to college while she worked to pay bills and tuition for courses in various professional programs. She was repeatedly disappointed by being turned down for admission or missing the final cut. Test-taking was a particular obstacle.

Last month her decade-long persistence paid off as she completed a medical technician program and passed the certification test.

But throughout her long personal struggle, she took every opportunity to give what she had — in ministry to youth, caring for family members, offering support to friends, and celebrating the lives and accomplishments of other people.

I guess you could say she was sort of sneaking food.

So as Jackie continued to hang near that banquet hall, when she finally got invited in, she was dressed for the occasion. She donned her finest. (She even borrowed her grandmother’s quilt.)

In the second part of the story, she was offered a place at the banquet hall. And she was dressed for the occasion. She donned her abiding love for her host.

**Scripture Readings**

“Y ou are at my side with your rod and your staff that give me courage.
You spread the table before me.”

— Psalm 23:4-5

**QUESTIONS:**

What gifts has God put on the banquet table he’s spread in your life?

How have you reverenced them — or failed to?

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**Home: it’s family and a sense of belonging, like Church**

By Jeff Hedglen

For all but 30 days of my life, I have always had a place to call home.

Many years ago I was seeking a roommate to help make ends meet. While I waited for the right person, I put my things in storage and lived out of my car and on the couches of my friends and family. Besides that month, there has always been a roof over my head, food in my stomach, clothes on my body, and family around me.

For me, home is much more than food, shelter, and clothing. Home is also an experience of belonging. The “home” I grew up in, I experienced in at least eight different structures we lived in, in three different states. The things that made it home were always there: Mom, Dad, my two sisters and two brothers, along with the same couch that got rattier as time went by, but the pull-out bed was always somehow magically comfortable. It was not always shared by a sleepover friend.

When I look back to those younger years, I distinctly remember quilts that my grandmother made on all the beds, furniture that spanned decades, times that we spent around the one television in the house while popcorn popped in the kitchen, trees to climb in the backyard, and sharing a room with my brother. Somehow this cocktail of memories makes up a lot of what it means to me to be home.

Home, though, is not just caught up with childhood memories of people, places, and possessions; in my teenage years my friends were the main contributors to my feeling of comfort and belonging.

The connections I had with them seemed more real than anything I had experienced up until then. We would joke and philosophize about everything trivial and unanswerable. We would share dreams and long for independence. Most of all, we traveled the sometimes unfriendly and always awkward road through adolescence, together. This was as much home for me as snuggling under grandma’s quilt.

Church is another place that has brought me the experience of home. Everything from the varied human connections I have had at church to the supernatural experience of the sacraments, home has always been a place to be explored. I have always been there for him. All he had to do was ask.

This story reveals some important truths about what it means to be home. First, home is a place we can leave. Second, home is a place we can return to. Third, home is a place to be enjoyed and not taken for granted.

The places we call home do not always live up to the ideal experience of belonging. There are certainly parts of my story that are not wrapped in quilts and fresh baked cookies. I know that home is not always perfect, but it is still a place I long to be because I know in the truest of homes is the truest of homes.

Jeff Hedglen, youth minister at St. Bartholomew Parish in Southwest Fort Worth, is the principal organizer of Camp Fort Worth each summer. Readers with questions can contact Jeff at jeff@stbartsfw.org.
Nos acercamos al otoño expresando nuestra gratitud a los santos que nos han precedido en la fe, y recordando el regalo de la vida

Queridos hermanos y hermanas en el Señor,

Quisiera ofrecer algunas reflexiones para el mes de septiembre, basadas en algunas de las Fiestas de los Santos para este mes y días siguientes.

El 3 de septiembre celebramos la fiesta de San Gregorio Magno. Nació en Roma alrededor del año 540. Un breve conocimiento de la historia de ese tiempo nos dice que era una época de gran caos en la sociedad por la caída del Imperio Romano. La única fuerza presente que pudo ofrecer buena influencia y estabilidad era la iglesia. San Gregorio fue elegido, renuentemente, a la Sede de Roma alrededor del año 540. Un breve conocimiento de la historia de este tiempo nos dice que era una época de gran caos en la sociedad por la caída del Imperio Romano.

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Los obispos buscan que se ponga fin a las redadas aplicadas por inmigración

WASHINGTON (CNS) — Si los funcionarios federales de inmigración no pueden crear condiciones más “humanas” cuan
do aplican las redadas en contra de inmigrantes indocumentados, entonces “esta aplicación de redadas debe ser abandonada”, dijo el obispo John C. Wester de la diócesis de Las Cruces, N.Mex. “En la medida en que las comunidades se destruyen”, dijo el obispo James A. Tamayo, “ponen en oposición a seres humanos uno en contra del otro de modo violento y atreu
rado”. El obispo Wester hizo notar después de que el Congreso no logró la aprobación de leyes completas de inmigración, el año pasado, el Departamento de Seguridad del Suelo Patrio empezó a llevar a cabo redadas en contra de 305 trabajadores. El obispo Ricardo Ramirez de Las Cruces, N.Mex., dijo en la rueda de prensa que el Departamento de Seguridad del Suelo Patrio había “amenazado” a cabo redadas en Roswell, N.Mexico, durante la misma semana en la que el Comité Administrativo de los obispos de Estados Unidos lle
vaba a cabo sus reuniones del 9 al 12 de septiembre. El obispo Ramirez dijo que la asistencia fue “notoriamente baja” en la Misa anual especial que celebró en la diócesis el 7 de septiembre. “Hay miedo”, añadió, “La gente tiene miedo hasta de ir a la tienda de comidas”. Muchas familias latinas tienen un estado legal mixto y temen que se les obligue a sepa
ranse, dijo el obispo James A. Tamayo de Laredo que también estaba presente en la rueda de prensa. “En la medida en que las familias se disponen, también las comunidades se destruyen”, dijo el obispo Wester. “Miles de jóvenes esperarán la llegada del papa Benedicto XVI a la catedral de Notre Dame de Paris el 12 de septiembre. El papa dirigió un servicio de oración en la catedral, para luego reunirse con los jóvenes en la explanada frente a la catedral. (CNS foto/Charles Platiau, Reuters)
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América

En octubre de 2007, los obispos de EEUU adoptaron el documento FORMANDO CONCIENCIAS PARA UNA CIUDADANÍA EN LA FE. UNA LLAMADA A LA RESPONSABILIDAD POLÍTICA, como plan de acción conteniendo directrices del magisterio social de la iglesia para guiar la participación política de los católicos. Este reportaje es parte de una serie del Catholic News Service sobre el ajuste de las posiciones de los candidatos presidenciales demócratas y republicanos a los principios presentados en CIUDADANÍA EN LA FE.

Campana 08: ¿Cómo dan la talla los planes de reforma médica de los candidatos?

Por Nancy Frazier O’Brien

Catholic News Service

WASHINGTON (CNS)—Los dos candidatos presidenciales principales están de acuerdo por lo menos en una cosa: la reforma de servicios médicos debe ser una alta prioridad para el próximo administration. Pero cuando viene a los detalles, desaparece gran parte del terreno común entre el senador republicano John McCain y el senador demócrata Barack Obama.

En su documento del 2007 sobre la responsabilidad política, “Ciudadanía Fiel”, los obispos de Estados Unidos dijeron que cualquier esfuerzo de reformar el sistema de servicios médicos debe respetar la dignidad humana y proteger la vida humana; satisfacer las necesidades de los pobres y de los que no tienen seguro, incluyendo las mujeres embarazadas, los niños no nacidos, los inmigrantes y otras poblaciones vulnerables; proteger los derechos de conciencia de los católicos y de las instituciones católicas; y proveer cuidado eficaz y comparativo para aquellos que tienen VIH y SIDA.

“Todas las personas tienen derecho a servicios médicos sin importar dónde trabajan, de dónde vienen o cuánto dinero importar dónde trabajan, de donde vienen o cuánto dinero importan, que los patronos ofrecieran “cobertura significativa” a sus trabajadores o que paguen un porcentaje de sus salarios para que ellos puedan recibir su seguro médico del estado”, dijo Kathy Saile, directora de la Oficina de desarrollo de la Asociación Católica de Salud de Nueva York.

“Ninguno de los planes de reforma, según están actualmente, satisfacen nuestros principios para la reforma”, dijo Lisa Smith, primera directora para relaciones gubernamentales en la Asociación Médica Católica de Washington. “No estoy diciendo que los planes no puedan llegar a esto, sino que todavía no han llegado”.

Los planes de ambos, McCain y Obama, están actualmente “en forma de esbozo”, sin “detalles suficientes para saber si harán una diferencia substancial” para reducir el número de estadounidenses que no tienen seguro de los 47 millones actuales. “Simplemente tendremos que esperar y ver”, dijo a Catholic News Service el 14 de agosto.

Clarke E. Cochran, coautor de “El voto católico: Una guía para los perplejos”, publicado recientemente por Orbis Books, dijo que ni el plan de Obama ni el de McCain satisfacen completamente los criterios establecidos por “Ciudadanía Fiel” y por el documento Visión de la CHA para la reforma de servicios médicos.

La propuesta de Obama está más conforme al enfoque de los obispos sobre las necesidades de las poblaciones pobres, sin seguro y vulnerables y a su llamado a fortalecer Medicaid y Medicare, dijo Cochran a CNS en entrevista telefónica el 14 de agosto. Pero es “improbable que cualquier plan de Obama tendría protección para el no nacido”, él añadió.

Cochran, ex profesor de Ciencias Políticas en la Universidad Texas Tech en Lubbock, ahora trabaja como vicepresidente para integración de misión en Covenant Health System en Lubbock. “Eso es”, enfatizó, sin embargo, que él no hablaba como representante de Covenant.

Aunque ambos candidatos “hablan mucho sobre la contención de costos”, Cochran dijo, ninguno de los dos atiende las razones subyacentes de los precios ascendientes ni tiene un plan eficaz para reducirlos. Ambos planes también son silenciosos en cuanto a la cobertura médica para los inmigrantes que están en el país ilegalmente y en cuanto a las protecciones de conciencia, añadió él.

Esta es una página del documento introducido esta primavera por la Asociación Católica de Salud (CHA), donde se presenta su visión para reformar el sistema nacional de atención médica. El documento, de 15 páginas, presenta varias directrices para la reforma, incluyendo principios estableciendo que la atención médica “debe estar disponible para todos el mundo” y “centrada en el paciente.”
Iglesia se une a esfuerzo interreligioso para cambiar ley de inmigración

WASHINGTON (CNS) — La iglesia se ha unido a un esfuerzo interreligioso para cambiar la ley de inmigración estadounidense. Para prepararse para ese esfuerzo en el congreso siguiente, ésta también se está uniendo a Tour of the faithful que visitará 17 ciudades.

“Nuestra actual política nacional de inmigración — consiste en redadas de aplicación de la ley en lugares de trabajo — que resultan, entre otras cosas, en la dislocación de niños ciudadanos estadounidenses de sus padres”, añadió.

“Como nación — una nación de inmigrantes, puedo añadir — no podemos aceptar el trabajo de los inmigrantes mientras socavamos su dignidad humana básica”, dijo el obispo Wester.

“A su vez, el ataque de la reforma de inmigración está recibiendo poca atención en la campaña presidencial y atención negativa en los medios”, añadió. Con el Tour of the faithful, dijo, “tenemos la esperanza de levantar nuestra voz para llamar la atención hacia este asunto importante durante los días y las semanas venideros de modo que un nuevo presidente y un nuevo congreso puedan atender estos asuntos a principios del 2009. La gira había de comenzar el 10 de septiembre con una vigilia de oración interreligiosa en el césped del capitolio de Ohio en Columbus.

Un evento será llevado a cabo el 27 de septiembre en Omaha, Nebraska, como parte de la 10ma Conferencia Ciudadana Fiel anual de la Comisión de ministerio social de la Arquidiócesis de Omaha en el Instituto St. Cecilia en Omaha, convocando a otros a hacer lo mismo.

El ex presidente estadounidense Jimmy Carter está proponiendo una “Comisión nacional de vivienda de bajo ingreso. “El estudio concluye: ‘En ninguna comunidad en Estados Unidos hoy día puede alguien que consiga un trabajo a jornada completa al salario mínimo razonablemente esperar encontrar una unidad de alquiler modesta que él o ella pueda costear’, dijo Shellabarger. El señaló que el estudio añade: ‘Aunque los aumentos al salario mínimo planificados para los próximos dos años podrían poner la vivienda asequible más cerca del alcance de algunos hogares, esto no cerrará la brecha entre las ganancias de jornada a tiempo completo en el salario mínimo federal y los ingresos necesarios para costear los alquileres que prevalecen en la mayoría de los mercados’.

Según la sede en Internet de la campaña del senador Barack Obama, nominado presidente demócrata, si él es elegido preside el doblearía los fondos para los programas después de la escuela, ampliaría la Ley de licencia médica familiar, proveería a familias de bajo ingreso un crédito contributivo reembolsable para ayudar con sus gastos de cuidado de niño y fomentaría los hogares familiares mayores.

En su sede en Internet de cam- paña el senador John McCain, nominado presidente republicano, ha hecho un llamado para una Comisión nacional para flexibilidad y selección en horario de trabajo. Esta comisión sería un grupo bipartisan de trabajadores, patronos pequeños y grandes, representantes laborales y acci- dáculos que darían recomendaciones al presidente sobre cómo modernizar las leyes y los programas de entrenamiento laborales del país para ayudar a los trabajadores a equilibrar me- jor las exigencias de sus empleos con la vida familiar.

El acto actual de la economía también ha hecho que Hughes limite las donacio- nes que ella hace regularmente para que un salario mínimo razonablemente esperar encontrar una unidad de alquiler modesta que él o ella pueda costear’, dijo Shellabarger. Él señaló que el estudio añade: ‘Aunque los aumentos al salario mínimo planificados para los próximos dos años podrían poner la vivienda asequible más cerca del alcance de algunos hogares, esto no cerrará la brecha entre las ganancias de jornada a tiempo completo en el salario mínimo federal y los ingresos necesarios para costear los alquileres que prevalecen en la mayoría de los mercados’.

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Ghanaian archbishop thanks diocese for hospitality

FROM PAGE 32
home to two million Catholics. Joining them for the Mass and an Aug. 30 benefit dinner was a second group of Ghanaian Catholics who worship at another location in the Metroplex, according to Deacon Dean Hermann, St. Joseph’s pastoral administrator.

“Many of the Africans who came to the events were taught by the archbishop as kids,” he added. “He’s still a powerful father figure for them, although they’ve been living in this country 10 to 20 years.”

Because of the basic schooling provided for them in Africa, many Ghanaians were able to come to the United States to further their education and become successful.

“You are in a good position in America, but be careful in dealing with money,” Archbishop Sarpong warned the audience in his homily. “Choose to serve God. Understand the gift of Jesus by taking up the cross and following Him.”

During the Mass, which included music by both a visiting Ghanaian choir and St. Joseph’s African choir, the archbishop thanked Bishop Kevin Vann for “accepting the Ghanaian community as his children” and allowing one of his priests, Father Philip Brembah, to work as a chaplain in North Texas. Fr. Brembah, a diocesan priest from Kumasi, is assigned to St. Joseph Church where he helps with the weekend Mass schedule and serves the parish’s African population. The Ghanaians pray together each Sunday following the 11:45 a.m. Mass and celebrate a Mass in their native language and according to their own customs four times a year.

“It’s a wonderful celebration,” Deacon Hermann says of the joyous, rhythmic singing and traditional African garments that are part of the liturgy. “We’re part of a global church, and we want everyone to feel welcome here.”

Giving people the opportunity to pray in their own language is important, he says.

“Praying in their heart language doesn’t mean they don’t come to the English Mass. They do,” he adds. “It just helps meet their spiritual needs.”

In gratitude for the friendship and love extended to the Ghanaian community by the diocese and St. Joseph Church, Archbishop Sarpong presented Bishop Vann, Deacon Len Sanchez, and Deacon Hermann with liturgical stoles made in Ghana and decorated with African symbols. Vicki Hermann, Deacon Hermann’s wife, was given a shawl made of kente cloth, and the entire congregation received white rosaries made in Africa.

“We’re so honored to have the archbishop here,” said Fr. Brembah, who began ministry at St. Joseph’s less than a year ago. “This is a beautiful parish — not only the church itself but the people in it. It’s wonderful to connect with other Ghanaians and pray for the work the church is doing in Ghana.”

Archbishop Sarpong (center) accepts the hosts that are brought to him by a parishoner. Joining him on the altar are St. Joseph’s pastoral administrator Deacon Dean Hermann (left) and Fr. Philip Brembah, who serves as chaplain to the Ghanaian community at St. Joseph’s. (Photo by Joan Kurkowski-Gellen)
THEOLOGY ON TAP
Theology on Tap is a four-part series with dynamic presenters sharing insights on topical faith issues that is held in a relaxed and comfortable atmosphere with young adults. The next series will be held at 7 p.m. Oct. 7, 14, 21, and 28 at Los Vaqueros Restaurant in the historic town of Fort Worth. For more information, visit the diocesan Web site at www.fwcd.org.

MOTHER / UNBORN BABY
Mother of Christ Parish, 1717 NW 1st Ave., Fort Worth, and Catholic United for Life of North Texas will sponsor a Mass for “Children Who Died Before Baptism” Oct. 11 at St. Mary of the Rockies, 509 West Magnolia, Fort Worth. The Mass will be celebrated at noon followed by a rosary led by the parish vicar, Father James Hart, and parish staff. After the rosary, the attendees will walk to the St. Mary’s Abbey, a former convent now a men’s religious community, where they will pray for the intercession of the saints. For more information, contact Cliff Valentine at (682) 365-8733.

To Report Misconduct
If you or someone you know is a victim of sexual misconduct, contact:
•骏 Judge Loccy, victim services coordinator, (817) 560-2452 ext. 201
•or e-mail her at jloccy@fwcd.org.
•Or call the Diocesan Ministry with Lesbian and Gay 
  Persons hotline at (817) 560-2452 ext. 900.
•or Call the Catholic Center at (817) 831-4404 ext. 102 and ask for the 
  chancellor/moderator of the curia, Father James Hart.

To Fight Abuse
Call the Texas Department of Family 
  Protective Services (Child Protective Services) at (800) 252-5400.

LIFE CHAIN
The annual Life Chain, a peaceful gathering of people praying for unborn children and publicly displaying pro-life messages, will take place on Oct. 11 from 9 a.m. to 9 p.m. The designated areas are phone numbers for the Life Chain are as follows: Fort Worth, 3524 Alta Mesa Blvd. (817) 297-1557; Arlington, 956 E. Old) 820 N. Cooper St. (817) 457-9654; Aie, 199 W. Pearson Lane, (817) 594-7994; Burleson, 2123 S. Main St. (817) 295-8139; Canyon, 3010 Campbell Blvd. (817) 674-7065; Colbourne, West Henderson St. in front of the pool at Turtle Creek Country Club, (817) 337- 1721; Lake Cities/Southlake/Grapevine, 250 E. Prairie Crossing (817) 329-0400; Mansfield, 287 W. Hwy. 157, ask for Kathy at (817) 335-9288; North Richland Hills, 820 W Loop 820 (817) 494-1054; and DFW International, call (817) 847-6376. For more information, visit the Life Chain Web site at www.lifechain.com.

CARMELITE AUXILIARY MASS & CARNAVAL
The St. Joseph Carmelites and Invited Guests are invited to join all in commemorating their 25th anniversary Oct. 29. Mass will be held at 10 a.m. at St. Joseph’s Church, followed by a membership meeting and lunch. The celebration will be held at noon at the Church of the St. J. South in Fort Worth. Reservations are $10 per person. Checks may be made to Nancy Dalton, 1569 N. Ross Ave., #201, Fort Worth, 76106. For more information, call Cathy Landry at (817) 714-8231.

COURAGE GROUP
Courage DFW, a spiritual support group for men and women who struggle with same-sex attraction, according to the Catholic teachings on homosexuality, meets every second Tuesday of the month from 7-9 p.m. at the parish center of St. Basil Church, 7341 Gleneagles Dr., North Richland Hills. Oct. 14 from 7 p.m. to 8:30 p.m. in the room. For more information, leave a voice message on the group’s presentation, based on the book by Gary Chapman and Ross Campbell, M.D., will offer ways to identify your child’s love language and communicate with your child. For reservations made by Oct. 10 by contacting Meg Pelzel at (817) 691-9680 or via e-mail to mpelzel@stjs.org.

RETOUVAILLE
Retrovaille is a program sponsored by the Fort Worth Catholic Family Life office designed for married couples. The next weekend program will be held Oct. 17-19. For more information or registration, call (901) 470-2230 or visit the Web site at www.stphilipcc.org, and clicking on the Grief Recovery Seminar link to complete the registration.

LOVE LANGUAGES
In a collaborative effort of the Adult and Family Ministries, Child Care Center, Men’s Group, and Youth Group, “The Five Love Languages for Children,” a program based on the book by Gary Chapman, will be offered at Holy Redeemer Church, 3734 Gleneagles Dr., North Richland Hills. Oct. 17 from 7-9 p.m. in the room. For more information, call Nancy Schaefer at (817) 350-9703 or e-mail to nancyschaefer@hotmail.com.

REDEEMER RECONSTRUCTION
Holy Redeemer Parish in Aledo, will sponsor a golf tournament Oct. 11 at Canyon West Golf Club. For more information, call (817) 831-4404. A shotgun start will begin at 8 a.m. with check-in starting at 7 a.m. Entry fee is $60 per person. Includes cart rental with range balls. Sponsorships are available with a deadline date of Oct. 1. Extra sponsorship of $500 and a hole is available for $25 per person. Proceeds from the tournament will benefit the new church building. For more information, contact Linda Moses at (817) 529-4128 or e-mail to lmoses@stjosephfachurch.net.

SERVICES AVAILABLE
The Knights of Columbus Sacred Heart Council, 1501 9th St., will sponsor a scholarship dinner and dance Oct. 4 from 6:30 p.m. to midnight at Sacred Heart Parish. Tickets to include steak, baked potato, green beans, and salad will be served in the parish hall at 1501 St. 9th, Wichita Falls. The dance will begin at 8 p.m. with music provided by T-Bone Band road. Tickets are for $15 per person, $30 per couple, and $50 for a table of eight. For more information, visit the diocesan Web site at www.kofc.org.

ST. ANN’S GOLF TOURNAMENT
The newly formed St. Ann’s Men Club will sponsor a golf tournament Oct. 9 at Southern Oaks Golf Club, located at 17356 Southern Oaks Blvd., Fort Worth. The cost is $45 per person. The day will run from off-time 1-3:30 p.m. with a Four-Man Scramble. Entry fee is $60 for individuals and $100 for four people. A hole-in-one contest will be run. The registration deadline for individual golfers is Oct. 10. For more information, call the parish office at (940) 732-5853.

ST. PAUL’S FESTIVAL
St. Paul the Apostle Church, 5508 Blackland Trail, 76108, Fort Worth, will sponsor a fall festival Oct. 4 from 11 a.m. to 6 p.m. The “Fun Fest” will feature games, food, and live entertainment. Proceeds from the festival will fund community projects as well as children’s, junior high and senior high missions. For more information, contact Jan Godsey at (817) 415-8300. To register for the fall festival, visit www.stphilipcc.org, and clicking on the Grief Recovery Seminar link to complete the registration.

ST. RITA INTERNATIONAL FAIR
St. Rita Parish, 5550 E. Lancaster, Fort Worth, will sponsor the annual St. Rita International Fair to be held Oct. 4. This celebration of multi-cultural cuisine, entertainment, and community events will be held at St. Rita Parish. For more information, followed by the celebration of the Mass at 5 p.m. For more information, call the parish office at 817-451-4900.

KOUNTRY KARNIVAL
St. Maria Goretti Church, 1208 S. Davis in Arlington, will host its annual Kountry Karnation fair Oct. 7-8. This year’s theme is “Kickey’s Up! At the Kountry Karnival.” There will be activities set up by the Apple Blossom, the St. Maria Goretti School office at (817) 257-5081.

ST. ANDREW’S FESTIVAL
St. Andrew’s Church, 3305 Dyer Dr., Fort Worth, will hold its annual fall fair Oct. 12 from 11 a.m. to 5 p.m. The festival will feature homemade quilts, a hobby room, a crafts room, pony rides, a hot rod show, and a silent auction. Entertainment will include Ballet Folklorico of Fort Worth, the Fort Worth Neon, Rock group, a country band, and Grupo Neon, from 8 p.m. to 11 p.m. For more information, call the parish office at (817) 473-6709.

ST. GEORGE HARVEST DANCE
The St. George Altar Society will host its annual St. George Harvest Dance Oct. 11. The dance will be held Oct. 12 from 11 a.m. to 5 p.m. The annual Harvest Dance will feature live entertainment with Stan Knight, country music and dance. The evening will also feature the Harvest Fruit Pull and a cakewalk. Klubcase will be auctioned off and will be sold as well. For more information, call the parish office at (817) 831-4404.

YOUTH MINISTRY
Holy Family Parish of Nazareth is seeking an experienced director of Youth Minis- try. The director works in collaboration with the Director of Youth Ministry to develop a comprehensive youth ministry program for junior and senior high students, middle school students, and a high school confirmation preparation program. Applicant should have strong leadership skills, administrative skills, and the ability to work with youth and adults, three to five years experience with this age group. Spanish speaking is a plus. Send resume to info@holymofnazareth.net or call Josie Castillo at (817) 737-6768 ext. 104.

ACCOMPANY
Accomplice with experience at three annual Fall Festivals at Holy Family Church at Fort Worth. Responsibilities include registration and hospitality, two weeks each year. Holy Days Masses; availability for weddings, funerals, and major parish celebrations throughout the year. High school senior is preferred. Applicant must be familiar with post-Vatican II Catholic liturgy. Send resume to Father Bob Flury, St. Andrew’s Church, Att’n: Diane Kan, 6150 Pershing Ave., Fort Worth 76107 or e-mail to dkan@stphotofw.net. For more information, call (817) 737-6766 ext. 104.

CEMETERY SPACES
Three cemetery spaces for sale at Mount Olivet Cemetery, Plaza Garden. Must be purchased in pairs. Available on a first come, first served basis, permits double interment if desired. For information, call (1) 2019-2744.
**Good Newsmaker**

Ghanaian Archbishop Sapong concelebrated the quarterly African Mass at St. Joseph’s, bringing a message of hope and unity:

**Come together for the sake of Mother Africa**

That was the emotional plea uttered by Archbishop Peter K. Sarpong, archbishop emeritus of Kumasi, Ghana, during a special Aug. 31 Mass concelebrated with Bishop Kevin Vann in Arlington’s St. Joseph Church. More than 300 immigrants from Ghana and other African countries attended the liturgy to pray for peace and unity in their homeland.

Retired after serving the people of his diocese 38 years, Archbishop Sarpong visited St. Joseph’s as part of a U.S. tour that included stops in Chicago, Detroit, Virginia, and the Bronx, New York. His mission here included asking the Ghanaian community to support Africa with their prayers and resources. He is currently raising money for a teacher-training center in the Kumasi Diocese.

For more than 20 years, the 75-year-old prelate has collected donations for an education fund, which he uses to start schools and assist needy children who could not attend class without such financial help. The archbishop is credited with founding six secondary schools, six vocational schools, a technical school, a seminary, hospital, and other institutions of learning in Ghana.

A world traveler, Archbishop Sarpong is also known internationally for his strong opinions on peace and justice issues and his knowledge of African theology and sociology.

Many alumni from the schools he established traveled to Arlington to welcome the archbishop to Texas. Approximately 100 St. Joseph parishioners are natives of the West African nation, which is

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Counter Clockwise from Top Left:
- Deacon Dean Hermann, pastoral administrator at St. Joseph’s, joins the procession into Mass, with members of the Ghanaian community.
- Members of a second Ghanaian Catholic community in the Metroplex, dressed in matching liturgical garb, sing at the special liturgy.
- Members of the African Choir at St. Joseph’s lead the congregation in singing in several of the languages spoken by the people of Ghana.
- Bishop Vann (center) smiles with Deacon Dean Hermann (left), Deacon Len Sanchez (right), and with Archbishop Peter Sarpong (far right) as the archbishop presents him with a liturgical stole, handmade in Ghana, and decorated with African symbols.
- A woman in African garb prays intently.

Story and Photos by Joan Kurkowski-Gillen / Correspondent

Bishop Vann and Archbishop Sarpong prepare to process into Mass from the narthex in the front of St. Joseph’s.