Pope canonizes four, says being a saint is not for the weak, fearful

By Cindy Wooden

VATICAN CITY (CNS) — Preceding over the second canonization ceremony of his pontificate, Pope Benedict XVI honored two women and two men who demonstrated that becoming a saint is not for the weak and fearful.

“The saint is that man, that woman who, responding with joy and generosity to the call of Christ, leaves everything to follow him,” the pope said at the Oct. 15 canonization Mass in St. Peter’s Square.

Political persecution, poverty, suspicion, and even opposition from church leaders were not uncommon in the lives of the four new saints: Mexican Bishop Rafael Guizar Valencia of Vera Cruz; Italian Father Filippo Smaldone; Italian Sister Rosa Venerini; and Mother Theodore Guerin, foundress of the Sisters of Providence of St. Mary-of-the-Woods, Indiana.

Even in the midst of “trials and persecutions,” the pope said, the new saints knew that following Jesus “truly guaranteed a happy existence and eternal life.”

“The saints had the humility and courage to respond ‘yes’ to Jesus Christ and renounced everything to be his friends,” he said.

Cardinal Francis E. George of Chicago, who had cancer surgery in July, and Cardinal Salvatore De Giorgi of Palermo, Italy, were the main concelebrants at the papal Mass.

Five other U.S. bishops from Indiana and Illinois celebrated the Mass, which was attended by some 125 Sisters of Providence, dozens of students from St. Mary-of-the-Woods College, and 45 pilgrims from Indiana.

U.S. bishops’ anti-poverty program distributes nearly $9 million in grants

WASHINGTON (CNS) — The Catholic Campaign for Human Development, the U.S. bishops’ domestic anti-poverty program, is awarding nearly $9 million in grants this year to support local projects working to eliminate the root causes of poverty in the United States.

The grants totaling $8,909,000 will be distributed to 326 projects in 47 states, the District of Columbia, and Puerto Rico. Timothy Collins, CCHD’s executive director, said the agency is working with poor and low-income people to develop “creative, sustainable strategies.”

See CCHD..., p. 15

Supreme Court won’t hear case seeking to reverse landmark abortion ruling

WASHINGTON (CNS) — The Supreme Court Oct. 10 declined to hear the appeal of Sandra Cano, the Georgia woman who hoped the court would reverse her 1973 victory in one of two decisions that legalized abortion.

Cano was the “Mary Doe” in the court’s Doe v. Bolton, the companion case to the better known Roe v. Wade decision. Roe threw out most state restrictions on abortion, but the Doe decision permitted abortions through all nine months of pregnancy.

Without comment, the court rejected Cano’s appeal of the 11th U.S. Circuit Court of Appeals ruling in January that said federal district and appeals courts lacked authority to overturn the decision in Doe or in Roe.

In petitioning the court, Cano’s attorneys argued that although medical science and technology have advanced, by refusing to reconsider the validity of the Roe and Doe cases, the Supreme Court has “frozen abortion law based on obsolete 1973 assumptions and prevented the normal regulation of the practice of medicine.”

Like the original plaintiff in Roe v. Wade — Norma McCorvey was later identified as “Jane Roe” in the 1973 case — Cano has said she never really wanted an abortion, but that attorneys looking for test cases about abortion laws pressed her into proceeding. McCorvey and Cano have

See Supreme Court..., p. 3

Churches grapple with what tax code allows regarding election issues

By Patricia Zapor

WASHINGTON (CNS) — With another election looming, politicians, religious leaders, candidates, and the Internal Revenue Service are again contemplating a perennial American political question: Where is the line that divides the appropriate and inappropriate interplay of religion and politics?

As politicians try to reach voters by tapping into religious organizations, the efforts raise red flags with the IRS, which is wary of tax-exempt organizations that may be endorsing candidates and political parties.

Meanwhile, priests, ministers, and rabbis seek to guide their congregations in how to apply the lessons of faith to politics, while steering clear of sometimes confusing IRS regulations for tax-exempt charities, lest they find themselves subject to lengthy investigations, legal challenges, and costly fines.

A 2004 homily intended to give guidance on voting to parishioners of All Saints Episcopal Church in Pasadena, California, still haunts that community.

This September, the rector of All Saints announced that the IRS had demanded a broad assortment of parish documents in an investigation into whether a sermon shortly before the last presidential election violated restrictions on political activity by tax-exempt organizations.

An administrative summons from the IRS requested 17 documents and other information related to an Oct. 3, 2004, sermon by guest preacher the Rev.

See Churches..., p. 12

CROSS MOVED — Construction workers Oct. 5 remove the 20-foot cross formed by steel beams that was recovered from the rubble after the Sept. 11, 2001, attacks brought down the World Trade Center in New York. The cross was taken to nearby St. Peter’s Church, where it will be stored as reconstruction on the trade center site continues (CNS photo/Chip East, Reuters)
November offers us a chance to reflect on what the saints can teach us about following Christ

Dear Friends in the Diocese of Fort Worth,

As I write this column, I have been taking some time at the Jesuit Retreat House (Montserrat) near Lake Dallas, to have some quiet time to think, read, reflect, and pray. We are truly blessed in our Diocese to have such a facility and the presence and ministry of the Society of Jesus for retreats and spiritual direction.

In part of this day, I have been reading a wonderful new book entitled My Life with the Saints by James Martin, SJ. This reading has drawn me to think about our own Cathedral of St. Patrick, the time of the year, and what the saints must teach us about our own life with Christ.

Recently, our Diocese hosted the national convention for the Canon Law Society of America. This is no small effort, and thanks to the hard work and hospitality of our Tribunal staff, the Diocese of Fort Worth made a great impression on many visitors who are canon lawyers working in parishes, Tribunals, Chanceries, and parish and educational ministries throughout the country.

For many of the convention visitors, a highlight of the convention was the Mass celebrated this past Wednesday at the cathedral. Thanks to Msgr. Neu and the cathedral staff, our visitors had a wonderful impression of the cathedral. Thanks to Mrs. Kay Fiahlo, many of them were treated to a thorough tour and explanation of the history of the cathedral and all of its appointments, including all of the saints in the windows and the statues. I heard again and again how much the beauty of our cathedral impressed our visitors — especially all of the depictions of the saints.

All of the saints in our cathedral remind us that life in Christ is no easy task, but it is possible. From St. Maria Goretti (chastity), to St. Elizabeth of Hungary (care for the poor), St. Oliver Plunkett (uncompromising Faith in an age of persecution), St. Charles Borromeo (love of Christ’s Church and courage in reform), and all of the rest, we are taught how to be disciples of Christ, how to live all of the virtues, how to live lives of holiness, and how to live the Beatitudes. It would be well to think of this now, since October is drawing to a close, and soon we will be celebrating All Saints Day and All Souls Day. This is a time the Church has for us every year, so that in the entire month of November (dedicated to all of the Faithful departed), we can reflect on the Communion of Saints and Eternal Life, and not only heaven, but the importance of the teaching of the Church on purgatory and praying for our beloved deceased.

In the final analysis, our goal is eternal life with Christ, so how do we prepare for that now? How do we live our lives now as response to the call of Christ to be his disciples? I would highly recommend My Life with the Saints. In his introduction to the book, Fr. Martin says, “These reflections are not meant to be exhaustive, scholarly biographies of the lives of these spiritual heroes and heroines. Instead, they are meditations on the way that one Christian relates to these holy persons: How I came to know them, what inspires me about their stories, and what they’ve meant to me in my own life.”

In the upcoming month of November, the saints are waiting for us to teach us how to be friends of Christ in this complex, challenging age where, in God’s providence, we find ourselves. Some of the challenges they faced in living the Gospel are not much different than the ones we face today. Visit our cathedral or do some reading about the saints. Our lives may never be the same!

Theology of the Body

Pauline Books introduces new translation of John Paul II’s Theology of the Body

Boston — On Oct. 11, Pauline Books & Media launched a new translation of Pope John Paul II’s ground-breaking work on the Theology of the Body, which author and theologian, George Weigel has described as “a theological time bomb.”

Man and Woman Created Them: A Theology of the Body is a brand new translation of the late pontiff’s work and is based on a previously unknown version of the pope’s text discovered in Vatican Archives by acclaimed biblical scholar Michael Waldstein.

For this edition, John Paul’s original system of headings, a crucial finding consisting of some 1,600 words, has been retrieved and is translated from Polish for the first time ever. Six additional catecheses, printed in the Polish edition, are also published for the first time in English.

The event was held at the Permanent Observer Mission of the Holy See to the United Nations, in a building which Pope John Paul, himself, dedicated in 1995. After an address by Archbishop Celestino Migliore — apostolic nuncio and permanent observer of the Holy See to the United Nations — the book’s editor, Sister Marianne Lorraine Trouvé, gave a brief history of the original publication and how changes to the new edition came about.

Professor Michael Waldstein spoke to the audience about the influences in Pope John Paul’s life that are apparent in the work, as well as Waldstein’s own experience of how studying and teaching it has impacted his life and marriage. He spoke of the basic concept of “gift of self” running through the pope’s Theology of the Body, and addressed how the additional material will help the reader more easily understand the pope’s vision of the human person and conjugal love.

A short question-and-answer period followed the presentations.

Pauline Books & Media is the publishing house of the Daughters of St. Paul, also known as the Pauline Sisters, an international congregation of women religious whose mission is evangelization using the means of social communication. They operate 17 retail bookstores in North America and a publishing and distribution operation in Boston. Arriving from Italy in 1932, the Daughters of St. Paul will be celebrating the 75th anniversary of their founding in America in 2007.
By Julie Greene Correspondent

More than 1,100 students, faculty, and staff at Nolan Catholic High School in Fort Worth received a lesson in the truth about abortion and how to defend a pro-life stance during an all-school presentation Sept. 27 in Hartnett Arena.

Their teacher? Scott Klusendorf, a nationally renowned pro-life speaker from the Life Training Institute in Colorado and founder of caseforlife.com. Klusendorf has previously written talking points for President George Bush’s 2000 presidential campaign and has the backing of such pro-life groups as Priests for Life and Focus on the Family.

“It’s important that young people know what’s really going on,” said Angela Walters, a 1977 alumna of NCHS who attended the talk in her role as director of Catholics Respect Life, a pro-life ministry in the Diocese of Fort Worth. “If they go into one of these abortion mills and someone tells them it’s just a blob of tissue, they’ll know it’s not true.”

In town for various pregnancy center fundraisers on the eve of Respect Life Sunday, Klusendorf’s presentation at Nolan Catholic was designed to give teens the tools to combat arguments in favor of abortion.

“When you leave this fine school that has taught you about the Gospel of Life and social justice, you will meet people that don’t share your views and don’t care what you think,” he said. “You will not be given a pat on the back for being pro-life.”

Using primarily scientific data rather than biblical arguments, Klusendorf said the case for life can be made by focusing on three key questions: “What is the unborn? Is it human?” “What makes humans valuable?” and “What is our duty?”

From its earliest stage, the unborn child is a distinctly whole human being, he said.

“The cells on my body contain my DNA; the same is true with the unborn,” he said. “But often when people who are pro-choice are confronted by a superior argument, they will change the subject.”

NCHS junior Lauren Lutz, a student leader of the school’s Lifesavers Club and member of Fort Worth Youth for Life, found Klusendorf’s talk particularly effective because it focused on science.

“Presented us with numerous facts and details about why the unborn are in fact human beings, and why, in turn, it is both immoral and unjustly to kill a human being,” Lutz said. “He led the audience through a series of facts and details, which led to an obvious conclusion that abortion is immoral,” said Lutz.

The school’s Lifesavers Club, led by Nolan Catholic pro-life parent Sue Laux and faculty member Toni Corbett, meets once a month after school and coordinates student involvement in community pro-life activities such as prayer vigils in front of abortion clinics, the March for Life in Dallas, retreats, and community service projects.

“Teens today are bombarded with messages [that are not pro-life] in every form of media,” said Laux. “It is a blessing that the students of Nolan Catholic have the opportunity to hear the truth. We need their support to stop this culture of death and the death of 1.3 million babies each year.”

Corbett agreed. “As a Catholic Christian community, we have a responsibility to show presentations which speak to the teachings of the church, even when the topics evoke very mixed and complex responses,” she said.

In her role as a member of the Fort Worth Youth for Life speaker’s bureau, Lauren Lutz travels to churches to give pro-life talks.

“I have never had the opportunity to discuss the matter of abortion with a person my age who fully understood what they believed or why,” Lutz explained. “After Mr. Klusendorf’s talk, however, I had a few brief conversations with some of my friends, who I then convinced to come to our next Lifesaver’s meeting to learn more about what it means to be pro-life. Mr. Klusendorf’s talk made it easier to have these conversations.”

People were much more willing to discuss it openly.”

Nolan Catholic students learn how to defend pro-life view

Supreme Court to hear oral arguments on two partial-birth abortion cases in November

CHIEF JUSTICE SPEAKS

Chief Justice John Roberts is shown addressing a Washington conference on fair and independent courts Sept. 28.

On Oct. 10, the Supreme Court declined to hear the appeal of Sandra Cano — the “Mary Doe” in the court’s Doe v. Bolton decision — who sought to overturn the 1973 decision which permitted abortions during all nine months of pregnancy. The Supreme Court is still scheduled to hear oral arguments on two cases challenging the federal ban on partial-birth abortion in November. (CNS photo/Nancy Wiechec)

Meanwhile, the Supreme Court is scheduled Nov. 8 to hear oral arguments in two cases challenging the federal ban on partial-birth abortion. In the cases — Gonzales v. Carhart and Gonzales v. Planned Parenthood — the 8th and 9th U.S. Circuit Courts of Appeals, respectively, said the 2003 federal law banning partial-birth abortion was unconstitutional.

Pope calls for ‘dignified living conditions’ for people in slums

CASTEL GANDOLFO, Italy (CNS) — Pope Benedict XVI called for “dignified living conditions” for people living in slums and ghettos.

The pope reminded pilgrims gathered Oct. 1 in the courtyard of his summer residence in Castel Gandolfo that Oct. 1 marked World Habitat Day. The United Nations established the day to highlight the importance of city management and a person’s right to adequate shelter.

The pope said that dealing with the rapid growth of cities and the increase of people moving into urban areas “represents one of the most serious problems that humanity of the 21st century is called to face.”

He encouraged all those who work on urban management to help ensure that “people living in our responsibility to have presented guaranteed dignified living conditions, the fulfillment of their basic needs, and the possibility of achieving their dreams,” especially concerning family life and “peaceful coexistence” in society.
White Mass for those in medical professions set for Oct. 24

A White Mass will be celebrated for medical and health professionals of all faiths Tuesday, Oct. 24, at 7 p.m. at all Saint's Church, 214 W. Broadmead in Fort Worth. Bishop Kevin Vann will preside with Father Raphael Eagle, TOR, chaplain at Cook Children’s Medical Center, serving as con-celebrant. Music will be led by members of Remnant Catholic Apostolate.

The White Mass is traditionally held for medical and health professionals of all faiths. A White Mass will be held on Tuesday, Oct. 24, at 7 p.m. at all Saint’s Church, 214 W. Broadmead in Fort Worth. Bishop Kevin Vann will preside with Father Raphael Eagle, TOR, chaplain at Cook Children’s Medical Center, serving as con-celebrant. Music will be led by members of Remnant Catholic Apostolate. The White Mass is traditionally held for medical and health professionals of all faiths.

Program to help couples preparing for marriage validation

A day of preparation for couples seeking to have their marriage validated will be offered Saturday, Nov. 11, from 8:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. by the Catholic Family Office. The one-day session, entitled “Today Tomorrow… Forever,” will be held at The Catholic Center, 6150 Pershing Ave. in West Fort Worth.

Topics to be discussed will include: Marriage, Personality, Commitment, Communication, Conflict Resolution, Intimacy. Time will be set aside to couple to strengthen their relationships with regard to each other. This program is a marriage enrichment opportunity and is open to interested married couples who wish to strengthen their relationships of mutual love and commitment.

For more information or to register, call the diocesan Family Life Office at (817) 560-2452 ext. 204 or ext. 256 or visit the diocesan Web site at www.fwoc.org.

MGSR. SCHUMACHER HONORED — Msgr. Joseph Schumacher, former diocesan vocar general, was honored with a retirement reception at Immaculate Conception Catholic Church and St. Frances Assisi Church and St. Gregory Cathedral.

St. Joseph Covenant Keepers to present ‘Fathering Amidst the Storm’ Nov. 4

The St. Joseph Covenant Keepers, an international network of Catholic men focusing on St. Joseph as an ideal role model, will host a program entitled “Fathering Amidst the Storm” at Bethel Ann Seton Church in Keller. 2016 Willis Lane in Keller. Steve Wood, founder of the St. Joseph Covenant Keepers and host of GlobalTV Network’s “The Carpenter’s Shop,” will give the presentation, set for Saturday, Nov. 4, from 9 a.m. to 12 p.m. Wood, a husband and father of eight, will offer key information for Catholic men about children, dis-tricting cultural influences on teenagers, purity, marriage, and the media.

This event is for men only. The charge for admission is $10. For tickets or for more information, call Andrew Hightower at (817) 490-4819.

‘Catholic Perspectives on Islam’ to be presented Oct. 22

A program on “Catholic Perspectives on Islam” will be offered Sunday, Oct. 22, from 1 p.m. to 5 p.m. at 610 West Loop 820 South in West Fort Worth. Catholic Center.

The presentation will be given by Steve Schumacher, director of adult forma tion at the parish.

The session will answer questions such as: “What did Pope Benedict say that got so many people so angry?” and “How should Catholics react to the charges made about the Crusades?” Participants, according to information provided by the parish, will gain a deeper understanding of Catholic beliefs about Islam.

For more information or to arrange for childcare, call the parish at (817) 481-2065.

Faith and Fiction group to discuss novel by Kim Edwards Oct. 26

“Faith and Fiction: Conversations on Spiritual and Imaginative Venue for discussing novels and films with themes that shed light on the journey of faith, will meet Thursday, Oct. 26, at 6 p.m. at the St. Michael Parish Life Office, 4501 Bridge Street in East Fort Worth. The topic of discussion will be “What are the differences” of a novel by Kim Edwards.

Those planning to participate are asked to read the book, reflect on it individually, and then come to the session with questions, insights, or observations to share. A potluck supper will be served at 6 p.m., and the discussion will take place from 7 p.m. to 8:30 p.m.

Future meeting dates and the topics of discussion are as follows. Nov. 16, Portrait of the Artist as a Young Man, by James Joyce, Dec. 14, The Remains of the Day, a film directed by James Ivory, Jan. 18, The Brothers Karamazov, by Fyodor Dostoevski, and Feb. 15, Moomintong from the River, by Umberto eco.

To ensure good conversation, space will be limited. To reserve a space or for more information, contact Dan Luby at (817) 560-2452 ext. 259, or by e-mail at dluay@fwoc.org.

St. Michael Elder care services resumes Oct. 23

This is for those dealing with elder care issues. St. Michael Church, 5715 Harwood Road, is hosting a series of free informational seminars, designed to give participants practical information and tools to assist them in their roles as caregivers. The seminars, given in conjunction with the Area Agency on Aging of Tarrant County, are held at the church on Monday evenings at 7 p.m.


Elder care seminars have been taking place at St. Michael Church since August, and organizers plan on extending the series through April 2007. Sponsored by the federal government and the Texas Department of Aging and Disability Services (DADS), the Area Agency on Aging of Tarrant County is committed to assisting older adults and their caregivers by providing education, resources, support, and services. The Area Agency on Aging of Tarrant County is part of a statewide system of aging and is part of a nationwide network of 670 agencies.

To provide information on care for aging loved ones, contact the Area Agency on Aging of Tarrant County at (817) 733-9263 or e-mail at 800aging@dads.state.tx.us.

Family Life Center, located at 6150 Pershing Ave. in West Fort Worth. The topic of discussion will be “How should Catholics react to the charges made about the Crusades?” Participants, according to information provided by the parish, will gain a deeper understanding of Catholic beliefs about Islam.

For more information or to arrange for childcare, call the parish at (817) 481-2065.

Call support group meets monthly at Holy Family

Call, a monthly support meet ing for Catholics who are alcoholic and others who are struggling with addiction and recovery, is offered the first Saturday of each month at Holy Family Church, 6150 Pershing Ave. in West Fort Worth. The next meeting will be held Nov. 4, beginning at 10 a.m. in the chapel.

Call meetings focus on enhancing spiritual growth through sharing Eucharist, discussion, and fellowship.

For more information, contact Deacon Joe Milligan at (817) 737-6768 ext. 105 or at (817) 737-1519.

Workshop on ‘How to Avoid Marrying a Jerk’ set for Nov. 4 at Holy Family

The Singles Ministry at Holy Family Church will host a workshop on “How to Avoid Marrying a Jerk” on Saturday, Nov. 4, from 9 a.m. to 12 p.m. at the Family Life Office, located at 6150 Pershing Ave. in West Fort Worth. The session, to be presented by World Peace and Justice, will examine the five bonding elements that are ‘the dynamic elements,’ according to a workshop announcement, “are directly related to one another, must be developed in a specific order, and must be kept in balance.” The workshop will be Christian values to the process of discerning a partner.

For more details or to RSVP, contact Monica Molina via e-mail at mmolina@holymfwb.org or call (817) 737-6768.

St. Augustine Men’s Purity Group weekly

The St. Augustine Men’s Purity Group, a support group for men who struggle with sexual impurity such as those found on the Internet, meets Tuesdays evenings at 7 p.m. in Room 213 at St. Elizabeth Ann Seton Parish or by appointment.

For more information, visit the group’s Web site at www.sampgroup.org or call St. Elizabeth Ann Seton Parish Office at (817) 431-3857.
Correction: In the diocesan accounting report for Catholic University special collection, which was published in the Oct. 6 issue of the ‘North Texas Catholic,’ we listed the dollar amounts for Holy Family Parish, Fort Worth, and for Holy Spirit Parish, Fort Worth, were incorrect. The report should have indicated that Holy Family Parish collected $1,045.00 for Catholic University, and Holy Name of Jesus Parish collected $600.00. We regret this error and apologize for any inconvenience it has caused.

World Youth Day set for Oct. 29
On Sunday, Oct. 29, children and youth of the diocese, along with their adult leaders and family members, are invited to gather for the annual World Youth Day (WYD) celebration, to be held at the Six Flags over Texas theme park in Arlington. Bishop Kevin Vann will join Bishop Charles Grahmann of Dallas in celebrating the youth-oriented liturgy with the theme “Catholic to the Core.”

A special feature of this year’s event will be a presentation by the group “ThePizza,” which will be admiring South African roots. The group will lead WYD participants in drumming activities designed to emphasize the use of drums as a means of communication and unity among people of all cultures. Those planning to attend the 5 p.m. youth Mass, to be held in the Music Mill Amphitheatre at the theme park, may enjoy a day of rides, food, exhibits, and fun from 11 a.m. to 7 p.m. at the park. Local Christian bands will also perform throughout the day at the park’s amphitheatre.

Discounted tickets and transportation opportunities are available through local youth ministers. For more information, contact Kevin Prevou, director of the diocesan Office of Youth Ministry and Adolescent Catechesis, at (817) 560-2452 ext. 651, or via e-mail at kprevou@fwdioc.org.

Couple to Couple League to offer NFP class
Oct. 29
The Couple to Couple League offers classes in the sympto-thermal method of Natural Family Planning. The group finds Natural Family Planning very safe, healthy, and effective, and indicates that many couples who use NFP grow in love and trust for one another as they learn to appreciate God’s design for marriage.

A new class will begin Oct. 29 at 7 p.m. at 11 a.m. Assumption of the Blessed Virgin Mary Church, 1305 Deer Park Road in Decatur. Because the class meets monthly, interested couples are encouraged to attend a class starting at least four months before their wedding.

For more information or to register, contact Kevin and Michele Vina at (940) 453-5504.

St. Rita Garden Club to host art sale Nov. 5
The St. Rita Garden Club has announced that it will be hosting an art sale Sunday, Nov. 5, from 2 p.m. to 5 p.m. (from the parking lot on the site) at St. Rita Church, 5550 East Lancaster Avenue in East Fort Worth. Featured at the sale will be original oil paintings of Mary Shaw. There are 11 paintings in all, signed and numbered and including depicting landscapes, florals, and still lives.

The Garden Club will provide refreshments and snacks during the art sale.

For more information, contact the parish office at (817) 451-9144.

Father Ivor Koch Charity Fundraiser set for Oct. 21
The Fourth Degree Knights of Columbus of Sacred Heart Parish in Wichita Falls will hold the 10th annual Father Ivor Koch Charity Fundraiser Oct. 21 at 6 p.m. in the parish hall.

A live auction is planned, and a spaghetti dinner and soft drinks will be served at no charge.

Sacred Heart Parish is located at 1501 9th Street in Wichita Falls. For more information, call the parish office at (940) 725-5288.

Bishop Vann to lead young adult pilgrimage during Lent 2007
Bishop Kevin Vann and Father Michael Holberg, associate pastor at St. Michael Church in Bedford, will lead a Rome pilgrimage designed especially for young adults March 10-18, 2007, during the Lenten season.

The trip, sponsored by the young adults’ organization of St. Michael Church, is described by organizers as a spiritual, educational, and cultural journey, with opportunities for worship at historical venues, guided by local experts to artistic and architectural treasures, and free time to explore Rome.

Participants will have the opportunity to visit numerous sites, including the catacombs, basilicas, and the Vatican. St. Peter’s Basilica and at the tomb of St. Francis in nearby Assisi.

All young adults of the diocese, their family members, and friends are invited to participate. The cost is $2,500 per person for double occupancy. Space is limited. For program details or registration forms, visit the pilgrimage Web site at www.theholylandpilgrimage.com/registration or contact Barbara Boone at (817) 285-8665 ext. 55, or via e-mail to booneseedallasu.edu.

Sacred Heart in Seymour to host Polka Mass, Nov. 11
The diocesan account report for Catholic University special collection, which was published in the Oct. 6 issue of the ‘North Texas Catholic,’ we listed the dollar amounts for Holy Family Parish, Fort Worth, and for Holy Spirit Parish, Fort Worth, were incorrect. The report should have indicated that Holy Family Parish collected $1,045.00 for Catholic University, and Holy Name of Jesus Parish collected $600.00. We regret this error and apologize for any inconvenience it has caused.

Two Parish Talent Show — The Catholic communities of St. Mary in Windthorst and St. Boniface in Scotland combined their talents and put them on display at a talent show, sponsored by the parishes’ Whole Community Catechesis Committee. Keith Aaron, and Lester Anderle of St. Mary’s, shown playing their guitars, were one of 23 acts presented by a total of 35 adults and children. The program was met with such enthusiasm, event coordinators Keith and Nancie Anderle hope to make the show an annual event.

IRPS Landrene Lecture to be presented Nov. 4
Journalist John Allen Jr. will present the annual Institute for Religious and Moral Studies (IRPS) Landrene Lecture Saturday, Nov. 4, at 7:30 p.m.

The topic of the lecture will be “The Cross and the Crescent: The Relationship between the Church and Islam under Benedict XVI.”

Allen is an author, a Vatican analyst for CNN, and a Vatican reporter for the National Catholic Reporter newpaper.

The Landrene Lecture was inaugurated in 1999 to honor Steven Landrene, a UD alumnus and former editor of the Texas Catholic. Previous speakers for the annual lecture have included Margaret O’Brien Steinfeld, Dr. Joseph Martos, Father Joseph Fitzmyer, SJ, and Archbishop Harold Weidhaas.

The Landrene Lecture is free and open to the public. For more information, call (972) 721-4118.

Patriotic Rosary to be held Oct. 24 at St. Patrick’s
During this time of national elections and a lack of peace in the world, all are invited to participate in the praying of a Patriotic Rosary Tuesday, Oct. 24, from 7 p.m. to 8 p.m. at St. Patrick Cathedral, 1206 Throckmorton Street in downtown Fort Worth.

Prayers for the nation will be offered, accompanied by the lighting of three symbolic candles, which will honor the nation and the church, veterans and military defending the country, and for the guidance of our leaders. Those who pray will form the framework of the Patriotic Rosary. Each decade of the rosary will be accompanied by a spiritual prayer, and by one of America’s foremost leaders, and each of the 50 Hall Marys will be dedicated to a country and to every soul in that state.

The evening prayer is being organized by The Queen of Peace Center. For more information, contact Gerrie at (817) 244-7733 or Elizabeth at (817) 593-0485.

State softball champs — The Lady Knights of Notre Dame School in Wichita Falls capped the 2006 TAPPS (Texas Association of Private and Parochial Schools) 2A State Softball Championship in a come-from-behind double-overtime win over Sacred Heart School of Haltieville. The state title was for the Notre Dame softball program. Displaying championship medals following the hard-fought 6-5 game in Belton, Texas, are (l. to r.) assistant coach Mike Bredard, Tiffany Gonzales, Felicity Mcilree, Ashley Bried, Mary Michelle Otto, Emily Otto, Camila Mendes, Coach Stan Mung CORPORATION, (front) Melissa LeRitz, Danielle O’Brien, Brenda Pohold, Kalyne McIntrye, and Carrie Toot.

State softball champs — The Lady Knights of Notre Dame School in Wichita Falls capped the 2006 TAPPS (Texas Association of Private and Parochial Schools) 2A State Softball Championship in a come-from-behind double-overtime win over Sacred Heart School of Haltieville. The state title was for the Notre Dame softball program. Displaying championship medals following the hard-fought 6-5 game in Belton, Texas, are (l. to r.) assistant coach Mike Bredard, Tiffany Gonzales, Felicity Mcilree, Ashley Bried, Mary Michelle Otto, Emily Otto, Camila Mendes, Coach Stan Mung corporation, (front) Melissa LeRitz, Danielle O’Brien, Brenda Pohold, Kalyne McIntrye, and Carrie Toot.

Deaf Ministry Program seeks CART reporters
Deaf or hard-of-hearing persons in the community who do not use sign language are able to participate more fully in the Sunday liturgy by means of CART Communication Access Realtime (Translation) services. These services include a court reporter collecting in the spoken word during Mass and transcribing it onto a laptop computer. The transcription is then projected onto a screen where it may be read, thus enabling deaf or hard-of-hearing persons greater involvement in the liturgy.

The Deaf Ministry Program is in need of at least one more CART reporter who would be willing and able to share CART responsibilities with the 10 a.m. St. Matthew Mass at Most Blessed Sacrament Church, 2100 North Davis Drive in Arlington.

Persons who have such skills and might be willing to assist with such an activity on a rotating basis are asked to consider sharing their time and talent with the church. Those interested are asked to contact Mary Cinatl, director of the Deaf Ministry Program, at (940) 284-3019 (TTS) or e-mail to mcinatl@udallas.edu.

St. Jude Thaddeus Parish to host fall festival Oct. 29
The 10th annual St. Jude Thaddeus Church Fall Festival will take place Sunday, Oct. 29, from 10:30 a.m. to 2 p.m. at the parish hall, located at 600 Davey Drive in Burburnett.

The event, which serves as the church’s main fund-raising event of the year, will include an all-you- can-eat turkey and German sausage dinner with all the trimmings. The dinner will be available on a carry-out basis; free delivery in Burburnett may be arranged by calling (940) 569-8116.

Home-baked goods will be available, and games for the children will be featured.

Tickets to the festival are $7.50 per adult, and $4 for children ages 5 to 12; children under the age of 5 are free. For more information, call the parish at (940) 569-1222.
SAINTS CANONIZED — Tapestries hanging from the facade of St. Peter's Basilica show four new saints canonized by Pope Benedict XVI at the Vatican Oct. 15. From left, the tapestries show Italian Sister Rosa Venerini, Mexican Bishop Rafael Guizar Valencia, Italian Father Filippo Smaldone, and Mother Theodore Guerin, foundress of the Sisters of Providence of St. Mary-of-the-Woods, Indiana. (CNS photo/Giancarlo Giuliani, Catholic Press Photo)

From page 1

Mother Guerin’s life, sainthood seen as summons to holiness

By Nancy Hartnagel

WASHINGTON (CNS) — The vice postulator of the sisterhood cause of Mother Theodore Guerin, who outlived her. Her father, a Breton, became the first bishop of the Diocese of Vincennes, Indiana, which is now the Archdiocese of Indianapolis but which at that time comprised all of Indiana and the eastern third of Illinois. People were pushing west from the Atlantic seaboard, and Bishop Brute saw a need for Catholic sisters to serve in the large diocese.

He sent a colleague to France to find a congregation willing to help. The superior of the Ruille community felt St. Theodore would be perfect to head such a mission, but she was reluctant because of poor health. She had contracted smallpox as a postulant, and the treatment she received for it was believed to have damaged her digestive system.

The students of the college St. Mother Theodore founded in Indiana felt the same pride. Frannie Schalasky, a senior at St. Theodore founded in Indiana.

He said the students learn about the new saint from “the Sisters of Providence and their ministries today” and in what they see as a great gift: education at an all-women’s college.

During his homily, Pope Benedict praised St. Rafael for his dedication to the poor and his commitment to preaching the Gospel and administering the sacraments despite being forced to flee the Mexican government’s persecution of Catholics in the 1920s and 1930s.

Dozens of members of the Knights of Columbus also participated in the Mass in recognition of St. Rafael’s membership in the Catholic fraternal organization.

St. Peter’s Square was filled with Italian pilgrims celebrating the canonization of St. Filippo, who lived from 1848 to 1923, and dedicated himself to ministry to the hearing-impaired, founding the Salesian Sisters of the Sacred Heart to assist them; and St. Rosa, the 17th-century foundress of an order, now known as the Venerini Sisters, to educate young women.

At age 20 Anne-Therese wanted to enter religious life, but her mother refused permission. Five years later, with her mother’s consent, she entered the Sisters of Providence of Ruille-sur-Loir. As Sister St. Theodore, she made her first vows in 1825 and perpetual vows in 1831. For eight years, she directed a school in Rennes, an industrial town, then was transferred to Soulaines, where she was a nun for seven years.

Meanwhile, in 1834 on the American frontier, Bishop Simon Brute de Remur, another native Breton, became the first bishop of the Diocese of Vincennes, Indiana, which is now the Archdiocese of Indianapolis but which at that time comprised all of Indiana and the eastern third of Illinois. People were pushing west from the Atlantic seaboard, and Bishop Brute saw a need for Catholic sisters to serve in the large diocese.

He sent a colleague to France to find a congregation willing to help. The superior of the Ruille community felt St. Theodore would be perfect to head such a mission, but she was reluctant because of poor health. She had contracted smallpox as a postulant, and the treatment she received for it was believed to have damaged her digestive system.

But, after a period of prayer and discernment, she sailed from France with two other sisters and three novices July 27, 1840. They landed in New York Sept. 7, and arrived Oct. 22 at the forest clearing, which became St. Mary-of-the-Woods. Despite much hardship, the six sisters opened an academy for girls that became St. Mary-of-the-Woods College and began the foundation of a new religious congregation modeled on one...
New saint from Mexico ‘one of us,’ South Texas Catholics told

SAN ANTONIO (CNS) — One of the church’s newest saints is truly “one of us,” Archbishop José H. Gomez of San Antonio and retired Archbishop Patrick Flores told the Catholics of South Texas.

The two archbishops spoke at a press conference in San Antonio days before Pope Benedict XVI canonized Mexican Bishop Rafael Guizar Valencia, who came to South Texas during his exile from Mexico because of government persecution of the Catholic Church.

“In this man of God we have a jewel — someone to pray to and ask for his intercession,” Archbishop Flores said. “My prayer is that the people get to know him.”

Appointed bishop of Veracruz, Mexico, in 1919 by Pope Benedict XV, the new saint preached missions at Immaculate Heart of Mary Church and San Fernando Cathedral in San Antonio, as well as Our Lady of Guadalupe Church in Austin.

At his Oct. 15 canonization, St. Rafael became the first bishop born in the Americas to be declared a saint.

Archbishop Gomez said that when he read the saint’s biography in 2001 he saw in the life of the saint a “real source of inspiration” of how to live our Catholic faith, especially for bishops.

St. Rafael still has family living in the San Antonio area. Attend at the press conference with the archbishops were Augustin Mora, the new saint’s great-nephew, and Tito Guizar Jr., his great-great-nephew.

Archbishop Flores said the life of St. Rafael has become a part of his own, since he now owns the episcopal ring that once belonged to the Mexican prelate.

Consecrated a bishop Jan. 4, 1920, St. Rafael sold his peculor cross, ring, clothes, shoes, and more to provide for the needs of Catholics in his diocese affected by a major earthquake shortly after his consecration.

He was known as “the bishop of the poor” despite personal suffering brought on by diabetes, phlebitis, cardiac insufficiency, and extreme obesity.

Evangelization also became a major concern for St. Rafael. He rebuilt the seminary, which had been long closed because of anti-Catholic legislation in Mexico.

“A bishop can do without a miter, crosier, and even a cathedral, but he can never do without a seminary, because the future of his diocese depends on the seminary,” he once said.

The seminary was moved to Mexico City, where it operated clandestinely for 15 years. When the persecution of the church ended, the number of priests in the diocese exceeded the number that were in the country prior to the start of the anti-Catholic period.

St. Rafael died June 6, 1938, and was buried in a simple casket. Twelve years later his casket was exhumed for interment in the cathedral of Veracruz. When laborers lifted the casket above the ground, they discovered the box was free of wood rot.

Upon removing the coffin’s cover, the workers found the body of St. Rafael uncorrupted. His body remains in the Mexican cathedral in a glass casket.

Veracruz, Mexico (CNS) — At an Oct. 15 papal ceremony at the Vatican, Blessed Rafael Guizar Valencia became the first bishop born in the Americas to be declared a saint.

As a priest during the anticlerical era that marked the start of the 20th century in his native Mexico, he often disguised himself as a junk dealer to bring the sacraments to both sides fighting the Mexican Revolution, which started in 1910.

After the revolution, when anti-clerical measures were adopted by the new government, he lived in exile in Cuba, Colombia, Guatemala, and the southern United States to escape persecution. He was ordained bishop of Veracruz in absentia in 1919 while living in Havana.

Blessed Rafael was a member of the Knights of Columbus. He is the seventh Knight and the first bishop-member of the organization to be declared a saint. The Knights started forming councils in Mexico in 1905. The other six Knights who are saints are also Mexicans, martyred during the persecution of Catholics in the 1920s and 1930s.

“We welcome the canonization of our brother Knight, Bishop Guizar Valencia, and know that his life of courage and legacy of evangelization will be an inspiration to each of our 1.7 million members around the world,” said Supreme Knight Carl A. Anderson.

“His life from 1878 to 1938, and actually survived the Mexican government’s persecution of Catholicism — but only barely,” Anderson said in a statement. “One anecdote about him says he returned from a mission with bullet holes in his hat and clothing,” said Anderson.

Blessed Rafael was born to a wealthy family in Cotija de la Paz in the Mexican state of Michoacan April 16, 1878. In 1894 he entered the seminary of the Diocese of Zamora and was ordained a priest for the diocese in 1901.

When the Mexican Revolution started, the Catholic Church was a target of rebel forces because it was considered one of the privileged institutions that dominated society under Mexican dictator Porfirio Díaz. The then-Father Guizar became a target because of his defense of the church.

After the successful revolution, the new government ordered Father Guizar to leave, and in 1915 he fled the country, entering the United States. He then moved to Guatemala, Colombia, and Cuba.

Blessed Rafael returned to Mexico in 1920 as bishop of Veracruz and in 1923 joined the local Knights of Columbus council.

As church persecution continued, he founded a clandestine seminary.

“A bishop can do without a miter, a crosier, and even a cathedral, but without a seminary, because the future of his diocese depends on the seminary,” he said.

Persecution of the church forced Blessed Rafael to flee Mexico again in 1927. He returned in 1929, after the church reached an accord with the government.

He became known as “the bishop of the poor” and died of natural causes June 6, 1938.

MUESTER FAMILY DAY — These youngsters are all smiles and excitement as they wait in line to choose flavors for their snow cones. The Unity and Fellowship Committee of Sacred Heart Parish in Muenster sponsored a community-wide “Family Day in the Park” Sept. 24, where a variety of treats, such as snow cones, cotton candy, and kettle corn, provided the sustenance needed for taking part in activities such as a bounce house, obstacle course-slide combo, horseshoes, and volleyball. More than 400 people attended the event. “This is what our community is all about, having a good time together,” stated committee member Betty Rose Walterscheid. (Photo by Janet Felderhoff, Muenster Enterprise)

The five Texas state officers of the Catholic Daughters of the Americas (CDA) recently hosted a fall retreat for all CDA members in the state of Texas. Carolyn Bachman of Scotland, Texas, representing the Diocese of Fort Worth, serves as first vice state regent. She was joined by Olga Samaniego of El Paso, state regent; Sheila Martinka of Shiner, state secretary; and Peggy Rosales of Austin, state treasurer, in hosting the Sept. 22-24 retreat in the Diocese of San Angelo at Christ the King Retreat Center.

Father Chuck Gunti, a member of the San José Mission Friar community in San Antonio, serves as retreat master for a state retreat of the Catholic Daughters of the Americas Sept. 22-24 in San Angelo. He is pictured with Olga Samaniego, CDA state regent, of El Paso.

At state retreat, CDA members are reminded that sacrifice of Mass is not a private devotion.

The second state CDA retreat offered this year, according to Jalowy, with the earlier statewide retreat being held in January. The CDA members within the state of Texas will also gather in April 2007 in Dallas for a state convention. Carolyn Bachman will be installed as Texas state regent at the convention and will begin serving a two-year term.

The Catholic Daughters of the Americas, formed in 1903, has about 90,000 members in 1,400 courts throughout the world. Approximately 16,000 Catholic women are members of CDA within the state of Texas. For more information about the April convention or other state CDA news, visit the organization’s Web site at www.cdatexas.org.
WHEN ALL THE BODIES HAVE BEEN BURIED IN DARFUR, HOW WILL HISTORY JUDGE US?

President Bush: Genocide is happening right now in Darfur. You can end it.
400,000 people dead. 2.5 million displaced. Untold thousands raped, tortured and terrorized. Men. Women. Children. Ending the horror will take immediate action by a strong United Nations peacekeeping force. And that will take leadership from President Bush.

Stop the Genocide.  www.SaveDarfur.org
Most of us probably take for granted (at least some of the time) that we are created, loved, and redeemed by God. Yet, distracted as we are by the noise and activities of daily life, we need to make time to reflect on this central truth of life — and the answer to the universal human question: Who am I, and what am I doing here?

When our ancestors in faith lost their moral and spiritual bearings, Jesus took on human flesh to show us the radical nature of God’s love. His love is far from being passive, generic, or abstract. It is not just a kindly feeling toward others. Jesus’ love was personal, passionate, and self-giving.

He showed us by example, as well as through parables, what God expects of us. At the Last Supper, he told the apostles: “This is my commandment: Love one another as I love you” (John 15:12).

Jesus was not speaking of affectionate feelings that we have for family and friends. The model of love by which we will be measured, according to the parable of the Last Judgment (cf. Matthew 25:31-46), is that of the righteous who visited prisoners, and fed, clothed, welcomed, and cared for the needy and willcomed, and cared for the needy and homeless — as vitally important as they are — can make up for bad policies concerning the protection of life itself. Without the fundamental right to live, the right to not be killed, no other rights are meaningful. In fact, without life no other rights can exist.

Pope Benedict reminds us in God Is Love that, as Catholics, we are called to make God’s love present in the world. He noted that the bishops “help form consciences in political life and stimulate greater insight into the authentic requirements of justice” (no. 28). But, he emphasized, it is the responsibility of the laity to work for a “just ordering of society” and to take part in public life in a “personal capacity” (no. 29).

In other words, it is up to Catholic laypeople to participate directly in public life, helping to enact laws and policies that respect the lives of all, especially those who have no voice — unborn children, human embryos targeted for destructive research, and those who are cognitively impaired, disabled, or dying.

Whether we are writing letters to elected representatives, voting, campaigning, or simply providing friends and colleagues with solid information about the grave moral issues of our day, our participation in American public life should at all times be guided by this fundamental truth: each one of us — including those with whom we strongly disagree — is created, loved, and redeemed by God. We, and they, are priceless in his eyes.

By speaking the truth about human life in love, we can help build a society that protects and respects every human life, born and unborn, and better reflects our status as children of God.

In this article that introduces the U.S. bishops’ Respect Life! materials for 2006, the writer fits all our concerns for life and our obligation as Catholics to work for the common good into one small space — all joined together by what makes life sacred in the first place, the creative, redemptive love of God.
The Amish Teach Us forgiveness
By Father John Rausch

The Amish practice of Gospel forgiveness startled the world. Many columnists across the country wrote how the Amish were teaching a neglected lesson in the midst of tragedy, yet a few writers questioned whether forgiveness so easily dispensed makes sense.

On the individual level, forgiveness represents the only way to true inner peace. President Nelson Mandela, a political prisoner on Robin Island for 27 years, modeled forgiveness and reconciliation when he invited his white jailer to his 1994 inauguration, as an honored guest. Consistently, families of murder victims find peace, not through the execution of the murderer, but by letting go of hatred and revenge. They cast out thoughts of vengeance that would allow the murderer to live in their heads and victimize them further.

Robert Frost wrote in his poem, “The Star-Splitter”: “to be social is to be forgiving.” Without forgiveness, society would suffer continuous and ever-increasing fits of revenge. Yet, the human condition demands, not “forgive and forget,” but “remember and forgive.” A believer remembers a crime by pronouncing a moral judgment on the action (murder is wrong), then continues the process of healing by renouncing revenge, envisioning the criminal as a fellow human being, and striving to reconcile with the offender.

This four-fold understanding makes forgiveness a personal and communal process requiring God’s grace. On the community level, an innovative program dealing with the needed healing from the victim focuses on the victim and community harmed by the crime. Restorative justice programs bring the victim and offender together in the presence of a mediator. The process helps the offender acknowledge the harm he has done and promotes rehabilitation through an apology and some appropriate restitution. By meeting their victims, offenders see and hear what their actions have done to the lives of other human beings.

On the international scene, truth and reconciliation commissions take the same approach. “No peace without justice, no justice without forgiveness” — words of John Paul II on the World Day of Peace, 2002. The formula breaks the cycle of violence for a world community whose conflicts increasingly stem from ethnicity and religion. Meanwhile, in Pennsylvania, the Amish community leaders established a fund for the widow and children of their daughters’ assailant — as a final gesture of forgiveness.

Father John Rausch, a Maryknoll priest, is a social justice educator and writer who has devoted himself to working with the working people of Appalachia for more than two and a half decades.

SOMETIMES ‘THE WORDS OF THE PROPHETS’ REALLY DO SEEM TO BE ‘WRITTEN ON THE SUBWAY WALLS’

By Kathy Cribari Hamer

The difference between generations can be condensed into a single word: sweatshirt.

One reason for that, as my friend Sherrie used to say, is that fleece will be the fabric we grow old in. While our parents and grandparents settled into house dresses and double-knit slacks, we’ll jog into the sunset wearing exercise pants with elastic waist, and gray cotton zipper jackets with fluffy undersides.

Our sweatshirts may bear the name of our alma mater or a quip someone thought funny enough to purchase as a gift. Mostly, however, those jogging-lounging-working-in-the-garden clothes will boast only pulled threads and stretched cuffs that speak of life well lived. Wearing fleece in our adult years is not the only thing about sweatshirts that distinguishes generations from each other.

“Mom, I am wearing a sweatshirt today,” my daughter will tell me, in mid-September, when we get a short blast of bearable air — a break from sweltering heat. (Somehow, with straight faces, weathermen refer to these as cold fronts.)

“Is it cool enough for a sweatshirt?” I’ll ask. Sadly, I am not out driving children to school in the early morning, when Fort Worth’s wind-chill factor has plunged to less than 85 degrees.

“Not exactly,” Meredith will answer. “But when I left the house, the air conditioning had not clicked on, and there was a cloud cover. Well, there was a cloud.”

“I am wearing a sweatshirt to encourage the fall,” she will conclude.

Apparent Meredith is convinced that autumn — and by association, God himself — needs a nudge. “My sweatshirt lets the weather know it’s time to be cold,” she explains.

On those breezy, not-quite-fall mornings — the Texas equivalent of an early snowstorm — I ponder my daughter’s enthusiasm for things to come, and conversely, my determination to stay in sandals whose color is not permitted past Labor Day.

Someday I’ll likely appear in Glamour magazine’s “Do’s and Don’t’s” pages, while my daughter is quoted in O magazine on the virtues of positive thinking.

Meredith, in the post-collegiate, early parenthood world of having been called “Mom,” but never “Ma’am,” looks forward to climate changes — and the happy future they imply.

My son Andrew, who lives in Chicago, is less eager for sweatshirt season. In the Windy City for 17 months, Andrew has learned fall leads quickly to winter.
At Red Mass, faith called ‘cornerstone of American experience’

By Mark Zimmermann

WASHINGTON (CNS)—Addressing a congregation that included many government leaders, Washington Archbishop Donald W. Wuerl said Oct. 1 at the annual Red Mass at St. Matthew Cathedral that Christianity and religious faith forms part of the foundation of the American experience and has an important role to play in public life.

“Religious faith has long been a cornerstone of the American experience,” the archbishop said at the Mass, traditionally held on the day before the Supreme Court opens its session. The Mass invokes God’s blessings and guidance on the administration of law.

Archbishop Wuerl noted how faith helped shape both the Mayflower Compact and the Declaration of Independence. He said George Washington was “fortunately friends with God,” so we simply cannot expect national prosperity without morality, and morality cannot be sustained without religious principles.”

And in looking at “religion’s place in public life,” the archbishop quoted Pope Benedict XVI’s first encyclical, Deus Caritas Est (God Is Love), which noted that “the two spheres are distinct, yet always interrelated.”

“Politics, law, and faith are mingled because believers are also citizens,” Archbishop Wuerl said in his homily. “Both church and state are home to the very same people.”

The archbishop said that interrelationship helps people in public life seek the common good and work for justice by drawing on this nation’s foundation of faith, despite those in an increasingly secular world who seek to divorce religion from the public sphere.

“Weespouset against racial discrimination, social injustice, or threats to the dignity of life is not to force values upon society, but rather to call our society to its own, long-accepted moral principles and commitment to defend basic human rights, which is the function of law,” he said.

Dignitaries attending the Mass included four Catholic members of the Supreme Court of the United States: John G. Roberts Jr., the chief justice of the United States; and Associate Justices Antonin Scalia, Anthony M. Kennedy and Clarence Thomas. Also attending the Mass were U.S. Attorney General Alberto R. Gonzales and four other Cabinet members, Commerce Secretary Carlos M. Gutierrez, Housing and Urban Development Secretary Alphonso Jackson, Health and Human Services Secretary Mike Leavitt, and acting Transportation Secretary Maria Cino.

Chief Justice John Roberts speaks with Archbishop Donald W. Wuerl of Washington (right) and Archbishop Pietro Sambi (center), the apostolic nuncio to the United States, after the Red Mass at St. Matthew Cathedral in Washington Oct. 1. The annual Mass is celebrated traditionally on the Sunday before the new Supreme Court session begins. (CNS photo/Joshua Roberts, Reuters)

Chief Justice John Roberts speaks with Archbishop Donald W. Wuerl of Washington (right) and Archbishop Pietro Sambi (center), the apostolic nuncio to the United States, after the Red Mass at St. Matthew Cathedral in Washington Oct. 1. The annual Mass is celebrated traditionally on the Sunday before the new Supreme Court session begins. (CNS photo/Joshua Roberts, Reuters)

“In a Sept. 17 sermon, the cur- rent rector at All Saints, the Rev. J. Edwin Bacon, described the church’s stance.

“There is no objective basis for the IRS to have a reasonable belief that we have indeed participated in campaign intervention,” Rev. Bacon said. “Furthermore, we would argue that this entire case has been an intrusion, in fact an attack upon this church’s First Amendment rights to the exercise of freedom of religion and freedom of speech.”

Rev. Bacon said the IRS’s position that religious organizations must remain neutral where political issues are concerned misses the point that faith groups “do not have a choice about whether or not to be neutral in the face of dehumanization, injustice, and violence. Our faith mandates that, always stopping short of endorsing or opposing political candidates, the church can neither be silent nor indifferent when there are public policies causing detriment to the least of these.”

In a February report issued by the IRS on a review of tax-exempt organizations during the 2004 election cycle — the revenue service called this review the Political Activities Compliance Initiative — the IRS found that nearly three-quarters of the organizations reviewed were engaged in some level of prohibited political activity.

The vast majority of charitable organizations do not engage in politicking, but there was “a disturbing amount of political intervention” during 2004, said the report’s press release.

“Of those 82 cases, the IRS found that 53 involved charities, including churches, distributed materials encouraging votes for a particular candidate. In 12 cases, religious leaders used the pulpit to endorse or oppose particular candidates. In other cases involved charities endorsing or opposing candidates on their Web sites; distributing voter guides that encouraged voting for particular people; and giving preferential treatment to certain candidates by permitting them to speak at functions.”

The report said many cases where political campaign intervention are alleged are difficult to document because events and statements are not recorded.

It also acknowledged that media coverage can create an impression of widespread non-compliance among the more than 1 million organizations designed to be non-political and that the proper/improper dividing line can be difficult to ascertain.

“The activities that give rise to questions of political campaign intervention also raise legitimate concerns regarding freedom of speech and religious expression,” it said. “The code contains no bright line test for evaluating political activities; it requires careful balancing of all of the facts and circumstances.”

The report also said the IRS code confuses some people, particularly the phrases: “does not participate in, or intervene in (including the publishing or distributing of statements) any political campaign on behalf of (or in opposition to) any candidate for public office.”

The report said, “Especially, through an exclusive, in cases concerning churches, the phrase has been interpreted to mean that the prohibition on political intervention by 501(c)(3) organizations was limited to expressly endorsing or opposing candidates.”

“In fact, the circumstances often suggested that the pastor made a conscious effort to avoid an express endorsement, yet made an indirect endorsement clearly conveying a message on behalf of, or in opposition to, a candidate.”

Churches, non-profit organizations must find delicate balance in following IRS code that prohibits political intervention

FROM PAGE 1

George Regas, former rector of the church, who criticized the war in Iraq and politicians who oppose abortion, among other themes. He argued that if Jesus debated President George W. Bush and U.S. Sen. John Kerry, “a former Democrat who had been a poodle of a presidential nominee for president, he would question both men about how the United States treats the poor, for example.”

The sermon prompted an investigation by the IRS into whether the church violated tax regulations by endorsing a particular candidate or party.

Eight months after last hearing from the IRS, All Saints received a request this July for documents including details of all instances between Jan. 1 and Nov. 2, 2004, when the church “distributed written or oral communication identifying one or more candidates,” as well as “any other sermon, homily, or church announcements for public office.”

In a response to the IRS, the church’s attorney, Marcus Owens, said such a broad request at the busy parish would encompass multiple events a day at which participants pray for political leaders. Documenting all such references would be “an overwhelming task, and, we believe, irrelevant to the examination,” he said.

Owens also questioned whether the timing of the query “may reflect an attempt to chill the church’s discussions of fundamental religious issues with policy implications before the mid-term elections and in a way that intrudes into core religious practice.”

The IRS whittled down its requested information, but All Saints advised the agency that it would not be complying, Owens told Catholic News Service in an Oct. 9 phone interview.

“That puts the ball back in the IRS’s side of the court, Owens said. The agency now must decide whether to pursue the investigation through the Justice Department.”

In a Sept. 17 sermon, the current rector at All Saints, the Rev. J. Edwin Bacon, described the church’s stance.

“There is no objective basis for the IRS to have a reasonable belief that we have indeed participated in campaign intervention,” Rev. Bacon said. “Furthermore, we would argue that this entire case has been an intrusion, in fact an
R

cults from a historical Fort Worth institution became part of a church's renaissance in August, when a new St. Joseph Garden was dedicated on the grounds of St. Mary of the Assumption Parish near Fort Worth's downtown medical district.

The garden was created out of artifacts from the original St. Joseph Hospital, which has become the site for an expansion of Tarrant County's John Peter Smith Hospital. At the garden dedication Aug. 13, St. Mary’s priest Father David Bristow told the congregation, “This garden is literally and figuratively dedicated to all the nurses and doctors who served the sick in the city of Fort Worth so well from 1889 to 1993.” He prayed God’s blessing on those people who had been faithful to Christ in serving their patients.

Rows of St. Mary's parishioners processed out to the garden area after the 10 a.m. Mass to participate in the dedication. There they stood in the hot August sun to observe the results of what Fr. Bristow told them was “a work in progress, like all gardens.”

Included in the space, which sits behind the rectory and west of the church, are a cross that has been repaired and refurnished with gold trim; a three-part granite monument — a low, squat obelisk — that eventually will be topped with a cross; and a new statue of St. Joseph that will be repositioned in the trees and landscape.

Additionally, the first event celebrated in the garden area was the feast of the Assumption of the Blessed Virgin Mary, when parishioners gathered for an ice cream social. “I like people to stay and visit,” Fr. Bristow said, “and that always takes place around food.” The parish already enjoys post-Mass breakfasts during the fall, winter, and spring months.

Appropriately, the first event celebrated in the garden area was the feast of the Assumption of the Blessed Virgin Mary, when parishioners gathered for an ice cream social. “Eventually we will install new lights and electrical outlets in the porch area,” Fr. Bristow said, “and I also would like to add garden lighting in the trees and landscape.”

One major and meaningful addition to the area will be the cornerstone from the original St. Joseph Hospital. Matthew Ross, 15-year-old grandson of Fr. Bristow, a married, former Anglican priest, has adopted the garden as his Eagle Scout project, building a sign for the entrance on the west side of the church. Designed by Fr. Bristow and Matt, the sign will identify the garden and will include a bronze plaque memorializing the nurses and doctors from St. Joseph. There also will be an area where the cornerstone is encased.

In addition to outfitting the garden space itself, St. Mary’s displays two of St. Joseph’s large flower pots on each side of the front entrance to the church; and slated for refurbishing in phase two, are a bench and a large fountain.

“People are pleased with the project,” Fr. Bristow said. “We had been talking about it for a long time, but there were other things we had to do first. For example, the entire air conditioning system was recently replaced.” It is a source of pride for parishioners that St. Mary’s paid cash for that project.

“For years we have been taking a second collection for our ‘renaissance fund.’ Most of the restoration and repairs are not as romantic as the new garden,” Fr. Bristow said, “but they have to be done.”

Above: St. Mary’s parishioners make the sign of the cross as Father David Bristow sprinkles them with holy water Aug. 13, on the occasion of the garden’s dedication.

Below: In March 2005, Fr. Bristow is shown pointing out an engraving on a stone monument retrieved from St. Joseph Hospital.

Clockwise from Top Left:
- A refurbished statue of St. Joseph graces the newly planted garden on the grounds of St. Mary of the Assumption Parish.
- A large Celtic cross and garden planters lie in disrepair on the grounds of the old St. Joseph Hospital in March 2005.
- A father and son gaze upon the restored Celtic cross in the new garden at St. Mary’s.

Above: A stone marker sits in the parish office, waiting for its placement in the new garden. Dedicated in 1889 under the name of St. Joseph’s Infirmary, the facility was renamed St. Joseph Hospital in 1930.

Right: Austin Rose (left), a new member of the church, receives thanks from Fr. Bristow for his volunteer efforts in providing lattice work for the garden area.

Above: St. Mary’s parishioners brave a hot August afternoon to participate in the blessing of St. Joseph Garden.
USCCB head Bishop Skylstad presses Bush to veto bill on border fence

By Patricia Zapor
WASHINGTON (CNS) — Extending the fence along the U.S.- Mexican border will lead to more deaths and violence, warned the president of the U.S. bishops’ conference in a letter urging President George W. Bush to veto the Secure Fence Act.

The bill, passed by Congress in the waning days of the session before the October campaign break for midterm elections, “could lead to the deaths of migrants attempting to enter the United States and increases smuggling-related violence along our border,” said Bishop William S. Skylstad of Spokane, Washington, president of the U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops.

Bishop Skylstad said the 700-mile fence authorized in the bill also “would send the wrong signal to our peaceful neighbor northern neighbors.

He recommended that efforts to cross into the United States to drive people who feel they need to enter the country illegally, contributing to illegal immigration,” the letter said. “It could harm our relations with these countries and inhibit the interests.”

The Catholic Church “is a universal organization” that witnesses the conditions in countries such as Mexico that lead people to choose to immigrate illegally, Bishop Skylstad said, and as such believes a fence will not deter people who are desperate to escape poverty.

He recommended that efforts instead go toward global economic and trade policies aimed at developing jobs that pay a living wage.

Pope schedules 2008 Synod of Bishops on Bible in life of church

VATICAN CITY (CNS) — Pope Benedict XVI has scheduled a meeting of the world Synod of Bishops for 2008 and has decided the synod will focus on the Bible in the life of the church.

A brief announcement issued Oct. 6 said bishops from around the world elected to propose that the synod meet at the Vatican Oct. 5-26, 2008, to discuss the theme, “The Word of God in the Life and Mission of the Church.”

During the last synod, the 2005 gathering focused on the Eucharist in the life of the church, participated elected members to a council to follow up on the synod and prepare for the next session.

Participants at the 2005 synod also offered Pope Benedict suggestions for topics to be treated; the importance of the Bible was one of the most popular topics. The synod council will prepare an outline and list of questions for bishops’ conferences and individual bishops to consider, then use the responses in drafting a working document for the 2008 meeting.

South Korean religious groups express concern over nuclear test

SEOUL, South Korea (CNS) — South Korean religious leaders expressed deep concern over North Korea’s nuclear test but said economic and military sanctions would not be a good response.

Father Paul Han Jung-kwan, executive secretary of the Committee for the Reconciliation of Korean People of the Catholic Bishops’ Conference of Korea, called the Oct. 9 nuclear test “an act that destroys world peace and order, and is against the Gospel.”

In an Oct. 10 interview with UCA News, an Asian church news agency based in Thailand, Fr. Han said sentiment against North Korea may spread within the church. He said he believes the church in South Korea will face difficulties in its humanitarian work with North Koreans.

He said he expects North Koreans to become more isolated from the international community and suffer from a lack of food and basic goods. For this reason, he added, the South Korean church needs to establish a long-term plan to help its northern neighbors.

Pope offers thanks for witness given by committed Catholic couples

VATICAN CITY (CNS) — Pope Benedict XVI offered thanks to God for the witness given by Catholic couples whose commitment to each other in marriage remains strong in both joy and sorrow.

“God himself is the author of matrimony,” the pope said Oct. 8, commenting on the day’s Mass readings, which recounted the creation of man and woman, and Jesus’ statement that “what God has joined together, no human being must separate.”

Speaking to pilgrims gathered in St. Peter’s Square for the midday recitation of the Angelus, the pope said the readings caused him to offer special prayers for Christian spouses. “With them, I thank the Lord for the gift of the sacrament of matrimony, and I exhort them to remain faithful to their vocation in every season of life, ‘in joy and in sorrow, in sickness and in health,’ as they promised during the sacramental rite,” he said.

The pope prayed that Catholic couples, strengthened by the grace of the sacrament, would “build a family open to life and able to face together the many and complex challenges of our age.”

Diocese of Davenport, Iowa, files for bankruptcy protection

DAVENPORT, Iowa (CNS) — The Diocese of Davenport is now the fourth Catholic diocese in the United States to file for bankruptcy protection because of sex abuse lawsuits it faces. On Oct. 10, the diocese filed a petition for Chapter 11 reorganization in the Iowa District of U.S. Bankruptcy Court.

The action came 22 days after a jury awarded $1.5 million to a Davenport man who claimed he was sexually abused by a diocesan priest nearly five decades ago.

Demands for settlement of that lawsuit and 25 claims that exceeded $7 million prompted the diocese’s decision to go to trial for the first time rather than settle out of court. The possibility of bankruptcy had been raised since the diocese filed for Chapter 11 reorganization in the Iowa District of U.S. Bankruptcy Court. The action came 22 days after a jury awarded $1.5 million to a Davenport man who claimed he was sexually abused by a diocesan priest nearly five decades ago.

The possibility of bankruptcy has been raised since the diocese filed for Chapter 11 reorganization in the Iowa District of U.S. Bankruptcy Court. The action came 22 days after a jury awarded $1.5 million to a Davenport man who claimed he was sexually abused by a diocesan priest nearly five decades ago.

The possibility of bankruptcy has been raised since the diocese filed for Chapter 11 reorganization in the Iowa District of U.S. Bankruptcy Court. The action came 22 days after a jury awarded $1.5 million to a Davenport man who claimed he was sexually abused by a diocesan priest nearly five decades ago.

The possibility of bankruptcy has been raised since the diocese filed for Chapter 11 reorganization in the Iowa District of U.S. Bankruptcy Court. The action came 22 days after a jury awarded $1.5 million to a Davenport man who claimed he was sexually abused by a diocesan priest nearly five decades ago.
CCHD announces distribution of close to $9 million in grants

From Page 1
practical, long-term solutions to their concerns.”

In a Sept. 25 statement an- nouncing the grants, he stressed that the needs of the poor con- tinued to be great especially in light of a recent report from the U.S. Census Bureau which showed that 37 million people in the U.S. were living in poverty, or 12.6 percent of the total population. Fr. John Joseph Nagle Jr., SAC, longtime pastor of Our Lady of Lourdes Parish in Mineral Wells, died at the age of 85 at his Possum Kingdom Lake home. A funeral Mass was celebrated Sept. 10 at Our Lady of Lourdes Church with Bishop Kevin Vann presiding and Father Michael Olson, vicar general for the Diocese of Fort Worth, offering the homily. Interment was at Memory Gardens Cemetery.

John Joseph Nagle Jr. was born March 17, 1921, in Kearny, New Jersey, and was named John Joseph Nagle Sr. and Mary (Phelan) Nagle. As a young man, John Nagle decided to join the Pallottine Fathers’ religious order because one of his mother’s brothers was a Pallottine priest. A student at Pallottine College in Thurlow, County, Ireland, Fr. Nagle was ordained June 8, 1947, at St. Patrick Cathedral in County Tipperary, Ireland.

After serving in Catholic pari- shes in New Jersey and Nevada, Fr. Nagle came to St. Stephen Church in Weatherford to serve as an assistant pastor in 1953, when Catholic communities in Mineral Wells, Stephenville, and Dublin were considered missions of St. Stephen’s. He was named admin- istrator of Our Lady of Lourdes in Mineral Wells in 1958 and was officially named the first pastor of OLL in 1960, where he served until his retirement in 1998.

Loved and admired by his parishioners and by the people across the counties represented by the Southwest Deanery, Fr. Nagle was known, according to current OLL pastor Father Jeff Poirot, as a “totally dedicated man with a deep love for the people of Mineral Wells. He had a desire to really build the kingdom of God and the Catholic Church in Mineral Wells,” added Fr. Poirot, recounting Fr. Nagle’s commitment to the poor of the community. “He had such com- passion, and he reached out to people in so many ways.”

Fr. Nagle continued to serve the community by visiting the sick, paternal and nursing home residents, even after his retirement, said Fr. Poirot. “He concelebrated Mass at St. Francis Church in Graford with me each Saturday evening, and I would see him praying the rosary each week when I would come into the church,” recalled Fr. Poirot, adding that a memorial Mass will be said in Fr. Nagle’s honor at St. Francis.

Father John Casey, a fellow Pallottine priest who serves as pastor at St. Stephen Church in Weatherford, had known Fr. Nagle for 25 years, he said. “He was always very welcoming to the poor, and he made himself available to people of all faiths, as well,” Fr. Casey reflected. He noted that the funeral Mass was packed with Fr. Nagle’s friends and former parishioners, many of whom came from great distances to pay their respects to the man they had considered a dedicated leader and a caring neighbor.

Don Crawford, a longtime OLL parishioner and member of the parish finance council, was a young husband and father when he came to the parish in 1973. “Fr. Nagle tapped into starting high school CCD; 27 years later, he finally let me off the hook!” said Crawford. “The great thing about Fr. Nagle was that he cared so much about everyone who crossed his path. He had a special concern for the Hispanic com- munity. He would do the noon Mass in Spanish each Sunday in his New Jersey accent.”

Deacon Don Warner, calling Fr. Nagle a leader “with the heart of a servant,” recalled that the priest presided at his wedding, the bap- tism of his wife, Candy, and the baptisms of both of their children. “We worked together to start a food bank,” related Warner in a personal tribute written in honor of Fr. Nagle. “The first Saturday of the month, people would begin to line up outside Casa Maria at about six in the morning. At seven we would open the doors and give anyone who came a sack of groceries and diapers for those who wanted.”

“He cared greatly for the people of Mineral Wells,” added Deacon Warner. “He made first Friday visits to the homeless, was always at the hospital, and even drove a van to the outlying towns to pick children up for CCD classes. He was a familiar sight in town in the Our Lady of Lourdes van with his Notre Dame baseball cap. He had open arms for the Hispanic community…. [People] came from all over the diocese to have their babies baptized by — everyone knew that Fr. Nagle would never turn them away.”

“His example of service to the community and to the least among us, is an example that I have always tried to follow,” concluded Deacon Warner. “He will be greatly missed.”

Fr. Nagle was survived by sister Rita Belley of Florida and brother Thomas Nagle of Chicago.

In online survey, NAPM seeks opinions on what makes Catholics sing in church

SILVER SPRING, Maryland (CNS) — The National As- sociation of Pastoral Musicians has started an online survey asking Catholics what prompts them to sing in church.

The online survey, available at the organization’s Web site www.npm.org, lists a baker’s dozen of possible motiva- tions to sing at Mass — plus the ubiquitous “other (please specify).” Among the choices given are “something I can sing by heart,” “familiar melody,” “easy to sing,” “enthusiasm of the congrega- tion,” “leadership of cantor or director,” “contemporary song,” and “traditional song.” Survey respondents can choose more than one.

Votes will be taken through Dec. 31. The results will be avail- able in early 2007 both on the organization’s Web site and in its membership journal, Pastoral Music.

Last year, the National As- sociation of Pastoral Musicians conducted an online survey asking Catholics to name their favorite liturgical song. “On Eagle’s Wings” was the top choice of the 3,000 people who took the poll.

Silver Spring, Maryland (CNS) — The Na- tional Association of Pastoral Musicians has started an online survey asking Catholics what prompts them to sing in church.

NORTH TEXAS CATHOLIC, October 20, 2006     Page 15
By Jean Denton

I wonder if Bartimaeus ever had second thoughts about asking for sight. We know today’s Gospel is not simply about a man being physically healed of blindness but about seeing in a new way — with eyes of faith. It’s what spiritual scholars call discernment, being able to differentiate God’s will from our own human will.

If the Scripture was only about Bartimaeus’ physical blindness, I wouldn’t wonder, but I do know that seeing with a “God’s eye view” likely will lead to some difficulties.

A case in point: Once when I was at a high school PTA board meeting, homecoming activities were being discussed. Someone proposed that the PTA could sell mums and cash in on the school tradition in which boys bought giant mum corsages for their homecoming dates. Everyone knew that over the years the corsages had become more and more ornate — and expensive — with an unspoken competition for double and triple mums decorated with multiple “add-on” trinkets.

The conversation ran too long as board members gabbed about a son’s $50 tab last year or how the teddy bear had fallen off a daughter’s “triple.” Finally, one somewhat agitated member stopped everyone cold when she asked, “Why are we talking about selling $40 mums, when fully one-third of our student body won’t be going to the dance because they can’t afford a tux or even a ticket?” Judging by the stares she got, I was glad no one had a gun.

It takes time and practice to recognize God’s will in everyday decisions. It starts with knowing the heart of God by studying Scripture, being active in a faith community, and following the life and message of Jesus. Then it’s a matter of keeping the eyes of faith open and watching carefully for the way of Jesus in the midst of the corrupted ways of human beings.

Finally comes the hard part — doing something about what we see.

Even knowing this, our faith calls us to continue asking to see, and once we’ve been healed, to go and help heal our world.

**QUESTIONS:**

What unexpected discoveries have you made by seeing with eyes of faith?

What complications arose from your insight and how were they resolved?

### Scripture Readings

October 29, Thirtieth Sunday in Ordinary Time.

**Cycle B Readings:**

1. Jeremiah 31:7-9
2. Psalm 126:1-6
3. Hebrews 5:1-6

By Jean Denton

I wonder if Bartimaeus ever had second thoughts about asking for sight. We know today’s Gospel is not simply about a man being physically healed of blindness but about seeing in a new way — with eyes of faith. It’s what spiritual scholars call discernment, being able to differentiate God’s will from our own human will.

If the Scripture was only about Bartimaeus’ physical blindness, I wouldn’t wonder, but I do know that seeing with a “God’s eye view” likely will lead to some difficulties.

A case in point: Once when I was at a high school PTA board meeting, homecoming activities were being discussed. Someone proposed that the PTA could sell mums and cash in on the school tradition in which boys bought giant mum corsages for their homecoming dates. Everyone knew that over the years the corsages had become more and more ornate — and expensive — with an unspoken competition for double and triple mums decorated with multiple “add-on” trinkets.

The conversation ran too long as board members gabbed about a son’s $50 tab last year or how the teddy bear had fallen off a daughter’s “triple.” Finally, one somewhat agitated member stopped everyone cold when she asked, “Why are we talking about selling $40 mums, when fully one-third of our student body won’t be going to the dance because they can’t afford a tux or even a ticket?” Judging by the stares she got, I was glad no one had a gun.

It takes time and practice to recognize God’s will in everyday decisions. It starts with knowing the heart of God by studying Scripture, being active in a faith community, and following the life and message of Jesus. Then it’s a matter of keeping the eyes of faith open and watching carefully for the way of Jesus in the midst of the corrupted ways of human beings.

Finally comes the hard part — doing something about what we see.

Even knowing this, our faith calls us to continue asking to see, and once we’ve been healed, to go and help heal our world.

**QUESTIONS:**

What unexpected discoveries have you made by seeing with eyes of faith?

What complications arose from your insight and how were they resolved?
Learning to pray for ‘something better’

By Jeff Hedglen

I think that most of us would agree that prayer is an important part of every Christian’s life. We believe that God listens to our requests and that God desires to share his plan for our life with us.

There are a lot of places in the Scriptures that speak to us about prayer. Matthew 6:6a says, “Seek first the kingdom of God and his righteousness, and all these things will be given to you besides.” Luke 11:9 says, “Ask and you will receive, seek and you will find, knock and the door will be opened to you.”

But, what about the times when our prayers are not answered in the way we planned, or we seek and do not find, or the door seems to remain closed? Is God fickle and inattentive? Are we praying wrongly? Or is there some other way to explain the unanswered or apparent unsatisfactorily answered prayers?

These are big questions that are rather scary to ask. Who am I to question God? If I do dare to question the Almighty, will I risk a flash of lightning aimed at my behind? It’s my experience that sometimes the questions get so loud that they must be asked. Furthermore, I believe that God can handle any question or doubt we can throw at him. Who among us has seen a friend or relative suffer and has not, at least for a moment, questioned the wisdom of God? Haven’t we all somewhere deep inside wondered where God is when it seems like our cries for help go unanswered? This is natural, and I believe that, even in the questioning, God is there somewhere.

There are basically three answers we can expect to any request we have of God: “yes,” “no,” and “not right now.” We obviously have no problem with the “yes” answers. It is the other two that cause us fits. In my life it seems like I get a lot of “not right now.” I tend to not have a lot of patience, and this might be God’s way of teaching me some. The “no” answers often are harder to take. I do not like being told “no,” and to hear it from God is hard to understand.

Recently while on retreat I heard something that has changed the way I pray. The retreat master was explaining that his prayers include a lot of intercessory prayer. He said he ends his prayers of petition with these words: “Father, grant me these things... or something better.”

That simple little phrase rocked my prayer world. So much said with so few words. It says that, even though we have expressed our desires to God, what we really want is God’s will to be done. It also acknowledges that sometimes God says “no” to our prayer. Most importantly it points out that if God is saying no, it is only because he has something better in mind.

As my mind reeled from the implications of that phrase I realized how short-sighted my questioning of God has been. Somewhere inside, probably right next to my doubt in God’s care for me, was a deep belief in the mercy-filled providence of God.

I really do know that God always wants my best, but sometimes my vision of what is best tends to cloud my ability to see things God’s way. If I were to remember all the stories of God coming through for those he loves, I would doubt less and focus, not so much on the 40 years in the desert, but the reality that the Chosen People of God, did indeed make it to the Promised Land.

From the first day of creation when everything was good, to what seems the worst day on earth that we call Good Friday, all things that encounter God find their way to being good. Sure, it may take a while to see the other side of our Jordan River, but the journey will be so much more bearable if we can remember that God will, at the very least, grant us everything we ask for in his name. But if we are lucky, he will give us something even better.

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@stbarthsfw.org.
Noviembre nos ofrece la oportunidad de reflexionar en lo que los santos pueden enseñarnos acerca de cómo seguir a Cristo

**En el último análisis, nuestra meta es la vida eterna con Cristo, por lo tanto, ¿Cómo nos preparamos para esto ahora? ¿Cómo vivimos nuestras vidas ahora como una respuesta al llamado de Cristo para ser sus discípulos?**

Al escribir esta columna me encuentro tomando unos días de reflexión, oración, lectura y meditación en la Casa de Retiro de los Padres Jesuitas, Monserrat, cerca de Lake Dallas. Es una verdadera bendición para nuestra Diócesis el tener estas facilidades y la presencia y ministerio de la Compañía de Jesús para retiros y dirección espiritual.

Como parte de las actividades de este día he estado leyendo un nuevo libro, Mi Vida con los Santos (My Life with the Saints) escrito por Monseñor Kevin W. Vann. Esta lectura me ha llevado a reflexionar sobre nuestra Diócesis de San Patricio, la época del año, y lo que los santos nos tienen que enseñar sobre nuestras vidas con Cristo.

Recientemente, nuestra Diócesis fue el anfitrión de la convención nacional de la Sociedad de Derecho Canónico de América. Esto no es un pequeño esfuerzo, y gracias al trabajo arduo y la hospitalidad del equipo de trabajo de nuestro Tribunal Diocesano, la Diócesis de Fort Worth dejó bien impresionados a nuestros visitantes que, como abogados especializados en derecho canónico, sirven a través de la nación en parroquias, tribunales, cencilllerías y diversos ministerios educativos. Para muchos de los visitantes de la convención, un momento importante fue la Misa celebrada este pasado miércoles en la Catedral. Gracias a Monseñor Neu y a todos los que sirvieron en la Catedral pues dejaron a nuestros visitantes muy impresionados. Gracias a la Sra. Kay Fiahlo, muchos de nuestros visitantes disfrutaron de una pequeña gira dentro de la Catedral. Ella les explicó la historia de la Catedral y de todos los sacerdotes que han sido asignados a ella además de relatar la historia de todas las imágenes y vitrales en el templo. Volvió a escuchar una y otra vez sobre cómo nuestros visitantes estaban tan comovidos con la belleza de la Catedral y de manera especial con todos sus santos. Todos los santos en nuestra Catedral nos recuerdan que la vida en Cristo no es una tarea fácil, pero es posible. Desde Santa María Goretti (castidad), a Santa Isabel de Hungría (cuidar de los pobres), San Oliver Plunkett (una fe fuerte en tiempos de persecución), San Carlos Borromeo (amor por la Iglesia de cristo y la valentía durante la reforma) y todos los demás. Ellos nos enseñan como ser discípulos de Cristo, como vivir vidas virtuosas, como vivir vidas de santidad y como vivir las Bienaventuranzas.

Nos viene bien pensar en todo esto ahora pues al terminar octubre estaremos celebrando las fiestas de Todos los Santos y la Commemoración de los Fieles Difuntos. Esta celebración anual de la Iglesia es para reflexionar sobre la Comunión de los Santos, la vida eterna y además del cielo reflexionar sobre la importancia de las enseñanzas de la Iglesia sobre el purgatorio y el orar nuestros seres queridos ya difuntos.

En el último análisis, nuestra meta es la vida eterna con Cristo, por lo tanto, ¿Cómo nos preparamos para esto ahora? ¿Cómo vivimos nuestras vidas ahora como una respuesta al llamado de Cristo para ser sus discípulos?

Les recomiendo leer libros sobre los santos. En la introducción del libro que estoy leyendo ahora el Padre Martin nos dice que “Estas reflexiones pretenden ser biografías exhaustivamente académicas de la vida de estos héroes y heroínas espirituales. En cambio, son meditaciones sobre el modo en que un cristiano se relaciona con estas personas santas: Es la manera en que yo los llegué a conocer y lo que a mí me inspira sobre sus historias y el significado que tienen en mi propia vida.”

En el próximo mes de noviembre los santos nos están esperando para enseñarnos cómo ser amigos de Cristo en esta época tan compleja y llena de retos. Algunos de esos retos que experimentaron los santos no son tan distantes de los que tenemos hoy día. Visiten nuestra Catedral o simplemente lea algo sobre los santos. ¡Puede ser que nuestras vidas no vuelvan a ser iguales!

---

**Día de retiro en español, Nov. 5**

La vida después de la muerte

Lo que la Biblia, la Iglesia y nuestra tradición nos dicen sobre la muerte, el infierno, el juicio y la resurrección de los muertos. Día de reflexión, diálogo y oración en el Centro de Cursillos, 2221 NW 26 St., Fort Worth. Habrá Misa y oportunidad para confesarse. Todos los adultos cordialmente invitados. Registración: 7:30 a.m. – 8:30 a.m.; retiro 8:30 a.m. – 5 p.m., Nov. 5. Donación por persona $25.

Para más información llame a Moises Minero (817) 834-0536; Norma Cerritos (817) 343-7573; Marta Galvan (817) 922-9514; Centro de Cursillos (817) 624-9411.

**Jornada Familiar, Retiro Matrimonial Nov. 17-19, el Centro de Cursillos**

Todas las parejas cordialmente invitadas: casadas por la Iglesia o no. Vengan a un retiro matrimonial que illuminará toda su vida matrimonial y familiar. Pláticas, diálogo, Misa, confección y consejería. Viernes Nov. 17, 7 p.m. a domingo Nov. 19, 6 p.m. Donación por pareja $80.

En el Centro de Cursillos, 2221 NW 26 St., Fort Worth. Para registración y reserva, llame a Sergio y Dulce Morataya (187) 921-9271.
Días más frescos y hojas amarillentas cayendo de árboles

El otoño como metáfora de nuestro existir

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

Múltiples días con temperaturas cerca de los cien grados ya no se verán hasta el año próximo. El sol no sale hasta después de las siete y media de la mañana y ya para antes de las siete de la noche se ha puesto el sol en el horizonte dándonos días más cortos. Las hojas en muchos árboles ya dejaron a tráns su verdor intenso y tienen un color amarillento y con cada brisa fresca que sopla se las va llevando todas poco a poco. No cabe duda de que el otoño está aquí.

Otoño es la época representativa de los comienzos de un final, y me refiero a un final en varios sentidos. El primer sentido es el de la naturaleza pues los árboles, aunque todavía con un poco de vida, están en pleno proceso de comenzar el final de su ciclo de vida. Están por comenzar un periodo de dormición que se extenderá e intensificará durante el invierno.

Para los países al norte de la línea ecuatorial el otoño nos dará en el invierno.

Otoño también puede representar cercanía con, sin haber alcanzado todavía, la tercera edad. Muchos comparan la tercera edad con haber llegado al invierno de sus vidas, yo prefiero decir que se ha alcanzado la madurez. Invierno representa la época donde la vegetación, y los seres vivientes que no se reguardan, mueren.

Dios me introdujo al otoño de mi vida de una manera directa y donde no hay lugar para dudar. Hace un mes tuve un pequeño episodio donde se me detuvo el corazón. Ya estoy bien y el marcapasos artificial que implantaron esta funcionando a la perfección pero la experiencia fue una que todavía me tiene reflexionando un mes después. Ya sé que estoy en mi otoño y debo estar listo pues nadie sabe cuando le llega su invierno.

Yo pensaba que esto era tema para otro día, no para ahora. Pero Dios en su bondad me dio un pequeño jalón de oreja y me “invitó” a pensar con mayor intensidad en el hecho de que la vida eterna no es así. La vida eterna se alcanza por medio del paso inevitable de la muerte y nadie sabe ni el día ni la hora. Tenemos que preguntarnos aquí y ahora, ¿Estamos listo para dar este paso tan importante?

Hermanos y Hermanas, ¿Estamos realmente conscientes de la posibilidad de que nuestra opinión de que solo estamos viviendo la primavera, verano y otoño de nuestras vidas puede estar bien equivocada? ¿Estamos conscientes de que, desde la perspectiva de Dios, podríamos estar casi al final del invierno de nuestras vidas?

Después de pensar en esto asegurémonos de que estemos en mejores condiciones que las hojas amarillentas que caen para ser recogidas y descartadas para siempre. Amén.

Mexicano se convierte en primer obispo nacido en Américas nombrado santo

VERACRUZ, México (CNS) — En una ceremonia papal el 15 de octubre en el Vaticano, el beato Rafael Guízar Valencia está programado para convertirse en el primer obispo nacido en las Américas en ser declarado santo.

Como sacerdote durante la era anticlerical que marcó el comienzo del siglo 20 en su México natal, él se disfrazaba a menudo como distribuidor de chatarra para llevarle los sacramentos a ambos lados que luchaban en la revolución mexicana, que comenzó en 1910.

Después de la revolución, cuando las medidas anticlericales fueron aprobadas por el nuevo gobierno, él vivió en el exilio en Cuba, Colombia, Guatemala y el sur de Estados Unidos para escaparse de la persecución. Él fue ordenado en ausencia obispo de Veracruz en 1919 mientras vivía en La Habana.

El santo Rafael era miembro de los Caballeros de Colón. Él es el séptimo caballero y el primer miembro-obispo de la organización declarado santo. Los Caballeros comenzaron a formar concilios en México en 1905. Los otros seis caballeros que son santos son también mexicanos martirizados durante la persecución de católicos en las décadas de 1920 y 1930.

“Acogemos la canonización de nuestro hermano caballero, el obispo Guízar Valencia, y sabemos que su vida de valor y su legado de evangelización serán inspiración a cada uno de nuestros 1,7 millones de miembros en todo el mundo”, dijo el caballero supremo Carl A. Anderson, quien planificaba asistir a la ceremonia de canonización del 15 de octubre.

“Él vivió desde 1878 a 1938 y en realidad sobrevivió la persecución del catolicismo por el gobierno mexicano, pero sólo apenas”, dijo Anderson en una declaración.

“Una anécdota sobre él dice que él regresó de una misión con agujeros de bala en su sombrero y ropa”, dijo Anderson.

El santo Rafael nació en una familia rica en Cotija de la Paz, en el estado mexicano de Michoacán, el 16 de abril de 1878. En 1894 él entró en el seminario de la Diócesis de Zamora y fue ordenado como sacerdote para la diócesis en 1901.

Cuando la revolución mexicana comenzó, la Iglesia Católica era objetivo de las fuerzas rebeldes porque era considerada una de las instituciones privilegiadas que dominaban la sociedad bajo el dictador mexicano Porfirio Díaz. Entonces padre Guízar se convirtió en objetivo debido a su defensa de la iglesia.

Después de la exitosa revolución el nuevo gobierno ordenó que padre Guízar fuera asesinado instantáneamente y en 1915 él huyó del país entrando a Estados Unidos. Él entonces se mudó a Guatemala, Colombia y Cuba.

El santo Rafael regresó a México en 1920 como obispo de Veracruz y en 1923 se unió al concilio local de los Caballeros de Colón.

Ya que la persecución de la iglesia continuó, él fundó un seminario clandestino.

“Un obispo puede funcionar sin mira, sin cayado y hasta sin catedral, pero nunca sin un seminario porque el futuro de Viva el SANTO, p. 20
El Santo Rafael…

Desde, p. 19

su diócesis depende del seminario”, dijo él.

La persecución de la iglesia obligó al santo Rafael a huir de México otra vez en 1927. Él regresó en 1929, después que la iglesia llegó a un acuerdo con el gobierno. Él llegó a conocerse como “el obispo de los pobres” y murió de causas naturales el 6 de junio de 1938. El papa Juan Pablo II lo beatificó el 29 de enero de 1995.

El obispo Skylstad decía que la construcción de un muro con extensión de 700 millas “también enviaría una señal equivocada para nuestro pacífico país vecino del sur, México; y al mismo tiempo para toda la comunidad internacional”.

Nuevo santo de México es ‘uno de los nuestros’, dicen a católicos del sur de Texas

SANANTONIO (CNS)—Uno de los más nuevos santos de la iglesia es verdaderamente “uno de los nuestros”, dijeron el arzobispo José Gómez, de San Antonio, y el arzobispo jubilado Patrick Flores a los católicos del sur de Texas.

Los dos arzobispos hablaron en conferencia de prensa en San Antonio días antes que el papa Benedicto XVI canonizara al obispo mexicano Rafael Gámez Valencia, quien vino al sur de Texas durante su exilio de México debido a la persecución gubernamental contra la Iglesia Católica.

“En este hombre de Dios tenemos una joya, alguien a quien orar y a quien pedir su intercesión”, dijo el arzobispo Flores. “Mi oración es que la gente llegue a conocerlo”.

Nombrado obispo de Veracruz, México, en 1919 por el papa Benedicto XV, el nuevo santo predicó misiones en la iglesia Inmaculada Heart of Mary y en la Catedral San Fernando en San Antonio, así como en la iglesia Our Lady of Guadalupe en Austin.

En su canonización el 15 de octubre, San Rafael se convirtió en el primer obispo nacido en las Américas en ser declarado santo. San Rafael todavía tiene familia viviendo en la zona de San Antonio. En asistencia a la conferencia de prensa con los arzobispos estaban Agustín Mora, hijo del santo del nuevo santo y Tito Guízar Jr., nieto de su sobrino.

El obispo Skylstad decía que la construcción de un muro con extensión de 700 millas “también enviaría una señal equivocada para nuestro pacífico país vecino del sur, México; y al mismo tiempo para toda la comunidad internacional”. Estados Unidos a que buscaran la ayuda de los llamados “coyotes”, algunos de los cuales explotarían a los inmigrantes y los colocarían en situaciones peligrosas, dijo.

La construcción de un muro con extensión de 700 millas “también enviaría una señal equivocada para nuestro pacífico país vecino del sur, México, y al mismo tiempo para toda la comunidad internacional”.

Presidente del episcopado de EEUU presiona a Bush para que vete proyecto de ley de muro fronterizo

WASHINGTON (CNS) — El desplazar el muro fronterizo entre los Estados Unidos y México no conduciría sino a más muertes y violencia, previno el presidente de la conferencia de obispos de los EEUU en una carta en la que exhortaba al presidente George W. Bush a vetar el Decreto del Muro de Protección.

El proyecto de ley, aprobado por el Congreso en los últimos días de sesiones antes del descanso de la campaña de octubre para las elecciones parciales, “podría conducir a la muerte de inmigrantes que intenten ingresar a los Estados Unidos y aumentaría la violencia relacionada con el contrabando en la frontera”, dijo el obispo William S. Skylstad de Spokane, Wash., presidente de la conferencia de obispos católicos de Estados Unidos.

El obispo Skylstad decía que el muro de una extensión de 700 millas, autorizado en el proyecto de ley, también “enviaría una señal equivocada para nuestro pacífico país vecino del sur, México; y al mismo tiempo para toda la comunidad internacional”.

Obispos Católicos de los EEUU decían que el muro de unos 700 millas “también enviaría una señal equivocada para nuestro pacífico país vecino del sur, México; y al mismo tiempo para toda la comunidad internacional”. En la carta, “Esto podría dañar nuestras relaciones con estos países e inhibiría el progreso bilateral en nuestros múltiples intereses”.

El obispo Skylstad decía que como “la más grande democracia y única superpotencia” del mundo, los Estados Unidos “deberían abordar el asunto de la inmigración ilegal sin recurrir a la construcción de muros o barreras”.

La Iglesia Católica “es una organización universal” que ates-tigua de las condiciones en países como México, las cuales empujan a la gente a decidirse a inmigrar ilegamente, decía el obispo Skylstad; y como tal, está convencida de que un muro no le evitará a la gente que está desesperada por escapar de la pobreza.

El obispo recomendó que esos esfuerzos se dirijan, por el contrario, hacia políticas de acción de economía global y comercio enfocadas al desarrollo de trabajos que remuneren lo suficiente para vivir, y que le permitan a la gente permanecer en su propio país y mantenerse ellos mismos y a su familia respectiva.
Missouri Catholics urged to lead way in defeating stem-cell, cloning proposal

By Jay Nies
JEFFERSON CITY, Missouri (CNS) — Catholics have a moral obligation to treat the least among them the way they would treat Christ himself, Missouri’s Catholic bishops said in a pastoral letter calling for defeat of a proposed state constitutional amendment on embryonic stem-cell research and cloning.

The amendment, slated for the Nov. 7 ballot, would take away state and local governments’ authority to regulate and ban human cloning and embryonic stem-cell research. Such research always results in the killing of innocent human life.

“The stage of human life at which the killing takes place makes no difference,” the bishops said in the letter, released Sept. 30 during the Missouri Catholic Conference’s annual assembly at the Capitol in Jefferson City.

“No matter how big or small we are, we all begin our unique journey of life as a human embryo,” they said. “Killing is killing, no matter how young or old the victim. And no human life, at any stage of its development, may ever be taken for the sake of someone else’s gain.”

Signing the letter were Archbishop Raymond L. Burke of St. Louis; Bishops Robert W. Finn of Kansas City-St. Joseph, John R. Gaydos of Jefferson City, and John J. LeBrecht of Springfield-Cape Girardeau; Auxiliary Bishop Robert J. Hermann of St. Louis; and retired Bishop Raymond J. Boland of Kansas City-St. Joseph.

The bishops stated that “our least brethren” and Christ himself were depending on Catholics to help defeat the amendment.

“We must vote, and we must vote ‘no,’” the bishops said. “In the United States, the least of our brothers and sisters are the unborn children threatened by abortion and the human embryos artificially produced to be destroyed as mere objects of research.”

The bishops predicted that the outcome of the Nov. 7 vote on the amendment — which would require a simple majority for passage — will have national implications. Other states are watching closely how Missouri voters react to the amendment.

The bishops said the amendment is deceptively worded, stating that it bans human cloning, when it only bans cloning for the sake of human reproduction. The amendment actually would prevent lawmakers and their constituents from banning or regulating the cloning of human embryos for research.

They also said that, in addition to the grave sin involved in the killing of innocent human life, embryonic stem-cell research, which has yet to produce a single lifesaving cure or therapy in humans, takes limited resources away from the much more promising research and therapies of stem cells from nonembryonic sources such as bone marrow or umbilical-cord blood.

“Adult stem-cell research ... has shown itself to be extremely successful in treating dozens of human illnesses, and shows promise even for conditions such as spinal cord damage, cerebral palsy, multiple sclerosis, and Parkinson’s disease,” they added. “These cells can be obtained without any harm to the donor and without any violation of the moral law.”

The bishops said the promise of embryonic stem-cell research has been consistently overstated by people who support the amendment.

“When pressed for honest answers, many scientists now admit that the hope for cures from human cloning is very remote, and that the means to get there are highly impractical,” they said. “The plain fact is that, despite years of concerted effort, embryonic stem-cell research has never yet helped a single human patient, and even worldwide efforts to obtain stem cells from cloned human embryos have been mired in failure and fraud.”

At the annual assembly, a physician who co-founded the St. Louis Center for Bioethics and Culture used simple illustrations and comparisons as he sought to equip his audience to “understand and discuss this issue.”

“It’s up to us as a community of faith to get the word out,” said Dr. Richard Chole, a professor at the Washington University School of Medicine in St. Louis.

In addition to promoting human cloning for research while pretending to do otherwise, the amendment would lead to the exploitation of low-income women of childbearing age, require taxpayer funding for embryonic stem-cell research, and eliminate legislative oversight of such research, Chole said.

Although the amendment’s supporters say state tax dollars would not be spent on the research, the amendment states: “State or local governments cannot eliminate, reduce, deny, or withhold any public funds ... to a person [who] ... lawfully conducts stem-cell research.”

“This omission is a breach of the state of Missouri to pay for unethical research in our state, with our tax dollars,” Chole said.

He noted that 27 countries have banned all forms of human cloning, as have several U.S. states, including Iowa and Michigan. The U.N. General Assembly has passed a resolution banning human cloning.

And biotech companies have basically abandoned stem-cell research because there’s much more promise in adult stem-cell technology,” he said.

Save dates for College of St. Thomas More lecture series

The College of St. Thomas More in Fort Worth recently announced dates for its annual College of St. Thomas More Lectures Week Nov. 11-18.

Tom Key, known for his one-man play “C.S. Lewis on Stage” as well as his celebrated musical “Cotton Patch Gospel,” will present the Lewis-Tolkien Lecture Nov. 11. His topic will be C.S. Lewis’ “The Screwtape Letters.”

The topic of the annual Cardinal Newman Lecture, Nov. 18, will be “Why Do Catholics Eat Fish on Friday?” The Catholic Orig into Just About Everything,” given by author and lecturer Michael Foley.

The Lewis-Tolkien Lecture is still to be held at Highland Park Presbyterian Church in Dallas. The Cardinal Newman Lecture will take place at St. Mary the Virgin Church, 1408 N. Davis Drive in Arlington. More details concerning times will follow.

For more information, call the college at (817) 923-8459 or visit online at www.cstm.edu.
Life Chain event organizes people of many faiths to oppose abortion publicly

FROM PAGE 24 to Solis, is that it is one of the most ecumenical events she has ever been involved with. “It’s such an uplifting thing for the whole community,” she explained.

Pastor Southlake, who came dressed in his Sunday best. “Pastor Quesenbury, pastor of Lone

FROM PAGE 11

One day last year, as cool winds kicked in, Andrew had worked all night at his “day job” in a computer store. “I was a zombie walking home from work this morning,” he said.

He leaned back, and out of the corner of my eye, saw something written on the wall behind me. In the spirit of subway graffiti, I wasn’t really expecting much,” he said. “It was just Sharpie-penned handwriting.

But I turned to look, and it said, “Are you living your dream?”

“I took a picture of it,” Andrew said, “and made it the wallpaper on my cell phone.” “You are living your dream,” I told him.

“And learning comedy in the city that’s famous for it,” I reminded him. “It’s a good dream.”

When I told her about it, Meredith laughed. “My dream,” she retorted, “is having it be cold in Texas.” Andrew continued taking classes at Second City, commuting to work, and exercising his creative nature. But, as weather changes, so does the climate of life, and months later, Andrew lost his job.

“The day I lost my job, I went to the same train station, and looked for that sign. It wasn’t there anymore. When it wasn’t there, I interpreted something completely different than when I saw it. Maybe I hadn’t been following my dream after all. Maybe I was too busy, and other things were holding me back. Maybe I wasn’t brave enough. Maybe I had lost sight of my original dream.

“I’m trying harder now.”

I always tell Andrew there is a hopeful future for him. But it is all of us who are challenged to throw on our sweaters, and look for changes in climate. We have a future full of hope too.

God has told us he has great plans for us. We should believe him.

Kathy Cribari Hamer, a member of St. Andrew’s, has five children, Meredith, John, Julie, Andrew, and Abby. Her column is syndicated in a number of the best Catholic diocesan newspapers across the U.S. In May of 2005, her column received the first place award for best family life column by the Catholic Press Association of the U.S. and Canada.

St. Elizabeth Ann Seton forms first Keller Life Chain

On Oct. 1, 135 members of St. Elizabeth Ann Seton Parish lined a half mile of Highway 377 from North Tarrant Parkway south to North Park Drive for what organizers said was the first peaceful demonstration for life ever held in Keller.

Respect Life parish coordinators Michael and Alana Demma said St. Elizabeth Ann Seton parishioners joined many other Catholic parishes who participated in Life Chains in over 100 cities across the United States. The Demmas organized the Keller Life Chain after participating in the Southlake Life Chain last year.

According to Michael Demma, support by Keller motorists and local citizens was overwhelming. Passersby would wave, smile, and give words of thanks and appreciation to the Life Chain members, he said.

In the one-hour vigil, approval was 10 to one over those who showed signs of disapproval. The Life Chain was approached by one of the businesses in the area who welcomed them and expressed gratitude for what was being done.

Umbert the Unborn

WHAT’S THIS? THE PRESIDENT VOTED USING FROZEN EMBRYOS. STEMS CELL RESEARCH.

If frozen embryos are human beings and shouldn’t be destroyed in the name of science.

I wonder if freddi has heard the news. I don’t think he would have.

FOOD REPROVED!

Frozen embryos are human beings and shouldn’t be destroyed in the name of science.
To Report Misconduct
If you believe you have been the victim of sexual misconduct by anyone who serves the church, you may contact an accessible local assistant coordinator.

Call or e-mail SAMP
• (817) 560-2452 ext. 201 or visit www.sampg.org
• or call the Sexual Abuse Hotline
• (817) 560-2452

Open Diocesan Volunteer Orientation at (817) 560-2452 ext. 107 and ask for the vicar general, Father Michael Olson.

SINGLES MINISTRY WORKSHOP
Holy Family Church and Singles Ministry will host the presentation, “How to Avoid Marrying a Jerk/Jerkette” (The Way to Follow Your Heart: The Christian Way), Oct. 30 at 4 p.m. in the Family Life Center. The session will examine the five bonding elements. These dynamic elements are directly related to one another, must be developed in a specific order, and must be kept in balance. This session will be led by Dr. Deacon Lenc and Kathy Stojak of the Family Life Ministry for the Diocese of Fort Worth, will bring in insight, and will be an opportunity for friendships and dating. For more information and to make a reservation, contact Monica Plascencia at (817) 919-0485 or by phone at (817) 737-6768.

FREE NOVICEWORK” JESUS, “Blessor de God’s Peace and Justice,” a workshop on the novice of Jesus, will be sponsored by the Jesus Foyer, part of the Church Life Renewal Center, 4503 Bridge Street, Fort Worth. Co-sponsored by the Sisters of St. Mary of Nazareth, Office of Peace and Justice for the Diocese of Fort Worth, this workshop will feature Father-Teacher John Dear, a Jesuit, pastor-pastor, reformation leader, and author. Based upon his book, Jesus the Rebel: Bearer of God’s Peace and Justice for the World, John Dear will reflect upon several stories of Jesus’ life journey. Registration will begin at 8:15 a.m. The workshop will follow at 9 a.m. and conclude at 4 p.m. with the celebration of the Eucharist. For additional information, contact the Office of Peace and Justice at (817) 429-2920 for the visit the diocesan website at www.fwdoc.org.

TEXAS A&M ALUMNI
St. Mary’s Catholic Church and the St. Mary’s Catholic Church’s campus ministry to the students of Texas A&M University in College Station, is in the process of trying to locate former students of St. Mary’s, their parents, and friends, or individuals just wanting to exchange information about the campus ministry at Texas A&M are invited to contact the campus that make contact will be made interested in doing a drawing for a “Football Survival Package.” For more information, call St. Mary’s Catholic Church at (888) 240-TAMU or visit www.aclastiche.org by Oct. 31.

Catholic Pilgrimages
From DFW

POLKA MASS
SACRED HEART CATHOLIC COMMUNITY in Sey- mour will celebrate its 37th Annual Polish Mass beginning Nov. 2 at St. Maria Goretti Church, 1200 S. Davis Dr., Arlington. An evening Mass with novena prayers will be celebrated at 6:30 p.m. each weekday in addition to the 8 a.m. Mass. Saturday, Oct. 28, Mass will be celebrated at the Oklahoma City, OK at 1:30 p.m. The novena will end Nov. 2, All Souls Day. Mass cards for the Holy Spirit Novena will be available at all the Masses or in the St. Maria Goretti Church office for a donation of $5.

TODAY, TOMORROW, FOREVER
A day of preparation for couples seeking to have their marriage validated within the Catholic Church will be offered Nov. 1 from 8:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. by the diocesan Family Life Office. This one-day session, entitled “Today ... Tomorrow ... Forever,” will be held at The Catholic Cen- ter, 2700 South St. Margaret Drive, Fort Worth. Topics to be discussed will include “Marriage as a Sacrament,” “Commitment,” “Intimacy,” “Time” and how to be a couple to strengthen their relationships with regard to their careers, family, faith, marriage and the love they wish to deepen their sense of mutual love and commitment. For more information or to register, call the diocesan Family Life Office at (817) 560-2452 ext. 304 or ext. 258 or visit the diocesan website at www.fwdoc.org.

PATRIOTIC ROSARY
St. Patrick Cathedral will host a Patriotic Rosary and prayers for the United States during this Saturday, Nov. 4, 2006, and during times of need or lack of peace in the world. The prayers will be accompanied by the lighting of three sym- bolic candles on the 10 a.m. Sunday Mass at St. Patrick Cathedral and in the church, and the second for military and military defending this country, and the third for military and military serving military duty. The rosary is in the framework of traditional prayers said for the conversion of the United States and the world. The lighting of the rosary is accompanied by a spiritual reflection by one of America’s forefathers. Each of the 50 Hail Marys is dedicated to a specific state in the union and each state will pray for all the states. The prayer service will be held at St. Patrick Cathedral, 1206 Throckmorton, Fort Worth, Oct. 24 from 7 a.m. to 8 p.m. For more information, call (817) 244-7733 or (817) 558-4885.

ST. JUDE FESTIVAL, OCT. 29
The St. Jude Parish Fall Festival will be held Oct. 29 from 10:30 a.m. to 2 p.m. This event, which is St. Jude’s celebration of the year, will include traditional Polish food and games for the children. There will also be a drive-through for carryout diners as well as free delivery in Burbankett by calling (940) 447-5689. Adults: $10. Children 12 and under: $5. Children under 5: free. $7 for adults and $4 for children 4 to 15 years of age. Children under the age of 5 will be served a special meal. For more information, call (940) 569-1222.

National Family Planning
For Catholics striving to live chaste lives and able to share CART responsibilities at the diocesan level for the St. Joseph Covenant Keepers and their families, call (817) 919-0485.

NORTH TEXAS CATHOLIC, October 20, 2006     Page 23

SERVICES AVAILABLE
Topical, sand, gravel, washed materials, driveways, concrete, backhoe, and tractor services. Surfacing and earth moves. Call (817) 732-4083.

HOME CHERGERS
Visiting Angels, a non-medical home-care agency, is seeking caregivers for on-call positions. PT, live-in. Great supplemental income. Call (817) 919-0485.

Medjugorje and more. Accompanied by Msgr. Joseph Ray, a bishop from the Diocese of Destin, Florida, and Father Karl Burger, a pastor from Holy Family Church and Singles Ministry, the St. Mary’s/SMC Campus Ministry will present a youth trip to Medjugorje, beginning Oct. 22, 2006. For more information, call Father Rob Johnson at (817) 919-0485.
Life Chain in Northeast Tarrant County helps make clear a happy ecumenical fact:

**Respect for Life**

It’s not just for Catholics anymore

Parishioners of St. Francis of Assisi Church in Grapevine and St. Michael Church in Bedford were among an ecumenical group of 126 people from five congregations in the Southlake/Grapevine area lined up along Southlake Blvd. for one hour on Oct. 1 to take part in Life Chain. The peaceful, silent demonstration in Southlake was one of five such gatherings along roadways in Tarrant County cities that day. Life Chain, which takes place on the first Sunday of October each year, is an interdenominational, peaceful pro-life demonstration which began in 1987.

Mary Solis is in her fifth year as the area coordinator, but is marking her 13th year of involvement. She greeted this year’s participants with bottled water and plastic bins filled with signs proclaiming, “Adoption the Loving Option,” “Abortion Kills Children,” “Jesus Forgives & Heals,” and “Lord, Forgive Us and Our Nation.”

Her offerings of water were welcome on the 94-degree day. Even though it’s fall in North Texas and the temperatures are dropping, they are “always back in the 90s for Life Chain Sunday,” Solis said.

When asked why she has participated in Life Chain for more than a decade, Solis explained, “We are all joined together for this common issue. I’m so very pro-life. I want to get the message out.”

Serving as marshals for the event were Knights of Columbus members from St. Francis Council #7099. Some joined the participants by holding signs along the busy boulevard and others handed out water. Last year a participant passed out from heat exhaustion, so the Knights were also there to look after the safety of the volunteers.

One of the things that makes Life Chain so special, according to parishioners of St. Francis of Assisi Church in Grapevine and St. Michael Church in Bedford were among an ecumenical group of 126 people from five congregations in the Southlake/Grapevine area lined up along Southlake Blvd. for one hour on Oct. 1 to take part in Life Chain. The peaceful, silent demonstration in Southlake was one of five such gatherings along roadways in Tarrant County cities that day.

Parishioners of St. Francis of Assisi Church in Grapevine and St. Michael Church in Bedford were among an ecumenical group of 126 people from five congregations in the Southlake/Grapevine area lined up along Southlake Blvd. for one hour on Oct. 1 to take part in Life Chain. The peaceful, silent demonstration in Southlake was one of five such gatherings along roadways in Tarrant County cities that day. Life Chain, which takes place on the first Sunday of October each year, is an interdenominational, peaceful pro-life demonstration which began in 1987.

Mary Solis is in her fifth year as the area coordinator, but is marking her 13th year of involvement. She greeted this year’s participants with bottled water and plastic bins filled with signs proclaiming, “Adoption the Loving Option,” “Abortion Kills Children,” “Jesus Forgives & Heals,” and “Lord, Forgive Us and Our Nation.”

Her offerings of water were welcome on the 94-degree day. Even though it’s fall in North Texas and the temperatures are dropping, they are “always back in the 90s for Life Chain Sunday,” Solis said.

When asked why she has participated in Life Chain for more than a decade, Solis explained, “We are all joined together for this common issue. I’m so very pro-life. I want to get the message out.”

Serving as marshals for the event were Knights of Columbus members from St. Francis Council #7099. Some joined the participants by holding signs along the busy boulevard and others handed out water. Last year a participant passed out from heat exhaustion, so the Knights were also there to look after the safety of the volunteers.

One of the things that makes Life Chain so special, according to parishioners of St. Francis of Assisi Church in Grapevine and St. Michael Church in Bedford were among an ecumenical group of 126 people from five congregations in the Southlake/Grapevine area lined up along Southlake Blvd. for one hour on Oct. 1 to take part in Life Chain. The peaceful, silent demonstration in Southlake was one of five such gatherings along roadways in Tarrant County cities that day.