Catholic leaders say veto won't end efforts to insure more poor children

By Nancy Frazier O'Brien

WASHINGTON (CNS) — Catholic leaders who had urged an expansion of the State Children’s Health Insurance Program expressed disappointment at the House’s vote that fell short of overriding President George W. Bush’s veto but said efforts to reach a compromise must not stop now.

The Senate had already passed legislation by a veto-proof majority.

The veto and the 156 House votes fall short of the two-thirds majority needed to override. The Senate had already passed the legislation by a veto-proof majority.

Father Larry Snyder, president of Catholic Charities USA, decried the fact that “there were not enough House members willing to stand up for children and vote to override this ill-conceived veto of a bill that would have helped so many children without health insurance.”

The veto and the 156 House members who supported it “put the health of many of our nation’s children at risk,” he said in a statement.

The legislation would have expanded funding for the program known as SCHIP by $35 billion over five years. Bush said the bill would have been a step toward socialized medicine and could have led many families to drop their private health insurance in favor of coverage by SCHIP.

But Sister Carol Keehan, a Daughter of Charity who is president and CEO of the Catholic Health Association, said it was tragic that the debate over the legislation “has been clouded by so many false assertions and misconceptions.”

“While we welcome the intentions of President Bush and con-

Young Adult Council: an opportunity for young adults to be more involved in life of local church

Michelle Bayes says that her commitment to her parish community — St. Michael’s Church in Bedford — is what infuses her life with purpose and meaning. The 32-year-old financial analyst adds that she used to be “the person who would come to church on Sunday, listen to the homily, get my message, and go.”

Now, as a leader within her parish young adult group for approximately three years, Bayes finds herself involved in young adult activities on the diocesan and regional level, as well. “I have worked on the Theology on Tap committee for going on three years now, and I think that is so important,” explains Bayes. “It’s a ministry that brings young adults together from across the diocese to learn more about their faith and to have the opportunity to grow spiritually together.”

Participation in other diocesan young adult activities, such as Flag Football for Charity and the recent regional conference held in Austin, gives her the opportunity to meet other young people with similar values, says Bayes.

“You must have been a hard-working child in school,” said Bayes. “And because of those opportunities, I’m excited about the formation of our diocesan Young Adult Council,” she adds. “The development of the council is important, so we can lay a foundation for even more young adults to become involved in the life of the church in our area.”

The first diocesan Young Adult Council meeting will be held Thursday, Nov. 1, from 6 p.m. to 9 p.m. at Holy Family Church, located at 6150 Pleshing Avenue in Fort Worth. Kevin

Pope Benedict XVI names Archbishop DiNardo of Galveston-Houston as one of two new U.S. cardinals

Cardinal-designate DiNardo says his elevation recognizes church’s growth in Southwest

By Erik Norga

HOUSTON (CNS) — Cardinal-designate Daniel N. DiNardo of Galveston-Houston called Pope Benedict XVI’s decision to name him a cardinal “very humbling and surprising,” but also said it illustrates the Vatican’s recognition of the church’s growth in the Southern part of the United States.

The cardinal-designate, the first from a Texas diocese, made the comments at an Oct. 17 news conference in Houston.

Pope Benedict named 23 new cardinals, including the Texas archbishop and U.S. Archbishop John P. Foley, grand master of the Knights of the Holy Sepulchre.

The announcement came at the end of the pope’s weekly general audience Oct. 17. He said he would formally install the cardinals during a special consistory at the Vatican Nov. 24.

“I am deeply grateful to the Holy Father for his kindness in appointing me and for his trust in allowing me to be placed in the College of Cardinals,” Cardinal-designate DiNardo said in his opening statement at the midday news conference at the downtown chancery.

“This is very humbling and surprising. I promise you my fullest communion, loyalty, and obedience,” he said.

“I believe that the Holy Father is also honoring this local church of Galveston-Houston, its past and present bishops, priests, deacons, and religious, and faithful for their love and loyalty to Jesus Christ and their affection and communion with the see of Peter,” Cardinal-

UNITY AWARDS — Tony Melendez performs Oct. 6 at the eighth annual Unity Awards in Phoenix. The Iowa-based United Catholic Music and Video Association sponsors the awards to recognize excellence in Catholic music and video. Melendez, a singer and guitarist who was born without arms, has traveled throughout the world sharing the gift of music and has performed many times in the Diocese of Fort Worth. (CNS photo/U. Long-Garcia, Catholic Sun)
Feeding the hungry is moral obligation, pope says for World Food Day

VATICAN CITY (CNS) — Feeding the hungry is not simply a logistical and economic challenge, it is a moral obligation, Pope Benedict XVI said.

In a message for the Oct. 16 celebration of World Food Day, sponsored by the U.N. Food and Agriculture Organization, the pope said that perhaps the failure to significantly reduce the rate of malnutrition in the world is due to the fact that too many people consider it a "technical and economic" problem.

Individuals and nations, he said, must give priority to "the ethical dimension of feeding the hungry. This priority relates to the feeling of compassion and solidarity that is part of being human, leading to sharing with others not only material goods, but also [sharing] the love all of us need."

"Indeed, we give too little if we offer only material goods," Pope Benedict said in the message sent to Jacques Diouf, director-general of the Food and Agriculture Organization.

The pope said studies of the situation of the world’s 850 million hungry people demonstrate that a lack of food is not due only to natural factors such as drought, but is due "above all, to situations caused by human behavior," including wars that force people to flee their land and their homes.

"The goal of eradicating hunger and, at the same time, providing healthy and sufficient diets, requires specific methods and actions that would allow for an exploitation of resources in a way that respects the patrimony of creation," he said.

Pope Benedict called for scientists, researchers, and technology developers to work in conjunction with farmers, farmworkers, and the indigenous who know "the cycles and rhythms of nature" and have protected them for centuries.

"The pope asked for strengthened school meal programs for the poor throughout the world. Children are "the first victims" of the tragedy of hunger and often suffer delayed physical and mental development because of malnutrition, he said. Many are forced to work or even are forced to enlist in armed militias in exchange for food.

Pope Benedict said school feeding programs not only provide food along with education for students, but they provide hope for the future for those children’s communities.

As he calls us to shine the light of our faith on our culture, Bishop Vann reminds us to defend the life of each and all

Dear Friends in the Diocese of Fort Worth, 

Late in the month of September, and early in the month of October, I was in Rome on a week of pilgrimage, discussion, and prayer with about 140 people from around the United States (but mostly from here in Texas) who are part of the “Pastoral Provision.”

These are priests and parishioners who had been formerly Episcopalian or Anglican and who had been received into the Church in the last 25 years under the auspices of the Pastoral Provision, established by the late beloved Pope John Paul II.

I was asked by Archbishop John Myers of Newark, a long-time friend of mine and the Delegate of the Holy See for the Pastoral Provision, to accompany him and Msgr. William Stetson of Houston for a time of prayer, reflection, and discussion among ourselves and with the Holy See regarding the experience of the Pastoral Provision over these past 25 years, and looking toward the future in faith.

We have been blessed here in our diocese with the lived experience and results of the provision, as other dioceses in Texas have as well. Three “personal parishes” of the Pastoral Provision were represented: Our Lady of Walsingham in Houston, Our Lady of the Atonement in San Antonio, and St. Mary of the Virgin in Arlington. It was a special blessing that Father Allan Hawkins could be with us for part of this pilgrimage.

We are near the end of the month of October and are rapidly heading toward November (the month dedicated to all of the Faithful departed). Along with the calendar year, the Church year is drawing rapidly toward its conclusion. Soon we will be hearing the Gospel of St. Luke at Sunday Mass for the last time for three years and soon we will be hearing from St. Matthew. As the Church year draws near an end, and as the month of November dawns upon us, the themes of the liturgy will call us to seriously examine our lives, and reflect on our eternal destiny in Christ. In the Mass for last Sunday and this Sunday, the second reading (the Epistle) speaks of Faith, as well as the Gospel for last Sunday: For example: “Remain faithful to what you have learned and believed…. When the Son of Man comes, will he find any faith on earth? ...” I have competed well, I have finished the race, I have kept the faith. “... How integral is Faith in our lives and in our decisions? Do we put the light of Faith on culture, and not vice-versa? Is our own call to conversion and holiness in front of us each day? As we seek to be ambassadors for Christ, in caring for the poor or living the Gospel of Life, for example, all of this must be rooted in the call to holiness and virtue — keeping the Faith, remaining faithful to what is Truth, as challenging as that is at times.

In this month of October, dedicated to Life, the Secretariat for Pro-Life activities of the United States Conference of Catholic Bishops reminds us of the call to holiness when it says that “And so of us who are humble and loving, God grants the privilege to be his instrument of bringing forth holiness from others. God loves, and wants us to love, the grandfather lying unconscious in a hospital bed, the child with severe physical and mental impairments, the frightened teenage mother, and the unprepared embryo nesting in her womb. Each of these vulnerable persons is given to us so we may learn to love as God loves ... generously, sacrificially, and unconditionally. May we never tire of proclaiming the dignity and worth of every human life. May we never tire of serving the vulnerable and their caregivers with generous hearts. And may we never cease to pray for the day when all people, and all societies, will defend the life of every human from conception to natural death.”

We would also do well to take some reflective prayer time with the rosary in these last days of the month of the rosary. This ancient form of prayer, is a true form of contemplation and meditation, in which we ask the Mother of God to lead us to her Son, and always be open to his will for each one of us — especially in his time and way.

Finally, congratulations, prayers, and best wishes go to Cardinal-designate Daniel of the Archdiocese of Galveston-Houston. I have known him for many years, and I believe he is truly blessed with this honor. The elevation of Cardinal-designate DiNardo, and the Archdiocese of Galves-ton-Houston, is recognition of the history, life, and vitality of the Church in Texas, a major part of which is the Hispanic heritage of our state and its two ecclesiastical provinces.

God bless you always...
Texas bishops respond to Amnesty International

The Texas Catholic Conference, the public policy arm of the bishops of Texas, issued the following statement Oct. 18 regarding Amnesty International:

We, the Bishops of Texas are instructing all parish and diocesan staff and other Catholic organizations to no longer support financially nor through publicity, nor participate in joint projects or events sponsored by the organization known as Amnesty International. This instruction is based on Amnesty International’s decision to limit its human rights agenda by promoting abortion as a way to curb violence against women, especially women in developing countries. In promoting abortion, Amnesty disregards the rights of unborn children, and jeopardizes its support by people in many nations, cultures, and religions who share a consistent commitment to all human rights. Our assessment is that Amnesty International is now violating its original mission to protect human rights worldwide and has lost its moral credibility.

While human rights organizations should turn away from the suffering that women face daily in the form of sexual violence, it should not prioritize a mother’s life above that of her unborn child. It is better to advocate advancing her educational and economic standing in society and resist all forms of violence and stigmatization against her and her child. Abortion is an act of violence against both the child and its mother. Any organization truly committed to women’s rights must put itself in solidarity with women and their unborn children.

Discontinuing participation with Amnesty International does not mean the Catholic Church in Texas will cease to protect human life and promote human dignity in all circumstances. We will continue to oppose the use of the death penalty, unjust incarceration, and the crushing effects of dehumanizing poverty in our state. We will continue to stand with refugees, migrants, and other oppressed peoples. But, we will seek to do so in authentic ways, working most closely with organizations who do not oppose the fundamental right to life from conception until natural death.

Cardinal Francesco Montero, president of the Pontifical Coun-cil for Justice and Peace, stated that individuals and Catholic organizations must withdraw their support for Amnesty International if it continues with this new policy of promoting to protect abortion rights. Amnesty International has betrayed its mission. This statement has been supported by the U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops. We, therefore, call upon Amnesty International to act in accord with its noblest principles, reconsider its error, and reverse its policy on abortion. Until then, par-ishes, diocesan staffs, and other Catholic organizations should no longer work with Amnesty International. We also encourage the lay faithful to examine their consciences and prayerfully con-sider their personal involvement with Amnesty International.

Sisters of St. Mary of Namur invite women to ‘Come and See’ Nov. 18

The Sisters of St. Mary of Namur will be hosting a “Come and See” program Sunday, Nov. 18, at OLV Center, 909 West Shaw Street in Fort Worth. Single women, ages 18 to 45, are invited to attend and to learn more about life as a religious sister. The day will begin with Mass at 10:30 a.m. in the convent chapel, followed by dinner with the sisters, a pre-sentation, and time for sharing. For more information, contact Sister Margaret Miller, SSND, at smargm@airmail.net or call her at (817) 429-4009.

Subiaco Academy in Northwest Arkansas to accept 8th graders in fall 2008

Subiaco Academy, a Catholic Benedictine day/board-college preparatory school for boys, recently announced that it will accept 8th grade students in the fall of 2008.

In response to a great deal of public interest and after much discussion, the school adminis-tration, Board of Trustees, and the Subiaco Academy Board of Trustees and School Board agreed to expand the middle school division to include the 8th grade and residential life before they begin their high school careers with us. The foundation [that] we will give them … in terms of study skills and social growth will help them succeed in high school and pave the way to their success in college.”

Visitors are always welcome, according to school administra-tors. Inquiries may be made by calling (800) 364-7824 or (479) 934-1034, or by e-mailing to admissions@subi.org, or by visiting the school’s Web site at www.subi.org.
Singles Silent Retreat to be held at Montserrat Nov. 16-18

A silent retreat for singles will be held at Montserrat Retreat House, located at 600 N. Shady Shores Road, Lake Dallas. The retreat will begin at 6 p.m. on Nov. 16, and will continue through lunch on Sunday. Father Nathan Stone, SJ, will serve as retreat master for the weekend. Outlined to the pontificated in 2000, he is an author and speaker and has been leading individuals and groups in the Ignatian Spiritual Exercises for the past 10 years. Participants in the retreat weekend will be given the opportunity for private prayer and reflection on topics offered by the retreat master. Mass, and the opportunity to receive the sacrament of reconciliation will also be available.

The retreat is open to singles of all ages, including those who have been separated, widowed, divorced or single. Participating in this retreat is based on a sliding scale, and payment options are available. To make a reservation, call Montserrat Retreat at (940) 321-6020, or e-mail to retreat1@airmail.net. More information can be found at www.montserratretreat.org.

North Texas Catholic deadlines for submission

The North Texas Catholic is published the 1st week of each month. The deadline to submit information is noon on the Wednesday of the week before the paper is published. Items for the Nov. 9 issue must be received noon on Wednesday, Nov. 14.

Study series on the Mass to be offered at St. Andrew’s

“Yeah, I’m Catholic! The Mystery of the Church” study series focusing upon the Mass will be offered at St. Andrew’s Church, 5777 Andrews Hwy in Corpus Christi, each Monday evening. The program will be held from 7 p.m. to 9 p.m. at the parish hall.

“Introductory Rite: We Gather as the Body of Christ,” will be held Oct. 29 and will be presented by Mary McClary, former director of the Office of Worshipship for the Diocese of Fort Worth. “Concluding Rites and Review of the Service” by Father Tom Traylor, TOR, associate pastor of St. Andrew’s Church, will be offered April 28. Check the diocesan calendar for advance, to reserve, call (817) 924-6584. To register for the series or for more information, call Deacon Joe Milligan at (817) 737-6768.

Rachel Vineyard retreat, Dec. 7-9, to offer abortion-aborting aid

A Radial Life Vineyard retreat, designed to offer healing for women who have undergone abortion, will be held Dec. 7-9 in Fort Worth, led by Dr. David Hill, who serves as the director of the Pope Pau Institute for the Study of Human Reproduction and Applied Theology and others who are struggling with the psychological and spiritual pain of abortion, will be held Dec. 7-9 in Fort Worth.

Rachel Vineyard retreats offer a safe, non-judgmental, and supportive environment to those struggling with abortion’s aftermath. The retreat includes a prayer and a licensed counselor, provides the confidential support needed to explore emotions, feelings of anger, shame, guilt, and grief, and helps participants begin the healing process and experience the healing love and mercy of God.

Mothers, fathers, grandparents, and former participants in the program — anyone who has been hurt by abortion — are welcome to attend. For more information or to register for a retreat, call the confidential help line (817) 923-4770 or e-mail to forgiveness@rachlife.org.

Calix support group meets weekly at Holy Family

Calix, a monthly support meeting for Catholics who are alcoholics and others who are struggling with addiction seeking recovery, will offer the first Saturday of each month, from 7 p.m. to 9 p.m. in the chapel. The meetings focus on enhancing spiritual growth through sharing, Eucharist, discussion, and reflection. For more information, call Deacon Joe Milligan at (817) 737-6766.

Cursillo Ulteyra is planned for Nov. 10 at St. Bartholomew’s

A Cursillo (Ulteyra is an occasional Chalice Cursillo) those who have attended a Cursillo and others who are interested in the Cursillo movement, will be offered in English or Spanish at St. Bartholomew’s Parish, 300 Alta Vista in Fort Worth.

At the gathering, according to Cursillo information found online, local organizers indicate that there are three tenets of Cursillo (love, prayer, and action) and one passage from Scripture. Local organizers indicate there would be a series of talks based on the three tenets of Cursillo, and plenty of food. For more information, call Patricia McCleneghan at (972) 612-5978.

Youth Mass to be held in Vernon Nov. 18

A youth Mass will be held at Holy Family of Nazareth Church, 2200 Robert Street in Vernon, Sunday, Nov. 18, at 4 p.m. The Mass will be followed by a social with refreshments.

According to Cheyenne Marion, volunteer coordinator for the Youth Ministry at St. Andrew’s Church in Benbrook, several youth ministers in some of the northeast Texas dioceses have worked together to develop the program, which has been well-attended by area teens and their adult leaders. “It’s been a great success,” said Marion, noting that, “we have youth ‘involved in every aspect of the Mass.’” For more information, call Cheyenne Marion at (817) 781-2848 or e-mail to cm2enrriquez@yahoo.com.

St. Philip’s to host marriage enrichment seminar Dec. 1

All married couples are invited to attend the Marriage Enrichment Seminar Dec. 1, from 1:30 p.m. to 5:30 p.m. at the parish’s Community Life Center, located at 8978 Main Street (at Kirkpatrick Street) in Levittown. A catered dinner will follow at 6 p.m.

In the book, Chapman writes about the importance of being able to express love to one’s spouse in a way that they can understand. Seminar attendees will learn about the five Love Languages and how to communicate them to your partner. Garcia of Austin, area leader of World Wide Marriage Encounter and the Marriage Encounter of the Southwest, will take place Saturday, Dec. 1, from 1:30 p.m. to 5:30 p.m. in the parish’s Community Life Center, located at 8978 Main Street (at Kirkpatrick Street) in Levittown.

In the book, Chapman writes about the importance of being able to express love to one’s spouse in a way that they can understand. Seminar attendees will learn about the five Love Languages and how to communicate them to your partner.
CATHOLIC DAUGHTERS BUILD HOUSE — Five members of the Catholic Daughters of the Americas from the St. Stephen Church in Weatherford were invited by the Wichita Falls CDA court to participate in the Habitat Interfaith and Ecumenical Representatives (PIERs) project. The court, under the direction of Bishop Kevin Vann, is working closely with PIERs and other interested Catholics on how to work with Episcopalians in the current climate.

PIER members are affiliated with the diocesan Ecumenical Commission where they meet to exchange information on ecumenical developments and managing parish ecumenical and interfaith events.

This meeting is open to all interested persons, especially pastors. For more information, contact Kathleen Easter at (817) 495-2414.

Our Mother of Mercy Fall Festival set for Oct. 27

Our Mother of Mercy Church, located at 1001 East Terrell Avenue in Fort Worth, is gearing up for its annual fall festival, to take place Saturday, October 27, beginning at 10 a.m. and continuing until 1:30 p.m. Because of the ongoing construction of the new school, the festival will be held at The Battleground Church (across the street from the church).

"Come out to take a look at the new school as well as enjoy all of the fun activities we have planned, the good barbecue dinners, " says festival organizer Betty Harris.

For more information, call Betty Harris at (817) 429-9492 or call the parish office at (817) 355-1695.

University Catholic Community to offer retreat Nov. 3-4

The University Catholic Community (UCC) at the University of Texas at Arlington will hold a retreat the weekend of Nov. 3-4. The retreat, to be held at the UCC Campus Ministry building, located at 1010 Dragon Dr. in Arlington, will begin at 5 p.m. on Saturday and will conclude after the 9:30 Mass on Sunday.

The retreat, which will focus on the theme of “Love,” will offer time for prayer and worship, individual quiet time, music, workshops, and dialogue from guest speakers. Retreat participants will also take part in a service project on Sunday.

Dinner on Saturday and breakfast and lunch on Sunday will be provided. All are asked to bring a bedroll for an overnight stay.

To register or for more information, call all the UCC at (817) 648-1115 or e-mail at ucc@uta.edu. Online registration is available at www.ucatholic.org.

The keynote speaker will be”, suggest organizers. Music will be provided by the Czech and Then Some Band. Activities will include a harvest fruit and cake sale, and door prizes will be distributed. Kid-friendly sandwiches, kaleidoscope parties, and nachos will be available for purchase.

The cost is $12.50 per person. For a reservation, call Joan at (817) 580-5508, Janet at (817) 522-8841, or Mary at (817) 808-1016.

Mt. Carmel Center to offer morning of reflection Nov. 14

Mount Carmel Center, an institute of Christian spirituality located at 4600 West Davis in West Dallas, will host a morning of reflection Wednesday, Nov. 14, from 9 a.m. to noon. The program, entitled “All Creatures Feast Day: Embracing Elemental Territory,” will be led by Father Stephen Sánchez, OCD. The retreat will explore how the Christian Centre, as exemplified by the saints of the order, including Elijah, Teresa of Avila, Pius the Cross, and Therese of the Child Jesus.

Participants must register prior to Nov. 7. The suggested donation for the program is $25. For more information, call Vicky at (214) 622-4214 ext. 234.

Women’s tea, auction to be held at St. Francis Assisi Parish Nov. 4

All women are invited to attend a benefit tea and auction Sunday, Nov. 4, from 2 p.m. to 4 p.m., sponsored by the Mothers with Young Children (MYC) of St. Francis Assisi Church, 616 Wildlane Drive, in Grapevine. The annual event, which will be held in the parish’s Family Life Center, enables MYC to provide Christmas gifts to local needy families and to assist them in coming basic needs such as utility bills and groceries.

MFC is comprised of Christian mothers who follow similar goals for their families and children. The group supports both recreational and pastoral activities that minister to its members, St. Francis Parish, and the community.

Silent and live auctions are planned, and tea sandwiches and appetizers refreshments will be served. Payment for all auction items is by cash or check only.

The cost is free. For more information, call the parish office at (817) 481-2685 or e-mail to myc@stfrancis parish.org.

Sister of Holy Family to host retreat Nov. 17

The Sisters of Holy Family at Naza-reth to offer vocation retreat Nov. 17

The Sisters of Holy Family of Nazareth will host a Come and See Retreat Day for single Catholic women, ages 16 to 35, who are discerning a vocation to the religious life. The retreat will take place Saturday, Nov. 17, at the sister convent, located at 1814 Egyptian Avenue in Fort Worth.

For more information to register, call Sister Mary Paul Haase, CSFN, at (817) 642-5511 or e-mail to smahase@csfn.org.

Holy Family School to host eclesiastical festival Oct. 27

Holy Family School will host its 2007 Fall Festival Saturday, Oct. 27.

The school invites children and families of all ages to participate in the festivities on the Holy Family Parish grounds, located at 6104 selected Avenue in Fort Worth, from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m.

The event’s highlight will include an exotic animal petting zoo, theatrical performances, bounce houses, face painting, athletic challenges, games, and a variety of food items for purchase.

Tickets may be purchased at the festival. Prices range from $5 for 10 tickets to $10 for unlimited access and includes games, Precious Pet Land, Holy Family School and its programs. For more information, call the school at (817) 757-4281.

Viking Run set for Nov. 3 at Gateway Park in Arlington

Bring the entire family to the first annual Viking Run, to be held Saturday, Nov. 3, at Gateway Park in Fort Worth. The 1-mile timed run/walk will start at 8 a.m., with the 5K run/walk following at 9 a.m. A warm-up will take place at 7:30 a.m. An auction is planned immediately following the race.

The run will benefit Nolan Catholic High School’s new gym. The goal is to raise funds to provide a state-of-the-art facility for the school’s students. With the school’s current facility, the gym floor needs to be replaced. The drop-in fees from the new gym will help provide the funds to purchase new equipment and new technology.

Tickets for the event are $15 per adult, $8 per child and $5 for children under the age of 12. Children under the age of 12 will be admitted free of charge. For more information, call the parish office at (940) 569-1222.

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People and Events

Skinner Memorial Run to be held Oct. 27

The 14th annual Juki K. Skinner 5K, Mile Run/Walk will be held Saturday, Oct. 27, at Andrews School, 584 Dryden Road in Fort Worth. The 5K will begin at 9 a.m., and the mile run will follow at 10 a.m. Awards will be presented at 11 a.m., and the event will continue until 1:30 p.m. All proceeds will benefit the St. Andrew’s Church, located at 584 Dryden Road in Fort Worth.

For more information, call Juki at (817) 824-9125.
WASHINGTON (CNS) — The Mexican American Cultural Center and Mercy Sister Maria Elena Gonzalez, both of San Antonio, have been selected as the latest recipients of the Archbishop Patrick F. Flores Award Medal for Leadership in Hispanic Ministry.

The award, conferred by the U.S. bishops’ Committee on Hispanic Affairs and announced in Washington, will be given to the winners at a Nov. 11 ceremony in Baltimore during the committee’s meeting, which coincides with the U.S. bishops’ fall general meeting.

Sr. Gonzalez recently stepped down after 14 years as president of the Mexican American Cultural Center. She also was the first woman chancellor for the Diocese of Lubbock and one of the first U.S. women diocesan chancellors. She also served for eight years as a consultant to the bishops’ Hispanic affairs committee.

She also has served on the Sisters of Mercy’s leadership team, has been a missionary to Guatemala, a member of the San Antonio Express News daily newspaper’s community advisory board, and served on the Census Bureau’s race and ethnicity committee for the 2000 Census. Sr. Gonzalez has also received the Pro Ecclesia et Ponti Cross from Pope John Paul II and two honorary doctorates.

The Mexican American Cultural Center, established in 1972, has developed pastoral materials to serve Spanish-speaking U.S. Catholics and has become a cross-cultural center for theology, pastoral ministry, study of the Spanish and English languages, and research and study of Hispanic life. Arturo Chavez is currently president of the center.

Committee chairman Bishop Placido Rodriguez of Lubbock said the award is given to recognize leadership in Hispanic ministry and to encourage high levels of leadership throughout the country. The honor is named for Archbishop Flores, who headed the San Antonio Archdiocese from 1979 until his retirement in 2004.
Msgr. Gleissner memorialized in naming of hall at Texas A&M

Several relatives of Msgr. Gleissner, including those living in the Fort Worth Diocese, traveled to College Station to witness the Sept. 22 dedication of a residence hall named in honor of the priest who played a significant role in the church in Texas in the first half of the 20th century.

Relatives of Msgr. John Baptist Gleissner (1865-1953), a former Catholic chaplain at Texas A&M University, were present at a special dedication ceremony held at St. Mary Catholic Center in College Station on Saturday.

Sept. 22. The ceremony marked the dedication of Gleissner Hall, a Catholic dormitory named in honor of Msgr. Gleissner.

Msgr. Gleissner, a native of Burgunkenstadt, Bavaria, studied for the priesthood at the Seminary of Our Lady of Angels in Niagara Falls, New York. He was ordained for the Diocese of Galveston July 10, 1889, by Bishop Nicholas Aloysius Gallagher. In 1900, while serving as pastor of St. Mary Church in Hearne, he became ill and was sent to Galveston’s St. Mary’s Infirmary, where he later survived the devastating Galveston Hurricane of 1900.

Sent to St. Joseph Church in Bryan in 1904, where he spent nearly 50 years as pastor, then-Father Gleissner soon became acquainted with students from the Agricultural and Mechanical College of Texas, now known as Texas A&M University. Msgr. Gleissner’s advocacy on behalf of the college students led to the building of St. Mary Chapel near the campus in 1926. Made an auxiliary chaplain during World War I, Msgr. Gleissner also ministered to soldiers during the flu epidemic of 1918.

Named a monsignor in 1931, the priest went on to serve as head chaplain at Bryan Army Air Field during World War II, while also serving approximately 6,000 German prisoners of war residing in a camp in Hearne. Msgr. Gleissner remained active in ministry at St. Joseph Church and at the university until his final, brief illness, and died Feb. 28, 1953.

Relatives present at the dedication of Gleissner Hall included several grandchildren and great-grandchildren of the beloved priest’s sister, Margaret Gleissner O’Connor, and of his niece, Mary O’Connor Sicking. The keynote speaker at the ceremony, noted Catholic author and theologian George Weigel, spoke of Msgr. Gleissner’s legacy to young Catholics, and of the priest’s commitment to helping young adults to develop a strong foundation of Catholic faith.

Lois Sicking of Upland, California, whose grandmother was Msgr. Gleissner’s niece, represented the Gleissner family in thanking university officials at the dedication ceremony. “Msgr. Gleissner served as a great role model of a life well lived in Catholic faith,” said Sicking. “He taught us to have respect for every individual regardless of their personal circumstance. He taught us to provide opportunities to youth to fully explore their skills and personal talents,” she said. “He taught us to live a life of great personal integrity, with dedication to excellence, and with hope for a better future for all, by following our Catholic faith.”
Children attend holy hour to pray for peace

Photos by Francine Sustaita

“Let the children come to me, and do not prevent them; for the kingdom of heaven belongs to such as these.”
— Matthew 19:14

More than 300 children and their families — most from throughout the Diocese of Fort Worth and some from the Dallas Diocese — gathered at St. Patrick Cathedral in downtown Fort Worth Friday evening, Oct. 5, to participate in the local observance of the Worldwide Children and Youth Holy Hour. The local celebration coincided with similar gatherings at the National Shrine of the Immaculate Conception in Washington D.C. and other locations around the world.

The celebration, encouraged by Pope Benedict XVI as a way of marking the 90th anniversary of the apparitions of Our Lady of Fatima, was an opportunity for young children and their families to raise prayers to God, seeking peace in communities around the world.

The pope granted an apostolic blessing to all who participated in the Oct. 5 event.

As the service began, a pilgrim statue of Our Lady of Fatima was processed into the cathedral, followed by three children, Christina, Aric, and Ciara Nelson, dressed as the three children of Fatima. After the crowning of the statue by Bailey Huber, each child present brought in a rose to lay at the statue’s feet. General Worth Assembly #1089 provided an honor guard for the special evening.

Several members of the Franciscan Friars of the Renewal led the children in the eucharistic holy hour and recitation of the rosary. Each child received an individual blessing and prayer as Father Michael Kmiotek, CFR, of Fort Worth’s Sacred Heart of Jesus Friary, held them before a monstrance containing the Eucharist.

Five children — Peter Burke, Garrett Ball, John Burke, Sam Myers, and Leah Barton — were called upon to each lead a decade of the rosary. Rosaries were made, donated, and sent from as far as Florida and Pennsylvania for all of the children attending the event. The evening of prayer “was a wonderful opportunity to share with our children the closeness you can feel with Jesus through the Eucharist,” said parent Erica Knox.

Luke Bauer, 9, agreed, saying it was the “most fun-packed day” he had ever had in his life, and “the blessing I received was great!”

For information in starting a children’s holy hour group, call Eileen Nelson at (817) 926-5399 or e-mail to nelson33@swbell.net, or call Kim Ball (817) 426-5085 or e-mail to jc-kim-ball@sbcglobal.net.

Contributing to this story was Kimberly Ball.

Close to 300 Cub Scouts, Boy Scouts, and adult Scout leaders gathered at Worth Ranch for the annual diocesan Catholic Scouting Retreats

Almost 300 Cub Scouts, Boy Scouts, and adult Scouting leaders attended the annual Catholic Scouting Retreats at Worth Ranch, a Scouting facility near Palo Pinto, during the last weekend of September.

The Cub Scout Retreat, marking its 10th year, focused on vocations. The youngsters had the opportunity to work on their religious emblems and to participate in craft activities, games, songs, and storytelling.

The theme for the 47th annual Boy Scout Retreat was “Living the Scout Law.” During the Boy Scout Retreat, Catholic heroes, such as St. Joan of Arc, St. George, and St. Ignatius Loyola, told their stories to demonstrate how they lived as examples of each of the 12 Scout Laws. The creation of a living Rosary was included among the many retreat activities.

Father Anh Tran, the diocesan Scouting chaplain and pastor of St. Francis of Assisi Parish in Grapevine, was present to offer the sacrament of reconciliation. He also celebrated Mass for the Scouts, Scout leaders, and family members present for the retreat weekend.

More retreat photos and information about the Catholic Committee on Scouting are available online at www.bsacccs.org.
‘Google-generation’ seminarians minister with MySpace and more

By Carol Glatz

VATICAN CITY (CNS) — An ocean away from family and friends, some U.S. seminarians at the Pontifical North American College in Rome are bridging the divide with online communities and digital means of communication such as Skype, instant messaging, Facebook, MySpace, and more.

But while it may have begun as simple e-mails and Web log, or blog, with entries meant to keep loved ones in touch, their notes from Rome to home have blossomed into a whole new way for these students who are preparing for the priesthood to share their spiritual journey with the rest of the world.

“It’s a great witness when we share our stories, our experiences in [the] seminary” that include “our hopes, our joys, our fears, our anxieties about” the journey toward the priesthood, said John Burns, 27, of Milwaukee.

Burns, Jacob Bertrand of San Diego, and Michael Bruno of Brooklyn, New York, took a break from their busy schedules as second-year theology students to speak with Catholic News Service about how some seminarians from today’s so-called “Google generation” are helping other people find God and the church through the Internet.

“There’s a lot of junk on the Internet, and we have to fix it,” said Bertrand, 23, who seems the savviest of the group with a blog, accounts on two social networking sites on the Web — MySpace and Facebook — and plans for broadcasting practice homilies on YouTube, a video-sharing Web site.

“We need to integrate ourselves into these online communities and in a sense baptize the way these things work,” he said.

“Everyone’s opinion gets at the end of the day, it’s bring-your-own-tech,” the California native said.

Well-formed Catholics and church leaders have a golden opportunity to move into the World Wide Web like any new mission territory and point people to the truth and to Christ, the seminarians said.

Bruno, 22, said one of the things he loves most about the networking power of Facebook is “I put down I am a Mets fan, that I follow Notre Dame football,” as well as his favorite books and movies. Other young people may be drawn to his profile because they have a shared interest in the New York Mets baseball team or because they went to the same high school, but then they see that he is also a seminarian studying for the priesthood in Rome.

Very few people actually know a seminarian, and meeting one online and discovering he has many of the same interests as other young people can wipe away some preconceived notions about the kind of person who is drawn to a priestly or religious vocation, the three men said.

“Being in a presence in these online communities almost acts as a sort of accidental advertising for the Catholic Church.

On the one hand, some people may be drawn to vent their frustrations or anger about the church, but Burns said, “on the flipside it’s also easier for a young man or young woman who’s considering a vocation to the priesthood or religious life to send a quick question or two or even enter into a relationship of counseling with a priest or a seminarian who can give some advice on the discernment process.”

He said his answering questions and engaging people in conversation in these “electronic communities” have provided him with valuable opportunities to experience ministry work.

“We are ministering to these people in many ways, both in sharing our stories, in helping them along their way answering their questions, and providing them another avenue for their own personal faith exploration,” the Milwaukee denizen said.

But while the three men see that they are helping people learn more about the church and Christ, they also see it helps strengthen their own love for God and priestly calling.

Bruno said often he is asked by curious online visitors what led to his decision to become a priest.

He tells them it wasn’t something “abnormal like a lightning bolt coming down and throwing you on the floor” or a loud voice calling your name. The reasons, he said, were rooted in the people who raised, loved, and taught him throughout life.

“The vocation to be a priest is one that is nourished first in the family, but also in all your relationships, your friends, teachers, and parish priests,” he said.

Bruno said relationships are crucial and are “the nourishment of one’s vocation.”

Now because of Facebook, instant messaging and Skype, he is able “to keep those relationships alive and vibrant” so that they continue to sustain him both as a person and as a future priest.

“So many people have the idea that the life of a priest is a lonely life, that it is without relationships. Well, that couldn’t be farther from the truth,” Bruno said.

On the one hand these young men are sent away from their families and friends to complete their studies and formation, but in the end, Bruno said, “we’re also sent back to them to minister to them, to be a comfort, to be a guide, to be a priest to them.”

All of them emphasized the aim of their online presence was not to point people to their site or to create a perfect or popular Christ. “It’s not to be a signpost of sorts to show people the way back to God and a real physical community that involves human interaction, face to face.”

Burns said online communities are “a helpful means of evangelization and can be a very successful tool for the church if, at the end of the day, it’s bringing people to the sacraments and especially to the Mass.”

“By my experience Jesus Christ on the Internet no matter what you do,” Bertrand said; it has to be a “personal experience of Christ,” and “they won’t get that on the online community.”

National / International

North American College in Rome experiences enrollment boost

By Carol Glatz

VATICAN CITY (CNS) — The Pontifical North American College in Rome experienced an increase in its enrollment of seminarians as it welcomed a freshmen class of 52 students this year.

Now the total number of students enrolled in the U.S. seminary is 185, the most in the past 40 years, said Msgr. James F. Checchio, the college’s rector.

While the upturn reflects U.S. national trends, the rector said enrollment also has been boosted because more dioceses are sending their men to Rome for preparation for the priesthood.

“There are 14 new dioceses that have men here that did not last year,” including many dioceses from the Midwest and the South, he told Catholic News Service Oct. 16.

The college also has “a pretty good number,” 74 priests, who are pursuing graduate degrees in Rome and living at its Casa Santa Maria, he said.

“A few years ago [that number] had been down to 57,” he said.

Aside from boasting greater numbers, the college’s higher quality students are also something he is proud of, Msgr. Checchio said.

The monsignor, himself a North American College alum, said that “the seminarians today are much more serious than now I would say than even my generation.”

He said they are more committed to working hard, “making themselves holy, and more learned about the teachings of the church.”

“They want to make a difference in people’s lives and how people see the church, the mission of the church in modern society,” he said.

The priest sex abuse scandals in the United States have meant that the kind of person stepping forward to pursue priestly life possesses a much greater degree of inner strength and dedication, he said.

With a tarnished image of the church in the media and the secularized world, “it requires more courage for a man to come forward so I think we’re getting a better candidate based on that,” he said.

Meanwhile, this was the first year the college has ordained a priest from Australia.

Several Australians are living and studying at the college this year, making “a nice addition to the community,” Msgr. Checchio said.

Because the Australian bishops do not have a national college in Rome and they liked the American college’s reputation, the Australian bishops asked permission from the U.S. bishops a few years ago to enroll their seminarians, he said.

Fr. Lucien Deiss, liturgical music composer, dies at age 86

FRANKLIN PARK, Ill. (CNS)— Holy Ghost Father Lucien Deiss, a liturgical music composer and a liturgical consultant at the Second Vatican Council, died Oct. 9 in his native France. He was 86 years old.

A funeral Mass was to be celebrated Oct. 13 at Seminario delle Missioni in Larue, France.

News of Fr. Deiss’ death was released by World Library Publications in the Chicago suburb of Franklin Park, which published his earliest works in the United States.

Pope Paul VI chose Fr. Deiss to coordinate the Lectionary psalter following Vatican II. Fr. Deiss’ music was in the popular vanguard shortly after permission was granted for Mass to be celebrated in the vernacular in the 1960s. Among his compositions were “All the Earth,” “Keep in Mind,” “Grant to Us, O Lord” and “Priestly People.”

His music was among the first in World Library’s collection to be made available for digital downloading on iTunes and similar services.

Among Fr. Deiss’ many speaking engagements was the North American Conference on Liturgical Awareness in Liturgy held in 1990 in Rome. At a 1972 seminar at St. Francis College in Loretto, Pennsylvania, he said ballet and other forms of dance have a rightful place in the liturgy, but they must be “a form of worship, not a performance.”

His best-known compositions were compiled in a series of music books called Biblical Hymns and Psalms.
Like the saints, we must stand as witnesses of authentic freedom in Christ

By Lucas Pollice

On November 1, we celebrate the feast of All Saints, when the universal Church celebrates the lives of the men and women who displayed heroic virtue in following Christ and are for us a profound example of love and holiness.

The great lives of the saints provide a powerful witness to what it means to be fully human and to live in the freedom of Christ. The saints show us that true freedom is found not in doing whatever we want, but in using our God-given freedom to choose what we ought to do and what we were created for: to live in the goodness and love of the Father through Christ. This proper understanding of human freedom is oftentimes lost in our modern culture, but it stands at the heart of what it means to be human and at the foundation of what it means to truly live a life in Christ.

In fact, this profound reality of human freedom is revealed at the very beginning in the Garden of Eden. The first part of Genesis, chapter 3, reveals that Adam had the freedom to eat of all of the trees in the garden, thus his freedom is far-reaching and seemingly unlimited. However, there are two trees that are then specifically mentioned that play an important role. The first is the Tree of Life that is in the center of the garden. The other tree is the Tree of Knowledge of Good and Evil, and it is the fruit of this tree that God specifically forbids Adam and Eve from eating. Why are these two trees so important? Is God just setting up Adam and Eve for failure? No! God is revealing to us the reality of human freedom.

In the Book of Genesis we read: “The Lord God commanded the man, saying, ‘You may eat freely of every tree of the garden; but of the tree of the knowledge of good and evil you shall not eat, for in the day that you eat of it you shall die’” (Genesis 2: 16-17). With this imagery, revelation teaches that the power to decide what is good and what is evil does not belong to man, but to God alone. The man is certainly free, inasmuch as he can understand and accept God’s commands. And he possesses an extremely far-reaching freedom, since he can eat “of every tree of the garden.” But his freedom is not unlimited: It must halt before the “tree of the knowledge of good and evil,” for it is called to accept the moral law given by God. In fact, human freedom finds its authentic and complete fulfillment precisely in the acceptance of that law. God, who alone is good, knows perfectly what is good for man, and by virtue of his very love proposes this good to man in the commandments.

Unfortunately, our modern culture glorifies unlimited human freedom and sees man as autonomous in determining his own destiny. Moral laws and the teachings of the Church are often seen as limits to our freedom and a hindrance to our human potential. The knowledge of what is good and evil no longer belongs to God alone, but becomes a product of human freedom in which now man himself becomes a god who knows what is good and what is evil. This is the very source of the moral relativism that is pervasive in our society. Sound familiar? It is the same sin of pride and the abuse of freedom that Adam and Eve chose in the first sin. Do we alone know what is good and what is evil? Does a child know what is truly good for him? Or does he need his loving parents to show him what is truly good? Only in choosing God and his goodness do we come to know true freedom and fullness of life! It is only living in accord with the truth that God reveals to us that we become truly free. Again John Paul II states:

God’s law does not reduce, much less do away with human freedom; rather, it protects and promotes that freedom. In contrast, however, some present-day cultural tendencies have given rise to several currents of thought in ethics which center upon an alleged conflict between freedom and law. These doctrines would grant to individuals or social groups the right to determine what is good or evil. Human freedom would thus be able to “create values” and would enjoy a primacy over truth, to the point that truth itself would be considered a creation of freedom. Freedom would thus lay claim to a moral autonomy which would actually amount to an absolute sovereignty.

— THE SPLENDOR OF TRUTH, 35

Thus, the modern day moral relativism that we see throughout our culture has to do with our misunderstanding of human freedom, and we literally forget that we are God’s creatures and not the creators of truth. As Catholics we need more than ever to be living witnesses of this reality through the holiness of our lives and our faithfulness to the teachings of Christ. We must be effective witnesses to the fact that living a life in Christ is not a “no” to this and a “no” to that but a “yes” to true freedom and life! It is through this kind of witness that Catholics everywhere can be like the saints, living witnesses of hope that reveals to the entire world the power and freedom that Christ offers to all.

Lucas Pollice is director of Catechesis and Adult Faith Formation and RCA for the diocese. Lucas holds a degree in theology from the Franciscan University of Steubenville and has a master’s degree in theological studies from the Institute for Pastoral Theology of Ave Maria University. He is an adjunct professor of theology with the Cardinal Newman Institute in Fort Worth. Lucas and his wife, Mary, have four children, Cecilia, Nicholas, Timothy, and Christian.
Lying about ‘safe’ abortions
By Richard Doerflinger

The Guttmacher Institute, a research affiliate of Planned Parenthood, has helped write a new study in a British journal called The Lancet, and the New York Times is excited.

A comprehensive global study of abortion has concluded that abortion rates are similar in countries where it is legal and those where it is not, suggesting that outlawing the procedure does little to deter women seeking it. Moreover, the researchers found that abortion rates in countries where it was legal, but assumed this in order to study something else.

In effect, “safe” became a euphemism for “legal.” A legal abortion was counted as “safe” even if it killed the woman; an illegal abortion was called unsafe and “harmful” even if no woman was harmed. This was stated explicitly in the basic level, Catholic teaching perhaps did not bother to read.

In fact, studies in this issue of The Lancet note that Peru, the Philippines, and Sri Lanka have all dramatically reduced maternal mortality in recent years, without changing their strong laws against abortion. Keys to success in Sri Lanka included an improved health system, skilled birth attendants, and improved status and literacy for women — factors long promoted by the Holy See at United Nations conferences. There are many ways to help women be “safe,” without urging them to destroy their children.

The central finding of the Lancet study is actually that the total worldwide abortion rate, including “unsafe” (that is, illegal) abortions, went down between 1995 and 2003. Women globally are turning away from abortion, especially when they are offered better choices. You won’t find that conclusion in the New York Times.

Another Catholic perspective

At the beginning of the 21st century, it is impossible to avoid news reports on the subject of the “changing American family” — high rates of cohabitation, out-of-wedlock parenting, same-sex marriage debates. One lesser-noted phenomenon, changing people’s experience of family from the inside out, is the increasing use of assisted reproductive technologies (“ARTs”). In the United States alone, there are thousands of fertility clinics, sperm banks, egg brokers, and surrogate mothers annually producing about 10,000 children.

Many people, including many Catholics, are unaware of the Church’s moral responses to these practices. Perhaps not surprisingly, many find it difficult to imagine that our faith would have moral objections to married couples “making babies” by any means. Yet the Church does firmly object. Church documents such as Donum Vitae and Evangelium Vitae explain the arguments against substituting a technological act for married love as the source of procreation. The ART industry tends to “commodify” children, and ART processes may also involve freezing, destroying, or donating (for experiments) embryos “left over” from clients.

Another Catholic perspective on ARTs concerns their effects upon the family, and by extension, society. Parts of this teaching will appeal immediately to our common sense. Other parts require one to accept with good will that God’s ways are not our ways — that there is holy mystery in God’s choosing to bring human life into being in one manner and not another.

Catholic Social Teaching calls the family the “first natural community,” society’s first cell. As such, the family ought to be the prototype of a good society. At a very basic level, Catholic teaching holds that good social life requires every person to regard every other person as a gift from God, as a good; Catholic teaching also holds that the family is the basic unit of society and that the first duty of society is to foster that unity.

(A)ssisted (R)eproductive (T)echnology and the Family
By Helen Alvaré

Now we see dimly, but then we will see face to face
By Kathy Cribari Hamer

"Before I had children, I had five theories about bringing up children..."

begins an embroidered sampler hanging in my kitchen.

The cross-stitch piece, fashioned by my friend Mary, was a gift on the occasion of my youngest baby’s birth, and in addition to decorative words, it shows three girls and two boys, holding hands in a row.

They are neat, tidy, and identical — a requirement for children composed entirely of criss-crosses, outline stitches, and French knots — but these particular five children are so perfectly proportioned and arranged they could be Radio City Music Hall embroidered Rockettes. More significantly, none of their little faces is dirty; no one is screaming, pulling hair, eating the last piece of candy in the dish, or leaving shoes on the living room floor.

The sampler is lovely, tender, and serene, and its complete embroidered message is whimsical: "Before I had children I had five theories about bringing up children. Now I have five children and no theories."

Who among us had theories that survived? Who had workable preparation or even practical imagination sufficient for the reality of children? When our first baby was about to be born, I remember thinking, “Hmmm. I probably won’t get to sleep late on Saturday mornings anymore.” “Hat! I laugh now, as I remember the me that was me then, who was innocent and definitely needed guidance from the current me.

I wish I’d been there to warn me.

I know now that anyone so recently familiar with the routine of sleeping late — any morning — is too young to have children. A parenthood prerequisite should stipulate: “Applicant must have lived a full decade past partying till dawn, and should have no recollection of mid-Saturday slumber.”

Before parenting, how could we have known what to theorize or anticipate? For example: I never expected my son John to climb out the window of his first-grade classroom. (“Someone got sick and the teacher said to leave the room, so I did.”) I never expected Andrew to put a hot dog into the VCR. (“I wanted to see if it would fit.”)

The hot dog experience would have been less painful if the VCR had not recently been serviced. The next day I took the unit back to the repair center — we were within the 30-day work warranty — and the owner said, “It seems greasy. Are you sure no one else has worked on it?”

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“I wish I’d been there to warn me.”
Cardinal-designate DiNardo is humbled by pope’s decision to name him cardinal

By Patricia Zapor

WASHINGTON (CNS) — Cardinal-designate Daniel N. DiNardo of Galveston-Houston is humbled by Pope Benedict XVI’s decision to name him a cardinal.

“I think what the Holy Father and the Holy See are saying is that the whole South and Southwestern part of the United States with its variety of people — obviously a major portion of whom are Hispanic — is a noteworthy and beautiful addition for the Catholic Church in the United States, and they wanted to recognize that,” Cardinal-designate DiNardo said.

“What a great honor and joy it is for all of us here in Southeast Texas to be so recognized by Pope Benedict XVI,” he continued. “Our great diversity and richness of peoples are matched by our unity of faith and love for the Lord and his church,” Cardinal-designate DiNardo said.

He explained he had found out about the decision the morning of Oct. 15 while in Oklahoma. He was surprised at the phone call and admitted he was still in “a state of shock.”

“I’ve only recently become the archbishop here and, relatively speaking, I know we have to be careful in saying this, I’m relatively young being 58 years old,” Cardinal-designate DiNardo said, drawing laughter from the media.

He was named coadjutor of Galveston-Houston in 2004, the diocese was elevated to an archdiocese in December 2004. He became head of the archdiocese in 2006 when Archbishop Joseph A. Tamayo retired.

Cardinal-designate DiNardo said he expected he will have a few more responsibilities at the Vatican, “but my major responsibility remains being the archbishop of Galveston-Houston,” Cardinal-designate DiNardo said.

He took a moment to thank Bishop Kevin Vann of the Diocese of Laredo, who chairs the Bishops’ Committee on Hispanic Ministry, and the Texas Catholic Conference, which congratulated him on his appointment as cardinal-elect.

“This appointment is wonderful news,” stated Bishop Emeritus Joseph Fiorenza. “Archbishop DiNardo is a hardworking, wonderful bishop who is greatly appreciated both here in his diocese and in Rome. This appointment is a recognition of his wonderful priestly qualities, and an important recognition by the Vatican of the Church of Galveston-Houston, of the Southwest.”

Bishop Tamayo’s appointment is a particular joy to the Texas Catholic Conference,” stated Bishop James Tamayo of the Diocese of Laredo, who chairs the U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops’ Committee on Hispanic Affairs.

In addition, Bishop Tamayo recognizes the importance of this appointment for the Archdiocese of Galveston-Houston, an area with the second largest population of Hispanics in the United States. “I am delighted that we perhaps have a new title to defend the Holy Father for our years of fidelity to the Church and the continued growth of the Church in the Southwest,” he added. “I think it is a distinct honor for the Southwest part of the United States to have a Cardinal within our territory.”

Bishop Vann also offered praise for his brother bishop. “All of the dioceses in Texas are very honored by the elevation of Archbishop DiNardo as a cardinal. I have known Archbishop DiNardo for years. His friendship and encouragement have been a personal blessing,” Bishop Vann said. “We all rejoice for the Lord, and pray for him and the Archdiocese of Galveston-Houston these days.”

At the conclusion of the Houston press conference, Cardinal-designate DiNardo added that while he will end up “wearing the red, ... it belongs equally to priests, deacons, religious, and past shepherds, of whom Archbishop Fiorenza, to my mind, is a model.” He added, “I’m a kid from Pittsburgh who happens to be named [a cardinal], but I’m honored and humbled to be in such company.”

Answering a question from the media, Cardinal-designate DiNardo expressed hope that perhaps his new title would inspire young people to pursue a priestly vocation.

“The more the merrier! If in fact any of my work or enthusiasm can inspire them toward priesthood, I say blessed be God, I would love it,” Cardinal-designate DiNardo said.

The newly-named cardinal also asked the faithful to keep him in their prayers in the coming days and years as he assumes more responsibility in the universal church.

Elevation of Cardinal-designate DiNardo no surprise to his friends

By Patricia Zapor

WASHINGTON (CNS) — That the first cardinal named to a Texas diocese would be Galveston-Houston Archbishop Daniel N. DiNardo, 58, is no surprise to his friends in Pittsburgh, where he grew up and served in various capacities for 14 years.

“We’ve been predicting this, but we didn’t think it would happen for maybe another five years,” said Father Louis Vallerose, pastor of St. John of God Parish in McKees Rocks, Pennsylvania, who has been friends with Cardinal-designate DiNardo since 1963, when both attended Bishop’s Latin School in Pittsburgh.

Cardinal-designate DiNardo, one of 23 cardinals named Oct. 17 by Pope Benedict XVI, will receive his red hat at a Nov. 24 consistory at the Vatican.

An native of Steubenville, Ohio, born May 23, 1949, and raised just across the state line in Pittsburgh, Cardinal-designate DiNardo was ordained for the Pittsburgh Diocese in 1977.

He served there in various pastoral capacities before going to Rome, where from 1984 to 1990 he was a staff member of the Vatican Congregation for Bishops.

From 1990 to 1997 he held pastoral posts in the Pittsburgh Diocese, where he was named assistant secretary for education in 1991. He taught in the ongoing formation program for priests and was assistant spiritual director at St. Paul Seminary. He also was a member of the priests’ council and the board of consultants for the diocese, as well as the diocesan theological commission.

He was named coadjutor bishop of Sioux City, Iowa, in 1997 and became head of the diocese the following year.

In Sioux City, he was known for a strong focus on vocations, the strengthening of adult religious education programs, a continued emphasis on the value of Catholic schools, and the creation of safe environment programs for children.

Cardinal-designate DiNardo received bachelor’s and master’s degrees from The Catholic University of America in Washington, D.C.

SEE CARDINAL-DESIGNATE... P. 13
Amid the crowd in St. Peter’s Square, Archbishop John Foley hears his name as a newly designated cardinal

VATICAN CITY (CNS) — U.S. Cardinal-designate John P. Foley, a Philadelphia native, was standing in the middle of St. Peter’s Square among a sea of 30,000 pilgrims when Pope Benedict XVI named him a cardinal.

Though he knew the previous day he was going to be one of 23 people to receive a red hat, the Oct. 17 announcement was going to fall on the same morning he had a follow-up visit with his eye doctor.

“I didn’t get back in time to be there at the beginning of the audience, and I didn’t have my glad rags on,” meaning his formal clerical dress, so he said he just snuck inconspicuously into the middle of the crowd.

He told Catholic News Service he never expected to be the second new cardinal listed after the senior Vatican prefect, Cardinal-designate Leonardo Sandri.

When the pope “started the list, there I was No. 2 on the list, and that was a surprise,” Cardinal-designate Foley said.

He said a pilgrim standing next to him asked him if he knew any of the men the pope had just named to be cardinal.

“I said ‘Yes, I know quite a few of them.’ And I said ‘I am one of them,’ Well, I don’t think he believed me,” he said, laughing.

Editor’s Note: Cardinal-designate Foley, was featured in the Aug. 31 issue of the NORTH TEXAS CATHOLIC.

After Nov. 24 consistory, United States will have 17 of world’s 202 cardinals

VATICAN CITY (CNS) — After the Nov. 24 consistory for the creation of new cardinals, 17 of the 202 members of the College of Cardinals will be from the United States.

Pope Benedict XVI expanded the U.S. contingent in the college Oct. 17 when he announced he would give the red hat to Archbishop John P. Foley, pro-grand master of the Knights of the Holy Sepulchre, and Archbishop Daniel N. DiNardo of Galveston-Houston.

Of the 17 U.S. cardinals, 13 will be under age 80 and eligible to vote in a conclave to elect a new pope.

The U.S. cardinals under age 80 will be: Daniel N. DiNardo of Galveston-Houston; Edward M. Egan of New York; John P. Foley, grand master of the Knights of the Holy Sepulchre; Francis E. George of Chicago; William H. Keeler, retired archbishop of Baltimore; Bernard F. Law, archbishop of Rome’s Basilica of St. Mary Major and retired archbishop of Boston; William J. Levada, prefect of the Congregation for the Doctrine of the Faith; Roger M. Mahony of Los Angeles; Adam J. Maida of Detroit; Theodore E. McCarrick, retired archbishop of Washington; Sean P. O’Malley of Boston; Justin Rigali of Philadelphia; and J. Francis Stafford, head of the Apostolic Penitentiary and former archbishop of Denver.

Cardinal-designate DiNardo demonstrates care for God’s people, say colleagues

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where he is currently a member of the board of trustees. He also received a licentiate in theology from the Pontifical Gregorian University in Rome and a degree in patristics, the study of the Fathers of the Church, from the Augustinianum in Rome.

During his time in Rome, he also served as director of Villa Stritch, the residence for U.S. priests working at the Vatican, and taught a theology seminar in methodology at Gregorian University.

He has a twin sister, Margaret; an older brother, Thomas; and a younger sister, Mary Anne.

Vincentian Father David M. O’Connell, president of Catholic University, said in a statement Oct. 17 that the designation gives Cardinal-designate DiNardo “a new and privileged role in the universal church.”

“As cardinal, His Eminence will now share in the pastoral governance of the church throughout the world,” he said.

“In addition to leading the local church of Galveston-Houston, he now assumes special responsibilities as adviser to the pope and to his colleagues with whom he will, one day, elect his successor.

“Cardinal-designate DiNardo has consistently demonstrated both competence and care for the people of God in every task that has come before him in his distinguished career,” said Fr. O’Connell. “In particular, his tireless commitment to evangelizing the faithful at every level of need marks him out as especially suited for this high honor within the church.”

Contributing to this story was Regina Linskey.

Cardinal-designate Daniel N. DiNardo of Galveston-Houston addresses the media during a press conference in Houston Oct. 17. (CNS photo/Erik Noreiga, Texas Catholic Herald)
Someone has to help. I will be that person. I will serve the poor, the lost, and forgotten…. I long to live my life in a generous way, assist others, and have a deep heart for those who are suffering. God's presence is undeniable in the hearts and minds of the Honduras people. They worship a God that cares about me…. It took over 2,000 years of history for the birth of Jesus. What an incredible story of God who cared for creation. The effect on your life is indescribable…. Seeing the poor in Honduras taught me how people with so little, had so much hope and faith. We were learning, the mother came home [carrying a huge bag on her head], and a sack full of what looked like trash. I realized that she had not seen some of the children before the trash dump. I did not realize how desperate those people were until I was standing right in front of someone who had to resort to digging through people’s trash to feed her family.

That sobering experience, Theresa reflected, “taught me compassion and made me aware that I am connected to those who live in poverty and need.”}

**In Focus:**
- **Left:** Father Damien de Veaux, parishioner at Sacred Heart Church, California, says his work in the missions of the world “has taught me that my faith is more valuable than the material things that I take for granted.”
- **Below:** teens from the Diocese of Fort Worth St. Francis of Assisi in Grapevine. Jeff Crumly, coordinator of youth ministry at St. Francis of Assisi Church, Grapevine, noted that “the Honduran youth who are students at the school. It’s just being kids together.” When these kids are taken totally out of their element, it is wonderful to see the joy that such an experience brings.}

**In Focus:**
- **Left:** Camille Ivy-O’Donnell, 16, a parishioner at Good Shepherd Church in Colleyville, said that “the most other youth, thirst for.”
More than 150 Catholics from across the northern areas of the diocese gathered at Notre Dame High School in Wichita Falls for a day of spiritual enrichment and professional development, otherwise known as Ministry Formation Day.

The disciples of Jesus are scattered in the world as leaven. ... The catechesis of children, of young people, and of adults has given rise to a type of Christian who is conscious of his faith and who acts consistently with it in his life. In such Christians this catechesis has encouraged:

- a new and vital experience of God as merciful Father;
- a more profound rediscovery of Jesus Christ, not only in his divinity but also in his humanity;
- a sense of co-responsibility on the part of all for the mission of the Church in the world;
- a raising of consciousness with regard to the social obligations of the faith.

— From the General Directory for Catechesis (24)

By Nicki Prevou
Staff Writer

Ministry Formation Day (MFD), offered Saturday, Oct. 6, at Notre Dame High School in Wichita Falls, is an annual opportunity for volunteer and professional ministers to gather for spiritual enrichment, fellowship, and professional development. Sister Elvira Mata, MCDP, served as the diocesan coordinator of the Wichita Falls event, which drew over 150 participants and presenters representing many of the parishes within the North and Northwest Deaneries of the diocese.

“I think the day went very well, and there was a very good spirit as people came together to enjoy the keynote presentations, breakout sessions, the offerings of the exhibitors, and the entertainment that was provided,” said Sr. Elvira. “I was fortunate to work with a wonderful team who worked hard to plan this event. The results of their collaboration and preparations were very evident.”

Participants agreed that the day, with keynote presentations and workshops in Spanish and in English, was a success, noting that the opening prayer service — coordinated by Sister Ginny Vissing, SSMN, director of religious education at Our Lady Queen of Peace Church in Wichita Falls, with assistance from Huong Mai of Immaculate Conception Church in Muenster, agreed that the opening prayer service was effective in setting the tone for the day.

“So many people commented on how meaningful the prayer was at the beginning of the day,” said Evelyn Stokes, director of faith formation at Our Lady of Guadalupe Church in Wichita Falls, “and how everything flowed from the beautiful experience of having young children involved in the prayer. “I always enjoy participating in the Ministry Formation Day events, and it’s been really fantastic to have them held here in our area, because of the convenience and the availability for the people in the more rural part of the diocese,” Stokes said.

Keynote presentations and workshops with the theme “Encountering the Living Christ,” were offered in English by Father Nathan Stone, SJ, of Montserrat Jesuit Retreat House in Lake Dallas, and in Spanish by Jesús Lopez of the Vihador evangelization ministry in Los Angeles. Evaluations of both guest presenters were positive, said Sr. Elvira.

Barbara Rohmer, director of religious education at Sacred Heart Church in Muenster, agreed that the keynote presenters are always really excellent at Ministry Formation Day…. I came away with all kinds of ideas and information from the keynote talk and from the workshops I attended during the day.”

Marilyn Putthoff, a teacher at Notre Dame High School and the director of religious education at Christ the King Church in Iowa Park, has served on the MFD coordinating committee for several years. “We always try to offer something for everyone,” explained Putthoff, adding that a popular workshop option at this year’s event was the session entitled “Dangers Children Face Online: Blogging, MySpace, and Online Journals,” which was offered by Barry Macha, Wichita County’s district attorney.

Workshops offered in Spanish included sessions on the spirituality of catechists, family relationships, and discipleship in a secular society.

“I hope Ministry Formation Day will continue to grow here in the Wichita Falls area,” reflected Putthoff. “We are so excited when we see it being promoted in the parishes, and we hope that the commitment to promoting this day of growth will continue to increase.”

Evelyn Stokes, of Guadalupe Church, calls Ministry Formation Day “a huge boost” for those who attend. “It’s something we all need, to help us continue to grow in our own faith and to go out there and teach that faith, to serve,” she said.

“I think it really fills a need for the event to be held here in our area,” Stokes continued. “It is difficult to ask our volunteers to travel two hours down the road and two hours back [to attend workshops in the Fort Worth area] on top of the time they are already taking to teach and to serve.

“I definitely see the benefits of continuing education through events like Ministry Formation Day,” Stokes said. “It leaves us hungry to learn more about our faith, and it makes all of us even more eager to share that with our students.”
“The last film with ‘Bella’s’ momentum was the ‘Passion of the Christ.’ ‘The Passion’ shows how Christ died for us... ‘Bella’ shows how we should live for others.”

–Steve McEveety - Executive Producer of “Braveheart” and a producer of “The Passion of Christ”

“Powerful and moving... a true inspiration.”

–CNN - Ana Maria Montero
O n a sultry Indian summer night we are walking the dog of an ailing friend. Ordinarily we enjoy these little nocturnal jaunts, as our canine companion is altogether charming, and we are glad to get a little more exercise and a welcome opportunity to compare notes at the end of a busy day.

Tonight though, we are miserable. Not only are we tired and the air humid and hot, but recent plentiful rains have raised another bumper crop of mosquitoes. They fill the night with their predatory buzzing.

A neighbor watching from the air-conditioned comfort of their living room might wonder if we are afflicted with some rare and particularly violent nervous disorder.

Shuffling jerkily along the darkened paths of the neighborhood, we wave our hands crazily in the dark. Our heads bob and weave like addled prize fighters battling ghosts. We slap our arms and the backs of our necks and even our faces. When we land a telling blow and slap one of these micro-vampires in mid sting, we show each other our blood-flecked hands with the grim pride of the doomed.

I hate mosquitoes, I think bitterly. At best, they’re an intense irritant; at worst, vectors for yellow fever, malaria, avian flu, and a host of other life-threatening plagues. What was God thinking, I wonder, between slaps and jerks of the head.

In Sunday’s first reading, the writer of Wisdom prays God: “You love all things that are, and loathe nothing that you have made.”

I remember the mosquitoes. I remember the human aptitude for folly and cruelty, our vulnerability to ignorance and heartbreak. In those words of praise, I glimpse the vast difference between us and God, whose infinite capacity to see beauty and goodness in every created thing is cause for life-saving hope and heart-bursting joy.

QUESTIONS:
Who is a person in my life to whom I can demonstrate love more clearly? How? What are some concrete ways I can cultivate in my heart a deeper love for God?

Scripture Readings

November 4, Thirty-first Sunday of Ordinary Time.
Cycle C. Readings:
1) Wisdom 11:22-12:2
Psalm 145:1-2, 8-11, 13-14
2) 2 Thessalonians 1:11-2:2

Pope calls for greater effort to reduce gap between rich and poor

By Cindy Wooden
Catholic News Service

VATICAN CITY — The extreme poverty in which millions of the world’s people live is an offense to their human dignity, Pope Benedict XVI said at his weekly general audience.

The pope marked the U.N.’s International Day for the Eradication of Poverty Oct. 17, just moments before he announced the names of the 23 churchmen he would induct into the College of Cardinals Nov. 24.

Focusing on the problem of poverty, the pope said, “The disparity between rich and poor is becoming more evident and disturbing, even within the most economically advanced nations.”

According to the United Nations, 980 million people live in “extreme poverty,” struggling to survive on less than $1 per day.

“...as Pope Benedict XVI greets the faithful as he arrives at his weekly general audience in St. Peter’s Square at the Vatican Oct. 17. The pope named 23 new cardinals at the audience. (CNS photo/Alessandro Bianchi, Reuters)
I celebrated all the martyrs and Pentecost. The original feast would celebrate the death of back to 373 A.D. when churches ing haunted houses. doors to ask for candy and explor- has been reduced to knocking on faithful who have gone before us the ages the celebration for the Kane a shortening of “All hallow- more traditional celebration of Hal- You might be thinking of the parties. What is the occasion? and homes are prepared for candy is gathered for sharing; Costumes are bought or made; It is the time of year when and people busy themselves Looking forward to a happy ‘All Hallo- eve’? By Jeff Hedglen It is the time of year when the weather turns colder, and people busy themselves getting ready for a great holiday. Costumes are bought or made; candy is gathered for sharing; apples are readied for bobbing; and homes are prepared for parties. What is the occasion? You might be thinking of the traditional celebration of Halloween, but I was thinking of an even more traditional celebration — the Eve of All Saints! The name Halloween comes from a shortening of “All hallow- even” which means All Saints’ Evening. Somewhere down through the ages the celebration for the faithful who have gone before us has been reduced to knocking on doors to ask for candy and exploring haunted houses. The origins of this feast day go back to 373 A.D. when churches would celebrate the death of martyrs on the Sunday after Pentecost. The original feast celebrated all the martyrs and John the Baptist, but as time went by, the commemoration was expanded to include all of the saints. Gregory III (731-741) con- secrated a chapel in the Basilica of St. Peter to all the saints and made November 1 a permanent anniversary for this feast. The Church has a long tradi- tion of honoring the saints and a strong belief in our communion with them and all the faithful who have gained their eternal reward. The feast of All Saints, and the next day’s feast of All Souls, are expressions of these very beliefs. The communion with the saints is not simply the fact that we cherish the memory of those in heaven; it is also a way the union of the whole Church is strength- ened (Catechism of the Catholic Church 957). Thus, through our belief in the communion of the saints we remember those who are in heaven, but we also experi- ence the reality of what it means to be Church — many members of the Body of Christ connected to each other more and more each day. The Catechism goes on to say that exactly as Christian commu- nion with those we know on earth brings us closer to Christ, so too our communion with the saints joins us to Christ (CCC 957). In other words, this connection we have with all followers of Jesus exists, so we can grow closer to Jesus. This is equally true for the followers of Jesus still walking the earth as well as those walking the streets of heaven. We might not think about it a lot, but we have a real connec- tion with the people in heaven. We hear expressions of this belief when people say things like “I know my mom is watching me from above,” or “Little Johnny is an angel in heaven now.” These images might not be exactly what it’s like in heaven; after all, I’m not sure that heaven is actually “up.” Also, I don’t think we be- come angels when we die; rather we remain human and join the angels and the other heavenly hosts in praise of God. These common ideas about life after death, while maybe not the most accurate, nonetheless reveal that trying to understand the connection we have with those in heaven is important. The truth of what it is like in heaven is unclear because no one has gone there and come back with the video — if someone had, it would certainly be on YouTube by now! The facts of what it will be like are really less important than the fact that it is our destiny. Part of that destiny is realizing that heaven is not something we have to wait until we die to experience. The communion of the saints is a way we can connect with our future destiny every day. For some, All Halloows Eve might be about ghosts and goblins, costumes and candy, and houses that are haunted, but for Christians it is about the celebration of the real connection those of us still on earth have with each other and with those who have gone where we hope to be. That is no trick; it is all treat! Information for this column came from the Catholic Encyclopedia — to read more go to http://www.newadvent.org/ cathen/index.html. Jeff Hedglen, youth minister at St. Bartholomew Parish in Southwest Fort Worth, is the principal or- ganizer of Camp Fort Worth each summer. Readers with questions can contact Jeff at jeff@stbartsfw.org.
El Cardenal-designado dice que su ascenso reconoce el crecimiento de la Iglesia en el suroeste

Por Erik Noriega
HOUSTON (CNS) — El Cardinal-designado Daniel N. DiNardo de Galveston-Houston dijo que la decisión del Papa Benedicto XVI de nombrarlo cardenal es “muy sorprendente y humillante”, pero igualmente ilustra el reconocimiento del Vaticano al crecimiento de la Iglesia en el sur de los Estados Unidos.

El Cardenal-designado, primer cardenal de una diócesis de Texas, hizo estos comentarios en una rueda de prensa en Houston, el 17 de octubre.

El Papa Benedicto XVI nombró 23 cardenales nuevos, incluyendo al arzobispo de Texas y al arzobispo norteamericano John P. Foley, gran maestro de Los Caballos Del Santo Sepulcro.

La noticia se anunció el 17 de octubre, al final de la audiencia semanal general. El Papa dijo que instalará formalmente a los cardenales durante un tribunal especial en el Vaticano, el 24 de noviembre.

“Estoy profundamente agradecido al Santo Padre por su amabilidad en nombrarme cardenal y por su confianza en permitir que me coloquen en el Colegio de Cardenales,” el Cardenal-designado DiNardo comenzó en su declaración inicial durante la rueda de prensa al medio día en las oficinas del arzobispado del centro de la ciudad.

“Esto es muy sorprendente y humillante. Le prometo mi comunión total, mi lealtad y mi obediencia”, comentó.

“Pienso que el Santo Padre también está honrando a la iglesia local de Galveston-Houston, sus obispos presentes y pasados, sus sacerdotes, diáconos y religiosos, y a los feligreses por su amor y lealtad a Jesucristo, al igual que por su afecto y comunión con la Santa Sede de Pedro”, dijo el Cardenal-designado DiNardo.

Pero también repitió que su ascenso es una señal que el Vaticano está reconociendo el crecimiento de la Iglesia en la región. “El crecimiento de la población católica en el sur de los Estados Unidos es una de las más grandes y rápidas del mundo,” explicó.

En un comunicado de prensa de 17 de octubre, la Conferencia Católica de Texas felicitó al arzobispo DiNardo por su nombramiento como cardenal-electo.

“Esto es una noticia maravillosa”, declaró el arzobispo DiNardo, que también es el arzobispo de Galveston-Houston. “Esto ha sido un sueño de varios años para muchos de nosotros.”

El nombramiento del arzobispo DiNardo es el segundo en la historia de Galveston-Houston, tras el cardenal Daniel L. DiNardo, que fue nombrado en 1987.

En una entrevista con la CNS, el cardenal-designado DiNardo expresó su gratitud por el reconocimiento del Vaticano y por la confianza en él como líder de la Iglesia en el sur de los Estados Unidos.

“El nombramiento del arzobispo DiNardo es un reconocimiento de su liderazgo y compromiso con la Iglesia en el sur de los Estados Unidos”, dijo el cardenal-designado.


El cardenal-designado DiNardo también realizó una visita a la Arquidiócesis de Galveston-Houston en su arquidiócesis natal, donde se unió a una multitud de feligreses en el Templo de la Santísima Trinidad, el 16 de octubre.

“Estoy profundamente agradecido al Santo Padre por su amabilidad en nombrarme cardenal”, expresó el cardenal-designado.

El cardenal-designado DiNardo también realizó una visita a la Arquidiócesis de Galveston-Houston en su arquidiócesis natal, donde se unió a una multitud de feligreses en el Templo de la Santísima Trinidad, el 16 de octubre.

“Estoy profundamente agradecido al Santo Padre por su amabilidad en nombrarme cardenal”, expresó el cardenal-designado.
Queridos Amigos en la Diócesis de Fort Worth,

Tarde en el mes de septiembre, y temprano en el mes de octubre, estuve en Roma por una semana de peregrinación, discusión, y oración, con cerca de 140 personas de los alrededores de los Estados Unidos (pero sobre todo de aquí en Texas) quienes forman parte de la "Provisión Pastoral."

Estos son sacerdotes y feligreses que antes fueron Episcopales o Anglicanos, y que fueron recibidos en la Iglesia Católica en los últimos 25 años bajo los auspicios de la Provisión Pastoral y establecidos por el último Papa, el muy querido Juan Pablo II. Fui invitado por el Arzobispo de Newark, Monseñor Juan Myers, un gran amigo mío de hace muchos años quien es el delegado de la Santa Sede para la Provisión Pastoral, así mismo como otras diócesis en Texas también. Tres "parroquias personales", nacidas de la Provisión Pastoral, fueron representadas: Nuestra Señora de Walsingham en Houston, Nuestra Señora de la Expiación en San Antionio, y Santa María Virgen en Arlington. Fue una bendición especial que el Padre Allan Hawkins pudo estar con nosotros para una parte de esta peregrinación. Estamos cerca del fin de mes de octubre y nos estamos dirigiendo rápidamente hacia noviembre (el mes dedicado a nuestro Padre Allan Hawkins).

En este mes de octubre, dedicado a la vida, el Secretariado para las actividades Pro-Vida de la Conferencia de Obispos Católicos de los Estados Unidos nos recuerda de la llamada a la Santidad cuando dice que "...y a algunos de nosotros, si somos humildes, Dios nos concede el privilegio de ser su instrumento para llevar adelante la santidad de otros. Dios nos ama, y nos quiere para amar, al abuelo que yace inconsciente en una cama del hospital, al niño con severo deterioro físico y mental, a la madre adolescente aterrizada y al em- brío no planificado que lleva en su vientre. Cada una de estas personas vulnerables se nos da a nosotros para que podamos aprender a amar como Dios nos ama — generosa, sacrificada e incondicionalmente. ¡Que nunca nos cansemos de proclamar la dignidad y valor del cada persona! ¡Que nunca nos cansemos de servir al vulnerable y a quienes lo cuidan generosamente! ¡Que nunca dejemos de orar por el día en que todas las personas y todas las naciones defiendan a cada ser humano desde su concepción hasta su muerte natural!"

También habríamos bien al tomar un tiempo de reflexión con el rezo del Santo Rosario en estos últimos días del mes del Rosario. Esta forma antigua de rezar es una forma de verdadera contemplación y meditación, en la cual pedimos que la madre de Dios nos conduzca a su hijo, y nos ayude a estar siempre abiertos a su voluntad: especialmente en el tiempo y en la manera de Dios.

Finalmente, las felicitaciones, oraciones y recuerdos van al Cardenal-designado Daniel de la Arquidiócesis de Galveston. Lo he conocido por muchos años, y nuestro estado ha sido bendecido de verdad con este honor. La elevación del Cardenal DiNardo, y de la Arquidiócesis de Galveston-Houston, es un reconocimiento de la historia, de la vida, y de la vitalidad de la Iglesia en Texas, una parte importante de la cual es la herencia hispánica de nuestro estado y de sus dos provincias eclesiásticas.

Que Dios los bendiga siempre...

Causa de santidad abierta formalmente para el Padre Stanley Rother de Oklahoma, quien fue asesinado en Guatemala en 1981

OKARCHE, Oklahoma (CNS) — Los católicos de Oklahoma han lanzado formalmente la causa de santidad para el padre Stanley Rother, sacerdote de la Arquidiócesis de Oklahoma City que fue asesinado en 1981 en la villa guatemalteca donde era ministro de los pobres.

"Esta es la primera vez en la historia que un proceso de canonización ha sido iniciado aquí en Oklahoma", dijo el arzobispo Eusebius Beltrán, de Oklahoma City.

El arzobispo Beltrán comisionó un comité de canonización y nombró al diácono Norman Mejstrik, feligrés de la iglesia St. Philip Neri, en Midwest City, como su coordinador.

"No hay duda en mi mente: él dio su vida por su fe", dijo el diácono Mejstrik. "El sabía que sería asesinado y se quedó de todas formas".

Padre Rother, de 46 años de edad, murió de disparos el 28 de julio de 1981 en la rectoría de su iglesia en Santiago Atitlán, Guatemala. La policía en esos tiempos culpaba la iglesia católica por las tensiones en el país y proclamó que la iglesia lo llevó a su muerte.

Muchos sacerdotes y religiosos perdieron sus vidas y millares de civiles fueron secuestrados y asesinados en el país durante los años de opresión patrocinada por el estado.

En un momento padre Rother huyó de Guatemala, debido a las amenazas de muerte que recibió por su oposición a la milicia guatemalteca en la zona.

El padre Stanley Rother se ve bautizando un niño en esta foto sin fecha. El 5 de octubre, la arquidiócesis formalmente lanzó la causa para la canonización del sacerdote, quien muchos creen fue martirizado por su fe. (CNS)
La madre de Juan Bautista saluda a María con las palabras que se ven en el cartel de este año, ¡Respete a la vida!

‘El niño saltó de alegría en mis entrañas’

En el extrema del vida, también, los vínculos generacionales del amor se están estirando hasta casi romperse. Algunos doctores y éticos afirman que los pacientes con demencia o en el llamado “estado vegetativo persistente” no son realmente personas, y que las familias deben negarles hasta las formas básicas de alimentación y cuidado. Más, no importa lo débil y vulnerable que parezcan, estas personas tienen el asombroso poder de inspirar el amor heroico y sacrificado de sus familiares y de quienes velan por ellos — un poder que puede llevar a la santificación de aquellos que los cuidan.

Dios no le impide si estamos conscientes de nuestra existencia o somos capaces de “pensamiento superior”. El valor de la vida no depende de si el intelecto funciona, sino del amor paternal de Dios por cada uno, creado a su imagen y semejanza. Su amor está presente mucho antes de que nuestras ondas cerebrales puedan medirse a las seis semanas de gestación y mucho después de que nuestra inteligencia deje de funcionar. Su amor está presente antes de que nuestro corazón empiece a latir 22 días después de la concepción y mucho después de que empiece a fallar. Su amor está presente en cada paso y desliz de nuestra vida.

Y a algunos de nosotros, si somos humildes, Dios nos concede el privilegio de ser su instrumento para llevar adelante la santidad de otros. Dios nos ama, y nos quiere para amar, al abuelo que yace inconsciente en una cama del hospital, al niño recién nacido que lleva en su vientre. Cada una de estas personas, y todos los demás, tienen el asombroso poder de inspirar el amor heroico y sacrificado de aquellos que los cuidan. Dejemos de ver la vida humana como Dios ve. Desde el momento de nuestra concepción hasta su muerte natural,

¡Que nunca nos cansemos de proclamar la dignidad y valor de cada persona! ¡Que nunca nos cansemos de servir al vulnerable y a quienes lo cuidan generosamente! Que nunca dejemos de orar por el día en que todas las personas y todas las naciones defendan a cada ser humano desde su concepción hasta su muerte natural!

Ayer Isabel su niño, el niño dio saltos en su vientre. Isabel se llenó del Espíritu Santo y exclamó en alta voz: “¡Bendita tú eres entre las mujeres y bendito el fruto de tu vientre! Cómo he merecido yo que venga a mí la madre de mi Señor?” Apenas llegó su saludo a mis oídos, el niño saltó de alegría en mis entrañas. ¡Dichosa tú por haber creído que se cumplirán las promesas del Señor!”

(Lucas 1:41-45)

Conocemos la historia. El Arcángel Gabriel anuncia a la Virgen María la invitación de Dios para convertirse en la madre del Mesías. Para mostrar que nada es imposible para Dios, la prima anciana de María, Isabel, a quien se creía estéril, también está esperando un niño: San Juan Bautista.

Los embarazos de Isabel y María, -a pesar de sus extrañas circunstancias — son causa de regocijo. Por el poder del Espíritu Santo, el niño Jesús, antes de nacer, anuncia su presencia a su primo Juan, también aún por nacer, quien salta de alegría, proclamando a su madre: “¡Mira! ¡El Cordero de Dios!” Isabel, a su vez, se llena del Espíritu Santo y recibe a María como el tabernáculo sagrado de nuestro Señor y Salvador. Por el testimonio de la historia, nos comprometemos a amar y ser amado, por toda la eternidad. Dios ve al individuo que Él creó para su salvación. En cada niño, nacido o por nacer, como una célula microscópica no diferenciada, es de menor valor que la de un cerdo, un perro, o un chimpancé”. Un columnista muy conocido dice: “Un pez dorado se parece más a un ser humano que un embrión humano”. Otro describe al ser humano por nacer como “basura protoplastmática”, un “trozo de carne”. Es así como nos están instando a que dejemos de ver la vida humana como Dios la ve. Desde el momento de nuestra concepción, Dios no nos ve superficialmente como una célula microscópica no diferenciada. En cada niño, nacido o por nacer, Dios ve al individuo quien Él creó para amar y ser amado, por toda la eternidad.

Al salir Isabel su niño, el niño dio saltos en su vientre. Isabel se llenó del Espíritu Santo y exclamó en alta voz: “¡Bendita tú eres entre las mujeres y bendito el fruto de tu vientre! Cómo he merecido yo que venga a mí la madre de mi Señor?” Apenas llegó su saludo a mis oídos, el niño saltó de alegría en mis entrañas. ¡Dichosa tú por haber creído que se cumplirán las promesas del Señor!”
El ascenso del Cardenal-designado no es sorpresa para sus amigos

WASHINGTON (CNS) — Que el primer cardenal nombrado a una diócesis de Texas sea el arzobispo de Galveston-Houston Daniel N. DiNardo, 58, no es gran sorpresa, pero es de la sostén, dijo el Padre Louis Val-

O’Connell, en la mesa directiva de consultores, en Roma. El recién nombrado cardenal también pidió a los feligreses que la inaguren en los días y años venideros, mientras asume más responsabilidad en la iglesia universal.

La Hermana María Elena González y el Centro Cultural Mexicano-

América

DiNardo... DESDE PÁGINA 20 tado rico en historia y presencia católica”, declaró el obispo James Tamayo de la diócesis de Laredo, quien es director del Comité sobre Asuntos Hispánicos de la Conferencia Episcopal de Estados Unidos.

Además, el Obispo Tamayo reconoce la importancia de este nombramiento para la arquidiócesis de Galveston-Houston, el área con la segunda concentración más grande de hispanos en los Estados Unidos. “Estoy feliz que el Santo Padre nos reconozca por nuestros años de lealtad a la Iglesia y por el crecimiento continuo de la Iglesia aquí en el suroeste. Pienso que es un honor distinguido para el suroeste de los Estados Unidos. También, nos dará una oportunidad de fortalecer la educación en 1991. Igualmente, eran miembros de la mesa directiva de consultores para la diócesis, así como de la comisión teológica diocesana.

El obispo Kevin Vann también elogió a su hermano arzobispo. “Todas las diócesis de Texas se sienten honradas por el ascenso del arzobispo DiNardo a cardenal. Lo conocí durante muchos años, su amistad y apoyo han sido una bendición personal. Nos alegran con el Señor, y rezamos por él y por la arquidiócesis de Galveston-Houston en estos días”. A la conclusión de la rueda de prensa en Houston, el Cardenal-designado DiNardo añadió que aunque él es quien terminará “visitándose de rojo... también pertenece esto igualmente a los sacerdotes, a los diáconos y religiosos, y a los pastores pasados, y quienes el arzobispo Flores en mi opinión, es un modelo ejemplar”. Así terminó el Cardenal-designado DiNardo.

También sirvió como director de Villa Stritch, la residencia para sacerdotes norteamericanos trabajando en el Vaticano, y enseñó un seminario teológico de metodología en la Universidad Gregoriana.

Temas, tiene una hermana gemela, Margaret; un hermano mayor, Thomas; y una hermana menor, Mary Anne.

El Padre Vincento David M. O’Connell, presidente de la Universidad Católica, dijo durante una declaración el 17 de octubre que el nombramiento le da al Cardenal-designado DiNardo “un rol nuevo y privilegiado dentro de la iglesia universal”.

“Como cardenal, su Eminencia ahora comparte en el gobierno pastoral de la iglesia a través del mundo”, dijo. “Además de conducir la iglesia local de Galveston-Houston, ahora emprende responsabilidades especiales como consejero del Papa y sus colegas, con quienes algún día elegirá a su sucesor.”

El Cardenal-designado DiNardo ha demostrado consistentemente ambos cuidado y pasión hacia el pueblo de Dios en toda tarea que se le ha presentado en su distinguida carrera”, dijo el Padre O’Connell.

“En particular, su compromiso inescrutable de la evangelización de los fieles a cada nivel de necesidad, no sólo a los hispanos, sino que le inspira a jóvenes en su deseo por comenzar una vocación sacerdotal. “Mientras más, mejor! Si de veres de veras a alguien, o entiendes a otros a buscar el sacerdocio, bendito sea Dios. Me encantaría”, terminó el Cardenal-designado DiNardo.

El recién nombrado cardenal también pidió a los feligreses que lo tuvieran en sus oraciones con el papel de líderes y a los pastores pasados, y quienes el arzobispo Flores en mi opinión, es un modelo ejemplar”. Así terminó el Cardenal-designado DiNardo.

Respondiendo a una pregunta de la prensa, el Cardenal-designado DiNardo expresó esperanza que tal vez su nuevo título inspirará a jóvenes en su deseo por comenzar una vocación sacerdotal. “Mientras más, mejor! Si de veres de veras a alguien, o entiendes a otros a buscar el sacerdocio, bendito sea Dios. Me encantaría”, terminó el Cardenal-designado DiNardo.

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Fulbright Scholar Tommy Heyne hopes to use his advanced religious studies to create better understanding, serve others

By John English
Correspondent

Tommy Heyne’s desire to learn about different religions is surpassed only by his devotion to his own Catholic faith.

The Southlake native is wrapping up his master’s degree in theology at Oxford University and was recently awarded a Fulbright Scholarship to study for nine months at the University of Granada in Spain.

“For the first semester, I will be auditing a few classes in Islamic history and theology,” Heyne explained in an e-mail. “I will also teach English and church history at the seminary of Granada,” where he will live while studying at the university, as it is close to the Granada campus. “For the second semester I will take a couple of classes, but I am not pursuing a degree; the Fulbright is more about cross-cultural dialogue and experience rather than research...”

A graduate of Cistercian Preparatory School, a Catholic school in Irving, Heyne received a BS in biology and a BA in history with a concentration in Medieval/Renaissance studies from the University of Texas at Dallas.

“I couldn’t really decide between the humanities and science, so I chose both,” Heyne said. While there, he served as student body president, was named Outstanding Senior Male, and received the Faculty First Honors (highest GPA) and the Cardinal Spellman Award.

A Rhodes Scholar finalist when he initially applied to Oxford back in 2005, Heyne had already been accepted to a couple of medical schools, but opted to pursue a one-year master’s from Oxford because of his interest in church history.

“I had taken a course in patristics (studying the writings of the Church Fathers) at Dallas, and I had written my history thesis on the growth of papal authority in the first three centuries,” Heyne said. “Basically, I enjoyed history and theology, and church history sounded interesting. I think you can learn a lot about a religious, political, or cultural movement by looking at its roots.”

Heyne said he received his Fulbright Scholarship based on academics, extracurricular activities, and a well-planned program of study, and said he chose Islamic studies at the University of Granada to try to obtain a better understanding of the religion.

“Islam is the most quickly growing faith in the world, and an obvious factor in world culture, politics, and economics,” Heyne said. “Mark my words: The time will come when women with hijabs (Muslim head scarves) will be seen even in the grocery stores of Southlake.... To learn about Islam I could simply read the Qur’an, but again there is the difficulty of interpretation. On the issue of jihad, for example, different texts seem to suggest different interpretations. What did Muhammad and his followers think about jihad? We would be wise to study the history books,” Heyne said, to avoid making hasty judgments.

Heyne said he has also considered the possibility of becoming a Catholic priest, but is still undecided.

“Deep down, I want to serve others, to bring others closer to God,” Heyne said. “Numerous professions do this in indirect ways, but only the religious [professional] or priest does it directly, so, at least on a logical level, the priesthood is quite attractive.”

Heyne said that he is grateful for the opportunity to study in Spain and feels blessed with all that he has been given and feels obliged to use those gifts to help others.

“I figure if we don’t use our gifts to help others, it’s a bit of a waste, isn’t it?” Heyne said. “In 500 years, we will be dust, but charity lasts forever.”

First ever Young Adult Council meeting is opportunity to bring together key leaders from every area of young adult ministry in diocese

FROM PAGE 1

Prevou, director of the diocesan Office of Youth and Young Adult Ministry and Campus Ministry, asks that representatives from parish young adult groups, existing young adult ministry groups and committees, and campus ministry centers from across the diocese all plan to attend.

“This is a very important first meeting,” says Prevou. “We will be continuing our work to develop a calendar of young adult trainings, retreats, and other events for the year ahead. We have several other agenda items to cover, as well.”

The purpose of the council, notes Prevou, “is to bring together key leaders from every aspect of ministry with young adults within the diocese for strategic planning, the continuing development of young adult leadership, and networking of ideas, activities, events, and resources.” Yet another important goal for the council meeting, he adds, is to share faith and fellowship.

“One of the most precious commodities that any of us has to share is our time,” says Prevou. “We guarantee that those who make the effort to attend this first council meeting will find that it is a worthwhile investment of their time and energy. We have so many gifted young adults in this diocese, and it’s always exciting to experience their faith and their vision when they come together.”

Michelle Bayes joins Prevou in urging young adults to consider involvement in the diocesan council. “By connecting with other Catholic young adults, it helps me to continue to grow in my own faith and relationship with God,” she says. “I want others to be able to make those connections, as well.”

For more information about the Young Adult Council, contact Kevin Prevou at (817) 560-3300 ext. 261 or 255 or e-mail at kprevou@friolice.org.

Father James Flynn, associate pastor at Immaculate Conception Church in Denton, answers questions about Catholic beliefs and teachings at a Theology on Tap young adult gathering held April 17 at a restaurant in Denton. (Photo by Paul Combest)
Passage of bill on affordable housing called ‘huge victory’

WASHINGTON (CNS) — Passage by the House of Representatives of legislation to increase the nation’s affordable housing stock is “a huge victory for housing advocates,” said an official of the U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops.

“Sainthood cause formally opened for Oklahoma priest slain in 1981

OKARCHE, Oklahoma (CNS) — Inside Okarche’s Holy Trinity Church, the same church where Stanley Rother was baptized two days after his birth on March 27, 1935, Oklahoma Catholics gathered Oct. 5 to celebrate the Eucharist and to again pray for the canonization of the beloved priest they believe was martyred for his commitment to peace and justice.

By Mark Pattison

WASHINGTON (CNS) — U.S. archbishop says military chaplains must be voices of conscience

VATICAN CITY (CNS) — Military chaplains must be voices of conscience and defenders of the human rights of their own soldiers, especially in combat zones, said Archbishop William F. O’Brien of Baltimore, who headed the U.S. Archdiocese for the Military Services for 10 years. Where there is an acceptance of the direct killing of noncombatants or where torture is justified to obtain information, the chaplain service is either absent or not doing its job, he said.

The archbishop told a Vatican-sponsored course for military ordinaries and chaplains, “The vicious and utterly barbaric treatment of individuals” in the U.S.-run Abu Ghraib prison in Iraq “leaves no doubt as to the barbaric extremes to which human beings can resort, especially in times of war,” the archbishop told course participants Oct. 13. “It is significant, perhaps, that this prison did not have an assigned chaplain, though Army regulations required one,” he said.

The impact of their ads on the intended audience — women who may be facing a troubled pregnancy — has been measurable in both the upsurge in calls made to local crisis pregnancy centers and the decline in the number of abortions performed in those areas. A saner health policy, he said, “is making an already ‘sad landscape’ even bleaker, a top Vatican official told the U.N. General Assembly.

Cardinal Analogia, President of the Pontifical Council for the Promotion of the New Evangelization, addressed the U.N.’s 62nd General Assembly on Oct. 4, saying that the Church “is making an already ‘sad landscape’ even bleaker.”

By calendar year 2006, the number of abortions performed in those areas had declined by 34 percent, he said.

Sainthood cause formally opened for Oklahoma priest slain in 1981

OKARCHE, Oklahoma (CNS) — Inside Okarche’s Holy Trinity Church, the same church where Stanley Rother was baptized two days after his birth on March 27, 1935, Oklahoma Catholics gathered Oct. 5 to celebrate the Eucharist and to again pray for the canonization of the beloved priest they believe was martyred for his commitment to peace and justice.

Unfortunately, the archbishop said, almost 10 million children under the age of 5 die every year “mostly from preventable causes.”

“Such a sad landscape is made bleaker by the fact that as children die and generations lack even the basic necessities of life, we have continued to drift toward mutual and global destruction,” he said.

Nations spend more than $1 trillion a year on the military, he said. Such spending funneled talent and resources away from saving lives and instead created technology that destroys lives and the planet, he said.
Alvare…

FROM PAGE 11

God — as a unique individual with his or her own talents and responsibilities, a person to be treated in accord with the dignity given by God himself.

Catholics recognize that human beings are destined to live socially. We are meant not only to live in community, but to find in service to others the very meaning of our life, just as Jesus’ life was characterized and crowned by his complete service to others.

Families are to form human beings for this manner of social living. They do this in part when they form children by an act of the most profound and intimate love between the parents. Children so conceived are, from their very beginning, the gifts and fruits of this love. Children so conceived may be desired but cannot be “demanded.”

The ART industry is helping to blot out the notion that people ought to be accepted simply for who they are; rather, via ARTs, children’s traits may increasingly be selected. More commonly, each year in the United States, thousands of paid donors possessing currently desired traits — height, certain levels of education, beauty, athletic or musical accomplishment, and ethnic type — sell their eggs or their sperm to fertility clinics to be purchased by individuals and couples after reviewing their “donor profiles.”

ARTs pose a second threat to building families who may negotiate a prototype of a good society. Strong societies contain as many individuals as possible who are reared in stable, nurturing environments. Today, a vast amount of social science research indicates that the best environment for children includes stable, married parents.

By their very nature, ARTs separate procreation from marriage physically. But they also accomplish this socially. Anyone — any individual or couple, single or married, young or old, heterosexual or homosexual — can buy sperm or eggs or even a custom-made embryo in the United States. The ART industry, in other words, is regularly and deliberately placing children in situations known to cause problems for them and for society.

A second aspect of Catholic Social Teaching on the family is also directly contradicted by the practice of ARTs: that the family based on marriage is the sanctuary of life, the place where life can best be welcomed and protected. Some embryos produced through ARTs are directly killed if they are the “wrong sex,” or have the “wrong genes” following pre-implantation genetic diagnosis, or simply don’t seem to be growing as vigorously as their siblings in the Petri dish. Some embryos die while frozen, or upon being thawed. Some are aborted during the fetal stage if “too many” children begin to grow in their mother’s womb. Some unused embryos are simply discarded once parents have reached their desired family or have given up trying to have a child.

Furthermore, we increasingly know that even those embryos who “make it” are subjected to serious risks. Very little testing was undertaken regarding the safety of in vitro fertilization and related practices before these were offered commercially. Scientific literature over the last several years has begun to document the high rates of disabilities suffered from multiple gestation births from ARTs, over 38 percent of all ART births are of multiples. This figure does not account for the many additional ART pregnancies that began as multiple were “reduced” before birth. Even “singletons” ART children seem to have higher rates of some rare genetic disorders than are found among normal births. These facts, coming to light only recently, underscore how ARTs may erode the notion of the family as the very sanctuary of human life.

Many people have difficulty understanding how an industry seemingly dedicated to providing children could run afoul of Catholic Social Teaching about the well being of families. Human beings naturally desire children. A married couple may easily come to think of procreation as a “right.” Thousands of fertility services will do everything scientifically possible to produce children for them. But a closer look at the practices and values of the ART industry shows how deeply it contradicts the real goods of the family and of society.

The flawed values and practices in ARTs are less widely known and understood than they should be — especially among couples lured by the promise that the industry can give them “a child of their own.” Spiritual strength and reverence for the mystery of God’s plan for creation will need to sustain us at times when our merely human reason and strength are not enough to resist this temptation.

Helen Alvare is an associate professor of law at The Catholic University of America’s Columbus School of Law in Washington, D.C. The full-length version of this article is posted at http://www.usccb.org/prolife/programs/rp/alvare.pdf

By Jean Denton

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Hammer…

FROM PAGE 11

— provide our lives with delectable variation, and, like garlic and hot pepper, they frequently bring interest and pleasure. They always bring enduring memories.

The first time I saw Paris, the sight of the enormous Eiffel Tower was overwhelming, and so far above expectation it seemed as though it were a prop. What if it were simply a backdrop that had been as- sembled in place during our trans-Atlantic flight, to be dis- covered only after we debunked the plane and looked — wide- eyed — from a taxi? What if we had previ- ously been backstage, I mused, poised behind temporary curtains (nobody gets to see the Wiz- ard… not nobody, not no how) until the sights were in place and ready for us to view?

I have no idea what to expect about seeing God. God is spirit. God is love. God is unending. God is all powerful. Eternal.

Preparing your mind to comprehend the mystery of God is like the tourist’s pre- conceptions of the Eiffel Tower or the Grand Canyon. When we see the wonders of the world, however, we realize we have at least been prepared through textbook images. Even so, seeing their reality is like being dropped from the pages of those books to a place of unimaginable magnitude.

I acknowledge that my own mind may be as innocent as John’s was when he climbed out the window of his first-grade classroom, and as that child I am able only to imagine God as a human being. So I sur- round myself with the knowl- edge that the personifi cation of God is present. In my moments of fear and doubt, Jesus, my Lord, is standing right there, poised to be my protector, and yes, salvation.

“Here I am standing right beside you,” one liturgical song reminds us. “Here I am; do not be afraid. Here I am waiting like a lover — here I am. I am here.”

As we go through our lives, the days continue to be full of events — change that may not feel like adventure, but in- stead like tragedy. Illness. Loss of family and friends that is never timely. Ultimately we are forced to consider the magni- tude of changes that will take place in our own lives.

But perhaps it is through visualizing changes, those that are fun and fanciful, those that bring stability, and those that are pure tragedy, that we gradually learn to recognize God.

If we walk through life with Jesus beside us, and we know he is there, (waiting like a lover), we can feel safe that all life’s changes will be manage- able. At the end of our lives, then, we will open our eyes to a scene that is not out of a textbook or out of imagination, but reality. Not a backdrop. Not a prop. Definitely not out of a VCR.

That day, I expect, is when we will know what God looks like.

Kathya Cribari Hamer, a member of St. Andrew Parish, has five chil- dren, 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 United States. The full-length version of this article is posted at http://www.usccb.org/prolife/programs/rp/alvare.pdf

By Jean Denton

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**MÜNSTER BIBLE STUDY**
Sacred Heart Parish in Münster will host a one-day Bible study on the Gospel of Matthew. The program, which will begin at 9 a.m., will be conducted by Father Korn Skilton. The liturgical readings for 8 a.m. Mass on Sunday, Nov. 4, will be John 6:40-47, 50-57. For more information, call (817) 732-4083.

**UCC RETREAT**
The University Catholic Community (UCC) at the University of Texas at Arlington will host a retreat the weekend of Nov. 3-4. The retreat will be held at the UCC Parish, 1201 S. Cherry Lane, Fort Worth. For more information, call (817) 560-2452 ext. 107 and ask for the vicar general, Father Michael Olson.

**ECUMESICAL SPEAKER**
Keith Batch, author of the Benedictine Disciple Dallas, will speak to the semi-annual meeting of the Parish Internat and Ecumenical Representatives Nov. 4 at 2:30 p.m. at St. Rita Church, 5550 E. Lancaster Ave., Fort Worth. Bishop Koenin view received Garvie into the Catholic Church in the early October, and Garvie is currently serving as family life coordinator of the Immaculate Conception Church in Denton. This meeting is open to all interested persons, especially those responsible for family life, in order to contact the parish at (817) 495-3191.

**MARRIAGE ENRICHMENT**
A one-day marriage enrichment program, entitled “Today ... Tomorrow ... Forever,” will be offered Nov. 10 at St. Jude Thaddeus Parish, 5003 Dwyer Drive in Burleson, and Nov. 17 at the Catholic Church, 800 West Loop 281 South in West Fort Worth. The program is designed for couples in their first three years of marriage. It is open to married couples,它可以是免费的,也可以是收费的. To register, call (817) 838-9476 ext. 201.

**DCMW MEETING**
The second annual meeting of the Central and Eastern Dioceses of the Fort Worth area, Diocese of Dallas, will be held Nov. 15 at St. Peter the Apostle Church, 1201 S. Cherry Lane, Fort Worth. Father Jer- nemel, chaplain at the Naval Reserve Air Station at Cawdell in Fort Worth, will speak on “Sabbath keeper, Creation, and Thanksgiving.” All women of the diocese are invited. The service project for this month will be the lending of food for those in need. Food will be delivered to the sick, those suffering from terminal illnesses, or those who have no food. For more information, call (817) 429-2920 Monday through Saturday, 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. ext. 330.

**CHRISTMAS®**
The Fourteenth Degree of Columbus of Sacred Heart Parish in Wichita Falls will hold its annual Father Hubert Christmas Fundraiser Oct. 27 at 6 p.m. in the St. Rita Church Hall. A spaghetti and taco dinner and soft drinks will be served. Tickets are available to purchase at 10 a.m. at 5711 South 9th Street in Wichita Falls. For more information, call the parish office at (817) 560-2452 ext. 107.

**ANNUAL TEA / AUCTION**
St. Francis of Assisi’s Mothers with Young Children Ministry will hold its first Annual Tea and Auction Charity event Nov. 4 from 2 p.m. to 4 p.m. The event, to be held at St. Francis of Assisi is the Family Life Center, will feature a silent and live auction and tea. All proceeds from the auction will benefit the Parish. The Youth Scholarship Fund, and Catholic Packets. Payment for auction items to be made by cash or check only. For more information, contact Vickie Garza, Kathy McDowell, Valerie Miller, Heather Moran, or Sisiel Solins at myschoolsthrives@gmail.com. St. Francis Church is located at 961 Wildwood Lane in Grapevine.

**NATURAL FAMILY PLANNING**
Offered during the workshop. A $6 donation is requested to cover the cost of the materials. For more information, contact Bobbi Rohmer, at (940) 758-2511 ext. 16.

**CHARITY FUNDRAISER**
SINGLES SILENT RETREAT
A silent retreat for singles will be held at Montserrat’s Mount Hotell, Maysville, at the invitation of the director. The retreat will begin at 6 a.m. Friday, Nov. 9, and will conclude at 3 p.m. on Saturday, Nov. 10. Fathers and siblings, Nunnan Stith, will see the retreat as a way to have a personal retreat weekend. Participants in the retreat weekend will be given the opportunity for private prayer and reflection on topics offered by the retreat master. Mass and the opportunity to receive the Sacrament of Reconciliation will also be available. The retreat is open to singles of all ages. An opportunity for singles who have been separated, widowed, divorced, or never married. For payment is required for the retreat. Available on a sliding scale, and payment options are available. More information available by contacting Mount Hotell, Maysville. More information available at www.silentrreatreat.org.

**CATHOLIC RENEWAL RETREAT**
“Welcoming Who You Are: An Introduction to the Spirituality of St. Thérèse.” will be presented by Brother Joseph Schmidt Nov. 9 and 10 at the Catholic Renewal Center, 4503 Bowie St., Fort Worth. The event is an introduction to the spirituality of St. Thérèse of Lisieux. Participants will receive a copy of this new book: Everything to Glorify. The Life and Way of St. Thérèse will be the focus of the retreat. For more information, registration, and cost information, contact the Catholic Renewal Center at (817) 429-2920 Monday through Saturday, 9 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. ext. 330.

**HARVEST DANCE**
The 42nd annual St. Jude Church Fall Festival will be held Nov. 3 from 10 p.m. to midnight at 5101 Scoggins Road, Ft. Worth. Music will be provided by The Christian Band. Music and and festivities for the evening will include the “Harvest Fruit Pull” and a cakewalk. The people who work the event will provide a variety of food, including gelato, pastries, and cakes. The cost for this event is $5 for adults, $3 for children five to 12, and children under the age of five will be admitted free. For more information, call Helen McDonald at (940) 569-3399. St. Jude Parish is located at 5101 Scoggins Road, Ft. Worth, and just off I-820 at Loop 820.

**SVPD CONCERT**
The youth ministry at St. Vincent de Paul Parish in Fort Worth, Arlington, will host a concert by nationally known artist Steve Angirosso Nov. 6 at 7:30 p.m. in the sanctuary. This is a free will donation concert and any proceeds will benefit Arlington Prodigy Center, Angrisano’s unique blend of laughter, song, and story, audience interaction. The proceeds from the concert will benefit Angrisano. for more information, call (817) 478-8206 ext. 216 or by e-mail to donald@stvincentdepaulfortworth.org.

**SEYMOUR POLKA MASS**
The Catholic Community of Seymour will celebrate with neighbors Nov. 11 beginning at 7 p.m. Seymour Polka Mass will be held at Sacred Heart Church on North Cedar Street, Seymour, Texas. The Mass will feature a Czech Old World dinner with Bohemian sausage, turkey, and kielbasa will be available. Additional information will be found at Sacred Heart Mission Hall until 13:30. An auction will begin at 1:30 p.m. A country store of baked goods and crafts will also be a highlight of the event. Sacred Heart Church is located two and half hours from the Fort Worth area into the country going west to Jacobson and then west to Seymour.

**RACHEL’S VINEYARD**
Racine Ranch Retreat Center will hold a weekend retreat Dec. 7-9 for healing them of sexual abuse by anyone who served them. You may... Call: (817) 291-5579 or e-mail her at joceline@racheltx.org.**

**SWING DANCE**
The youth ministry at St. Vincent de Paul Parish, 5819 W. Pleasant Ridge Rd., Fort Worth, Music will be provided by Courage D/FW, a spiritual support group for women and men seeking experienced care- **Classified Section**

**HOME CAREGIVERS**
Visiting Angels, a non-medical home care service, is looking for caregivers and caregivers for on-call positions. To, POST your information, call 1-800-247-9010.

**SERVICES AVAILABLE**
Topail, sand, gravel, washed ma...
Mercy Sister Suzanne Toolan tells how a student’s appreciation rescued ‘I Am the Bread of Life’ from the trash can

By Mark Pattison
Catholic News Service
Washington

n unsolicited comment from a high school girl kept one of the most popular hymns of the Second Vatican Council era, “I Am the Bread of Life,” from meeting an untimely fate.

Mercy Sister Suzanne Toolan, who composed the song, said she had been asked to write a song for an event in the Archdiocese of San Francisco — possibly a eucharistic event, she recalled — and was writing on deadline. At the Catholic girls’ high school in California where she was teaching in 1966, Sister Suzanne used an unoccupied room next to the school infirmary to finish what became “I Am the Bread of Life.”

“I worked on it, and I tore it up. I thought, ‘This will not do,’” she told Catholic News Service in an Oct. 16 telephone interview from her order’s convent in Burlingame, California.

“And this little girl came out of the infirmary and said, ‘What was that? That was beautiful!’ I went right back and Scotch-taped it up.”

The rest, as they say, is history. But history takes time.

Sr. Suzanne said the song was “not particularly well received” in San Francisco, but she credited “a very gifted Sulpician” named Father John Olivier at a seminary near the Burlingame convent with helping get the word out about her songs.

“He would come to our convent on Saturdays, so we’d have a decent homily every week,” she said. “He began to hear some of my things, and he took it back to the seminary. And that’s how I think most of my things got out.”

“I Am the Bread of Life” is not only in all manner of Catholic hymnals, but also is in the official hymnbooks of the Episcopal, Lutheran, and Methodist churches. “People keep giving me copies of it when they go to Europe or Asia, even,” Sr. Suzanne said. “It’s in different languages. It’s thrilling.”

She alluded to “the problem some critics have allowing the congregation to sing words that Jesus has spoken.”

She left the phone to scurry to find a copy of a column from one of those critics, Catholic press columnist George Weigel. “Weigel calls it ‘that — I can’t even pronounce it’ — hymn,” she said, spelling the word “ubiquitous.”

“My answer is: Do we really think we’re saying ‘I am the bread of life’ and that ‘I’ is the assembly? I don’t see why we can’t use that as a prayer,” she said.

Sr. Suzanne sees another problem inherent in the hymn, though: “It’s a hymn that really shouldn’t work for the congregation. It’s too low. It’s too high. I often ask myself: Why does it work so well, then? I think it’s the Scripture. The Scripture is so strong.”

She took it upon herself to make the lyrics more inclusive, including changing the original “I will raise him up” in the chorus to “I will raise you up.”

“I did that a long time ago, but other people have done it, too,” she said. “As soon as that awareness [about inclusive language] came in, I couldn’t live with it [the original] anymore.”

Sr. Suzanne, who celebrated her 80th birthday Oct. 24, is not only a liturgical music composer, but now an author as well, getting credit as a co-author with Elizabeth Dossa, communications officer for the Mercy Sisters in Burlingame, for a book titled I Am the Bread of Life.

“I have a hard time with ... being the subject of it,” Sr. Suzanne said, adding that when Dossa first sat her down to interview her on her life and ministry, she thought it was for some other purpose. “It’s kind of dumb of me, but I didn’t know I was writing a book,” she said.

Dossa came back to Sr. Suzanne the next week, “so I thought she was looking for some more quotes,” she added. “Finally dodo,” she said, referring to herself, “realizes what’s going on.”

Sr. Suzanne called Dossa “a lovely, a gorgeous person and a very fine writer.”

Born Gloria Toolan in Lansing, Michigan, she took her sister Suzanne’s name when she entered religious life 57 years ago, because “I hate” Gloria, she noted.

Sr. Suzanne said she holds a unique record among Sisters of Mercy. “I’m the only one in the community who’s always stayed here in the motherhouse,” she said. “It’s a beautiful, wonderful property. When they made the [assignment] changes, I’d always hide.”

Her call to religious life, she said, “came pretty early on, even in first grade. We had this kind of strange but wonderful nun” — a Mercy sister — “who used to play the organ,” she recalled. “I thought, ‘Gee, I want to be a nun, and I want to be an organist.’

SISTERS OF MERCY

By Sr. Suzanne Toolan with Elizabeth Dossa

Mercy Sister Suzanne Toolan, who is pictured in an undated photo, composed “I Am the Bread of Life,” one of the most popular hymns from the Second Vatican Council era.

(CNS PHOTO/COURTESY OF SISTERS OF MERCY)

Cover of the new book I Am the Bread of Life, by Mercy Sister Suzanne Toolan with Elizabeth Dossa. (CNS)

When ASMB new Catholic dormitory was dedicated in honor of Msgr. John Giessee, a number of his relatives, some from Muenster, were on hand to recall his accomplishments.

Youth from Arlington, Grapevine, Colleyville, and Fort Worth were among those traveling in mission to Honduras this past summer — and being transformed in the process.

Ministry Formation Day in Wichita Falls Oct. 6 brought together more than 150 participants and presenters for spiritual enrichment, fellowship, and professional development.

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