By Patricia Zapor
WASHINGTON (CNS) — In two hours of oral arguments Nov. 8 over a federal law banning a procedure known as partial-birth abortion, Supreme Court justices and attorneys considered the intent of Congress in passing the bill, the differences between types of abortion, and who gets to decide when those differences matter.

The court heard appeals of two lower court rulings that both found the 2003 Partial Birth Abortion Ban Act to be unconstitutional because it does not include provisions allowing its use in some cases to protect a woman’s health.

From the direction of the questioning, Justices Stephen Breyer, Ruth Bader Ginsburg, John Paul Stevens, and David Souter seemed to be looking for commonality between the federal law and a similar Nebraska statute that they voted to overturn in 2000.

The fifth vote in that 5-4 major

Shelter visits give view into world of minors who cross border alone

By Erik Noriega
Editor, Texas Catholic Herald
Diocese of Galveston-Houston
HOUSTON (CNS) — The artwork by residents of St. Michael’s Home for Children tells their stories.

Pieces with titles such as “My unrealized dream of being reunited with my father” and “A dream unfurﬁlled” told the same basic story: young teenagers tearfully leaving their families behind, crossing hundreds of miles through parts of Central America and Mexico, withstanding physical punishment, and ultimately being caught by the U.S. Border Patrol.

St. Michael’s and another shelter operated by Catholic Charities of the Archdiocese of Galveston-Houston were among the stops for a delegation of bishops and other church personnel on an Oct. 23-27 tour of border-area programs dealing with victims of human trafﬁcking and unaccompanied minors.

From starting points in Houston, El Paso, and Tucson, Arizona, the group traveled to parts of two Mexican states as well.

They met with Border Patrol, Immigration and Customs Enforcement, and Justice Department personnel; visited shelters for migrant children in Juarez, Mexico; toured a church-run center in Altar, Mexico, that aids would-be border crossers; and met with people involved in a

Supreme Court justices hear oral arguments on partial-birth abortion

By Nancy Frazier O’Brien
Baltimore (CNS) — The $32 million restoration of the Basilica of the National Shrine of the Assumption of the Blessed Virgin Mary in Baltimore Nov. 5. The basilica reopened Nov. 4 after a two-year, $32 million complete restoration. Known as America’s ﬁrst cathedral, the church was constructed after the adoption of the Constitution and Bill of Rights, which guaranteed Americans the right to worship freely. (CNS photo/Owen Sweeney, Catholic Review)

Restored Baltimore basilica a gift to church, nation, says Cardinal Keeler

By Nancy Frazier O’Brien
Baltimore (CNS) — The $32 million restoration of the Basilica of the National Shrine of the Assumption of the Blessed Virgin Mary in Baltimore Nov. 5. The basilica reopened Nov. 4 after a two-year, $32 million complete restoration. Known as America’s ﬁrst cathedral, the church was constructed after the adoption of the Constitution and Bill of Rights, which guaranteed Americans the right to worship freely. (CNS photo/Owen Sweeney, Catholic Review)

The cardinal, seated in a wheelchair as he recovered from a broken ankle, spoke about the importance of the basilica as the mother of the Baltimore Catholic Church and community but to the entire nation.

He said the reopening would be a gift to church, nation, and community but to the entire country.

When the cornerstone was laid for the new church in 1806, it represented “the rights of Catholics throughout the United States, with the assurance that they voted to overturn the Alien and Sedition Acts of 1807 and 1808, which were used in some cases to protect a woman’s health.”

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Pope accepts resignation of Galveston-Houston Auxiliary Bishop Rizzotto

WASHINGTON (CNS) — Pope Benedict XVI accepted the resignation of Auxiliary Bishop Vincent M. Rizzotto of Galveston-Houston Nov. 6.

On Sept. 9 Bishop Rizzotto turned 75, the age at which bishops are required by canon law to submit their resignation to the pope.

A priest of the Archdiocese of Galveston-Houston since 1956, he was ordained a bishop in 2001 at age 69.

At the time of his episcopal appointment, Bishop Rizzotto said, “I could make long speeches and tell you of visions and things like that, but that’s really not my role. My whole mission is that I can be of assistance in helping you find a deeper walk with God.”

During his ordination Mass, he asked aloud about his ability to fill the role of bishop, “I took a look at myself in the mirror and said, ‘Can I do that? Can I be one that you — the people of the church, the people of God — will depend on for your life in Christ? And will you derive your life in Christ from me?’” Bishop Rizzotto asked. “I take that pledge very seriously and will try to fulfill it to the best of my ability.”

Prior to his episcopal appointment, Bishop Rizzotto was coordinator of the diocesan liturgical commission, president of the diocesan Senate of Priests, chairman of the interracial committee for the Catholic council on community relations, chair of the priests’ personnel committee, and a member of the advisory board for the new cathedral of the archdiocese.

He has served as a vicar general of the diocese, a post he held when he was named an auxiliary bishop.

Bishop Rizzotto was born in 1931, the youngest of nine children of Sicilian-born parents who moved to Houston in 1915.

He entered St. Mary Seminary in 1949 and was ordained a priest May 26, 1956, in St. Mary Cathedral in Galveston. He earned a licentiate in canon law in 1962 from the Catholic University of America in Washington.

The bishop served in the diocesan marriage tribunal from 1960 to 1970 and as judicial vicar of the tribunal from 1965 to 1970. He was pastor of St. Francis de Sales Church in Houston from 1970 to 1982, then pastor of St. Cecilia Parish from 1982 to 2002.

Texas woman first in U.S. to take final vows for order in 10 years

By Carol Baas Sowa

Southwestern Methodism University in Dallas. What followed was a long and successful career as manager of the university’s choral department. Sr. Maria Goretti also played the organ for a number of years at St. Pius X, where Sr. Mary directed the choir.

“Not only were we friends, but we were also professional colleagues,” Sr. Mary told Today’s Catholic.

The thought of a religious vocation had briefly crossed Sr. Mary’s mind at the time of her high school graduation, but she had wanted to attend college first. She did not seriously consider it again until after her mother’s death in 1997.

She had been her mother’s caregiver at the end of her life and was quite close to her. In the grieving process that followed her mother’s death, she found herself faced with the question of what she wanted to do with the rest of her life.

She thought again of the sisters around whom she had grown up and the possibility of a religious vocation.

“When you grow up Catholic, as a girl in a Catholic environment, you know that’s always one of your options,” she said. However, it was really the feeling of community she experienced through her friendship with Sr. Maria Goretti and her invitation to work with her in the sisters’ choir, she noted, that led to her final decision.

Her novitiate ceremony was Aug. 15, 2001, which was the last time Sr. Maria Goretti had the occasion to play before members of her congregation. She died unexpectedly of a heart attack a week later.

Sr. Mary received the nun’s ring during her profession liturgy this summer at the Chapel of the Incarnate Word in San Antonio.

Sr. Bette Anne said she feels there are people who have the gift of a religious vocation and that, as the world cries out for a more contemplative and centered life, there will be an increased interest by people drawn to this type of service.

“It’s a wonderful life,” she said, “to be able to share your gifts with others who have the same vision of life and want to share in the mission of the congregation, which is to share the love of God in our world that so much needs his love.”
Ministerium speaker John Allen Jr. offers fresh perspective on the inner workings of the Vatican

By John English, Correspondent

Communication was key at a recent gathering of priests, deacons, and lay ministers of the Diocese of Fort Worth held at St. Francis of Assisi Church in Grapevine.

Renowned Catholic reporter and author John L. Allen Jr. was the keynote speaker at the annual Ministerium meeting Nov. 3, and, among other things, the National Catholic Reporter’s Vatican correspondent and CNN Vatican analyst shed some light on the duty of Catholics to help correct misconceptions about the church.

“Vatican officials are not communications experts and have no desire to become spokespeople for the church,” Allen said. “It is all of our responsibility to become spokespeople for the church.”

Allen said the Vatican does a “feeble job of telling its own story,” which he said has led to myths, stereotypes, and prejudices about the church.

Father Daniel Kelley of St. George Church in Northeast Fort Worth said he found the event to be informative, which, he explained, was really the reason the Ministerium was started.

“It was a very good way of describing how the Vatican works,” Fr. Kelley said. “The Ministerium is set out mainly for professional ministers who work in parishes throughout the diocese. That’s why it was put together to begin with — to educate and to keep people current on different events affecting the church.”

Allen spoke at two different morning sessions with a break in between, and later that afternoon, led table discussions and a question and answer session. The topic that seemed to create the most interest was something he labeled “the top five myths about the Catholic Church.” They included the idea that there is such a thing as “the Vatican,” the concept of absolute, centralized control within the church, the belief in a vastly Vatican wealth, the misconception of Vatican secrecy, and the stereotype that church officials are either careerists or lazy.

“When you think about the Vatican, you think about power,” St. George Parish secretary Maggie Rodriguez said. “I liked when he said that not everyone is trying to get higher up in the church … to become bishops or archbishops.”

Rosemary Manganilla of St. Catherine of Siena Parish in Carrollton said she was somewhat surprised as well.

“It was a new perspective on what I thought about the church,” Manganilla said. “I did not realize how small of a budget we have, for being such a large church.”

Allen said the Vatican has an annual operating budget of about $270 million dollars, which is less than that of the University of Notre Dame and similar to a moderately sized American diocese’s combined parish, school, and central office budgets.

Father Sojan George, pastor of the Wise County parishes Assumption of the Blessed Virgin Mary in Decatur, St. John the Baptist in Bridgeport, and St. Mary in Jacksboro, said he thinks the Ministerium is a good way for members of the diocesan leadership to get re-acquainted with one another and gain a better understanding of issues affecting the church.

“This brings us together,” Fr. George said, “with the staff members and the pastoral staff. This is a good opportunity to come together and visit with each other. [Allen] has some good insights, and I always enjoy coming.”

Allen did not shy away from controversial topics, as he also addressed the issue of sexual abuse within the church, saying that, as important as it is, it does not paint the whole picture of the church’s interaction with young people.

In 2002, in terms of the church’s involvement with children, the following things were going on,” Allen said. “2.3 million children were educated in Catholic schools in the United States, a substantial percentage of them low-income, minority children living in inner-city areas that have essentially been abandoned by the public school system and by every other form of private education. [Massive numbers of] children were given charitable care by Catholic Charities in the United States … so if you want a comprehensive picture of what the Catholic Church was doing for and to children in 2002, ‘The Crisis,’ as important as it is, was not the entire story.”

Allen said he believes the reason for this is that most members of the media are simply not trained to think about and address those kinds of issues.

Allen defended the media as well, however, explaining that members of the press are often under strict deadlines, are under a tremendous amount of pressure to produce a lot of copy in a short period of time, and work in a “What have you done for me lately?” environment.

“I liked him,” Michael Trinh of Christ the King Church in Fort Worth said of John Allen. “He has a lot of personality, and he’s a good speaker.”

Father George Foley of St. Jude Parish in Mansfield said he appreciated the opportunity to hear Allen’s perspective on the relationship between the media and the church because of how close Allen is to the situation.

“I think it is very interesting to hear an insider’s view of what goes on in the Vatican,” Fr. Foley said. “We sit in the parishes, and we have these myths about the Vatican that people consider to be facts. Even for me, I would have thought that most of the people within the Vatican were careerists, but he says they’re not — that half of the guys are wondering how they got there.”

Allen lives in Italy with his wife and has traveled extensively with Pope John Paul II and Pope Benedict XVI.

He has written several books on the church, including All the Pope’s Men: The Inside Story of How the Vatican Really Thinks; The Rise of Benedict XVI: The Inside Story of How the Pope Was Elected and Where He Will Take the Catholic Church; and Opus Dei: An Objective Look Behind the Myths and Reality of the Most Controversial Force in the Catholic Church.

Allen wove humorous anecdotes and jokes into his commentary and, near the end of his second session, made a comment about the church that had most people nodding in agreement.

“A comprehensive look at the Catholic community in America is difficult,” Allen said. “Because of prejudices and misconceptions about the church, it is very difficult.”

Begun in 1987, “the Ministerium was initially established in conjunction with the Presbyteral Assembly — the annual meeting of all priests in the diocese — as a tool for dialogue with the bishop. Over the years, the Ministerium has evolved from its initial ‘Parish Ministers Convocation’ into an annual gathering with enthusiastic representation from all parts of the diocese,” according to the Diocese of Fort Worth Web site (www.fwdioc.org).

Alice Park, church secretary at Our Lady of Guadalupe in Fort Worth, said she took much of what Allen said to heart.

“I really feel that we are all part of the church,” Park said. “We need to minister to everyone, because people see us as ministers, so we need to carry the word.”
Save the date for SWLC Study Week Jan. 17-20 in Oklahoma City

The Southwest Liturgical Conference will hold its 46th annual Study Week Jan. 17-20 at the Cox Convention Center in Oklahoma City. “Be a part of the Study Week,” suggest organizers, “as we listen to and dialogue with scholars, colleagues, and coworke...”

Official Assignments

The following assignments have been made by Bishop Kevin Vann:

Father Ken Robinson has been assigned as the pastor of Sacred Heart Parish, Moore, effective Jan. 1.

Father Karl Walterscheid will be the director of Vocations for the Diocese of Fort Worth, effective Jan. 1.

Father Jim Pemberton will be the associate director of Vocations for the Diocese of Fort Worth, effective Jan. 1.

Ministry Formation Day in Fort Worth to be held Jan. 6

“Why Do You Say I Am?” is the theme for the diocesan Ministry Formation Day, to be held Jan. 6 at Nolan Catholic High School, 4500 Bridge Street in East Fort Worth. The event, which will be offered in English and Spanish, is an opportunity for enrichment, fellowship, and development of practical skills for ministry. Registration will begin at 8:15 a.m.

The keynote address — first in English, at 9:30 a.m, and then in Spanish, at 10:15 a.m. — will be presented by Bishop Kevin Vann. During the English keynote address, a breakout session with Spanish-language workshops will be held, and while the Spanish keynote is offered, English-language workshops will take place. Registration for the workshop will be another round of workshops in the afternoon, prior to the conclusion of the event at 5 p.m. Three sessions in the Vietnamese language are planned.

Workshops will be offered in a variety of topics, including “Volunteers: Y All Are Called to Serve,” “Catholic Response to Moral Quandaries,” “How to Get Pro Life Committees Started in Your Parish,” “Marriage — Living the Sacrament,” and “Hands-On Lentin Ideas for Classroom.”

All involved in parish or school ministry, whether volunteer or paid staff, are welcome to attend. The cost, which includes lunch, is $20 per person prior to the early registration deadline of Jan. 2. After that date, the cost is $25 per person. Scholarships are available.

For more information, call The Catholic Center at (817) 560-3300 or visit their website at www.fwdoc.org.

ST. MICHAEL EMPLOYEES TO RECEIVE COMMEMORATIVE MEDALLION

For those dealing with elder care, St. Michael Church, 3713 Glenview Drive in North Richland Hills, will present a series of educational topics and activities. The series will be held on Mondays at 12:15 p.m.

November's topics to be addressed are the fourth session, “Managing the Independence 2,” Dec. 18.

For more information or to RSVP, call the confidential help line at (817) 923-4757 or e-mail stmichael kaum@swlc.org. All inquiries are strictly confidential.

Pro-Life youth activities set for December, January

The Youth Ministry of St. John the Apostle Church, in Fort Worth, has recently announced several upcoming and ongoing activities planned with The Remnant Band and Fort Worth's Youth Life.

A Lock-In for Life will be held Dec. 8-9 at the parish, located at 7541 Glenview Drive in North Richland Hills. The event, which will feature a “fun night” in which teens will join in music, games, Mass, and learn about important pro-life information.

Participants will receive a T-shirt and the new Remnant CD. The cost is $50 in advance or $55 at the door. Those who wish to support scholarships to attend the March for Life in Washington, D.C. in January can today with a $50 donation. A spaghetti dinner rally will take place Jan. 12-13 at St. John’s, with the doors opening at 5 p.m. on Friday evening. Father Bernard Murphy, CFR, and other members of the Franciscan Friars of the Renewal will speak at the rally. Light refreshments will be available, including, The Remnant Band, Daniel delSanto of the Crispin Band, the Joe Languid Band, and the teen group “Pages of the Bible.”

A recent press release also announced that two trips for teenagers to the March for Life in Washington, D.C. are being offered in the Diocese of Fort Worth.

In November, a 19-23 pilgrimage and a Jan 20-22 pilgrimage to this annual national pro-life event. Scholarships will be available. For more information, contact Marie Johnson at (817) 488-1129, or e-mail to Sue Laux, Youth For Life, at lauxs@juno.com.

The Rio Grande Valley Diocese, located in far southwest Dallas at 7050 Southwest Freeway, is shown presenting Amy with a golden basketball trophy.

’Light the Way to Jesus’ to be presented Dec. 1, 3 at SEAS

St. Elizabeth Ann Seton Church and John Paul the Great Theatre Productions will present ‘Light the Way to Jesus,’ a reenactment of the birth of Jesus, Friday, Dec. 1, at 7 p.m. and Sunday, Dec. 3, at 7:30 p.m. at the parish, located at 1810 Willis Lane in Keller.

More information on the program can be found by calling (817) 924-6581 or at www.seascc.org.

Advent ‘Mornings of Reflection’ to be offered at Mt. Carmel Center

Advent retreat opportunities will be offered at Mt. Carmel Center, located in far southwest Dallas at 6000 W. Davis Street. Each of these ‘Mornings of Reflection’ will be offered with Father Jerome Earley, OCD, Dec. 9, the program, based on the Advent readings from St. Luke’s Gospel, will focus upon how people of faith are to prepare for the coming of the Messiah. The sacrament of reconciliation will be offered from 1 p.m. to 2 p.m.

‘A People Full of Anticipation: St. Luke and the Coming(s) of the Messiah’ will be presented by Father Stephen Sanchez, OCD, Dec. 14. The program will include a short overview of St. John’s life and works, as well as reflection on his doctrine regarding the soul’s single-minded devotion to the Lord and the soul’s desire to achieve union with him. Mass will be offered at 12:15 p.m., and quiet time for prayer will be offered until 4 p.m. This program will be repeated Dec. 16.

Participants are invited to bring their own lunch for shared fellowship following the sessions. Drinks and dessert are provided. Those planning to attend are asked to make their reservations for the program one week prior to the event. A suggested donation of $25 is requested for each session.

For more information or to make a reservation, call (214) 531-0224 ext. 11.4.

Relache’s Vineyard retreat, Jan. 5-7, to offer post abortion healing

A Rachel’s Vineyard retreat, designed to offer healing for women and men struggling with the psychological and spiritual pain of abortion, will be held Jan. 5-7 at the Betsy Ross Hotel, 4500 Tinker Road in Collinville. The celebration will mark the retirement of Diocese of Dallas’ Diocesan Director of Family Life Ministry and will be an evening prayer service, beginning at 6:30 p.m. on Jan. 5. The service of music and prayer, designed to provide hope to people struggling with abortion’s aftermath.

The retreat team, which includes a priest and a licensed counselor, provides therapeutic healing to help participants work through feelings of anger, shame, guilt, and grief to see that they may be open to experiencing the healing love and mercy of God.

Mothers, fathers, grandparents, and former participants of an abortion industry — anyone who has been hurt by abortion — are welcome to attend.

For more information or to register, call the confidential help line at (817) 923-4757 or e-mail stmichael kaum@swlc.org. All inquiries are strictly confidential.

Nov. 30 celebration to honor three diocesan employees

A celebration honoring the contributions of longtime diocesan employees Charmaine Williams, Sandra Leighton, and Sister Donna Laux, Youth For Life, will be held Nov. 30 at Good Shepherd Church, 1000 Tinker Road in Collinville. The celebration will mark the retirement of Charmaine Williams from diocesan service, and will include an evening prayer service, beginning at 6:30 p.m. on Jan. 5. The service of music and prayer, designed to provide hope to people struggling with abortion’s aftermath.

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Ballew, Ashley Ballew, Danielle Nors, Mallory Ballew, Msgr. Frank Miller, and juniors prayed the rosary prior to Mass and presented the offertory gifts, which were offered for the intentions of other Catholics throughout the world.

MEETING BISHOP VANN — Members of the Catholic Family Fraternal of Elizabeth Ann Seton Parish office group’s Web site at www.sampg.org meet Tuesday evenings at 7:30 p.m. at The St. Augustine Men’s Purity Group meets weekly.

Serra Club announces dates for Vocation Poster Contest Each year students in Catholic grade schools and religious education classes are invited to participate in the Serra Club’s Vocation Poster Contest by drawing a picture which best illustrates the contest’s theme. The upcoming contest’s theme is “Going to the Whole World and Proclaiming the Good News to All Creatures.”

Cardinal Newman Institute to host final lecture in series Dec. 9 The Cardinal Newman Institute for the Study of Faith and Culture will conclude its fall lecture series Saturday, Dec. 9, at St. Mary the Virgin Church, 1498 N. Davis Drive in Arlington. Dr. James Patrick, chancellor of the College of St. Thomas More in Fort Worth, will speak on “Venerable John Henry Newman: An Exemplar Witness for Truth and the ‘One, Holy, Catholic and Apostolic Church’.”

Singles Christmas celebration set for Dec. 9 at Holy Family The Singles Ministry of Holy Family Church, 65/50 Pershing Ave. in West Fort Worth, will host a Christmas celebration benefiting the Catholic Daughters of the Americas.

St. John the Apostle Parish to host dinner, Christmas concert Dec. 22 A dinner and Christmas concert will be presented Friday, Dec. 22, at St. John the Apostle Church 7341 Gleneview Drive in North Richland Hills. The evening will include a special performance by Bishop Kevin Vann, choral and instrumental presentations, and community hymns. The remaining singles who are interested are asked to bring a dish to share for the potluck dinner. A DJ will provide the music.

NYC deadlines for submission The North Texas Catholic is published twice monthly, except during the months of June, July, and August when it is published monthly. The deadline to submit information is noon on the Wednesday of the week before the issue is published.

Holy Spirit Sisters to host ‘Come and See’ Dec. 8-10 The Sisters of the Holy Spirit will host a “Come and See” weekend at Holy Spirit Retreat Center in San Antonio. The weekend will begin Friday, Dec. 8, at 5 p.m. and continue through Sunday, Dec. 10, at 1 p.m.

Calix support group meets monthly at Holy Family Calix, a monthly support meeting for Catholics who are alcoholic and others who are struggling with addiction and seeking recovery, is offered the first Saturday of each month at Holy Family Church, 65/50 Pershing Ave. in West Fort Worth. The next meeting will be held Dec. 2, beginning at 10 a.m. in the chapel.

Sacred Heart Dance Team of Muenster SACRED HEART DANCE TEAM — The Sacred Heart Dance Team of Muenster achieved second place honors in the High School – Novelty Dance Division of the 16th annual Dallas Cowboys Drill Team and Dance Competition Oct. 28. More than 100 youth representing teams from Texas, Louisiana, and Oklahoma, descended upon Texas Stadium in Irving for the event. The Sacred Heart Dance Team, under the direction of Leslie Edelman (back, left), performed a tribute to the ’50s with “Sunday School Rock.” Team members included (others, back) Carly Moor, Elizabeth Marshall, Sarah Raffel, Marisol Becerra, Laura Segovia, (front, left to right) Kaye Hogan, Kaitlyn Felderhoff, Natalie Endres, Samantha Barnett, and Leah Hess.

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NYC deadlines for submission The North Texas Catholic is published twice monthly, except during the months of June, July, and August when it is published monthly. The deadline to submit information is noon on the Wednesday of the week before the issue is published.

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Calix support group meets monthly at Holy Family Calix, a monthly support meeting for Catholics who are alcoholic and others who are struggling with addiction and seeking recovery, is offered the first Saturday of each month at Holy Family Church, 65/50 Pershing Ave. in West Fort Worth. The next meeting will be held Dec. 2, beginning at 10 a.m. in the chapel.

Sacred Heart Dance Team of Muenster SACRED HEART DANCE TEAM — The Sacred Heart Dance Team of Muenster achieved second place honors in the High School – Novelty Dance Division of the 16th annual Dallas Cowboys Drill Team and Dance Competition Oct. 28. More than 100 youth representing teams from Texas, Louisiana, and Oklahoma, descended upon Texas Stadium in Irving for the event. The Sacred Heart Dance Team, under the direction of Leslie Edelman (back, left), performed a tribute to the ’50s with “Sunday School Rock.” Team members included (others, back) Carly Moor, Elizabeth Marshall, Sarah Raffel, Marisol Becerra, Laura Segovia, (front, left to right) Kaye Hogan, Kaitlyn Felderhoff, Natalie Endres, Samantha Barnett, and Leah Hess.

St. Augustine Men’s Purity Group meets weekly

The St. Augustine Men’s Purity Group, a support group for men who struggle with sources of sexual impurity such as those found on the Internet, meets Tuesday evenings at 7 p.m. in a Catholic Renewal Center, 4503 Bridge Street in East Fort Worth, adjacent to Beloved Catholic High School. For more information, contact Father Warren Murphy, TOR, at (817) 938-5433.

St. Cecilia’s Day program to be held at Holy Family Parish Nov. 19 St. Cecilia’s Day Celebration will be held Sunday, Nov. 19, at 6 p.m. at Holy Family Church, 65/50 Pershing Avenue in West Fort Worth. It will be an opportunity to honor St. Cecilia, the patron of Catholic musicians, and experience music that enhances Catholic worship.

The evening will include a special performance by Bishop Kevin Vann, choral and instrumental presentations, and community hymns.

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

For more information, call Deacon Joe Milligan at (817) 737-6768 ext. 105 or Tim S. at (817) 735-1519.
Sisters of Life to offer Advent mission on living the ‘Gospel of Life’

Four members of the Sisters of Life, a women’s religious order founded in 1991 by then-Archbishop of New York the late Cardinal John O’Connor, will present a one-day retreat at Immaculate Conception Church (ICC), 2255 N. Bonnie Brae Street in Denton.

The retreat, designed especially for youth, young adults, and their parents and adult leaders, will be held Saturday, Dec. 2, from 9:30 a.m. to 3 p.m. in the church gymnasium. The program will include Advent prayer, stories about the sisters’ charism and community life, and their insights into religious life.

The Sisters of Life, who describe themselves as members of a community that is both contemplative and active, are based in New York, and are currently comprised of 47 women religious representing several different states, Canada, and Great Britain.

“They are a religious community we take the three traditional vows of poverty, chastity, and obedience,” reads the mission statement that is posted on the congregation’s Website. “We also are consecrated under a special, fourth vow to protect and enhance the sacredness of human life. Reverence and gratitude for the unique and unrepeatable gift of each human life made in the image and likeness of God fuels the prayer of each sister, our first mission in building the Kingdom of God and the ‘Culture of Life.’”

Randy Bollig, an ICC parishioner, is organizing the retreat day in his role as the parish representative for Catholics Respect Life, a pro-life organization within the Diocese of Fort Worth. He and his wife Laurie are also parents to Sister Bernadette Mary, the youngest of the four women religious who will be visiting ICC following their speaking engagements at Texas A&M and at the University of Dallas.

“We are so thrilled that the Sisters of Life will be coming to share their faith and their message with the people of this diocese,” said Bollig. “People of all ages will find this a wonderful opportunity to reflect on many topics, such as the sisters’ ministry to post-abortive women; Theology of the Body; and life directions.”

“For those who are unable to attend the Saturday retreat day, other opportunities to hear the sisters’ compelling pro-life message are available, said Bollig. “The sisters will be praying with us at the Planned Parenthood clinic in downtown Fort Worth the morning of Friday, Dec. 1.” Bollig noted, “Additionally, they will be speaking at all of the ICC Masses the weekend of Dec. 2-3. They will also be talking with the students at ICC School and at St. Elizabeth Ann Seton School in Keller on Monday, Dec. 4.”

It is a special joy to have the sisters in his home parish close to the Christmas holidays, thus giving the Bollig family the rare opportunity to see their daughter, said Bollig. He added that Sr. Bernadette Mary, formerly known as “Katherine,” was a “normal teen-ager” who was involved in many activities, including high school cheerleading, prior to attending the University of Dallas, where she became interested in the idea of a religious vocation.

“I was certainly not encouraging her” in choosing a religious vocation, wrote Bollig in a recently published newsletter article. “I just wanted her to be happy. The subject was not discussed very often, and I thought she would get married and give us lots of grandchildren.”

When their family finally came to embrace Katherine’s decision to pursue her religious vocation, the Holy Spirit led their daughter to the Sisters of Life, which she joined as a postulant in 2004, wrote Bollig.

That decision, which has brought great personal joy to their daughter, has indirectly led to the blessing of others’ presence in the Diocese of Fort Worth during this Advent season, said Bollig. “We know that their time with us is a gift from the Holy Spirit,” he said. “We hope that many of people of all ages will take advantage of this very special opportunity.”

For more information about the Sisters of Life and their schedule while in the Diocese of Fort Worth, visit their Web site at www.sistersoflife.org, or contact Randy and Laurie Bollig at (940) 246-0226 or rblollig@grandecom.net.

MSU Catholic Campus Center celebrates 20th anniversary

STORY AND PHOTOS BY
Mary E. Manley
Correspondent

On Sunday, Oct. 29, 125 people gathered to celebrate two decades of the Catholic Campus Center (CCC) at Midwestern State University (MSU) in Wichita Falls. With “Building the City of God through the Years” as the theme, Debbie Neely, CCC director, was joined by current students, faculty, alumni, and supportive community friends for Mass in MSU’s Clark Student Center.

Father Ivar Koch presided at the liturgy, and exuberant music was provided by international musicians composed primarily of MSU’s Caribbean Student Organization Choir. A breakfast prepared by the Knights of Columbus, with Fourth Degree and Council 10998 participation, followed the Mass. The breakfast was served at the nearby CCC.

Speakers included Paul Comb, diocesan director of Young Adult and Campus Ministry, who shared reflections from Bishop Kevin Vazn, and Dr. Tom Hoffman, MSU English professor, who spoke on CCC’s founding. CCC was dedicated by then-Bishop Joseph Delaney and Louis Rodriguez, former MSU president, Sept. 28, 1986.

Catholic association presents awards for best music of 2006

DAVENPORT, Iowa (CNS) — It was a celebration of music, camaraderie, and faith at the seventh annual Unity Awards, held Oct. 21 at St. Ambrose University in Davenport.

Performer Steve Angriano of Colorado picked up three major awards at the event, organized by the United Catholic Music and Video Association to bolster Catholic artists.

Song and songwriter of the year awards both went to Angriano, a former youth minister, for “Mighty King.”

“She is not the reason we get together” at Mass, he said in accepting an award, “but it helps bring us together.”

Angriano also was named artist of the year. “I didn’t expect to win,” said the performer, who was tuning his guitar when his name was announced. In his acceptance speech, he said there are “easier ways to make a living” than through music, but musicians believe “it’s their mission to spread the word of God through their art.”

The male vocalist of the year award went to John Angotti, and the female vocalist of the year award went to a tearfully grateful Gretchen Harris, who has been nominated for the honor twice.

Curtis Stephan, a 29-year-old singer-songwriter from Texas, was named new artist of the year.

“It is an honor to even be considered among such esteemed artists,” Stephan wrote in an acceptance letter read by actress Mandy Bruno of “Guiding Light.”

The event featured performances by a diverse group of artists, including Latin artist Jorge Gomez, concert pianist Annette Hoffman, MSU English professor; Danielle Giner, CCC student assistant; Dr. Ann L. Smith, CCC faculty advisor; and MSU student/CCC member Travis Aponte.

Approximately 125 people attended a liturgy (pictured above) marking the 20th anniversary of the MSU Catholic Campus Center Oct. 29. Present for the occasion were (at left; clockwise from top left) Debbie Neely, CCC director; Paul Comb, diocesan director of Young Adults and Campus Ministry; Dr. Tom Hoffman; MSU English professor; Danielle Giner, CCC student assistant; Dr. Ann L. Smith, CCC faculty advisor; and MSU student/CCC member Travis Aponte.
Patience. Respect. Communication. Loyalty. Ask couples attending a golden anniversary celebration how they managed to stay married 50 years and you get a variety of thoughtful responses. But one answer seems to trump the rest.

"Faith is important. I can’t even imagine being married to someone without sharing that bond," said Mary Fran Springer, as husband, R.J., nodded in agreement. "Knowing each other before you make that commitment and keeping faith part of the relationship — that’s what keeps a marriage together."

Examples of Christ-centered marriages filled the pews of St. Francis of Assisi Church in Grapevine Oct. 15 as some 180 couples from around the Diocese of Fort Worth gathered to remember the vows they spoke 50 or more years ago. The Golden Anniversary Mass, celebrated by Bishop Kevin Vann, gave husbands and wives the opportunity to reaffirm their commitment to each other and receive recognition from the church for a lifetime of effort. It was the first golden jubilee event for couples ever sponsored by the diocese.

"We’ve been waiting for this. They do something similar in Kansas," explained the Springers, who were married Aug. 18, 1953, in the Sunflower State.

The couple had known each other for seven years before tying the knot.

"So she knew what she was getting into," joked R.J., who met his future wife, a school teacher, after he was discharged from the Navy.

Together they raised five children and watched as society’s values and attitudes toward marriage changed.

"The problem today is that people don’t know each other well enough before they marry, and they don’t respect each other as God’s creatures," Mary Fran said. "My feeling is [that] if you can’t say something nice — walk away."

Tenacity is the foundation of Vivian and Robert Schnick’s 52-year union. Married in Joliet, Illinois, while the groom was on leave from the Air Force, the St. Frances Cabrini parishioners lived through military tours of duty during two wars, frequent moves around the country, and the death of a grown child in a car accident. Yielding to life’s pressures was never an option.

"You work it out," Vivian Schnick said convincingly.

"We’ve been through tons of crises, four children, and retirement. There were ups and downs, but we never gave up."

The world has changed in many ways since the honored couples married in 1956, Bishop Vann pointed out during in his homily. Fifty years ago, Dwight Eisenhower was president, Grace Kelly’s marriage to a European prince made headline news, and a very young Kevin Vann was just entering kindergarten.

"Some changes are for the good; others are questionable," the bishop said. "What hasn’t changed is the constancy of the love of God. That faithfulness is shown in all of you here today."

Looking over the crowd of committed couples, the bishop remembered attending the 50th wedding celebrations of his own parents and grandparents. The occasions left a memorable impression and taught him some valuable lessons — one being that you can’t weather the stress of child rearing and financial hardship without prayer.

"I know my parents prayed," he said, before citing some examples of the serious sacrifice and humor that went into raising their six children in Springfield, Illinois. "They prayed, and they chose, and in the midst of all that, realized in saying ‘yes’ to God and to each other, all things were possible through God in their lives."

In the span of 50 years, all couples live through times of disappointment, struggle, and joy.

"Back then, you probably couldn’t imagine what you’ve done, what you’ve faced, and what you’ve been able to do since saying ‘yes’ to God in 1956, the bishop pointed out.

"So in the name of the church, in the name of the priest who witnessed your marriage and the families who were there, thank you for your faithfulness and example of Christian love."

Hosted by the Office of Family Life, the Golden Anniversary Mass recognized many couples married longer than 50 years. Ruth and Bill Vogel met at a high school achievement banquet, then married three years later in their hometown of Parsons, Kansas. On June 15, 2006, the couple celebrated 60 years of marriage along with their seven children, 23 grandchildren, and 18 great grandchildren. Special rosaries purchased by the Vogels were given to each family member as a memento of the occasion.

The gesture was filled with meaning. They credit prayer for making their marriage a success. Raised in another Christian faith, Ruth began attending Sunday Mass with Bill when the pair started dating. She converted to Catholicism, and the strong, common faith that they shared helped cement their relationship. Today, the couple continues to attend Bible study classes at their parish, Immaculate Conception Church in Denton.

Their advice to newlyweds just beginning the journey they’ve traveled for 60 years is simple and sincere: Pray together.

"Christian marriage involves three — man, woman, and God," Ruth Vogel explained.

"God united you. You made a covenant with God as well as your partner. Keep it!"
By Daniel Perez

EL PASO (CNS)—The young-est undocumented immigrants caught triyng to enter the United States from Mexico through El Paso may benefit from a recent fact-finding trip along the border for a delegation of bishops and others involved in ministry to migrants in the United States and Mexico.

El Paso Bishop Armando X. Ochoa said he wanted to ex-pand diocesan-run foster-care programs that shelter children and teenagers who are emotion-ally and physically traumatized during their journey north.

Compared to more institutional settings, the smaller groups and family atmosphere in foster homes enhance the healing pro cess, he said during an Oct. 28 press conference at the Padre Pinto Plaza outside Sacred Heart Church, just blocks from the international bridge to Ciudad Juarez in Mexico.

These kids have been treated badly,” Bishop Ochoa said. “They’ve seen horrors from snakes in the desert to being aban doned by their coyote (smuggler).”

The idea of expanding foster-care programs came from a weeklong study tour organized by the U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops in late October to gather information from church, community, and law enforcement leaders about human trafficking and the experiences of unaccompanied minors along the U.S.-Mexican border.

Some girls get gang-raped,” the Bishop Ochoa, a member of the bishops’ migration committee, was among a contingent that included members from various Catholic migration-related pro grams. The delegation was led by Bishop Gerald R. Barnes of San Bernardino, California, chairman of the migration committee.

He discussed some of the insights the group gained from the Oct. 23-28 mission that included visits to shelters offering refuge to border-crossing minors.

“Not too long ago, I heard a report that a 13-year-old girl was being held in a Mexican shelter where she was kept in chains for months,” Bishop Ochoa said.

Bishop Ochoa and other bishops acknowledged that working with charitable organizations has made them more compassionate to the plight of unaccompanied minors and victims of human trafficking.

“The first thing that’s on their mind now is compassion,” he said. “That was surprising to hear a government organization say that and how they rely on agencies like Catholic Charities and others, because it is not one of their strengths.”

After flying to West Texas, the delegation again crossed the border — to Juarez — to visit shelters run by the YMCA and the Scalabrini religious order and another managed by the Mexican government. At the government-run shelter, where children are brought after they are picked up by the Border Patrol and taken back across the border, a group of Mexican high school students arrived.

Nathalie Lummert, of Migration and Refugee Services of the U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops, one of the trip’s sponsors, said the eight teens were brought into the government-run shelter in Juarez looking disoriented.

“They explained that they had been walking in the desert for a school project that required them to collect sample insects. It wasn’t until they were stopped by Border Patrol agents that they realized they had left Mexico. Hundreds of miles of the border away from municipal areas are marked by little more than simple fences with a few strands of barbed wire.

After being arrested and fingerprinted by the U.S. agency, the teens were turned over to Mexican authorities.

Lummert said she at first thought the youths might be longtime U.S. residents who had been picked up in a raid, because they were dressed in more stylish clothes than the practical, weather-hardy attire typical of working-class people who try to cross the border illegally. Another youth in the shelter had been living with his parents in New Mexico for four years, and was picked up on his own by U.S. agents. He had been at the shelter in Juarez two days.

Editor’s Note: A blog of the border delegation’s trip can be found on the Justice for Immigrants’ Website at www.justiceforimmigrants.org/borderblog.html.

Contributing to this story was Patricia Zapor in Washington.

Delegation visits shelters offering refuge to border-crossing minors
Fr. Bart Landwermeyer, who served in many rural communities, dies at age 76

Father Bart Landwermeyer, 76, a priest of the Diocese of Fort Worth, died Nov. 3 at Padua Place Nursing Facility in San Antonio after an extended illness. A Mass of Christian Burial was celebrated Nov. 6 at St. Cecilia Church in Dallas; interment was at Calvary Hill Cemetery in Dallas.

Bartholomew James Landwermeyer was born in Dallas Dec. 14, 1929, to William Leo and Mara Eva (Ashenhust) Landwermeyer. One of eight children, the young man known as “Bart” grew up in Dallas and was a member of Blessed Sacrament Church.

He attended Subiaco Academy and went on to attend Subiaco College and Seminary in Subiaco, Arkansas, from 1949 to 1957.

Ordained a Benedictine priest in Subiaco Abbey May 26, 1956, by Bishop Albert Fletcher of the Diocese of Little Rock, Arkansas, “Fr. Bart” pursued graduate studies at Arkansas State University; North Texas State University in Denton; Our Lady of the Lake University in San Antonio; and Memphis State University in Tennessee.

After serving in the Diocese of Fort Worth at St. Mary of the Assumption Church in Fort Worth, St. Joseph Church in Rhinelander, St. Mary Church in Windthorst, St. Peter Church in Lindsay, and Sacred Heart Church in Seymour, Fr. Bart was incardinated in the Diocese of Fort Worth April 7, 1993. He continued to serve as pastor at Sacred Heart Church until 1998, when he moved to St. Elizabeth Ann Seton Parish, Keller. In 2000, Fr. Bart relocated to St. John Parish, Valley View, where he served until his retirement in 2001.

“Fr. Bart wasa ‘priest’s priest,’” said Father Robert Wilson, pastor of Holy Redeemer Church in Aledo and former chancellor of the Diocese of Fort Worth. “He was dedicated to the many different ministries of the rural parishes in which he served.” Fr. Wilson also noted Fr. Bart’s involvement in the Diocesan Pastoral Advisory Council (DPAC) and his leadership in the Presbyteral Council of priests for the diocese.

“It was one of his greatest joys that Fr. Bart was elected by his fellow priests to serve as a leader at the regional, state, and national level,” said Fr. Wilson, referring to Fr. Bart’s longtime involvement in the National Federation of Priests’ Councils (NFPC).

Cards of condolence may be sent to his sister, Genevieve Farrell, at 652 Hill City Drive, Duncanville 75116.

PASTORS’ PORTRAITS — The Ladies Group of St. John the Baptist Parish in Bridgeport recently updated all of the pictures of former pastors and deacons who have served the parish. Proudly displayed in the parish hall, the portraits begin with Father Edward Deavers, who served from 1938 to 1950, continuing through 19 other pastors’ photographs to the present-day pastor, Father Sojan George. Fr. George (left) and former pastor Father Gonzalo Morales are shown taking time to peruse the portraits of some of their predecessors.

SIGN LANGUAGE STUDENTS — Members of the Beginning Sign Language Class at St. Francis of Assisi Parish in Grapevine pose for an end-of-course photo, with teacher Blanca Ruiz (top row, far right). The students will take a break for the holidays and resume their studies of American Sign Language and the deaf culture in mid-January.

SIGN LANGUAGE STUDENTS — Members of the Beginning Sign Language Class at St. Francis of Assisi Parish in Grapevine pose for an end-of-course photo, with teacher Blanca Ruiz (top row, far right). The students will take a break for the holidays and resume their studies of American Sign Language and the deaf culture in mid-January.

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**Viewpoints**

**Let remembered and recounted blessings be the “doorway” to more giving**

By Dan Luby

It appears every year without fail. Sometimes before Thanksgiving dinner, a length of white butcher paper is taped to the back of a door between the dining room and the hallway.

I’ve known it to show up as early as Wednesday evening, while people are gathering for the annual celebration of the holiday. Amidst the shouted greetings of friends who haven’t seen each other since last year and the explanations of amazement at how grownup the kids have gotten and the breathless queries about where to put the mountainous turkey, someone slips in there and puts it up. Whenever it actually gets posted, I usually notice it at some point on Thursday, often at the crack of noon as I stagger toward the communal coffee pot after a marathon gabfest with old friends and family into the wee hours of the morning.

The white paper covers the door from top to bottom. Across the top, someone has written with large, brightly colored markers, “Thank you, God, for...” or words to that effect. Over the years, different hands have done the writing, and embellishments have ranged from the exceedingly simple — the date, for example, or one little curlieque beneath the title — to the painstakingly elaborate — detailed drawings of the “First Thanksgiving,” for example, with pilgrims and Native Americans sharing a full menu of traditional foods or multicolored borders of flowers and fall leaves or pilgrim hats and feathered headdresses.

Whatever the decoration, whenever it’s done, by the time the group of long-time friends and extended families gather around the serving tables piled high with food to hold hands and say a prayer of blessing and thanks, the paper on the door has been covered with writing.

Great-grandparents and new fiancées, little kids just learning to write, and college kids who’ve written a thousand papers just since August; founders of the feast and first-time guests and prodigal friends returned after years away — everyone writes on the door or something they are especially grateful for, something that expresses concretely the gratitude that brings us together.

I’m not sure how long this group has been gathering to celebrate Thanksgiving in this way, but I know my wife and I first came before our kids were born, so it’s at least 30 years. And every year, someone has put up that sheet of paper for us collectively to make note of some of the things we’re grateful for. Reading through this hand-painted, heartfelt litany of thanks is always one of my favorite parts of one of my favorite times of year.

Looking forward to this exercise in gratitude, I am thinking about the endless list of possibilities I could cite. It occurs to me that this might be a great way, not only to celebrate the Thanksgiving holiday, but to launch a new Advent practice.

Wouldn’t it help us to be better prepared for the celebration of Christmas if, instead of thinking about gifts strictly in terms of what we had to buy for other people, or what we hoped others might buy for us, we focused some of our attention on gifts we have already received? Wouldn’t an intentional enumeration of the blessings we enjoy — the ability to read, say, or a capacity for laughter or the beauty of the world or the comforts of friendship or any of the other count- less unlearned treasures we’ve received — give us a heightened consciousness of gratitude?

Wouldn’t a keener sense of gratitude invite us to greater generosity and compassion? And wouldn’t that make us more ready and eager to welcome Christ Jesus more deeply into our hearts and lives in the days to come? I’m counting on it. Happy Thanksgiving.

Dan Luby is the director of Christian Formation for the diocese. In May, for the third time, his column received first place honors among regular columns on spiritual life in the Catholic press of the U.S. and Canada. Dan’s column earned the same recognition in 2003 and again in 2005.

Happy Thanksgiving.

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**The Lord of the dance is the Lord of the heart**

By Mary Regina Morrell

“Dance, Dance, wherever you may be. I am the Lord of the Dance, said he. And I’ll lead you all, in the dance said he.”

— Chorus “Lord of the Dance” by Sidney Carter

Many years ago, while I was still in high school, my father got the chance to take the trip of his dreams to Ireland, the land of his roots. And as any respectable Irishman would, he had story after story to tell us about his experience.

One, in particular, has come to mean much more to me as the years go on.

On one evening of the tour he and his friend were part of a small group who had accepted an invitation to an evening social at a rambling estate outside of town.

Situated in a sheltered valley, the large stone manor resembled a castle, he said, complete with haunting lights dotting the evening mist.

It was a grand party, filled with plenty of music, food, and drink, and lots of laughter.

Early into the evening, my father relayed, he noticed an older gentleman leaning against a bookcase at the edge of the room. He was crooked in shape with unkempt gray hair and clothes not in keeping with the gaiety of the affair.

After an hour or so had passed, my father approached him, noticing that he had not eaten anything, nor had anyone else stopped to talk to him.

The older man graciously took a plate from my dad, along with a large tank of ale, and shared a story or two before moving off alone.

This dance of give and take continued between them for most of the night, while no one else seemed to notice the wizened old man.

Near the end of the evening, the grey-haired gentleman thanked my dad for his company and “for being a special guest in my home tonight.”

My father smiled broadly, amazed that his new found friend had slipped one over on him! It seems the host regularly invited guests to his home, never identifying himself and finding most of them took no notice of him nor made an effort to even strike up a conversation. It was a pursuit in which he took great pleasure, not in being invisible to so many, but to being noticed by the few who could see past their drinks and their food and their good time to the peculiar old man in the corner.

The host grinned, “There is always at least one, like yourself, who sees me and makes the time to talk. Now we are friends and now you have a place to stay whenever you come back to Ireland.”

My dad chuckled whenever he told the story, expounding on the eccentric friend he had made that evening. I never knew story, or one little curlicue beneath the title — to the title — to the painstakingly elaborate — detailed drawings of the “First Thanksgiving,” for example, with pilgrims and Native Americans sharing a full menu of traditional foods or multicolored borders of flowers and fall leaves or pilgrim hats and feathered headdresses.

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— Chorus ‘Lord of the Dance’ by Sidney Carter

Mary Regina Morrell, is the associate director of the office of religious education for the Diocese of Metuchen, in New Jersey.
St. Vincent de Paul
the saint who fed the poor

By Antoinette Bosco

Many thousands of people in our country will get baskets of food for Thanksgiving because of a man who lived over 300 years ago: St. Vincent de Paul. That’s because the influence of this man, who spent his life feeding the poor, continues through his followers who carry out his work as members of the St. Vincent de Paul Society.

I was moved to write about him because, coincidentally (if there really are “coincidences”), I was just at a library book sale and found a gem titled simply St. Vincent de Paul. I wouldn’t have known how old it was except that the original purchaser wrote an inscription to his grandson preparing for confirmation, dating it Oct. 22, 1907.

I always have been in awe of what St. Vincent, a 17th-century French priest, accomplished in his lifetime. His work of helping the poor — from the sick, the insane, orphans, beggars, and old people to prisoners and galleyslaves — always impressed me. Then, when I was a reporter for The Long Island Press, I became a lifelong admirer of the great saint.

Vincent himself writes of this time as a slave in Tunis.... [He] tells how he was traveling by water when the vessel was attacked by “Turkish brigantines.” Some on board were killed; he was wounded with an arrow in his shoulder, then taken to the city of Tunis in chains to be sold as a slave.

Eventually, the French ambassador to Turkey got the Grand Turk to liberate all the Christians slaves. Vincent, with his now “former” master and the man’s wife, “escaped in a light skill,” the saint wrote. His captivity was over, his former “owners” were received into the church, and he got back to his work of helping the poor. Much of his work for all his life was done to help those who, he would write, “lived in moral poison,” specifically prisoners and galleyslaves. “There was one class among the suffering poor which seemed to have an especial attraction for the heart of Vincent.... The poor convicts won Vincent’s early love and to the last he clung to them,” Bedford wrote.

The worldwide St. Vincent de Paul Society to this day keeps up the work begun by this great saint, specifically to feed the poor, help the prisoners, and never turn away someone truly in need.

The author ends the book simply with the words, “He served the Lord well.”

Bosco is the author of a number of books, including Coincidence: Touched by a Miracle, The Pummeled Heart: Finding Peace Through Pain, Choosing Mercy, Shaken Faith: Hanged in There When God Seems Far Away, and A Mother of Murder Victims Pleads To End the Death Penalty, which received a 2002 Christopher Award. Her Web site has even more information about this remarkable writer who has worked as a writer and editor in both the Catholic and secular press for more than 50 years: antoinettebosco.com.

Thanksgiving
For our family — and its extensions — it’s all about the Pies

Julie, a truly blushing bride, was opening shower presents, among which were brand new baking pans previously owned only by the likes of Julia Child.

These pans were large enough to prepare lasagna for the entire cast of the TV series Lost — both sides of the island, and inside all the hatches. These pans would never think of scratching, nor producing food that was undercooked or unevenly browned.

They were champion pans. If there were award ceremonies for bakeware, these pans would be bronzed, mounted on wooden bases, and set on spotlighted, glass-enclosed shelves. And while the shower guests watched my daughter open the culinary tools, my friend Eileen, sitting behind me, said, “Julie will be a good baker. We know her mother makes wonderful pies.”

I was so flattered, but my lips involuntarily morphed into a smile. Giggles tickled my throat, simmering and preparing to pop out, uninvited guests at the serious gift-opening ritual in which we were all thoroughly engrossed.

“Well,” my giggle and I said, with absolute honesty, “I don’t really know much about baking pies. I just bake them.”

It was true. My apparently legendary pie-baking, I knew, was in fact a legend. If there were award ceremonies for pie recipe books, mine would win in the fiction category. But somehow, through decades of Thanksgiving, my friends — and my children — have come to believe I have pie-crust prowess.

We have baked a growing number of Thanksgiving pies since the 70s. The tradition has simple roots: a grocery-store conspiracy among a young mom and her pre-schoolers. “Let’s make a pie for each person in the family,” I told my children, Meredith and John. “We’ll put our names on our pies. And we’ll each eat the whole thing if we wish!”

With contagious enthusiasm, we chose apples for Dad, cherries, peaches, and chocolate for the rest of us. We added pumpkin, and chose another, never-before-tasted recipe. After our turkey dinner, they would be served with a bowl of whipped cream for garnish.

See HAMER, p. 22.
World Youth Day
Reaffirming what it means to be ‘Catholic to the C.O.R.E.’

Over 7,000 youth and their adult leaders from throughout the Fort Worth and Dallas dioceses descended on Six Flags Over Texas amusement park in Arlington Oct. 29 for a day of fun, fellowship, and faith to celebrate World Youth Day. They not only spent a day with their friends riding roller coasters and sampling park food, they also had the opportunity to embrace and proclaim their faith. The theme for this year’s celebration was “Catholic to the C.O.R.E.” (Christ Our Reason for Everything).

After enjoying a few hours of park attractions, this year’s participants made their way to the amphitheater, where the annual World Youth Day Mass was celebrated, and were immediately greeted by the pulsating rhythms of the drum ensemble Drum Cafe.

The presider for this year’s World Youth Day Mass was Dallas Bishop Charles Grahmann, assisted by Bishop Kevin Vann, Father Anh Tran, Deacon Len Sanchez of the Diocese of Fort Worth and Deacon Denis Corbin of the Diocese of Dallas. Liturgical music was led by the youth choir of Lewisville’s St. Philip the Apostle Parish. A group of 18 youth “animators,” members of the Fort Worth Diocesan Youth Council, served as ushers, greeters, and group activity leaders.

Bishop Grahmann began the celebration by quoting Pope Benedict XVI. “The church is young, and the church is alive,” he said, to which the youth-ful congregation roared their approval. Bishop Grahmann referred to Pope Benedict’s suggested scriptural theme of Psalm 118 by telling the youth “as soon as you turn on a switch in a dark room, it rocks the amphitheater. Your youths’ impassioned responses to the Eucharist, stating, “Now it’s my turn,” which was met with thunderous applause. “Last year, Bishop Grahmann said I was the bambino. What has helped me grow since then is you.”

He repeated his greeting in Spanish, then asked, “What does “esperanza” mean in English?”

“Hope!” the enthusiastic crowd shouted in return.

“You are a sign of hope,” Bishop Vann continued. “I want you to take away from here that Jesus is calling you.” At the Mass’s conclusion, the youth animators led the congregation in a blessing over the bishops, who then processed out of the amphitheater to the African rhythms of Drum Cafe, accompanied by cheering young people banging on drums, sticks, and bleachers.

The local celebration of World Youth Day was proclaimed a resounding success by many of the youth of the Diocese of Fort Worth. “It’s always fun to be at Six Flags, but the great music at Mass and getting to play the drums made today an especially great day,” said Ryan Muñoz, 13, a parishioner at St. Michael the Archangel Parish in Arlington.

A small group from St. Frances Cabrini Parish in Granbury concurred, proclaiming that “World Youth Day was Ah-Mazing!”

Story and Photos by Wendy Pandolfo
Renovated basilica has borne witness to many important milestones in its 200-year history, says Cardinal Keeler

The Basilica of the Assumption Historic Trust, established in 1976, has raised $25 million in private donations toward the estimated $32 million cost of the renovations.

In addition to updating the basilica’s infrastructure, major changes to the basilica include replacement of 24 original skylights, illumination of the exterior at night, a new chapel in the undercroft as originally envisioned by Latrobe, re-creation of the original balconies, creation of a basilica museum and gift shop, and repainting of the walls in the original colors of pale yellow, blue, and rose.

Ellington E. Churchill Jr., project manager for Henry H. Lewis Contractors, said the restoration work involved 30 months of construction, 900 cubic yards of concrete, 62,000 pounds of reinforcing steel, 20,000 square feet of metal roofing, and the work of more than 60 contractors representing more than 700 men and women.

“The basilica has been transformed, and we stand here today proud to have our names included as a small footnote in the history of this great place,” Churchill said at an Oct. 3 ceremony marking the end of the construction phase.

As the reopened basilica’s doors swung open Nov. 4, three cannon volleys — two for the basilica’s first 200 years and the third for its next 100 — were fired from Baltimore’s Fort McHenry.

In honor of the French contributions to the basilica’s completion and furnishing, including its bells cast in Lyon in 1831, the French ambassador to the United States was to get a private tour of the basilica later in the week as church bells are rung simultaneously in Baltimore and Lyon.

The celebrations were to culminate in a Nov. 12 Mass concelebrated by all of the U.S. bishops, gathering in Baltimore for the fall general meeting of the U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops.

Cardinal Keeler, who was injured in a car accident in Italy that killed a priest who was traveling with him, said he had to leave the media preview early to go to physical therapy.

“It’s all part of getting better, and I really want to get better in time for the ceremonies,” he said.

Rector of Corpus Christi cathedral, Msgr. Daniel Flores, named auxiliary bishop of Detroit

WASHINGTON (CNS) — Msgr. Daniel E. Flores, rector of Corpus Christi Cathedral in Corpus Christi, has been named an auxiliary bishop of Detroit by Pope Benedict XVI.

Archbishop Pietro Sambi, apostolic nuncio to the United States, announced the appointment Oct. 28 in Washington.

Bishop-designate Flores, 45, is to be ordained a bishop Nov. 29 at Blessed Sacrament Cathedral in Detroit.

He will be the first Hispanic bishop to serve in the Detroit Archdiocese and the youngest bishop in the country. The Texas priest’s appointment brings the total number of active Hispanic bishops in the United States to 25.

Detroit Cardinal Adam J. Maida indicated the new auxiliary’s ministry will include a special focus on Hispanic concerns.

“Conservatively, we know that there are at least 130,000 Hispanic Catholics within the archdiocese,” Cardinal Maida said.

“Our Latino and Latina brothers and sisters are the church of today — a vibrant and active community, making many important contributions right now in our local church,” he said.

Corpus Christi Bishop Edmund Carmody called the new bishop-designate “a true servant-priest and leader, someone who is kind, pastoral, intelligent, and highly organized, someone who relates well to everyone — the young, the middle-aged, and the elderly.”

Daniel Flores was born Aug. 28, 1961, in Palacios, Texas. He was baptized in Zapata and grew up in Corpus Christi. After two years of study at the University of Dallas, he entered Holy Trinity Seminary, the formation house for priesthood students connected with the university, and completed his philosophy and theology studies at the University of Dallas.

He was ordained a priest of the Corpus Christi Diocese Jan. 30, 1988.
WASHINGTON (CNS) — Tom Grenchik, director of the Pro-Life Office for the Archdiocese of Washington, has been appointed executive director of the Secretariat for Pro-Life Activities of the U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops.

He succeeds Gail Quinn, who retired from the post in August.

Msgr. David Malloy, USCCB general secretary, announced the appointment Nov. 7. It will be effective Dec. 15.

“Over the past 16 years, Tom Grenchik has compiled an extraordinary record of achievement in the wide variety of issues which the church must confront in its defense of human life and dignity,” Msgr. Malloy said in a statement.

“In doing so he has worked effectively with the District of Columbia Catholic Conference, the Maryland Catholic Conference, various national and local pro-life organizations, and our own Secretariat for Pro-Life Activities. I look forward to his leadership of the USCCB secretariat which I am sure will be equally effective and creative,” Msgr. Malloy said.

Grenchik is the founding director of the Pro-Life Office of the Archdiocese of Washington.
Mario Carrizo Jr. overcomes personal obstacles to help others

FAITH &

By MARY E. MANLEY, CORRESPONDENT

"Life is like a battlefield, yet win, lose, or draw does not exist in this battle.

This is how Mario Carrizo Jr. sums up his approach in a daily, unceasing fight to persevere and never surrender as he contends with a mysterious, unmerciful foe.

Mario Jr. is battling an undiagnosed neuromuscular disease that has long-eluded clear pinpointing. At 14, he demonstrated significant symptoms resembling either Muscular Dystrophy or post-Guillain-Barre Syndrome.

Many years prior to the flare-up, according to Mario Sr., he had developed cold-like symptoms, rendering him weak at four years old. He would later recover 70 percent of his mobility until the last onset of the unnamed disease. At 21 years old, Mario Jr. is like most young men his age, intent on molding his adult life in healthy independence and in living out his vocational aspirations. Yet he has unique challenges that are countered only with his armaments of Catholic faith, inner resources, and various human and divine supports. Mario Jr. confirms that utilizing these “heavy guns” is making all the difference in attaining his two major goals: To become vitally better medically and to evolve as a successful graphic animator.

Mario Jr., along with his parents, Mario Sr. and Shirley, and his older sister, Anna, are Panamanian natives. The family came to the United States through Shirley’s American civil service work some years ago, specifically hoping to find much-improved services for Mario Jr., who is wheelchair-bound for the foreseeable future. They arrived in Wichita Falls in 2000.

David Bindel, Sacred Heart parishioner and Knight of Columbus member, says he knows the Carrizos for about four years. In that time, Mario Jr. has been involved with Scout Troop 13 in KC fundraising activities, winning trophies in consecutive years. In 2005, he took first place with $5,000 in popcorn sales.

Bindel observes that Mario Jr. is a “congenial young man who is appreciative of life.”

His pastor at Sacred Heart, Father Hoa Nguyen, reflects that young Mario has demonstrated courage in the face of adversity, with much family support to encourage him in overcoming various obstacles to greater freedom. In addition to his parish involvement, Mario Jr. is involved in his community. His Eagle Scout project involved the supervision of a new ramp at Whispers of Hope Horse Farm, a nonprofit therapeutic riding facility for mentally and physically challenged Wichita Falls-area youth. Mary Elizabeth Pearce, the organization’s founder, has known Mario Jr. for three years, as he has served as a Whispers of Hope ambassador and been a successful fundraiser as well. Impressed with Mario’s growing mobility with his motorized chair, Pearce expresses particular pride that Mario has been able to strengthen his limbs enough for his first two horseback rides this past October.

Mario credits his guardian angel with giving him extra help to meet the challenge, noting that he felt “a small wind blowing behind me, even though the fully enclosed arena keeps any wind out.”

“Mario is truly a blessing and a gift from God,” says Pearce. She trusts Mario will continue to move forward in balance awareness and increased muscle manipulation, making even more progress in the future.

Barbara Lawrence, Red River Muscular Dystrophy Association (MDA) health services coordinator, has known Mario Jr. for more than six years, following his diagnostic and follow-up care in MDA-sponsored clinics in Oklahoma City and Dallas and also in MDA Summer Camp/education/fundraiser/special events. Venturing him “delightful,” she elaborates that he is unafraid to set an example for others as he remains steadfast in working toward his goals. Mario Jr. will graduate from Wichita Falls High School in 2007 and is concurrently enrolled in Vernon College to continue his education and broaden his life opportunities. He receives services from the Texas Department of Assistive and Rehabilitative Services, especially vocational help, and also from the North Texas Rehabilitation Center, including aquatherapy. Boys and Girls Clubs also offer activities in which he can participate.

Mario Sr. has been instrumental in paving the way for his son by becoming well-versed in the American Disabilities Act and how to fully apply it not only for his son, but for others in similar circumstances. Central to their motivation is the belief which he and Shirley share: That families with special-needs children should become fully involved in the community-at-large and not miss out on opportunities to participate as active citizens.

On the homefront, Anna, Mario Jr.’s college-student sibling, expresses great admiration for her brother. She is gloriously looking forward to accompanying him to World Youth Day 2008 in Sydney, Australia.

When at home, Mario spends time perfecting his computer graphics skills and also enjoys writing fantasy short stories. Assisting him in gaining a measure of independence is Comet, Mario’s Labrador/Standard Poodle mix, serves as a faithful companion, helping the young man with various tasks around the house. (Photo by Mary E. Manley)

Above: At home, Mario Carrizo Jr. (center) receives loving support and admiration from (others, clockwise from top, left) his dad, Mario Sr., his mom, Shirley, and sister, Anna. Comet, Mario Jr.’s Labrador/Standard Poodle mix, serves as a faithful companion, helping the young man with various tasks around the house. (Photo by Mary E. Manley)
November 26, Christ the King, Cycle B. Readings:

1) Daniel 7:13-14
2) Revelation 1:5-8
3) Gospel John 18:33b-37

By Beverly Corzine

No matter where we human beings gather these days, from the loudest sports event to the solemn quiet of a prayer service, one or more cell phones clang or chirp a few musical notes. As an owner of one of these useful and sometimes irritating inventions, I try to practice the adage that “silence is golden” and set my phone to silent in a gathering.

But it would be different during this particular Rite of Christian Initiation of Adults meeting; my cell phone would wait in the deep recesses of my purse with its ringer ready to interrupt at any given moment. It was not an ordinary night.

As we prepared for the meeting, the RCIA team and I were remembering Linda and Darwyn, who became Catholic two years ago. When they walked into our meeting room for the first time, we knew they were a special couple. Theirs is a story of love, commitment, and courage.

But with Christ, the apostle Peter said how people are capable of an improved form of himself. Paul came to understand the importance of self-giving and that his life should be dedicated to living for Christ, not for an improved form of himself. St. Paul said how people are made just in God’s eyes and saved by Jesus is “pure grace, an unmerited gift of God’s radical love” and is not dependent on performing good works, the pope said.

Baptism, good works not enough for true Christian living, says pope

VATICAN CITY (CNS) — Baptism and good works are not enough for a true Christian living; it requires daily and total giving of oneself to Jesus with humility and adoration, Pope Benedict XVI said.

During his Nov. 8 weekly general audience in St. Peter’s Square, Pope Benedict continued a series of talks about important personalities of the early Christian community by focusing on the life of St. Paul.

St. Paul had been a pious, even fanatical, observer of God’s laws before his conversion from Judaism after meeting the risen Christ on the road to Damascus, the pope said.

But, he said, after meeting Christ, St. Paul suddenly realized his piousness had been marked by a search to improve and “build himself” into a righteous person. He had been living for himself and his own justification, the pope said.

But with Christ, the apostle Paul came to understand the importance of self-giving and that his life should be dedicated to living for Christ, not for an improved form of himself. St. Paul said how people are made just in God’s eyes and saved by Jesus is “pure grace, an unmerited gift of God’s radical love” and is not dependent on performing good works, the pope said.

To be justified means to be embraced by “God’s merciful justice and to enter in communion with him and, as a consequence, to be able to establish a much more authentic relationship with all our brothers and sisters,” he said.

The pope said St. Paul’s writings help define Christian identity as being about “receiving Christ and giving oneself to Christ,” not about searching for oneself.

Pope Benedict recalled St. Paul’s words, “It’s not enough to say that Christians are baptized or believers” in Christ. The pope said it is also important that the faithful are in Jesus, bound up in a “mystical union” that does not erase the distinction between Christ and the faithful.

Christians are called to be a part of Christ’s life daily, and one’s “faith must be marked by a constant attitude of humility before God, indeed adoration and praise,” said Pope Benedict.

Belonging to God ought to instill a spirit of “total trust and immense joy,” he said.

He said St. Paul taught that nothing can separate the faithful from God’s love and that Christian life “rests on the most stable and surest rock imaginable.”

It is from God’s unwavering love that “we draw all our energy” and strength and are able to face life with all its ups and downs, he said.

QUESTIONS:

When was a time that you were acutely aware that God’s kingdom reaches beyond our earthly existence? When, in the midst of someone’s suffering, have you used “I love you” as the only appropriate words?
Similarly grateful that Wolfgang Puck, my wife went.

Wolfgang stood up and let him know it was the end of the world,” my friend Bertha had told me. Bertha didn’t seem the least bit scared, but I immediately ran outside to listen and wait.

Looking back, I can imagine why Bertha, even though she was only in her 20s, seemed to hope she’d actually hear those trumpets harkening a glorious coming of God’s heavenly kingdom. I’d been to her house, a run-down wooden structure covered with brown tarpaper, in a rural area below New Orleans. I noticed her clothing was well-worn and saw that she sometimes took home bags of our hand-me-downs. I watched her working hard at heavy household chores — two days a week at my family’s house, three elsewhere. No doubt her wages were low, because it was common in the 1950s for even middle-class white families to employ black women as domestic workers.

Bertha had every reason to be sullen and unhappy, but she sang as she worked. She had every reason to be resentful of the families she worked for, but offered them many kindnesses.

Bertha was good and loving to our family, as she was to her own, and my parents often trusted her to care for my siblings and me. I’d like to think that in the ensuing years the accomplishments of the civil rights movement changed her life so that she wasn’t constantly wanting the trumpet call.

Luke’s Gospel reading for this first Sunday of Advent describes the signs of the Lord’s coming in judgment. Jesus warned his disciples not to get distracted from their mission of love for others or they would fear the day.

Bertha’s eyes sparkled confidently when she spoke of the day of the trumpets because she was living a life of holiness and was not diverted from it by her anxieties. She had nothing to fear in standing before the Lord.

QUESTIONS:

How is the life you are living today preparing you to stand before the Lord in judgment? What are the things that distract you from the Christian call to holiness?

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WASHINGTON (CNS) — Durante dos horas de argumento verbal el 8 de noviembre en cuanto a una ley federal que prohíbe un procedimiento conocido como aborto de nacimiento parcial, los magistrados y legisladores del Tribunal Supremo consideraron las intenciones del Congreso al aprobar el proyecto de ley, las diferencias entre los tipos de aborto y a quién le toca decidir cuándo terminar una vida.

El tribunal escuchó peticiones de dos decretos de tribunales menores que encontraron que la Ley de Prohibición del Aborto de Nacimiento Parcial de 2003 es inconstitucional porque no incluye cláusulas permitiendo su uso en algunos casos para proteger la salud de la mujer.

Por la dirección de las preguntas, los magistrados Stephen Breyer, Ruth Bader Ginsburg, John Paul Stevens y David Souter aparentaban estar buscando con cordancia entre la ley federal y un estatuto similar de Nebraska sobre el cual ellos votaron a favor de derogarlo en el 2000.

El quinto voto en esa decisión por mayoría de 5 a 4 fue emitido por la ya jubilada magistrada Sandra Day O’Connor. Su reemplazo en el tribunal, el magistrado Samuel Alito, no hizo preguntas durante las dos horas dedicadas a los argumentos verbales.

El magistrado Anthony Kennedy, quien estuvo entre la minoría en oposición en la decisión del 2000, y el magistrado en jefe John Roberts se unieron a Breyer, Ginsburg y Stevens, en particular, en cuestionar los aspectos de los hallazgos del Congreso citados en la ley. Roberts, como Alito, se unió al tribunal el año pasado. Algunos analistas han presumido que ambos probablemente mantengan la ley federal.

Pero ambos, Kennedy y Roberts, hicieron una serie de preguntas que buscaba definir las diferencias entre el procedimiento prohibido, conocido por los médicos como “dilatación y extracción intacta” y uno diferente no incluido en la prohibición, que es considerado ser el procedimiento alternativo y de último recurso usado para abortos en el segundo trimestre y más tardíos.

En un “D y E Intacto”, a lo que la ley llama aborto de nacimiento parcial, un feto vivo nace parcialmente y se le hace una incisión en la base del cráneo, mediante la cual el cerebro es removido, y luego el resto del cuerpo muerto es extruido. En el otro procedimiento, conocido simplemente como dilatación y extracción, el feto es matado mientras está dentro de la madre y luego es removido.

Argumentando que el tribunal debe apoyar los tribunales menores que encontraron la ley inconstitucional, los abogados para la Federación Planned Parenthood de America y Leroy Carhart, el médico abortista de Nebraska que presentó uno de los casos actuales y el decidido en el 2000, dijo que el “D y E intacto” debe seguir siendo una opción legal porque reduce el riesgo de heridas a la mujer embarazada.

Eva Gartner, abogada para Planned Parenthood, dijo que el tribunal debe rechazar el intento del Congreso de aprovecharse del tiempo limitado que el Tribunal Supremo ofreció en su decisión del 2000 para presentar legislación adicional.

“Lo que el Congreso ha hecho aquí es quitársela a las mujeres”, dijo ella.

El procurador general Paul Clement, quien argumentó por el gobierno federal en ambos casos, dijo que el Congreso tenía suficiente evidencia “de que los abortos del nacimiento parcial nunca fueron médicamente necesarios y que alternativas seguras siempre han estado disponibles para que a ninguna mujer se le previniera terminar su embarazo. Como resultado, el Congreso tiene el derecho a juzgar en cuanto a entender sus intereses legítimos de que iban a prohibir un procedimiento particularmente espantoso que opacó la línea entre el aborto y el infanticidio”.

Hay una situación bastante diferente cuando el Congreso entra e intenta ocuparse del método primario del aborto en el segundo trimestre”, dijo él. “Aquí, sin embargo, el Congreso no persiguió al perro, por decirlo así, éste persiguió la cola”.

Roberts pasó bastante tiempo discutiendo con los abogados sobre las distintas mediciones técnicas entre los dos tipos de aborto y porque reduce el riesgo de hacer una cirugía que puede ser favorecido sobre el método de dilatación y extracción.

Fotos de vida en la frontera orientadas a ‘rehumanizar’ debate de inmigración

SCOTTSDALE, Arizona (CNS) — Cientos de fotografías de 4 pulgadas por 6 pulgadas cuelgan en una pared rígida y blanca en el Museo de Arte Contemporáneo de Scottsdale, en Scottsdale, Arizona, que son parte del Proyecto Fílmico de la Frontera. Las fotografías documentan todo, desde paisajes del desierto soñoliento hasta jarros de agua dejados por grupos humanitarios para los inmigrantes que cruzan la frontera estadounidense-mexicana y los jeeps adornados con banderas estadounidenses de los Vigilantes que rastrean la frontera. (Foto CNS/cortesía del Museo de Arte Contemporáneo de Scottsdale)

Esta es una de cientos de fotografías de 4 pulgadas por 6 pulgadas que cuelgan en el Museo de Arte Contemporáneo de Scottsdale, en Scottsdale, Arizona, que son parte del Proyecto Fílmico de la Frontera. Las fotografías documentan todo, desde paisajes del desierto soñoliento hasta jarros de agua dejados por grupos humanitarios para los inmigrantes que cruzan la frontera estadounidense-mexicana y los jeeps adornados con banderas estadounidenses de los Vigilantes que rastrean la frontera. (Foto CNS/cortesía del Museo de Arte Contemporáneo de Scottsdale)

Muchos de los inmigrantes nunca habían ganado que estar juntos en el mismo salón”.

Ambos, los Minutemen y los inmigrantes si no dijésemos nada abiertamente participando del otro lado.

“Amigos, los Minutemen y los inmigrantes, son en muchos casos caricaturizados”, dijo Huneycutt, graduado de la Preparatoria Universidad Brophy, escuela secundaria católica de Phoenix.

“Los Minutemen son caricatureados como vigilantes portan- do armas. Los nómadas son caricatureados como gente que viene a aprovecharse de la ayuda social o a robar empleos estadounidenses”, dijo.

Mariel Knoke, curadora mayor del museo, dijo que la exposición fotográfica ha ayudado a derrubar esas caricaturas.

El proyectó podría ser potencialmente más eficaz para formar las opiniones de la gente si no dijésemos nada abiertamente político”, dijo Huneycutt. “Mantuvimos nuestras propias voces en gran medida fuera del proyecto y dejamos que los inmigrantes y los Minutemen hablaran por sí mismos”.

Knoke dijo que ellos tuvieron cuidado de “preservar la cara humana en el corazón del Proyecto Fílmico de la Frontera. Y creemos que la audiencia ha entendido eso para su reacción”.

Conseguir que ambos lados participaran en el proyecto comprobó ser difícil al principio, dijo Huneycutt. Ambos grupos estaban inicialmente cautelosos de las intenciones de él y aprensivos sobre la participación del otro lado.

Huneycutt dijo que para estimular a los estadounidenses él le dijo a los Minutemen que los inmigrantes le estaban enviando fotos mucho mejores.

“Estábamos bastante convencidos de que teníamos un problema mucho de momentos para que pudieran emplear nuestra fotografía para su propia reacción”, dijo Huneycutt.

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Libertad, mucho más que un concepto político

Cristo la ofrece

Por Pedro A. Moreno, O.P.
Director, Instituto Luz de Cristo

Y se terminaron las campañas políticas hasta el 2008. Ya el pueblo expresó libremente su opinión por medio de las protestas, marchas, campañas publicitarias y sobre todo por medio del voto. Muchos gritan, “¡Que bueno es ser libres!”

Mientras a nadie le gusta ser esclavo de otros, y mucho menos de un gobierno opresor, la realidad es que para nosotros existen esclavitudes mucho peores que las que son impuestas desde afuera. Permitáme describir algunas de estas esclavitudes.

Comencemos con la triste realidad de los que viven esclavizados a la ignorancia. No me refiero a si terminaron la secundaria o si tienen un diploma. Me refiero a la ignorancia de la fe. Me refiero a la ignorancia de Cristo, su Palabra, su Iglesia y sus enseñanzas. Entre los muchos títulos que tiene uno de los más hermosos es ser “La Verdad”, verdad que tenemos que estudiar y aprender dentro de la comunidad bajo la guía de nuestros pastores y con la ayuda del Espíritu Santo. Dios nos creó para ser libres, no esclavos, esto comienza con estar libres de la ignorancia, pero no termina ahí.

Otra esclavitud peor de la que la ignorancia es la esclavitud del pecado. Pecado es el negarle el supremo amor a Dios o negarle el amor cristiano al prójimo. Pecado es decir que se prefieren otras normas y no las de Dios. Pecado es estar esclavizado a un camino distinto al camino que es Cristo. Es verdad que existen distintos grados de esta esclavitud, hay diversos grados de pecados, pero lo que también es verdad es que todos los pecados, pequeños o grandes, nos esclavizan y no nos hacen más libres.

¿Cuáles son las diversas esclavitudes que llevan hacia el pecado? ¿Materialismo, desidia, pornography, mentiras, robo, envidia, odio, chismes, irresponsabilidad, infidelidad? ¿Cuál es tu camino de esclavitud? ¿Cuántas otras esclavitudes te se ocurren?

Cristo dio su vida en la cruz para librarnos de la esclavitud del pecado. Nuestra libertad ha tenido un precio muy alto y con todo lo que Cristo ha pagado por liberarnos todavía existe la posibilidad real de la esclavitud final.

La última y peor de las esclavitudes es la esclavitud de la condenación eterna, el infierno. Es obvio que Dios no le desea esto a nadie pero la realidad es que muchos buscan este camino al buscar las dos esclavitudes anteriores, esto es para los que no quieren ser Libres en todo el sentido de la palabra.

Según Lucas 4: 18-19, la misión de Cristo se resume así: “El Espíritu del Señor está sobre mí, porque me ha ungido para proclamar libertad a los presos y dar vista a los ciegos, para poner en libertad a los oprimidos, para proclamar el año del favor del Señor.” Creo que la libertad que me ofrece Cristo le lleva una ventaja a la libertad política.

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

América

Monseñor Ochoa ve necesidad de ampliar cuidado temporal para jóvenes que cruzan frontera

Por Daniel Pérez

EL PASO, Texas (CNS) — Los inmigrantes indocumentados más jóvenes que son aprehendidos intentando entrar a Estados Unidos desde México por El Paso podrían beneficiarse de un viaje exploratorio reciente realizado a lo largo de la frontera por una delegación de obispos y otros involucrados en el ministerio para inmigrantes en Estados Unidos y México.

El obispo Armando X. Ochoa, de El Paso, dijo que él quiere ampliar los programas operados por la diócesis que albergan niños y adolescentes que son traumatizados emocional y físicamente durante su viaje al norte.

Comparado con ambientes más institucionales, los grupos más pequeños y el ambiente familiar en hogares temporarios realizan el proceso curativo, dijo él durante una conferencia de prensa el 28 de octubre en la Plaza Padre Pinto, afuera de la iglesia Sacred Heart, a sólo cuadras del puente internacional hacia Ciudad Juárez en México.

Estos niños han sido tratados malamente, dijo el obispo Ochoa. “Ellos han visto horrores, desde serpientes en el desierto hasta ser abandonados por su coyote (contrabandista). Algunas niñas han sido violadas en grupo”.

“La idea de ampliar los programas de cuidado temporal provino de un viaje de estudio de una semana organizado por la Conferencia Estadounidense de Obispos Católicos a fines de octubre para recopilar información de parte de líderes eclesiásticos, instituciones y de aplicación de la ley sobre el contrabando humano y las experiencias de los menores de edad no acompañados a lo largo de la frontera estadounidense-mexicana.”

El obispo Ochoa, miembro del comité de emigración de los obispos, estuvo en el contingente, que incluyó miembros de varios programas católicos relacionados con la emigración. La delegación fue liderada por el obispo Gerald R. Barnes, de San Bernardino, California, director del comité de emigración.

El discurso de algunos de los descubrimientos que el grupo obtuvo de la misión el 23 al 28 de octubre, incluyó paradas en Tucson, Arizona, Houston y El Paso y las comunidades mexicanas relacionadas de la frontera.

Los delegados harán recomendaciones sobre cómo mejorar el sistema de inmigración en Estados Unidos y en los países desde los cuales los inmigrantes están vinándolo, dijo él.

Funcionarios del Vaticano le restan fuerza a las nuevas tensiones originadas por el viaje del Papa a Turquía

CIUDAD DEL VATICANO (CNS) — Funcionarios del Vaticano le restaron fuerza a nuevas tensiones originadas por el viaje del papa Benedicto XVI a Turquía, a finales del mes de noviembre, después de un incidente de tiroteo y un aparente desaire político.

La policía arrestó a un hombre de 26 años que disparó tres tiros al aire fuera del Consulado Italiano en Istambul, el 2 de noviembre, como protesta por la visita del Papa. Después de disparar, lanzó la pistola al jardín del consulado.

Los medios de difusión de Turquía citaron las palabras del hombre en cuestión, Ibrahim Ak, que había dicho que mataría al Papa si tuviera la oportunidad, y que esperaba que sus acciones inspiraran actos similares en varios de protesta. Mientras esperaba un interrogatorio llevado a cabo por funcionarios antiterroristas de la estación de policía local, Ak le dijo a una agencia noticiosa de Turquía: “Hice lo que cualquier musulmán tiene que hacer. Alá primero, y el Papa no vendrá a Turquía; pero si viene, verá lo que le pasa.”

“Yo le dispararé a la cabeza a cualquiera que diga que el Profeta era terrorista”, dijo Ak.

Aparentemente hacía referencia a un reciente discurso del Papa pronunciado en Regensburg, Alemania. En él, el Papa citó el comentario de un emperador medieval en el sentido de que el fundador del Islam, el profeta Mahoma, había traído “solamente cosas diabólicas e inhumanas, tales como su mandato de difundir la fe por medio de la espada”.

El Papa, después, claramente dijo que no estaba de acuerdo con la forma de ver las cosas del emperador y que dijo sentir mucho que los musulmanes se hubiesen sentido ofendidos.

El vocero del Vaticano, el padre Jesuita Federico Lombardi, le restó fuerza al incidente de disparos, diciendo que era desafortunado pero que no afectaría los planes de la visita del Papa, a llevarse a cabo el 28 de noviembre al 1º de diciembre.

“El Santo Padre va a Ankara y a Estambul a edificar puentes; y yo creo que este episodio está completamente al margen. No afectará la serena preparación de la visita”, dijo el vocero del Vaticano.
Menores de edad que cruzan frontera estadounidense enfrentan enredo de cuestiones legales, opciones

NOGALES, Arizona — Cinco niños y dos niñas, ningunos de los cuales parecía tener más de quizás 15 años de edad, siguieron obstinadamente las instrucciones en español de los agentes de la Patrulla Fronteriza.

“Párese allá”, “Vayan busquen su mochila”. “Escuchen a este hombre, él les ayudará a regresar a casa”.

En la estación de la Patrulla Fronteriza de Nogales, a un par de millas al norte de “la línea” con México, el mañana de una martes los siete menores de edad recogidos en el desierto el día antes estaban siendo entregados a los representantes del consulado mexicano. Los dos hombres entrevistaron a los adolescentes y decidirían cómo regresaríales a sus familias.

John Fitzpatrick, agente de patrulla a cargo de la estación de Nogales, dijo a los visitantes estadounidenses, que incluían representantes eclesiásticos, que el grupo de adolescentes era típico del número de menores no acompañados que se encuentran entre los cientos de personas recogidas cada noche en el que la Patrulla Fronteriza llama el desierto del oeste, Nogales y la demarcación del Condado Yuma, al este de la frontera de California.

Mientras los arreglos eran acordados para entregar los siete menores de edad al otro lado de la frontera en Juárez operados por el gobierno mexicano, por la frontera en Juárez operados por la frontera Juárez, dijo el grupo de 20 hombres que entrevistó. El padre de Maryknoll John Fitzpatrick, agente de patrulla a cargo de la estación de Nogales, dijo a los visitantes estadounidenses, que incluían representantes eclesiásticos, que el grupo de adolescentes era típico del número de menores no acompañados que se encuentran entre los cientos de personas recogidas cada noche en el que la Patrulla Fronteriza llama el desierto del oeste, Nogales y la demarcación del Condado Yuma, al este de la frontera de California.

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Justices focus on differences in abortion procedures in oral argument

From page 1

the brains are removed, and then the dead body is delivered by the rear door of the car. In the other procedure, known simply as dilation and extraction, the fetus is killed while inside the mother, then removed.

Arguing that the court should uphold lower court rulings that found that the law unconstitutional, attorneys for Planned Parenthood Federation of America and Leroy Carlhart, the Nebraska abortion doctor who brought one of the current cases and the one decided in 2000, said "intact D&E" should remain a legal option because it reduces the risk of injury to the pregnant woman.

They explained that in cases where the abortion is challenged and extraction and extraction methods lead to perforation of the woman's uterus and other complications of having medical instruments inserted to remove parts of the dead fetus' body. These complications can be avoided when the fetus is killed when part of it is outside the mother's body, they said.

Eve Gartner, attorney for Planned Parenthood, said the court should reject the attempt by Congress to exploit the limited window for further legislation that the Supreme Court offered in its ruling in the 2000 case. "The separation of church and state has ended," said Gartner. "We are in a new world, a world of religious and political polarization, and this is the court that is going to make the decision."}

Father Neuhaus says Roe decision has disrupted ‘American moral life’

By Mary Chalupsky

HAMDEN, Connecticut (CNS) -- For Father Richard Neuhaus, editor-in-chief of the journal First Things and a prominent commentator on religion in the public arena.

The real question Roe raises, he said, is "who belongs to the community?" The political process in the great "American experiment" was designed to represent the interests of Americans who agree on the meaning of "church and state." Politics in democracy is "free people deciding how we conduct our lives together," he said. "And the nature of the thing is moral."

"The separation of church and state is a great achievement of the American political experiment," said Fr. Neuhaus. "But often it is used to limit the separation of religion from politics. That is not what it means and not what the First Amendment required."

To separate religion from politics is to exclude the great majority of Americans from participating in political life," he noted, "and sovereignty is 'we' the people."

Fr. Neuhaus noted that the phrase "separation of church and state," which was first mentioned in a letter from Thomas Jefferson to a group of Baptists in Danbury, is not in the U.S. Constitution, but has entered into the judicial as well as political arena.

"It has continued to be a kind of phrase over which people rally," he noted. "But the separation of church and state has ended up turning the First Amendment on its head," said Fr. Neuhaus, borrowing a phrase from former Chief Justice Warren Burger.

He also cited Philip Hamburger’s book, Church and State in America, in which Ham-

burger dismisses the "church-state myth," explaining that the intent of the Founding Fathers was not to exclude religion from politics and the public arena, but rather to prevent government from interfering in religion, as was the case in England.

However, many interpret the "no establishment" and "free exercise" provisions in the Bill of Rights to mean that, when it comes to education, social services, or any other areas where government and religion intersect, "religion had to retreat," said Fr. Neuhaus.

The religion clause, he explained, was intended to protect religion from the power of the state, with the purpose being the free exercise of religion. However, in recent decades, the courts have turned the religion clause upside down.

This misinterpretation "has led to enormous controversies," said Fr. Neuhaus, who also is the author of The Naked Public Square: Religion and Democracy in America.

He noted that in the last few years the Supreme Court has said that this understanding of religion is "in a state of incoherence and needs to be clarified."

"I think in the next few years we will see the religion clause" restored to "protect and advance the free exercise of religion," he said.

"People in the public square," he said, "have an obligation to bring their best moral judgment and argument and noble, compelling vision of how ought we order our lives together."
Three named, one reappointed to Vatican communications council

WASHINGTON (CNS) — Pope Benedict XVI has named Anthony J. Spence, director and executive editor of CNS, Msgr. Owen F. Campion, associate publisher of the Catholic publishing firm Our Sunday Visitor; and Carl A. Anderson, supreme knight of the Knights of Columbus, as cardinals for the fifth year of their terms on the Pontifical Council for Social Communications.

Russell Shaw, a contributing editor for Our Sunday Visitor, was appointed to his second consecutive five-year term on the council.

Spence and Msgr. Campion both have served as president of the Catholic Press Association and editor of the Tennessee Register, diocesan newspaper in Nashville.

Anderson, an attorney, has served as head of the international Catholic men’s organization since 2000. He also is a member of the Pontifical Council for the Laity and a consultant to the Pontifical Council for Justice and Peace.

Shaw’s reappointment marks the start of his third term on the social communications council.

Before going to Vanderbilt in 1998, Spence had been editor in chief and general manager of the Tennessee Register Inc., which publishes the newspaper, since 1989. He also served as the diocese’s communications director from 1992 to 1998.

Msgr. Campion, a priest of the Diocese of Nashville, was editor of the Tennessee Register for 17 years until joining Our Sunday Visitor in Huntington, Indiana, in 1988 as associate publisher and editor of The Priest magazine.

Among his other positions and honors, he is a past recipient of the St. Francis de Sales Award, the highest honor given by the CPA; was the Vatican’s ecclesiastical adviser for the International Catholic Union of the Press; and served as a member of the Synod of Bishops for America and on the U.S. bishops’ Committee on Communications.

Anderson, who was the only Catholic layman to serve as an auditor to the 2001 and 2005 world Synods of Bishops, also has served on the Pontifical Academy for Life.

From page 11

As years passed, our family grew, and began to take in neighbors, parish pew-partners, the children’s favorite teachers, and friends with whom we shared lives, births, sometimes deaths, and yes, favorite pies.

But I’m not a pie-chef. I’m barely a pie-baker. I just show up.

The Wednesday before Thanksgiving, in our home, is the laughing-est day of the week. We come from the grocery store with an enormous number of apples — Abby sits on the stepladder for hours, peeling them. Julie rolls crusts and measures intoxicating mixtures of sugar and cinnamon.

Andrew is in charge of car and cell phone, driving to and from the store, sometimes stopping, making a U-turn and returning, for something else we called to say we forgot. (Maintaining a list? Cheaper. Comedy material? Priceless.)

John and I share creativity as well as creative mistakes, and one year we used tapioca we thought was instant. We learned eating undissolved tapioca beads was as precarious as chewing marbles, so, without jeopardizing our friends’ dental health, we hid and retired the now infamous “Blueberry-Biscupid” cream pies.

Not everyone is a Julia Child. But, as in most of life’s accomplishments, success doesn’t always come from excellence; it comes from presence.

Hamer...

As page 11

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John and Meredith learned, while shopping many years ago, that although we lacked extended family for Thanksgiving, we could make a family-sized production of it. We had no skills, and it didn’t matter if the peaches were canned, or if the fillings were too liquid.

What mattered was that the peach pie was John’s alone, and his tiny hands filled the crust. It mattered that Meredith tenderly shaped leftover dough into “cinnamon pie.”

The best part of our baking bonanza always is the process. How many kinds of pie will we bake? How many will turn out right? No one knows for sure until they are sliced.

We buy packages of extra tins to send slices home with guests. A pie made of six different flavors can be a simple — sometimes unattractive — treat. Like a family itself, in which, on any night or holiday, one or another may be missing an ingredient, sometimes pies are more delicious combined with others.

I am not a great baker, but I stand in the kitchen for hours, and prepare an outlandish spread. This happens with the children I love even more than the whipped cream. They have filled my life so fragrantly, that the definition of delicious is simply their names.

Last summer John volunteered at a camp for handicapped kids, and one activity he shared with his charges was pie baking. “The leader gave basic instructions,” John said, “and distributed cookie cutters to decorate the crusts.”

“I was working with a little girl, and when the leader had finished speaking, I said to my child, ‘Let’s write your name on the pie.’”

“Overhearing, the leader turned back to us and cautioned, ‘You can’t make names on pies.'”

“‘Yes you can,’ I told her,” John said. “At my house, we have been putting names on pies for 25 years.”

“So we rolled little pieces of dough and wrote our names on our pie.”

This Thanksgiving we will bake some whose names are between 20 and 30 pies. They will have names on them — people, teams, and schools. A random collection of friends — different every year — will eat and take some home, and there will be leftovers, so whoever stays at our house can enjoy a midnight feast, and pie for breakfast.

I am not a master baker. For 30 years, I have just been preparing a feast, and pie for breakfast.

The best part of our baking bonanza always is the process.
RACHEL’S VINEYARD
RACHEL’s Vineyard of Fort Worth is holding an eight-week series of healing after an abortion. This retreat helps those who struggle with grief, guilt, pain after an abortion to first heal and then hope. The retreats are open to all who feel the pain of post-abortion trauma. Come and experience healing and gain your healing love of God on a Rachel’s Vineyard weekend retreat. For more information or to register, call the confidential helpline at (817) 923-4975, e-mail to forgiven@ rachelv.org, or visit Rachel’s Vineyard Web site at www.rachelsvineyard.org.

ST. COLUMBAN CATHOLIC
ST. Columban Catholic Church, 6100 Parsons Ave., Fort Worth, will host a musical tribute to St. Cecilia, the patron saint of music, church Nov. 19, 2006, from 6 to 8 p.m. in the church. For more information, contact Father Kyle Watterscheid at (817) 366-0439 or by e-mail to padrekyyle@gmail.com.

DOUG BRUMMEL EVENING
The Holy Family Church, 6150 Parson Ave., Fort Worth, will host a Whole-Commu nity Celebration featuring church catechism, Doug Brummel’s one-man, character-changing show “Lighten Up!” will be held Dec. 5 and 6 (previously announced Dec. 3 – 5). Admission is free, and all are welcome. A free-will donation will be accepted. For additional information, contact Patricia Sayers at (817) 737-6768 ext. 109.

ELDER CARE SEMINARS
St. Michael Church, in conjunction with the Area Agency on Aging of Tarrant County, will present the following seminars from 1 – 3 p.m. through April 2007. These free seminars are open to anyone currently caring for an elderly or disabled family member. Registration is required and will be held from noon to 9:30 p.m. in the MBS sanctuary. Most Blessed Sacrament Parish. For more information, call the parish office at (817) 277-4859.

LITURGICAL CONFERENCE
The 45th annual Southwest Liturgical Conference Study Week will be held Jan. 17-20 in Oklahoma City, Oklahoma, at the Cox Business Services Convention Center. To register, contact the Archdiocese of Oklahoma City, Office of Worship and Spiritual Life, P.O. Box 32180, Oklahoma City, OK 73123 or call (405) 721-6515. Information may be obtained by visiting the Web site at www.slcog.org.

ST. AUGUSTINE’S GROUP
St. Augustine’s Men’s Parish Group, a ministry for men who struggle with sexual integrity issues on the Internet and other sources, meets every other Thursday at 6 p.m. in St. Augustine’s Parish Hall. For more information, visit the Web site at www.samp.org, or e-mail to Mark at memberspurs@ member.netscape.com.

MEALS ON WHEELS
Meals on Wheels of Tarrant County is in search of volunteer drivers willing to deliver home meals to homebound elderly and others who require meal delivery. For more information, call Meals on Wheels at (817) 336-0812.

MINISTRY FORMATION DAY
All are invited to gather for an enrichment day of faith learning on Nov. 17 from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. at Our Lady of Lourdes Catholic Church located at 1850 West Berry Street, Fort Worth. For more information, contact Kevin Preus at kpreus@fwdioc.org or call (817) 560-2452 ext. 267

MINISTRY FOR GAYS / LESBIANS
MINISTRY FOR GAYS / LESBIANS of the Fort Worth Diocesan Ministry with Lesbian and Gay Catholics, Other Sexual Minorities, and Friends is currently accepting new members. For more information, please call (817) 336-0912.

CATHOLIC PILGRIMAGES
Catholic Pilgrimages offers trips to Fatima-Lourdes-Rome-Poland-Mexico and more. Accompanied by a priest from Dallas and Mass and rosaries are available. For more information call (817) (866) 295-8687 (toll-free) or visit www.resnpilgrim.com.

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Our Lady of Guadalupe Talk
The image of Our Lady of Guadalupe, believed by many to be the first Marian apparition in the Western Hemisphere, has been the subject of various critical examinations over its 475-year history. Artistic and scientifically oriented professionals have contributed their expert opinions and have published concerning the nature of the image’s pigments and underlying surface, its aesthetic qualities, and its significance in understanding the image of Our Lady of Guadalupe and its history. Dr. Leatham will compare the findings of these investigations and will comment on their significance to the image of Our Lady of Guadalupe and its history. Dr. Leatham is a lecturer in antiquity at Texas Christian University and a member of the Cathedral Parish. For more details, call the parish office at (817) 332-4915.

COME AND SEE WEEKEND
The Sisters of the Holy Spirit will host a “Come and See” weekend at Holy Spirit Retreat Center in San Antonio. The weekend will begin Friday, Dec. 8, at 6 p.m. and continue through Dec. 10. For more information, contact Sister Christine Hunter at (817) 238-2540, or e-mail to holySpirit@shop.org. Other information may be found on the diocesan Web site at www.visitingangels.com/fortworth

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James Mullaney lets the Heavens declare the glory of God, which he says they indeed do.

Well-traveled astronomer shares God’s heavenly wonders

By Gary Morton / The Dialog / Newspaper of the Diocese of Wilmington, Delaware / Catholic News Service

For the last 35 billion miles of his life, James Mullaney has pointed to the skies as proof that God not only exists but that he designed the intricate universe of heaven-knows-how-many galaxies.

“The universe sure didn’t happen by accident,” said Mullaney, an astronomer and self-proclaimed “celestial evangelist.”

The former curator of the Buhl Planetarium and Institute of Popular Science in Pittsburgh and director of the DuPont Observatory at the University of South Carolina in Aiken awed about 75 fellow laypersons at St. Edmund Church in Rehoboth Beach, Delaware recently with his slide show and talk titled “Let the Heavens Declare.”

Now 38.5 billion miles into his life’s journey (his age of “66 years by this planet’s dating” multiplied by Earth’s annual 583-million-mile orbit of the sun), Mullaney estimates that he has preached his message of a personal God whose creation seems infinite to more than a million people.

An uncle started Mullaney on his mission 58 years (or about 35 billion miles) ago, in the backyard of then-8-year-old Jim Mullaney’s home in Carnegie, Pennsylvania. The uncle set up a telescope and showed Mullaney the moon and Jupiter.

“That’s when I started evangelizing,” Mullaney told The Dialog, newspaper of the Wilmington Diocese. “My first impulse, in my head, I think I said ‘Praise God!’ or ‘Oh my God!’ It was like a miracle. I had to share it with somebody, so I started running up and down the street from our house, pounding on all the doors and asking them to come out and look.”

Mullaney believes the big-bang theory, which says the universe formed through a series of explosions that started with a single atom, supports the biblical account of creation.

“Scientists can explain how the big bang happened as far back to 1/30-billionth of a second after it happened,” he said, “but when it comes down to the actual event, it came out of nowhere.”

His answer: “God said, ‘Let there be light.’ That’s why Pope Pius XII endorsed the big-bang theory as soon as he heard of it.”

Besides his planetarium and observatory work, he’s written five books (one by the same name as his slide-show presentation) and published more than 700 articles about astronomy for publications such as Sky & Telescope, Astronomy, and Star & Sky magazines. He also contributed to Carl Sagan’s “Cosmos” television series. He presents his program 45 times a year during retreats at St. Joseph’s in the Hills in Malvern, Pennsylvania, close to where he lived until he moved to Long Neck, near Rehoboth Beach, three years ago.

Mullaney believes in a personal God even though Earth is a seemingly miniscule part of a vast and expanding universe.

“Cosmos,” he said, “was the first time I had to share it with someone, and it made an impact on me.”

His slide show features pictures taken through the Vatican Observatory’s Advanced Technology Telescope in Arizona — Mullaney calls it the “pope scope” — and by the Hubble Space Telescope.

One shows Earth from outer space, which led Mullaney to recall how Sagan thought humanity “desperately needed a cosmic perspective” of the Earth.

“It looks very peaceful, looking down on it; during the day there is no trace of human life,” Mullaney said. “This is the way God gave us the world, a beautiful jewel floating in the sea of space. And we’ve really messed it up, unfortunately. There’s been tribal warfare since day one, and we haven’t learned, have we? We are still fighting.”