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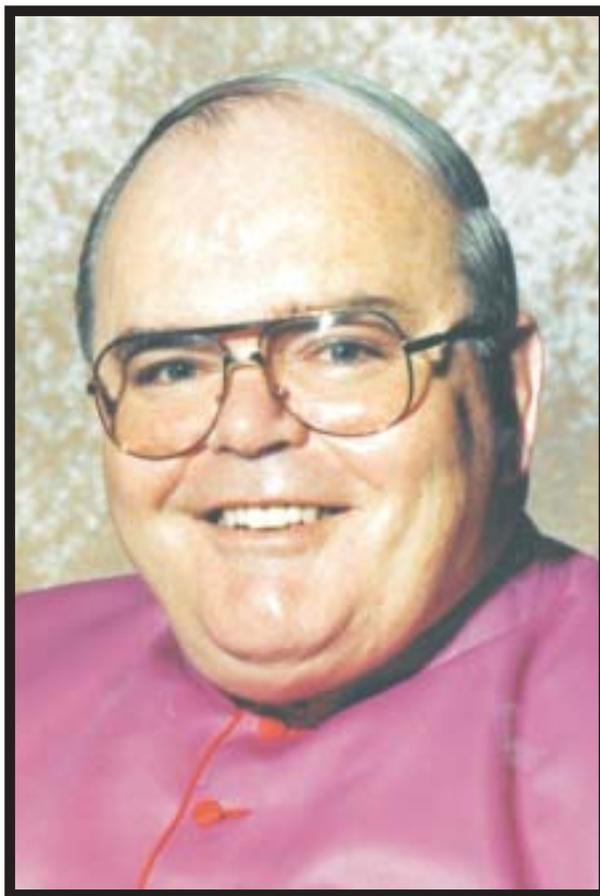
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Rev. Msgr. Timothy J. Murphy 1935-2004



The Reverend Monsignor Timothy J. Murphy, P.A., V.G., J.C.L., passed away on Friday, January 16, 2004, at St. Ann Parish in Midland, Texas. The Monsignor, 68, was pastor of the Midland parish since July 1, 1996.

A Rosary and Wake Service was held at St. Ann Church on Monday, January 19, at 7:00 p.m. The Rev. Rodney White, associate pastor at St. Ann, led the service, and the Reverend Monsignor Larry J. Droll, Chancellor of the Diocese of San Angelo, delivered the eulogy. Msgr. Murphy's body lay in state at St. Ann through the night, watched over by an Honor Guard from the Knights of Columbus.

The Mass of Christian Burial was celebrated at St. Ann on Tuesday, January 20, at 9:30 a.m. The Most Reverend Michael D. Pfeifer, OMI, Bishop of San Angelo, was the principal celebrant, and the Most Reverend Joe S. Vasquez, Auxiliary Bishop of Houston, was the principal concelebrant. Other concelebrants included the priests of the Diocese of San Angelo, and Msgr. Murphy's priest friends from throughout the country. The Rev. Msgr. Frederick Nawarskas, pastor of Holy Family Church, Abilene, was the homilist.

Following the Mass, Msgr. Murphy's body was taken to Calvary Catholic Cemetery in San Angelo, where it was interred next to his father. A reception and visitation with family was held at Holy Angels Parish Hall, following the interment.

Timothy J. Murphy, the oldest of three children, was born on August 31, 1935 in Queens, New York to Timothy and Nora

Murphy. He attended his St. Bartholomew's grade school in Elmhurst, Queens, and graduated from Cathedral Seminary High School in Brooklyn. He completed his college studies at St. Mary's Seminary in Kentucky, and his theological studies at the Pontifical College Josephinum in Columbus, Ohio. He was ordained to the Catholic priesthood on May 26, 1962, for the Diocese of San Angelo. Following his ordination, Msgr. Murphy was sent to The Catholic University of America

in Washington, D.C., where he completed his studies in Canon Law, and was awarded the Licentiate Degree.

Msgr. Murphy served as Pastor at Holy Angels Church, San Angelo, from 1969-1982; Holy Family Church, Abilene, from 1982-1996; and St. Ann, Midland, since 1996.

Additionally, he served as Chancellor of the Diocese of San Angelo, from 1970-80; and Vicar General of the Diocese from 1980 to the present. Over the years, he also served as Superintendent of Schools, was a Diocesan Consultor, and a member of the Presbyteral Council, the Priests' Personnel Board, the Priests' Pension Plan, and the Diocesan Finance Council. He had been the Judicial Vicar of the Diocese since 1967.

Monsignor Murphy was a member of the Knights of Columbus, a Knight of the Sepulcher, and in March 1968, was awarded the Air Force Commendation Pin for his services as a civilian auxiliary chaplain at Goodfellow Air Force Base.

During his pastorates, Msgr. Murphy oversaw the construction of churches at Holy Angels in San Angelo in 1982, and Holy Family in Abilene in 1985; and a new office building at St. Ann, which was dedicated only a few days prior to his death on January 13.

He is survived by his sister, Col. Patricia (Pat) Murphy, USAF (Ret.) of San Antonio, and his brother, Emmet Murphy of Westlake Village, California, and numerous nieces and nephews.

He was honored by Pope John Paul II,

Nation to be briefed on history of sexual abuse

by Peter N. Micale, editor
West Texas Angelus

On February 27, 2004, the John Jay College of Criminal Justice will brief on a quantitative analysis of the sexual abuse of minors by Catholic clergy from 1950 to 2002. On the same day, the National Review Board Study will be presented, and it provides a qualitative assessment based on interviews with about 60 individuals including cardinals and bishops. Both briefings will be presented at the National Press Club in Washington DC.

Following these briefings there will be a news conference with Bishop Gregory and a panel of bishops.

There are other articles in this edition, written by Bishop Pfeifer, which focus on different aspects of this important issue to the Catholic Church in the United States. In this article I want to summarize what has been done, specifically in our Diocese, and also look ahead.

The care of young people is among the Church's most important obligations. For them to suffer harm at the hands of anyone working on behalf of the Church, especially members of the clergy, is a great betrayal. As Pope John Paul II said: "There is no place in the priesthood or religious life for those who would harm the young;" as there is no place within the framework of each parish, from the administrative office through all of the



Reaching out with compassion to the mentally ill

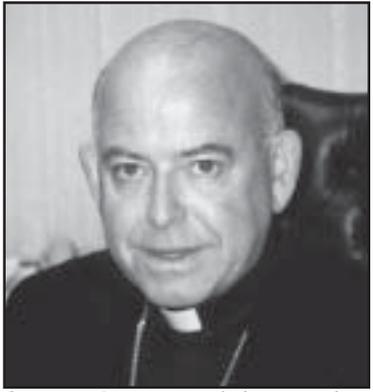
“Is it all in their head?”

By Bishop Michael D. Pfeifer, OMI

Enseñando compasion a los enfermos mentales

«¿ Todo está en la cabeza?»

Por el Obispo Miguel D. Pfeifer, OMI



“It is all in their head,” is the superficial observation mistakenly, and sometimes unkindly, made by some people about those who suffer with mental illness. Mental illness is very often just like any other illnesses, such as high blood pressure, due to physical cause and can be controlled, or sometimes even cured by therapy and/or medication.

The vast majority of the mentally ill are just like anyone else who gets a physical illness. They are sick for awhile, they get better, and they go on to live a normal, healthy life. Even those who hallucinate or are delusional can be helped.

However, today it is clear that those who are diagnosed with mental illness are “sick” in much the same way as those who contract physical illnesses, such as heart disease and cancer. The very use of the term “mental illness” has led some people to believe that it does not have a physical cause. As we learn more about the various types of mental illness, it is evident that there are definite physical factors involved. Perhaps it would be more accurate to refer to the mentally ill as individuals who are suffering from brain disorders, which better indicate the physical basis for the illness. There is still a great deal we do not know about the workings of the mind and brain chemistry.

What many people do not know is there are many medications available to help those with mental illness. Some types of mental illness are manageable with medication, and most are best treated with a combination of therapy and medication.

Whatever the cause of mental illness, our response as Christians is to extend a helping hand to those who are suffering, regardless of the circumstances. Our mission, like that of

“Todo está en la cabeza,” es la observación superficial que es equivocadamente, y a veces cruelmente, hecho por unas personas hablando de los que sufren con una enfermedad mental. Sin embargo, ahora es claro que los que son diagnosticados con enfermedad mental están “enfermos” en la misma manera como los que tienen una enfermedad física, como enfermedad del corazón y cancer.

El uso del termino “enfermedad mental” ha hecho a algunos personas creer que no tiene una causa física. Mientras aprendamos mas de los varios tipos de enfermedades mentales, es evidente que definitivamente hay factores físicos envueltos. Quizás seria mas preciso a referir a los enfermos mentales como individuales que están sufriendo de desordenes del cerebro, que mas bien indican las base física de la enfermedad. Todavía hay mucho que no sabemos de las funciones de la mente y la química del cerebro.

Sea lo que sea la causa de la enfermedad mental, nuestra respuesta como Cristianos es extender una mano de ayuda a los que están sufriendo, apesar de las circunstancias. Nuestra misión, como esa de Jesús, es simplemente cuidar y ayudar cualquiera que se encuentre en problemas.

Miertras no podamos completamente entender por que Dios permite sufrimiento mental, y otros sufrimientos en el mundo, si sabemos que nuestro Dios es un Dios de amor. En todos nuestros sufrimientos, Cristo nos invita a venir a El para recibir refrescadura y afecto – “Ven a mi todos los que están agobiados y cargados, y yo les daré descanso.” Como Cristianos, también debemos recordarnos que Dios cura directamente, y por medio de todos nosotros así que extendemos nuestras manos y abrimos nuestros corazones a los que necesitan ayuda.

see “REACHING” page eleven

see “ENSEÑANDO” page ten

The Bishop's Schedule



FEBRUARY, 2004

- February 1: Crane, Good Shepherd - Mass at 2:30 p.m. to celebrate 25th Diaconal Ordination of Deacon Julio Carrasco and Deacon Apolonio Gutierrez
- February 2-4: Rest and Prayer
- February 5: Midland, St. Ann - Meet with Pastor, Pastoral and Finance Councils at 7:00 p.m.
- February 6: San Angelo, Diocesan Pastoral Center - 8:30 a.m. Mass for Staff - 11:00 a.m. Staff

- Meeting
- February 7-8: Fort Worth
- February 9: San Angelo, Christ the King Retreat Center - 11:30 a.m. Prayer and Luncheon with Women and Priest Religious to Celebrate the Consecrated Life
- February 10: San Angelo, Diocesan Pastoral Center - Personnel Board Meeting at 11:00 a.m. Cathedral Church of the Sacred Heart - Endowment Board meeting at 7:00 p.m.
- February 11: San Angelo, Cathedral Church of the Sacred Heart - 7:00 p.m. Mass for World Day of Prayer and Sacrament for the Sick

- February 12: Abilene, St. Vincent - 7:00 p.m. Meet with Pastoral and Finance Councils
- February 14: San Angelo, Holy Angels - 5:30 p.m. Diocesan Scout Awards Mass
- February 15-17: Dallas, Annual Assembly and Board Meeting of the Texas Conference of Churches
- February 19: San Angelo, Catholic Outreach - Dedicate new building at 11:00 a.m. Sweetwater - Meeting with Pastoral and Finance Councils of Holy Family and Immaculate Heart parishes and missions at 7:00 p.m.
- February 20: San Angelo, Christ the King Retreat Center - Natural Family Planning Workshop
- February 21: San Angelo - Diocesan Conference Day at Convention Center
- February 22: Eldorado, Our Lady of Guadalupe - Mass at 11:30 a.m. and meet with Pastor, Pastoral and Finance Councils after Mass
- February 24: Colorado City, St. Ann - Meet with Pastoral and Finance Councils at 7:00 p.m.
- February 26: Winters, Our Lady of Mt. Carmel - Meet with Pastor,

- Pastoral and Finance Councils
- February 28: San Angelo, Sacred Heart - Catholic Schools Commission meeting at 10:00 a.m.
- February 29: San Angelo, Cathedral Church of the Sacred Heart - Rite of Election at 1:30 p.m. and 4:00 p.m.
- MARCH, 2004**
- March 1: San Angelo, Diocesan Pastoral Center - Liturgy Commission at 10:30 a.m.
- March 3: San Angelo, Meet with Diocesan Legal Team - 11:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m.
- March 4: Odessa, St. Elizabeth Church - Meet with Pastor and Pastoral and Finance Councils at 7:00 p.m.
- March 5: San Angelo, Diocesan Pastoral Center - Mass for Staff at 8:30 a.m. and Staff Meeting at 11:00 a.m.
- March 6: Melvin, St. Francis - Mass at 5:00 p.m.
- March 7: Menard, Sacred Heart - Mass at 11:15 a.m.
- March 9: San Angelo, Diocesan Pastoral Center - Meeting of Presbyteral Council at 11:00 a.m.
- March 10: San Angelo, Christ

- the King Retreat Center - Retreat for Staff 10:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m.
- March 12: Abilene, St. Francis - Meet with Pastor and Pastoral and Finance Councils at 7:00 p.m.
- March 14-15: San Antonio, Meeting of Bishops of Texas
- March 16: Midland, Our Lady of San Juan - Lenten Night of Prayers with Priests, Sisters and Deacons of Midland/Odessa Deanery at 7:00 p.m.
- March 17: San Angelo, St. Mary - 12:00 noon Lenten Sermon
- March 18-19: Rest and Prayer
- March 21: Brownwood, St. Mary - Mass at 9:30 a.m.
- March 22-25: Private Lenten Retreat
- March 26: Houston Installation of Bishop Daniel Dinardo as Coadjutor
- March 27-28: Roma, Texas
- March 29: Eden, St. Charles - Meet with Pastor and Pastoral and Finance Councils at 7:00 p.m.
- March 31: San Angelo, Holy Angels - 7:30 p.m. Talk to CCD Students about Mary

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Vocation Circle

Wife of deaconal candidate reflects on life of service

by Mary Knox
wife of Beck Knox, candidate
for Diaconate Sacred Heart,
Coleman

COLEMAN – With thirty five years of marriage and four grown children one would think that it is time to RETIRE! At least, that is what I had planned but my husband had different ideas.

As a family, we have lived a life of active dedication to our faith community of Sacred Heart Par-

ish. CCD teachers, parish council members, Eucharistic ministers, lay readers, general laborers and what ever was needed in our parish, you could find my husband, myself or perhaps one of the children actively involved. Life was good and we were almost to the point with all the children out of the house that we could start thinking of how we would spend our later years. The renewal of the diaconate program in our diocese was announced and my husband decides that he is being called to give it a try.

Actually, this did not come as a big surprise. Living with someone for over thirty years allows one to see and know the heart and mind of the individual, or for that matter, to see the heart and mind of each other. So the journey began. It is a journey of love, dedication, growth, fellowship. It is a journey to ministry, a journey of service. It is a journey of opportunity to experience the

love of God working in all of us . . . those we serve and those who serve us.

We have traveled to our meeting place, Christ the King Retreat

much. We continue to be the same persons we have been but we are given so many more opportunities to pray together and to share the life that God has planned for us all

. . . a life of service to all those in need of what we might have to give.

My heart at first was frightened with all the “what ifs”. What if my husband is really not called? What if we invest all this time and energy all to discover that this is not

what God wants from us? What if this just takes too much time out of our lives to enjoy growing old together? The “what ifs” become “if God asks it of us, we can do it”.

God has allowed us the grace to take one step at a time accepting the demands on our time and on our personal lives. Our children are supportive and understanding although sometimes it is hard not to be able to participate in their lives as fully as we would like. So many things have happened to us over the last 3 1/2 years of preparation. We have experienced two weddings, loss of a parent, various family health crises, building a new home and other every day life adjustments, disappointments and triumphs. But we have persevered through them all with the knowledge that God has so much more planned for us.

Center to meet, study, share, laugh, cry and play with some of the most wonderful people we have ever had the opportunity to know. They come from all over the diocese of San Angelo to give unselfishly of one full weekend a month for a period that will last 4 1/2 years. We have been given the opportunity to grow in faith and knowledge as we soak in Theology as taught by priests, deacons and lay persons from the Oblate School of Theology in San Antonio and further inspired by our own Deacon Tim Graham, Father Tom Kelley and Fr. Tom Barley and so many other wonderful persons in the diocese who have helped us, taught us, encouraged us and guided us.

My own reflection as the potential deacon’s wife is one of thankfulness. I am thankful for the graces allowed us to begin and hopefully complete this process. The role as the wife doesn’t really change



Mary Knox (l) and her husband Beck Knox (r) a candidate for the Diaconate in Sacred Heart Church, Coleman spend time at Christ the King Retreat Center.



Diocese of San Angelo Seminarians meet with Bishop. (L to R, back row) Father Bill DuBuisson, OMI, Father Hubert Wade, Bishop Michael D. Pfeifer, OMI, Father Tom Barley, Vocations Director of Seminarians, Msgr. Larry Droll, Father Terry Brenon. (L to R, front row) Seminarian Third Year Theology Ruben Covos, First Year Seminarian Gilbert Martinez, Seminarian Third Year Theology Ariel Lagunilla, Seminarian Third Year Theology Emilio Sosa, First Year Seminarian Matthew Fenner.

Deacon Jose Esparza 1919 - 2003

Deacon Jose Esparza was born on October 27, 1919 to Antonio and Maria Aguilar Esparza in Buena Vista, Texas. He was married to Guadalupe Lujan Esparza (deceased) and they had six children, two of which preceded Deacon Jose in death. He was ordained a Deacon on January 28, 1979 and has served at Our Lady of Lourdes Church in Imperial, Texas. He was living in Abilene and attended St. Francis Church there at the time of his death. Deacon Jose died December 29, 2003 at Angelo Community Hospital in San Angelo Texas. He will be missed.

MURPHY from page one

who in 1989 named him a Chaplain of Honor to His Holiness, and then subsequently in 1995 promoted him to Protonotary Apostolic, the highest degree of domestic prelate in the Catholic Church.

He will be particularly missed by the parishioners of St. Ann, Holy Family and Holy Angels parishes, as well as by his brother priests and all the people of the diocese.

“You are a priest forever, according to the order of Melchizedek . . . Well done, good and faithful servant.”

Bishop Pfeifer received the following note from Msgr. Murphy’s sister Pat, and he has asked that it

be printed in the Angelus.

“Dear Bishop, we wanted to thank you so much for the wonderful celebration of Tim’s life you gave to us all. Please extend our thanks to the clergy, the staff, and the parishioners of the Diocese for making our loss of Tim easier to accept. We especially appreciated the efforts of the folks at St. Ann’s and Holy Angels. As we discussed, please thank Perkins for us. He is a wonderful asset to St. Ann’s and was a great help to Tim. We know you will miss Tim also. He had a good life, he loved being a priest and we believe he made a great many contributions to a great many people. Thank you again for all you have done. May God continue to bless you. Sincerely, Pat.”



Catholic leaders are taking responsibility and acting with accountability

by Bishop Michael Pfeifer, OMI

SAN ANGELO – After almost two years of struggling with the hurt, grief, shame and the loss of trust caused by the sexual abuse crisis, the U.S. Catholic bishops have taken major steps to correct this evil by accepting responsibility for this situation and pledging themselves to be more accountable. The major turning point in this crisis happened at the June meeting of the U.S. Catholic bishops in Dallas in 2002. In the *Charter and Essential Norms* that came from this historic meeting, the bishops pledged and committed themselves to take corrective measures to overcome sexual abuse of minors by the clergy and to provide a safe, secure, and sacred environment for all people, especially children.

Through many means of communication during the past two years, I have shared much information with the people of the Catholic Diocese of San Angelo about the measures that have been taken to implement the *Charter and Essential Norms* in our Diocese. In this article, I focus attention on two major studies to which the U.S. Catholic bishops committed themselves to in a spirit of openness, responsibility and accountability.

On January 6, 2004, the results of the National Audit of all the 195 dioceses of the United States were published by the Office of Child and Youth Protection of the United States Conference of Catholic Bishops. The Audit results show that 90% of the dioceses of the United States were in compliance with the steps recommended by the *Charter* to overcome sexual abuse, and our own diocese was given a high commendation for its policies and programs. While this was a major news item for the Church of the United States of America and has already won national laurels, amazingly, some local media gave it hardly any coverage. Why??

The other study that I referred to is being done by the John Jay College of Criminal Justice and was commissioned by the National Re-

view Board of the United States Conference of Catholic Bishops. The John Jay study is comprehensive as it includes all 195 Catholic dioceses of the United States, and attempts to provide not only the number of cases, but the underlying reasons for the cause of the critical problem of clergy sexual abuse during the past 50 years. As our diocese only began in 1962, the period covered will be from the beginning until 2002. Diocesan reportings on this study are voluntary actions of each bishop. In a spirit of openness, honesty, and transparency, I have already shared with you and the media what the basic results are for our diocese, although the national study will not be released until late February.

From 1962-2002, the Diocese of San Angelo has had approximately 368 priests and 79 permanent deacons to minister as clergy within the Diocese. Of this number, we have received credible allegations that 4 priests are alleged to have abused minors. There have been no credible allegations against permanent deacons. There was 1 credible allegation against a candidate for the seminary. These allegations were brought by 6 individuals. None of these priests are currently assigned in the Diocese. And the candidate never actually entered

Promise to Protect. Pledge to Heal.

"We can't give the victims of abuse back their innocence, but we can assure them that we will do all in our power to see to it that no child is so harmed again."
Bishop Wilton D. Gregory, President, United States Conference of Catholic Bishops

On January 6, 2004, the Office of Child and Youth Protection of the United States Conference of Catholic Bishops issued its first report on the compliance of Catholic dioceses and eparchies (dioceses of the Eastern Catholic Churches) in implementing the Charter for the Protection of Children and Young People.

Adopted in June 2002, the Charter established the framework for preventing abuse of minors by clergy and protecting all children and young people in the Church's care.

Protecting young people.
The Charter provides for creating "safe environments" in which young people are secure. It also provides for strict enforcement of codes of conduct for all those, including clergy, who come in contact with children and youth, whether they are full time employees or volunteers.

Healing and reconciliation with victims of abuse.
The Charter calls for dioceses to reach out to victims of sexual abuse, offering healing counsel and services and appointing victims' assistance coordinators.

Effective response to allegations of sexual abuse.
The Charter states that dioceses are to report allegations of abuse of minors, cooperate with civil authorities' investigations, and support the right of every victim to make a report to the authorities. The Catholic Church is fully committed to removing abusers from ministry.

Ensuring bishops' and dioceses' accountability.
The Bishops' Office of Child and Youth Protection has made it possible for the first time to audit the performance of Catholic dioceses to ensure the safety of minors. The Bishops created a National Review Board of prominent lay Catholics to assist and monitor the Office to guarantee that the promise of the Charter for the Protection of Children and Young People is realized.

There is no place in the priesthood or religious life for those who would harm the young.
Pope John Paul II

Please see the "Report on the Implementation of the Charter for the Protection of Children and Young People" at www.usccb.org

the seminary. I would point out that the information I shared on this study has already made front page news in much of the secular media of our Diocese. Why??

As we take new, responsible, and accountable steps to deal with the critical issue of sexual abuse, I once again point out, as I have repeatedly done so, that our first concern must always be for the victims and survivors of sexual abuse and their families. I continue to implore your prayers for them, and invite all to offer them various types of support to help them deal with and overcome this issue. Together we must continue to work to make sure that every child and young person is

protected from sexual abuse.

I also want to once again affirm the good, dedicated, and generous priests and deacons, and other lay leaders, who serve our people with great generosity and dedication. The vast majority of our priests and other leaders have only one wish, and that is to help our people grow closer to Christ through the celebration of the Word of God and the Sacraments, especially the Eucharist. Please pray for all of our Church leaders, but especially for our priests, and reach out to them with loving hearts and helping hands.

Our Holy Father, Pope John Paul II, has recently offered many helpful reflections on the critical issue of sexual abuse. He condemns abuse by priests, but also calls for a Christian way of dealing with accusations against priests. He

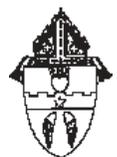
points out that bishops must always be just and always be merciful. He tells us that true discipleship calls us to love, compassion, and at times, strict discipline in order to serve the common good. He reminds us that it is of the utmost importance that openness, honesty, and transparency should always be the hallmark of everything the Church does, in all her spiritual, educational, and social undertakings, as well as in every aspect of Church administration.

It has taken much, much time and effort to expunge the evil of child abuse from the clergy ranks and set up measures to prevent abuse. The first thing that needed to be done was to embrace this issue in a responsible manner and to accept accountability. The truth is cleansing. The U.S. Catholic bishops have agreed to call for accountability through the two national studies that I mentioned above.

These efforts will continue to require the support from all faithful Catholics of our Diocese to implement the various policies and programs to correct this evil, and we must always choose the path to spiritual reform rather than retreat in addressing these issues in the Church. The challenge before us is to bring the program of a safe environment into every parish and mission, and into every home in our diocese. We continue to implore the light, guidance, and courage of the Holy Spirit so that our faith and hope can be made even stronger through the reforms that are taking place in our Diocese. This is a time to focus our attention and efforts on spiritual reform.

Bishop Wilton Gregory, President of the United States Conference of Catholic Bishops, is fond

Ethics and Integrity for Church Personnel



Diocese of San Angelo

www.san-angelo-diocese.org

Report concerns or questions to Victim Assistance Coordinator:
Confidential: 325-651-7500 FAX: 325-651-6688
mikedosa@aol.com

Report abuse of minors to: State of Texas 800-252-5400



U.S. Bishops address issue of sexual abuse

by Bishop Michael D. Pfeifer, OMI

SAN ANGELO – With this letter, I am sharing with you some important information as regards the efforts of the U.S. Catholic Bishops to implement the Charter and Essential Norms. Throughout this past year, I have informed you, and the people of the Diocese that we serve, of the many efforts that we in our Diocese have already taken to address the critical issue of sexual abuse. Let me share with you briefly the results of two major studies that have been made this year, as a follow up to our efforts to address this critical issue.

As you already know from correspondence I have sent you, a compliance audit was done of the Diocese of San Angelo by independent auditors hired by the Office for Child and Youth Protection of the USCCB. The Diocese of San Angelo was given a high commen-

ation for its policies and “no instructions,” which would have indicated it was out of compliance. The national report for all the 195 dioceses of the United States as regards this audit will be published on January 6, 2004.

The other study that I referred to is done by the John Jay College of Criminal Justice for the USCCB. It was to provide a descriptive study of the nature and scope of this problem in our Catholic Church going back 50 years up to 2002. The Diocese of San Angelo has fully cooperated with this study, going back to when our Diocese was created in 1962. Hence, our report covers a period of 40 years. The national report on this study will be published in early February, 2004.

In preparation for the publication of the results of the John Jay study, I want to share the follow-

ing information. From 1962-2002, the Diocese of San Angelo has had approximately 368 priests and 79 permanent deacons to minister as clergy within the diocese. Of this number, we have received credible allegations that four priests are alleged to have abused minors. There have been no credible allegations against permanent deacons. There was one credible allegation against a candidate for the seminary. These allegations were brought by six individuals. None of these priests are currently assigned in the diocese and the candidate never actually entered the seminary.

Ethics and Integrity Workshop Dates

Deanery	Place	Date	Time
Abilene	Holy Family, Sweetwater	Feb 19, 2004	7:00-10:00pm (Eng)
	Holy Family, Abilene	Feb 23, 2004	7:00-10:00pm (Eng/Span)
	Holy Family, Sweetwater	Mar 18, 2004	7:00-10:00pm (Eng)
	Holy Family, Abilene	Mar 27, 2004	9:00am-12:00pm (Eng/Span)
Midland/Odessa	St. Elizabeth, Odessa	Feb 26, 2004	7:00-10:00 pm (Eng/Span)
	St. Joseph, Ft. Stockton	Mar 22, 2004	7:00-10:00 pm (Eng)
San Angelo	Holy Angels, San Angelo	Feb. 16, 2004	6:30-9:30pm (Eng/Span)
	Sacred Heart, San Angelo	Mar. 8, 2004	6:30-9:30pm (Eng/Span)

It is our hope that all of our efforts will enable our Diocese to provide a safe, secure and sacred environment for all of our people, especially for children. I want to point out that the vast majority of our priests have only one wish-and that is to help our people grow closer to Jesus Christ through the celebration of the Word of God and the Sacraments, especially the Eucharist. I am very grateful to you,

my brother priests and pastoral coordinators, for your cooperation in dealing with these difficult issues, and I appreciate the splendid service that you give to all of our people. Let us continue to pray for the guidance of the Holy Spirit as we follow Jesus, our Good Shepherd, and place ourselves under the protection of Mary Immaculate.

Diocese of San Angelo commended for sexual abuse response program

by Office of Child and Youth Protection, United States Conference of Catholic Bishops

WASHINGTON – The Diocese of San Angelo (“the Diocese”), which was established in 1961, encompasses 29 counties of west and central Texas. It consists of 49 parishes and 24 missions, 37 diocesan priests, 36 deacons, and three schools, and it serves a population of 89,372 registered Catholics. The Most Reverend Michael David Pfeifer was installed as bishop on May 31, 1985. A compliance audit of the Diocese was conducted during the period of September 22-26, 2003.

The information set forth below represents conditions as they were found to exist during the week of the audit. Information regarding necessary corrective actions taken by the Diocese subsequent to the audit will be found in the last paragraph.

Findings

To Promote Healing and Reconciliation

The Diocese has a formalized and implemented policy entitled Policies on Ethics and Integrity in Ministry, which was revised in June 2003. The policy is printed in English and Spanish and is published on the diocesan website. The procedures for reporting an allegation of sexual abuse by a member of the clergy are set forth therein, and a notice concerning the same topic was published in the diocesan newspaper. **The Diocese was commended for creating and implementing this policy.** In July 2003, Michael Wyse was appointed as the new victim assistance coordinator, replacing the current director of communications, who had held that position on a temporary basis. Wyse is retired from the U.S. Army and possesses master’s degrees in management and theology. The review board, consisting of seven

members, including a Ph.D., a clinical psychologist, two physicians, an attorney, a social worker, an employee of United Way, and the diocesan chancellor, were appointed in June 2002. Procedures for making a complaint of sexual abuse have been made available throughout the Diocese. The bishop has met with victims/survivors and has a standing offer to do so in the future. There have been no confidentiality agreements entered into by the Diocese since June 2002.

To Guarantee Effective Response to Allegations of Abuse of a Minor

The Diocese has a policy in place requiring that allegations of sexual abuse be reported to civil authorities when the victim is a minor. This policy also pledges full cooperation with authorities. It was recommended the Diocese establish a policy with civil authorities about reporting allegations when the person is no longer a minor that is consistent with the interests of

both parties. The Diocese has a procedure in place to advise victims/survivors of their right to report allegations of abuse by a cleric to civil authorities. The Diocese has established a clear and well-publicized code of conduct for priests and deacons, as well as diocesan employees, volunteers, and others working with youth. The bishop has a standing policy committed to openness and transparency regarding issues involving the sexual abuse of children that includes press conferences and the use of the diocesan newspaper to address such issues.

To Ensure Accountability of Procedures

The Diocese has participated in the research study regarding the “nature and scope” of the problem of sexual abuse of minors by Catholic clergy.

To Protect the Faithful in the Future

The Diocese has selected and

implemented a safe environment program using a video on Understanding the Sexual Boundaries of the Pastoral Relationship, which is shown to clergy, employees, volunteers, and others who have frequent contact with minors. Training workshops are also conducted for parents, children and young people. The Diocese has contracted with a private firm to conduct background checks on personnel, and all checks are current. Candidates for ordination are screened and evaluated for fitness by the diocesan vocation director and the Commission on Orders and Ministries. No priest or deacon who has committed an act of sexual abuse of a minor has been transferred to another diocese for purposes of residence. The bishop has developed good liaison with the major superiors to coordinate their roles pertaining to issues surrounding allegations of sexual abuse made against a cleric member of a religious institute. Forums regarding the issue of child abuse have been arranged with mayors, judges, law enforcement, education, and social services representatives. The Diocese

see “PROGRAM” page eleven

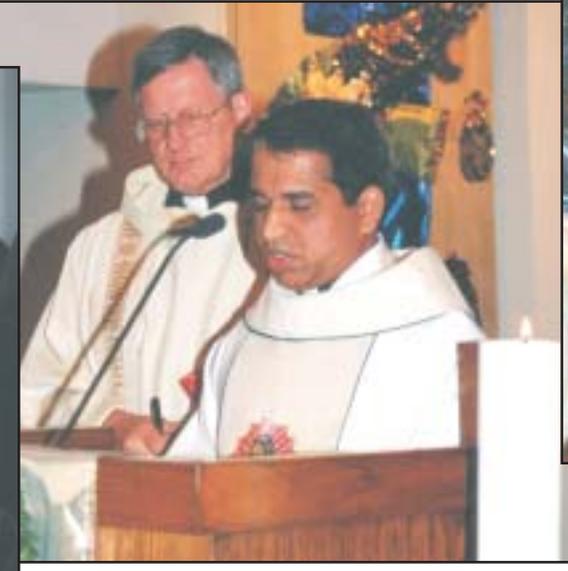


Clergy appointments for the Diocese of San Angelo

January 5, 2004



Fr. Santiago Udaar, new pastor of St. Vincent Parish in Abilene poses with members of the Parish Pastoral and Finance Councils, as well as Sr. Rebecca Otter. OP, Pastoral Associate.



Fr. Thomas Manimala, HGN, reads the Profession of Faith during his installation as Pastor of St. Francis Parish in Abilene, as the area Dean, Msgr. Fred Nawarskas, looks on.



Fr. Thomas Manimala, HGN, greets members of the Parish Pastoral and Finance Councils during his installation as Pastor of St. Francis Parish, Abilene.

SANANGELO – Clergy appointments for the Diocese of San Angelo:
Fr. Joseph Uecker, CPPS - Pastor of St. Joseph and St. Anthony, Odessa
Fr. Mark Miller, CPPS - Parochial Vicar of St. Joseph and St. Anthony, Odessa

Fr. Gilbert Rodriguez - Parochial Vicar of Our Lady of Guadalupe, Midland
Fr. Thomas Vempala, CMI - Parochial Administrator of St. Joseph, Stanton
Fr. George Thirumangalam, CMI

- Pastor of St. Patrick, Brady
Fr. Michael Udegbunam - In residence at St. Mary, Odessa
Fr. Joseph Choutapalli, HGN - Parochial Administrator of St. Margaret, San Angelo (January 15, 2004)

Fr. Joseph Choutapalli, HGN, has been named Parochial Administrator of St. Margaret's Parish, San Angelo.



NATION from page one

volunteer ministries. Especially in any ministry that involves dealing with children or at risk young adults.

The "Charter" – described in the Bishops articles – provides a comprehensive framework to put an end to the sexual abuse of minors by clergy, and to prevent it in the future, to the extent humanly possible by:

- promoting the healing and reconciliation with victims/survivors of child sexual abuse;
- guaranteeing an effective response to allegations of sexual abuse of minors;
- ensuring the accountability of the procedures adopted in the "Charter";
- protecting the faithful in the future.

To combat abuse and promote healing, this Diocese:

- appointed a victim assistance coordinator in October of 2002.
- established a review board. The

members were chosen to give Bishop Pfeifer expert advice on the Diocese's overall sex abuse policy and to deal with individual allegations;

- instituted a safe environment program. This program provides the essential safeguard of educating parents, persons with care of children, and the young people themselves in maintaining a secure environment;
- initiated programs of outreach to victims. Bishop Pfeifer is also open to hearing from victims who have not yet come forward and who wish to do so.
- requires careful screening and criminal background checks of candidates for holy orders, of all diocesan employees, and all volunteers who work in areas with regular contact with children.

The diocese is also committed to responding immediately to allegations of sexual abuse of minors and removing offenders from ministry for an established or admitted act of abuse of a minor.

It must be noted that in 1992

the bishops announced the principles that contributed a great deal to preventing future abuse. This Diocese's original policy was first adopted in 1994, and it was updated in compliance with the "Charter" with a document released on June 1, 2003, called "POLICIES ON ETHICS AND INTEGRITY IN MINISTRY." I anticipate that the John Jay Study will document that the overwhelming number of abuses throughout the nation occurred before 1992.

The commendation that the Diocese received for its ongoing effort in safeguarding the most vulnerable in our society is described on page 5 of this edition.

Sadly, we cannot change history, but we can make sure that we do not repeat it. To this end, this Diocese has conducted over 50 Ethics and Integrity Workshops since June 2003 for the clergy, employees, and volunteers in our Diocese. We are conducting parent workshops in each of our 74 parishes and missions, to make parents aware of the problem of child

sexual abuse and empower them to help prevent their own children from becoming victims. We are also conducting special sessions in our Catholic Schools and Parish Religion Programs to educate our children in how they can protect themselves from becoming victims of sexual abuse.

All priests, along with the bishops, are sorrowfully aware that the misconduct detailed in the upcoming reports of February 27, is a complete contradiction of what the priest is meant to be and what the Catholic people have a right to expect of each priest.

Whatever the study reports about the number of victims and the number of abusers – out of the tens of thousands of priests of the last 50 years – all the bishops, priests and deacons join the Catholic people in the unswerving conviction that one abuser and one victim are already one too many. The statistics for our Diocese are found in Bishop Pfeifer's article on page 4.

Ordination does not by itself

prevent sin or even criminal misconduct, or cure the compulsions that can grip disturbed men. But we can make sure that our screening of men for holy orders and those who would work or volunteer in our parishes will eliminate, to the extent humanly possible, those who would harm children and young people.

The bishops have chosen, through the steps taken in the "Charter" – including these difficult and challenging studies—to do all in their power to cleanse the Church in this country of this terrible problem, to restore trust, and to open a new era in the protection of children and young people.

Thank God, that in the Catholic Church, the doors of silence are open, and we pray that with God's grace, as we face the truth, all the measures that we have taken will help us to be a better Church, and to provide a safe, secure, and sacred environment for all of God's people, especially children.



Bishop celebrates MLK Day with ecumenical service at Cathedral

by Peter N. Micale
West Texas Angelus

SAN ANGELO – Bishop Michael D. Pfeifer, OMI, welcomed the assembled congregation and six other religious leaders of San Angelo churches to the eighteenth commemoration of the birth of Rev. Martin Luther King, Jr. at the Cathedral Church of the Sacred Heart, on January 19, 2004.

Rev. Carl Rohlfs, pastor of First United Methodist Church, delivered the principal message. Rev. W. J. McClendon, pastor of Gethsamene Baptist Church, offered the opening prayer. Rev. B. C. Young, pastor of Crenshaw Memorial IME Church read from the New Testament. The Gospel reading was presented by Rev. Joe Suiters, pastor of the Greater San Angelo IME Church. Rev. Fr. Maurice J. Voity, Rector of the Cathedral Church of the Sacred Heart pronounced the Intercessory Prayer, and Rev. W. T. Hickman, pastor of Marantha Church of God in Christ gave the Benediction prayer. The Christian Fellowship Baptist Church Choir and the First United Methodist Church Music Team sang hymns at the beginning and end of the inspiring service, as well as providing musical interludes during the service.



From l to r: Rev. Hickman, Rev Suiters, Rev. B.C. Young, Bishop Pfeifer, Rev. Rohlfs, Rev. Fr. Voity, and Rev. McClendon.



Bishop Pfeifer welcomed all with an opening reflection.



Rev. Rohlfs delivered the main message.



A second grade student from the Fort Concho School described her school drawing.

(Above) Rev. Hickman closed the service with the Benediction.



The combined choirs of the Christian Fellowship Baptist Church Choir and the First United Methodist Church Music Team sang hymns. (Photos by Peter Micale - WTA.)



Diocesan Conference Day

February 21, 2004

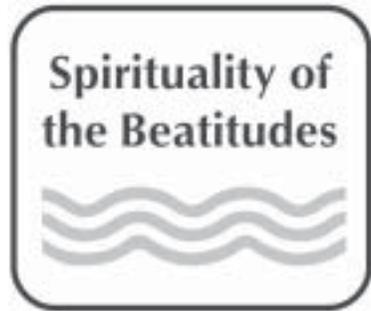
by Office of Education and Formation

SAN ANGELO – Theme: Spirituality of the Beatitudes

Utilizing a prayerful commingling of Scripture, reflection, story, activity, sharing and song, participants will be led on a journey through the Beatitudes contained in Matthew 5: 1-12.

The Beatitudes go hand in hand with the Commandments as rules for life. They reiterate the essence of who we are and to whom we belong illustrate how we are to “love the Lord our God with our whole heart, our whole soul, our whole mind, our whole strength and our whole being”; underscore and highlight how we are to “love our neighbor as ourselves.”

Using the Beatitudes as our



compass, may we successfully navigate the river of life, traveling together as sons and daughters of God.

Speakers: Bonnie & Maurice Abadie

Bonnie is currently serving her eleventh year as the Director of the Archdiocesan Catechetical Center in the Archdiocese of San Antonio, her eighteenth as member of the staff of this agency. A native San

Antonian with Louisiana roots, Bonnie is a graduate of Our Lady of the Lake University and Oblate School of Theology.

Maurice is currently in his thirtieth year of service to St. Gerard Catholic High School in San Antonio. He is in his fourth year as President having completed fourteen years as Principal and twelve as teacher. A native of New Orleans, Maurice was educated by the Redemptorist Fathers from high school through graduate school. Maurice and Bonnie have been married for sixteen years and enjoy sharing their gifts with the community of faith.

For further information, contact Vivian Book at the Diocesan Pastoral Center, (325) 651-7500.

Statement on immigration reform

by Bishop Michael Pfeifer, OMI
President of the Texas Conference of Churches

SAN ANGELO – I welcome President Bush’s decision to engage the important issue of immigration once again by issuing his January 7, 2004 proposal on immigration reform. I also commend the President for his plans to renew bilateral migration talks with the government of Mexico on this important topic. It is significant that the President recognizes that our present immigration system is broken and is in need of reform. However, it is critical that we recognize the importance of immigration reform that is comprehensive and that will truly address our current immigration crisis. In this regard, there are some serious concerns about the scope and type of reform the President has proposed.

I commend the President’s comments in which he recognizes the importance of worker protection. In addition, I welcome the President’s call for an increase in the number of available “green cards.” These represent the beginning of needed reforms.

The proposal on immigration reform is an important first step in a long overdue reform of our immigration system, but this proposal does not provide a solution to the serious problems we experience as a result of continuing undocumented migration and an immigration system that is broken. What is needed to respond to these problems is truly

see “IMMIGRATION” page ten

The Diocese of San Angelo guidelines for Lent

by Bishop Michael Pfeifer, OMI

SAN ANGELO – 1. The time of Lent is to be observed by Catholics as a special season of prayer, penance, and doing works of charity.

2. Ash Wednesday and Good Friday, in particular, are the most important penitential days of the liturgical year. They are days of both fast and abstinence. All Fridays in Lent are days of abstinence.

3. The rule of *fasting* states that only one full meal may be taken per day. Two small meals, “sufficient to maintain strength,” are allowed but together they should not

equal another full meal. Eating between meals breaks the fast but drinking liquids does not. The rule of fasting obliges all Catholics from ages 18 through 59.

4. *Abstinence* refers to the eating of meat of warm blooded animals (e.g., beef, lamb, chicken, pork). Under the present law, it does not include egg or milk products, meat broth or gravies. The rule of abstinence binds all Catholics 14 years of age or older. On days of abstinence, those who are eating in a school cafeteria may eat meat if it is served to them and there is no other main dish to choose.

5. The *substantial* observance of the laws of fast and abstinence is a serious obligation. Those whose work or health impairment make the observance difficult would be excused from fasting and abstaining. The individual conscience can decide if there is a proper cause to excuse. For more pastoral guidance on this point one may contact the local pastor. A more serious reason should be present to excuse from the Ash Wednesday and Good Friday penance.

6. Self-imposed fasting on the other weekdays of Lent is recommended. Abstinence on all Fridays of the year is also highly recommended. The Peace Pastoral of the American Bishops, stating that prayer is incomplete without penance, urges Friday abstinence as something all American Catholics should offer for the sake of world peace.

7. Parents and teachers should see to it that even those who are not bound by the laws of the fast and abstinence because of age are brought up in an atmosphere that is conducive to a sense of penance.

8. The faithful should be clearly and positively encouraged to re-

ceive the Sacrament of Penance during Lent. There should be adequate time scheduled for Confessions before Easter. Group penance services should not be scheduled for the last days of Holy Week.

9. All the faithful after they have been initiated into the Most Holy Eucharist, are bound by the obligation of receiving Communion at least once a year, ordinarily, during the Easter Season.

10. Funeral and Nuptial Masses are not allowed on Holy Thursday, Good Friday or Holy Saturday. The Funeral Rite outside of Mass, however, can be held either in church or at the chapel on those days, with a memorial Mass later.

11. The liturgical directions of the Sacramentary and the Lectionary must be faithfully observed regarding all the special Holy Week Rites.

PALMSUNDAY

• It is strongly recommended that the Blessing of the Palms with procession be celebrated at least once at the principal Sunday liturgy.

HOLY THURSDAY

• The Mass of the Lord’s Supper must be celebrated in the evening

with procession to the altar of repose.

• Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament continues until midnight.

• For pastoral reasons, one other Mass may be celebrated during the day.

GOOD FRIDAY

• The Liturgy of the Lord’s Passion should be celebrated around 3:00 pm. For pastoral reasons this celebration may be moved to a later time.

• Other paraliturgical celebrations are suggested and recommended at the discretion of the pastor (Viacrucis, 7 Palabras, Pesame a Maria, etc.)

HOLY SATURDAY

• The entire celebration of the Easter Vigil takes place at night. It should not begin before nightfall; it should end before daybreak on Sunday.

• According to the rubrics for the Easter Vigil no Eucharist may be celebrated prior to the Easter Vigil. If a pastor feels that pastoral reasons and additional Mass is needed AFTER the vigil, he may consult the Bishop for permission.

“Welcome to the Land of Dreams”
5th Annual Mardi Gras
Saturday, February 21

St. Ambrose Hall, Wall, Texas

Happy Hour, Steak & Fish Dinner 5:30-7:30 pm

Casino Games 7:30-10:30 pm

Prize Drawing, Mask Contest, Dance 10:30 pm till ?

Tickets must be purchased in advance from KC members.



Give your support to the collection for the Church in Central and Eastern Europe

by Bishop Michael D. Pfeifer, OMI

SAN ANGELO – A spiritual longing exists in societies shattered by the atheist rule of Communism. Catholics in Central and Eastern Europe are replanting the roots of faith after three generations of religious persecution. Prior to the fall of Communism, people of the Church witnessed these horrors:

- The destruction or closing of churches, monasteries and seminaries
- The near extinction of deep-rooted and vibrant religious traditions
- The exile of priests, religious and practicing laypeople to labor camps and prisons where they often died of hunger, starvation, cold or grueling work
- The end of charitable and ecclesiastical activities, which were forbidden

The Catholic Church, now the most stable institution in Eastern

Europe society, responds to the longing for moral and spiritual guidance by working to spread light in the darkness.

ROOTS OF FAITH, BOTH FRAGILE AND STRONG

The theme for the 2004 Collection to Aid the Church in Central and Eastern Europe - Roots of Faith, Both Fragile and Strong - testifies to the history and hope of solidarity with our Catholic family in the East. Proceeds from the Collection support seminaries, social service programs, youth ministry, pastoral centers, church restoration, and the spreading of the Gospel message through the press, radio and television.

Let me assure you that the aid will be spent in the most careful and economic way to save our church. Please be aware that Catholics of Pely appreciating very much your generous contributions - pray for your work to be successful in helping all other Catholic

churches of Central and Eastern Europe. Father Istvan Nagy, Renovation of a Roman Catholic Church in Hungary.

I invite you to give your generous support to the Collection and share the hope and freedom that we have been privileged to enjoy in this country. Please help to treasure the strong faith of so many Catholics in Central and Eastern Europe. Please help to nurture the still fragile restoration of the Church in the region. Please give generously to the Collection to Aid the Church in Central and Eastern Europe which will be taken up in the Diocese of San Angelo on Ash Wednesday, February 25, 2004.

May God bless you for your past generosity, and most of all keep praying for our sisters and brothers in Central and Eastern Europe who are still struggling to make a new beginning.

Roots of faith, both fragile and strong: Aid to the Church in Central and Eastern Europe

WASHINGTON – When Catholics in the United States contribute to the 2004 Collection for Aid to the Church in Central and Eastern Europe, they will be participating in a spiritual revival unlike any other. Through this collection, Catholics in America will nurture the roots of faith and help their sisters and brothers in lands where the Catholic Church was almost rooted out during decades of Communist oppression.

The Collection to Aid the Church in Central and Eastern Europe will be conducted in most Catholic parishes across the country on Ash Wednesday or the First Sunday of Lent, 2004.

Shortly after the fall of Commu-

nism, the United States Conference of Catholic Bishops established the Office to Aid the Church in Central and Eastern Europe as the Church tried to regain its footing in countries where it had been driven underground for nearly 50 years. Those who sought to destroy the Church under Communist rule did not succeed, but their attempts left a terrible trail of devastation. Priests, bishops, and lay leaders were imprisoned. Books, religious education materials, and other vehicles of evangelization all but disappeared. Convents, seminaries, and other properties were often left a shambles or converted to storage depots and barracks.

As a result of this severe repres-

sion, the bishops of the region are today faced with the formidable tasks of restoring church structures and, more importantly, of rebuilding the spiritual centers of their communities. Now, more than ever, the ecclesial needs of Catholics in Central and Eastern Europe must be tenderly cultivated.

The Collection for Aid to the Church in Central and Eastern Europe raises funds to address the spiritual reconstruction of this traumatized region-training seminarians and lay leaders, reaching out to young people, reviving Catholic charities, and renewing programs of catechesis and communication.

Since 1991, the collection has

see "ROOTS," page ten



2004 Collection to Aid the Catholic Church in Central and Eastern Europe. A spiritual longing exists in societies shattered by the atheist rule of Communism. Catholics in Central and Eastern Europe are replanting the roots of faith after three generations of religious persecution. Through the United States Conference of Catholic Bishops' Collection to Aid the Catholic Church in Central and Eastern Europe, people in the United States support the growth, restoration, and spiritual development of the faithful and their religious institutions.

Diocese thanked for last year's donation

by Office to Aid the Catholic Church in Central and Eastern Europe

November 20, 2003

WASHINGTON – As the new director of this office, I wish to express my profound thanks to you and the people of the Diocese of San Angelo for your most generous gift of \$35,134.06 to help rebuild the Catholic Church in Central and Eastern Europe.

In Central and Eastern Europe, the roots of faith, tested by years of oppression, are quite strong. At the same time, the faith there is fragile and in need of nurturing. The Church relies for help in this work on the unstinting generosity of American Catholics. We can point to important progress, especially in the areas of priestly and religious formation, religious communication and evangelization, catechesis and social ministry.

While much has been done already, there is so much more yet to do. We are most grateful for the support that you and your people are giving to these efforts. I take it as a particularly positive sign that in these difficult and uncertain times American Catholics give concrete witness of their compassionate concern for the universal Church. Their support year after year of the still fragile restoration of the Church in Central and Eastern Europe fills Catholics there with confidence and Gospel hope.

Thank you once again for this sign of solidarity with a people so much in need.

Rev. James M. McCann, S.J.
Executive Director



Intentions of the Holy Father for February

General – For peaceful coexistence among Christians, Jews and Moslems in the Holy Land.

Mission – That in Oceania priestly and religious vocations for evangelization in the local Churches may receive special care.

families to reunite in a timely fashion.

As the President acknowledged in his comments, immigrants and their families benefit our nation economically, culturally, and socially. As the President's plan also recognizes, legal status for immigrants contributes to our national security.

Immigrants from lands across the globe have helped build our great nation. Newcomers have contributed to our nation by strengthening our cultural and social fabric by adding their energy and ideas to our economy. There is an urgent need to advocate for just policies that respect the human rights of immigrants and preserve the unity of the immigrant family, including due process rights, fair naturalization procedures, and legalization opportunities.

I call upon all Christians and citizens of good will to heed our Lord's call and challenge: "For I was a stranger, and you welcomed me." [Mt.25:35]

ENSEÑANDO

from page two

Como hay muchas cosas que cada uno de nosotros podemos hacer para ayudar a los que están enfermos, hay muchas cosas que podemos hacer para ayudar a los enfermos mentales. La primera cosa que debemos hacer es educarnos. Es importante aprender de la enfermedad que ha sido diagnosticada, como cada una es muy diferente. Estar presente y afirmar a los enfermos mentales es una manera fuerte de ayudarlos tratar con su aflicción, y quizás superarla.

Escuchando, y escuchando, y escuchando mas a veces es la mejor medicina que podemos ofrecer a una persona que esta luchando con una enfermedad mental. Nun-

ca debemos juzgar a una persona que esta sufriendo con está enfermedad, y debemos permitir que esa persona tenga sus sentimientos sin decir que son buenos o malos.

La fe en un factor importante en ayudar los enfermos mentales a resolver su aflicción. Por eso es necesario rezar con ellos y por ellos. Escucha tu corazón en vez de estereotipar a los enfermos mentales, y deja que Cristo guíe todos tus esfuerzos.

ROOTS

from page nine

provided more than \$75 million to Catholics in post-communist Russia and Central and Eastern Europe. These funds have supported more than 3,500 church projects in more than 20 countries: Albania, Armenia, Belarus, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Bulgaria, Croatia, the Czech Republic, Estonia, Georgia, Hungary, Kazakhstan, Latvia, Lithuania, Macedonia, Moldova, Poland, Romania, Russia, Slovakia, Slovenia, Ukraine, and Yugoslavia.

Unfortunately, many of these countries continue to have serious economic problems. Rampant poverty hinders church rebuilding and catechetical efforts. While the people hunger for spiritual sustenance, educational materials are scarce, seminaries and convents are desperately short of funds to train eager young men and women, and outreach programs are in short supply.

Much has been done already, but there is so much more yet to do. If Catholics in the United States respond in 2004 as they have for the past 13 years through the Collection to Aid the Church in Central and Eastern Europe, their generous efforts will continue to sustain the roots of faith and the new seeds of hope in this recovering part of the world.

Diocesan LIMEX celebration held for new graduates

by Sr. Hilda Marotta, O.S.F. Office of Education and Formation

SANANGELO—Family, friends, parishioners and Diocesan staff gathered at Christ the King Retreat Center on January 29th for the Diocesan LIMEX celebration. S. Joan Markus, SSND, former Director of Education and Formation and facilitator of the LIMEX Group was also present for the celebration. Seven graduates, who completed the Master Degree Program from Loyola University in New Orleans, LA, were recognized. Two graduates, Kay David from Our Lady of Grace, Dyess Air Force Base and Deborah Michaelwicz from St. Therese, Carlsbad, earned a Master of Religious Education. Five

graduates, Tracy Baker from St. Joseph, San Angelo, Becky Benes from Holy Angels, San Angelo, Linda Dye from St. Therese, Carlsbad, Mary Ann Lewis and Leslie Mueller from St. Ambrose, Wall, earned a Master of Pastoral Studies.

The evening celebration consisted of three parts. During the first part of the celebration, each graduate shared a symbol of what LIMEX meant and how each had grown over the past four years. The sharing revealed the wonderful work of God in their lives. This was followed by a festive celebration of Eucharist with Bishop Michael Pfeifer presiding. After Eucharist, a delicious dinner, served by Christ the King Retreat Center staff, was

enjoyed by all present. The celebration was truly joy-filled.

LIMEX is a professionally oriented four-year program of graduate education sponsored by Loyola University of New Orleans. This long-distance learning program is a unique, creative educational process that provides an opportunity for adults to attain advanced degrees with the use of technology and established learning groups. This program is especially valuable in dioceses such as ours where there are no Catholic institutions of higher learning.

This program was initiated in the Catholic Diocese of San Angelo in 1995 as a response to a need for professionally qualified persons to assist with various ministries in parishes. In 1998, eighteen graduates from our diocese completed their graduate studies through the LIMEX Program. With this celebration, seven more graduates, totaling twenty-five, have graduated from Loyola University, New Orleans.

IMMIGRATION

from page nine

comprehensive immigration reform that will provide opportunities for legalization for the undocumented currently living in the United States, temporary worker programs with full worker protections and a path to permanency, as well as a reform of our family immigration system that will allow immigrant

The Five Ws of Natural Family Planning (NFP) will be held February 20 and 21

SAN ANGELO – Thanks to the coordination of Mr. Noe and Mrs. Shirley Rocha, the Office of Family Life of the Diocese of San Angelo will sponsor, free of charge, two days dedicated to the Who, What, When, Where, and Why of Natural Family Planning (NFP).

Dr. Daniel McDonald, Dr. William Mueller, and Mrs. Dolores Clark, MSN, experts in NFP, will spearhead two days of workshops for pastors, pastoral coordinators, pastoral associates, deacons, pre-deacon candidates, Engaged Encounter personnel, Catholic physicians, marriage preparation coordinators, high school CCD teachers, sponsor couples and the general public.

Pre-registration required. Deadline: February 15, 2004, Donations are accepted. Registration will begin at 6:00 pm on Friday, February 20th and the retreat will begin at 7:00 pm.

Please send pre-registration to: Christ the King Retreat Center, 802 Ford St., San Angelo, TX 76905 (325) 651-5352.



On Tuesday January 13, 2004 Bishop Michael Pfeifer came to St. Ann's Midland to bless the new office building. Msgr. Timothy Murphy, Father Rodney White and Sister Denise Dubois assisted the bishop with reading of the Word as the



choir led those in attendance with music. Bishop Michael said, "This is an administrative building. In the word administrative we find the word ministry that is a good word for this building as it will house those that minister to it's church community" then he blessed all those that attended and the building. A reception was held for the parish members after the tour of the building.

On February 5, at a special service at St. Ann's Parish, Bishop Pfeifer named the new building the Monsignor Timothy F. Murphy Ministry building.

have his or her feelings without labeling them good or bad.

Overcoming mental illness takes time, and everyone is different, and the primary thing is to just be kind to the person and to be patient and not be pushy. Mental illness tends to isolate people for a number of reasons, so it is important to be present to the person who is struggling with this affliction.

Faith is an important factor in helping the mentally ill to deal with their affliction. That is why it is most helpful to pray with them and for them. Listen to your heart instead of stereotyping the mental illness, and let Christ guide all your efforts.

(Taken from Article - *Mental Illness is just an Illness* - Pastoral Life, December 1999.)

PROGRAM

from page five

has a systematic, ongoing formation program in keeping with the *Basic Plan for the Ongoing Formation of Priests* (2001).

Compliance with the Provisions of the Charter

At the conclusion of this audit, the Diocese of San Angelo was issued one Recommendation and one Commendation.

RECOMMENDATION - That the Diocese develop a policy for reporting and cooperating with civil authorities that is consistent with the interests of both parties.

COMMENDATION - For the foresight, resourcefulness, and expertise demonstrated in creating and implementing the current written policy regarding the abuse of minors.

As of December 1, 2003, this Recommendation had been addressed. The Diocese of San Angelo is found to be compliant with the provisions of the Charter as measured by the process described in Chapter 2 in Section I.

The compliance audit measured activity that has occurred since the adoption of the Charter in June 2002 with the exception of certain mandated actions found in Articles 5 and 14. Actions taken by the diocese/eparchy prior to June 2002 to address allegations of sexual abuse of minors by priests and deacons are not included in this summary report.

LEADERS

from page four

of saying that the two studies already mentioned - the National Audit and the John Jay Study - put the Catholic Church at the forefront of other institutions when it comes to forthrightness and openness about the sexual abuse problem.

Since the publication of the *Charter and Essential Norms*, I have had many meetings with the priests and people of our Diocese to discuss this critical matter. I have also had many meetings with the media to discuss in a frank and open manner this issue that has brought much pain to our Church. I have pointed out that the media did the Church a favor by helping to put the spotlight on this terrible evil that was often hidden by secrecy and silence. At the same time, I must point out that on several occasions, the media, primarily the print media, have approached this issue with a bias, unfair reporting, and sensationalism. Often when the Catholic Bishops have made positive statements, or when a National Audit demonstrates the aggressive and creative actions that the Church has taken and will continue to take to address this evil, the coverage by the media has been lukewarm and buried inside the pages of newspapers. As the Church now leads the way in taking responsibility and accountability for this horrendous problem that is prevalent in all of society, I strongly encourage other churches, professions, businesses, government, schools, military, civilian organizations, and the media to do similar studies so as to discover the true facts of sexual abuse in our American society as a whole. I especially encourage the media at a national and local level to consider doing a Compliance Audit and a similar John Jay study that would cover the past 50 years addressing in an open and public way the cases of sexual abuse and sexual misconduct of media people. This is a time for all segments of society to address the truth of the magnitude of sexual abuse that is prevalent in society. We have only touched the tip of the iceberg.

One-third of women in our country are sexually abused before they reach the age of 18. How many

millions of women are represented in this percentage? Also, one-fourth of men in our country are sexually abused before they reach 18. How many millions of men does this represent? Sadly, most sexual abuse happens right in the home, which should be a safe haven, and most abusers are married men. Silence and secrecy are the locked doors that hide the true fact about this critical issue that must be a concern for all people in all places. The Catholic Church, through sad experiences, was forced to come to grips with this evil. It is our sincere hope that American society will face this horrendous problem with the same zeal and commitment that the Catholic Church is demonstrating.

We pray that with God's grace, as we face the truth and implement in a responsible and accountable way all the necessary measures, that this will help us to be a better Church and to provide a safe, secure, and sacred environment for all of God's people, especially children. We need pro-active policies and programs, but most of all, we need the grace of God to help us deal with this moral evil. Jesus our Good Shepherd is always there to guide us, and Mary our Mother will watch over us.

REACHING

from page two

Jesus, is simply to care for anyone who finds himself or herself in trouble.

While we cannot fully understand why God allows mental suffering, and other sufferings in our world, we do know that our God is a God of love. In all of our sufferings, Christ invites us to come to him for refreshment and comfort - "Come to me all you who labor and are burdened, and I will give you rest."

As Christians, we should all remember that God heals both directly, and through all of us as we extend our hands to those in need. By making ourselves available to people who are suffering, we can act as instruments of God's love here on earth. The care and love of loved ones is an important factor in helping those who struggle with mental illness. Sad to say, often close family and friends disappear from the life of the person who is diagnosed with mental illness. No

matter how severe the symptoms of the patients' illness are, loved ones are still critically important in their lives, and are a great potential for recovery.

As there are many things that each one of us can do to help anyone who is sick, there are many things we can do to help the mentally ill. The first thing we need to do is to educate ourselves. It is important to learn about the illness that has been diagnosed, as each one is very different. Being present and affirming to those who are mentally ill is a strong way of helping them to deal with their affliction and even to overcome it. It is important to send cards to those who are mentally ill, to visit them and to try to do with them some of the things that one is accustomed to do with them. Another important help in assisting the mentally ill is to make time to listen. Listening, and listening, and listening even more is sometimes the best medicine. We should never judge a person who is struggling with this illness, and to allow that person to

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SUPPORT & FRIENDSHIP



Odessa Catholic School receives tuition grant

by Rev. Mark Woodruff
 ODESSA – Tuition for needy students at St. Mary’s Central Catholic School here received an enormous boost in January. The Daughters of Charity of St. Louis, Mo. awarded the school a grant of \$5,300.00 for its most needy students.

The grant was presented at the school’s January school board meeting by Sister Elizabeth Merkel on behalf of the Daughters of Charity. Sister Elizabeth and Sister Rita Mae Kelly, both members of the Daughters of Charity, teach at the school.

The Daughters of Charity have a long tradition of assisting St. Mary’s School. Five years ago a Daughters’ grant built the school’s Wellness Center (gym) and tuition assistance to lower-income families has continued through the years, for which the school is most grateful.

Another unique gift also appeared at the school board meeting. This was a statue of the school’s



SCHOOL BOARD MEMBERS ADMIRE GIFT: The Marian statue, a gift of Bishop Michael Pfeifer to St. Mary’s Central Catholic School, receives approving glances from school board members, from left to right, Lee Minyard, Mary Jaramillo, Miguel Enriquez, Ann Garrett, Joe Salmon, Judy Gonzales and Scott Hubert. (Photo by Fr. Mark Woodruff)

patron, Mary, along with the child Jesus, a “late Christmas gift” from Bishop Michael D. Pfeifer, OMI, bishop of San Angelo. The fibreglass statue will be placed outside the school when an appropriate place is found.

School board business included

a report on a slight but welcome rise in enrollment (to 175 students) and plans for Casino Night on Saturday, February 21. The annual fundraiser is sponsored by the Knights of Columbus and is held at St. Mary’s Wellness Center on the school grounds.

Pelzel agency earns top honors from Catholic Life Insurance

by Ashlee N. Tondre
 Catholic Life Insurance

SAN ANTONIO – Pelzel Insurance Agency of San Angelo, Texas, was honored recently by Catholic Life Insurance, the nation’s 9th largest fraternal benefit society.

The agency was named one of the top “General Agencies of the Year” during the 2004 Leaders Conference. The three-day conference was held January 16-19, 2004, at the Lakeway Inn Conference Center in Austin, Texas

The Pelzel Agency is managed by Larry G. Pelzel, FIC, of San Angelo. Pelzel has been associated with Catholic Life Insurance since November 1973.

As one of the General Agencies of the Year, agency associates lead the company in life and annuity sales production and service. These individuals include Wilbert Jost, FIC, of Wall, Arnold and Alice Frerich, FIC of Rowena, Elvera

Hoelscher, FIC of Levelland, Floyd Frerich, FIC of San Angelo, Dennis and Deborah Schraeder, FIC of Garden City, Tommy Hoelscher, FIC of Garden City, Edmund Klepac, FIC of San Angelo, Alice Frerich, FIC of Rowena and Gerald Wayne Jost of Wall.

Founded in 1901, Catholic Life Insurance is the nation’s 9th largest fraternal life insurer. The San Antonio-based company offers life insurance, retirement annuities, IRAs and fraternal benefits to individuals, families, and businesses. The company is financially strong with assets exceeding \$550 million and insurance-in-force surpassing \$1.6 billion.

Position Vacancy

The Diocese of San Angelo is seeking a qualified candidate to fill the position of Diocesan Business Manager by April 1, 2004. This position reports to the Diocesan Finance Officer and works in close collaboration with the Diocesan Comptroller.

Primary responsibilities include management of diocesan insurance, buildings/grounds, personnel benefits, computer information systems, office equipment, and grant writing.

The successful Business Manager candidate will have a bachelor’s degree in Business Administration or a related field with a minimum of five (5) years of experience. A master’s degree is preferred. Extensive familiarity with Excel, Access and Word is required. Salary is commensurate with experience, excellent benefits.

Qualified applicants should send their resume by February 20, 2004 to Mr. Mike Wyse, Diocesan Personnel Coordinator, Diocese of San Angelo, 804 Ford Street, San Angelo, TX 76902-1829.

Odessa parish honors deacon on 25th anniversary

by Rev. Mark Woodruff

ODESSA – Twenty-five years ago, Odessa’s Alan Neff was ordained a permanent deacon for the Diocese of San Angelo. On Sunday, January 25, 2004, parishioners of St. Elizabeth Ann Seton Parish, where Deacon Alan has ministered since its establishment, honored him and his wife, Dolly, at a parish-wide luncheon after the 11:30 morning Mass.

The celebration included a dinner cooked by team of men with salads and desserts provided by parishioners. The staff presented a festive deacon stole and many grateful parishioners gave other gifts. St. Elizabeth’s pastor, Fr. Mark Woodruff, expressed his personal appreciation for Deacon Alan’s presence and dedicated service to the parish.

Alan Neff was an active parishioner of St. Mary’s Parish in Odessa

when he was admitted to the second permanent deacon class. Sponsored by the Diocese of San Angelo, the class began in September 1976 with sessions held at the old Ramada Inn on North Oakes Street. Deacon Alan was among the many men ordained at Cathedral Church of the Sacred Heart on January 28, 1979. Archbishop Patrick Flores was the ordaining prelate in place of Bishop Stephen A. Leven who was convalescing from surgery at the time.

Following his ordination, Deacon Alan served at St. Mary’s Parish, Odessa. In August 1982 he became the first permanent deacon at the newly formed St. Elizabeth Ann Seton in the northeastern portion of Odessa, serving under Father James



DEACON ALAN NEFF and his wife, Dolly, were honored at Deacon Alan’s 25th anniversary of his diaconal ordination at St. Elizabeth Ann Seton parish in Odessa. (Photo by Fr. Mark Woodruff)

Bridges. In addition to involvement in the parish, Deacon Alan was active in the formation of the citywide Catholic Charities in the early 1980s.

On April 1, 1988, the then-stockbroker with A. G. Edwards and Sons and former sales representative for

Texas Blue Cross/Blue Shield made a significant career change by joining the full-time staff of St. Elizabeth Ann Seton Parish.

His first title was pastoral associate. In 1993 he took on the title of business manager for the parish, overseeing the business and maintenance affairs of the growing parish.

Deacon Alan has performed other duties outside the parish. Since 1991 he has been the Deacon Director for the Diocese of San Angelo, a position he will soon turn over to other hands to devote more time to his own parish and other ministries.

Deacon Alan is married to Dolly Neff. They are parents of four children and have four grandchildren.