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# ANGELUS

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**ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED**

## Report on sexual abuse in schools cries out for attention and action

by Bishop Michael Pfeifer, OMI

SAN ANGELO – The recent report that was given to Congress by Professor Charol Shakeshaft of Hofstra University in Huntington, New York brings out that more than 4.5 million students endured sexual misconduct by employees at their schools, from inappropriate jokes all the way to forced sex. Sexual Abuse of students in public schools has reached an epidemic level, but this critical issue has not received sufficient attention from the media, nor from school authorities. This astounding and frightful report about the abuse-much of it criminal-of our children in our schools received little reporting by the media, whereas it should have been the top

story-the main headline-throughout our country when the report was issued.

The Shakeshaft report was the first to analyze research about sexual misconduct at schools. The Shakeshaft study indicates that nearly one in ten kids faces misbehavior ranging from unprofessional to criminal sometimes between kindergarten and 12th grade. “Most people just don’t think this can really happen,” said Shakeshaft, hired by the U.S. Education Department to study the prevalence of sexual abuse in schools. This important study brings out that sexual misconduct in whatever form it takes is a serious problem in our nation’s schools and one about which taxpayers have the right to be informed. Now is the

time for action by our government, school authorities, parents and Church leaders to address this critical issue of sexual abuse in our schools, much of which is classified as criminal.

The U.S. Department of Education believes that the topic of sexual abuse is of critical importance and that releasing the Hofstra Report is clearly in the public’s best interest. The overwhelming majority of America’s educators are true professionals doing what might be called the essential work of democracy. However, the magnitude of sexual abuse in our public schools needs the immediate attention and action by all.

In a recent article that I wrote, I stressed the

need for all groups and agencies of society to come together to address sexual abuse, which is like a cancer that is so prevalent in our society. I pointed out in my reflections that now the Catholic Church is inviting other agencies and institutions to join in the Church’s efforts by addressing together the critical question of sexual abuse of minors, which is so prevalent in society, and for other agencies to do similar studies which the Catholic Church has done as regards clergy sexual abuse. We know from various sources that abuse of children is a public health crisis in the United States, but there is very little information on studies or reliable statistics covering scores of years about how many people in specific professions are abusers. Sexual abuse is a societal problem, one the Church can now help ameliorate.

During the past two years, the spotlight has been on the Catholic Church as regards sexual

**see “ABUSE,” page four**

## The San Angelo Standard-Times endorses a pro-abortion position

by Bishop Michael D. Pfeifer, OMI, and Mr. Peter Micale, editor WTA

SAN ANGELO – In its editorial, “In Our Opinion,” on Monday, June 14, 2004, the Editorial Board of the San Angelo Standard-Times featured a story, “Time to change stem-cell policy.” The official opinion of the Standard-Times in its article was that the federal government should provide funding for stem-cell research taken from human embryos. While not openly admitting this, this would involve the killing of hundreds of thousands of human embryos for research. The Standard-Times in particular criticized President Bush and his team for not providing more federal funds for stem cells taken from human embryos. This is the first time in

our recollection that the Standard Times has openly taken a position that is pro abortion.

The publication of this editorial has led to much dialogue between the Catholic Diocese of San Angelo, including the Bishop, and the Standard-Times about its position of endorsing the use of embryos for research, which in the process, would kill the human embryo, which is abortion. Pope John Paul II has condemned this grave evil of destroying human embryos for research, rightly calling it eugenic abortion that recalls the horrific attempt by a madman to create a master race in the twentieth century.

Because of the moral gravity of this editorial the Diocese had asked The Standard-Times in journalistic fairness to feature an-

other “In Our Opinion” column which would give a pro-life side to this critical issue. To date the Editorial Board has refused to accept this recommendation. Sadly, it was pointed out in our dialogue that the local Editorial Board selected the column they featured from a number sent from their parent company, Scripps Howard. In other words, they weren’t obliged to publish what they put in “In Our Opinion.” The editor has stated that he does not see this as favoring abortion, but rather encouraging federal funding for stem cell research. We have strongly encouraged the Editor to write a clarifying position, that would simply add one word adult-which would read, funding for adult stem cell research, as this would bring clarity to

this matter. However, the main context of the editorial, “In Our opinion, “ was about embryonic stem cell research and taking President Bush to task about his decision to not fund this kind of research.

Several weeks later the Standard Times, after apparent pressure from readers, did feature a national columnist and a political cartoon that took the opposite position of the “In Our opinion” column. Additionally, in reply to this column, the Knights of Columbus of three Councils of the San Angelo area sent a Letter to the Editor, signed by 72 people. This letter was featured in The San Angelo Standard-Times on June 25, 2004. The Bishop also sent a Letter to the Editor about this critical matter, and it was printed on July 15, 2004. We present for your reflection, in the accompanying boxes, the letters of the Knights of Columbus and the Bishop in opposition to The Standard-Times. We thank our brother Knights for speaking for

**see “ENDORSES” page eight**



# The blessings and trials of the vocation of parenthood

# Las bendiciones y pruebas de la vocación de la paternidad y maternidad

By Bishop Michael D. Pfeifer, OMI

Por el Obispo Miguel D. Pfeifer, OMI

As all parents know, their vocation is filled with many blessings, and at the same time, there are many trials. Parenting can be described as a "life of agony and ecstasy."

In their good moments, children bring feelings of richness and joy to the lives of parents. However, when they misbehave, they can challenge their parents to remain faithful to the standards of behavior they have set for themselves and to respond in the most helpful way possible. From time to time, children bring parents such uncertainty that there is nowhere to turn, except to lean on God for assurance and encouragement. It is during these times of trial that parents grow the most.

Parenthood packs a rich abundance of living into a few wonderfully hectic years. In the loving intimacy of marriage, a couple blends their miraculous human endowment and generate with God new life. Then within the short span of about twenty years, parents nurture this life from a condition of complete parental dependency to the physical, emotional, intellectual and spiritual maturity that enables their children to go out on their own into the adult world.

Since the beginning of time, parenting has always been a challenging vocation, a vocation that is at the heart of family and society. Parents need to work for and build on the positive qualities they see in their children, and to know how important, how worthwhile their vocation is. Christian parents need to turn often to the ideal parents, Mary and Joseph, for their assistance and to imitate their example. Mary and Joseph were entrusted to be the parents of the most unique person who ever walked this earth. Their son, Jesus Christ, gives all parents the grace and strength they need to carry out their vocation of parenting. It is by imitating these good parents, Mary and Joseph, and so many other saints who were parents, that today's parents can receive inspiration and encouragement to fulfill their critical and important role of parenting in our world.



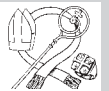
Como todos los padres saben, su vocación está llena de muchas bendiciones, y al mismo tiempo, hay muchas pruebas. La paternidad y maternidad se describen como una "vida de agonía y éxtasis."

En sus momentos buenos, los niños traen sentimientos de riqueza y alegría a las vidas de los padres de familias. Sin embargo, cuando se portan mal, pueden desafiar a sus padres a continuar ser fieles a los criterios de comportamiento que han establecido para ellos mismos y para responder en la manera más atenta posible. De vez en cuando, los niños traen incertidumbre a los padres de familias que no hay ninguna solución, excepto apoyarse en Dios para seguridad y animo. Es durante este tiempo de pruebas cuando los padres crecen más.

La paternidad y maternidad cargan una rica abundancia de vivir en unos pocos años maravillosos y agitados. En la amorosa intimidad del matrimonio, una pareja mezcla su milagroso don humano y genera con Dios vida nueva. Luego en el periodo corto de unos veinte años, los padres alimentan esta vida de una condición de dependencia completa de paternidad y maternidad a la madurez física, emocional, intelectual y espiritual que capacite a los niños que se vayan solos en el mundo de adultos.

Desde el empiezo del tiempo, la paternidad y maternidad siempre han sido una vocación desafiante, una vocación que está en el corazón de la familia y la sociedad. Los padres necesitan trabajar por construir sobre las cualidades positivas que ellos ven en sus niños, y saber que importante, que digna su vocación es. Los padres Cristianos necesitan acercarse muy seguido a los padres ideales, María y José, para su asistencia y para cumplir la vocación de paternidad y maternidad. María y José fueron confiados para ser los padres de la persona más única que caminó este mundo. Es por imitar a estos padres buenos, María y José, y tantos otros santos que fueron padres de familia, que los padres de hoy pueden recibir inspiración y animo para cumplir con su critico e importante papel de la paternidad y maternidad en nuestro mundo.

## The Bishop's Schedule



### August 2004

- August 1: Belleville, Illinois - Healing Mass at Our Lady of the Snows Shrine
- August 2: San Angelo, Diocesan Pastoral Center - Staff Mass at 8:30 a.m. and Staff meeting at 11:00 a.m.
- August 3-4: Dallas - Supreme Convention of the Knights of Columbus
- August 5: San Angelo, Diocesan

- Pastoral Center - Personnel Board Meeting at 11:00 a.m. St. Lawrence, St. Lawrence - Mass for Farmers at 6:30 p.m.
- August 8: Knickerbocker, Immaculate Conception - Mass at 8:15 a.m.
- August 9-11: Rest and Prayer
- August 12: Odessa, St. Elizabeth - Meet with Pastors of Odessa about St. Mary's Central Catholic School at 11:00 a.m.
- August 15: Coleman, Sacred Heart - 60th Priestly Anniversary Mass of Father Lawrence Cyr, CPPS

- at 5:00 p.m.
- August 16: Wall, St. Ambrose - Lunch and Meet with Priests of the San Angelo Deanery at 11:00 a.m.
- August 17: San Angelo, Holy Angels - Speak to RCIA at 6:30 p.m.
- August 18: Big Spring, St. Thomas - Lunch and Meet with Priests of the Midland/Odessa Deanery at 11 a.m.
- August 19: Winters, Our Lady of Mt. Carmel - Lunch and Meet with Priests of the Abilene Deanery at 11:00 a.m.
- August 21: San Angelo, Catholic Schools Commission meeting at 9:00 a.m.
- August 22: Loraine, St. Joseph - Mass to celebrate Mission's 80th anniversary at 12:00 noon
- August 24: San Angelo, Diocesan Pastoral Center - Presbyteral Council meeting at 11:00 a.m. Meeting of Cathedral Church of the Sacred Heart Endowment Committee at 7:00 p.m.
- August 25: Stanton, St. Joseph - Confirmation at 6:30 p.m.

- August 26: San Angelo, Bishop's Residence - Dinner for Priests and Sisters and Diocesan Staff at 6:00 p.m.
- August 27: San Angelo, Cathedral Church of the Sacred Heart - Mass for Students of Angelo Catholic School at 8:30 a.m.
- August 28: Ozona, Our Lady of Perpetual Help - 75th Anniversary Mass of parish at 11:00 a.m.
- August 29: San Angelo, Christ the King Retreat Center - Deacons' Retreat Mass at 11:00 a.m.
- August 30: Dallas - Meeting of the Texas Conference of Church and the Baptist General Convention of Texas at 10:00 a.m.
- August 31: San Antonio - Meeting of Texas Bishops with the Bishops of Northern Province of Mexico
- September 2004**
- September 1: San Antonio - Oblate Renewal Center - Joint meeting of Texas Bishops and Bishops of Northern Mexico
- September 3-5: Los Angeles - Wedding
- September 6: San Angelo - Ca-

- thedral Church of the Sacred Heart - Labor Day Mass at 9:00 a.m.
- September 7-9: Chicago - Catholic Church Extension Society Mission Conference
- September 10: San Angelo, Diocesan Pastoral Center - Mass for Staff at 8:30 a.m. 9/11 Memorial Site - Ecumenical Prayer Service at 10:00 a.m.
- September 11 Midland - Pro-Life Mass at Garden across from Planned Parenthood - 9:30 a.m.
- September 12 Ballinger, St. Mary - Mass 8:45 a.m.
- September 13 San Angelo, Diocesan Pastoral Center - Staff Meeting at 11:00 a.m.
- September 14 Odessa, St. Mary School - Mass for Students at 2:00 p.m.
- September 15 Midland, St. Ann's School - Mass for Students at 8:30 a.m.
- September 19 San Angelo, St. Margaret - Mass at 10:30 a.m.
- September 21-22 Belton - Texas Conference of Churches - CJL Re-see "SCHEDULE" page ten

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# Mass honors service of chaplains from World War II through today

by Maureen Boyle  
Catholic News Service

WASHINGTON (CNS) – The Catholic military chaplain is a priest who lives out a “vocation within a vocation,” said Archbishop Edwin F. O’Brien of the U.S. Archdiocese for the Military Services during a Mass of thanksgiving for the contributions and sacrifices of chaplains from World War II through today.

“No priest lives more in the midst of his people than the military chaplain,” said Archbishop O’Brien in his homily June 27 at St. Patrick’s Church in Washington. “As chaplain, he embraces every hardship and

helps them find God.” Concelebrating the Mass were Auxiliary Bishops Joseph J. Madera and Francis X. Roque of the military archdiocese; Msgr. Peter Vaghi, pastor of St. Patrick’s; and military chaplains and several archdiocesan priests.

Also in attendance were District of Columbia Mayor Anthony Williams; Gen. Alexander Haig Jr., the former NATO commander and U.S. secretary of state; and a number of war veterans.

Archbishop O’Brien read a letter he received from a chaplain serving in Iraq. The priest, who celebrated Mass for a company of Marines after

an ambush, wrote: “Despite being wounded, they had such faith. There was a hunger in their eyes as the Scriptures were read. There was a tremendous sense of the Lord’s presence.” Prior to the Mass, a military honor guard representing the Army, Navy, Marines, Air Force and Coast Guard processed up St. Patrick’s main aisle. As the colors were being presented, the choir and the congregation sang the national anthem. Some of the veterans present for the Mass served as readers and gift bearers.

During World War II, Archbishop  
**see “CHAPLAINS” page nine**

# Basic Formation Cycle Begins in Abilene Deanery

by Sr. Hilda Marotta, O.S.F.

SAN ANGELO – A new cycle (two years) of Diocesan Basic Formation will begin at St. Francis Parish, Abilene in August, 2004. All interested persons are welcome and

encouraged to attend these adult faith formation sessions. This is an excellent opportunity for adult education for persons who participate in any church ministry but especially for anyone who catechizes

at any level. A commitment to the two-year cycle is required. There are monthly sessions that begin at 8:45 A.M. and conclude at 4:00 P.M. Sessions include prayer, input on specific content, reflection time, small and large group discussion and journaling. Input and materials are in English. Small group discussion can be in Spanish if needed. Each session is \$10.00. Payment is worked out with the participant and pastor/pastoral leader. For more information contact your pastor/pastoral leader or call the Office of education and Formation at 325-651-7500. The Basic Formation schedule is listed below.

**BASIC FORMATION - St. Francis Parish, Abilene**

Year I 2004 - Aug 21- Ministry, Sept 25 - Personhood 1, Oct 16 - Personhood 2, Nov 6 - Spirituality 1, Dec 4 - Spirituality 2; 2005 - Jan 8 - Spirituality 3, Feb 5 - Hebrew Scripture I, Mar 5 - Hebrew Scripture 2, Apr 2 - Hebrew Scripture 3, May 7 - Hebrew Scripture 4

Year II 2005 - Aug 20- Christian Scripture 1, Sept 10- Christian Scripture 2, Oct 1- Christian Scripture 3, Nov 5- Christology 1, Dec 3- Christology 2; 2006 - Jan 7- Church 1, Feb 4- Church 2, Mar 4- Sacraments 1, Apr 1- Sacraments 2, May 6- Retreat

# St. Ann’s Youth went on a mission trip.



Back row: Michael Friday, Alex Sanchez, Naomi Kincheloe, Cameron Gasser. Front row: Tim Wiggins, Laura Chiles, Virginia Hymel, Rachel Earl and Espy Vanegas. (Photo by Lucie Valles.)

by Lucie Valles

MIDLAND – St. Ann’s Youth recently went on a weeklong mission trip. Together with the other 300 students they assisted 56 homes with major and minor repair. The 9 students roofed, painted and built wheelchair ramps for elderly and economically challenged residents in Artesia, NM. “We painted their houses but they colored our lives,” said Espy Vanegas, one of the St. Ann’s students that attended! It was a great and beneficial experience to both students and residents!

## Evangelization Workshop

### Share Your Faith

A workshop for “everyday Catholics” who want to know how to Share Their Faith.

**Saturday Sept 18, 2004:**

Holy Angels, San Angelo, 9:00 am - 11:30 am

St. Vincent, Abilene, 2:00 pm - 4:30 pm

**Sunday Sept 19, 2004:**

Our Lady/San Juan, Midland, 2:00 pm - 4:30 pm

The workshop will be presented in English & Spanish.

Presenters are S. Louise Alff, FMDC and Alma Garcia from RENEW International.

## Comparte Tu Fe

Un taller para católicos que desean saber como Compartir Su Fe.

**Sábado -18 de septiembre de 2004:**

Holy Angels, San Angelo, 9:00 am - 11:30 am

St. Vincent, Abilene, 2:00 pm - 4:30 pm

**Domingo -19 de septiembre de 2004:**

Our Lady of San Juan, Midland, 2:00 pm - 4:30 pm

Este taller será presentado en inglés y español. Los presentantes son S. Louise Alff, FMDC y Alma Garcia de RENACER Internacional.

# Advanced Formation Cycle Begins in Midland/Odessa Deanery

by Sr. Hilda Marotta, O.S.F.

SAN ANGELO – Advanced Formation sessions are scheduled for the Midland/Odessa Deanery. These are adult faith formation opportunities. All persons are welcome to attend. However, only those persons who have earned a BASIC CERTIFICATE will be able to earn the ADVANCED CERTIFICATE if completed. If one chooses to attend all the sessions and has not earned a BASIC CERTIFICATE, one can attend BASIC sessions when scheduled in the area. Both certificates will be conferred upon completion of the BASIC sessions. The content, site and dates for the Advances Sessions are listed below.

**ADVANCED FORMATION - St. Mary’s Parish, Odessa**  
2004 - Oct 2 - Church History 1, Dec 11- Church History 2  
2005 - Jan 15 - Morality I, Mar 12 - Morality 2, Apr 9 - Liturgy  
Year II - 2005 - Sept 17- Mary, Saints & Angels, Nov 12 - Scripture 1 (Isaiah)  
2006 - Jan 14 - Scripture 2 (Letter to the Romans), Mar 11 - Scripture 3 (Matthew), Apr 8 - Social Justice



**ABUSE**

from page one

abuse of children and minors by some of the clergy. The Church has taken many and effective steps to correct this situation, and to provide a safe, secure, and sacred environment for children in the future. Now is the time for other churches, professions, businesses, entertainers, governments, schools, military, civil organizations, the media, and other groups to do similar surveys that the Catholic Church has done to address the true facts about sexual abuse in our American society. More than ever, we all need to work together to eradicate this cancer from our society and to provide a safe and secure environment for all of our children.

A frightening part of the Shakeshaft report deals with failure of schools to report or remove abusers from the classrooms. "CONSEQUENCES OF ALLEGATIONS OF EDUCATOR SEXUAL MISCONDUCT - The studies which include documentation of the consequences of educator sexual misconduct primarily focus on what happens after allegations are made. Most documents the ways in which schools and districts fail to remove abusers from the classroom ....In an early study of 225 cases of educator sexual abuse in New York, all of the accused had admitted to sexual abuse of a student but none of the abusers was reported to authorities and only 1 percent lost their license to teach (Shakeshaft and Cohan, 1994). All of the accused had admitted to physical sexual abuse of a student but only 35 percent received a negative consequence for their actions: 15 percent were terminated or, if not tenured, they were not rehired; and 20 percent received a formal reprimand or suspension. Another 25 percent

received no consequence or were reprimanded informally and off-the-record. Nearly 39 percent chose to leave the district, most with positive recommendations or even retirement packages intact . . . .Of those who left, superintendents reported that 16 percent were teaching in other schools and that they had no idea what the other 84 percent were doing. A recent report on sexual abuse in New York City indicates that 60 percent of employees who were accused of sexual abuse were transferred to desk jobs at offices inside schools and 40 percent of these teachers were repeat offenders (Campanile and Montero, 2001). In many instances, agreements are made to avoid legal battles with the alleged abuser (Shakeshaft and Cohan, 1994)."

The results of the Shakeshaft study needs to be brought out more into the open, and all schools' authorities throughout the USA should study this report very carefully. The media in a especially way, which focused so much on clergy sexual abuse in the past couple of years, now needs to center in on this horrible problem of sexual abuse of young people in our public schools. The fact that 4.5 million students have endured sexual misconduct by employees at their schools should lead all of us to cry out for action, and to work together for a solution to this critical problem in our schools.

In a particular way, attention needs to be given to the recommendations of the Shakeshaft Report which focuses on "Prevention of Educator Sexual Misconduct."

The Shakeshaft Report makes the following recommendations of Prevention of Educator Sexual Misconduct:

- Develop District and School level policies
- All School Districts need written

policies prohibiting educator sexual misconduct and inappropriate educator/student relationships to include consensual relationships between staff and students.

- Hiring practices - A common form should be used for all applications which include questions on work history, identification that will facilitate background checks, and all information on criminal history.
  - Screen employees - Screening applicants requires multiple methods that include references, background checks, license information and application information.
  - Assign a case coordinator and centralize information. Appoint a case coordinator who handles all incidents of educator sexual misconduct.
  - Report allegations to both Child Protection and Law Enforcement agencies - The majority of allegations of educator sexual misconduct are often not reported to the police by the School District.
  - Develop thorough investigative practices - Train regional investigators who can respond quickly to allegations.
  - Educate employees - With rare exceptions, sexual abuse prevention training for educators and school staff-whether preprofessional or while on the job-does not include educator sexual misconduct. Training will educate employees about unacceptable behavior and remind them of the responsibility to report cases.
  - Educate students - Like staff, students need to understand the boundaries that educators should not cross. This is important both for students who might be targeted and for students who observe such behaviors.
  - Beware of sins of educator sexual misconduct - Any employee, including volunteers, might molest.
- I strongly encourage the school

# National Catholic Recording Artist *John Angotti* will perform

at St. Ann's Catholic Church, Illinois Av. & "M" St., Midland, TX

**August 28-29, 2004**

Events include a Retreat, Saturday, August 29, 10 am - 12:30 pm with High School Students. Followed by lunch & A Concert for EVERYONE on Sunday, August 29, at 7:00 pm  
All events will be held in St. Ann's Church and there is no admission charge for any activity  
John Angotti has 3 CD's available: *Common Ground*, *Rise Up*, *My People* and *On This Journey*  
John's composition "Mass of Rejoicing" will be a part of the weekend liturgies.  
For additional information contact: Lucie Valles At (432) 692-6304 x 313

boards, superintendents, principals, teachers, and all school personnel and parents of our public and Catholic schools to study carefully this report. Most especially we should all make sure the recommendations to prevent sexual abuse in our schools are being implemented.

Fear, silence and secrecy are the

locked doors that hide the true facts about the horrendous problem of sexual abuse that must be a concern for all people in all places. It is my sincere hope and prayer that all agencies of society will come together to recognize the magnitude of this problem and to take the necessary steps to correct it.

## EDICTAL SUMMONS

The Tribunal of the Catholic Diocese of San Angelo to MIGNEL A. PEREZ whereabouts unknown.

You are hereby summoned to appear before the Tribunal of the Catholic Diocese of San Angelo, at 804 Ford Street, San Angelo, Texas 76905, on or before the 31st day of August, 2004, to answer to the Petition of MARIA CANO, now introduced before the Diocesan Tribunal in an action styled, "MARIA CANO vs MIGNEL A. PEREZ, Petition for Declaration of Invalidity of Marriage," said Petition being identified as CANO - PEREZ, Protocol No.: SO 04/32, on the Tribunal Docket of the Diocese of San Angelo.

You may communicate with the Tribunal in person or in writing. Failure to communicate within the prescribed period of time will be considered your consent for the Tribunal to continue its proceedings in the above-named case.

Given at the Tribunal of the Diocese of San Angelo on the 1ST day of AUGUST, 2004.

Rev. Tom Barley, J.C.L.  
Judge

## EDICTAL SUMMONS

The Tribunal of the Catholic Diocese of San Angelo to SHARON KINARD CRAFT whereabouts unknown.

You are hereby summoned to appear before the Tribunal of the Catholic Diocese of San Angelo, at 804 Ford Street, San Angelo, Texas 76905, on or before the 31st day of August, 2004, to answer to the Petition of BRIAN LEE FAUBION, now introduced before the Diocesan Tribunal in an action styled, "BRIAN LEE FAUBION vs SHARON KINARD CRAFT, Petition for Declaration of Invalidity of Marriage," said Petition being identified as FAUBION - CRAFT, Protocol No.: SO 04/36, on the Tribunal Docket of the Diocese of San Angelo.

You may communicate with the Tribunal in person or in writing. Failure to communicate within the prescribed period of time will be considered your consent for the Tribunal to continue its proceedings in the above-named case.

Given at the Tribunal of the Diocese of San Angelo on the 1ST day of AUGUST, 2004.

Rev. Tom Barley, J.C.L.  
Judge

**St. Margaret Catholic Church**  
**4th Annual Fajita/Brisket Cookoff**  
**Aug 13, 14 & 15, Big Lake, TX**  
**Friday: Softball Tournament • Bingo**  
**Sat: Basketball & Washer Tournaments**  
**Food • Arts & Crafts • Games • Dance**  
**Sunday: Softball Tournament**  
**FMI: 325-277-4822**



# Archdiocese enters uncharted waters in church bankruptcy filing

By Jerry Filteau Catholic News Service

WASHINGTON (CNS) – When the Archdiocese of Portland, Ore., filed for Chapter 11 federal bankruptcy protection July 6, it began a journey into largely uncharted waters.

Among the most difficult issues to be faced will be First Amendment concerns as a secular bankruptcy court scrutinizes church finances and oversees reorganization of the archdiocese, holding veto power over major archdiocesan decisions.

As the first bankruptcy filing in history by a U.S. Catholic diocese, the process ahead could set a number of precedents. Observers will be watching closely to see what impact decisions of the bankruptcy judge may have on lowering or strengthening traditional walls of church-state separation.

Some such decisions might be seen as uniquely applicable to a bankruptcy proceeding and therefore not affecting constitutional questions of church and state in any other context.

“The U.S. Supreme Court has made clear that bankruptcy is a privilege, not an entitlement,” wrote a leading U.S. bankruptcy expert, David A. Skeel, in an article last year after the Boston Archdiocese began exploring the idea. “When individuals or entities file for bankruptcy, or file pleadings in a bankruptcy case, they waive their right to insist on many of the protections that might otherwise be available to them.” Some decisions a bankruptcy judge makes in the case could be appealed by the archdiocese or its creditors or claimants, possibly reaching the U.S. Supreme Court.

Despite such unknowns, Portland’s lead could soon be followed by one or more other dioceses. Bishop Gerald F. Kicanas of Tucson, Ariz., said in June that his diocese may have to enter Chapter 11 proceedings before two clergy sex abuse lawsuits go to trial in September.

Mark Chopko, general counsel to the U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops, said, “Lots of questions have not yet been explored about

how much authority and jurisdiction a bankruptcy court actually can exercise over a church.” “I don’t know that this is necessarily a problem,” he said, but as the case unfolds “from the standpoint of the Catholic dioceses, these are all new questions and they will require careful analysis and communication about where the proper lines are drawn.” Archbishop John G. Vlazny of Portland announced the bankruptcy decision as two lawsuits seeking restitution for childhood sexual abuse by a now-deceased priest of the archdiocese were about to go to trial. One plaintiff was seeking \$130 million. The other wanted \$25 million.

“I am committed to just compensation,” the archbishop said in a letter sent to parishes. “These demands go beyond compensation. With 60 other claims pending, I cannot in justice and prudence pay the demands of these two plaintiffs.” Altogether those claims amount to well over \$300 million.

The archdiocese and its insurers have settled more than 130 other claims for \$53 million since 1950, most of it in the last four years. This includes \$21 million of its own money the archdiocese spent on claims last year after insurers balked at contributing to further settlements.

Chopko said one of the archdiocesan assets a bankruptcy court would look at is its liability insurance coverage; the court could determine whether insurers have further obligations regarding the claims against the archdiocese.

One of the first challenges the archdiocese faces is to have its Chapter 11 filing accepted by the U.S. Bankruptcy Court for the District of Oregon.

Skeel, a University of Pennsylvania law professor and author of numerous articles and books on bankruptcy law, analyzed the ins and outs of a church bankruptcy filing in a 2003 article in the Boston College Law Review.

He said a Catholic diocese falls within the legal definition of a corporation to be covered by the Bankruptcy Code, but the court has to

determine whether a particular bankruptcy filing “serves a valid reorganizational purpose” or should be dismissed because it is an attempt “merely to obtain tactical litigation advantages.” Courts allowed bankruptcy proceedings in the face of massive liability litigation for asbestos manufacturers in the 1980s, he noted, but rejected SGL Carbon’s attempt in 1998 to seek Chapter 11 protection when it faced massive anti-trust litigation from the steel industry for alleged price-fixing.

In the asbestos cases and others, bankruptcy courts have supported the formation of trusts, “funded with much of the value of the company,” to compensate victims without destroying the company, Skeel said.

Chopko said a diocese entering bankruptcy proceedings may seek a similar approach, proposing payment of the tort claims over a period of time or working out a mechanism of long-term loans to find the necessary funds to pay the claims “in a way just to everybody.” He said the court would also need to have a mechanism to determine the merits of the claims against the diocese, weeding out false claims.

One advantage to a bankruptcy filing, he said, is that it can set a deadline on new claims for past liability, giving the diocese certainty that the claims brought forward mark the end of the line.

The court would allow the filer to give public “notice to all persons with claims or potential claims to come forward by a certain date,” he said, and those who do not do so by the deadline “are forever barred” from pursuing a claim.

Another key question a bankruptcy court may face is whether to consider parish properties as part of a diocese’s assets. In church law, each parish is a public “juridic person” with full ownership of any property it has legitimately acquired.

What happens, however, if the diocese is listed in civil records as the owner of the property, as is the case in the Portland Archdiocese? Will a bankruptcy judge recognize the church position that the diocese only holds that property in trust for

# Black Americans For Life commends President Bush

by Megan Dillon

WASHINGTON – Last Thursday, President Bush declined an invitation to speak before the NAACP’s National Convention. Black Americans for Life applauds his decision.

On February 24th of this year, the NAACP announced that its board passed a resolution endorsing abortion on demand.

“President Bush has unequivocally voiced his support for the right to life which would protect the civil rights and right to life of all unborn children including the over 400,000 unborn black babies who will die from abortion this year alone,” stated Day Gardner, director of Black Americans for Life. “When it comes to abortion, the NAACP is significantly out of touch with the vast majority of Americans.”

African-American women make up only 13.7 percent of women of child-bearing age in the United States, yet the abortion rate among these women is three times higher than that of white women.

Since the U.S. Supreme Court’s 1973 Roe v. Wade decision, over 44 million unborn babies have died. One in three, or 14 million, of those babies were black.

“It is incomprehensible that the NAACP would support abortion on demand, after all that we, as black people, have endured and achieved. We support President Bush’s efforts to uphold the civil rights of all Americans including the unborn,” stated Ms. Gardner. “I urge the African American Community to remember where we came from. I ask every black man and black woman to think once again about the civil rights of all our people no matter how small their unborn bodies may be.”

Black Americans for Life is an outreach of the National Right to Life Committee.

the parish, which is the true owner? Can a court reverse church law without engaging in impermissible secular intrusion on internal church governance?

Attorneys for the plaintiffs in Portland have said they regard the parish properties as part of the archdiocese’s assets. In its filing, the archdiocese estimated that its assets were worth between \$10 million and \$50 million. But plaintiffs’ attorneys, including parish properties in their estimates, claim archdiocesan

assets total \$300 million to \$500 million.

Chopko said that, while church law is clear that the parish itself owns parish property, in civil law “there are four or six dominant models for how parishes are structured, depending how you count,” and there is “no (single) right answer to the civil law question.” Skeel wrote that a diocese cannot be forced to liquidate its assets to satisfy

see “**BANKRUPTCY**,” page ten

**St. Mary’s Catholic Church**  
**Fall Festival 2004**  
**KC Hall, 3636 N. Bryant Blvd., San Angelo**  
**Sunday, September 5**  
**11:00 am until 5:00 pm**  
**Sausage & Brisket Dinner, Adults \$6 – Child \$3**  
**Take Out / To-Go Meals \$6**  
**Bingo • Game Booths • Silent Auction**  
**Arts & Crafts • Live Auction**



# Angelo Catholic School welcomes all new parishioners

*By Jesse Martinez, Principal*  
 SAN ANGELO – On behalf of Angelo Catholic School, I would like to welcome all the new parishioners to San Angelo, Texas. If you have school age children (pre-K 3 year olds- 6<sup>th</sup> grade) and are seeking a Catholic based education

with a rigorous academic curriculum, then Angelo Catholic School is the place for your child. Our certified and dedicated Catholic teachers provide the core curriculum plus religion, music, and Spanish classes. Your child will be given individualized attention

and instruction, all in a safe and secure environment. For more information call 655-3325. Again, welcome to San Angelo and God Bless.

# More Than \$100,000 Raised at Archbishop's Noche de Despedida

*By Mandie Peel – Creative Civilization*  
 SAN ANTONIO - (July 26, 2004) - More than \$100,000 was raised to benefit the Assumption Seminary Expansion Campaign when Archbishop Patrick Flores was honored with a Noche de Despedida on May 26, 2004.

sored by Anheuser Busch, Inc. and hosted by Paco Bendaña, Anheuser Busch geographic marketing manager and Veronica Salazar, San Antonio Express-News vice-president of community relations.

to the people of San Antonio. St. John's/Assumption Seminary was established in 1915, to provide a bilingual and multicultural community of priestly formation for the personal, spiritual, theological and ministerial preparation of diocesan seminarians for the Roman Catholic Church. The Assumption Seminary Expansion Campaign seeks to raise \$13 million in contributions for the new Flores Residence Hall and an endowment fund to further strengthen Assumption's commitment to the growth of priestly leadership in the Church of the Southwest.

"I am humbled by the support the San Antonio community has displayed as I near my retirement as Archbishop of San Antonio," said Archbishop Patrick F. Flores, DD. "I am excited for Assumption Seminary and the future that the community is helping us secure for our seminarians." The Expansion Campaign will include the construction of a new residence hall for seminarians and will be named Flores Residence Hall, in honor of Archbishop Patrick Flores' dedication and commitment

Contact: Mandie Peel - Creative Civilization; 210/227-1999, Ext. 30; mpeel@ccagency.com

# Relationship of NCCS to Girl Scouting

*by Most Reverend Gerald A Gettelfinger*  
 EVANSVILLE, IN – It has come to my attention that there may be some confusion about the relationship between the National Catholic Committee on Scouting and the Girl Scouts of America.

tee on Scouting relates to the USCCB through the Episcopal Liaison; it relates to the Boy Scout, of America through its Relationships Division.

both the Boy Scouts and the Girls Scouts at the national and local levels are significantly different.

The primary work of the NCCS is to support Catholic Chartered Boy Scout Units. It assists in adapting the great programs of the Boy Scouts of America as powerful tools for Youth Ministry in the Catholic Church.

In the Catholic Church, however, dioceses very often approach both organizations through a single person such as the Diocesan Youth Minister. That is the case in Evansville. The Youth Minister or Diocesan Chaplain may have the dual responsibility for Boy Scouts and Girl Scouts within the diocese

The organizational structures of

If you should wonder about

# Questions about our faith.

*(A note from the editor, Peter Micale: Many articles come across my desk as the editor of the Angelus. Since we have such a small Diocesan newspaper of only 12 pages, it is indeed rare that I am able to select an article for inclusion into a particular edition of the Angelus. The following article is timely and excellent, and I have decided to include it in this month's edition. I hope that our readers will take the message to heart. Unfortunately, I do not know who the author is, but I would like to thank Ms. Jo Ann Turner for sending it to me by email.)*

Have you talked to any fallen-away Catholics recently? If you have, you've probably noticed a pattern. It seems they all have unresolved issues about church doctrine or practices, and most haven't gotten their questions answered.

This isn't novel. Bishop Fulton Sheen put his finger on it years ago when he said there are only a handful of people who hate the Catholic Church, but there are millions who hate what they think the Church is.

However, it's still common. Newspaper reporters ask questions and find answers, right? Well, friends of mine who work at a daily newspaper seem more content to have their questions than to find any answers. Maybe it's easier that way. Homosexuality, church-abuse scandal, abortion and a handful of other moral questions stand in their way, even though they have the power and resources to find answers to what bugs them.

In all fairness, most of us have issues that hold us back from being better Catholics. This Independence Day is a great time to declare our own independence from anything that holds us back from getting closer to God.

Could we pray more often? A Divine Mercy Chaplet might be a perfect, short prayer for our commute to work.

Perhaps we could take a half-hour a week to visit a local nursing home and make a new friend there? Imagine the happiness we could bring!

Maybe taking advantage of the sacraments, like confession, is right for us to get closer to God. Or, it could be we are called to find answers to common Catholic questions so we can be more comfortable with our faith and answer questions people have about our Catholic Church. Apologetics and church history are fascinating topics, and the confidence you get from knowledge could go a long way to helping people like my reporter friends.

It is time to increase our dependence on God. We can declare our own independence from those things that hold us back from building his kingdom here and now.

As Jesus sent the 12, he also sends us on a mission to answer all the "Whys?" that people of our world have been asking for more than two millennia.

*(Editor's Note: Parish adult formation classes are excellent places to get answers.)*

some young women joining Venturing Crews, realize Venturing is a recently developed program of the BSA. It is not a program of the Girl Scouts of America.

ministry!  
 Fraternally yours in Christ,  
 Most Reverend Gerald A. Gettelfinger Bishop of Evansville Episcopal Liaison to NCCS  
 email: <gettelfinger@evansville-diocese.org>

I hope this is helpful. Should you have questions please email me.

May the Lord bless all of us in work efforts for effective youth



# 9/11 Memorial Hymn Presentation

by Peter Micale

SAN ANGELO – The 9/11 Memorial Hymn was presented for the first time at the San Angelo Museum of Fine Arts on July 15, 2004 in San Angelo, Texas. Prayer for the 9/11 victims was offered by Bishop Michael Pfeifer, OMI and the musical presentation was sung by Erin Alisanski, soprano who was assisted by Mary McIntosh and also Diane Deatherage on the piano. The 9/11 Memorial Hymn is shown below.

## 9/11 Memorial Hymn

Arranged by Erin Alisanski

Text by Chris Ellery taken from the Prologue to John’s Gospel, “Amazing Grace”, “A Mighty Fortress is Our God” and “America”

Before all time began, I AM: Illuminating Word Creations uncreated source And infinitely Good.

With no inception and no end, Eternally Divine, I come the Light of all the worlds And in the darkness shine.

*Descant: (to be sung over the humming of “Amazing Grace”)* When terror brings the day to night, Brings mourning to the morn; When hopeless hate confusion makes And gives to fear a form;

When towers fall on innocence And bring young dreams to dust; I AM within the fire and ash, In death, victorious.

So let this broken bit of steel Like bread of life proclaim Determined unity to strive For justice in God’s name

For you are all such single shards In one great Lord and Soul Let each small beam remember it Encompasses the whole

Amazing Grace! How sweet the sound That saved a wretch like me! I once was lost, but now am found, Was blind, but now I see!

A mighty fortress is our God, A bulwark never failing, Protecting us with staff and rod, His power all prevailing. What if the nations rage And surging seas rampage; What though the mountains fall, The Lord is God of all; On earth is not his equal.

*Descant: (to be sung over the humming of “America”)* Let Godly Wisdom guide Your strong West Texas pride To do My will. Let love refuse to die Let pain and hope ally And find Me ever nigh Your Savior still.

All darkness and all fear Must flee when I AM near Dissolving night. Love kindles fire No hate can drown No grief abate A Word to illuminate All in its Light.

My country tis of Thee, Sweet land of liberty Of Thee I sing; Land where my fathers died, Land of the pilgrims’ pride From every mountain side Let freedom ring.



(L to R) Diane Deatherage, Erin Alisanski and Mary McIntosh. (All photos by Peter Micale.)



(Above) Bishop Pfeifer introduced the program to attendees at the Museum of Fine Arts.



(Above and Left) The 9/11 Memorial next to San Angelo Riverwalk Celebration Bridge, placed in 2003 by the Diocese of San Angelo with private donations.



**ENDORSES****from page one**

tiny humans who cannot speak for themselves.

Because of the decision of The Standard-Times to endorse eugenic abortion, we ask all the people of our Diocese to be ever vigilant and call to task by personally witnessing, either by mail, telephone, or in person, any individual in the electronic or print media who supports any type of abortion. We can no longer stand idly by and have immoral, unethical and destructive ideas and philosophies bombard us at every turn. We need to take a cou-

rageous stand for a "culture of life" and the precious unborn who cannot speak for themselves, even if we are ridiculed or chastised. Now is the time for all Catholics to stand up and proclaim the clear teaching of our beautiful Catholic Church about the sacredness of all human life from conception until natural death as determined by God.

We end with a quote from Malcolm Muggeridge about the sacredness of all human life: "However low it flickers or fiercely burns, it is still a divine flame which no man dare presume to put out, be his motives ever so humane and enlightened."

*Letter to the Editor, Standard Times, PO Box 5111, San Angelo, TX 76902*

We the undersigned, all members of the Knights of Columbus, the largest United States Catholic men's fraternal and family organization, take strong exception to your stated position in the "In Our Opinion" editorial column of June 14th. From its inception in 1882, the Knights' primary goal has been to promote and protect human life from womb to tomb. The editorial statement by the Standard Times seems to be the first time that you have openly taken a pro-abortion position.

Make no mistake about it, and let us not mince words. The destruction of a fertilized egg is the destruction of a forming life, and therefore an abortion. Your description of the frozen embryos "... that were created not for destruction but for in vitro fertilization (underlined for emphasis) by couples ..." is absolutely incorrect. The embryos were produced by the process of in vitro fertilization, to eventually be implanted in the uterus of an accepting mother. The embryo is, as the dictionary tells us, "... the developing human individual ... to the end of the eight week after conception." Its destruction, for whatever reason, is nothing less than the termination of a human life.

In the past, you have reported on stem-cell research from many stages of human development, e.g. umbilical blood and adults. You incorrectly imply that Mrs. Reagan is "an outspoken advocate of stem-cell research" from embryos. She is not, nor has she been an advocate for embryo research! She has been a strong proponent for stem-cell research from adults, umbilical blood, and other sectors of human development that do not require the destruction of a human life.

You have chosen to violate a long-standing moral and ethical dictum of civilized societies—the end never justifies the means. It is a slippery slope that civilized societies should avoid. The Editorial Staff certainly would not advocate killing newborn babies to harvest key organs; why do you advocate killing unborn babies to harvest stem-cells?

We ask that you thoughtfully reconsider your support for abortion, and that in journalistic fairness and objectivity you write an editorial column supporting the sacredness of life from conception to natural death; and that you correctly report whatever facts pertain to this most important issue.

Peter N. Micale Director of Communications Roman Catholic Diocese of San Angelo

Signatures of 72 Knights of Columbus attached

*Letter to the Editor, Standard Times, PO Box 5111, San Angelo, TX 76902*

**NOT A TIME TO CHANGE STEM-CELL POLICY**

Editor:

Your recent, disturbing, "In Our Opinion: Time to change Stem-Cell Policy" of June 14th proposes the destruction of human embryos—human beings—in order to obtain embryonic stem cells for research. As modern science constantly confirms, each human being including the embryo you refer to has a complete genetic makeup and would be killed to obtain cells for research. The heavy burden of proof is upon those who hold the contrary that these are not human beings. You admonished the Bush White House for not admitting an "error," but could it be that on this one, the President and his team have a deeper and much clearer moral vision than the Editorial people of the Standard-Times? The President believes this debate is not only about the practicalities of cell lines but also about a moral principle. This is not a time to change the present stem-cell policy.

Your proposal to change the important stem-cell policy, sidesteps the in-depth ethical analysis of this critical life issue and is based on an emotional opportune moment, political expediency and a utilitarian philosophy which goes against the basic biblical references which view the unborn as persons and the long held Judeo-Christian principle that "good should never be achieved by evil or immoral means." Yes, there is definitely a "fine" line - a moral line—that does not allow creating human life to destroy it. In this regard, President Bush has stated: "Our standards must be high and clear and fixed. Life is not just a tool or commodity or a means to other ends. Nothing good or just can be built on the destruction of others."

Your official support to destroy human beings to obtain stem cells violates the sacredness, respect and dignity that must be shown to all human life from its very beginning as it is made in the very

image and likeness of God. To destroy this life, even for a good purpose, violates a "culture of life" and promotes a "culture of death" that favors abortion, and at least implicitly therapeutic cloning. To resolve this grave issue of manipulation of human life, you propose death as a solution. Do you not see where your position is taking you? To change the present policy would be to open a flood gate of uncontrollable devastation of human life.

You do touch on a colossal problem of what to do with the future of more than 400,000 frozen embryos—embryos that have been created by in vitro fertilization purposes, or IVF. But other than death, you do not look at any life alternatives. This massive moral dilemma points out the inherent evil that is involved in IVF, which is a manipulation of one of the most intimate aspects of human life—human procreation. The IVF procedure as it is performed today produces a number of human beings—human embryos—but in the process of selection discards the "defective" ones which are cast aside like so much refuse. The "excess" embryos that are implanted are aborted through a procedure euphemistically called "pregnancy reduction." While the pain of couples who face sterility is felt deeply, IVF includes a multitude of harm to the human person.

For those IVF children who do make it to birth it has been found that birth defects and handicaps are linked to this procedure. The New England Journal of Medicine reported a couple of years ago that IVF babies run about double the risk of birth defects than babies conceived naturally. The Lancet, a British medical journal, which published a study in 2002, shows that babies born as a result of IVF are three times more likely to develop neurological disorders, including cerebral palsy, than children conceived naturally.

Yes, there is a lot of expectation about the potential for stem-cell therapy to cure diseases, but we must be cautious about the unethical uses of stem-cells that destroy life such as embryonic stem-cell research and therapeutic cloning. The curing of disease is certainly a

very good end, but even very good ends cannot ever justify the use of intrinsically disordered or evil means.

You are correct in saying that there are no guarantees that using stem-cells, that causes the death of a human being, which you favor, will fulfill certain promises. The outstanding Doctor of neuroscience Tadeus Pacholczyk points out that the number of people who have been cured of any disease using stem-cells from embryos is "exactly zero", while literally thousands, if not tens of thousands of more people have been cured by using morally appropriate adult and umbilical-cord stem-cell therapies. Embryos do offer more potential but human adult stem cells are producing marvels each day. Your position makes no mention of these morally acceptable alternatives. Adult stem-cells are being used daily to cure heart disease, leukemia, sickle cell anemia and diseases of the central nervous system.

Your proposal promotes a culture of death. How sad and disheartening for thousands of your readers to learn that the Standard Times for the first time in an open and official way is endorsing a pro-abortion stance, encouraging the killing of the precious unborn human beings—which these human embryos are. Sadly you are also endorsing therapeutic cloning. You are imposing an immoral position on your pro-life readers. You have lost journalistic fairness and objectivity on this one. Human history is replete with examples of the disastrous effects when other people to achieve some good exploit human beings. Indeed, a change is needed, a change that respects the sacredness of human life from its very beginning, that heals the soul, and which is a good and true alternative to the Pandora's box of IVF.

Sincerely,

Most Rev. Michael D. Pfeifer, ONE Catholic Bishop of the diocese of San Angelo (29 counties in West Texas)





# Partnership Days

## September 10-12, 2004

by Msgr. Larry Droll

MIDLAND - The Diocese of San Angelo, twenty nine counties in West Texas, has developed a partnership with the Diocese of San Pedro Sula in northern Honduras. On a very memorable date, September 11, 2001, a Covenant of Partnership was signed by Bishop Michael Pfeifer, OMI, and Bishop Angel Garachana, CMF, in San Angelo. The Diocese of Tyler, Texas is also in partnership with the Diocese of San Pedro Sula.

The partnership has developed in relationships between the dioceses, between various parishes, between various schools and between the university campus ministries. A very real and intentional effort is being made to introduce the parishioners and clergy of each diocese to one another and to the partnership, so that the partnership is not just a relationship at the institutional level of diocesan administration.

Several groups from the Diocese of San Angelo have visited and worked in Honduras. Besides the Diocesan Partnership Team, groups from St. Ambrose Parish in Wall, St. Vincent Parish in Abilene, and the Angelo State University Newman Center have visited there. In June of 2004, a group of thirteen from around the Diocese of San Angelo traveled to Honduras.

Members of the Diocesan Partnership Team from San Pedro Sula have visited the Diocese of San Angelo several times. This September, university students and professors from San Pedro Sula are slated to visit their counterparts in San Angelo.

Several parishes and schools of the Diocese of San Angelo are entering into partnerships with parishes and schools in Honduras. They express their common Catholic faith by praying for one another, corresponding with each other, learning about each other, and work-

ing on projects with one another.

In all of this, the vision of Pope John Paul II in the apostolic exhortation *The Church in America* (1999) is being developed into reality. We are one Church in North, Central and South America; we have a relationship with each other.

This year, parishes and schools are encouraged to celebrate Partnership Days with prayer and teaching, September 10-12. The date of September 11 obviously coincides with the anniversary of the terrorist attacks on the United States. The dates for Partnership Days were chosen to include September 11 because that was the day the Covenant of Partnership was signed. But this coincidence of dates can also remind us that four Hondurans were killed in the World Trade Center too on that fateful day. Perhaps the Partnership can offer something positive, however small, to bettering international relations.

## Partnership Prayer

### Oración de Hermanamiento

#### San Angelo-San Pedro Sula-Tyler

*Gracious Father we seek to become, one family in Our Lord Jesus Christ. From the shores, mountains, and valleys of Honduras, the plains, desert and forest of east and west Texas we bring to each other the precious gifts of ourselves.*

*Show us, the work that you have yet for us to do. Open our eyes and hearts to needs of our family. Give us the grace to unite our diverse gifts into a faith that will sustain and bless our efforts to build your Kingdom. Fill our hearts with a love for one another that will free us, from all boundaries. Guide and direct our efforts to become one in mind and heart We ask this through Christ our Lord. Amen*

*Padre, nosotros buscamos ser una sola familia con nuestro Señor Jesucristo. Desde las costas, montañas, valles de Honduras, las llanuras, desiertos y bosques del este y del oeste tie Texas. Muéstranos el trabajo que tienes para nosotros. Abrenos los ojos y el corazón a las necesidades de nuestras familias.*

*Danos Señor la gracia pure unir los diversos dones, en una fe que sostendrá y bendecirá nuestros esfuerzos para construir tu reino.*

*Llena nuestros corazones de amor para que nos libre de fronteras.*

*Guía y dirige nuestros esfuerzos para convertirnos en espíritu y de corazón. Te lo pedimos por nuestro Señor Jesucristo. Amén.*

## Fr. John Corapi

Mark your calendars now for this coming August to hear one of the most widely proclaimed inspirational speakers of our time. La Promesa Foundation is bringing Fr. John Corapi S.O.L.T. to Midland.

**Friday, August 27th (7:00 PM)**  
**Saturday, August 28th (9:30 AM)**  
**Midland Center, 105 N. Main Street**

Fr. Corapi's life is a fascinating story of a man that went from being a millionaire businessman in Las Vegas to a homeless drug addict. He was at the lowest point in his life when God in His Divine Mercy, reached down and called him to the Priesthood.

The essence of Father's message is the essential message of Jesus Christ. It is Good News: a message of truth and goodness, love and mercy. It is above all else a message of hope that we so desperately need to hear in these days.

For overnight accommodations, special rates are available at the Midland Hilton Hotel at 117 West Wall, (432) 683-6131 until August 1. Just mention this event for the special rate of \$59.00 per night.

There are a limited number of tickets and they will sell out quickly. Please contact the Marian Center now at (432) 682-1485, for tickets. Tickets are only \$12.00. Registration at the door will be \$2.00 more.

Marian Center 1406 E Garden Lane Midland, TX 79701 (432) 682-1485

## CHAPLAINS

from page three

O'Brien said, 3,200 priest-chaplains served in combat. Sadly today, he said, "400 chaplains are stretched across the globe (in war zones)." In Iraq, it is estimated that there are only three priests for every 20,000 Marines, according to the archbishop. "We beg God for more priests," he said.

Archbishop O'Brien told the congregation that Father Timothy Vakoc, a priest of the Archdiocese of St. Paul and Minneapolis who recently became the first casualty of the chaplain corps in Iraq, wrote to him before his injury, saying, "The safest place for me to be is in the center of God's will." On July 14 Father Vakoc received the Purple Heart in a ceremony in his room at Walter Reed Army Medical Center in Wash-

ington. The priest lost his left eye and sustained serious head and neck injuries as the result of a roadside bomb exploding near his Humvee May 29.

Following the Mass at St. Patrick's, retired Col. Harold Montgomery, a parishioner of St. Gabriel's Parish in Washington who served in the Army's 92nd Infantry Buffalo Division during World War II, spoke about the chaplains he met during his war service.

He said he was grateful for the comfort and spiritual solace they provided to young men who were at times frightened and beleaguered. Often, he said, their presence alone was all he and his fellow soldiers needed to feel reassured of God's protection.

"We all tried to stay pretty close to the chaplains," Montgomery said.

## St. Mary's Star of the Sea

### Annual Festival 2004

#### Sunday, September 12

608 N. 6th St., Ballinger, TX

Fancy Stand - Bingo - Games

Auction 1:00 pm

Fajitas, Beans, Rice Meal: Adults \$6 - Child \$3

Served from 11:00 am - 1:30 pm

Drive Through



# Courage Chapter forming in Odessa

by Paul Juarez

ODESSA – A coalition of clergy and laity are forming a Courage chapter in the Odessa/Midland area. Courage is a Catholic Church-approved spiritual support organization for Catholic gays and lesbians seeking to live a chaste lifestyle in accord with Church teachings. Founded more than twenty years ago by Father John Harvey in New York City with the encouragement of then New York Archbishop Terrance Cardinal Cooke, Courage chapters now function in many parts of the United States and around the world. This is the first Courage chapter to form in the Diocese of San Angelo and it has received the support of Bishop Michael D. Pfeifer, OMI.

For more information, Catholics with same-sex attraction should view the Courage website at <http://CouragerC.net>. More information about the Odessa-Midland chapter can be obtained by e-mailing [CourageMidessa@yahoo.com](mailto:CourageMidessa@yahoo.com). We respect confidentiality.

The Odessa-Midland chapter has scheduled bi-monthly meetings, on the 1st and 3rd Thursdays of the month. Meetings include prayer, study, and a discussion of topics of interest and personal struggles. We're also discussing forming an outreach to families and friends of gays and lesbians called EnCourage.

# School for charismatic spiritual directors taking applications

by Dom Christopher Zielinski, O.S.B.

PECOS, NM – The Pecos Benedictine Monastery's SCHOOL FOR CHARISMATIC SPIRITUAL DIRECTORS is taking applications for its two 2005 School sessions scheduled for Jan. 4- Feb. 1 and June 8 - July 6. Anyone sensing the Lord leading them into the ministry of spiritual direction and wanting to receive training can call or write for information and application forms. The School office can be reached by E-mail at [spiritdir@cybermesa.com](mailto:spiritdir@cybermesa.com); by telephone at 505/757-6415, ext. 239; or by writing to the School at Pecos Benedictine Monastery, P.O. Box 1080, Pecos, NM 87552-1080. Visit the Monastery's web site [www.pecosabbey.org](http://www.pecosabbey.org).

## BANKRUPTCY from page five

creditors. When a for-profit corporation seeks Chapter 11 protection, creditors can seek to convert that filing to forced liquidation under Chapter 7, but "nonprofit corporations cannot be thrown into bankruptcy involuntarily," he wrote.

While a court handling a Chapter 11 proceeding can appoint a trustee to manage the corporation in certain circumstances, Skeel thought it "quite unlikely that a bankruptcy court would ever agree to inject itself into church affairs this directly." On the other hand, he said that simply by filing for bankruptcy a diocese would be "consenting to a significant lowering of the wall of separation between church and state." Such an issue would arise, for example, if the court were to tell a diocese that its reorganization must include funding cutbacks or cutoffs for services the diocese sees as an integral part of its religious mission.

Filing for bankruptcy is a "last resort" for a diocese, Chopko said. He said the church's first obligation is to serve the worshiping community and the needs of people in the larger community.

## SCHEDULE from page two

- treat
- September 23 San Angelo, Diocesan Pastoral Center - Presbyteral Council at 11:00 a.m.
- September 20-24 San Angelo, Diocesan Pastoral Center - Visit of Auditors to the Diocese of San Angelo
- September 24 Ft. Stockton, St. Agnes - Install Father Floro Hinacay as Pastor at 6:00 p.m.
- September 26 Sterling City, St. Paschal - Mass at 11:30 a.m.
- September 28 Abilene, Sacred Heart - Presentation to RCIA groups of the Abilene Deanery at 7:00 p.m.
- September 29 San Angelo - Newman Center - Mass at 12:00 noon
- September 30 Midland, St. Stephen - Presentation to RCIA groups of Midland/Odessa Deanery at 7:00 p. m.

Bankruptcy is an option only if the diocese is confronted with such large tort claims that it can no longer fulfill its mission of service and at the same time "offer justice and compensation to people hurt by those no longer in power," he said.

"It's an inability to find just and charitable settlements" that can force a diocese into bankruptcy, he said. "You don't see Portland unwilling to settle. They've put a lot of their own resources on the line" to settle more than 100 other cases.

## EDICTAL SUMMONS

The Tribunal of the Catholic Diocese of San Angelo to MICHAEL CHAD GREEN whereabouts unknown.

You are hereby summoned to appear before the Tribunal of the Catholic Diocese of San Angelo, at 804 Ford Street, San Angelo, Texas 76905, on or before the 31st day of August, 2004, to answer to the Petition of PAMELA JEAN MARTIN, now introduced before the Diocesan Tribunal in an action styled, "PAMELA JEAN MARTIN vs MICHAEL CHAD GREEN, Petition for Declaration of Invalidity of Marriage," said Petition being identified as (MARTIN - GREEN), Protocol No.: SO 04/39, on the Tribunal Docket of the Diocese of San Angelo.

You may communicate with the Tribunal in person or in writing. Failure to communicate within the prescribed period of time will be considered your consent for the Tribunal to continue its proceedings in the above-named case.

Given at the Tribunal of the Diocese of San Angelo on the 1ST day of AUGUST, 2004.

Rev. William R. DuBuisson, OMI, M.C.L., J.C.L.  
Judicial Vicar

## EDICTAL SUMMONS

The Tribunal of the Catholic Diocese of San Angelo to DAVID SEBASTIAN MARRUFO whereabouts unknown.

You are hereby summoned to appear before the Tribunal of the Catholic Diocese of San Angelo, at 804 Ford Street, San Angelo, Texas 76905, on or before the 31st day of August, 2004, to answer to the Petition of FRANCISCA AGUILAR (TAVAREZ), now introduced before the Diocesan Tribunal in an action styled, "FRANCISCA AGUILAR (TAVAREZ) vs DAVID SEBASTIAN MARRUFO, Petition for Declaration of Invalidity of Marriage," said Petition being identified as AGUILAR (TAVAREZ) - MARRUFO, Protocol No.: SO 04/33, on the Tribunal Docket of the Diocese of San Angelo.

You may communicate with the Tribunal in person or in writing. Failure to communicate within the prescribed period of time will be considered your consent for the Tribunal to continue its proceedings in the above-named case.

Given at the Tribunal of the Diocese of San Angelo on the 1ST day of AUGUST, 2004.

Rev. Tom Barley, J.C.L.  
Judge

**St. Therese (Carlsbad) - St. Paschal (Sterling City)**  
**Annual Festival**  
**Sunday, September 19th**  
**KC Hall, 3636 N. Bryant Blvd., San Angelo**  
**BBQ Brisket / German Sausage Dinner**  
**served 11:00 am - 2:00 pm, Adults \$6.50 – Child \$3**  
**Plates To-Go (Drive thru available) \$6.50**  
**Bingo • Game Booths • Silent Auction**  
**Country Store • Live Auction**

**St. Ann's Catholic Church**  
**56th Annual Family Fair 2004**  
**Midland, TX**  
**Theme: "Capturing the Spirit of Faith"**  
**Saturday, September 25**  
**Carnival Rides - Thurs. - Sunday**  
**Food & Game Booths**  
**Bingo on Sat. 12:00 pm until 8:00 pm**  
**For more information call:432-684-5969**



# Intentions of the Holy Father for August

*General* - That the European Union may know how to draw new nourishment from the Christian patrimony which has been an essential part of its culture and history

*Mission* - That unity and cooperation between the Institutes which actively work in the missions may grow.

## Special Collections

by Bishop Michael Pfeifer, OMI

SAN ANGELO – The people of our Diocese are always very generous in supporting special appeals for our Catholic Church. I am enclosing here a list of the results of the Special Collections for 2004. I am deeply grateful to all the people of our Diocese for your generosity, and for the constant support that you give our Diocese and the Church in the United States and the Universal Church. Thank you for your spiritual and financial generosity.

### Special Collections 2004

	Amount
Retired Religious	\$58,566.25
Catholic Home Missions	23,247.06
Holy Father	24,472.75
Campaign for Human Development	26,146.07
Rice Bowl	19,327.37
Catholic Communications	19,858.55
Eastern Churches	36,986.96
Holy Land	20,652.27
World Mission Sunday	27,185.87
Bishops' Overseas Relief	29,996.63
Iran Earthquake	7,299.42
Piedras Negras Flood	9,742.80
Honduras Partnership	27,758.53
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$331,240.53</b>

## Immaculate Conception Church Fall Festival Sunday, September 26th Knickerbocker, Texas

BBQ Brisket & German Sausage Dinner

11:00 am - 4:00 pm, Adults \$6 – Childs \$3.50

Auction • Bingo • Washer Pitching • Games

Music by Old Dog New Lick (Formally the Old Hat Band)

# Católicos en la vida política

por el Obispo Miguel Pfeifer, OMI

SAN ANGELO – Recientemente en las noticias ha habido mucha discusión sobre el tema de la enseñanza Católica y oficiales Católicos públicos. Cuando los Obispos de los E.U. se reunieron para su junta de verano en Denver, este tema crítica consumó mucho tiempo. Los Obispos publicaron una declaración sobre esta pregunta, Católicos en la vida Política, proveyendo dirección moral y pastoral para nuestra gente Católica especialmente como estamos en un año de elección. Quiero compartir con ustedes algunos de los puntos más destacados de la declaración de los Obispos Católicos.

Nos dirigimos a ustedes como obispos, como maestros de la fe católica y de la ley moral. Tenemos la obligación de enseñar sobre la vida humana y la dignidad, el matrimonio y la familia, la guerra y la paz, las necesidades de los pobres y las exigencias de la justicia. Hoy continuamos nuestros esfuerzos de enseñar sobre un asunto singular e importante que ha surgido recientemente como fuente de preocupación tanto para católicos como para otras personas.

Desde un principio, la Iglesia Católica ha enseñado, basado en su entendimiento del testimonio de su Señor respecto a la santidad de la vida humana, que el dar la muerte a una criatura por nacer es siempre algo intrínsecamente perverso y nunca puede ser justificado. Si las personas que practican un aborto y las que cooperan voluntariamente en esa acción están totalmente conscientes del objetivo malévolos de su actuar, están cometiendo un pecado grave y, por consiguiente, están separándose ellas mismas de la gracia de Dios.

Legalizar esta acción que es intrínsecamente perversa es en sí algo malo. Este es un punto que recientemente se ha enfatizado más en la enseñanza católica oficial. Se puede decir que tal sistema legal coopera con esa maldad cuando no protege la vida de aquellos que no tienen protección alguna, excepto bajo la ley. El no proteger la vida de los miembros inocentes e indefensos de la raza humana es pecar

contra la justicia. Por lo tanto, aquellos que formulan las leyes tienen una obligación de conciencia de trabajar para rectificar leyes defectuosas en lo moral, para que no sean culpables de cooperar en esa maldad y pecar contra el bien común.

La separación entre la iglesia y el estado no exige una división entre la creencia y la acción pública, entre los principios morales y las opciones políticas, más bien protege los derechos de los creyentes y de los grupos religiosos a practicar su fe y a vivir sus valores en la vida pública.

Es con solicitud pastoral hacia todos aquellos involucrados en el proceso político que también aconsejaremos a los funcionarios públicos católicos que su apoyo consistente al aborto solicitado les pone en riesgo de hacerles colaborados de esta maldad de una manera pública. Insistiremos en nuestro deber de dar consejo, con la esperanza que le escándalo de su cooperación en esa maldad pueda ser resuelto con la adecuada formación de su conciencia.

Nuestra enseñanza sobre la vida y dignidad humana deberá reflejarse en nuestras parroquias y en nuestros ministerios dedicados a la educación, al cuidado de la salud, y a los servicios sociales ...como obispos, no apoyamos ni nos oponemos a ningún candidato. Más bien, queremos formar la conciencia de nuestro pueblo para que todos analicen la posición de los candidatos y hagan sus selección basados en la enseñanza moral y social católica.

La Eucaristía es la fuente y cumbre de la vida católica. Por lo tan-

to, como toda generación católica que nos precedió, debemos ser guiados por las palabras de San Pablo: 'Por lo tanto, el que come de mi pan o bebe la copa del señor indignamente peca contra el cuerpo y la sangre del Señor' (1 Cor 11:27). Esto quiere decir que todos deberán hacer un examen de conciencia para ver si son dignos de recibir el Cuerpo y la Sangre de nuestro Señor. Este examen incluye fidelidad a la enseñanza moral de la Iglesia en su vida pública y en su vida privada.

La pregunta planteada es si es necesario negarles la Santa Comunión a algunos católicos que están en la vida pública debido a su apoyo al aborto solicitado. Dado el número de circunstancias que involucra el llegar a un juicio prudencial sobre un asunto tan serio, reconocemos que ésta es una decisión que deberá hacer cada uno de los obispos de acuerdo con los principios canónicos y pastorales establecidos. Los obispos pueden, en forma legítima, hacer un juicio diferente sobre el camino más prudente de acción pastoral. Sin embargo, todos compartimos el compromiso inequívoco de proteger la vida y la dignidad humana y de predicar el Evangelio en tiempos difíciles.

Las tendencias polarizantes y politizadas de un año electoral pueden crear circunstancias en las que la enseñanza católica y la práctica sacramental pueden ser manipuladas con fines políticos. El respecto por la Sagrada Eucaristía, de manera especial, exige que sea recibida dignamente y que sea vista como la fuente de nuestra misión común en el mundo.

## St. Lawrence Catholic Church Fall Festival 2004

Sunday, October 3

Garden City, TX

Bingo - Kountry Kitchen - Games

BBQ Brisket & German Sausage Lunch

Auction 2:00 pm



# Young Neighbors in Action

by Brenda Maiman

SAN ANGELO – *The church needs your energies, your enthusiasm, your youthful ideals, in order to make the Gospel of life penetrate the fabric of society, transforming people's hearts and the structures of society in order to create civilization of true justice and love.*

Pope John Paul II, A Celebration of Life

Five mission-oriented teenagers from the Diocese of San Angelo recently traveled to East St. Louis, Illinois for an intensive hands-on experience reflecting Catholic social teachings.

Young Neighbors in Action, a national Catholic mission organization, invited the teens to explore treasures of cultural diversity within a black, inner-city setting. A total of 47 teens from throughout the United States participated. Youth from the Diocese of San Angelo provided week-long assistance for day-camps (administered

by Daughters of Charity religious) located in public housing facilities.

Young Neighbors in Action programs encourage teens to reflect upon daily mission experiences through journaling, dialogue, prayer, creative expression, music, and liturgy. Major themes of Catholic social teaching establish the focus of the trip.

Participating teens included Stephanie Klein (St. Joseph/Stanton), Anna Montoya (St. Isidore/Lenorah), Natalee Rodriguez and Maria Del Rosario Veloz (both of St. Margaret of Cortona Big Lake), and Sonya Sanchez (Sacred Heart/McCamey). Adult participants were Minerva Garza (St. Isidore/Lenorah) and Brenda Maiman (Holy Angels/San Angelo).

Additional activities included dialoguing at length with a Holocaust survivor, touring the Cathedral Basilica St. Louis, and traveling to the top of the St. Louis Arch.



(Above) Stephanie and Anna working with youth. (Photos courtesy Brenda Maiman.)

(At Left) Top row - Roario Veloz, Anna Montoya, Stephanie Klein. Bottom Row - Sonya Sanchez, Matalееe Rodriguez.

# Catholic leaders ask House to adopt conscience protection language

by Catholic News Service

WASHINGTON (CNS) – Additional language on federal abortion funding is “urgently needed to counteract a nationwide effort to attack the conscience rights of religious and other health care providers,” leaders of three Catholic organizations said in a July 13 letter.

The letter, addressed to members of the House Appropriations Committee, was signed by Msgr. William P. Fay, general secretary of the U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops; Father Michael D. Place, president and CEO of the Catholic Health Association; and Dr. John D. Lane, president of the Catholic Medical Association.

The leaders were writing to support an amendment on conscience protection proposed by Rep. Dave Weldon, R-Fla., to the Hyde Amendment on abortion funding in the fiscal year 2005 appropria-

tions bill for the departments of Labor, Health and Human Services, and Education.

The Hyde Amendment, which has been adopted by Congress every year since 1976, prohibits the use of federal funds for abortion under Medicaid or other programs administered by the three departments, except in cases of rape or incest or danger to the mother's life.

The language proposed by Weldon “will protect hospitals and other institutional and individual health care providers from governmental discrimination when they decline to provide, pay for or refer for abortions,” the three leaders said.

They pointed out that the House approved conscience protection legislation in the form of the Abortion Non-Discrimination Act in 2002, “but despite the urgency of this issue it has not been addressed

by the Senate.” The letter cited several instances in which the conscience rights of hospitals or health systems were violated or threatened:

- An Alaskan court ruled in 1997 that a hospital receiving federal funds for Medicare and Medicaid was a “quasi-public institution” required to provide late-term elective abortions under the Alaska Constitution.

“In effect, abortion advocates maintain that receipt of federal funds requires conscientiously opposed health care providers to perform abortions, even when the federal government itself has long decided not to fund abortions,” the leaders said.

- In New Jersey, abortion advocacy groups asked the state in 2002 “to require a Catholic health system to build an abortion clinic on its premises, to serve what they see


as a right of ‘access’ to abortion.”

- This year, the state of New Mexico refused to approve the lease for a community-owned hospital because it “declined to perform elective abortions,” as more

than 80 percent of U.S. hospitals currently do.

The three leaders said the Weldon amendment was supported by Rep. Henry Hyde, R-Ill., and by Rep. Ralph Regula, R-Ohio, chairman of the House Appropriations subcommittee on Labor, Health and Human Services, Education and related agencies.

**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