Texas Supreme Court Rules State Not Obliged To Fund Abortions

by Catholic News Service

AUSTIN, Texas (CNS) – The Texas Supreme Court ruled Dec. 31 that the state does not have to fund abortions for women with health complications who receive Medicaid.

In the case of Low Income Women vs. Raiford (previously Low Income Women vs. Bost), the court rejected, by an 8-0 margin with one abstention, a lawsuit filed by doctors and abortion advocates who said Texas should pay for "medically necessary abortions" – for pregnant women with heart disease, high blood pressure, cancer, epilepsy and other health complications.

"The term ‘medically necessary abortion’ is just another way of saying ‘abortion on demand,’” said Denise Burke, staff counsel of Americans United for Life, in a statement. "The U.S. Supreme Court has defined ‘health’ . . . so broadly that the term ‘medically necessary’ would include women who are suffering from stress, who are simply having an overly emotional day, or who have limited budgets, not just women whose health or life is actually threatened by a pregnancy.”

Abortion advocates argued that refusing to fund such abortions, which the federal government also declines to pay for, violated the Texas Equal Rights Amendment. Such refusal is also unfair to women, they said, because men on Medicaid cannot be denied "medically necessary" procedures.

"Only poor women are forced . . . to endure these health risks; men are not," said Bonnie Scott Jones, a lawyer for the Center for Reproductive Law and Policy in New York, in a statement. "If they get sick, they are taken care of."

The court’s written opinion found no gender bias in the law, because it doesn’t fund treatment that federal dollars don’t fund. The court also found the restrictions did not violate a woman’s right to privacy or constitutional equal protection guarantees.

“Texas’ decision to use taxpayer money to fund only limited types of abortions is in direct compliance with federal requirement, principally the Hyde Amendment,” Burke said. "The Hyde Amendment, which has been repeatedly upheld by federal courts, restricts federal matching funds for abortions to situations involving rape, incest or a threat to the woman’s life.

"Neither the Hyde Amendment nor Texas law provides funding for abortion on demand, which was, in essence, what abortion advocates were demanding,” she said.

“In attempting to advance their agenda, (they) would rather use limited state funds for abortions rather than to fund medical research, social programs, education reform, or other programs benefiting the people of Texas,” Burke added.

Pope Begins New Year With Plea For Peace, Especially In Middle East

by Cindy Wooden
Catholic News Service

VATICAN CITY (CNS) – Pope John Paul II began the new year with a new plea for peace in the Middle East and for world leaders to find peaceful solutions to tense situations elsewhere.

"Despite serious and repeated attacks on the peaceful and harmonious coexistence of peoples, peace is possible and necessary," the pope said to applause Jan. 1 during a Mass marking World Peace Day and the solemnity of Mary, Mother of God.

The pope presided over the Liturgy of the Word and gave the homily, but knelt on a platform away from the altar as Cardinal Angelo Sodano, Vatican secretary of state, led the eucharistic prayer.

"In the face of events which are upsetting the planet, it clearly appears that only God can touch the depths of the human heart; only his peace can give hope back to humanity,” the pope said in his homily.

With the Mass celebrated just a week after Christmas, the pope said it was impossible not to look “with apprehension and pain to that holy place where Jesus was born.”

“The dramatic and continuing tension in which this region of the Middle East finds itself makes even more urgent the search for a positive solution to the fratricidal and senseless conflict which has bloodied it for so long,” Pope John Paul said.

As he did in his written message for World Peace Day, the pope underlined the ongoing relevance of Pope John XXIII’s 1963 encyclical “Non Obstante” ("Not Obliged To Fund Abortions"), p. 4

Inculturation of the Gospel Message, p. 5
Youth Rally, p. 6

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Pope John Paul II bows his head in prayer during Mass Jan. 1 marking World Peace Day and the solemnity of Mary, Mother of God. During the ceremony in St. Peter’s Basilica, the pope offered a new plea for peace in the Middle East and for world leaders to find nonviolent solutions to tense situations. (CNS photo from Reuters)
A Matter of the Heart

By Bishop Michael D. Pfeifer, OMI

January 22, 2003, marks the 30th anniversary of the tragic and deadly decision of the U.S. Supreme Court that states that the precious unborn can be destroyed at any time during pregnancy. This deadly, immoral decision has led to the destruction of more than 40,000,000 precious unborn. This year, to mark the 30th anniversary of Roe v. Wade, I present for your prayerful reflection the major points of the statement of the U.S. Catholic Bishops that was approved at the November 12, 2002 U.S. Catholic Bishops meeting in Washington, DC. As abortion primarily destroys the heart of the unborn, and disturbs the heart of all true followers of Christ, the Bishops’ statement is rightly entitled, A Matter of the Heart.

Each year on January 22nd - the anniversary of the 1973 Supreme Court decision in Roe v. Wade - people pause to recognize the date in some way. Some speak out, some march, some reach out, some educate, some just reflect. Many pray.

Each year, for thirty years, pro-life Americans have shown that their commitment will not waver, their efforts will not cease. Our firm conviction as Catholics that “life must be protected with the utmost care from the moment of conception” will not waver, their efforts will not cease. Our firm conviction as Catholics that “life must be protected with the utmost care from the moment of conception” will not waver, their efforts will not cease. Our firm conviction as Catholics that “life must be protected with the utmost care from the moment of conception” will not waver, their efforts will not cease. Our firm conviction as Catholics that “life must be protected with the utmost care from the moment of conception” will not waver, their efforts will not cease. Our firm conviction as Catholics that “life must be protected with the utmost care from the moment of conception” will not waver, their efforts will not cease. Our firm conviction as Catholics that “life must be protected with the utmost care from the moment of conception” will not waver, their efforts will not cease.

As we reflect on the thirtieth anniversary of Roe v. Wade, we express gratitude to those who have worked tirelessly for life and against this ruling from the very beginning and continue to do so. They have lobbied, counseled and prayed. Many have suffered for their pro-life convictions. At the same time, what is perhaps most striking on this anniversary is that life has demonstrated that its commitment will not waver, its efforts will not cease. Our firm conviction as Catholics that “life must be protected with the utmost care from the moment of conception” will not waver, their efforts will not cease. Our firm conviction as Catholics that “life must be protected with the utmost care from the moment of conception” will not waver, their efforts will not cease. Our firm conviction as Catholics that “life must be protected with the utmost care from the moment of conception” will not waver, their efforts will not cease. Our firm conviction as Catholics that “life must be protected with the utmost care from the moment of conception” will not waver, their efforts will not cease. Our firm conviction as Catholics that “life must be protected with the utmost care from the moment of conception” will not waver, their efforts will not cease. Our firm conviction as Catholics that “life must be protected with the utmost care from the moment of conception” will not waver, their efforts will not cease.
Vocation Circle

Vocation Dates For 2003
by Fr. Tom Barley

Please mark these dates in your calendars. They are days of prayer or promoting awareness of vocations, visits to seminaries or a convent, and the special collection for seminarian education.

**Saturday, January 11 – Friday, January 17** - National Vocation Awareness Week (see article below)
**January 25-26** - Special Collection for Seminarian Education (see article below)
**January 25-26** - Assumption Seminary - Come and See Event - San Antonio
**February 1-2** - World Day for Consecrated Life
**February 13-16** - Holy Trinity Seminary - Live In Experience - Irving
**Thursday, February 27-28** - Convocations on Vocations and Priestly Spirituality
**March 7-9** - Walk with Providence - Sisters of the Divine Word Convent in San Antonio
**April 5-7** - Conception Seminary - Encounter with God’s Call - Missouri
**May 10-11** - World Day of Prayer for Vocations

**Saturday, May 31** - Priestly ordinations of Rodney White and Joey Faylona

For information concerning the four visits to seminaries or the convent, contact Fr. Tom Barley at the Office of Vocations and Seminarians at 651-7500.

National Vocation Awareness Week
by Fr. Tom Barley

The week of January 11-17 has been designated as “National Vocation Awareness Week”. During that week, gather as a family each day and pray for vocations. Parishes and parish groups are also invited to make a special effort to gather and pray during this week. Pray for faithfulness in strong marriages, dedicated chaste singles, deacons and diaconate candidates, women religious, seminarians and priests. Pray that our young adults who are called by God to priesthood or sisterhood will have the courage to answer God’s invitation with a faith filled “YES”. Pray that your own children will listen to God’s call to a vocation of service in the Church and have the strength to go wherever God’s invitation will take them. Jesus always gives the grace needed to overcome obstacles to everyone who responds to His call.

Seminarian Education Special
Collection on January 25-26, 2003

The Annual Diocesan Special Collection for Seminarian Education will be taken up on the weekend of January 25-26. This collection has been moved to the last weekend of January for each year. Envelopes can be found either in your parish envelopes or they will be distributed at each Mass. They are to be collected in your parish at Mass.

Each year, the cost of training our six seminarians is expensive and it increases. Last year the people of the Diocese of San Angelo contributed over $40,000 to accomplish this goal. This year our seminarians have received scholarships amounting to approximately $12,000. Grants have been obtained from various sources to help with their education. On 31 May, two of our seminarians, Deacon Rodney White and Deacon Joey Faylona, will be ordained to the priesthood. Your generosity in the past and this year helps make this possible. Please support the education of our seminarians. Keep them in your family’s prayers each day. In addition to this generosity, encourage vocations within your own parish. The vocations to priesthood are out there in our Diocese. Let’s find them and support them.

Discernment Retreat
by Sister Mildred Truchard
Director of IWBS Vocation Ministry

A “Discernment Retreat” will be held at Incarnate Word Convent in Victoria, Texas, on February 1-2, 2003, for single Catholic women between the ages of eighteen and fifty. For information, please call (361) 771-3325, 575-7300 or e-mail iwbsvoc@yahoo.com.

Pastoral Assignments and Decrees

The following pastoral assignments have been made by Bishop Michael D. Pfeifer, OMI and are effective on January 28, 2003.

**Pastoral Assignments:**
- Fr. Ihedioha assigned to St. Margaret’s Parish in Big Lake, along with its missions of St. Thomas in Rankin and St. Francis in Iraan.
- Fr. McLean assigned to St. Mary’s Parish in Brownwood.
- Fr. Nalugon assigned to Good Shepherd Church in Crane, along with its missions of Our Lady of Lourdes in Imperial and St. Isidore in Coyanosa and Sacred Heart Parish in McCamey.

**Decrees:**
- The mission of St. Francis of Assisi in Iraan will be joined to St. Margaret Parish in Big Lake.
- The missions of St. Isidore in Coyanosa and Our Lady of Lourdes in Imperial will be joined to the parish of Good Shepherd in Crane.
Extreme Compromise

by Fr. Frank Pavone, Priests for Life

Thirty years have passed since Roe vs. Wade and its companion case Doe vs. Bolton were issued by the US Supreme Court. As many of us continue to work to overturn these decisions, many think that the decisions constitute a “compromise” position on the divisive issue of abortion. After all, they say, our current national policy on abortion allows a woman to have a child if she wants, and to abort the child if she wants.

But Roe and Doe are about as far away from a “compromise” as you can find. The decisions allow for abortion throughout the entire nine months of pregnancy, and do not recognize any right of the unborn child to be spared death by abortion. With a nation divided about abortion, one might think that under a “compromise” solution one could find some reason to protect at least some unborn children. But in Roe and Doe, one searches in vain for any situation in which an unborn child is protected. As the University of Detroit Law Review pointed out, “The Supreme Court’s decisions ... allowed abortion on demand throughout the entire nine months of pregnancy” (Paul B. Linton, Enforcement of State Abortion Statutes after Roe: A State-by-State Analysis, Vol. 67, Issue 2, Winter 1990).

In this framework, every unborn baby is disposable. Every. That’s hardly a “compromise” position. “Leave it up to the woman to decide” sounds to many like a fair compromise. But this position completely destroys equality before the law, because it constitutes a complete removal of protection from the child. The lives of unborn children who are wanted and carried to term do not have any more protection from the law than the lives of unborn children who are unwanted and carried to the abortion.

Abortion, in this framework, becomes a “concession” in the divisive question of the value their faiths give to human life. Permitting one life to be destroyed is already extreme. Unless we’re all protected, we’re all in danger.

Concesión Extrema

por P. Frank Pavone, Priests for Life

Han pasado treinta años desde que la Corte Suprema dictara Roe vs. Wade y su caso relacionado Doe vs. Bolton.

Mientras muchos de nosotros continuamos trabajando para revertir estas decisiones, algunos piensan que estas decisiones constituyen una “concesión” en la divisiva cuestión del aborto. Después de todo, dicen, nuestra actual política nacional sobre aborto permite a una mujer tener el niño si quiere y abortarlo si quiere.

Pero Roe y Doe distan tanto de ser una “concesión” como uno pudiera pensar. Las decisiones permítan el aborto durante los nueve meses del embarazo y no reconozcan el derecho del niño por nacer a ser salvado de la muerte por aborto. Con una nación dividida sobre el aborto, uno podría pensar que una solución de “compromiso” permitiría encontrar una razón para proteger por lo menos algún niño por nacer. Pero en Roe y Doe, uno busca en vano alguna situación en que el niño por nacer esté protegido. “Las decisiones de la Corte Suprema ... permitieron el aborto a pedido durante los nueve meses de embarazo completos.” (Paul B. Linton, Enforcement of State Abortion Statutes after Roe: A State-by-State Analysis, Vol. 67, Issue 2, Winter 1990)

En este marco, todo bebé no nacido es descartable. Todos. Esto es dificilmente una “concesión.” “Dejen que la mujer decida” suena para algunos como una concesión justa. Pero esta posición destruye completamente la igualdad frente a la ley, porque constituye una remoción completa de la protección al niño. Las vidas de los niños por nacer que son deseados y llevados a término no se encuentran más protegidas por la ley que las vidas de los niños por nacer que no son deseados y son llevados al aborto. Las vidas de los deseados solo están protegidas por el “deseo” que, por supuesto, está sujeto a cambio en cualquier momento. En lo que hace a la ley, son todos no-personas, independientemente de las circunstancias. Esto es difícilmente una “concesión.”

Una “concesión” generalmente, y por definición, permite algún acomodamiento a ambas partes en una disputa.

Pero la actual política de aborto no permite ningún acomodamiento a las demandas que la vida humana inocente nos hace.

Cuanto uno más se sabe de las decisiones Roe y Doe, esto se vuelve mucho mayor. De hecho, la compañía de encuestas Gallup, en un extenso análisis de las opiniones de los estadounidenses sobre el aborto, admite que el nivel de apoyo en las encuestas sobre Roe vs. Wade es menor si se ofrece mayor información sobre la decisión en la pregunta, y es mayor si se ofrece menor información. (Véase www.gallup.com/poll/special/DataReports/pollSummaries/ sr020122iii.asp)

En Juicio en Nuremberg (Juicio en Nuremberg) uno de los responsables por el Holocausto dice que “nunca pensó que iría tan lejos”, y le dijeron que “fue tan lejos” a partir del momento en que se tomó una sola vida inocente. No hay lugar para “concesiones” sobre la vida humana. Permitir la destrucción de una sola vida ya es extremo. A menos que todos estemos protegidos, todos estamos en peligro.

“to do everything possible to find peaceful solutions to the many tensions existing in the world, particularly in the Middle East, avoiding further suffering for those already suffering populations.”

In The Footsteps Of Edith Stein

The Corpus Christi diocesan council of catholic women announces In the Footsteps of Edith Stein pilgrimage tour to Poland and Germany June 9-22, 2003.

Spiritual Leader, Rev. Romeo Salinas (361-592-6804) St. Joseph Catholic Church, Kingsville, Texas; Sister Lou Ella Hickman, IWBS, Tour Moderator.

Contact Hogan Travel and Tours 1-800-833-8880.
El Bautismo del Señor
(Hacer lo que Dios quiere)

por el Obispo Miguel Pfeifer

En el mes de Enero se celebra la Cesta del Bautismo del Señor, y es una ocasión para reflexionar sobre el significado de ese bautismo para Cristo, y el significado del sacramento del bautismo para nosotros. En este Bautismo el soldado bautizaba a su Rey, el siervo a su Señor, Juan al Salvador y la voz del Padre declara: “Este es mi Hijo, Alabado.” En este artículo compartido con ustedes una reflexión sobre esta fiesta tomada del Canto Profano.

Por supuesto que Juan se sorprende cuando Jesús se presenta a orillas del río Jordán para bautizarse: “Yo soy quien debe ser bautizado, ¿y tú vienes a que yo te bautice?” Jesús no le da muchas explicaciones: “Haz ahora lo que te digo, porque es necesario que así cumplamos todo lo que Dios quiere.” ¿Qué nos quiere decir Jesús con esa opción de hacerse bautizar por Juan? ¿Por qué comienza su vida pública ahí en Galilea, a orillas del Jordán? ¿Qué conclusiones podemos sacar de este diálogo con el Bautista y de esa voz que se escuchó desde el cielo: “Esto es mi Hijo muy amado, en quien tengo mis conipacencias”?

• Jesús, al presentarse en el Jordán, no vacila en mezclarse con los pecadores. Ahí, en Galilea, en el pétalo, el vino consagrado, la perifería, entre los pecadores, quiere empezar su misión.

Inculturation of the Gospel Message

by Bishop Michael Pfeifer, OMI

In a recent addition of the Angelus I pointed out that I would be featuring articles in the Angelus as regards the key ways of inculturating the Gospel message of Christ. The information that I share with you is taken from the draft of the New National Directory for Catechesis. In this addition of the Angelus I am addressing the following topic.

The Evangelization of Culture

Just as “the Word became flesh and made his dwelling among us,” so too the Good News, the word of God proclaimed to the nations, must take root in the life situation of the hearers of the Word. Inculturation is precisely the insertion of the gospel message into cultures. Inculturation is a requirement for Evangelization, a path toward full evangelization. It is the process by which “catechesis ‘takes flesh’ in the various cultures.”

“The new evangelization calls for a clearly conceived, serious and well organized effort to evangelize culture.” The inculturation of the faith is a complex and deliberate process. It “needs to take place gradually, in such a way that it really is an expression of the community’s Christian experience.” “It is not simply an external adaptation designed to make the Christian message more attractive or superficially decorative.” On the contrary, all the members of the Christian community must discern which elements of the culture to assume because they are compatible with the faith, and it must seek to purify and transform those elements of the culture that are not.

This discernment is governed by two basic principles: “compatibility with the Gospel and communion with the universal Church.” The process of inculturation, therefore, includes two movements: the insertion of the gospel message in the various human cultures, and the intimate transformation of authentic cultural values through their integration in the gospel message. “Through inculturation the Church makes the Gospel incarnate in different cultures and at the same time introduces peoples, together with their cultures, into her own community. She transmits to them her own values, at the same time taking the good elements that already exist in them and renewing them from within. Through inculturation the Church, for her part, becomes a more intelligible sign of what she is, and a more effective instrument of mission.”

Si un o una Creyente, Estando Consciente de Haber Cometido un Pecado Mortal, Come Y Bebe el Pan y el Vino Consagrados, ¿Recibirá Aun Así el Cuerpo y la Sangre de Cristo?

[Preguntas básicas y respuestas]

por el Obispo Miguel Pfeifer, O.M.I.

En este artículo les presento las preguntas número once y doce del documento de los Obispos Católicos de los Estados Unidos sobre la Eucaristía. Este documento se llama, “La Presencia Real de Jesucristo en el Sacramento de la Eucaristía”, y aquí les presento las preguntas.

10. Si Un O Una Creyente, Estando Consciente De Haber Cometido Un Pecado Mortal, Come Y Bebe El Pan Y El Vino Consagrados, ¿Recibirá Aun Así El Cuerpo Y La Sangre De Cristo?

Y Tan Sangre De Cristo? Sí. La actitud o disposición de quien recibe no pueden cambiar lo que son el pan y el vino consagrados. La cuestión aquí, entonces, no consiste principalmente en la naturaleza de la Presencia Real, sino en cómo afecta el pecado la relación entre un individuo y el Señor. Antes de acercarse a recibir el Cuerpo y la Sangre de Cristo en la Santa Comunión, hay que estar en una relación correcta con el Señor y su Cuerpo Mystico, la Iglesia, es decir, en estado de gracia, libre de todo pecado mortal. Aunque el pecado daña dicha relación, e incluso puede destruirla, el sacramento de la Penitencia puede restaurarla. S. Pablo nos dice que “quien come del pan o bebe del cáliz del Señor de manera indigna, se hace culpable de profanar el cuerpo y la sangre del Señor. Así pues que cado uno se deprave en transigir perfecta deben ir acompañado de la confesión sacramental (1 Cor 11:27-28). Toda persona que esté consciente de haber cometido un pecado mortal debe reconciliarse mediante el sacramento de la Penitencia antes de recibir el Cuerpo y la Sangre de Cristo, a menos que exista una grava razón para comulgar y no haya oportunidad de confesión. En este caso, la persona debe tener muy presente su obligación de hacer un acto de contrición perfecta, es decir, un acto de pesar por los pecado, pesar que “brota del amor de Dios amado sobre todas las cosas” (Catecismo, no. 1452). El acto de contrición perfecta debe ir acompañado de la firme intención de recurrir a la confesión sacramental tan pronto sea posible.

11. ¿Se Recibe A Cristo ENTERO Si Se Recibe La Santa Comunion Bajo Una Sola Especie? Sí. Cristo Jesús, nuestro Señor y Salvador, está en la Eucaristía, completamente presente, ya sea bajo la apariencia del pan o bajo la apariencia del vino. Además, Cristo está totalmente presente en cualquier fracción de la Hostia consagrada o en cualquier gota de la Preciosa Sangre. No obstante, es preferible recibir a Cristo en ambas especies durante la celebración de la Eucaristía. Esto permite que la Eucaristía aparezca más perfectamente como un banquete, un banquete que es un antecipo del banquete que se celebrará con Cristo al final de los tiempos cuando el Reino de Dios se haya establecido en su plenitud (cf. Eucharisticum Mystrium, no. 32).
Youth Rally In Alexandria, Louisiana Attended By Youth Groups From Sweetwater, Merkel And Abilene Parishes

by George Ortiz

Youth Rally titled “In Your Face” was held in Alexandria, Louisiana on December 7, 2002. St. Frances Cabrini Catholic Church sponsored the event. Several youth and sponsors representing Immaculate Heart of Mary and Holy Family of Sweetwater, Our Lady of Mercy in Merkel and St. Vincents’ Catholic Church of Abilene attended the Rally.

The decision to make the trip was decided quickly in November. This required George Ortiz the Youth Minister for Immaculate Heart of Mary and Holy Family, to quickly organize all the details. He did quite well, accomplishing this long trip of 1100 miles round trip for some of us, to be exact. In the short time George managed to gather 32 youth and 7 adult sponsors (from his local Parishes) to attend the Rally. The trip also included rendezvous with groups from Merkel and Abilene. The trip consisted of a convoy of around 11 vehicles total, most of them suburban, a couple of mini vans and a pickup. The trip to Louisiana and back is a story in itself!

The Rally was held in a large tent on the campus of St. Frances Cabrini Catholic Church in the southwest part of Alexandria. There were approximately some 1100 students on hand at the Rally. The theme (so to speak) was called “In Your Face”. Bishop Sam Jacobs took time-out from his busy schedule to make some inspiring opening remarks.

The program continued with songs of Praise and Worship, which was an awesome treat in itself. The attending Band lead by a very inspiring 18-year-old young lady was also the lead singer. The Band actually consisted of mostly family members, which included her stepfather and a younger brother as musicians. The young lady’s name is Kelly Pease who is truly gifted with a very strong devoted faith that is beyond description. She not only sang her songs for us she also gave several inspiring talks. She was just an “Awesome” individual.

The Main guest Speaker was also someone with gifts and talents and a devotion to God that is also hard to put into words. This speaker was Fr. Stan Fortuna a world-renowned speaker and Rapper from the Bronx. Such talents are not your conventional methods especially for a man of “the Cloth”. Fr. Stan a very unique, outspoken, “In Your Face” type of person not only inspired us with his profound words, but also entertained us with his Rap music. The lyrics or words in his music are as profound as his presentations. Fr. Stan spoke on subjects such as Holiness, abortion, alcohol and drug abuse, Chastity and media corruption, all which had to have had some impact or impression on most of the people there young or old. Fr. Stan has several CD’s and Videos out which can be purchased at Trudo’s in San Angelo and are highly

see “RALLY” page seven

In an effort to stop underage drinking, the U.S. bishops have joined forces with other family, community and religious groups to eliminate or limit television and radio advertisements of certain alcoholic products. Here are some statistics on teen drinking. (CNS graphic by Anthony DeFeo) (Jan. 3, 2003)
Our Hearts Were Burning Within Us

Sum-Up meeting of the Needs Committee. Seated left to right: Janice Gist, Dianne Anderson, Sr. Mary Brian, Carol Ann Hunt, Barbara Truitt, Margaret Robson. Standing left to right: Norb Dickman, Rhett Gist, Dave Feavel, Lance Tipton, Jeremy Milum, Dennis Robson

by S. Mary Brian

To launch the U.S. Bishops’ Pastoral Plan for Adult Faith Formation our Diocesan Office brought two Faith Formation specialists to San Angelo last February, Dr. Lorraine De Luca of Beaumont and Joanne Sanders of Austin led participants from 16 local parishes in a two-day study and implementation workshop. Leaders from each parish left this workshop with a commitment to bring the challenge of the Bishops’ message home to their own faith community.

St. Ann’s Church in Midland was privileged to send four Catechetical leaders to the San Angelo workshop - Marge Hellinghausen, Carol Ann Hunt, Sharon Welch and Sister Mary Brian. In June (after the rush of Lent, Easter, and Spring events had subsided) our four leaders met to plan our approach to implementing the Bishops’ Pastoral. We advertised in the parish bulletin for adults who wanted to be part of a new parish Adult Faith Formation Committee and set up two in-service evenings during July. During the closing prayer of the second July session we invited the participants to make a two-year commitment or a short-term commitment to this new Committee. Of the twenty men and women present, seventeen signed on for a two-year commitment and three for a shorter term. We then formed six sub-committees: Needs, Research, Publicity, Presenters, Hosting and Evaluation. The Needs group swung into immediate action. Through two and one-half months of Monday night meetings they hammered out a two page Adult Faith Formation Survey reflecting the six dimensions of adult catechesis in the Bishops’ document: Knowledge of the Faith, Liturgical Life, Moral Formation, Prayer, Communal Life and Missionary Spirit (#88-96 in “Our Hearts Were Burning Within Us”).

Dave Feavel, chairman of the Needs Committee spearheaded this effort with the help of eight Committee members. October 26/27 Dave presented the survey at each weekend Mass. Eight hundred adults responded. Jeremy Milum, of the Committee, formatted the survey questionnaire on the Internet. The survey returns were divided among Committee members who each logged in their returns to give a total response for study and action.

We are now scheduling in response to the answers our parishioners gave us. We know we can’t “deliver” on all requests immediately. But we also know we’re on the right track - Thanks to our Bishops and our parishioners.

30th Anniversary of Roe v. Wade to be Marked at Colt Stadium on January 22

by Peter Micale, WTA

On January 22, 2003, the 30th anniversary of Roe v. Wade, Bishop Michael D. Pfeifer, OMI will hold a memorial mass for the unborn at Colt Stadium in San Angelo.

The public is invited to the service and the Mass will begin at 7:00 p.m. All Catholic organizations with their banners are especially invited to be present. Also all youth organizations are encouraged to attend.

Let’s fill up the stadium for the unborn children!

RALLY

from page seven

recommended especially to CCD Teachers and Youth Leaders.

The day was filled with outstanding talks and performances that . . . you just had to be there! The hosting Parish whose Priest is Fr. Jose Robles Sanchez was a true delight. Upon our arrival late Friday night, Father met with us and escorted us to our sleeping quarters. Fr. Jose’s staff of volunteers with their accommodating efforts made us feel so welcomed.

George and the attending Youth wish to thank Fr. Michael Rodriguez the Sponsors and all others (including those who prayed for them) who made it possible for them to make this trip. According to Fr. Michael, Friday the day the group left for the trip there was an all night Adoration and prayer for the success of the Youth Rally.

Plans are already in the mill to attend Steubenville South a three day Conference held in June in Louisiana. This Conference is attended by some 5000 youth and promises to be a very awesome event. The Youth and Sponsors can hardly wait!

Declining Trust

Percent of U.S. adults who say they would generally trust the following people to tell the truth

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<td>President</td>
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<td>Journalists</td>
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<td>49</td>
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From a November 2002 telephone survey; a nationwide cross section of 1,010 adults.

A huge drop in confidence in clergy is likely the result of the sexual abuse crisis in the United States. But overall, trust in people in a variety of professions has declined somewhat since 2001. (CNS graphic by Anthony DeFeo)
Altar Serving, A Community Effort

by Sador and Rebecca Sotelo

After two months of study and practice the support from parents, clergy, and parishioners, twelve new altar servers were commissioned at Our Lady of San Juan Catholic Church in Midland. New members are Alberto and Alex Garcia, Potsy Sotelo, Catarina Garza, Mark Marquez, Adam Vasquez, Alexis Jurado,Alejandra Ramos, Virginia Ramos, Dolores Varela, Ivan Ferrer and Karla Puentes.

In order to serve, an altar server must attend three training sessions. Each class is designed to bring the server to a better understanding of the importance of our mass celebration and their role in the liturgy. The training sessions are held by parishioners and experienced servers. After the server has completed all three training session he/she attends weekly practices until commissioning. The order of the mass and the server duties continue to be emphasized during these practices to instill a better sense of importance in the server’s role in the liturgy. A child cannot fulfill his/her ministry without the help of their family.

Parents support their child by making sure that they get plenty of rest the night before he/she serves. Also, the parents are responsible for ensuring their child’s arrival to the church 15 minutes before mass starts, making sure they have attended all training and practice sessions and helping them to remember to find a substitute when they are unable to serve at their scheduled mass. The parents help to develop the spirituality of an altar server by sending them to religious education classes, attending mass as a family and praying with them. Siblings may help the server fulfill their ministry by helping them study the sacred vessels, the order of the mass, and working together to develop a better relationship among each other at home. Working together as a family to fulfill the ministry of an altar server is cause for celebration. The parish helps to develop this process of hermanamiento with the continual prayers from our clergy, parents, and parish community, and the faithful attendance in Religious Ed instruction, altar servers can bring Jesus to others by their behavior and attitudes at home, at school and among their friends. We are very grateful to God for the wonderful line of support he has given to us through our families and parish community. We also give thanks to Mary Dearen, Chano Sotelo, and altar servers Adriana Díaz, Nikki Martinez and Potsy Sotelo for helping with this year’s training sessions. Your time and talents were very beneficial to our servers.

En septiembre se desarrolla la visita de los representantes de la Diócesis de San Pedro Sula en compañía del padre José Antonio Canales, Vicario General de San Pedro Sula, el mayor logro de esta visita ha sido la profundización en el conocimiento entre cada diócesis, sus triunfos, limitaciones, problemas pastorales, ilusiones y proyectos.

Tal criterio lo confirman los funcionarios de CRS –encargados de la organización, apoyo operativo y logístico del proceso, quienes explicaron que la característica principal de este segundo encuentro es la maduración de la relación interdiocesana, fortaleciendo las bases para una relación a largo plazo.

La delegación visitó comunidades urbanas de la diócesis de San Pedro Sula, el Centro de Comunicaciones (donde funciona Radio Luz y el Semanario Fides) y también recorrieron la parroquia La Santa Cruz de Santa Cruz de Yojoa en compañía del padre Enemecio Del Cid, párroco.

En la Misa de acción de gracias por la visita los participantes compararon la experiencia de hermanamiento con la responsabilidad de remar mar adentro en donde recomienda impulsar la comunidad entre las iglesias particulares, atendiendo a los fieles a vivir más intensamente la dimensión comunitaria, asumiendo la responsabilidad de desarrollar los lazos de comunión con (...) otras partes de América por la educación, la mutua comunicación, la unión fraterna entre parroquias y diócesis; y los planes de cooperación en defensa de asuntos importantes, especialmente aquellos que afectan a los pobres. (Eclesia en América, número 37).

Todo un mar por delante

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Carmelite Hermits Visit Bishop

by Fr. Fabian Maria Rossetti, O. Carm.

During the Christmas season the Carmelite Hermits from Christoval, Texas met with the Most Rev. Michael D. Pfeifer, O.M.I at the Chancery Office and presented to him a variety of goodie made by the hermits. The Bishop expressed his gratitude for the gifts and asked that the hermits continue to offer their lives of prayer for him, the diocese, its priests and sisters and all its ministries.

This visit followed the aggregation of the hermits into the Carmelite Order – a change which manifested in a greater fashion the Carmelite identity of the Hermitage and allowed full union with Carmelites around the world. At the same time, this new status did not in any way lessen the mission of Mt. Carmel Hermitage towards the Diocese of San Angelo. The hermits have continued to unite themselves spiritually with the diocese, inviting its people to treasure the value of silence, solitude and prayer either by visiting the Hermitage or by opening their hearts to listen to God in the quiet of their own souls, where the Trinitarian God dwells. The hermits feel an ever greater call to support the diocese in prayer in the light of the grace bestowed on them in becoming closer to the heart of the mystical body in Carmel. Mount Carmel Hermitage opens its doors every day from 6 a.m. to 6 p.m., celebrates Mass from Monday to Saturday at 6:15 a.m., with Mass on Sundays and Solemnities at 9 a.m., and Evening Vespers at 5:30 p.m. All are invited to participate.

HEART
from page two

The pro-life movement’s efforts have amounted to nothing because Roe v. Wade still stands. But that misses the heart of the matter:

- Today fewer abortions are being done each year, and fewer doctors are willing to be involved in abortion.
- More Americans identify themselves as pro-life, while the numbers of those saying they are “pro-choice” have declined significantly.
- Ultrasound and other medical advances have made possible a greater appreciation of the humanity of the unborn child.
- In these three decades thousands of pro-life groups, individual parishes, Catholic social service agencies and pregnancy resource centers have provided practical assistance and support to thousands of women facing difficult pregnancies.
- Most state legislatures have enacted measures to restrict or regulate the practice of abortion and reduce its incidence.

Above all, the pro-life movement is brimming with the vibrancy of youth. Why so much youthful energy in the cause of life? Because the hearts of the young are open to life and are filled with love of life. The minds of the young are open to the truth about abortion. They dream of a world without Roe v. Wade, and they live as if the dream were true. Their hearts are full of compassion for unborn children and for young women who are confused and suffering, and they look for ways to serve them. Young people know that the future is in their hands, and their hearts yearn to bring a message of hope and healing to a culture in great need of hearing it.

Many contemplating abortion believe they have no other choice. We listen to them, we understand their sense of isolation and despair. We must strive to know their hearts.

Many who came of age at the time of Roe were hopeful about what it was said to promise: an end to poverty and abuse. Who would not hope for these things? But legal abortion promised what it could not give. It promised women a freedom to participate more fully in society, but it took their children and broke their hearts. Countless women have suffered physically, emotionally, and spiritually because of abortion; many have even lost their lives. Many men, too, mourn the loss of their children, while others carry the heavy burden of having persuaded their daughter, wife, or girlfriend to have an abortion.

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HEART
from page two

sary is how many young people have taken up the cause for life, and how impassioned is their support. This generation was born into a society already altered by Roe v. Wade and brings a special enthusiasm to the movement. This is the generation that knows it was born at a time and in a place where there was no legal assurance of continued survival at the earliest stages of life, in the womb.

In the United States abortion is legal throughout pregnancy. Yet abortion is a violation of human rights incomparable in magnitude and an atrocity for the whole human family. The lack of any limits to legal abortion was never more clear than in the case of Stenberg v. Carhart in 2000, when the Supreme Court ruled that even the horrific partial-birth abortion procedure could not be restricted. Most Americans are surprised and shocked to learn about the lack of any meaningful legal limitations for abortion. Many know things have gone too far. Together with those from many other faith communities, we work to bring about a society that recognizes abortion for what it truly is.

Many young people today comprehend the legacy of Roe. They look at thirty years of legal abortion and weep over the 40 million lives destroyed. They are aware that one in every four pregnancies ends in abortion, and they grieve for the world they will soon inherit. They mourn the fact that each year approximately 1.3 million abortions take place, and that thousands of them are done in the sixth month of pregnancy or later, when the child would likely survive if born.

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We are committed, no matter, how long it may take, no matter the sacrifices required, to bringing about a reversal of this tragic Supreme Court decision. We will speak out on behalf of the sanctity of each and every human life wherever it is threatened, from conception to natural death, and we urge all people of good will to do likewise. For as Pope John Paul II reminds us, “it is impossible to further the common good without acknowledging and defending the right to life, upon which all the other inalienable rights of individuals are founded and from which they develop” (The Gospel of Life, no. 101). Roe v. Wade must be reversed.
Migrantes
por Most Rev. Thomas Wenski, Auxiliary Bishop of Miami and Most Rev. Renato Ascencio Leon, Obispo de Ciudad Juarez

Queridos Hermanas y Hermanos: En un espíritu de fraternidad y solidaridad, nosotros, los Obispos de México y de Estados Unidos, hemos escrito una Carta Pastoral manifestando nuestra preocupación por aquellos que tienen que dejar sus hogares y emigrar a otros países en busca de lo necesario para la vida de sus familias y la de ustedes mismos. Nuestro mensaje pastoral se dirige a todos los emigrantes en este mundo, ya que todos peregrinamos juntos hacia el Reino que nos aguarda. Como Cristianos, debemos apoyarlos unos a otros en los retos y las dificultades que enfrentamos en la vida diaria.

Las dificultades que enfrentan los migrantes son muchas. Si usted emigró para hacerse residente permanente en otro país, enfrentará el reto de adaptarse a una cultura e idioma distintos. Si usted emigró temporalmente para trabajar, con o sin documentos migratorios legales, su trabajo será difícil y su vida y seguridad podrán estar en peligro. Como maestros de la fe y promotores de la justicia en el mundo, estamos consientes de su situación en estos tiempos y queremos hablar con ustedes directamente. Esperamos que las palabras, los retos y las adversidades incluidas en nuestra Carta Pastoral, que generen cambios necesarios en leyes y sistemas de migración existentes, de tal forma que protejan los derechos y la dignidad de hijos e hijas de Dios de todos los emigrantes. Prometemos hacer todo lo que esté de nuestra parte para proveer un cuidado pastoral que responda a sus necesidades y aspiraciones. A pesar de que están en una tierra extraña, queremos que siempre encuentren un hogar en cada Iglesia Católica y que se sientan plenamente bienvenidos en la vida espiritual de la Iglesia en donde quiera que se encuentren.

Invocamos la protección de Nuestra Señora de Guadalupe, Patrona de la Iglesia en América y de sus muchas naciones y pueblos unidos por una misma fe, esperanza y amor. Que ustedes y sus familias sientan siempre la presencia maternal y el amor de Nuestra Señora y durante su jornada.

En oración por una jornada segura y por su plenitud espiritual, quedamos de ustedes Suyos en Cristo.

Migrants
by Most Rev. Thomas Wenski, Auxiliary Bishop of Miami and Most Rev. Renato Ascencio Leon, Bishop of Ciudad Juarez

Dear Sisters and Brothers: In a spirit of fraternal care and solidarity, we, the bishops of Mexico and the United States, have issued a Pastoral Letter addressing our concern for those who have to leave their homes and migrate to another country to provide the necessities of life for themselves and their families. Our pastoral solicitude reaches out to all who are pilgrims in this world, since we all journey together to the Kingdom that awaits us. As Christians we must support each other in the challenges and daily difficulties we encounter in this life.

The difficulties you encounter as legislators treating of the consequences, have aconsejado mujeres que estaban considerando abortar, y han rezado. Muchos de ellos han tenido que sufrir por sus convicciones a favor de la vida. A la vez, lo que más nos impresiona en este trigésimo aniversario es ver la cantidad de jóvenes que han hecho suya la causa de la vida, y la pasión con que se esfuerzan por esa causa. Esta generación vino al mundo en una sociedad ya marcada por el aborto legalizado, y trae un entusiasmo especial al movimiento. Esta es la generación que sabe que ha nacido en una época y en un lugar donde no había ninguna garantía legal de su derecho a nacer.

En Estados Unidos el aborto es una opción legal durante todo el curso del embarazo. Y sin embargo, el aborto es una violación de los derechos humanos de magnitud imponderable, y una atrocidad contra toda la familia humana. La falta de límites sobre el aborto legalizado nunca quedó clara como en la decisión del caso.

Stenberg v. Carhart en el año 2000, cuando la Corte Suprema declaró que no se podía restringir ni siquiera la escalforante operación del aborto por medio del nacimiento parcial. La gran mayoría del pueblo estadounidense queda sorprendida y horrorizada al enterarse de que no existe ningún límite legal verdaderamente efectivo para el aborto. Casi todos se dan cuenta de que las cosas han ido demasiado lejos. En unión con muchas personas de otras religiones, luchamos para crear una sociedad que reconozca el aborto como el crimen que es en realidad.

Gran parte de la juventud de hoy comprende la herencia que esta decisión legal les ha dejado. Miran esos treinta años de abortos legales, y lloran por los 40 millones de vidas tronchadas. Saben que en estos momentos uno de cada cuatro embarazos termina en un aborto, y se afligen por el mundo que están a punto de heredar. Lamentan el hecho de que cada año tenga lugar cerca de 1.3 millones de abortos, y que miles de esos abortos suceden en el sexto mes del embarazo, y todavía más tarde - cuando el niño podría muy bien sobrevivir si se le dejara nacer.

La falta de límites sobre el aborto legalizado nunca quedó clara como en la decisión del caso. En oración por una jornada segura y por su plenitud espiritual, quedamos de ustedes Suyos en Cristo.

CORAZÓN
from page two

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Diocesan Conference Day
Scheduled

by S. Joan Markus, SSND

The annual Catholic Diocesan Conference Day will be held on February 8, 2003 at the San Angelo Convention Center. The theme for the Conference is Connecting Evangelization And Catechesis. Evangelization is the heart and soul of the Christian life. It embraces all aspects of a Christian’s life. It happens whenever a Christian, in word or action, shares the good news of Jesus Christ.

The two featured speakers, Sister Mary Laura Lesniak, SSMN and Mr. Pat Perillo will address the topics of an “Evangelizing Parish”, “Evangelizing The Family” And “Evangelizing Youth”. Ideas about how this can be done and what this might look like will be addressed in their presentations.

Sister Mary Laura is presently on staff at the St. John Eudes Center in West Seneca, New York, a Center whose mission is “to collaborate in the work of evangelization and in the formation of good laborers for the Gospel”. S. Mary Laura holds a M.A. degree in Liturgical Studies from the University of Notre Dame. At the diocesan level she specialized in liturgy, catechetical leadership and Christian Initiation. Ministerially, S. Mary Laura has served in Catholic communities in rural, suburban and urban settings of diverse cultural and racial makeup and also as a Parish Life Facilitator and Pastoral Administrator.

Mr. Pat A. Perillo presently serves as the Executive Director of the Office of Youth Ministry in San Antonio, TX where he has served for twenty years. Mr. Perillo holds a M.A. in Theology from St. Mary’s University in San Antonio, TX. His experience includes many years of administration, planning and training of adult youth leaders. He has served many years in parish volunteer work and full-time ministry at both the parish and diocesan level. Registration begins at 7:45 am. Displays of catechetical resources from exhibitors offer a good opportunity to interact with the publishers and also a chance to review available resources. The opening session is at 9:00 am. Lunch, included in the registration, is served at 12:15 pm. A Sunday liturgy, with Bishop Michael Pfeifer, OMI presiding, is at 3:00 pm. The day concludes at 4:15 pm. For more information, contact your local parish or the Office of Education and Formation at 915-651-7500.

RENEW Implementation Continues

by S. Joan Markus, SSND

Plans for the implementation of RENEW move to the parish level. In January, Deacon Michael Hanly from the RENEW International Office will begin orientation sessions with parish RENEW teams in each of the deaneries. The Orientation sessions will provide parish teams with an overview of RENEW and how they can assist the parish staff with its implementation in their respective parishes.

The schedule and site for the Orientation sessions are from 7:00 pm - 9:00 pm as listed:

Abilene Deanery - St. Francis of Assisi, Abilene (January 20, 2003)
San Angelo Deanery - Christ the King Retreat Center, San Angelo (January 21, 2003)
Midland/Odessa Deanery - St. Ann Parish, Midland (January 22, 2003)

RENEW: Spiritual Renewal for the 21st Century is a pastorally sensitive three-year process of spiritual renewal and evangelization designed to touch the entire parish. Data collected from parishes that participated in the process indicates considerable spiritual growth. 98% of the participants recommended RENEW to others. Many small Christian communities that develop during the RENEW process continue to meet, study, share and do outreach projects long after the three-year process. For parishes that have developed small Christian communities, RENEW materials provide additional resources.

The Diocesan RENEW Coordinating Team has membership in each of the deaneries. (See December issue of WT ANGELUS.) They are good resource persons who can answer questions and explain the RENEW process.

The Initiation Experience: Beginnings And Beyond Coming To San Angelo

by S. Joan Markus, SSND

Beginnings and Beyond (with a dialogue group on children), Co-sponsored with The North American Forum on the Catechumenate, will be held at Christ the King Retreat Center June 8-13, 2003. The Institute presents the vision of the Rite of Christian Initiation of Adults. It provides experience of the flow, steps, and periods of the Rite. It invites reflection, faith sharing, and liturgical celebration. It deepens understanding of the conversion journey and considers adaptations and principles regarding children and/or youth.

Those who will benefit from this Institute include:
- ministers beginning the initiation process, as well as experienced initiation ministers;
- liturgists looking for good adaptations of the rites;
- initiation teams involved with discernment of readiness of inquirers, catechumens and candidates;
- initiation teams looking for adaptations for candidates for full communion;
- initiation teams involved with the restored order of the initiation sacraments.

A brochure delineating the schedule and costs of the Institute will be mailed in January, 2003. If you have any questions, contact the Office of Education and Formation at 915-651-7500.

This Institute is sponsored by the Diocesan Mustard Seed Committee that developed from the 1997 Diocesan consultative revisioning process. Its purpose is to provide programs for leadership training for local parish leaders involved in various kinds of parish ministries.

KC Tri-District Banquet

by GK Steve Jansa

This year the Wall Knights of Columbus Council #4316 will host the tri-district banquet at St. Ambrose Parish in Wall, Texas on January 25, 2003. The evening will begin with a Mass at St. Ambrose Church at 4:00 pm. Immediately after the mass a social hour of drinks and light snacks will be held at St. Ambrose Parish Hall.

At 6:30 pm a meal of steaks, sausage and all the trimmings will be served. Following the meal the awards and accomplishments of each council will be presented. After the awards ceremony the dance will begin.

All knights wishing to attend should contact their respective Grand Knight before January 15 for tickets. Additional tickets may be purchased at the door.
Newest Member of San Pedro Sula Diocesan Solidarity Team Visits San Angelo

by S. Marie Malachy Griffin, OP

After the Newman Center Campus Ministry trip to Honduras last March, the Campus Minister from our sister Diocese was added to the original six member team. When invited to visit us in San Angelo, Fr. Oscar Valderrama, O.P. asked if there was enough work for him to do here to justify time away from his own ministry at four universities and two hospices for AIDS patients. In reply he was told that a minute-by-minute schedule would be provided. True to our word, many events were planned in order to introduce the energetic Panamanian Dominican to life in our Diocese. Kevin Creagan, formerly of Catholic Relief Services and instrumental in bringing our two dioceses into partnership, came from San Antonio to see that the visit got off to a good start and to reconnect with Fr. Oscar and Newman Center students.

The week began with liturgical and cultural experiences. Fr. Terry Brenon and Fr. Quirino Comejo introduced Fr. Oscar to the parishioners at Saint Mary’s and Saint Joseph’s where he preached on the unity that must transcend differences in language, culture, and race. He spoke of his experience of the Church in the third world countries of Central America and referred to the document written by Pope John Paul II which says that South, Central, and North America are one; not three separate entities.

The cultural offerings of the first three days included a visit to the Chicken Farm art exhibit, to the San Angelo Art Museum and to a medieval castle where a sumptuous, multi-course dinner was served and madrigal singers performed.

Heavy-duty discussions were numerous. One occurred on the students’ first night back after the Thanksgiving holiday. The topic was just war theory and conscientious objection to going to war. Another discussion followed dinner with representatives of the ASU faculty (active and retired), administrators, and students. One item which came up was the care of people with AIDS and the gospel call to stand with our sisters and brothers in their illness. Walking in the footsteps of Jesus calls forth great courage; it is not for the faint-hearted and those who worry about what other people will think of them when they reach out compassionately.

A Reconciliation Service was held at the Newman Center. Following individual confessions each penitent held a lighted candle to show new life in Christ, connectedness with each other, and with all of God’s people, especially our brothers and sisters in San Pedro Sula, Honduras.

The usual Wednesday Eucharist at the Center provided a huge challenge for our visiting member of the Order of Preachers; a three minute homily! He said he couldn’t do it but with advanced “warning” he pulled it off beautifully. Oscar challenged us to share our bread with those who have none.

Fr. Oscar was invited by Sister Mary Kay Bailey, O.P. and Fr. Miguel Dinio, O.P. to meet with the people of Saint Therese and Saint Paschal parishes. After a Power Point presentation on Catholic Social Teaching and the Newman Center trip to San Pedro Sula, Fr. Oscar entertained questions on his ministry, adopted country, and the Catholic Church’s role in the third world.

Wanda Lange organized a meeting of Hospice of San Angelo staff and the AIDS Foundation staff so that Fr. Oscar would be able to network with people who share common concerns. He spoke of the importance of support groups for the ill in Honduras and the absolute necessity to under gird compassion and love with respect for the human dignity of each person.

The final officially scheduled event was the seventh annual Pre-Christmas Candle Light Mass and Dessert Buffet. The music was excellent, the chapel was beautiful, the guests many and ready to celebrate, to remember and to give thanks. Our guest was the Presider and preacher. He said that Jesus was born in Bethlehem 2000 years ago but where he would be born this year was our decision.

A quotation from the first book of Kings comes to mind. It says that the voice of God was not found in the strong and heavy wind, nor in the earthquake, nor in the fire but in the murmur of a gentle breeze. We of this Diocese were blessed by a gentle breeze. We give thanks for having Fr. Oscar in our midst and pray for him and the people he serves so generously, honestly, and happily.

Segunda Visita De La Hermandad Entre Diócesis

Representantes de las Diócesis norteamERICANAS de Tyler y San Ángelo del Estado de Tejas visitaron por segunda vez la Diócesis de San Pedro Sula como parte del proceso de hermanamiento que la iglesia católica en Honduras y Estados Unidos construye con el apoyo de la agencia Catholic Relief Services, CRS (servicios de ayuda católica).

Esta visita llamada Foro de Solidaridad es parte de un proceso