

West Texas ANGELUS

Serving the Diocese of San Angelo, Texas
Volume XXVIII, No. 1 JANUARY 2008

With 50th anniversary in 2011, diocese looks at pastoral care

Committee seeks to ensure continuum of care with aid of Emerging Models of Pastoral Care document.

By Jimmy Patterson
The Angelus

As the Diocese of San Angelo prepares for its coming 50th birthday, a committee of priests, religious and lay people have begun to study the best ways of continuing uninterrupted the quality of pastoral care it provides its parishioners.

(Please See CARE/18)

U.S. Catholic Church

Of the 1 billion Catholics worldwide, there are more than 67.5 million living in the United States.



Numbers represent the Catholic Church in 2006.
Source: The Official Catholic Directory 2007

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DiNardo: 'I'll continue working on what's important to Texas'

By Jimmy Patterson
Editor
The Angelus

Fighting off a bad cold and still facing an unrelenting schedule since being installed as the first cardinal of the Catholic Church from the state of Texas, His Eminence Daniel DiNardo, archbishop of the Diocese of Galveston-Houston, reiterated his intentions to continue to work for causes important to people in Texas and throughout the southwest United States.

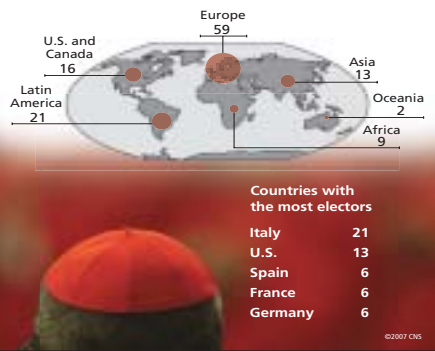
In a telephone interview with *The Angelus* January 4, DiNardo said it had not yet been made clear to him exactly what his duties as cardinal would be, but stressed that his No. 1 priority would remain working for the people of his archdiocese.

Specifically, Cardinal DiNardo, one of 22 "princes" of the church installed in the Fall of 2007, said he would continue to focus on issues regarding immigration, education and pro-life, three topics on which he has focused during his

(Please See DINARDO/19)

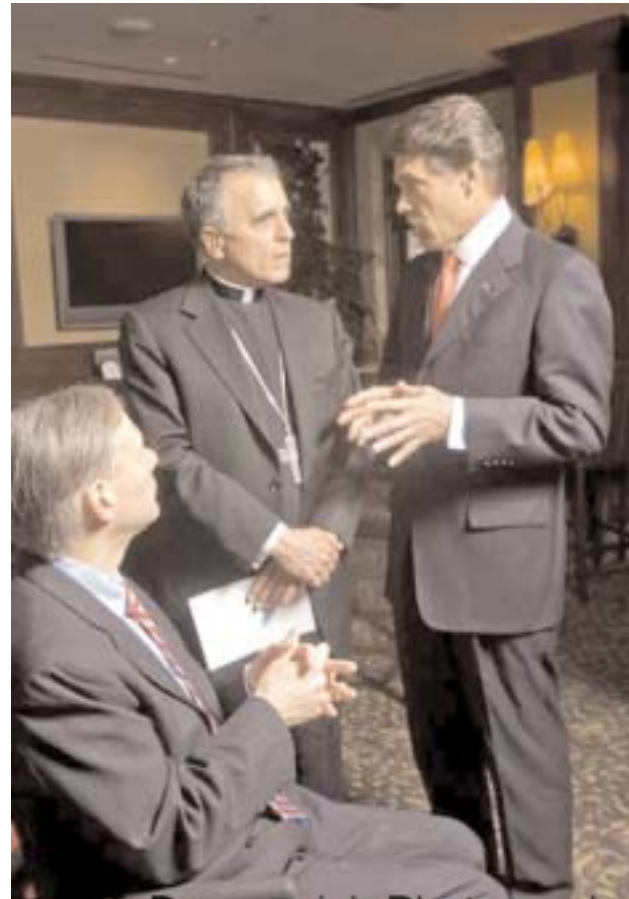
Cardinal-Electors

There are 120 cardinals eligible to vote for a new pope. Europe has the largest bloc of electors.



Cardinal DiNardo, at left, and at right, with Gov. Perry (right) and Attorney Gen. Greg Abbott.

Photos courtesy Governor's Office



JANUARY 2008						
S	M	T	W	T	F	S
		1	2	3	4	5
6	7	8	9	10	11	12
13	14	15	16	17	18	19
20	21	22	23	24	25	26
27	28	29	30	31		

THIS MONTH In the Diocese

JANUARY

- 19 -- MIDLAND, St. Ann -- Diocesan Schools Commission Meeting at 9:00 a.m.
- 21 -- SAN ANGELO, Sacred Heart Cathedral -- Ecumenical Service in honor of Dr. Martin Luther King, Noon.
- 22 -- SAN ANGELO, Sacred Heart Cathedral -- Pro Life Mass, Noon
- 22 -- MIDLAND, Life Center -- Service at 7 p.m.
- 23 -- SAN ANGELO, Christ the King Retreat Center, 11:30 a.m., Luncheon for all the Priests of the Diocese to honor Father George Varakukala

INSIDE THIS MONTH'S ANGELUS...

From the Bishop's Desk

In the first chapter of the Gospel of Luke, we hear the inspired words of God—"The infant in my womb leaped for joy." These words of that beautiful encounter of two expectant mothers—Mary and Elizabeth—gives us the theme for all of our annual Prolife programs for the year of Respect Life for 2007-2008.

/ Pg. 2



Diocesan directory

The Angelus' third-annual Diocesan Directory, featuring phone numbers, addresses, emails, priests and Mass times is featured this month on Pgs. 9-12.

January brings 100 years of prayer for Christian Unity

January marks 100 years of organized prayer for Christian unity which began with the Society of the Atonement at Graymoor in Garrison, New York, by an Episcopal priest and an Episcopal nun. Having been received by Pope Pius X into full communion with the Church of Rome, this priest and nun initiated the Church Unity Octave in April, 1908, a prayer movement for the unity of Christians. / Pg. 4

From the Easy Chair

One day when The Boy was 6, we were getting ready for a Little League game by laying out all parts of his uniform before school so we wouldn't be in a mad rush to find everything as we walked out the door later that night. It was a good morning because we had found most everything and it wasn't even 8 in the morning yet. Then came the elusive lost cap / Pg. 14



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From the Bishop's Desk

The Year of Respect Life: The infant in my womb leaped for joy

By Bishop Michael Pfeifer, OMI

In the first chapter of the Gospel of Luke, we hear the inspired words of God—"The infant in my womb leaped for joy." These words of that beautiful encounter of two expectant mothers—Mary and Elizabeth—gives us the theme for all of our annual Prolife programs for the year of Respect Life for 2007-2008.

ABORTION HAS KILLED NEARLY 50 MILLION

Today we recall with sadness the terrible Supreme Court decision, *Roe v. Wade* January 22, 1973, which legalized abortion on demand for all nine months of pregnancy. Thirty-five years after that deadly decision, almost 50 million unborn American children have been killed by abortion. More unborn children die every year through abortion than all Americans have died in all the nation's wars combined. Those now living and growing in their mothers' wombs

inhabit a place that has become more dangerous than any battlefield or terrorist target. The lives of these precious unborn hang in balance every moment. These precious unborn did not choose this risk, someone else chooses it for them. We are here to say that we are the voice and advocate of all unborn children, and proclaim in this Mass that all human life, unborn and born, from the moment of conception until natural death, is sacred and precious in the eyes of God as all human life has been made in the very image and likeness of God.

SCRIPTURE AND SCIENCE INDICATE THAT THE UNBORN ARE HUMAN PERSONS

Sadly today many Americans, including many Catholic politicians, base their belief and political decisions about the precious unborn on a human legal law that goes directly against the inspired word of God and the constant teaching of the Catholic Church on human life since the beginning of Christianity.

And, it goes against the latest scientific and medical research that constantly confirms the true humanness of the unborn. Pope John Paul II made it absolutely clear in his great letter, "The Gospel of Life," about the definitive teaching of the Catholic Church on the sacredness of all unborn life and that we are not free to choose abortion.

As regards sacred Scripture, the Gospel from Luke that tells about Mary's visit to her cousin, Elizabeth, clearly shows us how God sees the unborn. The life in the womb of these two wonderful women was not referred to as a glob of flesh or something inanimate, but referred to as human life, as human persons. Twice the word, infant, was used. The moment Mary's greeting reached Elizabeth's ears, and the ears of the unborn John, the tiny prophet announces to his mother the Messiah's arrival as if his entire being

(Please See BISHOP/19)



Bishop
Michael D.
Pfeifer, OMI

Our Holy Father's Monthly Intentions – 2008



January

CHRISTIAN UNITY: That the church work for full visible unity that better manifests a community of love which reflects the Blessed Trinity.

THE CHURCH IN AFRICA: That the Church in Africa, preparing for a special Synod, may be an instrument of reconciliation and justice.

February

MENTALLY HANDICAPPED: That the mentally handicapped may not be marginalized but respected and lovingly helped.

INSTITUTES OF CONSECRATED LIFE: That the Institutes of Consecrated Life in mission countries may rediscover the missionary dimension and generously proclaim Christ to the ends of the earth.

Daily Offering Prayer: *O Jesus, through the Immaculate Heart of Mary I offer you my prayers, works, joys and sufferings of this day in union with the Holy Sacrifice of the Mass throughout the world. I offer them for all the intentions of Your Sacred Heart: the salvation of souls, reparation for sin and the reunion of all Christians.*

I offer them for the intentions of our bishops and of all Apostles of Prayer, and in particular for those recommended by our Holy Father this month.

DIOCESAN BRIEFS

Catholic singer David Kauffman returns to Midland

Singer-songwriter, recording artist David Kauffman, founder of Good For The Soul Music who has performed over 1,000 concerts, youth rallies and parish retreats, returns to St. Ann's in Midland for a 7:30 p.m. concert January 25.

Kauffman has performed for Pope John Paul II and over a million and a half people at World Youth Day in Paris and Denver. David's passion is to offer music and spiritual reflections that will help people experience God's embrace in everyday life. He transformed the "Morning Offering" prayer into a beautiful meditative song called, "I Will Make This Day My Prayer." The Magnificat on Luke 1:46-55 is sung as a congregational song entitled, "Behold," the title song of his album, *Behold*, a collection of hymns and psalm settings for Sunday worship. And there's *Follow Me* singing of discipleship. His *Be Still* and *Surrender* albums are filled with quiet reflection music, and are used by people who care for the sick, the homebound, and hospice patients, as well as RCIA sessions and retreat settings. His *COJO* (Companion on the Journey) Series sings and speaks to different milestones in life, and take the listener on a mini-retreat in the listening. His songs touch the heart and soul of us all. The newest album, *Follow Me*, contains music that speaks to the call to disciple-



David
Kauffman

ship. This CD is a companion to the *Behold* CD, bringing choral voices to fill the air with God's praise and our desire to follow God's lead!

Worldwide Marriage Encounter returns to diocese

Designed to give married couples the opportunity to examine their lives together in a heart-to-heart, face-to-face encounter with each other. Worldwide Marriage Encounters' weekend is scheduled for the **Midtown Hotel (old Ramada Hotel on Wall), in Midland, Feb. 29-March 2, and May 30-June 1 at Christ The King Retreat Center in San Angelo.** Both marriage encounter weekends are from 7:30 Friday evenings until 5 p.m. Sunday.

The emphasis on the marriage encounter weekend is on communication between husband and wife who will spend a weekend together, away from the distractions and tensions of every day life to concentrate on each other. Worldwide Marriage Encounter is for any married couple who desires a richer, fuller life together. Marriage Encounter is designed to deepen and enrich the joys a couple shares together regardless how long they have been married. Marriage Encounter also provides support and encouragement to priests and religious who are dedicated to their vocation in life.

For more information on Worldwide Marriage Encounter and its upcoming weekends in Midland and San Angelo, call Valentin and Maria Gomez, 325.835.7044, or email vgomez@wcc.net.

Space is limited so reservations are encouraged quickly.

EDICTAL SUMMONS

January 1, 2008

CASE:
OLIVAS (MUNIZ) – GALLEGOS
NO.: SO 07/44

The Tribunal Office of the Catholic Diocese of San Angelo is seeking Ramon Ortega Gallegos.

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 January 2008 to answer to the Petition of Virginia Deanda Olivas (Muniz), now introduced before the Diocesan Tribunal in an action styled, "Virginia Muniz and Ramon Gallegos, Petition for Declaration of Invalidation of Marriage." Said Petition is identified as Case: OLIVAS (MUNIZ) – GALLEGOS; Protocol No.: SO 07/44, 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 January 2008.

Mr. Thomas C. Burke,
STB, MCL, JCL
Judge/Ponens

¿Qué tan lejos viajaría usted para hacer la planificación de la parroquia?

¿Qué tan lejos viajaría usted para hacer la planificación de la parroquia?

El 27 de noviembre, 6 personas de las Iglesias Católicas del sur de Odessa embarcaron en un “Viaje de Misión” para visitar a sus hermanos y hermanas en la parroquia de La Exaltación de Santa Cruz en Baracoa, Honduras. ¡Qué viaje resultó ser! Algunos de nosotros sentíamos como si hubiéramos estado en un retiro; pero fue verdaderamente un viaje espiritual. Todos los días nosotros visitamos una comunidad pequeña de entre las 51 comunidades pequeñas que forman la parroquia. La mayor parte de estas comunidades tienen la oportunidad de celebrar la Eucaristía una vez al mes porque el Pastor, el único sacerdote en la parroquia, sólo puede llegar allí una vez al mes. Piense en esto la próxima vez que usted se encuentra quejándose porque se ha cambiado el horario de la Misa en su parroquia.

Durante esta semana de la peregrinación, nosotros fuimos privilegiados de tomar parte en su parroquia de hacer planes para el próximo año. El planeo incluye representantes de todas las comunidades pequeñas quienes se reunieron el fin de semana para poner en práctica el documento que los Obispos de latinoamérica central y el

(Mira **HONDURAS/17**)



**More photos,
Diocese-Scenes,
Pg. 17, 20**

**English
translation,
Pg. 17**

From the Editor

A weekend that will transform your life – hurry, ACT now

By Jimmy Patterson

You've no doubt heard about -- or even had -- life-altering experiences; times that change lives for the better or worse. One thing always seems a constant in these type of moments: they include the living of events you will always remember.

Marriage. Birth. Death. Job change. Career shift. Relocation. Serious illness. All would no doubt make famous lists of Top 10 experiences that would forever alter life as we know it and impact the rest of our days.

What is probably not on most of those change-your-life-for-ever lists is a little something we call the ACTS Retreat. It is a small but growing movement within the Catholic Church. An archbishop on the ACTS steering committee in San Antonio says the movement has enough spiritual legs to become a major force for positive change in the Catholic Church.

I don't doubt it. I saw my wife return a changed person from an ACTS retreat last spring. Almost a year later, that aura, that ever-presence of the Holy Spirit still clings to her as if she came off the retreat last week. I have seen a woman transform in front of my own eyes, as a mother, a wife, a friend to others and perhaps most especially as a Christian and a Catholic. Our parish had its second annual Men's ACTS retreat in November. I don't know if I am perceived as having been changed by it or not, but it certainly feels like it. I have met people I would have otherwise never met. I have seen and felt and experienced the Holy Spirit and the Mass in ways I would have never imagined. I have seen the good in other people that I likely would have never looked for. And I have suddenly realized the importance of daily prayer and quiet time with God.

Before ACTS, my life was fairly simple. Get up. Go to work. Come home. Eat dinner. Work some more. Since the retreat, I have found friends I would have likely never had before; a sense of community in my parish I have never had, and a new appreciation and love for my wife and family, and perhaps most importantly, I have found 30 minutes every morning that I give to God, reading, listening, responding, and benefiting for the rest of the day the gifts I receive each morning during this self-initiated quiet time. And I am a better person for it, at least I think I am. I feel I am.

I can give you no details about the specifics of the ACTS retreat. It is all part of the allure of it, to me: the not knowing what happens and then experiencing it. It has had a major positive impact on my life and as a result, I pray it has had an impact on the lives of others I come into contact with every day. If you think you'd like to go on an ACTS retreat, do it. Ask your priest about it today. If you don't think you would benefit from it -- go anyway and find out how wonderful it feels to be wrong about how you felt about not needing a retreat, and then feeling the fruits of the Holy Spirit on a daily basis.

Learn more about the ACTS Retreat at actsmissions.org.



Patterson

Del Escritorio del Obispo

El niño salto de alegría en mis entrañas

*Domingo de Respetar la Vida –
7 de octubre, 2007*

por el Obispo Miguel Pfeifer, OMI

El Programa de Respetar la Vida anual para la entera Iglesia Católica de los Estados Unidos comienza el domingo, 7 de octubre del 2007. Como en el pasado, todas las parroquias recibirán mucha información y material diseñados para ayudar a todos nosotros a llegar a estar mejor educado e implicado en los temas críticos de pro-vida que nos afrentan hoy.

El tema para el Programa de

Respetar la Vida este año es “El Niño Saltó de Alegría en mis Entrañas.” Estas palabras de Elizabeth fueron habladas a María durante la visita que María hizo a su pariente quien esperaba un bebé precioso, Juan el Bautista. Solo unos cuantos días antes, María había recibido noticias increíbles que había sido escogida por Dios nuestro Padre para que fuera la madre del Hombre Dios, Cristo Jesús.

Conocemos la historia. El Arcángel Gabriel anuncia a la Virgen María la invitación de Dios para convertirse en la madre del Mesías. Para mostrar que nada es imposible para

Dios, la prima anciana de María, Isabel, a quien se creía estéril, también está esperando un niño: San Juan Bautista.

Los embarazos de Isabel y María—a pesar de sus extrañas circunstancias—son causa de regocijo. Por el poder del Espíritu Santo, el niño Jesús, antes de nacer, anuncia su presencia a su primo Juan, también aún por nacer, quien salta de alegría, proclamando a su madre: “¡Mira! ¡El Cordero de Dios!” Isabel, a su vez, se llena del Espíritu Santo y reconoce a María como el

(Mira **OBISPO/18**)



Obispo Miguel Pfeifer OMI

DIOCESAN DATES**Bishop's Calendar****JANUARY**

12-14 -- LAREDO, Meeting of Texas/Mexican Bishops

19 -- MIDLAND, St. Ann -- Diocesan Schools Commission Meeting at 9:00 a.m. --

20 -- MENARD, Sacred Heart - Mass at 9:00 a.m.

21 -- SAN ANGELO, Sacred Heart Cathedral -- Ecumenical Service in honor of Dr. Martin Luther King at 12:00 noon

22 -- SAN ANGELO, Sacred Heart Cathedral -- Pro Life Mass at 12 noon

22 -- MIDLAND, Life Center -- Service at 7:00 p.m.

23 -- SAN ANGELO, Christ the King Retreat Center -- 11:30 a.m., -- Luncheon for all the Priests of the Diocese to honor Father George Varakukala

25 -- SAN ANGELO, Sacred Heart Cathedral -- Ecumenical Service for Christian Unity at 12 noon

26 -- SAN ANGELO, Annual Celebration of Santa Angela at 11:00 a.m.

27 -- SAN ANGELO, Holy Angels -- Mass for Bread of Life Retreat at 10:45 a.m.

29 -- SAN ANGELO Holy Angels -- Presentation to the RCIA at 6:30 p.m.

FEBRUARY

1 -- MEXICO CITY -- Priestly Ordination

2 -- SAN ANGELO, NAACP Banquet

4 -- ABILENE, Abilene Christian University -- Presentation to Students at 6:30 p.m.

5 -- SAN ANGELO, Presbyteral Council meeting at 11:00 a.m.

6 -- SAN ANGELO, Sacred Heart Cathedral -- Ash Wednesday Mass at noon

9 -- IMPERIAL, Our Lady of Lourdes -- Rosary at 4:00 p.m. and Mass at 5:30 p.m.

10 -- SAN ANGELO, Sacred Heart Cathedral -- Rite of Election at 2:00 p.m.

11 -- ANDREWS, Procession and Mass at Our Lady of Lourdes, Andrews at 6:00 pm

13 -- SAN ANGELO, Newman Center -- Mass at 12:00 noon

15 -- CHRISTOVAL -- Election for Carmelite Sisters Superior

16 -- SAN ANGELO, Sacred Heart Cathedral -- 5:00 p.m. Mass and Scout Awards

19 -- SAN ANGELO, Liturgy Commission Meeting - 10 a.m.

19 -- SAN ANGELO -- Sacred Heart Cathedral -- Shroud of Turin Seminar, 6:30 p.m.

20 -- SAN ANGELO, Christ the King Retreat Center -- Region X Vocation Conference -- Mass at 5:15 p.m.

Diocesan Conference Day
25-29 -- Private Lenten Retreat

Christ the King Retreat Center**JANUARY**

10 -- Day of Reflection San Angelo Deanery Priests

11-13 -- Deacon Training Program

13 -- Why Catholic

14 -- Heart of Mercy prayer group

15 -- Engaged Encounter

17-20 -- Men's A.C.T.S.

Retreat-Rowena
21 -- Heart of Mercy prayer group

22 -- Adoration of the Blessed - Sacrament, 5-6 p.m.

23 -- International Clergy/ Going Away Lunch -- Fr. Varakukala

24-27 -- Women's Walk to Emmaus

28 -- Heart of Marcy prayer group

29 -- Adoration of the Blessed - Sacrament 5-6 p.m.

FEBRUARY

1-2 -- First Central Presbyterian
3 -- CKRC Confirmation Retreat

4 -- Heart of Mercy Prayer Group

5 -- Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament 5-6 p.m.

6 -- Ash Wednesday

8-10 -- Deacon Training Program

11 -- Heart of Mercy Prayer Group

12 -- Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament 5-6

12 -- Deacon Quarterly Meeting

14 -- Valentine's Day

15-17 -- Engaged Encounter

18 -- President's Day

18 -- Heart of Mercy Prayer Group

19 -- Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament 5-6

20-22 -- Region 10 Vocation Conference

22-23 -- Southland Baptist Church

25 -- Heart of Mercy Prayer Group

26 -- Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament, 5-6 p.m.

NECROLOGY FEBRUARY

5 -- Deacon David King (2006)

9 -- Rev. Albert Fuytink, C.S.S.R. (1997)

10 -- Rev. Leo Lavoie (1978)

15 -- Rev. Frank Colacicco (2006)

20 -- Deacon Mark Reeh (2005)

21 -- Rev. Tom Kelley (2005)

22 -- Rev. Francisco Lopez (1994)

January 2008 will mark 100 Years of organized prayer for Christian Unity

By Bishop Michael Pfeifer, OMI

January marks 100 years of organized prayer for Christian unity which began with the Society of the Atonement at Graymoor in Garrison, New York, by an Episcopalian priest and an Episcopalian nun. Having been received by Pope Pius X into full communion with the Church of Rome, this priest and nun initiated the Church Unity Octave in April 1908, a prayer movement for unity of Christians. The dates chosen for this annual eight day observance were January 18, the Feast of the Chair of St. Peter to January 25, the Feast of the Conversion of St. Paul. Following the Second Vatican Council, the prayer movement, while retaining the same dates, was re-named the Week of Prayer for Christian Unity. Today the Pontifical Council for promoting

Christian unity collaborates with the Faith and Order Commission of the World Council of Churches in promoting the worldwide observance of the Week of Prayer for Christian Unity.

To mark this centennial, I have asked all the Pastors and Pastoral Coordinator of the parishes of our Diocese to have a special ecumenical prayer service during the Week of Prayer for Christian Unity—January 18-25, 2008—inviting our Catholic people to pray publicly for Christian unity in all of our Masses, and to organize a prayer service with ministers and communities of other churches during the Week of Prayer for Christian Unity. Where there are several parishes in the larger cities, the parishes can come together with surrounding ecclesial communities for this special prayer service for Church unity.

I respectfully request that our Pastors, and all the people to pray fervently for Christian unity, not only during the 2008 Week of Prayer for Unity, but also throughout the year. While we are encouraged to pray within our own places of worship, it is especially appropriate on this centennial to pray together with fellow Christians for that unity, which Christ prayed for, "That all may be one...that the world may believe." (Jn 17:20)

To promote this Week of Prayer for Christian Unity, I will be taking part in leading an ecumenical prayer service for Christian Unity to be held at Sacred Heart Cathedral on Friday, January 18 in San Angelo. All people are invited to take part in this special prayer service for unity and peace.

January 6-12: National Migration Week

From many, one family of God

By Bishop Michael D. Pfeifer

The week of January 6-12, 2008 marks the 27th annual observance of National Migration Week in the life of the Catholic Church in the United States. This week is set aside each year to celebrate the many gifts that migrants, refugees, and other people on the move bring to our country. It also is an opportunity to raise the awareness of Catholics about the victims of human trafficking, unaccompanied children in detention, and other vulnerable populations whom the Church serves in their time of great need. During this period of heightened fear and suspicion towards newcomers, particularly migrants, the Catholic Church of the U.S.A. has designated the theme for the National Migration Week to be "From Many, One Family of God." This theme calls all to unity in Christ, no matter our country of origin or the circumstances that bring us together.

From Many, One Family of God

The Gospel of Mark tells us the

wonderful story of Jesus feeding over 5,000 people, providing miraculous assurance of the providence of God as well as a reminder that His abundance is meant to be shared with all people. In this account we are told that Jesus first asked his apostles to feed the crowd who were coming and going in great numbers. When, in astonishment, they expressed their fear that they did not have enough to share, Jesus lovingly asked them how much they did have. Only five loaves and two fish he was told—certainly not enough for this throng! Yet through the power of Christ, the small offering of his followers was sufficient not only to satisfy all in the crowd, but to fill 12 wicker baskets with fragments.

What lessons can we learn from this account and others throughout Scripture when considering the migration phenomenon today? The mere mention of immigration evokes strong emotions, both positive and negative, from citizens and lawmakers alike. Among Catholics, there are deep divisions as well. Recent calls

from the Holy Father and the bishops for solidarity and unity with migrants are often met with indifference and hostility. And yet, the principles and teaching underlying these exhortations are biblical, not political, in their origin.

Scripture is filled with stories of God's migrant people. In the Old Testament, we witness the Israelites facing famine by crossing into Egypt. Once again in the New Testament, Egypt serves as a place of refuge and safety for the Holy Family as they flee to escape the murderous designs of King Herod on the life of Jesus. We are reminded repeatedly by Jesus, as well as the prophets, to welcome strangers as we would welcome him. To Jesus, the unity of his people has Eucharistic significance. He teaches us that just as many grains become the one bread—his sacred body—so too, from the earth's many people comes one family of God, the mystical Body of Christ on earth.

Despite this clear biblical tradition

(Please See **MIGRATION/19**)

Achieving racial sobriety in a world of racism

By Bishop Michael Pfeifer, OMI

What is Racial Sobriety? The Racial Sobriety program is an information and formation process that is a tool for improving race relations by intervening in our "living under the influence" of racial thinking, feeling, and acting. The initial program aims at helping people find "their voice of racial sobriety," their commitment to see each person as their brother and sister.

These reflections on Racial Sobriety are taken from an article in the *Catholic Charities USA* magazine and feature the thoughts on this program by Catholic Charities USA's new Director of Racial Empowerment, Rev. Clarence Williams, C.P.P.S.

Father Clarence describes further the process undertaken in the Racial Sobriety program:

"Racial Sobriety requires a self awareness that examines our prejudices in regard to another's racial caste in society and is achieved by ridding ourselves of the 'stinking thinking' of racism, which in turn frees us from racial dysfunction in our interactions with others in the human family. The term racial dysfunction describes the negative thinking, feeling, and acting on the false beliefs of racial prejudice. In other words, it is dysfunctional to see a person or group as anything other than human beings, regardless of their race, whether 'race' is a matter of color, culture, creed, or class. The word dysfunction means an improper relationship. Racial dysfunction is an improper relationship with members of the same human family. In this approach, racism is viewed as a family dysfunction with society being the 'family.'

"Racial sobriety provides a healing process for coping with the social illness of racial dysfunction. The endless racial incidents, reported and unreported, in the American family demonstrate the pandemic scope of racial dysfunction.

"A personal commitment to Racial Sobriety is a desire to be free of racial dysfunction in order to become a fully functioning human being. A social commitment to racial sobriety is a desire to see everyone in a culture of racial sobriety where each person is seen as a member of the same human family."

Making Sense Out of Bioethics

The Holy Grail of Reprogramming

By Rev. Thad Pacholczyk

The recent discovery that regular old garden-variety skin cells can be converted into highly flexible (pluripotent) stem cells has rocked the scientific world.

Two papers, one by a Japanese group, and another by an American group, have announced a genetic technique that produces stem cells without destroying (or using) any human embryos. In other words, the kind of stem cell usually obtained by destroying embryos appears to be available another way. All that is required is to transfer four genes into the skin cells, triggering them to convert into pluripotent stem cells. It has been called "biological alchemy," something like turning lead into gold. Many are hailing "cellular reprogramming" as a breakthrough of epic proportions, the stuff that Nobel prizes are made of, a kind of Holy Grail in biomedical research.

As important as this advance may prove to be scientifically, it may be even more important to the ethical discussion. It offers a possible solution to a longstanding ethical impasse and a unique opportunity to declare a pause, maybe even a truce in the stem cell wars, given that the source of these cells is ethically pristine and uncomplicated. As one stem cell researcher put it recently, if the new method produces equally potent cells, as it has been touted to do, "the whole field is going to completely change. People working on ethics will have to find something new to worry about." Thus, science itself may have devised a clever way to heal the wound it opened back in 1998 when human embryos began to be sought out and destroyed for their stem cells. Dr. James Thomson (whose 1998 work ignited the controversy, and who also published one of the new breakthrough papers) acknowledged just such a possibility in comments to reporters: "Ten years of turmoil and now this nice ending." Whether this nice ending will actually play out remains to be seen, but a discovery of this magnitude, coupled with a strong ethical vision, certainly has the potential to move us beyond the contentious moral quagmire of destroying human embryos.

Change never comes easily, however, and before we can really change, we need to see the reasons why we should change. Each of us is, incredibly, an embryo who has grown up. This biological fact stares researchers in the face every time they choose to "disaggregate" a human embryo with their own bare hands. It makes many researchers edgy, touching them on some deeper level of their being. It makes many Americans queasy and eager to find alternatives.



Fr. Pacholczyk

Dr. Thomson, who has overseen the destruction of numerous embryonic humans himself, had the honesty to acknowledge this fact in comments he made to the *New York Times* recently: "If human embryonic stem cell research does not make you at least a little bit uncomfortable, you have not thought about it enough."

Reprogramming eliminates these ethical concerns even as it offers a highly practical and straightforward technique for obtaining pluripotent stem cells. As Dr. Thomson himself put it, "Any basic microbiology lab can do it, and it's cheap and quick." Reprogramming is also important because it provides an alternative approach to "therapeutic cloning," a complex and immoral procedure used to obtain patient-specific stem cells. Reprogramming provides patient-specific stem cells as well, but without using women's eggs, without killing embryos, and without crossing moral lines.

The sheer practicality of the new reprogramming approach, coupled with its ethical advantages, really make it a no-brainer. Yet despite all these advantages, a number of voices can be heard arguing that the bio-industrial-complex emerging around destructive human embryo research must be safeguarded and expanded. There are at least three reasons for this.

First, the financial investment that has already been made in this arena is significant, especially considering certain state initiatives like Proposition 71 in California which devote large sums of state taxpayer money to pursue research that depends on human embryo destruction. Once large sums of money are involved, ethics often becomes the first casualty.

Second, some of the scientists who advocate the destruction of human embryos have never really taken the moral concerns very seriously because the creed they subscribe to is the so-called "scientific imperative," namely, that science must go forward, as if it were the highest good. It must be able to do whatever it wants, wherever it wants, whenever it wants, and nobody should be pushing ethical viewpoints to limit what researchers do. That, of course, is a

completely untenable position because we regulate what scientists do all the time. The very mechanism by which we disperse federal money puts all kinds of checks and balances on what researchers can do and there are certain types of research like germ warfare studies or nuclear bomb development that the government strictly regulates already. Other kinds of research are criminal, such as performing medical experiments on patients who don't give their consent. The idea that we have to allow science to do whatever it wants is little more than "pie-in-the-sky" wishful thinking.

The third reason embryo destructive research will still likely be promoted has to do with abortion. Several astute commentators have noted recently how the whole field of embryonic stem cell research seems to serve as a kind of "hedge" for abortion. In the same way that a garden gets a hedge placed around it in order to protect it, embryonic stem cells are becoming a place holder for abortion. If embryo killing becomes incorporated into the way we cure illnesses and maintain our health as a society, then abortion on demand will be more likely to curry favor in our culture as well. If those trying to protect embryos carry the day, pro-abortionists fear that the same ethical arguments will prevail against abortion.

Several factors will therefore influence how this major new stem cell discovery plays out in the future. One thing is clear, however: those renegade researchers, lawmakers and Hollywood personalities who have long dismissed ethical concerns and advocated human embryo destruction now find themselves at an important juncture because of this breakthrough. We can only hope that in the wake of this discovery, the siren call of harvesting human embryos will cease ringing in their ears and allow for a new era of ethical science in our society.

Rev. Tadeusz Pacholczyk, Ph.D. earned his doctorate in neuroscience from Yale and did post-doctoral work at Harvard. He is a priest of the diocese of Fall River, MA.

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2007: The Catholic News Year in Review

Immigration, war named top stories, pope top newsmaker

By Nancy Frazier O'Brien
Catholic News Service

WASHINGTON — The national debate over immigration issues was the top religious news story of 2007 and Pope Benedict XVI was the top newsmaker, according to the annual poll of client editors of Catholic News Service.

Catholic response to the war in Iraq took second place among the 30 news stories on the ballot, while developments in the stem-cell field came in third.

Pope Benedict dominated the newsmakers list, with 20 of the 24 first-place votes cast. U.S. President George W. Bush was a distant second, followed by Blessed Mother Teresa of Calcutta.

The poll was the 46th annual survey of CNS client newspapers. This year's ballots were distributed Dec. 4 and the deadline for returns was Dec. 13.

When the editors' poll was first conducted in 1962, the overwhelming choice for top story was the opening of the Second Vatican Council. Last year, editors chose Islam's relations with church and society as the top religious story of the year and Pope Benedict as the top newsmaker.

Editors were asked to vote for the top 10 news stories from a list of 30 selected by CNS staff, and

the top five newsmakers from a list of 20. Votes were weighted by the rankings editors gave — 10 points for a first-place vote, nine points for second, etc., and five points for top newsmaker, four for second, etc.

With 24 editors in the United States and Canada submitting ballots, the maximum points a story could have received was 240. The most a newsmaker could receive on the five-point scale was 120. Some editors' ballots included ties, resulting in half-points in some cases.

The year's immigration developments included multiple efforts — all ultimately unsuccessful — to bring federal legislation to a vote in Congress. The nation's Catholic

2007 TOP NEWS

STORIES

1. IMMIGRATION

Catholic bishops call for just treatment of immigrants while Immigration and Customs Enforcement raids at workplaces leave families separated and in need of church assistance.

2. WAR IN IRAQ

3. STEM CELLS

4. INTERRELIGIOUS DIALOGUE

5. TRIDENTINE MASS

NEWSMAKERS

1. POPE BENEDICT XVI

The pope allows for wider use of Tridentine Mass, names 23 cardinals, visits Brazil and Austria, publishes second encyclical, issues letter to the church in China.

2. U.S. PRESIDENT GEORGE W. BUSH

3. BLESSED MOTHER TERESA

4. CARDINAL DANIEL N. DINARDO

5. VENEZUELAN PRESIDENT HUGO CHAVEZ



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bishops called for just treatment of immigrants and joined in protests against anti-immigrant

sentiments.

At the local level, church charitable agencies were called to assist those caught up in Immigration and Customs Enforcement raids at workplaces, which often left families separated and without income.

On the war in Iraq, the bishops called the present situation "unacceptable and unsustainable" and urged a "responsible transition" leading to the end of the fighting. The flight of hundreds of thousands of Christians from Iraq could lead to the end of a Christian presence there, they said.

A pair of breakthrough studies later in the year that showed success in creating stem cells without destroying human embryos brought praise from Catholic and pro-life officials around the world, along with hope that embryonic stem-cell research will soon be abandoned. Bush vetoed legislation that would

have expanded federal funding of embryonic stem-cell research, and New Jersey voters rejected a bond question that would have dedicated millions of state dollars for that purpose.

Rounding out the top five for religious news stories were developments in Catholic dialogue with Muslims and Jews and Pope Benedict's ruling allowing wider use of the Tridentine Mass.

That decision — along with his landmark letter to Chinese Catholics, his travels and an upcoming trip to the United States, his naming of 23 new cardinals from 14 countries and a new encyclical and book — earned Pope Benedict the top spot as 2007's religious newsmaker.

Bush was second for his vetoes of the embryonic stem-cell bill and legislation expanding the State Children's Health Insurance Program, his first meeting with Pope Benedict and the continued criticism directed at him over the war in Iraq.

Ten years after her death, Mother Teresa was the third top newsmaker of 2007 as a new book of her writings revealed her doubts about her faith, which Vatican officials said revealed her spiritual strength. She also moved closer to sainthood when an Indian priest said he experienced a
Please See **DINARDO/17**

Pope: Birth of Jesus should spur Christians to evangelize

By John Thavis
Catholic News Service

VATICAN CITY -- The gift of Jesus' birth at Christmas should spur Christians everywhere to evangelize, Pope Benedict XVI said.

"The joy of Christmas ... fills us with hope and at the same time should stimulate us to announce to all people the presence of God among us," he said.

The pope spoke to several thousand pilgrims in St. Peter's Square at his weekly Sunday blessing Dec. 23. They gathered in the middle of the square around a shrouded creche, which was to be unveiled Christmas

Eve.

In his final public remarks before Christmas, the pope turned to what has become a dominant year-end theme at the Vatican: the need to evangelize.

"The evangelizing mission of the church is the answer to the cry 'Come, Lord Jesus!' which runs through salvation history and that continues to rise from the lips of believers," the pope said.

He cited a recent document from the Vatican's doctrinal congregation, which underlined Christians' duty to share the salvation they have received as a gift. That is something many Catholics do not seem to

understand anymore, the pope said.

"Nothing is more beautiful, more urgent and more important than giving back gratuitously to people that which we have gratuitously received from God," he said.

"Nothing can exempt us or relieve us of this demanding and fascinating task," he said. Every Christian and every Christian community should be animated by the joy of sharing the good news of Christ's birth, he said.

"This is the real meaning of Christmas, which we should always rediscover and experience intensely," he said.

The pope said the unparalleled model of evangelization was Mary,

"who communicated to the world not an idea but Jesus, the Word Incarnate."

The pope then offered pre-Christmas greetings in six languages. Speaking in English, he said:

"I extend warm greetings to all the English-speaking pilgrims and visitors present at today's Angelus. On this fourth Sunday of Advent, we contemplate God's ancient promise to send us his son, Emmanuel -- God is with us. As we prepare to celebrate the birth of Christ, I pray that you may open your hearts to welcome him with joy. God bless you all!"



A child in rural China celebrates Mass Dec. 23.

Bishop looks back at 5 years of church review

My dear sisters and brothers in Christ:

The National Review Board [NRB], a lay body appointed by the President of the United States Conference of Catholic Bishops [USCCB] to review the Church's handling of the sexual abuse of minors by clerics, cited accomplishments and challenges in a five-year report made public December 13. On the National Review Board, there is a member from our own diocese, Dr. Joseph Rhode, from St. Ann's Parish in Midland. I appreciate his good service for this national effort.

Judge Michael R. Merz, NRB Chair, commended Church efforts today, but said the problem of sexual abuse of minors is complex. "Church efforts for prevention, healing, and vigilance will be demanded for the rest of our days," Judge Merz said. "The price of this crime is steep both in the pain felt by victims and the shadow cast on the reputation of innocent Catholic priests. Most priests never have abused a child or even someone's trust in them, but they bear shame by association. It's not right, but that's the fact."

"Bishops have taken a strong approach to dealing with this crisis," Judge Merz said. "Sexual abuse of children is not a problem in the church alone, but bishops as moral leaders must stand in the forefront of protecting children. The NRB is proud to collaborate with the bishops in the protection of children and young people."

The report of the National Review Board is addressed to the U.S. Catholic faithful and is "a record of accomplishments, unfinished work, and challenges that lie ahead," it said. The report praised the USCCB audit process by which "dioceses and eparchies have been audited to assure the implementation and maintenance of the standards established" in the Charter for the Protection of Children and Young People, which the bishops

created in 2002. "Those audits provide substantial evidence of the bishops' efforts to protect children and respond to the abuses of the past and present. As of 2006, 98 percent of the dioceses and eparchies are participating in the audits. Those audited are in full compliance with the standards" set for the audits, the report said.

The report also noted that "over 6 million children have participated in educational programs and over 1.6 million background investigations have taken place" as part of diocesan safe environment programs.

"The Board is encouraging the USCCB to do random audits of the parishes and to work toward establishing best practices in educational programs, victim care, background checks, and investigation of allegations," the report said. "During 2007, to provide a model to study for the future, a number of diocese volunteered to pilot audits at the parish level. The NRB fully support and encourages these parish audits."

The report cited six challenges which the Board recommends, but also recognizes that are not easily resolved since they involve extremely complex issues.

The report indicates that "One of the most significant issues is the need for a greater understanding of victimization and its consequences. Discussions with victims provide evidence of serious needs that still must be addressed in order for the victims and their families to find the healing that they need."

"Another set of issues relates to the relationship of the Church to its priests, the vast majority of whom are not involved in the scandal, but many of whom feel alienated from both the bishops and the laity." In addition, "there is a particular need to provide appropriate protection and restoration for those accused but later found innocent."

It also noted that parishes "also

become victims of sexual abuse.

Members of parishes experience both a sense of betrayal or outrage over accusations that lead to the removal of a pastor or associate. Often parishioners do not know how to respond to victims and their families and agonize over the lengthy process of determining appropriate responses. This is an area that needs much more attention."

The NRB also cited the need to keep church members better informed on the positive responses the Bishops have made and more active observers of the programs and processes in their parishes and dioceses. (I, as your Bishop, am trying to fulfill this recommendation by sending you this letter.-Bishop Mike)

The report points out that safe environments can prevent damage to children, young people, families, parishes, dioceses, and the Church rests with all Catholics." I thank all of our priests and pastoral leaders for what they have done to address this critical issue by fulfilling the demands that were made in the Charter to provide a safe, sacred environment for all of our people, especially for our young people. In a special way, I thank the Chancellor of the Diocese, Mr. Mike Wyse, who is also the Director of the Safe Environment Program for our Diocese, for all that has been done to address this critical issue, and to provide the safest environment for all.

I strongly encourage all the members of our parishes to continue to take part in our safe environment program, and more than ever let us pray to our loving God for the guidance of the Holy Spirit as we continue to address an issue that not only affects the Catholic Church, but all of society. God's peace.

*Your servant in
Christ and Mary,
Most Rev. Michael D. Pfeifer, OMI
Bishop of San Angelo*

Pope Benedict XVI accepts resignation of Amarillo's Bishop Yanta

USCCB Communications Office

WASHINGTON—Pope Benedict XVI accepted the resignation of Bishop John W. Yanta, 76, as bishop of Amarillo, and named San Antonio Auxiliary Bishop Patrick J. Zurek, 59, to succeed him.

The resignation acceptance and the appointment were announced in Washington, January 3, by Archbishop Pietro Sambi, apostolic nuncio to the United States.

Bishop Zurek, a native of Wallis, was ordained a priest for the Diocese of Austin in 1975. He was ordained a bishop in 1998.

Zurek was born on August 17, 1948. He attended local elementary and secondary schools and received his bachelor's degree in mathematics and chemistry from the University of Houston. He also attended the Seminary of St. Mary, studying philosophy at the University of St. Thomas, Houston, and the North American College, Rome, studying theology at the Angelicum University. Subsequently he earned a licentiate in moral theology at the Alphonsian Academy, Rome.

After several parochial assignments, Bishop Zurek served as pastor of St. Thomas Church, College Station, and pastor of St. John Neumann Church, Austin, and as diocesan director of vocations. He also served as vice president and president of the National Conference of Diocesan Vocations Directors.

As a member of the United States Conference of Catholic Bishops, Bishop Zurek served on the Committee on the North American College and the Ad Hoc Committee for the Spanish Language Bible.

The Amarillo Diocese has 26 counties and 25,800 square miles. The total population of the diocese is estimated at 422,428 people, with 41,692 of them Catholic.

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Our Catholic Faith

Developing a life lesson plan: Heart, respect, honesty

By Father William J. Byron, SJ
Catholic News Service

Phil Martelli, the colorful, clever and charismatic head basketball coach at St. Joseph's University in Philadelphia, has written a book, "Don't Call Me Coach: A Lesson Plan for Life" (Camino Books).

Why not call him coach as UCLA's legendary basketball mentor chose to be identified in his successful book, "They Call Me Coach"? Because coach Martelli thinks, "we are all coaches," and he wants to have a "conversation" with the rest of us. He does not view his chosen profession as coaching. "I'm a teacher," he says. "The court is my classroom."

According to Martelli, "Successful coaching, like success in any other setting, is all about building relationships. It's about being organ-



Byron

ized and energizing people. A lot of coaching comes down to maximizing people's skills. And so ... just about everyone who reads this book is a coach. Everyone who reads it is on a team (a family, business, school, charity, church)." There is not one of us who does not groom relationships.

The question, of course, is how well do we do this, hence Martelli's lesson plan for life.

Before getting to that in the book, however, the reader is introduced to a genuine Philly cheese steak experience of growing up as a "Philly guy" in a sports-obsessed city of well-defined neighborhoods, good schools, great families and fierce loyalties.

Phillies, Eagles and Flyers fans divide their collegiate basketball loyalties unevenly among Penn's Quakers, Temple's Owls, LaSalle's Explorers, Villanova's Wildcats, the recently emerging Drexel Dragons and the St. Joseph's University Hawks with their crimson-and-gray conviction that "The Hawk Will Never Die!" And lucky for him, says Martelli, he managed to marry a "Philly girl," Judy Marra who

played her college basketball as a "Mighty Mac" at Immaculata in suburban Philadelphia.

"In coaching at any level," writes Martelli, "temperament is more important than technique." Taking a page from John Wooden's book, he acknowledges that "failing to prepare is preparing to fail." So he offers a three-P formula for doing well in any job: "preparation, not losing your perspective, and not prejudging others."

The launch pad for this book is the St. Joe Hawk's 30-and-2 season of 2003-2004. Martelli was college basketball's coach of the year. His team was ranked No. 1 nationally when they hit the regular season 27-and-0 mark.

Martelli's All-American point guard Jameer Nelson said it all after a last-second loss to Oklahoma State that barred the high-flying Hawks from entry to the NCAA Final Four: "My only goal was to be the best teammate anybody ever had. So because of that, I know we didn't lose today."

Here are "Ten to Take with You" -- principles that teacher Martelli wants all the rest of us

coaches to remember:

- ▶ All wins are not winning experiences; all losses are not losing experiences.
- ▶ To get respect, you must first give it.
- ▶ Every day be willing to teach; each day be open to learning.
- ▶ The success of a group assures the success of an individual; it is never the other way around.
- ▶ Don't take yourself too seriously.
- ▶ Who you are is more important than what you do.
- ▶ We have no more right to someone's time than we do to their money.
- ▶ The eyes speak for the heart.
- ▶ In all that you do, work (and play) hard, smart and together.
- ▶ Never let others know if you are working or playing; make it seem that you are doing both at the same time.

There's a good lesson plan for any life on or off the court.

Send your comments to Father Byron at wbyron@sjprep.org.

It's still all about us and not enough about honor, glory that's due God

By Carole Norris Greene
Catholic News Service

It happened again recently: Someone was perceived as dishonoring the name of Muhammad and had hell to pay.

British teacher Gillian Gibbons was jailed, convicted and sentenced to a 15-day prison term and deportation recently for "insulting Islam" by allowing her 6- and 7-year-old pupils to name a teddy bear Muhammad. Gibbons, who was threatened with 40 lashes too, was subsequently pardoned by Sudan's president, Omar al-Bashir.

While I do not advocate that U.S. Christians imitate Islamic extremists, we must ask ourselves if how our God is referred to publicly matters to us.

Do we care that the entertainment industry continues to make billions of dollars from movies and books denigrating Jesus Christ?

Are we bothered when people spit out "Jesus Christ!" when they are angry or shocked?

As human beings we understand all too well the things of the flesh. Catholics in particular turn out in

droves to protest abortion, the death penalty, sex abuse, things that pollute the environment, racism. We rightly stand up for immigration reform, health care, education and social justice.

But in the end, it truly remains all about us, "our" dignity as human beings.

But what about God? Do we fully appreciate how we are to respond to a God who has commanded that his name not be taken in vain?

We spend a lot of time in the trenches of our faith -- workshops, books on spirituality, conferences, retreats, liturgies reflecting preferred languages and ethnicity -- while battles pertaining to Christian faith are raging all around us and getting uglier by the decade.

Tolerance for this practice is growing -- Christians fork over millions of dollars in blind patronage!

Perhaps the reason for this dilemma is as simple as an absence of visible leadership in protesting this practice, leadership that urges all Christians to:

(1) Pray in earnest to God to render powerless those who dishonor his name.

(2) Contact the Office for Film and Broadcasting of the U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops and insist on knowing up front if the name of Jesus is dishonored in any way in a film. (Director Harry Forbes and staff writer John Mulderig may welcome an opportunity to redeem themselves after their ill-advised review of "The Golden Compass" that the bishops yanked from their Web site. The Vatican criticized the movie for reflecting "the anti-Christian ideology" of professed atheist Philip Pullman.)

(3) Refuse to patronize offending movies, no matter how engaging the cinematography is!

(4) Support organizations such as The Catholic League for Religious and Civil Rights that take this offense seriously.

(5) Go online for the names of screenwriters and authors responsible for trashing the name of Christ. Insist they stop!

Don't clamor for them to be put in jail or give them 40 lashes of your tongue; they need to find themselves in an unemployment line.

ASK FR. WEBSTER

Can we get married and not have it official?

By Father John Dietzen
Catholic News Service



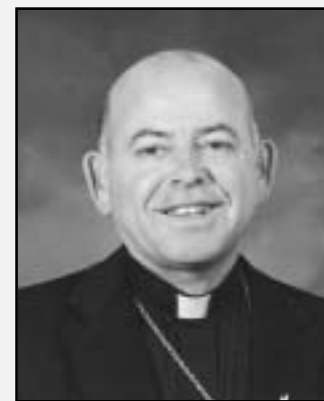
Q. Is there any way a Catholic can be married in the church but not have the marriage registered with the state? My husband died and I have been raising our three children on an annuity from his former employer. But the annuity ends when I remarry. I have

become friends with a fine man who wants to marry me, but he is on a low income. We would need my annuity for the children. Could we get married without having it "official"? (Indiana)

Any person licensed to officiate at marriages (clergyman, judge, etc.) is legally required to notify the proper state office of any marriage she or he performs. This is normally accomplished through completing the marriage license a couple must acquire before they can be legally married.

As you might guess, this question arises often in states like Florida and Arizona where a high number

(Please See WEBSTER/19)



Bishop Michael Pfeifer



2007-2008 Diocesan Directory

Diocese of San Angelo, Texas

A pull-out guide featuring Mass times, addresses, phones and priest names for parishes throughout the diocese.

January 2008

Abilene Deanery

ABILENE

Holy Family
5410 Buffalo Gap, Abilene, 79608
325.692.1820
Masses: Sa.: 5:30 p.m. Su.: 9, 10:30 a.m., Noon
Pastor: Rev. Msgr. Fred Nawarskas

Sacred Heart

837 Jeanette, Abilene, 79602
325.677.7951
Masses: Sa., 5:30 p.m.
Su.: 9:30, 11:30 a.m.
Pastor: Rev. Bob Bush

St. Francis

826 Cottonwood, Abilene, 79601
325.672.6695
Masses: Sa. 4 p.m.; Su.: 9 a.m.
Span.: 11 a.m. Sun.
Pastor: Rev. Thomas Manimala

St. Vincent

2525 Westview, Abilene, 79603
325.672.1794
Masses: Sa. 5:30 p.m., Su. 10 a.m. Span.: Su., 8:30 a.m.
Pastor: Rev. Terry Brenon
Our Lady of Grace
158 Ave B., Dyess AFB, TX 79607
325.696.4224
Masses: Daily 11:30 a.m.; Sa.: 5 p.m., Su.: 9 a.m.
Pastor: Rev. Dominic Vitaliano

BROWNWOOD

St. Mary
1101 Booker
Brownwood, 76801
325.646.7455
Masses: Sa. 5:30 p.m.; Su.: 8, 11 a.m.; Span.: Sun. 9:30 a.m.
Pastor: Rev. Serafin Avenido

CLYDE

Sts. Joachim & Anne
North 1st & Cherry
Clyde, 79510
** 325.677.7951 (Sacred Heart)
Mass: Su. 8 a.m.
Pastor: Rev. Bob Bush

COLEMAN

Sacred Heart
303 E. College
Coleman, 76834
325.625.5773
Masses: Su. 11 a.m. Span.; Sa., 6 p.m.
Pastor: Fr. Santiago Udayar

COLORADO CITY

St. Ann
2005 Walnut
Colorado City, 79512
325.728.3252
Masses: Sa.: 6 p.m. (BiLing);
Su.: 10:30 a.m. (English)
Pastor: Rev. George Varakukala

LORAIN

St. Joseph
403 S. Hinson
Lorraine, 79532
** 325. 728.3252
Mass: Su. 8:30 a.m.
Pastor: Rev. George Varakukala

MERKEL

Our Mother of Mercy
1300 S. Locust
Merkel, 79536
325.928.5239
Masses: Su. 11:30 a.m. (BiLing.);
Alternating Wednesdays. 6:30 p.m.
Pastor: Rev. Terry Brenon

ROSCOE

St. Albert
205 Laurel
Roscoe, 79545
** 325.235.3318
Mass: Su. Noon (Span.)
Pastor: Rev. Michael Rodriguez

SWEETWATER

Holy Family
507 Crane
Sweetwater, 79556
325.235.2694
Masses: Sun. 9 a.m.
Pastor: Rev. Michael Rodriguez

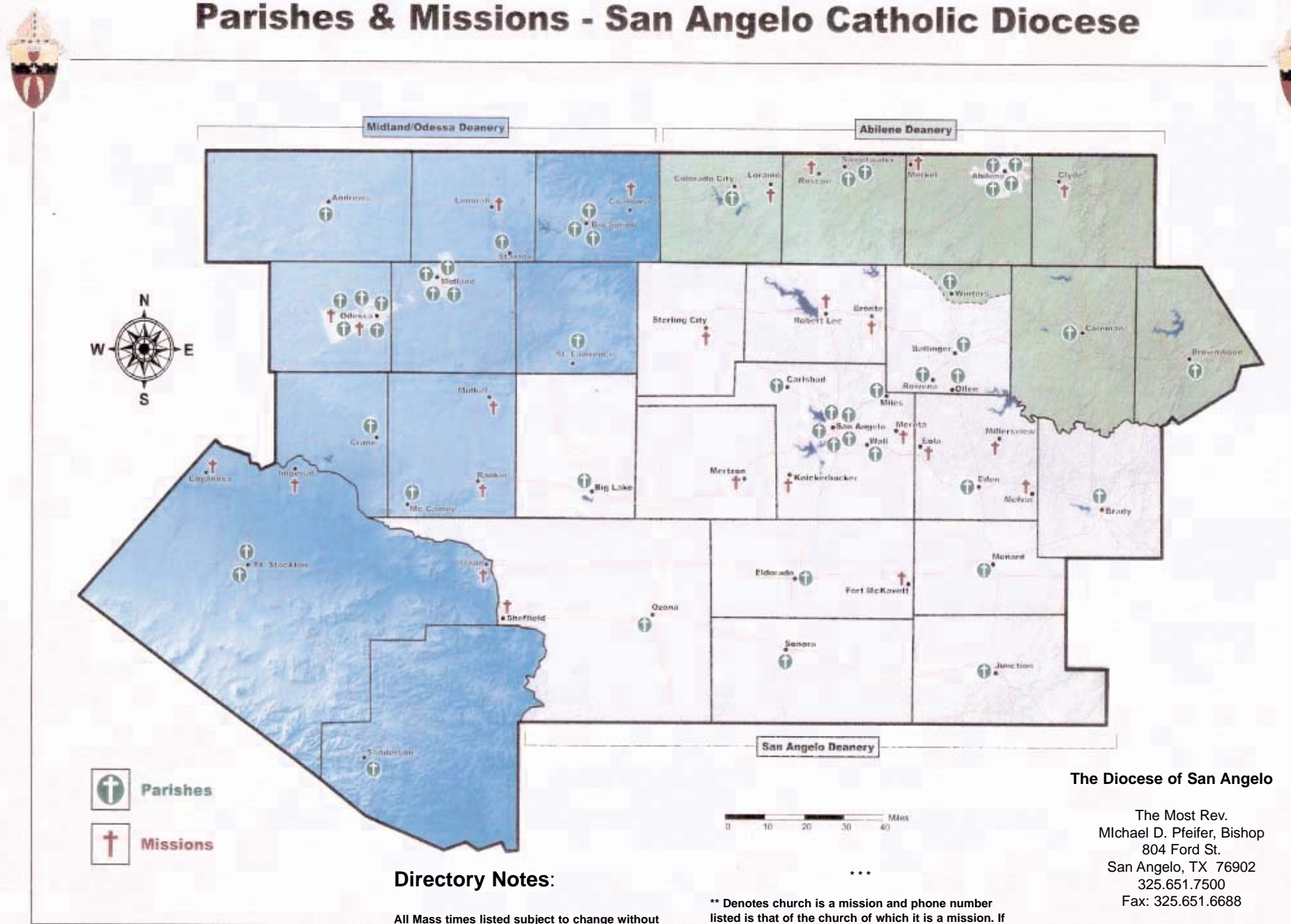
Immaculate Heart of Mary

511 W. Alabama
Sweetwater, 79556
325.235.3318
Masses: Su.: 10:30 a.m.;
Span.: Sa. 5 p.m.
Pastor: Rev. Michael Rodriguez

WINTERS

Our Lady of Mount Carmel
119 W. College
Winters, 79567
325.754.4626
Masses: Su. 8:30 a.m.
Pastor: Fr. Santiago Udayar

Parishes & Missions - San Angelo Catholic Diocese



Directory Notes:

All Mass times listed subject to change without notice. Please contact individual parishes before your visit.

** Denotes church is a mission and phone number listed is that of the church of which it is a mission. If calling about Mass times at a mission church, please specify about which church you are calling.

Midland-Odessa Deanery

MIDLAND

Our Lady of Guadalupe
1401 E Garden La., Midland, 79701
432.682.2581
Masses: Sa. 5 p.m.; Su. 8, 10 a.m., Noon, Su. 1:30 p.m. (Span.)
Pastor: Rev. Edward de Leon

Our Lady of San Juan

1008 W New Jersey, Midland,

79701
432.570.0952
Masses: Sa. 4:30 p.m., Su., 10:30 a.m.; Span.: Su. 8:30 a.m., 12:30 p.m.
Pastor: Rev. Frank Chavez

St. Ann

1906 W. Texas, Midland, 79701
432.682.6303
Masses: Sa. 5:30 p.m.; Su. 8:45 a.m., 11 a.m., 5:30 p.m.
Pastor: Rev. Msgr. Larry Droll

St. Stephen

4601 W. Neely, Midland, 79707

432.520.7394
Masses: Sa. 5 p.m.; Su. 8, 10:30 a.m., 5 p.m.
Pastor: Rev. James Bridges

ODESSA

Holy Redeemer
2633 Conover, Odessa, 79763
432.580.4295
Masses: Sa. 5 p.m.; Su. 10:30 a.m., 12:30 p.m. Span.: Su. 8:30 a.m.
Pastor: Rev. Bernardo Getigan

Our Lady of San Juan

905 Edgeport, Odessa, 79765
** 432. 367.4657
Mass: Su. 9:30 a.m. (Span.)
Pastor: Rev. Mark Woodruff

St. Anthony

1321 W. Monahans, Odessa, 79763
432.337.2213
Masses: Su. 10 a.m.; Span.: Sat., 5:30 p.m., Su.: Noon
Pastors: Rev. Joseph Uecker, Rev. Mark Miller

St. Elizabeth Ann Seton

7601 N. Grandview, Odessa, 79765
432.367.4657
Masses: Sa. 5 p.m., Su. 7:30, 10, 11:30 a.m.
Pastor: Rev. Mark Woodruff

St. Joseph

907 S. Dixie, Odessa, 79761
432.337.2213
Masses: Su.: 11:30 a.m.; Span: Su. 8, 9:45 a.m.
Pastors: Rev. Joseph Uecker, Rev. Mark Miller

St. Mary

612 E. 18th, Odessa, 79761
432.332.5334
Masses: Sa. 6 p.m.; Su. 8, 11 a.m., 5, 8 p.m.
Pastor: Rev. Leonardo Flores

St. Martin de Porras Mission

2821 E. Hammett, Odessa, 79761
432.337.2213
Mass: Span.: Sa. 6 p.m.
Pastor: Rev. Mark Miller

ANDREWS

Our Lady of Lourdes
201 NE Ave. K
Andrews, 79714
432.523.4215
Masses: Su. 10:30 a.m., Span.: Su., 8:30 a.m.
Pastor: Rev. Joey Faylona

BIG SPRING

Immaculate Heart of Mary
1009 Hearn
Big Spring, 79720
432.267.4124
Masses: Sa. 5 p.m., Su.: 9, 11 a.m.
Pastor: Rev. Richard Regan

Sacred Heart

508 N. Aylesford
Big Spring, 79721
432.263.7884
Masses: Sa. 5 p.m.; Su.: 10 a.m.; Span.: 8 a.m., Su.
Pastor: Rev. James Plagens

St. Thomas

605 Main
Big Spring, 79721
432.263.2864
Masses: Su. 11:15 a.m.
Pastor: Rev. James Plagens

COAHOMA

St. Joseph (Mission of Immaculate Heart of Mary, Big Spring)
108 S. 5th
Coahoma, 79511
432.267.4124
Mass: Su. 9:30 a.m.
Pastor: Rev. Richard Regan

COYANOSA

St. Isidore Mission
4614 S. Frank
Coyanosa, 79730
432.652.8216
Masses: Alt. Saturdays, 6:30 p.m.
Pastor: Rev. Laurent Mvondo

CRANE

Good Shepherd
810 S. Virginia
Crane, 79731
432.558.2718
Mass: Su. 9 a.m.
Pastor: Rev. Laurent Mvondo

FORT STOCKTON

St. Agnes
4100 N. Hwy 18
Fort Stockton, 79735
432.336.2724
Masses: Sa. 5:30 p.m.; Su. 9:45 a.m.
Pastor: Rev. Arturo Pestin

St. Joseph

403 S. Main
Fort Stockton, 79735
432.336.2057
Masses: Su. 8, 11:30 a.m.
Pastor: Rev. Arturo Pestin

IMPERIAL

Our Lady of Lourdes Mission
103 Merrill
Imperial, 79743
** 432.652.8216
Masses: Alt. Saturdays, 5:30 p.m.
Pastor: Rev. Laurent Mvondo

IRAAN

St. Francis of Assisi
500 S. Blaton
Iraan, 79744
** 325.884.3221
Mass: Su. 9:30 a.m.
Pastor: Rev. Hilary Ihedioha

LENORAH

St. Isidore
3324 Co. Rd. 3400
Lenorah, 79749
** 432.756.3743
Mass: Su. 11 a.m.
Pastor: Deacon Clemente Villa

McCAMEY

Sacred Heart
710 S. Burleson
McCamey, 79752
432.652.8216
Mass: Su. 11 a.m.
Pastor: Rev. Laurent Mvondo

MIDKIFF

St. Thomas
2400 FM 2401
Garden City, 79739
432.397.2300
Mass: Su. 8:30 a.m.
Pastor: Rev. Francis Njoku

RANKIN

St. Thomas
110 Hwy. 67
Rankin, 79778
** 325.884.3221
Mass: Su. 8 a.m. (BiLing)
Pastor: Rev. Hilary Ihedioha

ST. LAWRENCE

St. Lawrence
2400 FM 2401
Garden City, 79739
432.397.2300
Masses: Summer -- Sa. 6:30 p.m., 8 p.m.
Winter -- Sa. 5:30, 7 p.m.; Su.: 10:30 a.m.
Pastor: Rev. Francis Njoku

SANDERSON

St. James
209 E. Hackberry
Sanderson, 79848
432.345.2322
Mass: Su. 3 p.m.
Pastor: Rev. Arturo Pestin

STANTON

St. Joseph
405 N. Convent
Stanton, 79782
432.345.2322
Masses: Sa.: 5:30 p.m., Su.: 9:15 a.m.
Canonical Pastor: Msgr. Larry Droll

San Angelo Deanery

SAN ANGELO

Cathedral Church of the Sacred Heart
19 S. Oakes, San Angelo 76903
325.658.6567
Masses: Sa. 5 p.m. Su.: 10 a.m., 6 p.m.
Spanish: Su., 11:45 a.m.
Pastor: Rev. Maurice Voity

Catholic Community of Goodfellow Air Force Base

17th TRW/HC, 154 Ft. Griffin Ave.
Goodfellow AFB, TX 76908 325.654.3424
Masses: Su.: 9 a.m., Noon
Pastor: Rev. James Ludwikowski

Holy Angels

2309 A&M Ave., San Angelo, 76904
325.949.3308
Masses: Sa.: 5:30 p.m. Su.: 9, 11 a.m.
Pastor: Charles Greenwell, ED.D.

St. Joseph the Worker

301 W. 17th, San Angelo, 76903
325.653.5006

Masses: Sa. 6 p.m., Su.: 11:15 a.m.
Span.: 8:15 a.m.

Pastor: Rev. Quirino Cornejo

St. Margaret

2619 Era, San Angelo, 76905
325.651.4633

Masses: Sa.: 9 a.m., 6 p.m.
Su.: 9 a.m.; Tue-Fri, 6 p.m.

Pastor: Rev. Joseph Choutapalli

St. Mary

7 W. Avenue N, San Angelo, 76903
325.655.6278

Masses: Sa. 5 p.m. (Span.), Su.: 10
a.m. (Eng.), 12 p.m., Sun. Noon (Span).

Pastor: Rev. David Herrera

BALLINGER**St. Mary, Star of the Sea**

608 N. 6th

Ballinger, 76821

325.365.2687

Masses: Sa.: 4 p.m. Su.: 8:45
a.m.; BiLing.: Su. 11:15 a.m.

Pastor: Rev. Hubert Wade

BIG LAKE**St. Margaret of Cortona**

107 E. 1st

Big Lake, 76932

325.884.3221

Masses: Sa. 7 p.m., Su.: 11:30
a.m. (BiLing).

Pastor: Rev. Hilary Ihedioha

BRADY**St. Patrick**

406 S. Bridge

Brady, 76825

325.597.2324

Masses: Sa.: 5 p.m. (Melvin);

Sa.: 7 p.m.

Su.: 10:30 a.m.

Pastor: Rev. George Thirumangalem

BRONTE**St. James Mission**

302 N. Washington

Bronte, 76933

325.365.2687

Masses: Su. 5 p.m.

Pastor: Rev. Hubert Wade

CARLSBAD**St. Therese**

Beaumont & 14th

Carlsbad, 76934

325.465.8062

Mass: Su.: 10:45 a.m.

Canonical Pastor: Rev. David

Herrera

EDEN**St. Charles**

Moss & Petty

Eden, 76837

325.869.8311

Mass: Su., 11 a.m.

Pastor: Rev. Romanus Akamike

ELDORADO**Our Lady of Guadalupe**

901 Divide (Hwy 277)

Eldorado 76936

325.450.8083

Masses: Sa. 6 p.m. (Span.); Su.:
11:30 a.m. (English).

Pastor: Rev. Joseph Vathalloor

EOLA**St. Phillip Mission**

11937 CR 5511

Eola, 76937

** 325.869.8311

Mass: Sun. 8 a.m.

Pastor: Rev. Romanus Akamike

JUNCTION**St. Theresa**

114 S. 7th

Junction, 76849

325.446.3393

Masses: Su. 11:15 a.m.

Pastor: Rev. Michael Udegbonam

KNICKERBOCKER**Immaculate Conception**

12142 W. Torres

Knickerbocker, 76939

325.450.8083 (Our Lady of

Guadalupe, Eldorado)

Mass: Su. 8:15 a.m.

Pastor: Rev. Joseph Vathalloor

MELVIN**St. Francis Xavier**

Hackleberry & Savage

325.597.2324

Mass: Sat. 5 p.m.

Pastor: Rev. George

Thirumangalem

MENARD**Sacred Heart**

609 Ellis

Menard, 76859

325.396.4906

Mass: Su. 9 a.m.

Pastor: Rev. Michael Udegbonam

MERETA**Holy Family**

18370 Bledsoe Rd.

Mereta, 76940

325.468.3101

Mass: Su. 10:45 a.m.

Pastor: Rev. Tom Barley

MERTZON**St. Peter**

324 N. Commerce

325.835.2000

Mass: Su. 9:45 a.m.

Pastor: Rev. Joseph Vathalloor

MILES**St. Thomas**

404 W. 7th

Miles, 76861

325.468.3171

Masses: Sa.: 6:30 p.m., Su.: 8 a.m.

Pastor: Rev. Bhaskar Morugudi

MILLERSVIEW**Our Lady of Guadalupe**

NE of Hwy 765

Mass: Su. 9:30 a.m.

Pastor: Romanus Akamike

OLFEN**St. Boniface**

1118 Co. Rd. 234

Olfen, 325.442.2893

Mass: Su. 11 a.m.

Pastor: Rev. Bhaskar Morugudi

OZONA,**Our Lady of Perpetual Help**

227 Martinez

Ozona, 76943

325.392.3353

Masses: Su. 11 a.m.; Span.:Sat. 7 p.m.

Pastor: Rev. Rodney White

ROBERT LEE**Our Lady of Guadalupe Mission**

601. W 10th

Robert Lee, 76945

** 325. 365.2687

Mass: Sa. 6 p.m.

Pastor: Rev. Hubert Wade

ROWENA**St. Joseph**

506 Edwards

Rowena, 76875

325.442.3521

Masses: Sa. 5 p.m., Su.: 9:30 a.m.

Pastor: Rev. Bhaskar Morugudi

SHEFFIELD**Good Shepherd Mission**

Hwy 290

Sheffield, 79781

** 432.392.3353

Masses: Su.: 9 a.m. (BiLing)

Pastor: Rev. Rodney White

SONORA**St. Ann**

311 W. Plum

Sonora, 76950

325.387.2278

Masses: Sa. 6 p.m.; Su. 10:30 a.m.;

Span. Su: 8 a.m.

Pastor: Rev. William DuBuisson

STERLING CITY**St. Paschal Mission**

202 Concho

Sterling City, 76951

** 325.397.2300

Mass: Su. 11:30 a.m.

Pastor: Fr. Francis Njoku

WALL**St. Ambrose**

8602 Loop 570

Wall, 76957

325.651.7551

Masses: Sa.: 6 p.m.; Su. 7:30, 9 a.m.

Pastor: Rev. Tom Barley

Sacred Heart Cathedral, San Angelo



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An invitation

to attend, or help others to attend,

the International Eucharistic Congress, held in the
beautiful North American city of Quebec - June 15th-22nd, 2008



Dear Friend in Christ,

This coming June of 2008, the Church in North America will celebrate a great event for the Faith, an event that is being watched with great anticipation.

The Holy Father has given me the privilege of leading this event, the International Eucharistic Congress, in Quebec City.

And I, in turn, have invited the Holy Father to celebrate our final Mass of the Congress.

Would there be a possibility that you and your family and friends might be able to join us in Quebec in June, and even to send us your support today?

The International Eucharistic Congress is a great opportunity for the new evangelization of North America. It is an occasion to rekindle the flame of the Catholic faith in our countries, where in the past there was a deep unity between the culture and the Faith.

Now, the urgency of Faith is obvious for an increasingly secular and materialistic world. It is not too late to regenerate Christian culture.

Each day, catechesis and testimonies will be offered to the thousands of participants—the present and the future leaders of the Church—and a solemn Eucharistic liturgy will be celebrated. There will also be processions of the Blessed Sacrament, as well as special religious events for young adults and families, and activities to promote brotherhood.

We hope that the International Eucharistic Congress will bring about a greater emphasis on the sacred character of the Eucharistic celebration, a deepened understanding of its sacrificial dimension, and a renewal of Eucharistic adoration, prayer, and good works.

This theme, the Eucharist as "Gift of God for the life of the world," will begin with Sunday's invocation of the Holy Spirit, who reminds the Church of all that Jesus did and then left in our care.

Monday will focus on Jesus' institution of the New Covenant, completed by the offering of His own blood, while the following day concentrates on the sacrificial dimension of the Eucharist. Wednesday invites us to explore the first result of this gift of God; in giving Himself and in being received in the faith of the Church, the Eucharistic Christ founds the Church and opens up the communion of divine persons for the communion of human persons.

The Eucharist gives life to worship, which embraces all of life, prayers and ritual gestures, but also gives life to human relationships, work, joys and sorrows, sufferings and hopes. Thus, Thursday focuses on adoration, as the evening concludes with a public procession with the Blessed Sacrament in the heart of the city.

The theme of Friday is the Eucharist and mission: it emphasizes charity and engagement for peace and justice.

Finally, the week concludes with teaching on "ordinary" holiness at the heart of the world, inspired and nourished by the Eucharist.

At this great gathering, which will be closely watched and reported by the news media around the world, public testimonies for the essential role of the Faith and witness to the centrality of Jesus in our lives will give us an unparalleled opportunity to evangelize millions upon millions of people, and especially those in our troubled countries—for example, perhaps your own neighbors, family and friends!

First, by your fervent prayers to Almighty God that the Congress will reawaken the faith and ecclesial life of the people of Canada, especially the people of Quebec. For many dioceses throughout North America, there is a direct link to Quebec, which gave birth to the Church on our continent.

Second, the Eucharist is the source and summit of the Christian life, as Pope John Paul II, and now Pope Benedict XVI, have repeated so often in their magnificent teachings. We are invited to celebrate this Congress together.

Third, I invite you to help me to make this Eucharistic Congress a possibility, a reality, and a blessing for many people in Latin America and in the Third World who might never have the opportunity to experience the graces and blessings of the International Catholic gathering without your generosity and financial assistance.

There will also be a myriad of other costs associated with an event of this magnitude – yet our budget is modest, and we seek only to cover what is necessary.

Without the support of our brothers and sisters in the Faith from the United States, our effort cannot be called a complete success.

We must not fail, with the eyes of a skeptical secular world and the media upon us. On the contrary, together, united with the Holy Father himself, we must show even the doubters the way to Christ!

I need your assistance, and I thank you in advance for your generosity in helping to make the International Eucharistic Congress accessible to many people.

Yours in the Eucharistic Jesus,

Marc Cardinal Ouellet
Archbishop of Quebec
Primate of Canada
President, 49th International Eucharistic Congress

INTERNATIONAL EUCHARISTIC CONGRESS 2008 Response/Reservation Form

- I have enclosed a donation to help promote the International Eucharistic Congress in the amount of:
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- Please charge my credit card (information below)
- I will also photo-copy the Message from Cardinal Ouellet, and it will be distributed to Catholics in my parish. I will make a total of _____ copies.

For information about attending the International Eucharistic Congress personally or with my parish group or other Catholic organization, please see our website, www.cei2008.ca.

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Family

Cast not the first kernel of Boy Scout popcorn

By Jimmy Patterson

One day when The Boy was 6 we were getting ready for a Little League game by laying out all parts of his uniform before school so we wouldn't be in a mad rush to find everything as we walked out the door later that night. It was a fairly good morning because we had found most all uniform parts and it wasn't even 8 in the morning yet.

Jersey? Check. Spandex pants, check. Glove ... got it. The only thing that was missing was his cap. I spent hours looking for it. I came down hard on The Boy for losing it and dropped him off at school. I still feel bad about the way I handled everything.

I was so consumed by the lost cap that instead of going to work that morning I returned home, determined to find it. I looked through trash cans, down the disposal, in his sisters' rooms, the bathtub and even in the dog's water bowl. No cap.



Patterson

I moved beds, dirty clothes and couches, and it was when I moved the living room couch that I saw it: a cap. Not his, but *mine*. One that I had been looking for, for a good amount of time. Weeks perhaps. Coincidentally a few minutes later, in the back of my car, I came across his cap as well.

I felt so horrible for finding my cap after having yelled at him for losing his that I went back up to school and pulled him out of his first grade classroom so I could give him a hug and tell him I was sorry.

It was a lesson we would both learn from. I was certain of it.

Fast forward five years.

The Boy brought home his Boy Scout popcorn sales sheet last year and promptly went out and sold probably \$500 worth of the stuff. The popcorn came in -- and the order sheet turned up missing. Great. Here we go again. Did he not learn anything from when he was 6? Somehow, eventually, we found the order sheet, collected all the money and got a nice amount off the price of summer camp.

Fast forward again. To this year. The Boy sells another \$350 worth of popcorn. Off goes the order and back comes the popcorn. In the

interim, he asked me, "What do you want me to do with the order form while we wait for it?"

"I'll keep it, I say. "We learned a lesson last year. And when you were six. I'll keep it this time."

Order goes out, popcorn comes in.

"Where's the order form?" The Boy asked me one day a couple weeks ago.

"I don't know, where'd you put it? Could it be in that messy room of yours?"

"Uh, no dad, you said you were gonna keep it so I wouldn't lose it, remember?"

Slowly, painfully, the reality of just that descended on me like a cold fog. I *had* said that. And I *had* gone out and lost the same order form I swore I would keep a close eye on.

Over the course of the next several days we were forced to sort of recreate the orders as best we could, giving what we knew went to certain people first and filling in the rest from my shoddy memory.

When we came to the end of my gargantuan mess up, we tried to convince some poor lady that she had bought caramel corn when she insisted she hadn't.

"We're pretty sure you bought this," The Boy

told her.

"No, I know I ordered chocolate," she said

The would-be transaction ended peacefully and cordially, but the woman didn't buy the caramel corn as it turned out. Didn't like it or something. So The Boy came back to the car and said, "She says she ordered chocolate."

I shrugged my shoulders and I drove off, returning a few minutes later to apologize to the woman and make sure she didn't think my son was some scammer of the elderly. I made a complete and total confession and told her I'd try to find an extra tin of chocolate covered popcorn lying around downtown. No luck.

Somehow, we were able to unload most all the popcorn, literally making it up as we went along, hoping that we wouldn't have to pay for Dad's big mistake.

I apologized to The Boy for losing the order form and as always he was quick to forgive. Six years after the episode of the lost baseball cap, I was left with the stark realization that some things in this world will never change: namely that parents are just as susceptible to messing up as our oft-blamed children.

Bill & Monica Dodds

Struggle with sobriety can be a long battle

By Bill and Monica Dodds
Catholic News Service

If you recently quit drinking — or if your No. 1 New Year's resolution for 2008 is to quit — it may come as a surprise that friends and family who have been your "drinking buddies" are less than pleased with your decision.

It can be even more shocking and discouraging to realize that friends and family who aren't your drinking buddies can refuse to support your decision or may try to minimize the fact that you have a drinking problem.

Needless to say, every individual has his or her particular circumstances and history. Sometimes, and especially over time, a person's drinking has meant a series of DUIs, lost jobs, broken relationships, debt or worse. Other times, it's meant a series of those



Bill and Monica Dodds

events to a lesser degree. There were one or two DUIs, jobs weren't lost but promotions weren't received, relationships weren't broken but they have ceased to flourish or there are no staggering debts but there's never quite enough money to get comfortably ahead.

So why the lack of support from those around you? A few points to consider:

— If you and I go out drinking every Friday night and we both have a dozen beers (or if, every day after work you and I come home and we each have five or six cocktails) and now you say you have a drinking problem and you're not going to drink anymore, what does that say about me? What does that force me to consider about myself?

— If, among our gang of friends, you always drank the most, that meant I could assure myself "I'm OK. I don't drink as much as she does."

— If you decide you have to quit and I don't want to quit, if I'm terrified at the thought of quitting, then one way to deal with that is to convince you that you don't have to quit. Convince you that you don't have a drinking problem. You just need "to cut back a little," to switch from the hard stuff to wine, to stay

home once in a while. But not quit because "you're not an alcoholic!"

— If I'm a heavy drinker, I can feel very uncomfortable around nondrinkers, especially if that nondrinker is a former heavy drinker. I'm more aware of the number of drinks I'm having if you don't have any, and so now you're "no fun anymore."

— As a family member, even one who wants you to cut back on your drinking, I may think your quitting entirely is going too far. Why? Because you can't be an alcoholic. Our family doesn't have those! Or it's just a phase. Now, suddenly, you're an alcoholic. (Last year for about a month you were a vegan.)

Moderation, of course. But a champagne toast on New Year's Eve or a bottle of wine at a nice dinner out isn't going to hurt you. Don't be silly. Don't be a wet blanket and spoil my fun!

One final suggestion: Hang in there! Staying sober comes first. And it's worth it.

(Bill and Monica Dodds are the founders of the Friends of St. John the Caregiver and editors of My Daily Visitor magazine. Their Web site is www.FSJC.org. They can be contacted at MonicaDodds@YourAgingParent.com.)



Answers:

1. O
2. O
3. N
4. N
5. O
6. N
7. N.



The Magi try to find the infant Jesus

After his parents, Joseph and Mary, had traveled for a long time for the census, Jesus was born in Bethlehem. After the birth of Jesus, the Magi from the east came to Jerusalem. They knew no one in the area, so they began asking, "Where is the newborn king of the Jews? We saw his star at its rising and have come to do him homage."

Eventually this news reached Herod, the king. He was very angry. He summoned the chief priests and the scribes and asked them where this king of the Jews, the Messiah, was going to be born.

"In Bethlehem of Judea," they said, "for thus it has been written through the prophet: ... 'Since from you (Bethlehem), shall come a ruler, who is to shepherd my people Israel.'"

After hearing this message, Herod sent for the Magi so he could speak to them personally. He wanted to know when they had first seen the special star they spoke of. Then he told them to go to Bethlehem and said, "Go and search diligently for the

child. When you have found him, bring me word, that I too may go and do him homage."

The Magi left the king's palace and immediately set off for Bethlehem. They followed the star and they found Jesus under its light. They rejoiced and bowed when they found Mary was holding him. They presented him with gifts worthy of a king: gold, frankincense and myrrh. But later they were warned in a dream not to return to Herod. Instead they left for home by a different route.

After the Magi had left, an angel appeared to Joseph in a dream. He said, "Rise, take the child and his mother, flee to Egypt, and stay there until I tell you. Herod is going to search for the child to destroy him."

Joseph woke up in the middle of the night and they left for Egypt under the cover of the darkness. They did not return until they heard that Herod was dead.

This fulfilled the prophecy made by Hosea, which said, "Out of Egypt I called my son."

JUST 4 KIDS

READ MORE ABOUT IT

Matthew 2 Q&A

1. What led the Magi to Jesus?
2. Why did Joseph take his family to Egypt?

BIBLE ACCENT

The terms "Messiah" and "Christ" have their origins in words from Hebrew and Greek that mean anointed. This anointing is talked about in the Old Testament and means the ceremony where a king or a high priest was anointed with oil. The anointing symbolized their power of leadership or authority and the receipt of a special blessing from God.

There were many prophecies that said a Messiah would come to save Israel, and he would be a descendent of the line of David. Not everyone believed that Jesus was the Messiah, and Jesus spoke more about obeying the will of God and loving each other than he did about proclaiming himself as the Messiah. Peter recognized Jesus when he said in Mark 8: "You are the Messiah."

SPOTLIGHT ON SAINTS St. Anastasia

Anastasia (d. 304) led a life filled with persecution from unbelievers and miraculous intervention by God. She was married to a pagan man named Publius. She ministered to Christians who were in prison. This angered her husband and he told her to stop. He did not even want her to leave the house. She continued to write to Chrysogonus, who was later declared a saint himself and who had been her spiritual adviser.

After the death of her husband, Anastasia continued aiding Christians who were persecuted or in prison. She was eventually arrested and set adrift on a prison ship and abandoned. St. Theodata appeared in a vision and guided the ship safely to land, which inspired the non-Christians on the ship to believe in God.

Anastasia was later killed for the faith, which she never gave up. We honor her on Dec. 25.

BIBLE TRIVIA

Mary placed Jesus in a manger. What is a manger?
Answer: A feeding trough for animals.

PUZZLE

Circle "O" for the Old Testament books and "N" for the New Testament books listed below. Try it without using your Bible first:

1. O N Joshua
2. O N Joel
3. O N Jude
4. O N Philipians
5. O N Ezekiel
6. O N John
7. O N Romans

(Answers, Pg. 14)

Culture

Texas landscapes in full bloom on TV miniseries 'Comanche Moon'



Val Kilmer stars as Capt. Irish Scull on CBS' miniseries "Comanche Moon," based on the Larry McMurtry novel by the same name.

By John Mulderig
Catholic News Service

NEW YORK -- The formal establishment of the Texas Rangers in 1835 (the force had existed unofficially since 1823) marked an important milestone in the ongoing struggle between white settlers and Native American tribes in the Southwest. "Comanche Moon," a lavish fictionalized account of the Rangers' adventures in the years leading up to the Civil War premieres on CBS Sunday, Jan. 13, and continues Tuesday, Jan. 15, and Wednesday, Jan. 16, 8-10 p.m. CT each night.

Based on the fourth and final novel in the popular sequence by Larry McMurtry that began with "Lonesome Dove" -- the first volume was made into a miniseries in 1989 -- this installment follows both the professional and personal fortunes of a band of Rangers under the command of Capt. Irish Scull (Val Kilmer).

A Yankee by birth, Scull is wealthy and aristocratic, but by no means effete. Having proved

his mettle by heroic service in the Mexican-American War, he now boasts an unbroken string of victories over a newer set of adversaries: marauding Indians. That record is in jeopardy, however, as he sets out to track and punish the renowned Comanche horse thief, Kicking Wolf (Jonathon Joss).

Joining him on this expedition are two temperamentally ill-sorted subordinates, taciturn Woodrow F. Call (Karl Urban) and garrulous Augustus "Gus" McCrae (Steve Zahn). As they pursue their prey, guided by their scout, Famous Shoes (David Midthunder), they find themselves contending with two other formidable opponents. Chief Buffalo Hump (Wes Studi) wanders the region at will, far from resigned to defeat by the whites, while sadistic Mexican bandit Ahumado (Sal Lopez) remains holed up in his lair across the border.

Back on the home front in Austin -- no more than a straggling frontier town -- three women await the Rangers' return. Scull's wife, Inez (Rachel Griffiths), takes advantage of her hus-

band's absence to set her sights on an unpolished young Ranger (Ryan Merriman) who's been left behind. Clara Forsythe (Linda Cardellini), a shopkeeper's daughter, is the object of McCrae's slavish infatuation. Call's far calmer affections, by contrast, are directed at local prostitute Maggie Tilton (Elizabeth Banks).

The series shows the Old West in a thoroughly unromantic light, idealizing neither its lawmen nor its native warriors. Only the scenery through which they pass remains traditionally vast and captivating.

Although some of the leading characters, especially Scull, are genuinely intriguing, much of the intended humor falls flat. The series nonetheless provides enough action to maintain interest.

Given a number of adult thematic elements, including torture and sexual activity, this sprawling epic is only recommended for older viewers. They, however, will find "Comanche Moon" both historically balanced and dramatically engaging.

Two books for and about black Catholics, both worth reading

"Oblate Sisters of Providence: A Pictorial History," by Sharon C. Knecht. Donning (Virginia Beach, Va., 2007). 144 pp., \$30.

"Sweet, Sweet Spirit: Prayer Services From the Black Catholic Church," by Joseph A. Brown, SJ, with Fernand Cheri III, OFM. St. Anthony Messenger Press (Cincinnati, 2007). 100 pp., \$9.95.

Reviewed by Carole Norris Greene
Catholic News Service

Sharon C. Knecht's "Oblate Sisters of Providence: A Pictorial History" is an irresistible read, or should I say flip of the pages, boasting remarkable photographs of the sisters and their young students from 1879 to 2007.

This book is the story of "the first sustained order of women religious of African descent in the world." It tells of trials, togetherness and deep faith that began in the spring of 1828 when four Catholic women of African descent formed a women's religious order "expressly for the purpose of educating young girls of color."

Knecht blends photographs of those first Oblates with those of current members whose motherhouse has been in Baltimore since the 1930s. Of approximately 16,000

historical photographs in the Oblates' archives dating from the 1850s, more than 250 were selected for publication.

"The images record Oblate-related and secular life in at least 20 states, Cuba, several Caribbean Islands, Central America and Europe," Knecht says. Her book was made possible in part by a grant from the National Historical Publications and Records Commission, which, according to Knecht, "recognized the historical value in this important collection depicting a segment of African-American life that could alter previous historical perceptions."

The book is organized by subjects, rather than chronologically. The majority of the photographs range from the 1880s through the 1960s and speak broadly of the Oblates' ministry and the countless people whose lives they impacted.

Camille O. Cosby, a major benefactor of the sisters along with husband Bill Cosby, remembers in the foreword her days attending one of the sisters' schools, St. Cyprian's in Washington, with her brother, Guy A. Hanks Jr.

"The sisters want their students to be educated, but they don't want educated fools," Cosby writes. "The sisters love tranquillity for introspection and prayer,

but they know that particular circumstances invoke loud activism."

Among the photographs are those of Mother Mary Elizabeth Lange, the Oblates' founder and a candidate for sainthood, and a painting of the co-founder, Sulpician Father James Mary Hector Nicholas Joubert. He is described as having "stood boldly against his many contemporaries who were holding that blacks had neither souls to be saved nor minds to be instructed."

"Sweet, Sweet Spirit: Prayer Services From the Black Catholic Church" is another significant liturgical contribution by and pertaining to black Catholics. Jesuit Father Joseph A. Brown, with the support of Franciscan Father Fernand Cheri III, compiled the prayer services in response to Pope Paul VI's exhortation to the African church to offer its "gift of blackness" to the world, one that, according to the U.S. black

bishops, should be reflected in liturgies that are "authentically black" yet "truly Catholic."

Father Brown, a professor in the black American studies program at Southern Illinois University at Carbondale, says the "explosion of the black Renaissance of the 1960s shook the foundations" of what blacks thought they knew both as Americans and as Catholics.

"We were confronted by the old and the young of the freedom rides, the determined marchers, the singers who bolstered the heroics of the civil rights movement," Father Brown writes. "We heard songs at rallies and on the street — songs bold and forceful, prophetic and life-changing."



S. Odessans visit brothers, sisters in Honduras

How far would you travel to do parish planning?

On November 27, 6 people from the Catholic Churches of South Odessa embarked on a "Mission Trip" to visit their brothers and sisters in the parish of La Exaltación de la Santa Cruz in Baracoa, Honduras. What a trip it turned out to be. Some of us felt as if we had been on a retreat; for indeed, it was a spiritual journey. Every day we visited a small community among the 51 small communities that comprise the parish. Most of these communities have the opportunity to celebrate the Eucharist once a month because the Pastor, the only priest in the parish, can only get there once a month. Think about this the next time you find yourself complaining because they changed Mass times at your parish.

During this week of pilgrimage, we were privileged to participate in their parish planning for the next year. This included representatives from all the small communities who came together over the weekend to put into practice the document which the Bishops of Central America and the Caribbean adopted this past May. Some of these representatives came by bus, boat, bicycle, car, and walking. They stayed overnight in a building without electricity and no beds. But the next morning, they looked like they stayed in a Hilton. Think about this the next time you find yourself complaining because a meeting was scheduled during your favorite TV program.

The participants from the Catholic



Fr. Mark Miller, center, during trip to Honduras in November 2007.

Churches of South Odessa were: Fr. Mark Miller, Mr. Porfirio Barajas, Ms. Julie Rodriguez, Ms. Gloria Gonzalez, Mr. Saul Palma, and Mr. Ricardo Ruvalcaba. Each of them has a short statement to make about what this trip meant to them.

My experience with the Honduran people is that they are a "people full of love, and even though they lack material possessions, their love for God and their spirituality is amazing. One big difference between them and us is that: they can do so much with so little, and many times WE have everything and do nothing with it." -- Ricardo Ruvalcaba

"Year 2007 will be one of the years that I won't forget. Missionary work in

Honduras was a real experience. We learned so much from our brothers and sisters. One of the things they are very blessed with, is to be so rich in their faith and spirituality. Each one should use whatever gift they have received, to serve others faithfully, administering God's grace in various forms. Honduran people did just that!" -- Julie Rodriguez

"My visit to Honduras was a gift from God. There was not one person that I encountered that did not change my life forever. I can say that I am humble, but God let me experience what it is to be truly humble. To see the faith that God has given his people in Honduras overwhelms you with hope; a hope that brings peace into

your heart and soul." -- Gloria Gonzalez

"I learned to open my eyes and heart more to the needy to where here a lot of us ignore or don't appreciate our blessings. Secondly, I learned how happily they live with just God in their lives with so little they have materially." -- Saul Palma

"For me, it was an experience that I will never forget in my life. To see how our brothers and sisters live their faith life, even through all the difficulties they have to go through to attend Mass. Nothing or no one discourages them. For example, there are people who have to walk three hours through places where there is no road; they have to go through water, mud, and yet that doesn't stop them from coming to hear God's Word. I would just like to say to everyone that reads this article, that we all appreciate what God has given us, especially for living in this country that has received us." -- Porfirio Barajas

While the people of Baracoa don't have access to many of the resources which we usually take for granted, they are not lacking in faith or in their love of God. Their simplicity and way of life expresses the spirit of the Beatitudes and offered us inspiration and admiration. We look forward to our next visit to continue to celebrate our unity in the Body of Christ.

-- Fr. Mark Miller, C.P.P.S.
Parochial Vicar
Catholic Churches of South Odessa

HONDURAS: Para mí, fue una experiencia que nunca olvidaré toda mi vida

(Para 3)

Caribe adoptaron este mayo pasado. Algunos de estos representantes llegaron en autobús, barco, bicicleta, en coche, y hasta caminando. Ellos quedaron por la noche en un edificio sin electricidad ni camas. Pero la próxima mañana, parecía que ellos se habían dormido en un Hilton. Piense en esto la próxima vez que usted se encuentra quejándose porque una junta tuvo lugar durante su programa favorito de televisión.

Los participantes de las Iglesias Católicas del sur de Odessa eran: Fr. Mark Miller, Sr. Porfirio Barajas, Sra. Julie Rodriguez, Sra. Gloria Gonzalez, Sr. Saul Palma, y Sr. Ricardo Ruvalcaba. Cada uno de ellos tiene una declaración corta para hacer acerca de lo que este viaje significó para ellos.

"Mi experiencia con la gente Hondureña es que ellos son "gente repleta de amor", e incluso aunque ellos padecen de las cosas materiales, su amor para Dios y su espiritualidad es tan maravilloso. Una gran diferencia entre ellos y nosotros es: ellos pueden hacer mucho con lo poco que

tienen, y muchas veces NOSOTROS tenemos todo y con lo cual hacemos nada." --Ricardo Ruvalcaba

"El año 2007 será uno de los años que yo nunca olvidaré. El trabajo misionario en Honduras era una experiencia verdadera. Aprendimos tanto de nuestros hermanos y hermanas. Una de las cosas de las que ellos son bendecidos, es ser tan rico en su fe y la espiritualidad. Cada uno usa cualquier regalo que ellos han recibido, para servir a otros fielmente, la gracia de Dios que administra en varias formas. ¡Y eso es lo que hace la gente Hondureña!" --Julie Rodriguez

"Mi visita a Honduras era un regalo de Dios. No había una persona que encontré que no cambió mi vida para siempre. Puedo decir que soy humilde, pero Dios permitió que experimentara lo que de veras es ser humilde. Al ver la fe que Dios le ha dado a su gente en Honduras lo agobiarla con esperanza; una esperanza que trae la paz al corazón y alma." --Gloria Gonzalez

"Yo aprendí abrir los ojos y el corazón más al necesitado, donde aquí muchos de nosotros ignoramos o no apreciamos nuestras bendiciones. Segundo, aprendí qué felices viven ellos: viven simplemente con tener a Dios en sus vidas y con

tan poquito que ellos tienen materialmente." --Saul Palma

"Para mí, fue una experiencia que nunca olvidaré toda mi vida. Primero de ver cómo viven su fe nuestros hermanos, que a pesar de las dificultades que pasan para asistir a la Santa Misa nada ni nadie los desanima. Por ejemplo, hay personas que tienen que caminar por lo menos tres horas por lugares muy remotos donde no hay camino y pasan por agua, lodo, pero eso no impide poder llegar a escuchar la Palabra de Dios. Simplemente quisiera decirles a todos los que lean este artículo, que siempre seamos agradecidos con lo que Dios no ha dado, especialmente por estar en este país que nos ha recibido." --Porfirio Barajas

Llevamos muchas cosas para concedido cuál no tiene la gente de Barocoa acceso, y sin embargo, ellos no carecen en la fe ni en su amor a Dios. Su sencillez y la manera de la vida expresan el espíritu de las Bienaventuranzas y nos ofrecieron inspiración y admiración. Esperamos con ansia nuestra próxima visita para continuar a celebrar nuestra unidad en el Cuerpo de Cristo.

--Fr. Mark Miller, C.P.P.S.
Vicario parroquial de Iglesias Católicas del sur de Odessa

CARE: Parishes to seek lay ecclesial ministers

(From 1)

Diocesan Vicar General, Msgr. Larry Droll, who heads up the committee, says the group's main priority is to encourage parishes to look for opportunities and ways to hire skilled lay people to assist parishes. With four priests in the diocese 70 or older and four more who will be 70 or older in 2011, a premium has been placed on finding ways to incorporate the talents and skills of lay ecclesial ministers.

Utilizing lay ecclesial ministers in a paid capacity has been done on the diocesan level for several years; now, Droll said, parishes are being instructed to incorporate the practice in a similar fashion as they are able.

"Such an effort would help us respond to the shortage of priests and nuns. We have had highly-trained and skilled women religious who have had many of these positions, directors of religious educa-



Diocese of San Angelo

By the Numbers

(Source: Monsignor Larry Droll, Diocesan Vicar General)

- ▶ 44 priests (Note: Of the 44 priests serving the Diocese of San Angelo, over 50 percent are International Priests)
- ▶ 4 priests currently at or over 70.
- ▶ 4 priests at or over 70 in 2011
- ▶ 61 permanent deacons (30 additional in training)
- ▶ 15 vowed women religious *
- ▶ 10 seminarians
- ▶ 158 laity (pastoral coordinators, pastoral associates, directors of religious education, principals, CREs, CYMs)*

* Source: 2007-2008 Official Directory, Diocese of San Angelo

tion, for example, and as they diminish in number they are not available to take these roles," Droll noted.

The whole propriety of the document (called "Emerging Models of Pastoral Care") and the resulting committee findings "is an effort to encourage the diocese and parishes to be looking and to

come up with creative ways to proclaim the gospel and minister to God's people as the diocese celebrates its 50 year anniversary."

To compensate for tight budgets, parishes might study ways of working with neighboring parishes to hire one person for similar positions in two or more parishes.

Droll, who, in addition to his duties as diocesan vicar general, is also pastor of Midland's St. Ann's, said the committee would look to continue encouraging vocations in the diocese as well as the use of Internet technology.

Currently, there are 10 seminarians in the diocesan, up from three last year. All 10 are in college. The process from becoming aspiring to ordained priest, according to Droll, is at the least nine years, including a full four years of college followed by seminary.

Forty-four priests serve the diocese, over 50 percent of whom are foreign born, or "international priests"; there are currently 61 permanent deacons in the diocese with another 30 in training. Bishop Pfeifer will himself be 75, mandatory retirement age for bishops, in 2012.

2007: DiNardo named No. 4 newsmaker of year

(From 6)

miracle through her intercession.

Also in the top five newsmakers were Cardinal Daniel N. DiNardo of Galveston-Houston, the first U.S. cardinal serving in the American Southwest, and Venezuelan President Hugo Chavez, who often clashed with his nation's Catholic bishops.

Here is the editors' choice of top 10 stories and top five newsmakers of 2007, followed by points received in the weighted ballot count and, in parentheses, the number of first-place votes received.

STORIES

1. Immigration, 172 (6).
2. War in Iraq, 136 (8).
3. Stem cells, 123.
4. Interreligious dialogue, 86.
5. Tridentine Mass, 84 (2).
6. Abuse settlements, 82 (1).
7. Papal writings, 73 (3).
8. Politics, 72 (1).
9. Environment, 64 (2).
10. Cardinals, 49.

(One first-place vote also went to the Virginia Tech shootings).

NEWSMAKERS

1. Pope Benedict, 113 (20), 2. President Bush, 60; 3. Blessed Mother Teresa, 37; 4. Cardinal Daniel DiNardo, 23; 5. Hugo Chavez, 22.

OBISPO

(Para 3)

tabernáculo sagrado de nuestro Señor y Salvador. Por el testimonio evangélico y el amor sacrificado de María, Jesús y Juan, comienza la obra de nuestra salvación.

La mayoría de los padres ama a sus hijos generosamente y sin condiciones. Hoy en día el valor inherente, que no tiene precio, de cada niño—como individuo único, creado y amado por Dios—ya no es aceptado universalmente. Antes de nacer, el valor de un niño pareciera que depende solo de la actitud de sus padres hacia él. Un anuncio de Planificación Familiar ilustra muy bien esta idea: "Los bebés son ruidosos, apuestos y caros, a menos que se desee uno".

Los niños nonatos son deshumanizados de forma rutinaria por la industria del aborto. El autor de un popular texto sobre técnicas abortivas describe el embarazo como una "enfermedad parasitaria". Un columnista muy conocido dice: "Un pez dorado se parece más a un ser humano que un embrión humano." Otro describe al ser humano por nacer como "basura protoplasmática", un "trozo de carne".

Un profesor de la Universidad de

Princeton ha llevado este pensamiento hasta su conclusión lógica, para degradar al niño recién nacido: "Los bebés humanos no nacen conscientes de sí mismos, ni son capaces de comprender que existen en el tiempo. No son personas". Por lo tanto "la vida de un recién nacido es de menor valor que la de un cerdo, un perro, o un chimpancé".

Esta actitud ha ido calando en el sentir de la gente. Consideren esto: A pesar de los muchos riesgos y efectos colaterales dañinos, los contraceptivos hormonales excepcionales mundialmente los \$24 mil millones en ventas anuales.

La industria del aborto afirma que la mitad de los niños concebidos en Estados Unidos son "no deseados" y de estos se abortan la mitad—mas de 1.3 millones anualmente. La razón más usada para abortar es que la crianza de un niño puede interferir con la educación o carrera de los padres.

A menudo nos dicen cuán costoso es criar a un niño. La escasez de familias numerosas que hay entre las parejas adineradas y de ingresos medios sugiere que muchos de los que podrían permitirse el lujo de tener más hijos valoran otras cosas

más que traer una nueva vida al mundo.

Lamentablemente, muchos científicos y políticos ven los embriones humanos vivos, creados en laboratorios—ya no deseados por sus padres biológicos—como materia prima que puede destruirse para la investigación de células madre. ¿Nos sorprende que algunos científicos quieran crear embriones humanos en el laboratorio, por fertilización o clonación, para matarlos por sus células madre?

Es así como nos están instando a que dejemos de ver la vida humana como Dios la ve. Desde el momento de nuestra concepción, Dios no nos ve superficialmente como una célula microscópica no diferenciada. En cada niño, nacido o por nacer, Dios ve al individuo que Él creó para amar y ser amado, por toda la eternidad.

En el otro extremo de la vida, también, los vínculos generacionales del amor se están estirando hasta casi romperse. Algunos doctores y éticos afirman que los pacientes con demencia o en el llamado "estado vegetativo persistente" no son realmente personas, y que las familias deben negarles hasta las formas básicas de alimentación y cuidado. Mas, no importa lo débil y vulnerable que parezcan, estas per-

sonas tienen el asombroso poder de inspirar el amor heroico y sacrificado de sus familiares y de quienes velan por ellos—un poder que puede llevar a la santificación de aquellos que los cuidan.

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

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

DiNARDO: Immigration, pro-life, education issues top list

(From 1)

appearance at a December luncheon in his honor hosted by Texas Governor Rick Perry.

“Pro life issues will always be very important because they are non-negotiable,” DiNardo said. “And immigration issues are so critical to us in the state of Texas. The bishops here have been working on immigration issues for 25 years.”

Regarding matters of education, DiNardo said the Church has concerns regarding Catholic schools, admitting, not surprisingly, that he would “love to see them flourish and thrive.”

“In the last legislative session, the matter of vouchers for Catholic schools came up and we hope that can be continued in the future.”

DiNardo noted Catholics now number 7 million in the state of Texas.

The former Iowan had little comment concerning the outcome of the Iowa Caucus, admitting he only saw the results but noted that “when you put populists, conservatives and farm democrats together the outcome is always interesting.

“I don’t like to get involved or say much about politics but it looks as though the campaign for seeking the nomination on the part of both parties will be quite complex.”

Following the lunch in his honor in Austin Dec. 12, DiNardo was whisked back to his archdiocese where he had a commitment to appear at a parish in Kingswood as part of the Feast Day of Our Lady of Guadalupe. It was

just one of a number of celebrations surrounding the day that DiNardo was a part of.

Speaking via telephone last week, DiNardo again paid tribute to his predecessor, former Archbishop Joseph Fiorenza, former Bishop of San Angelo. DiNardo said Fiorenza showed him the ropes in Galveston-Houston and remains “highly regarded” among many public figures in the area.

He said the demands of his schedule since his installation have not lessened nor have the number of well wishes. Favorite among the correspondences he has received was a letter from a young school child. According to DiNardo, the card said, “Congratulations, Cardinal. Now get to work.”

WEBSTER: Marriages secret only for a ‘serious, urgent reason’

(From 8)

of retired couples live. When one dies the other may wish to marry someone else, but penalties such as loss of pensions or social security would affect their income.

Several years ago a tribunal official in one of the Sunbelt states asked the Vatican representative to the United States to help resolve the dilemma, noting that in his state a mar-

riage without a license would be valid but the official performing that marriage could be fined hundreds of dollars and face imprisonment.

Canon law (1130) allows for a secret marriage when a “serious and urgent reason” is present. Would that law be applicable in this circumstance?

The response of the apostolic pro nuncio, Archbishop (later Cardinal) Pio Laghi, was thoughtful and sensitive to all the issues. Both canon and

civil law, he said, strive to protect people from abuses that can accompany secret marriages -- polygamy, scandal, fraudulent deprivation of property acquired in common and others.

It is also true that public knowledge of a marriage may on occasion cause serious inconvenience or harm. An instance would be when civil law imposes an impediment which canon law would not allow, such as making an interracial marriage a crime.

BISHOP: Even Baby Jesus was a tiny embryo before being placed in Mary’s womb

(From 2)

were explaining: “Behold, the lamb of God!” There was no confusion as to what or who were nestled under the hearts of Mary and Elizabeth. Yet, 2000 years later, many well-educated people do not know – or claim they do not know – the truth about human life before birth.

Christians who accept the word of God will immediately recognize in this passage from Luke’s Gospel from the visitation scene, that Elizabeth and Mary both recognize the sacredness and preciousness of the life that was in their wombs. Through the grace of the Holy Spirit, the moment Mary’s greeting reached Elizabeth’s ears, she and her unborn child, John, knew they were in the presence of the unborn Lord Jesus who at that time was only an embryo in the womb of his dear mother, Mary.

THE EMBRYO IS MADE IN THE IMAGE AND LIKENESS OF GOD

However today, do Christians and others recognize the God-given dignity of human beings when they are hidden in their mothers’ wombs or frozen in tanks at a fertility clinic? Do these same people see the image

and likeness of God in the cells that are destroyed for their embryonic stem cells? Do we recognize that they are living humans—cherished by God and made in His image—from the first moment of their conception?

In the last half century, science and technology have achieved spectacular progress in treating and curing diseases and conditions which have spelled death to earlier generations. Across the globe, people today are living longer and healthier lives. But advancements in science and technology have not always proceeded with the true good of the human person and human society in mind. There has been too little reflection and public discussion about actions—though undertaken sometimes for laudable purposes—that are endangering and taking the lives of countless humans through experimentation.

Thank God that President Bush recently vetoed a bill to fund stem-cell research requiring the destruction of human embryos, and directed his administration to investigate alternate means of producing pluripotent stem-cells “by ethically responsible techniques.” Yet, some supporters of embryonic stem-cell research continue to dismiss concerns about destroying human embryos,

because they are “no bigger than the period at the end of a sentence.” But all need to remember especially those in the fields of research that our latest technology confirms that this tiniest of cells contains the entire genetic make-up a person will need for the rest of human life.

As regards what science and technology can do, it is not a matter of supporting verses opposing progress. Rather, the question is whether our technical progress is guided by an equally advanced sense of the dignity of each and every human life so that our technology becomes a servant to humanity and not our cruel master. As Pope Benedict XVI said to stem-cell researchers in Rome last September, research that relies on “the planned suppression of human beings who already exist, even if they have not yet been born, is not truly at the service of humanity.”

There was another major Pro-life victory this past year when in April the U.S. Supreme Court upheld the federal ban on the barbaric practice of partial-birth abortion. This decision explicitly recognizes the humanity of unborn children and the grief women experience after abortion. Yet the killing of unborn children at any stage of pregnancy remains legal, provided that the

lethal act is performed while the child is mostly inside his or her mother’s body. What a contradiction.

GOD SAYS ALL UNBORN LIFE IS BLESSED

Going back to the Gospel scene of Luke where Elizabeth proclaims “the infant in my womb leaped for joy,” it is important to remember that God Himself, Jesus, when He became incarnate, was a tiny embryo before His implantation in Mary’s womb. In so doing, He blessed and sanctified each and every stage of human life. It is sad how quickly many mere humans are willing to disregard the divine. When the pregnant Elizabeth greeted the pregnant Mary, who held in her womb Jesus in an embryonic stage, Elizabeth proclaimed “Blessed are you among women, and blessed is the fruit of your womb, Jesus.” Today these inspired words of God are spoken by God about every unborn human life—blessed is the fruit in the womb of each expectant mother—made in the very image and likeness of God. This teaching from God’s word and the constant teaching of the sacred Magisterium of the Church, supersedes any man-made law.

MIGRATION: We have become gripped by fear

(From 4)

of hospitality and welcome, we have become a nation gripped by fear and suspicion of those who come among us from near and distant lands. Legitimate security concerns have caused many to call for severe restrictions and even a halt to immigration. In the midst of this debate and the social divisions it engenders, the Catholic Church stands as a prophetic voice calling the faithful and all people of goodwill to reach out in love and understanding to our migrant brothers and sisters. We must learn of the realities that cause them to leave all that is precious behind for an uncertain future, learn the truth about the many contributions they make and gifts they bring to our society, and work to reform our immigration laws that cause family disintegration and strife within communities.

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DIOCE-SCENES

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Christoval



Hermits from
the Mt. Carmel
Hermitage in
Christoval,
including Fr.
Fabian Maria
Rosette, right,
present a
Christmas gift
basket of
baked goods
to Bishop
Pfeifer, center.



San Angelo

On Nov. 3, Bishop Michael Pfeifer celebrated the 375th anniversary of the first Franciscan missionaries who came to San Angelo after the Lady in Blue had the American Indians invite them from New Mexico to offer them Mass and to continue to teach them about Our Lord and Savior. The celebration took place with a Mass celebrated by Bishop Pfeifer at the monument on the Concho River where a second monument has been placed to let future generations know that the Lady in Blue and the Franciscan missionaries were not forgotten. Celebrants and parishioners were delighted with music by Cindy Jordan and Edward Hernandez.

Midland



St. Ann's students fund raised during Feathers for Food prior to Thanksgiving. Then students had three contestants from which to choose. Students purchased feathers for the contestant they most wanted to see dressed in a turkey costume. In all the students raised \$800.00 for St. Vincent de Paul. The winning turkey was teacher Leslie Pagano, pictured

Honduras



Honduras residents pose for parishioners who visited the sister diocese in Honduras last November. Some six Catholics from South Odessa made the trip. Stories, Pgs. 3, 17.

Brady



The Brady Youth Group held a Christmas Party for the children at Casa Care (after-school program in Brady), bringing Santa, Christmas presents and stuffed animals for all the children.

Brownwood



An Advent wreath and candles hang at St Mary Queen of Peace in Brownwood. Part of the Jesse Tree (right) with symbols colored by the parish 2nd grade CCD children. The Parish Art and Environment Committee helped with the work.

