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Cardinals To Hold 'Extraordinary' Meeting On Church's Future

By John Thavis
Catholic News Service

VATICAN CITY (CNS) – Only days after creating 44 new cardinals, Pope John Paul II has convened a meeting in May of the entire College of Cardinals for a wide-ranging discussion on the church in the third millennium.

The encounter, called an "extraordinary consistory," will cover issues raised in the pope's post-jubilee document, "Novo Millennio Ineunte" ("At the Beginning of the New Millennium"), which outlined the church's path in the 21st century, the Vatican announced Feb. 26.

The meeting, the sixth consultative session of the College of Cardinals during Pope John Paul's pontificate, will take place May 21-24. The last such meeting was held in 1994 and dealt with the church's strategy on abortion and planning for the jubilee year.

Honduran Cardinal Oscar Rodriguez Maradiaga said the encounter would no doubt touch upon internal church issues and broader social justice questions.

In recent years, some cardinals have suggested that the time was right for a council or international gathering of bishops to discuss persistent pastoral problems in the church, like the shortage of priests,

the role of women and laity in the church, and care for divorced and remarried Catholics.

In an interview with a small group of reporters Feb. 24, Cardinal Rodriguez said the May meeting of cardinals would address ecclesial problems, but would also look at the church's role in fighting poverty, social injustice and corruption — all of which pose major obstacles in Latin America.

"The church has to think not only of the problems inside, but how to be what the pope is saying in 'Novo Millennio Ineunte,' how to sail to the deep sea and not only be in your port," Cardinal Rodriguez said.

Cardinal Rodriguez, the 58-year-old archbishop of Tegucigalpa and a member of the Salesian religious order, said he thought the pope was particularly interested in increasing collegiality in the church and in widening forms of participation for all its members. This was a theme of the pope's sermon to the cardinals Feb. 22.

Cardinal Rodriguez said such matters were important. But in Latin America, he said, many of the church's biggest challenges are those created by social inequalities.

"It is quite clear that justice is the agenda for the 21st century in all our countries of Latin America.

Many times justice comes only for people who are rich; the poor have no right to have justice," he said.

He identified several crucial challenges for the church as it enters the third millennium:

— Increasing poverty, which has reached the point in some places that "people become violent to survive." He spoke of rampant violence in cities, including a widespread kidnapping industry in which victims' families are forced to pay at different "rates," depending on where they fit in the economic scale.

— Political corruption, which

see "MEETING" page eight

Cardinals – Consistory

By John Thavis
Catholic News Service

VATICAN CITY (CNS) – Presiding over the largest consistory in history, Pope John Paul II created 44 new cardinals and asked them to "shine in wisdom and holiness" as they guide the church around the world.

Gazing over a panorama of red vestments and pilgrims' flags in St.

Peter's Square Feb. 21, the pope said that, in elevating the new cardinals, the church was not celebrating earthly power but a sense of service and humility.

"Whoever wants to be great among you will be your servant," the pope said at the start of his sermon, quoting Christ's words to his apostles.

The new cardinals included the heads of major archdioceses, Vatican officials, eminent theologians and one longtime personal friend of the pontiff, as well as several church leaders who were persecuted or hindered by authorities during their pastoral careers.

They came from 27 countries and five continents — a geographical mix that the pope said highlighted the church's global presence in the 21st century.

Three Americans were among those cheered by friends, family and faithful as they knelt before the pope and received the cardinal's traditional "red hat": Cardinals Edward M. Egan of New York, Theodore E. McCarrick of Washington and see "CONSISTORY" page six



A cardinal displays his pectoral cross and ring. In presenting the rings to 44 new cardinals Feb. 22, Pope John Paul II said it is a "sign of dignity, of pastoral concern and of an even greater communion with the See of Peter." (CNS photo from Catholic Press Photo.)



Lent is a Time to Fast and Feast

By Bishop Michael D. Pfeifer, OMI

Lent is a time to fast and to feast. There are many ways to do this. Lent is a reminder that we are on a journey, and the important thing is to know where we are going. It is a time to reflect on the things that we can live with or without. Lent is a time to take stock of what we need or do not need on life's journey. There is one thing that we cannot live without and that is God's love.

During Lent we look at those areas where we need to fast in order to improve our spiritual life. We need to identify how to fast from those anxieties and fears that keep us from being all that God wants us to be. Our fasting makes us look at the little things of daily living that give a hard edge to life. We need to fast from gossip that attempts to put others down, from jealousy and envy that evoke sharp remarks, and from anger that deliberately keeps others out of our life, and from arrogance that leads to disdain and harsh judgments, and self-centeredness that easily forgets about the needs of others.

Lent is also a time to feast – not in a physical way, but in a spiritual sense. Our feasting should be centered on God's great love for us, and to see how we can invite others into the great feast of God's love for all. Our feasting should be centered on bringing joy and harmony to our world, to offering a kind word and withholding critical remarks, to lending a hand or heart without being asked or

see "LENT" page eleven

La Cuaresma es un Tiempo para Ayunar y Festijar

Por Obispo Miguel D. Pfeifer, OMI

La Cuaresma es un tiempo para ayunar y festejar. Hay varias maneras para hacer esto. La cuaresma es un recuerdo que estamos en un viaje, y la cosa importante es saber a donde vamos. Es un tiempo para examinar las cosas que podemos vivir con o sin. La Cuaresma es un tiempo para reflexionar sobre lo que necesitamos o no necesitamos en el viaje de la vida. Hay una cosa que sin la cual no podemos vivir y eso es el amor de Dios.

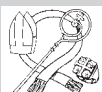
Durante la Cuaresma estudiamos las áreas donde necesitamos ayunar para mejorar nuestra vida espiritual. Necesitamos identificar como ayunar de esos ansiedades y temores que nos prohíben ser todo lo que Dios quiere que seamos. Nuestro ayuno nos hace superar las cosas pequeñas de cada día que presentan un obstáculo a la vida. Necesitamos ayunar del chisme que pone otros abajo, del celo y la envidia que producen comentarios cortantes, y del enojo que deliberadamente no deja que entre otra gente en nuestras vidas, y de la arrogancia que produce desdén y mal juicio, y del egocentrismo que fácilmente olvida las necesidades de otros.

La Cuaresma es un tiempo para festejar – no en una manera física, pero en un senso espiritual. Nuestro festejar debe ser centrado en el gran amor de Dios

see "CUARESMA" page eleven



The Bishop's Schedule



March 2001

Mar. 1-2: Rest and Prayer
 Mar. 4: San Angelo, Cathedral Church of the Sacred Heart, 1:30 p.m. Rite of Elections, 4:00 p.m. Rite of Elections
 Mar. 6: San Angelo, Diocesan Pastoral Center, Mass for Staff at 8:30 a.m., Diocesan Liturgy Commission meeting at 10:00 a.m., Staff Meeting at 11:00 a.m.
 Mar. 7: San Angelo, Christ the King Retreat Center, Workshop on Prison Ministry 10:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m.
 Mar. 8: St. Lawrence, St. Lawrence Church, Meet with Pastor and Pastoral Councils of

St. Lawrence and Midkiff at 7:00 p.m.
 Mar. 9: Coleman, Sacred Heart, Lunch with Priests of Abilene Deanery at 11:30 a.m.
 Mar. 11-12: San Antonio, Meeting of Texas Bishops
 Mar. 13: Midland, Our Lady of Guadalupe, Lenten Night of Prayer for Priests, Sisters, Deacons and Wives of the Midland/Odessa Deanery at 7:00 p.m.
 Mar. 14: San Angelo, St. Mary, Sermon and Soup at noon
 Mar. 15: San Angelo, Christ the King Retreat Center, Staff Retreat 10:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m., St. Margaret, Lenten Night of Prayer for Priests, Sisters, Deacons and Wives of the San Angelo Deanery at 7:00 p.m.
 Mar. 17: Big Spring, St. Tho-

mas, Mass at 6:30 p.m.
 Mar. 18: Odessa, Our Lady of San Juan, Mass at 8:30 a.m. and meet with Pastoral Council after Mass
 Mar. 24: Brownwood, Sanction Center, Mass at 2:00 p.m.
 Mar. 25: Merkel, Our Lady of Mercy, Mass at 11:00 a.m.
 Mar. 27-30: Private Lenten Retreat
April 2001
 April 1: Rowena, St. Joseph - 9:30 a.m. Confirmation (Confirmation for Rowena, Olfen and Miles.)
 April 3: Big Spring, Spanish Inn - Lunch with Priests of the Midland/Odessa Deanery at 11:45 a.m. San Angelo, St. Margaret - Lenten Penance Service at 7:00 p.m.
 April 4: San Angelo, Diocesan Pastoral Center - Personnel Board Meeting at 1:00 p.m. Eden, St. Charles - Lenten Penance Service at 7:00 p.m.
 April 5: San Angelo, Cathedral Church of the Sacred Heart - Chrism Mass at 11:00 a.m. Presbyterial Council meeting at 1:30 p.m. Holy Angels Penance Service at 7:00 p.m.
 April 6: San Angelo, Albertson's - Go to Jail for the American Cancer Society at 11:00 a.m.
 April 7: Odessa, St. Mary

School - Diocesan Schools Commission Meeting - 9:00 a.m. to 12:00 noon.
 April 8: San Angelo, Cathedral Church of the Sacred Heart - Palm Sunday Mass at 9:45 a.m. Holy Angels - Seder Meal at 6:30 p.m.
 April 9: Wall, St. Ambrose - Lenten Penance Service at 7:00 p.m.
 April 10: San Angelo, Cathedral Church of the Sacred Heart - Lenten Penance Service at 7:00 p.m.
 April 11: Odessa, St. Elizabeth - Lenten Penance Service at 7:00 p.m.
 April 12: San Angelo, Cathedral Church of the Sacred Heart - Holy Thursday Mass at 7:00 p.m.
 April 13: San Angelo, St. Margaret - Good Friday - Procession of the Cross from St. Margaret's at 1:00 p.m. and Stations of the Cross at Christ the King Retreat Center. St. Joseph, San Angelo - Good Friday Service at 7:00 p.m.
 April 14: San Angelo, Cathedral Church of the Sacred Heart - Easter Vigil Mass at 8:00 p.m.
 April 15: San Angelo, St. Mary - Easter Sunday Mass at 11:00 a.m.
 April 16: San Angelo, Bishop's Residence - Easter

Dinner for Staff at 6:00 p.m.
 April 17-18: Rest and Prayer.
 April 19: Rankin, St. Thomas - Confirmation at 6:30 p.m. (Confirmation for Rankin, Crane, Big Lake, McCamey and Iraan.)
 April 20: San Angelo, Diocesan Pastoral Center - Mass for staff at 8:30 a.m. Angelo Catholic School - Earth Day Prayer Service at 11:00 a.m. Appreciation Dinner at Newman Center at 7:00 p.m.
 April 21: Sonora, St. Ann - Confirmation at 7:00 p.m.
 April 22-23: San Antonio, MACC Board meeting.
 April 25: Abilene, Holy Family/Sacred Heart - Confirmation at 6:30 p.m.
 April 26: Wall, St. Ambrose, Confirmation at 7:00 p.m.
 April 27: San Angelo, Diocesan Pastoral Center - Staff Meeting at 11:00 a.m. Cathedral Church of the Sacred Heart - Confirmation at 6:30 p.m.
 April 28: San Angelo, Convention Center for St. Joseph at 5:00 p.m.
 April 29: Brownwood, St. Mary - Confirmation at 1:30 p.m.
 April 30: San Angelo, Sacred Heart - First Eucharist and Confirmation at 6:30 p.m.

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Vocation Circle

**Catholic Volunteerism
Our Vocation Of Holiness**

by Fr. Tom Barley, JCL
Director of Vocations and
Seminarists

Have you ever come to the end of a day, a weekend, a week, a month or maybe a summer and realized that you did less than you could have done or wanted to do? Although we can be very busy at times, sometimes, on reflection, we realize that we missed opportunities. It's not that we don't do anything worthwhile; it's just that there are so many opportunities and ways to serve God's people. These opportunities can be regular or occasional activities. They can last a few hours or they can last several years. They can lead us to use our best talents or to develop new gifts and skills.

Every Catholic has the vocation to holiness that begins at Baptism. This has been our call to action from the earliest time in the Church. Jesus didn't do too much talking about service or loving. He just went out and forgave, healed, and loved when the situation called for it. Instead of doing what would have been easier, Jesus responded to the need of others, all the way to the Cross. St. Paul often calls the Christian Community to live their faith by reaching out to people in need. In 1Cor. 13:1-13 he describes the compassionate nature of love – the greatest gift of the Holy Spirit. The second chapter in the Letter of St. James calls us to make our faith come alive by our works. At the recent Diocesan Conference Day we learned that one of the elements of Catholic social teaching is service. Our covenantal relationship with God, all people, and creation calls us to holiness by a faith that is lived out in Christian service. Therefore, this article is about vocation as well as exciting and eye-opening opportunities and experiences. As Catholics, the Sacraments nourish our lives so that we will share Christ's love with others without counting the cost. The combination of the Sacred Scriptures and the Eucharist enables us to do things we would never otherwise believe would be

possible for us. For God, all things are possible.

There are many opportunities for works of charity and ministry. A few months ago I mailed a copy of *Connections 2001* to every parish. This is a listing of many Catholic ministry experiences all over the U.S. or overseas that last from a summer to several years. They are for people ages 18 and above. Some require professional degrees or special skills. Others require the desire to minister to others. These are under the supervision of well-established Catholic organizations. The descriptions of the ministries are varied and include education, social work, medical services, pastoral ministry, and care of children, youth, and the elderly.


Some parishes organize brief missionary experiences overseas or in poor and needy areas within the Southwest. As Pope John Paul II said in *The Church in America*, "Parishes in America should be distinguished by their missionary spirit, which leads them to reach out to those who are far away." For example, a group of eighteen members from St. Ambrose Parish in Wall will make a missionary trip to Honduras this summer to work in the Chamelecon barrio of San Pedro Sula. They will build a home and engage in other work to share faith with Catholics there. Their missionary efforts will be supported by the parishioners, through prayers and financial support.

Last summer one of our seminarians, Ruben Covos from Holy Redeemer Parish, went on a seminary-sponsored trip to Lithuania and Rome. Ruben and several other seminarians from Conception College Seminary in Conception Missouri left from the seminary on their journey to Lithuania. The experience was to help them to see the strength of the Church after 50 years of suppression and persecution. On arriving in Vilnius, the capital of Lithuania, the group visited several churches where there were always people – in contrast with what they experience at home – young and old, coming to pray. This impressed the seminarians

that faith and prayer were such strong values to a people who had suffered for their faith when it would have been easier for them to abandon the Faith. Suffering and deprivation often result in a continuing living faith rather than "Just on Sunday." After a few days in Vilnius, the group went to their assignment. The seminarians worked to repair a Church-run camp for youths. During their time at the camp the seminarians slept on the floor, did manual labor, washed in cold water or a river, ate the meager local diet, experienced the rains and the cold of the area, met the local people, and gathered to pray. They engaged in their manual labor with much enthusiasm, finding strength in their own company and meaning in the work and the harsh circumstances. Their spirits were lifted in knowing that their efforts were for the sake of others. They worked with the youths at the camp finding them to be very spontaneous and creative. While language was a big barrier, they found ways to communicate, to share the special moments, and to develop good relationships. At the end of their work in the camp, the seminarians spent time at the Baltic Sea relaxing and trying to swim in the freezing waters. The next part of their journey was a pilgrimage to Rome with Lithuanian youth for the World Youth Day. In Lithuania Ruben saw how universal (catholic) our Church is. In Rome, with the millions of youth from all over the world, he had a better sense of how vast, diverse, and rich in enthusiasm and culture the Body of Christ is. The beauty of it all was seeing that the common thread of everyone there was their unity to Christ and how they made up His Mystical Body. After returning to the seminary, Ruben realized that the experience had opened his eyes and changed his life in many ways. He is more conscious of and grateful for the many blessings that surround him. He is more aware of the universality of the family of the Church that stretches across the globe and shares the same beliefs and faith. Ruben also has an appreciation for the sacrifice and suffering that have been endured by many of the faithful around the world to preserve the Catholic faith for generations to

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catholic-forum.com/iwbsvictoria or (shared) rsbp.org.

come. He asks that we remember to pray for all the missions and missionaries.

There are many local opportunities for Christian service and acts of charity. Many students need tutoring in various subjects at schools and literacy councils. Hospitals, nursing homes, and other health agencies welcome volunteers. Youth facilities and organizations often need role models for the youths they serve. Libraries have reading programs to the young or to the elderly. Groups like soup kitchens, "Meals on Wheels," Catholic Charities, St. Vincent de Paul and other charity stores; "Habitat for Humanity" and "Christmas in April" can always use a helping hand. There are many service groups in many of the cities and towns of the Diocese. Ministry to the incarcerated needs workers and support – starting with prayer groups. Your parish may need religious education teachers, ministers to shut-ins, youth workers, choir members, etc. There are many opportunities that are available to us in our own

towns if we only make the effort to seek them out.

It helps if we become aware of the opportunities that are available for us or if we learn that we can reach out and develop new opportunities ourselves. A few years ago I began taking girls from my parish to a convent in San Antonio. On one of these "Nun-Runs" the Sisters took the girls and their chaperones out to places where they ministered, to places where other women ministered in various professional settings, to areas where potential ministry could be started by other people, and to hear the stories of other Sisters who ministered in other parts of the world. A visit or a call to your pastor or an existing agency may give you a new insight into a new way to reach out to people in need.

In reality, there are many opportunities and there are excuses that stop us from finding the time to do any of them. Yet, maybe at some point in our busy and responsible lives we can find a little time to share with others in need **see "VOCATION", page four**



Bendición De Nuevas Viviendas En Chamelecón

Editor's Note: This article is from the Nov. 26, 2000 issue of Fides, the national Catholic newspaper of Honduras.

Producto del trabajo de la comunidad, y el apoyo de la iglesia, en el sector de Chamelecón se bendijo un total de cincuenta y siete casas nuevas para familias que fueron afectadas por el huracán Mitch.

Las casas pertenecen a las comunidades de San José, San Jorge, San Juan, Morales II, III y IV, beneficiando alrededor de cien familias y fueron construidas por los mismos beneficiarios y el apoyo de jóvenes pertenecientes a las maras.

El obispo de San Pedro Sula, Monseñor Ángel Garachana fue invitado por las comunidades y por el padre Thomas Goeckler, párroco, para que recorriera las diferentes colonias y diera la bendición a las casas.

Monseñor Garachana acompañó a toda la comunidad en un caminata de tres horas por las colonias beneficiadas. Al finalizar la bendición de las casas, se celebró la Sagrada Eucaristía con los sacerdotes invitados y el padre Thomas, como acción de gracias de parte de la comunidad en el año jubilar.

Honestidad Y Trabajo Comunitario

Según declaró el padre Thomas, Con menos de cien mil dólares y el trabajo de toda la comunidad construimos casi sesenta viviendas para personas afectadas por el huracán Mitch, sin intereses ni nada. Eso demuestra que el dinero rinde si se utiliza bien. ¿Qué ha pasado con los billones de dólares que vinieron para reconstruir después del Huracán Mitch? Es muy diferente trabajar con la comunidad, desde abajo, en una situación verdadera y real.

Yo estoy muy impresionado con la colaboración de todas las familias y de los hombres de la mara, porque quieren trabajar y mejorar sus vidas y no tienen oportunidad ni esperanzas. En este programa nunca tuvimos ningún problema con ellos. Este ejemplo nos puede servir para darles una esperanza para el futuro, y ofrecerles oportunidades para trabajar.

Tal vez la población pueda empezar a considerarnos como personas y no como basura de la sociedad. Muchas personas e instituciones a quienes se les solicitó ayuda para la construcción de las casas se negaron por temor a la población de Chamelecón, pero tal como lo hemos compartido, somos personas que seguimos a Cristo. Nuestro mensaje jubilar es que los recursos que tenemos debemos compartirlos con los más necesitados, con los marginados, de una manera responsable, de manera que los pobres reciban el dinero, y no con la corrupción que ha existido hasta ahora en el país finalizó.

Según declara el padre Thomas, el proyecto asciende a unos ochenta y cinco mil dólares obtenidos de dos donaciones de la congregación de Maryknoll y una donación de la diócesis de San Angelo en Texas.

Texas Mission Conference

by Msgr. Larry Droll

Father Gallela Prasad from India, currently stationed at St. Joseph's Church in Rowena, spoke on February 13, 2001 at the Texas Mission Conference in Houston. The Texas Mission Conference is composed of people in the Dioceses of Texas who are in charge of local efforts in promoting foreign missionary activity. Many of them also are in charge of the Office of the Congregation of the Faith, which arranges for mission appeals to be given in local parishes. Representatives of Maryknoll and other missionary societies were also in attendance.

Father Prasad spoke about his experience as a Catholic priest in India. He noted that although there is no official persecution of people who become Catholics in India, in many of the villages, those who convert will not receive scholarships for their children to attend school, nor will they be given the opportunity for jobs. Therefore, once families convert to Catholicism, the Church must set up boarding schools for the children, if they are to have an opportunity to survive.

Also serving on the same panel was Father Tom Goeckler, MM, Maryknoll missionary in the slum area of Chamelecón in San Pedro Sula, Honduras. He spoke about his work among the Mara, the youth gangs, and also his efforts in providing housing for people whose homes were damaged in Hurricane Mitch. The Diocese of San Angelo has helped to finance approximately 1/3 of the 72 houses that he has already constructed, through donations from the annual collections for the Dio-

cese of San Pedro Sula in Honduras.

The efforts of the Dioceses of Texas and Oklahoma to establish partnerships with the Dioceses of Honduras has come to be called the "Honduras Initiative."



Fr. Gallela Prasad

Representatives

from the Dioceses in Honduras and the Dioceses of Texas and Oklahoma met with the staff of Catholic Relief Services, which is organizing the partnership meetings. Msgr. Larry Droll, Chancellor of the Diocese of San Angelo, attended on behalf of the San Angelo participants.

Later this year, Father Tom Barley, Vocation Director, Sister Hilda Marotta, Coordinator for Youth Ministry, and Sister Malachy Griffin, Coordinator for Campus Ministry, will travel to Honduras to meet with their counterparts in the Diocese of San Pedro Sula. In September, the Diocese of San Angelo will receive a return visit from officials in the San Pedro Sula Diocese.

The keynote address at the Texas Mission Conference was

given by Cardinal-elect Oscar Rodriguez, Archbishop of Tegucigalpa in Honduras. On behalf of all of the Bishops and people of the Dioceses of Honduras, Cardinal Rodriguez expresses his gratitude for all the help received in the wake of Hurricane Mitch. There have been many donations and visits from people in the Dioceses of Texas and Oklahoma. He noted that, although Hurricane Mitch was disastrous, "at least since Mitch, we know we are not alone." His talk was based on the document of Pope John Paul II, "The Church in America," which notes that all Catholics in North, Central and South America belong to one Church. Our communion with one another must come to be expressed in relationships and structures of solidarity.

Youth Minister Needed

St. Stephen's Parish, Midland, Texas is searching for a youth minister. Music skills and youth charisma are needed. Salary will depend on experience and education. St. Stephen's is a small, happy parish of about 600 families. Please send resume to: **Father James Bridges, 4601 Neely Avenue, Midland, TX 79707, Ph. (915) 520-2659.**

VOCATION

from page three

as Christ has shared with us some time in our lives. Don't wait for the opportunity to come your way. Take a while to pray over this invitation. Make a decision, make plans, and then take action. Enter into an act of sharing Christ's love by serving and loving others.

50th Anniversary of Ordination for Fr. Moeller

In observance of the 50th Anniversary of ordination to the Priesthood of Rev. Louis B. Moeller his family is compiling a memory book.

We know he would enjoy your sharing with him – a greeting, a letter, a favorite memory, photos (will not be returned) – anything you'd like to address to him.

The pages will measure 8 1/2" x 11" and original works will be used. If possible, please do not fold.

Submit all correspondence by April 15, 2001 to:

Juanita (Moeller) Casarez
5307 47th St.
Lubbock, Texas 79414



Catholic Leaders Encouraged By Bush's Faith-Based Plans

by Patricia Zapor
Catholic News Service

WASHINGTON (CNS) — Two cardinals and the president of Catholic Charities USA have weighed in on President Bush's plan for faith-based initiatives, saying they're encouraged by the tone of the proposals.

In a Feb 12 statement issued as chairman of the U.S. bishops' Domestic Policy Committee, Los Angeles Cardinal Roger M. Mahony said the bishops welcome the administration's attention to the battle against poverty and the role faith-based groups have in fighting it.

He also raised a handful of issues about how the initiative will be implemented, from protecting the dignity of social service recipients to respecting the religious integrity of the providers.

Philadelphia Cardinal Anthony J. Bevilacqua and Jesuit Father Fred Kammer, Catholic Charities USA president, also discussed their concerns for how the initiative will work in op-ed pieces published in major newspapers Feb. 10 and 11.

In his statement, Cardinal Mahony said that "the Bush administration has made clear that this initiative is about building up community, not tearing down government."

The initiative appears to recognize the pluralism of American religious life and the contributions of nonreligious community institutions, he added. "They appear to take seriously the concerns and fears of those who have doubts about stronger ties between religious groups and the government."

Cardinal Mahony said the bishops are encouraged by the choice of Indianapolis Mayor Stephen Goldsmith to head the government's volunteer programs and of University of Pennsylvania professor John DiIulio to head the White House Office of Faith-Based and Community Initiatives.

He said the bishops particularly welcome "the clear recognition by

the president that faith-based and community efforts cannot substitute for just public policy and the responsibilities of the larger society, including the federal government."

The efforts of the church through organizations including Catholic Charities, the Catholic Campaign for Human Development, the Catholic Health Association and Catholic schools and parishes already serve millions of people a year, touching hearts and changing lives in the process, Cardinal Mahony noted.

"But our efforts cannot replace the needed government action to address the more than 40 million Americans without health care, the many children who go to bed hungry and the millions of families who work every day but cannot provide a decent future for their children," he wrote.

"Our nation still needs significant public investments in health care, nutrition, child care and housing. Faith-based and community initiatives are essential, but government still has an indispensable role in assuring that the basic needs of the American people are met," he said.

In an op-ed column that ran Feb. 11 in the Philadelphia Inquirer daily newspaper, Cardinal Bevilacqua noted that the Archdiocese of Philadelphia is already the largest provider of social services in Pennsylvania.

Working with the state and federal governments, he said, the archdiocese is involved in programs that assist homeless people with AIDS, dependent and delinquent children, mentally and physically disabled adults and children, and the elderly.

The cardinal said although some people have voiced fears about expanded church-government partnerships jeopardizing the separation of church and state, "the men who wrote the U.S. Constitution never intended to erect a high and impenetrable wall of separation between church and state, especially in areas where the

goal is the same — the improvement of society."

In a column that ran Feb. 10 in The Washington Post daily newspaper, Catholic Charities' Father Kammer said recent discussion about whether the faith-based initiative is appropriate has overlooked what already exists.

"The current debate is most frustrating in that it has effectively ignored how we and other religiously sponsored social service agencies have had such partnerships with governments for more than a century," he wrote. Not only did those partnerships help Catholic Charities' affiliates serve more than 9.5 million people at 1,400 locations in 1999, they also have passed muster with the U.S. Supreme Court, he noted.

Father Kammer said Catholic Charities supports various safeguards to ensure that services provided through church and community groups are credible and professional.

He said he applauds the administration's declarations that the program is meant to supplement what government does, not replace it. But, he added, "the test of any new policy should be whether the total help to the poor and vulnerable will be increased and by how much."

Father Kammer said affordable family housing and quality day care for children with working parents are the areas of greatest need for public-private partnership.

He lauded President Bush's announcement of new federal tax deductions for charitable contributions by taxpayers who do not itemize deductions, but added: "Such deductions should not be funded by cuts in direct aid to the poor for day care, job training and cash assistance."

*Pray for
Peace*

Civil Rights Leaders Speak Out On Bush's Faith-Based Plan

By Michael D. Wamble
Catholic News Service

CHICAGO (CNS) -- "The church is higher than government. The cross is higher than the flag," proclaimed Kweisi Mfume to a standing-room-only congregation at St. Sabina Catholic Church on the South Side of Chicago Feb. 11.

Mfume, president of the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People, addressed members of the predominantly African-American parish in a speech interwoven with religious imagery and political jabs at President Bush's recent establishment of the White House Office of Faith-Based and Community Initiatives.

The former five-term Maryland congressman and past head of the Congressional Black Caucus was joined by the Rev. Jesse Jackson at a special Mass celebrating Black History Month.

Mfume, a Baptist who attended Catholic schools in Baltimore, criticized the president's proposal as taking away funds from "an already shrinking pot of public money for education" and other government programs to create what he called murky relationships with churches and faith-based organizations providing social services.

Before Mfume spoke, Rev. Jackson, previously unscheduled for the program, moved toward the dais to detail his history in the modern civil rights movement.

As he rose, Father Michael Pflieger, pastor of St. Sabina, brought the parishioners to their feet in support of Rev. Jackson and his four decades of activism, despite his recent public admission of fathering a child out of wedlock.

Father Pflieger said of Rev. Jackson's critics, "You will not hang this man out to dry. We will not let you hang this man out to dry."

While Rev. Jackson praised the NAACP, likening the oldest historic civil rights organization to Noah's Ark, he pummeled the president's plan to provide financial support for faith-based programs as short-sighted.

"Faith-based programs? This is a faith-based program," Rev. Jackson said of the black history celebration that was part of the Mass. "Churches must not have to choose short-term pleasure for long-term pain."

In an interview following the Mass, Mfume told The Catholic New World, newspaper for the Archdiocese of Chicago, that the Bush administration would be better served finding other means of supporting faith-based groups.

"There have always been faith-based initiatives. This didn't develop with the advent of George Bush," said Mfume.

"It is to be commended that the administration wants to do something," he said. "I think this administration would be better off taking that kind of money and putting those kind of initiatives toward organizations that work with the church so that you don't co-opt the church."

The NAACP leader also said he felt churches could lose their prophetic voice if they become further entangled in government regulations and dependent on government money.

"The one thing about the church that is singularly significant is that it is the moral consciousness of our nation," he said.

Mfume added, "If government wants to do something, then its first step should be in helping to carry out the mission of the church to feed the hungry, to clothe the naked, house the homeless, teach the illiterate, provide guidance for our young people and security for our seniors."

see "FAITH-BASED", page eleven



CONSISTORY

from page one

Avery Dulles, a Jesuit theologian.

The pope, dressed in gold vestments that glimmered in the sunshine, read the formula of creation and the names of all 44 cardinals at the start of a Liturgy of the Word. He asked them to be “fearless witnesses” of the Gospel in every corner of the earth.

Later, the new cardinals knelt one by one before the pope and accepted the red biretta and a warm embrace from the pontiff. Three Eastern-rite prelates, however, declined the red hat because they felt it was inconsistent with their own traditions. It was the first time such an exemption had been granted, and the Vatican said it showed the pope’s respect for the Eastern churches.

Most of the cardinals were assigned honorary care of a church in Rome, marking their new membership in the clergy of Rome. But two Eastern church patriarchs also declined that honor.

The ceremony marked the induction of the largest group of cardinals ever named, bringing total membership in the College of Cardinals to 184. Of these, 135 were below age 80 and therefore eligible to vote in a papal conclave.

The newcomers included two prelates whom the pope named cardinals secretly, or “in pectore,” in 1998, revealing their names only in January. One was an old personal friend of the Polish-born pontiff, Cardinal Marian Jaworski, the Latin-rite archbishop of Lviv in Ukraine. The other was Cardinal Janis Pujats of Riga, Latvia.

The theme of the liturgy echoed from the first reading, in which St. Peter counseled pastors to tend their flocks with humility and told them: “Do not lord it over those assigned to you, but be examples to the flock.”

The pope developed that point in his sermon, saying the church was not based on “earthly power and calculation” but on Jesus’ spirit of service. He said he was counting on the new cardinals to be trusted advisors who could help ease the burden of his own ministry.

“Together with (the pope) you should be vigorous defenders of

the truth and custodians of the patrimony of faith and customs that have their origin in the Gospel. In this way you will be sure guides for all,” he said.

The pope said the special bond that links each cardinal to Rome and the pope should be used above all to foster church unity.

“If you are promoters of communion, the entire church will be beneficiaries,” he said.

He said the Second Vatican Council had widened participation in positions of responsibility in the church, and that more could be done in that direction.

The ceremony was punctuated by applause from various sectors of a crowd of about 40,000 well-wishers who had traveled to be with the new cardinals on their big day. The pope said the international diversity of the new inductees was significant.

“Is this not a sign that the church, which has reached every corner of the planet, is capable of understanding peoples of different traditions and languages, in order to bring Christ’s message to everyone?” he said.

“In him and in him alone is it possible to find salvation. This is the truth we reaffirm today,” he said.

The pope also underlined that the red color of the cardinals’ vestments symbolizes their commitment to defend the church’s growth and freedom and to sacrifice even to the point of shedding their own blood. Among the new group was Vietnamese Cardinal Francois Xavier Nguyen Van Thuan, now a Vatican official, who was jailed for many years by communist authorities in his native country.

The two-hour-long ceremony included a profession of faith and an oath of fidelity recited by the cardinals, who promised to be “constantly obedient” to the pope, to promote church unity and to maintain the confidentiality of information that could do “damage or dishonor” to the church if revealed.

As the pope handed out the red hats and a scroll attesting to the cardinals’ new dignity, he smiled and spoke a few words to each. The first was Cardinal Giovanni Battista Re, head of the Vatican’s Congregation for Bishops.



A view from the top of Bernini’s Colonnade shows the consistory gathering in St. Peter’s Square Feb. 21. Pope John Paul II elevated 44 church leaders to the rank of cardinal during the service. (CNS photo from Reuters.)

The last was 82-year-old Cardinal Dulles, who used a cane when he walked slowly up the steps toward the pope’s throne. His red biretta slipped off as he stood up, so he adjusted it, leaned over to embrace the pope, and it fell again into the pope’s lap.

In a short speech to the pope, Cardinal Re praised the pope for every aspect of his pastoral leadership over the last 22 years. He also raised the sensitive issue of papal health — an unusual topic at a ceremony like this one — praying that “the Lord will keep you a long time as head of the church.”

“The people of God still need the example of Your Holiness’ dedication, even when physical powers lessen, because there is a simultaneous increase in the sign of paternity, the witness of prayer and suffering for the church’s benefit. This underscores that, while it is important to act, it is more important to be, and that, in the end, it is Christ who guides his church,” Cardinal Re said.

The 80-year-old pope sat throughout the ceremony, and his voice sounded like he had a cold.



A procession with the new members of the College of Cardinals makes its way across St. Peter’s Square at the start of the consistory Feb. 21. (CNS photo from Reuters.)



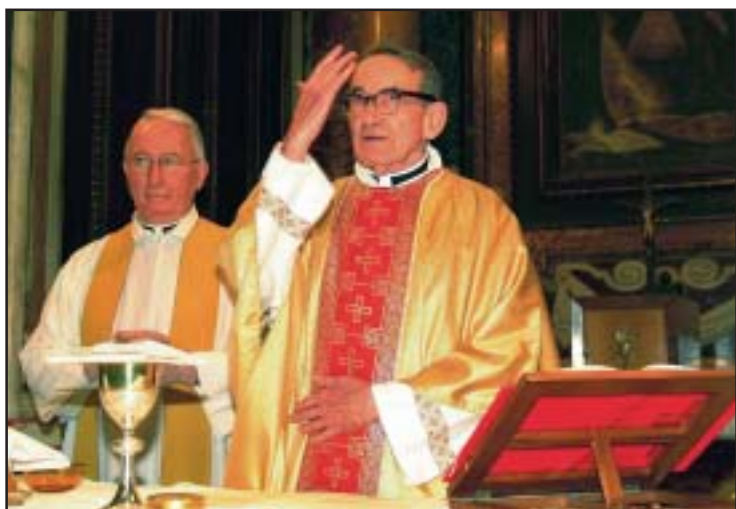
Washington Cardinal Theodore E. McCarrick receives the cardinal’s ring from Pope John Paul II Feb. 22 in St. Peter’s Square. (CNS photo from Catholic Press Photo.)



U.S. Jesuit theologian Cardinal Avery Dulles kisses the hand of Pope John Paul II after receiving the red biretta Feb. 21 in St. Peter's Square. The pope elevated 44 church leaders to the rank of cardinal. (CNS photo from Reuters.)



Pope John Paul II watches as the 44 new cardinals he created congratulate each other during the consistory ceremony Feb. 21 in St. Peter's Square. (CNS photo from Catholic Press Photos.)



U.S. Jesuit theologian Father Avery Dulles celebrates his last Mass as a priest with Jesuit Father Joseph O'Hare (left) at Gesu Church in Rome Feb. 20, the day before the theologian was elevated to cardinal. Fellow Jesuits, friends and a group from Fordham University attended the service. (CNS photo from Catholic Press Photo.)

In Christ, God's Plan For Creation Is Being Restored, Says Pope

By Cindy Wooden
Catholic News Service

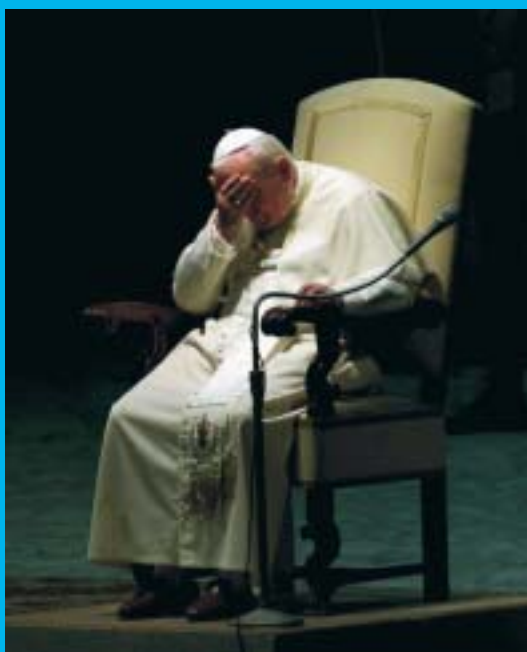
VATICAN CITY (CNS)

– In Christ, God's original plan for creation is being restored and will be marked at the end of time by peace and harmony, Pope John Paul II said.

"In fact, nature itself, subject to the nonsense, degradation and devastation provoked by sin, will participate in the joy of the liberation worked by Christ in the Holy Spirit," the pope said Feb. 14 at his weekly general audience.

Speaking to about 4,000 visitors in the Vatican's Paul VI Audience Hall, the pope said that when the Bible says all things will be summed up in Christ, it means all of creation, not just men and women.

Christ is the "new Adam" who cancels "the work of devastation, the horrible idolatries, the violence and every sin which the



Pope reflects during general audience. Pope John Paul II bows his head during his weekly general audience at the Vatican Feb. 14. The pope elevated 44 new cardinals Feb. 21 during a consistory. (CNS photo from Reuters)

Father, Christ opens the era of peace with God and among people," he said.

Through his incarnation, Christ binds to himself "the whole history of salvation, humanity and all creation," the pope said.

The process of joining all things to Christ and restoring the original peace, justice and harmony of creation "is occurring progressively, overcoming the obstacles and resistance of sin and the evil one," the pope said.

The completion of the process with the full establishment of the kingdom of God will be marked by "a creation in which God and people,

rebel Adam has sown in human history and on the horizon of creation," the pope said.

"With his full obedience to the

men and women, humanity and nature are in harmony, in dialogue and in communion," he said.



New York Cardinal Edward M. Egan arrives to celebrate Mass at his titular church, the Church of St. John and Paul at Aventino, in Rome, Feb. 23. New cardinals are assigned a titular church in the Diocese of Rome. (CNS photo from Catholic Press Photo)



President Bush Restores The Mexico City Pro-Life Policy

By Bishop Michael Pfeifer, OMI

On January 22, 2001, for the first time in eight very long years, the President of the United States sent a message of gratitude and encouragement to the 100,000 - plus people gathered for the March for Life in Washington. Fittingly, President Bush also commemorated the day by reinstating the pro-life Mexico City policy which his predecessor had rescinded eight years ago to the day. I share with you more about our President's pro-life action taken from *Life Insights* of the NCCB Secretariat for Pro-Life Activities.

On the 28th anniversary of *Roe v. Wade*, President George W. Bush took a significant first step in support of life by restoring the Mexico City Policy. This U.S. policy, in effect from 1984 until President Clinton rescinded it on January 22, 1993, was designed to

stop nongovernmental organizations (NGOs) receiving U.S. funds from circumventing Congress's intent under the 1973 Helms Amendment.

Under the Helms Amendment, NGOs active in "family planning" could not use U.S. funds to perform or promote abortion as a method of family planning overseas. Some NGOs eviscerated the law through simple bookkeeping entries. For example, if the U. S. gives the hypothetical FamPlan, Inc. \$5 million, FamPlan might use that money in mass sterilization programs, and then divert \$5 million acquired from other sources into promoting and performing abortions. And in fact, notwithstanding the Helms Amendment, between 1973 and 1984 the International Planned Parenthood Federation (IPPF) continued its barrage against other nation's laws protecting unborn

children, and even distributed abortion equipment in some countries where abortion was illegal.

At the 1984 U. N. conference on population in Mexico City, the Reagan administration announced a corrective policy: as a condition of receiving U.S. funds, NGOs involved in family planning must agree not to perform abortions or actively promote abortion as a method of family planning in other countries.

So, while we welcome the reinstated Mexico City Policy as a positive first step, we look forward to the day when U.S. foreign assistance will go to those groups which provide education, nutrition and primary health care for the world's children and not to NGOs whose goal is to prevent them from ever being born.

MEETING

from page one

he likened to a cancer. Many people enter politics today in order to exploit the power of office and the riches of the state, not to serve the common good, he said.

"This political culture is ill, and we need something different," he said. The solution will come when people are educated in democracy, which can be a church task, too, he added.

— Ongoing religious education. The cardinal said many Latin Americans stop learning about their faith at the time of their first Communion or confirmation. But "the faith of an infant cannot support the life of an adult"; when their religious beliefs are challenged, Catholics often leave the faith behind as something that belongs to childhood, he said.

— Ecumenism and relations with church movements. Cardinal Rodriguez said the main problem in Latin America was with home-grown religious movements that have their own doctrine, easy rules and no financial accountability. It's become a small industry in Honduras, he said.

"I know a dentist who is now himself a pastor. He is looking at the videotapes of Jimmy Swaggart and is imitating his style," he said. The church should persist in building bridges, he added, because ecumenism is the way of the future.

Cardinal Rodriguez said the shortage of priests poses problems in his country, where fewer than 400 ordained clergy minister to more than 5 million Catholics. The resulting pastoral strain has been alleviated by some 15,000 "delegates of the Word," lay men and women who minister in parishes, he said.

The priest remains essential, however, just like the engine of a

car, to "animate the rest of the parts to form unity," Cardinal Rodriguez said. He said he was encouraged that the country now has 110 seminarians.

The cardinal said liberation theology had left "many good things" in Latin America, including the promotion of laity, the option for the poor and concern for many social issues. He said it was clear by looking at the church's social doctrine that the great themes of liberation theology now have "right of citizenship" in the church.

As an example of how things have changed, he recalled that, when a Latin American church commission issued a document in 1986 on foreign debt, everybody was saying, "What do priests know about the economy?" But last year, when he delivered 70 million signatures asking world leaders to alleviate the debt, the church's input was taken very seriously.

"That's coming a long way," he said.

Cardinal Rodriguez, who was among the new cardinals elevated by Pope John Paul Feb. 21, has been cited as a potential future pope in many media reports. During his days in Rome, his own exuberant faithful sometimes chanted "Juan Pablo III" at his arrival.

"It makes me laugh, because I know this is only a good wish," the cardinal said with a broad smile. "I know that when the time comes, the Holy Spirit is the one who is going to act. I'm not concerned about that."

He said he thought his own people would understand that his new status as cardinal had not changed him at all.

"I have this uniform because it is necessary to wear it, but don't say that it will be a wall between the people and myself. No, I am the same," he said.

Support the American Bishops' Overseas Appeal

by Bishop Michael D. Pfeifer, OMI

My dear Sisters and Brothers in Christ,

During His brief but humanity-transforming ministry on earth, Jesus embodied a preference for the poor and suffering. From His humble beginnings to His simple lifestyle, the company He kept, and the people He healed, He was one with them. In our recent statement on immigration, *Welcoming the Stranger Among Us: Unity in Diversity*, the U. S. bishops wrote that the encounter with the living Christ through the new evangelization "leads to a daily vision of the risen Lord, present and active in the world, especially in the poor, in the stranger, and in the migrant and refugee." When we encounter such persons, we truly see "*Jesus in disguise*," the theme of the 2001 **American Bishops' Overseas**

Appeal (ABOA).

This annual appeal, which supports agencies that build the international social ministry of the Catholic Church, will be held in your parish on March 25, 2001. Your gift to the American Bishops' Overseas Appeal funds the work of four agencies of the Church, improving the lives of countless people the world over:

- **Catholic Relief Services**, the U.S. bishops' overseas relief and development agency, works in solidarity with poor people in more than eighty countries. CRS provides emergency relief and supports long-term sustainable development projects.

- **Migration and Refugee Services** of the U. S. Catholic Conference annually resettles approximately one-fourth of the refugees admitted to the United States and provides advocacy and pastoral care to many newcomers.

- **Holy Father's Relief Fund** assists victims of natural disasters and other emergencies around the world.

- **Department of Social Development and World Peace** of the U.S. Catholic Conference advocates for poor and vulnerable people and for peace and justice. It works to build the capacity of the Church to respond to global concerns such as debt relief to poor countries and religious freedom.

In giving to the American Bishops' Overseas Appeal you acknowledge the universal need for bread, dignity and peace; the unity of the human family; and our common desire to know Jesus Christ. I thank you for your past financial generosity for this appeal and continue to pray for our less fortunate sisters and brothers.

FRIENDS

"A healthy state of being is to be a friend to yourself. If you have few friends, if you don't like friends, you won't like yourself either." **L. Ron Hubbard**

One of the most acclaimed and widely read authors of all time.
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50th Anniversary of St. Ann's School Celebrated

by Msgr. Timothy J. Murphy

The 50th anniversary of St. Ann's School was celebrated during the January 28 - February 2, 2001 observance of National Catholic Schools Week. The national theme, "Celebrate Catholic Schools", was followed as the St. Ann's School community came together to thank God for the blessings the school has enjoyed over the past 50 years.

We *Celebrated our Students* on Monday with a free dress day, ice cream sundae party, skating party at Power Play and a gift of no homework. We *Celebrated our Community* on Tuesday by praying for different community agencies and making cards, signs and banners to express our gratitude for the work they do in our area. We *Celebrated our Families and our School* on Wednesday with an Open House from 10 AM - 2 PM. Student Council representatives served as tourguides during the day. We presented St. Ann's School Distinguished Graduate Awards to Texas State Representative Tom Craddick, Texas Railroad Commission Chairman Michael Williams, Dr. Daniel Nelson and Mrs. Donna Repman Reker. Bishop Michael Pfeifer celebrated a 50th Anniversary Mass, which was followed by a reception in the parlor where guests were able to view school memorabilia and historical records. On Thursday, the school staff *Cel-*

ebrated our Volunteers by treating them to lunch and on Friday, we *Celebrated our Teachers* by having them enjoy brunch and gift baskets from the PTO and school students. *Mardi Gras Celebration 2001* finished off the week on Saturday evening at Midland Country Club.

In 1949, Father Francis Taylor, O.M.I., became Pastor of St. Ann's Church. Father Taylor and his parishioners prepared plans for a school. The construction could not be started until Sisters were available. This was a real problem and the people began a Novena to Our Lady of Perpetual Help. On the last day of the Novena, Mother Pacifica, then General of the Missionary Sisters of the Immaculate Conception, Patterson, NJ, accepted the undertaking of teaching the pupils of St. Ann's in Midland.

In less than a year a modern, one story school and convent were erected. In August 1950, five Franciscan Missionary Sisters of the Immaculate Conception arrived to staff the school. These Sisters were: Sister M. Bonfilia, Sister M. Stephana, Sister Claire Marie, Sister Mary Grace and Sister M. Emerita. Bishop FitzSimon dedicated the school.

In the first year of operation the school had a kindergarten and the first six grades with an enrollment of 175 pupils. Our first eighth grade Graduation Class of 1953



On 31 January 2001, St. Ann's School had a general convocation to celebrate the 50th anniversary of the establishment of the school. Presented Distinguished Graduate Awards were, from left to right, Representative Tom Craddick, Dan Nelson, M.D., Mr. Michael Williams, Chairman of the Texas Railroad Commission and Ms. Donna Reker, a teacher at St. Ann's School. All graduated from St. Ann's in times past.

consisted of nine students.

In 1956 Mr. and Mrs. C.A. McClintic donated to St. Ann's a half block of land West of St. Ann's School now known as "McClintic Field" and used for a playground for the school children.

Most Reverend John L. Morkovsky, Bishop of Amarillo, at the occasion of the dedication of St. Ann's School in 1950 said:

"This school is a monument to the Catholic faith in Midland. It

reveals a high state of development. Congratulations are due for the sacrifices that have been made and have to be made for this contribution to Catholic Christian civilization. This school is your gift - a legacy to this generation and the generations to come. It is a monument to your faith, and Almighty God will bless you for your efforts. I pray that this school may be a bulwark for your children - an institution wherein they may seek the Good, the True and

the Beautiful in Almighty God - wherein they may learn to love God, His Church and the Sacraments. May this school be a blessing for generations to come."

1960 - gymnasium was built
1965 - school cafeteria was built for \$60,000

1950 - 700 parishioners
1966 - 3,371 parishioners

Cost per year to educate one student:

see "ANNIVERSARY", page eleven

Diocesan Policy: Alcohol on Parish Property

Over a year ago the issue concerning the presence of alcohol on church property was brought before the Presbyteral Council and the Bishop for review and discussion. Since that time and after receiving input from the Deaneries of the Diocese, the Bishop and the Council have developed the following diocesan policy in light of several factors. While one cannot turn a blind eye to the devastating results of the misuse and abuse of alcohol by some people, the mature, moderate, responsible, and legal consumption of alcohol and the activities accompanying its use are not to be condemned.

Our Catholic tradition rooted in Sacred Scripture does not consider alcohol as evil in itself. The Catholic Church teaches that like all of God's gifts, alcohol must be used in moderation and never be abused. Hence, out of this context, the Presbyteral Council of the Diocese of San Angelo recommended to the Bishop Pfeifer, OMI the following diocesan policy as regards the use of alcohol on Church premises. Bishop Pfeifer accepted the recommendation and now issues the following Policy Statement.

Regarding the presence of alcohol, we are caught amid three

realities.

1. The first reality is that alcohol is present in the general public regardless of religious or social feelings about this substance. There are a variety of views concerning the existence, presence or consumption of alcohol depending on religious, cultural, and social backgrounds.

2. The second reality is that there are many different customs and tolerances in the communities and parishes in the Diocese regarding the public presence of alcohol on Church parish property. Some parishes have chosen not to allow any alcohol on parish prop-

erty or at parish functions. Other parishes have developed guidelines that allow the presence and/or the use of alcohol under certain conditions or situations.

3. The third reality is that, regardless of whatever choices are made by the parish, we must act with maturity and in a responsible manner regarding this issue. In this regard, we must obey all CIVIL LAWS concerning alcohol. We must also give an adult Christian example to our youth and to the community in general regarding the presence and consumption of alcohol.

If alcohol is to be sold on par-

ish property, the parish must follow the guidelines concerning Taxation and Licensing Requirements - Sale of Alcohol Beverages by Churches - on page F-8 in the Pastoral Manual of the Diocese of San Angelo.

Each parish should review its practice of requiring insurance when alcohol is allowed on parish property.

This policy is in effect as of February 1, 2001 for the entire Roman Catholic Diocese of San Angelo.



Going to Church

by Msgr. Jim Lisante
Director, The Christophers

I was heading over to church one Sunday morning to help with Communion. When I got to the sacristy, I realized that the priest celebrating Mass was just completing his homily. So I decided to take a step outside to enjoy the pleasant weather.

As I went out a side door I bumped into two sheepish teenage guys who were leaving. They clutched in their hands copies of the parish bulletin: parental notification of the fact that they had been to church. "Busy day?" I asked them. "No," said the older boy, "we're just bored." They mumbled good-bye and took off.

Watching the two of them retreat, I started thinking about some of my own friendships over the years and the elements that make those relationships work. It certainly isn't excitement: friends sometimes bore each other. It isn't intellectual: sometimes our conversations are dull beyond belief. It isn't the richness of our personalities: we can be annoying, obnoxious and difficult to be around. It isn't power or money: we haven't got much. In fact, it's less a "feeling" of friendship than a commitment to be friends: our desire to be loyal and our decision to be there for each other.

And friendship, I think, is at the heart of our spiritual lives, too. Sometimes going to church can be boring, dull and intellectually vacant. And if we're expecting exciting entertainment, we will surely be disappointed. Rather, we are there because our friend God has invited us to be there. If we are true friends, we take that invitation seriously. That means we reject all the nonsense we use as excuses for staying away, like:

"I'm really busy." There are 168 hours in every week. We somehow find the time to eat, to sleep, to go to school or work, to play sports or pursue hobbies, to be with people we care about, to

take care of a great number of personal obligations and preferences. In fact, we find the time for everything we really believe is important. If our God and His people are important to us, we will also make the time to be there.

"But the sermons are so boring." Give me a break. If we switched off everyone and everything that's boring in life, we would stay home in bed. Assume the speaker is trying hard. Shouldn't we try to listen? And more to the point: we are not just there for the homily. We go to be part of a community that needs us. We go to get closer to God, who never bores us or gives up on us.

"I can find God in many places. I don't need a church to pray." That's true. But let's be honest: if we don't go to church, how much serious praying do we really do? And further, where else can you go to receive Communion? Are they giving It out someplace else? More importantly, Jesus told us in no uncertain terms: I want you to gather with other believers to celebrate My life.

"I used to go, but I had a really bad experience at church." We have all had some bad experience at church. But again, let's compare our experience of God's friendship with the rest of our lives. If every time we had a poor experience with our parents, siblings or friends, we said, "That's it, this relationship's over," we would have none at all. But we keep working at relationships that matter. We forgive, we compromise and we try to love again.

If we give the same energy to our love of God and His people as we give to our friends and family, maybe we would find that the boredom that put us off wasn't really inside the church, but inside us. And that's something we can change if we are willing. After all, it's for a Friend.

CCC Launches Innovative Challenge



The Catholic Communication Campaign is launching for 2001 an innovative, thought provoking campaign entitled, "Choosing Your Moral Compass" in response to the moral dilemma facing families today.

"We encourage conscientious media and entertainment industry leaders, especially our fellow Catholics among them, to work within their own arts to turn their resources away from unworthy uses and toward the good they have to offer." (Overview of U.S. Bishops statement on *Renewing the Mind of the Media*.)

Each year, the Catholic Communication Campaign reaches millions of the faithful bringing videos, public service campaigns, documentaries, a web site and a host of other value-driven programs to individuals and families. Providing spiritual tools for direction and guidance, the 2001 campaign "Choosing Your Moral Compass" challenges families to make moral choices for their children every time they turn on the television set, rent a video, go to the movies, listen to radio or use the Internet.

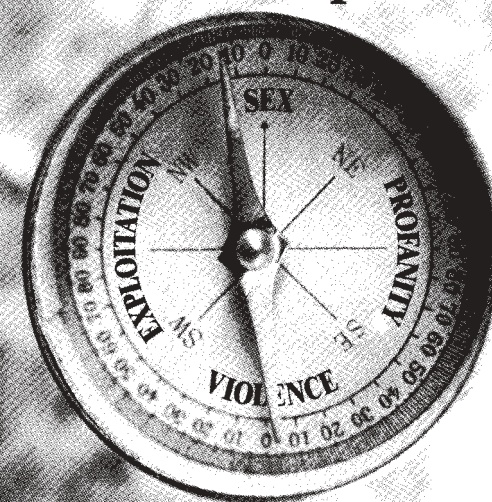
According to Ramón E. Rodríguez, Director of Development, "We're excited about the campaign since we are sounding a wake-up call for people of all ages to make educated choices in their selection of entertainment."

The new campaign launched in January, 2001 will continue throughout the year in various dioceses.



Alise Krueger, 19, peruses music CDs at a store in Waukesha, Wis. Young people today are enjoying more disposable income than any past generation did at their age. (CNS photo by Allen Fredrickson, Catholic Herald)

Should the Entertainment Industry be your family's moral compass?



Obviously Not!

Please support the Catholic Communication Campaign's upcoming parish collection and let God's voice and yours be heard in the media.

Your Children Deserve Better and So Do You!

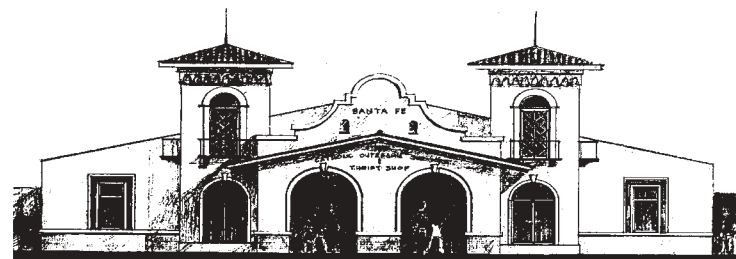


Public Service Announcements • Documentaries • Educational Videos • Movie Reviews • Mass Times

Pray For Peace



A Home For Catholic Outreach Services



Drawing by Architect Henry Schmidt

"I was hungry and you gave me food, I was thirsty and you gave me drink, I was a stranger and you welcomed me, I was naked and you clothed me, I was ill and you comforted me, in prison and you came to visit me. I assure you, as often as you did it for one of my least ones you did it for me."

Thanks to God, Catholic Outreach Services, established in 1996, has become a thriving business and social service agency which is bursting at the seams! The generosity of all area Catholics and members of other denominations in the form of food, clothing, supplies, and volunteer time, has been the major reason for this success. Thousands have been helped since COS opened its

doors, never turning anyone away who was in need. The large amount of food, clothing and aid given out is the testament of a great need being met (5,857 families from July 1996 to June 2000).

The board of COS, comprised of Bishop Michael Pfeifer, the 5 local priests, representatives from the 5 parishes, and the priest and representatives of Our Lady of Peace Mission at Goodfellow,

CUARESMA

from page two

por nosotros, y para ver como podemos invitar a otros al gran festín del amor de Dios para todos. Nuestro festejar debe ser centrado en traer alegría y armonía a nuestro mundo, ofrecer una palabra amable y detener comentarios críticos, a dar una mano o corazón sin que se lo pida o esperar que lo haga, a pensar y hablar con respeto de toda la gente, especialmente la gente de otras tierras y culturas, y tomar tiempo para realmente oír a otros.

En la temporada de la Cuaresma, necesitamos dedicarnos a mas oración, a leer mas la Escritura, a mas meditación, a obras de servicio y ayudar. Con corazones abiertos nos entregamos totalmente a nuestro Dios que nos ayudará a crecer mas completamente en amor y bondad. En esta manera podemos verdaderamente desarrollar el programa de ayunar y festejar que Cristo quiere para cada uno de nosotros mientras caminemos

por la temporada de la Cuaresma. Nos acordamos como sufrió Cristo por nosotros y nos recordamos que Él murió en la cruz para salvarnos de nuestros pecados y debilidades y para darnos la plenitud del amor de Dios.

LENT

from page two

expected to do so, to thinking and speaking with respect about all people, especially people from other lands and cultures, and taking time to really listen to others.

In the Lenten season, we need to dedicate ourselves to more prayer, to more reading of the Scriptures, more meditation, to works of service and outreach. With open hearts we surrender totally to our God who will help us to grow in love and goodness ever more fully. In this manner we can truly develop the program of fasting and feasting that Christ wants for each one of us as we walk through the Lenten season. We remember how much Christ

AFB, has established a new building initiative to raise funds to construct a permanent COS home at the corner of 4th and Chadbourne Streets. The land was purchased for COS by Mrs. Eva Camuñez Tucker.

The board decided to design the new home using a facade similar to the Santa Fe Depot once located at the site. COS Board Chairman, Rosa Perez, said, "We thought following the Spanish-mission design of the old depot would fit in well with our Catholic goals, as well as give a nod to its historic location."

The new building will be 6,300 square feet plus and allows room for expansion. Cost of the project is estimated at \$450,000. COS hopes to be it its new location in one year. Grants have been applied for and now an appeal is being made directly to all parishes to contribute to this building fund. For more information call: 658-4124 or 949-3920. Please send donations to: COS Building Fund, 102 N. Chadbourne, San Angelo, TX 76903.

Thank you and God Bless.

suffered for us and recall that He died on the cross to save us from our sins and weakness and to give us the fullness of God's love.

FAITH-BASED

from page five

"When government is ready to step up to the plate in those areas, it becomes easier to talk about how it should interact with churches," he said. "But you can't simply throw money at a church and believe that it somehow absolves you from the mission of the church that is ongoing, administration to administration."

ANNIVERSARY

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- 1965 - \$104 per student
- 1966 - \$126 per student
- 1967 - \$172 per student
- 1968 - \$225 per student
- 1969 - \$300 per student
- 2000 - Approximately \$3000 per student
- 2001 - Enrollment 410 students 3K-8

Heartfelt Gratitude For Abundant Generosity

by Bishop Michael Pfeifer, OMI

Over and above the constant generous contributions, you, the kind people of the Diocese of San Angelo, make to maintain the ministries and programs of our Diocese, you have also responded in a most generous way to the various special collections and appeals that assist needy members of the Body of Christ in other parts of our state, country, and world.

I am very happy to share with you the impressive results of your generosity for special collections and urgent appeals for funds that have taken place in our Diocese from March 1, 2000 to March 1, 2001

Collection for:	Amount
Retirement Fund for Religious	\$55,078.31
Catholic Home Missions Appeal	17,425.15
Peter's Pence (Collection for the Holy Father)	19,271.91
Catholic Campaign for Human Development	22,119.23
Operation Rice Bowl	10,438.04
Catholic Communication Campaign	8,012.77
Aid to the Church in Central and Eastern Europe	27,271.47
Holy Land	18,965.19
World Mission Sunday (Society for the Propagation of Faith)	24,401.22
American Bishops Overseas Appeal	24,151.97
Support for our sister Diocese in Honduras	44,467.09
Victims of El Salvador earthquake	21,391.79
Victims of India earthquake	10,093.70
Victims of various other disasters	7,321.81
TOTAL	\$310,409.65

As I express my gratitude to all of you, the generous people of our Diocese, I ask God's abundant blessings upon you. You will be blessed one hundred-fold for your generosity toward our brothers and sisters who are in special need. Thank you.

Men's English Speaking Cursillo Ultreya

Thursday, February 22, 2001

Fourteen men met at Holy Angels Church Youth Center, San Angelo, for the first Men's English Speaking Ultreya on Thursday, February 22, 2001 at 7:00 P.M. The Ultreya or group reunion of those who have attended a Cursillo, is considered the Fourth Day of the Cursillo program and is vital for the success of the movement. Mr. Ray Zapata and Mr. Max Parker hosted the gathering. Rev. Dr. John Gonzales Castro, O.M.I., director of Christ the King Retreat Center, presented a "History of the Ultreya" to the group. The following English Speaking Ultreya will be held on Thursday, March 29, 2001 at Holy Angels Youth Center at 7:00 P.M. All men who have attended a Cursillo are invited to attend.



Diocesan Conference Day – 2001



living examples of these themes. The afternoon workshop sessions were filled with many practical

ways in which families, schools and parishes can become models of living Catholic Social Teaching. Bishop Michael Pfeifer presided

at a spirit-filled liturgy. A delicious meal was prepared and served by the Knights of Columbus. The followup of the day is a call for each of us to be living documents of Catholic Social Teaching so those who never read them may know the message contained in each.



Photos by Pete Micale, WTA.

by Sr. Joan Markus, S.S.N.D.

More than 400 people from around the diocese participated in the annual Diocesan Conference Day. Dr. James McGinnis told stories of people who live the message of the gospel in their lives, illustrating for us that Catholic Social Teaching is scripturally based.

The seven themes of Catholic Social Teaching were addressed by Dr. Kathleen McGinnis again by telling stories of people who are



Diocesan Jr. High Event Fills St. Marys Parish Hall



music provided by John Lopes and The Praise Team of Abilene. Scott Lawson, key presenter for the day focused on the meaning of discipleship. Participants were led

through a variety of activities that focused on the meaning of being a disciple of Jesus today. Pam Graham, coordinator of youth ministry at St. Therese, Junction was the emcee for the day. The day concluded at 6:00 P.M. after a pizza meal for all present.

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



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

Youth attending the Diocesan Jr. High Event filled St. Mary's Parish Hall on February 11, 2001. Seventh and eighth grade youth and their adult chaperones from parishes and missions across the diocese participated in this event. A resounding round of applause and enthusiasm were generated as Bishop Michael Pfeifer approached the microphone to wel-

come the participants and show his support to the youth of the diocese.

The day included prayer and opening activities led by Lucie Valles and Peer Ministers of St. Ann's Parish in Midland and mu-

