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Diocesan Pastoral Plan Celebrated

by S. Joan Markus

More than 100 parish/mission representatives gathered at Holy Angels Parish in San Angelo on March 19th to celebrate the presentation of the Diocesan Pastoral Plan, "Into God's Marvelous Light". The service began with praising God for steadfast faithfulness, followed by a reminder from scripture that we are God's holy people. This was followed by the proclamation of the Pastoral Plan by members of the Convocation Committee. Parish representatives

were then called forward to receive a copy of the plan. The service concluded with a blessing of the Pastoral Plan and the singing of "We Are Called".

Why this Pastoral Plan? On the occasion of the 40th anniversary of the establishment of the Diocese of San Angelo in October 2001, Bishop Pfeifer called for a planning process that would project us toward the 50th anniversary of the diocese. Needs and situations change and so the Church must adapt and seek to follow the will of

God to respond appropriately.

Bishop Pfeifer appointed a Convocation Committee to set in motion a process that would involve all the people of the diocese. Parish Listening Sessions were held in the Spring of 2002 and the results given to the committee which distilled the suggestions into the five goals which are presented in the new plan and listed as follows:

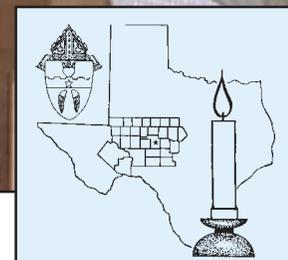
We, the People of God of the Diocese of San Angelo . . .

1. recognizing the value of Eucharist and our sacramental tradition, will strengthen vocation recruitment by the parishes to insure future availability of priests;

see "PLAN" page nine



Bishop Pfeifer prepares to bless attendees at Holy Angels Church. (Photo by Peter Micale.)



San Fernando Cathedral Celebrates Historic Restoration

by Francisco J. Castillo

SAN ANTONIO – More than 272 years ago settlers from the Canary Islands established a colony in Texas and founded a church to be the center of what is now modern downtown San Antonio. San Fernando Cathedral is the oldest active cathedral in the United States and on March 29, 2003, national and international dignitaries convened in San Antonio to celebrate the restoration of this historic landmark with a

San Fernando Cathedral unveiled a 24-foot by 16-foot gilded retablo that features the theme of "Jesus Christ, Word and Sacrament." A retablo is a large wooden altar screen that serves as a backdrop for the tabernacle or statues and paintings of Christ and the Saints. Retablos were traditionally used as the central artwork in Spanish Colonial churches in the Americas.

Dedication Ceremony.

In addition, the public viewed for the first time, a 24-foot by 16-foot gilded retablo that features the theme of "Jesus Christ, Word and Sacrament." A retablo is a large wooden altar screen that serves as a backdrop for the tabernacle or statues and paintings of Christ and the Saints. Retablos were traditionally used as the central artwork in Spanish Colonial churches in the Americas.

The retablo was handcrafted by 10 artists from Mexico City and is one of the main features of the newly restored Cathedral. "It will be one of the most significant works

of art in our city and possibly the country," said Father David H. Garcia, rector of San Fernando Cathedral.

San Fernando Cathedral is a center for great Hispanic traditions such as the annual Passion Play, which attracts 25,000 people, the annual health fair, numerous social services and community programs, artistic and musical presentations, and interfaith gatherings. The City Council is blessed at San Fernando at the beginning of each term, while numerous groups such as police, educators, union leaders, and

see "CATHEDRAL" page nine





The Easter Season Reminds Us that Christ Is Our Life and Our Light

By Bishop Michael D. Pfeifer, OMI

The many Scriptural readings for Easter and the Easter season remind us that the risen Savior is alive in our world today. Because he fulfilled his promise to rise from the dead, Christ has given a new meaning to our lives, and promises us eternal life, and is a shining light in our world that is often filled with darkness.

The Easter season is not only about light, but about light in the presence of darkness. The resurrection of Christ does not mean an end to either dark valleys or lost sheep. Rather, it points to the fact that new life is always a possibility, no matter how deeply one may feel, or actually be lost in darkness.

The Easter season reminds us that because of the resurrection of Christ, darkness and despair can never totally overcome us. Perhaps at times we experience darkness, or we do not clearly see where we are going in life. We need to remember that often we have to experience the terror of the night, that sometimes we have to go through the dark valley, so that our Good Shepherd, the risen Savior, can lead us to the light and hope that we all seek.

Easter is all about new life. Easter is a time to let the risen Savior enter into our lives and remove all guilt and remorse so that we can truly turn back to our God, and receive the unconditional love that our God wants to bestow upon us.

Easter assures us that the Good Shepherd, the risen Savior, will find the lost and forsaken, even when there are no guiding stars to illumine the way. Let the risen Savior bring new life and light into your lives.

La Temporada de la Pascua Nos Recuerda que Cristo es Nuestra Vida y Nuestra Luz

Por el Obispo Miguel D. Pfeifer, OMI

Varias lecturas de la Sagrada Escritura para la Pascua y la temporada de la Pascua nos recuerdan que el Salvador resucitado está vivo en nuestro mundo ahora. Porque el cumplió con su promesa de resucitar de la muerte, Cristo ha dado una nueva significación a nuestras vidas, y nos promete la vida eterna, y es una luz brillante en nuestro mundo que es a menudo lleno de oscuridad.

La temporada de la Pascua no solamente se trata de la luz, pero de luz en la presencia de la oscuridad. La resurrección de Cristo no quiere decir un fin a valles oscuros o ovejas perdidas. Mas bien, apunta a la realidad que la vida nueva siempre es una posibilidad, a pesar de que uno se siente muy profundamente, o actualmente esté perdido en la oscuridad.

La temporada de la Pascua nos recuerda que porque de la resurrección de Cristo, la oscuridad y la desesperación nunca pueden totalmente superarnos. Quizás a veces nosotros experimentemos oscuridad, o no miremos claramente donde vayamos en la vida. Necesitamos recordar que a menudo tenemos que experimentar el terror de la noche, que a veces tenemos que ir por el valle oscuro, para que nuestro Buen Pastor, el Salvador resucitado, nos pueda dirigir a la luz y esperanza que todos buscamos.

La Pascua se trata de la vida nueva. La Pascua es un tiempo para dejar que el Salvador resucitado entre a nuestras vidas y quitar toda la culpa y remordimiento para que verdaderamente podamos volver a nuestro Dios, y recibir el amor incondicional que nuestro Dios quiere derramar sobre nosotros.

La Pascua nos asegura que el Buen Pastor, el Salvador resucitado, encontrara lo perdido y abandonado, aunque no hayan estrellas dirigiendo el camino. Dejen que el Salvador resucitado traiga una vida nueva y luz en sus vidas.



The Bishop's Schedule



April 2003

- April 1: San Angelo, Diocesan Pastoral Center - Diocesan Liturgy Commission meeting at 10:30 a.m. Midland, St. Stephen - Confirmation at 6:30 p.m.
- April 2-3: San Antonio, Oblate School of Theology
- April 5: Midland, St. Ann - Catholic Schools Commission Meeting
- April 6-7: Austin, Texas Conference of Churches Executive Committee Meeting
- April 8: Sweetwater, Forum On

- Sexual Abuse (For Sweetwater, Colorado City and surrounding areas) from 10:00 a.m. to 11:30 a.m.
- April 9: Rowena, St. Joseph and Miles - Confirmation at 6:30 p.m.
- April 10: San Angelo, Cathedral Church of the Sacred Heart - Chrism Mass at 11:00 a.m. Presbyteral Council meeting from 2:00 p.m. to 4:00 p.m.
- April 11: San Angelo, Diocesan Pastoral Center - Mass for Staff at 8:30 a.m. American Cancer Society at 11:00 a.m.
- April 13: San Angelo, Cathedral Church of the Sacred Heart - Palm Sunday Mass at 9:45 a.m. Holy Angels - Seder Meal at 5:30 p.m.
- April 14: San Angelo, Diocesan

- Pastoral Center - Staff Meeting at 11:00 a.m.
- April 15: San Angelo, Cathedral Church of the Sacred Heart - Reconciliation Service at 7:00 p.m.
- April 17: San Angelo, Cathedral Church of the Sacred Heart - Holy Thursday Mass at 7:00 p. m.
- April 18: San Angelo, St. Margaret - Stations of the Cross at 1:00 p.m. San Angelo, St. Joseph - Good Friday Service at 7:00 p.m.
- April 19: San Angelo, Cathedral Church of the Sacred Heart - Easter Vigil Mass at 8:00 p.m.
- April 20: San Angelo, St. Margaret - Easter Sunday Mass at 10:30 a.m.
- April 21: San Angelo, Bishop's Residence - Easter Dinner for Bishop's Staff at 6:00 p.m.
- April 22: San Angelo, Holy Angels - Earth Day Mass for Students of Angelo Catholic School at 8:30 a.m.
- April 22-23: San Antonio - Celebrate Oblate Anniversaries
- April 25: Abilene, Holy Family - Confirmation at 6:30 p.m.
- April 26: San Angelo, Cathedral Church of the Sacred Heart - Confirmation at 5:00 p.m.
- April 27-28: San Antonio, Board

- Meeting of the Mexican American Culture Center
- April 29: Wall, St. Ambrose - Confirmation at 7:00 p.m.
- April 30: Odessa, St. Joseph/St. Anthony - Confirmation at 6:30 p.m.
- May, 2003**
- May 1: Oklahoma City - Anniversary of the Archbishop of Oklahoma City
- May 2: San Angelo, Newman Center - Appreciation Dinner at 6:30 p.m.
- May 3: Abilene, Dyess AFB, Confirmation at 5:00 p.m.
- May 4: Midland, St. Ann - Confirmation at 11:00 a.m.
- May 5: San Angelo, Diocesan Pastoral Center - Mass for Staff at 8:30 a.m. Cathedral Church of the Sacred Heart - Rosary Rally of all San Angelo parishes at 7:00 p.m.
- May 6: San Angelo, Diocesan Pastoral Center - Meeting of the Diocesan Liturgy Commission at 10:30 a.m. Knickerbocker, Immaculate Conception/Eldorado, Our Lady of Guadalupe/St. Peter, Mertzon - Confirmation at 6:30 p.m.
- May 7: San Angelo, Diocesan Pastoral Center - Staff Meeting at

- 11:00 a.m. Sonora, St. Ann - Confirmation at 6:30 p.m.
- May 8: Ft. Stockton, St. Agnes/St. Joseph -Confirmation at 7:00 p.m.
- May 9: San Angelo, Holy Angels at Cathedral Church of the Sacred Heart - Confirmation at 6:30 p.m.
- May 10: Big Spring, Sacred Heart, Immaculate Heart, St. Thomas, Coahoma - Confirmation at 5:00 p.m.
- May 11: Abilene, St. Vincent - Confirmation at 11:00 a.m.
- May 12: Coleman, Sacred Heart - Confirmation at 6:30 p.m.
- May 13: Abilene, Sacred Heart - Confirmation at 6:30 p.m.
- May 14: St. Lawrence, St. Lawrence, Confirmation at 6:30 p.m.
- May 15: Crane, Good Shepherd/McCamey - Confirmation at 6:30 p.m.
- May 16: Ballinger, St. Mary - Confirmation at 6:30 p.m.
- May 17-18: Dallas, Knights of Columbus Convention
- May 19: Brady, St. Patrick - Confirmation at 6:30 p.m.

see "SCHEDULE" page ten

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Vocation Circle

Diocesan Vocation Convocation

by Fr. Tom Barley,
Director of Vocations and
Seminarians

On Thursday, February 27, the Diocese held its first Vocation Convocation at Christ the King Retreat Center. Eighty people including the Bishop, pastors, women religious, deacons, and laity who will be promoting vocations to priesthood and religious life in their parishes attended. The presenters were Mrs. Dotty Foss, the Executive Director of the National Conference of Diocesan Vocation Directors (NCDVD), and Fr. David Hulshof, the President of NCDVD and a priest of the Diocese of Springfield-Cape Girardeau in Missouri. The topic was *Promoting Priesthood and Religious Life in Parishes and Families*.

The presenters shared a theology of vocation in which we believe that God has created each of us with a purpose. Everyone is a gift from God. Our baptism and our participation in the Church call us all to holiness. This call to holi-

ness leads us to a life committed to service in ministry and sharing in Christ's love for all people.

The presenters posed four fears that keep many young people from choosing priesthood or religious life. They are consumerism, celibacy, commitment, and freedom. In response, we should stress that we try not to be owned by the things in our lives. Our wealth is in relationships, knowledge of our faith, the experiences of travel, and in commitment to our vocation rather than in things. While any life style can lead to loneliness and be void of intimacy, celibacy is an opportunity to develop a wealth of relationship and friendships living and ministering in collaboration with others. Nowadays, our society is very temporary and uncommitted. Our choices in vocation can be a sign to the depth of a life lived in faith and love for God and other people. Freedom is not keeping all of our options open. It is making a choice and remaining focused on that decision. For in keeping all of

our options open, we make no choice. Freedom is not doing just what we want to do. The goal is not self-centered liberty. The goal is to be fulfilled in being and doing as God invites us.

It is the role of the parish to educate, evangelize, catechize, and pray in order to guide the members to discover God's plan in their lives. It is the role of the family to encourage vocations through a personal witnessing of the faith, personal invitations to participate in God's plan, and personal and community prayer. The family and the parish must help the members to understand that they are loved unconditionally by God. Ask the questions – What is God's greatest desire for your children? What is your greatest desire for your children? Do you believe that God has a special plan for you and your children? How do you discover this plan? How do you discover their gifts and talents?

They encouraged people in ministry to take a vacation and take care of their health and to stay away from "busy language" when describing their vocations. This will help them to enjoy their ministry and hopefully lead to many years of service in the Church. While people in ministry work long and hard, we also find great joy in the ministry and in our parish and



From left to right, Fr. Tom Barley, Fr. David Hulshof, Bishop Pfeifer, Mrs. Dotty Foss. (Photo by Peter Micala.)

ministerial communities.

The presenters asked all of the convocation participants what qualities they would like to see in applicants to the seminary and in their future priests. The qualities the participants listed were – culturally sensitive, acclimatized to west Texas, bilingual, having a Vatican II ecclesiology, collaborative with women and other ministers, having a diversity of talents including practical capabilities, native born vocations, sensitive to rural culture, have a capacity to be happy living alone and comfortable with other priests, willingness to travel, have a personality that invites others into a relationship with themselves and the Church, a prayer life and a faith

life, maturity, a sociable person, and a sense of ecumenism.

The presenters encouraged the development of a prayer life in families and in parishes for the general needs of the Church as well as for vocations. They mentioned "vocation chalices" similar to our "vocation crosses" that families take home to pray for vocations and programs that bring prospective seminarians together with priests and the Bishop. They stressed the importance of youth ministers in the identification and encouragement of parish youth.

The Vocation Convocation was well received by the participants.

see "VOCATION" page ten

Retreat For Young Adults

by S. Hilda Marotta, OSF

"Young adults want to develop their spiritual life. They speak of this as being the foundation – the rootedness – of their lives. It is through this spiritual life that young adults grow in appreciation for the way God works in their lives". (*Sons and Daughters of the Light* - p 28).

In an effort to provide an opportunity for young adults from across the diocese to come together to share and grow in their faith with one another, the Office of Education and Formation sponsored a retreat for young adults March 21-22, 2003 at Christ the King Retreat Center. What a wonderful success it was in sharing faith and building community!

Focusing on the theme *Connecting Faith and Life*, S. Teresa Markus, SSND, DRE from St. Peter's Cathedral in

Belleville, Illinois and presenter for the retreat, focused the sessions on: *The Call to Community - Nourishing Faith; The Call to Holiness - Growing in Jesus Christ; The Call to Serve - Living Faith in Our Everyday Lives and Using Ritual in Our Daily Life*. Each session included an opportunity for quiet reflection, faith sharing and a prayer ritual that called forth a response to live as disciples of Christ. Eucharist was celebrated at the conclusion, with Bishop Michael Pfeifer presiding.

Sons and Daughters of the Light - A Pastoral Plan for Ministry with Young Adults was approved by the bishops of the United States in 1996. This plan identifies young adults as persons in their late teens, twenties and thirties.



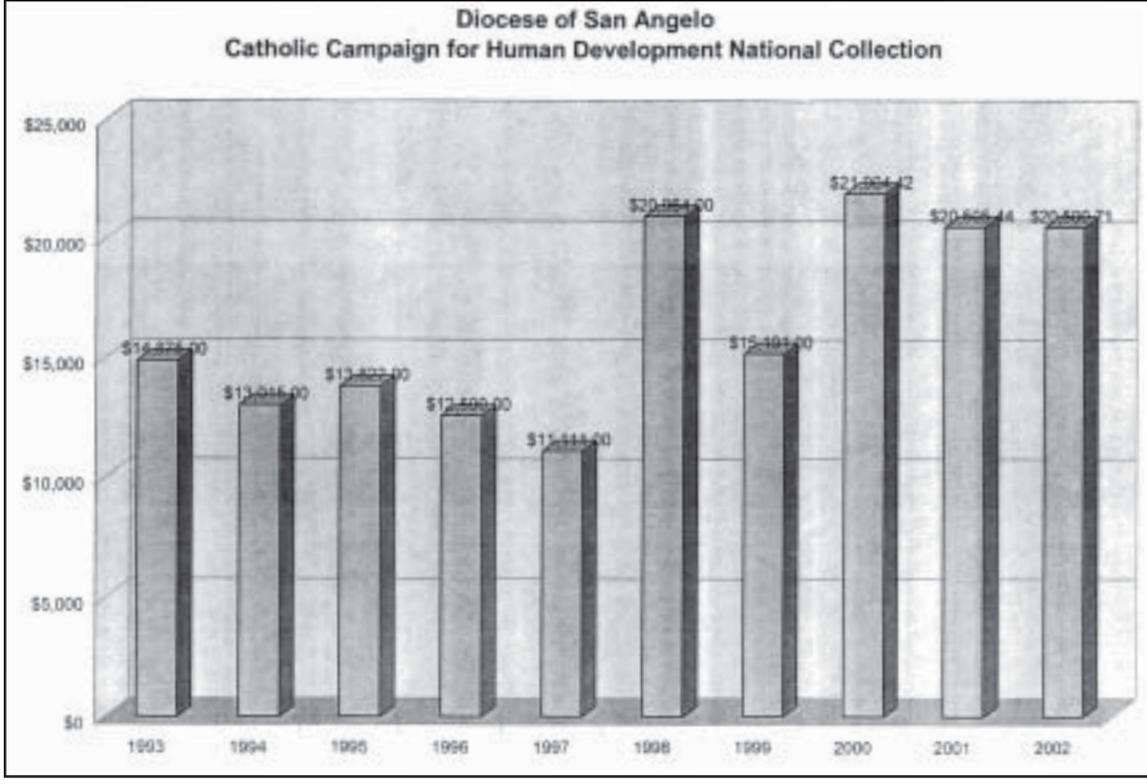
S. Malachy and students from ASU with S. Hilda and adults from the Diocese take time out from the retreat for young adults. (Photo courtesy S. Hilda Marotta, OSF.)



Catholic Campaign for Human Development Thanks Diocese

by Rev. Robert J. Vitillo
Executive Director

Dear Bishop Pfeifer: On behalf of the Catholic Campaign for Human Development, I am writing to thank you and all of the faithful of the Diocese of San Angelo for your very generous 2002 collection contribution of \$20,500.71. This support enables the Church in the United States to continue to support people who are poor to break the cycle of poverty. Thanks to the prophetic foresight of our bishops and the generosity and dedication of clergy, religious, and lay-people, the Catholic Campaign for Human Development has supported the self-empowerment of low-income people as they find a way out of poverty - not just for a day, but for a lifetime. Last year, CCHD shared 11.5 million with 334 projects in 47 states, the District of Columbia, and Puerto Rico.



Committee on the Home Missions Awards Diocese Grant

by Most Rev. Paul A. Zipfel

Dear Bishop Pfeifer: I am pleased to inform you that the Committee on the Home Missions (CHM) has awarded the Diocese of San Angelo a 2003-2004 grant of \$175,000. This grant will be disbursed to you in four equal payments early in July and October 2003, and January and April 2004.

The following paragraph outlines how grant money should be allocated among the programs listed in your application. Money should never be reallocated among programs without prior consultation with the CHM office.

Education & Formation \$120,000. Seminarian Education \$35,000. Deacon Formation \$20,000. Total \$175,000.

This \$175,000 represents the CHM's current maximum grant. Since the Catholic Home Missions Appeal has performed better than our projections, the Committee has decided to allocate an additional \$25,000 to the neediest mission dioceses as a one-time bonus. Your diocese is among the eighteen recipients of this special award, which we will send with the first payment in July. Please be sure to use these additional funds in a manner consistent with CHM's Guidelines for Funding, that is, for evangelization, catechesis, ministry training, and support of mission parishes.

This grant is for one year only. You are welcome to reapply for funding next fall. Application materials will be sent to you in August, and all 2004-2005 applications must be postmarked no later than October 1, 2003.

The CHM depends entirely on the success of the Catholic Home Missions Appeal, established in 1998. The Committee greatly appreciates your support of the Appeal and encourages you to publicize the help your diocese receives for its ministries. Enclosed is a sample

see "GRANT" page eleven

Beginning Experience Ministry Brings New Hope

by Terri Padilla

There's a special heartache for those who find themselves "single again". Now there is help. Whether you are "single again" as a result of divorce, separation or death of a spouse, you are experiencing one of life's most traumatic events. You can choose to stay in a dark state of grief or move into a future of light and of renewed hope.

Widowhood can come suddenly or painfully slow. It can result in nearly unbearable feelings of loneliness and grief. The emotional, social and financial trials that often accompany widowhood can be devastating.

Separation is that vague state similar to "limbo". You aren't divorced, but you're living apart from your spouse. You are not a single parent "legally" but you bear the brunt of rearing your children alone. You may receive child support but very little moral support. You are supposed to be the mother and the father to your children, but God created you to be one or the other, not both. You want to have a life but you're not free to do so. Many times a separation can lead to false hope and unrealistic guilt.

Finding guidance can be difficult. Prayer often eludes us as we struggle with where God is in this situation.

Divorce like widowhood has a definite finality to it. You are no longer one but two. How do you go on when half of you is gone? Gone are your dreams of the future, plans for your children and security of knowing there is someone there who will stick by you through thick and thin. Again, we can experience financial, emotional and spiritual bankruptcy.

There is hope for all of the above situations. That hope can be found in the Beginning Experience Ministry. Team members, who have

experienced similar losses present retreats at the Christ the King Retreat Center in San Angelo four times a year. These team members have voluntarily come together to share their experiences to help others. The weekend retreats begin on Friday evening and are concluded on Sunday afternoon. During the retreat, team members lead participants through a professionally developed program of presentations, personal private reflection and small group sharing. The small group sharing is completely confidential and voluntary. Past participants have

see "BEGINNING" page ten

Holy Angels Catholic Church
Spring Festival 2003
Sunday, May 4
10:30 am to 4:00 pm
2315 A&M, San Angelo, Texas
Sausage and Brisket Dinner
Served from 10:30 am to 1:30 pm
Auction, Games, Arts & Crafts, Cake Wheel.



Transforming Our Relationship With Planet Earth

[Environmental Justice] – A Pastoral Message for Earth Day

by Bishop Michael D. Pfeifer, OMI

At the start of the Third Millennium, a new awareness of the magnificence and uniqueness of Earth as one intertwined community of life is growing among all people everywhere. This makes us realize the care that we should give to Mother Earth which is our home and provides for all of our needs. The lack of care and respect for all life on Planet Earth has brought about an environmental crisis of staggering dimensions. The Earth

crisis is fundamentally a spiritual crisis and calls for a serious examination of human life in relation to all other life on Earth. We need to transform our relationship with the planet, especially by working for environmental justice.

Environmental justice is defined as the search for a just solution to the disproportionate burdens of environmental degradation. The basis of environmental justice rests on the underlying fact that the Earth, the entire universe, is our beautiful gift from a loving God

who calls us to be stewards of creation. There is an integral connection between the environmental justice and sustainable development, with an emphasis on social and economic development that not only protects the sustainability of natural resources, but also promotes a just distribution. At its core, the environment is a moral challenge.

Environmental justice calls us to a new and transforming relationship with Planet Earth, which reminds us that the web of life is one,

and that there is a connection among all forms of life. This calls us to listen to what is happening in nature and the world that surrounds us. Environmental justice makes us realize that the capacity of the planet to carry life is being exhausted by human habits. By conservative estimates, in the last quarter of the 20th century, 20 percent of all living species have become extinct. We are wiping out the future of fellow creatures.

The great theologian, St. Thomas Aquinas, once wrote: "A

mistake about creation means a mistake about God." A key to turning the world around, to solving the ecological crisis is to discover the sacred mysteries that surround us in the universe and on Planet Earth which can teach us much about our Creator.

A major work of our time is to make sure that the Earth does not fall into deficit as a result of our presence on it. What sense does it make to have healthy humans living on a terminally ill planet? The bottom line of our businesses must not be "profit," but a "healthy globe." Environmental justice calls us to live in the web of life as sustainers rather than damagers of the world.

Catholic Home Missions Appeal

by Bishop Michael D. Pfeifer, OMI

My dear Sisters and Brothers in Christ, Catholics in the U. S. home missions - located in Alaska, Appalachia, the Deep South, the Southwest, the Mountain West, and the "young" dioceses of the Caribbean and the Pacific territories - face

challenges in living their faith that most of us in larger, more established dioceses never have to encounter. You can help them by contributing to the Catholic Home Missions Appeal.

A rapid drop in the number of priests is hitting mission dioceses the hardest. The Diocese of Las

Cruces in southern New Mexico has only 20 active diocesan priests to cover 44 parishes and 45 missions. In home mission dioceses, Catholics usually are a small minority of the population. The Diocese of Salt Lake City serves about 100,000 Catholics out of a total population of 2.3 million people. Huge distances also mark the mission dioceses. The Diocese of Fairbanks, Alaska, extends over 409,849 square miles, mostly

see "MISSIONS" page ten

Collection For The Holy Land

by Bishop Michael Pfeifer, OMI

The collection to be taken in all the churches of the world, including the Diocese of San Angelo on Good Friday, April 18, 2003 is to support the sacred places in the Holy Land. The present dramatic situation in that part of the world requires us to give even greater attention to the material support of the Church in the Holy Land. Please be generous in giving to this special collection and thank you for your past spiritual and material support of the Holy Land.

Diocesan Praying of the Rosary

by Bishop Michael D. Pfeifer, OMI

My brothers and sisters in Christ of the Diocese of San Angelo, I share with you this special letter about the praying of the Rosary on May 5, 2003 that I have sent to all the Pastors and Pastoral Coordinators of our Diocese. I strongly encourage all of you to be present for the praying of the Rosary with our pastors and pastoral coordinators on the dates and places I have indicated in the following letter. Thank you.

This is a follow-up to a request that I made of you a couple of months ago. I remind you that to celebrate the Year of the Rosary in our Diocese, I am asking that the Rosary be prayed in a prayer ceremony with Scriptural Readings and singing in all of the churches

of our Diocese on May 5, 2003. As I also previously indicated to you, I am asking that in our larger cities, we have common "Rosary Rallies" bringing together several communities on this date for the praying of the Rosary in a designated church. I have asked the Deans of the three Deaneries or others to coordinate these communal prayings of the Rosary.

While I requested that the Rosary be prayed in all of our communities - parishes and missions - on May 5, I have indicated that the following churches have been designated in each Deanery for the praying of the Rosary together.

SANANGELO DEANERY - On May 5, 2003 Bishop Pfeifer will lead a Rosary Rally for the parishes of the city of San Angelo at 7:00 pm at Sacred Heart Cathedral in San

Angelo. This is for all the parishes of the city of San Angelo. I am asking the Rector of the Cathedral to coordinate this communal praying of the Rosary with the other parishes of the city. I request that the priests of the city of San Angelo be present for this praying of the Rosary with our people. On the same day, all the other parishes and missions of the Deanery are asked to pray the Rosary in each church at 7:00 pm.

ABILENE DEANERY - As there is a conflict as regards having a common Rosary Rally on May 5, the communal praying of the Rosary for the parishes in the city of Abilene will be held at Holy Family Church in Abilene on May 6, 2003 at 7:00 pm. I am asking the Dean, Msgr. Fred Nawarskas, to coordinate with the other parishes of

Abilene this communal praying of the Rosary. On that same day, May 6, 2003, I am asking that the Rosary be prayed in all the other parishes and missions of the Abilene Deanery at 7:00 pm.

MIDLAND/ODESSA DEANERY -

Odessa - In the city of Odessa on May 5, 2003 at 7:00 pm, there will be a Rosary Rally at Holy Redeemer Church for all the churches of the city of Odessa. I am asking Father Frank Chavez to coordinate this praying of the Rosary with the other parishes of the city.

Midland - On the same day, May 5, 2003 at 7:00 pm, there will be the communal praying of the Rosary at Our Lady of Guadalupe Church in Midland for all the churches of the city of Midland. I am asking Father Jerry Burnet,

OMI, to coordinate this praying of the Rosary with all the parishes of the city of Midland. On the same day, all the other parishes and missions of the Midland/Odessa Deanery are asked to pray the Rosary at 7:00 pm.

During the Year of the Rosary, as the Rosary is prayed in our churches and homes, I ask that the following people and intentions always be remembered: Our Holy Father and his intentions, the local bishop, priests, religious, deacons and their wives and all ministers of our Church, a new appreciation for human life at every stage of life, especially praying for an end to abortion, our sick and suffering, the homeless and unemployed, world peace, our seminarians and deacon candidates, and more vocations for priesthood and religious life, family life, all those preparing for marriage, rain, our deceased, and of course, we pray for all other intentions.



Mass For World Peace

On Friday, March 21, 2003 in a packed Cathedral, Bishop Michael Pfeifer, OMI (2nd from right) concelebrated a Mass for World Peace with Fr. Maurice Voity (right), Rector of the Cathedral Church of the Sacred Heart and Fr. Quirino Cornejo (left), Pastor of St. Joseph's Church in San Angelo. Deacon Jerry Trevino (2nd from left) assists Bishop Pfeifer in the reading of the opening prayer.



Fr. Quirino distributes the Eucharist at the Mass for World Peace. (Photos by Peter Micale.)

LIMEX Program Nearing Completion

by S. Joan Markus

Four years of graduate study are coming to an end. Seven LIMEX students at the San Angelo Center have completed ten (30 hours) of the twelve (36 hours) courses of the Loyola University graduate program leading to a Master's Degree in Pastoral Studies or Religious Education. The summer session will be spent on a second Focus

Course in a semi-independent format. Five students working toward a Master of Pastoral Studies with a Spirituality focus will study the History of Christian Spirituality. Two students working toward a Master of Religious Education will focus on Curriculum Development. In the fall the students will write and complete a 40-page synthesis paper by mid-November. Degrees

will be conferred in December. A Diocesan celebration will be held in January. Sister Joan Markus facilitates the course work at the San Angelo Center.

Program participants are Mary Ann Lewis and Leslie Mueller from St. Ambrose Parish, Wall, Deborah Michalewicz and Linda Dye from St. Therese, Carlsbad, Tracy Baker from St. Joseph, San Angelo, Becky

Benes from Holy Angels, San Angelo and Kay David from Our Lady of Grace AFB, Abilene.

Three students from the Midland Center have completed Course Six. Their summer session will also be spent on a second Focus Course. Two students are working toward a Master of Pastoral Studies. Tim Roberts from St. Ann's Parish, focusing on Religion and Ecology, will study *The Emergent Universe: Our Sacred Story*. Alex Sosa from St. Joseph's Parish in Odessa, focusing on Pastoral Life and Administration, will study *Contemporary Issues in Pastoral Ministry*. Audrey Curry from St. Ann's Parish, focusing on a Master of Religious Education, will study *Curriculum Development*. Carol Ann Hunt, a LIMEX graduate who co-facilitates the courses with Sister Hilda Marotta, will study the *History of Christian Spirituality*.

LIMEX is a professionally oriented graduate program that develops the theological and ministerial competencies of participants through an integration of rigorous academic study and theological reflection on ministerial practice. The LIMEX program originated as a response to Vatican II's universal call

to ministry and to the changing demographic patterns in church and society. The program responds to the educational needs of Catholic dioceses with little or no access to graduate programs.

LIMEX is sponsored by Loyola University in New Orleans, a Jesuit university founded by the Society of Jesus. The University is accredited by the Commission on Colleges of the Southern Association of Colleges and Schools, the major accrediting agency for higher education in the region. In 1987, the LIMEX program was reviewed by an external evaluation team of scholars as mandated by the Southern Association of Colleges and Schools. Their report states, in part: "It is the unanimous and strongly held view of the LIMEX evaluation team that the LIMEX program is an educational enterprise of extraordinary vision, entailing an unparalleled commitment by a major catholic university in this country to promote the ministerial richness of the life of the church."

Since LIMEX was introduced in the Diocese of San Angelo in 1995, eighteen participants have earned graduate degrees. Some of the graduates are employed in parishes throughout the diocese. The ten



LIMEX Students. Front row l. to r., Deborah Michalewicz, Mary Ann Lewis, Becky Benes and Tracy Baker. Back row l. to r., Kay David, Linda Dye and Leslie Mueller. (Photo by S. Joan Markus, SSND.)

see "LIMEX" page ten



Renew Implementation - Next Step

by Sister Joan Markus, SSND

RENEW implementation continues throughout the diocese. Deacon Michael Hanley from RENEW International has completed the Orientation Sessions, the Core Community Training and the Invitational Community Training. The

Abilene Deanery (St. Francis Parish) April 21, San Angelo Deanery (Christ the King Retreat Center) April 22, Midland/Odessa Deanery (St. Ann Parish) April 23.

When RENEW was introduced in the Diocese, Deacon Michael Hanly said that the data about RE-

Over 180 persons participated in the training. Again, many new faces. In March, training for the Invitational Community was held. Over 170 persons participated. Again, new faces. Sixty-four percent of the parishes/missions in the diocese are moving forward with

RENEW.

Why RENEW? Our diocese is taking up the challenge of Pope John Paul II who has summoned all Christians to celebrate the third millennium. A few thoughts from his Apostolic Letter *NOVO MILLENNIO INEUNTE*, written at the close of the great jubilee of the year 2000, are:

*Contemplate the face of Christ as revealed in Sacred Scripture. Study scripture. St. Jerome said "Ignorance of the Scriptures is ignorance of Christ".

*Each of us is called to holiness. Training in holiness calls for a Christian life distinguished in the art of prayer. Christian communities are called to be, to become "schools" of prayer where the meeting with Christ is expressed in

thanksgiving, praise, adoration, intercession, contemplation, listening and ardent devotion, until the heart truly "falls in love".

*Our principal attention must be given to the liturgy, "the summit towards which the church's action tends and at the same time the source from which comes all her strength". Sharing in the Eucharist should be the heart of Sunday for every baptized person.

To assist us with this challenge, Bishop Michael Pfeifer has invited RENEW to the diocese. In a letter written on November 11, 2002 to all Pastors and Pastoral Coordinator, Bishop Pfeifer stated: "...considering the importance of the new millennium and the current crisis our church is facing, I do anticipate every parish being engaged in some process of serious spiritual preparation".

RENEW (Spiritual Renewal for the 21' century) is a three-year spiritual renewal process designed to assist parishioners develop a closer relationship with Christ, to make an adult commitment to Jesus as central in their lives and to open them to the power of the Holy Spirit so that they become more authentic witnesses.

RENEW implementation continues. Stay tuned for more to come. For more information about RENEW, call S. Joan Markus (RENEW Coordinator) at 651-7500.



Abilene Deanery (above), Midland/Odessa Deanery (right).

next step in the process is training for the Parish Mission. Parish Core Communities are discerning names of persons who would be good presenters for the parish mission that will begin prior to Sign-Up Sunday in September.

The Parish Mission is four nights and can be implemented creatively in each parish. The first night focuses on the "Search for Meaning-Rediscovering God". The second night covers the "Search of Meaningful Relationships-Reconciling Our Differences". A Reconciliation service is part of the evening. The third night addresses "Strengthening Family Life and Supportive Relationships Making a Difference in the Lives of Tomorrow's Children". The service includes a special blessing for families. The fourth night focuses on "Eucharistic Celebration". The homily content focuses on the story and hunger for community and the challenge to build a new world of justice and peace.

The Mission training sessions, to be given in English and Spanish, are scheduled from 7:00 - 9:00 pm at the following parishes:

NEW indicated some very positive effects on parish life. Two aspects he mentioned were "increased sense of belonging to the parish and greater participation of parishioners in parish life". Experience of the three sessions in each of the deaneries has proven this to be true.

The first meeting in January was an Orientation Meeting about RENEW. Over 225 persons came to hear about RENEW. New faces appeared. Excited and energized, participants returned to their parishes and created a Core Community to implement RENEW. Core Community training was held in February.



San Angelo Deanery



Operation Rice Bowl Brings Opportunity For Global Awareness And Action For The Poor

by Holli Burge
Baltimore, March 3, 2003 – Millions of Catholics will begin participating this month in Catholic Relief Services' (CRS) annual Lenten program entitled Operation Rice Bowl, now in its 28th year. In this year when the severity of international crises continues to heighten, American Catholics, through their participation in the program, will put their faith into action and walk in solidarity with their neighbors in need around the world.

"We are in a time of great need for spiritual connectedness, for compassion, for understanding and for resources to assist the poor," said Joan Neal, CRS Deputy Executive Director for U.S. Operations. "Operation Rice Bowl offers a great opportunity for Catholics in the United States to respond in a meaningful way."

Approximately 12 million Catholic parishioners, students and teachers will use the Operation Rice Bowl materials as a guide to pray, fast, learn and give.

The materials offer daily prayers, such as for Ugandans living with HIV/AIDS; topics for discussion and lessons for Catholic schoolchildren such as how people in Brazil use cisterns to collect their water supply; and recipes of simple meals such as Indian Dal soup to prepare during a day of fasting. All of the proposed activities create awareness of life in the developing world and raise awareness of the prospects for improving livelihoods of the poor. Participants are also encouraged to make financial contributions that support CRS programs overseas and local programs in their own communities to help those in need.

Since CRS' Operation Rice Bowl program was adopted nationally in 1976, it has grown to include more than 14,000 participating parishes, schools and other faith communities. Three quarters of the funds raised support CRS development projects in countries in Africa, Asia and Latin America. The remaining 25 percent remains in the dioceses and is used for local poverty and hunger alleviation projects.

Catholic Relief Services is marking its 60th year as the official international humanitarian agency of the U.S. Catholic community. The agency provides assistance to people in 90 countries and territories on the basis of need, not race, creed or nationality.

U.S. Senate Passes Ban on Partial-Birth Abortion

by Douglas Johnson
WASHINGTON (March 13, 2003) – By a lopsided margin of 65-32, the U.S. Senate today passed a bill to ban the practice of partial birth abortion nationwide. The ban, twice vetoed by President Bill Clinton, is strongly supported by President George W. Bush. It now goes to the House of Representatives, which last year approved the ban by a nearly two-to-one margin.

During this week's debate in the Senate, opponents of the ban argued that the bill violates two U.S. Supreme Court rulings – Roe v. Wade, the 1973 ruling that legalized abortion on demand, and Stenberg v. Carhart,

see "SENATE" page ten

Catholic Communication Campaign

by Ramon E. Rodriguez
Catholic Communication Campaign will focus on the important role the media should play in promoting peace

Washington, DC – The Catholic Communication Campaign (CCC) today announced the launch of its 2003 campaign – "Share a Life of Love and Peace" – echoing the World Communications Day theme chosen by Pope John Paul II in his call for the faithful to reflect upon the importance of the media in promoting an authentic peace based on truth, justice and love.

This year, World Communications Day will focus on one of the most important encyclicals of the last 100 years, *Pacem In Terris*, authored by Pope John XXIII in 1963.

"Forty years ago, Blessed John XXIII called upon the faithful to work to achieve authentic peace," said Bishop Joseph A. Galante, chairman of the Committee for Communications of the United States Conference of Catholic Bishops. "This year's campaign is focused on increasing the faithful's awareness of the important role the media can play in improving our world by promoting a life of love and peace."

The CCC reaches individuals through radio, video, television, and the Internet. Supported by an

annual collection, the CCC produces a variety of programs and communications tools such as the documentary *Church Without Borders*, which aired on ABC affiliates around the country this year; nine new public service announcements as part of "La Familia Unida Esperanza en la Vida," the national campaign to reach the Latino

community; and the creation of an Internet ministry through the CCC Web site - www.usccb.org/ccc - a resource that provides streaming video and audio programming, along with links to useful tools such as the Mass Times database, which includes more than 23,000 parish and mission churches and other places where Mass is offered in the United States.

The CCC also supports local diocesan efforts throughout the year, with fifty percent of the funds collected remaining at the local level.

"In 2003, CCC's mandate has never been clearer: the communications media must once again be



Catholic Communication Campaign

HOW THE GOOD NEWS GETS AROUND



Campaña Católica de la Comunicación

ASI COMPARTIMOS LA BUENA NUEVA

at the service of authentic peace," said Ramon Rodriguez, Director of Development for the CCC. "This year, by focusing our efforts on spreading the Good News, and increasing awareness of the programming, tools and resources made available by the CCC, we hope to help the faithful foster a world of love and peace."

World Communications Day in the United States is May 18 this year, and is the only worldwide celebration proposed by the Second Vatican Council. The CCC collection is held on May 18 in many dioceses.

House Committee Passes Partial-birth Abortion Ban

Bill One Step Closer to Becoming First Federal Abortion Law Since Roe v. Wade

by William Ryan
WASHINGTON – March 26, the House Judiciary Committee voted 19-11 to pass H.R. 760, the Partial-Birth Abortion Ban Act, without amendment. The bill is now in position for a vote on the House floor, and is expected to pass by a wide margin. The ban on partial-birth abortion was passed by the Senate earlier this month, 64-33,

and President Bush has vowed to sign it into law.

"With the Judiciary Committee's passage of a ban on partial-birth abortions, the ban is one step closer to becoming the first federal law limiting abortion since Roe v. Wade," said Cathleen Cleaver, Esq., spokesperson for the U.S. bishops' Secretariat for Pro-Life Activities. "We applaud the

Committee's work on this crucial bill, and look forward to its passage by the full House soon."

The Constitution Subcommittee yesterday held a hearing at which legal and medical experts presented testimony supporting the constitutionality of the bill and explaining the health risks to

see "HOUSE" page eleven



Beginnings and Beyond



The initiation experience: Beginnings and Beyond with a dialogue group on children is coming to the Diocese of San Angelo, Texas! Co-sponsored with The North American Forum on the Catechumenate, Beginnings and Beyond uses an adult formation method to explore all the periods and stages of the initiation process. Participants are invited to explore the dynamics of conversion through presentations, reflections, skill building experiences and celebrations of adaptations of the initiation rites.

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

To receive an institute brochure please contact Sr. Joan Markus, SSND Local Coordinator, phone: 325-651-7500 or fax: 325-651-9532 or email: dosaoef@aol.com

CATHEDRAL

from page one

housing advocates attend special services as well.

The City of San Antonio has officially proclaimed March 29 through April 6 as *San Fernando Cathedral City Centre Dedication Week*, and numerous events were scheduled throughout the week.

The City Centre Capital Campaign raised more than \$15 million for the restoration and new construction, which is being completed in three phases. Phase I is the completed restoration of the Cathedral. Phase II is the Cathedral Centre, which is adjacent to the Cathedral. The Cathedral Centre is now under construction and will house a coffee shop, gallery, gift shop, sacristy, reception room and television control room. Phase III is the Community Centre, which is designed to serve the ever-growing need for gathering space and community programs. The groundbreaking ceremony for the Community Centre occurred April 6, 2003.

"The historical value of these events is significant because it is the most comprehensive restoration of the oldest Cathedral building in the United States," said Father Garcia.

"The structural improvements that have been made to the Cathedral will allow San Fernando to serve parishioners and visitors for hundreds of years to come."

In 1999 the Historical Centre Foundation was formed. The Foundation is a non-profit foundation founded to preserve San Fernando Cathedral and the City Centre as the historic center of San Antonio and to extend the Cathedral's services to the people of the City of San Antonio and to the communities beyond San Antonio. The foundation serves to raise funds in support of the works of the

San Fernando Cathedral, particularly in the areas of social services, community outreach and cultural events. For more information please visit www.sfcathedral.org.



The restored facade is only part of the \$15 million renovations made to the 272 year-old San Fernando Cathedral. Restoration of the cathedral is part one of a three-phase project.

PLAN

from page one

2. will expand our adult education and faith formation efforts and continue our existing training for lay leadership to utilize more fully the gifts of the laity;

3. will in order to expand the involvement of young Catholics, strengthen education and training of leaders of youth and call forth young adults for leadership and ministry;

4. will invite participation in our local faith communities through welcoming and hospitality, and reach out beyond our borders to the universal church;

5. will commit ourselves to the implementation of the Charter for the Protection of Children and Young People and Essential Norms.

It was decided that the Mission Statement developed in 1997 would be kept as is to maintain continuity in the planning process. The Diocesan Mission statement is:

We, the People of God of the Diocese of San Angelo, who have been initiated in baptism and are nourished by the Eucharist, are called to holiness and to proclaim the good news of Jesus Christ. We

invite all people into a loving relationship with the Triune God and unite as sisters and brothers in service to the world.

A convocation of parish leaders was held on September 26, 2002 to decide on strategies that would help to meet these goals. These were fine-tuned by the committee and the Presbyteral Council. The pastoral plan, "Into God's marvelous Light" is now presented to the People of God of the diocese, so that all might work together on the implementation of the five goals as we approach the 50th anniversary of the Diocese of San Angelo.

After a delicious lunch and spirited conversation, parish representatives gathered to discuss ideas about implementation of the goals at the parish level. Many ideas were shared in an open forum. This topic will also be discussed at deanery level meetings in the future. As goals are implemented at both the diocesan and parish level, we will be walking Into God's Marvelous Light.

(Additional copies of the Pastoral Plan are available at the Diocesan Pastoral Center. If more are needed, call Vivian at 325-651-7500.)



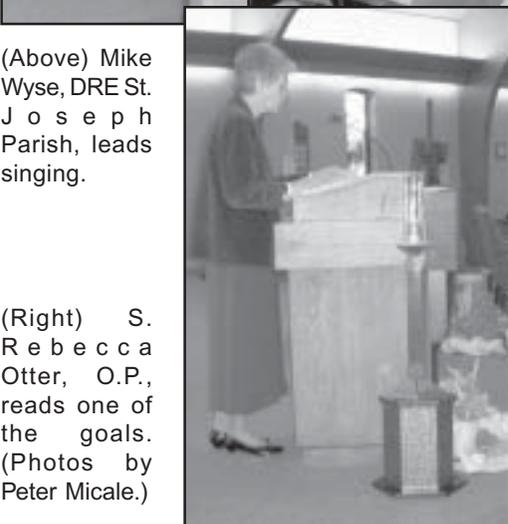
(Above) Mike Wyse, DRE St. Joseph Parish, leads singing.



(Above) Newman Center receives plan.



(Above) Attendees work action items of plan at Holy Angels Parish.



(Right) S. Rebecca Otter, O.P., reads one of the goals. (Photos by Peter Micale.)



(Right) Msgr. Droll and Bishop Pfeifer bless plan and goals of the Diocese.



Conference of Priests



A conference on "Spirituality and Sexuality" for priests of the Diocese of San Angelo was held February 27 and 28 at Christ the King Retreat Center. Fr. Dan Mailin (Right) led discussion of priests of the Diocese during the conference. (Below) Priests of the Diocese settle in for conference. (Photos by Peter Micale.)



LIMEX

from page six

students engaged in the second cycle of the degree program will soon be available for employment in parish and diocesan ministries.

MISSIONS

from page five

wilderness. Mission dioceses often have few Catholic institutions to carry out adult education and evangelization programs. The Diocese of Pueblo, in mountainous southern Colorado, has no Catholic college or university. Furthermore, newcomers are moving into mission dioceses across the country. The Diocese of San Bernardino, California, in the desert east of Los Angeles, serves eight different groups of Asians and Pacific Islanders. Both the Diocese of Savannah, Georgia, and the Diocese of Biloxi, Mississippi, are struggling to train enough priests and religious women to minister to increasing numbers of Hispanic Catholics.

Here at home in the United States, 85 dioceses including those of the Eastern Catholic Churches—simply are unable to provide the most basic pastoral ministries of word, worship, and service for their people without outside funding. These poor dioceses need financial assistance to support parishes, evangelization, religious education, campus ministry, seminary training, ethnic ministries, and youth and lay ministry programs. The Catholic Home Missions Appeal offers essential help.

The Catholic Home Missions Appeal supported the Diocese of San Angelo with a \$180,000 grant this year for seminarian education, deacon formation and religious education.

We are called to support the missionary efforts of the Church in the many poor, remote and rural parts of the United States. I invite you to respond generously to the Catholic Home Missions Appeal, taken up on April 26-27, 2003. As I encourage you to be generous financially, I also ask you to pray for the

success of this appeal and for those who serve and are served in the Home Mission dioceses. Thank you for your past generosity. God's peace.

SCHEDULE

from page two

- May 21: Odessa, Holy Redeemer - Confirmation at 6:30 p.m.
- May 22: Brownwood, St. Mary - Confirmation at 6:30 p.m.
- May 25-26: Boston
- May 27: Midland, Our Lady of San Juan - Confirmation at 6:30 p.m.
- May 28: San Angelo, West Texas Boys Ranch Board of Directors - meeting at 5:00 p.m.
- May 29: San Angelo, Diocesan Pastoral Center - Meeting of Presbyteral Council and Diocesan Finance Council at 10:30 a.m. Budget Review.
- May 30: San Angelo, Cathedral Church of the Sacred Heart - Graduation Mass for Students of Angelo Catholic School at 8:30 am. Christ the King Retreat Center - Prayer with Priests of the San Angelo Deanery from 9:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m.
- May 31: San Angelo, Cathedral Church of the Sacred Heart - Priestly Ordination of Joey Faylona and Rodney White at 10:00 a.m. Andrews, Our Lady of Lourdes - Confirmation at 6:00 p.m.

BEGINNING

from page four

reported acquiring new skills to deal with the pain of loss, increased emotional health and self respect, healthier family relationships and a renewed energy to be carry out their vocations in life more effectively.

Take courage and know that God loves you and is concerned about every detail of your life. He has a plan for your future and will never desert you. Did he not say, "Come to me all of you who are weary and heavily burdened and I will give you rest"? The Beginning Experience Ministry takes this promise to heart and allows Jesus to work through its team members to fulfill His promise of hope and healing. That is why the Beginning Experience motto is "A weekend away for a lifetime of change".

SENATE

from page eight

a 2000 decision in which five justices held that Roe v. Wade covers even partial-birth abortions.

"President Bush, 70 percent of the public, 65 senators, and four Supreme Court justices say there is no constitutional right to deliver most of a living baby and then puncture her head with a scissors," said Douglas Johnson, legislative director for the National Right to Life Committee (NRLC). "But five Supreme Court justices said that partial-birth abortion is protected by Roe v. Wade, and 32 senators agreed. We hope that by the time this ban reaches the Supreme Court, at least five justices will be willing to reject such extremism in defense of abortion."

The bill (S. 3) legally defines a partial-birth abortion as any abortion in which the baby is delivered "past the navel . . . outside the body

of the mother" before being killed. It is well documented that partial-birth abortions are performed by the thousands, mostly on healthy babies of healthy mothers in the fifth and sixth months of pregnancy, and sometimes even later. (See documentation at <http://www.nrlc.org/abortion/pba/index.html>)

On January 22, President Bush called partial-birth abortion an "abhorrent procedure that offends human dignity." He also urged Congress to pass the ban in his January 28 State of the Union speech. A January Gallup poll found that 70 percent of the public favors the ban.

For details on the current congressional situation, recently reported statistics on partial-birth abortion, and other up-to-date information, see the memo "Recent Developments on Partial birth Abortion," on the NRLC website at <http://www.nrle.org>. The website also contains extensive documentation on all disputed issues sur-

rounding partial-birth abortion, recent White House statements on the issue, and expert-certified color illustrations of the method that were recently made available to NRLC.

VOCATION

from page three

At the end of the convocation, Fr. Tom Barley, the Director of Vocations and Seminarians asked each person present to work with their pastor and begin one of the presented vocation activities in their parish or ministry by the beginning of this summer. The question for the people in the pews is – How will you respond to God's call? Since God is calling you to priesthood, religious life, faithful matrimony or chaste single life, the Diocese of San Angelo invites you to explore your calling by taking the next steps. Pray and talk to someone about God's invitation in your life.



¿Por Qué Llamamos “Misterio” A La Presencia De Cristo En La Eucaristía?

[Preguntas Básicas Y Respuestas]

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

En este artículo les presento la pregunta numero quince y la conclusión del documento de los Obispos Católicos de los Estados Unidos sobre la Eucaristía. Este documento se llama, “*La Presencia Real de Jesucristo en el Sacramento de la Eucaristía*”, y aquí les presento la pregunta y la conclusión.

15. ¿Por qué llamamos “Misterio” a la presencia de Cristo en la Eucaristía?

La palabra “misterio” suele referirse a algo que escapa a la plena comprensión de la mente humana. En la Biblia, sin embargo, esta palabra tiene un significado más profundo y específico, pues se refiere a aspectos del plan de salvación de Dios para la humanidad, que ha empezado ya pero será concluido

sólo al final de los tiempos. En el antiguo Israel, por el Espíritu Santo Dios fue revelando a los profetas algunos de los secretos de lo que iba cumplir para la salvación de su pueblo (cf. Am 3:7, Is 21:28; Dn 2:27-45). Igualmente, por la predicación y enseñanza de Jesús, el misterio del “Reino de Dios” se fue revelando a sus discípulos (Mc 4:11-12). S. Palbo explicaba que los misterios de Dios pueden desafiar nuestro entendimiento humano o incluso parecer locuras, pero su significado es revelado al Pueblo de Dios mediante Jesucristo y el Espíritu Santo (cf. 1 Co 1:18-25, 2:6-10; Rom 16:25-27; Ap 10:7)

La Eucaristía es un misterio porque participa del misterio de Jesucristo y del plan de Dios para salvar a la humanidad por Cristo. No nos debería sorprender que haya aspectos de la Eucaristía que no son

fáciles de entender, pues el plan de Dios para el mundo ha rebasado repetidamente las expectativas humanas y el entendimiento humano (cf. Jn 6:60-66). Por ejemplo, ni los discípulos comprendieron al principio que era necesario que el Mesías fuera condenado a muerte y luego resucitara de entre los muertos (cf. Mc 8:31-33, 9:31-32, 10:32-34, Mt 16:21-23, 17:22-23, 20:17-19; Lc 9:22, 9:43-45, 18:31-34). Asimismo, cada vez que hablamos de Dios hemos de tener presente que nuestros conceptos humanos nunca aprehenden enteramente a Dios. No debemos limitar a Dios a nuestro entendimiento sino de permitir que nuestro entendimiento, por la revelación de Dios, se extienda más allá de sus limitaciones normales.

Conclusión

Por su Presencia Real en la

greater need of financial assistance.

Please let me remind you that the Committee requires the submission of a written report on the programs it supports. The information you supply will appear in our annual published account of CHM-funded activities. We would also appreciate it if you could briefly account for the extra \$25,000 as well as the \$175,000 basic grant.

FORGIVE

from page twelve

of learning how her 24-year old daughter had been murdered. Mrs. Lininger found herself consumed with hatred and revenge for the killer.

In time her ability to even consider forgiveness produced a guilty feeling that prompted her to make a spiritual retreat. But still no relief. Finally, her minister asked to at least pray that God forgive the murderer. That she was able to do.

When praying for forgiveness or forgiving another, you are actually asking for the strength to do something you cannot do on your own.

Only God can give your soul the power to forgive an injury. That power is His love.

Believing in God's love and forgiveness, you find the strength to let go of your own grudges and hurt. You discover a new way of seeing the person who hurt you. You see someone in need of your prayers, someone whose soul was made to love.

No longer obsessed with revenge, you feel more energy and purpose in life, and you find it easier to change everyday frustrations into compassion for others.

Archbishop Sheen had it right. Forgiveness consoles and heals not just one person but two and sometimes more.

“Put away from you all bitterness and wrath and anger and wrangling and slander, together with all malice, and be kind to one another, tenderhearted, forgiving one another, as God in Christ has forgiven you.” Ephesians 4:31-32

Monsignor Thomas McSweeney, past national director of The Christophers, serves as a religion analyst for MSNBC/NBC.

Eucaristía, Cristo cumple con su promesa de estar con nosotros, “todos los días, hasta el fin del mundo” (Mt 28:20). Como escribió S. Tomás de Aquino, “Es la ley de la amistad que los amigos deban vivir juntos . . . Cristo no nos ha dejado sin su presencia corpórea en este nuestro peregrinaje, sino que nos une a Él en este sacramento en la realidad de su cuerpo y su sangre” (Summa Theologiae, III q. 75, a. 1). Con este don de la presencia de Cristo en medio de nosotros, la Iglesia es verdaderamente bendita. Como Jesús dijo a sus discípulos, refiriéndose a su presencia entre ellos, “yo les aseguro que muchos

profetas y muchos justos desearon ver lo que ustedes ven y no lo vieron y oír lo que ustedes oyen y no lo oyeron” (Mt 13:17). En la Eucaristía, la Iglesia a la vez recibe la ofrenda de Jesucristo y da profundas gracias a Dios por tal bendición. Esta acción de gracias es la única respuesta adecuada, pues mediante esta ofrenda de sí mismo en la celebración de la Eucaristía, bajo la apariencia de pan y de vino, Cristo nos da la ofrenda de la vida eterna.

Yo les aseguro: Si no comen la carne del Hijo del hombre y no beben su sangre, no podrán tener vida en ustedes. El que come mi carne y bebe mi sangre, tiene vida eterna y yo lo resucitaré el último día. Mi carne es verdadera comida y mi sangre es verdadera bebida . . . Como el Padre, que me ha enviado, posee la vida y yo vivo por él, así también el que me come vivirá por mí. (Jn 6:53-57)

Taller Cuaresmal En Español

viernes, día once de abril, 2003

Predicador: Padre Juan Gonzales Castro, O.M.I.

Música bajo la dirección del Coro Español del Sagrado Corazón

Preinscripción se requiere antes del día siete de abril, 2003, por razón de limite de espacio.

Para mas información, llame al (915) 6515352 y pida por Margie Schillo, coordinadora administrativa.

Donación \$10.00 por persona.

Envíe su inscripción con \$10.00 a Christ the King Retreat Center, 802 Ford St., San Angelo, TX. 76905 (325) 651-5352.

HOUSE

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women from these abortions. In addition, Dr. Mark Neerhof, an OB/GYN expert, testified that this procedure is “excruciatingly painful” for the unborn child.

“According to Dr. Neerhof, partial-birth abortion exposes the unborn human to levels of pain that would fail the federal standards for humane treatment of animals in medical research,” Cleaver said. “It is unconscionable that women and children have been made to suffer so needlessly from this procedure.”

GRANT

from page four

announcement; please consider publishing it in your diocesan newspaper and other media. I would be delighted if parishes also distributed the announcement in their bulletins shortly before the Appeal is taken up on April 26-27. The greater the response of the faithful, the better we can serve your diocese and others in even



St. Ann's Students Win In Texas Young Writers Contest



Jacob Ritter (left) placed 2nd and Patrick Butler (right) placed 3rd in the first annual Texas Young Writers Contest sponsored by the Texas State Reading Association. Jeremy Blair (far right) also received an honorable mention.

by *Audrey L. Curry, Principal*
The Texas State Reading Association sponsored a student essay contest to celebrate the twentieth birthday of the Hank the Cowdog. Students from all across Texas entered and St. Ann's had 2 of the top 3 winners in the state. Jacob Ritter and Patrick Butler won 2nd and 3rd

places in this first Annual Texas Young Writers Contest. The boys were honored at a luncheon in Austin and sat with the Keynote speaker, John Erickson, the author of the Hank the Cowdog books. They received autographed books and certificates for their honor. Jeremy Blair also received an honor-

able mention and had his essay displayed at the annual convention. Jacob and Patrick are fourth grade students at St. Ann's School, Midland, and their teachers are Euda Lee Kemper and Cindy Shropshire. Jacob Ritter is the son of Scott and Colleen Ritter. Patrick Butler is the son of Paul and Kelly Butler.



On the 18th of March, the newest members of the National Junior Honor Society of Secondary Schools were inducted in a ceremony at St. Ann's School in Midland. From left to right, the inductees are Ellen Hayes, Allison Marx, Emily Auringer and Sarah Atkinson, all 8th Graders and Garrett Worrell and Frances Behrmann, both 7th Graders.

St. Ann's School History Fair

by *Audrey L. Curry, Principal*
St. Ann's School students participated in a history fair on February 28, 2003. Winners in the American History category were Eric Van Reet, first place; Audrey Erwin, second place; Todd Hagist, third place. In the Texas History category, Ashley Swendig, first place;

Jack Womble, second place; and Adrian Revilla, third place. The winners in the World History category were Shane Roesner, first place; Shannon Castille, second place; and Claire Nelson, third place. Three St. Ann's Middle School students will have their history fair projects shown and judged

in the state Texas Junior Historian's meeting in Mesquite on April 4th and 5th. Frances Behrmann won the individual award for her project on the Navies of Texas. Peter Ortez and Nick Zaeff won the group award for their project on the history of Dr Pepper.

Forgive Them, Father! I Can't

by *Msgr. Thomas McSweeney*
Archbishop Fulton Sheen, the great American Catholic preacher of the 1950's, was regularly the featured homilist at St. Patrick's Cathedral in New York City. But it was his annual Good Friday sermon, The Seven Last Words of Jesus, that

Sheen personally claimed was "my most satisfying speaking experience ever." Why? Sheen explained, "The answer is to be found in the first word from the Cross: forgive. "Forgive them, Father, for they know not what they do." Of all the themes I have

preached, forgiveness seems to touch even the most toughened listener. Forgiveness is not simply about healing the world, it is about healing ourselves." In Today's Christian Woman, Dorothy Lininger tells of the shock **see "FORGIVE" page eleven**

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Intentions Of The Holy Father For April

General – Live according to the Spirit. That those who hold positions of responsibility in the Church may be an example of a life responsive to the guidance of the Spirit.
Mission – The universal call to holiness. That clergy, religious and laity who work in missionary lands, may bear witness to the universal call to holiness.