



West Texas
ANGELUS

Serving the Diocese of San Angelo, Texas
Volume XXVIII, No. 5 MAY 2008

**COMMEMORATIVE
EDITION**

**The U.S. Papal
Visit of 2008**

DIocese of San Angelo
PO BOX 1829
SAN ANGELO TX 76902-1829
ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED

NONPROFIT ORG.
US POSTAGE PAID
SAN ANGELO, TX
PERMIT NO. 44

From the Bishop's Desk

Pope Benedict calls Mary 'Mother of Hope'



By Bishop Michael Pfeifer, OMI

In his wonderful new encyclical on Hope, Pope Benedict XVI calls Mary, the Mother of Jesus and our Mother, the Mother of Hope. In this article I share with you some of the reflections of our Holy Father on Mary as our Mother of Hope, from this recent encyclical.

"So we cry to her: Holy Mary, you belonged to the humble and great souls of Israel who, like Simeon, were "looking for the consolation of Israel" (Lk 2:25) and hoping, like Ana, "for the redemption of Jerusalem" (Lk 2:38). Your life was thoroughly imbued with the sacred scriptures of Israel which spoke of hope, of the promise made to Abraham and his descendants (cf. Lk 1:55). In this way we can appreciate the holy fear that overcame you when the angel of the Lord appeared to you and told you that you would give birth to the One who was the hope of

Israel, the One awaited by the world. Through you, through your "yes", the hope of the ages became reality, entering this world and its history. You bowed low before the greatness of this task and gave your consent: "Behold, I am the handmaid of the Lord; let it be to me according to your word" (Lk 1:38). When you hastened with holy joy across the mountains of Judea to see your cousin Elizabeth, you became the image of the Church to come, which carries the hope of the world in her womb across the mountains of history. But alongside the joy which, with your *Magnificat*, you proclaimed in word and song for all the centuries to hear, you also knew the dark sayings of the prophets about the suffering of the servant of God in this world. Shining over his birth in the stable at Bethlehem, there were angels in splendour who brought the good news to the shepherds, but at the same time the lowliness of God in this world was all too palpable. The old man Simeon spoke to you of

the sword which would pierce your soul (cf. Lk 2:35), of the sign of contradiction that your Son would be in this world. Then, when Jesus began his public ministry, you had to step aside, so that a new family could grow, the family which it was his mission to establish and which would be made up of those who heard his word and kept it (cf. Lk 11:27f). Notwithstanding the great joy that marked the beginning of Jesus' ministry, in the synagogue of Nazareth you must already have experienced the truth of the saying about the "sign of contradiction" (cf. Lk 4:28ff). In this way you saw the growing power of hostility and rejection which built up around Jesus until the hour of the Cross, when you had to look upon the Saviour of the world, the heir of David, the Son of God dying like a failure, exposed to mockery, between criminals. Then you received the word of

(Please See BISHOP/19)

DIOCESAN BRIEFS

Fr. Frey's 50th year celebration

ODESSA -- Fr Francis X. Frey will celebrate his gift of the priesthood with the priests of the diocese and family members on **May 30** at **St. Mary's Church, Odessa**, at the **11 a.m. Mass**, with Bishop Michael Pfeifer in attendance. There will be a small reception afterwards for all who attend this Mass. A celebration for all the members of St. Mary's Parish and the other parishes pastored by Fr. Frey and other friends will take place at St. Mary's Annual Labor Day Picnic on September 1.

Rural Life Mass

NORTON -- You are cordially invited to a celebration of rural life in West Texas with Bishop Michael Pfeifer and the people of the Diocese of San Angelo. The 7th annual Rural Life Mass will be celebrated **Tues., June 3**, at the Bill and Nancy Halfman ranch, 2618 Farm Rd. 383 in Norton. The theme this year is "Seed and Soil: Giving Thanks for the Abundant Blessings we Receive from God's Good Earth.

Deacon Charlie Evans
Director of Rural Life

Te Invita a Celebrar PENTE-COSTES Con Un Retiro Espiritual MIDLAND

La Iglesia y Santuario de
Nuestra Señora de Guadalupe
1401 E. Garden Lane

CUANDO:

Viernes, 9 de Mayo de 7-9 pm
Sábado, 0 de Mayo de 8:30 am-5 pm
Domingo, 11 de Mayo de 8:30am-1:30pm
(Con Misa de Clausura)

LUGAR:

Salón Parroquial Wilhelm de la Iglesia

May 30: World Day of Prayer for the Sanctification of Priests

[The Feast of the Sacred Heart – May 30, 2008]

By Bishop Michael Pfeifer, OMI

The annual World Day of Prayer for the Sanctification of Priests that is celebrated on the Feast of the Sacred Heart, will take place this year on Friday, May 30.

On this universal day of prayer for priests, we are invited by Pope Benedict XVI to fix the eyes of our minds and hearts on the loving gaze of Christ, asking for the gift of holiness for all priests who have committed their lives to Christ and His people through priestly ordination. I ask all the people of our Diocese to share in this special day of prayer, offering prayers and sacrifices for the good priests of our Diocese, and the world, and praying for more priestly vocations.

This World Day of Prayer recalls to priests the priority of prayer over action, since it is on prayer that the effectiveness of action depends. The Church's mission largely depends on each person's personal relationship with the Lord Jesus Christ. The love of Christ for all people, especially for his priests, is expressed in the portrayal of the Sacred Heart of Jesus.

I take this opportunity to express my deepest gratitude to all of my brother priests who have dedicated their lives to Christ and service of God's people, and to thank them for the wonderful and generous service that they give in all the communities of the Diocese where they serve.

Your Brother in Christ

Bishop Michael Pfeifer, Bishop of San Angelo

PREDICADORES:

"Panchito" (FSCO.) Araujo. de Cuahatemoc, Chih., Mexico

Diácono Jesse Guajardo de Midland, TX

Para Más Información Llame a:

La Oficina Parroquial: 432-682-2581

Jesse Estrada: 432-686-8198

¡ENTRADA ES GRATIS!

Upcoming Cursillo Dates

Men (Spanish) July 31-Aug. 3, St. Thomas, Big Spring.

Men (English) June 26-29, CKRC, San Angelo

Men (English) Oct. 23-26, St. Thomas, Big

Spring

Women (English) Aug. 28-31, CKRC, San Angelo

Women (English) Nov. 13-16, St. Thomas, Big Spring

For more information, contact:

Greg Perez, Lay Assistant Spiritual Director
Diocesan Cursillo Movement

Home Telephone: (432) 699-0460

Home Address: 3513 Imperial Ave., Midland 79707

Mobile Phone: (432) 296-0206

E-Mail: greg7@grandecom.net

50th anniversary celebration

Msgr. Benedict J. Zientek, former pastor in Brownwood, Rotan, Odessa, San Angelo

and Rowena, celebrates his 50th priestly anniversary May 6 at Christ the King Retreat Center. He will also celebrate May 9 in Houston with his St. Mary's Seminary classmates and then on June 1, Fr. Z will celebrate his 50th anniversary of the priesthood with family and relatives in his native parish at St. Mary's in Brenham.

Fr. Z was ordained May 24, 1958 at St. Mary's Cathedral in Austin. He served in Brownwood (1958-62); as pastor at St. Joseph's in Rotan (1962-65); pastor at St. Mary's in Odessa (1965-67); Rector at Sacred Heart Cathedral in San Angelo (1967-77) pastor at St. Joseph in Rowena (1977-87) and as pastor at Brownwood's St. Mary's (1987-2003) where he retired in Feb. 2003.

To extend congratulations, write Msgr. Benedict Zientek c/o P.O. Box 2447, Brenham, TX, 77834, or call 979-421-0739.

Principal Position-San Antonio

Mount Sacred Heart School, a private Catholic School in the Archdiocese of San Antonio with an 80 year history of a vibrant, growing community of parents, students and staff, is currently seeking a Principal for the 2008-2009 school year.

Mt. Sacred Heart is coed with approximately 460 students and includes a successful Montessori early childhood programs for children 2.5-5 and a broad and enriched elementary program PK4-8th grade.

Must be practicing Catholic with leadership skills; Masters Degree in Ed and 18 hrs in Administration and Supervision; evidence of successful teaching experience.

Send letter of interest, resume to Mount Sacred Heart School, Att'n: MSH Search Committee, 619 Mt. Sacred Heart Rd; San Antonio, TX, 78216 or email: searchcommittee@msheagles.com

CKRC hosts workers in Eldorado FLDS case

As the crisis at the FLDS compound in Eldorado expanded, our Church was at the ready. Almost overnight, thousands of professionals from agencies such as Child Protective Services (CPS), Mental Health & Mental Retardation (MHMR), and lawyers (working pro bono) throughout the State of Texas filled San Angelo. With this influx of people, the hotel/motel industry was swelled beyond capacity. In some instances, professionals were bused to and from surrounding cities, as far away as Sweetwater.

With the onslaught of visitors, Christ the King Retreat Center opened its doors to these professional men and women. The 51-room retreat center has a capacity for accommodating 102 people. Forty-five rooms have twin beds and six rooms have full-size beds (for married couples as well as those with disabilities). Each has its own bathroom.

Tom Burke, Director of the Center, said, "I am incredibly proud of the staff. We have only four full-time personnel and many part-time people. They rallied to prepare meals, clean

the dining facility, make beds and clean rooms." Burke acknowledged that during this extraordinary time, the Retreat Center housed up to 98 people, depending on the night. "We do not have much. But, what we have, we offered," said Burke.

Because the Retreat Center is reserved on the weekends, the CPS, MHMR and other professionals were not able to stay indefinitely. Rather, they were asked to leave mid-week in order that the Center could be restored for weekend Retreats. "It was an administrative stretch," observed Burke, "Yet, the staff was forthright with these Agencies and they cooperated with what we could offer."

Burke is quick to praise the many Catholics in San Angelo who opened their homes to these professionals. "For the weekend Masses on April 12-13, Bishop Pfeifer asked the local pastors to appeal to their parishioners to open their homes to more than 400 lawyers who were summoned to assist. There are an untold number of Catholics who offered rooms in their homes in an effort to assist those who were helping many

children and mothers."

Burke recalls one CPS worker. "After spending her first night at our facility, she looked about and said, 'I never knew the Catholic Church had anything like this. It's so peaceful here.'"

"Most of the people were pleasantly surprised at how we opened our kitchen to them. They could come in at any hour and open the refrigerator to find milk, take a banana, and enjoy a bagel. I think it was refreshing to many that we welcomed them in this way," Burke said.

No doubt the two month old carpet, box springs, mattresses and recently improved hot water system helped make their stay to be more pleasant.

"Overall, I'm proud of the staff and of our Catholic Church during this difficult time," noted Burke. "I am confident that we've been good stewards with the gifts that God and our many benefactors have entrusted to us at our Retreat Center. Moreover, I am confident that our staff reflected well our Catholic values in all the large and small acts of hospitality."

-- *The Angelus*

From the Editor



Spontaneous grace aboard the D train

By Jimmy Patterson

It was one of those singularly unique moments, the kind you can't create or design or plan and the kind that you can never hope for again. It happened after the pope's Mass in Yankee Stadium in New York last month.

Karen, our son and I had finally made it through an immovable crowd that at times seemed as if it would keep us stagnant outside the gates of the great ballpark in the Bronx forever. But finally, the crowd thinned and we made our way to the 161st St. station. Plenty of people still lingered, many filled souvenir shops, others merely meandered about talking with one another, strangers and friends alike.

We walked down the stairs to the subway platform and noticed a group of six or eight young men clad in the black frocks of young seminarians. They were all smiles, all fresh-faced and jovial and helpful and when the train door came open they of course deferred to everyone else before they themselves boarded.

The doors whisked shut and one of them pulled up next to me and sat down. His name was Andrew and he and his brother, who he pointed to, were both in the seminary together which he said delighted mom and dad to no end back home in Ohio.

We talked a little more and then something caught the attention of the seminarians coming from the front corner of the train, which was about 75 percent full.

And then I heard it:

SALVE REGINA, Mater misericordiae. Vita, dulcedo, et spes nostra, salve.

For a moment I thought, oh that's nice, someone's singing.

But soon enough they all were. All of the seminarians plus whoever in the corner started it all.

Ad te clamamus exules filii Hevae.

I had no idea what they were singing but it was becoming



Patterson

Del Escritorio del Obispo

María, Madre de Esperanza

Por el Obispo Miguel Pfeifer

En su más reciente maravillosa encíclica tocante la Esperanza, Papa Benedicto XVI se refiere a María, la Madre de Jesús y nuestra Madre, como la Madre de la Esperanza. En este artículo comparto con ustedes algunas reflexiones de nuestro Santo Padre sobre María como nuestra Madre de Esperanza, de su más reciente encíclica.

"Así, pues, la invocamos: Santa María, tú fuiste una de aquellas almas humildes y grandes en Israel que, como Simeón, esperó "el consuelo de Israel" (Lc 2:25) y esperaron, como Ana, "la redención de Jerusalén" (Lc 2:38). Tú viviste en contacto íntimo con las Sagradas Escrituras de Israel, que hablaban de la esperanza, de la promesa hecha a Abrahán y a su



Obispo Miguel Pfeifer OMI

descendencia (cf. Lc 1:55). Así comprendemos el santo temor que te sobrevino cuando el ángel de Dios entró en tu aposento y te dijo que darías a luz a Aquel que era la esperanza de Israel y la esperanza del mundo. Por ti, por tu "sí", la esperanza de milenios debía hacerse realidad, entrar en este mundo y su historia. Tú te has inclinado ante la grandeza de esta misión y has dicho "sí": Aquí está la esclava del Señor, hágase en mí según tu palabra" (Lc 1:38). Cuando llena de santa alegría fuiste aprisa por los montes de Judea para visitar a tu pariente Isabel, te convertiste en la imagen de la futura Iglesia que, en su seno, lleva la esperanza del mundo por los montes de la historia. Pero junto con la alegría que, en tu Magnificat, con las palabras y el canto, has difundido en los siglos, conocías también las afirmaciones oscuras de los profetas sobre el sufrimiento del siervo de Dios en este mundo. Sobre su nacimiento en el establo de Belén brilló el resplandor de los ángeles que llevaron la buena nueva a los pastores, pero al mismo tiempo se hizo de sobra

palpable la pobreza de Dios en ese mundo. El anciano Simeón te habló de la espada que traspasaría tu corazón (cf. Lc 2:35), del signo de contradicción que tu Hijo sería en este mundo. Cuando comenzó después la actividad pública de Jesús, debiste quedarte a un lado para que pudiera crecer la nueva familia que Él había venido a instituir y que se desarrollaría con la aportación de los que hubieran escuchado y cumplido su palabra (cf. Lc 11:27s). No obstante toda la grandeza y la alegría de los primeros pasos de la actividad de Jesús, ya en la sinagoga de Nazaret experimentaste la verdad de aquella palabra sobre el "signo de contradicción" (cf. Lc 4:28ss). Así has visto el poder creciente de la hostilidad y el rechazo que progresivamente fue creándose en torno a Jesús hasta la hora de la cruz, en la que viste morir como un fracasado, expuesto al escarnio, entre los delincuentes, al Salvador del mundo, el heredero de David, el Hijo de Dios.

(Mira MARIA/19)

(Please See PATTERSON/5)

DIOCESAN DATES**Bishop's Calendar****MAY**

9 -- **SAN ANGELO**, Confirmation at 6:30 pm at Holy Angels
 10 -- **STANTON**, Confirmation at St. Joseph, 5:30 pm
 11 -- **BIG SPRING**, Confirmation at Holy Trinity, 10:30 am
 12-13 -- **CORPUS CHRISTI**, Meeting of Board of Directors of Kenedy Foundation.
 14 -- **SAN ANGELO**, Meeting of Big Brothers, Big Sisters, noon
 14 -- **ST. LAWRENCE**, confirmation, 6:30 p.m.
 15 -- **SAN ANGELO**, CARES drug meeting at 1 pm, Central High School library
 16 -- **BROWNWOOD**, Confirmation at St. Mary, Brownwood at 6:30 pm
 17 -- **MIDLAND**, Confirmation at Our Lady of Guadalupe, 5 pm
 18 -- **ANDREWS**, Confirmation, Our Lady of Lourdes, 10:30 am
 19 -- **SONORA**, Confirmation at St. Ann, 6:30 pm
 21 -- **ELDORADO**, Confirmation at Our Lady of Guadalupe, 6:30 pm
 23 -- **OZONA**, Confirmation at Our Lady of Perpetual Help, 6:30 pm
 24 -- **ABILENE**, Confirmation at St. Vincent Pallotti, 5:30 pm
 25 -- **SAN ANGELO**, Eucharistic Procession and Mass at St. Mary.
 27 -- **COLEMAN**, Confirmation at Sacred Heart, 6:30 pm
 28 -- **COLORADO CITY**, Confirmation, St. Ann., 6:30 pm
 29 -- **MIDLAND**, Confirmation, Our Lady of San Juan, 6:30 pm
 30 -- **ODESSA**, 50th priestly anniversary celebration Mass for Fr. Francis Frey at 11 am, St. Mary

JUNE

1 -- **SAN ANGELO**, Sacred Heart Cathedral – Marriage Jubilee Day at 2:00 p.m.
 3 -- **BALLINGER**, Rural Life Mass at 6:30 p.m.
 4 -- **SAN ANGELO**, Christ the King Retreat Center – Meeting of the Presbyterate of the Diocese of San Angelo and the Diocese of Lubbock at 5:00 p.m.
 5 -- **MIDLAND**, Meeting of Drug Task Force and Coalition at 1:00 p.m.
 6 -- **BALLINGER**, Relay for Cancer at 6:00 p.m.
 7 -- **ABILENE**, Diocesan Vocations BBQ
 8 -- **MENARD**, Sacred Heart – 1st Anniversary of Mission- Mass at 9:00 a.m.
 9-14 -- **ORLANDO**, Florida – Hispanic Affairs Committee & -USCCB Meetings
 15-18 -- **QUEBEC**, Eucharistic Congress
 20-21 -- **LUBBOCK**, 25th

Anniversary of the Diocese of Lubbock
 22 -- **JUNCTION**, St. Theresa – Confirmation Mass at 11:15 a.m.
 25 -- **SAN ANGELO**, Christ the King Retreat Center – Meeting and Discussion by the Coalition to Abolish the Death Penalty with a performance by Sara Hickman – 6-9 p.m.
 27-29 -- **CORPUS CHRISTI**, Wedding

Christ the King Retreat Center**MAY**

16-18 -- Engaged Encounter
 19 -- Heart of Mercy Prayer Group
 20 -- Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament
 25 -- Natural Family Planning Class
 26 -- Heart of Mercy Prayer Group
 28 -- Memorial Day
 27 -- Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament 5-6
 30-June 1 Marriage Encounter

JUNE

1 -- Marriage Encounter
 2-6 -- Lubbock Priests Retreat
 8-13 -- Make a Difference Program
 9 -- Heart of Mercy Prayer Group
 10 -- Adoration of The Blessed Sacrament 5-6
 14 -- Deacon Program
 16 -- Heart of Mercy Prayer Group
 17 -- Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament 5-6
 19-22 -- Girls Chrysalis Flight
 23 -- Heart of Mercy Prayer Group
 24 -- Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament 5-6
 26-29 -- Men's Catholic Cursillo
 30 -- Heart of Mercy Prayer Group

NECROLOGY**June**

7 -- Rev. Ray Corr, O.P. (2005)
 8 -- Rev. Felix Cubelo (2007)
 13 -- Rev. David Espetia (2003)
 18 -- Rev. John Lucassen (1993)
 20 -- Deacon William Smith (2003)
 22 -- Rev. Msgr. Alvin Wilde (1996)
 28 -- Bishop Stephen A. Leven (1983)

Ethics and Integrity in Ministry Workshops

May 6 -- Tuesday, St. Stephen, Midland, 7:00-10:00 pm

*Letter from Bishop Pfeifer***AP Report:****Sexual misconduct plagues public schools**
 Much of the media is reluctant to report this abuse**By Bishop Michael Pfeifer, OMI**

A recent Associated Press investigation indicates that sexual misconduct plagues U.S. public schools and reveals some of the following information of this article, taken from that report. Sadly, when the Associated Press set out to investigate a long-known, widespread problem of sexual assault of children in public schools, many newspapers and other media in local areas of the country did not report this story. I congratulate the Associated Press for having the courage to address a problem that is rampant in our American society.

STARTLING AP REPORT

The AP findings feature the alarming and rampant problem of sexual misconduct in American public schools by the very teachers who are supposed to be caring for the nation's children. The AP three-part series from October 2007 reveals that students in America's schools are groped, they are raped, they are pursued, seduced, and think they are in love. The Associated Press investigation found more than 2,500 cases over 5 years in which educators were punished, for actions from bizarre to sadistic. Sadly, Texas, according to the report, is No. 2 in the nation in the number of teachers sanctioned for sexual misconduct.

There are 3 million public school teachers nationwide, most devoted to their work and caring of their students. Yet the number of abused students by educators, nearly three for every school day, speaks of a much larger prob-

lem in a system that is stacked against victims, and much of the media appear reluctant to report this startling situation.

Most of the abuse never gets reported, and the cases reported often end with no action. Cases investigated sometimes cannot be proven, and many abusers have several victims. And no one—not the schools, not the courts, not the state or federal government—has found a surefire way to keep molesting teachers out of the classrooms.

These are the AP's findings after reporters sought disciplinary records in all 50 states and the District of Columbia. The result is an unprecedented national look at the scope of sexual offenses by educators—the very definition of breach of trust. The seven-month investigation found 2,570 educators whose teaching credentials were revoked, denied, voluntarily surrendered, or limited from 2001-2005 following allegation of sexual misconduct. More than half the educators who were punished by their states also were convicted of crimes related to the misconduct. The conclusions of the AP report are startling and frightening: “Beyond the horror of individual crimes, the larger shame is that the institutions that govern educators have only sporadically addressed a problem that has been apparent for years.” Though it found some efforts in some places were being made to stop the epidemic of teacher molestation, there was “overall a deeply entrenched resistance toward recognizing and fighting abuse.”

(Please See **ABUSE/18**)*Letter from the Bishop***Special collection requested to assist women and children from Eldorado community compound***April 24, 2008***TO: Pastors and Pastoral Coordinators of the Diocese****FROM: Bishop Michael D. Pfeifer, OMI****RE: Special Collection to Assist Women and Children From the Eldorado Community Compound**

We are all aware of the critical situation that the city of San Angelo has been dealing with as regards providing basic human care for children and women who were removed from the Fundamental community compound

near Eldorado.

I implore all to please pray for all involved, especially the children, and to pray for all who are providing services for these hundreds of needy children and women, and in a particular way, pray for the judge who has to make some very important and critical decisions about this case.

I have taken a special collection already from the parishes of the city of San Angelo and the surrounding area, and now I am appealing to the wider diocese for a special collection. Already we have collected some \$15,000 to assist this effort, and now that the children and some women are being placed in a number of homes –

two within our diocese – one in Midland and one in Abilene – I am sending funds to these different homes to help cover the huge cost that is being incurred.

I ask you to please bring this collection to the attention of our people and I encourage them to be generous in their contribution. Please assure them that their money is going directly to the different homes where many children and women are being placed. I would ask that you please send your collection to the diocese as soon as possible so that the funds can be quickly distributed to those who need them.

In advance I thank you for your kindness and generosity.

Mothers Day and the Holy Spirit

By Bishop Michael D. Pfeifer, OMI

This year the Sunday assigned to honor our dear mothers falls on May 11 which is also the beautiful Solemnity of Pentecost, the feast of the new coming of the Holy Spirit. What a wonderful way to celebrate Mothers' Day! Without the love and inspiration of the Holy Spirit, our dear mothers would not be the wonderful, loving and serving people that they are. And, of course, we think about the Mother of mothers, Mary, how she totally opened her life to be led by the power and action of the Holy Spirit as she accepted God's request for her to become the mother of Jesus Christ. Mary's submission and obedience to God opened the door for the wonderful Holy Spirit to do great and wonderful things in her and through her, giving the world the God-man, Jesus Christ.

The same great Holy Spirit has helped our mothers to be the loving and kind persons that they are, and especially to guide them with our fathers to be faithful parents who instruct and teach children how to be disciples of Jesus.

As we celebrate Mothers' Day, let us first take time to adore, honor and thank the Holy Spirit who wants to do great things in our lives, as the Spirit did in the life of Mary. This same wonderful Holy Spirit has been guiding and protecting our dear mothers. May we all pray together, along with our mother, "Come, Holy Spirit, fill the hearts of the faithful and enkindle in us the fire of your divine love." This great Holy Spirit wants to stir up the graces of our Baptism and Confirmation so that we might be courageous messengers and witnesses of the Risen Christ.

On Mothers' Day, we express our gratitude and appreciation to all of our dear mothers, and it is a time to reflect on a mother's life. Our mothers wondered about us before we came; mothers work for us as long as we are with them; mothers worry about us when we are away. Mothers give their very blood to our making, milk for our nursing, their sweat to our rearing, their tears for our training. Mothers risk their lives as they bear us, their children.

Of course, the mother who exemplified in a perfect way all the qualities of motherhood is Mary, the mother of Jesus and our dear mother. On Mothers' Day, as we honor our earthly mothers, we must first take time to pay a special tribute to our Blessed Mother, thanking her for her constant help and protection, and asking her intercession so that we can all be loving brothers and sisters of her great Son, Jesus Christ. Mothers' Day is the occasion to renew our devotion to our spiritual mother, especially by praying often the rosary.

As I extend my congratulations to all of our mothers, I thank them for their great love, care and service. If our mothers have been taken from us, we entrust them to God's eternal love in heaven and we ask God to bless all the good mothers that are still with us.

Dear mothers, we pray for you and we love you very much.

Cursillo powerful, life-changing

By Deacon Charlie Evans
Spiritual Director
Diocesan Cursillo Movement

Have you ever had an experience you couldn't forget? An experience you didn't want to forget, one that actually changed your life. Having an experience where you feel Christ's presence. Seeing how the Holy Spirit is working in your life and other people around you.

To explain cursillo to someone who has never experienced Cursillo is at best difficult. Often, for those who have experienced Cursillo it is still somewhat mystifying. The reason behind the mystery is God. No one can fully explain how God touches each person in his or her special and unique way throughout the various elements of the Cursillo Movement.

The Cursillo movement is a movement of the Catholic Church. The name *cursillo* is Spanish, meaning short course, and is associated with a 3-day weekend – which is only one aspect of the cursillo movement. The proper name is Cursillo de Cristiandad (short course of Christianity). There is much more to the cursillo Movement than just a 3-day weekend.

Now that very day two of them were going to a village seven miles from Jerusalem called Emmaus, and they were conversing about all of the things that had occurred. And it happened that while they were conversing and debating, Jesus himself drew near and walked with them, but their eyes were prevented from recognizing him... And it happened that, while he was with them at table, he took bread, said the blessing, broke it, and gave it to them. With that their eyes were opened and they recognized him, but he vanished from their sight. Then they said to each other, "Were not our hearts burning within us while he spoke to us on the way and opened the scriptures to us?"
(Luke 24:13-16, 30-32)

During the three days of a Cursillo, a person not only hears inspiring talks on what it really means to be a Christian today, but actually experiences the joy of building and being part of a genuine Christian community. The Christian community formed during a Cursillo is very similar to the Christian communities in the early days of the Church.

The Cursillo Movement is dedicated to spreading the Word of God and helping people form a closer relationship with Jesus Christ. The Cursillo employs a method that emphasizes the importance of a balanced life of holiness, continued spiritual formation, and evangelization. The cursillo method enables you to:

▶ Expand your prayer life

▶ Spiritually grow through an ongoing formation process that increases your knowledge about God's Word and your Catholic faith.

▶ Spread God's Word in a natural way to the people you interact with in the very environments in which we live.

For more information on upcoming Cursillo for this year please contact a member of the cursillo team:

Odessa: Bobby Wright 432-553-2561

San Angelo: Mario DeHoyos 325-450-4186; Ray Zapata 325-650-1104, or Eddie DeHoyos 325-226-5757.

Abilene: Joey Light 325-695-0503

Midland: Adele Dominguez 432-694-1745

Que es un Cursillo?

¿Jamás haz tenido una experiencia inolvidable? ¿Una experiencia que no quisieras olvidar? Una experiencia en la cual sientes la presencia de Cristo. Viendo como el espíritu santo está trabajando en tú vida y en la vida de los tú

alrededor?

Y he aquí que aquel mismo día dos de ellos iban a una aldea llamada Emaús, que estaba como a once kilómetros de Jerusalén. Y conversaban entre sí acerca de todas estas cosas que

habían acontecido. Y sucedió que mientras conversaban y discutían, Jesús mismo se acercó y caminaba con ellos. Pero sus ojos

(Mira **CURSILLO/6**)

PATTERSON: Seminarian's song inspires travelers

(From 3)

clear that these guys had grabbed hold of everyone in that train car.

Ad te Suspiramus, gementes et flentes in hac lacrimarum valle. Eia ergo, Advocata nostra, illos tuos misericordes oculos ad nos converte.

The more they sang their Latin prayer, the quieter the car became. No one spoke. Not a soul. Everyone just sat and listened.

Et Iesum, benedictum fructum ventris tui, nobis post hoc exilium ostende.

And on the faces of everyone in

that train, serenity. Peace. Some people brushed back tears from their eyes as they realized they were involved in a moment that was so pure and spontaneous as to defy adequate description. Where it all came from ultimately, there was no doubt. There was a presence in that subway car that day, a holy feeling you couldn't necessarily see, but you could certainly feel. By the end of their prayer, the car was totally quiet but for the sound of the singing seminarians.

O clemens, o pia, o dulcis Virgo Maria.

Then it was over. And the entire

car erupted in applause and cheers.

I shared the story with a friend who asked me if the response on the train was such because everyone had just come from a Papal Mass. Without question that was the case.

Such a spontaneous subway event may or may not happen 150 blocks away in the financial district, or in Queens after a Mets game. But it happened to the people who were blessed enough to get on that particular train with the singing seminarians from Josephinum College in Columbus, Ohio. And we're all better for it today.

Making Sense of Bioethics

Plastic Perfection? The ethics of breast implants

By Rev. Thad Pacholczyk

In the last 10 years, the number of women undergoing breast augmentations has increased dramatically. During 2007, nearly half a million women opted for this form of elective surgery. Many seem convinced that breast implants are an easy way to shore up their self-image. As one woman put it, "I got implants so that I could gain back my confidence and feel good about myself." The growing popularity of this kind of plastic surgery, however, raises a constellation of health concerns, ethical questions, and personal/spiritual issues that may need to be confronted whenever the temptation to pursue elective breast augmentation arises.

**Pacholczyk**

As a general rule, there should be a compelling *therapeutic* reason whenever we elect to undergo breast augmentation, because surgery and anesthesia always involve risks. Breast implant surgery is not considered "therapeutic" in the traditional sense, except for

women who have undergone a mastectomy, or otherwise suffered significant breast damage, in which case the procedure may indeed represent a reconstructive or restorative therapy. Implants, of course, are serious business - real surgery with real side effects and strange things that can go wrong. Such implants can rupture, have capsular contractions, or develop leaks. Moreover, they are clearly not a permanent solution. They need to be replaced periodically. The decision to get implants, particularly at an early age, is an almost certain guarantee of more surgeries later on.

Choosing to increase the size of otherwise healthy breasts raises a number of health-related concerns — and ethical concerns as well. Implants may increase diagnostic difficulties associated with doing mammograms. Some women report that implants make self-examinations harder. In the past, implants were often filled with silicone, and when they would rupture, some women developed immune conditions and health problems which were attributed to the release of silicone into their bodies. Implants and implant surgery can also affect the purpose and proper functioning of the breast, by causing lactation insufficiency and other complications associ-

ated with breast-feeding.

Women who feel a strong need to augment their breasts may also be struggling with deeper personal and spiritual issues regarding their own self-image. All of us are keenly aware of the way that people react to us when they first meet us, and whenever they respond negatively to our appearance, it can damage our self-esteem. In our society, attractive people often end up receiving preferential treatment, and this seems especially true for women. The result is a peculiar kind of pressure on women: on the one hand, they are valued for their beauty and feel compelled to conform to the societal ideal. On the other hand, elective breast augmentation seems to go too far in an effort to meet that ideal. It seems to cross an ethical line by saying that women should alter their healthy bodies in very radical ways in order to conform to what is portrayed on television or in glossy women's magazines. The escalating use of pornography among men may also be contributing to this pressure to conform to the digitally enhanced and hyper-sexualized images of the computer screen. As one woman put it, "If you have friends who gossip about your flat chest, you need new friends, not new

breasts." In the face of so many disordered and unreasonable pressures, undergoing an augmentation may even be construed as a form of unethical self-mutilation in the name of some other perceived good.

A further difficulty is that such surgery frequently does not address the real self-image problems that a woman may be struggling with. Some who pursue this so-called "plastic perfection" may be prone to self-discontentment to begin with. Aiming to make one's body match up to an external, visual measure of beauty can seem to open up a new level of attention and affirmation from others. But it can also lead to a shallowness and an unhealthy self-focus. I recall the story of a young man who got seriously involved with body-building and weight lifting. He worked many long months to build up his muscle tone and bulk up his physique by working out on various exercise machines. Soon he realized that his focus had become so intense that it had managed to turn into a completely self-centered behavior, so that whenever he would pass by a mirror he couldn't help flexing his muscles to see whether they had gotten any larger since the last time he checked. A simi-

(Please See **BIOETHICS**/16)

CURSILLO

(From 5)

estaban velados para que no le reconocieran. Y sucedió que al sentarse a la mesa con ellos, tomó pan, y lo bendijo; y partiéndolo, les dio. Entonces les fueron abiertos los ojos y le reconocieron; pero El desapareció de la presencia de ellos. Y se dijeron el uno al otro: ¿No ardía nuestro corazón dentro de nosotros mientras nos hablaba en el camino, cuando nos abría las Escrituras? (Lucas 24:13-16, 30-32)

Es difícil explicar lo que es un cursillo a alguien que nunca lo a vivido. Muchas veces, para las personas que ya han vivido un Cursillo lo toman como algo misterioso. La razón detrás del enigma es Dios. No hay manera de explicar como Dios toca a cada persona de una manera única y especial durante de los var-

ios elementos del Movimiento de Cursillo.

El Movimiento de Cursillo es un movimiento de la iglesia católica. La palabra cursillo lo dice todo, es un curso corto, asociado con un fin de semana de tres días, el cual solo es un aspecto del Movimiento de Cursillo.

Durante los tres días del cursillo, una persona no solo escucha pláticas inspiradoras sobre lo que es vivir una vida cristiana hoy en día, pero siente la alegría del comienzo de ser parte de una comunidad cristiana y genuina. Esta comunidad que se forma durante el cursillo es muy similar a las primeras comunidades cristianas de la iglesia.

El Movimiento de Cursillo está dedicado a compartir la palabra de Dios y ayudar a la gente tener una relación íntima con nuestro Señor Jesucristo. El Cursillo emplea un método que destaca la

importancia del balance de una vida sagrada, la continuación de la formación espiritual, y el evangelismo. El método del cursillo facilita:

Aumentar la vida de oración

Creer espiritualmente a través de un proceso de formación continua que aumenta nuestro conocimiento de la palabra de Dios y nuestra fe católica. Compartir la palabra de Dios de una manera natural con las personas con quienes nos relacionamos en nuestro medio ambiente.

Para más sobre los siguientes cursillos de este año por favor de comunicares con un miembro del cursillo:

Bobby Wright 432-553-2561 (Odessa) Mario Dehoyos 325-450-4186 (San Angelo) Ray Zapata 325-650-1104 (San Angelo) Joey Light 325-695-0503 (Abilene) Eddie Dehoyos 325-226-5757 (San Angelo) Adele Domínguez 432-694-1745 (Midland) or Deacon Charlie Evans Líder espiritual del Movimiento de Cursillo

Pilgrim Journeys – Regina Tours

Alexandra Morris, CDS
International Specialist

Come with us this October on a pilgrimage to Lourdes (150th anniversary), and continuing on to Rome, the seat of Western Catholicism.

Our Chaplain is Fr. Bernard Gully.

ALSO COMING: Join Fr. Frey on pilgrimage to Mexico City & Puebla this June
"Dream about where you would like to go, then get in touch and we will go there."

alessandra0416@yahoo.com

www.pilgrimjourneys.joystar.com

Trudo's

Religious Store



624 West Avenue N
San Angelo, TX 76903

Over 70,000 items in stock!
Celebrating **25 years** serving
West Texas Catholics!

Mon.-Fri.
9 a.m.—6 p.m.
Saturday
9 a.m.—5 p.m.

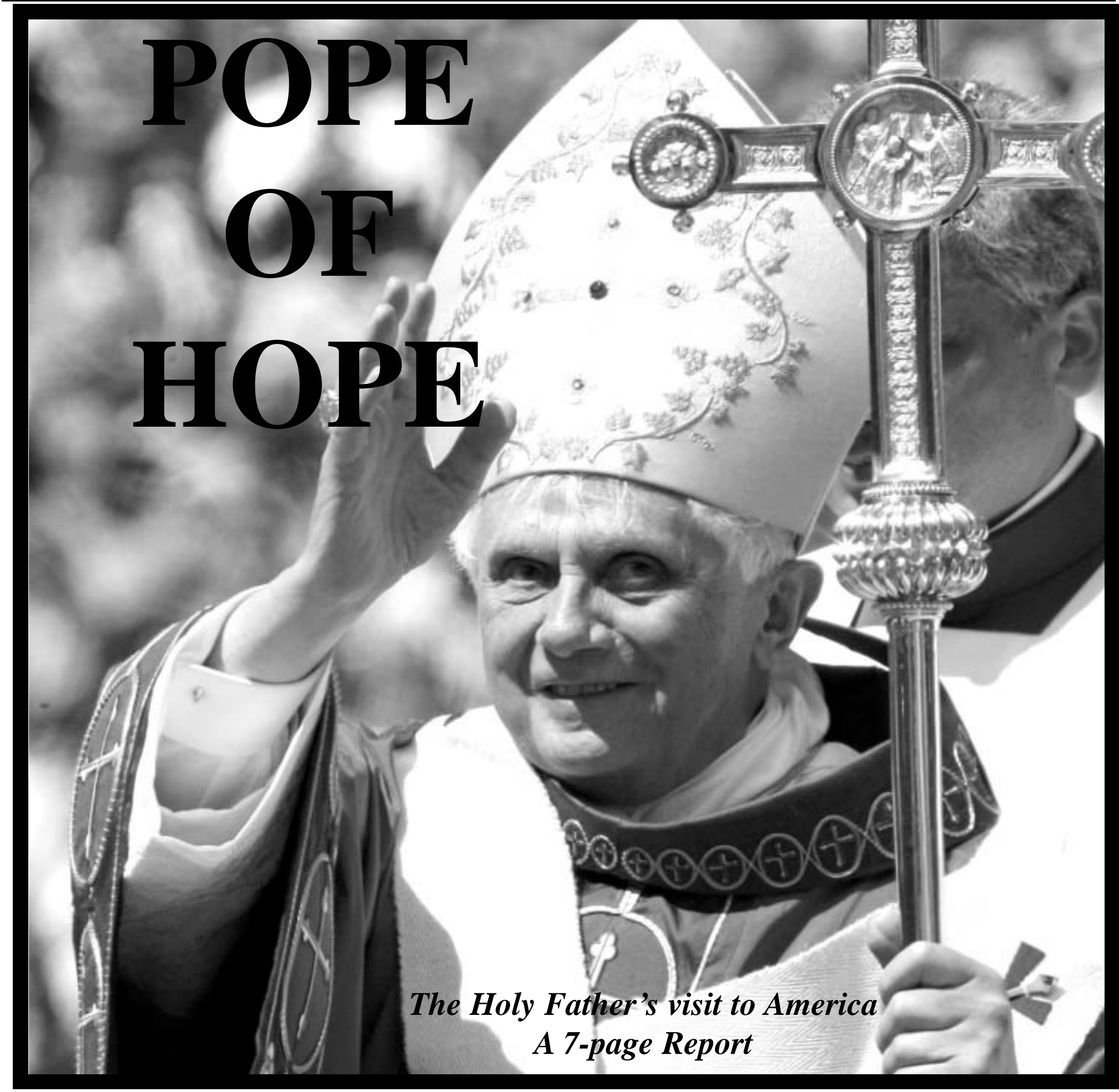
Out of Town? Call 800-759-1807

325-653-8011
trudors@wcc.net

Rosaries, Jewelry, Statues, Crosses, Bibles, Books,
Quinceanera, Wedding and Confirmation items.

First Communion Dresses, Veils and gifts.
Habla Espanol - Phone orders are welcome!

POPE OF HOPE

A black and white photograph of Pope John Paul II. He is wearing his white zucchetto and a dark cassock with a white stole. He is smiling and waving with his right hand. In his left hand, he holds a silver crozier. The background is blurred, showing a crowd of people.

*The Holy Father's visit to America
A 7-page Report*



Opportunity to see Pope Benedict XVI in New York a 'true blessing'

With Pope Benedict XVI in NYC

By Msgr. Larry Droll
Vicar General
Diocese of San Angelo

What a blessing, to see Pope Benedict XVI in New York and to pray with him at two Masses! He came to our country to bring encouragement to Catholics in our following of Jesus Christ. "Christ our hope" was the theme of his apostolic visit. The young people in Yonkers even made it into a chant: "Christ our hope; Benedict our Pope."

I was privileged to attend Mass on Saturday morning at St. Patrick's Cathedral and to concelebrate

with the Pope, representing the Diocese of San Angelo. In his homily, the Pope reflected on the architecture of the great cathedral and the meaning various elements of the design symbolize. The great bell tower spires of the building remind us of the human spirit rising to God; the Church is called to be a herald of hope in the midst of the city. I prayed for all in our diocese during the Mass.

Later on Saturday, the Pope visited St. Joseph Seminary in Yonkers, where he blessed children with disabilities and met 20,000 youth and seminarians. Although I only watched this event on television, for me it was the most emotional moment of

(Please See **DROLL/17**)



Msgr. Larry Droll, one of thousands waving white cloths after Pope Benedict XVI's (top photo) at Yankee Stadium, April 20.

Photos by Jimmy Patterson



What I heard and saw during Pope Benedict XVI's visit

By Bishop Michael Pfeifer, OMI

WASHINGTON -- I had the great privilege of being with our Holy Father, Pope Benedict XVI, during his visit to Washington, DC, in April. It was a great joy to be with our Holy Father at three unforgettable celebrations in the nation's Capitol.

On Wednesday morning, along with some 70 other U.S. Bishops, I had the honor of being present when Pope Benedict XVI was officially welcomed by President and Mrs. George Bush on the south lawn of the White House. After an emotional exchange of messages and welcome by both the President and Benedict XVI, the two leaders went inside the White House for private talks. That meeting on the south lawn was very unique. It was filled with inspirational singing and playing by various musical groups, and was the largest crowd ever to receive a dignitary at the White House.

That day, April 16, was the Pope's 81st birthday, and all, including the President, wished and sang "Happy Birthday" to the Holy Father on his special day.

On Wednesday, I was present when our Holy Father presided over a prayer service with about 300 Bishops at the Basilica of the National Shrine of the Immaculate Conception. Thousands of people lined the road leading into this impressive shrine to greet the Pope.

During his presentations to the U.S. Catholic Bishops, Benedict XVI thanked the U.S. Catholics for their support and generosity, as he had done at the White House, and encouraged the Bishops to give focus to primary Gospel values that should underlie the living of our Catholic faith today. The Holy Father spoke about consistency in what we believe, speak, and do. The Pope stressed how we all need to work to build up strong marriages and family life, and to always focus our lives on the truth. Pope Benedict pointed out that freedom separated from truth loses its meaning.

In his presentation to the U.S. Catholic Bishops, our Holy Father twice mentioned the sexual abuse crisis that has



President Bush listens as Pope Benedict XVI delivers an address on the South Lawn of the White House, April 15.

affected the Catholic Church during the past several years. He pointed out the need for healing, the need for being faithful to what Bishops and priests had committed themselves to be, and to continue to make every effort to prevent this type of clerical sexual abuse from ever occurring in the future.

On Thursday, April 17, I was present with some 300 Bishops and probably some 60,000 people when Pope Benedict XVI celebrated Mass in the new Nationals Park in Washington, DC. This was the first non-baseball event at the new stadium. This beautiful liturgical celebration was filled with inspiration, joy and excitement, and our Holy Father presented a message of hope based on our trust in Jesus Christ. Pope Benedict pointed out how we must not only live our faith on Sundays, but also during the other days of the week. The entire liturgy was most inspirational and uplifting, and various choirs with their singing added to make this a liturgy filled with much emotion and encouragement.

At the end of Mass, opera star Placido Domingo elicited applause from the assembly after he sang the beautiful hymn "*Panis Angelicus*" in Latin. After his singing, he knelt before the Pope to kiss the Pope's ring and to receive the appropriate blessing and embrace.

On his first trip to the United States, Pope Benedict achieved what I believe are three objectives that could be considered critical to the pastoral future of the American Church. First, the Pope brought a certain closure to the priestly sexual abuse scandal that has shaken the Church for more than 6 years, expressing his personal shame at what had happened, and even meeting and praying with some of the victims.

Second, our Holy Father sent out a moral challenge to the wider U.S. culture on issues ranging from economic justice to abortion, without coming across as doctrinaire or bullying. Third, to a Church that often seems divided into conservative and liberal camps, Pope Benedict issued a firm appeal to set aside all anger and work for unity and love.

From the White House to the U.N. to an assembly hall, to Ground Zero and to Washington's Nationals baseball stadium, Pope Benedict preached a message of hope built on faith and a joint commitment to respect and honor the dignity of the human person.

After thanking Americans for their hospitality and generosity, Pope Benedict XVI departed the United States on Sunday, April 20, amid a cheering crowd of some 4,000 people who had come to see him off. Pope Benedict stated, "It has been a joy for me to witness the faith and devotion of the Catholic community here [America]." As he left, the Pope said that one of the high points of his 5-day trip to Washington and New York was in the United Nations on the 60th anniversary of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, a document he discussed in his April 18th address to the General Assembly. He also specifically mentioned his April 20th prayer at Ground Zero saying, "It remained firmly etched in my memory."

Viva il Papa!



The pope's motorcade makes its way up 5th Avenue in New York, near Central Park, April 19. (Photo by Jimmy Patterson)

Weekend in New York like one gigantic 'Peace be with You'

By Jimmy Patterson
Editor * The Angelus

NEW YORK -- One of my favorite Catholic practices happens about three quarters of the way through the Mass, right after the Our Father and just before the distribution of Holy Communion. The exchanging of peace, commonly called the "Peace Be With You's" opens us to our neighbors.

People who may never otherwise meet exchange smiles and a sign of peace and if only for a moment, Catholics are joined together in a

moment of togetherness and friendship.

In many ways, Pope Benedict XVI's historic, groundbreaking visit to New York in April was a lot like one big Catholic Peace Be With You.

On April 19, on New York's Upper East Side, people were everywhere, some have estimated as many as 50,000-100,000, lined the streets of this great city waiting for Benedict to pass by for a chance at even just a glimpse of the leader of the world's 1.1 billion Roman Catholics, a brilliant, holy man.

On the Friday of his visit, scores of ecumenical leaders came to hear him speak in the late afternoon, following his speech to world leaders at the United Nations. He spoke to youths, the disabled, 3,000 Catholic clergy, 45,000 at Nationals Park in Washington and 57,000 in Yankee Stadium, but most emotionally, he spent time in prayer and private meetings with Boston-area Catholics who were among those sexually abused by priests in one of the Church's darkest moments. He

(Please See **NEW YORK/20**)

Papal Mass

Yankee Stadium, New York

April 20, 2008



Clockwise from top left, the Eyler family of Midland celebrated Mass with the pope; Benedict acknowledges the Yankee Stadium cheers prior to the beginning of the Mass; police officers (above) accompanied 500 priests as they distributed Holy Communion (above right). The Mass began with an artistic "release" of doves followed by the release of many doves, which signifies the presence of the Holy Spirit, and at left, the pope enters Yankee Stadium in the Popemobile.



Clockwise from top left: A panoramic view of the altar and the rightfield stands at Yankee Stadium; atop those rightfield stands, a group of white-habited nuns start the wave; singers Jose Feliciano and Harry Connick, Jr., performed in a Concert for Hope prior to the Papal Mass; and Pope Benedict XVI enters Yankee Stadium prior to the celebration of Mass.

Pictures by Karen J. Patterson
 Cover photograph of Pope Benedict XVI in Popemobile by Karen J. Patterson
 Photo of Pope Benedict on Pg. 7 by Catholic News Service



West Texans attend N. York papal Mass

By Jimmy Patterson

Editor

The Angelus

For Allison Eyler, the sight of nuns in one of the most distant, highest sections of Yankee Stadium was memory enough of a trip that had to rank high in terms of all-time highlights.

For Jane McCrary, the thought of a small group of Midlanders participating in a Mass with the Holy Father was humbling.

Brittany Eyler, daughter of David and Allison, was one of a large contingent of Midland High School students who happened to be in the Big Apple for a concert as part of the Youth Performing Arts Series at Carnegie Hall. It was most difficult for her to decide which was more memorable but in the end, she chose Mass at Yankee Stadium with Pope Benedict XVI.

"Seeing the Pope was the best, but the feeling at Carnegie Hall is indescribable," Eyler said. "I think I could live here. Definitely."

Almost 125 people from Midland visited New York on that April weekend; most as either chaperones or students at the Midland High concert, but about 30 others attended for the purpose of witnessing the papal Mass at Yankee Stadium. And the experience elicited a wide range of emotions.

"When I was 17, I saw Pope Paul VI at the Vatican," McCrary remembered. "I was with a student group then and have always remembered it as a special day. Seeing Pope Benedict, however, was a very different experience for me – much more emotional. I felt that during his trip to the U.S., Pope Benedict connected with everyone, not only Catholics, and brought messages of faith, community, healing and peace. It made me both humble and also proud to be a Catholic."

Allison Eyler's experience was very emotional for her, even when boiled down to the simplicity of seeing nuns trying to start the wave, a memory she says she'll never forget.

"When we spotted one large group of nuns, in what was probably the worst seats in the house, so eagerly awaiting the arrival of the Holy Father, I was just touched beyond words," Eyler said "In our secular world, we are so accustomed to seeing droves of people fighting to get a better look at celebrities. This was the same, only different. This huge crowd was there because of Pope Benedict's holiness and humility, not his fame. The icing on the cake was witnessing the nuns' success when they finally got a wave to go all the way around Yankee Stadium! It was like a huge Catholic Pep Rally and I'll never forget it!

"I knew it would be something that I would never forget, but quite honestly, the memory of it all has taken on a life of its own. Celebrating Mass with the successor of St. Peter really drives the point of Apostolic Succession home! Catholics worldwide are truly knit together in a very unique way, and that thread links us not only spiritually, but physically to Jesus himself."



Masses for the Mass

Crowds inside (left) and outside of Yankee Stadium give an idea of just how many were on hand for the historic celebration April 20.



Pope moved in meeting with abuse victims

BOSTON (CNS) -- Meeting victims of clergy sexual abuse at the papal nunciature in the nation's capital during his six-day U.S. visit was a moving experience for Pope Benedict XVI, said Cardinal Sean P. O'Malley of Boston.

Speaking April 23 with The Pilot, newspaper of the Archdiocese of Boston, Cardinal O'Malley said the meeting between the pope and victims from the Boston Archdiocese was important to both parties.

"The many times he addressed the sexual abuse crisis (during the trip) indicate how deeply he understands the situation of our church and what happens here," the cardinal said. "He obviously feels a great sorrow over what has happened and that he is ashamed but, at the same time, wants to encourage us on the path to healing and reconciliation.

"I think it was important for the victims to feel as though they had access to the Holy Father," O'Malley added.

The meeting was arranged after the cardinal's original request that the pope include a stop in Boston dur-

ing his trip was denied. Cardinal O'Malley then proposed a meeting with victims at another location and the Vatican approved.

The meeting with victims was kept secret until after it occurred to prevent a "media circus" from developing and to respect the privacy of some victims who wished to remain anonymous, the cardinal said.

Cardinal O'Malley said that during the 25-minute meeting with both men and women victims the pontiff made comments to the group as a whole and then spoke with each individually, clasped their hands, blessed them and prayed with them.

"I think for the Holy Father, pastorally, it was very important to experience this. Certainly he has heard through the bishops and through others the devastation of sexual abuse, but it is another thing to encounter personally the survivors and to learn firsthand of their suffering and pain," the cardinal said in the interview.



Pope's words to educators show how integral education is to Church

Catholic News Service

If you mine the text of Pope Benedict XVI's speech to Catholic educators given at The Catholic University of America April 17, you will find concepts that provide a framework for appreciating how "integral" education is to the mission of the church. That mission, the pope said, is "to proclaim the good news."

A Catholic educational institution participates in the proclamation of the good news by being "a place to encounter the living God who, in Jesus Christ, reveals his transforming love and truth." Truth, said Pope Benedict, "means more than knowledge: Knowing the truth leads us to discover the good."

Catholic schools at all levels go beyond the communication of knowledge to the discovery of what is good; hence the importance of educating the will. It is the will that chooses the good.

"While we have sought diligently to engage the intellect of our young, perhaps we have neglected the will," said Pope Benedict.

He sees a "reluctance" on the part of many modern people to entrust themselves to God. Entrusting oneself to God involves an act of the will, and this, he said, is a "complex phenomenon and one which I ponder continually."

When education fosters an encounter with the living God, it is hoped that the encounter will "elicit" in the student "a desire to grow

in the knowledge and understanding of Christ and his teaching."

The word "understanding" is important here. While proclamation elicits a response of faith (I believe), explanation elicits a response of reason (I understand).

School liturgies, devotions and celebrations participate in the proclamation that leads to (or deepens) faith. Classroom lectures and library research participate in the explanation that leads to (or deepens) understanding.

It is important to bear in mind, remarked the pope, that "the truths of faith and of reason never contradict one another."

The Catholic identity of a school "is not dependent upon statistics," said the pope; it does not depend on the number of Catholic

students or faculty. Nor can it "be equated simply with orthodoxy of course content."

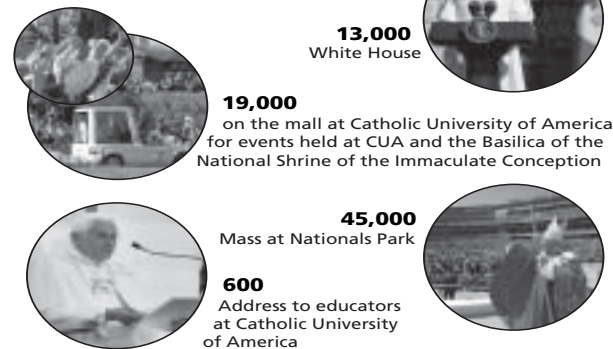
Pope Benedict added that Catholic identity is really "a question of conviction"; it requires "that each and every aspect of your learning communities reverberates within the ecclesial life of faith. Is the faith tangible in our universities and schools?" he asked.

Expressing "profound gratitude" for all that is done at all levels of Catholic education in the United State, Pope Benedict then spoke directly to college and university faculty: "I wish to affirm the great value of academic freedom. In virtue of this freedom you are called to search for the truth wherever careful analysis of evidence leads you."

Papal Crowds

Pope Benedict XVI's six-day trip to the U.S. in April attracted tens of thousands of people from all over the world.

In Washington



In New York City



Source: CNS, CNN, NY Daily News, Catholic University of America

©2008 CNS

Analysis: Pope achieved objectives critical to the future of U.S. church

NEW YORK (CNS) -- On his first trip to the United States, Pope Benedict XVI achieved three objectives that could be considered critical to the pastoral future of the American church.

First, the pope brought a certain closure to the priestly sex abuse scandal that has shaken the church for more than six years, expressing his personal shame at what happened and praying with the victims.

Second, he set forth a moral challenge to the wider U.S. culture on issues ranging from economic justice to abortion, but without coming across as doctrinaire or bullying.

Third, to a church that often seems divided into conservative and liberal camps, he issued a firm appeal to "set aside all anger" and unite in order to effectively evangelize society.

In the process of his April 15-20 visit, the 81-year-old pope established his own identity in a country that did not know him well and in a sense came out of the shadow of the late Pope John Paul II.

"I feel like I know him a lot better. I learned that he is trying all his best to reach out to the youth," 18-year-old Gabriella Fiorentino of Yonkers,

N.Y., said at a youth rally April 19.

Did she understand what the pope, a scholarly theologian, was trying to get across?

"Jesus' message of hope -- that is his message," she said.

The pope addressed clerical sex abuse on five different occasions, beginning with his encounter with reporters aboard his plane from Rome. He spoke from the heart about the shame, the damage to the church and the suffering of the victims.

He also spoke with familiarity about the church's efforts to make sure perpetrators are out of ministry and to implement better screening of would-be priests.

At one point, he mentioned that when he read the case histories of the victims, he found it hard to imagine how a priest could betray his mission to be an agent of God's love.

These were far more detailed and direct comments on the issue than were ever made by Pope John Paul, and there was a reason: As Cardinal Joseph Ratzinger, Pope Benedict headed the doctrinal congregation, which took over the handling of sex abuse cases in 2001.

What Cardinal Ratzinger saw in

those files led him to denounce, in early 2005, the "filth" inside the church -- even among its own priests.

The pope's unscheduled meeting with five sex abuse victims was a moving and tearful encounter. It seemed to mark an emotional turning point for several of those who participated and perhaps indirectly to others among the thousands of victims in the United States.

Overall, the pope left the strong impression among Americans that, on the sex abuse issue, he "gets it."

The pope's broader issue in the United States was what he called the "attack of a new secularism" that threatens to undermine traditional moral values and the voice of religion in public affairs.

He articulated this challenge on several occasions, most notably telling 45,000 people at a Washington Mass that American society is at a moral crossroads.

"We see clear signs of a disturbing breakdown in the very foundations of society: signs of alienation, anger and polarization on the part of many of our contemporaries; increased vio-

(Please See POPE/19)

Family

Pope Benedict and the young adult Catholic population

By **Therese J. Borchard**
Catholic News Service

Pope Benedict XVI's visit to the U.S. presented an opportunity for all in ministry to learn about the different faith types among American Catholic young adults.

According to Colleen Carroll Campbell, author of "The New Faithful," young, orthodox Catholics are more enthusiastic about Pope Benedict than many in the older generation. **Borchard** Says Campbell in a Washington Post interview by Jacqueline Salmon: "[Young Catholics] like [Benedict's] countercultural stance on a lot of things. ... They also like his emphasis on Catholic identity and fidelity to Catholic doctrine."



And yet, according to research by the Center for Applied Research in the Apostolate at Georgetown University, only 14 percent of Catholics aged 20 to 40 attend Mass weekly, and just one in five goes to confession once a year or more.

The same survey indicated that 38 percent of millennial Catholics (born after 1981) agree that they can be a good Catholic without going to Mass every Sunday, whereas 31 percent of pre-Vatican II Catholics (born before 1943) agree with that statement, along with 35 percent of Vatican II Catholics (born between 1943 and 1960) and 33 percent of post-Vatican II Catholics (born between 1961 and 1981).

When asked whether they look to Catholic Church teachings and statements made by the pope and bishops to form their conscience, 28 percent of pre-Vatican II Catholics said yes, as did 23 percent of the millennial Catholics, 15 percent of Vatican II Catholics and 14 percent of post-Vatican

II Catholics (yikes, that's my age group).

Those numbers agree with a recent Washington Post-ABC News survey showing that 63 percent of Catholics compared to 55 percent of all adults believe gay couples should have access to the same legal protection as heterosexual couples, and 62 percent of Catholics compared with 57 percent of all adults say abortion should be legal in all or most cases.

How will Pope Benedict's visit help to unite this fragmented flock?

Journalists and theologians suspect Pope Benedict chose to visit America not for its 6 percent of Catholics in the world church but as a means of going to the front lines of today's Catholic faith.

Perhaps the pope wanted to land on U.S. soil because it is here where most of the war of religion against secularism and pop culture is being fought.

"Christianity is stronger here than anywhere in the West," said Monsignor

Lorenzo Albacete, a theologian and leader of Communion and Liberation (a large group of Catholics very close to Pope Benedict), in a Washington Post piece by Michelle Boorstein, "but we are at the frontier of the encounter between faith and modernity. If Catholics can learn how to live here in a way that is reasonable and compassionate, it will be a great example for the church."

The battle is nowhere more obvious than on the campuses of Catholic colleges. Kenneth Woodward penned an interesting opinion piece in The New York Times about the religious evolution of Catholic colleges and what they need today to preserve their Catholic identity.

"What these students and their teachers need is a vision of what it means to be an educated Catholic, not just a lecture of preserving Catholic institutional identity," he said.

That's one tall order. But I suspect Pope Benedict was the right person for the job.

Bill & Monica Dodds

Healthy pride vs. pompous ego: the difference

Let's start with a short quiz on pride and ego:

1. It could be said the "ego" was discovered by:

a) Freud; b) Adam and Eve; c) every toddler on the planet old enough to say "Mine, mine, mine!"

2. Complete this common phrase:

"_____ goeth before a fall."

a) lack of ambition; b) pride; c) a summer.

3. Pride is one of the seven deadly sins. Which of these are not among the other six?

a) envy, gluttony, lust; b) anger, greed, sloth; c) chocolate, karaoke; tabloid television.

That wasn't too hard, was it? The answers:

1. All of them! 2. b (but c makes a lot of sense too). And 3. c, but they can be tempting, can't they?

You did well, didn't you? Of course, you don't want to strut around because that would be acting proud, wouldn't it?

On the other hand, you don't want to downplay the fact that you have some intelligence.

So there's the dilemma. How much pride is good? And what kind of pride is good pride? And if we're psychologically and emotionally healthy, shouldn't we have a sturdy ego -- without being egotistical?

Then, too, how do you instill a healthy pride -- a holy pride -- in your children?

It would seem a key is honesty. Be honest about who -- and what -- you are. And who -- and what -- you aren't.

Who and what are you? A child of God, created because he loves you, redeemed and sustained by that Supreme Being who still thinks more than the world of you and always will.

Who and what aren't you? An equal with that Creator (Adam and Eve's downfall!), a perfect human being (blameless, sinless), better than most other humans (if not all).

A healthy pride says you're not a doormat. A pompous ego says some other people -- especially those around you -- are.

It can be hard to accept both what you are and what you aren't without the honesty of others who love you and have your best interests at heart. That's because your true friends gently tell you when you're starting to get off track, when you're acting like a doormat or when you're treating others that way. Good friends speak those hard truths softly but firmly.

As a friend, parent, spouse or family member, sometimes you're asked to say those things too -- to gently point out a basic truth to that person you hold dear.

Three on the Dangers of Unhealthy Pride:

"When pride comes, disgrace comes; but with the humble is wisdom" (Prv 11:2).

"You must ask God to give you power to fight against the sin of pride which is your greatest enemy -- the root of all that is evil, and the failure of all that is good. For God resists the proud" (St. Vincent de Paul).

"A proud man is always looking down on things and people; and, of course, as long as you're looking down, you can't see something that's above you" (C.S. Lewis).

On the Web: The Bible Online

The quote in Question 2 of the quiz is based on Proverbs 16:18. You can read more of that book or choose any book from the Bible at the U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops' site. Go to: www.usccb.org/nab/bible.

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

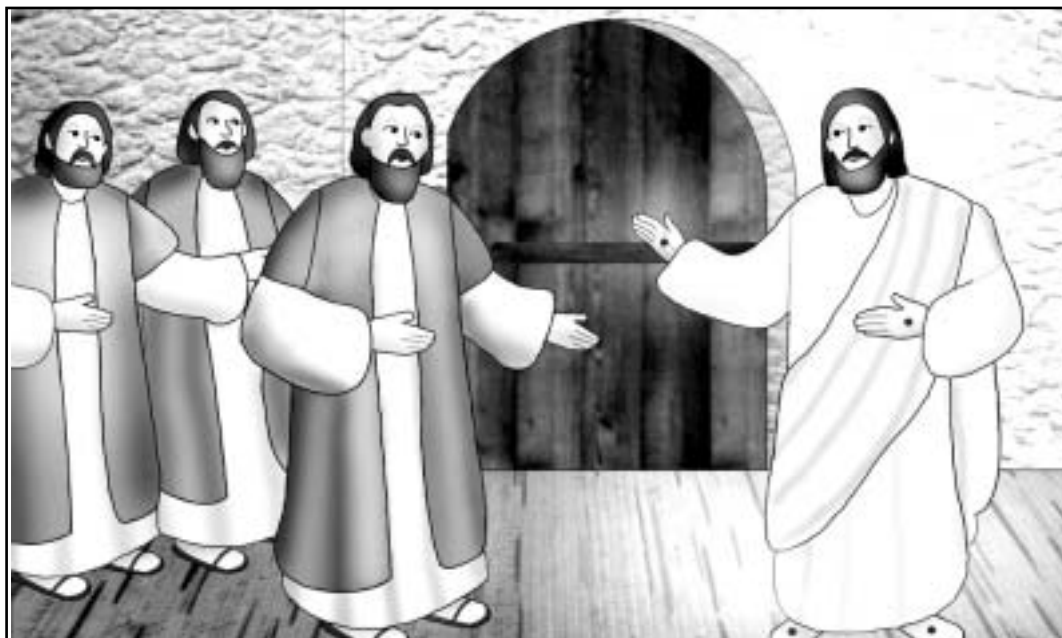


Bill and Monica Dodds



ANSWERS

Answer: John, Acts, Romans, Ephesians, Philemon, James, Peter, Jude.



READ MORE ABOUT IT:

John 20

Q&A

1. What did Jesus say when he saw his disciples?
2. What did Thomas have to do before he believed?

BIBLE ACCENT

We do not know very much about Thomas. We learn the most about him from the Gospel of John, and it appears he was not afraid to confirm what he was being told or to seek more information.

When Jesus said he was going to Judea to see Lazarus, who was very sick, Thomas said, "Let us also go to die with him" (Chapter 11).

Before the Last Supper, Thomas said to Jesus, "Master, we do not know where you are going; how can we know the way?" (Chapter 14).

And of course, when he saw Jesus after his death on the cross, he did not at first believe, but after touching Jesus he declared, "My Lord and my God!" (Chapter 20).

SPOTLIGHT ON SAINTS

St. Germanus

Germanus (d. 732) was the son of a senator in Constantinople. He became a priest and eventually became the bishop of Cyzicus and then the bishop

of Constantinople.

When Leo the Isaurian became emperor in 717, he promised Germanus that he would preserve the practice of Catholicism. However, 10 years later he agreed with some dissenters and prohibited the veneration of religious images.

Germanus protested against this decree for many years. Leo never changed his mind, but neither did Germanus. Leo pleaded with Germanus to give up, but the only compromise that they reached was that Germanus spent the rest of his life in seclusion, as if in a monastery.

Germanus lived until he was in his 90s. We honor him on May 12.

KIDS' CLUB

Share your thoughts on this week's Bible story with family and friends by writing an essay in response to this question:

What lesson can we learn from the story of doubting Thomas?

PUZZLE

Use the letters contained in the following sentence to spell the names of eight books from the New Testament.

Jesus appeared to Mary and his disciples.

JUST 4 KIDS

The risen Jesus visits the Twelve Apostles

Jesus had been crucified and he had died on the cross. There was no doubt about that. The apostles had seen the trial, the execution and the burial themselves. When Mary told Peter and John that the tomb was empty, they went to see if it was true.

It was, and no one knew where the body of Jesus had been taken. Even though it was written in the psalms and the prophets that the Messiah would rise from the dead, the apostles did not realize it was happening.

On the evening of the first day of the week, the apostles were hiding in a room with the door securely locked. They were afraid that they, too, might be arrested and put in prison or killed, just as Jesus was.

Suddenly, Jesus was in the room with them. He looked at them and said, "Peace be with you." Then he held up his hands to show his friends the holes that had been made by the nails that had fastened him to the cross. And he showed them his side, where he had been stabbed by a sword while hanging on the cross. The apostles were happy to see Jesus again, alive.

"Peace be with you," he said again. "As the Father has sent me, so I send you."

Then Jesus breathed on his friends and said, "Receive the Holy Spirit. Whose sins you forgive are forgiven them, and whose sins you retain are retained." Then Jesus disappeared as quickly and silently as he had come into the room.

Thomas, one of the apostles, had not been in the room when Jesus had appeared. When he arrived, the others said to him, "We have seen the Lord."

But Thomas, who knew that Jesus was dead, said, "Unless I see the mark of the nails in his hands and put my finger into the nailmarks and put my hand into his side, I will not believe."

Another week passed, but there was no other sign from Jesus. The apostles were again in the locked room. This time Thomas was with them. Again Jesus appeared in the room. "Peace be with you," he said.

Then he looked at Thomas and said, "Put your finger here and see my hands, and bring your hand and put it into my side, and do not be unbelieving, but believe."

Thomas touched Jesus and declared, "My Lord and my God!"

Letter from Bishop Pfeifer

Holy Father's Day of Prayer for China

May 2008

My dear sisters and brothers in Christ:

In his deep love for China, especially for the Catholics in that huge country, His Holiness, Pope Benedict XVI, has recommended a special Day of Prayer for China. Our Holy Father writes:

“Dear Pastors and all the faithful, the date 24 of May could in the future become an occasion for the Catholics of the whole world to be united in prayer with the Church which is in China. This day is dedicated to the liturgical memorial of Our Lady, Help of Christians, who is venerated with great Christian devotion at the Marian Shrine of Sheshan in Shanghai. I would like that date to be kept by you as a day of prayer for the Church in China.”

Our Holy Father continues:
“On that same day [May 24], the Catholics of the whole world—in particular those who are of Chinese origin—will demonstrate their fraternal solidarity and

solicitude for you [Catholics of China], asking the Lord of history for the gift of perseverance in witness, in the certainty that your sufferings past and present for the Holy Name of Jesus and your intrepid loyalty to his Vicar on earth will be rewarded, even if at times everything can seem a failure.”

Sadly, the Roman Catholic Church in China is still persecuted, and there are many arrests of underground Catholic bishops and other Catholic faithful.

The Cardinal Kung Foundation together with its benefactors all over the world has been sponsoring an annual Day of Prayer for China for many years to pray for the end of persecution of the Roman Catholic Church in China. This annual Mass, which has been celebrated yearly on each Sunday closest to October 4, now in accord with the intention of our Holy Father, is being designated to be celebrated on May 24. Hence, on Saturday, May 24, I encourage all to join with the Church throughout the world to pray for the well-being, evange-

lization, and growth of the Church in China and to ask God to reward our Chinese brothers and sisters for their suffering in the past and present for the Holy Name of Jesus. The late Cardinal Kung, after whom the Kung Foundation has been named, was a prisoner for more than 30 years in China until his exile to the United States.

In accord with the request of our Holy Father, Pope Benedict XVI, I ask that prayers throughout our Diocese be offered on Saturday, May 24, 2008 for the suffering and persecuted Church in China. In a special way, let us invoke the intercession of Our Lady of SheShan to intercede with Christ to bring about peace and freedom for all the members of the Catholic Church in China. May God bless you.

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

BIOETHICS: Faulty notions of beauty behind breast implants

(From 6)

lar self-centeredness and vanity can arise in the woman who focuses too much on her figure or her profile.

After doing an augmentation, there can be a “honeymoon period” where a woman may be pleased with the outcome, following which she can easily reset to a new baseline of unease and discontent. She may need to get yet another surgery, another shot, or another treatment only to find that none of it “fills the void”. It is always possible to fixate on something else that needs changing before we will allow ourselves to feel good about who we are and to accept what we have been given. There is often some-

thing embarrassing, perhaps even scandalous, in the realization that women really want to do these elective procedures. The psychological flaw here, one might argue, is even uglier than any perceived chest size “flaw.” A negative self-image can be very tough to overcome, and implants too easily tempt with a kind of false answer.

Ultimately, faulty notions of beauty are likely to be at play as well in these debates about breast implants. I think it was Albert Einstein who remarked that beyond what we perceive with our eyes, “there is something that our mind cannot grasp and whose beauty and sublimity reaches us only indirectly.” The temptation to reduce feminine beauty to a kind of plastic and exterior

measure is surely a failure to realize how a woman’s physical beauty is meant to be but a gentle hint, a pointer towards an abiding beauty within. Her outside image will have some relationship to the woman she is and wants to be, but that exterior image is necessarily partial and incomplete, and should spur every woman to pursue and develop that deeper feminine beauty and virtue that is properly found within.

Rev. Tadeusz Pacholczyk, Ph.D. earned his doctorate in neuroscience from Yale and did post-doctoral work at Harvard. He is a priest of the diocese of Fall River, MA, and serves as the Director of Education at The National Catholic Bioethics Center in Philadelphia. See www.ncbcenter.org.

Our Holy Father's Monthly Intentions 2008



May

HUMAN DIGNITY: That Christians may use literature, art and mass media to create a culture that defends and promotes the values of the human person.

MARY'S GUIDANCE: That the Virgin Mary, Star of Evangelization and Queen of the Apostles, may still guide missionaries with maternal affection, just as she accompanied the Apostles in the early stages of the Church.

June

FRIENDSHIP WITH CHRIST: That all Christians may cultivate a deep and personal friendship with Christ so to communicate the strength of his love to every person they meet.

INTERNATIONAL EUCHARISTIC CONGRESS: That the International Eucharistic Congress in Quebec may lead to greater understanding that the Eucharist is the heart of the Church and the source of evangelization.

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

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

**Loved One In Jail / Prison?
"Let us help you"**

**Criminal Justice Ministry
Diocesan Office
325-651-7500**

www.san-angelo-diocese.org/cjm.html



Mystical Rose Catholic Books and Gifts

1317 N. 8th Street, Suite 100
Abilene, Texas
(325) 829-8512

Our sole purpose is to bring Jesus and Our Blessed Mother to Catholics in West Texas by offering Catholic gifts, books, statues, rosaries and other sacramentals. All of our profits are donated to Catholic causes.

Hours - M/W/F - 2:00-5:00
Sat. - 12:00-5:00

mysticalrosefloral@hotmail.com



DROLL: Trip leaves vicar general energized, encouraged about his faith

(From 8)

the visit. The tenderness the Pope showed with the children suffering various disabilities and the enthusiasm of the crowd he met right after were demonstrations of hope in themselves.

A wonderful coincidence was the performance of the Midland High School Orchestra at Carnegie Hall on Saturday evening. The musicians and conductor, Shari Allison, gave a stellar performance. They represented the young people of Midland on that great stage in a way that makes us all very proud. A good number of the performers are alumni of St. Ann's Catholic School.

Some of these Catholic youth, their parents and I were blessed to join 60,000 other worshippers at a Mass in Yankee Stadium on Sunday afternoon. As we waited for the Pope's arrival, we were treated to a "Concert of Hope" featuring Jose Feliciano, Harry Connick, Jr., and Dana, among others. Benedict XVI finally arrived in the popemobile, to the cheers and admiration of the crowd.

What impressed me greatly was the unity in prayer in that whole stadium as we listened to God's Word and celebrated the Eucharist.

In the gospel, Jesus proclaimed "I am the Way, the Truth and the Life;" the Pope said, "Let us take Him at His Word!" The Pope urged us to follow Truth, not just individual feelings about faith and morals (which he calls "relativism"). This, he insisted, brings us real freedom and joy. He concluded,

Top Catholic Books of 2007

The Catholic Book Publishers Association announced the Top 25 bestselling Catholic titles for 2007 in four categories: Hardcover, Paperback, Children & Young People, and Spanish Language.

The four top books for 2007 are:

Mother Teresa: Come Be My Light
by Mother Teresa with Brian Kolodiejchuk
Doubleday (Hardcover)

Catechism of the Catholic Church
USCCB Publishing, Doubleday and Our Sunday Visitor (Paperback)

Tear Soup: A Recipe for Healing After Loss
by Pat Schwiebert & Chuck DeKlyen
ACTA/Grief Watch (Children & Young People)

Catecismo de la Iglesia Católica
USCCB Publishing, Doubleday & Our Sunday Visitor (Spanish Language)

appealing to young people to follow Christ and even to take up a Church vocation.

I was impressed with the substantial use of Spanish in the liturgies. Some scripture readings and songs were in Spanish, as well as some of the Pope's remarks. This recognizes the rapidly growing presence of Hispanics in the Catholic Church in the USA and the valuable role Hispanics play in our faith communities.

Someone asked about the coverage given to the event by the secular press. It seems to me that many in the secular press reported on problems in the Church and how the Pope called everyone to follow the Church's traditional authority, as a solution to those problems. But the secular press often missed the gospel message and the joy that following Jesus Christ in the Catholic Church brings to our lives. We witnessed

that joy in the enthusiasm of the people in the crowds who came to see the Pope, as well as in his smiling response to the welcome he received in the USA.

What can I say? I certainly feel energized and encouraged to continue in my Catholic faith and priestly vocation. Inspired by Pope Benedict XVI, I will work to make our parish and diocese "a herald of hope in the midst of the city."

An invitation
to attend, or help others to attend,

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

Dear Friend in Christ,

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Yours in the Eucharistic Jesus,

Marc Cardinal Ouellet

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



INTERNATIONAL EUCHARISTIC CONGRESS 2008 Response/Reservation Form

- I have enclosed a donation to help promote the International Eucharistic Congress in the amount of:
 \$10,000 \$1,000 \$100 \$ _____
- Please charge my credit card (information below)
- I will also photo-copy the Message from Cardinal Ouellet, and it will be distributed to Catholics in my parish. I will make a total of _____ copies.

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

Print: _____
 Name _____
 Address _____
 City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Phone _____ E-mail _____
 Please charge my VISA MasterCard
 # _____ Exp. _____
 Signature _____ Security Code _____

If you wish a tax-deduction, please send your check and make it payable to our U.S. address:
 Archdiocese of Philadelphia, c/o Bishop Joseph Cistone • 222 North Seventeenth Street, Philadelphia, PA 19103-1299
 Your donation will be forwarded to the International Eucharistic Congress.

ABUSE: Findings draw comparisons to other abuse scandals

(From 4)

These findings draw obvious comparisons to sex abuse scandals in other institutions, among them the Roman Catholic Church. An intense study by America's Catholic bishops, conducted by the John Jay Institute, found that about 4,400 of the 110,000 priests were accused of molesting minors from 1950 – 2002. Clergy abuse within the Catholic Church and in other religious denominations is part of the national consciousness after a string of highly publicized cases. But until now, there has been little knowledge and sense of the extent of rampant abuse in the field of education. Beyond the horror of individual crimes, the larger shame is that the institutions that govern education have only sporadically addressed a problem that has been apparent for years. Sadly, legal, moral, and social means have not been fully taken to address this critical and increasing festering cancer of abuse of children by those in the field of education.

A report ordered by Congress and released in 2004 examined previous studies and surveys of the teacher sexual misconduct and sent a troubling message. This report estimated that 4.5 million students out of 50 million in American public schools "are subject to sexual misconduct by an employee of a school sometime between kindergarten and 12th grade." Sadly, that alarming and challenging report, compiled by expert Carol Shakeshaft, head of the educational leadership department at Virginia Commonwealth University, was largely ignored. The written testimony that Shakeshaft submitted to the Colorado Legislature stated: "The physical sexual abuse of students in public schools is likely more than 100 times the abuse by priests." When I brought the Shakeshaft report to the attention of the president of a local School Board, he avoided taking any action on it with the Board members. The AP study said that on any given day, 3 educators are actually hitting on children, thus showing a much larger problem in a system that is stacked against victims.

CHARTER OF U.S. CATHOLIC BISHOPS

In the landmark Charter document issued by the U.S. Catholic Bishops in 2002, there was a radical and new call to address the clergy abuse situation by the Church that had created many victims. There was also a new moral and spiritual call for the Church to provide healing for victims and to address the causes of this abuse and to deal more forthrightly and openly with offenders. The Charter also called the Catholic Church to invite and encourage other institutions of society to join in the effort to address the

often hidden but rampant issue of sexual abuse, especially of young people, in society. After 5 years of constant prayer for God's forgiveness and guidance, countless meetings of priests and bishops, and many meetings with victims, of intensive pastoral and professional study and many pastoral-social audits, constant teaching provided for young people and parents, development of new, updated policies calling for the highest standards for those serving in the Church on a full-time or voluntary basis, the establishing of diocesan and National Review Boards composed of qualified lay people, mandating crucial background checks, the Catholic Church is now inviting other institutions, especially in the field of education, to join in addressing this critical issue of sexual abuse in our schools and all of society. The Catholic Church clearly recognizes that much work still remains, especially in reaching out and providing healing for victims and families. While the Church was sadly an example of how not to handle sexual allegations, the Church in recent years is now a leader in how to prevent sexual abuse of minors and others.

During his recent visit to the USA, Pope Benedict XVI spoke several times about the evil of sexual abuse, especially of children by the clergy, and he personally met with several victims. Pope Benedict strongly encouraged the leaders of the USA Catholic Church to address this issue, and taking measures for it to never happen again.

ALL NEED TO JOIN TOGETHER TO ADDRESS THE TRUTH ABOUT SEXUAL ABUSE IN SCHOOLS AND THE WIDER SOCIETY

While we know from various sources that abuse of children is a public health crisis in the United States, there is very little information on studies or reliable statistics covering scores of years about how many people in specific professions are abusers. Approximately 20% of our children experience some form of sexual child abuse before the age of 18. We are speaking here about millions. What would our society do if 20% of our children were stricken with a terrible disease that carried lifelong potentially traumatic and devastating results? Sexual abuse of children is pervasive throughout society. Sexual abuse is a societal problem, one the Church can now help ameliorate.

Children, in general, spend more quality time with their educators than with their parents. Hence, for the well-being and safety of our children, it is imperative that those in education along with other agencies and institutions, and churches address together the critical issue of abuse of students in our

schools and in all of society. The Catholic Church invites those in education to do surveys going back 20-50 years to determine the extent and nature of abuse in public schools, and to work together where necessary to formulate and prepare programs, policies and methods of evaluation that will assure all children will have safe, sound and sacred environments to grow to their full potential.

When investigators at the John Jay College of Criminal Justice in New York, which did the 50-year study for the Catholic Church, sought data on child sex abuse in U.S. society in general for comparisons to Church figures, they found little such data. No other organization has opened its files like the Catholic Church has in order to provide comprehensive figures on its employees accused of child sex abuse. The John Jay Study was unique in that it was not based on a sampling of clergy but on almost the entire Catholic clergy population, giving an accurate and comprehensive view of the situation. The 2007 Annual Report on the Implementation of the Charter for the Protection of Children and Young People shows that virtually all U.S. dioceses are compliant with all articles of the Charter. The number of sex abuse claims against Roman Catholic clergy dropped for the third consecutive year. However, we must not work simply for compliance but conversion of hearts, attitudes, behavior and promote systems that will discourage sexual abuse and especially offer compassionate healing to all abused.

In calling now for these surveys, studies, and investigations in the field of education, the media, entertainment, health and medicine, law, law enforcement, government, social service and business, the Catholic Bishops are fulfilling Article 16 of the Charter which they approved in Dallas in 2002 which states, "Given the extent of the problem of sexual abuse of minors in our society, we are willing to cooperate with other churches and ecclesial communities, other religious bodies, institutions of learning, and other interested organizations in conducting research in this area."

After reviewing the AP story on abuse in public schools, now is especially the time to courageously and truthfully open the closed doors of the sexual abuse that is happening to our young people in our public schools. Much of the media that ignored the AP story must address the sexual abuse of children in public schools—for the safety of our children, and the well-being of society. When I asked for a reply in a written request about this matter with a local newspaper, none was given.

David Finkelhor, director of the Crimes

Against Children Research Center at the University of New Hampshire said, "Schools haven't done enough to educate professional staff about how these situations develop, how to avoid them, and how to identify them when their professional peers are involved."

"This isn't something that can be dealt with at the federal level," Finkelhor added. "Public schools are a state and local responsibility, and that's where the action has to occur. The other problem is that schools are so caught up in their No Child Left Behind responsibilities that it has pushed a lot of other stuff off the plate."

For the safety and well-being of all of our students, it is imperative that all school board members working with parents, principals, superintendents, teachers, and teacher unions and associations of our country study carefully the results of the AP investigation, and review if all policies, procedures, methods of reporting and evaluation and other requirements are in place to assure the safety and protection of all children. This is a graced opportunity to study this critical issue of sex abuse in our schools, and will prevent many painful social, moral, civil, and financial situations in the future. Perhaps an individual school district might say "We don't have that problem," and hopefully it is true, but there is a "wake up call" for all districts to take note and establish preventative measures to make sure this abuse does not happen. There is a clarion call here for all, especially all elements of the media, not just newspapers, but TVs and radios, to bring this investigation to the attention of the public—nationally, at a state level, and locally.

MORE MEDIA NEED TO FOLLOW THE AP LEAD

While the AP story of sexual abuse in schools did spark considerable discussion of this critical issue in the national media, there are conflicting reports that many newspapers and TV outlets at a local level said little about this important story when compared to the avalanche of press received about the cases of abuse in Catholic Church since 2002. To help all Americans to come to grips with the plague of sexual abuse in our schools and in the wider society, much more needs to be featured about this issue, and hopefully this will encourage all elements of society to become involved in addressing an evil that is prevalent in our homes and in our schools. The AP's investigation found more than 2,500 cases over 5 years in which educators were punished for actions from bizarre to sadistic.

The Boston Globe began publishing on

(Please See **SEX ABUSE/19**)

POPE: Benedict looked at shortcomings during visit, too

(From 13)

lence; a weakening of the moral sense; a coarsening of social relations; and a growing forgetfulness of God," he said.

To counter these trends, he said, people need the church's message of hope and fidelity to the demands of the Gospel.

What was striking about the pope's approach was that it was framed in a very positive context. Over and over, he praised the United States for blending a secular form of government with a moral order based on "the dominion of God the Creator."

He quoted George Washington, who called religion and morality the "indispensable supports" of political prosperity, and cited Franklin Roosevelt's statement that "no greater thing could come to our land today than a revival of the spirit of faith."

When it came to the church and its sometimes divided membership, the pope had an equally encouraging approach. Time and again, he praised the vitality of parish life and movements and noted U.S. Catholics' continuing contribution to the life of the country.

He said he was convinced that God was preparing a "new springtime" for the church in the United States.

The pope looked honestly at shortcomings, too, lamenting that some Catholics are not in line with church teaching, even on the issue of abortion. But his solution, expressed to bishops, was a long-term program of religious education, not a set of short-term marching orders or penalties.

Before the papal visit, most Americans said they didn't know a lot about Pope Benedict. When he left the country, they were more likely to view him as he described himself upon his arrival: as "a friend, a preacher of the Gospel and one with great respect for this vast pluralistic society."

BISHOP: Star of the Sea shine upon us and show us the way

(From 2)

Jesus: "Woman, behold, your Son!" (*Jn 19:26*). From the Cross you received a new mission. From the Cross you became a mother in a new way: the mother of all those who believe in your Son Jesus and wish to follow him. The sword of sorrow pierced your heart. Did hope die? Did the world remain definitively without light,

and life without purpose? At that moment, deep down, you probably listened again to the word spoken by the angel in answer to your fear at the time of the Annunciation: "Do not be afraid, Mary!" (*Lk 1:30*). How many times had the Lord, your Son, said the same thing to his disciples: do not be afraid! In your heart, you heard this word again during the night of Golgotha. Before the hour of his betrayal he had said to his

disciples: "Be of good cheer, I have overcome the world" (*Jn 16:33*). "Let not your hearts be troubled, neither let them be afraid" (*Jn 14:27*). "Do not be afraid, Mary!" In that hour at Nazareth the angel had also said to you: "Of his kingdom there will be no end" (*Lk 1:33*). Could it have ended before it began? No, at the foot of the Cross, on the strength of Jesus' own word, you became the mother of believ-

ers."

Pope Benedict ends his letter by telling Mary, "thus you remain in the midst of the disciples as their Mother, as the Mother of hope. Holy Mary, Mother of God, our Mother, teach us to believe, to hope, to love with you. Show us the way to his Kingdom! Star of the Sea, shine upon us and guide us on our way!"

MARIA

(Para 3)

Recibiste entonces la palabra: "Mujer, ahí tienes a tu hijo" (*Jn 19:26*). Desde la cruz recibiste una nueva misión. A partir de la cruz te convertiste en madre de una manera nueva: madre de todos los que quieren creer

en tu Hijo Jesús y seguirlo. La espada del dolor traspasó tu corazón. ¿Había muerto la esperanza? ¿Se había quedado el mundo definitivamente sin luz, la vida sin meta? Probablemente habrás escuchado de nuevo en tu interior en aquella hora la palabra del ángel, con la cual respondió a tu temor en el

momento de la anunciación: "No temas, María" (*Lc 1:30*). ¿Cuántas veces el Señor, tu Hijo, dijo lo mismo a sus discípulos: no temáis! En la noche del Gólgota, oíste una vez más estas palabras en tu corazón. A sus discípulos, antes de la hora de la traición, Él les dijo: "Tened valor: Yo he vencido al mundo"

(*Jn 16:33*). "No tiemble vuestro corazón ni se acobarde" (*Jn 14:27*). "No temas, María". En la hora de Nazaret el ángel también te dijo: "Su reino no tendrá fin" (*Lc 1:33*). ¿Acaso había terminado antes de empezar? No, junto a la cruz, según las palabras de Jesús mismo, te convertiste en madre de los creyentes."

SEX ABUSE: Strict enforcement of laws, intense training needed

(From 18)

January 6, 2002 a series of reports regarding sexual abuse of children by priests in the Archdiocese of Boston. By year end, American papers provided their readers over 21,000 stories of sexual abuse by Catholic priests. However, when the Boston Globe editors were contacted about the failure to publish stories on the pervasive abuse in the field of education, the Globe claimed only vague knowledge of the AP series and could not answer as to whether part of it ran in their paper.

When clergy abuse was the issue the media and people denounced the church. Where are these same people now as we deal with a larger more massive problem in the field of education that is described as being an epidemic? As we review the AP investigation of the rampant sexual abuse in the field of education, more than ever we need a coordinated national approach to

address this critical issue, which has not received sufficient coverage in the media, nor sufficient attention by school officials.

ALL NEED TO BE INVOLVED IN MAKING OUR SCHOOLS SAFER

It often takes scandals to inspire changes. To victims' advocates, the problem is not just teachers who look the other way when one of their own misbehaves. It isn't only school boards, superintendents, and school principals who choose a quiet solution to the problem. Lawmakers, judges, the media and even parents have all shown a great reluctance to recognize and deal with sex abuse in school and in the wider society. Societally we have a huge problem as regards sexual abuse, especially of children in school and in our homes where most abuse happens by married men. School leaders need to take the lead and all the media need to have the courage and leadership to feature more about this national tragic story for the sake

and safety of our children. The sad inability to think that kids might be in danger, the inability to think that the nicest teachers on the block might be offenders—those things keep us uneducated and in the dark.

School leaders, media, and all leaders in society: don't lose this opportunity to address this critically important issue that is having a huge negative impact on the youth of our country, right in our schools in our local communities.

The solution to sexual abuse in public schools will be twofold: strict enforcement of mandatory reporting laws, including stiff penalties for those who violate them, and intense training of teachers and administrators in knowing how to recognize and respond to suspicions of sexual abuse.

It must be stated that most teachers and school personnel are dedicated to the well-being and safety of children, and all need to show more support to those entrusted with the education and formation of young peo-

ple. Parents in particular need to be much more involved in school education and work closely with teachers. However, more must be done to overcome the epidemic of sexual abuse in education. Those in charge in the field of education need to take the lead, and the entire community needs to be involved. Remember, we do this to provide the safest and most peaceful place for our children so that they can reach their full potential.

The Bishops and other leaders of the Catholic Church after first humbly admitting mistakes and failures and after taking giant steps to address the critical issue of sexual abuse, now stand ready to work with all those in the field of education to overcome the epidemic of abuse in schools. With God's help and in collaboration with all in the field of education, and all people of the community, we are ready to work together to protect our children and young people and prevent sexual abuse and to bring healing and reconciliation to all victims.

The West Texas Angelus
Official Newspaper of the
Diocese of San Angelo, Texas
POSTMASTER: Send all address
changes to:
WEST TEXAS ANGELUS
P.O. Box 1829
SAN ANGELO, TX 76902-1829

Bishop Michael D. Pfeifer, OMI
Publisher

Jimmy Patterson
Director of Communications
Editor

Member
Catholic News Service
Catholic Press Association
Texas Catholic News

Published the first Monday following
the 1st Saturday of each month and
delivered to all registered parish-
ioners in the San Angelo Diocese.

Subscription rate for all others:
\$10 per year

THIRD CLASS POSTAGE PAID AT
SAN ANGELO, TEXAS

Printed by the
San Angelo Standard Times
A Scripps-Howard Company

Submissions:

Story suggestions, calendar items,
parish briefs and all other
submissions should be emailed to
JimmyLPatterson@grandecom.net.

COPY, PHOTO DEADLINE:
Third Friday of every month.

Photos should be in jpeg format.

Letters to the editor are welcome,
and should be emailed to
JimmyLPatterson@grandecom.net.
Letters to the editor are printed at
the discretion of the editor and iden-
tities of the writer are subject to
verification. Please include name,
address and phone number when
submitting letters.



DIOCE-SCENES

Brady



Three youth members of the St. Patrick's Catholic Church of Brady received their Sacrament of Confirmation from Bishop Michael D. Pfeifer of The Diocese of San Angelo April 22. Youth confirmed were Ruben Resendez, Adrianna Villarreal and Josh Behrens. Pictured are (back row) Deacon Charlie Evans, Bishop Michael D. Pfeifer and Father George Thirumangalam and (front row) Ruben Resendez, Adrianna Villarreal and Josh Behrens.

Odessa



KofC Caminata 2008 'Walking not by sight but by faith'

The annual KofC pilgrimage walk started with a mass, followed by a prayer and then a 5.6 mile walk from St. Joseph's to St. Mary's and then back to St. Anthony's in Odessa. The pilgrimage was divided into quarter mile intervals at which the group stopped and read scriptures on the stations of the cross.

Pictured are KofC members - Fr. Mark Miller, GK Jose Martinez, Timo Vega (carrying the cross), Jose Diaz, and Apolinar Chavez.

Twenty participants started and finished the walk. Donations for the event were split between St. Martin and Catholic Charities.

San Angelo



On March 29, the San Antonio core team helped establish our ACTS Core team in San Angelo. The purpose of the Acts Mission is to set up retreats for Men and Women seeking a deeper, more meaningful relationship with Jesus, and to serve each other in our different parish activities. We are seeking individuals who need a "break" and want to revive their spiritual faith in Jesus. If anyone has attended an Acts Mission retreat outside of San Angelo, and would like to be added to our mailing list, please contact Mary Helen Sandoval via email at mena5569b@verizon.net

Odessa



The Catholic Churches Of South Odessa -- St. Anthony, St. Joseph and St. Martin parishes - held a joint Easter celebration this year. Here are some of the younger parishioners posing after an Easter egg hunt.

NEW YORK: Greatest city in the world made greater by Papal visit

(From 9)

mentioned the shameful criminal behavior of the priests guilty of their crimes on most every stop he made, the most widespread and direct acknowledgment of the crisis since it was uncovered in 2002.

The pope's remarks, compassion and caring may ultimately go down as a monumental step forward by a man who until his visit was largely viewed as distant and stern to people who have unfairly compared him to his dynamic, much-loved predecessor, John Paul II.

But Benedict showed last month that he can be both brilliant -- he is said to write entire book manuscripts in one draft, speak seven languages and play Mozart on the piano at night before retiring -- and much more compassionate than millions of Americans ever gave him credit for being.

It was a historic occasion for Catholics, an emotional time of hope for victims of clergy sexual abuse, and a time to show non-Catholics above all, that Pope Benedict XVI wants only one thing for everyone: That peace be with us all.

ARE YOU QUALIFIED?

Are you...

- ▶ Unhappy with your current job (underpaid, overworked, blocked from promotion)?
- ▶ Currently looking for a new career (sending out resumes, asking about opportunities, unemployed)?
- ▶ Facing an uncertain future (downsizing, involved in a family business, in an appointed position)?
- ▶ Being paid less than your worth (maxed out in pay, subject to pay limits, can't go any higher)?
- ▶ A member of the Knights of Columbus (or eligible to join)?
- ▶ Personable and outgoing?
- ▶ Anxious to earn an income equal to your worth?
- ▶ Seeking independence and control of your own destiny?

Do You...

- Have a Catholic Heart? Need a Professional Income?
- Desire your own business? Want excellent company benefits?
- Want a chance of a lifetime career?

Opportunity open in San Angelo Diocese
BE A MEMBER OF THE
TEXAS HIGH PERFORMANCE AGENCY TEAM!
BROTHER KNIGHTS SERVICING BROTHER KNIGHTS

For career information contact General Agent:

Jim Seideman, FIC, CLU, CSA
(877) 797-5632 – Toll Free, or email James.seideman@kofc.org