

INSIDE

Vocation Circle, p. 3

Policy Making by Veto, p. 4

Fr. Moeller Celebrates 50 Years of Priesthood, p. 5

Honduran Visit, p. 6-7

Reflections on Quinceañera, p. 8

The Real Presence of Jesus Christ, p. 9

Dave Atwood Receives Dominican Recognition, p. 12



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Bishops' Official Sees Dramatic Turn In Church Role Of Women

By Marty Perry
Catholic News Service

DALLAS (CNS) — The tone of discussions about the role of women in the U.S. church has “evolved dramatically” in recent years, an official of the U.S. bishops’ Committee on Women in Society and in the Church told Catholic journalists May 25.

Sheila Garcia, assistant director of the bishops’ Secretariat for Family, Laity, Women and Youth, was the luncheon speaker on the final day of the May 23-25 Catholic Press Association convention in Dallas.

Garcia told an audience of 400 people that a more positive atmosphere has evolved in the past

decade for discussion of women’s issues.

“We now have an opportunity, a window, to address some of the issues that impede the full development of women’s roles in the church,” she said.

Garcia offered hard data confirming the movement of women into church leadership positions, including a 1999 study by the National Association of Church Personnel Administrators, known as NACPA.

The study found that women hold nearly half of diocesan administrative and professional positions, including about one-quarter of the top positions, such as school superintendent, chief of

pastoral services and chief financial officer.

The women’s committee welcomed the NACPA study, Garcia said, but it had a deeper concern. “Granted that women hold diocesan positions in record numbers, the committee wondered whether and how women influence diocesan decision-making processes,” she said. “How are women’s voices heard, their gifts utilized?”

To help answer those questions, the committee convened a gathering of women in high diocesan positions. Over two days in



U.S. bishops pray before the start of their annual spring meeting in Atlanta June 15. At front is retired Bishop David B. Thompson, former head of the Diocese of Charleston, S.C. (CNS photo by Michael Alexander, Georgia Bulletin)

Chicago earlier this year, the 130 women leaders reflected on their experiences and offered recommendations on areas of concern, such as justice in the workplace,

the implications of working with fewer priests and recruitment of younger women and women of

see “BISHOPS” page ten

The West Texas Organizing Strategy

by Rebecca McIlwain

Over 200 leaders of the West Texas Organizing Strategy (WTOS) convened in a delegates assembly held at Our Lady of San Juan Catholic Church on Thursday, May 31. The purpose of the assembly was to initiate the next step in the organizing project. For the last year and a half, the leadership of the WTOS has been re-

cruiting member churches, raising money, and training leaders. The project is now in relationship with 8 congregations in the City of Midland. The next goal will be to train 80 to 120 leaders from 10 to 15 institutions to form core groups and initiate a house meeting campaign in the next year and a half in order to understand the pressures on families and to de-

velop an action plan to begin to deal with some of those pressures.

The WTOS is an institutionally based community organizing effort whose purpose is to enable citizens to act on behalf of their families, neighborhoods and schools. The membership of the organization includes Our Lady of San Juan, Our Lady of Guadalupe, True Lite Ministries,

Trinity Presbyterian, Calvary Baptist, Mt. Carmel Baptist and Wayside Church of God in Christ.

Fr. Tom Kelly, pastor of Our Lady of San Juan Catholic parish, delivered the focus statement to a standing-room-only crowd of diverse citizens. In it, he emphasized who WTOS is: an ecumenical, citizens’ organization dedicated to making Midland a better

place to raise families.

Isabel Gonzalez, WTOS leader and a member of Our Lady of San Juan in reacting to the assembly stated: “If people want to know what we intend to do in this community, then let’s be very clear: we are going to create a collective leadership that includes Anglo, Hispanic and African American people — and

see “WTOS”, page ten



Mary and the Lost Child

By Bishop Michael D. Pfeifer, OMI

In our contemporary world there are many lost children – children who have literally been stolen from their homes, or their home surroundings. Every lost child whose face we see on a poster in a store, on the back of a carton of milk, has a mother who grieves for his or her disappearance.

Almost everyday the media carries stories about children snatched from a quiet street, children who are raped and abused, and children who are often tragically murdered. It is every parent's worst nightmare.

Mary, the Mother of the boy Jesus, understands the feelings of parents – especially mothers – who have lost a child. Mary must have lived through long hours of anxiety when Jesus was lost at the age of 12 on the trip to Jerusalem. In Luke's Gospel we are told that she and Joseph searched frantically for Jesus before they found Him in the temple. And, it wouldn't be the last time she felt the piercing sword predicted by Simeon. Finally, she would stand at the foot of the cross of Jesus, and watch her grown Son breathe His last tortured breath.

Being the mother of the God-Man does not mean that Mary did not have our human emotions, nor is it implied that she had all the answers at one time to all of life's problems. She had to live each day like us, in the spirit of faith, discovering and living out the will of God for her and for her Son.

Like all mothers, Mary suffered when she saw her Son suffer. Mary understands the suffering of so many Mothers who suffer today because of losing a child. Indeed, Mary holds in her heart all those mothers who are grieving for their children - lost, estranged, racked by illness, trapped in war zones of violence, and drugs.

Mary invites all mothers who suffer the loss of a child in any way, to turn to her for comfort, for direction and understanding. She also invites all mothers, and all of us as her children, to live constantly in a spirit of hope and trust realizing that if we are faithful to her Son, we will not be lost on the road of life and will find our way to our eternal home.



María y el Niño Perdido

Por Obispo Miguel D. Pfeifer, OMI

En nuestro mundo contemporáneo hay muchos niños perdidos - niños que han sido literalmente robados de sus casas, o cerca de sus casas. Cada cara de un niño perdido que mirarnos en un cartel en una tienda, o detrás de un frasco de leche, tiene una madre quien llora por la desaparición de su niño o niña.

Casi cada día los medios de comunicación tienen historias de niños robados de una calle silenciosa, niños que son violados o abusados, y niños que son seguidamente asesinados. Es la pesadilla mas peor de un padre de familia.

María, la Madre del niño Jesús, entiende los sentimientos de padres especialmente los de las madres - que han perdido un niño. María debe haber vivido unas horas largas de ansiedad cuando Jesús se perdió a la edad de 12 años en su viaje a Jerusalem. En el Evangelio de Lucas se

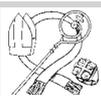
nos dice que ella y José frenéticamente buscaron a Jesús antes de que lo encontraron en el templo. Y, no sería la ultima vez que ella sintiera la penetrante espada predicho por Simeón. Finalmente, ella estaría al pie de la cruz de Jesús, y mirar a su Hijo adulto torturado respirar su ultimo aliento.

Siendo la madre del Hombre - Dios no quiere decir que María no tenía nuestras emociones humanas, ni quiere decir que ella tenía todas las respuestas a una vez a todas los problemas de la vida. Ella tenía que vivir cada día como nosotros, en el espíritu de fe, descubriendo y viviendo la voluntad de Dios para ella y para su Hijo.

Como todas madres, María sufrió cuando miro a su Hijo sufrir. María entiende el sufrimiento de tantas Madres que sufren ahora por sus hijos perdidos. Ciertamente, María tiene en su corazón a todas las madres que están llorando por sus niños - perdidos, separados, enfermos, atrapados en cadenas de violencia, y drogas.

María invita a todas las madres que sufren la perdida de un niño en cualquiera manera, que se acerquen a ella para consuelo, dirección y entendimiento. Ella también invita a todas madres, y todos nosotros como sus niños, a vivir constantemente en el espíritu de esperanza y confianza realizando que si somos fieles a su Hijo, no estaremos perdidos en el camino de vida y hallaremos nuestro camino a nuestro hogar eterno.

The Bishop's Schedule



July 2001

July 1: Miles, St. Thomas Mass at 8:00 a.m.

July 2: Miles, St. Thomas - 7:00 p.m. Meet with Pastor and Pastoral Council and Finance Councils of Miles, Olfen and Rowena

July 4: San Angelo, Cathedral Church of the Sacred Heart - Mass at 9:00 a.m.

July 5-7: Rest and Prayer

July 9-27: Vacation

July 29: Sterling City, St. Paschal - Mass at 11:30 a.m.

July 30: Knickerbocker, Immaculate Conception - 7:00 p.m. Meet With Pastor and Pastoral and Finance Councils of Eldorado, Knickerbocker and Mertzon

July 31: Houston - Ordination and Installation of New Auxiliary Bishop

August 2001

Aug. 1: Houston - Ordination and Installation of New Auxiliary Bishop

Aug. 2-5: Rest and Prayer

Aug. 7: San Angelo, Diocesan Pastoral Center - Personnel Board at 11:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. Presbyteral Council 1:00 p.m. to 3:30 p.m.

Aug. 8: Fort Stockton, St. Agnes - 6:30 p.m. Pray the Rosary

Aug. 9: San Angelo - Gathering with Seminarians of the Diocese

Aug. 12: Loraine, St. Joseph - Blessing of Renovated Church at 10:30 a.m.

Aug. 14: San Angelo, Diocesan Pastoral Center - Staff Mass at 8:30 a.m. Ozona, Our Lady of Perpetual Help - 7:00 p.m. Meet with Pastor, Pastoral and Finance Councils and Youth

Aug. 15: Christoval - Carmelite Sisters Monastery - 4:00 pm. Solemn Profession Sister Mary Agnes, O.Carm.

Aug. 16: San Angelo, Diocesan Pastoral Center - Liturgy Commission Meeting at 10:00 a.m.

Aug. 17: San Angelo, Diocesan

Youth 2000 Returns To San Angelo!

The Next Youth 2000 will be held in San Angelo, January 11-13, 2002

by Bishop Michael D. Pfeifer, O.M.I.

In 1989 at World Youth Day in Santiago de Compostello, Spain, Pope John Paul II declared to the young people, "It is to you young people that the task first falls of bringing into the third millennium the Gospel of Christ, Who is the Way, the Truth, the Life."

Pope John Paul II continually calls upon the youth of the Church to be instruments and leaders of a new effort to bring the Gospel of Christ to the world. In Rome at the XVth World Youth Day, he challenged the young people to "set the Eucharist at the center of your personal life and community life: love the Eucharist, adore the Eucharist, and celebrate it, . . . Live

the Eucharist by testifying to God's love for every person."

Youth 2000, a spiritual retreat for young people, responds to the Holy Father's call by focusing on Christ's greatest gift which is the Eucharist and the real true presence. Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament demonstrates to young people that Christ must be the center of their lives. Through the Sacraments, Adoration, devotion to Mary, teaching, meditation, prayer, discussion, presentations and music, young people are drawn into a closer relationship with God. Young people are given the opportunity during the *Youth 2000* retreat to grow in their understanding of the Catholic faith and to deepen their commitment to the service of the Church and others.

see "SCHEDULE" page four

see "YOUTH", page eleven

MEMBER

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Vocations Circle

Vocations And Making Choices

by Fr. Tom Barley

As the Director of Vocations and Seminarians, like many pastoral ministers, I talk to people about making choices concerning their vocation. This is really easy work because everyone has a vocation. Each person is called to single life, married life, diaconate, religious life or priesthood. It is difficult work because very often, making decisions takes time and it can be difficult to sort out the options. Many people walk with others who are trying to hear God's vocation call to them. Yet, only the one discerning a vocation can make the necessary choices. God gave us a free will to make choices of grace.

Sr. Catherine Bertrand, SSND, executive director of the National Religious Vocation Conference gives the following points in *Catholic Trends* concerning discerning a vocation. First, be yourself. Our decisions are ours and they are our gift to our loving God. When we stand before God, the question that will be asked of us is not – why weren't we not more like anyone else? Rather, the question God will ask us is – were we the person God called us to be? Be the good and holy person God created you to be.

There are five things to remember when making a major life decision – 1) God offers us many choices. God's gifts are not limited. 2) God works in the ordinary. God is present in every moment of our lives. 3) God is really with

us in our choosing. Do not be afraid to be more than others see in you. 4) There are calls within calls – why I stay faithful in my vocation is different than why I chose in the first place. 5) Choices we make today will have an impact on the option we will have in the future. Each choice calls us to greatness and to faithfulness. Live these graces.

The beauty of God's invitation to each of us is that it is real and it is given with God's unconditional love. While it is a simple call, it touches every bit of our lives as it gives peace, strength, and grace. God does not demand that we chose this or that, only that we choose and commit ourselves to be faithful and life giving. Do you feel the presence of God in your discernment process?

There are five stumbling blocks in responding to a vocation call – 1) Fear and excuses. 2) Sense of self. 3) Commitment. 4) Opinions of others. 5) Laziness. Most of us are influenced by what others think about us. This can either limit or enliven us. God does not limit us. God calls us to a vision beyond our wildest dreams. God simply calls us to answer – "Yes" to the call to holiness and service. At the Garden at Gethsemane Jesus set himself aside to do what the Father wanted of him. He refused to be limited by his disciples.

People often have difficulty in making decisions and commitments for a short time let alone

for a lifetime. We doubt our own decision and ourselves. We often listen to others more than we listen to God's offer of peace. There are a thousand excuses and only one "yes, Lord!" The most common excuse I hear is "I am not worthy." I have to agree. No one is worthy. To be worthy means that something is owed to us. God gives to us freely and lovingly, not out of a debt to us. While Mary and the Apostles were not worthy, God offered them an unprecedented opportunity and gift if they only said "yes". Mary was wise. The Apostles took a little more time. What about you? Do you see stumbling blocks or challenges that will make you stronger? The question is not - are you worthy? Rather, the question is – are you willing?

There are four helps in responding to God's call – 1) Make discernment a way of life. Choose to choose rather than just falling into options. Be open to the options God offers. Spend a lifetime in listening to God. 2) Find a good mentor and spiritual director for your spiritual growth. Be willing to be led by the Spirit of God. 3) Pray often. Talk and listen to God every day. 4) Develop the art of listening, of hearing, and of being quiet.

You can do many things that are pleasing to God. Will you choose to become the person God invites you to be? For information about a vocation to the priesthood or the religious life, talk to a priest or sister or call Fr. Tom Barley at 651-7500. Make a choice – make a difference.

Seminarian Education Collection 2001–Thanks!

by Fr. Tom Barley

We wish to offer a huge thank-you to everyone who contributed to the Special Collection for Seminarian Education. As of June 14 the collection resulted in \$37, 836.45 received. This will cover the expenses of 1½ of our eight seminarians. Three of the men, Rodney White, Ferney Medina, and Joey Faylona, are two years away from ordination. Keep all of them in your prayers. You will be in their prayers.

Contributions ranged from small to large – each contribution is valuable and helpful. The amount helps, but the intention to lovingly share your resources to educate the seminarians is more important.

Thank you to these benefactors. You came from the following parishes: Sacred Heart Cathedral, St. Mary, St. Joseph, Holy Angels, & St. Margaret (San Angelo); Sacred Heart, Holy Family, St. Francis, & St. Vincent (Abilene) & Our Mother of Mercy (Merkel) & St. Joachim & Ann (Clyde); Our Lady of Lourdes (Andrews); St. Mary (Ballinger) & St. James (Bronte) & Our Lady of Guadalupe (Robert Lee); Sacred Heart & St. Thomas (Big Spring); St. Patrick (Brady) & St. Francis (Melvin); St. Mary (Brownwood); St. Therese (Carlsbad) & St. Paschal (Sterling City); Sacred Heart (Coleman); St. Ann (Colorado City) & St. Joseph (Lorraine); Good Shepherd (Crane) & Sacred Heart (McCamey) & St. Margaret (Big Lake); Our Lady of Guadalupe (Eldorado) & Immaculate Conception (Knickerbocker) & St. Peter (Mertzon); St. Joseph & St. Agnes (Fort Stockton) & St. James (Sanderson); Sacred Heart (Menard) & St. Theresa (Junction); Our Lady of Guadalupe, St. Stephen, & St. Ann (Midland); St. Thomas (Miles) & St. Joseph (Rowena) & St. Boniface (Olfen); St. Martin de Porras Mission, St. Mary, St. Elizabeth Ann Seton, & Holy Redeemer (Odessa); Our Lady of Perpetual Help (Ozona) & Good Shepherd (Sheffield); St. Ann (Sonora); St. Joseph (Stanton) & St. Isidore (Lenorah); Holy Family & Immaculate Heart of Mary (Sweetwater) & St. Albert (Roscoe); St. Ambrose (Wall) & Holy Family (Mereta); & Our Lady of Mount Carmel (Winters). May God bless you in many ways throughout this year!

A Word to the Wise . . .

Annual Church Festival Information Must Be Sent to WT Angelus Office at Least Two (2) Months Ahead of Festival Date to Guarantee Advertisement Insertion! Don't Miss Out!

Twins, Olympic Wrestler, Foster Parent, Leukemia Survivor Among Class Of 2001 Ordination Class

WASHINGTON – Twin brothers, an Olympic wrestler, a foster parent and a two-time leukemia survivor are among the more than 400 men being ordained priests in the United States this year.

A variety of backgrounds characterizes the men being ordained. Twenty-seven percent are under 30. Three percent are 60 or older.

Some vocations are a family

affair. The twins, Paul and Patrick Gilbert, 26, are among the three men who will be ordained for the Diocese of Manchester, New Hampshire. The third, Robert C. Guillemette, 30, joins his brother, Father Marc Guillemette, the diocesan vocations director. Others have relatives who are ordained, including Christopher Looby, 30, of the Diocese of Ogdensburg,

New York, whose father is a deacon and whose uncle is a priest. Andrew Brownholtz, 34, of the Archdiocese of Philadelphia, and who was an electrician for eight years, also has an uncle who is a priest.

Sports figures predominantly in the lives of some. Cuban born Lorenz Jesus Gonzalez, 30, who will be ordained for the Diocese

of Venice, Florida, was an Olympic wrestler and twice national Cuban wrestling champion, Sean McGraw, 30, a member of the Holy Cross Congregation, was a professional tennis teacher. Russell Hewes, 38, of the Archdiocese of Oklahoma City, was an Oklahoma state golf champion.

More than a quarter of the class are foreign-born. Gustavo

Castillo, 26, of the Diocese of Los Angeles, came to the United States from Mexico when he was 15. Samuel Perez Tax, 29, who is being ordained for the Diocese of New Ulm, Minnesota, came to the United States from Guatemala, when he was 28 to be a missionary to the United States. Alphonse

see "TWINS", page eleven



Public Invited To Solemn Profession Of Vows

Sister Mary Agnes of the Blessed Sacrament, O.Carm., will make her solemn Profession of Obedience, Chastity and Poverty on Wednesday, August 15, during a 4:00 p.m. Mass.

The Most Reverend Michael D. Pfeifer, OMI, will be the main celebrant.

Three years ago, Sister Agnes made her First Profession; now she is making it until death.

The Carmelite Sisters invite you to share their joy in this first Solemn Profession at their monastery. The address is 6200 CR 339 Via Maria, Christoval TX.



Sister Mary Agnes of the Blessed Sacrament, O.Carm.

Policy Making By Veto

by Richard Daly

On the final day that he had to consider bills and resolutions from the 77th Legislature, Governor Rick Perry exercised the veto 78 times, more vetoes than any capitol observers could recall.

In 1997 Governor George W. Bush used the veto 37 times and back in 1989 Governor Bill Clemens vetoed 59 bills which had emerged from a regular session and six special sessions.

The reaction around the capitol by legislators and advocates for the vetoed legislation ranged from shock to disbelief, to anger.

Among the bills were three of concern to the Texas Catholic Conference: the ban on executing the mentally retarded, a bill to permit individuals without social security numbers to get driver's licenses, and a measure to improve the Medicaid system in Texas.

In spite of intense lobbying by a number of groups and individuals, including the Catholic bish-

ops of Texas, Governor Perry vetoed H.B. 236 which would have banned executing the mentally retarded in Texas. Sponsored by Sen. Rodney Ellis of Houston and Rep. Juan Hinojosa of McAllen, the bill won overwhelming support in both the House and the Senate but drew strong opposition from victims' rights groups and some district, and county attorneys around the state.

In his veto message, the governor indicated that the statute would undermine the jury system in Texas, a point strongly disputed by the bill sponsors and many legal experts.

Governor Perry also stated that mentally retarded people are not executed in Texas. Supporters of the legislation maintain that at least six individuals with IQs of lower than 70 have been executed.

The bill to help persons without social security numbers to get driver's licenses was seen by advocates as a public safety issue. The most casual observer can see

clearly that many persons are driving on Texas streets and highways without the benefit of driver's licenses and the driver training, and knowledge of Texas traffic laws that would go with the obtaining of a license. House Bill 396 by Rep. Mike Wise of Weslaco did not seem to be in any difficulty until the day the governor vetoed it.

The sponsors of the Medicaid simplification bill, S.B. 1156, Sen. Judith Zaffirni of Laredo and Rep. Garnet Coleman of Houston, expressed dismay and anger at the governor's veto. They contended that the bill was carefully crafted after wide consultation and that neither the governor nor his staff expressed any serious concern about the bill as it worked its way through the legislative process.

Many observers believe that the vetoes will be an issue in the gubernatorial race of 2002.

St. Joseph Parish
Loraine, Texas
Annual Parish Festival
Saturday, August 4, 2001 - 5 PM - 12 AM
Sunday, August 5, 2001 - 8 AM - 10 PM
Live music, Bale Forclorico, Raffle,
Delicious Food, Games, Children's Rides.
*See the newly renovated
Mission of St. Joseph.*

St. Therese Parish
Carlsbad, Texas
Annual Fall Festival
Sunday, September 9, 2001
KC Hall, 3636 N. Bryant, San Angelo
BBQ Brisket & German Sausage Dinner
11 AM - 2 PM
Auction Begins at 1:15 p.m.
Bingo - Silent Auction - Games
PUBLIC IS INVITED!

SCHEDULE

from page two

Pastoral Center - Staff Meeting at 11:00 a.m.

Aug. 18: San Angelo, Angelo Catholic School - Catholic Schools Commission Meeting at 9:00 a.m.

Aug. 19: Big Lake, St. Margaret - Mass at 12:00 noon

Aug. 20: San Angelo, Christ the King Retreat Center - 8:30 a.m. Mass for Father of Father John Castro, OMI

Aug. 21: San Angelo, Cathedral Church of the Sacred Heart - Endowment Fund Board meeting at 7:00 p.m.

Aug. 22: San Angelo, Pete Chapa Park - Mass in the Barrio at 6:00 p.m. for St. Mary's Parish

Aug. 23: San Angelo, Christ the King Retreat Center - 8:00 p.m. Presentation to Mens' Cursillo

Aug. 24-25: Amarillo - Celebration of the 75th Anniversary of the Diocese Of Amarillo

Aug. 26: Knickerbocker, Immaculate Conception (St. Peter, Mertzon and Our Lady of Guadalupe, Eldorado) Confirma-

tion at 1:45 p.m.

Aug. 27: San Angelo, Bishop's Residence - 6:00 p.m. Cookout for all Priests, Sisters and Bishop's Staff

Aug. 28: Odessa, Holy Redeemer - Mass for the 25th Anni-

versary of the Deacons of the Parish at 6:00 p.m.

Aug. 29-30: San Antonio, Our Lady of the Lake University - Meeting of Bishops and Presidents of Texas Catholic Universities

Spiritual Retreat

Sponsored by Sociedad Guadalupana
Retreat Master: Juan Gonzales Castro, O.M.I., Ph.D. Christ The King Retreat Center San Angelo, Texas
Theme: Mary with Jesus at Cana of Galilee Do you really know and love Mary, the Mother of Jesus, who is also Our Lady of Guadalupe? You do not know Mary very well unless you have visited often with her, Jesus and the apostles at the wedding feast at Cana of Galilee. We invite you to do that very specifically during retreat so that you may renew your commitment to Jesus and His holistic Mother, who is also Our Lady of Guadalupe.

Saturday August 18, 2001
8:00 am - 3 :00 pm
Cathedral Church of the Sacred Heart
San Angelo, Texas
Registration Fee (lunch included): \$10.00 per person
Registration Deadline: August 3, 2001

For more information call: Fred & Janie Hernandez, 915/657-7767 Jerry & Gloria Trevino, 915/651-4100 Joe & Hortensia Jacobo, 915/653-2865 Sacred Heart Cathedral, 915/658-6567



Fr. Moeller Celebrates 50 Years of Priesthood



Father Louis Moeller celebrated 50 years of priesthood in the Roman Catholic Church on Friday, June 1st at St. Mary, Star of the Sea Catholic Church, Ballinger, Texas.

A special Mass followed by dinner was hosted by the parishioners of St. Mary, Star of the Sea Catholic Church, his last pastoral assignment prior to his retirement from active ministry in 1997.

The weekend of festivities be-

gan with Mass where Bishop Michael Pfeifer, OMI, the Bishop of San Angelo, presented Fr. Moeller with a Papal Blessing recognizing his 50 years of priestly service. The Mass was celebrated by Fr. Moeller, Bishop Pfeifer, Fr. Wade, the present pastor of St. Mary, Star of the Sea and 16 priests who joined to honor Fr. Moeller. The Knights of Columbus, 4th degree from Rowena, Brownwood and San Angelo, formed an honor

guard to recognize Fr. Moeller's anniversary. Following the Mass of Thanksgiving, a dinner was held in the Parish Center. Almost 220 family, friends and parishioners joined to honor Fr. Moeller on his golden anniversary.

Fr. Moeller began his priestly ministry in the Diocese of Amarillo where he pastored several communities including Amarillo, Happy, Tulia, Rowena, Stanton, Tarzana, Lamesa, O'Donnell and

Farewell to Ferney

The parishioners of St. Mary, Star of the Sea Catholic Church gathered on Sunday, June 3rd to say farewell to Ferney Medina.

Ferney is a seminarian studying for the priesthood in the Diocese of San Angelo. As part of his seminary training he is required to live for one year in a parish setting learning and assisting the parish community. Ferney arrived in July of 2000 and soon became a full time member of the parish staff. Ferney preached at Sunday and weekday services, performed home visitations, visited the sick, assisted in youth programs and prison and jail ministries.

Ferney Medina was born and raised in Columbia, South America. After graduating from high school, he attended a local seminary and then was invited to come to San Angelo to complete his training and to serve the people of the San Angelo Diocese.

On Sunday, June 3rd, the parishioners of St. Mary, Star of the Sea gathered to say farewell to Ferney. Ferney applied for and



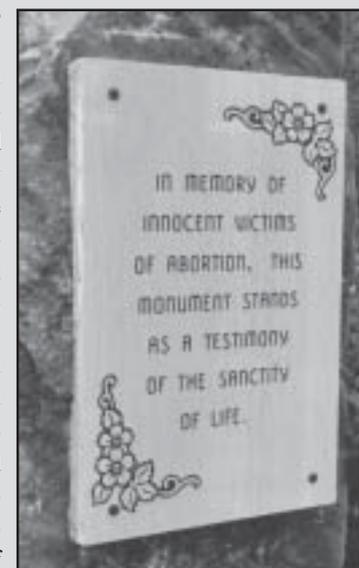
received a scholarship to attend a six week program in Israel where he will study Christian and Jewish relationship, the Holocaust and visit holy sites throughout Israel. Upon completion of his summer program, Ferney will return to St. Mary Seminary in Houston to complete his theological studies.

KC Unborn Memorial

The parishioners of St. Mary, Star of the Sea Catholic Church, who had gathered to honor Fr. Moeller on his golden anniversary, also used the opportunity to recognize the Knights of Columbus Council 10295's gift to the parish.

The Knights of Columbus designed, landscaped and erected a memorial to the unborn victims of abortion. The monument, located on the west side of the church, is made from local capstone from the ranch of Mr. Jim Studer. The 6,000 pound stone, rising almost eight feet from the ground is the focal point of a landscaped area. The memorial plaque at-

tached to the stone is a piece of the marble removed from the church during restoration which took place in 1998. The plaque is engraved with the words, "In Memory of the innocent victims of abortion, this monument stands as a testimony of the sanctity of life".



Mr. Bob Richards, Jim Studer, Victor Amezcua, Edwin Zly and other members of the Knights of Columbus, were instrumental in setting the stones, walkway and bench for the memorial area. A formal dedication will take place later this summer.

Pep, Texas. In 1962 when the Diocese of San Angelo was established, Fr. Moeller served as pastor of Snyder, Odessa, Ozona, Big Spring, Sonora, Brownwood, Junction, Menard, Brady, Eldorado, San Angelo and his last assignment, Ballinger.

He has left his "mark" on almost every parish and community he has served. Not only serving

as a loving and caring pastor, he was instrumental in building several churches, parish halls, religious education centers and remodeling and restoring many facilities in the places where he has served.

Since his official retirement in 1997, Fr. Moeller continues to assist various parishes throughout the diocese.

**St. Mary,
Star of the Sea Parish
Ballinger, Texas
Annual Parish Festival
Sunday, September 9, 2001
Fajita Dinner
11 AM - 1 PM
Bingo, Games, Quilt Raffle, Parish Raffle,
Fancy Stands, Auction**



Honduran Visit

by Fr. Tom Barley, Sr.
Marie Malachy Griffin, OP
and Sr. Hilda Marotta, OSF

What an incredible opportunity! Three diocesan staff members, Fr. Tom Barley, S. Marie Malachy Griffin, OP and S. Hilda Marotta, OSF visited the Diocese of San Pedro Sula, Honduras.

The San Angelo team arrived in San Pedro Sula on May 26th and were welcomed by a Maryknoll priest, Fr. Tom Goekler and youth from Chamelecón. The first day included a meal at Fr. Goekler's home in Chamelecón, participation in a catechetical session preparing young people and adults to celebrate the sacrament of Confirmation, a tour of the area

and meeting and talking with people from the parish. In the midst of their poverty a genuine spirit of welcome and hospitality prevailed.

On Sunday, Eucharist was celebrated with various communities where Fr. Goekler ministers. Two celebrations were in non-airconditioned churches and the third celebration was outside. We observed people walking from their neighboring homes to gather for

worship.

Representatives from the Diocese of Tyler arrived May 27th. As we gathered with them at the airport in San Pedro Sula, we were joined by personnel from Catholic Relief Services and San Pedro Sula diocesan representatives. This initial meeting included a

presentation focusing on the involvement of the Catholic Church in the immigration process and of assisting those returning from the U.S. The emphasis was to promote and affirm the human dignity of each person and to help the

see "VISIT", page nine



Outdoor weekly Sunday Mass at Vida Nueva

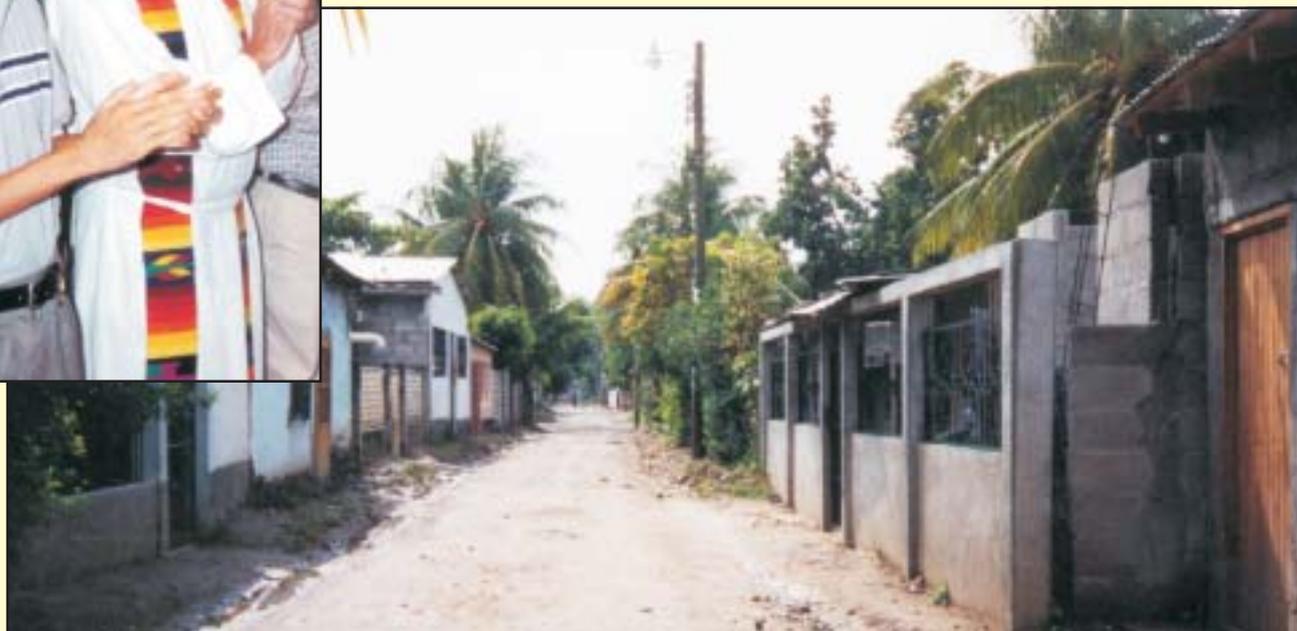


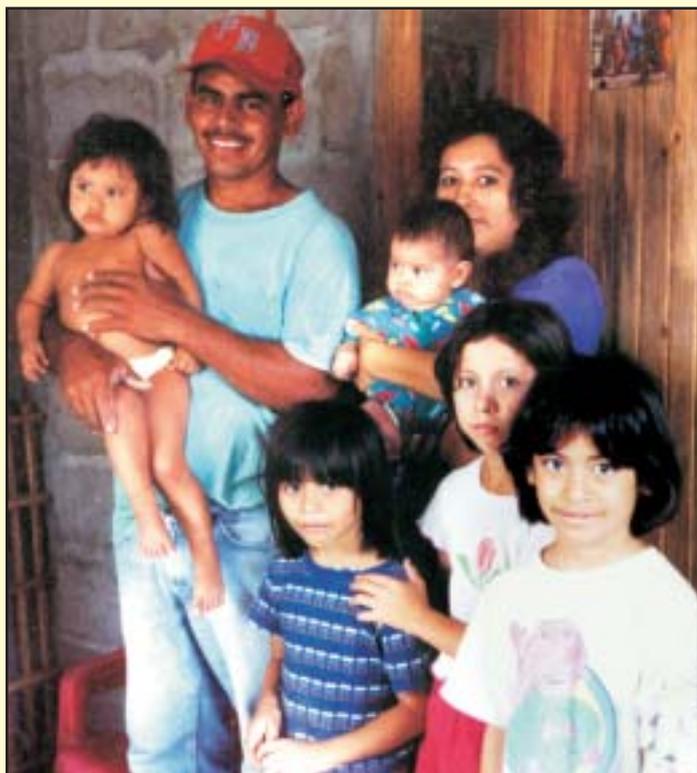
A member of the Garifuna faith community in La Ceiba carries the Lectionary for the proclamation of the Word of God.



Celebration of the Eucharist with Fr. Tom G. presiding.

Chamelecón neighborhood.





Family living in the house funded by St. Ann Parish, Colorado City



Children gathered after Mass with Fr. Tom G.



A new home



CRS representatives with Diocesan delegations from San Pedro Sula, Tyler and San Angelo

Photos by Fr. Tom Barley, Sr. Marie Malachy Griffin, OP and Sr. Hilda Marotta, OSF.



Tattoo removal



Construction site in Chamelecón



Reflections On The Meaning And Celebration Of The Quinceañera

by Bishop Michael Pfeifer, OMI

The quince años ritual is a significant way, especially among Latinos in the United States, to celebrate the passage from childhood to adolescence - that is the fifteenth birthday - of a young woman or man, the quinceañera. Most commonly this ritual is celebrated by the young woman.

Our Latino families are searching for a way to have a meaningful quince años celebration for their sons and daughters. They want to avoid just having a big party for them. They want to understand, appreciate, and celebrate all the aspects of this tradition in a truly religious way. They want the young people, their families, their faith companions, and their sponsors to know the origins, the religious meaning, the symbols, and the significance of the quince años.

When a young person in many Latino families turns fifteen, there is a custom of coming to the Church to give thanks to God, and to ask for a blessing. Most often parents request that a Mass, or some type of prayer service be offered, so that the gift of their young persons' lives be celebrated in thanksgiving to God with their families and friends present. After the liturgy of the Word, the young persons will often renew their baptismal promises and make a commitment to God and to Mary to live their lives in accord with the teachings of Christ.

The quince años has many layers of meaning. It signifies that the young persons are blossoming into adults, that they are coming of age. This is a moment to recognize the change from childhood to adulthood. The young persons are looked upon as a blessing upon the people and hope for the future.

Customary Elements of the Religious Dimension

There are a number of customary elements in the religious as-

pect of the ritual of the quince años that lend themselves to a deeper faith encounter and a deeper faith commitment. As a religious event, the rite should be seen as primarily an act of thanksgiving. An important element in the thanksgiving for life, is also a thanksgiving for the spiritual life found in baptism. Thus, the rite usually includes a renewal of baptismal promises. Young persons preparing for their quinceañera should have already celebrated Baptism, First Communion, and be taking part in religious education classes.

When one contemplates the possibilities of evangelization and catechesis in the celebration of the quince años, it is clear that God offers the Church an opportunity to speak its message through this ritual, which arises in a certain cultural context. Every effort should be made to take full advantage of this moment of grace. Jesus said to let the children come to him. Outright denial of this ritual should be rare. How can we deny young people this opportunity to meet the Lord? The young person celebrating their quince años do not come alone. Most often they come with numerous friends, relatives and neighbors. They come on their own to be in a church for a brief time. With the quinceañera comes some youth who rarely go to church. This is a splendid opportunity to minister to people, many of whom we normally do not meet. It is an opportunity to present Christ to those who barely know him. It is a moment of grace for them and for us, a moment we should not allow to pass us by.

The essential components of the quince años celebration are an act of thanksgiving and a blessing. This ceremony offers to the young persons the opportunity to affirm self-identity and to witness Christian commitment.

Preparing for the Quince Años

To facilitate preparing for this joyful, spiritual celebration, it is asked that a year prior to the event, the quinceañera and family make an appointment with the pastor, or the appropriate minister, to begin the preparations and set a date and time of the event. The Diocese asks that there be a year of preparation immediately before the celebration in order that those involved are adequately aware of why this event is being celebrated. The people are to be instructed to do this before contracting for the social aspects of the celebration.

As a teachable moment, the preparation for this celebration should cover at least the following topics: 1) dignity and self-worth of the person; 2) sexuality and personal responsibility; 3) faith life and commitment to service.

The quinceañera and family members, sponsors and faith companions are encouraged to be part of the plans of the liturgical ritual. This will ensure a more meaningful participation in the celebration.

Symbols are used to express our Catholic faith, our lived experience of God, and the challenges of living the Gospel of Jesus. The symbols selected are to be appropriate for a religious celebration, such as a rosary and a medal. The music must be suitable for a liturgical celebration and promote participation. The banquet and dance that follow are an extension of the religious celebration. All three form the Latino sense of fiesta; thus, the setting selected ought to reflect Christian values professed by the quinceañera, family, faith companions and friends. The ministers, or pastoral staff who assist with the preparations for this event, need to see it as an opportunity for evangelization and catechesis.

see "REFLECTIONS" page ten

Win Ben Stein's Values

by Msgr. Jim Lisante, Director, The Christophers

Ben Stein's public career and public service have spanned decades. As the gifted son of presidential counsel Herb Stein, Ben was a noted attorney (a graduate of Yale) who went to work as a speechwriter at the White House of President Richard Nixon.

Yet, his greatest public fame has not come from his legal skills or speechwriting abilities. No, he was "discovered" for his minor role as an actor in the film "Ferris Bueller's Day Off." He was memorable playing a teacher attempting to instruct a bored group of teens. Thus began an acting career which continues, successfully, to this day. He went on to appear in "Ghostbusters II," "The Mask" and "Dave," among other films, and played another teacher as a regular on the delightful television series "The Wonder Years." His current television series, "Win Ben Stein's Money," is seen on Comedy Central. He is also a prolific writer of books and magazine pieces.

Ben Stein is a person who believes in speaking his truth plainly and directly. I interviewed him recently for our television program "Christopher Closeup." He acknowledges that he has been richly blessed in life. But he and his wife Alexandra had an emptiness that position, money and success couldn't fill. That's when they decided to adopt their son Tommy. The presence of this child in their lives has changed everything. Stein details the experience in his book "Tommy and Me - The Making of a Dad." He clearly finds the privilege of parenting as close as you get to experiencing a little bit of heaven right here on earth.

His love for Tommy, and children in general, is also expressed through his energetic opposition to abortion. He thanks God that his beloved son was given the chance to live and be loved. Ben admits that being an unapologetic pro-lifer in the Hollywood community has, at times, made him unpopular. But he doesn't seem to care. Not long ago he was asked to give a speech. To reward his entertaining presentation, he was offered an honorarium. Ben suggested they make a donation instead to the National Right to Life Committee. It was not a very welcome suggestion, but one which came from his heart and soul.

This man is deeply devoted to sharing his truth. His writing, his website, his speeches and his energies are uniformly devoted toward making the case that life should be treasured; that every abortion ends a unique life; and that as a civilized people we can do better.

see "WIN" page eleven

Our Lady Of San Juan XIX Annual Family Fair

1008 W. New Jersey, Midland, 915-570-0952

Food Games Raffle Bingo
Free Live Entertainment

Friday, Aug. 31: 6:00 PM to 12:00 AM

Saturday, Sept. 1: 3:00 PM to 12:00 AM

Sunday, Sept. 2: 1:00 PM to 10:00 PM



The Real Presence Of Jesus Christ In The Sacrament Of The Eucharist

by Bishop Michael Pfeifer, OMI

Recent pastoral experience, as well as published surveys, indicates that a significant number of Catholics are confused about the Real Presence. The U.S. Catholic Bishops consider this to be a serious situation, and to address this concern, at their summer meeting in June, 2001 they published the Pastoral Statement, *The Real Presence of Jesus Christ in the Sacrament of the Eucharist: Basic Questions and Answers*. This Pastoral Statement is offered to pastors and religious educators to assist them in their teaching responsibilities as regards the greatest gift that Christ has left our Church, the Eucharist and His Real Presence. In this article I share with you some of the reflections of the U.S. Bishops from the introduction to this inspiring and timely statement.

The Lord Jesus, on the night before he suffered on the cross,

shared one last meal with his disciples. During this meal our Savior instituted the sacrifice of his Body and Blood. He did this in order to perpetuate the sacrifice of the Cross throughout the ages and to entrust to the Church his Spouse a memorial of his death and resurrection. As the Gospel of Mark tells us: "While they were eating, Jesus took bread, said the blessing, broke it, and giving it to his disciples said, "Take and eat; this is my body." Then he took a cup, gave thanks, and gave it to them, saying, "Drink from it, all of you, for this is my blood of the covenant, which will be shed on behalf of many for the forgiveness of sins." (Mk 26:24-26; cf. Mk 14:22-24, Lk 22:17-20, 1 Cor 11:23-25)

Recalling these words of Jesus, the Catholic Church professes that, in the celebration of the Eucharist, bread and wine become the Body and Blood of Jesus

Christ through the power of the Holy Spirit. Jesus said: "I am the living bread that came down from heaven; whoever eats this bread will live forever; and the bread that I will give is my flesh for the life of the world . . . For my flesh is true food, and my blood is true drink." (Jn 6: 51-55).

The whole Christ is truly present, body, blood, soul, and, divinity, under the appearances of bread and wine - the glorified Christ who rose from the dead after dying for our sins. This is what the Church means when she speaks of the "Real Presence" of Christ in the Eucharist. This presence of Christ in the Eucharist is called "real" not to exclude other types of his presence as if they could not be understood as real (cf. Catechism, no. 1374). The risen Christ is present to his Church in many ways, but most especially through the Sacrament of His Body and Blood.

What does it mean that Jesus Christ is present in the Eucharist under the appearances of bread and wine? How does this happen? The presence of the risen Christ in the Eucharist is an inexhaustible mystery that the Church can never fully explain in words. We must remember that the triune God is the creator of all that exists and has the power to do more than we can possibly imagine. As St. Ambrose said: "If the word of the Lord Jesus is so powerful as to bring into existence things which were not, then a fortiori those things which already exist can be changed into something else". (De Sacramentis, IV, 5-16). God created the world in order to share his life with persons who are not God. This great plan of salvation reveals a wisdom that surpasses our understanding. But we are not left in ignorance: for out of his love for us, God reveals his truth to us in ways that we can understand through the gift of faith and the grace of the Holy Spirit dwelling in us. We are thus enabled to understand at least in some measure what would otherwise remain unknown to us, though we can never completely comprehend the mystery of God.

As successors of the Apostles

and teachers of the Church, the bishops have the duty to hand on what God has revealed to us and to encourage all members of the Church to deepen their understanding of the mystery and gift of the Eucharist. In order to foster such a deepening of faith, we have prepared this text to respond to fifteen questions that commonly arise with regard to the Real Presence of Christ in the Eucharist. We offer this text to pastors and religious educators to assist them in their teaching responsibility.

To assist all of us with a better understanding of The Real Presence of Jesus Christ in the Sacrament of the Eucharist, I will feature in the next few months both in English and Spanish in the Angelus some of the fifteen questions that commonly arise with regards to the Real Presence of Christ in the Eucharist. As these questions are presented in the Angelus, I ask that all of our people, especially parents and children, review together the answers to each question. Hopefully this will aid the Catholic faithful in this country to enrich their understanding of this great mystery of faith, the greatest gift that Jesus has left our Church.

VISIT

from page six

returnees to safely reach their homes and families in Honduras. It is the Catholic Church who is first to assist the returnees in their needs. An evening Mass at the Cathedral of San Pedro Sula was celebrated with Bishop Angel Garachana presiding. A meal and entertainment followed at the pastoral center.

Tuesday began at the Diocesan Pastoral Center with an overview of the Diocese of San Pedro Sula given by Bishop Garachana followed by presentations of department chairs regarding their ministry. Fr. Tom Barley presented an overview of our diocese, including statistical information. S. Malachy Griffin's presentation focused on campus ministry and S. Hilda presented programming efforts of the Office of Education and Formation. The day concluded with the celebration of Eucharist with the faith community of Sagrado Corazon in Bar-

rio Las Palmas. Those who had been affected by violence, domestic and gangs, were especially remembered in prayer.

Wednesday began with a second visit to Chamelecón and included the representatives from Tyler. Fr. Tom Goekler explained his work with former gang members. These young adults are now clearing land, making bricks, building homes, paying off debts on their mothers' new homes and, in some cases returning to school. The number of gang related funerals has decreased.

A tattoo removal program assists the youth to distance themselves from the gangs and improves their opportunity for employment. The day included a visit to La Lima por Chotepe. In this community, special services such as housing assistance, treatment for alcoholics and health care are provided. Many young adults work in clothing manufacturing shops that produce some of what we wear.

The day ended with Mass at

Nuestro Senora de Suyapa, supper and entertainment prepared by the parishioners.

Thursday, we visited La Ceiba, a city on the Caribbean coast. This area was unique because of the mixture of heritage, culture, and language. The early settlers were African slaves who came when their slave ship capsized. In time their culture mixed with that of the Spanish and Native Hondurans. While the people in this area are poor and have been mistreated at times, they are proud of their heritage and are a distinct part of the country. We visited several ministries including a Catholic radio station. The Eucharist, celebrated in Spanish and Garifuna, included powerful cultural expressions representing each group. The next morning we returned to San Pedro Sula to begin our return to San Angelo on June 1, tired but enriched from the journey.

Ecclesia in America, an apostolic Exhortation published by Pope John Paul II in January, 1999

encouraged all of us to "reflect on America as a single entity by reason of all that is common to the people of the continent, including their shared Christian identity and their genuine attempt to strengthen the bonds of solidarity."

In an unprecedented initiative, the bishops of Texas and Oklahoma issued a statement of commitment to the seven dioceses of Honduras. The goal of this commitment is to participate in reconstruction and development efforts. With the assistance of Catholic Relief Services (CRS) a relationship of solidarity between the Dioceses of San Angelo, Tyler and San Pedro Sula is beginning.

The group from San Angelo will make another visit to San Pedro Sula in early August to continue the development of our covenant relationship with San Pedro Sula. In September, Bishop Garachana and representatives of the Diocese of San Pedro Sula will visit the Diocese of San Angelo and formally sign the covenant

with Bishop Pfeifer, OMI.

During this first visit Fr. Tom, Sr. Hilda, and Sr. Malachy saw and experienced many aspects of everyday life in San Pedro Sula. Some situations were tragic, others were representative of a culture in change, others were celebrations of joy, hope, and progress. The purpose of this relationship between San Angelo and San Pedro Sula is not simply to offer financial assistance nor to hear about their activities. While that is helpful, we are invited into a sacred opportunity to see and experience one another as brothers and sisters and to renew ourselves as a unified Catholic Church. To be truly Catholic is to look beyond our parish, diocesan, and national boundaries and to be united as one.

The challenge to each of us is to be open to the action of the Holy Spirit in our lives so that we will participate in the call of the church beyond where we are comfortable and to where God may lead us.



BISHOPS

from page one

color.

The bishops' committee is preparing a report on the consultation that is expected to be available later this year.

"We have already learned something significant, however," Garcia said. "The tone of the discussion about women's role in the church has evolved dramatically."

Data confirms the movement of women into church leadership positions, she added. "But over the past 10 years, we have witnessed something else," she said, "something less measurable but just as real."

Specifically, Garcia said, the committee has seen: — Personal growth on the part of many priests, deacons and religious and lay people as they have attempted honest dialogue and action related to women's concerns.

— More good will and more openness by women and men, including bishops, to women's issues.

— A growing trust and respect of women by priests and bishops as women have moved into church leadership positions and demonstrated their competence and dedication.

"These changed relationships — some even speak of conversion experience — are indispensable as we seek to address some of the problematic issues that remain," Garcia said.

She said the U.S. bishops, "working with pastors and lay leaders, have made quiet but

steady progress toward promoting women's greater participation in church life."

But, she added, "Challenges remain. Now the question: Where do we go from here?"

Garcia said that at the national level, she expects the bishops' committee on women will continue its advocacy role.

"The committee has proved effective in calling attention to specific issues, offering practical resources to dioceses and parishes and periodically bringing groups together, such as the Chicago consultation," she said.

"It could expand its scope to address some of the issues related to women's role in society," Garcia added.

Advocacy at the national level is crucial, but Garcia suggested that the time is right for dioceses to assume a larger role in promoting women and women's concerns.

"Many issues of interest to women, such as their working relationships with priests or justice in the workplace, can only be addressed locally," she said.

"Dioceses now have resources to draw upon, including bishops' statements and important information from the NACPA survey, the survey of diocesan women and the Chicago consultation," Garcia said. "More important, dioceses have women in high-ranking positions who understand the church, who know what is and is not possible and who have the skills and experience to work with bishops and others to help bring about change."

She added, "No one diocese can do everything right away. But a small series of steps, taken over time, can add up to major progress."

WTOS

from page one

no one has done that here. We are going to create a collective of leaders which includes poor working class people and upper middle class people here — and no one has done that before. We are going to create a vision of Midland, a vision which will develop from hundreds and thousands of conversations in homes and churches, a vision which is inspired by the democratic and republican traditions of this nation, a vision which comes out of the Judeo-Christian traditions of our religious institutions — and then we are going to act on it: no one has done that before. We're not going to be satisfied with letting city council, the school board or the county commissioners court decide what kind of community our children grow up in because we take participatory democracy seriously. And we will not be satisfied in sitting on some board or commission whose conclusions are only advisory — we intend to hold public officials accountable to us, the ordinary people of this community — and I should hope that the more enlightened ones among them should welcome our participation."

"We intend to organize and create a people's power organization which can make a difference, and then act on behalf of our families, our children, our neighbors, and our community. If this is our intention, then we know what our work is in the coming months: we must recruit congregations, raise money and train our leadership."

The Rev. Roy Smith, pastor of True Lite Ministries in Midland summed up the meeting by stating that if we are truly serious about what our religious traditions have to say about justice and compassion, every pastor and congregation should feel compelled to participate in the organizing project.

The meeting ended with reactions from Bishop Michael Pfeifer,

ELEMENTARY PRINCIPAL SOUGHT

St. Mary's Central Catholic School, Odessa, TX, seeks A FULL-TIME PRINCIPAL. Qualifications: MA, must include 18 hrs administration & supervision. Seeking person of strong vision and leadership, to stress academic excellence, technology in the classroom and strong Catholic faith formation. Good public relations skills a plus. St. Mary's is 40 years old, supported by 5 local parishes, with 180 students in pre-k-3 (Montessori) thru 6th grade; primarily Hispanic student body from lower to middle income families. Salary negotiable commensurate with experience and qualifications. Application deadline July 15, 2001. Send applications to: SEARCH COMMITTEE, 1703 N. ADAMS, ODESSA, TX 79761; 915-337-6052.

Bishop of the Catholic Diocese of San Angelo and The Rev. Ron Rennegarbe, Dean of the Conference Dean of the West Texas Lutheran Church (ELCA). Bishop Pfeifer, as a special guest speaker, reiterated his long standing commitment and support of WTOS and encouraged all Catholic parishes of the diocese to join.

WTOS is a non-profit, institutionally based community organizing project which includes the West Texas Communities of Amarillo, Plainview, Hale Center, Lubbock, Brownfield, Midland, Odessa, and San Angelo. It is non partisan, multi-ethnic, and interdenominational. WTOS is affiliated with the Industrial Areas Foundation (IAF). The IAF Network includes: Allied Communities of Tarrant in Fort Worth, Austin Interfaith, The Border Organization in Del Rio and Eagle Pass, Communities Organized for Public Service (COPS) and The Metro Alliance in San Antonio, Dallas Areas Interfaith, The El Paso Interreligious Sponsoring Organization (EPISO); Fort Bend Interfaith, Southwest of Houston, The Metropolitan Organization; (TMO) in Houston; Triangle Interfaith Project (TIP) in Beaumont/ Port Arthur/Orange; Valley Interfaith in the Lower Rio Grande

REFLECTIONS

from page eight

An Occasion to Evangelize and Catechize

The quince años tradition is an occasion to evangelize and catechize the youth and family. It is an occasion to give collective witness to the presence of Jesus

among us, and to challenge ourselves and our youth to live and share our Christian values of faith, hope, love, forgiveness, reconciliation, patience, kindness, mercy, compassion, justice, peace and unity.

It is especially an occasion to join with the family in thanking God for the gift of life of the youth in our community and to celebrate the lives of young people. It is occasion to develop our spiritual life by reflecting on our Christian commitment through baptism, and to recognize, affirm and challenge the youth, their families and companions and all participants to deepen the practice of their religion. It is an occasion to encourage the youth to be active in the life of the Church and their respective communities, and it is an occasion to deepen our faith as Christian and Catholic people.

Through the ages, God has revealed God in the customs, history and tradition of all people. The quince años is a special way of celebrating God's presence and love in our midst. Our fiestas are an expression of gratitude to a loving God, the giver of all life. The guidelines for quince años in the Pastoral Manual of our Diocese are to be followed for this celebration.

(Information taken from "Quinceañera: Celebration of Life Guidebook for the Presider of the Religious Rite" and "Quince Años: Celebrating Life")

Pray Often

St Margaret's Parish

Annual Fall Festival

Sunday, August 19, 2001

KC Hall, 3636 N. Bryant

BBQ Brisket Dinner

11 AM - 2 PM - \$6 Adults /\$3 Child

Plates To Go & Hotdog Plates

Auction Begins at 1 :00 PM

Raffle Drawing, Bingo, Cake Walks,

Country Store, Face Painting!

FMI 651-4366



How To Fast Properly

*Fast from judging others, Feast on Christ dwelling in them.
Fast from apparent darkness, Feast on the reality of light.
Fast from pessimism, Feast on optimism.
Fast from thoughts of illness, Feast on the healing power of God.
Fast from words that pollute, Feast on phrases that purify.
Fast from anger, Feast on patience.
Fast from worry, Feast on Divine Providence.
Fast from unrelenting pressure, Feast on unceasing prayer.
Fast from negatives, Feast on positives.
Fast from complaining, Feast on appreciation.
Fast from hostility, Feast on non-resistance.
Fast from bitterness, Feast on forgiveness.
Fast from anxiety, Feast on hope.
Fast from yourself, Feast on a silent heart.* — Tim Unsworth

In Medjugorje, Our Lady asks us to renew the practice of fasting. In fact, it is one of the five basic messages she gives, along with prayer, peace, faith, and conversion. She suggests the traditional fast of bread and water on Wednesdays and Fridays. If not this fast, then she asks that we abstain from something that is a great pleasure to us — smoking, drinking, television, etc. — on Wednesdays and Fridays.

TWINS

from page three

Mpia, 32, a member of the Missionhurst Congregation, is from Congo. Roberto Vern, 39, of the Diocese of Monterey, California, is an oceanographer from Mexico. Binh Nguyen, 27, of the Diocese of Orange, California, escaped from communist Vietnam when he was eight. In the Archdiocese of Newark, eight of the 12 men in the ordination class are foreign-born, coming from Congo, the Philippines, Canada, Spain, South Korea and Vietnam.

Some have a history of service to others. Kevin Michael O'Dell, 51, of the Diocese of Sioux Falls, South Dakota, has been a foster parent. His career has included education and law enforcement, and he was recipient of an award for outstanding service from the State of South Dakota Department of Corrections. Paul Spellman, 46, of the Archdiocese of Los Angeles, was a certified public accountant at Price Waterhouse and spent time living and working at an orphanage in Bolivia. Oriol Regales, 29, of the Archdiocese of Milwaukee, was a lay missionary to Kenya.

Others have faced challenging life experiences. Jesuit Patrick Malone, 42, who served in the Peace Corps, survived leukemia twice. James Hall, 64, a Missionary of the Sacred Heart, has worked in pastoral ministry with the deaf

and is deaf himself.

Careers span a broad range. Timothy Armbruster, 29, a member of the Society of the Precious Blood, worked on his family farm. Augustinian Richard J. Piatt, Jr., 32, has a master's degree in theater from Villanova University and has won awards for prop design and direction. John Robbins of the Archdiocese of Baltimore is a geophysicist and worked for 15 years at NASA. Paul Maillet, 42, also of the Baltimore Archdiocese, performed as a concert pianist and was a visiting professor at the Eastman School of Music.

Michael Kettering, 57, of the Archdiocese of New Orleans, spent 32 years in broadcasting and amassed 200 national awards, including a Murrow Award for Best TV Newsroom in U.S. and Canada, and an Emmy Award for lifetime achievement. Martin Bancroft, Jr., 48, of the Diocese of Rockville Centre, New York, and a marathon runner, was a model/actor for 14 years and worked with Mother Teresa.

Vito Perrone, Jr., 43, of the Archdiocese of San Francisco, was a high school teacher and a director of religious education. Tod Ziegler, 39, of the Archdiocese of Kansas City, Kansas, was an insurance agent. Kyle Vincent Dave, 29, of the New Orleans Archdiocese, taught in the public school system. Brian Nolan, 31, of the Archdiocese of Baltimore, has a communications degree, worked at Price Waterhouse, and

co-hosted a local Catholic radio program

Some have children, including Robert Diebold, 59, of the Diocese of Fargo, North Dakota, who is an electrician and has four daughters and 12 grandchildren. William Callery, 60, also from the Fargo Diocese, has three grown children. Luis Alfonso Mesa, 53, of the Sioux Falls Diocese, is a father and grandfather. Albert Schifano, 62, of the Diocese of Tucson, Arizona, has two children and two grandchildren.

Some have military experience. Sean Vincent Knox, 35, of the Diocese of Pensacola Tallahassee, Florida, served in the U.S. Air Force for 7 and a half years. Robert Wedow, 35, of the Archdiocese of Denver, and Michael Hendrickson, 33, of the Diocese of San Jose, California, graduated from the U.S. Naval Academy. Robert D. Burns, Jr., 56, of the Diocese of Harrisburg, Pennsylvania, is a teacher and spent nine years in the Marines. Yong Ryuk Lee, 37, of the Diocese of Galveston Houston, served in both the Korean and U.S. Armies. Bryan Keith Lowe, 43, of the Diocese of Birmingham, Alabama, was a naval officer. Josef Vollmer-Konig, 63, worked in food service and spent 25 years in the Army Reserves.

Not all were raised Catholic. Peter Anderl, 28, of the Fargo Diocese and a physical therapist, converted to Catholicism five years ago, and entered the seminary one year later. Gregory Brian Wilson, 28, of the Diocese of Charleston, South Carolina, also was a convert to Catholicism.

The men cited a number of influences that helped them decide on priesthood. Almost 90 percent spoke of a priest initiating a conversation about priesthood. Others spoke of the influence of campus ministry programs and other associations. Minh Cong Bui, 31, of the Orange, California diocese, who came to the United States from Vietnam when he was 22, spoke of the influence of the Vietnamese Vocations Association. Stuart Wade Gregory Crevcoure, 27, of the Diocese of Tulsa, Oklahoma, was encouraged to pursue priesthood by friends at his college Newman Center as well as the chaplain there.

WIN

from page eight

As a Catholic priest, I found listening to this Jewish man share his ideas about the sanctity of all human life illuminating. His courage and conviction reminded me of a similar conversation I had with an actor friend who works on soap operas. He recently told me his convictions about life and many of his views echoed Ben Stein's. But, he said, he could never say these things publicly. It would, he was sure, ruin all his chances for greater success with the more liberal elements of the media.

Two public figures, both with solid thoughts about the need to protect innocent and defenseless human life. One speaks out without apology, the other remains publicly silent. Their different approaches reminded me of the statesman Edmund Burke and his noted insight that all that is necessary for evil to triumph in our world, is for good people to do nothing. However large or small the audience, each of us has an obligation to speak the truth. We owe it to ourselves, our neighbors and future generations. We owe it to God.

YOUTH

from page two

In this way, *Youth 2000* also responds to the U. S. Bishops' directives as stated in "Renewing the Vision," to draw young people into a relationship with Jesus Christ and to encourage young people to be-

come active in their parishes and in the programs in their diocese.

Youth 2000 is an international movement founded by Ernest Williams, a citizen of the United Kingdom. The first *Youth 2000* Retreat was held in former Yugoslavia in the summer of 1990 and was attended by over 6,000 young people from all the world. *Youth 2000* has since spread to England, Germany, Ireland, Scotland, Mexico, the Caribbean, Canada, Australia, and the United States. The first *Youth 2000* in the U.S., at which Bishop Michael Pfeifer, O.M.I. was one of the presiders, was held in Dallas, Texas in June of 1992. Since that time, hundreds of *Youth 2000* Retreats have been held all over the country, with many retreats scheduled every year.

In January 2000, San Angelo hosted its first *Youth 2000 Retreat*. Expected attendance was 300; actual attendance was 650. At the December 2000 San Angelo Deanery meeting, the local planning team presented a proposal to host another *Youth 2000 Retreat* in the San Angelo Diocese. All pastors and parish leaders present fully supported our hosting of another Youth 2000 Retreat. I am happy to announce that a *Youth 2000 Retreat* is planned for January 11-13, 2002 in the Concho Pavilion facility and Creative Arts facility at the San Angelo Fairgrounds in San Angelo.

A committee from the parishes of the San Angelo Deanery will be preparing this *Youth 2000*. I ask all priests, pastoral coordinators, sisters, deacons and youth leaders of our deaneries to give their support and cooperation to this spiritual retreat that does much to enrich the faith of our young people.

The Southwest Liturgical Conference Second Hispanic Conference For Pastoral Musicians

Thursday, August 9 to Sunday, August 12, 2001

Doubletree Hotel on Loop 410 in San Antonio

Co-Hosts: Archdiocese of San Antonio

& Diocese of Austin

Room Rates: \$89.00 for single, double, triple, or quad!

Registration brochure: Call 210-734-2620, ext. 252

Room reservation: 800-535-1980

Early registration deadline: postmark by July 12, 2001

\$85.00 early registration

\$100.00 postmark after 7/12/01



Dave Atwood Receives Dominican Recognition

Dominican Sisters of Houston recognized Dave Atwood as a “Partner in Preaching” at the opening of the sisters’ annual convocation June 1.

In honoring Dave Atwood, Prioress Sr. Heloise Cruzat, said, we “preach together, by word and by action, . . . a message of hope, solidarity and support.”

Begun in 1998, the “Partner in Preaching” recognition is “a means of honoring women and men with whom we journey and who journey with us in efforts to preach the dignity of each person,” Sr. Heloise continued.

Recipients of the award are chosen because of their work with the Dominicans on projects of social justice and human rights. The sisters have collaborated with Atwood in working to abolish the death penalty and on human rights projects sponsored by Pax Christi.

Dave Atwood helped found the Texas Coalition to Abolish the Death Penalty and serves on the Executive Committee. He also serves on the Advisory Board of Texas Murder Victims Families for Reconciliation. He is local coordinator for Pax Christi Houston and is on the National Council of Pax Christi USA. Atwood has worked on the Diocesan Campaign for Human Development and is active on the Social Justice Steering Committee.

The “Partner in Preaching” gift is a framed marble bas-relief entitled, “Praising Angel,” by Dominican sculptor, Sr. Mary Peter Tremonte. In making the presentation, Sr. Heloise said, “As the angel announces God’s glory, the image conveys strength and singleness of purpose – a suitable symbol with which to recognize those who are dedicated and persistent in their efforts to preach the dignity of all persons.”

Sculpture and stained glass art by Sr. Mary Peter may be seen at Christ the King Retreat Center, Holy Angels Church, and San Angelo Community Hospital in San Angelo.



Dominican Sister Mary Kay Bailey (far right) joins Prioress Sr. Heloise Cruzat (second from right) in congratulating Dave Atwood on receiving the “Partner in Preaching” Recognition. Cherry Steinwender, founder and Co-Director of The Center for the Healing of Racism and past recipient of the award, presents the “Praising Angel” gift. Sister Mary Kay is Pastoral Coordinator at St. Therese Church, Carlsbad and St. Paschal Mission, Sterling City.



Plant An Oak For Life

by Sr. Marietta Alo, OND

Four 8-foot Oak Trees were planted this Summer by senior youth students of Our Lady of Guadalupe CCD, Midland, in memory of four departed former CCD students: Steve Lara, Eddie Olgin, Ricky Pena and Matthew Martinez.

The sturdy Oaks stand at strategic points of the Guadalupe Shrine premises, a tribute to undying memories of love and friendship, and the Confirmation level students who sponsored the project with the help of Parent Support Group head-couple Andy and Mary Reyes. The trees were blessed by Fr. Ray Wilhelm, OMI, parochial vicar, at the end of the prayer service led by Sr. Marietta Alo, OND.

Colorful balloons were released by each student to signify life’s journey to the Great Somewhere. Parents and relatives of the departed were handed big red roses. Fr. Jerry Burnet, OMI, parish priest, parents and catechists actively stood by to witness the memorial event, and to partake of the barbecue picnic outside the Norman Hall.



May 20, 2001 Senior Mass at Mt. Carmel Catholic Church, Winters, Texas. Pastor: Father Obioma Des. Obi. L. to R. Back Row: Craig Jacob, Crescencio Chavez, Father Obi, Juan Santos, Aaron Pritchard, Jose Santos. Front Row: Tony Aguero, Gabriel G. Hernandez, Lucero Vega, Holly Woffenden, Louis Esquivel, Justin Mendoza.



Under the direction of the Catholic Daughters of the Americas organization, the Wall Catholic Daughters, Court, St. Catherine of Siena, #1762 held an education contest for youth members of our parish, St. Ambrose Catholic Church in Wall, Texas. This contest included poster art, poem, computer art and theme papers that could be written on the topics of Woman At the Well or The Merry Go Round of Life. The winners of the contest were: Kendrick Lange (poster art), Jaren Speck (poem) and Gentry Whitehead (computer art). Teachers are DeAnna Gully and Teresa McClintock.