Catholic’s Role In Establishing U.S. Freedoms Outlined In New Book

by T. Jensen Lacey
Catholic News Service

NASHVILLE, Tenn. (CNS) – Charles Carroll, as one of the signers of the Declaration of Independence, helped establish democracy in America.

As the pre-eminent Catholic politician of his day and the only Catholic signer of the Declaration of Independence, he worked much of his life to win political and civil rights for American Catholics.

“Carroll almost single-handedly obtained religious freedom and political rights for American Catholics, who formerly had suffered from oppressive penal laws which denied them the right to vote and to worship in public,” said Scott McDermott of Nashville, the author of a new book, “Charles Carroll of Carrollton: Faithful Revolutionary.”

McDermott hopes through his book Carroll’s life will be remembered by more people, especially Catholics.

“He set a great example and, based on his contribution and that of the Catholic soldiers in the American Revolution, of whom there were many, Americans realized that you could be a Catholic and also a good citizen,” McDermott said in an interview with the Tennessee Register, newspaper of the Nashville Diocese.

“Prior to that, Catholics were considered to be potential traitors, partly because of the number of infamous plots and rebellions when Catholics were involved. His example was crucial to what Catholics are today,” he said.

McDermott is circulation librarian at the Vanderbilt University Divinity Library and a parishioner at the Church of the Assumption in Nashville.

“The book was proposed to me by my publisher, Scepter,” McDermott said. “They had read some articles I had written, and asked me to write a book about Carroll – and this was their first work of American history."

After spending time researching the life and times of Charles Carroll, McDermott, who converted from atheism to Catholicism more than a decade ago, experienced a kind of revelation.

“As I got into my research,” he said, “I thought about him, the Revolution, of whom he was a leader, and all the Catholic soldiers in the American Revolution. According to the author, a Catholic librarian at Vanderbilt University in Nashville, Tenn., Carroll is mostly responsible for obtaining religious freedom and political rights for American Catholics."

(CNS)

Audit of Diocesan Policies to Begin in June

by United States Conference of Catholic Bishops

WASHINGTON – An audit of diocesan policies dealing with the problem of sexual abuse of children and young people by clergy will begin in June.

The audit will be conducted by the Gavin Group of Boston, headed by William Gavin, an experienced compliance auditor formally with the Federal Bureau of Investigation.

The Charter for the Protection of Children and Young People, overwhelmingly adopted by the United States Conference of Catholic Bishops (USCCB) at its meeting in Dallas last June, established an Office for Child and Youth Protection. One of the duties of this office is to produce “an annual public report on the progress made in implementing the standards in this Charter.”

Furthermore, “This public report shall include the names of those dioceses/eparchies which, in the judgment of this Office, are not in compliance with the provisions and expectations of this Charter.”

To facilitate an audit of the 195 Catholic dioceses and eparchies (dioceses of the Eastern Catholic Church) in the United States, the USCCB has engaged the Gavin Group as consultants.

Over fifty auditors were trained May 19-22 to do on-site audits of the compliance of dioceses with the standards of the Charter. The auditors will operate in teams of two, and no auditor will be permitted to audit his own diocese if he or she is a Catholic. The audit does not include an evaluation of the dioceses’ pre-Charter policies or actions.

(CNS)
Affirming a Culture of Life

By Bishop Michael D. Pfeifer, OMI

“We not only have the right every day to join in the discourse on public policy, we have a duty—whether we be in the halls of Congress, in state capitols or city halls. And, most certainly, we must speak out on these issues, and share our positions with others to speak out. If we are going to be eaten by the voting booth . . . The right to life is not a partisan issue. But it is the pre-eminent moral issue of our time.” – Carl Anderson, Supreme Knight of the Knights of Columbus, 2002 Annual Report, August 6, 2002.

“Our society has enough compassion, wealth, and love to care for mothers and their children, and to see the promise and potential of every life. In protecting the vulnerable and the weak, the imperfect and the unwanted, you are affirming a culture of life.” – President George W. Bush, August 6, 2002, signing Born Alive Infants Protection Act.

Patriotism

by Bishop Michael Pfeifer, OMI

Since the terrible day of terrorism on September 11, 2001, there has been a notable increase in the spirit and practice of patriotism in our country. The Latin root of this word refers to the fatherland, or one’s country. The virtue of patriotism refers to the respect, honor, duty, and service that we owe our country. Patriotism deals with the rights and responsibilities of citizenship.

The word, “patriotism,” sums up a wide range of images. For some, it might mean the Fourth of July celebration and the waving of the flag. Others would see patriotism as expressed in the stories told by a veteran of one of our several wars, or in fulfilling our allegiance to our country as good citizens.

A truly patriotic person is one who loves his country, one who is willing to defend it, one who is willing to do all that he can, and if necessary, to challenge some of the practices of our country to make sure that they are in accord with the highest ideals. For us today, patriotism implies ridding our country and the world of terrorism.

To truly understand what makes America great, I present for your reflection some excerpts of documents that represent the spirit that should motivate us as we practice the virtue of patriotism.

Excerpts from the Declaration of Independence:

“We hold these truths to be self-evident, that all men are created equal, that they are endowed by their Creator with certain unalienable rights, that among these are life, liberty and the pursuit of happiness. That to secure these rights, governments are instituted among men, deriving their just powers from the consent of the governed . . . We, therefore . . . do, in the name, and by the authority of the good people of these colonies, solemnly publish and declare, that these united colonies are, and of right ought to be free and independent states . . . And for the support of this declaration, with a firm reliance on the protection of Divine Providence, we mutually pledge to each other our lives, our fortunes and our sacred honor.”

Preamble to the United States Constitution:

“We the People of the United States, in order to form a perfect Union, establish Justice, insure domestic Tranquility, provide for the common defense, promote the general Welfare, and secure the Blessings of Liberty to ourselves and our Posterity, do ordain and establish this Constitution for the United States of America.”

Excerpts from The Gettysburg Address, President Abraham Lincoln:

“Four score and seven years ago our fathers brought forth on this see "PATRIOTISM" page eleven

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!
Two Applicants For College Seminary

by Fr. Tom Barley

Two new applicants for college seminary for the Diocese of San Angelo have decided to spend their summers wisely and in service to others. Here are their stories.

A Trip to Bosnia
by Gilbert Martinez

Gilbert Martinez of Our Lady of San Juan Church in Midland, an applicant for the Diocese to Conception College Seminary, went on a two-week trip to Bosnia at the beginning of this summer. Twenty-five Americans, a film crew, and two Croatian translators made the journey. The goal of the trip was to restore a secondary school. Gilbert spent time in the village of Alladinish restoring the school and establishing a special bond with the youth of the village. When the group arrived they were greeted with the chant – U.S.A. Everyday there was a sharing of culture. All around the village were still signs of the war that occurred only a few years ago. Gilbert heard the stories of the youth and saw signs of “be-care of mines” around the village.

Their next stop was Medjugorje. The welcome was not as warm as in the village. However, Gilbert did not let this tarnish the experience. He was chosen for the readings at a Mass attended by over 1000 people. He climbed the hill and saw Ivan, the visionary. It was a time for prayer for all families.

The entire trip was an experience of a lifetime. At the beginning of the journey Gilbert felt the support and closeness of the group as it set out to new experiences. In the village he was overwhelmed by the friendliness and joy of the youth. In Medjugorje he was impressed by the welcoming and the faith of the people.

Scout Summer Camp
by Matthew Fenner

Matthew Fenner of Holy Family Church in Abilene, an applicant for the Diocese to Conception College Seminary, is spending his summer at Camp Tonakawa in Buffalo Gap for the Boy Scouts of America, Texas Trails Council. Matthew is an Eagle Scout and a member of the Order of the Arrow. He says that many graduating seniors want to spend their time getting ahead or partying. This is Matthew’s fifth summer working at this camp. He works with youth of all ages teaching the youth the knowledge necessary for them to earn merit badges for advancement in rank and wisdom. In addition to sharing his knowledge, he learns patience, composure, and compassion with the younger scouts. His own leadership and planning skills are enhanced and he helps many of the other scouts to become aware of their own leadership and teamwork capabilities. He finds that there is always something to learn and something that has been learned to share with others. There are new trails to be hiked and hills to be climbed.

Matthew says that the greatest part of working at the summer camp is when you see that you have helped to shape another person’s life for the better through example and sharing. When you see a youth’s eyes light up when he finally understands something or accomplishes a task that he thought was out of reach, it is all worthwhile.

The Office of Vocations and Seminarians is sponsoring two Come-and-See Experiences this summer.

(1)
Saturday, July 12, 2003
St. Mary Church in San Angelo
7 West Ave. N
Discerning Your Call - the Spiritual Side of Vocation
by Fr. Larry Christian
Vice Rector and Director of Admissions
Assumption Seminary in San Antonio
Registration 9:00 am – 9:30 am
9:30 am – 4:00 pm
Lunch will be provided

(2)
Saturday, July 26, 2003
Sacred Heart Church in Abilene
837 Jeanette St.
Diocesan Priesthood - Ministries and Parish Life
by Fr. Tom Barley
Director of Vocations and Seminarians
Registration 9:00 am - 9:30 am
9:30 am - 2:30 pm
Lunch will be provided

Please call Fr. Tom Barley at the Office of Vocations and Seminarians if you plan to attend. (325) 651-7500
Diocese Loses A Beloved Priest

by Bishop Michael D. Pfeifer, OMI

I feel obliged to share with you some reflections on the death of Father David Espitia, 49, Pastor of St. Ann’s Church in Colorado City, with the mission of St. Joseph in Loraine, who was found hanged in his apartment on June 13, 2003. His tragic death has left all of us, especially his family members and the people he served, in deep shock, sorrow, and grief.

In an unusual step, Father Espitia himself revealed to me a few days before his death that he was accused of sexually abusing a minor. Father emphatically denied these accusations. Although no one had previously brought these accusations to me, Father David, at my suggestion agreed to follow the process of our new Policies on Ethics and Integrity in Ministry so as to determine the truth of this matter and hopefully clear his name.

Father Espitia had an exemplary record before this allegation, and he was much loved by people in the various ministries he fulfilled in our Diocese as a parochial vicar, vocation/seminarian director and Pastor. We need to remember all the good that this priest did for thousands of people during his nine years of priestly ministry. It was my privilege to ordain him as a priest.

As we continue to deal with Father David’s death, I beg all to pray for the eternal repose of his soul, and to pray for his father and family members, and to pray for the people he served, especially the youth. And, if there is a victim, please pray for this person and the person’s family. Given the fact that Fr. David is no longer with us, regretfully many questions we all have will remain unanswered.

Various steps have been taken by myself and those who serve with me to help our people deal with immense grief. I personally have met with Father David’s family, with the Pastoral Council of the parish where Father David served, and had a meeting with all the people of the parish. This past Sunday, I celebrated Mass in the parish and once again met with the people of the parish, and had a special meeting with the youth. Professional counselors have come into the parish to assist people with their grief, sorrow, and confusion, and a special prayer/healing service was held for the youth of the parish this past Friday evening. The professional counseling service will continue to be provided for the people of the parish this week.

The Colorado City Police Department has indicated that the cause of Father Espitia’s death was suicide. Suicide is perhaps the most misunderstood of all deaths. I share with you some reflections on suicide from the Catechism of the Catholic Church: “Everyone is responsible for his life before God who has given it to him . . . We are stewards, not owners, of the life God has entrusted to us. It is not ours to dispose of.” [#2280]. “Suicide contradicts the natural inclination of the human being to preserve and perpetuate his life.” [#2281] Grave psychological disturbances, anguish, or great fear of hardship, suffering, or torture can diminish the responsibility of the one committing suicide.” [#2282]

The Church’s position on suicide today is that we presume the person was in a psychological state of extreme mental and emotional duress. We do not sit in judgment. That is a matter that ultimately is between the person and God.

As we seek answers and use all the human supports that are available, ultimately we must turn to our faith that sustains us when dealing with the loss of a loved one through suicide. Faith gives us insight and courage to live, but does not necessarily take away the pain of loss and death. When facing the tragedy of suicide, our task is not to second-guess, but to trust—trust that God is far more gentle and understanding than we are, and that God, who is almighty and merciful, can give this person peace.

I sincerely thank the priests, sisters, and so many good lay people who have reached out in this moment of crisis to Father David’s family and the people he served. Like other sudden deaths, this case reminds us that life is short. We are like a flower that blooms in the morning and withers away in the afternoon. The important thing is that we strive to do the best we can each day and to love one another. And, we constantly need to turn to Jesus,

A Sweet And Beloved Priest We Missed

by Fr. Obioma Des. Obi,
Mt. Carmel Church, Winters TX

In happy memory of late Fr. David Espitia
June 19, 2003

A sweet and beloved priest we missed
A lovely and wonderful priest we missed
A handsome and compassionate priest we missed

A patient and courageous priest we missed
An honest and faithful priest we missed
A modest and devout priest we missed
An organized and disciplined priest we missed
An articulated and shrewd priest we missed

A thoughtful and dedicated priest we missed
A noble and gentle priest we missed

From him is our inspiration
From him is the source of our spirituality
From him is our courage
From him is the root of our humility
From him is the root of our peace
From him is the source of our unity
From him is the root of our honesty
From him is the root of our vocation

Who ever strengthened us better?
Who ever challenged us better?
Who ever inspired us better?
Who ever counseled us better?
Who ever cared for us better?
Who ever fed us better?

He saw beyond the color of our skin
He saw beneath our outside
He saw through our outbursts
He heard beyond our words
He heard through the mask we wear
He heard beyond our languages or slang
He heard beyond our laughter

He knew and played all our games
He listened beyond our pains
He heard beyond our languages or slang
He answered beyond our questions

A sweet and beloved priest we missed.
of learning, being subverted by the growing presence of pornography that is invasive in the classrooms and in homes through emails and disguised Internet sites. More and more teachers are reluctant to use the Internet in the classroom because of the overwhelming presence of pornography. Pornography on the Internet is graphic and virtually unavoidable. Sometimes it is even very violent. Filters are simply not working. The United States government apparently is very ineffective in blocking the mostly foreign invasions of this terrible material. Paradoxically, the government that can eavesdrop on every electronic communication in the world to combat terrorists, cannot combat the pornography traffickers who are doing a $90 billion dollar business in the United States. I feature a couple of helps for parents for protecting children from the evil purposes of the Internet. Parents need to become familiar with “Cyber-Tipline” (www.cybertipline.com) for reporting suspicious and/or illegal activities that they or their children might encounter online. So that parents can provide proper supervision for their children, the place for the computer is not in the private bedroom, but in a hallway or family room which is open to the view of all.

Here are “Rules for Online Safety” that the National Center for Missing and Exploited Children invites parents to ask their children to adopt:

• I will not give out personal information such as my address, telephone number, parents’ work address/telephone number, or the name and location of my school without my parents’ permission.
• I will tell my parents right away if I come across any information that makes me feel uncomfortable.
• I will never agree to get together with someone I “meet” online without first checking with my parents. If my parents agree to the meeting, I will be sure that it is in a public place and bring my mother or father along.
• I will never send a person my picture or anything else without first checking with my parents.
• I will not respond to any messages that are mean or in any way make me feel uncomfortable. It is not my fault I get a message like that. If I do, I will tell my parents right away so that they can contact the online service.
• I will talk with my parents so that we can set up rules for going online. We will decide upon the time of day that I can be online, the length of time I can be online and appropriate areas for me to visit. I will not access other areas or break these rules without their permission.

Commitment to these Rules is a major step in protecting children from predators and pornography on the Internet.

---

**CARROLL**

*From page one*

said, “I realized how important it was for Catholics to have a role model for political involvement today, because both of the major parties now tend to ignore Catholic ideas; but I also wanted to show that at the founding of this country the Catholic tradition and the Christian tradition were very important.”

Born in Maryland in 1737, Charles Carroll was sent by his father to Belgium, where he studied at the Jesuit Academy of St. Omers. It was there that young Carroll studied the writings of Thomas Aquinas, Robert Bellarmine and Francisco de Suarez, helping to shape his political philosophy.

After Carroll’s return to Maryland in 1765, he began lobbying for repeal of the Stamp Act.

“The irony of this is that Carroll was prohibited from voting on any political issue because he was Catholic, and though many immigrants had renounced their faith he remained steadfast to the church,” McDermott said.

“Aug. 2, 1776,” said McDermott, “Had it not been for Carroll, all the new states might have created Protestant religious establishments,” said McDermott. “This act exploded the theory that the United States had a Protestant identity.”

After the Revolutionary War was over, Carroll had a seat in the first U.S. Senate, while working doggedly for Catholic emancipation as he supported the Bill of Rights with his cousin, Daniel Carroll, who was in the House of Representatives.

When John Adams and Thomas Jefferson both died on July 4, 1826, Carroll became the only surviving signer of the Declaration of Independence. He spent his final years as a national hero, and died at the age of 95 in 1832.

McDermott said he hoped the book about Carroll would empower Catholics “to get involved with the political process, and support political candidates who are aware of the Christian tradition and are willing to support it.”

“I feel a lot of Catholics now are disenfranchised in a similar way to Carroll’s inability to vote,” he added. “Catholics feel hopeless because neither party represents Catholic teachings. Reading this book may make more Catholics aware that the U.S. is still based on these founding principles and Catholics need to become more aware of this and realize that they, too, can be instruments of positive change.”

Carroll is very focused on spirituality,” said McDermott. “In doing my research and writing this book, I have outward a bit more, and toward the public. I want people to know who Charles Carroll was.”

---

**Festival Chairpersons Please Note**

The following is quoted from the PARISH FINANCE COUNCIL MEMBER’S MANUAL: “Section 3. Restrictions:
(d) Organizations may not promote raffle through television, radio, newspaper, or other mass communications, or by paid advertising.
(e) Raffle may not be promoted or advertised state-wide, nor tickets sold state-wide.”

Therefore No Mention Of “Raffle” May Be Made In Festival Announcements In The “Angelus.”

---

**St. Joseph’s Catholic Church Annual Festival**

402 Hinson St., Loraine, TX
Sat/Sun, July 26-27
Family Oriented • Games • Train Rides
Air Castle • Food Booths • Live Music
Come Join Us!

---

**PRIEST**

from page four

who gives us direction, courage and trust when he tells us: “Do not let your hearts be troubled. You have faith in God; have faith also in me . . . I am the way, and the truth, and the life. No one comes to the Father except through me.” [John 14:1-6]
YOUTH 2000 Returns to the San Angelo Diocese!

by Lori Hines

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 bearing witness to the faith and bringing into the third millenium 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 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 responds to the Holy Father’s call. YOUTH 2000 organizes and promotes retreats with catechism on the true presence of Jesus in the Eucharist as the central part of the retreat. This focus of the Blessed Sacrament demonstrates to young people that Christ must be the center of their lives. Through the Sacraments, Adoration, prayer, talks, meditation and music, young people are drawn into a closer relationship with God. Young people are given the opportunity during the retreat to grow in their understanding of the Catholic Faith and to deepen their commitment to the service of the Church and others. In this way, YOUTH 2000 also responds to the U.S. Bishop’s directives as stated in “Renewing the Vision,” to draw young people into a relationship with Jesus Christ and to encourage young people to become active in their parishes and in the programs in their Diocese.

YOUTH 2000 is an international initiative 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 over 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., of which Bishop Michael Pfeifer O.M.I presided, 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.

The YOUTH 2000 Retreat program booklet, outlining the theological content and liturgical practices of the retreat, was granted an Imprimatur from Bishop William E. Lori, Vicar General of Washington, D.C., with the Nihil Obstat by Reverend Augustine Di Noia, O.P. The Imprimatur was given on December 12, 2000, the feast of Our Lady of Guadalupe, patroness of YOUTH 2000.

In January 2000, San Angelo hosted its first YOUTH 2000 Retreat – expected attendance was 300; actual attendance was 650. The second YOUTH 2000 Retreat for the Diocese was held in January of 2002 and again attendance reached the 600 mark. A third YOUTH 2000 Retreat was held June 27-29, 2003 at the Cathedral of the Sacred Heart in San Angelo.
Farewell Sister Joan!

by S. Hilda Marotta, OSF

Representatives from far and near gathered at Christ the King Retreat Center to bid farewell to Sister Joan Markus, SSND, who has served for eleven years as the Director of Education and Formation for the Diocese of San Angelo. Msgr. Droll, on behalf of Bishop Michael Pfeifer, presented S. Joan and S. Carol Markus, SSND (and S. Carol Markus, SSND) a trip to the Holy Land. “Now I will get to see all those places I taught about for so many years. What a wonderful gift,” S. Joan said.

S. Joan collects angels. Angels are symbolic of God’s presence in her life. “When God called me here, God gave all of you to me as angels, as images of God’s presence in my life. I thank you for being angels these past eleven years”.

A final thought S. Joan said was that “gatherings such as this farewell gives one glimpse of the heavenly banquet. Won’t it be glorious?”

S. Joan will participate in a Graduate Pastoral Care Program at St. Aquinas Institute in St. Louis Mo. during the coming year.
Beginnings And Beyond

by S. Joan Markus, SSND

One-hundred twenty-two participants from around the country gathered June 8-13 at Christ the King Retreat Center for the week-long Beginnings and Beyond Institute, sponsored by The North American Forum on the Catechumenate. Team members who led the Institute were Kevin Bourassa from Saginaw, MI, Rita Ferrone from Milwaukee, WI, Nick Wagner from San Jose, CA, Rita Senseman from Noblesville, IN and Rev. Ron Oakharn from Houston, TX. Participants gathered from Louisiana, Maryland, Colorado, New Mexico and various places in the state of Texas. Forty-six participants from 20 parishes in the Diocese of San Angelo engaged in the process. Participating parishes were St. Vincent, St. Francis, Sacred Heart, Holy Family, Abilene, Sacred Heart, Immaculate Heart of Mary, Big Spring, St. Mary, Brownwood, Good Shepherd, Crane, St. Ann, St. Stephen, Midland, St. Elizabeth Ann Seton, Odessa, St. Joseph, Rowena, St. James Sanderson, Holy Angels, Sacred Heart, St. Margaret and St. Mary, San Angelo, St. Lawrence, St. Lawrence, St. Joseph, Stanton and St. Ambrose, Wall.

Participants heard talks on the vision of the Rite of Christian Initiation of Adults, were led through the experience of the flow, steps and periods of the Rite and were given teachings on the skills necessary for local implementation. All were invited to reflect and engage in faith sharing and the liturgical celebration. The entire process allowed participants to deepen their understanding of the conversion journey.

During the group process, a number of participants reflected on the adaptations and principles regarding children and youth.

The Mission of the North American Forum on the Catechumenate is the full implementation in all parishes of the Rite of Christian Initiation of Adults and its implications for reconciliation.

New Associate Director Hired

by S. Joan Markus, SSND

Sister Adelina Garcia, O.S.F. has been hired as the Associate Director for the Office of Education and Formation, effective July 1, 2003. Sister Adelina’s primary responsibility will be the formation of adult youth leaders, the implementation of “Renewing the Vision” the pastoral plan for youth ministry at the parish level and “Sons and Daughters of the Light”, the pastoral plan for young adults. Additional responsibilities will be the planning and implementation of the diocesan, regional and national youth events.

Sister Adelina has a Bachelor of Arts degree from St. Mary’s University in San Antonio and a Masters of Theological Studies from the Oblate School of Theology in San Antonio. She has served extensively at both the parish and diocesan level in the area of youth ministry. In the Greensburg, PA diocese, she served as a high school catechist and youth minister. At St. Francis Academy in San Antonio, she taught high school religion and was chair of the Religion Department. For five years, she served as the vocation minister for the School Sisters of St. Francis in Pittsburgh, PA. The past years, she served as the Youth Ministry Consultant in the Western Deaneries in the Archdiocese of San Antonio and as the youth minister at St. John the Evangelist Parish in Hondo.

Sister Adelina has also served and is presently serving on the planning team for the national youth event that will be held in Houston in November. She said she is “eager, ready and happy to begin service in the Diocese of San Angelo, TX”. Welcome Sister Adelina Garcia!
Pan de Vida

by S. Malachy

As you read in the June issue of The West Texas Angelus, the "hermanamiento" among the Dioceses of San Pedro Sula in Honduras and of Tyler and San Angelo is proceeding with determination, energy, and enthusiasm. The Catholic Newman Center at Angelo State University was pleased to host team members, our San Angelo Solidarity Committee, faculty, students, friends, and volunteers.

We began our evening together by celebrating the Eucharist. Padre Jose Antonio Canales (S.P.S.) presided and Ruben Natera (Tyler) was the deacon. In his homily, Padre Canales addressed his words to "Dear brothers and sisters: Dear students," and said, "how difficult it must have been to celebrate the Resurrection of Christ this year in the midst of the horrors of the war in Iraq." However, he said, "Christ 'ha recucitado' in Iraq also." On the first days of Easter, a Honduran periodical published a picture of a little Iraqi baby girl born amongst a family of the small Catholic community. She was presented for Baptism on Easter. Padre Canales marveled at how we always encounter motives for hope at times when the world is turning very dark.

"In Honduras, it has also not been easy to celebrate Easter. Seven young delinquent boys were asphyxiated in the Detention Center in San Pedro Sula, sixty-eight people died in a confused killing in a jail in La Ceiba, and fourteen people also died when drug dealers shot randomly at a cafeteria in San Pedro Sula. Under these circumstances, the Church has focused its preaching on the sense of reevaluating human life. We understand that Christ rose for this, so that in the midst of chaos and discouragement we, as Christians, do not lose hope. Even if the night is long, there will be a new day. Christ is that new day. Christ is the dawn."

Our Presider continued by speaking about the gospel for the day, which presented Jesus as the Pan de Vida/Bread of Life. Jesus assured his listeners that those who chose to follow him would never again hunger or thirst. Today there is material hunger in our world and there are many places that have great difficulty obtaining a little clean water. However, "the worst hunger of the world today is the thirst and hunger for Christ. You here in Texas and we in Honduras are called to satisfy that hunger and thirst for Christ with our authentic and clear testimony of the Christian life. This, our testimony, speaks louder and better than a thousand words. May the Risen Christ’s peace be with you always.”

The Liturgy was very prayerful and the music superb. Frank Diaz, Jerrilyn Prestiano, and Edward Hernandez chose some of our best bilingual hymns. The community truly celebrated the Easter mysteries.

The Eucharistic celebration continued in the great room where we had a delicious meal prepared by Loretta Burgess and the Price Family (Sally, Jerry, and Kathleen). Thanks to the many bilingual students, faculty, and alumni, new introductions were made and great conversations began. Because many of our Honduran sisters and brothers have been here several times, some conversations picked up where they left off on previous visits. This evening of conviviality was much like a family reunion. Our hunger for Christ and for relationship was evident. The Bread of Life satisfied our hungry hearts.

Music by (l to r) Jerrilyn Prestiano, Edward Hernandez and Frank Diaz.


Left to right: Virginia Medrano (Tyler), Dr. Lorenzo Peñafiel and Laura Strube.

Left to right: Pad. José Antonio Canales (SPS), Diana Mandujano, Carmen Acevedo.

Left to right: Pd. Anthony Canales, O.P., Msgr. Larry Droll, Pd. Nicholas Delgado, CMF.

Community at Eucharist.

St. Mary’s Catholic Church
7 W. Ave N, San Angelo
Jamaica Festival
Sunday, August 31st
Brisket Plate $5.00
Games • Silent Auction • Country Store
Cake Walk • Bingo • FMI 325-655-6278
Newman Center Retreat

by Perry Dominguez

In May, the Newman Center held a small retreat for the students of Angelo State University. Father Oscar Valderrama, O.P. presided. The intention of this retreat was for us as individuals to strengthen our faith as Catholics as well as Christians. Fr. Oscar made some valid points as to how a person could maintain a strong faith and relationship with God. His faith was very sound and passionate. Here is a priest who truly defines himself through his ministry and his congregations. To hear this man talk was a great inspiration.

Fr. Oscar put this question to us, “What is being a Christian?” I myself needed to ask this question to be answered, and I needed to find my answer. In today’s world, a person may find it difficult to walk a righteous path. Fr. Oscar helped us understand that this struggle is part of one’s faith. Everyday we are called to minister to our fellow man and to love our neighbor. Being a Christian means that we recognize this and act upon it. How many times have we neglected to help someone because we were in a hurry? Today we live in the “Me” era. We concern ourselves not with what God wants us to do, but what we can do for ourselves. Fr. Oscar provoked some serious thought. I was floored with the realization that the price of a single fighter jet could alleviate the poverty in a small third world country. That very thought saddened me, and I thought, “What could I possibly do?” At one point in this retreat I found myself thinking, “What possible difference could I make in a time of debauchery and self gratification?”

Living by example is a good start. Going to church is not enough, and praying that tomorrow is a better day is not living up to the Lord’s expectations. Loving one’s neighbor as God has loved you is the answer to living well. We will not succeed in our faith if we do not love our fellow man. Action is a definite part of being a Christian. One must not only love God but God’s people also. If you ask who these people are, I believe it is every person within a 10,000 mile radius of you. We are not the center of the universe but we are the center of our own faith. If we fail to help one another, then we fail to be Christians.

I wish all could have participated in this time with Fr. Oscar. His words were spoken with the love he has for God. I was truly moved by the time I spent with him and the students who participated. I found myself wanting to continue for another few days. Fr. Oscar celebrated Mass to end the retreat. The time we all had shared made the Mass that much more meaningful as well as personal. We at the Newman Center would like to thank Fr. Oscar for coming all the way from Honduras to preside. Also, special thanks to Frank Diaz for his wonderful choice of music and song at the Liturgy. It was a blessed time had by all.

Divine Appointment

by Diana Mandujano

We are all where we are meant to be for a certain reason. Whether we like that reason or not is often a choice over which we have no control.

There have been times that my plans have not worked out as I had hoped. Then there have been those times that seem pure luck. Having met our brothers and sisters from Honduras has seemed like pure golden luck. The Newman Center has been so fortunate to have our Honduran brothers and sisters take part in our many events this year.

The week of final exams we were blessed to have an ending Mass at the Newman Center with our Honduran and Tyler family. Then, two days later, we had the opportunity to have Padre Oscar Valderrama, O.P. lead us in a retreat.

The retreat directed by Padre Oscar was what you could consider a divine appointment. We were meant to be there for a particular reason. Many of us had questions about different aspects of our lives. Others were there to get a break before the busy summer began and some were not quite sure how they ended up on retreat. Regardless, the reasons we were there were not of importance. We were to learn many things and answer many questions for ourselves.

Padre Oscar asked us many questions. Some were; our reason for being there, what we had come for, were we happy with our lives, what does it mean to be a Christian, what were we going to make happen, and why we were alive. Most of us have asked these questions repeatedly in the silence of our hearts.

Regardless of our age, sex, goals, or dreams we were at this retreat to find answers to these questions. We came together as a family to help each other in the search. The last three questions were most important to me.

Someone asked how one person with no talents could make a difference. Padre Oscar responded by asking us each to write down a list of good and bad qualities we possess. Then he told us that the lists of good attributes were our gifts. We learned that we are special and each of us has gifts. Although these gifts are what we considered “small and insignificant” they are ours and can cause more “dents” in the world than we can imagine. He told us that it is okay if we do not have the gift of tongues or the power of healing by touch but that with our small, unique gifts we can make a difference.

This difference will not change the world in one shot. Instead our goal is to change the world of our neighbor, little by little. The only way to move a mountain is one stone at a time. Not only are we to care for our family and friends but we are called to reach out to our neighbors, those “strangers” around us. These “strangers” are our neighbors. These are the people we pass daily in our lives and take little time to know. Our neighbor is the man on the street, the woman on the corner, and children who do without basic necessities. These are our neighbors for whom we must care. This is what it means to be a Christian. To make this world we know a better place, not only for those who live here now but also for those to come, is our goal in life. We are to love our neighbor as ourselves, set an example for others to follow, and try again and again to make peace in this world of ours.

I have always wondered what my purpose is, why I am here, and why I am alive. I wondered, too, if I was the only one who felt this way. This retreat gave me some answers. I learned that we all go through the same situations, sometimes at different points in our lives and to different degrees. I learned that we all question our reason for being here. However, the most important thing I learned is that our small gifts are what change the world. To cause a dent is to show the world what we have to offer. This can range from a smile to something of monetary value. Most of all we are to share the love we have been taught by God. I learned that it does not matter what I do, I become, be it a teacher or a lawyer, I can make a difference in whatever I do, when I do it wholeheartedly and do God’s work. We all have a purpose, what the details are we may or may not know, but we must love to the best of our ability and hope we touch someone along the way.

St. Mary Star of the Sea Catholic Church Fall Festival
Sunday, September 7th
Ballinger, Texas
Mexican Fajita Dinner – 11:00 a.m. to 1:30 p.m.
$6.00 Adult Plate, $3.00 Childs Plate
Auction starts at 1:00 p.m.
Fancy Stand • Games • Bingo
the spirituality and peace that resided there. Overall, it was the experience of a lifetime. Gilbert offers special thanks to everyone who made the trip possible.

CAMP
from page three
each job and the entire summer experience. He once heard a quote - “It would be better if we all started out as an employer and then worked down to employee.”

So Matthew says -- let others party and go to their other activities. He will enjoy summer camp and the opportunity to help others to have an experience that will change their lives. He will miss it when he goes off to bigger and better things, but he will long remember the people he met and who had an influence in his life -- fellow staffers and the younger scouts who may one day join the camp staff.

BOSNIA
from page three
the spirituality and peace that resided there. Overall, it was the experience of a lifetime. Gilbert offers special thanks to everyone who made the trip possible.

LA VIRGEN
from page twelve
Misas Durante La Semana
Septiembre 8, 9, 10, 11 y 12: Misas a las 8:00 a.m. 10:00 a.m. 12:00, 2:00 p.m. 4:00, 6:00 y 8:00 de la noche.

Eventos Especiales Durante La Semana
Septiembre 8: Hora Santa a las 8:00 de la noche: Todos los grupos de adoración en la Arquidiócesis están invitados. Oraremos por vocaciones al sacerdocio y a la vida religiosa.

Septiembre 9: Consagración de todas las familias al Corazón de Jesús y Maná a las 8:00 de la noche.

Septiembre 10: Bendición de los peregrinos de los paises de Jalisco, Guanajuato y Zacatecas a las 7:00 p.m.

Septiembre 11: Misa de niños y jóvenes a las 6:00 de la tarde.

Septiembre 12: Rosario y procesión a las 6 de la tarde.

Eventos Especiales Ultimo Fin De Semana:
Sábado Septiembre 13: Misa de sanación a las 6:30 de la tarde. Domingo 14: La gran despedida a las 7 de la noche.

Como llegar a Devine? De San Antonio tome el 35 sur rumbo a Laredo y sale en el EXIT que dice Devine- Jourdanton. De san Antonio son como unas 30 millas.


PATRIOTISM
from page two
continent a new nation, conceived in liberty and dedicated to the proposition that all men are created equal. . . . The world will little note, nor long remember what we say here, but it can never forget what they did here. It is for us the living, rather to be dedicated here to the unfinished work which they who fought here have thus far so nobly advanced. It is rather for us to be here dedicated to the great task remaining before us -- that from these honored dead we take increased devotion to that cause for which they gave the last full measure of devotion -- that we here highly resolve that these dead shall not have died in vain -- that this nation under God shall have a new birth of freedom -- and that government of the people, by the people, for the people, shall not perish from the earth.''

The first ten Amendments to the Constitution are known as the Bill of Rights. These rights guarantee all Americans freedom of religion, speech, press, petition, and assembly, and freedom of privacy, due process of law, and equality before the law. Later amendments guarantee equal rights for all, regardless of race, color, or creed.
Use the following text:

**Early Childhood Center Expands to Offer a 5-day program**

by Audrey Curry

St. Ann’s School in Midland had a ribbon cutting to open a 5-day a week, 4-year old program. The ribbon cutting was held on June 18th. The community was invited to an open house during the day to tour the school.

The early childhood center opened 8 years ago with a 3-day and 2-day program for 3 year olds and 4 year olds. The early childhood department expanded its program to offer the 5 day a week opportunity.

The classes begin at 8:15 a.m. and end at 3:00 p.m. Before school care begins at 7:45 a.m. After school care is available until 5:30 p.m. The day includes religion, center time, directed craft activities, small group time, outside play and story time. Centers include library, dramatic play, blocks, science, art, math, fine motor, easel, and writing.

Cathy Gravelle, the teacher for the 3 year olds, was on the committee that developed the curriculum for the Diocese of El Paso and San Angelo. Sara Welch teaches the 2 and 3-day programs. Katherine Jones teaches the 5-day program.

The 3-day program costs $230.00 per month. The 2-day program costs $155.00 per month. The 5-day program costs $350.00 per month. If you have any questions or would like a copy of the program philosophy, please call Audrey Curry, the principal, at 684-4563.

**Our Lady of San Juan de los Lagos Visits Devine, Texas**

There will be a visit of Our Lady of San Juan de los Lagos from Jalisco, Mexico to St. Joseph’s Catholic Church in Devine, Texas from September 5th to 15th.

**Mass Schedule:**

Mass schedule for first and second weekend of her visit: Saturday 6 and 13 – Masses at 8:00 am, 10:00 am, 12:00 pm, 2:00 pm, 4:00 pm, 6:00 pm and 8:00 pm. Sunday 7 and 14 – Masses at 7:30 am, 9:00 am, 11:00 am, 1:00 pm, 3:00 pm, 5:00 pm and 7:00 pm.

**Special Events During The Week:**

- September 9: Consecration of saints.
- September 11: Rosary with procession.
- September 14: Farewell Mass.
- September 15: How To Reach Devine: Coming from San Antonio take 35 south towards Laredo and Exit on Devine -Jourdanton. It is about 30 miles. Everyone is welcome. FMI call (metro) 830-665-3321 or 1-830-663-2244; cellular 210-722-6213.

**Visita De La Imagen Peregrina W San Juan De Los Lagos, Jalisco México A La Parroquia De San Jose En Devine Texas Del 5 Al 15 De Septiembre.**

**Horario De Misas:**

Misas del primer y Segundo fin de semana de la visita de la Virgen:

- Sábado 6 y 13 de Septiembre: Misas a la 8:00 a.m, 10:00, 12:00 2:00 p.m. 4:00, 6:00 y 8:00 P.M.
- Domingo 7 y 14 de Septiembre: Misas a las 7:30 a.m. 9:00, 11:00, 1:00 p.m. 3:00, 5:00 y 7:00 de la noche.

*see "LA VIRGEN" page eleven*