

West Texas ANGELUS

Serving the Diocese of San Angelo, Texas
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A long way since 'Jose Cuervo'

Cindy Jordan made quite a name for herself in the 1980s, writing the song, "Jose Cuervo (You Are a Friend of Mine)." After Shelly West recorded it, it was named Record of the Year by R&R and Billboard magazines. Today, Jordan, a cradle Catholic and San Angelo resident, is devoting her writing strengths to teaching children about peace./Pg 3

Driving Commandments

1. Do not kill
2. See the road as a means of communion with people
3. Be courteous, upright and prudent
4. Be charitable and help neighbors in need
5. Do not view cars as an expression of power
6. Do not drive when not fit to do so
7. Support families of accident victims
8. Be forgiving of those who have done wrong
9. On the road, protect the more vulnerable party
10. Feel responsible toward others

Edited from "Guidelines for the Pastoral Care of the Road," a document from the Pontifical Council for Migrants and Travelers



July 2007

S	M	T	W	T	F	S
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
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15	16	17	18	19	20	21
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29	30	31				

THIS MONTH In the Diocese

THE ANGELUS' NEW LOOK:

We're doing some things differently as you may have noticed, introducing a handful of style changes and cosmetic updates that may make *The Angelus* easier to navigate. The **new cover design** is meant to reflect a more modern publication. We want to provide you with shorter items on the front and more in depth pieces inside.

We've relocated **Diocese-Scenes** to Page 16, which means your photo submissions can now be viewed in full color. Our **Back Page**, featuring popular culture topics, book and movie reviews has moved inside and renamed "Culture." **Bishop Pfeifer's monthly column** will be atop **Pg. 2** each month. The **Family/Kids** pages move to **Pgs. 10-11** and our **Nation/World/ Vatican** page moves to **Pg. 12**.

Local Hero



Jefferson Awards co-founder Sam Beard, left, and Abilene's Chaplain Donna Kleman.

Abilene chaplain, Holy Family parishioner named Jefferson Award winner in D.C. ceremony

By Jimmy Patterson
Editor

WASHINGTON -- In a room filled with 90 of the country's most memorable volunteers, Abilene's Donna Kleman definitely stood out.

Dressed in the blues of the Abilene Police Department, Kleman, recipient of the prestigious 2007 Jefferson Award honor from Abilene, related stories of her experiences as volunteer chaplain for APD.

Kleman, a parishioner at Holy Family Catholic Church, also delivered the invocation in a room full of honored guests, dignitaries including Sam Beard, co-creator of the Jefferson Awards. Former U.S. Senator Robert Taft and former first lady Jacqueline Kennedy Onassis helped Beard pave the way for the award that has been called "The Nobel Prize for Community and Public Service."

Kleman, known throughout Abilene as "Chaplain Donna," has been a volunteer with the force since 2001. She recently counseled a family after the tragic drive-by shooting death of a 4-year-old girl and consistently works closely with families for weeks after a loss.

(Please See **KLEMAN/14**)

INSIDE THIS MONTH'S ANGELUS...

From the Bishop's Desk



Our first call in life, because of our baptism, is to be holy, to become saints. How do we become saints? What is the secret of holiness?

Pg. 2

DID YOU KNOW ...

The eternal flame at John F. Kennedy's grave at the Arlington Memorial Cemetery went out about a month after his funeral when a group of Catholic school students visiting the grave drenched it with holy water. A guard at the grave who happened to be a smoker reignited the flame with his cigarette lighter. *Source: National Geographic*

Henri Aguilar was marked by the tattoos he acquired while a member of one of Honduras' notorious street gangs, but inside he was a new man. On May 7, Aguilar was cleaning up after working all day and planned to walk to a nearby chapel, where he was scheduled as a reader for Mass. He was taking a shower when three masked men burst into his church-built home and shot him dead./Pg. 11

San Pedro Sula violence



From the Editor

CHRISTOVAL -- It took just a dozen words for Fr. General Joseph Chalmers to convey his graciousness last month as he visited Christoval. And it took just one word -- y'all -- to make him one of us./Pg. 3



NOTE TO PARISHES:

If you've not yet done so, please email 2007 summer and fall festival info to JimmyLPatterson@grandecom.net

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From the Bishop's Desk

Overcoming weakness: The path to holiness, sainthood



**Bishop
Michael D.
Pfeifer, OMI**

By Bishop Michael Pfeifer

Our first call in life, because of our baptism, is to be holy, to become saints. How do we become saints? What is the secret of holiness?

The great spiritual writer and mystic, Thomas Merton, in *Life and Holiness*, in a succinct and challenging way, describes the path to holiness:

"We become saints not by violently overcoming our own weakness, but by letting the Lord give us the strength and purity of his Spirit in exchange for our weakness and misery. Let us not then complicate our lives and frustrate ourselves by fixing too much attention on ourselves, thereby forgetting the power of God and grieving the Holy Spirit. Our spiritual attitude, our way of seeking peace and perfection,

depends entirely on our concept of God. If we are able to believe he is truly our loving Father, if we can really accept the truth of his infinite and compassionate concern for us, if we believe that he loves us not because we are worthy but because we need his love, then we can advance with confidence. We will not be discouraged by our inevitable weaknesses and failures. We can do anything he asks of us."

DIOCESAN BRIEFS

Drug task force efforts meet in San Angelo, Midland

On June 11, a meeting of the Community Committee of the San Angelo and Tom Green County to Combat Drugs was held at Christ the King Retreat Center. The group decided during the meeting that the name of the effort will formally be called Concho Valley CARES (Community Action and Resources for Empowerment and Success).

While attendance was low, much helpful information was presented coming from the special subcommittee that has developed a vision statement, goals and objectives for San Angelo and the surrounding area.

The large group will reconvene Aug. 13 from 1-3 p.m. at CKRC and on that day, representatives of a similar committee organized in San Antonio -- "San Antonio Fighting Back" -- will share with the group about its efforts in the Alamo City.

After approving the goals and vision statement, each member attending was given a task to work on concerning one of the five goals. It is vital to the continued success of the group that all who attended the original March meeting now offer assistance to help implement the goals for the community.

"I am very grateful to all who attended our June meeting and to Dr. Carol Ann Bonds who brought with her several high school students who took an active part in our meeting," said Bishop Pfeifer.

In Midland, a similar effort to address the drug epidemic is underway. The core group representing the larger group met June 26 and will meet as a larger group at the Midland High School Auditorium on Aug. 7. Community leaders attending the June 26 meeting will take individual tasks and develop possibilities to address the drug issues in the Permian Basin and report back to the large group in August.

Knights of Columbus positions available

Looking for a practical Catholic man who has some sales experience, an outgoing personality, is trustworthy, competitive, aggressive, and is looking for a career serving brother knights and their families. (Must have a good job history.)

Position includes group life, medical insurance, disability insurance, award trips, plus a pension plan and 401K.

Contact: James Seideman
Phone Number: (877) 797-5632
e-mail: james.seideman@kofc.org

Due to the growth of the Knights of Columbus in Texas we have openings in various places in the San Angelo Diocese. This is a unique opportunity to run your own business as a Knights of Columbus Field Agent

Perfect for an outgoing self-starter, selling Fraternal Benefits to our members. If qualified you'll earn better than average income. Excellent benefits and training. You need to have some sales experience, a good work record, ambition to succeed and good people skills.

For more information or an interview, please contact James Seideman, General Agent, toll free, at (877) 797-5632.

NECROLOGY -- AUGUST

- 7 -- Rev. Andrew DeMuth (1969)
- 10 -- Rev. Michael Barbarossa, OFM (1981)
- 12 -- Rev. Ted McNulty (2006)
- 14 -- Rev. Bernard Binversie (1992)
- 15 -- Rev. Sam Homsey, C.P.P.S. (2004)
- 19 -- Rev. Msgr. Arnold A. Boueding (1989)
- 21 -- Deacon William Callan (1988)
- 22 -- Rev. Charles Larue (2005)
- 23 -- Rev. Charles A. Knapp (1978)
- 23 -- Deacon Eufrazio Hernandez (1998)
- 28 -- Mario Calderon (1998)

PARISH FESTIVALS

SEPT. 1-2

CENTENNIAL CELEBRATION ST. JOSEPH'S ROWENA

St. Joseph Catholic Church in Rowena will hold its 100 Year Celebration, Sept. 1-2. The weekend festivities schedule includes:

Saturday, Sept. 1: 7:30 a.m. -- Mass at Cemetery; **10 a.m.** -- Parade; **Noon** -- Sausage Sandwich Lunch; **1:30 p.m.** -- Program (introductions of guests, dignitaries; exhibits and displays; tours of church and school; **5 p.m.** -- BBQ Supper; **8 p.m.-Midnight** -- Street Dance
Sunday, Sept. 2: 10 a.m. -- Mass; **Noon** -- Meal

AUGUST 12

St. Margaret's Fall Festival San Angelo

St. Margaret's of San Angelo will host its Fall Festival at the Knights of Columbus Hall, 3636 N. Bryant, from 10 a.m.- 4 p.m. There will be barbecue brisket dinner plates for \$7 (adults) and \$4 (children) from 10 a.m.-2 p.m. (Plates to go are available.) There will also be an auction at 1 p.m. and raffle, games, country store, and a lot of fun for the whole family.

UPCOMING FESTIVALS

Sacred Heart-Menard will host its Fall Festival **Sept. 8, at Club Victoria** in Menard. Festivities begin at 11 a.m. with games; fajita dinner at 11:30 a.m.; a dance from 9 p.m.-1 a.m. features Ozona's Estilo Band, with vocals by Hope Cardenas.

St. Therese Catholic Church in Carlsbad, will hold its annual festival on **Sun., Sept. 16**, at the Knights of Columbus Hall, 3636 N. Bryant, San Angelo.

Immaculate Conception Church, Knickerbocker, Sun., Sept. 30, will host its annual Fall Festival, Sunday, Sept. 30, featuring mesquite-cooked Brisket/ Sausage Plates served from 11 a.m.-3 p.m. Also featuring raffle-bingo-auction-games.

St. Boniface, Olfen, Fall Festival, Sun., Oct. 14.

Obituary: Reverend Felix Cubelo

Father Felix Cubelo, pastor of St. Joseph Parish in Stanton, died Friday, June 8 in Stanton. Fr. Cubelo was born in Candijay, Bohol, Philippines, January 28, 1948. Father Cubelo's seminary preparation was in the Philippines where he was ordained April 17, 1973. Following his ordination Father served in various parishes in the Philippines from 1973 to 2001. He arrived in San Angelo in July 2001.

After studying Spanish in Mexico for several months, he was assigned as Parochial Vicar of Sacred Heart and St. Thomas Parishes in Big Spring in November 2001. During that time he also served as the Sacramental

Minister at Our Lady of San Juan Parish in Midland. In July 2002, in addition to his Parochial Vicar assignment, Fr. Cubelo began ministry as a part-time chaplain at the Federal Correctional Institution in Big Spring. In August 2006 Fr. Cubelo was assigned as Pastor at St. Joseph Parish in Stanton and St. Isidore Mission in Lenorah. During that time he also continued his part-time chaplain ministry at the Federal Correctional Institution in Big Spring. Father's service in West Texas was made possible through the permission of Most Reverend Christian Noel, D.D., Bishop of the Diocese of Talibon, Philippines.

Fr. Cubelo is survived by his moth-

er, Rosario Cubelo of the Philippines, his sister Josie Cubelo of California, and 6 brothers and two sisters who live in the Philippines. His father, Alfredo Cubelo, is deceased.

A Wake Service and Rosary was held at St. Joseph Church in Stanton June 11. Deacon Clemente Villa presided and Father James Plagens delivered the Homily. Father's funeral Mass was celebrated Tues., June 12 in the Stanton High School Auditorium. Bishop Michael Pfeifer, O.M.I. was the celebrant and Father Floro Hinicay delivered the homily. Fr. Cubelo will be returned to the Philippines for interment.



Rev. Joseph Chalmers, right, prior general of the Carmelites.

From the Editor

Carmelite leader right at home here

By Jimmy Patterson
Editor

"... and it has indeed been my distinct pleasure being here today with ... y'all."

-- Fr. General Curtis Chalmers

CHRISTOVAL -- It took just a dozen words for Fr. General Joseph Chalmers to convey his graciousness last month as he visited Christoval. And it took just one word -- y'all -- to make him one of us.

Fr. Chalmers' words were one of the many highlights at the reception honoring Brother Martin Mary, who had just completed his Profession of Solemn Vows at the nearby Mt. Carmel Hermitage. At Bro. Martin's reception, Fr. Chalmers made it abundantly clear just how humble a man he is.

Fr. Chalmers is the prior general for the worldwide order of the Carmelites, a lofty position that oversees thousands who are part of an order that pledges a life of service to God. He completes his term in September and awaits word from the Vatican what his next assignment with the church will be. But on this recent day of celebration, he was in many ways a regular West Texan, forget the fact that all of his words save for 'y'all' were in a beautiful Scottish brogue. Fr. Chalmers' visit was his fourth to West Texas since the establishment of the hermitage more than 20 years ago. And by all accounts, he loves the people here.

"I came here because this hermitage is a fairly new entity within the Carmelite order and six years ago I was here to receive the hermits into the Carmelite order," Fr. Chalmers said. "Fr. Fabian booked me a long time ago. Today, the Feast of St. John the Baptist is a good occasion and a solemn profession is always a big event but its impossible for me to be present at even a small percentage of this kind of occasion."

Fr. Chalmers said that the strong relationship between the people in the community of Christoval and the nearby hermitage is "particularly notable" and said while hermits always try to foster good relationships within communities, the "personalities of the Mt. Carmel hermits has gone a long way in building such impressive rapport between the monks and the people of the town." Many townspeople, including several Protestants, were present at not only Brother Martin Mary's Mass, but at the reception which followed.



Patterson

'Jose Cuervo' songwriter makes new friends



Cindy Jordan uses gift of songwriting to spread peace through children's music

By Jimmy Patterson
Online Editor

In 1981, **Cindy Jordan** was on top of the L.A. music world. Two years later things became even better. Jordan had written a song and taken it to Los Angeles radio stations, who fell in love with it. In 1983, that same song, "Jose Cuervo (You Are a Friend of Mine)," was recorded by Shelly West and it ended up being the No. 1 song of the year on country radio.

Today, Jordan has turned her songwriting talents to efforts of peace. A San Angelo resident since 2005, she moved to West Texas with husband Dennis Buckingham, who is in the oil

business, and their son Jordan.

A lifelong Catholic, Jordan's turn to writing and recording songs of peace as well as Christian music for children has not led to her shunning that first song: "Jose Cuervo" may have plenty to do with the effects of tequila and how the liquor can take a person to a different level of consciousness, shall we say, but she sees the song as one people enjoy because of the fun it conveys. Jordan says more people identified with the lines, "The music is playing/My spirits are high" because they connote life and joy more than "Who is the cowboy who's sleeping next to

(Please See CINDY/15)

Del Escritorio del Obispo

El camino a la santidad y la canonizacion

Por Obispo Miguel Pfeifer



Pfeifer

Nuestra primera llamada en la vida, por nuestro bautismo, es crecer en la santidad, ser santos. ¿Como nos hacemos santos? ¿Que es el secreto de la santidad?

El gran autor espiritual y místico, Thomas Merton, en Vida y Santidad, en una manera

sucinta y desafiante, describe el camino a la santidad:

"Nos hacemos santos no por violentamente superando nuestras propias debilidades, pero dejando que el Señor nos de la fuerza y pureza de su Espíritu en cambio por nuestras debilidades y miseria. Entonces no debemos complicar nuestras vidas y frustrar nosotros mismos poniendo mucha atención a nosotros, así olvidando el poder de Dios y afligiendo el Espíritu Santo. Nuestra actitud espiritual, nuestra manera de buscar paz y

perfección, depende totalmente en nuestro concepto de Dios. Si podemos creer que él es verdaderamente nuestro Padre amoroso, si podemos aceptar la verdad de su preocupación infinita y compasiva por nosotros, si nosotros creemos que él nos ama no porque somos dignos pero porque necesitamos su amor, entonces podemos avanzar con confianza. No seremos desanimados por nuestras debilidades y fracasos. Podemos hacer cualquier cosa que el pidas a nosotros."

DIOCESAN DATES**Bishop's Calendar****JULY**

16-21, 23-28 -- Vacation

AUGUST

5--San Angelo, Sacred Heart Cath.--Mass, 10 a.m.
6 -- ODESSA, Keynote Speaker at Filipino Conference at 10 to 3 p.m.
7 -- MIDLAND – Drug Task Force Meeting –Midland High School Library, 1 p.m
8 -- SAN ANGELO, Diocesan Pastoral Center – Staff Mass at 8:30 a.m. and Staff Meeting at 11 a.m.
9 -- ODESSA, Our Lady of San Juan Mission – Pastoral Visit at 6:30 p.m.
10 -- MIDLAND, Pro Life Mass at Prayer Garden Across from Planned Parenthood at 10:00 a.m.
12 -- CLYDE, Sts. Joachim and Ann – Mass at 8 a.m.
14-16 -- SAN ANTONIO, Assumption Seminary – Dedication of the Archbishop Patrick Flores Residence Hall
17 -- SAN ANGELO, Diocesan Pastoral Center – Personnel Board, 11 a.m.; Presbyteral Council at 1 p.m.
18 -- ODESSA, St. Elizabeth Ann Seton – 25th Anniversary of Parish
19 -- COAHOMA, St. Joseph – Mass at 9:15 a.m.
21 -- ANDREWS, Our Lady of Lourdes – Install New Pastor, Father Joey Faylona at 6:30 p.m.
23 -- BROWNWOOD, St. Mary – Install New Pastor, Father Serafin Avenida at 6:30 p.m.
24-25 -- DALLAS – Mass for 40th Anniversary of Holy Spirit Circle
25 -- SAN ANGELO, Christ the King Retreat Center – Deacon Retreat
26 -- BIG SPRING – 125th Anniversary of the Catholic Church in Big Spring – 10 a.m. at High School Auditorium
27 -- SAN ANGELO, Convention Center – Summit of Social Agencies of the Concho Valley, sponsored by Mayor J.W. Brown and Bishop Pfeifer, 10 a.m.-3 p.m.
28 -- SAN ANGELO, Diocesan Pastoral Center – Meeting of Diocesan Liturgy Commission at 10 a.m.; **OZONA**, Our Lady of Perpetual Help – Install New Pastor, Father Rodney White at 6:30 p.m.
29 -- SAN ANGELO, Diocesan Pastoral Center, Meet with Fr. Samuel Russell, OSB of Conception Seminary, Missouri.
30 -- FORT STOCKTON, St. Joseph – Install Parochial Administrator, Father Arturo Pestin at 6:30 p.m.

Christ The King Retreat Center**JULY**

19-22 -- Women's Walk to Emmaus
 23 -- Heart of Mercy Prayer Group
 24 -- Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament 5-6 p.m.
 26-29 -- Men's Catholic Cursillo
 30 -- Heart of Mercy Prayer Group
 31 -- Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament 5-6 p.m.

AUGUST

2-5 -- Girl's Chrysalis Flight
 6 -- Heart of Mercy Prayer Group
 7 -- Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament, 5-6 p.m.
 10-12 -- Diaconate Training Program
 13 -- Heart of Mercy Prayer Group
 Drug Awareness Follow up Meeting
 14 -- Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament, 5-6 p.m.
 15 -- Feast of Mary's Assumption-Office Closed
 16-19 -- Men's Walk to Emmaus
 20 -- Heart of Mercy Prayer Group
 21 -- Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament, 5-6 p.m.
 24-26 -- Deacon's Annual Retreat
 27 -- Heart of Mercy Prayer Group
 Directors of Religious Education 10 a.m.– 3 p.m.
 Coordinators of Religious Education & Coordinators of Youth Ministry 7-9 p.m.

Accepting priests for ministry, incardination**By Msgr. Larry Droll**

Half the priests now serving in the Diocese of San Angelo were born in countries other than the USA. In addition, many of the American priests serving in the Diocese were born outside the boundaries of this West Texas diocese. As the diocesan bishop, Most Rev. Michael D. Pfeifer, OMI, has often said, "We welcome these priests and thank them for the significant contribution they make to the pastoral ministry among our people."

In order to maintain a high level of skills in ministry, the Vocation Office and the seminaries have very strin-

gent requirements for those chosen to prepare for ordination.

In addition, the Presbyteral Council has recently recommended to the bishop a series of guidelines for accepting priests from outside the Diocese of San Angelo to work here. They are as follows:

Part I. Accepting priests for ministry into the diocese:

These guidelines refer to all international diocesan and religious priests, as well as diocesan priests of the USA. They do not apply to priests of US religious orders, no matter their country of origin.

· Ordained at least 5 years, preferably 10 years

- Have at least 5 years of parish experience in their country or diocese
- Age between 30 and 45;
- English that can be understood in our diocese;
- Complete an interview in person;
- Complete the standard application forms and documentation;
- Follow the Guidelines for Receiving Pastoral Ministers in the United States (USCCB, 2003) and International Clerics, Non-Ordained Religious Workers & Seminarians: Canon Law, Immigration and Taxation Issues (USCCB, 2005);
- Agree to a document presenting

(Please See **GUIDELINES/14**)**Pray rosary for peace, fulfillment of will****By Bishop Michael Pfeifer, OMI**

In many of her apparitions, the Blessed Virgin Mary, the mother of Jesus and our mother, has asked us as followers of Christ to pray often the Rosary and with a new spirit of faith. In these apparitions, Mary indicates particular intentions for which the Rosary is to be prayed. She mentions the need to pray the Rosary for

peace, the fulfillment of her Son's will, for sinners, for the souls that are most abandoned, and for those in most need of God's mercy.

As I travel our Diocese, it pleases me to find that in several parishes the Rosary is prayed each morning, and in some cases in the afternoon, and sometimes before a Mass is offered.

I encourage all of our parishes to provide our people the opportunity

and time to pray the Rosary in our churches at least once every week.

I am sharing with you here some important information on the Parish Rosary Program that hopefully will assist our priests to designate a person or persons to lead the Rosary and participate in this program. For much more information on this beautiful Parish Rosary Program, I ask you to go to the site www.parishprojects.com

On Post-Communion Purification Directives**By Bishop Michael Pfeifer, OMI**

In October, 2006, the Holy See did not renew the temporary indult given to the Bishops of the United States to allow extraordinary ministers of Holy Communion to assist in purifying the sacred vessels after distribution of Communion. Since the indult was not extended, extraordinary ministers of Holy Communion may not purify cups and other Communion vessels. Extraordinary ministers should be sure of the practice of their parish concerning the placement of Communion vessels for purification.

They should also be aware of any practice regarding the further washing of Communion vessels after they have been purified by the bishop, priest, deacon or instituted acolyte, if available. The indult cited above only concerns the ritual act of purification of the vessels. It does not affect the custom by which many parishes wash the vessels with soap and water after Mass by eucharistic ministers. Hence, eucharistic ministers may assist in the washing of the vessels after Mass. Purificators used during the distribution of the Precious Blood should be refolded and placed on the credence for later washing. Avoid stuffing the purificators into the empty cup.

The latest directives concerning the purification of the vessels after Communion emphasize that the consecrated bread is to be reserved in the tabernacle, with care given



to collecting fragments. The Precious Blood not consumed by the assembly, must be consumed by the bishop, priest or deacon. Extraordinary ministers may consume the blood with permission of the diocesan bishop. For the Diocese of San Angelo, I grant permission to all extraordinary ministers of Communion at the Mass during which they distribute Communion, to assist with consuming the Precious Blood that may be left over after the distribution of Communion.

So, after the Communion procession has ended, the extraordinary minister should place the cup on the altar or credence table, and any remaining Precious Blood must be consumed before Mass is over.

Extraordinary ministers, as pointed out above, may drink the remaining Blood. If an extraordinary minister(s) cannot consume what remains of the Precious Blood, assistance of other extraordinary ministers present in church is to be sought.

Finally, I remind all that according to the General Instruction of the Roman Missal, 2002, Article 21, that the distribution of both species during Mass has a fuller sign. It says, "Holy Communion has a more complete form as a sign when it is received under both kinds. For in this manner of reception a fuller sign of the Eucharistic banquet shines forth. Moreover, there is a clearer expression of that by which the new and everlasting covenant is ratified in the blood of the Lord and of the relationship of the Eucharistic banquet to the eschatological banquet in the Father's kingdom."

Confirmation: Because we want to, not have to

By the Confirmation Class

St. Anthony and St. Joseph Parishes, Odessa

From the Publisher: I share with our readers excerpts of the inspiring and challenging letter that was sent to me by the Confirmation Class from St. Joseph and St. Anthony Parishes in Odessa. The letter was read during the celebration of Confirmation in the Mass for the Ascension of Christ on Saturday, May 19, 2007. —Bishop Michael Pfeifer, OMI.

We used to think that Confirmation marked the end of our quest for God. We thought that as mature Christians now taking full responsibility for decisions and actions, there is nothing more that we need to do; that we are done with our spiritual obligation and so life goes on as usual, that is, like pre-confirmation.

We got it all wrong. We did not understand then that as we get older in age and wisdom, we assume more responsibility and accountability. We do not profess to have gotten it all after all these years but this much we can say: We want to be confirmed not because we have to but because we want to. When we were baptized as infants, we did not know what was happening. Now, we

accept the opportunity to say our own “I do” to our baptismal promises. We want to nurture and deepen our relationship with God.

We need the gifts of the Holy Spirit to lead us through the ongoing process of conversion which occurs during our entire lifetime. The gifts of *knowledge, understanding and wisdom* will help us see and hear where God is calling us. Do we see God in the face of the poor? Do we see the absence of God where there is abuse, violence and war? Do we hear the cry of the poor? Do we respond to calls for standing up for life and peace? The gifts of *piety, counsel, fortitude, awe and reverence* will enable us to speak rightly of God’s love with faith, confidence and courage. Are we willing to speak up when the situation demands? Do we have the honesty and humility to serve and treat everyone with respect because we are all children of God? Are we responsible stewards of places and things given for our use? Do we care for the earth? Caught between two choices, do we have the courage to choose the right one no matter how unpopular it is or how difficult it may be? That we may be able to say our “Yes” to God’s invitation to love is our prayer which we unite with the prayer in the Second Reading from Ephesians 1:17-29. We want to operate in

the power and grace of the Spirit and be ready when Jesus comes again.

We may not have experienced great miracles in our life but we are happy with the little miracles we experience day after day. We have been reading the Bible more often. We have been learning more prayers and praying more often. Retreats have become a part of our life. We have become more active in our participation in liturgy and the life of our parish. Community service has made us other-centered. We gave more thought and care for our global brothers and sisters whom we have come to be aware of through the Rice Bowl. We donated time and money to Catholic Charities and orphanages and served with Meals on Wheels. We have become more respectful of other people. We have surprised ourselves into believing that there is more to life than having fun, money and power. And, if some time in our life we acquire them, we ask the Holy Spirit to guide us in their proper use.

Most importantly, we turn to the sacrament of reconciliation every time we fall short; we nourish ourselves with the Eucharist, our food for the journey through life. The journey goes on and for as long as we are on this earth, we need the Holy Spirit.

Catholic Extension Society names Midland’s Leibrecht ‘Hidden Hero’

Editor’s Note: Reprinted from Catholic Extension Society Magazine, which named St. Stephen-Midland Deacon Bob Leibrecht, the Director of the Criminal Justice Ministry in the Diocese of San Angelo, as its Hidden Hero.

By Christine Dodd

Managing Editor
Catholic Extension Magazine

Deacon Bob Leibrecht’s first taste of prison ministry came nearly seven years ago when a friend dragged him to a Kairos meeting shortly after he and his wife Julie had lost their 21-year-old son to illness.

Kairos, an ecumenical retreat for prisoners, involves building a Christian community inside the prison, and the future deacon in the Diocese of San Angelo found himself face to face with inmates who poured out some of their deepest secrets.

“I thought I was going to prison to minister to the men there, but I found that God had a message for me,” says Deacon Leibrecht. “As these guys talked about their broken lives, I realized they were my lost brothers, really not much different from me. Some of the stories they told about what they had been through were staggering.”

Many of the prisoners were young, and, without benefit of a loving family, the deacon knew most would likely boomerang right back into the system unless someone intervened. Many were there because of drug addiction, which Bishop Pfeifer calls an “epidemic” in the

diocese.

Since his appointment as director of the criminal justice ministry almost three years ago, Deacon Leibrecht has worked to expand it beyond prison visits to include working with victims, inmates’ families and the Catholic community, especially when inmates return home.

With the help of a Catholic Extension grant, Deacon Leibrecht was able to officially increase his hours from several a month to 25 per week. In reality, he is on the road or the phone many times that number as he tries to unsnarl the red tape that entangles the huge Texas corrections system.

The best recruiters for prison ministry are volunteers who, like him, have discovered the most basic of human bonds in their visits to the imprisoned.

Deacon Leibrecht admits he walks a razor-thin line sometimes as he brings Catholic instruction to the various correctional facilities. County jails, for example, are supervised by the local sheriff, who can decide who can minister - and how. One sheriff who was a Mason, for instance, “didn’t want anything Catholic” in his jail, so instead of Mass, inmates have Bible study.

State and federal prisons follow stricter regulations that prohibit such discrimination. Deacon Leibrecht has built up working relationships with many of the non-Catholic chaplains in these facilities, but he realizes he’s often grossly outnumbered in terms of funding and manpower. “Some of these other churches place a higher value on prison ministry than Catholics seem to.”

So, a few at a time, Bob Leibrecht is gently twisting people’s arms to help in the prisons. He was elated after Criminal Justice Sunday last October when he spoke at several parishes and signed up 18 volunteers. But many more are still needed.

In the vestibule of Deacon Leibrecht’s parish church, St. Stephen’s in Midland, hangs a copy of Rembrandt’s painting “The Return of the Prodigal Son.” It’s a gentle reminder of the parable that shows the depth of the Father’s compassion and forgiveness that is offered to those who stray.

Deacon Bob and many other dedicated missionaries work hard to bring God’s comfort to America’s poor and struggling Catholics. Will you consider helping them with a gift today? Please donate now securely. Thank you.

Photo: Deacon Bob Leibrecht (right) prays with a former inmate.



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Making Sense of Bioethics: *Debating the embryo's fate*

By Rev. Tad Pacholczyk

The debate over embryonic stem cell research continues to escalate in our country, and remains a topic of significant public interest. Because of this growing public interest, I am often invited to participate in public debates on stem cell research and cloning. My sparring partners are usually other scientists, politicians, or public policy experts. The debates are typically held at universities or colleges, and audiences generally have the opportunity to ask questions of both sides afterwards. Having participated in a number of these debates over the past few years, I've been surprised by how often certain arguments are trotted out with great solemnity, as if they were obviously right and true, even though a casual observer can quickly recognize their notable flaws and inadequacies.

Recently I had the opportunity to debate a stem cell researcher at a gathering of physicians at the New York Academy of Medicine. Our discussion was cordial and civil, even though we clearly disagreed with each other's positions. Not infrequently, such discussions tend to take the form of a dispute over the relative merits of the two major categories of stem cells: adult vs.



Fr. Pacholczyk

embryonic (adult stem cell research does not require the destruction of young human embryos while embryonic stem cell research generally does). I did my best to avoid letting our discussion slip into a polemic about what might work best, about *efficiency*, even though this was one of the key arguments used by my opponent. He stressed how embryonic stem cells appear to have certain desirable characteristics, and may one day be able to work better than adult stem cells, and if cures end up being derived from embryonic stem cells in the future, then, in effect, it must be ethical to do such research, and to destroy human embryos. This argument in one form or another has been put forward widely by the media, and has won over many Hollywood personalities, patient advocacy groups, and Washington politicians.

In responding to this argument during our debate, I recounted a little story from when I traveled to the Philippines to give a lecture about stem cells. It was my first time in that country, and I was struck by the contrasts I saw. On the one hand, segments of the Philippine society were doing very well. On the other, I witnessed startling poverty. One day, as we drove along a boulevard lined with people living in hovels made out of cardboard boxes, I noticed a boy, a street child, rummaging through piles of trash for food. His clothes were dirty, and he seemed quite frail. It looked like he did this on a daily basis in order to survive. As I watched him, the rhetorical thought flashed

through my mind, patterned on the language of embryonic stem cell advocates: "...he's so small, so insignificant: what if a cure for Alzheimer's, Parkinson's and diabetes could be developed to benefit all of suffering mankind, by promoting scientific research that depended on killing just a single little boy like him, who, after all, is living no better than an animal? He's probably just going to die anyway in his difficult circumstances..." After sharing this Philippine experience with my audience at the debate, I asked them a question: "Could a scientific research program like that ever be ethical?" The obvious answer to that question reminds us how *ethics must always come before efficiency*. Taking the lives of young humans (whether as little boys or little embryos) cannot be pronounced ethical simply because it might result in huge benefits to older, more powerful, or more wealthy humans. The fact remains that objective moral limits constrain all areas of human endeavor, including the practice of the biological sciences. Whenever the siren-call of healing and progress is blaring in our ears, we are obliged to be particularly attentive to those absolute moral boundaries.

A second argument that comes up quite often in debates about the embryo is the so-called *argument from wastage*. The starting point for this argument is the medical observation that most pregnancies don't survive and are flushed from a woman's body. One well-known embryology textbook summarizes it this way: "The

total loss of conceptuses from fertilization to birth is believed to be considerable, perhaps even as high as 50% to nearly 80%". The fact that most embryos don't survive is then taken and used as a justification for destroying embryos to get stem cells. As another opponent of mine once put it during a debate at Southern Methodist University in Texas, "If Mother Nature destroys so many embryos naturally, why shouldn't we be able to as well? Why get all worked up about using frozen embryos in research, when so many early embryos die naturally from miscarriages?" But the difference between a natural miscarriage and the intentional destruction of embryos is precisely the difference between the unfortunate case of Sudden Infant Death Syndrome vs. the unconscionable case of smothering an infant with a pillow. What Mother Nature does and what I freely choose to do as an acting person are two separate realities, not to be confused. To put it dramatically, the fact that Mother Nature sends tsunamis that claim the lives of thousands of victims doesn't somehow make it OK for me to shoot a machine gun into a crowded stadium and claim thousands of victims of my own.

The embryo debates are sure to intensify in the future, and we need to insist on careful and rationally supported arguments from all parties in the debate. Where vulnerable and defenseless human life is concerned, the stakes are much too high to allow specious and imprecise arguments to carry the day.

Vatican: Christians must live faith in context of culture

By Alicia Ambrosio
Catholic News Service

VATICAN CITY — The fact that Jesus became human challenges Christians to live and express their faith while staying within the context of their own culture, said the head of the Pontifical Council for Culture.

French Cardinal Paul Poupard, head of the council, said the Catholic faith "cannot be lived outside the boundaries of, or parallel to, daily life and the culture of a population or a nation."

"The dynamic of the Incarnation asks that the faith be lived and expressed while fully inserted in the culture and reality that surrounds us," he said June 13 at a gathering to mark the council's 25th anniversary.

At the anniversary celebration, Brazilian Cardinal Claudio Hummes, head of the Congregation for Clergy, said that in all cultures one could see signs of God's divine word.

Evangelization efforts must not seek to impose the Christian faith on people, he said, but must use the values already present in local cultures to draw people into a deeper relationship with God. Those who seek to evangelize must witness God's love and spread the message of the Gospels with concrete action, not just



Pope Benedict XVI.

words, Cardinal Hummes said.

The cardinal also said certain Latin American traditions — such as making pilgrimages to shrines, holding feasts in honor of patron saints and the strong devotion to Mary — have shown that the Catholic faith has become deeply entrenched in the Latin American culture.

Indian Cardinal Ivan Dias, head of the Congregation for the Evangelization of Peoples, told the gathering that values present in Asian cultures, such as the "love for silence," the thirst for learning, respect for life and seeing the family as a

source of strength, provided fertile ground in which the word of God can take root.

"Academics and specialists who know both the local culture and Christian doctrine well are capable of putting the two together and giving the Christian truth the shape of the local culture," said the Indian cardinal.

Nigerian Cardinal Francis Arinze, head of the Congregation for Divine Worship and the Sacraments, said that "the sacred liturgy is a privileged area in which inculturation is considered a necessity."

"Religious songs are increasingly avail-

able in music that respects the natural tonality of most African languages," he said. The adapted psalms and other songs "have a great ability to touch the African soul."

"Liturgical vestments have been manufactured in Africa with designs acceptable both in liturgical tradition as well as African culture," he said. "These developments are becoming easier with the increasing number of African priests and religious, monasteries, Catholic universities and other higher institutions."

Cardinal Arinze told the gathering that the adaptations to the Roman rite approved for use in the Democratic Republic of Congo deserve special mention in any discussion of inculturation. What was known for almost 30 years as the "Zairian rite" reflects "the style, genius and cultural expressions of that nation," he said.

"The songs, harmonious movements — which some people call dance — liturgical vestments and gestures are locally inspired," Cardinal Arinze said. "The 'Zairian Mass' is accepted now as a legitimate variation of the Roman rite. This fact encourages other countries in Africa to make greater efforts at liturgical inculturation."



San Angelo youths Make a Difference

By **S. Adelina Garcia, OSF**
Diocesan Office of Religious Education

The Office of Education and Formation offered a week experience for high school youth and adult leaders June 10-15, 2007 at Christ the King Retreat Center in San Angelo. This project was made possible by a grant from the Catholic Extension Society given in memory of Pope John Paul II. Young people and their adult sponsors from St. Mary-San Angelo, St. Francis-Abilene, St. Mary-Brownwood, St. Theresa-Carlsbad, St. Ann-Sonora, Our Lady of Guadalupe-Eldorado, Sacred Heart-McCamey, Good Shepherd-Crane and St. Ann-Midland experienced belonging to a small faith community, learning about addictions in society and going out to do service in the local community.

Ms. Colette Kennett, Diocesan Director of Youth Ministry from the Diocese of Belleville, Ill., served as the facilitator of the week. She has worked with Young Neighbors in Action and traveled to Latin America as part of the Called to Witness Program by Catholic Relief Service and has served on the board of the National Federation for Catholic Youth Ministry.

The theme of the week was Dealing with Addictions in Society. The experience began with a Sunday Liturgy presided by Bishop Michael Pfeifer, OMI. Speakers include Kris King from West Texas Organization Strategies and Cindy Thomas, Roy Perez and Jeannie Solis from the Texas Drug and Alcohol Council for the Concho Valley. Topics covered included Addiction and Addictive Behaviors, Impact of



In scenes from **Make a Difference Day**, youths from San Angelo, Abilene, Brownwood, Sonora, Eldorado, McCamey, Crane and Midland all participated in the diocese project. *Courtesy photos*

Addiction on Teenagers, Addictions & Domestic Violence/Dating Violence, Impact of Addictions on the Community, and Addictions: Developing an Action Plan.

Every day the group went to do service in the local community. Sites included the northside Boys & Girls Club, Catholic Outreach, a home recommended by the Area Agency for the Aged and Rebuilding Together and Shannon Adult Day Care. The group did a wonderful job reaching out to the elderly, young children and helping two women give their home a facelift. The local TV stations did a story of the worksite.

At the closing commissioning service certificates were awarded to the participants and a DVD presentation of the week's activities was presented.

Amnesty International has lost its heart

[The letter below, from Bishop Michael Pfeifer, OMI, to Mr. Larry Cox of Amnesty International was written in reply to a letter from Amnesty International appealing for financial help. It is being sent to all Texas diocesan editors with hopes of publication in upcoming editions.]

Mr. Larry Cox, Exec. Dir.
Amnesty International
5 Penn Plaza
New York, NY 10010

June 19, 2007

Dear Mr. Cox:

You begin your recent letter with "I regret to inform you that we are faced with a severe crisis here at Amnesty International." Yes, there is indeed a severe crisis at Amnesty International, but not just the one you mention in your letter. The huge crisis that I refer to is not primarily financial, but is of a grave moral nature and of perverting the very mission of Amnesty International. How sad it was to receive the news that recently Amnesty International has made the decision to promote abortion rights, depriving the most vulnerable of humanity the right to life. How sad and tragic!

I have always been a supporter of Amnesty International, especially when I served as a missionary priest in Mexico – Oaxaca, Mexico City and other places. And now, sadly, I must let you know that has ended. I always was happy to speak for Amnesty International, but now I must speak and preach against it. Does Amnesty International realize how this decision on abortion has betrayed its own mission?

As you know, Amnesty International was founded in 1961 by Peter Denenzon, a British convert to Catholicism. The Catholic Church around the world has always been a strong supporter of Amnesty International, but now that will end, unless Amnesty changes its position to provide amnesty for the weakest member of society – the unborn. One of the big supporters of Amnesty International, Jesuit Father Daniel Berrigan, S.J., stated after learning of Amnesty's decision: "One cannot support an organization financially or even individually that is contravening something very serious in our ethic." A couple of months ago the president of the United States Conference of Catholic Bishops, Bishop William Skylstad, warned Amnesty International: "If Amnesty International were to advocate for abortion as a human right, it would risk diminishing its own well-deserved moral credibility. It certainly would most likely divide its own members, many of whom are Catholics and others who defend the rights of unborn children."

(Please See **LETTER/15**)

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Mass of Thanksgiving

Lake Ivie,
June 12, 2007



Bishop Pfeifer prays for 'plentiful heavenly moisture' for Lake Ivie

Remembering how prayers helped fill up Lake O.H. Ivie Reservoir 17 years ago, San Angelo Bishop Michael Pfeifer returned to the dam in rural Runnels County June 12. The Mass of Thanksgiving served to thank God again for the water supply that provides a majority of West Texas and Bishop Pfeifer prayed again for a major rainfall to sustain the present levels with hopes of adding to the present levels.

Ivie Reservoir, southeast of Ballinger, is currently 45-47 percent full, according to the Colorado River Municipal Water District.

"This lake has been a life source for us," Pfeifer said. "We have been blessed with some great rains recently and we should thank God and ask him to bring more heavenly moisture. Let's pray that we can raise that 45-47 percent a few more percentage points."

Pfeifer quoted an Irish priest who says prayers must be recited with "expectant faith." A person must not only pray, the priest believed, but he or she must pray with full expectations that what is being asked for will be granted by God.

"So, it is a good thing to pray for water," Pfeifer said. "No other substance on earth brings so substantial a spiritual meaning, no matter your faith or religion."

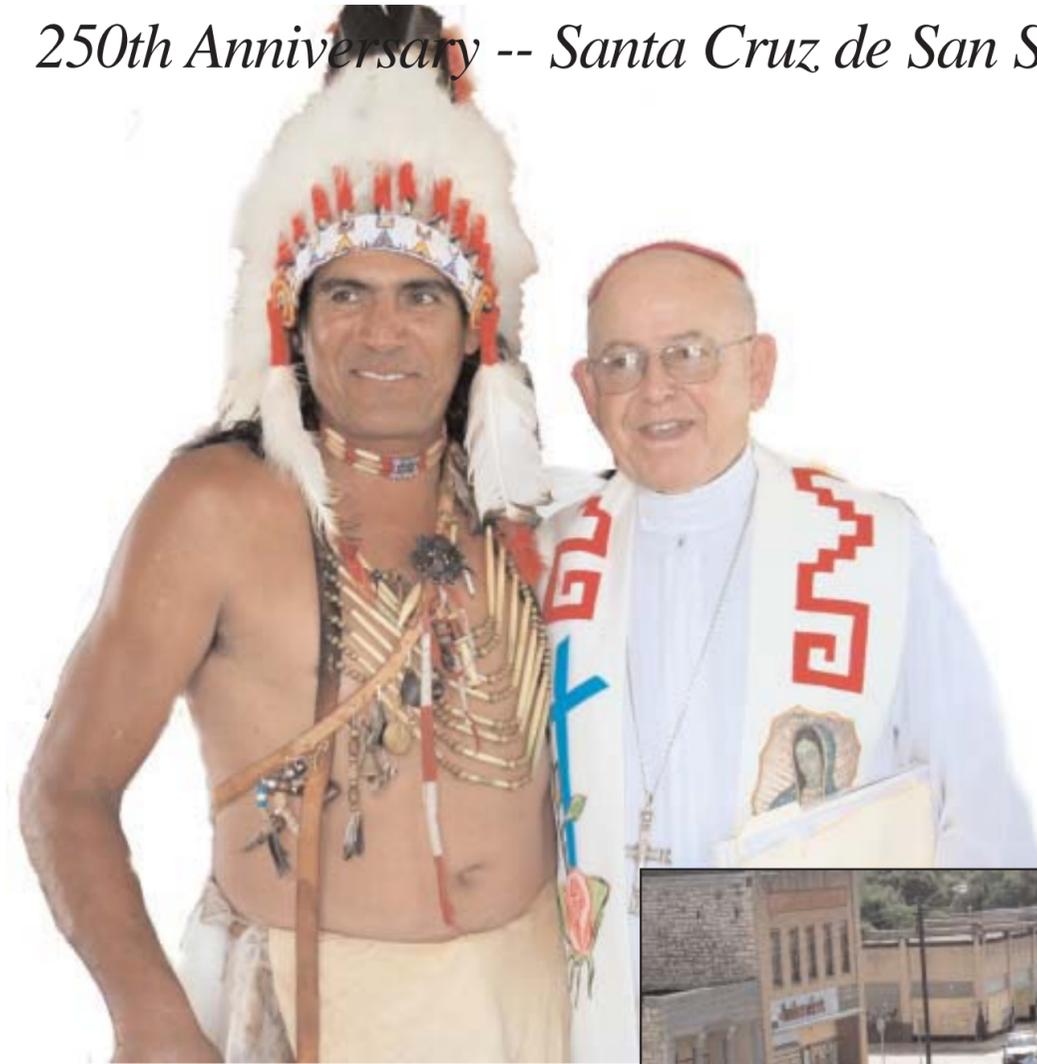
Pfeifer read statistics that show over 1 billion people are without access to improved water, 2.4 billion have no access to improved sanitation and over 2 million die every year in developing countries from diseases associated with a lack of adequate drinking water.



Catholics from Ballinger, Millersview, Eden and elsewhere gathered for a Mass of Thanksgiving conducted by Bishop Michael Pfeifer June 12 at Lake Ivie.



250th Anniversary -- Santa Cruz de San Saba Mission, Menard



Clockwise from above left, Bishop Pfeifer with Native American representative Ray Hernandez; the youth group from St. Patrick's in Brady attended the celebration en masse; above and at left, over 200 were thought to have participated in a peace procession, which took participants from the site of the 250-year-old mission ruins to the site of the restored church, built in 1899, in downtown Menard. And Lorenzo Castaneda explains aspects of the mural he painted, a recreation of the original mural depicting the massacre, to the people at the church June 9.



MENARD -- Over 200 people formed a two-mile peace procession in this small West Texas town in June to mark the occasion of the 250th anniversary of the siege of the San Saba de Santa Cruz mission, site of where two Franciscan priests and many others were killed in a massacre in 1757.

Stressing the need for peace and peaceful coexistence, dignitaries, townspeople and organizers paid tribute to the mission and reformed church in downtown Menard, built

in 1899.

San Angelo artist Lorenzo Castaneda unveiled his completed mural depicting the events of the siege and singer-songwriter Cindy Jordan performed a ballad she wrote telling the story of the people at the mission in the 18th century.

It was believed that over 500 archeologists also visited Menard during the week following the June 9 festivities, for a huge dig.

"Those who participated in today's procession represent peo-

ple on a pilgrimage of life," said Bishop Michael Pfeifer, who worked closely with organizers for a year leading up to the ceremony. "People came here from other lands to bring Christianity and a new civilization and there was a clash of cultures when new people met natives. The march was symbolic of a prayerful procession of gratitude to God for the blessings we have received over the years and to bring healing for deep sorrowful wounds of the past."

MARRIAGE

Therese Borchard

Brides and grooms: Keep in touch, stay involved

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

It is that time of year again when the bridal magazines weigh more than the brides themselves.

When I need a shot of marital bliss (or am so exhausted by the demands of my two preschoolers that I forget what it felt like to ride the horse carriage with Eric more than a decade ago), I simply hang out with the young adults near the chapel at the Naval Academy and ogle over the brides and grooms and their wedding parties as they take photos in front of the gazebo after the nuptials.



Borchard

The institution of marriage (although I hate to refer to marriage as an institution) originally sought to extend community ties. "Marriage was largely about broadening one's network of allies, friends and benefactors," says Washington Post writer Shankar Vedantam in "The Marriage Penalty," an article that traces the evolution of marriage from a community builder to an isolation tank.

According to sociologists Naomi Gerstel from the University of Massachusetts and Natalia Sarkisian from Boston College, modern marriage tends to disintegrate a person's ties to his or her relatives, including parents and siblings. "Marriage and community are often at odds with one another," the sociologists said recently in the journal "Contexts." "Instead of bolstering community involvement, marriage diminishes ties to

relatives, neighbors and friends," they write.

Their research echoes the findings of a 2004 Social Survey and the 1992-1994 National Survey of Families and Households, both of which suggested that married people are less likely than single persons (including divorced individuals) to live with, visit, call or write relatives. Gerstel and Sarkisian also found that those who never marry are more than twice as likely as married folks to socialize with neighbors and to provide emotional support and practical help to friends and neighbors.

Their messages are not an anti-marriage sermon. The sociologists simply encourage married couples to rediscover the importance of a community — friends, neighbors and extended family — and to not buy into today's potentially harmful message that a spouse can and should provide all the emo-

tional support and socialization that a person needs (for example, that quasi-romantic line, "You complete me," uttered by Tom Cruise in the 1996 flick "Jerry Maguire").

"We perceive independence as being key, but humans have so many stages in our life where we are not independent, and our dependence on others should be nurtured," says Sarkisian.

In other words, I think new brides and grooms could benefit from the wisdom of American comedian Henny Youngman when he said: "Some people ask the secret of our long marriage. We take time to go to a restaurant two times a week. A little candlelight dinner, soft music and dancing. She goes Tuesdays, I go Fridays."

Fr. William Byron

Following formula for a happy marriage

By **Father William J. Byron, SJ**
Catholic News Service

My new book, "Words at the Wedding" (Paulist), focuses on commitment. It opens with an essay on sacrifice that resurrects an exhortation that used to be read at the beginning of every Catholic wedding in the United States. For a century before the 1960s, every bride and groom about to exchange their marriage vows in a Catholic wedding heard these words:



Rev. Byron

"Beloved of Christ. You are about to enter upon a union which is most sacred and most serious. It is most sacred, because established by God himself. By it, he gave to man a share in the greatest work of creation, the work of the continuation of the human race. And in this way he sanctified human love and enabled man and woman to help each other live as children of God by sharing a common life under his fatherly care.

"Because God himself is thus its author, marriage is ... a holy institution requiring of those who enter

into it a complete and unreserved giving of self. But Christ our Lord added to the holiness of marriage an even deeper meaning. ... He referred to the love of marriage to describe his own love for his church. ... And so he gave to Christians a new vision of what married life ought to be, a life of self-sacrificing love like his own. ... (Marriage), then, is most serious because it will bind you together for life in a relationship so close and so intimate that it will profoundly influence your whole future.

"That future with its hopes and disappointments, its successes and its failures, its pleasures and its pains, its joys and its sorrows, is hidden from your eyes. You know that these elements are mingled in every life and are to be expected in your own. And so, not knowing what is before you, you take each other for better or for worse, for richer or for poorer, in sickness and in health until death.

"Truly, then, these words are most serious. It is a beautiful tribute to your undoubted faith in each other, that recognizing their full import you are, nevertheless, so willing and ready to pronounce them. ... It is most fitting that you rest the security of your wedded life upon the great principle of self-sacrifice. ...

"Henceforth you will ... be one in

mind, one in heart and one in affections. And whatever sacrifices you may hereafter be required to make to preserve this mutual life, always make them generously.

"Sacrifice is usually difficult and irksome. Only love can make it easy, and perfect love can make it a joy. ... God so loved the world that he gave his only begotten Son, and the Son so loved us that he gave himself for our salvation. ... No greater blessing can come to your married life than pure conjugal love, loyal and true to the end.

"May, then, this love with which you join your hands and hearts today never fail, but grow deeper and stronger as the years go on. And if true love and the unselfish spirit of perfect sacrifice guide your every action, you can expect the greatest measure of earthly happiness that may be allotted to man in this vale of tears. The rest is in the hands of God. Nor will God be wanting to your needs; he will pledge you the lifelong support of his graces in the holy sacrament which you are now going to receive."

Wise words worth repeating whenever wedding bells ring.

E-mail: wbyron@sjprep.org.



Answers

(From 11)

1. 1
2. 3
3. 5
4. 11
5. 2
6. 19
7. 22.

AGE: Climbing the ladder of success not always easy

(From 11)

Chiklis said that becoming the biggest movie star in the world can be the definition of success for any actor, but it doesn't have to be. He said he knows actors who star in huge movies who aren't fulfilled and others who play small roles in regional theaters who think they have the best job in the world.

You don't have to be at the top of your profession to be successful; you just need to find the point where contentment and desire find the ideal mix.

When I graduated from school I knew exactly how my career would unfold and I knew the final destination, but I never stopped to think about all the steps along the way that I might enjoy even more.

As you begin your career climb, I hope you always choose the ladder that takes you where you most want to go.



READ MORE ABOUT IT: Luke 9 Q&A

1. What were the disciples arguing about?
2. What did Jesus ask his companions to do for him?

BIBLE ACCENT

The body of water that is at the lowest level on earth is in danger.

The Dead Sea, because people have been diverting and overusing the rivers that feed it, has been drying up and moving away from the shore by three feet every year for the past 25 years. At this pace, the sea could actually disappear within the next 50 years.

Another hazard that coincides with the drying up of the sea is the formation of sink holes. Some of these holes that open, often without warning, can be as deep as 100 feet.

Jordanian and Israeli scientists and engineers have been developing plans to save the Dead Sea and the ecosystem that depends on it.

The Dead Sea is also a very important tourist attraction. If money can be raised, a piping system will be built from the Red Sea to the Dead Sea so that, hopefully, the Red Sea water will save the Dead Sea.

SPOTLIGHT ON SAINTS St. William of Vercelli

William of Vercelli (1085-1142) was raised by relatives because both of his parents died when he was young.

When he was 14, William left his home in Italy and headed for Spain. Years later, he made a home for himself as a hermit in a mountainous region of Italy. While there his

first miracle occurred; it was the healing of a blind man.

Word of the miracle spread, and many people came to see him. Since he wanted to continue living a more private life, he moved to Matera, where he became friends with a man named John, who later also was declared a saint.

William tried to return to the life of a hermit, but too many people wanted to follow his example and learn from him. Believing that God was sending him a message, he established a community of religious.

William continually tried to lead a life of hardship in his service to the Lord which most other people could not follow. He put priors in charge of his community and went off to be alone with God.

We honor him on June 25.

BIBLE TRIVIA

What is the name of the book that explains what Catholics believe? (The church calls these beliefs its "doctrines.")

Answer: Catechism of the Catholic Church.

PUZZLE

Circle the number of the chapter from the Gospel of Luke in which the following events occur (Answers, Pg. 12):

1. Gabriel visits Mary. 1, 26
2. John baptizes Jesus. 14, 3
3. Jesus calls Simon to follow him. 23, 5
4. The Lord's Prayer. 2, 11
5. Shepherds visit baby Jesus. 17, 2
6. Zacchaeus sees Jesus. 9, 19
7. The Last Supper. 12, 22

JUST 4 KIDS

Jesus teaches followers to be his apostles

Although Jesus talked often of peace and humility, sometimes his disciples would argue with each other. When Jesus realized they were arguing about which of them was the greatest of his disciples, he pointed to a young child and gave them a lesson on greatness.

"Whoever receives this child in my name," Jesus said, "receives me, and whoever receives me receives the one who sent me. For the one who is least among you is the one who is the greatest."

Then Jesus immediately planned to go to Jerusalem, and he sent some of his disciples as messengers to make preparations for him.

The disciples tried to plan a stop along the way in a Samaritan village, but the people there did not want Jews to stay any length of time among them. The Samaritans and the Jews had a history of not liking each other. The disciples returned to Jesus with this report.

James and John were outraged by this insult to Jesus. They asked, "Lord, do you want us to call down fire from heaven to consume them?"

Jesus was angry because of their attitude, and he told them they would just have to spend the night in another village that would be more welcoming.

Along the way, Jesus spoke to his disciples and the other men who were traveling with him of God's love and spiritual mysteries, and he also said he would not always be with them.

So one man declared, "I will follow you wherever you go."

As he continued walking, Jesus replied, "Foxes have dens and birds of the sky have nests, but the Son of Man has nowhere to rest his head."

Then Jesus pointed to one of his companions and said, "Follow me."

But this man was not quite ready to give up his home life and follow Jesus. Instead he asked Jesus to be patient. "Lord, let me go first and bury my father."

And Jesus told him, "Let the dead bury their dead. But you, go and proclaim the kingdom of God."

Another man said, "I will follow you, Lord, but first let me say farewell to my family at home."

Jesus said to that man, "No one who sets a hand to the plow and looks to what was left behind is fit for the kingdom of God."

Coming of Age: Climbing the ladder of success

By Erick Rommel
Catholic News Service

When I graduated high school and college I knew exactly how my career would unfold. I knew what it would take to be successful, the amount of work and effort needed. Once I had my degree in hand I started down my well-defined path to success.

At the bottom of the ladder I watched and learned and received an incredible on-the-job education. I used my well-earned experience to climb. Eventually I was solidly in the middle of the ladder. From there I could easily follow the path I prepared while in school.

At that point, however, a funny thing happened. The path that once stood so clearly before me no longer looked interesting. It wasn't that my desire to follow that path decreased; I began to find other paths more interesting.

When I graduated school I imagined a life full of travel and moving every year or two to a different city. I wanted to explore the country, one state at a time.

After several years I still enjoyed every minute of that lifestyle, but there were things I had not considered when making my initial decisions. For example:

▶ Frequently living in a different city is

exciting, but frequently moving to a different city is not.

▶ Meeting new and interesting people is always a thrill; saying goodbye to another group of friends is heartbreaking.

▶ Driving into a new community for the first time is energizing; knowing you'll soon drive away for the final time is dampening.

After living that lifestyle I realized that I was missing more than I gained.

Relationships suffered and the transient nature of my life began to affect my viewpoint. No longer did I look at the next year as a new step in an exciting journey. I approached it with dread instead. My excite-

ment was tempered by the loss I knew I would inevitably feel.

A few weeks ago I was watching an interview with Michael Chiklis, the star of "The Shield" on television and co-star of "The Fantastic Four: Rise of the Silver Surfer." When a group of film students were talking with him about his career, one asked him how to judge success in Hollywood. His answer amazed me because it put into words the ideas I had so long been trying to express in terms of my own career.

(Please See AGE/10)

Nation/World/Vatican

Va. Tech victim left behind message of forgiveness



Peter and Cathy Read read from a notebook kept by their daughter, Mary. (CNS photo/Henrietta Gomes)

By **Henrietta Gomes**
Catholic News Service

ARLINGTON, Va. — Mary Karen Read, a 19-year-old victim of the shootings at Virginia Tech in Blacksburg, aspired to be a teacher. Now she is posthumously teaching a lesson of forgiveness in the aftermath of the deadliest shooting rampage in U.S. history.

"When a deep injury is done us, we never recover until we forgive," Mary had written in a small red notebook discovered by her family in her dorm room at Virginia Tech the day after she

was killed during her French class in Norris Hall April 16.

While forgiveness is probably not one of the first words that come to mind in the wake of the events that ended her life and the lives of 32 others, including the killer, it was what the college freshman believed.

Finding her handwritten quotes on forgiveness was not just a coincidence, but something meaningful and providential, according to Peter and Cathy Read, Mary's father and stepmother, who belong to St. Mary of Sorrows Parish in Fairfax.

In fact, the quotes have brought heal-

ing to the family and many others present at Mary's funeral, where her father read them publicly. As wounds were still fresh and feelings of anger inevitably rising, Peter Read knew he had to share his daughter's message with others.

The notebook was first discovered while Cathy Read collected Mary's belongings from her dorm room the day after her murder. Filled with anguish and sorrow, she opened the first page of a small red notebook and found the names of Mary's friends and

(Please See **VICTIM/14**)

Pope says Catholics must help L. America spiritually, materially

By **Cindy Wooden**
Catholic News Service

VATICAN CITY -- In the face of poverty, secularization and the spread of sects in Latin America, Catholics around the world must form strong communities of faith ready to help them spiritually and materially, Pope Benedict XVI said.

The pope met June 14 at the Vatican with members of the "Populorum Progressio" Foundation, which funds small development, education and health care projects aimed at assisting poor indigenous, mixed-race and black farming communities in Latin America and the Caribbean.

Since 1992, the foundation established by Pope John Paul II has distributed more than \$20 million in grants using funding provided primarily by the Italian bishops' conference.

Pope Benedict said that in setting up the foundation Pope John Paul wanted to assist "those peoples whose ancestral customs were threatened by a postmodern culture" and who risked the destruction of their "traditions, so open to accepting the truth of the Gospel."

With six Latin American bishops and one Vatican official on the foundation's administrative council, the pope said, funding decisions are "in the hands of those who know best the problems and concrete needs of those populations."

The pope said the foundation also recognizes that development aid must assist the whole person and not just aim at relieving material poverty.

"Often, a person's true poverty is a lack of hope" and of faith that gives meaning to life, he said.

"Latin America is a part of the world that is rich in natural resources, where the differences in standards of living must give way to a spirit of sharing goods," the pope said.

"In the face of secularization, the proliferation of sects and the indigence of so many of our brothers and sisters," he said, "it is urgent to form communities united in the faith in which the joyful witness of those who have encountered the Lord is the light that enlightens."



Maryknoll Father Thomas Goekler, at center in the blue shirt, walks through the streets of Chamelecon, Honduras, in early May with young men he is keeping out of violent gangs. Father Goekler runs several programs that promote education and work as alternatives to gangs. At left, Henri Aguilar and daughter.



Former gang member killed in San Pedro Sula, diocese in partnership with S. Angelo

By **Paul Jeffrey**
Catholic News Service

SAN PEDRO SULA, Honduras -- Henri Aguilar's entire body was marked by the tattoos he had acquired while a member of one of Honduras' notorious street gangs, but inside he was a new man.

He had left the gang that had once claimed his allegiance, come back to the church of his childhood, gotten a steady job, married and had a baby girl whom he named Genesis as a sign of his new beginnings.

On May 7, Aguilar was cleaning up after working all day and planned to walk to a nearby

chapel, where he was scheduled as a reader for Mass. He was taking a shower when three masked men burst into his church-built home and shot him dead.

Aguilar's killing illustrates how hard it is for young men to escape the violent gang subculture that has gripped Central America in the last decade. Once in a gang, it's almost impossible to leave.

"It's precarious. If they see that you've really had a change of heart and become a Christian, you might be OK. I walk a narrow line. I don't walk around on the street, I don't smoke or drink, and I don't visit my old friends,"

Aguilar told Catholic News Service less than a week before

his death.

Aguilar, 31, had attempted to remove the tattoos he'd acquired during eight years in the Salvatrucha gang, but the repeated acid and laser treatments were not very successful, so he finally gave up. While riding his bicycle to the construction site where he worked, he wore long sleeves and a hat pulled down low over his face to hide his past.

Aguilar had literally become the poster boy for the work of Maryknoll Father Thomas Goekler, who came to the shantytown of Chamelecon in 1999 and helped families build new homes

(Please See **HONDURAS/15**)

Culture



'Ratatouille': Fine cuisine, family fun and a few laughs

By Harry Forbes

NEW YORK (CNS) — This is hardly the first time an American animated feature has used Paris as a backdrop for the adventures of four-legged creatures — think “Gay Purr-ee” and Disney’s “The Aristocats” — but the City of Light has never been so dazzlingly etched.

And rather than feline characters, the delectable “Ratatouille” (Disney/Pixar) has as its hero Remy, a cute and skinny rat (voiced by Patton Oswalt) with a penchant for cooking.

Inspired by late TV chef (in cartoonland, anyway) Auguste Gusteau (Brad Garrett), whose oft-stated mantra was “anyone can cook,” Remy attempts to steal some ingredients from the kitchen of a gun-toting granny. Remy and all the other rats must flee down a storm drain where, in the churning rapids, he’s separated from the others, and emerges solo to view the wondrous city below him (a particularly breathtaking moment).

Guided by the spirit of Gusteau (Remy’s imagination, not an actual ghost), he soon spies the late chef’s former five-star eatery and makes his way into the kitchen, where he can’t resist doctoring the soup, which of course, becomes a big hit with the customers.

The restaurant’s hapless garbage boy, Linguini (Lou Romano), gets the credit, and after some initial hesitation the pair decide to work together, with Remy perching under Linguini’s chef’s hat, and directing him to use the proper ingredients. The kitchen’s lone female chef, Colette (Janeane Garofalo), softens her harsh manner as she finds herself falling for the budding chef, and becomes another ally.

Linguini’s concoctions continue to win wide approval, much to the envy of the eatery’s diminutive head chef, Skinner (Ian Holm), who contrives to discover the secret behind Linguini’s unlikely culinary prowess.

The film’s messages of teamwork (even in a world foreign to one’s own), honesty (the rats learn it’s wrong to steal), and following one’s dreams however unlikely (a rodent can indeed succeed in the kitchen) are marvelously conveyed.

“Ratatouille” is delicious from first scene to last.

Priest: ‘Potter’ contains Christian elements

By Peggy Weber

WESTFIELD, Mass. (CNS) — July will be a big month for Harry Potter fans and **Father Michael Bernier (center)**, parochial vicar at St. Mary Parish in Westfield, proudly counts himself among the myriad of Potter devotees.

In fact, he described himself as a “Pottermaniac” at a talk he gave in May about God and Harry Potter. And he, like millions more, is looking forward to July 21 when the seventh and final book, “Harry Potter and the Deathly Hallows,” is released and July 13 when the fifth movie, “Harry Potter and the Order of the Phoenix,” premieres.

“Pottermania” is once again expected to sweep through bookstores and movie theaters this summer, and Father Bernier told those gathered for his talk at St. Mary High School that Christians should not fear this devotion to stories about a boy wizard.

“On the surface level it does sound suspect and does raise red flags,” he said. However, he said the magic in Harry Potter is not sorcery. And he noted that the original title of the first book was “Harry Potter and the Philosopher’s Stone.” The title was changed to “Sorcerer’s Stone” for the book’s release in the United States.

“I happen to be one of the people who



believes that there’s a great deal of Christian imagery and symbolism in the books. And I think it answers, at least in parts, a longing that we have for Christ,” he said.

Throughout his talk, Father Bernier quoted from “Looking for God in Harry Potter” by John Granger which emphasizes that the Harry Potter books focus on the triumph of love over death. For example, Dumbledore says to the villain Voldemort: “Indeed, your failure to understand that there are things much worse than death has always been your greatest weakness.”

Father Bernier also said that many people believe that Pope Benedict XVI “came out against the Harry Potter

books.”

“Pope Benedict has not said anything actually about the Harry Potter books themselves. I don’t know if he’s even read them,” he said.

He told his audience of about 25 people that before he became pope Cardinal Joseph Ratzinger, as head of the Congregation for the Doctrine of the Faith, responded to a book written about the dangers of Harry Potter. He sent a note to the author thanking her for the book and said if the accusations were true then they would be of grave concern.

A majority of those attending the priest’s talk were Harry Potter fans. A few joked that they arrived by “floo powder” or “platform 9 3/4”— referring to ways people travel in the wizard world.

James Madigan, 14, said he planned to be at a local bookstore at midnight July 21 to get his reserved copy of the latest Harry Potter book.

Lisa Miranda, 14, said she came away from the lecture realizing for the first time that the Harry Potter books had “religious ties.”

Father Bernier predicted that author J.K. Rowling would end the series not with Harry’s death but possibly Hagrid’s. He also predicted that Snape, who has always been portrayed in a dark light, would end up as a good character.

Carrell admirably tackles Moses in dandy comedy

By Harry Forbes
Catholic News Service

NEW YORK — Funnyman Steve Carrell might not seem a likely choice for a present-day Noah, replete with white beard and flowing robe, but he turns out to be just dandy in “Evan Almighty” (Universal/Spyglass), a delightful contemporary spin on Genesis.

At the outset, Carrell (reprising his TV anchorman role from “Bruce Almighty”) is leaving the nightly news desk in Buffalo, N.Y., having just been elected to Congress.

Together with his wife, Joan (Lauren Graham), and their three young sons — Dylan (Johnny Simmons), Jordan (Graham Phillips) and Ryan (Jimmy Bennett) — they move into a luxurious new home in the fictitious town of Huntsville, Va. Before retiring to bed that first night, he kneels at his bedside and prays to God to “change the world.”

At work, he meets his chief of staff, Marty (John Michael Higgins), administrative assistant Rita (Wanda Sykes), fawning intern Eugene (Jonah Hill) and his patron — powerful Congressman Long (John Goodman) — who wants him to co-sponsor a major bill.

He takes the assignment as a great honor, but it will mean reneging on his promise to spend time with his boys.

The stage is set for an ideal life, but suddenly unwanted lumber and tools begin showing up on his front lawn. And his digital alarm clock-radio starts setting itself to 6:14 — the verse in Genesis containing God’s injunction to Noah to build an ark. Then those numbers start showing up everywhere else, too. Is someone trying to tell him something?



Steve Carrell, left, as Moses in “Evan Almighty,” in wide release.

Even when Evan is visited by God (in the person of Morgan Freeman) who speaks of an impending flood, Evan refuses to accept the obvious. But before long, especially with birds and animals suddenly besieging him two by two, he comes to accept his mission, much to the skeptical consternation of his staff and wife.

Director Tom Shadyac and screenwriter Steve Oedekerck skillfully mix slapstick with sentiment and surprising reverence. The script has admirable pro-family and pro-environmental themes, the latter providing sensible rationale for the biblical events as they play out.

As Carrell starts to morph into Noah, with a beard he simply cannot shave off, and rough-hewn ancient robe he cannot remove, the funny shenanigans subside and he projects warmth and humanity through his eyes alone. Frankly, Carrell’s playing Noah and indeed the central section of the “serious” part of the story are far better done than the comparable John Huston sequence in 1966’s “The Bible.”

GUIDELINES: Accepting priests for incardination

(From 4)

expectations in ministry, upon which evaluation will be based.

Sometimes, priests who have worked in the Diocese of San Angelo for a while petition to become incardinated in the diocese. Incardination attaches a priest canonically and permanently to the local diocese. The Presbyteral Council also recommended the following to the bishop:

Part II. Accepting priests for incardination

These guidelines refer to all priests, applying for incardination into the Diocese of San Angelo

- Have parish experience in our diocese of 3 to 5 years;
- Participate in some diocesan ministries an/or ministries outside the parish;
- Spanish, ability to celebrate sacraments and hold basic conversations;
- Complete an evaluation and interview with the Priest Personnel Board;
- No acceptance after age 45 (ad experimentum) or age 50 (formal).

The words "ad experimentum" and "formal" refer to the canonical processes of incardination. The reason for the age limits is to allow the priest time to become fully vested in the Priest Pension Plan, in order to contribute to his care in retirement.

Bishop Pfeifer has accepted these guidelines and they will be applied to priests who ask to work in the Diocese of San Angelo or who petition for incardination.

VICTIM: Parents found sentiments week after death

(From 10)

their birthdays. She placed it alongside photo albums, picture frames and some other things in one of the milk crates she gave Mary before she went off to college.

It was not until the morning of Mary's funeral one week later on April 24 that the contents of the notebook were discovered with the help of one of Mary's five younger siblings, her brother Brendan. Waving the notebook in the air, the 2-year-old announced his new possession, then dropped it on the floor and ran off.

Seeing the notebook for the first time, Peter Read reached down to pick it up and began reading. He discovered that for three years Mary had been collecting quotes on various subjects including boys, love and friendships.

The last 10 quotes she wrote, however, caught her father's attention. In February of this year, she wrote about the profound importance of

forgiveness.

Among some of her last entries were:

▶ "Forgiveness means letting go of the past."

▶ "Forgiving is not forgetting. It's letting go of the hurt."

▶ "To forgive is the highest, most beautiful form of love. In return, you will receive untold peace and happiness."

▶ "Forgiveness does not change the past, but it does enlarge the future."

"I just read this a couple of times and I realized this was something we needed to share," said Peter Read, a retired Air Force lieutenant colonel.

Although the family had initially decided not to have a eulogy, he felt compelled to share his daughter's message at the funeral.

"I knew it touched people by their reaction, but I didn't know how deeply and widely ... they needed to hear that message from Mary," he said.

Days following the funeral several people told the Reads they had rec-

onciled broken relationships after hearing Mary's messages of forgiveness.

"This never should have happened," said Cathy Read, a Navy commander, about the shootings. "But God did things to cushion the blow and that helps us carry on," she added, wiping away tears.

The message of forgiveness was no surprise to Mary's family, who remembered her as a vibrant and faith-filled teen.

Peter Read told the Arlington Catholic Herald, diocesan newspaper, that he frequently reads Mary's notebook even though he has it practically memorized, saying it helps him to "remember what matters."

He said it would be easy to "continue to wallow in despair and be angry and let that turn to hate, which is so far from what we need."

"A lot of people are responding out of fear," he added, saying they want to "seek vengeance and seek some kind of justice which isn't tempered by mercy."

KLEMAN: APD volunteer treated to Senate reception, dinner

(From 1)

Kleman told the audience she almost opted not to make the trip to receive the award after being called to counsel and help the family of an

Abilene Police Department officer killed in June, the first APD officer, according to Kleman, killed in the line of duty.

On the second day of her trip, Kleman and the other 89 recipients were treated to a reception at the

Senate Office Building followed by a gala black-tie dinner featuring stories of public service by the Jefferson's five national honorees of the Jacqueline Kennedy Onassis Community Service Award.

EDICTAL SUMMONSES

July 2, 2007

CASE: HOLQUIIN – PEÑA
NO.: SO 07/24

The Tribunal Office of the Catholic Diocese of San Angelo is seeking Adan Subia Peña.

You are hereby summoned to appear before the Tribunal of the Catholic Diocese of San Angelo, at 804 Ford Street, San Angelo, Texas 76905, on or before the July 31, 2007, to answer to the Petition of Dorothy Ellen Holguin, now introduced before the Diocesan Tribunal in an action styled, "Dorothy Holguin and Adan Peña, Petition for Declaration of Invalidity of Marriage." Said Petition is identified as Case: HOLQUIIN – PEÑA; Protocol No.: SO 07/24, on the Tribunal Docket of the Diocese of San Angelo.

You may communicate with the Tribunal in person or in writing. Failure to communicate within the prescribed period of time will be considered your consent for the Tribunal to continue its proceedings in the above-named case.

given at the Tribunal of the Diocese of San Angelo on the July 2, 2007.

Reverend Tom Barley, MSW, MBA, M. Div., JCL
Adjutant Judicial Vicar

July 2, 2007

CASE: MUÑOZ – LANQUIST
NO.: SO 07/25

The Tribunal Office of the Catholic Diocese of San Angelo is seeking Daniel Robin Lanquist.

You are hereby summoned to appear before the Tribunal of the Catholic Diocese of San Angelo, at 804 Ford Street, San Angelo, Texas 76905, on or before the July 31, 2007, to answer to the Petition of Erlinda Jio Munoz, now introduced before the Diocesan Tribunal in an action styled, "Erlinda Munoz and Daniel Lanquist, Petition for Declaration of Invalidity of Marriage." Said Petition is identified as Case: MUÑOZ – LANQUIST; Protocol No.: SO 07/25, on the Tribunal Docket of the Diocese of San Angelo.

You may communicate with the Tribunal in person or in writing. Failure to communicate within the prescribed period of time will be considered your consent for the Tribunal to continue its proceedings in the above-named case.

Given at the Tribunal of the Diocese of San Angelo on the July 2, 2007.

Mr. Thomas C. Burke, STB, MCL, JCL
Judge/Ponens

July 2, 2007

CASE: BURROWS – MURR
NO.: SO 07/23

The Tribunal Office of the Catholic Diocese of San Angelo is seeking Jessica Rhea Murr.

You are hereby summoned to appear before the Tribunal of the Catholic Diocese of San Angelo, at 804 Ford Street, San Angelo, Texas 76905, on or before the July 31, 2007, to answer to the Petition of Michael John Burrows, now introduced before the Diocesan Tribunal in an action styled, "Michael Burrows and Jessica Murr, Petition for Declaration of Invalidity of Marriage." Said Petition is identified as Case: BURROWS – MURR; Protocol No.: SO 07/23, on the Tribunal Docket of the Diocese of San Angelo.

You may communicate with the Tribunal in person or in writing. Failure to communicate within the prescribed period of time will be considered your consent for the Tribunal to continue its proceedings in the above-named case.

Given at the Tribunal of the Diocese of San Angelo on the July 2, 2007.

Mr. Thomas C. Burke, STB, MCL, JCL
Judge/Ponens

CINDY: Surrendering to God's will brings people closer to God's vision for them

(From 3)

me ... I had too much tequila last night." She also considers the song as part of her life's journey and celebrates its popularity.

It was after she had written "Jose Cuervo" that Jordan had a conversion of sorts; an epiphany that went from frustration at God to the realization that her life was totally out of her hands.

"I put 1,000 percent effort into that song and it went to No. 1 in Los Angeles but Warner Bros. didn't get behind it and it did nothing nationwide. One day I was in my room and I had an attitude with God; I didn't think God was listening, and I said to him, 'OK, you think you're all that, you make solar systems and mountains and oceans and I am supposed to be impressed? You can't even make this whole song thing happen for me," Jordan recalled saying.

Two years later, the song was named Song of the Year by two of the music industry's most respected trade publications: R&R and Billboard. It was when that happened that Jordan began to see

the light.

"It just helped me understand the way God works," she said. "The way He works is not on our terms, it's always on God's terms. When you finally surrender, that's when God shows you what you're supposed to be doing. It's not about what you can do, it's about what you do with God that accomplishes the bigger picture."

A year after "Jose Cuervo" shot to the top and became Song of the Year, Jordan and family moved to East Texas.

She established Kids for Kids in 1987 after realizing that young people respond better to help and messages when they come from another young person and not necessarily always or exclusively from an adult.

In 1998, the family moved to Nashville and Jordan composed and produced 11 inspirational instrumental CDs in just a year's time for Page Music. Her compositions were found to be helpful to people suffering from cancer, heart surgery, dialysis, even migraines.

She had been guaranteed \$100,000 a

year for the relaxing instrumental music she was writing and performing, but that income, she said, "went away" suddenly and unexpectedly. Wisdom gained through the experience of "Jose Cuervo" helped her to make it through that income loss, not to mention the loss of an avenue for her creativity and expression.

In 2000, the children's songs she had written after forming Kids for Kids were translated into Spanish. In 2005, the family returned to Texas, this time moving to San Angelo, and Jordan morphed Kids for Kids into "Children For a Peaceful World."

"Children for a Peaceful World is a program that was created to teach children Christian values through serving others," said Jordan, who is trying to develop relationships in West Texas that will allow her to grow her efforts in the region so that she can continue to help children. Jordan will speak Friday to the Business & Professional Women's Club in Midland as part of that effort to share what her program is about and hopefully interest people in helping.

Children who joined together perform-

ing Jordan's songs at county fairs, festivals and churches through the original Kids for Kids raised money for St. Jude Children's Hospital, and participated in a camp for burn survivors where they learned the value of being kind to children who are "different." She hopes now, with help, to develop the same sort of effort in West Texas.

"We believe our children can make a difference," she said. "We have witnessed and experienced the power of music and we appreciate the wisdom of young children. Through Children for a Peaceful World, it's not only kids who benefit, but adults always leave with an uplifting experience, too."

Children For a Peaceful World hopes to raise funding to provide free music to children in pediatrics, children's ministries, schools, churches and families nationwide. The effort has already taken hold in Texas, Louisiana, California, Georgia and Iowa.

To learn more about Jordan's effort, visit childrenforapeacefulworld.com.

HONDURAS: Gang violence continues in town served by San Angelo Diocese

(From 7)

to replace those ravaged by Hurricane Mitch the previous year. One of those new homes became Aguilar's, and Maryknoll published a poster with him -- long sleeves and hat hiding his tattoos -- talking with Father Goekler in the middle of a construction site.

Father Goekler had fought to keep Aguilar alive. In 2004, the priest was celebrating Mass when several neighborhood youths came running to announce that the police were trying to arrest Aguilar. Father Goekler left the Mass and ran to confront the police.

"I was already inside the police car when the padre got there, and when he tried to open the door and climb in with me, the police started beating him," Aguilar said. "They knocked him down and tried to drive away, but he just hung onto the back of the vehicle. They finally shook him loose, but he just came to the police station and wouldn't leave until they released me."

Like many church and human right workers in Honduras, Father Goekler said the Honduran police regularly torture and kill suspected gang members.

The priest provided Aguilar and other youths with identification cards from the parish "Walk in Peace" program that taught them construction skills as they rebuilt hurricane-damaged housing. Sometimes the cards helped; sometimes they did not.

"The police said the church program was a

front for the gangs," Aguilar said.

Most importantly, Aguilar said, Father Goekler taught the young men self-respect and confidence.

"The padre taught us how to talk and defend ourselves with words. I'm not afraid of the police any longer," Aguilar said.

Father Goekler said it may have been the police who killed Aguilar or gang members from a rival gang, or even the gang Aguilar abandoned. No arrests had been made by mid-June.

"Of course not; no one is ever arrested for killing a gang member," Father Goekler told CNS.

The priest said he has buried scores of young people -- some killed by gangs or drugs, some murdered by the police, still others massacred in the country's overcrowded prisons.

Aguilar's death is especially hard, said Father Goekler, who baptized Aguilar's 1-year old daughter May 27.

"We're really upset. He was well liked, a leader, and he had real patience with the younger kids. And he really was rehabilitated; he wasn't fooling around," Father Goekler said.

Asked what impact Aguilar's death had on his ministry in Honduras, Father Goekler said: "We just keep going. Is there any other choice?"

LETTER: Pfeifer asks Amnesty Int'l to reconsider 'tragic' abortion stance

(From 7)

Amnesty International is betraying itself and foundational documents on which it claims to be based. Amnesty surely claims to accept the preamble of the Convention of the Rights of the Child, one of the United Nations' foremost human rights documents, which states: "The child needs special safeguards and care, including appropriate legal protection, before as well as after birth."

Amnesty has always reached out to provide a safe haven, protection, and refuge for the marginalized and weak members of human society, but now Amnesty has publicly decided it will no longer provide a safe haven for the tiniest and weakest members of the human family -- the precious unborn. And how sad it is to know that Amnesty criticized the recent Supreme Court decision prohibiting Partial Birth Abortion -- a brutal procedure that kills the child almost as the child is being born.

While the focus of this letter is on the unborn, the Catholic Church, as you know, has held a consistent ethic of life, insisting on the dignity and sacredness of all human life from conception until natural death as determined by God. The Catholic Church has always offered comfort and support to immigrants, refugees, displaced people, those seeking asylum, those abused and oppressed, and has worked with

Amnesty for an end to the death penalty. I personally have taken a stand in letter writing against the death penalty with Amnesty. How can Amnesty now claim it is against the death of a hardened criminal who is made in the image and likeness of God, if it denies the right to life of a precious, totally innocent unborn child also made in the very image and likeness of God? The Catholic Church has also offered alternative assistance and compassionate service -- physical, medical, emotional, spiritual and financial-- for pregnant women struggling with the issue of abortion. Our motto is: Choose life for both the mother and the child.

Larry, please ask Amnesty International to reconsider its deadly decision about killing the unborn. If not, Amnesty International will never be the same and will no longer have my support, nor that of the U.S. Catholic Bishops, nor of the Bishops from around the world. We pray for the guidance of the Holy Spirit at this crucial time. Please let me hear from you about this important matter.

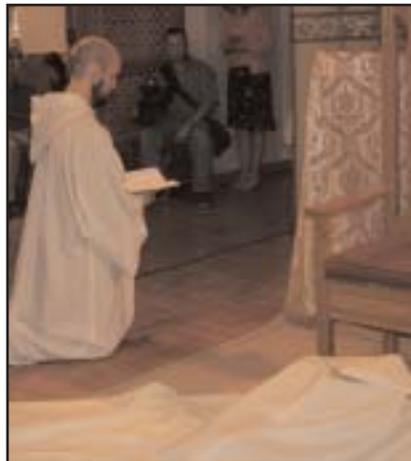
Sincerely in Christ,

Most Rev. Michael D. Pfeifer, OMI
Bishop of San Angelo

DIOCE-SCENES

Mt. Carmel Hermitage, Christoval

While lying prostrate on the floor, Brother Martin's fellow hermits kneel and pray.



After Brother Martin's Solemn Profession of Vows, the hermitage's Bro. John David (left), San Angelo Bishop Michael Pfeifer, hermitage prior Fr. Fabian Rosette, Carmelite Prior General Fr. Joseph Chalmers, from Rome, and Bro. Martin Mary pose.



Fr. Fabian, center; Deacon Mike LaMonica, left, and Bro. Martin enjoy a pleasant moment during Bro. Martin's Solemn Profession of Vows.

St. Boniface Knights



Monsignor Curtis Halfmann, retired, in photo at left, presides over Mass marking the 70th anniversary of the Knights of Columbus of St. Boniface

At right, Chad Halfmann plays and sings during the celebration.



St. Patrick's Brady



Over 20 children celebrated their First Holy Communion May 20 at St. Patrick's Church in Brady.

St. Mary, Brownwood



The St Mary Queen of Peace Art and Environment Committee prepared for the annual Pentecost Sunday celebration by creating and hanging 378 Origami doves from a circular mobile on the ceiling of its church.

St. Charles, Eden



Several parishioners at St. Charles in Eden took part in the church's Crowning of The Blessed Mother Mass in May. The Mass was presided over by Rev. Romanus Akamike.

St. Margaret, San Angelo



On June 10, St. Margaret's of San Angelo had its annual picnic at Goodfellow Recreation Camp at Lake Nasworthy. Following a beautiful Mass on the banks of Lake Nasworthy parishioners enjoyed a delicious barbecue chicken dinner. Afterwards there was swimming, fishing, basketball, volleyball, boating and relaxing in the sun while everyone enjoyed the day. Bishop Pfeifer took time out of his busy day to join parishioners for the picnic.