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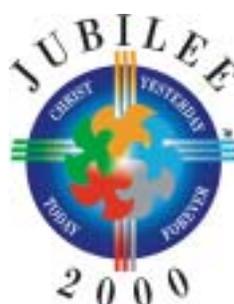
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Bishop Pfeifer Witnessed the Camp-Out Crowd Celebrate Faith, Friendship At World Youth Day



— Laura Miedzianowski, 19, of Lutherville, Md., took in the scene around her with a glow of hopeful expectation.

“It’s just like Woodstock,” she said, “except that there are priests and a cross.”

Other Woodstock parallels were

Young people have varied reactions as Pope John Paul II’s helicopter lands for the World Youth Day prayer vigil on the outskirts of Rome Aug. 19. (CNS photo by Nancy Wiechec)

similarly colored with a religious hue. The green, yellow and blue tie-dyed T-shirts worn by a group of 60 youths from the Diocese of Harrisburg, Pa., carried the message, “Open wide your doors to Christ.”

Accompanying a set of Rastafarian beads around the neck of 21-year-old John Arias from Lawrence, Mass., were two wooden rosaries with brightly colored beads, two crosses and four or five silver necklaces of various lengths. One of the rosaries was for his grand-

mother, he said; he was “getting it holy” by wearing it near the pope.

When the pope arrived toward sunset, the young people swarmed crowd barriers along the route of his popemobile, looking from an aerial shot like iron filings drawn to a magnet.

Their enthusiasm generated good naturedness, even if the pope’s vehicle never made it their way. In one crowded spot, youths craned to see where the pope was and, when a white vehicle’s cab was sighted, began an excited chant of “Giovanni Paolo,”— John Paul, in Italian. The cheers soon turned to uproarious laughter because the approaching vehicle was instead a small garbage truck.

In the pope’s presence, the youths seemed to forget their frustrations with the event’s organizational inadequacies. Some groups arrived at their assigned food distribution stations to find that no food was left and were forced to trek a mile or more to other stations.

see “YOUTH DAY”, page eleven

Pilgrims cheer for Pope John Paul II during a World Youth Day vigil Aug. 19 at an open field on the outskirts of Rome. (CNS photo by Nancy Wiechec)



Pope John Paul II moves with a musical rhythm as he presides over a World Youth Day ceremony at the Tor Vergata campus of the University of Rome Aug. 19. More than 2 million young people joined in a closing Mass the next day. (CNS photo from Reuters)



By John Norton
Catholic News Service

ROME (CNS) — Though commentators called it a “Catholic Woodstock,” an all-night gathering of more than 2 million youths with Pope John Paul II was more like a cross between the Canterbury Tales, a swap meet and a Gospel revival.

Braving sweltering heat and logistical confusion, young people from some 160 countries transformed a gently rolling 800-acre field on Rome’s outskirts into a minicity of sleeping bags and make-shift tents.

To reach the site, youths had hiked an average of seven miles, some setting out at 2 a.m., for a World Youth Day vigil Aug. 19 with the pope and a Mass with him early the next morning.

In the haze of dust kicked up by nonstop foot traffic, a hot breeze mingled the smells of sunburnt skin, sweat and tens of thousands of chemical toilets.

Massaging her feet after a six-hour hike — the last two spent getting from the field’s entrance gate



Courage – Doing the Right Thing at the Right Time

By Bishop Michael D. Pfeifer, OMI

Courage is one of the great gifts of the Holy Spirit, and we so much need this gift in our world today. Courage simply means doing the right thing when it must be done – cost what it may. Perhaps young people sum up what courage means when they say that “Our walk must correspond to our talk.” Courage means taking a stand for what one believes. When the Apostles were faced with fulfilling the ministry given them by Christ even in spite of persecution, they said “Better for us to obey God than men.”

There are many courageous people all over our world doing many courageous things. Perhaps the one thing that most of these people have in common is that they do not see what they are doing as being so courageous. They simply believe that they are doing what they must do with the help of God.

Examples of courage abound. People who have cancer treatments are tremendously courageous, but they often say they only do what they have to do. Soldiers facing front lines are courageous, but they would probably say that they are doing what they were told. Parents are enormously courageous when they confront their son or daughter about bad behavior, but they would say they love their child too much to let it go on.

Courage appears to be something perceived only from the outside. But from the inside, firefighters, surgeons, and countless dedicated people are doing their duty – what they believe is right even though it costs. They are doing the right thing at the right time, because that is what they believe God wants them to do.

Courageous people do what they have to do no matter what it costs because they know it is the right thing to do. They believe that it is better to obey God than men and women; that it is better to live by the standards of Christ’s Gospel than by the standards of this world.

Often perhaps we imagine that it would be nice to be courageous. It would be nice to have the courage to express our convictions – to speak to our co-worker who needs help, to fight for a political issue one believes in, to defend our Catholic identity – but sometimes we feel that we lack courage. We need to remember that Jesus has promised to give us the Holy Spirit in abundance in trying moments to do the right



Fortaleza – Haciendo lo que Uno Debe Hacer Cuando se lo Debe Hacer

Por Obispo Miguel D. Pfeifer, OMI

La fortaleza es uno de los dones más grande del Espíritu Santo, y necesitamos tanto este don en nuestro mundo. La Fortaleza simplemente quiere decir hacer lo que uno debe hacer cuando se lo debe hacer – cuesta lo que cueste. Quizás los jóvenes, den un resumen de la fortaleza cuando dicen “Nuestro andar debe corresponder a nuestro hablar.” La fortaleza quiere decir poner en practica lo que uno cree. Cuando los apóstoles fueron enfrentados a cumplir el ministerio dado por Cristo a pesar de la persecución, ellos dijeron “Mas importante para nosotros obedecer a Dios que al hombre.”

Hay mucha gente llena de fortaleza en nuestro mundo haciendo muchas cosas que requieren la fortaleza. Quizás la única cosa que estas pensamos tengan en común es que no ven lo que están haciendo como algo tan valeroso. Ellos simplemente creen que están

haciendo lo que deben hacer con la ayuda de Dios.

Los ejemplos de fortaleza abundan. Las personas que aguantan tratamientos de cáncer son muy valorosos, pero muy seguido dicen que ellos hacen solamente lo que tienen que hacer. Los soldados que enfrentan la batalla tienen fortaleza, pero quizás digan que están haciendo lo que se les manda. Los padres de familias son enormemente valorosos cuando enfrentan a sus hijos enredados en mal comportamiento, pero ellos dirían que ellos aman tanto a sus hijos y por eso lo hacen.

La fortaleza parece ser algo percibido solamente de afuera. Pero viéndola por adentro, los bomberos, los cirujanos, y innumerables personas dedicadas están haciendo su deber – lo que ellos creen es lo bueno aunque les cueste. Están haciendo lo que deben hacer cuando se lo debe hacer, porque eso es lo que creen ellos que Dios quiere que hagan.

Las personas de fortaleza hacen lo que tienen que hacer no importa el costo porque saben que es la cosa recta que hacer. Ellos creen que es mejor obedecer a Dios que a hombres y mujeres; y que es mas importante vivir por los valores del Evangelio de Cristo que por los valores de este mundo.

Muy seguido quizás nos imaginemos que sería bueno ser valeroso. Sería bueno tener la fortaleza para expresar nuestras convicciones – para hablar con nuestros compañeros de trabajo que necesitan ayuda, a pelear por un asunto político de

see “**COURAGE**”, page seven

see “**FORTALEZA**”, page seven

The Bishop's Schedule



September, 2000

Sept 3: Midland, Our Lady of San Juan, Confirmation at 10:00 a.m.

Sept 4: San Angelo, Cathedral Church of the Sacred Heart, Labor Day Mass at 9:00 a.m.

Sept 5: San Angelo, Bishop's Residence, Dinner for Priests, Sisters and Diocesan Pastoral Staff at 6:00 p.m.

Sept 6: Odessa, St. Mary's School, Mass at 2:00 p.m. for all students and faculty

Sept 7: Midland, St. Ann School, Mass at 8:30 a.m. for students and faculty

Sept 8: San Angelo, Cathedral Church of the Sacred Heart, 8:30 a.m. Mass for students and faculty of Angelo Catholic School

Sept 9: Midland, Rosary and Prayer Service in front of Abortinary at 9:30 a.m.

Sept 10: San Angelo, Cathedral Church of the Sacred Heart, Jubilee Mass to honor teachers and professors at 10:00 a.m.

Sept 12: San Angelo, Diocesan Pastoral Center, Presbyteral Council Meeting at 10:30 a.m.

Sept 13: San Angelo, St. Mary's, Mass at 6:00 p.m.

Sept 14: Midland, St. Ann, 7:00 p.m., Meet with Pastor and Pastoral Council

Sept 16: Imperial, Our Lady of Lourdes, Mass at 6:30 p.m.

Sept 17: Iraan, St. Francis of Assisi, Mass at 10:00 a.m.

Sept 19-20: Austin, Cedarbrake Renewal Center, Texas Conference of Churches for the College of Judicatory Leaders and Board Members Meeting

Sept 23: San Angelo, Holy Angels, Wedding at 2:30 p.m.

Sept 24: San Angelo, Cathedral Church of the Sacred Heart, Jubilee Mass to honor Senior Citizens at 10:00 a.m.

Sept 25-26: San Antonio, Oblate Renewal Center, Fall Meeting of Texas Bishops and Chancery Staffs

Sept 28: San Antonio, Oblate School of Theology, Meeting of Texas Bishop's Committee and Presidents of Texas Catholic Universities, 10:00 a.m. to 12:00 noon

October, 2000

Oct 1: Eldorado, Our Lady of Guadalupe, Confirmation at 11:30 am. San Angelo, Bless New Newman Center at ASU at 3:30 pm.

Oct 2-3: Rest and Prayer

Oct 4: San Angelo, Sacred Heart Cathedral (in court yard of school), Feast of St. Francis, Blessing of Animals and Jubilee Day of the Environment, Mass at 8:30 a.m.

Oct 5: San Angelo, Diocesan Pastoral Center, Presbyteral Council meeting at 10:30 am.

Oct 6: San Angelo, Holy Angels, City-wide Living Rosary at 7:00 pm.

Oct 7: San Angelo, Blessing for Knights of Columbus Hunger Walk. Odessa, St. Elizabeth – Confirmation at 5:00 p.m.

Oct 8: Odessa, St. Joseph, Mass at 9:45 a.m.

Oct 10: Dallas, Meeting of the Leaders of Texas Conference of Churches with members of the Baptist General Convention 11:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m.

Oct 11: San Angelo, Newman Center, Mass at noon

Oct 12: Austin, Meeting of Executive Committee of the Texas Conference of Churches, 10:00 a.m. to 2 p.m.

Oct 14: San Angelo, San Angelo Convention Center, Diocesan Youth Rally

Oct 15: Austin, Holy Sepulchre Meeting

Oct 16: Grape Creek, Seminar and Panel Sharing on Victims of Violence with Family Shelter at Grape Creek High School at 2:30 – 3:30 p.m.

Oct 17-19: Rest and Prayer

Oct 20: San Antonio, Peace and Justice Conference at 2:00 p.m.

Oct 22: San Antonio, Assumption Seminary, Celebration of Ministries at 3:00 p.m.

Oct 24: Midland, St. Stephen, Presentation to RCIA at 7:00 p.m.

Oct 26-27: San Antonio, MACC Board meeting

Oct 29: Colorado City, St. Ann, Confirmation at 10:00 a.m.

Oct 30: Big Spring, St. Thomas Presentation to RCIA at 7:00 p.m.

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Vocation Circle Priest Pursuit

by Msgr. Larry J. Droll

Everyone has heard about the priest shortage in our diocese. Yet, we have to ask ourselves – what are we doing about it? While most of the priests serving in our diocese are from other countries or grew up outside the diocese, some will remember that in decades past, young men from a few of our parishes actually went to the seminary and became priests. We have only nine active diocesan priests who were born in the Diocese. These days when our

activity was initiated to educate young men about the priesthood and what it takes to get there. While the best examples of priesthood are the priests themselves, many of our faithful are not aware of the journey that one must take through the seminary to become a priest.

How will young men know what we're talking about? That's the question I've pondered whenever speaking about "seminaries," "theology," or any number of other terms of "vocation" jargon we use in the Church.

young people are asked if they would consider a vocation to the priesthood or sisterhood the answer is a quick "no" or a blank stare. While we value our Catholic Faith, the Mass and other

How will they know what we are talking about, unless they can see or experience something of seminary or training for priesthood?

sacraments, and clergy and women religious, in some ways we have lost touch with the reality of what it takes to have priests and sisters who come from our own families. Last month there was an article about three sisters (Markus) who became sisters (SSND). It can happen among our own families.

Over the past few years we have had several parish-based vocations activities designed to educate our youth and encourage vocations of service in the Church wherever God has placed them. These include, the Nun-Run which is a trip to sample life in a convent, Seminaristas en Familia which is a gathering of young men to discuss, pray, and develop unity in their discernment of a vocation, A Day with the Sister when a parish gathered women religious from the deanery to visit with the young women of the parish to discuss a variety of religious communities, and A Progressive Night with the Sisters when the women religious of San Angelo invited young women interested in discerning their vocation to visit their homes for a progressive meal and to discuss their different religious communities and the spirituality of each.

In July another parish-based

sponsored by St. Lawrence and St. Ambrose Parishes (and, in the past, the Pre-Seminary Weeks at Amarillo and Rowena), St. Ambrose Parish of Wall and Holy Family Mission of Mereta sponsored a "Priest Pursuit." Young men, 8th grade and older, were invited to join Fr. Tom Barley, Diocesan Vocation Director, and me on a trip to San Antonio, to visit some seminaries. Nine young men, mostly sophomores, responded to the invitation.

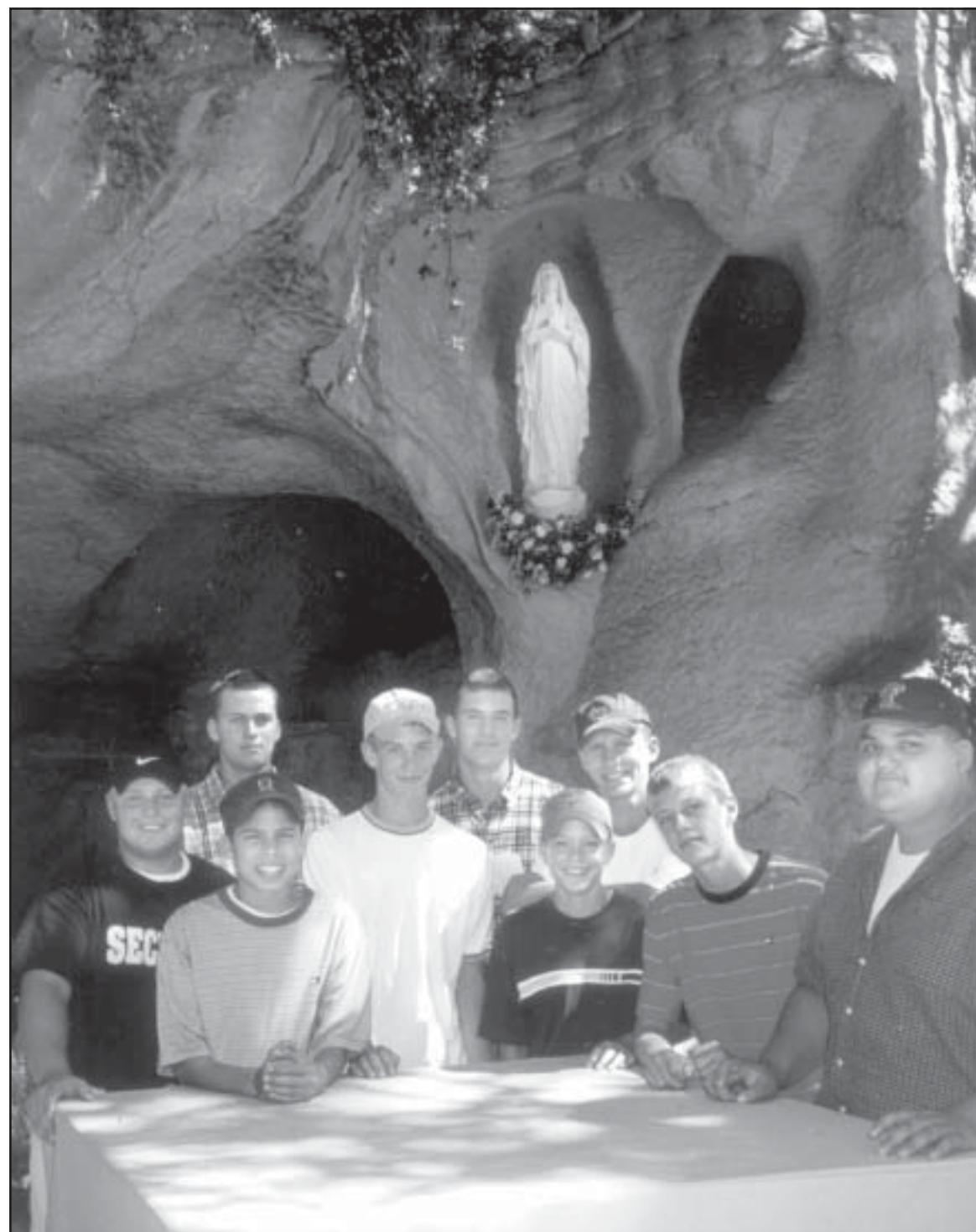
At Assumption Seminary, Father Gerald Brown, SS, the rector, gave us a tour and two seminarians spoke about their activities and studies. We toured the new facilities of the Mexican-American Cultural Center, where seminarians study Spanish and Mexican culture. Our visit to this campus concluded with the celebration of the Eucharist, the service which is at the center of the priest's life and ministry.

We ended the first day with a visit to San Fernando Cathedral and supper at the Tower of the Americas. After a brief stop to see a really large-scale parish, St. Matthew, we enjoyed swimming and dominoes.

The second day, we visited Oblate School of Theology and participated in a couple of talks on priesthood and vocation discern-

ment. The tour concluded with stops at two shrines on the Oblate grounds, honoring Our Lady of Lourdes and Our Lady of Guadalupe. We paused afterwards for a few moments of prayer before the Blessed Sacrament.

Everyone enjoyed the trip and getting to know a little more about seminaries and the vocation to priesthood. We hope we can do this again next year and that, eventually, some young men from Wall and Mereta may become seminarians and priests.



Bishop Michael Pfeifer, OMI has asked that the Vocations Office develop a diocese-wide Priest Pursuit for next summer. This would be for high school students interested in learning more about what a seminary is all about. We will need your help getting our youth interested and participating in this even. More later.

Mark Your Calendars!!!

DIOCESAN YOUTH EVENT

Date: **October 14, 2000**
Place: **San Angelo Convention Center**
Grades: **9 - 12**
Time: **10:00 AM - 9:00 PM**
Keynote: **JESSE MANIBUSAN**



Jesse is a singer, songwriter, guitarist, teller of humorous tales, and husband of Jodi and father of Jennah, Jayme and Jesse Ray. Jesse shares from the heart, the love of Christ and the call to live out our baptism in every aspect of life!

Cost: \$15.⁰⁰ Early registration (postmarked before September 30, 2000)
\$18.⁰⁰ Early registration (postmarked after September 30, 2000)

For more information call S. Hilda at 915-651-7500 or your parish Coordinator of Youth Ministry.



National Media Scrutinizes Bush Record In Texas

by Richard Daly
Texas Catholic Conference

Because Governor Bush is the Republican nominee for President of the United States, the national news media has been very present in Texas looking into the positions the Governor has taken during his years as the Chief Executive of the second largest state in the nation.

While the media has been looking at a wide-range of issues, some of the topics they have scrutinized have been on the legislative agenda of the Texas Catholic Conference, the public policy arm of the Bishops of Texas. For example, Governor Bush is a strong supporter of more regulation of the practice of abortion and specifically was in favor of and signed into law a bill passed last session to require that parents of minors be notified before the minor can obtain an abortion. The Governor's pro-life position has made him the target of the pro-abortion groups nationally.

Governor Bush has also been a strong supporter of parental choice in education and has indicated that he would sign into law a voucher bill or some alternative legislation to give parents more options in educating their children. That position has also called down the wrath of individuals on the other side of that issue including the National Education Association. The TCC has supported parental choice since the 1960's.

During the last session of the Texas Legislature, Governor Bush supported a state Religious Freedom Restoration Act (RFRA) which did pass. RFRA requires that government entities show a "compelling interest" before suppressing religious freedom. The TCC was among the organizations supporting the bill.

On the other hand, Governor Bush was slow to support the TCC position concerning the Children's Health Insurance Program (CHIP), specifically that families living at 200% of poverty should qualify for health insurance for the children of the working poor. Governor Bush's position was that families should qualify if they are at 150% of poverty.

The Governor has also been on the opposite side of the TCC on the concealed weapons issue; specifically he signed a bill permitting concealed weapons in churches, which was opposed by the TCC.

No doubt the most high profile issue on which the Governor and the TCC disagree is the death penalty. The Bishops of Texas oppose the death penalty, have called for a case-by-case review of all the cases of inmates on death row, and support legislation banning execution of the mentally retarded.

The fact that the Governor and the TCC agree on some and disagree on other issues illustrates the non-partisan nature of the Bishops Conference and that it is difficult to find public officials with whom we agree all of the time. Governor Bush can expect to be under the media microscope for the next several months; some of the reporting by the national media will no doubt continue to be on issues of concern to the Texas Catholic Conference.

Knights Of Columbus Names Massachusetts Couple With 24 Children 'International Family Of The Year'



Bishop Daly, Supreme Chaplain, far left, and Supreme Knight Virgil Dechant, third from the right, are pictured with the Gannons and their children.

BOSTON, Aug. 2—A Massachusetts couple, Matthew and Miriam Gannon, together with their 24 children, was named the Knights of Columbus International Family of the Year at the Knights of Columbus 118th annual convention currently under way here. The Gannons were selected from among 52 Knights of Columbus families who earned Family of the Year honors at statewide jurisdictions of the 1.6-million-member Catholic family fraternal service organization. Mr. and Mrs. Gannon live in Braintree, where they are members of St. Francis of Assisi parish, and he is a member of the Braintree Knights of Columbus Council 1462.

The Gannons have one biological child, 23 adopted children and 13 grandchildren. The 23 adopted children, most with special physical or developmental needs, were among 50 foster children for whom the Gannons have cared since the 1960's. Thirty-five years ago, the couple responded to a plea for foster parents made by a priest during a mass at St. Thomas More Church. They decided to volunteer and soon opened their hearts and home to the first of the 50 foster children. In the years since, the Gannons have received in their home children of all ages, races, and backgrounds. Currently, the Gannon household comprises 11 children, 10 with special needs.

Matthew Gannon transformed the family's four-bedroom house which he built himself into an eight-bedroom home equipped with an

elevator, ramp and wide wheelchair friendly doorways. While many of the children have grown into healthy adults, the Gannons continue to care for children with special needs. Some are blind, partially paralyzed, or suffer from other health problems.

They first adopted one of their foster children in 1966. In the years since, the couple worked to ensure that each of their children could develop to the fullest potential. Some are college graduates. The adult children include an entrepreneur, a teacher, three in medical fields, and two in food services.

Now retired, Gannon worked in the television service and automobile services businesses. He, his wife and family are well known for the active roles they play in their Knights council and their parish. "If faith, family and charity are cardinal virtues for Knights of Columbus, the Gannon family is the living embodiment of those qualities," said Virgil C. Dechant, Supreme Knight of the Knights of Columbus as he presented the award.

A 35-year member of the

Knights of Columbus, Gannon has served his local council as program director and church director. Together the family has been active through the years in the council's communion breakfasts, special drives to raise funds for needy families at Easter, Christmas, and Thanksgiving, and other council initiatives.

Among other honors which have been bestowed on the Gannons is the "Courage Award" of their local United Way organization for helping others overcome adversity with "spirit, strength, bravery, confidence, resolution, determination, grace, self-respect, and humor."

With 1.6 million members, the Knights of Columbus is the world's largest Catholic family fraternal service organization. It provides members and their families with volunteer opportunities in service to the Catholic Church, communities, families, and young people. The Knights of Columbus at all levels of the organization distributes an aggregate \$109 million to charitable causes annually. In addition, Knights volunteer approximately 55 million hours of service a year.

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“Summer Of Crisis And Decision” – And Miracles – Keep Odessa Catholic School Open

By Rev. Mark Woodruff
Pastor, St. Elizabeth Ann
Seton, Odessa

ODESSA (Aug. 20, 2000) – Fond memories of a quiet summer filled the minds of students returning to Odessa’s St. Mary’s Central Catholic School August 9.

School board members, the school administration, school parents and local pastors had a different memory. For them, “the summer of 2000” was “a summer of crisis and decision,” and a few miracles.

Just one year short of its 40th anniversary, St. Mary’s School came close to shutting its doors forever. The elementary/junior high school is one of only three Catholic schools in the Diocese of San Angelo. It has an enrollment of over 200 students.

In late June, Principal Lupe Molina, who was completing her first year at St. Mary’s, discovered the money in the school checkbook wouldn’t cover the school’s June and July bills. These included teachers’ payroll and other obligations coming due during the summer months.

The problem was, the school’s antiquated bookkeeping system had simply failed to keep adequate track of the school’s cash flow, and the school year was ending in a deficit. Study later revealed that end-of-the-school-year deficits were not uncommon at St. Mary’s. By 1999-2000, the deficit had simply grown too large to roll into the new school year. A slight decline in ’99-’00 enrollment and a \$20,000 shortfall in the annual festival profits also caused problems.

St. Mary’s annual \$450,000 expenses are funded by tuition, subsi-

dies from the local parishes, special gifts from friends (“Friends & Alumni of St. Mary’s School”), and support from groups such as the Knights of Columbus. The parents’ Home and School Association sponsors many fundraisers throughout the year.

Initially, the end-of-the-year deficit was calculated to be a catastrophic \$79,000, a figure which unfortunately leaked to parishioners. Later a more thorough auditing of the school’s financial figures whittled that figure down to between \$55,000 and \$60,000. The more accurate figure was still deemed too high for an institution operating on a shoestring.

Mrs. Molina immediately appealed to the local Catholic pastors, and St. Elizabeth’s, Holy Redeemer and St. Joseph/St. Anthony’s sent financial gifts. An unexpected donation of \$5,000 by a concerned parishioner was deemed “miraculous.” The amount, however, was hardly enough. So in early July the principal faxed an appeal to Bishop Michael D. Pfeifer, OMI, for assistance.

The response from the diocese was immediate and most helpful. Telephone calls and faxes began arriving from the Bishop’s San Angelo office. No cash was forthcoming, but excellent advice, instructions, challenges, suggested directions and a firm admonition or two were.

After initial discussions, including a meeting with St. Mary’s pastor, Father Francis Frey, Bishop Pfeifer challenged school officials to separate fact from fiction. In a letter dated July 14, he asked them, “How did this debt evolve . . . Are

the necessary checks and balances in place . . . Will the new school year’s annual budget be able to accommodate the necessary payback to St. Mary’s . . . ?” (St. Mary’s Parish had begun loaning the school funds to cover its June and July bills).

In clarifying the school’s financial situation, another major problem surfaced. The proposed budget for the coming school year was seriously out of balance – over \$150,000 out of balance! The sense of crisis deepened, and some wondered whether the school would open in August.

To help work these problems out, Sister Elizabeth Swartz, SSND, the Diocesan Superintendent of Schools, was called in. Sister Elizabeth resides in El Paso where she is the superintendent of the El Paso Diocese’s Catholic school system. She also oversees San Angelo’s much smaller system.

In preparation for a working session with Sister, some new procedures were adopted. One was the long overdue adoption of a computerized bookkeeping program for the school office. The staff began assembling more accurate financial records from past school years.

On Thursday evening, July 27, Mrs. Molina, the school secretary Christina Gomez, the school board under the direction of its president, Carolina Keith, and this reporter, an Odessa pastor, met with Sister Elizabeth in the school library. Described as “one tough nun” by a participant, Sister Elizabeth conducted the meeting in the rapid-fire, no-nonsense, down-to-business style appropriate for the gravity of the situation.

With her laptop computer open

before her, she bluntly started the meeting with the statement, “If this board doesn’t balance the coming year’s budget, St. Mary’s School will not open.” At that point, opening day was just thirteen days off.

For three intense hours, the superintendent and the board scrutinized every item from previous years’ and the proposed budgets. Serious cuts were advanced. An 8th grade and a preK-3 class were “postponed” because of low enrollment. The elimination of several teachers’ aides was suggested. The principal offered to donate a portion of her salary back to the school. Increased fundraising projects were outlined. For practical reasons, raising the 2000-01 tuition was ruled out, but one for the coming year was predicted.

By 10:45 p.m., the budget was balanced. The board also discussed better bookkeeping techniques and vigilant observation of the budget. They also agreed to repay St. Mary’s Parish for the funds the parish advanced to close out the current school year.

On July 31, Sister Elizabeth faxed three pages of information and recommendations to Bishop Pfeifer. “Parents are most interested in the school,” she wrote, “and I personally feel that it would be a loss to the Catholic community [of Odessa] for the school to close.”

The next step, as requested by the bishop’s letter of July 14, was a joint meeting of the school board, St. Mary’s pastor, and the parish’s finance and parish councils. The bishop wrote, “The school . . . is an integral part of St. Mary’s Parish,” so these bodies needed to review the problems and find solutions accept-

able to all.

The joint meeting took place on the evening of August 2. Parish Council president Russell Sailler chaired the meeting, and St. Mary’s parish secretary Helen Guiley took notes and was tasked with communicating with Father Frey who was on vacation.

The school board’s suggestions for balancing the budget (postponing the preK-3 and the 8th grades, eliminating some of the positions, increasing the fundraising) were discussed and accepted. It was also recommended that Fr. Frey return from his vacation early to handle other outstanding problems, a suggestion he accepted by phone the following day.

Notes of the meeting reveal the sentiment of the group: “Everyone wants St. Mary’s Central Catholic School to remain open, there is no doubt about that.”

The following day, the recommendations were sent to Father Frey for his input, and then to Bishop Pfeifer for approval. Unfortunately some of the proposals were acted upon even before word of the bishop’s approval arrived, an oversight deeply regretted by all.

Finally, the definitive word everyone awaited arrived. In a letter to Father Frey delivered Monday, August 7, the bishop wrote that “with sadness and reluctance” he approved the proposed balanced budget. The school would open August 9.

Graciously, the bishop also announced that he was reducing the school’s debt to the diocese by half (a gift of more than \$5,000). The

see “CRISIS”, page fourteen

Why Do Parents Send Their Children To Catholic Schools?

By Bishop Michael Pfeifer, OMI

Why do parents send their children to Catholic schools?

Understanding that academic excellence is possible at both Catholic and public schools, what is the unique contribution that a Catholic school can make to its students? What will be the distinctive characteristic, achievement, and way of life of students who have been taught to love God, to cherish and practice their Catholic faith, and to lead Christian lives?

The answer is simply character – the total development of the human person. From their beginning, Catholic schools have been committed to sharing with parents the responsibility of developing character in their children. This commitment is basic to the mission of the Catholic school. Because the relationship between faith and religious practice shapes Catholic-school teaching, the curricula stress the relationship between belief and be-

havior, of faith and morals. In other words, for religion to have meaning and serve as a guiding force in children’s lives, Catholic teaching must go beyond doctrine and dogma. Children must be taught to live their faith.

Character is that lasting and distinctive part of the inner person that governs behavior through informed choices and good habits based on solid moral principles.

A strong character is formed and

maintained when an active and well-formed conscience becomes a consistent moral guide, and such virtues as patience, generosity, honesty, obedience, understanding, respect, tolerance, prudence, and perseverance become habits. For all of this to come together, one needs to base one’s life on Christ, commit oneself to living his Gospel, and to be people of prayer and service.

Catholic schools in cooperation with the support of parents, offer stu-

dents true character development. Catholic schools stress character formation while at the same time offering a rich academic preparation. The unique contribution of Catholic schools is that they teach students to love their religion and help them form a Christ-like character so that they can live their lives in truth and goodness. This formation is what should distinguish every person who has a Catholic school education.



In Support Of Catechetical Ministry

By Bishop Michael Pfeifer, OMI

This year Catechetical Sunday is celebrated on September 17, 2000, and focuses on the theme, "A Year Of Favor, Making All Things New." This Sunday has also been declared by the Church as the Jubilee Day for Catechists. At their June, 2000 meeting, the United States Catholic bishops offered their support for catechesis with the publication of the text, *"In Support of Catechetical Ministry."* In this article, I share with you the supportive and encouraging words of the U.S. Catholic bishops about this basic ministry of all parish communities.

Mindful of our role as chief catechists, we the bishops of the United States write on the occasion of this new millennium and on the sixty-fifth anniversary (September 17, 2000) of the Holy See's establishment of Catechetical Sunday to recommit ourselves to the development and support of catechetical ministry.

Because catechesis is a responsibility of the entire faith community (GDC, no. 220), this mission of the Church is entrusted to every baptized Catholic. Some – bishops, priests, and deacons – exercise catechetical ministry by ordination. Others participate in this responsibility through a commissioning to

carry out a specific catechetical activity.

Catechists today face the difficult task of proclaiming the good news of Christ Jesus in such a way that it will be heard, accepted, and authentically understood in this culture. They must reach out to those who are unevangelized and uncatechized, as well as work with the large numbers of people today who have not been fully catechized. We write to offer our support to those involved in this challenging ministry.

In catechesis, it is God who initiates the gift, and it is through God's grace that we are able to respond. Catechesis is a remembering "which vividly maintains the presence of the Lord among us" (GDC, no. 154). We recall with gratitude the developments in the catechetical ministry that have indeed maintained the Lord's presence among us and faithfully preserved the living tradition of the Catholic Church. "Catechesis is nothing other than the process of transmitting the Gospel, as the Christian community has received it, understands it, celebrates it, lives it and communicates it in many ways." (GDC, no. 105).

Because effective catechesis depends so heavily on human effort – on professional preparation, plan-

ning, performance, and evaluation; on personal qualities and commitments; and especially on the faith, hope, and love of catechists – we celebrate and express our deepest gratitude for the many thousands of persons who serve the Church as catechists. Through their personal efforts at evangelization, they plant the seeds of faith in people of all ages throughout the United States. We are aware of the efforts catechists make to be faithful instruments of God's Word and the personal sacrifices they make to teach in the name of Christ and his Church; we give thanks to God for their efforts.

As we enter this third millennium conscious of who we are and of our call to manifest our faith, I want to express my deepest gratitude to all the catechists of our Diocese for all their generous and dedicated catechetical efforts. In a special way, I want to express my appreciation to Sisters Joan Markus and Hilda Marotta, with their staff, for all that they do through our Office of Religious Education and Formation to promote the catechetical ministry in our Diocese. On Catechetical Sunday, let us all offer supportive and affirming words to our catechists, and ask the Holy Spirit to pour out many new gifts upon those who serve in this ministry.

Knights of Columbus Donates Money to Bishop Pfeifer



Bishop Pfeifer receives a plaque and a check for just under \$8,000 from the Knights of Columbus Councils in the Diocese. This money represents a portion of the charitable contributions made by the Knights. The Bishop has designated this contribution for: 1) Pro-Life efforts, 2) Seminarian training, and 3) Catholic education programs in the Diocese. Presenting the check and the plaque are Norman Dierschke, Diocesan Deputy and Frankie Aguirre, Past Grand Knight Council 2136, San Angelo. Photo by WTA: Peter Micale.

OPPOSITES

from page eight

a stormy one.

It worsened dramatically in 1858, when 6-year-old Edgardo Mortara was taken from his Jewish family in Bologna by papal gendarmes after it was reported that he had been secretly baptized by a Catholic servant.

Pope Pius came to consider him-

self the spiritual father of Edgardo, who would sometimes play in the Vatican and eventually became a priest.

Italy's modern Jewish community, while carefully noting that saint-making is the church's business, has strongly expressed its objections about Pope Pius.

"I think it is absurd and a serious mistake to beatify Pius IX, especially in a jubilee year in which the

pope wants the church to reflect on its errors," said Elena Mortara, a relative of Edgardo.

Pope Pius has inspired little popular devotion in Italy, although many in the Roman Curia seem to have a special spot in their hearts for this pontiff. The Vatican newspaper recently ran a lengthy article on his virtues.

The last major public ceremony involving the memory of Pope Pius was not a happy one. Three years after his death, when his supporters moved his remains across Rome to their present resting place, the late-night procession was pelted with rocks and the pope's corpse risked being thrown in the Tiber River.

Pope John, on other hand, is remembered with special affection by Italians, many of whom still keep his picture on their walls.

On Sept. 3, Pope John Paul will read decrees for both popes: one a popular favorite, one politically incorrect, each with a new place in the ranks of the blessed.

Halfmann Named Chairman Of Life Insurance Board

SAN ANTONIO – Werner A. Halfmann of Lowake, Texas, was elected chairman of the board of directors for Catholic Life Insurance, announced President and CEO J. Michael Belz recently.

Halfmann, who previously served as vice chairman, has represented the West Texas region of Catholic Life Insurance since his election to the Board of Directors August 4, 1996. In his new position, he chairs the nine-member governing board.

The self-employed farmer and rancher is an active member of St. Joseph's Church in Rowena, Texas. He and his wife, Kay, have been active members of Catholic Life Insurance since 1980.

Sacred Heart Parish, Menard, TX

"16 de Septiembre" Festival

Saturday, September 16

11:00 am - 4:00 pm

Golf Tournament, BBQ Dinner Plates

Games, Dancing with the Tejanos

Win a New 2000 Ford Pickup!

Immaculate Heart of Mary Church

Big Spring, TX - Fall Festival

Saturday and Sunday Sept. 23, 24

Turkey Dinner Saturday 5:00 pm

Sat. Booths Open 6:00 pm - 10:30 pm

Mexican Dinner Sunday 11:00 am

Sunday Booths Open 1:00 pm - 6:00 pm



Committee on the Home Missions Thanks Diocese of San Angelo

Editor's Note: The Committee on the Home Missions provides the San Angelo Diocese with more than \$100,000 each year that is allocated to education and formation, seminarian's education and deacon formation.

Dear Bishop Pfeifer,

Please accept my sincere appreciation for the contribution of \$17,128.38 from the Diocese of San Angelo to the 2000 Catholic Home Missions Appeal. I am grateful for your efforts to promote the Appeal within your arch/diocese.

This gift will help strengthen the Church in home missions dioceses in the United States and its dependencies. Please keep us and the people we support in your prayers.

Sincerely

Most Rev. Edward J. Slattery
Chairman

Pray for Rain

EDICTAL SUMMONS

The Tribunal of the Catholic Diocese of San Angelo to Veronica Ann Miller whereabouts unknown:

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, September 20, 2000, to answer to the petition of Christopher Scott Ybarra, Petitioner, now introduced before the Diocesan Tribunal in an action styled, "Christopher Scott Ybarra vs. Veronica Ann Miller, Petition for Declaration of Invalidity of Marriage," said Petition being identified as YBARRA-YBARRA, Protocol No. SO 00/39, 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 30th day of August 2000.

Rev. William R. DuBuisson,
OMI, MCL, JCL.
Adjutant Judicial Vicar

EDICTAL SUMMONS

The Tribunal of the Catholic Diocese of San Angelo to Chien Van Nguyen whereabouts unknown:

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, September 20, 2000, to answer to the petition of Yen Thi Nguyen, Petitioner, now introduced before the Diocesan Tribunal in an action styled, "Yen Thi Nguyen vs. Chien Van Nguyen, Petition for Declaration of Invalidity of Marriage," said Petition being identified as NGUYEN-NGUYEN, Pauline Privilege, 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 18th day of August 2000.

Rev. William R. DuBuisson,
OMI, MCL, JCL.
Adjutant Judicial Vicar

EDICTAL SUMMONS

The Tribunal of the Catholic Diocese of San Angelo to Donald Len Young, whereabouts unknown:

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, September 20, 2000, to answer to the Petition of Mary Helen Pehl, Petitioner, now introduced before the Diocesan Tribunal in an action styled, "Mary Helen Pehl vs. Donald Len Young, Petition for Declaration of Invalidity of Marriage," said Petition being identified as PEHL-YOUNG, Protocol No. SO 00/27, 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 3rd day of August 2000.

Rev. Msgr. Timothy J. Murphy
P.A., V.G., J.C.L.
Judicial Vicar

FORTALEZA

from page two

convicción, para defender nuestra identidad Católica – pero a veces nos sentimos que nos falte la fortaleza. Necesitamos recordarnos que Jesús nos ha prometido darnos en abundancia el Espíritu Santo en momentos difíciles para ser la cosa recta según su tiempo.

Para vivir con el espíritu de la fortaleza, necesitamos rezar para tener la claridad de ver los asuntos y eventos como momentos de Dios. Por ejemplo cuando vemos claramente que algo este haciendo daño a nuestros niños, cuando creemos claramente que Jesús quiere que hagamos algo o ser algo, debemos rezar por la fortaleza para actuar. El problema, es que a menudo caemos en la oscuridad y no miramos claramente para tomar las decisiones necesarias.

Nuestro Dios amoroso siempre esta listo para mandarnos el Espíritu Santo para llenarnos de la fortaleza. Para que podamos vivir en un espíritu lleno de fortaleza, necesitamos rezar por la visión para ver las cosas segun la perspectiva de Dios, y luego hacer lo que debemos hacer cuando se debe hacer cueste lo que cueste.

COURAGE

from page two

thing at the right time.

To live with a spirit of courage, we need to pray for the clarity to see issues and events as God-moments. For example when we see clearly there is something that is harming our children, when we believe clearly that Jesus wants us to do or be something, we need to pray for the courage to act. The problem, more often, is that we muddy the water so that we can't see too clearly, lest our decisions move us to difficult choices.

Our loving God is always ready to send us the Holy Spirit to fill us with courage. So that we can live with a courageous spirit, we need to pray for the vision to see things from God's perspective, and then to do the right thing when it must be done – cost what it may.

CRISIS

from page five

bishop also asked that school parents be informed, something school board members were already doing in response to the parents' urgent questions.

The bishop ended his letter by stating, "I know that this is an extraordinary difficult situation and I am very grateful for all the time and effort that is now being given by various councils and people to save the school."

Then, with the 200+ children already in class, another miracle happened. Two anonymous donors appeared and gave the school the extraordinary gifts totaling \$35,000!

Within days the school paid its loan to St. Mary's Parish – \$26,292 – and also the \$10,000 owed the diocese.

Major challenges remain for the school – adjustments dictated by the new school budget, for example, and working on fundraising revenue. The school administration continues to develop more business-like procedures, while the school board examines new ways to scrutinize the school's finances and work in closer communication with St. Mary's Parish Pastoral and Finance Councils.

Clearly, learning on all levels will be taking place at St. Mary's School this year, including the need to expect miracles!

Pray Today

**St. Mary's Catholic Church
Ballinger, TX - Fall Festival**

Sunday, September 10

**Fajita Dinner 11:00 am - 1:30 pm
Adult \$5.00, Child \$3.00, To-Go \$5.00**

**Auction starts at 1:00 pm
Games, Raffles and Bingo Galore!**



Beatification Of Opposites?: Pius IX, John XXIII To Be Blessed

By John Thavis
Catholic News Service

VATICAN CITY (CNS) — In a quiet ceremony in early April, church officials gathered in a crypt of Rome's Basilica of St. Lawrence to exhume the mortal remains of Pope Pius IX.

Carrying out a traditional recognition rite ahead of his beatification in September, the cardinals and bishops found the late pontiff's body "almost perfectly preserved" in the tomb where it has lain for more than a century. A report in the Vatican newspaper said his face still showed a striking serenity in death.

But as plans for the beatification are publicized, old memories are being exhumed, too, and the climate in Italy is anything but serene.

Some Italian Catholic groups are recalling that this was the pope who clung to the last vestiges of temporal power in Italy, refusing to recognize the formation of the Italian state and excommunicating its leaders, preferring to remain a "prisoner of the Vatican" as the papal empire collapsed around him.

Others are questioning why, at the start of a new millennium, the church has chosen to honor a pope who published the "Syllabus of Errors,"

declaring that no Roman pontiff should reconcile himself with "progress, liberalism and modern society."

For Jews, the planned beatification has opened a particularly painful chapter: Pope Pius was the pope under whom a young Italian Jewish boy — allegedly baptized by a Catholic maid — was seized from his home and raised in church-run institutions in Rome. The case, which caused an international sensation in the mid-19th century, was forgotten by most of the world until it was revived in recent books in the United States and Italy.

Even stranger, in the eyes of many, is that Pope Pius will be beatified along with Pope John XXIII, the pope who called the Second Vatican Council and set in motion the process of the church's reconciliation with progress and the modern world.

In many ways, it would be difficult to find a starker contrast between two pontiffs over the last two centuries.

"Pius IX was the last champion of the battle against time," and he turned the papacy into a bunker in the clash between modern ideas and church tradition, said Indro

Montanelli, a popular Italian commentator.

Pope John's papacy, on the other hand, became synonymous with ecclesial "aggiornamento" or updating.

Some have suggested that the double beatification is designed to placate Catholics at both ends of the spectrum. But Vatican officials insist that this is not a political balancing act.

"It would be a big mistake to see a political move here. They were both great saints, although very different human beings," said Msgr. Brunero Gherardini, postulator of Pope Pius' sainthood cause.

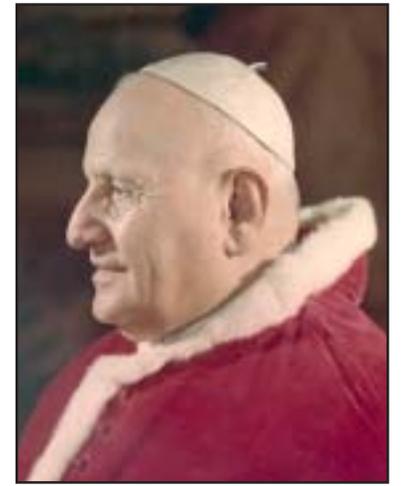
Msgr. Gherardini views the beatification of Pope Pius as an "act of justice" delayed for too many decades by outside objections. Those who see him as a failure in temporal affairs are missing the point, he said.

"Pius IX lived in turbulent times, and from a political point of view, he was not a genius — he was the first to admit this. He had very modest talents in that regard. But the logic of sainthood is not measured with a political yardstick," Msgr. Gherardini said.

"He is a figure who emerged from



Pope Pius IX, seen in an undated portrait by Gregori, is to be beatified Sept. 3 by Pope John Paul II. Pius IX became pope June 16, 1846, and died Feb. 7, 1878. His 32-year reign was the longest since St. Peter's. (CNS file photo)



Pope John XXIII, seen in an undated portrait, is to be beatified Sept. 3 by Pope John Paul II. He convoked the Second Vatican Council but died before the council completed its work. He was elected pope Oct. 28, 1958 and died June 3, 1963. (CNS file photo)

those troubled times in total purity. In his holiness, Christian witness, his humanity and as a priest, he was a great man," he said.

Pope Pius reigned for 32 years, longer than any pope on record. His supporters point to accomplishments often forgotten in the current debate, especially the impetus he gave to the church's missionary expansion across the globe. He convened the First Vatican Council, which proclaimed papal primacy and the doctrine of papal infallibil-

ity. He also declared the dogma of the Immaculate Conception, which may have struck a chord with Pope John Paul II, who has dedicated his papacy to Mary.

But other, more bitter memories linger, especially among Jews. Although Pope Pius opened the gates of Rome's Jewish ghetto and eliminated the most degrading restrictions on its inhabitants, his relationship with the Jewish community was

see "OPPOSITES", page six

Bishop James Tamayo Installed As First Bishop Of Laredo

By Paula Espitia
Catholic News Service

LAREDO, Texas (CNS) — Thousands witnessed a historic moment for the church in Texas as Bishop James A. Tamayo was installed as the first bishop of Laredo Aug. 9.

Over 2,000 filled the main hall of the Laredo Civic Center for the installation liturgy, while hundreds more packed into an adjacent banquet hall to view it on television.

In his homily, Bishop Tamayo, 50, acknowledged that the event was long awaited by the border communities. "We have walked a journey led by faith — a journey that leads us to build the kingdom of God," he said.

More than 100 priests and 25 bishops filled the temporary area around the altar, which was designed to resemble the sanctuary of the new diocese's cathedral, San Agustin.

Archbishop Gabriel Montalvo,



Bishop James A. Tamayo smiles after his Aug. 9 installation as the first bishop of Laredo, Texas. (CNS photo by James M. Barnhardt, South Texas Catholic) (Aug. 15, 2000)

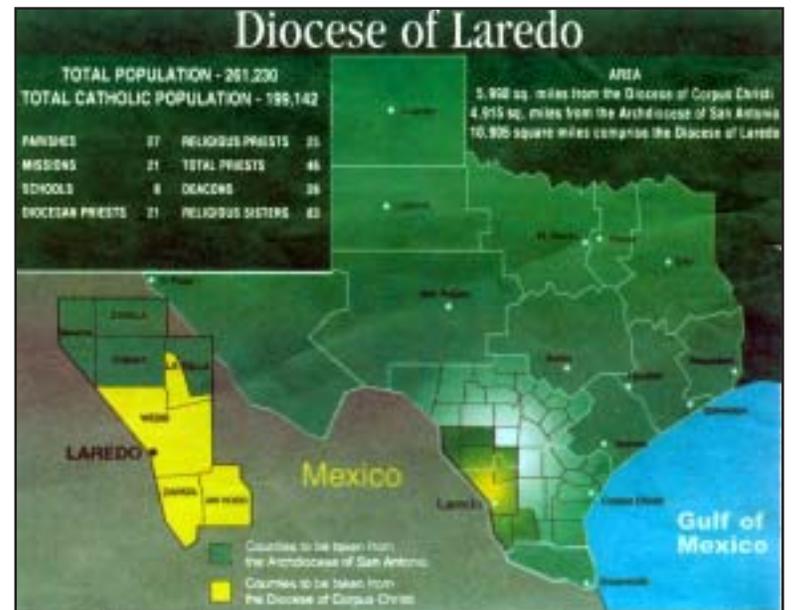
papal nuncio to the United States, read the official letters establishing the Diocese of Laredo and appointing Bishop Tamayo.

"This is a historic moment for Texas," he said. "We extend our congratulations and best wishes."

The new diocese runs along the Rio Grande River, has a predominantly Hispanic Catholic population of nearly 200,000 and encompasses seven counties — three-and-a-half each from the Diocese of Corpus Christi and the Archdiocese of San Antonio.

It covers 10,905 square miles, and has 47 priests, 21 deacons, 11 brothers and 83 sisters serving in 27 parishes, 21 missions and seven Catholic schools.

Laredo, with a population of nearly 200,000, is the largest city in the area. It was formerly part of the Corpus Christi Diocese, where Bishop Tamayo had served 17 years



as a priest — including three as pastor of Blessed Sacrament Parish in Laredo.

The second-largest city in the new diocese is Eagle Pass, with about 21,000 people.

Msgr. Alejandro Salazar, appointed the first chancellor of Laredo, welcomed the congregation, including the visiting bishops and clergy from Texas, surrounding states and Mexico.

"Bishop Tamayo, you know well this part of the Lord's vineyard," said Msgr. Salazar, who previously was chancellor of Corpus Christi. "We are confident that under your leadership the church of Laredo will move forward into the next millennium in faith, hope and charity."

Flanking Bishop Tamayo during most of the liturgy were Bishop Joseph A. Fiorenza of Galveston-

see "LAREDO", page thirteen



Running of the "Silver Rose" is Set for Texas and Oklahoma

The Running of the "Silver Rose" event scheduled for the Guadalupe Province of the Fourth Degree Knights of Columbus, consisting of Oklahoma and Texas, began with the blessing of the Bouquet of Silver Roses by Most Reverend Edward J. Slattery, Bishop of the Tulsa (Oklahoma) Diocese during a special 5:00 PM Mass on August 12th at the Holy Family Cathedral in Tulsa.

The Bouquet of Silver Roses consists of eight silver roses mounted on a pedestal (one rose is designated as the "relay" rose and seven roses are designated as "district" roses – one for each of the seven districts in the Guadalupe Province. The "relay" rose will be relayed along I-44 highway to Oklahoma City and then down the I-35 corridor of Oklahoma and Texas to the International Bridge at Laredo, Texas.

The "diocesan" roses will follow a separate trek through the dioceses of each of the respective Fourth Degree districts of Oklahoma and Texas. The Mass at the Tulsa cathedral represents the start of the Running of the "Silver Rose." Bishop Slattery will bless the Bouquet of Silver Roses during the Mass and will have the District Master from each of the respective districts in attendance come up to the altar and pick one of the seven "district" roses to take back to his respective dis-

trict. The bishop will begin the Running of the "Silver Rose" with the eighth ("relay") rose by jogging one lap around the block of the cathedral. Additionally, there will be a dinner in the basement of the cathedral at 7:30 PM, following the Mass.

On September 2nd, Most Reverend Eusebius J. Beltran, Archbishop of Oklahoma City Archdiocese will celebrate a second Mass at 10:00 AM at the Good Shepherd Mission Church in Marietta, Oklahoma representing the transfer of the "relay" rose from Oklahoma to Texas. As a matter of interest, the "relay" rose will be transferred to the next district (the Sixth Texas District headquartered at Austin) at Abbott on September 23rd. Upon completion of its trek down the I-35 corridor to the next district, the "relay" rose will be transferred to the Second Texas District headquartered at San Antonio on October 21st, and then again to the Fourth Texas District headquartered at Corpus Christi on November 21st.

The plan is for the "relay" rose to reach its final destination at Laredo on December 1st where it will rejoin all of the "district" roses originally disbursed at Tulsa to reform the Bouquet of Silver Roses.

The "district" rose for the Third Texas District will begin its trek through the district beginning with the Tyler Diocese on August 20th, according to Gil Valenzuela PFN,

designated coordinator for the event in the Tyler Diocese. The event will begin with a special youth Mass celebrated at the Tyler cathedral by the Dallas Bishops and the Tyler administrator in charge of the Tyler Diocese. (Note: Bishop Edmond Carmody was recently transferred from Tyler to become the new bishop of Corpus Christi.)

Charlie Walter PFN, designated coordinator for this event in the Dallas Diocese points out that although the "diocesan" rose will be accepted from the Tyler Diocese into the Dallas Diocese on September 20th and begin its trek in the Sherman Denison area, the Mass signifying its arrival will be celebrated by Bishop Charles Grahmann at the Dallas Cathedral on September 24th. The "diocesan" rose will then continue its trek through the selected parishes of the dioceses.

Upon completion of its trek through the Dallas Diocese on October 20th, the "diocesan" rose will be transferred to the Fort Worth Diocese. Upon completion of its trek through the Fort Worth Diocese on November 20th, the "district" rose will be returned to Vice Supreme Master Jake Gaona of Floresville, Texas for the final transfer on December 9th to the Knights of Columbus representatives of Mexico.

At a special 12:00 Noon Mass at the newly designated cathedral in Laredo, Texas on December 9th,



Running of the "Silver Rose" is dedicated to "Our Lady of Guadalupe" Patroness of the Americas

each of the District Masters from Texas and Oklahoma will return their respective "district" rose to the Bouquet of Silver Roses. Following the Mass, the Bouquet of Silver Roses and the "relay" rose will be taken by the Vice Supreme Master to the International Bridge in Laredo and will be presented to the delegation of Knights of Columbus and Columbian Squires from Nuevo Laredo and Monterrey, Mexico.

From there, the "relay" rose will

be relayed and the Bouquet of Silver Roses will be transported to the Basilica of Our Lady of Guadalupe in Monterrey, Mexico. Upon arrival in Monterey, the "relay" rose will be returned to the Bouquet of Silver Roses at a special 12:00 Mass to be celebrated at the Basilica on December 12th, the Feast Day of Our Lady of Guadalupe, thus, signifying the completion of the Running of the "Silver Rose." (Note: the schedule is subject to change as events warrant)

St. Mary's Legion of Mary Marks Anniversary

By Mimi Mooney

ODESSA – The Jubilee Year 2000 is especially important for the Legion of Mary here. Our Lady Queen of the World Praesidium from St. Mary's Parish marks its 40th anniversary this year. The group was founded in 1960 under the spiritual direction of Father William Lensing, then pastor of St. Mary's, and it continues today. The Legion of Mary is an apostolic organization. Its primary work is home visitation. Members visit "in union with the Blessed Mother Mary." Members also participate in hospital visitation.

The measure of a local Praesidium's success lies in the establishment of personal contact – the contact of love, sympathy and friendship. It does not take any special qualities or knowledge to be a Legionary – just a desire to spread the kingdom of God.

The Legion is always delighted to have the opportunity to extend into new parishes.



LEGIONARIES CELEBRATE 40th ANNIVERSARY – Members of St. Mary's Legion of Mary recently marked the organization's 40' anniversary in Odessa. Father Bernardito Getigan and seminarian Ariel Lagunilla (background) share in the festivities.



Special Jubilee Days In The Great Jubilee Year 2000

By Bishop Michael Pfeifer, OMI

The great Jubilee Year 2000 celebrates the 2000th birthday of Christ and the beginning of Christianity. The focus of the Jubilee Year is Jesus Christ, the God-man, who became incarnate to bring God's love and salvation to our world.

The great Jubilee Year is primarily a time to express our gratitude to Christ for all He has done for us by living out His paschal mysteries, and to see how we can enter into these paschal mysteries in our day and time. It is a time for gratitude, it is a time for celebration, it is a time for rejoicing, and it is a time for renewal.

During this great Jubilee Year 2000, the Catholic Church at a universal and national level has assigned certain days to recognize people, or groups of people, for the contribution that they have made to the Church and the wider society. As we have been going through the Jubilee Year, I have brought to your attention already many Jubilee days that have been celebrated during the past months of this year. Here I would like to bring to your attention the important Jubilee days that still remain to be celebrated as we continue through the great Jubilee Year 2000.

- September 4 - Jubilee Day for Workers, Crafters, Builders and Tradespeople (USA)
- September 10 - Jubilee Day for Teachers/Professors
- September 17 - Jubilee Day for Catechists (USA)
- September 24 - Jubilee for Senior Citizens (USA)
- October 1 - Jubilee Day for Life (USA)
- October 3 - Jubilee Day of Jewish - Christian Dialogue
- October 4 - Jubilee Day for Environment (USA)
- October 8 - Jubilee Day for Bishops/Dedication of 3rd Millennium to Mary
- October 14-15 - International Family Jubilee Celebration in Rome
- October 20-22 - Jubilee of Inter-Missionary Congress and World Mission Sunday
- October 29 - Jubilee Day for Sports/Jubilee for Youth (WYD USA)
- November 5 - Jubilee Day for Government Officials (Public Life)
- November 12 - Jubilee Day for Agriculture Workers (USA)
- November 19 - Jubilee Day for Police
- November 23 - Jubilee Day for Families (USA)
- November 26 - Jubilee Day for Lay Ministry (USA)
- December 3 - Jubilee Day for the Disabled
- December 17 - Jubilee Day for Entertainers
- December 31 - Jubilee Prayer Vigil for Passage to the New Millennium
- January 5-6 - Conclusion of Jubilee Year/Closing of Jubilee Doors

For some of these Jubilee days, I have prepared celebrations at a diocesan level, but I ask that all these special days be celebrated in some way in each parish and mission of our Diocese. The Jubilee Year is a great moment of grace for all of us, a moment to renew ourselves in our faith, to build up our hope, and to look at new ways of being people of love and service.

Bishop Pfeifer to Honor Two Groups in September with the Theme of Jubilee Year 2000

On September 10 at 10:00 a.m. in the Cathedral Church of the Sacred Heart, Bishop Pfeifer will preside at a Mass to honor teachers and professors. Dr. James Hindman, President of Angelo State University, and Dr. Joe Gonzalez, Superintendent of the San Angelo Independent School System, will speak at the Mass. Teachers of the Angelo Catholic School are helping in preparing the liturgy.

On September 24 at 10:00 a.m. at the Cathedral, Bishop Pfeifer will preside at a Mass to honor senior citizens.

Both Masses are open to the general public.

Reminder About The Plenary Jubilee Indulgence

By Bishop Michael Pfeifer, OMI

As he officially began the celebration of the great Jubilee 2000, honoring Christ on His 2000th birthday, Pope John Paul II announced that practicing Catholics could receive a Plenary Jubilee Indulgence by visiting St. Peter's Basilica in Rome and passing through the holy door as a pious act of entrusting oneself to Christ the Redeemer through the Church.

Because many would be unable to make a pilgrimage to Rome, bishops throughout the world were encouraged by the Pope to designate special churches in their dioceses where indulgences could be obtained. I have designated all the churches of the Diocese of San Angelo as places where the Plenary Jubilee Indulgence can be obtained for oneself or for the deceased during the Jubilee Year 2000.

What is an indulgence? The *Catechism of the Catholic Church* gives a clear explanation of what an indulgence is:

"An indulgence is a remission before God of the temporal punishment due to sins whose guilt has

already been forgiven, which the faithful Christian, who is duly disposed gains under certain prescribed conditions, through the action of the Church which, as the minister of redemption, dispenses and applies with authority the treasury of satisfaction of Christ and the saints. . . . An indulgence is partial or plenary as it removes either part or all of the temporal punishment due to sins."

How are we to understand the teaching of punishment for sin? To help us understand the teaching of the punishment for sin, the *Catechism* explains that sin has a double consequence. Grave sins deprive us of communion with God, and therefore make us incapable of sharing eternal life (the "eternal punishment" of sin). But sin also involves an unhealthy attachment to creatures that must be purified either on earth or after death in a state called Purgatory. This purification frees us from the "temporal punishment" of sin. The Council of Trent tells us that conversion that proceeds from a fervent love of God can obtain complete purification of the sinner in such a way that no pun-

ishment would remain.

How is an indulgence gained? To gain the plenary indulgence, the faithful are required to perform acts of charity and/or penance as a sign of true conversion of heart and also to pray for the intentions of the Holy Father. Usually this means praying one "Our Father" and one "Hail Mary." It is also required that on the day the indulgence is sought, the faithful should attend Mass, receive Holy Communion, and within a few weeks before or after, receive the Sacrament of Reconciliation. A plenary indulgence can be obtained but once a day.

In granting a plenary or partial indulgence, the Church uses its power as a minister in our modern world of Christ's redemption. Indulgences confirm, as do the sacraments, the preeminence of charity in living the Christian life which cannot be gained without a sincere conversion from sin and a seeking of unity with God. The doing of the prescribed works for the indulgence testify in a real way to the validity of one's conversion.

Jubilee Of Environment

The Web of Life is One

By Bishop Michael Pfeifer, OMI

October 4, 2000, the beautiful feast day of St. Francis of Assisi, has been designated by the United States Catholic Bishops as the day to celebrate the "Jubilee of Environment." St. Francis, a 13th century saint, is considered to be the Patron of Environment and Ecology, and of animals, so it is appropriate that we celebrate the Jubilee day of Environment on his feast.

Francis saw the loving presence of God in every dimension of the created order. He saw a connection between all forms of life. Following his example, the Jubilee of Environment reminds us that the web of life is one. In this regard, I share with you some inspiring and challenging thoughts from the National Catholic Rural Life Conference that have been prepared for this Jubilee day:

"The web of life is one. Creation has an integrity and an inherent value beyond its usefulness to human beings. Human beings are to be responsible stewards of creation. In that activity they work in har-

mony with God as co-creators. Animals are to be treated with dignity and respect. The sin of "speciesism" is now coming more clearly to be acknowledged and recognized. We cannot do just whatever we want with the created order. Adequate science, common sense and appropriate values will teach us to respect the web of life and each member of it.

The web of life is one. The way we treat animals is of moral significance. We cannot casually inflict pain on them or treat them as if they

were inert beings or stones. Their modes of living deserve study and appreciation. They do not deserve wholesale destruction and obliteration. Animal welfare should be a moral concern."

On the Jubilee day for the Environment, I will be offering a special Mass with the children of Angelo Catholic School in the courtyard at Sacred Heart Cathedral at 8:30 am. During the Mass, as is our custom, I will bless all the animals. On that day, I invite all of our people, not just our school children, to bring your animals for this special blessing.

Immaculate Conception Church
Knickerbocker, TX - Annual Festival
Sunday, Sept. 24 - 11:00 A.M. - 4:00 P.M.
Mesquite Cooked Brisket and
Sausage Plate With All the Trimmings
Adult \$6.00, Child \$3.50, Take Out Also
Music, Raffle, Bingo, Games,
Washer-Pitching and Lots More!



Pope Says World Youth Day Exceeded 'All Human Expectations'

By John Norton
Catholic News Service

VATICAN CITY (CNS) — Pope John Paul II thanked God for a World Youth Day celebration he said exceeded "all human expectations" and prayed that the young people would ignite the world with God's love.

"I will never be able to forget the enthusiasm of those young people," he told pilgrims at his weekly general audience in St. Peter's Square Aug. 23.

"I would have liked to have embraced them all and expressed to each one the affection which ties me to the youth of our time," he said.

More than 2 million young people from 160 countries crowded an 800-acre field on Rome's outskirts Aug. 19-20 for a prayer vigil with the pope and Mass with him the following morning. It was the city's largest gathering of people in living memory.

"Flying over the area in the helicopter," said the pope, referring to his arrival and departure from the field, "I admired from above a singular and impressive sight: an enormous human carpet of joyful people, happy to be together."

The youths' community and personal experience of encountering Christ during the event, he said,

showed that the young people felt themselves "a living part of the church" and "a people of God in journey."

The pope said the young people were not afraid of their own human frailties and limitations "because they count on the love and mercy of the heavenly Father, who sustains them in daily life."

"Beyond every race and culture, they feel like brothers gathered by a single faith, by a single hope, by a single mission: to ignite the world with God's love," he said.

"To all the young people I would like to repeat: Be proud of the mission which the Lord has entrusted

to you and carry it forward with humble and generous perseverance," the pope said.

"Christ and his church count on you!" he said.

(Toronto, Canada, has been chosen as the site of World Youth Day-2002)



A World Youth Day pilgrim sits behind a barricade listening to Pope John Paul II address more than 2 million young people at an evening prayer vigil on the outskirts of Rome Aug. 19. (CNS photo by Nancy Wiehchec)



The crowd cheers for Pope John Paul II at the opening ceremonies for World Youth Day in St. Peter's Square Aug. 15. (CNS photo by Nancy Wiehchec)

YOUTH DAY

from page one

About 3,000 youths in wheelchairs were kept waiting seven hours in a bus parking lot near the field because covered sections reserved to them had been mistakenly filled up by other pilgrims and were not cleared until after the pope left the vigil.

And though organizers had installed 12,000 water fountains and 30 air-conditioned first-aid tents, ambulance crews worked nonstop to rescue young people overcome with the more-than-100-degree heat and 85 percent humidity. More than 2,000 people were treated, most for minor complaints.

Organizers had planned to let the youths leave in shifts after the event, but were unable to prevent a mass exodus as soon as the pope left. Public transportation was hopelessly overloaded, with youths backed up

in hour long waits for buses and subway trains. The rapid exit, however, did allow officials to open up exits to a nearby highway 12 hours earlier than planned.

Many groups left even before the pope's Mass was finished. Greg Horn, leading a Seattle, Wash., group out during the Gospel reading, said two of his charges were injured, including one with a sprained ankle, and needed to get a head start on the crowds.

"The potential for real difficulties was enormous, when you put that much humanity in one place," he said. "But it seems like everybody knew why they were here."

Other youth groups opted to omit the vigil and overnighter, coming instead the following morning for Mass.

"The priest who is leading our group said it would be too dangerous" to spend the night, said Matthew Gioicsin, 16, of Rockville Centre, N.Y. The youth and his group

arrived at 4 a.m. to find a vantage point for the Mass and received the unexpected bonus of being along the crowd barrier when the pope arrived.

"He was five feet away," said Gioicsin solemnly. "It was awesome, in the true sense of the word."

The pope's departure from the vigil was marked by a ground-shaking fireworks display. The whoops of appreciation let out by the youths also marked the beginning of a night of dancing, singing and making new friends.

In dozens of open areas away from the papal stage, thousands of young people danced and clapped in concentric circles around guitar-playing and drum-beating peers. Young people wandered from group to group, bridging language divides with smiles and hand signals.

A young guitar-wielding Italian who called himself "Simon" sent a group of Irish into hoots and cheers when he launched into a rousing version of "Wild Rover," and was repeatedly called for encores.

Young Spaniards charged around the field under their national flag, alternately shouting out patriotic and religious slogans.

Other youths raided mountains of bottled water to launch full-scale water fights.

Their ability to muster up inhuman energy, even after a grueling day, did not apparently owe to alcohol or drugs, another point of departure from Woodstock similarities. An onlooker who circled the crowds for hours saw only one bottle of wine and one bottle of beer among the hundreds of thousands of fun-makers.

One banner held up during the

vigil explained: "The pope is our drug."

And though hundreds of couples sought out less-trafficked areas to cuddle, kiss and talk, there were no indications that any engaged in greater physical intimacy, like at Woodstock.

Following a World Youth Day tradition, the young people traded necklaces, hats, national flags and other trinkets, usually after mock-fierce haggling.

"I lost my sombrero," said Enrique from Mexico, beaming from ear to ear, as he sat exchanging addresses with a beautiful young Polish woman. The huge black and silver hat was perched on her head.

In the melee, young people from different countries also exchanged their experiences. Young Westerners seemed particularly interested in knowing more about life in Africa, asking about the AIDS crisis and differences in education and the workplace.

The World Youth Day experience "is kind of like the pilgrimage

in the Canterbury Tales," said Michel Gravel, 23, from Lawrence, Mass. "Everyone has come here with their own tale." He said he was particularly moved by the Africans' testimonials because "it makes you realize how much you really have."

Father Fabius Bainakanaama of Uganda said the experience was also an eye-opener for the 100 youths participating from his country, by breaking them out of their usual way of thinking.

"Even these portable toilets; for us it's difficult to imagine. Many of our people still use latrines and live in mud houses," he said.

As they were leaving the field to head back to their home countries, many youths said they expected to keep in touch with those they had befriended in the last two days.

Gilbert Kamnadj, 24, from Chad, said that he, like others, had exchanged address with dozens of people from around the world.

"This joy and welcoming will continue on," he said confidently. "This is just the beginning."



Young pilgrims hold crosses during a Way of the Cross in central Rome Aug. 18 as part of World Youth Day celebrations. (CNS photo from Reuters)



Not All Schools Are Afraid Of The ACLU

Chicago Public Schools Approve Ten Commandments Project

WASHINGTON, D.C. — On Wednesday, Chicago's public school system approved a private, multi-faith project led by a Christian television network, the Total Living Network, to distribute 100,000 Ten Commandment book covers to schoolchildren attending Chicago area schools. The action brought cheers from Family Research Council (FRC), whose spokeswoman Janet Parshall called the support by Chicago school chief Paul Vallas "one of the boldest statements by public schools officials that we've seen in awhile."

"What a terrific way to kick off the school year," Mrs. Parshall said. "And, what a great example this sets for other schools, that educating our children includes teaching the importance of time-honored principles of right and wrong. Schools that are unwilling to bend their knee to liberal activist groups and refuse to accept mixed up notions of the First Amendment should be applauded."

Groups like the ACLU and Americans United for the Separation of Church and State have warned the Chicago school system to remain silent and not endorse whether the Ten Commandments could have a positive impact on children. But Mr. Vallas told the Associated Press Wednesday that the problem is that "schools have become too rigidly neutral. What in the world is wrong with 'Thou shall not kill?' or 'Thou shall not steal?'"

Mrs. Parshall said, "In such a time as this, in a community where just last month, a sixth-grader, Miguel de la Rosa, was shot and killed by gang crossfire not far from the school, Mr. Vallas and the public school system are merely looking for a way to save kids' lives."

"We commend the Chicago public school system for recognizing church and community efforts to promote the relevance of the Ten Commandments for the sake of the children."

Since 1996, FRC has distributed 750,000 Ten Commandments and "Love Thy Neighbor as Thyself" book covers to students and families nationwide. And, last fall, the group kicked off the "Hang Ten" project, a plan to encourage public officials and others to publicly post the Ten Commandments in offices, courthouses, schools, town squares, and other places. FRC presented framed copies of the Ten Commandments to 50 members of Congress who agreed to post them in their Washington, D.C. offices in recognition of the tradition of ethical monotheism that undergirds U.S. law. In June 1999, the House passed the Ten Commandments Defense Act, a bill empowering states to decide whether the Commandments may be publicly posted in schools and other public buildings.

Cottage Parents

Couple needed for Christian family child care Ranch facility. Must be committed to making a difference in the lives of boys, be caring and understanding. High school diploma with some college preferred. Competitive salary and benefits package, plus a 5-day work schedule and private apartment provided. Please send resume or letter of interest to:

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1-800-756-9827

Easy Prey

by Fr. Frank Pavone
National Director, Priests for Life

What place of business in America can a woman walk into and be at the highest risk of becoming a victim of rape?

The answer is a legal abortion clinic.

More and more stories are coming to light of various types of mistreatment of clients in abortion clinics — deceptive practices, manipulative pressures, unsanitary instruments, falsifying of records, people posing as doctors without having spent a day in medical school, injuries, and deaths. In some cases this leads to new bills in state legislatures seeking to regulate abortion clinics; in other cases it leads to the closing of the clinics and the jailing of the abortionist.

Certainly one of the most troubling elements of this picture is the prevalence of sexual assault in abortion clinics. It is not uncommon. (One of the sources that documents this information is the book *Lime 5* by Mark Crutcher.)

Why is this happening? Several factors account for it.

First of all, when a woman is in an abortion facility, she's in a place where she doesn't want others to know she is. Usually she has hidden the fact that she is sexually active, now needs to hide the fact that she's pregnant, and will later hide the fact that she had an abortion. If, therefore, the abortionist sexually assaults her, whom does she tell?

A good analogy provided by the author of *Lime 5* is of a married man going to a prostitute, and in the course of his visit a man jumps out from hiding, beats him, and steals his wallet. Now what does he do, tell his wife that his wallet was stolen during a visit to a prostitute?

Added to the shame of saying anything about it is the fact that the abortion client is already naked and usually anesthetized.

Another factor contributing to the occurrence of sexual assault in abortion clinics is the moral degeneracy of the abortionists. The documented evidence we have from cases all over the country shows a pattern of immoral behavior connected with the practice of abortion — lying, theft, substance abuse, infidelity, and violence, including

sexual violence.

A government study has estimated that at least 84 percent of rapes go unreported ("The Response to Rape: Detours on the Road to Justice," prepared by the majority Staff of the U.S. Senate Judiciary Committee, May 1993). If that is the case in general, the underreporting of rape in abortion clinics is much higher, based on the considerations outlined above. Usually those who report these instances are non-abortion victims of the abortionist's acts.

The cases in which abortionists have been convicted of sexual assault, furthermore, reveal that the attacks are not about power, but about punishment. It seems as though the resentment that abortion providers feel because they have to do something that everyone considers "dirty work" (see the psychological studies of Dr. Philip Ney on why people become abortionists) is taken out on the woman who seeks the abortion.

Does anybody hear anything from "pro-woman, pro-choice" groups — or candidates — in protest of this sexual assault?

Rock Bands Promote Racism, Genocide, Baby Killing

Kemper: Van's Warped Tour, Santana, No Doubt And Dave Matthews Band Propaganda Is Hypocrisy

WASHINGTON, DC — "It's amazing to realize there's a trend for rock musicians to champion causes like Free Tibet, Save the Planet, 'animal rights' and racial equality. Yet in fact these same artists support racist and genocidal attacks against minorities, both domestically and abroad," said Bryan Kemper of Rock For Life. "This is hypocrisy. Where's the outrage?"

The Van's Warped Tour, along with Santana, No Doubt and the Dave Matthews Band, are working in collaboration with Margaret Sanger's Planned Parenthood. The combined effort extends Planned Parenthood's "educational" program-VOX-to millions of kids at rock concerts. VOX urges teen voters to support candidates who back federal spending for foreign and domestic population control.

"Bands are preaching hate-promoting racism against poor people worldwide, genocide in the name of family planning and domestic baby killing-all under the mythical banner of 'choice,'" Kemper said.

Planned Parenthood's population elimination programs have a long history of racism and genocide. Planned Parenthood international, for example, promotes abortion by manual suction on traumatized minority women in the Balkans, and collaborates with China's family planning officials who, in turn, carry out genocidal programs against Tibetans and other minorities. In the US, Planned Parenthood targets minorities and has killed American babies by the millions before they're born.

Margaret Sanger, the founder of Planned Parenthood, was one of the leading eugenicists of her time, Kemper said. Sanger edited the publication "The Birth Control Review," in which she included and endorsed the writings of Hitler's

eugenic sterilization expert, Dr. Ernst Rudin. In her own articles, Sanger advocated sterilization for "race betterment" to reduce "unfit and undesirable" populations. For those who would not consent to sterilization, Sanger suggested segregation or permanent detainment in concentration camps.

"It's a shame that bands provide a platform for Planned Parenthood, an organization not only responsible for the deaths of millions of babies, but founded on the ideology of racism and on genocidal activism," said Kemper. "Planned Parenthood continues to promote Sanger's writings and gives out awards in her name every year."

RFL encourages concertgoers to boycott bands that support Planned Parenthood.

Rock for Life is a division of American Life League, the nation's largest pro-life educational organization with more than 300,000 supporters.



Acts of Kindness: Random and Otherwise

by Msgr. Thomas J. McSweeney,
Director of the Christophers

A seatmate on a recent flight got me thinking about kindness. After an introductory nod, we politely ignored each other. He was engrossed in a crossword puzzle while I was trying to finish reading a book before we landed. Near the end of the flight, he got up, leaving the magazine on his seat. Glancing at the almost finished puzzle, a clue caught my eye: *hit-or-miss*. I idly started considering the answer. When he returned, we began chatting. I said, "I hope you don't mind, but I noticed your crossword and I think I have the answer for 21 down." He said, "Yeah, six letters, beginning with 'R'."

"Does 'random' fit?"

"That's it." He jotted it down. "Sure. Random – like acts of kindness."

Later, at home, I thought about that phrase "random acts of kindness." It has become popular over the last few years largely because of the best-selling book with that name. It occurred to me that people who genuinely believe not just in the overwhelming need for kindness, but also in its amazing power, are probably less "hit-or-miss" than you might think. The greater your

effort to make kindness a way of life, the more opportunities will present themselves. If you are constantly on the look-out for chances, you will recognize them much more easily than if you never gave the matter any thought. Kindness is like any other skill - you get better with practice.

Why not plan *deliberate* acts of kindness? You probably do it already, even if you don't call it that. With a perceptive eye on the needs and feelings of others, do you turn eagerness into action? You may be one of those folks who always seem to be in the right place at the right time to do a good deed.

You know when to ask an elderly neighbor if the lawn needs mowing. You know when to offer a hand to a stressed out co-worker. You know when to play a game of catch with a youngster who needs attention. You know. You care. You act. And what else would you call the hours people spend volunteering at a hospital, soup kitchen, school, prison, or community center – but *deliberate* acts of kindness?

Myles Connolly, a Hollywood screenwriter some decades back, wrote "Everybody at one time or another has known such people, strangers, relatives or friends who have changed the quality of the day

for others. . . . The shining quality of goodness radiates from them, from their mere presence. All these, humble and unaware, carry with them the kindness and generosity of their lives. These are the greatest artists. They practice the highest of arts – the art of living, the art of life itself."

Acts of kindness can be as simple as a smile. Done without expectation of return, they may cost a little time and convenience, or a great deal. But, in the long run, each act of kindness strengthens the ties that bind us to God and all His children.

This prayer for kindness was written centuries ago by Mary Stuart. Some things really don't change: *Keep us, O God, from all pettiness; let us be large in thought, in word, in deed. . . . Teach us to put into action our better impulses, straightforward and unafraid. Grant that we may realize that it is the little things of life that create difference, that in the big things of life, we are as one. And, O Lord God, let us not forget to be kind!*

For a free copy of the Christopher News Note, *Being A Good Neighbor*, write to The Christophers, 12 East 48th Street, New York, NY 10017

LAREDO from page eight

Houston, where Bishop Tamayo served as an auxiliary for the past seven years, and Bishop Edmond Carmody of Corpus Christi.

Archbishop Patrick Flores of San Antonio was unable to attend the installation due to recent back surgery.

Bishop Tamayo described the beginning of a new diocese as a time of hope.

"Hope leads, as light leads in the darkness," he said. "We have walked in faith together. Now we gather at a crossroads."

He alluded to William Holman Hunt's famous painting, "The Light of the World," portraying Christ knocking at a door that has no outside latch.

"The handle is on the other side," he said. "It's up to you and me to make the free decision to open wide the door to Christ."

Near the close of the liturgy, Bishop Tamayo walked down side aisles in the convention center carrying two bouquets of roses which he placed in front of images of the two patrons of the new diocese — Our Lady of Guadalupe and St. Augustine. The congregation applauded as he knelt down for a brief moment of prayer before each image.

A public reception followed in the banquet hall as the crowds waited in long lines to meet their new bishop.

Holy Cross Brother Richard Daly, director of the Texas Catholic Conference, the lobbying arm for the Texas bishops, said, "What began 150 years ago in Galveston, when the church was first established in Texas, has been completed here in

Laredo."

He said the Texas bishops have been working on establishing the Laredo Diocese for many years because of the common concerns shared by the border communities — including unemployment, poverty and immigration issues.

As an auxiliary in Galveston-Houston, Bishop Tamayo worked primarily with the Hispanic population. He is a member of the U.S. Catholic Conference's Committee for Hispanic Affairs.

Pat Campos, the youth director of Blessed Sacrament Parish in Laredo, said she was happy to have their former pastor back as the new bishop. "He was always helpful to the youth of Laredo. We need more programs for them here," she said.

Roxanna Guerra, director of Laredo's Catholic Social Services, said, "This is the most wonderful, wonderful thing that could have happened to Laredo. We've been waiting for the new bishop, now we can get moving and accomplish everything we had on the shelf. We've known him for many years. We know the many things he can accomplish and he will have our total support."

Laredo is the 15th diocese of the San Antonio province, which covers the entire state of Texas. In number of dioceses San Antonio is the largest ecclesiastical province in the United States. It is third-largest in the world superseded by Porto Alegre and Sao Salvador da Bahia, both in Brazil.

High School Students Poster Contest

High School Students Invited To Enter Eleventh Annual Christopher Poster Contest \$2,000 In Prizes To Be Awarded

NEW YORK – Attention all teens! The Christophers invite all high school students to share their unique ideas and creative talent by entering the Eleventh Annual Christopher Poster Contest for High School Students. Prizes total \$2,000. Students are invited to enter their interpretation of the statement, "You Can Make a Difference," a theme they can apply to any topic which interests them.

Last year's contest drew over 1,700 entries from public, private and parochial schools throughout the country as well from such international locales as Korea and

Greece. Winning works included paintings, photographs, and linoleum block print. In January 2001, some of this artwork will be exhibited at the New York Public Library's Donnell Center, which houses the largest teen library facility in the city's public system.

Msgr. Thomas McSweeney, Director of The Christophers, announced this year's competition saying, "Today's young people will be tomorrow's leaders. The Christophers want to encourage their optimism and enthusiasm by sharing their artwork with the community and by providing some financial award."

All students in grades 9 through 12 are eligible to enter. Posters must be 15 by 20 inches and include the words, "You Can Make a Differ-

ence." They will be judged on overall impact, effectiveness in conveying the theme, originality and artistic merit. Eight prizes will be awarded, with a first prize of \$1,000. The entries must be received by January 26, 2001. All posters become the property of The Christophers and cannot be returned. Winners will be announced April 20, 2001.

Complete rules are available by writing to: High School Poster Contest, The Christophers, 12 East 48th Street, New York, NY 10017, or by calling 212-759-4050. They are also available at: www.christophers.org/poster.html on the Web.

The Christophers, a non-profit organization founded in 1945, uses print and broadcast media to encourage all individuals to recognize their unique abilities and to use them to raise the standards of public life. The Christopher motto is: "It's better to light one candle than to curse the darkness."

SW Liturgical Conf. 39th Annual Study Week

January 17-20, 2001, Wednesday – Saturday. Hosted by the Roman Catholic Church of Victoria at the Bauer Community Center, Port Lavaca, Texas, home of beaches, sails, and big fish tales!

All who minister in liturgy, catechesis, and evangelization are invited to the 2001 Study Week. We will be studying the rituals of the liturgy, primarily of the Eucharist. Our rituals will be explored through a mystagogical process focusing on bodily movement: procession/dance, posture, and gesture.

This process of breaking open the rites will be led by a Presenting Team that will include a visionary, Nathan Mitchell, answering the question "Why this ritual?"; giving the history and future of it; a pastoral theologian, Don Neumann, answering "How do we do it?"; a pastoral musician, Sandra Derby, answering "How do we sing it?"; and an ecu-

menical theologian, Samuel Torvend, answering "Where and with whom do we do it?"

There will be specific times throughout each day for participants to process the information immediately, so as to be better prepared to utilize it in their ministry. This process will be most beneficial to parish and/or diocesan teams that attend together. There will be none of the usual breakout sessions/workshops, but there will be exhibitors as well as a Music Showcase on Thursday, Friday, and Saturday afternoon.

For a copy of the brochure/o si quiere información en Español – write/escríbe a: POB 307, Eagle Lake, TX 77434, or call/o llame: Eddie Winkler 979-234-2842 or Cynthia Goerig at 979-543-3770. Also, check out the website at <http://www.swlc.org> or e-mail 2001studyweek@swlc.org



Catholic Leaders Decry Federally Funded Embryo Research

By Catholic News Service

WASHINGTON (CNS)—An official of the U.S. Catholic bishops, as well as a number of U.S. pro-life organizations, have condemned the federal funding of research on human embryonic stem cells as immoral and illegal, and unnecessary for medical progress.

The Vatican also condemned the production and use of human embryos for stem-cell research, despite its humanitarian aims.

The condemnations came immediately after new guidelines, backed by the Clinton administration, were released Aug. 23 by the National Institutes of Health that will allow the first federal funding of such research.

Clinton praised the decision and said research on stem cells, obtained from frozen embryos slated for destruction at fertility clinics, offers “potentially staggering benefits.”

But Richard Doerflinger, associate director for policy development in the U.S. bishops’ Secretariat for Pro-Life Activities, said that under the guidelines, the U.S. government

“for the first time in history . . . will promote research in which developing human embryos are destroyed.”

“The Clinton administration has ignored the moral objections submitted by tens of thousands of Americans during the NIH’s public comment period, compounding the problem by forcing conscientiously opposed taxpayers to support this immoral research,” he said.

Disputing the legality of the research, Doerflinger argued that the funding of a program in which human embryos are harmed or destroyed is prohibited by federal law.

“The new guidelines seem to circumvent the law, by telling researchers how to obtain and destroy live human embryos if they wish to receive a stem cell research grant. This bookkeeping trick is, to say the least, an exercise in hypocrisy,” he said.

Doerflinger also disputed the claim that embryonic stem-cell research is needed for new medical advances. He said such a claim has been disputed by numerous breakthroughs in adult stem-cell research

and other alternatives.

He said that in recent days NIH-funded researchers announced they can produce “a virtually limitless supply” of new nerve cells for transplants from patients’ own bone marrow stem cells. “This approach overcomes the ethical and immunologic concerns associated with the use of fetal tissue,” he said.

Doerflinger said Catholic officials will explore “all avenues in Congress and elsewhere” for reversing the guidelines so medical research will again “be guided by sound moral principles.”

Virgil C. Dechant, head of the Knights of Columbus, called the guidelines on embryonic stem-cell research “deeply flawed and deceptive” and encourages “the taking of human life in its earliest form.”

“Funding under the administration’s new guidelines will violate the letter and the spirit of existing law,” Dechant said. “We must now urge that Congress take steps to ensure such funding does not occur.”

The Virginia-based American

Life League stated the new guidelines “sanction the killing of innocent human beings. These guidelines sanction murder.”

“For eight years, the White House has been a black hole from which nothing innocent can escape,” said the league’s president, Judie Brown. “And now the (Clinton administration) has seen to it that the most innocent of all will be sacrificed to this legacy of death.”

She added, “Millions of human lives will be destroyed by this false science. This is a sad, sad day for America – perhaps the saddest day since the Roe and Doe decisions.”

Brown agreed with other critics of the stem-cell research that bone marrow cells “achieve the same scientific ends but do not destroy innocent human life.”

Douglas Johnson, president of the National Right to Life Committee, said the NRLC believes there should never be stem-cell research “that will kill human embryos.”

Johnson quoted a 1966 federal law known as the “Dickey Amendment,” which prohibited federal funding of any “research in which a human embryo or embryos are destroyed, discarded, or knowingly subjected to risk of injury or death.”

Said Johnson, “If a law said that no federal funds may support re-

search in which porpoises are destroyed, and a federal agency then told its grantees to arrange for porpoises to be caught and killed for use in federally approved experiments, everyone would recognize this as illegal.”

Gary Bauer, former Republican presidential candidate and chairman of the Campaign for Working Families, said allowing embryo stem-cell research “is just another example of snuffing out innocent life before it is even given a chance to live.”

“Time and again, Congress has rightfully stopped federal funding for this type of procedure because it merely amounts to an even earlier stage of infanticide,” Bauer said.

He called on congressional leaders “to put an immediate stop to this latest attempt to use taxpayer money to fund this procedure” when final appropriation bills come up in the fall.

Doerflinger noted that Clinton’s National Bioethics Advisory Commission said last September that “because human embryos deserve respect as a developing form of human life destroying them is ‘justifiable only if no less morally problematic alternatives are available for advancing the research.’”

A Concerned College Student Addresses Exploding Technology

By Mike Mann

(Editor’s Note: Mike Mann is a parishioner of Holy Family Catholic Church in Abilene. He is an undergraduate student majoring in Biology and Spanish at the University of Notre Dame and is a summer genetics research student at Yale. He is a co-founder and President of the University Of Notre Dame Forum on Biomedical Ethics and is also a co-founder and coordinator for the International Student Bioethics Initiative (ISBI). Mike has a special interest in international healthcare and social policy.)

Just last month you probably heard and read much about the human genome being decoded. Along with the amazing possibilities of decoding the genetic code of humanity come many ethical implications for society. Over the past few years you might have noticed the word “bioethics” scattered throughout Newsweek, Time, your local newspaper or maybe in some of your personal conversations.

“Bioethics” refers to up and coming biomedical technologies and

their ethical use. Along with “bioethics” and the “Human Genome Project” you might recognize the names of such new technologies as Gene Therapy, In-Vitro Fertilization (IVF) and Embryonic Stem (ES) Cell Research. Neither the function, application, nor the ethics to support these new technologies is simple. In fact, these technologies have a profound spiritual, emotional and social effect not only on the people receiving the benefits of these technologies but also those administering them, as well as all of human mankind now and in the future. For this reason, the interplay between contemporary biomedical technologies and their ethical implications is quite complex and deserves the respect and attention of scientists, anthropologists, philosophers and theologians. The ethical considerations should be of great interest to all thinking people of every walk of life.

For instance, Roman Catholics may question the premise of Gene Therapy because it has the potential to alter the genetic material of

the human body, our gift from God, and possibly also the genes of future children. The protocol of IVF treatment creates excess fertilized eggs that are frozen, destroyed or donated to science at the discretion of the mother and father. The source of tissue used for ES Cell Research is derived from excess donated embryos mentioned above or from aborted babies. IVF and Embryonic Stem Cell research force all people to define when life begins and call on the ethical precedence set by legalized abortion; two issues about which Roman Catholics have been strongly outspoken. At the same time, these scientific advancements have limitless potential to help the sick, thereby forcing Christians to remember their call to be passionately supportive of the physically and spiritually ill. These issues grip the hearts of many people, especially those devout Christians who call themselves Roman Catholics.

There is no room in one article to even begin to describe the many new technologies and provide any opinion about them, but it is ben-

eficial to call attention to how bioethics has evolved and why the discussion and study of bioethics are essential to the regulation of biomedical technology.

As of late, most political and academic discussions and policy decisions regarding new biomedical technologies have been primarily secular. They have seemed to ignore the religious and spiritual implications of this potentially very positive technology. Theologian, Grace Jantzen wrote, “To ignore is to be ignorant.” It is not appropriate for the policies that regulate the use of biotechnology to ignore any aspect that affects or is affected by the technology being regulated; specifically religious and spiritual implications. Policy makers must not only consider scientific, healthcare, economic, legal and political implications, but also spiritual, emotional, and social consequences of all new technologies. President Clinton’s current National Bioethics Advisory Commission (NBAC) has seriously considered the opinions of many religious leaders from all traditions in its policy recommendations on Embryonic Stem Cell Research. This is a step in the right direction, yet much more needs to be done to further incorporate cultural and religious beliefs in

policy formation.

I urge Christians to discuss these issues with their families, church leaders and science experts to take a stand on the ethical implications of specific technologies. It is not only our right as American citizens to have a voice in government policy, but it is also our responsibility to our fellow men and women to provide a voice that is informed and educated. The explosion in today’s society of fast communication, like the internet, along with a tradition of open but competitive sharing of ideas within the global scientific community, have made it easy for new biomedical advancements to cross international borders. Technologies such as the ones I mentioned before will ultimately shape the health of our society and our families. Their ethical development and regulation demand educated representation from moral beliefs from every corner of the globe.

The best way to get involved with and influence biomedical technology policy is by contacting NBAC http://bioethics.gov/cgi-bin/bioeth_counter.pl. NBAC takes e-mails from anyone concerned with any bioethics issue and makes offi-

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Guidelines For Stem Cell Research Kindle Controversy

From staff and wire reports

WASHINGTON (CNN) — Groundbreaking medicine or heart-breaking depravity?

New guidelines released Wednesday that allow federal funding to be used for research on stem cells taken from human embryos could result in either or both, depending on your point of view.

"We don't believe the average American wants to see tiny, embryonic boys and girls — children — used as experimental material," said Judie Brown, a spokeswoman for the American Life League.

Irving Weissman, a Stanford University-based stem-cell biologist, said the new National Institutes of Health guidelines will "open to the scientific public, and not just the commercial public, the ability to use these stem cells to understand how organs form."

Experts also believe the cells could be invaluable in treating serious diseases such as diabetes, Parkinson's and Alzheimer's. Other possible benefits may be found in organ transplant and spinal cord-injury research. But critics say that to get the cells, scientists must destroy fertilized human eggs.

Do No Harm, a coalition of medical-ethics experts, said the new rules

circumvent a 1996 law prohibiting the use of federal funding for embryo research. The regulation makes it illegal to fund any "research in which a human embryo or embryos are destroyed, discarded or knowingly subjected to risk of injury or death."

President Bill Clinton acknowledged the debate that continues to surround the issue. But, he added, "I think we cannot walk away from the potential to save lives and improve lives — to help people literally get up and walk, to do all kinds of things we never could have imagined."

He called the prospect for this research to help people "breathtaking," and said the new guidelines are not being put out without rigorous scientific and ethical standards.

Stem cells form within four days of conception. They are parent cells to all the body's systems, later being triggered to become muscle, blood, bone, nerve, skin, organ or other tissue. Scientists believe stem cell growth can be directed in a lab.

Eventually, the hope is to be able to grow new skin to help burn victims, replace nerve cells damaged by Parkinson's disease or repair nerve pathways to restore sen-

sation and movement to those paralyzed by injury. Some say it may be possible to grow organs for transplant that would be genetically compatible to patients.

Although research continues using adult stem cells, scientists are very interested in the embryonic form, which they believe has a less limited potential to divide. Privately funded research on embryonic cells, such as that done by the Geron Corp., is ongoing. But opening the process to federal funding will pump much more money into the process.

"And the question that remains, is whether the cell from an adult can actually make the repairs that we need it do," said Theo Palmer, a senior research associate at the Salk Institute for Biological Studies in La Jolla, California.

New NIH guidelines published Wednesday prohibit:

- Creation of embryos solely for research purposes. The only embryos approved for use are those that were made for in-vitro fertilization attempts and are not longer needed. Even those may be used only with proper informed consent of the donors.

- Payment of any kind to the donors. In addition, they cannot know



Photo by CNN.

which researcher or scientist will be working with their donated embryos. And no researcher who is affiliated with an infertility clinic may work on embryos collected at that clinic or hospital.

- Use of federal money to destroy embryos to harvest stem cells. Privately funded researchers would have to do that.

Donors must understand that cells derived from their donated embryos may be kept for many years. And all requests for federal research money will be examined closely by a special advisory panel.

Still, such regulations are not enough for those who believe that no purpose, however noble, justifies

the destruction of a human embryo.

"We have two choices," said Congressman Jay Dickey, a Republican from Arkansas. "One is to wait until the grants come down, and when they do, take legal action with injunctive relief. Or we can add to an appropriations bill that might apply to NIH and say we'll restrict your funding until you agree to abide by the law."

While the public debate continues, private research on embryonic stem cells also goes on.

CNN correspondents Jeanne Meserve and Don Knapp and The Associated Press contributed to this report.

Clinton-Gore Administration To Violate Law By Federal Sponsorship Of Embryo-Killing Research

WASHINGTON - The National Institutes of Health (NIH) today released final guidelines for sponsoring research that will kill human embryos in order to obtain their stem cells. In response, the National Right to Life Committee (NRLC) issued the following statement:

"The Clinton-Gore Administration is preparing to violate the law by funding research that will kill human embryos," said NRLC Legislative Director Douglas Johnson. "We believe these funds instead should be used for research on stem cells taken from adults, an area in which there have been many recent breakthroughs."

Since 1996, federal law (the "Dickey Amendment") has prohibited federal funding of any "research in which a human embryo or em-

bryos are destroyed, discarded, or knowingly subjected to risk of injury or death . . . " Yet, under the guidelines released today, researchers would obtain advance approval from NIH for projects that require the obtaining and killing of numerous human embryos. The Administration says that this is legal as long as non-federal funds are used to actually kill the embryos - a claim dismissed by NRLC. "If a law said that no federal funds may support 'research in which porpoises are destroyed,' and a federal agency then told its grantees to arrange for porpoises to be caught and killed for use in federally approved experiments, everyone would recognize this as illegal," Johnson commented.

For information on recent

advances in stem cell research that does not require the killing of human embryos, see www.nccbuscc.org/prolife/issues/bioethic/factsheets.htm. For further information on NRLC, see www.nrlc.org.

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cial recommendations to President Clinton on how some new biomedical technologies should be regulated or promoted. You can also learn about Catholic views on bioethics by visiting <http://www.ncbcenter.org>. Your involvement and ideas are important because biotechnology policy is much more serious than traditional

public policy. The affects of these technologies penetrate all communities, both foreign and domestic, and are irreversible once they are developed.

This article is in no way meant to discourage change or to imply that all or most of modern biomedical technologies are dangerous. It is meant to urge people to take notice of the potential of technologies to affect our lives in either positive or negative ways. The new breakthroughs, like the decoding of the human genome, make this such an

exciting time to be involved with biotechnology and the discovery of how it affects us worldwide. Hopefully the 21st Century will mark a time not only of a scientific explosion, but also a time when these technologies will be used in the best way to preserve the ethical traditions of our society in accord with the ethics of other societies. (If you want more information or wish to communicate with Mike on this subject, you may do so through his e-mail address: Mann17@nd.edu)

St. Therese Catholic Church

Annual Festival

Sunday, September 10

Knights Of Columbus Hall

San Angelo, TX

BBQ Brisket • German Sausage

Dinner With All The Trimmings

Served From 11:00 A.M. - 2:00 P.M.

Atlanta Braves Slugger Credits Cancer Recovery To Mary

By Juliette Glasow
Catholic News Service

ATLANTA (CNS) — An initial meeting with Atlanta Braves first baseman Andres Galarraga reveals a confident man with a smile few can resist talking about. His baseball career — which includes 356 homers, 1,253 RBIs and four All-Star games — gives plenty to be happy about.

But Galarraga would say his smile is born of something deeper: trust in God and a belief that Mary interceded to help cure him of cancer.

The 39-year-old native of Venezuela, who lives in West Palm Beach, Fla., was diagnosed with non-Hodgkin's lymphoma, or cancer in the lymph system, in February 1999. He had just come off a season of 44 home runs and 121 RBIs. Teammates said they were shocked to learn that the "Big Cat," so dubbed for his cat-like reflexes, had cancer.

Although doctors were optimistic about his potential for recovery, Galarraga's first reaction was different. "I thought I would be dying that day," he said in an interview with The Florida Catholic, newspaper of six Florida dioceses. At the same time he said he clung to hope and

"prayed every day that God would help."

The most difficult thing was to tell his daughters, Andria, 15, Katherine, 8, and Andrianna, 2, that their father had cancer, he said. "I tried to find the best way to tell them what happened with me," he said, adding that they probably wanted to cry but were strong and promised him they would take him everywhere with them.

He spent that winter and spring doing a lot of painting, an old hobby of his, and playing with his children. One of his paintings was "Maria Rosa Mistica" — a depiction of Mary in a veil, with a flawlessly pale face, hair as black as night, red lips formed in a smile, soft eyes and hands folded in prayer. He and his family love the painting of the Mystical Rose, whose eyes remind him of the statue of Mary in his locker at Turner Field, the Braves' home ballpark.

Galarraga said it was his family's positive attitude, coupled with their prayers to God and requests for Mary's intercession, that helped him to stay strong through the course of his illness.

One day, he said, someone suggested he should buy white roses to honor the Mystical Rose. "We

couldn't find white roses at the time so we bought some orange instead," he said. He told his wife he didn't think the color mattered much. He said three of the dozen orange roses turned white. His wife later rubbed some crushed petals from the bouquet onto his back.

One night in March, he said, he had a dream that God carried him from his living room to his bed, put his hand on his body and removed the cancer from within. "I know he put his hand on my body and removed the cancer inside," he said. "I woke up soaking wet, as though someone had thrown water on me."

Convinced of Mary's intercessory role on his behalf, Galarraga said, "I feel like it is the Virgin's and God's will that I am still going and here playing the game." Although he missed the entire 1999 season, by that September Galarraga was able to travel with his teammates again. Tests in December showed he was cancer-free.

Braves public relations director Jim Schultz said when spring training began this year, "no one was sure how Galarraga would be, if he would be ready to play or have to be relegated to a part-time role." By the third week in February however, teammates and coaches could see



Atlanta Braves' first baseman Andres Galarraga, shown sliding into home plate, credits his recovery from non-Hodgkin's lymphoma to Mary's intercession. (CNS photo from Reuters)

that his disciplined efforts in physical therapy had paid off. "It was just amazing, because he swung the bat well from day one in training camp," Schultz said.

Galarraga's comeback was sealed in the season opener when he hit a home run to break a scoreless tie. The Braves won 2-0. "It was like a movie. You couldn't have scripted it better," Schultz said. As of Aug. 18 he had played in 103 of the team's 120 games and had 24 homers and a .307 batting average.

Atlanta Braves shortstop Walt Weiss, who has played with Galarraga since 1994 when they were both with the Colorado Rockies, said the Big Cat is the ultimate teammate, even more so be-

cause he has dealt with adversity well. "He comes to play every day, he plays hard and he produces. Everyone respects him. He's everything you would want in a teammate," he said.

Galarraga takes no credit for himself. He said he learned at a young age to thank God for everything. He remembers how his family in Venezuela prayed before each meal and thanked God for the people in their lives, for life itself and for everything they were given. "When I play baseball or win an award, I thank God. My father was always like that and so I am and so I do the same with my kids," he said.

Chamelecon

By Msgr. Larry J. Droll

"Padre, Padre," the children of Chamelecon shout as they spot Fr. Tom in his red pick-up, "Buenas," (Honduran for "buenos dias") say the teenagers, shaking his hand as he checks up on their work.

Fr. Tom Goekler, MM, moved to Chamelecon, the poorest slum of San Pedro Sula, right after Hurricane Mitch had flooded the whole area. Like his neighbors, the house he lives in was filled with mud and water.

As the people struggled to recover, international aid poured into the country; but much of it went into the bank accounts of the powerful and little filtered down to the streets of Chamelecon.

Fr. Tom was especially concerned for the teenagers. So many boys were in the "mara," the gangs. Drugs and crime were their main concerns. Fr. Tom found himself burying one teenager a week from a shooting.

So putting several needs together,

Fr. Tom got some of the boys to start making concrete blocks. They are paid to work in the "bloquero" and half the salary is saved. They receive three meals a day. There is only one form to make blocks; the output is 160 blocks a day. "It's hard physical labor, but it's good for them," says Fr. Tom. "They have to use some of their teenage energy and they develop physically. They start to feel a bit more self-confident."

Fr. Tom uses the blocks and the boys to build homes for those living in shacks. The block houses are only one room with a tin roof, but they have electricity. The land and the house cost about \$1500. People receiving the homes help build, cook for the boys and pay part of the cost of the house.

But Fr. Tom doesn't stop there. He pushes the boys to show up for reading class and computer class. If they promise to lead clean lives he'll give them a rosary to wear around their necks. He urges them to go to church and youth religious

activities.

"It's a day-to-day struggle, rounding up the kids and delivering blocks. But murders are way down here in Chamelecon, and I think it is because of this project," he said.

AIDS is rampant. Sick people receive poor health care in emergencies. The city and the police are of little help in

Chamelecon. But people are recognizing a lot of good that comes through the Catholic Church in the person of Fr. Tom and his work.

Fr. Tom appreciates the contributions of the Diocese of San Angelo



Before and After - No wonder she's smiling. A solid home, built by donations from the Diocese of San Angelo in the Chamelecon slum of San Pedro Sula, Honduras.

which have been used to make blocks and build houses and to purchase equipment for the Youth Center. He has plans to build many more houses, especially so people can move from makeshift shacks to a

real home.

Fr. Tom serves five different chapels in twelve neighborhoods; but that's another story for another day.