9/11/01 Memorial Monument Dedicated

by Peter N. Micale

Through Bishop Michael Pfeifer’s efforts, the City of San Angelo was the first community in Texas to receive a piece of steel from the ruins of the New York Trade Center. On the morning of September 8, on a plot of ground that rises over the Celebration Bridge, just below the San Angelo Museum, the memorial monument that holds this piece of steel was dedicated.

The Bishop, the mayor, other religious leaders, and representatives of major contributors spoke at the event. Police and Firefighters from the city and from Goodfellow Air Force Base, plus an all services honor guard, and many individual contributors were also in attendance. Mr. Frank Diaz sang the National Anthem and the choir from the Tree of Life Church sang God Bless America. A bugler from the Base played Taps in remembrance of the over 3,000 people who lost their lives due to the terrorist attacks.

The site will provide a contemplative place where visitors can sit and reflect on the events of that faithful day. Once the landscaping around the monument is completed, it will certainly be a well visited area by people enjoying the river walk and the museum.

Protecting God’s Children

by Peter N. Micale, editor WTA

“Protecting God’s children” is the reason for the almost constant barrage of communications from the Pastoral Center to the parishes, and the ongoing schedule of seminars being conducted throughout the Diocese. One would think that with that theme for the program initiated by the US Conference of Catholic Bishops (USCCB) in the middle of last year, and which the Vatican approved later in the year, all Catholics would embrace the program and fulfill its requirements with enthusiasm.

The reality has proven to be quite the contrary and very disappointing.

To be sure, many of the parishes have complied with all that must be done, and many of those without any questions asked. At the time of writing this article, however, there were still some parishes that were way behind in having employees and volunteers fill out background check applications or attending workshops and seminars. And more than one parish did not have one volunteer “with regular contact with minors” fill out a background check application, even though the school year has begun and CCD programs are about to begin. There have also been some pastors, deacons and deaconesses in training who had to be called repeatedly by the Pastoral Staff to fill out the applications.

Do you think it was just the human failing of procrastination? I am sorry to report that there are more serious excuses for the non-compliance.

One pompous PhD wrote me stating that filling out a background check application was demeaning and below her elevated position of college professor, and if this was a requirement to participate in parish programs, then she would just opt out. HOGWASH! In the time it took to write the letter, to vent her spleen, on her word processor; address the envelope; close it, and affix a stamp; and then, either place it in her mailbox or take it to the Post Office; she could have filled out the application on her computer; called the parish secretary and offered to help in entering the applications of fellow CCD teachers who are not as erudite or computer proficient as she.

Then there was the call from the Boy Scout leader who said he was so busy that he did not think he could find the time to attend a two or three hour seminar. But, he did have several hours to read a recently released book that criticized the Church for a poor selection process in approving seminarians, and obviously that has to be the reason for our current plight. He asked me what I thought of the book. I like to think that the ANGELUS is a family publication, so I shall not repeat what I thought of such gratuitous criticism.

Perhaps the worse excuses of all, however, have been the many voiced concerns that the “problem” has been with our priests, not the laity; and the pseudo-attorneys who were quick to raise imagined legal issues of “what if’s” if we proceeded with the existing program. As to the former, there is a lack of knowledge as to how the professionals categorize the “problem” as occurring mainly in the family setting. There is a higher percentage of sexual abuse by uncles, aunts, cousins, stepfathers and stepmothers, and other family members than there is by religious. And as to the latter, doing business as usual and burying our heads in the sand have far more potential, serious, legal consequences than getting on with the established Diocesan program.

I congratulate and thank all the conscientious parish secretaries, DRE’s, CRE’s and other youth ministers who have espoused the ongoing program wholeheartedly. By the time you receive this edition of the ANGELUS, the September 10th deadline imposed by Bishop...
Human Cloning
By Bishop Michael D. Pfeifer, OMI

Much is being written these days about human cloning, and some agencies claim that already a human being has been cloned. In this article, briefly, I present some important reflections on cloning as given to us by the Pontifical Academy for Life.

The “human cloning” project represents the terrible aberration to which value-free science is driven and is a sign of the profound malaise of our civilization, which looks to science, technology and the “quality of life” as surrogates for the meaning of life and its salvation.

In cloning the idea is fostered that some individuals can have total dominion over the existence of others, to the point of programming their biological identity – selected according to arbitrary or purely utilitarian criteria. This selective concept of man will have, among other things, a biological identity – selected according to arbitrary or purely utilitarian criteria. This selective concept of man will have, among other things, a biological identity – selected according to arbitrary or purely utilitarian criteria. This selective concept of man will have, among other things, a biological identity – selected according to arbitrary or purely utilitarian criteria. This selective concept of man will have, among other things, a biological identity – selected according to arbitrary or purely utilitarian criteria.

In a democratic, pluralistic system, the first guarantee of each individual’s freedom is established by unconditionally respecting human dignity at every phase of life, regardless of the intellectual or physical abilities one possesses or lacks. In human cloning the necessary condition for any society begins to collapse: that of treating man always and never as a mere means or simple object.

Clonación Humana
Por el Obispo Miguel D. Pfeifer, OMI

Se está escribiendo mucho en estos días sobre la clonación humana, y algunas agencias reclaman que ya se ha clonado un ser humano. En este artículo, brevemente, les presento algunas reflexiones importantes sobre clonar que nos da la Pontificia Academia Pro Vida.

El proyecto de la “clonación humana” es una terrible consecuencia a la que lleva una ciencia sin valores y es signo del profundo malestar de nuestra civilización, que busca en la ciencia, en la técnica y en la “calidad de vida” sucedáneos al sentido de la vida y a la salvación de la existencia.

Se alimenta la idea de que algunos hombres pueden tener un dominio total sobre la existencia de los demás, hasta el punto de programar su identidad biológica – seleccionada sobre la base de criterios arbitrarios o puramente instrumentales, la cual, aunque no agota la identidad personal del hombre, caracterizada por el espíritu, es parte constitutiva de la misma. Esta concepción selectiva del hombre tendrá, entre otros efectos, un influyó negativo en la cultura, incluso fuera de la práctica – numéricamente reducida – de la clonación, puesto que favorecerá la convicción de que el valor del hombre y de la mujer no depende de su identidad personal, sino sólo de las cualidades biológicas que pueden apreciarse y, por tanto, ser seleccionadas.

En un régimen democrático y pluralista, la primera garantía con respecto a la libertad de cada uno se realiza en el respeto incondicional de la dignidad del hombre, en todas las fases de su vida y más allá de las dotes intelectuales o físicas de las que goza o de las que está privado. En la clonación humana no se da la condición que es necesaria para una verdadera convivencia: tratar al hombre siempre y en todos los casos como fin y como valor, y nunca como un medio o simple objeto.
Vocation Circle

Hey, Seniors! What Are You Doing Next Year?

by Fr. Tom Barley

Congratulations to all high school and college Seniors! You finally made it to the top of the class. You worked, studied, sweated, prayed, and worked some more to get where you are today. For most seniors this is no small accomplishment. Be proud and continue to work toward the future. Enjoy the year! You may have a few new privileges, but responsibilities always come with freedoms. While some new students may look up to you, you have to be a really good role model. You may expect your class work to be easier, but you are getting ready for some of the most important decisions in your life. What you say and do this year may be how others will see you for years to come. While it can be a time of fun, it is also a time of preparation for next year. It took you four years to get here. What will you do next year?

Most seniors are making plans for next year to go to college or find a job. Some will plan to get married. A few seniors may be considering taking time off to travel or do volunteer work in an established program. Even fewer may be thinking about looking into a vocation to the priesthood or religious life. All of these require a tremendous amount of time, effort, maturity, and commitment. It is always helpful to develop a prayer life.

Preparing to go to college takes time to make a selection, apply, and then plan to go. Entering into the work force is getting more and more difficult. Jobs you get early in your work life can lead to new experiences. Choose wisely if you have options. The decision to get married will be an eye-opener. This is one of the most serious and life changing decisions of a person’s life. It is not a matter to be taken lightly. The couple should take a very long time to explore their relationship, communication skills, and areas where they need to grow. They need to have a good understanding of the nature, duties, and obligations of marriage. Deciding to travel requires great caution nowadays. Doing volunteer work can be an experience that stays with a person for many years to come. The decision to look into the priesthood or religious life takes a leap of faith, hope, and love. All of these options take time and are decisions in process.

No matter which direction a person’s life goes in, take time to make plans and preparations ahead of time. It helps to get good guidance from people you trust. It is impossible to succeed without God’s grace. If a senior is thinking of looking into the priesthood or religious life, contact Fr. Tom Barley, JCL at the Diocesan Pastoral Center, P.O. Box 1829, San Angelo, Texas 76902 or call 325-651-7500. Enjoy the year!

Oblate School of Theology Hires Leadership for Innovative Program for Priests

by Fr. John Kemper

A $1 million grant from the Lilly Endowment, Inc. allows the International Priest Internship to promote pastoral excellence in the United States.

San Antonio, January 24, 2003: Oblate School of Theology announced today that Fr. Thomas H. Dymowski, O.SS.T. and Sr. Nancy McLaughlin, PBVM will direct the International Priest Internship program. Fr. Dymowski, currently the Spiritual Director at Assumption Seminary in San Antonio will serve as Director with Sr. McLaughlin, currently Social Justice Coordinator for her congregation to serve as Associate Director.

The Oblate School of Theology received a grant of $1 million from the Lilly Endowment Inc. as part of a national program called “Sustaining Pastoral Excellence.” The program is a new effort of the Endowment to focus attention and energy on maintaining the high caliber of many of the country’s pastoral leaders.

Fr. Dymowski, the grandson of Polish immigrants, was born and raised in a predominantly Polish American neighborhood in East Baltimore. He entered the Order of the Most Holy Trinity (Trinitarians) in 1979 and was ordained to the Priesthood in 1985. Among numerous pastoral assignments, Fr. Dymowski served as Formation Director for the Novices for the Trinitarians, recruiting novices directly from countries like Poland, Brazil, China and Mexico, as well as recent immigrants from El Salvador and Korea.

With a Masters of Divinity degree and a Graduate Certificate in Spirituality Studies from Washington Theological Union, Fr. Dymowski is currently completing a Doctor of Ministry degree at Oblate School of Theology.

Oblate School of Theology will use the Lilly grant to implement the International Priest Internship. The yearlong Internship will bring participants to the Oblate School of Theology campus three times during the year. The program addresses the needs of international priests serving in parish ministry in the United States. The remainder of the year, the priest-intern will be engaged in full-time parish ministry within his host diocese. He will continue his education with the use of on-line resources, assignments, and theological reflection.

With the growing diversity of the Catholic Church in the U.S. and the shortage of priest native vocation, there is a growing reliance upon priests from other countries to serve in parishes across the United States. The yearlong internship will provide support structures and equip participants to adapt their pastoral skills for their new setting.

Fr. Dymowski remarked that, “For almost 25 years my religious life and priestly ministry have been shaped by an ongoing encounter with Christ manifested within our culturally diverse Church. Meeting the Lord in His People during extended sojourns in Asia, Latin America, and Europe has enriched my ministry here in the United States beyond all measure. I am eager to befriend much needed priests from other nations who are coming to join us here in our ministry. There are challenges, of course, to finding our way to a harmonious collaboration, but the prospect of inching our way together toward God’s perfect Kingdom fills me with religious zeal for God’s future envisioned by the prophet Isaiah.”

Sr. McLaughlin, the daughter of Irish immigrants, attended parochial schools in San Francisco. She entered the Sisters of the Presentation making her final vows in 1962. With a Masters of Arts in Theology from the Graduate Theological Union (GTU), Sr. McLaughlin earned a Doctor of Ministry degree from Jesuit School of Theology, both in Berkeley, California. As a Pastoral Associate for over thirty years, Sr. McLaughlin has been responsible for adult education formation, religious education, parish administration seminarian supervision and workshops on communication skills.

Sr. McLaughlin expressed her excitement about joining the International Priest Internship staff. “I am very grateful to be part of this new program for International Priests. This program is important to the Church in the United States and for the International priest who wants to be a part of that Church.” Sr. McLaughlin continued, “The International Priest Internship is a blessing for the Diocese that uses it, for the International priest, and for the People of God whom they will serve.”

Oblate School in Theology, founded and sponsored by the Missionary Oblates of Mary Immaculate is a Catholic graduate and professional school that prepares individuals for pastoral ministry through academic study and supervised practice.

(See related story page eight.)
Creating An Atmosphere Of Safety For Our Schools

by Bishop Michael Pfeifer, OMI

In the aftermath of the tragedies of Columbine and other schools, and September 11, we will perhaps never again experience the same sense of safety and security as we did before these horrendous events. As a result of these tragedies, our schools and nation have changed profoundly. When society changes, schools and our nation’s youth mirror these changes.

Today we need to adapt to these changing times, and all agencies of society need to work together to create a safe atmosphere where our students can be taught and where they can learn. Creating safe schools is a process. This requires the commitment of all stakeholders, including school administrators, faculty, parents, law enforcement, the business community, the church, and most of all, the students themselves.

I share with you here from the February, 2002 edition of Communicaire thirteen characteristics of a process that will help to develop safe schools:

1. Focus on academic achievement.
2. Involve families in meaningful ways.
3. Develop links to the community.
4. Emphasize positive relationships among students and staff.
5. Discuss safety issues openly.
6. Treat students with equal respect.
7. Create ways for students to share their concerns.
8. Help children feel safe expressing their feelings.
9. Have a procedure in place for reporting children who potentially are abused or neglected.
10. Offer extended day programs for children.
11. Promote good citizenship and character.
12. Identify problems and assess progress toward solutions.
13. Support students in making the transition to adult life and the workplace.

If a school wishes to improve its climate of caring and make schools safer, it is important to promote the resiliency of students. The more resilient students are, the less likely they are to respond in problematic ways. Factors that promote resiliency are (a) developing meaningful connections and promoting participation of all students, (b) fostering a climate of caring and support, and (c) establishing high expectations.

Sowers Of God’s Peace

[Theme for Catechetical Sunday, September 21, 2003]

by Bishop Michael Pfeifer, OMI

The theme for the annual Catechetical Sunday, celebrated this year on September 21, 2003, is “Sowers of God’s Peace/Sembradores de la Paz de Dios.” This theme offers comfort and hope to those in catechetical ministry and reminds us to look to the coming of the Reign of God in its fullness, in which love will prevail above all else.

As a people of hope preparing to celebrate Catechetical Sunday in our Diocese this year, we believe the Lord will help our seed-sowing efforts so that the Word will take root, blossom and spread. My prayer is that all the people of our Diocese will be filled with strength and hope as we continue to try to do Christ’s work of bringing the Gospel into a world that needs a true and lasting peace.

I am deeply grateful to all the catechists, to all the teachers of religious education, in our Diocese who generously offer their teaching gifts and witness to help our people, especially our youth, to come to know better Christ and the beautiful teachings of our Catholic Church. I express my gratitude to all of them, and especially to Sisters Joan Markus, Hilda Marotta and Adelina Garcia, and those who serve with them in our Diocesan Office of Religious Education and Formation.

A Call To Pray The Rosary

[The closing of the Year of the Rosary]

by Bishop Michael Pfeifer

As we enter into the Third Millennium, our Holy Father has presented for our reflection the importance of the devotion of the Rosary in his inspiring apostolic letter-The Rosary of the Virgin Mary. In this letter, the Pope proclaims the Year of the Rosary, which began in October, 2002, and will end on October 7, 2003.

As we soon bring to a close the beautiful Year of the Rosary, we are reminded of the Pope’s message of the importance to pray the Rosary for many intentions but especially for peace and for families, above all “to rediscover the Rosary as a means to immerse one’s self in contemplation of the mystery of Christ who is our peace.”

In his prophetic letter, our Holy Father has presented the Rosary to us in a new light and offered it to us once again as a most precious means to aid us as we live our discipleship of Jesus Christ. He has enriched this prayer by adding the five Mysteries of Light.

To close the Year of the Rosary, on October 7, the special Feast of the Holy Rosary, I ask every parish of our Diocese to gather at 7:00 pm to pray the Rosary as a community. I am asking that we have “Rosary Rallies” in our larger cities on October 7, 2003 as we did in May.

The Rosary Rallies in our larger cities, bringing together several parishes at one church will be celebrated at the following times:

San Angelo Deanery: On October 7, 2003, the Feast of the Holy Rosary, I will lead a Rosary Rally with the praying of the Living Rosary with children which will be held at Cathedral Church of the Sacred Heart at 7:00 pm. This will bring together all the parishes of the city of San Angelo. On the same day throughout the deanery, the Living Rosary with children participating will be prayed in all the churches of the deanery at 7:00 pm.

Abilene Deanery: On October 7, 2003, [the city of Abilene has requested to have the Rosary Rally on a Sunday evening, October 5, at 5:00 pm at Sacred Heart Church. This Rosary Rally will include the praying of the Living Rosary with children.] All the other parishes of the Abilene Deanery are asked to pray the Living Rosary with children participating on October 7, 2003 at 7:00 pm.

Midland/Odessa Deanship: On October 7, 2003, at 7:00 pm, St. Ann’s Church in Midland will host a Rosary Rally with the praying of the Living Rosary with the children participating from all churches of the city of Midland.

The Rosary Rally with the praying of the Living Rosary with children participating will be celebrated with the parishes of the city of Odessa on October 7, 2003 at 7:00 pm at St. Joseph’s Church in Odessa. The other churches in the Deanery are asked to have a Living Rosary service with children participating on October 7, 2003 at 7:00 pm.

May the praying of the Rosary by each one of us bring peace to our world and may it remind us of the protection of Mary for all of our families.

National Priesthood Sunday

by Bishop Michael Pfeifer

My dear sisters and brothers in Christ of the Diocese of San Angelo:

Recently I have sent the following memo to all the priests and pastoral coordinators of our Diocese declaring Sunday, October 26, 2003 as National Priesthood Sunday. In a most special way, I encourage all of our people, but especially our Pastoral Councils, to take time to reflect on positive ways to support our priests who face many difficulties in these trying times. Prayer and affirmation are two of the greatest gifts we can give our priests. I am asking that a priest support group be formed in each parish to pray regularly for our priests and to reflect on particular ways of affirming our priests. I am deeply grateful to all my brother priests for their good work.

see “PRIESTHOOD” page eleven

Our Lady of Guadalupe Catholic Church
Courthouse Lawn - Eldorado, TX
Fall Festival Sunday, September 14
Food • Games • Cake Walk • Auction
Country Store • Live Entertainment
In Memoriam: Deacon Bill Smith

by Father Mark Woodruff

Deacon Bill Smith, faithful deacon at Sacred Heart Parish in Abilene for more than 25 years, died last June. As a former pastor of Sacred Heart, I would like to pay tribute to him and his devoted wife, Dolly, who survives him.

William R. Smith was a member of the first deacon class of our diocese. From the day of his ordination in 1976, he exemplified all that the deaconate stands for, particularly service to the poor.

Along with his wife Dolly, he was extremely active in Abilene’s pro-life, anti-abortion movement and used every opportunity to witness to the value of life. In the Sunday and weekday “Prayers of the Faithful” he led as a deacon, he never failed to pray “for the ending of the scourge of abortion.” He and Dolly were active in the Pregnancy Counseling Center, providing information, advice and even financial assistance to pregnant women choosing to carry their babies to full term.

At Sacred Heart, Deacon Bill served faithfully at the altar and participated in many other aspects of the parish’s activities. On many occasions, the four pastors of Sacred Heart under whom he served benefited from his wise advice. When the parish constructed its education building in 1994, the multipurpose meeting room was named “the Bill and Dolly Smith Room” as a tribute to Bill and his wife.

As a young man, Deacon Bill Smith served as a pilot in World War II. After the war, he continued his career in the U.S. Air Force until retiring in the 1960’s. He worked for the Prudential Insurance Company until offering his diaconal services full time to the parish. He continued to serve even after a hearing loss due to his World War II service made participating on meetings somewhat uncomfortable.

Sacred Heart Parish and indeed the entire Diocese of San Angelo has lost a good and faithful servant!
St. Stephen’s Church Dedicated By Bishop Pfeifer

by Peter N. Micale

On Wednesday, September 3, 2003, at 6:00 pm Bishop Michael D. Pfeifer, OMI, Bishop of the San Angelo Diocese dedicated the beautiful new St. Stephen’s Church, located at the corner of Mark Lane and Neely in Midland, TX. The Church is large enough to seat 1,000 worshippers.

The Roman Catholic Parish of St. Stephen’s in Midland had its birth in early 1979. The first organizational meeting to create the new parish was held in the cafeteria of St. Ann’s School. After many delays due to financial setbacks in the economy, groundbreaking occurred for a new church on Sunday, June 30, 2002. At first, Sunday Mass was celebrated at Alamo Junior High School, and weekday Mass was celebrated at St. Nicholas Episcopal Church, until a multipurpose building was built in 1984, and it has been the site for Mass ever since.

At the groundbreaking, Bishop Pfeifer said: “This is a long awaited moment, and we need to celebrate this event with a spirit of gratitude and hope. All of us together thank the good Lord for letting us arrive at this important historical date.”

The architect for the project is Rod Roberts, and the general contractor is N. C. Sturgeon, LP. The cost of the project is just over $2,000,000. One of the most noticeable features of the new church is the brilliance of the stained glass panels.

The Bell Tower is a gift from St. Stephen’s Knights of Columbus Council # 12657 as a pledge of their devotion to the Mother of God in memory of abortion victims.
Bishop Dedicates New Church In San Angelo

by Peter N. Micale

Bishop Michael D. Pfeifer, OMI, and Father Charles Greenwell, the pastor of Holy Angels Church, dedicated the new church of Holy Angels Parish in San Angelo at the 11:00 am Mass on Sunday, August 10, 2003. Bishop Pfeifer blessed the new altar and the interior of the Church with holy oils, incense and prayer.

The main entrance of the new church, situated next to the Angelo Catholic School campus, is at 2309 A&M Ave. and is on the corner where A&M Ave. crosses SAC Ave.

The new Holy Angels church is the third house of worship for the Holy Angels parish. With the growth of San Angelo following World War II, there was a need for a fourth Catholic parish and it was to be located in the southwest section of the growing city. At the end of January 1960, ground was broken for the “Holy Angels School and Parish” on the land purchased by the Amarillo Diocese at A&M and Oxford Avenues. By the fall of 1960, the buildings were sufficiently constructed to open their doors for the first students to attend the new school. The school’s gymnasium was decorated to serve as a church. Holy Angels was given the status of a “mission” of Sacred Heart Parish.

By the following year, the mission had grown sufficiently to be designated a parish. Later in the year, Holy Angels became a part of the newly established Diocese of San Angelo. By the late 1970’s, the second phase in the development of the parish took place—the construction of a permanent church for the congregation. The new church was completed in August 1982 with the church being dedicated on August 15, 1982.

Now, almost 21 years later, a new church was dedicated and it will be able to accommodate 1,000 worshipers. The new church is a 3.6 million dollar construction project. The architect was Bob Zentner, the general contractor was Templeton Construction, and the project manager was Herb Straach. Both Zentner and Straach are parishioners of Holy Angels.

The beautiful Tremonte Angel stained glass windows have been moved from the old church and placed in the exterior walls of the new church. Designed and copyrighted by Sister Mary Peter Tremonte, OP, of the Studio Domenico of San Antonio, and executed under Sister’s direction by the Conrad Schmitt Studios of Milwaukee, Wisconsin, the twelve windows portray angels from the New Testament and the Eucharist liturgy.

Two other significant features of the new church are a Daily Mass Chapel that seats approximately 60 worshipers, and which contains the tabernacle for the entire church. A unique and one of a kind Baptismal font was created by artist Roger Allen of the San Angelo Chicken Farm Art Center, and it contains a huge copper bowl that was crafted by Mitzi McKinney of the McKinney Metal Smith shop of San Angelo. The Baptismal font is located just inside the main entrance of the church and cannot be missed upon entering. The Daily Mass Chapel is located in the rear of the church, behind the main altar and behind a wall of glass with etched angels created by artist Regina Thomas of Austin, Texas.

The new church is part of an overall 4.3 million dollar construction project that will also convert the old church building into an Education and Recreation Center for the youth of the parish.
The International Priest Internship Begins at Oblate School of Theology

San Antonio – Oblate School of Theology welcomed the first group of priests enrolled in the International Priest Internship. This program is under the direction of Fr. Tom Dymowski, O.SS.T. and Sr. Nancy McLaughlin, PBVM. The International Priest Internship (IPI) is an innovative program for priests from outside the United States who seek to translate their pastoral skills into effective ministry here in the United States. This program is partially funded by the Indianapolis-based Lilly Endowment Inc. through a grant proposed by Oblate School of Theology in collaboration with the Archdiocese of San Antonio and the Mexican American Cultural Center (MACC).

Nine priests participated in the July session. These priests are from India, Nigeria, Mexico, El Salvador, and El Salvador. The internship runs for nine months and includes a total of six weeks of campus instruction during three sessions, supervised ministry in the host-diocese and on-line learning. As the priest engages in ministry in his parish throughout the year, the on-line instruction will help him meet the challenges of priestly ministry within the US context. This on-line coursework, via the internet, will focus particular emphases on the international priests preaching skills needed within the US.

On Sunday, July 13th, while attending the summer session at Oblate School of Theology, the international priests joined parishioners of San Fernando Cathedral in San Antonio for the celebration of the Eucharist. After Mass, Archbishop Patrick Flores invited the priests for breakfast to celebrate their presence in the Archdiocese and their participation in the International Priest Internship.

Young Neighbors In Action Follow Up

by Sister Adelina Garcia, OSF

After returning from El Paso this past July five youth and two adults gathered to reflect on their experience with Young Neighbors in Action. On August 2 they came together with Sisters Hilda Marotta and Adelina Garcia to share what they had seen, heard and felt while serving among the poor along the U.S./Mexico border. Everyone came back on fire with enthusiasm and a desire to continue serving.

These immersion experiences are not about bringing God to people, but rather about discovering God in other realities. Both the served and the server experience a change in their lives. Our young people expressed a desire to continue looking for opportunities to reach out to others and ways to change their lifestyles to better reflect good stewardship. “We take so much for granted.” “I’m so blessed and didn’t realize it.” “I need to re-look at my closet. I have too much.” These were some of the comments shared during our discussion.

Because of the desire to stay connected with social outreach they were invited to consider representing our diocese at the NCYC Congress in Houston this coming November. The Congress this year will focus on Social Justice. After the congress they will meet again to look for ways to invite others to learn about social justice and how to serve among the poor and needy.

The youth that participated were Doreen Aguirre, Brianna Pribyla and Jason Pribyla (St. Isidore, Lenora), Alex Figueroa (Good Shepherd, Crane), and Natalee Rodriguez (St. Margaret, Big Lake). Their adult mentors, Brenda Maiman (Holy Angels, San Angelo) and Minerva Garza (St. Isidore, Lenora) were also present. They will be making a presentation of their experience at the Diocesan Youth Event on October 25, 2003.

Catholic Daughter Anniversaries Observed

by Ester Tobin

A state-wide retreat and celebration of the Catholic Daughters of the Americas 100th national and the 94th Texas CDA anniversaries will be held on the week end of October 3-5 in Sugar Land, Texas, announced Dee Scheets, state regent of Austin.

Theme is “Women of Faith, Celebrating 100 Years of Service.” Activities begin Friday with registration at the St. Theresa Community Center from 4 to 6 p.m. followed by the opening mass at 7 p.m. celebrated by the Most Rev. Gregory Aymond, CDA State chaplain at St. Theresa Church. The State Regent will welcome every one and Father Don Ruppert, state clergy consultant, will present the CDA history.

Saturday’s agenda begins with registration at 8 a.m. Presentation talks will be from 9 a.m. to 2 p.m. with a lunch break at noon. The afternoon session includes reconciliation prayers, confessions, and a mass at 5 p.m. at the church followed by a memorial to all deceased CDA members. Retreat ends with a mass at 9 a.m. at the Community Center.

The first CDA court was established in 1903 in Utica, New York, by the Knights of Columbus. The first court in Texas, Mother Court Maria Galante #215 was instituted in 1908 in Austin.

Duchess Collins of Sugar Land, immediate past state regent of the Texas state court, is the retreat chairman.

A nation-wide 100th anniversary celebration mass is scheduled in Washington, D.C. at the Basilica of the Immaculate Conception on October 18 at 5 p.m. Dee Scheets, state regent, said that the 100th Anniversary celebration mass held at St. Patrick’s Cathedral in New York City on June 22 attracted 2,500 members, 29 from Texas.

Holy Family Abilene FallFest
Saturday, October 4
5410 Buffalo Gap Road, Abilene
Noon to 10:00 PM
Full day of Fun, Food and Fellowship for the entire family to benefit the building fund.

St. Lawrence Catholic Church
Fall Festival
Garden City, TX
Sunday, October 5
BBQ Brisket Lunch from 11 a.m. to 2 p.m.
Auction • Children’s Games • Bingo
German Sausage • Arts & Crafts • Dance
Renew Implementation Continues

by S. Hilda Marotta, O.S.F.

The RENEW implementation process continues. Recently 193 participants attended the training session for the facilitators of the small communities.

Deacon Michael Hanly and Manuel Hernandez from RENEW International facilitated the training sessions. These sessions were provided in both English and Spanish in each deanery.

RENEW (Spiritual Renewal for the 21st Century) is a three-year spiritual renewal process to assist parishes develop a closer relationship with Christ, to make an adult commitment to Jesus as central in their lives and to open them to the power of the Holy Spirit so that they become more authentic witnesses.

For more information about RENEW, call S. Hilda - RENEW Coordinator at 325-651-7500. RENEW Sign-Up Sunday, September 14, 2003. (The Sunday is to sign-up for participation in Small Christian Community experience.)

Safe Environment Program

by S. Hilda Marotta, O.S.F.

On August 12, 2003, Directors/Coordinators of Religious Education/Coordinators of Youth Ministry, Principals and Teachers participated in the Safe Environment Curriculum Training Session at St. Mary’s Parish in San Angelo. Mary Lentz, author of the Parent Guide: Preventing Child Sexual Abuse and the Child Sexual Abuse Prevention Curriculum was the presenter for the day.

The Diocesan Policy on Ethics and Integrity states: “Dioceses will establish “safe environment” programs. They will cooperate with parents, civil authorities, educators and community organizations to provide education and training for children, youth, parents, ministers, educators, and others about ways to make and maintain a safe environment for children. Dioceses will make clear to clergy and all members of the community the standards of conduct for clergy and other persons in positions of trust with regard to sexual abuse”. (Charter 12) (p.22)

Each parish/mission received a set (grades K-12) of the curriculum to be implemented in the parish for children and youth. The training session provided assistance with the implementation of the curriculum at the parish/mission level. This curriculum is designed to prevent child and teen sexual abuse through education as an empowerment tool.

Ms. Lentz also provided a Program for Parents on August 11, 2003 at St. Mary’s. This session also served as a training session for parish/mission trainers who will then provide a program for parents at the parish/mission level.

Additional workshops will be provided in each deanery for the designated parish trainer who will be presenting the Program for Parents. All workshops are scheduled from 7:00 pm – 8:30 pm.

Abilene Deanery
Sept 16-IHM, Sweetwater
Sept 18-Holy Family, Abilene

Midland/Odessa Deanery
Sept 11-Sacred Heart, McCamey
Sept 18-St. Mary, Odessa
Sept 25-St Stephens, Midland

San Angelo Deanery
Sept 11-Pastoral Center
Sept 18-St Charles, Eden

Odessa’s Catholic School Welcomes New Principal

by Fr. Mark Woodruff
School Administrator

ODESSA, TX. – St. Mary’s Central Catholic School began its 2003/2004 school year on August 12. An enlarged enrollment of 181, highest in five years, filled the school’s nine grade levels (pre-K-3 through 6th grade).

St. Mary’s also welcomed a new principal, Mrs. Mary Louise Jaramillo, who replaces Mr. H. T. Sanchez, now working in the Dallas area.

Mrs. Jaramillo comes to St. Mary’s after many years of service in the Ector County Independent School District. A long-time teacher, she was principal of Goldsmith Elementary School from 1994 to 1998.

The new principal holds a Bachelor of Science Degree from the University of Albuquerque and a Masters of Arts Degree in Elementary Education from the University of Texas of the Permian Basin.

An all-school Mass was celebrated on Friday, August 15, the feast of the Assumption of Mary, the school’s patroness. In late September, Bishop Michael D. Pfeifer, OMI, is scheduled to celebrate Mass for the students and visit the classes.

This is the forty-fourth year of St. Mary’s School, and it continues to hold a special place in the Catholic community. The school’s enrollment is not limited to Catholics. A number of Protestant and Muslem students also attend the culturally diverse institution.
The photographs, many of which have never been seen before, were selected from the archives of L'Osservatore Romano, the Vatican's official newspaper.

The first exhibit, At the Altar of the World, looks at the entire encyclical and gives a broad view of the Pope’s, and in turn, the Church’s teaching about the Holy Eucharist. The Catholic Church teaches that the Eucharistic sacrifice, the memorial of the death and resurrection of the Lord, is the summit and source of all worship and Christian life. This lasting memorial was instituted by Christ on Holy Thursday, the eve of his passion and death.

Each image in the exhibit relates to a particular section of the encyclical while at the same time it carries its own, historical and intriguing story.

For example, one of the first photographs shows the Holy Father at an outdoor altar in Portugal in 1982. While the photograph is of the Holy Father incensing an altar during mass before an immense crowd it recalls a very personal pilgrimage for Pope John Paul II.

He was shot in 1981 on the anniversary of the first vision of Mary to the children in Fatima. One year after the assassination attempt, John Paul II went to Fatima to give thanks to Our Lady of Fatima as he believed that Mary protected him during the assassination attempt. The bullet is now in the crown of the statue of our Lady of Fatima.

Other photographs that make insightful connections to Pope John Paul II’s thoughts on the Eucharist while relating an actual event include:

New Photo Exhibit of Pope John Paul II

Sacred Heart Catholic Church
Parish Festival
Sunday, October 19
201 San Saba St., Coleman, Texas
Mexican Dinner – 11:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m.
Silent Auction • Crafts & Plants • Bingo
Cake Walk • Games • Horseshoe Tourn.
Train Rides for Kids • Concessions

St. Ambrose & Holy Family
64th Annual Festival
Sunday, October 19
In Wall, TX • Theme: Wild Wall West
Turkey & Sausage Dinner 11:00 am to 2:00 pm
Wild Wall West Show • Bingo
Auction • Games • The Market
American Indian & Ft. Concho Living History

St. Boniface Catholic Church
Fall Festival, Olfen, TX
Sunday, Oct 12
Turkey & Sausage Lunch 11 AM - 2 PM
Adults/Plates to Go $6.00, Child $3.00
Games • Entertainment
Auction 1 PM • Candy Drop 3 PM
To Reserve Sausage call 915-732-4445 by Sept 28

Apple Pie, Sausage & Turkey Lunch 11 AM - 2 PM
Adults $8.00 Child $4.00
Game, Activities & Crafts for kids
To Reserve Sausage call 915-789-2549 by Sept 28

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Adults/Plates to Go $6.00, Child $3.00
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WASHINGTON, DC – The Poetry of John Paul II - Roman Triptych: Meditations, his new book of poetic meditations, will be published September 5 in a limited edition of 125,000 copies, according to an announcement by USCCB Publishing, the official publisher of the United States Conference of Catholic Bishops (USCCB).

Widely regarded as his spiritual last testament, The Poetry of John Paul II - Roman Triptych: Meditations contains three new poems, the first written and published during his pontificate. The Holy Father uses powerful images from nature, art, and Scripture as the framework for his Roman Triptych, a mountain stream, the Sistine chapel, and the story of Abraham and Isaac. Throughout the trio of poems, he reflects on God as the beginning and end of human life and all creation. He also ponders on the beginning and end of his own time as Pope.

USCCB Publishing, publisher of the bestselling Catechism of the Catholic Church and owner of the New American Bible, is the exclusive publisher of The Poetry of John Paul II - Roman Triptych: Meditations.

The Poetry of John Paul II Roman Triptych: Meditations, with full-color artwork from the Vatican Museums and several pages of the Pope’s original handwritten text. Cardinal Joseph Ratzinger has written a Presentation. An audio edition is also planned. USCCB Publishing is launching the publication of The Poetry of John Paul II - Roman Triptych: Meditations with an extensive advertising and promotion campaign.

Pope John Paul II will mark the 25th anniversary of his election as Pope on October 16. It is one of the longest pontificates in history and the most prolific. The Pope has issued 13 encyclicals, preached in five continents on his 100 trips outside the Vatican, released a prayer CD, and written several best selling books.

The Poetry of John Paul II Roman Triptych: Meditations With a Presentation by Cardinal Joseph Ratzinger Includes full-color artwork from the Vatican Museums and several pages of the Pope’s original handwritten text.

An English version of Pope John Paul II’s book of poetry was published this summer after being released in Polish earlier in the year. “Roman Triptych” includes his personal meditations on the world and its future. (CNS)

PROTECTING
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Pfeifer to complete the background checks and training session attendance by current employees and volunteers, will have passed. Persons who were scheduled to have regular contact with minors, in whatever existing parish program, and have not as yet fulfilled all the requirements of this most necessary program, must be kept out of these parish programs. Makeup training sessions are being scheduled for new employees and volunteers throughout the Diocese, and of course those who have missed these sessions, for whatever reason, may also attend. Then and only then, will they be authorized to interact with minors in parish activities.

Another critical portion of the overall program directed by the USCCB’s Charter for the Protection of Children and Young People and implemented by our own Policies on Ethics and Integrity in Ministry, is the training of parents to “make and maintain a safe environment for our children.” One person from each Deanery has already been trained and key people in each parish have been identified to conduct training/workshop/seminar ses-

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**Fr. Joseph Vathalloor Installed As Pastor Of Our Lady Of Guadalupe, Eldorado**

by Peter N. Micale

BISHOP Joe Vasquez, Auxiliary Bishop of Galveston-Houston, returned to the San Angelo Diocese where he was elevated to Bishop, to concelebrate with Msgr. Larry Droll and Fr. Vathalloor, a Mass during which Fr. Vathalloor, C.M.I., was installed as the new pastor of Our Lady of Guadalupe church in Eldorado, TX. Fr. Vathalloor will also serve as pastor of the mission churches Immaculate Conception in Knickerbocker and St. Peter’s in Mertzon. Deacon Mike Khalig also assisted during the Mass. Bishop Vasquez began the Commitment of Service by offering the Oath of Fidelity, and Fr. Vathalloor read the Profession of Faith, as the two priests stood before the altar. Bishop Vasquez also read aloud the letter of appointment by Bishop Michael D. Pfeifer, O.M.I., Bishop of the San Angelo Diocese.

**EWTN Celebrates Its 22nd Anniversary**

Network’s Foundress, Mother Angelica, Doing Well

Irondale, AL (EWTN) – EWTN Global Catholic Network celebrated its 22nd Anniversary on August 15th and aired a 30-minute special that day profiling the network’s historical achievements. The program titled, “EWTN Yesterday and Today,” aired at 2:30 PM EDT.

As Mother Angelica, EWTN’s Foundress often said, “The history of EWTN isn’t about what we’ve done, it’s about how we’ve done it.” Giving all the credit to God and His Providence, she says she didn’t have a business plan when she powered up the network in 1981. As Mother pointed out, “What could a handful of nuns know about starting something that would become a global Catholic television and multimedia network?”

According to Sister Mary Catherine, Vicar of Our Lady of the Angels Monastery in Hanceville, Alabama, Mother Angelica continues her recuperation after suffering a debilitating stroke nearly two years ago.

“Mother is doing well and is taking part in all of the Community’s activities,” she said. “She sings at daily Mass, joins the Sisters for the Divine Office and spends time each day in adoration before the Blessed Sacrament.”

Sister Mary Catherine said in the evenings, “Mother enjoys lending a helping hand snapping beans from our garden. She keeps us all entertained with her funny little remarks and one-of-a-kind facial expressions! Even with few words, she is able to get her point across. She is in very good spirits, enjoying every moment that she spends with the Sisters.”

As it celebrates its anniversary, EWTN Global Catholic Network is planning several new series and specials for television, radio and the Internet (www.ewtn.com).

According to Doug Keck, Vice President of Programming and Production, “Headlining our special events calendar are two major programs in October, first, the much anticipated Beatification of Mother Teresa on October 19th and later that month, the 25th anniversary of Pope John Paul II’s pontificate. EWTN will take you to the heart of these celebrations, live from Rome,” he said. Keck also mentioned the launch of a new live Monday-Friday 60-minute radio call-in program in September called “EWTN Open Line,” which will feature a different host and Church-related topic each day.

EWTN Global Catholic Network is available in more than 84 million television households in 110 countries. And with its worldwide short-wave radio station, satellite delivered AM & FM radio network, Internet website (www.ewtn.com) and publishing arm, EWTN is the largest religious media network in the world.

**Worth of the Workplace**

by Msgr. Lisante, the Christophers

Happy Labor Day! This time of year thinking about work seems natural, not only because of the holiday, but also because, with the summer vacation season ending, many people tend to refocus on their jobs.

As a priest, I’m very fortunate that what I do is what I have been called to do. But you don’t need a religious vocation for that to be true. Work is such an integral part of what it means to be human. Not the only thing, of course; being a workaholic is no virtue. But having a sense of purpose, a sense that you are doing what God wants you to do, is a wonderful gift. If you don’t, if you moan when the alarm clock goes off, if you count the days to the weekend, if you feel frustrated at the end of every workday, I’m sorry. That’s no way to live.

For better or worse, life’s circumstances and our own choices can lead us in directions we might never have dreamed about when we were young. Maybe you had to quit school and take a job before you wanted to because of a family emergency. Maybe you were expected to follow a parent’s footsteps in some field that doesn’t suit you. Maybe you chose a career path to a big salary, but small satisfaction. And anyone who says making a career change is easy – even in a strong economy – is not being realistic. Still, this might be exactly the right time for you to take a clear-eyed look at how you earn your living and how you live your life.

If you are basically unhappy with your job and want to move into something where you can use your talents in a more positive way, perhaps you should plan for a change. Notice I said “plan.” Leaping into the unknown is generally a bad idea, while taking simple steps to find out about opportunities, requirements, further education, and so on, is constructive. You may decide that you don’t want to make a change, after all.

There’s another kind of change you might consider: a change of attitude. The intrinsic worth of your work lies in the job you do, not in the job itself. Sure, work that obviously embodies elements of social justice or support for the physical, mental or spiritual well-being of others matters a great deal, but only if it is being done well. Only if workers give each task – and each co-worker, client, customer and everybody else involved in any way – the very best that’s in them, can they bring God to the marketplace.

I was impressed by a story I read a while back about a mail carrier who retired. On his last day, he delivered a personal message to each of the homes on his route. It said: “Dear Patron: It has been a wonderful experience to serve such a fine and loyal group of people. I have rejoiced with many of you when you received letters from loved ones.”

*see “WORKPLACE” page five*