

Vocation Circle, p. 3

A Call to Pray the Rosary, p. 4

In Memoriam: Deacon Bill Smith, p. 5

St. Stephen's Church Dedicated, p. 6

Holy Angels Church Dedicated, p. 7

Safe Environment Program, p. 9

John Paul II's New Book of Poetry, p. 11



VOLUME XXIV
NUMBER 9

SEPT
2003

NONPROFIT ORG.
U.S. POSTAGE PAID
SAN ANGELO, TX
PERMIT NO. 44

THE
WEST
TEXAS



ANGELUS

DIOCESE OF SAN ANGELO
PO BOX 1829
SAN ANGELO TX 76902-1829

ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED

NEWSPAPER OF THE DIOCESE OF SAN ANGELO

PMangelus@aol.com • www.san-angelo-diocese.org

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



Bishop Pfeifer dedicates 9/11 Memorial in San Angelo, Texas. (Above right) plaque of memorial. (Photos by Peter Micale.)

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.



MEMORIAL MONUMENT
(Dedicated Sept. 8, 2003)
In memory of those, including Judy Rowlett of San Angelo, who lost their lives on the terrible day of terrorism, Sept. 11, 2001. This piece of steel was acquired from the World Trade Center, Ground Zero, in New York, by Bishop Michael Pfeifer, OMI.

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 deacons 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 mail box 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 teach-

ers 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

see "PROTECTING" page eleven



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 heavy cultural fallout beyond the – numerically limited – practice of cloning, since there will be a growing conviction that the value of man and woman does not depend on their personal identity but only on those biological qualities that can be appraised and therefore selected.

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 everywhere as an end, as a value, 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 influjo 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 respecto 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.

The Bishop's Schedule



September 2003

September 1: San Angelo, Cathedral Church of the Sacred Heart - Labor Day Mass at 9:00 a.m.

September 2: San Angelo, Diocesan Pastoral Center - Meeting of Diocesan Legal Team - 11:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m.

September 3: Midland, St. Stephen - 6:00 p.m. Mass and Bless New Church

September 4: Abilene, Sacred Heart - Luncheon Meeting for Priests of the Abilene Deanery at 11:00 a.m.

September 5: San Angelo,

Angelo Catholic School - Mass for Students at 8:30 a.m. Bishop's Residence - Dinner for Priests and Sisters of the Diocese of San Angelo at 6:0 p.m.

September 6: San Angelo, Diocese Liturgy Day.

September 7: Ozona, Our Lady of Perpetual Help - 11:00 a.m. Mass

September 8: San Angelo - Dedicate 9/11 Memorial Monument at 10:30 a.m. Midland, Our Lady of Guadalupe - Mass for 50th Priestly Anniversary of Father Jerome Burnet, OMI at 6:30 p.m.

September 9-10: Dallas - Texas Conference of Churches Meeting

September 11: San Angelo, Cathedral Church of the Sacred Heart - Memorial Mass of Second Anni-

versary of September 11 at 12:00 noon

September 12: San Angelo, Diocesan Pastoral Center - Luncheon Meeting for Priests of the San Angelo Deanery at 11:00 a.m.

September 13: San Antonio - 50th Wedding Anniversary

September 16: Odessa, St. Mary School - Mass for Students at 2:00 p.m.

September 17: Midland, St. Ann School - Mass for Students at 8:30 a.m.

September 18: San Angelo, Diocesan Pastoral Center - Mass for Staff at 8:30 a.m. and Staff Meeting at 11:00 a.m.

September 19: Odessa, St. Joseph - 6:00 p.m. Mass to Celebrate 55th anniversary of parish

September 20: Midland - Pro-Life Mass at 9:30 a.m. at Prayer Garden across the Street from Planned Parenthood Clinic

September 21-23: Austin - Texas Catholic Conference Assembly and Meeting of Texas Bishops

September 22-26: Pastoral Audit of the Diocese of San Angelo

September 27: Wall, St. Ambrose - Catholic Daughters of America 100th Anniversary Mass at 6:00 p.m.

September 28: Menard, Sacred Heart - 11:15 a.m. Mass

September 30: San Angelo, Diocesan Pastoral Center - Liturgy Commission meeting at 10:30 a.m.

October 2003

October 2: Odessa, St. Mary - 10th Anniversary Mass for Perpetual Adoration Group at 6:30 p.m.

October 3: San Angelo, Angelo Catholic School - St. Francis Mass at 8:30 a.m. and Blessing of Animals

October 5: Abilene, Sacred Heart - Rosary Rally at 5:00 p.m.

October 6-7: Dallas - Deacon Meeting at the Catholic Conference Center

October 7: San Angelo, Cathedral Church of the Sacred Heart - Rosary Rally at 7:00 p.m.

October 9: Austin - Texas Conference of Churches Meeting

October 10: San Angelo, Diocesan Pastoral Center - Mass for Staff at 8:30 a.m. Staff meeting at 11:00 a.m.

October 11: Odessa, St. Elizabeth Ann Seton - Confirmation at 5:00 p.m.

October 12-13: San Antonio - MACC Board Meeting

October 15: Odessa, St. Mary -

Presentation to RCIA Groups of Midland and Odessa at 6:30 p.m.

October 16: San Angelo - Meeting of the San Angelo Area Foundation at 4:00 p.m.

October 18: Odessa, St. Mary - Confirmation at 6:00 p.m.

October 19: Miles, St. Thomas - Mass at 8:00 a.m.

October 20-22: Nashville, Tenn - Oblate Congress

October 25: San Angelo, San Angelo Convention Center - Diocesan Youth Event

October 26: Big Lake, St. Margaret - Mass at 11:30 a.m.

October 27: San Angelo, St. Joseph - Meet with Pastor, Pastoral Council and Finance Council at 7:00 p.m.

October 28: San Angelo, Holy Angels - Presentation to San Angelo parishes RCIA at 6:30 p.m.

October 29: San Angelo, Newman Center - Mass at 12:00 noon

October 30: San Angelo, Diocesan Pastoral Center - Joint meeting of Presbyteral Council Meeting and Diocesan Finance Council at 10:30 a.m. Presbyteral Council meeting at 1:00 p.m.

The West Texas Angelus

Official Newspaper of the Diocese of San Angelo

POSTMASTER: Send all Changes of Address to:

WEST TEXAS ANGELUS

P.O. BOX 1829

SAN ANGELO, TX 76902-1829

Publisher Bishop Michael D. Pfeifer, OMI
Editor Peter N. Micale (PMangelus@aol.com)
Layout The Talley Press
Production Kenneth Grimm

Published with automatic circulation to parishioners in the Diocese of San Angelo

Subscription rate for all others: \$10.00 per year

THIRD CLASS POSTAGE PAID AT SAN ANGELO, TEXAS

Printed by the San Angelo Standard-Times

A Scripps-Howard Company



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 even be thinking about looking into a vocation to the priesthood or religious life. All of these require a tremen-

dous 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 understand 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.S.S.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 or-

dained 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.)



Fr. Thomas H. Dymowski, O.S.S.T.



Sr. Nancy McLaughlin, PBVM



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 *Communicare* 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 seedsowing 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.

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

see "PRIESTHOOD" page eleven

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 Deanery: 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.

**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 diaconate 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!

Ethics and Integrity for Church Personnel



Diocese of San Angelo

www.san-angelo-diocese.org

Report concerns or questions to Victim Assistance Coordinator:

Confidential: 325-651-7500 FAX:325-651-6688

mikedosa@aol.com

Report abuse of minors to: State of Texas 800-252-5400

St. Therese Catholic Church Annual Festival Sunday, September 21

KC Hall, 3636 N. Bryant Blvd, San Angelo
Country Store • Games • Auctions
BBQ Brisket & German Sausage Dinner
Served From 11:00 A.M. - 2:00 P.M.
Adults/Drive Through \$6.00, Child \$3.00

Virtuous Democracy

by Fr. Frank Pavone
Priests for Life

The last nine months have seen two brief but strong documents from the Vatican containing some direct messages to Catholic politicians.

[Of course, all the right things are said, but these documents do not reach their intended audience on their own. You and I have a role to play. Without waiting for our bishop, pastor, or anyone else, we should personally and directly deliver these documents to those who need to read them — after, of course, reading them carefully ourselves. They can be obtained at www.priestsforlife.org/magisteriumvatican.htm].

The first of these documents is the "Doctrinal Note on some questions regarding the Participation of Catholics in Political Life." You can usually find a message in the date on which these Vatican documents are issued, and this one is dated on the Feast of Christ the King (November 24, 2002). Jesus Christ is Lord not only of individu-

als, but of nations. "All authority has been given to me, both in heaven and on earth" (Mt. 28:18). This does not deny the proper autonomy of the state, nor is it a call for building a theocracy. There are certain things that the state properly does, and others that the Church properly does. But both are subject to God and the norms of morality that He has built into creation.

In our day, of course, the question asked is, "Whose God? Whose morality?" The question implies that we can't tell the difference between fundamental rights and wrongs. While upholding religious freedom, we reject the idea that every concept about life, marriage, family, justice and peace is equal. And this is the point of this "Doctrinal Note" from the Vatican. It's a good news flash that we as human beings have not lost the ability to tell right from wrong. Politicians, especially Catholics, are not permitted to take refuge in a "your truth is as good as my truth" mindset.

The second document, issued on

June 3, gives a concrete example. It addresses the attempt to legitimize gay marriage, and, after reviewing why such attempts violate the moral law, tells Catholic politicians that it is immoral for them to vote for the recognition of homosexual unions.

Some politicians responded that the Pope is trying to interfere with democracy. On the contrary, the Pope is promoting democracy. As he wrote in *The Gospel of Life*, "[T]he value of democracy stands or falls with the values which it embodies and promotes" (#70). Henry Hyde expressed the same truth this way: "To have a virtuous kingdom it is enough perhaps to have a virtuous king, but you cannot have a successful democracy without a virtuous people" (Heritage Lecture #673, July 19, 2000). Democracy means we govern ourselves, and we can't govern ourselves if we can't tell the difference between what is good for us and what can destroy us. What we need is virtuous democracy — a self-governing people free to strive for and do what is right.

Incidentally, June 3 is a feast of a group of martyrs.

Odessa Women To Study Bible

Odessa, TX – More than 75 Catholic women and non-Catholic friends have registered for the Women's Bible Study to begin at St. Elizabeth Ann Seton Parish here in September. The program will take place on Wednesday evenings from 6:00 to 7:30.

The Women's Bible Study will use Beth Moore's in-depth bible study, "Breaking Free: Making Liberty in Christ a Reality in Life," and will last 13 weeks. Winter and a spring sessions are planned for 2004.

Organizing the study are St. Elizabeth parishioners Angie Mijares and Marian White. Both attended similar bible studies, along with other women from the Catholic community, at a local Baptist church when they realized a study at St. Elizabeth's Church would be a good idea. The study is open to Catholic women from all Permian Basin parishes as well as members of

other Christian denominations.

Workbooks, videos and discussion will comprise the class time. Home study and homework are also part of the program.

For more information, women are invited to call St. Elizabeth's at 432-367-4657.

WORKPLACE

from page twelve

ones away from home. I have sorrowed when some received letters of bad news. I have anticipated with

you that long-awaited letter that never came. When I made mistakes, your understanding carried me on. May the years ahead bring you and your families much joy and peace."

Whether you stick with a job for forty years, or try several career paths, work, like life, is what you make of it. Make the most of yourself.

For a free copy of the Christopher News Note, DECIDE FOR YOURSELF, write: The Christophers, 12 East 48th Street, New York, NY 10017; or e-mail: mail@christophers.org

**Immaculate Conception
Fall Festival, Knickerbocker, TX
Sunday, Sept 28
Brisket & Sausage Lunch 11 AM - 4 PM
Adults \$6.00, Child \$3.50
Auction • Games • Entertainment
Music by *Old Dogs ... New Licks*
(formerly "The Old Hat Band")**



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.

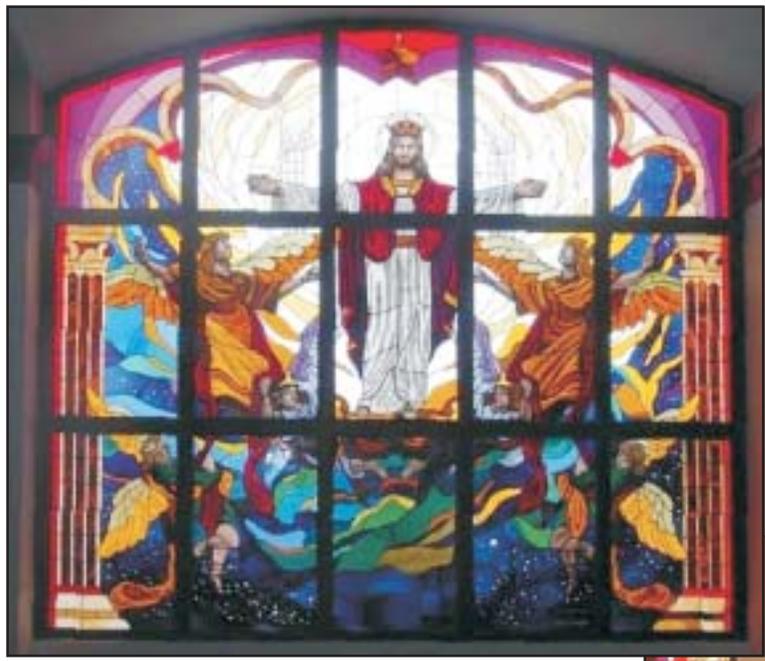
At the groundbreaking, Bishop Pfeifer said: "This is a long awaited moment, and we need to celebrate this event with a spirit of gratitude and hope. All of us together thank the good Lord for letting us arrive at this important historical date."

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.



Photos of St. Stephen's Church Dedication. Above, St. Stephen's Choir accompanied by Lone Star Brass. (Photos courtesy Mary Hardin.)





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.

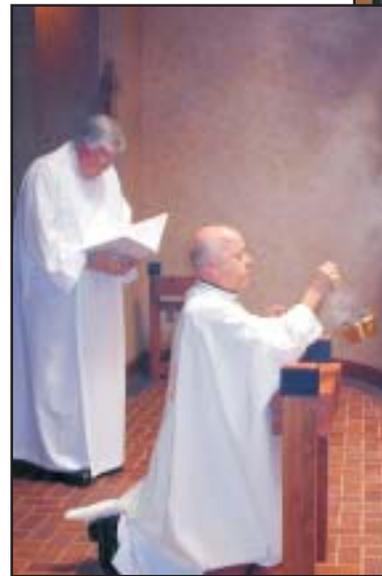
Now, almost 21 years later, a new church was dedicated and it will be able to accommodate 1,000 worshippers. The new church is a 3.6 million dollar construction project. The architect was Bob Zentner, the general contractor was Templeton Construction, and the project manager was Herb Straach. Both Zentner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



Photos by Peter N. Micale and Stephen Talley.





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.S.S.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, Vietnam, 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 at-

tending 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 Scheetz, 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 Scheetz, 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



Fr. Joe Uecker (second from right) conducts the Training for Small Community Facilitators at St. Francis Church in the Abilene deanery. (Photo by S. Hilda Marotta, O.S.F.)

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

Diocesan Youth Event

(Grades 9 - 12 only)

Theme: Navigating The Waters

San Angelo Convention Center

Saturday, October 25, 2003

9:30 am - 8:00 pm

Cost: \$15.00 (postmarked by Oct. 11, 2003)

\$18.00 (postmarked after Oct. 11, 2003)

(Includes refreshments, supper, mass, dance, t-shirt. Bring a sack lunch.)

Keynote Speaker: Sister Mary Fagan, SHSp. Sister Mary is presently serving in the Vocation Office of the Archdiocese of San Antonio. She is a Sister of the Congregation of the Holy Ghost. A native of San Antonio, she has worked with youth in Louisiana and Texas. She has a vibrant personality and is a dynamic presenter.

See your parish Coordinator of Youth Ministry for more information and registration.



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 Moslem students also attend the culturally diverse institution.

St. Patrick's Catholic Church Fall Festival

Brady, TX • Sunday, Oct. 5

**Turkey & Dressing / German Sausage Meal
from 11 a.m. to 2 p.m., \$6 Adult, \$3 Child**

**Country Store • Auction • Cake Walk
Games • Silent Auction**



New Photo Exhibit of Pope John Paul II

Washington, DC – Pope John Paul II is the inspiring subject of a series of four exclusive exhibits of Vatican photographs opening September 10 at the museums at the Pope John Paul II Cultural Center. The first exhibit, which runs through January 25, 2004, launches a year-long celebration of the 25th anniversary of the pontificate of Pope John Paul II.

The exhibit series, *At the Altar of the World*, takes its title and theme from Pope John Paul II's latest encyclical, *Ecclesia de Eucharistia*, illustrating the Holy Father's devotion to the Eucharist.

In his encyclical, Pope John Paul II refers to the cosmic character of the Eucharist: "I have been able to celebrate Holy Mass in chapels built along mountain paths, on lakeshores and seacoasts; I have celebrated it on altars built in stadiums and in city squares. . . . This varied scenario of celebrations of the Eucharist has given me a powerful experience of its universal and, so to speak, cosmic character. Yes, cosmic! Because even when it is celebrated on the humble altar of a country church, the Eucharist is always in some way celebrated *on the altar of the world*. It unites heaven and earth. It embraces and permeates all creation."

While the Eucharist is celebrated *on the altar of the world*, the Cultural Center's exhibit series honors Pope John Paul II and his extraordinary 25 years of ministry of celebrating the Eucharist *at the altar of the world* as Bishop of Rome and shepherd of the Church. The images bring to life the Holy Father's words and his pastoral ministry; at the same time they present a stunning panorama of his extraordinary pontificate.

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: Faith's Great Mystery*, 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 photos 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:

A sea of colorful confetti showers the Holy Father in his Pope-mobile in Brazil, 1980. In this photo the Pope joyously greets the people of Belo Horizonte where he received a rapturous welcome. At the time of his visit, half of the population of Brazil was under the age of 25. The Pope has always looked to youth as the future of the church. When he offered a Mass for the youth of Brazil, he encouraged them to be filled with hope and "to construct a just, free and prosperous society in which one and all will be able to enjoy the benefits of progress."

In the encyclical, the Holy Father expresses how faith shapes culture: "In my numerous pastoral visits I have seen, throughout the world, the great vitality which the celebration of the Eucharist can have when marked by the forms, styles and sensibilities of different cultures. By adaptation to the changing conditions of time and place, the Eucharist offers sustenance not only to individuals but to entire peoples, and it shapes cultures inspired by Christianity."

The Holy Father prays in the wilderness of Canada, 1984. In this photo we see Pope John Paul II praying the Rosary in the wilderness of Canada. The photo highlights two important themes of the Pope's life: devotion to the Blessed Virgin Mary and taking time to pray.

In the encyclical, the Pope relates the Eucharist to Mary in this way: "At the Annunciation, Mary conceived the Son of God in the physical reality of his body and blood, thus anticipating within herself what to some degree happens sacramentally in every believer who receives, under the signs of bread and wine, the Lord's body and blood."

The Holy Father views fireworks during celebrations to mark the beginning of the Third Millennium. While reflecting on the hopes and dreams which the dawn of the Third Millennium inspired in the hearts of people, we recall Pope John Paul II's words about the hope which the Eucharist imparts. "The Eucharist is a straining towards the goal, a foretaste of the fullness of joy promised by Christ; it is in some way the anticipation of heaven, the 'pledge of future glory.'"

The Holy Father gazes out from

the top of Mount Sinai during his historic trip to the Holy Land in 2000. Pope John Paul II's trip to the Holy Land was yet another important and very personal pilgrimage for him. The image of Mount Sinai recalls the covenant between Yahweh and his people Israel.

In his letter, the Pope relates the Covenant of Mount Sinai to the Last Supper and the new messianic community. "By offering them his body and his blood as food, Christ mysteriously involved [the Apostles] in the sacrifice which would be completed later on Calvary. By analogy with the Covenant of Mount Sinai ... Jesus at the Last Supper laid the foundations of the new messianic community, the People of the New Covenant."

Three additional exhibits will further illustrate Pope John Paul II's encyclical on the Eucharist; each exhibit will take on a specific theme of the encyclical and show how the Holy Father has lived the teaching in the encyclical.

The photo exhibits, which will run through November 7, 2004, are the centerpiece of several events

sponsored by the Cultural Center to celebrate the Pope's Silver Jubilee. An upcoming book from the Cultural Center also entitled *At the Altar of the World* will be published in November 2003. Other planned events include lectures, a music concert, and the dedication of a Children's International Peace Garden.

Admission to the Pope John Paul II Cultural Center is by donation and group fee. Please call 202-635-5475 for group information. Hours are Tuesday – Saturday, 10 a.m. – 5 p.m. Sunday noon -5 p.m. Parking is free. For more information call 202-635-5400 or visit www.jp2cc.org.

The museums at the Pope John Paul II Cultural Center provide a dynamic environment in which visitors of all ages and denominations engage in an intriguing exploration of faith and culture. Through technology, art exhibitions, and cultural programs, visitors explore spirituality and culture, learn about the faith of others, and engage in inspirational activities designed to put their faith into action in their everyday lives.

**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. 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**

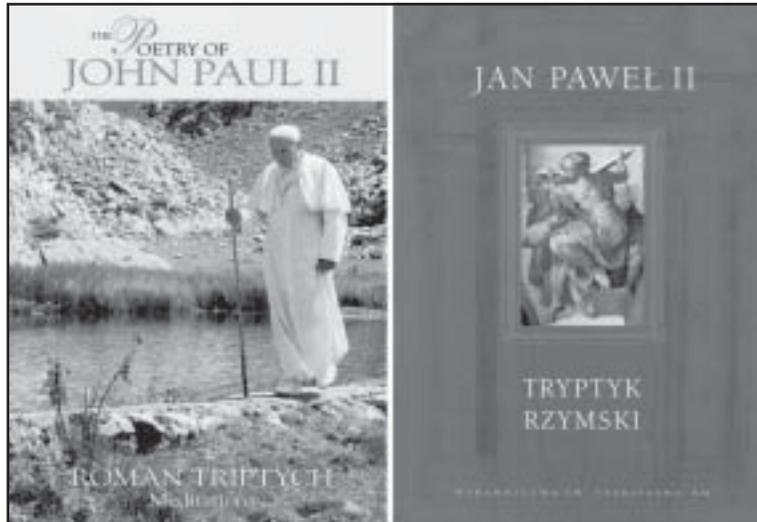
**St. Ambrose & Holy Family
64th Annual Festival
Sunday, October 19
In Wall, TX • Theme: Wild Wall West
Turkey & Sausage Dinner 11:00 am to 2:00 pm
Wild Wall West Show • Bingo
Auction • Games • The Market
American Indian & Ft. Concho Living History**



John Paul II's New Book Of Poetry

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



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)

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: Medita-*

Intentions Of The Holy Father For September

General – The countries suffering because of war, terrorism, and violence. That these countries may find the way of reconciliation, concord, and peace.

Mission – The Christian communities of Central Asia. That those who dwell among other religious traditions may be committed to spreading the Good News of the Kingdom through their faith.

tions in the United States. To be published in both English (100,000 copies) and Spanish (25,000 copies), the hardcover book includes 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.

PROTECTING from page one

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-

sions for parents at the parish level.

Already, we have heard grumblings by parents questioning why they are being asked to participate. Is there any more important responsibility, other than feeding and clothing our children and grandchildren, than providing a safe environment for them in the home, at school, in church, on school or church outings, and all the myriad of other places where they go? We cannot abrogate our responsibility and hope that teachers, police, ministers, or whoever else will describe what sexual abuse is all about. Those discussions must be held at the kitchen table with involved parents.

While I was wearing my Victim Assistance Coordinator hat, a parent of an alleged victim told me that **IF** he had known that the alleged perpetrator had abused his son, the perpetrator would not have had a safe existence. That situation begs the question: where was the family dialogue concerning sexual abuse and identifying improper activity between an adult and a minor?

We cannot let someone else do this job. This must be a continuing education process, and the Diocesan program, with all its trainers

and the considerable resources that are being provided, will create a safe environment and protect God's children. The Bishop has often said, that if we are able to protect just one child, then the entire program will be well worth it.

LET US ALL GET BEHIND THIS MOST IMPORTANT PROGRAM.

PRIESTHOOD

from page four

service and for the beautiful witness they give as ordained followers of Christ.

MEMO: August 18, 2003

TO: Priests and Pastoral Coordinators

FROM: Bishop Michael Pfeifer, OMI

RE: National Priesthood Sunday
With the support of the Bishops' Committee on Priestly Life and Ministry and the National Federation Priests Councils, I am very happy to let you know that I concur with the recommendation to declare Sunday, October 26, 2003, as *National Priesthood Sunday*. This is a special day to promote appreciation for the beautiful gift of priesthood which is one of Christ's special gifts to our Church. Priesthood and Eucharist are inte-

grally connected.

On this Sunday, I ask you to beg our people to pray for all the priests of the world, but especially for the priests of our Diocese and of our country. I also encourage you in anticipation of this Sunday, to form in each parish a priest support group that could meet periodically to pray for our priests and to look at ways of more actively helping our priests in their personal lives and in their ministry.

The recent difficulties in our Church have diminished the appreciation of the great gift of priesthood by some people, and the shortage of priests places many more demands on our good, faithful priests who serve our Church with much dedica-

tion and faithfulness. I personally appreciate their faithful witness and service.

The stress and strain of the past couple of years has taken its toll on priests and the Catholic faithful of our country. Priesthood Sunday is a splendid way to move to a more positive future. On this Sunday, or on a day near this Sunday, I would encourage that each parish have a Holy Hour with exposition of the Blessed Sacrament to pray for our priests, for our deacons, for our seminarians, and for more vocations to priesthood and religious life.

Please bring this announcement to the attention of our people in your bulletins and from the pulpits. Thank you.

Sacred Heart Catholic Church Parish Festival - Menard

Sat/Sun, November 1st & 2nd

Saturday Night • Dance • Club Victoria
DJ 7 pm - 8:30 pm • Free BBQ until 8:30 with Dance Ticket
Live Band 9 pm - 1 am • Tickets \$10.00 - 13 & under \$5.00

Sunday • BBQ Plate • Parish Hall
Games • Bingo • Silent Auction • FMI 396-4906



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 Fi-

delity, 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.



Fr. Vathalloor, C. M. I. reads the Profession of Faith to Bishop Joe Vasquez (left). (Photo by Peter N. Micale.)



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 emer-

gency. 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

see "WORKPLACE" page five