The New Evangelization

As we celebrate the 50th anniversary of the beginning of Vatican Council II, we recall that it declared unambiguously the reality that you and I are the Church. We have come to understand that the family is “the basic Church” and community of believers. Therefore, in order for our Church to grow into God’s marvelous Light, our basic Church must be nourished and supported in this great commission. Read more / Pg. 11

Storm damages Ballinger church, bells

By Jimmy Patterson
Editor / The Angelus

BALLINGER — Like a shot in the night — literally — Father Hugh Wade awoke at 11 o’clock Sunday, August 12. And for good reason. His cats were in the air, the hair on his arms was at attention and the cross on top of his church, St. Mary’s, Star of the Sea, was lying in rubble at the foot of the church’s entrance.

Father Wade saw the thunderstorm headed his way at 10 o’clock that night, but decided to go to bed anyway. Less than an hour later, he would wake with a start to a thunder clap and lightning strike recently reminiscent of the one that struck the Ballpark in Arlington during a game in July that forced both teams to scurry off the field in fear of for lives.

The storm not only shattered the top por-

(Please See BALLINGER/21)
Catechists, teachers: agents of the New Evangelization

From the Bishop’s Desk

Catechetical Sunday is September 16.

By Most Rev Michael Pfeifer, OMI
Bishop of San Angelo

This year the Church will celebrate Catechetical Sunday on September 16, 2012, and will focus on the theme – “Catechists and Teachers as Agents of the New Evangelization.” Those who the community has designated to serve as catechists need to be recognized on this special Sunday, and thanked for their participation in this basic ministry of our Catholic Church.

Catechetical Sunday is a wonderful opportunity to reflect on the roles that each person plays, by virtue of Baptism, in handing on the faith and being a witness to the Gospel. Catechetical Sunday is an opportunity for all to rededicate themselves to this mission as a community of faith, and especially for those who have been called and prepared by the Church to share in this basic ministry for every parish community. All share in the great mission of the Church which is to bring the Gospel of Christ to people wherever they are found.

The theme for this year’s Catechetical Sunday fits in well with the call Pope Benedict XVI has announced for a special synod of Bishops of the world this Fall which will focus on the theme—“The New Evangelization for the transmission of the Christian Faith.” Although this important meeting will be held at an international level, it will soon begin to have an impact at the national, diocesan, and parish levels as the Pope prepares...
Bishop’s Calendar

September

7-9 — San Juan, Texas – Texas-Mex Bishops Meeting
10-12 — Corpus Christi – Kenedy Foundation Meeting
14 — San Angelo, Angelo Catholic School Mass at 8:30 a.m.
15 — Jackson, Miss. – 175th Anniversary Diocese
18-19 — Austin, Catholic Conference
21 — San Angelo, Diocesan Pastoral Center Staff Mass at 8:30 a.m.
Staff Meeting at 11 a.m.
Catholic Schoool Diocesan School Commission Meeting
22 — San Angelo, Golf Tournament, for Catholic Schools
23 — Eola, St. Philip - Mass, 8 a.m.
24-27 — Chicago, Extension Society Meeting
30 — Fort Stockton, Mass at Prison at 2:00 p.m.

October

2 — Abilene, Holy Family – RCA – 6:30 p.m.
4 — San Angelo, Holy Angels – St. Francis Mass and Blessing of Animals at 8:30 a.m.
5 — San Angelo, Pastoral Center Staff Mass at 8:30 a.m.
Staff Meeting at 11:00 a.m.
7 — Junction, St. Theresa – Confirmation at 9:00 a.m.
10 — Crane, Good Shepherd – Confirmation at 8:30 p.m.
11 — San Angelo, Sacred Heart Cathedral Mass, 6:30 p.m.
to observe beginning of Year of Faith.
12 — Odessa, St. Mary – Confirmation 1:30 p.m.
13-15 — Tulsa, Okla. — Holy Sepulchre Meeting
16-17 — San Angelo, Christ the King Retreat Center – Fall Clergy Conference
18 — Sweetwater, Immacul., Heart – Confirmation at 6:30 pm
23 — Christoval, Carmelite Hermitage – Day of Prayer
23 — Big Spring, Holy Trinity – Confirmation at 6:30 p.m.
25 — Abilene, Sacred Heart – Confirmation at 6:30 p.m.
27 — San Angelo, Sacred Heart Cathedral Wedding
30 — Odessa, St. Mary – Mass for 19th Anniversary of Adoration Chapel at 6:30 p.m.

Christ the King Retreat Center

September

10 — Heart of Mercy Prayer Grp
11 — Adoration
14-16 — Lubbock Deacons Annual Retreat

From the Editor

Empty Nest Day doesn’t have to be bad

By Jimmy Patterson

Our son called and told us the other night that he went to Mass. And that he joined the church choir. Now, you may be saying that such news may not be a big deal. That is what we all do, right? It may not be a choir we join but we’re all supposed to at least consider becoming involved in some aspect of our parish.

What makes this deal so big is the rest of the story. Our son is 18 and in his first week as a student at Texas Tech, And when he went to Mass he did so alone, after having asked a friend who didn’t return the text message.

That. in today’s world, is news. Today’s teens don’t often do anything alone, much less attend church. We were thrilled.

(I should add that he stayed for the free food after it was over. There. Now the story is complete.)

I mention these things not because I want the entire diocese to see the beaming smiles emanating from my wife and me but to talk about empty nest.

We’ve had at least one child in our house for more than 25 years, so when we took our son to college the day the dorms opened and his music rehearsals began, I won’t lie: we were pretty down. What would we do with no children under our roof any longer? It didn’t seem fair, but as we are often reminded life seldom is.

We had both anticipated and dreaded Empty Nest Day (Emancipation Day, some parents would no doubt call it) for months. It started with a vague sense of “How will we make it alone?” maybe two years ago. And when it came, it hit me upside the head with a power I still didn’t expect. It is not the easiest thing we parents have to do. Truth be told, though they may not admit it as readily, it is often hard for the kids, too.

Karen and I wondered (needlessly as it turned out) about how our son would do on his own. Did we teach him right? Did we teach him enough? Would he make the right decisions? Shouldn’t we take some sort of test and if we fail shouldn’t the youngest child have to stay at home a couple more years so the parents get it right? After all, many of the over 6,500 days we have spent with our son since his birth we have been forced to parent under less than ideal circumstances. Days when we were not at our best. When work had agitated us. When someone cut us off in traffic. When business demanded our attention and relegated explanations of just-completed refrigerator works of crayon art to secondary status.

(See PATTERSON/22)

Del Escritorio del Obispo

Domingo catequético — 16 de Septiembre

Por el Obispo Miguel Pfeifer, OMI

Este año la Iglesia celebrará Domingo Catequético el 16 de septiembre del 2012, y se enfocará en el tema “Catequistas y Maestros — Agentes de la Nueva Evangelización.” Es necesario que sean reconocidos a ellos a quienes la comunidad ha designado como catequistas en este domingo especial, y darles las gracias por su participación en este ministerio básico de nuestra Iglesia Católica.

Domingo Catequético es una oportunidad maravillosa para reflexionar en los papeles que cada persona eje-
cuta, por virtud del bautismo, en los papales que cada persona ejerce, y darles las gracias por su participación en este ministerio básico de nuestra Iglesia Católica.

Domingo Catequético es una oportunidad de reflexionar en los papeles que cada persona ejerce, y darles gracias por su participación en este ministerio básico de nuestra Iglesia Católica.

(See OBISPO/22)
America’s Devastating Drought

Farmers: Trusting God only way to cope with drought

By Peter Johnson & Anne Marie Cox
Catholic News Service

DES MOINES, Iowa — For weeks farmers in southwest Iowa, such as Larry Rayhons of Lenox, have been checking the forecasts and clear skies for the hint at some relief in the form of rain during the worst drought since 1936.

"This is the worst drought we’ve experienced in 37 years of farming," said Rayhons, a grain farmer and parishioner of St. Patrick Church in Lenox. "I may be able to muster 100 bushels an acre ... half of what it could’ve been, but if that’s what the Lord wants me to have, I’ll be happy with it."

Rayhons and other members of his parish have been praying the rosary before every Mass offered in Lenox since the beginning of July. On July 27, parishioners took part in a day of fasting as a prayer for rain.

"Our faith is strong enough that come floods or droughts, we know we’ll be OK," Rayhons told The Catholic Mirror, newspaper of the Des Moines Diocese. "Sometimes our greatest disasters lead to our greatest blessings, but we don’t see that until we look back on it."

According to the National Weather Service, the area that makes up the diocese is currently in a severe drought and in danger of becoming an extreme drought if it persists as forecasted. An extreme drought causes major losses to crops and pastures and widespread water shortages.

Urban and rural parishes across the diocese have been praying for rain.

Farmer and trader Bart Brummer, a member of St. Thomas Aquinas Church in Indianola, recalled similar situations when he was a young farmer.

"I can remember when I was 25 or 26 standing out on the back porch just begging it to rain and being irritated at God, quite frankly," he said. "But as you live through some of that and mature in your faith, you’re not sure how it’s going to work out but you know it will."

This year, he said, there’s a lot of uncertainty about the marketability of the crop. Many farmers now have crop insurance.

"The crop has continued to look amazingly well for what it’s gone through," Brummer said. "We’re blessed in Iowa compared to a lot of people in Missouri, Illinois and Indiana where they just lost entire fields."

"Trusting in God is the big thing," explained Father Ken Halbur, pastor of Holy Spirit Parish in Creston. "No matter what happens, God will get us through it. Good things can come out of bad situations."

Father Halbur recommended prayer and faith in God to maintain hope through difficult times. "It may not be what we want or expect, but God will always give us what we need."

Drought or near-drought conditions have been reported in nearly half of all counties in the contiguous United States.

Portions of the Midwest, including Indiana and southern Wisconsin, Illinois and Missouri, are dealing with extreme drought conditions, according to the U.S. Drought Monitor. During the 2012 crop year, the U.S. Department of Agriculture has designated about 1,300 counties across 29 states as disaster areas, mostly in the southern and western U.S.

In the neighboring Diocese of Davenport, which covers southeast Iowa, farmers are relying on their faith, too.

Each day that passes without rain, the lost potential of Tony Kriegel’s 1,800 acres of corn and soybeans ticks higher.

"I think at this point, we’ve probably lost 30 percent of our potential. From here on out, we’d need an inch of rain a week to salvage this crop," the member of St. Patrick Parish in Brooklyn said in late July.

But Kriegel knows he’s not in control. "I’m a firm believer we’re at God’s will as to what we get for our crop out here," he told The Catholic Messenger, the diocesan newspaper.

Other farmers share his perspective. Some said they see no hope for their corn -- though August rains could still revive soybeans -- but seek some peace of mind through their faith.

"The good Lord has taken care of us in the past and will continue to do so," Andy Adam said. A member of Ss. Joseph & Cabrini Parish in Richland, he farms 600 acres of corn and soybeans north of town.

His crops are slowly dying. Conditions haven’t been this bad in 20 years, he said. But farmers elsewhere are faring worse. "Farther south in Iowa and down into Missouri, it’s pretty much burnt up."

Jim Foels, who calls himself a "semi-retired farmer," said his 320 acres of corn and soybeans north of Brooklyn have seen little rain since late July. Before then, the last measurable precipitation came in June thanks to a windstorm that blew rain onto his crops.

"I think about everybody who’s got any belief in God is praying for rain," said the St. Patrick parishioner.

"The hardest part for me -- and I think for a lot of farmers -- is the emotional roller coaster that we ride," Kriegel said. "We spend a lot of time and money putting our crop in. It’s hard to watch that go away."

He has an insurance policy that covers large crop losses but would rather not have to collect on it. And the farmer of 45 years worries how younger farmers, who may have little equity built up, will fare after a poor growing season.

Everyone will feel the effects of this drought, Kriegel said. With rising corn prices, some livestock farmers will sell their animals rather than lose money buying feed. That means the cost of meat, milk and eggs will go up in six to nine months, he said.

The Des Moines-based National Catholic Rural Life Conference noted that lower-income Americans will especially be affected by higher prices as they tend to spend more of their income on food.

On its website, www.ncrlc.com, the organization encourages praying for them as well as for farmers. Also offers a link to a novena to St. Isidore, a 12th-century Spanish farmer.

For Foels, one suggestion seems especially relevant: "Let go and let God. That always sticks in my mind in times like this."

Contributing to this story was Celine Klosterman in Davenport.
Beginning Experience

Program helps those who deal with loss

The Angelus

It is a sad reality that every marriage ends, leaving one spouse behind, aside, devastated. Interrupted by death or torn by divorce, a shattered union thrusts people into the trauma and turmoil of grief. Your life is forever changed and turned upside down when either of these events happens. How do you cope? How can you go on living? Where can you turn for help during this transition? Beginning Experience is a weekend retreat designed to help you find your way and learn to live again. Grief is an ugly byproduct of a spouse through death, divorce or separation; please come join us for the weekend.

One widow described it like this — “As a widow of seven years, I was skeptical about going to Beginning Experience. I felt no one would understand my pain. The weekend literally saved my life. I found the peace I so longed for.” The team that leads the weekend has been through this journey themselves, so they can relate to how you are feeling and share their successes with you, guiding you forward towards a better tomorrow. A weekend away for a lifetime of change is the phrase used to describe how people who have attended the pro-life movement after the first march in 1974. Gray, a Texas native, established the March for Life Education & Defense Fund to sustain it.

Each year in her remarks, Gray exhorted pro-lifers to promote and adhere to a series of “life principles” that would eliminate abortion and enhance life, to which she said there should be “no exception! No compromise!” Ruane, an administrative assistant with the March for Life, told Catholic News Service Aug. 14 that leadership of the organization would be assumed by Terrence Scanlon, who has been its vice president “since the beginning.”

Funeral information was not immediately available. Gray was a member of St. Mary, Mother of God Parish in Washington. Born June 25, 1926, in Texas, Gray served as a corporal in the Women’s Army Corps during World War II. She later earned a bachelor’s degree in business and a master’s in economics. She worked for the federal government for 28 years at the State Department and the Department of Labor, while attending Georgetown University Law School. Gray later practiced law before the U.S. Supreme Court.

In a 2010 profile, Gray said she wasn’t Catholic as a child, but “I had elements of the Catholic faith in my life.” As a young woman, she encountered a priest who brought to light what the Catholic Church was about, and he tutored her until she joined the church.

PP’s legal drugs meant to be lethal

By Bishop Michael Pfleger

Some have heard in the past, and many more need to know today, about the cause of the death of Holly Patterson who sadly died from legal drug use. Holly was pregnant, and shortly after turning eighteen, went to Planned Parenthood (PP) clinic for an abortion. She was given deadly pills that led to her death a few days later.

Holly died from the FDA approved pills dispensed from Planned Parenthood. The first is Mifepristone, known as RU-486, designed to kill an unborn baby. The second drug, Misoprostol, is designed to expel the dead baby. The two deadly pills are routinely prescribed by Planned Parenthood as alternatives to surgical abortion.

In April, 2011, the FDA quietly issued a report about the complications from these drugs dispensed by Planned Parenthood. The report only reveals the tip of the iceberg. The FDA reported 2,207 adverse events, 612 of which required hospitalization. The FDA reported 14 US deaths, and 5 additional deaths in foreign countries.

Of course, statistics don’t tell the full story. No one at Planned Parenthood told Abby Johnson, a former manager of PP about the agonizing labor or the eight weeks of blood clots, nausea, heavy bleeding and excruciating cramps to come. But at least she lived to tell her story, which she is doing loudly, and far and wide.

With all these excruciating problems at Planned Parenthood, politicians should be tripping over themselves in outcry. The FDA should be banning the use of the pill for abortion. Neither is happening. Why? There is an ungodly war being waged on the unborn human life at Planned Parenthood.

WASHINGTON (CNS) — Nellie Gray, who started the annual March for Life to protest the 1973 Supreme Court decision legalizing abortion nationwide, died last month at age 86.

She was found dead in her home Aug. 13 in Washington's Capitol Hill neighborhood by a March for Life staffer, Gene Ruane, who said the medical examiner will determine the cause and date of her death.

The March for Life has grown into one of the signature events of the pro-life movement. After the first march in 1974, Gray, a Texas native, established the March for Life Education & Defense Fund to sustain it.

Each anniversary has been transformative for the thousands of participants who say the March is a turning point. It is a sad reality that every marriage ends, leaving one spouse behind, aside, devastated. Interrupted by death or torn by divorce, a shattered union thrusts people into the trauma and turmoil of grief. Your life is forever changed and turned upside down when either of these events happens. How do you cope? How can you go on living? Where can you turn for help during this transition?

Beginning Experience is a weekend retreat designed to help you find your way and learn to live again. Grief is an ugly byproduct of a spouse through death, divorce or separation; please come join us for the weekend. You are a special person to God and He wants you to become whole again.

Dealing with the things that life presents to us is not always expected and not always easy to understand. One of the local team members describes the events of her life like this: “Three members of my family passed away within a year and then my husband told me he no longer wanted me in his life. I was thinking I should just end my life because I was lost and devastated. I knew I needed help, so I signed up for a Beginning Experience weekend retreat. I found out there was hope and the weekend helped to change my life. I was able to accept God back into my life and now I’m a stronger Catholic. I was able to let go of my husband, my hurt, my hatred, my anger and move on with my life. It was truly a new beginning for me.”

(Please See LOSS/23)
Register to vote now: Your voice is your vote

By Jeffery Patterson
Executive Director
Texas Catholic Conference

It is your turn.
Over the past year, the Church and our bishops have been tirelessly occupied in defending our rights to religious liberty and freedom of speech. Now is the chance for YOU to make good on what that fight has been about; it is time for you to step up and lend your voice to the public debate. What you do -- or do NOT do -- this November 6 can have important consequences for the future.

If you -- or your friends and family -- are not already registered to vote for the Election on November 6, please do so now.

The last day to register to vote is October 9, 2012.
Registering to vote is simple. The Texas Secretary of State’s Office has provided an easy-to-access website that you can use to register online at http://www.votetexas.gov/.

You can also pick up a self-addressed postage paid voter registration application at your library, any government office, or even just download one from the Texas Secretary of State’s website at: webservices.sos.state.tx.us/vrapp/index.asp. Mail the completed form to your county’s voter registrar (you can find yours at www.sos.state.tx.us/elections/voter/votregduties.shtml)

Upon acceptance, your voter registration will be effective 30 days from registration.

You’ll be mailed a voter registration certificate or card with your name, address, and the number of the precinct in which you’ll vote. Check your local newspaper, or call the county voter registrar’s office before the election for the address of the polling place for your precinct and, on election day, arrive there between 7 a.m. and 7 p.m. to cast your ballot. Show your voter registration card or a valid I.D. to the election official, get your ballot, and vote. Depending on the voting options available to you, you’ll be able to vote by paper ballot or, for an electronic voting machine, a number or ballot activator card that enables you to vote on the machine.

The Secretary of State also has iPhone and Android apps which provide information on registration status, dates, statewide races, where to vote, and more. Register to vote, confirm that you are registered, and download the iPhone and Android apps online at the Secretary of State web site: http://votetexas.org/.

I cringe every time I hear someone say that one person’s vote does not count. Obviously they cannot do math. In the 2000 presidential race, the election was so close that it came down to the results of one state, Florida--and even then it was decided by the difference of 537 votes of the 6 million that had been cast nationwide. In most of the contested races for down-ballot races, the margins can be remarkably narrow, and are most often decided by as few as a quarter of all eligible voters.

Cada voto cuenta! En la elección presidencial de 2000, 537 votos en el estado de Florida decidió que ganó la carrera. Las elecciones para otras oficinas tienen menor margen de victoria, y algunos se deciden por solo el 25% de los votantes elegibles.

Tomamos orgullo en nuestra gran nación como un modelo para la democracia y la libertad, y en los sacrificios de nuestras fuerzas armadas para defender y proteger esos principios en el hogar y el mundo. Es una gran tragedia que la mayoría de los estadounidenses son ambivalentes a este fundamento de nuestra democracia - el derecho a votar - y no hagas el corto viaje a ejercer este derecho en sus lugares de votación.

Después de registrarse para votar, pensar sobre los problemas que enfrenta nuestro país y oren por la guía de Dios en la evaluación de las posiciones políticas, las
FAIRS AND FESTIVALS — FALL 2012

SEPTEMBER 9
St. Mary, Star of the Sea-Ballinger
St. Mary, Star of the Sea will have its annual festival on Sunday, Sept. 9. The parish will serve a fajita dinner with all the trimmings. Also, a large auction, a country store, bingo under the tent, carnival games for the children. Activities begin at 10:30 a.m. Meal served until 1 p.m. Auction begins at 12:30 p.m.

SEPTEMBER 16
St. Therese-Carlsbad
Knights of Columbus Hall 3636 N. Bryant, San Angelo
A barbecue brisket/homemade German sausage dinner with all the trimmings will be served from 11 a.m.-2 p.m. Adult and Meals-To-Go: $9; Children 10 and Under: $6. Cooked/Uncooked sausage and barbecue brisket may be purchased in the afternoon. An auction featuring donations from various merchants and parishioners will begin at 1:15 p.m. A Country Store, Silent Auction, Bingo and other games will be available throughout the afternoon. For more info, call St. Therese Catholic Church: 1-325-465-8062.

SEPTEMBER 29
St. Ann’s-Midland
St. Ann’s will host its 64th annual Family Fair and carnival on church grounds, 1906 W. Texas, Saturday, Sept. 29, 10 a.m. till 10 p.m. Additional carnival hours are 6-10 p.m., Sept. 27-28 and 1-6 p.m., Sept. 30. Raffle 1st Prize: 2012 FLHR Road King Harley Davidson Motorcycle (MSRP $17,794.00); 2nd Prize: Dallas Cowboys vs. Cleveland Browns (Nov. 18th), 5 Tickets & Parking Pass (Value $1,775.00); 3rd Prize: $600 gift card to Carter’s Furniture. Non-smoking bingo, arts and crafts, dunking booth, a country store, and the famous odds and ends booth. Some of the great food available: burgers, tacos, fajitas, nachos, quesadillas, turkey legs, funnel cakes and more. For more information, please call 432-682-6303. The Family Fair benefits St. Ann’s School.

SEPTEMBER 30
Immaculate Conception Festival 2012 Knickerbocker
MESQUITE COOKED BRISKET SAUSAGE PLATE with all the trimmings
Serve from 11 a.m. – 2 p.m.
Adults $8  Children (12 & under) $5
Music by the Old Hat Band
Raffle – Games & More
Live Auction begins at 1 p.m.

OCTOBER 5
St. Francis-Abilene
St. Francis Annual Jamaica will be held Friday, October 5th, 5-11pm and Saturday, October 6th, 11 am -11pm.

OCTOBER 7
St. Patrick’s-Brady
Ed Davenport Civic Center
There will be a turkey & dressing meal with all the trimmings served from 11:00-2:00 Price $8 a plate. Take outs available. Daily Events consists of Silent Auction, Country Store, cake walk, BINGO, Large Auction, & outdoor kids games. Win a 2012 Ford Supercrew XLT & other prizes. Tickets are $100 each. For more information or to buy a ticket, contact the church office 432-646-1415. St. Mary’s 2012 Fall Festival thanks you for your participation.

OCTOBER 7
St. Mary’s-Brownwood
2012 St. Mary’s Fall Festival & Car Show St. Mary Queen of Peace Catholic Church 1103 Main Street
Car Show Classifications
— Best Muscle Car – Best Car Pre-1960 – Best Car 1961 and Up
— Best In Progress – Best Paint – Best Motorcycle – Best Interior— Best Pre-60 Truck – Best 60 & Up Truck - Best Orphan Class
Plaques awarded for each classification — trophy awarded for Best of Show and People’s Choice (Sponsored by Bruner Auto Group) $100.00 Entry Fee****
Raffle Ticket will be given to each entrant. Raffle Prizes:
1st - $1,000 for a Vacation Air/Hotel package or Cruise (First Travel Service);
2nd – Ipod2 16GB (Black);
3rd – Sony Camcorder (Blue) with 16 GB Card
4th – $150.00 Nathan’s Jeweler’s Certificate for Merchandise
Check-In Time is 10:00 AM***Judging will be at 1:30 PM.
Bring your own awning, lawn-chairs and join us for a great day of fun and food.
Festival food booths, something for everyone, live auction among other prizes, Silent Auction, Cake Walk, Country store, children’s youth activities.
For more information contact Frank Bernal (325) 646-1415.
St. Mary’s 2012 Fall Festival thanks you for your participation.

OCTOBER 7
St. Margaret of Scotland
San Angelo
St. Margaret of Scotland Catholic Church will be having their fall festival on Sunday, Oct. 7, 2012 at Knights of Columbus Hall (3636 N. Bryant). We will have a delicious brisket dinner being served from 11:00 a.m. until 2:00 p.m. for only $8.00 per adult plate and $5.00 per child plate. We will also have drive thru plates to go at $8.00 each. The Festival will run from 11:00 a.m. until 4:00 p.m. with activities such as a raffle, auction, country store, silent auction and new and exciting games for all ages and much more. Come and join us for a day of family fun and fellowship. FMI contact St. Margaret’s 651-4633

OCTOBER 14
St. Boniface-Offen
Featuring homemade sausage (made in Offen by Parishioners)
11:00 - 1:30 — Dining Room lunch meal
10:45 - 1:00 - Drive through Plates-To-Go and Walk-up Plates-To-Go
12:00 p.m. Games, Bingo, Country Store and Concessions
1:00 pm - Auction
3:00 p.m. - Candy Drop for the kids
Raffle tickets available for Quilt made by Parish Ladies
Sausage/Turkey/ Dressing meal $8.00 for adults & $5.00 for children under 10 years
All plates-to-go $8.00
Raw sausage $4.00 per pound
Pre-orders for raw sausage - mail order and payment to St. Boniface Sausage 2817 Briargrove San Angelo, TX. 76904 (pick up day of festival)

OCTOBER 20
St. Ann’s Parish Colorado-City

OCTOBER 21
St. Ambrose, Wall
HOME ON THE RANGE ST. AMBROSE 73RD FALL FESTIVAL 11 am-2 pm
Turkey, Sausage & Dressing Meal, 1:00 pm
Local Entertainment, Bingo, Arts & Crafts, Games
1:30 pm Cotton & Merchandise Auction

OCTOBER 21
Sacred Heart, Coleman

OCTOBER 28
St. Catholic Church-Sonora
All activities will be at the Sutton Co. Civic Center, 1700 N. Crockett Ave. From 11:00 am until 1:30 pm, a delicious meal of brisket and sausage, with all the trimmings; home-made desserts will be served. Adults plates—$8 Plates for children 7 and under—$5. Plates to go available.
Games, activities, book silent auction from 11 am-4 pm. Entertainment during the afternoon. Drawings for the raffle and quilts at 4:00 pm. FMI contact the church office 325-387-2278.

NOVEMBER 11
St. Joseph Church-Rowena
90th Annual Fall Festival "Land of the Free Because of the Brave" 10:30a.m. — Flag Ceremony and Balloon Release. Special display of military pictures of parish veterans.
11 a.m. - 1:30 p.m. - Turkey and Rowena Style German Sausage Dinner with Trimmings. Games for all ages.
Country Story opened all day. Auction begins at 1:30 p.m.
4:30 p.m. Sausage Sandwich Supper

NOVEMBER 18
St. Peter’s Church, Mertzon Community Center
Send your fair information to Jimmyleepatterson@gmail.com.
Film ‘Of Gods and Men’ depicts ultimate answer to violence

By Father Ron Rolheiser, OMI

Last year a French movie was released entitled, "Of Gods and Men" that was described by the New York Times as "perhaps the best movie on Christian commitment ever made."

Based on a true story it tells how, in 1996, an Islamic terrorist group kidnapped a small community of Trappist monks from their remote monastery in Northern Algeria, held them, and eventually killed them. But the movie is about something deeper than these bare facts. It focuses on how each of the monks, ordinary men with no ambitions for martyrdom, had to accept possible martyrdom. Each had his own struggle, and for several of them it was a mammoth one. The film climaxes with a "Last Supper" scene where the camera locks-in on the face of each monk. Each face manifests both joy and agony in that man’s unconscious realization that he is soon to die and yet how, because of what he has already worked through and accepted within his soul, that death will be a triumph.

At one point in the story, just as it was becoming clear to the monks that the political and military violence surrounding them would at some point invade their monastic enclosure, the movie presents us with a very poignant scene. Military helicopters hover over their little village and their monastery, with their propellers sounding ominously like war drums. As this war-beat drowns out most every sound, the monks respond by going to their chapel, putting on their monastic robes, linking arms and chanting gentle songs of trust and praise to God, and we are left staring at the contrast: gentle songs of trust in the face of hovering military hardware. Which of these is more powerful?

That scene is paralleled in the Gospels when they describe the birth of Jesus: A world filled with violence, under the hard military fist of the Roman Empire, is looking for an answer from above. And what is God’s response: A helpless baby asleep in the straw. How will this baby ultimately triumph? How do gentleness and meekness inherit the earth?

This may strain the logic somewhat, but Jesus hints at an answer to that question in his response to his disciples when they ask why they do not have the power to cast out certain demons, when Jesus can cast them out. Jesus’ answer is metaphorical but deep. He replies, in essence, that “demons” are cast out not through a superior cultic power, but through a superior moral power, namely, by the power that is created inside someone when he or she sufficiently nurtures a deep private integrity, graciousness, love, innocence, and gentleness, and holds these in fidelity in the face of all temptation, including violence. Nurturing these things inside oneself connects a person to the ultimate source of all Being, the Ultimate Power, the power that Jesus called his "Father". And this power, and this power alone, ultimately stands; everything else, including the most sophisticated military hardware eventually gives way to age, rust, obsolescence, and death. The helicopters that hovered above those chanting monks now lie in junkyards, the monks’ chant goes on.

That isn’t easy to accept. The perennial temptation is to try to defeat violence with a morally superior violence, the kind we see at the end of cathartic movies where the hero outsights the bad guys by displaying more muscle, firepower, and accuracy than they did. The demon is then cast out by a superior violence. But that is not the way of Jesus or of the Gospels; nor was it the way of those martyred Trappist monks in Algeria.

In the face of impending violence, our first action should not be an attempt to marshal a superior violence. No. Like those martyred monks, we are meant to link arms and sing songs of love and trust. Or, to vary the image, like the three young men in the Book of Daniel, we are meant to sing sacred songs, even as we are walking amid flames seven times hotter than usual.

To accept this response to violence does not, in se, rule out the possibility of morally justified self-defense or the possibility of a just-war. The world is complex, morality is complex, and we are not always at the same place within our lives, within our faith, and within our trust in God. One size doesn’t fit all. And, in "Of Gods and Men", each monk had to make his own agonizing decision apposite to meeting violence. So too for each of us.

This is not a criterion for all moral decisions about self-defense and war (though, irrespective of circumstance, we should ever live with the maxim that violence always begets more violence) but an invitation, an invitation to begin more to cultivate within ourselves the kind of "prayer and fasting" that casts out all demons, including violence. The invitation is to begin to nurture within a deep private integrity, graciousness, love, innocence, and gentleness, and hold these in fidelity in the face of all temptation, including violence.

Oblate Father Ron Rolheiser, theologian, teacher, and award-winning author, is President of the Oblate School of Theology in San Antonio, TX. He can be contacted through his website www.ronrolheiser.com.

Learn your limits before the busiest time of year begins

By Maureen Pratt
Catholic News Service

It's coming, one of the busiest times of the year. It starts with back to school, back from vacation, then back-to-back holidays. Activities pile on as the last months of the year fly by.

But, if you live with a health challenge, or care for someone who does, the events of the coming weeks and months pose a particularly difficult question: Is it OK to say “no” to someone or something needing your help or asking for your participation?

The answer is “yes.” Learning when and how to pull back on the number of commitments, especially those that accumulate in the fall and winter months, can directly impact how well your health fares.

You don't want to sit on the sidelines throughout festivities unique to Christmas, and you don't want to have to neglect crucial responsibilities. But, as hard as it may be, one of the most important things to keep in mind is that the healthier you are, the better off you will be and the more you will enjoy and take part in those things that are dear to you and your loved ones.

One of the first things to do before your schedule becomes hectic is to evaluate your current health. Are you in a flare? Have you recently changed medications or treatments and are unsure how these will impact your energy? Are you up to date on your doctors' appointments, flu shot and other vaccinations? Are you sleeping well, getting enough exercise, and maintaining a healthy diet? Take care of any pending health issues now so you can weather the coming spate of activity.

Once you've evaluated your health, look at the calendar and the commitments scheduled. Which ones are absolutely necessary? Are they spaced out enough so that you will be able to have some recovery time in between? If you plan to travel during holidays, do you have enough time before you leave and when you come back to rest?

If you are a caregiver, do you have backup support in case you become ill, and have you set aside time for yourself so that you avoid burning out when you might be most needed? If the holiday season brings out the worst in a family member or friend's personality, can you find a way to minimize your exposure to them, or avoid them? One of the keys to keeping your health steady is minimizing stress -- doing so at holiday time is no exception.

Saying “no” does not necessarily mean sitting on the sidelines. For example, if you are part of a liturgy committee, you know that the holidays are especially busy. Let others know in advance that you cannot do it all, but ask for one or two activities that you can help with and not undermine your health.

If you feel that cross-country travel to attend a traditional holiday gathering would be too taxing, perhaps "attend" via Internet video streaming services. If you travel, make contingency plans in case you fall ill, including purchasing trip cancellation insurance. If health-related expenses have been high this year, start now to think creatively about low-cost gifts you can give, rather than incurring unnecessary debt.

Learning how and when to say “no” is an important part of living with a chronic illness. Those who truly care will understand that by saying "no" once in a while, you will be more able to say, wholeheartedly, "yes."
A knock at the door led to a path of service to others

By Carolyn Woo
Catholic News Service

I wouldn't realize it for years, but a knock on my door almost a decade ago was going to change my life in fundamental ways. The knock came from Ken Hackett. The door was to my office as dean of the Mendoza College of Business at the University of Notre Dame in Indiana. Ken was president of Catholic Relief Services, which was about to put lay members on its board for the first time. He was recruiting me.

I had always believed in the organization's mission to serve the poor and most vulnerable. Since I grew up in Hong Kong and was influenced by Catholics from the United States -- the Maryknoll Sisters who educated me intellectually and spiritually -- I felt it was a mission I should be part of. I didn't know that a decade later, I would be president of CRS.

We often don't understand how God has been at work in our lives until we look back and see the path we have taken.

I’ve witnessed tsunami relief in Indonesia and India and have come to understand the tremendous work the Catholic community in the United States is doing for the poor of the world.

I had a wonderful position at Notre Dame, the culmination of a career in business education that began when I left Hong Kong for Purdue University as a teenager. I was happy to help CRS search for a new leader when Ken decided to retire after 17 years at the helm. But I was uncertain what I would say when I was asked to apply for his job. After prayerful deliberation, I said I would be open to the possibility.

I miss Notre Dame. I miss the students and many wonderful friends and colleagues. But I have no regrets. I know this is the path God has chosen for me.

Some might be surprised to see the dean of business school move into the humanitarian field. Many think of aid work only as responding to emergencies, handing out needed items -- food, water, medicine, shelter supplies -- to those devastated by an earthquake, a flood, a drought. That work is important, but we do so much more.

So much of development work is harnessing the power of business to help the poor. It is crucial to link the poor to markets, but also to equip them for success with access to knowledge, appropriate technology and capital as well as good education, health and nutrition. We understand this is the kind of development that will generate sustainable improvements.

Pope Benedict XVI reminds us in his encyclical, “Caritas in Veritate,” that potential and responsibility exist but that these can only be brought forth through the moral energies of leaders.

As I begin the first of what I hope will be many monthly columns, there are many global issues we can explore, from fighting poverty to building peace to being bearers or heralds of the new evangelization.

Along the way, there is one thing I would like to change: that CRS will no longer be, as so many call it, "the best kept secret" of the Catholic Church in America.

Carolyn Y. Woo is the president and CEO of Catholic Relief Services, the official international humanitarian agency of the Catholic community in the United States.

Finding divine understanding in drought’s lessons

By Father Eugene Hemrick
Catholic News Service

Humans are making great efforts to meet the demands of our growing world. Many driving forces are at work. To succeed, however, the main driving force must be fear of the Lord.

--- Father Eugene Hemrick

Remind that we must never take abundance for granted. In a mysterious way, it should encourage us to recall the mystery of life. It symbolizes the sense of reverence and gratitude for the majesty of God at work on the Earth.
Making Sense of Bioethics

Loving those with disabilities

By Father Tad Pacholczyk

Many of us have hidden fears and hesitations when it comes to dealing with persons with severe disabilities. Their unfamiliar gestures, behaviors, and limitations can challenge us and infringe on our comfort zones. We may be tempted to apply a different standard when we deal with them. Even very young children with disabilities may suffer discrimination through denial of care as newborns, or through abortion in utero.

During his presidential campaign, former Pennsylvania Senator Rick Santorum and his wife Karen were often asked by people on the campaign trail about their daughter Bella, who was born with Trisomy 18, a severe genetic defect caused by an extra chromosome. Such children tend to have shorter lifespans, with 90% dying during the first year of life. Nevertheless, with proper care, some can live well into their teens, and even into their 20’s or 30’s. Bella became known to the public during her father’s candidacy in part because of several memorable moments during the TV debates where Rick powerfully described how Bella’s birth and struggles had impacted their family.

Early on, Rick and Karen struggled with the Trisomy 18 diagnosis, and with the way physicians labeled it a “lethal diagnosis” and “incompatible with life.” Because they had already lost another child at birth, Rick, almost unconsciously, remained emotionally distant from Bella during the first few months of her life. He focused on being the pillar of strength for the family through the storm. He later described it during one of the public presidential debates this way: “I decided that the best thing I could do was to treat her differently and not love her… because it wouldn’t hurt as much if I lost her.”

Several years prior to Bella’s birth, Rick had sponsored the partial-birth abortion ban in Congress. He had spent long hours on the Senate floor lobbying to protect children who were discovered to have “problems” before birth, rather than allowing them to be targeted for late-term abortions.

When Bella was 5 months old, she became critically ill and was rushed to the emergency room. Rick grasped her little finger on the gurney where she was lying. “I remember holding that finger,” he said, “and looking at her, and realizing what I had done. I had been exactly what I had said that I had fought against at the partial birth abortion [hearings]: I had seen her as less of a person because of her disability.”

His candor is a reminder of the challenges we all face in caring for and loving those with disabilities and physical limitations. Having learned many valuable lessons from their daughter, Rick and Karen now serve as even more vigorous advocates for children with disabilities. They realized they had to immerse themselves in the world of special needs, which Rick described as “a different world,” and one where children like Bella “do not get the care they need unless the parents fight for it.”

I recently had the opportunity to meet Rick and Karen. Karen described how Bella’s situation was exacerbated by health care professionals who would not treat her with the same dignity and respect as normal children. Surprisingly, some doctors did not even address Bella by her name. Rick and Karen soon found an exceptional team of physicians who not only called Bella by her name, but were hopeful and positive about her life and possibilities.

Karen also mentioned another couple with a child affected by Trisomy 18. They had been told after delivery that little could be done for their newborn, and the child was placed off to the side, until one of the parents noticed her struggling and sought assistance for her. Other parents spoke to Karen about the subtle but noticeable resistance among medical staff whenever they brought their child with Trisomy 18 to the hospital for medical attention. The Santorums had experienced similar challenges with caregivers and medical staff. They had to fight to get the prescription for oxygen, and basic medical supplies, that Bella needed after she left the hospital; in addition, a hospice physician prescribed what would have likely been, if administered, a lethal dose of morphine.

Discrimination against those with disabilities should never be allowed to gain a foothold in the medical profession, nor be allowed to guide public policy. The true measure of the greatness of a society will always be in terms of how it treats its weakest members, and the authenticity of our own love will be measured by our compassion and acceptance of the disabled and the powerless. God seems to send us children with disabilities to help us grow, to remind us that every soul is of greater importance than its frail body, and to teach us how man’s highest calling is found in his God-like possibility of sharing unconditional love.

Rev. Tadeusz Pacholczyk, Ph.D. earned his doctorate in neuroscience from Yale and did post-doctoral work at Harvard. He is a priest of the diocese of Fall River, MA, and serves as the Director of Education at The National Catholic Bioethics Center in Philadelphia. See www.ncbcenter.org

‘We have reasons to choose abstinence as a way of life’

(I share with you here the thoughts and reflections from the letter that was sent to me by the Confirmation Class of 2012 of Holy Redeemer parish in Odessa, Texas. I had the joy of celebrating Confirmation with these fine young Catholic youth on April 20, 2012. --Bishop Michael D. Pfeifer, OMI)

By the 2012 Confirmation Class
Holy Redeemer Church, Odessa

Our thoughts and reflections on your letter on chastity:

We found your letter on chastity quite intriguing. As teenagers we constantly hear that we have to be abstinent and that’s just the way it has to be. After reading and discussing your letter, we are glad to have learned many things and actually have reasons to choose abstinence as a way of life with positive consequences and outcomes.

Being teenagers in today’s society is a challenge. We are surrounded by media that revolves round the idea that sex is a casual activity and should be experienced liberally, not responsibly by all. Pop culture and the need to fit in coax your youth into making poor choices with their sexuality. We wholeheartedly agree with your statements supporting the need to fit in coax your youth into making poor choices with their sexuality. We wholeheartedly agree with your statements supporting the use of sex as a way of life with positive consequences and outcomes.

Regardless of the mistakes we may have made or make, it is comforting to know that faith and trust in our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ will guide us and help us to build fulfilling relationships.”

-- Holy Redeemer Confirmation Class

Respectfully,

Holy Redeemer Church
2012 Confirmation Class
Odessa, Texas
God particle discovery may give clues to how universe is structured

By Most Rev. Michael D. Pfeifer
Bishop of San Angelo

The apparent discovery of a new subatomic particle, commonly called the “God particle,” could provide a key to scientifically explaining the universe’s hidden structure, by also giving clues about its Creator.

The new particle, called a Higgs-Boson, named after Higgs [a British researcher] could theoretically explain why there is mass in the universe, though researchers caution that more scientific experimentation is needed.

Msgr. Lorenzo Albaced, a trained physicist and theologian, states that the apparent discovery will prove to be significant even if later findings force science to re-think their understanding of the universe.

Physicists, who refer to the God particle, have reached their temporary conclusion after analyzing results from the Large Hadron Collider, a large particle accelerator that collides protons, partially recreating the conditions that apparently would have immediately followed the “Big Bang,” the scientific theory of how the universe began.

Apart from the abstract highly technical scientific theory about this new discovery, is the question of what theological understanding does this give us of God’s Creation? Our faith understanding is not primarily about what happened at the Big Bang, but what is happening now, as we see the ongoing new creation in our universe at every moment of our lives. However, it is one thing to ask how the universe is structured and how it operates. However, it is all together different to ask why is the universe a real universe at all? This is the question that the doctrine of Creation answers. God creates in the sense that God causes the universe to have being, and this makes the universe real. Physics has nothing to say about this, but tries to learn about how all of this happened. Science can only go so far in its research and theory as regards how the universe happens, but the why of creation lies ultimately in the loving will of God.

Some scientists seem to dislike the term “God particle” because they do not want to admit the limits of their research and how religion takes us a step further in explaining why this all happened and to whom it is attributed.

The new discovery of the elementary particle throws light on the mysterious beginnings that has always intrigued and challenged the human heart and mind.

As science continues to look for answers about how the universe came into being and what caused it, as believers we believe that God works with elegance and beauty in a way that cannot be fully understood by our human reason. The universe, like its Creator, is still far beyond the understanding of our mere human minds. The first line of the first Book of the Bible makes us ponder the magnitude and greatness of our God—“In the beginning...God created the heavens and the earth.”

The New Evangelization

Jesus gave each believer and the community of believers a great commission: “Go therefore and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, and teaching them to obey everything that I have commanded you. And remember, I am with you always, to the end of the age.” (Mt 28:19-20)

As we celebrate the 50th anniversary of the beginning of Vatican Council II (our 21st ecumenical council), we recall that it declared unambiguously the reality that you and I are the Church. We have come to understand that the family is “the basic Church” and community of believers. Therefore, in order for our Church to grow into God’s marvelous Light, our basic Church must be nourished and supported in this great commission.

Throughout these two millennia, our Church has sought to fulfill this commission and it has learned that the best and most effective way to evangelize is by welcoming people. And, we need to do better at welcoming people...especially within our families.

Ten years after Vatican Council II, Pope Paul VI issued his apostolic exhortation entitled Evangelii Nuntiandi. The Pope wrote that our words of proclaiming the good news of salvation matter in the world. In paragraph 28, Pope Paul VI writes that each of us is to preach “...and this is always urgent — of the search for God Himself through prayer which is principally that of adoration and thanksgiving, but also through communion with the visible sign of the encounter with God which is the Church of Jesus Christ....”

In 1990, Blessed John Paul II continued this holy mission when he wrote an encyclical entitled Redemptoris Missio. It begins, “The mission of Christ the Redeemer, which is entrusted to the Church, is still very far from completion.” Blessed John Paul II proclaimed that now is the time for a new evangelization and he identified three specific groups of people whom we need to welcome: (1) those who have never heard the Gospel, (2) those who are present in Christian communities, and (3) those members of Christian communities who “have lost a living sense of the faith, or even no longer consider themselves members of the Church.”

In his recent Porta Fidei, Pope Benedict XVI has taken up this same great commission by declaring October 11 as the beginning of the Year of Faith throughout our Church. Pope Benedict XVI calls you and me to return to our central duty. He states clearly that we are to evangelize within our modern culture by confronting the cultural crisis brought on by secularization.

To this same end, the United States Conference of Catholic Bishops issued recently a resource entitled Disciples Called to Witness: The New Evangelization. It reminds each of us of our great commission within the context of welcoming others. It states, “How often do we fail to realize that we are called to be Christ’s witnesses to the world? Do we realize that our Baptism, Confirmation, and reception of the Eucharist bestow on us the grace we need to be disciples? Are we like the disciples staring at the sky rather than inviting those around us to experience Christ’s love and mercy through the Church? How often do we reach out to our missing brothers and sisters by inviting them to join us at Mass or by asking why they no longer feel welcomed at the Lord’s Table? The answers to these questions underlie the evangelizing mission of the Church, especially in the call of the New Evangelization.”

Bishop Pfeifer has stressed that Family Life and Marriage is the number one priority of our Diocese. There is no better place to begin evangelizing and...
WWII influenced Sister Imelda, who has been a Carmelite for 66 years

By Jimmy Patterson

Editor

SCHLEICHER COUNTY — Sister Imelda is still startled when a storm rolls through rural Schleicher County, where she lives with four other sisters in a cloistered community of Carmelite nuns. The wind causes the chapel doors to rattle, bringing to mind her childhood days spent on a tugboat in the Gulf of Mexico, where her father and uncles worked — until days spent on a tugboat in the Gulf of Mexico, where her father and uncles worked — until 1943, when the war, the world was a different place.

Sister Imelda will soon celebrate the 66th anniversary of her sacred vows as a Carmelite nun. "I knew there were a lot of bad things going on across the ocean," Sister Imelda says. "And I really was too young to comprehend about war. The world was a very different place." That's why she took the vow of poverty, which means she can't change the chance to make them nearly as much as people think. She added, "And not only to people not of the faith, but to each other. Not a lot of people get to name themselves. Call it a perk of the vocation. When Carmelites enter monasteries as novices, one of the privileges they are given is to name themselves after a saint that has led them in life."

The five sisters at the convent near Christoval — Sisters Mary Grace, Mary Michael, Maria Stella and Mary Theodore Theresa — have all shown their devotion to the holy life they live by giving house to saints important to them. Recently, they explained why they chose the names they now have.

Sister Maria Grace, "I really liked my birth name, which was Judith and so for quite awhile I thought I would go to Sister Judith Marie of the Trinity. That was in my pre-Carmel days. But Mary Grace of the Eucharist summed up my whole life. Grace has always been a part of my life, and I wouldn't have met Carmel if it wasn't for Mary." Sister Mary Grace "I really liked my birth name, which was Judith and so for quite awhile I thought I would go to Sister Judith Marie of the Trinity. That was in my pre-Carmel days. But Mary Grace of the Eucharist summed up my whole life. Grace has always been a part of my life, and I wouldn't have met Carmel if it wasn't for Mary." Sister Mary Theodore Theresa of the Holy Family, "I really liked my birth name, which was Judith and so for quite awhile I thought I would go to Sister Judith Marie of the Trinity. That was in my pre-Carmel days. But Mary Grace of the Eucharist summed up my whole life. Grace has always been a part of my life, and I wouldn't have met Carmel if it wasn't for Mary."

Sister Imelda only became more and more convinced that the life of a Carmelite sister was the life she was meant for. "I really admired that World War II had a huge impact on her life and even on her decision to join the Carmelites. "I knew there were a lot of bad things going on across the ocean," Sister Imelda says. "And I really was too young to comprehend about war. The world was a very different place." That's why she took the vow of poverty, which means she can't change the chance to make them nearly as much as people think. She added, "And not only to people not of the faith, but to each other. Not a lot of people get to name themselves. Call it a perk of the vocation. When Carmelites enter monasteries as novices, one of the privileges they are given is to name themselves after a saint that has led them in life."

The five sisters at the convent near Christoval — Sisters Mary Grace, Mary Michael, Maria Stella and Mary Theodore Theresa — have all shown their devotion to the holy life they live by giving house to saints important to them. Recently, they explained why they chose the names they now have.

Sister Maria Grace, "I really liked my birth name, which was Judith and so for quite awhile I thought I would go to Sister Judith Marie of the Trinity. That was in my pre-Carmel days. But Mary Grace of the Eucharist summed up my whole life. Grace has always been a part of my life, and I wouldn't have met Carmel if it wasn't for Mary." Sister Mary Theodore Theresa of the Holy Family, "I really liked my birth name, which was Judith and so for quite awhile I thought I would go to Sister Judith Marie of the Trinity. That was in my pre-Carmel days. But Mary Grace of the Eucharist summed up my whole life. Grace has always been a part of my life, and I wouldn't have met Carmel if it wasn't for Mary."
John Paul II: Care to family must be given

(Taken from Pope John Paul II's apostolic letter at the close of the Jubilee of the Year 2000):

“At a time in history like the present, special attention must also be given to the pastoral care of the family, particularly when this fundamental institution is experiencing a radical and widespread crisis. In the Christian view of marriage, the relationship between a man and a woman — a mutual and total bond, unique and indissoluble — is part of God's original plan, obscured throughout history by our 'hardness of heart', but which Christ came to restore to its pristine splendour, disclosing what had been God's will "from the beginning" (Mt 19:8). Raised to the dignity of a Sacrament, marriage expresses the "great mystery" of Christ's nuptial love for his Church (cf. Eph 5:32).

On this point the Church cannot yield to cultural pressures, no matter how widespread and even militant they may be. Instead, it is necessary to ensure that through an ever more complete Gospel formation Christian families show convincingly that it is possible to live marriage fully in keeping with God's plan and with the true good of the human person — of the spouses, and of the children who are more fragile. Families themselves must become increasingly conscious of the care due to children, and play an active role in the Church and in society in safeguarding their rights.”

Heeding the lessons of life and death

By Bill and Monica Dodds
Catholic News Service

We know we aren't the first couple, the first family, to face this, or to deal with it daily as the days slip by much too quickly. We know that "a year at most" can mean much less than 12 months. We know that 38 years of a truly happy and blessed marriage aren't enough, but they're more than many are given. In a happy marriage, there are never enough years.

It would be a lie to say we're never afraid, never angry, never grumpy, never overwhelmed. (Christ's perfect faith didn't take away his agony in the garden of Gethsemane.) Most simply, we've fallen into a pattern of laugh, cry, pray, repeat.

We have newfound compassion for families who lose a loved one suddenly, for those who aren't given weeks or months to prepare, for those whose illnesses and needs drag on and on. We think especially of families with a loved one who has dementia, who is still there but, in many ways, not there, for those who are facing a physically painful death.

It seems that in Monica's case there may be no pain, just greater and greater fatigue.

We have no doubt that the prayers of so many people, many we've never met, are making a tremendous difference in this final time. So, too, are the Eucharist and the anointing of the sick. In God's mysterious ways, we owe a debt of gratitude to Catholic News Service and the Catholic press.

Twenty years ago, CNS editor David Gibson asked us to write a monthly column titled "Your Aging Parent." That led to two books and the founding of the Friends of St. John the Caregiver. For two decades, God was preparing the two of us to be a caregiver and a care-receiver.

That work will continue, as will the CNS family column and the editing of My Daily Visitor magazine. We've been so fortunate to work together on those three projects, those ministries, for so many years, to raise three children, now in their 30s, and enjoy the delightful company of two grandchildren.

We thank you so much for your concern and your prayers. Be assured that we're praying for you. We promise to continue those prayers in this world and in the world to come.

Bill and Monica Dodds can be contacted at BillandMonica@BillDodds.com. Their website is www.BillDodds.com.

Spirituality for Today

We are all one bad decision away from losing it all

By Erick Rommel
Catholic News Service

It's nice to help a person in need, especially if that person is in the military. On July 20, Kenny Britt drove a female soldier to Fort Campbell, Ky. They were stopped at a security gate. Rather than being allowed to proceed, police were called to arrest Britt and he was charged with DUI.

Brett is a member of the NFL's Tennessee Titans. The arrest marked the 23-year-old's eighth run-in with the law since the team named him its first-round draft pick in 2009.

One week earlier, on July 14, the California Highway Patrol arrested Marshawn Lynch for suspicion of DUI.

Through his team, the Seattle Seahawks, the 26-year-old apologized for the negative attention caused by his actions. It's not the first time he has faced legal difficulty. In 2008, he lost his driver's license after hitting a woman and driving away from the scene of the accident. A year later, the NFL suspended him three games after he pleaded guilty to a misdemeanor gun charge.

In July, police also arrested another former first-round draft pick. They charged St. Louis Rams defensive end Robert Quinn with DWI after he crashed his car on the exit ramp of an interstate on July 10.

These are just three of the almost 30 arrests of NFL players that have taken place since the New York Giants won Super Bowl XLVI Feb. 5. Whether you think athletes and celebrities should be role models, the truth is that they are in the public eye. Arrests like these give fans a skewed perspective into their lives.

Regardless of how their off-season problems affect their on-field performance, Britt, Lynch and Quinn are all financially set. If they spend wisely, they can live off the money they've earned playing football for the rest of their lives.

Detroit Lions' cornerback Aaron Berry plays in the same league, but doesn't earn the same money. He wasn't drafted in the first round. He wasn't drafted at all. He went undrafted and earned a spot on a team through hard work and effort. Last year, he earned slightly more than the NFL's league minimum.

At just under $500,000 a year, that's a lot of money, but not enough to leave him set for life.

Sadly, Berry is about to discover that firsthand. On July 23, the Lions cut him from the team after two arrests in less than a month, one for simple assault and the other for suspicion of DUI.

(Please See ROMMEL/22)
Joshua, people vow to follow God

By Joe Sarnicola

Joshua called a meeting of all of the elders, leaders, judges and officers of Israel. They came and stood together before the Lord, and Joshua reminded them how God had blessed Abraham and his descendants and also the children of Jacob and Esau. He also reminded them how God had delivered them out of the control of the Egyptians.

Quoting the words the Lord had given to him, Joshua said, “I brought you into the land of the Amorites who lived east of the Jordan. They fought against you, but I delivered them into your power. You took possession of their land, and I destroyed them at your approach.”

One of the most important messages God wanted Joshua to give to the people of Israel was that some of them may have forsaken the God who had delivered them and were serving false gods. “Now, therefore,” Joshua continued, “fear the Lord and serve him completely and sincerely. Cast out the gods your ancestors served beyond the river and in Egypt, and serve the Lord.”

Joshua did not ask his people to do any more than he would do himself. He had led them by obeying the Lord and by setting an example of trusting the Lord. “If it is displeasing to you to serve the Lord,” he said, “choose today whom you will serve, the gods your ancestors served beyond the river or the gods of the Amorites in whose country you are dwelling. As for me and my household, we will serve the Lord.”

The people answered Joshua. “Far be it from us to forsake the Lord to serve other gods. For it was the Lord, our God, who brought us and our ancestors up out of the land of Egypt, out of the house of slavery. He performed those great signs before our very eyes and protected us along our entire journey and among all the peoples through whom we passed. At our approach the Lord drove out all the peoples, including the Amorites who dwell in the land. Therefore we also will serve the Lord, for he is our God.”

Joshua made a covenant with the people and he set up a large stone in the sanctuary of the Lord. “This stone shall be our witness,” he said, “for it has heard all the words which the Lord spoke to us.”

READ MORE ABOUT IT:
Joshua 24
Q&A

1. Why did Joshua call the people together?
2. Who did the people say they would serve?

BIBLE ACCENT

After the Lord had delivered the people of Israel out of the slavery of Egypt, they wandered in the desert for the next 40 years. They finally reached their destination, which is often called “the Promised Land,” a fertile land that would be theirs to farm and live, where they could raise their families.

The Israelites did not just settle down and start their new homes; they had to fight off enemies and capture the city of Jericho. The exciting story of the battle of Jericho can be found in Joshua 6.

This is a strong example of how obeying God can lead to victory over hardship, even though the people of Israel were not as numerous as their enemies. The account of the death of Joshua in Chapter 24 tells us he was remembered as “a servant of the Lord.” If we obey God, he will consider us his faithful servants, too.

Movie theater shooting raises questions of mortality

By Karen Osborne,
Catholic News Service

Do you want to live forever?
Maybe that’s why our culture likes superheroes so much. Superheroes are immortal. When they get hurt or sick, they heal easily. They’re extremely powerful and heroic. They’re the people we’d want to be if we had their powers -- helping the little guy, rescuing the weak, standing up to evil, and achieving their goals and dreams in spades.

Of course, superheroes don’t have to worry about death when they’re rescuing people in danger. Death is the one thing that makes all humans freak out a little.

When I was a kid, the graveyard behind my grandparents’ house in New Jersey was mostly a place to chase geese and scare my cousin Tommy. When my pets died, my parents used words like “gone to heaven” or “in a better place.”

It wasn’t until my teenage years that I started to really think about what dying meant. I’ll never forget the petrified feeling I had when I looked at my grandmother’s casket, or the awful hollowness I experienced when my friend Tovah died in a car accident. No wonder my parents wanted to protect me.

When you’re a teenager, it’s easy to think of death as something that will never happen to you. After all, you have your entire life in front of you.

It’s easy to shoot people in a video game because you know it’s not real or to drive really fast on dark streets because you think you’ll never be in an accident, to binge drink at a party because a trip to the hospital is something that happens to other people. Right?
Wrong.
That’s why I can’t stop thinking.
Be sure children's school lunches pack a healthy punch, say dietitians

By Catherine McDonough
Catholic News Service

WASHINGTON — If parents want their children to eat healthy, they need to put some time and creativity into packing school lunches and also get their children involved in the process, according to health experts.

Registered dietitian Tracy Bryars said having time to prepare a healthy lunch could be the biggest struggle for parents who want their children to eat healthy.

Although children are often picky about the foods they will eat, Bryars suggests giving them a variety of foods in their lunches, exposing them to as many foods as possible.

Bryars is manager of the Healthy for Life Program at St. Joseph Health in Orange County, Calif., which is a system of health care facilities.

"Expose their taste buds at a young age. Kids can be frightened of trying new foods. Sometimes it takes10-15 times for a kid to like a certain food," she said in a phone interview with Catholic News Service.

As the Healthy Life Program manager, Bryars works to prevent obesity and promote healthy eating.

She urged people think about "the 80-point rule."

"Eighty percent of the time you are eating the nutritional foods that are going to give you vitamins, minerals and protein," she said. "Twenty percent of the time you are eating foods with less nutritional value."

Bryars also urges parents to get their children involved in lunch packing.

Marilyn Frenn, associate professor at Marquette University College of Nursing in Milwaukee, similarly stressed the role children should play in good eating.

She said if children pack their own lunches, they might be "less inclined to swap at school."

She also said children should learn early on about making good choices such as picking vegetables instead of sweets and water or low-fat milk instead of soda.

Bryars and Dr. Josephine Dlugopolski-Gach, assistant professor of Internal Medicine and Pediatrics at Loyola University Medical Center in Chicago, offered the following school lunch ideas:

- Use cookie cutters to make sandwich shapes.
- Pack part of lunch in a thermos such as soup, oatmeal or pasta.
- Use a whole wheat tortilla for sandwich instead of bread.
- Freeze string cheese overnight before packing so it is cold at lunchtime.
- Try different fruits and vegetables such as cantaloupe, nectarines, peas or kale.
- Pretzels, raisins, nuts and dried fruit make great snacks, provided youngsters have no allergies.
- Try to choose foods that are less processed.

But not matter what is packed, the school environment is also an influence, Frenn pointed out.

"Oftentimes it's a struggle for kids to eat healthy because of peer pressure," she said.

Frenn also noted that faculty members can be nutritional role models. She said if a student sees a soda on a teacher's desk, it is a bad example, but "if they see them drinking water and eating healthy food, it's going to have an impact."

Spiritual strength part of Boy Scouts' highest rank, says Eagle Scout

By Daniel Linskey
Catholic News Service

WASHINGTON — For Catholic Eagle Scout Michael Sherburne, achieving the highest rank in the Boy Scouts "is not just about being smart or physically strong, but also spiritually as well."

"That is where the character and values come in," he said.

"Eagles are supposed to be able to stand up (for) their beliefs. We are different from the rest of society and that is not a bad thing," Sherburne said in a telephone interview with Catholic News Service.

The Eagle Scout is the highest rank attainable in the Boy Scouts of America program and it is awarded to Boy Scouts who achieve excellence in service and leadership.

The first Eagle Scout medal was awarded to Arthur Rose Eldred, 17, of Rockville Centre, N.Y., in 1912.

As the Eagle Scouts celebrate their 100th anniversary, a study by Baylor University's Institute for Studies of Religion and Program on Pro-Social Behavior shows the merits of the achievement go beyond the badges.

Byron Johnson, the principal researcher, shared findings of the study with an audience earlier this summer at the Heritage Foundation in Washington.

"Scouting generates social capital as well as spiritual capital," he told his listeners, who included Eagle Scouts of all ages.

"Spiritual capital" refers to the amount of active religious participation of Eagle Scouts.

The study showed that Eagle Scouts are 66 percent more likely than non-Scouts to volunteer time to a religious organization, and 53 percent more likely to donate money to a religious institution.

The requirements for attaining the Eagle Scout rank include earning a minimum of 21 merit badges, demonstrating "Scout Spirit," showing leadership skills, and planning and executing a leadership project.

For Sherburne, 17, that project was creating a meditation garden outside his parish church, St. Mary of Sorrows in Fairfax, Va., in the Diocese of Arlington.

The Catholic Church is one of the largest religious sponsors of Boy Scout troops in the country. Catholic Scouting programs encourage Scouts -- both Boy Scouts and Girl Scouts -- to grow in their faith.

According to the National Catholic Committee on Scouting, the Catholic emblems boys in Scouting can earn include: "Light of Christ," for 6- and 7-year-old Cub Scouts; "Parvuli Dei," for 8- to 10-year-old Cub Scouts; "Ad Altare Dei," 13- and 14-year-old Boy Scouts; "Pope Pius XII," for Boy Scouts 15 years old and older; and "Light is Life," for 12- and 13-year-old Scouts who are members of the Eastern Catholic Churches.
Our Faith

Gleaning the fields for the hungry among us

By Father Peter J. Daly
Catholic News Service

The problem is, how to harvest this food? The youth from the Catholic Heart Work Camp, who have been staying at our parish, came to the rescue. They went out into the fields and "gleaned" them. They picked thousands of pounds of corn and dug up several thousand pounds of potatoes. They also harvested other produce.

After they were done, other teams helped distribute them to more than 200 families in our community through our parish food bank.

They did this in summer heat of more than 100 degrees. The temperature in the fields had to be over 110 on the July days when they harvested the crops. It did not deter the healthy teenagers. They even sang while they worked. They did all of this with cheerfulness and enthusiasm. Everyone was overwhelmed.

They did it for free. All volunteers. They traveled to us from Minnesota, Michigan, Ohio, Pennsylvania, North Carolina, Florida and other parts of Maryland to work.

The farmer who set aside his land for the poor came and gave a testimony at their closing prayer session. He was impressed by the wonderful young people they were. The manager of our food bank talked about how hard they worked and how joyful they were.

These mostly middle-class Catholic kids did not shy away from hard work. It is common for older people to complain about younger people not wanting to work. We have no such complaint with the 250 young people who were at our parish.

What drove them was their love of God and neighbor. St. Paul says that the love of Christ impelled him to preach the Gospel. These young people were preaching the Gospel all week with the most marvelous joy. For a week, our parish was given over to their witness.

In the evenings, when they were cooking dinner, the camp staff also reflected that joy. They had their music cranked up in the kitchen, and the staff danced while they cooked.

Youth are full of energy. Even after a long day of picking corn or digging potatoes in the field, they came home and prayed, danced, sang and celebrated late into the night.

They also had a great desire for meaning. Their work and their skits and prayers showed that they are not far from the kingdom of God. It's amazing what happens when Scripture comes alive. God's grace becomes real. The poor are fed and the good news is preached.

Taking steps to a joyful heart, a gift from God

By Father John Catoir
Catholic News Service

Later this summer, I will spend some time with the deacons of the Diocese of Paterson, N.J., my home diocese. I hope to share material from my books and videos from the past 25 years, including some lessons on joy.

Joy is a gift of the Holy Spirit. It is given freely to anyone who asks, but it needs to be developed through practice the same way a musically gifted person must practice with his or her instrument. To be joyful, you must will it every day.

Here are some thoughts I want to share with them and with you.

› Jesus explained his mission in these words: "I have told you this so that my joy may be in you and your joy may be complete" (Jn 15:11).
› Jesus Christ first directs us to be loving and kind, knowing that joy always follows a loving heart.
› Pope John Paul II restated the same idea: "Christ came to bring joy; joy to children, joy to parents, joy to families and friends, joy to workers and scholars, joy to the sick and elderly, joy to all humanity."
› We are all called to be messengers of joy. The supreme law enables us to do that: Love God with your whole heart, and love your neighbor as you love yourself. In other words, ask God to help you to be a good and decent person, and then learn to be your own best friend.
› Clinging to God, think of others and don't put yourself down. Those who lack the discipline necessary to reject needless fear will not be able to control their emotions. Choose joy over gloom.
› The thoughts you allow yourself to think will create the emotions you will have to live with day in and day out. Do not perpetuate your sadness.
› Joy is the byproduct of loving service. Be kind to yourself. Trust God and dismiss fear as a waste of time. When you practice the art of being your own best friend, you will no longer indulge the foolish habit of being your own worst enemy.
› Love leads to service, and service, in turn, leads to sacrifice. Sacrifice often leads to the cross. Love enables you to embrace the cross with courage because it will free you from self-absorption. Smile more and frown less. You can create a joyful heart, even in dark times, by simply choosing to be joyful.
› If you are truly wise, you will choose Jesus Christ as your guide to eternal joy. After that, choose mental health as an all-important goal.
› St. Thomas Aquinas is credited by St. Teresa of Avila of saying, "If you want to be a saint, will it." He understood that the center of the personality is the will. The will has only one function: to say yes or no. Say no to thoughts that make you sad and fearful, and yes to thoughts that lift up your spirit.
› To choose joy is to cleanse your mind of needless fear. Refer to the Gospel, "Do not be afraid; just have faith" (Mk 5:36).

Our Holy Father’s
2012 Monthly Intentions

SEPTEMBER

General Intention: That politicians may always act with honesty, integrity, and love for the truth.

Missionary Intention: Help for the Poorest Churches. That Christian communities may have a growing willingness to send missionaries, priests, and lay people, along with concrete resources, to the poorest Churches.

OCTOBER

General Intention: New Evangelization. That the New Evangelization may progress in the oldest Christian countries.

Missionary Intention: World Mission Day. That the celebration of World Mission Day may result in a renewed commitment to evangelization.

Daily Offering Prayer

Jesus, through the Immaculate Heart of Mary I offer you my prayers, works, joys and sufferings of this day in union with the Holy Sacrifice of the Mass throughout the world. I offer them for all the intentions of Your Sacred Heart: the salvation of souls, reparation for sin and the reunion of all Christians. I offer them for the intentions of our bishops and of all Apostles of Prayer, and in particular for those recommended by our Holy Father this month.

Answers from Just 4 Kids page:

Old Testament: Joshua, Judges, Judith, Job, Jeremiah, Joel, Jonah

New Testament: John, James, Jude
‘Hope Springs’: Fundamentally moral, significantly flawed

By John Mulderig Catholic News Service

NEW YORK -- Although fundamentally moral, "Hope Springs" (Columbia) -- a skilful mix of comedy and drama that focuses on the problems of one long-married couple -- is also significantly flawed.

Primarily, that’s because the frankness with which director David Frankel’s film approaches marital intimacy veers, at times, into intrusiveness. Additionally, in keeping with the under-refined values of contemporary society, his picture implies that virtually all methods of obtaining sexual gratification -- at least between married partners -- are acceptable.

Still, a resounding pro-marriage message undergirds the proceedings as aging Omaha, Neb., suburbanites Kay (Meryl Streep) and Arnold Soames (Tommy Lee Jones) work to rekindle their spark. Worn down by routine after three decades together, they’ve gradually grown physically and emotionally distant, occupying separate rooms at night and hardly exchanging a word during the day.

While grumpy Arnold seems resigned to this fate, feisty Kay is unwilling to give up so easily. So, at her insistence, the pair sets off to Maine for a week of intensive therapy with marriage counselor and self-help author Dr. Bernard Feld (Steve Carell).

Even discussing their personal problems -- much less solving them -- proves a challenge for the buttoned-up duo. Much of the humor plays off the contrast between their verbal and behavioral inhibitions and Feld’s unflappable straightforwardness on any and all subjects.

Yet, as he peers into every aspect of their history, as well as their unfulfilled desires and fantasies, viewers need not be puritans to share in Kay and Arnold’s discomfort. And things go from bad to worse when we’re subjected to a brief but unseemly scene in which Kay resorts to a sinful alternative to the physical union she and Arnold no longer share. While her act is portrayed as a pathetic symptom of desperation, this interlude marks the movie’s low point of unnecessary immodesty.

Thus, while "Hope Springs" celebrates determined fidelity, and finds its leads in top form, the proportion of screenwriter Vanessa Taylor’s script devoted to talk about, or activity in, the bedroom narrows the appropriate audience for this keenly observed study. Only mature moviegoers well formed in faith and morals will be up to the task of gleaning its virtues from its failings.

The film contains considerable sexual content, including semigraphic scenes of marital lovemaking; pervasive references to sexuality; a benign view of aberrant sex acts; about a half-dozen uses of profanity; and at least one crude and a few crass terms. The Catholic News Service classification is L -- limited adult audience, films whose problematic content many adults would find troubling. The Motion Picture Association of America rating is PG-13.

Saints known, unknown make for fascinating reading in new books

Stories of saints known and unknown make fascinating reading in new books


Reviewed by Peggy Weber Catholic News Service

Saints have always been a fascinating subject and these three books contribute well to the topic. They offer new insights and good writing in differing but interesting ways.

Brian O’Neel draws the readers’ attention to saints who have dropped off the radar. In "Saint Who? 39 Holy Unknowns," he continues with his work on educating people to some holy lives. He previously wrote "39 New Saints You Should Know." This book focuses on many "older" saints who are not household names.

He uses a witty and conversational style to talk about them. And he tries to pique the readers’ interest with catchy phrases by calling Blessed Sebastian de Aparicio "the first cowboy," and St. Mary Helen MacKillop "the excommunicated saint."

Each saintly profile features a biography and a section about why each saint deserves our attention and devotion. The brief chapter then ends with a prayer.

This book would be an ideal addition to a classroom, discussion group or home. A profile a week or a day would bring home the message quite well.

Kevin Vost’s book, "Three Irish Saints," focuses on Sts. Kevin of Glendalough, Patrick of Ireland and Brigid of Kildare. It also includes brief biographies of a variety of interesting and probably unknown Irish saints.

The book offers biographical information on Sts. Kevin, Patrick and Brigid. However, the author uses their lives as a springboard for a discussion of spirituality. He notes that their lives reflect a contemplative, apostolic and charitable style. The reader can peruse the book to figure out which saint applies to what label.

Vost notes that each style translates into being a thinker, doer or lover. It is an interesting way to apply the lives of the saints to one’s own life.

The book also brings attention to saints who usually don’t get a lot of press. Vost also has written a book about St. Albert the Great and the author penned his personal story on his return to Catholicism.

The book offers a lot of information for readers and could lend itself well to a book club.

Father Michael Plekon’s "Saints As They Are" is a continuation of his writing on saints and holiness. The book also includes some autobiographical material from the author’s life as a Carmelite seminarian and brother and now as an Orthodox priest. He stresses that saints do not have to be super-holy or without failings in order to lead a good life.

It would have been nice if the book had a listing of the "saints" in the book.

Also, some of the saints are not well known so that may be of interest to some readers. It certainly delves into new material and reveals the spirituality of sainthood in "ordinary" lives.

The mixing of the personal story and profiles works enough, but the author’s story is more interesting. He has a good voice and would have been better served, perhaps, just writing about his own journey.

Weber is a reporter, producer and social media editor for Catholic Communications for the Diocese of Springfield, Mass.
Men pray before the Blessed Sacrament during the fourth annual Catholic Men's Conference at Holy Trinity Diocesan High School in Hicksville, N.Y., March 31. Men's groups organized around Bible study and spirituality have sprung up in parishes for decades, and some have been established over the past 20 or 30 years at a diocesan or regional level. (CNS photo/Gregory A. Shemitz, Long Island Catholic)

Formation efforts draw Catholic men to deeper faith, fellowship

By Joe Ruff
Catholic News Service

OMAHA, Neb. — Michael Jones, a member of St. Columbkille Parish in Papillion, said he came to the third annual Heartland Catholic Men's Conference Aug. 4 in Omaha to meet others in fellowship and learn more about the faith of the church.

Such opportunities for inspiration and formation were lacking when he was raising children, said Jones, 63, noting that although ages of participants varied widely at the conference, many who had gathered there were about his age.

"Maybe we just all got hungry (for spiritual growth) at the same time," Jones said.

Similar sentiment -- a strong desire for sharing in faith formation -- appears to have been the spark that more than a dozen years ago ignited what has become a growing Catholic men's movement in the United States.

(Please See MEN/24)

EDICTAL SUMMONS
August 20, 2012
CASE: HENNESSY (PEREZ) — TINDALE
NO.: SO 12/24

The Tribunal Office of the Catholic Diocese of San Angelo is seeking William Matthew Tindale. You are hereby summoned to appear before the Tribunal of the Catholic Diocese of San Angelo, at 804 Ford Street, San Angelo, Texas 76905, on or before the 30th day of September 2012, to answer to the Petition of Amy Lynn Hennessy (Perez), now introduced before the Diocesan Tribunal in an action styled, "Amy Perez and William Tindale, Petition for Declaration of Invalidity of Marriage." Said Petition is identified as Case: HENNESSY (PEREZ) -- TINDALE; Protocol No.: SO 12/24, on the Tribunal Docket of the Diocese of San Angelo.

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

Given at the Tribunal of the Diocese of San Angelo on the 20th day August, 2012.

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

Engagement is Every Catholic's Duty

Why is the Church getting involved in U.S. politics?

Editor's Note: This column is taken from the USCCB Blog (http://usccbmedia.blogspot.com/). The October issue of The Angelus will provide a 2012 Voter’s Guide for its readers.

When uttered aloud, the gut-level revulsion is clearly audible in that question.

It's a fair question, one that comes up frequently. It's grounded in history. People ask, "Didn't the Church get burned time and again through the centuries when it got too cozy with various medieval kings and secular powers? Isn't that how, at one time, it became so corrupt that it sparked the Protestant Reformation?"

The question comes up today, almost regardless of the issue being addressed by the pope, the bishops or even a parish priest. Sandra Day O'Connor once quipped that the definition of an "activist judge" is "a judge who disagrees with me." Similarly, the complaint about the Church meddling in politics can fall conveniently along political fault lines. But there's still something to be said for people being wary of a Church that seems too wrapped up in secular matters and power.

The bishops recognize this and draw several key distinctions. To name a couple, the Church's focus is on moral principles and how they should influence policy positions. The Church stakes out strong positions on issues, but does not endorse parties or candidates. It recognizes that lay people play a complementary role of more direct involvement in politics that the hierarchy cannot and should not play.

Pope Benedict XVI made this clear in his first encyclical, Deus Caritas Est, stating, "The direct duty to work for a just ordering of society...is proper to the lay faithful. As citizens of the State, they are called to take part in public life in a personal capacity."

The pope uses the word "called," meaning not just a role, but a duty. Still one could ask, "Doesn't political involvement seem kind of peripheral compared to my other obligations to the faith like participating in the Sacraments and helping the poor?"

In Forming Consciences for Faithful Citizenship, the bishops respond with a vision of the Church providing society a great service.

"Because we are people of both faith and reason, it is appropriate and necessary for us to bring this essential truth about human life and dignity to the public square," the bishops write. "We are called to practice Christ's commandment to love one another' (Jn 13:34)."

The Catechism of the Catholic Church says it another way, that its necessary for everyone to participate in promoting the common good (#1913-15). Either way, political participation, at its best, is an expression of faith lived out in the world.

(Please See USCCB/21)
teachers. But from 1988 onward, qualified lay-personnel have been staffed as principal and teachers.

In 1997, with a grant from the Daughters of Charity Congregation, a Wellness Center (a multipurpose facility) was built to host a variety of curricular and extracurricular activities such as physical education classes, religion preparatory classes and retreats, school assemblies, sporting events, and festivals. In the same year, partnering with the Texas Tech Nursing Program, the school also began organizing “Health Fairs” in the wellness center to provide free vision screening and hearing screening for the students and local communities.

They relocated the school library to a larger facility in 2002, which now houses more than 2,500 books. A good number of new books, educational magazines, and periodicals are added to the library each year. The Kenedy Memorial Foundation of Texas awarded a grant in 2009 to purchase 20 new computers and 6 document cameras for the computer lab. This summer, the school has added another 7 new computers along with a document camera and a projector for each teacher, and enabled the students to make adequate research and take their “Reading Tests” for the Accelerated Reading Program efficiently.

In addition to Physical Education and Art-Instruction, St. Mary’s students have been provided with an opportunity to learn Music as a subject since 2011. Likewise, from this year onward, Computer Science will also be offered as a subject. A newly hired full-time computer teacher will teach Computer Science classes for students and facilitate teachers’ technology instruction.

Like the St. Mary’s alumni, 13 students participated in the Regional Science Fair at the University of Texas of the Permian Basin (UTPB) last year, and won the following awards and prizes: Sean Sanchez and Lucas Salinas (National Association of Corrosion / Engineer Award), Kenley Young (The Air Force Award), Sammy Melton (first prize in the Earth/Space competition), Gio Renacio (first prize in Math/Physics), Kenley Young and Dallas Galindo (first prize and second prize respectively in Engineering), Kenley Young and Joshua Villalobos represented the school at the State Science Fair in San Antonio and the Regional Spelling Bee at Odessa College respectively.

Taking into consideration the structural inefficiency and un-eco-friendly school facilities as well as the future needs for more space for school growth, in the fall of 2010, the school management hired JSA Architects to assess its campus and make recommendations. Based on their findings, the management prepared the project matrix, identified the scope of work, and began addressing the impending structural challenges and other related issues in two phases.

In the summer of 2011, Phase One of the project began with the initial cost of $45,000.00. This summer 2012, the management took up $635,000.00 worth of a major renovation and repair project, and made numerous infrastructure and energy-efficient repairs including a new DuroLast roof, eight new air-conditioning units and duct works, new lighting, electrical components and wiring, plumbing, piping, and fixtures, new ceilings throughout, and a fresh coat of paint.

One of the significant and most apparent changes is the replacement of the north and south exterior window systems with new conventional classroom walls and windows. The students and faculty are very excited to begin their new academic year (2012-2013) in the newly-renovated facilities, especially in the Central Building. The school constituents happily announced that “Our St. Mary’s Central Catholic School has a new facelift!”

On August 27, 2012, St. Mary’s Central Catholic School enters in its 52nd academic year of service “To Teach as Jesus Taught” (the school motto). Continuing their rich tradition of marking the beginning of the new academic year to receive blessings from Our Almighty God, on September 5, 2012 at 2:00 P.M., the Holy Mass is scheduled to be celebrated by Most Rev. Michael D. Pfeifer (Bishop of San Angelo) and co-celebrated by a visiting Bishop, Most Rev. Thomas Macwan (India), and the Catholic Priests from the Catholic Churches of Midland/Odessa Deanery, followed by the blessing of the entire school facilities, especially the newly renovated Central Building.

During the Eucharistic celebration, St. Mary’s Central Catholic School will recognize and honor seven individuals and one organization chosen from our local communities as “Patrons” and present them with “The Knight’s Award” for their outstanding contributions to our school community over the years. All are cordially invited. All are welcome!

Submitted by Rev. Santiago Udayar, Ed.D, Pastor/School Administrator
the Angelus   SEPTEMBER 201                                                                          Page 21

region will be hosted at Fort Concho, where stu-
San Angelo's football stadiums ("Friday or leave' the Church and Mass experience.
developed a full spirituality and can 'take
on the fringe, children who have not yet
within the region is to attract those teens
of the hopes of ministers and directors
see their own parish and don't realize they
larger Church," Sister Adelina said. "We
belong to a diocese, a region, a national
Church or the international Church.
part of my name. Sister Mary Theodore
Therese just seemed to fit, and seemed
like it was who I am. St. Therese really
got me here, between the Blessed Virgin
and Therese. I am from Indiana and in
the year 2006, I came into the church at
Easter. I flew home for Easter, and some-
how, I went home after that, there was an
article in the Sunday newspaper and on
the cover was St. Theodora. I read this
article and kept it. It was in 2006
Theodora was canonized. My mother was
named Mary, and St. Therese has been
after me since long before I became
Catholic. She entered my life in 1996 and
I had no idea what she was up to."

Sister Maria Theresa of Avila. “I like
the way she writes and her relationship
with Jesus gives me hope. She says
exactly how she feels and is known to
have a really good relationship. I thought
about other names but St. Theresa of
Avila kept coming up. Maria, that's after
Mary, the Blessed Mother, of course. If it
wasn't for her I wouldnt be here.”

region to establish an endowment
which helps regional and diocesan direc-
tors fund necessary items for the develop-
ment of their ministries.
Past conferences were held strictly in
the region’s larger cities such as Dallas,
Houston and San Antonio. Recent host
cities have included other diocesan cities
such as Amarillo, Oklahoma City and
Little Rock.

USCCB
(From 19)
The bishops, as pastors and teachers,
apply the Church's moral voice to issues
affecting human life and dignity in the
public square, and Catholics as a whole
engage in the political process through
such means as voting and, according to
the bishops, "running for office; working
within political parties; communicating
their concerns and positions to elected
officials; and joining diocesan social mis-
sion or advocacy networks, state Catholic
conference initiatives, community organi-
izations, and other efforts to apply authen-
tic moral teaching in the public square."
This is a year-round deal, but not in the
sense of the perpetual campaign that poi-
sions so much political discourse.
Catholics aren't called to be hyper-parti-
sans waging a scorched Earth campaign
for permanent political dominance. In
fact the bishops offer the admonition that
Catholic shouldn't let their parties lead
them to "neglect or deny fundamental
moral truths."
Instead, Catholics are called to be leav-
en. The duty of the politically-engaged
Catholic isn't just to take sides in the
political debate, but to transform it.
Oración por los Catequistas

Oh Dios, nuestro Padre celestial, nos has dado el don de estos catequistas para que sean heraldos del Evangelio en nuestra familia parroquial. Los presentamos ante ti en acción de gracias e intercedemos por ellos en sus esperanzas y necesidades. Haz que estemos atentos a la presencia de tu Palabra en ellos, Palabra que eleve y desafíe, que sea compasiva y que consuele. Oremos para que nuestra familia parroquial siempre sea bendecida con aquellos que han respondido al llamado a compartir la misión profética de Cristo como catequistas. Que este misterio también abiertos al llamado universal al ministerio que Cristo dirige a todos sus discípulos, contribuyendo con nuestros dones a la comunidad de la fe, la Iglesia. Pedimos esto en nombre de Jesús.

(Para 3)

En la Iglesia. El Catecismo de la Iglesia Católica hace claro, “La catequesis está unida íntimamente a toda la vida de la Iglesia…su crecimiento interior, su correspondencia con el designio de Dios dependen esencialmente de ella.” [No. 7]

Los padres de familia son verdaderamente los catequistas principales de sus hijos. Ellos preparan la tierra y plantan la primera semilla de fe. En el Domingo Catequético, no solamente destacamos el trabajo de los catequistas en la parroquia y las escuelas, sino también elogiamos a los papás y mamás y guardianes y los animamos a que tomen en serio el papel de mantener su hogar Católico como un lugar donde su fe será pasada a la siguiente generación.

Al marcar Domingo Catequético, les pido que todos recemos la oración que adjunto, pero no sólo los catequistas, y animo a todos nuestros sacerdotes que en Domingo Catequético reconozcan durante la Misa a nuestros queridos catequistas por el ministerio maravilloso que hacen por todo el pueblo de nuestra Diócesis. Llamemos al frente para reconocerlos y para una bendición especial.

A PRAYER FOR CATECHISTS

O God, our Heavenly Father, you have given us the gift of these catechists to be heralds of the Gospel to our parish family. We lift them up to you in thanksgiving and intercede for them concerning their hopes and needs. May we be attentive to the presence of your Word in them, a Word that lifts up and affirms, calls forth and challenges, is compassionate and consoles. We pray that our parish family will always be blessed with those who have responded to the call to share in Christ's prophetic mission as catechists. May we too be open to the universal call to service that Christ addresses to all of his disciples, contributing our gifts to the communion of faith, the Church. We ask this in Jesus' name. Amen.

(From 2)

and publishes an Apostolic exhortation, a papal message, after the synod has taken place. The New Evangelization synod is expected to focus on the family's role as recipients of the New Evangelization, and how this evangelization is to be shared in our teaching and in our liturgical life.

As the people of the Diocese of San Angelo realize, when we marked the 50th anniversary of our Diocese, a few months ago we chose Family Life and Marriage as the No. 1 ministry of our Diocese, and the No. 1 priority is to focus on the sacredness of all human life, especially that of the unborn, and respecting the dignity of that life until God calls it home.

Catechetical Sunday reminds us that catechesis, teaching, and promoting our religious beliefs, is a distinct and special ministry in the Church. The Catechism of the Catholic Church makes clear, “Catechesis is intimately bound up with the whole of the Church’s life...her inner growth and correspondence with God’s plan depend essentially on catechesis.” [No. 7]

Parents are truly the primary catechists of their children. They prepare the soil and plant the first seeds of faith. On Catechetical Sunday, we not only highlight the work of catechists in parishes and schools, but we also commend parents and guardians and encourage them to take seriously their role of making their Catholic households a place where faith is passed on to the next generation.

As we mark this special Sunday in the life of the Church, I take this opportunity to thank our Office of Religious Education and Catechesis, headed by Sister Hilda Marotta and Sister Adelina Garcia and staff, for all that they are constantly doing to build up our religious education program, catechesis in our Diocese. And I am very grateful to all the catechists of our parishes, especially our volunteers, for all their generous time and service that you give to do this important ministry. I appreciate you very much, and I am very grateful to you.

As we mark Catechetical Sunday, I ask that we all pray the accompanying prayer (at left) for our catechists, and I encourage all of our priests on Catechetical Sunday to recognize during Mass our dear catechists for the splendid ministry they do for all the people of our Diocese. Call them forth for recognition and a special blessing.

Spanish programming

Las estaciones de radio en las tres deaneries de la diócesis de nuevo están transmitiendo programas regulares en español cada fin de semana por las mañanas. Las siguientes son las estaciones y el horario donde usted puede escuchar EWTN y otros esfuerzos de programas católicos en español en Abilene, Midland-Odessa y San Angelo:

Abilene – KKHR (106.3 FM) está transmitiendo La Hora Católica de EWTN en español los domingos a las 10 a.m.

Midland-Odessa – Padre Gilberto Rodríguez, el Vicario Parroquial de la parroquia San Esteban (St. Stephen’s Church) de Midland, presenta el programa los sábados desde las 5-10 a.m. en KQLM (108 FM) con entrevista cada sábado con el Obispo Miguel Pfeifer, OMI a las 8:45 a.m.. Además, La Hora Católica de EWTN se puede escuchar los domingos a las 7 a.m.

San Angelo – KSJT en San Angelo está transmitiendo la Hora Católica de EWTN los domingos a las 7 a.m.

EWTN Spanish programming

Radio stations in all three of the deaneries of the diocese are again running regular weekly programming on weekend mornings. The following is the stations and times where you can hear EWTN and other Spanish programming efforts in Abilene, Midland-Odessa and San Angelo:

ABILENE – KKHR (106.3 FM) is airing EWTN’s Catholic Hour in Spanish, Sundays at 10 a.m.

MIDLAND-ODESSA – Fr. Gilbert Rodriguez, parochial vicar at St. Stephen’s Church in Midland, hosts a Saturday program from 5-10 a.m. on KQLM (108 FM). Additionally, EWTN Catholic programming can be heard Sundays at 7 a.m.

SAN ANGELO – KSJT in San Angelo is airing EWTN’s Catholic Hour Sundays at 7 a.m.
**OSBORNE**

(From 15)

about the people who died or were hurt in the movie theater shooting in Aurora, Colo., in July. Most of the people killed or injured were young. Who would have guessed that would be their last night on earth? Who could have possibly known?

If Batman lived in Aurora instead of Gotham, he would have swooped down at the last minute and carried away the perpetrator before the tragedy occurred. But this is real life, not a movie: None of us is going to live forever.

Life is precious and so fragile.

It's OK to have uncomfortable, mournful feelings about the Aurora shooting, even if we didn't know any of the victims. That's part of being human.

When a tragedy like this occurs, it affects us and makes us question how we are living. It should make us question. It should make us think. It should make us look at our lives and wonder how we can make the best use of the time we have left, even if we're young. That's something a superhero would do.

The tragic deaths of 12 people who just wanted to see a movie is one more reminder that we don’t have forever to pursue our goals. As Catholics, we believe our souls will go to heaven to be with God when we die, but we still need to live every day on earth to the fullest.

We need to chase our dreams, help others, stand up to bullies and love others. We need to be superheroes in our spheres, using the one chance we get at this life to make the world a better place for everyone who's going through the joys and tragedies of this world.

None of us, not even Batman, with all of his riches and his glittery gadgets and his technology, knows when our stories are going to end.

-- U.S. Senator John Cornyn
Phone: 202-224-2934
Mailing Address: 517 Hart Senate Office Bldg., Washington, DC 20510
Web: http://www.cornyn.senate.gov/public/

-- U.S. Senator Kay Bailey Hutchison
Phone: 202-224-5922
Mailing Address: 284 Russell Senate Office Building, Washington, DC 20510
Email: http://hutchison.senate.gov/?p=email_kay

---

**VOTE**

(From 6)

We take such great pride in our nation serving as a beacon of democracy and freedom, and in the sacrifices the men and women of our armed forces make to defend and protect those principles at home and abroad. It is a great tragedy then, that the majority of Americans are ambivalent to this foundation of our democracy – the right to vote – and fail to make the short trip to exercise this right at their polling places.

Once you have registered, take the time to reflect upon the issues facing our country and pray for God's guidance when evaluating the policy positions, party platforms, and candidates' promises. The Gospels and the moral and social teaching of the Church make a wonderful prism through which you may measure the options and opportunities for building a better world.

In the coming weeks we will be using the Lone Star Blog at TXcatholic.org as a means to address some of the essential issues of faithful citizenship formation and introspective questions that help Catholics in shaping their political and policy decisions in an increasingly complicated world. Informed Catholics are the best voters, as their political engagement is shaped by the moral convictions of well-formed consciences that focus on human dignity, the common good, and the protection of the weak and the vulnerable.

In the meantime, join the Texas Bishops' Texas Catholic Network at TXcatholic.org. As a member of the Texas Catholic Network, you will receive a monthly e-newsletter, the Texas Catholic Voice, to stay informed and active on public affairs relevant to our faith; receive News Updates on policy issues affecting the Church, and get Action Alerts to add your voice to communicating your ideas and concerns our political leaders.

It is your turn to take a stand and speak out for your faith. Don't let the opportunity slip away.

Read more: Your Vote is Your Voice. Make it Count.

-- Submitting by Judy Ford

September 28-30 at Christ the King Retreat Center in San Angelo. Plan to attend this weekend to start your healing process. The weekend begins on Friday evening at 8 p.m. and concludes on Sunday at 4 p.m. The cost for the weekend is $115, which includes food and lodging. Please go on-line or contact us by means of the phone numbers below to obtain a registration form. All you need to bring is comfortable clothing, personal items and the willingness to heal. If you need assistance to attend the weekend, please go to your priest or minister to explain your situation.

For additional information about the weekend you can visit the website: beginningexperience.org or call Christ the King Retreat Center at 325-651-5352. We have team members who live in different cities, so just call one of these team members and they can put you in touch with someone in your area. Judy (432) 386-3504; Mary (512) 568-7212; Jennifer (432) 528-6243; Anna (325) 949-8967; Ruby (325) 893-4120 or Kathy (325) 944-4746.

The vision of the International Beginning Experience is for hurting people to become healed, transformed, and free again to love themselves, others and God. If you have suffered the loss of a spouse, we invite you to allow yourself to spend one weekend of your life for yourself. The team will be looking forward to being with you on September 28, beginning at 8 p.m.

-- Submitted by Judy Ford

**LOSS**

(From 5)

Our San Angelo team is committed to helping you work through your grief and anger so your life will be worth living again. We want you to become fully alive again, not just merely exist. It does not matter how long ago you suffered your loss, time does not necessarily heal your hurting heart. If you are still struggling with things in your life due to your loss, come join us for a weekend. The Beginning Experience weekend is open to men and women of all faiths and ages who have suffered the loss of a spouse. The weekend is about you, not which church you attend.

The next weekend will be held on September 28-30 at Christ the King Retreat Center in San Angelo. Please go on-line or contact us by means of the phone numbers below to obtain a registration form. All you need to bring is comfortable clothing, personal items and the willingness to heal. If you need assistance to attend the weekend, please go to your priest or minister to explain your situation.

For additional information about the weekend you can visit the website: beginningexperience.org or call Christ the King Retreat Center at 325-651-5352. We have team members who live in different cities, so just call one of these team members and they can put you in touch with someone in your area. Judy (432) 386-3504; Mary (512) 568-7212; Jennifer (432) 528-6243; Anna (325) 949-8967; Ruby (325) 893-4120 or Kathy (325) 944-4746.

The vision of the International Beginning Experience is for hurting people to become healed, transformed, and free again to love themselves, others and God. If you have suffered the loss of a spouse, we invite you to allow yourself to spend one weekend of your life for yourself. The team will be looking forward to being with you on September 28, beginning at 8 p.m.

-- Submitted by Judy Ford

-- U.S. Congressman K. Michael Conaway (District 11 -- San Angelo, Midland-Odessa, Andrews, Stanton, Crane, Rankin, Big Lake, Colorado City, Sterling City, Robert Lee, Bronte, Ballinger, Winters, Miles, Christoval, Eldorado, Junction, Menard, Eden, Melvin, Brady, Coleman, Brownwood, Sonora, McCallamy, Mertzon, Sweetwater )
Phone: 202-225-3605
Mailing Address: 511 Cannon House Office Building, Washington, DC 20515
Web: http://conaway.house.gov/

-- Rep. Randy Neugebauer (District 19 -- Big Spring, Abilene, Clyde)
Phone: 202-225-4005
Mailing Address: 1424 Longworth HOB Washington, DC 20515
Web: http://randy.house.gov/

-- Rep. Francisco Canseco (District 23 -- Fort Stockton, Iraan, Ozona)
Phone: 202-225-4511
Mailing Address: 1339 Longworth HOB Washington, DC 20515
Web: http://canseco.house.gov/
The call of Pope Benedict XVI and Blessed John Paul II for a "new evangelization" of Catholics and non-Catholics in the midst of a heightened secularization also is being heard across the country, and men are among those responding, Kennedy said.

The archdiocese's response to the movement includes the Heartland Catholic Men's Conference in Omaha, which this year drew about 600 men from as far away as Illinois and Wisconsin, as well as Iowa, Kansas and South Dakota, Kennedy said.

The archdiocese also has encouraged participation in "That Man is You!" and it has established a site on its website -- www.archomaha.org/mensministry -- that includes a list of various men's groups and other resources, he said.

The conference included talks by theology professor Scott Hahn of Franciscan University of Steubenville in Ohio, Deacon Alex Jones, who serves in the Archdiocese of Detroit, and Deacon Ralph Poyo of the Diocese of Raleigh, N.C.

At the same time, many Catholic men pursued success in the workplace and left the spiritual formation of their families to their wives, Kennedy said.

Men's groups organized around Bible study and spirituality have sprung up in parishes for decades, and some have been established over the past 20 or 30 years at a diocesan or regional level. The Knights of Columbus fraternal organization was founded in 1882 and it has service, social and spiritual components, and a strong international presence.

But new men's groups are helping feed men's hunger for spirituality and encouraging them to take on faith-filled, leadership roles, Kennedy said. Two of those are the Houston-based "That Man is You!" and "The King's Men," which began in Philadelphia. Both were founded in 2004 and are growing across the country through small, parish-based groups.

Other nationally known efforts include "St. Joseph's Covenant Keepers" and weekend retreats designed separately for men and women, such as "Christians Encounter Christ" in the Archdiocese of Omaha.

FAITH

(From 11)

welcoming people (back) into the faith than within our own family. By welcoming those nearest to us, we become evangelizers.

In an effort to promote and assist us as we live out this great commission, plans are being made for several events. For example, the Year of Faith is going to begin with a special Mass that will be celebrated in each of the deaneries within our Diocese (San Angelo, Abilene, and Midland/Odessa). These Mass celebrations will occur on the same date, October 11, and be of the same format (with the same scripture readings and the same prayers). Furthermore, there will be entries in parish bulletins throughout the upcoming Church year. These are intended to offer you and your family an opportunity to reflect upon and discuss the wisdom of our Church. In addition, discussion questions will be presented at each Pastoral Council meeting. These are intended to help the leadership by giving them opportunities to reflect upon and discuss how our parish community is reaching out to families in an effort to better enable them to welcome people (back) into the faith and/or Church. In upcoming months, expect to read articles about these and other opportunities in the West Texas Angelus.

It begins with you and it begins with me.

So, let us begin by welcoming people, inviting them to come and worship our God while reading.)