

Vocation Circle, p. 3

Bush Praises Catholic Schools, p. 4

Odessa Catholic School Receives Grant, p. 5

Diocese of San Pedro Sula, Honduras, p. 6

RU-486 Approval, p. 7

3rd Hunger Walk, p. 12

Top US Missionary, p. 12



**VOLUME XXI  
NUMBER 10**

**OCT  
2000**

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

**THE  
WEST  
TEXAS**



# ANGELUS

NEWSPAPER OF THE DIOCESE OF SAN ANGELO

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

DIOCESE OF SAN ANGELO  
PO BOX 1829  
SAN ANGELO TX 76902-1829  
**CHANGE SERVICE REQUESTED**

## Pope Canonizes Mother Drexel, Calls Her Example Of U.S. Generosity

By John Thavis  
Catholic News Service

VATICAN CITY (CNS) — Pope John Paul II canonized the second U.S.-born saint, Mother Katharine Drexel, and said her use of a family fortune to help educate the poor was a shining example of American generosity.

At a jubilee Mass Oct. 1, the pope praised Mother Drexel, a Philadelphia heiress, for recognizing the dangers of racism in U.S. society, then giving all she had — spiritually and materially — to fight it. She eventually founded more than 60 schools for African-Americans and Native Americans.

“Her apostolate helped bring about a growing awareness of the need to combat all forms of racism through education and social services,” the pope said.

“Katharine Drexel is an excellent example of that practical charity and



Mother Katharine Drexel, founder of the Sisters of the Blessed Sacrament, dedicated her life to helping poor African-Americans and Native Americans. Her canonization Oct. 1 by Pope John Paul II made her the second American-born saint. (CNS photo courtesy Sisters of the Blessed Sacrament)

generous solidarity with the less fortunate which has long been the distinguishing mark of American Catholics,” he said.

More than 3,000 rain-dampened U.S. pilgrims applauded as the sainthood decree for Mother Drexel was read at the start of the Mass. A banner hung from the facade of St. Peter’s Basilica depicted Mother Drexel walking with two schoolchildren, an African-American boy and an Indian girl.

The liturgy’s second reading, from the letter of James, was a pointed warning to the wealthy:

“You rich, weep and wail over your impending miseries. Your wealth has rotted, your fine wardrobe has grown moth-eaten, your gold and silver have corroded, and their corrosion shall be a testimony against you.”

In his sermon, the pope contrasted that warning with the con-



Tapestries representing the newest Catholic saints hang from the facade of St. Peter’s Basilica during their canonization ceremony Oct. 1. The images from left represent U.S.-born Mother Katharine Drexel, the 120 martyrs of China, Spanish Sister Maria Josefa Sancho de Guerra, and Sister Josephine Bakhita of Sudan. (CNS photo from Catholic Press Photo)

viction of young Katharine Drexel that “her family’s possessions were not for them alone but were meant to be shared with the less fortunate.” Born in 1858, she came to inherit an investment banking fortune worth \$14 million.

The pope described how, as a young woman in the late 1800s, she

was deeply moved by the suffering endured by many African-Americans and Native Americans. Using her inheritance, she built missions and schools dedicated to helping them.

She later decided to become a

**see “SAINT”, page eleven**

## A Home Away From Home

By Peter N. Micale, WTA

After thirty-five years of ministry on the Angelo State University campus, a sparkling new, single story building on the corner of Johnson and Dena will be the very comfortable “home” for the Catholic Ministry Newman Center. At 3:30 pm on Sunday, October 1, Bishop Michael D. Pfeifer, OMI, celebrated a dedication Mass at the just completed new “home” on the periphery of the campus.

Sister Marie Malachy Griffin, O.P., the Catholic Minister on campus, has begun her seventeenth year with the Newman Center. Her re-

marks to just over 160 invited guests closed the formal portion of the celebration prior to the serving of a light luncheon buffet.

Not only did she define what was essentially a mission statement for the Center, but she also looked into the future. She said: “What are my hopes for the future? I want this Newman Center to be a place where everyone feels safe, respected, loved beyond measure. I want us to be a welcoming, non-judgmental, nurturing community. I want us to set a worthy example for each other and for future generations. I want our footprints in this new and holy place

to be so large that those who come after us find filling them a challenge. To quote Pierre Teilhard de Chardin, “The day will come, when after harnessing space, the winds, the tides, and gravitation, we shall harness for God the energies of love. And on that day, for the second time in the history of the world, we shall have discovered fire.” My dream is that we harness the energies of love. I thank each and every one of you for giving us a beautiful ‘home away from home’ where I pray we will ‘discover fire.’”

**see “HOME”, page eleven**

Sr. Malachy and the general contractor, Jimmy Shatto stand in front of the new Newman Center



Bishop Pfeifer commends Sr. Malachy during the dedication celebration at the new Newman Center. (Photos by Pete Micale, WTA)



# Every Human Life is a Sign of God's Love, a Trace of His Glory

By Bishop Michael D. Pfeifer, OMI

On Sunday, October 1, 2000 the Catholic Church begins the Annual Respect for Life Program for 2000-2001. The theme for this year is "Every human life is a sign of God's love, a trace of His glory."

Throughout this year, the parishes of our diocese will be receiving material on how to implement this theme at a local level.

The Annual Respect Life Program reminds us that the sanctity of every human life, from conception to natural death, is our common heritage, the foundation stone of justice.

### Life: The Foundation Stone

"God created man in His image . . . male and female He created them. God blessed them . . . God looked at everything He had made, and He found it very good" (Gen 1:27-28, 31).

Scripture is a love story. God created humanity out of love. He made each of us to share in His joy and abundance and, as Augustine once wrote, our hearts are restless until they rest in Him. Unfortunately, we live in an age when too many people too easily forget God . . . and in forgetting God, we forget the roots of our own identity, and our own dignity. The value of a human life is priceless because God's love is priceless. The elderly, the infirm, the unborn child, the condemned criminal: All bear the imprint of God's love. All bear His likeness. Every life, no matter how confused or broken, is valuable.

Since God alone is the author of life, we don't "own" it. Life is a gift. It's ours to take care of – but not to throw away, and *never* to take from another. The sanctity of every human life, from conception to natural death, is our common heritage, the foundation stone of justice. No matter how enlightened a nation's economic and social policies may seem, unless the right to life is respected at every stage of human development, the structures of community life are built on sand.

Every human life is a sign of God's love, a trace of His glory. Choosing life, therefore, is choosing God's love, God's peace, God's justice. The choice we make creates the future: "Choose life, then you and your descendants may live." (Dt. 30: 19)



# Cada Vida Humana es una Señal del Amor de Dios, y un Indicio de Su Gloria

Por Obispo Miguel D. Pfeifer, OMI

El Domingo, 1 de Octubre de 2000, la Iglesia Católica empieza el Programa Anual Respetad la Vida para 2000-2001. El tema para este año es «Cada Vida Humana es una señal del amor de Dios, y un indicio de Su gloria.» Durante este año, las parroquias de nuestra diócesis recibirán información en cuanto llevar a cabo este tema al nivel local.

El Programa Anual Respetad la Vida nos recuerda que la santidad de cada vida humana, desde la concepción a la muerte natural, es nuestra herencia común; la piedra angular de la justicia.

### La Vida: La Pierda Angular

«Y creó Dios al hombre a su imagen, . . . macho y hembra los creó. Dios los bendijo . . . Vio Dios que todo cuanto había hecho era muy bueno» (Gen 1:27-28,31).

La Escritura es una historia de amor. Dios creó a la humanidad por amor. Dios nos hizo para que compartiéramos su alegría y abundancia, como San Agustín escribió: nuestro corazón está inquieto hasta que descanse en Él. Desafortunadamente, vivimos en un tiempo cuando muchas personas se olvidan fácilmente de Dios . . . y al olvidarse de Dios, nos olvidamos de nuestra propia identidad y de nuestra propia dignidad. El valor de la vida humana es inapreciable porque el amor de Dios es inapreciable. Los ancianos, enfermos, niños no nacidos y criminales condenados: todos están marcados por las huellas del amor de Dios. Todos llevan su imagen. Cada vida, no importa lo confusa o quebrantada que esté, es valiosa.

Porque sólo Dios es el autor de la vida, nosotros no la «poseemos». La vida es un don. Es nuestra para cuidarla – pero no para desecharla, y nunca para privar a nadie de ella. La santidad de cada vida humana, desde la concepción, hasta la muerte natural, es nuestra herencia común; la piedra angular de la justicia. No importa si la política económica y social de una nación parezca muy progresiva, sí no se respeta el derecho a la vida en cada etapa del desarrollo humano, las estructuras de la vida en comunidad están erigidas en la arena.

Cada vida humana es una señal del amor de Dios, un indicio de su gloria. Si escogemos la vida, estamos escogiendo el amor de Dios, la paz de Dios y la justicia de Dios. Las decisiones que hacemos crean el futuro: «Escoge, pues, la vida, para que vivas tú y tu descendencia.» (Dt 30:19)

## The Bishop's Schedule



### October, 2000

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

Oct 2-3: Rest and Prayer

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

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

Oct 6: San Angelo, Holy Angels, City-wide Living Rosary at

7:00 pm.

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

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

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

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

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

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

Oct 15: Austin, Holy Sepul-

chre Meeting

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

Oct 17-19: Rest and Prayer  
Oct 20: San Antonio, Peace and Justice Conference at 2:00 p.m.

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

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

Oct 26-27: San Antonio, MACC Board meeting

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

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

### November, 2000

Nov 1: San Angelo, Sacred Heart Cathedral, All Saints Day Mass at 12:00 noon

Nov 2: San Angelo, Calvary Cemetery Mass at 11:00 a.m. for All Souls Day

Nov 3: San Angelo, Diocesan Pastoral Center, 8:30 a.m. Mass for Staff, 11:00 a.m. Staff Meeting

Nov 5: San Angelo, Give Presentation to Sunday School

Class at 9:30 a.m. at First Methodist Church

Nov 6: San Angelo, Bradford Elementary School, Have lunch with students at 12:00 noon

Nov 7: Odessa, St. Elizabeth, Mass at 6:30 p.m. for 7th Anniversary of Odessa Perpetual Adoration Group

Nov 8: Ballinger, St. Mary, 6:15 p.m. meet with Pastor and Pastoral Council and Youth

Nov 9: San Angelo, Diocesan Pastoral Center, Presbyteral Council and Diocesan Finance Council meeting at 10:30 a.m. San Angelo, St. Mary, give presentation to RCIA Group at 7:00 p.m.

Nov 10: San Angelo, Christ the King Retreat Center, give Presentation for Walk to

Emmaus at 11:15 a.m.

Nov 12-16: Washington, D.C., Annual Meeting of the National Conference of Catholic Bishops

Nov 17-18: Arlington, Texas, Regional 10 Youth Congress

Nov 19: Eden, St. Charles, Mass and Bless Renovated Church at 12:00 noon

Nov 20: Rest and Prayer

Nov 21: San Angelo, Diocesan Pastoral Center, Personnel Board at 10:30 a.m.

Nov 23: San Angelo, Sacred Heart Cathedral, Thanksgiving Day and Jubilee Day for Families Mass at 9:00 a.m.

Nov 24-26: Rest and Prayer

Nov 30: Fort Stockton, St. Joseph, meet with Pastor and Pastoral Councils and Youth of the area at 7:00 p.m.

**The West Texas Angelus**  
Official Newspaper of the Diocese of San Angelo

MEMBER  
  
CATHOLIC PRESS ASSOCIATION

POSTMASTER: Send all Changes of Address to:  
WEST TEXAS ANGELUS  
P.O. BOX 1829  
SAN ANGELO, TX 76902-1829

---

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

Automatic circulation to parishioners in the Diocese of San Angelo  
Subscription rate for all others: \$10.00 per year  
**THIRD CLASS POSTAGE PAID AT SAN ANGELO, TEXAS**  
Printed by the San Angelo Standard-Times  
A Scripps-Howard Company

**Sacred Heart Catholic Church**

**Coleman, TX - Fall Festival**

**Sunday, October 22**

**Mexican Dinner 11:30 am - 1:00 pm**

**Silent Auction, Arts and Crafts, Raffle, Games and Family Activities**

**FMI - Mike Wetsel (915) 348-3708**



# Vocation Circle – The Journey of a Catholic Missionary to Africa, Thailand, and China

By Larry Radice, MM

My name is Fr. Larry Radice, MM. I am a priest with the Catholic Foreign Mission Society of America better known as the Maryknoll Fathers and Brothers. Last May I visited a priest friend of mine in the Diocese of San Angelo. While there I visited students at Angelo Catholic School and celebrated weekend Masses at St. Lawrence near Garden City and at St. Ambrose in Wall. Six years ago on another visit to the Diocese of San Angelo during Easter I had visited St. Joseph in Stanton and St. Isidore in Lenorah. I hope to visit San Angelo again in a few years when I return to the States from my missionary assignment overseas.

I grew up in Grand Junction, Colorado surrounded by my family and the Rocky Mountains near the Continental Divide. My family was the anchor that shared their love, helped me to grow up, and gave me the Catholic Faith. The mountains shared their beauty and the nature that was so abundant on them. I learned how important both family and nature were for a healthy world. I decided to study science in college and later became involved in science studies related to reforestation (the re-establishment of forests that have been greatly thinned out).

All throughout my life my Catholic Faith has been very important to me. It had been a guide to me with the strength of its values and depth of spirituality. I saw God in people and in the beauty of nature. It helped me to be accepting and loving of

people who were different than me. It helped me to have a sincere desire to spend my life in a way that my work would be beneficial to other people and to the environment that benefited the world in which they lived. I was drawn to the kind of work that anyone could perform, but I was also drawn to be a priest who was a scientist who loved God's creation – nature and humanity.

As I reflect on my own vocational journey, I don't think we can ever know from exactly where our vocation comes. Yes, certainly it is a gift from God, but it is mediated through many people and events. For a long time I wondered if there was any special person or event, which brought me to my vocation. In the end I have decided it was a lifetime journey that was filled with signs of God's invitation to me to be an active person in the Church and to be a priest.

I remember as a young boy seeing the advertisement for the Peace Corps: "Peace Corps, the hardest job you will ever love." I remember thinking, "Someday I'm going to do that." After college I did indeed join Peace Corps and went to Malaysia where I lived and worked with Muslims for almost three years. This experience most certainly had an important and formative effect on my life. Although Malaysia is a Muslim country with few native Catholic priests, I was sent to a small village where Fr. Reutens, the priest in the area, happened to live. We often had Mass together and talked

about many things. Even the Muslim Malaysia people had a part in my vocation. Although they were of a different religion, their hospitality and concern for me showed me a new dimension of God's love. I realized that God transcends the barriers people build and use to keep themselves from seeing Him each other.

When I came back to the States from my experience in the Peace Corps, I went to graduate school with the intention of returning to Malaysia to teach in science education. But as I was going through graduate school and then teaching chemistry and physics in a Catholic high school in Minnesota, the idea of studying for the priesthood and to go to the foreign missions slowly grew. I visited a number of orders: Jesuit, Franciscan, Dominican, etc. Although these all are great orders with many good men, they just didn't seem to fit whatever it was I was looking for. Then one day while coming out of daily Mass, my eyes just happened to fall on a Maryknoll magazine. The second I saw the magazine it was like a great weight fell off my back and things actually seemed brighter. I knew that this (Maryknoll) was what I'd been looking and praying for. Years later I mentioned this experience to my mom. She told me that when I was a child, our family had the Maryknoll magazine around the house. I honestly do not remember it. But the dream and vision of Maryknoll must have left its mark

on me. No I not only dream of preaching the Good News to the nations. Now I live and preach the Good News all over the world. I get to see Christ alive in people in many different cultures. I also get to make a difference in the world by helping people to re-grow their forests to provide wood, stop erosion, and give the rest of nature a home.

When I decided to enter Maryknoll, I went on a Maryknoll summer vocation trip to Guatemala. About 30 young men from all over the U.S.A. participated. We spent time at the Maryknoll Regional Houses in Guatemala City and Huehuetenango learning about the needs of the poor, the mission and activities of the Church, and the dedication of the Catholic ministers in Guatemala. We learned about the many priests, women religious, and laity who had died ministering to the poor. Then we spent time in parishes and missions all over the mountainous area where Maryknoll worked. One of the other participants was eventually ordained a priest for the Diocese of San Angelo, Fr. Tom Barley. We became good friends in Guatemala and in the Maryknoll novitiate.

After Guatemala I went to the Maryknoll novitiate in Massachusetts. The Maryknoll novitiate is a year of spiritual growth, community building, learning about the order, and discerning one's vocation as a missionary. Then I studied theology at "the Knoll", Maryknoll's motherhouse or headquarters, at

Maryknoll, New York. After ordination I served in Tanzania in East Africa, Thailand, and now China. I have had experiences with impalas, gazelles, lions, cobras, giraffes, elephants, and many other animals in the wild that you can see in zoo or on television. I have spent nights on the plains of the Serengeti in Africa, lived in the shadow of Mt. Kilimanjaro, and eaten foods you cannot get in West Texas. I have had the opportunity to learn several different languages and to experience interesting customs. I have celebrated the sacraments with a wide variety of people, all children of God. I have been blessed to minister to various groups of people including Malay, Masai, Thai, and Chinese. I have helped people to improve their lives by helping them to develop their community resources. I have often lived where Catholicism has been a very small minority in Muslim, Buddhist or non-religious countries. Yet I have always found Christ in my life and the people who are respectful of my lived faith.

At this time I am teaching English at a forestry school in northern China. It is cold in the winter, the food is different, and the language is hard for me to learn, but the people are friendly and hungry to learn more about God. As a Catholic missionary I live a simple life-style as a witness to the love of Christ. Missionaries here are not allowed to evangelize by preaching. Therefore we evangelize by living our Catholic Faith as Christ taught us – living it in the midst of our brothers and sisters. When people come to me with questions about Christianity, then I can talk to them

see "VOCATION," page nine

## Dedication of Third Millennium to the Immaculate Heart of Mary

By Peter N. Micale, WTA

On Sunday, October 8th, with his brother Bishops from around the world who were in Rome with Pope John Paul II, our Holy Father dedicated the World and the Third Millennium to the Immaculate Heart of Mary. The statue of Our Lady of Fatima from the chapel of Apparitions, Fatima, Portugal, was brought to St. Peter's Basilica in Rome for this special event.

Bishop Pfeifer recently returned from Rome and consequently he was not present for this dedication ceremony. He, however, did dedicate the Diocese and joined with our

Holy Father in entrusting the World and the Third Millennium to the Immaculate Heart of Mary at the end of a Mass at St. Joseph's Church in Odessa.

The prayer that the Bishop used for this dedication follows:

### Act Of Consecration To The Immaculate Heart Of Mary

By Bishop Michael Pfeifer, OMI

O Mary, Virgin most powerful and Mother of mercy, Queen of Heaven and Refuge of sinners, on the dawn of the Third Millennium of Christianity, we your sons and

daughters in the Diocese of San Angelo consecrate ourselves to your Immaculate Heart and through you to the Sacred Heart of Jesus.

We consecrate to you our very being and our whole life-, all that we have; all that we love and all that we are. To you we give our bodies, our hearts and our souls. To you we give our homes, our families, our parishes, our country, and our world and this new Millennium. We desire that all that is in us and around us may belong to you. In your presence today we renew the promises of our Baptism when we were restored to grace and became members of the

family of the Church. We pledge ourselves to profess courageously and at all times the truths of the Catholic faith which comes to us from apostles and to live in communion with the Pope and Bishops throughout the world. We pledge ourselves to keep the commandments of God and his Church. In particular we pledge ourselves to keep holy the Lord's Day and to worthily prepare for and participate in the Eucharist. We promise to be faithful to you, Our Blessed and Most Pure Mother, and to help others understand the unique role you have in the salvation of the human

race.

Immaculate Heart of Mary, inspire all of our thoughts, words and actions so that every step we take may be directed to the greater glory of God; Inspire us to reach out to all those in need and through your powerful intercession, pray that we may never offend your Son Jesus but rather that we will honor and glorify him with our lives.

Finally, Most Holy Mother, we commend to you our lives at the moment of our death. Obtain for us, and those who have gone before us, the mercy and forgiveness of God the Father so that together with you we may rejoice in the presence of the Blessed Trinity for all eternity. Amen.

# Bush Praises Catholic Schools In Visit To Los Angeles

By Mike Nelson  
Catholic News Service

LOS ANGELES (CNS) — Praising Catholic schools for challenging “the soft bigotry of low expectations,” Texas Gov. George W. Bush brought his presidential campaign to Ascension School in the South Central section of Los Angeles.

“I appreciate the fact that Catholic schools have high expectations for their students and zero tolerance for disruption,” the GOP presidential candidate told an assembly of students, teachers, parents and community members gathered on Ascension’s playground Sept. 27.

Bush was visiting Ascension to declare his support for public-private sector community partnerships like that between Ascension and Figueroa Street Elementary School, its across-the-street neighbor.

The two schools have spearheaded community efforts to reduce crime and violence in the area, following the 1996 drive-by shooting of fifth-grade teacher Alfredo Perez at Figueroa Street School while he was in his classroom with his students. Perez, his wife and 1-year-old son Ivan were special guests at the event.

Vice President Al Gore, the Democratic candidate, was also invited to visit the schools but did not respond. A small crowd of pro-Gore supporters gathered on the sidewalk across from Ascension to protest Bush’s visit.

Los Angeles Cardinal Roger M. Mahony, who welcomed Bush and his wife, Laura, to Ascension, said

the Ascension-Figueroa partnership — assisted by citywide school, police, health care and church groups — had led to “a safe school environment, counseling services, health screening, after-school care, extended learning opportunities and the security of a supportive community.”

Among the most visible signs of the partnership is a “safe homes” program. Yellow signs on the sidewalk direct students on their way home from school to designated places of refuge if they suspect they are in trouble.

“It is my firm belief,” the cardinal added, “that new and innovative partnerships between school systems and community service organizations must be supported.

“It is only in embracing our common mission and working together from common-ground values of justice, equality and human dignity that we can provide the safe and secure environment and consistently-funded programs that are basic to quality education for all,” he said.

In introducing Bush, Cardinal Mahony praised the governor’s “commitment to quality education” and “to partnership and cooperation between public and private schools.”

Bush said he appreciated being invited to visit “this little haven of love” in one of the city’s toughest areas.

“I welcome the chance to highlight centers of excellence, places that challenge the odds, where the hopes and expectations of everyone are high,” he said. “That’s why I be-



Laura Bush, wife of Texas Gov. George W. Bush, greets students at Ascension School in Los Angeles Sept. 27. Bush brought his campaign to the Catholic school, he said, to emphasize public-private sector community partnerships like one Ascension has with a neighboring public school. (CNS photo from Reuters)

lieve in local control for schools, because the best schools are those free of bureaucracy.”

He voiced his support for government-sponsored efforts that promoted more public-private partnerships which benefit the community — specifically, programs that focus on education, instilling “a sense of right and wrong” in youth, and encouraging mentors “from all walks of life to help kids achieve their goals, and let them know someone loves them.”

Bush also called for rules that give teachers better control of their classrooms, without fear of lawsuit reprisals, and for better diagnostic tools to help schools determine which students need help in learn-

ing.

“There is nothing more important for our society,” Bush stated, “than to insist that every child can and must learn.”

Gov. and Mrs. Bush arrived at Ascension at approximately 8:30 a.m., and met privately with Cardinal Mahony for 10 minutes. They then visited Ascension’s fourth-grade classroom, where the Bushes chatted with students and stressed the importance of education, particularly learning to read.

“To accomplish your goals in life, you need to be good readers,” Bush told the fourth-graders. “My goal is to be president, but my main goal is to be a loving dad — that’s a goal that never goes away.”

Outside, the Bushes and Cardinal Mahony were greeted warmly by the 200 people in attendance, and were officially welcomed to Ascension by its student body president, eighth-grader Vanessa Gonzalez.

“It is good for them to be here,” Gonzalez said, “so they can better understand how our two schools work together to deal with our problems.”

**Pray  
for  
Rain**

## Knights of Peter Claver Seek Expansion

CHARLESTON, S. C. — Judge Arthur C. McFarland, newly-installed Supreme Knight of the Knights of Peter Claver, has two major objectives in mind for his organization.

“We must raise the awareness of what we do and who we are with the general community and with Church officials,” he said shortly after his installation.

“The second objective is to strengthen the organization internally through individual and group training and through the use of cur-

rent technology.”

Expansion is also among the new Supreme Knight’s priorities. The recent establishment of a council of the Order in Washington D. C. offers new advantages, he believes. “We now have an entre into areas that we didn’t have before,” he pointed out.

He also expects to pay more attention to the Middle Atlantic states. “New York and New Jersey are untapped. We must develop contacts with Church and lay leaders in this area.”

McFarland’s election places him at the head of the world’s largest predominantly Black Catholic organization, which currently operates 364 men’s councils and women’s courts in 30 states and the District of Columbia.

The Order has recently been invited to organize a council in Jamaica. “If this comes to pass,” McFarland said, “this will open up the entire Caribbean area.”

McFarland’s career shows him to be a person who takes advantage of his opportunities. He grew up in a

housing project in Charleston. His father made his living as a janitor, but the elder McFarland had a strong belief in education. He and his wife reared 10 children, eight of whom are college graduates.

The future Supreme Knight was named the outstanding Catholic youth of South Carolina in 1964, and after his graduation from Bishop England High school in 1966 he entered the University of Notre Dame in South Bend, Ind., where he earned a bachelor degree in 1970.

He attended the University of

Virginia Law School from 1970 to 1973, earning the Juris Doctor degree. He was an Earl Warren Fellow for one year, under the auspices of the NAACP Defense Fund.

McFarland began the practice of law in Charleston. In 1976 he became an Associate Justice of the Municipal Court, and in 1978 became the Chief Justice.

McFarland is married to the former Elise Davis and they are the parents of two children.

He had served six years as the Order’s National Advocate before being the Supreme Knight.



## Odessa Catholic School Receives Grant

by Father Mark Woodruff

ODESSA (Sept. 20, 2000) – St. Mary's Central Catholic School here has received a grant of \$7,528, according to Mrs. Lupe Molina the principal. The grant came from the Ector county Independent School District and will be used for educational materials.

Three thousand dollars will go toward the purchase of accelerated reading materials for the school's library. A smaller portion will go to equipment for the science lab, and the balance will be kept in reserve for other classroom materials as the year progresses.

Meanwhile, other fundraising efforts have been going on. A "pennies from heaven" drive began in August. By the end of the drive's first month, 76,281 pennies were collected – \$762.81. Mrs. Zuniga's 2nd grade class collected the largest number and won a pizza party for their efforts. The drive will continue through the year.

The first annual drive of the "Friends and Alumni Association of St. Mary's School" has begun. Most Catholic homes in Odessa have received appeals for the school.

The annual BRISKET DINNER, sponsored by the Home and School Association, took place Sunday, Sept. 24 at St. Mary's Parish Hall. Cooked by Odessa's famed Chuck Wagon Gang, more than 1,500 plates were served for a profit to the school of over \$7,500.

Another fundraiser is planned for October 27. Called the "Tailgate Party," the steak-and-potato dinner will be served from 5 to 9 p.m. at St. Elizabeth Ann Seton's Parish Hall on the night of the Permian-Midland Lee football game. St. Elizabeth's is conveniently located across from the Ratliff Stadium in Odessa where the game will be played. For ticket information, call the school at 915-337-6052.

Meanwhile, the school has received a new administrator – Father Mark Woodruff, pastor of St. Elizabeth Ann Seton Parish in Odessa. Bishop Michael D. Pfeifer, OMI, appointed him to that position in early September.

## Mission of CKRC

The Mission of CKRC is to proclaim Christ to all in an environment which offers hospitality and fosters human growth and authentic spirituality.

**Rationale.** CKRC, sponsored by the Catholic Diocese of San Angelo, welcomes all people of good will. Through retreats, prayer experiences and other programs, people can find rest and renewal, refresh the mind, restore the spirit, and rejuvenate the body. The experience of CKRC encourages people to live, share and give witness to the life, death and resurrection of Jesus Christ.

**Goals:** 1. CKRC will provide programs that enable Catholics and other individuals and groups on their spiritual journey to recognize their unique gifts, accept their authentic selves, encounter the Eucharistic Christ and answer the call to serve.

2. CKRC will provide hospitality for individuals and groups who come to participate in programs sponsored by churches, religious groups, and other organizations.

3. CKRC will communicate with parish and other church leadership, staffs and congregations to improve public perception of the center and to encourage greater participation in the programs offered by CKRC.

4. CKRC will manage its stewardship of facility and finances.

## Jubilee Day Of Government Officials

By Bishop Michael Pfeifer, OMI

November 5, 2000 is the Jubilee Day of Government Officials (Public Life). On this Jubilee Day, let us all offer special prayers for all government leaders – at a national, state, and local level. On this special Jubilee Day, let us pray to the Holy Spirit to guide all government officials with wisdom, truth, light, courage, honesty and love.

## Fr. John Gonzales Castro, O.M.I., New Christ the King Center Director

Using the theme of servant-leadership from the biblical setting of the Last Supper, Bishop Michael D. Pfeifer, O.M.I., installed Fr. John Gonzales Castro, O.M.I., as the director of Christ the King Retreat Center on Tuesday, September 12, 2000. A Missionary Oblate of Mary Immaculate priest for 37 years, Fr. Castro has also earned a doctorate from Michigan State University in Counseling Psychology and engaged in private practice in the state of Kansas for several years.

Although he arrived at Christ the King only in August, Fr. Castro has

con candidates entitled "The Spirituality of Service".

In late September, he co-directed the annual women's retreat and is planning a weekly hour of Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament every Tuesday at 5:15 P.M., open to the public, beginning the first Tuesday of Advent.

He will co-direct a youth Confirmation retreat in December and also plans to visit each one of the deanery meetings before the end of the year in order to better appreciate how the center may be able to minister to the needs of parishioners



Fr. John Gonzales Castro, OMI

Theological Seminary, Denver, Colorado; director of the Master's Program at Antioch-Juarez-Lincoln University, Austin, Texas and of the Mexican American Center for Economic Development (MACED), Austin, Texas.

Other leadership positions which Fr. Castro has held include the presidency of the National Association of Hispanic Priests of the United States (ANSH) and of the Association of Religious and Values Issues in Counseling (ARVIC), a division of the American

Counseling Association (ACA). He has also served as an executive board member of ACA and of *El Visitante Dominical*, the only Catholic newspaper printed in Spanish nationally and has been an editorial board member of *Counseling and Values Journal*, the official publication of ARVIC.



Christ the King Retreat Center. Photo by Pete Micale, WTA.

already met with members of his advisory board, his staff and a liaison group of priests to revise the mission statement and goals for the center. At the September Presbyteral Council meeting, Bishop Pfeifer and the members of the council unanimously approved the new revisions, which are published on page 5 of this edition of the *WT Angelus*.

In mid September Fr. Castro presented a day of recollection for dea-

in the different parts of the diocese.

Before his assignment to San Angelo, Fr. Castro had served as episcopal vicar for Hispanic Concerns in the diocese of Dodge City, Kansas and had held pastorates in Kansas and Texas. He was also director of Hispanic Ministry at Oblate School of Theology, San Antonio, Texas; dean of Hispanic Ministry at Mount Angel Seminary, St. Benedict, Oregon and at St. Thomas

## Pornography Is Like A Cancer

By Bishop Michael D. Pfeifer, OMI

The annual White Ribbon Campaign, this year held from October 29 - November 5, 2000, reminds us of the evil of pornography. Pornography is like a cancer that slowly eats away at society's sense of decency and the Christian respect that is due the human body.

Pornography offends against the Divine plan for the body and for the intimacy of sexual union. It fixates on certain normal body functions in an immodest and obsessive way. It offends against the respect that is due to the human body which the Bible tells us is a temple of the Holy Spirit. Pornography is especially degrading in its use of women as sexual objects. There are several ways in which pornography harms

both those who produce it and those who use it.

By putting on display both bodily functions normally kept private and acts of sexual intimacy, which belong properly to the love of husband and wife, pornography violates respect due the body and robs sexual intimacy of its intrinsic meaning and purpose. In addition, those who produce pornography, who distribute it, or who view it, are all gravely injured by the harm done to their human dignity. Both the users and producers of pornography become degraded into an object trapped in a system for procuring illicit pleasure and profit.

There are other evils of behavior or character that result from pornography, such as:

– It can have a progressively de-

sensitizing effect, gradually rendering individuals morally numb;

– It can be addictive, causing some viewers to require progressively more perverse material to achieve the same degree of stimulation;

– Marriage and family life, especially can be undermined by pornography, since it demeans their sacred value;

– In some cases, pornography can incite its users to commit more overtly violent crimes such as rape, child abuse, and even murder.

The White Ribbon Campaign calls our attention to the connection between pornography and tendencies toward these personal and social evils.

# Diocese Of San Pedro Sula, Honduras

by Msgr. Larry J. Droll

The Diocese of San Angelo has a sister—the Diocese of San Pedro Sula in Honduras. In Spanish, the word for being paired like this is the word for being sisters, “*somas hermadadas*.”

During 1999, the bishops of Texas and Oklahoma decided to establish relationships with the seven dioceses of Honduras. San Angelo, Tyler and Oklahoma City were assigned to the Diocese of San Pedro Sula. The immediate need for this outreach was to assist Hondurans to deal with Hurricane Mitch, which caused devastating flooding in October, 1998. But at the same time, Pope John Paul II was encouraging us to grasp the vision that we are one Catholic Church in North, Central and South America (“*Ecclesia in America*”). How can we help this to become a reality?

Through various collections, the Diocese of San Angelo has sent more than \$40,000 to various efforts in Honduras and the Diocese of San Pedro Sula.

Bishop Angel Garachana expressed his gratitude to the people

of the Diocese of San Angelo when I visited him in August. He hopes he can develop closer relationships with us. Some of his suggestions included his visiting in the sister dioceses, the Catholic University of Honduras offering Spanish classes, or sending some of San Pedro Sula’s priests to speak in our parishes.

Fr. Tom Goekler, MM, who was featured in a *West Texas Angelus* article in September hopes a small group from the Diocese might come to work with him for a few days.

The Diocese of San Pedro Sula is approximately one-tenth the area of the Diocese of San Angelo, but it has ten times the number of Catholics. San Pedro has only 19 parishes, while San Angelo has 49. But parish realities are entirely different in Honduras.

Take for example Sacred Heart Parish, entrusted to the Maryknoll Fathers. Two priests, Bob Coyue and Paul Belliveau, serve the main church, which functions more or less like a parish in the United States, with programs and regular activities.

Fr. Tom Goekler works in 12 neighborhoods in Chamelecon, the poor-

est *barrio* of San Pedro Sula. Masses and activities are offered in 5 chapels. Fr. David LaBuda tends to the other half of Chamelecon. Fr. Ron Potter serves 2 churches in the fourth sector. No one knows the real number of Catholics in this one parish, but there are undoubtedly more than in the whole Diocese of San Angelo. And their survival and social needs defy description.

Just a few miles outside of San Pedro Sula, another Maryknoll priest, Richard Frank, 72 years old, serves 50 villages.

Some 67 priests serve the Diocese of San Pedro Sula: 25 of these are diocesan and 42 belong to religious orders. Only 6 of the diocesan priests are Hondurens. There are 112 women religious and 6 religious brothers.

Lay leaders in the parishes, missions and villages are called “Del-



San Jose Church and Youth Center, San Pedro Sula. Donations from the Diocese of San Angelo have provided equipment for the Youth Center. Now it awaits a fresh coat of paint.

egates of the Word.” After a series of classes in formation, these men and women assist in preaching and teaching, organizing and serving the community. I met several. I was impressed with the depth of their faith-sharing and their commitment to serving the people.

Youth programs are very important. They range from the typical rallies and meetings organized by the diocese to parish efforts at catechesis. Presenting the Gospel stories in “*dramas*” (skits) seems very popular. Efforts in the slums include opportunities to work, save

money, reduce gang violence, use video to teach religion and involve youth in reading and computer classes.

“But it all comes down to building relationships and trust,” explained Fr. Tom. “This is the Gospel to which our people respond. It takes an immense amount of time and visiting with people, along with a disciplined value system and morality. Then, little by little, we can do some good. When we truly love our people, they know it.”

## Annual Collection For The Diocese Of San Pedro Sula

by Bishop Michael D. Pfeifer, OMI

Dear brothers and sisters in Christ:

Last year, the Diocese of San Angelo made a commitment to become a sister diocese with the Diocese of San Pedro Sula in Honduras. Our brothers and sisters in Central America had just suffered greatly from Hurricane Mitch and so there was great financial need. Pope John Paul II in his exhortation, “*The Church in America*,” was calling on us to recognize our unity with other dioceses on the continent.

Last year, a special collection was taken up in early November, resulting in some \$22,000 that was sent to Honduras. At our diocesan Jubilee celebration in June, 2000, the collection was designated for San Pedro Sula, a generous offering of over \$14,000. These collections, along with other gifts, have been sent to Honduras to build homes, to provide equipment for youth programs, and to assist the Church in its needs. The Bishop of the Diocese of San Pedro Sula, Most Rev. Angel Garachana, expresses his gratitude to all of the people of the Diocese of San Angelo who have been so generous.

Our annual collection for the Diocese of San Pedro Sula will be taken up on the first weekend of November in this Jubilee Year 2000. The needs of the Diocese of San Pedro Sula continue to be great, both in recovering from Hurricane Mitch and in new efforts to proclaim the Gospel of Jesus Christ. I urge your generous support.

Please place your contribution in the special envelopes provided and put the envelope in your parish’s second collection on November 4 and 5, 2000. Your contribution will be forwarded to the Diocese of San Angelo, and we will send it on to Honduras.

Thank you and God bless you.

## Debt Relief for a Brighter Future

by Msgr. Larry Droll

Nearly two years ago, Hurricane Mitch swept through Central America causing damage unprecedented in hurricane history. Sustaining winds between 30 and 180 mph, the rains poured over the mountainous region causing floods and mudslides. Honduras alone suffered 6,600 deaths, 8,052 missing and 2.1 million whose lives were torn apart. Approximately 170 bridges were destroyed and 70 percent of the roads were impacted by the treacherous storm. The effects of Hurricane Mitch set the already extremely poor country of Honduras back nearly 20 years in its development process.

In the spirit of solidarity and in the act of Christian love, the dioceses of Texas linked with those in Tulsa and Oklahoma City to reach out to our brothers and sisters in Honduras in response to this terrible storm. The Texas/Oklahoma-Honduras Initiative organized through Catholic Relief Services, works to create public awareness about Honduras’ plight, to provide technology transfers, volunteer programs, financial support as well as advocacy and spiritual solidarity in the country’s

struggle to rebuild and revive.

But it is not just the winds of the hurricane that Honduras struggles to overcome. Honduras, like many impoverished countries around the world, is forced to use its scarce resources to pay bilateral creditors rather than invest in health and education. Because of the large foreign debt accrued by Honduras, the most recent figure is \$4.3 billion aspects of society that are taken for granted here in the United States — such access to good healthcare and basic education — are seen as unreachable luxuries by many of the country’s citizens. Despite some debt relief in the wake of the Hurri-

cane, Honduras has continued to pay nearly \$300 million a year toward its debt - or 27 percent of its entire national budget!

In early July, the IMF and World Bank agreed that Honduras is eligible for reduction of its payments of its debt over several years, beginning immediately. Yet Honduras can’t begin benefiting from this decision until the United States pays its share of the international debt reduction plan agreed by President Clinton and leaders of other lending countries at the G-7 Summit a year ago.

see “*DEBT*” page eleven

**St. Ambrose Church, Wall, TX**

**“Luau at Wall-kiki” Festival**



**Sunday, October 15, 10:00 am - 4:00 pm**

**Dinner Served 11:00 am - 2:00 pm,  
German Sausage, Turkey and Dressing**

**Adults/Carryout \$6.00 - Children \$3.00**

**Games Start 10:00 am - Auction 1:30 pm**



## Bishop Leads Abortion Protest



On September 9, Bishop Pfeifer spoke to approximately 150 people in front of the Planned Parenthood (Abortinary) building in Midland. (Photos by Pete Micale - WTA.)

## Lay Leadership Of Prayer: Sunday And Weekday Celebrations In The Absence Of A Priest

**Saturday, October 28, 2000**

**St. Thomas Parish, 605 N. Main Street, Big Spring, TX**

Schedule: 9:30 am - 10:00 Registration,

12:00 Lunch, 3:00 pm Conclusion

Content for Liturgy Day will be based on the following resources:

*Sunday Celebrations in the Absence of a Priest*

*Holy Communion and Worship of the Eucharist Outside Mass*

*Temporary Diocesan Guidelines for Weekday Celebrations in the Absence of a Priest*

These resources are available at your parish churches.

This annual Liturgy day is sponsored and conducted by the Diocesan Liturgy Commission.

Fee: \$15.00 (includes refreshments & Lunch)

Due Date for Applications: October 20, 2000

Send name and fee to:

Adela Lindsey, P.O. Box 1829, San Angelo, TX 76902-1829

Phone: 915-651-7500, Fax: 915-651-6688

## RU-486 Approval Seen As Latest Capitulation To Abortion Backers

By Nancy Frazier O'Brien  
Catholic News Service

WASHINGTON (CNS) — Approval of the French abortion drug RU-486 for use in the United States will serve to “further numb our consciences to the violence of abortion and the taking of innocent human life,” the head of the U.S. bishops’ pro-life office said Sept. 28.

Gail Quinn, executive director of the bishops’ Secretariat for Pro-Life Activities, said the approval given earlier that day by the Food and Drug Administration was “the last in a series of capitulations to abortion advocates who dismiss serious concerns about the drug and its effects.”

Gloria Feldt, president of Planned Parenthood, said the FDA approval would “create a new era for choice for women” in America, where more than 1.3 million surgical abortions are performed each year.

“The church and the pro-life community,” said Quinn, “will continue to speak the truth about this deadly drug, while ministering to women who are in a crisis situation

or who suffer after an abortion.”

Judie Brown, a Catholic who heads the American Life League, also pledged to continue efforts against RU-486, which is known generically as mifepristone and is used along with a prostaglandin drug to cause abortion in the first few weeks of pregnancy.

“We will shout it from the rooftops: RU-486 kills innocent human persons,” Brown said. “The U.S. Congress must resolve to conduct oversight hearings at once so that the Food and Drug Administration is held accountable for this raw, inhumane decision that will destroy babies and maim women.”

In announcing its approval of mifepristone, which is to be marketed under the name Mifeprex, Dr. Jane E. Henney, U.S. commissioner of food and drugs, said the decision was based on “the FDA’s careful evaluation of the scientific evidence related to the safe and effective use of this drug.”

“The FDA’s review and approval of this drug has adhered strictly to our legal mandate and mission as a science-based public health regula-

tory agency,” she added.

Danco Laboratories in New York was expected to have the drug on the market in about a month. It would be sold directly to doctors and not through pharmacies. The National Abortion Federation, which accredits its abortion providers, says it has 240 member clinics ready to offer the abortion drug, which was expected to cost about the same as a surgical abortion.

Vicki Saporta, executive director of the National Abortion Federation, said the FDA approval marked “a milestone in the history of abortion in America.”

But Joseph M. Scheidler, executive director of the Pro-Life Action League, called Sept. 28 “a black day in the history of the FDA and women’s health.”

RU-486 “is a deadly poison to a tiny, defenseless unborn baby,” he said, “and it can be lethal to the child’s mother as well.”

The FDA placed some restrictions on use of mifepristone, requiring doctors who use the drug to be trained in surgical abortions or to have plans in advance to provide

such care through others.

Absent from the regulations, however, was a requirement for doctors who plan to use RU-486 to sign a registry. Abortion providers had argued when that idea was floated by the FDA earlier this year that such a registry could make doctors who use RU-486 the targets of pro-life demonstrators.

The FDA also said each woman receiving mifepristone must be given a guide that clearly explains how to take the drug, who should avoid taking it, and what side effects can occur.

The agency said RU-486 should not be used in cases of confirmed or suspected ectopic pregnancies, when an intrauterine device is in place, or by those with bleeding disorders or chronic failure of the adrenal glands, those receiving long-term therapy with corticosteroids or those allergic to mifepristone or prostaglandins. Women who smoke more than 10 cigarettes a day are warned that its effect on heavy smokers is not known.

The FDA also mandated that certain follow-up studies be conducted by the Population Council, which holds the U.S. rights to the drug. These studies would: look at whether doctors were providing sur-

gical abortions when needed or referring to others; whether the patient agreement was being properly signed by doctors and patients and placed in the patient’s medical record; and what happens in cases of the “rare ongoing pregnancies after treatment with mifepristone in the U.S.”

The process by which an RU-486 abortion takes place will involve three visits to the doctor, including a follow-up two weeks after the first drug is taken.

At the first visit, the woman receives 600 mg of mifepristone by mouth. Two days later, she takes 400 mcg (micrograms) of misoprostol, a prostaglandin. The drug combination then cuts off nourishment for the embryo and induces uterine contractions, causing the embryo to be expelled.

The third visit to the doctor is to determine whether the abortion has actually taken place.

“Many have misleadingly promoted mifepristone as a panacea,” said Quinn of the bishops’ pro-life office. “In reality, chemical abortion is an intense, three- to 15-day regimen involving multiple office visits and a combination of drugs with the possibility of life-threatening complications.”



# Reflections On Faithful Citizenship

By Bishop Michael Pfeifer, OMI

Every four years since the mid-1970s in preparation for the Presidential Election, the U.S. Catholic Bishops have adopted a statement on political responsibility. This traditional statement calls Catholics to active involvement in political life, outlines the role of the Church, and points out key moral and human issues for consideration in the coming election.

In this article I share with you some reflections of the U.S. Catholic Bishops from their statement in preparation for the upcoming elections entitled, "*Faithful Citizenship: Civic Responsibility for a New Millennium.*"

## *Politics and Citizenship*

Elections are a time for debate and decisions on the leaders, policies, and values that will guide our nation. In the elections of 2000, we urge our fellow believers to proclaim the Gospel of Life, to protect "the least among us," and to pursue the common good. As citizens we need to face our own public responsibilities: to register and vote; to understand issues and assess candidates' positions and qualifications; and to join with others in advocating for the common good.

The year 2000 marks a great spiritual milestone and offers an important civic challenge. For Christians, this year is the Great Jubilee marking the 2000th anniversary of the birth of Christ. For U.S. citizens, this year brings the election of those who will lead our government into a new century and a new millennium.

For U.S. Catholics these two events bring special responsibilities and opportunities. This is a time to bring together the guidance of the Gospel and the opportunities of our democracy to shape a society more respectful of human life and dignity, and more committed to justice and peace. As bishops it is not only our right as citizens, but our responsibility as religious teachers to speak out on the moral dimensions of public life.

Catholics are called to be a community of conscience within the larger society and to test public life by the moral wisdom anchored in Scripture and consistent with the best of our nation's founding ideals. Our moral framework does not easily fit the categories of right or left,

Democrat or Republican. Our responsibility is to measure every party and platform by how its agenda touches human life and dignity.

## *Challenges for Believers*

Our nation has been blessed with great freedom, vibrant democratic traditions, unprecedented economic strengths, abundant natural resources and generous and religious people. Yet not all is right with our nation. Very often, our culture does not lift us up; instead it may bring us down in moral terms. Signs of the challenges surround us: abortion, poverty (especially among youth), violence, scandal, intense partisanship. All of these things deeply affect the lives and dignity of countless thousands.

This new millennium requires a new kind of politics, focused more on moral principles than on the latest polls, more on the needs of the poor and vulnerable than the contributions of the rich and powerful, more on the pursuit of the common good than the demands of special interests. As Catholics and as voters, this is not an easy time for faithful citizenship. Faithful citizens not only consistently participate in public life, but they are disciples who view these responsibilities through the eyes of faith and bring their moral convictions to their civic life.

We must challenge all parties and every candidate to defend human life and dignity, to pursue greater justice and peace, to uphold family life and to advance the common good.

## *Themes of Catholic Social Teaching*

The Catholic approach to faithful citizenship begins with moral principles, not party platforms. The directions for our public witness are found in Scripture and Catholic social teaching. The following are key themes at the heart of our Catholic social tradition:

– **Life and dignity of the human person.** Every human person is created in the image and likeness of God. Human life is sacred and each person has inherent dignity. Calls to advance human rights are illusions if the right to life itself is subject to attack.

– **Call to family, community and participation.** The human person is not only sacred but inherently social. The God-given institutions of

marriage and the family are central and serve as the foundations for social life. They must be supported, not undermined. Beyond the family, every person has a right to participate in the wider society and a corresponding duty to work for the advancement of the common good and the well-being of all, especially the poor and weak.

– **Rights and responsibilities.** As social beings, our relationships are governed by a web of rights and corresponding duties. Every person has a fundamental right to life and a right to those things that allow one to live a decent life—faith and family, food and shelter, health care and housing, education and employment.

– **Option for the poor and vulnerable.** The Bible and the Church call on all of us to embrace a preferential love of the poor and vulnerable.

– **Dignity of work and the rights of workers.** The economy must serve people, not the other way around. Work is more than a way to make a living; it is a form of continuing participation in God's act of creation. If the dignity of work is to be protected, then the basic rights of workers, owners and managers must be respected.

– **Solidarity.** Because of the interdependence among all the members of the human family around the globe, we have a moral responsibility to commit ourselves to the common good everywhere.

– **Care for God's creation.** Our use of the world must be directed by God's plan for creation, not simply by our own benefit. Our stewardship of the earth is a kind of participation in God's act of creating and sustaining the world.

## *Believer and Citizen in the Year 2000*

The call to faithful citizenship raises a fundamental question. What does it mean to be a believer and a citizen in the year 2000 and beyond? As Catholics, we can celebrate the Great Jubilee by recommitting ourselves to carry the values of the Gospel and Church teaching into the public square. As citizens, we can and must participate in the debates and choices over the values, vision, and leaders that will carry our nation through this century as we look with hope to begin a new millennium.

# Full Participation In The Political Process Demands Campaign Finance Reform

By Bishop Michael D. Pfeifer, OMI,  
Bishop of the Diocese of San Angelo  
President of the Texas Conference of Churches

All citizens have the right and responsibility to offer their wisdom and experience to the political process. However, few citizens run for public office and a major obstacle preventing them is the escalating cost for running for public office. There is a growing public concern that capable and good citizens do not participate more in the political process because the current system under which political campaigns are conducted makes it impossible.

Campaign finance reform is necessary so that more citizens will be able to use their rights and responsibilities to fully participate in the political process.

The cost for running for office constantly becomes ever higher. Expensive campaigns - once limited to campaigns for President, Congress and Governor, are now commonplace in state legislative contests and occurring even in contests for local government offices and school boards. A significant factor in these higher costs are the expenses of paid media, especially television advertising. This trend makes seeking elective office more and more difficult for people of modest or average financial means, even though they might be well qualified for a political office.

Campaign finance reform is urgently needed so that the common good of the political process can be restored. Campaign finance reform should serve to increase citizen participation in the political process, and foster consideration of the common good over particular "special" interest groups and enable voters to be more informed about candidates.

For this reform to come about, political structures need to be arranged in ways that provide every citizen with an effective opportunity to participate freely and actively in the entire political process, and even seek public office. Campaign reform which focuses on the common good allows persons and groups to take into account not only their own interests, but the needs and legitimate aspirations of others, and allows citizens of average financial means to fully participate in the political process as candidates.

Campaign reform will foster increased citizen participation in campaigns and encourage higher voter turnout. This reform is necessary so that a small number of powerful interest groups do not dominate or distort the political process.

There is a moral call for campaign finance reform. This reform must center on increasing public awareness of the source, purpose and amount of campaign contributions without discouraging participation. The specific details and components of reform proposals must be worked out by the citizens and their elective representatives.

As citizens of our country and as people of God committed to what is best for the common good, there is need to heed the call to share generously the gifts of God by organizing the political process in such a way that it invites rather than discourages full civic involvement in the political process.

**Attention prayerful single men and women!  
Would you like to attend a live-in experience  
at a Trappist-Cistercian or Benedictine  
Monastery? Learn about these exciting  
vocations and hear the conferences given by  
the monks themselves. These retreats are very  
popular so make your reservation early. There  
is no cost but space is limited. Call Natalie  
Smith at 954-340-5705.**



# Knights Of Columbus Names Anderson 13th Supreme Knight

By Catholic News Service

NEW HAVEN, Conn. (CNS) — The board of directors of the Knights of Columbus has named Carl A. Anderson, 49, as the 13th supreme knight, or chief executive officer, of the 1.6 million-member international Catholic fraternal service organization.

A knight since 1985, Anderson has been a member of the Knights' board and was named supreme secretary in 1999. The announcement of his promotion was made Sept. 26 at Knights' headquarters in New Haven. Anderson succeeds Virgil C. Dechant, 70, who is retiring after 24 years as supreme knight. Dechant will remain on the Knights' board.

Dechant said he was leaving "with the great satisfaction" that the leadership was passing to Anderson. "His strength of character, vast Knights of Columbus experience, together with the know-how and policy skills he acquired in a distinguished public service career, make him especially well qualified to lead the order in its next phase of growth," said Dechant.

In the Knights' announcement, Anderson also praised Dechant's 35 years of service as a Knights' official. "The Knights of Columbus is far larger, stronger, and more relevant to the needs of those it serves as a consequence of his leadership," said the new supreme knight.

Anderson and his wife, Dorian, have five children and live in Madison, Conn. He earned a philosophy degree at Seattle University and a law degree from the University of Denver. From 1976 to 1983, he was a legislative assistant at the U.S. Senate and a legal adviser to the secretary of the Department of Health and Human Services. He held various positions in the Reagan administration, including special assistant to the president and acting director of the Office of Public Liaison, 1983-87. During that time he helped develop the administration's pro-life and pro-family initiatives.

Anderson joined the Knights in the District of Columbia in 1985. He served the local order as grand knight, district deputy, state advocate, state secretary and state deputy. From 1987 to 1997, he was the Knights' vice president for public policy in Washington. He was named assistant supreme secretary in 1997 and supreme secretary in 1999.

Anderson, who also is vice presi-



The Knights of Columbus has named Carl A. Anderson, 49, as the 13th supreme knight of the 1.6 million-member international Catholic fraternal organization. The announcement was made Sept. 26 in New Haven, Conn. (CNS photo courtesy Knights of Columbus)

dent of the John Paul II Institute for Studies on Marriage and the Family in Washington, taught there from 1988 to 1998. He has been a visiting professor since 1983 at the institute's facilities at the Lateran University in Rome.

In 1998, Pope John Paul II appointed him to the Pontifical Academy for Life. He also has been honored with knighthood in the Order of St. Gregory the Great and the

Knights of the Holy Sepulcher.

In the announcement, Anderson said all plans for the future would be "grounded in an unshakable commitment to the fundamental purposes of the order and a respect for the attitudes and opinions of our members and of those who depend on us." He pledged dedication to the mission of the Catholic Church, to church leaders, to members and their families, and "to the fostering of a culture of life."

Anderson also stressed the importance of the Knights' insurance program, which has \$40 billion of insurance in force, and said the Knights would continue to promote it. "It was integral to Father (Michael) McGivney's founding vision of the Knights of Columbus spirit of mutual aid and is central to our work today," he said.

The Knights' board also announced other top-level appointments: Jean Migneault as deputy supreme knight; Charles H. Foos as supreme secretary; Kenneth N. Ryan as supreme treasurer; and Nestor V. Barber as supreme master of the Fourth Degree. In addition, the board re-elected Pat A. Cipollone as supreme advocate.

Except for Barber, who will continue to work from San Jose, Calif., the others will work at Knights' headquarters and live in the greater New Haven area.

# Thank You for Peter's Pence

Dear Bishop Pfeifer:

With sincere gratitude I wish to acknowledge receipt of the check in the amount of \$15,018.96, representing the Peter's Pence contribution from the Church in San Angelo for 2000, which you had forwarded this past week to the Apostolic Nunciature.

As I assure you that this sum will be duly transmitted to the Secretariat of State on your behalf, permit me to offer an initial word of appreciation in the name of the Holy Father for this valuable assistance. In addition to sharing in the material responsibilities facing Pope John Paul II, this expression of generosity by your people reveals their deep awareness of the bonds of faith, worship and love which they share with the Universal Church and God's people, especially the poor, throughout the world.

May God, who is infinitely generous, reward you and continue to bless you and the faithful under your pastoral care.

With warm regards, I am sincerely in Christ,  
Apostolic Nuncio

## VOCATION

from page three

about the Faith and invite them to experience Mass.

Over the years the concept of being a missionary has changed from taking Christ to countries to 'save pagan souls' to finding God already present in other cultures. We help the people to recognize the Word Made Flesh in their own faith journeys. Then, when a missionary returns home for a visit, there is the mission to remind our own people of our responsibility to make Christ come alive in our own homes and communities. The challenges of being a missionary or any disciple of Christ are great, but not as great as the rewards for accepting them. While many are called and few are chosen, we are all called to be missionaries — to live Christ teachings in a world hungry for Him.

If you are interested in being a Catholic missionary, there are many religious orders and groups that send priests, women religious, and lay people like you to other countries from a lifetime to commitments of a few years. They spend a while

learning the language and customs of the people who live where they will minister. Other missionaries stay in the U.S.A. and minister in areas where Catholics are a tiny minority with a great need for the sacraments and Catholic ministry. If you are interested in learning more about becoming a Catholic missionary, contact one of the many religious missionary orders, your pastor or Fr. Tom Barley at the Diocesan Vocations Office (651-7500). If you wish to learn more about the Maryknoll Fathers, Sisters, Brothers or Associate Lay Missionaries, a series of tapes about Maryknoll missions throughout the world (Fields Afar) can be found in the Religious Education Office at the Diocesan Pastoral Center in San Angelo or write Maryknoll Vocations Office, P.O. Box 302, Maryknoll New York, 10545-0302. For a copy of the Maryknoll Magazine, call 1-888-627-9566.

Since missionaries are very dependent on the support of others, I ask that you keep me and other missionaries in your prayers. You are in my prayers.

## A Prayer for Rain

*O God, in whom we live,  
Move and have our being,  
Grant us seasonable rain,  
So that when our temporal needs  
Are sufficiently supplied,  
We may seek, with more confidence,  
After things eternal.  
May the rain you send  
Renew the parched earth,  
Provide a bountiful harvest,  
And reward our faith and trust in you.  
We pray this though Christ, our Lord.  
Amen.*

## Angelo Catholic School

& Knights of Columbus present

## Oktober Fiesta 2000

Sunday, October 29 - Holy Angels Campus

Delicious BBQ Brisket Meal

Served From 11:00 A.M. - 1:30 P.M.

School Store, Auction, Over 25 Midway Games

San Antonio Trip to be Given Away!



## Political, Not Partisan

by Fr. Frank Pavone, National Director, Priests for Life

Believers are not second-class citizens. Just because people have convictions which flow from their faith does not mean they have less of a voice in the shaping of public policy. In fact, a primary purpose of the Church is precisely to influence the culture through advocacy of moral issues. As one commentator declared: "Religion and politics have been intertwined since the birth of our nation. In a democracy created to reflect the social fabric of its citizens, religious groups have always advocated moral positions to further or impede political causes and political campaigns" (Judy Ann Rosenblum).

The mission of the Church is a religious one, not a political one. Yet this does not mean that the Church has nothing to say about political matters. "At all times and in all places, the Church should have the true freedom to teach the faith, to proclaim its teaching about society, to carry out its task among men without hindrance, and to pass moral judgment even in matters relating to politics, whenever the fundamental rights of man or the salvation of souls requires it" (Vatican II, Gaudium et Spes, 76). The Church does not formulate policies; the Church gives witness to the truths of God to which policies should conform!

Those truths do not easily fit the categories of liberal or conservative, Republican or Democrat. The Church does not endorse particular candidates, conduct partisan campaigns, or represent any party or platform. Rather, she evaluates policies according to how they touch the human person, how they affirm human life, human dignity, human rights, and the common good.

No party line perfectly conforms to the Gospel. We have to be free to follow the Gospel — free not only in the sense that the law does not interfere with the Church's proclamation of the truth, but also free interiorly to be able to vote on principle rather than by party loyalty. The bishops' 1995 statement Political Responsibility states that we need to be political without being partisan, civil without being soft, involved without being used.

In the parishes, there are many things we are able to do, such as to educate candidates and voters, and conduct voter-registration drives. In short, we must be involved.

The bishops speak about the freedom that Christians must have to profess their faith publicly:

"One of our greatest blessings in the United States is our right and responsibility to participate in civic life. The Constitution protects the right of individuals and of religious bodies to speak out without governmental interference, endorsement, or sanction. It is increasingly apparent that major public issues have clear moral dimensions and that religious values have significant public consequences. Our nation is enriched and our tradition of pluralism enhanced when religious groups contribute to the debate over the policies that guide the nation" (Administrative Board, US Bishops, Faithful Citizenship, 1999, p. 8).

Priests for Life will send complimentary copies of Living the Gospel of Life and Faithful Citizenship, along with camera-ready bulletin inserts based on these documents, to anyone who requests them. Contact Priests for Life at PO Box 141172, Staten Island, NY 10314; Tel: 888-PFL-3448, 718-980-4400; Fax: 718-980-6515; email: mail@priestsforlife.org; web: www.priestsforlife.org

## Hollywood Caught In 'Joe Camel' Campaign Against Kids

by Robert H. Knight  
Family Research Council

WASHINGTON, D.C. — "We now have evidence of what we suspected all along about the entertainment industry," said Robert Knight, senior director of cultural studies at Family Research Council in response to a report released Monday by the Federal Trade Commission (FTC) on the marketing of violent entertainment to children.

"The tobacco industry was forced to discontinue its use of 'Joe Camel,' because it obviously targeted kids," Knight said. "Well, Hollywood has a 'Joe Camel' problem of its own - aggressive marketing of adult material to underage children. This report is proof that

new ratings on movies, music, and video games have been ineffective. Hollywood sees dollar signs when they see teenagers, but they refuse to accept liability for events like the shootings of kids at Columbine and in Fort Worth. It's time the public holds them accountable."

The FTC report released Monday found that the motion picture, music recording and electronic game industries are specifically targeting children under 17 with marketing campaigns and research to sell violent entertainment. The report calls on the industry to step up its self-regulation by establishing codes prohibiting marketing R-rated/M-rated/explicitly labeled products to children, to enforce codes at movie

theaters and rental stores, and to include detailed reasons behind ratings on product labels.

"Even if parents try to protect their children from explicit movies and violent video games, their kids are still being exposed to aggressive marketing campaigns in magazines, on TV, and on the Internet," Knight said. "Marketing adult material to kids is certainly immoral; maybe it's actionable. Just ask the cigarette makers."

Robert H. Knight is the author of The Age of Consent: The Rise of Relativism and the Corruption of Popular Culture (Spence Publishing, 1998, 2000).

## Rock For Life Thanks Kid Rock For Confirming Post-Abortion Trauma In Men

By Scott Weinberg

WASHINGTON, DC — "If Kid Rock is willing to confirm the reality of post-abortion trauma in men who have participated in the killing of their pre-born children, then why does Big Abortion deny that post-abortion trauma exists?" asked Erik Whittington, director of Rock for Life, a division of American Life League.

In his song called "Abortion," from the album "The History of Rock," Kid Rock torments over a father's loss of his aborted son: "My veins are popping from this love inside I've never heard you cry [and] I've never seen you whine But still I

must die to get to you and if I do I wonder just how you will see me and implicate the things I've done I'll see you soon now where's my gun" (WEA/Atlantic, May 30, 2000).

"These haunting lyrics tell the tale of man so tormented with post-abortion suffering that he is on the threshold of committing suicide," Whittington said.

Rock For Life does not endorse Kid Rock's music or lifestyle, and unconditionally rejects the idea of suicide. But Whittington thanked Kid Rock for revealing the reality of post-abortion trauma for men. He also urged both men and women to seek post-abortion healing as a

means of confronting the pain. "Another American Life League division, Rachel's Vineyard Ministries (1-877-HOPE-4-ME), is there to help," he said.

A recent medical survey indicates that at least 560,000 women suffer post-abortion trauma. "Big Abortion makes money by withholding information about the consequences of abortion," Whittington said. "Greed is one of the main motives behind Big Abortion. Let the killing stop, and let the healing begin. Abortion has already claimed tens of millions of my generation."

## Healing Body and Soul

by Msgr. Thomas J. McSweeney,  
The Christophers

A wise doctor friend of mine recently shared a couple of stories with me that helped me see his vocation in an entirely new light.

We were discussing the marvelous advances in medicine made possible by new technologies and research. But when I began to rave about the many innovations, he smiled good-naturedly and raised his hand in gentle protest. "I hate to admit it, Father, but the healing arts are getting dangerously close to losing the one thing that all these scientific breakthroughs cannot provide - the human touch." He offered these two

examples During the first two decades of this century, a great number of babies wasted away in hospitals and died from unknown causes. In some institutions it was customary to enter the condition of all seriously sick infants as "hopeless" on admissions cards. Among those who confronted infant mortality daily was Doctor Fritz Talbo of the Children's Clinic in Dusseldorf, Germany. He had such uncommon success in dealing with sick children that other doctors began to inquire what kind of wonder drug he was using.

Talbot explained that his secret was "Old Anna," a grandmotherly woman who would cuddle a baby on

her lap while seated in a large rocker. Whenever there was a baby for whom everything had failed, he turned the child over to Old Anna. Talbot explained, "She has more success than all the doctors and nurses in this institution combined."

My friend moved on to his second illustration. The late Doctor Elisabeth Kubler-Ross, internationally known psychiatrist and authority on death and dying, liked to tell the true story of an old woman who worked for many years in a Chicago hospital, mopping floors.

Whenever the scrubwoman left the room of a dying patient, that patient, without exception, was happier and more at peace than before. Having observed this phenomenon over

a period of time, Doctor Kubler-Ross determined to find out why it was happening.

She invited the old woman to her office for a conference. There she learned that this poor, uneducated cleaning woman had faced a great deal of suffering and tragedy in her life. The woman told the doctor about the time when she had waited in a public health clinic for her three-year-old son to be treated for pneumonia. Before the little boy's turn for treatment came, he died in her arms.

"You see, doctor," the old woman said, "dying patients are just like old acquaintances to me, and I'm not afraid to touch them, to talk with them, or to offer them hope."

Deeply touched by her words,

Kubler-Ross notified hospital authorities. In turn they offered the old scrubwoman a newly created position of "Counselor to the Dying" and she worked in that capacity for several years before her own death.

My friend's point is this: "At this moment in your life there are people who need you, need your help, need your support, need your love. Do not be afraid to touch them, to talk with them, to listen with understanding, to give them hope. Do not be afraid to give them love! Their healing begins with you."

It's true. Everyday, God comforts and heals the bodies and souls of His wounded people. The miracle is that He chooses us as His instruments of peace and hope.



# “Viva La Difference”

by Judie Brown, ALL

As they did in the 1960's, the French are starting a whole new sexual revolution—only this time I'm hoping that the flames of the revolution spread like wildfire and kids in this country quickly copy the new sexual behavior of their Parisian peers.

If that shocks you, it's probably because you haven't heard that the latest sexual craze among the oh-so sophisticated French youth is abstinence. That's right—abstinence! It seems that French kids have seen enough of the misery, disease, heartbreak and emptiness that almost always plagues a life of sexual promiscuity.

French sociologists have been caught completely off guard by this sudden and unexpected surge of disdain French kids are expressing toward the sexual practices of their parents. In fact, this new passion for controlling their youthful passions is becoming so widespread among French young adults that some demographers are predicting an amazing 70% jump in marriages as early as 2001!

But perhaps the most encouraging part of this unprecedented rejection of free love is where it's happening. Along with overrated table wines, France is the world leader in producing attitudes of snooty sophistication and utter disdain for religion.

Imagine the possibilities if this craving for sexual abstinence were to catch on in a place where the great majority claims to have a faith in God and a deep reverence for traditional family values. You know—an unsophisticated, backward place—like America.

# Legislating Morality

by Fr. Frank Pavone, National Director, Priests for Life

Some declare that “you can't legislate morality.” Let's look more closely at what that statement means.

If it means the law is not sufficient to make everyone morally responsible, that is certainly true. We need more than laws to make people good. Their hearts and minds need to be converted. Laws do have both a teaching and restraining function, however, that actually keep people within the bounds of moral behavior, even if unwillingly. As Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. observed, the law can't make my brother love me, but it can keep him from lynching me.

If the phrase means the law is not the source of morality, that is also true morality comes not from law, but from the nature of the human person, which ultimately flows from the nature of God.

If the phrase means laws have nothing to do with morality, as if there is a total separation between one's “moral life” and one's “social life,” this is patently false. This is the idea that whatever a law says is OK is OK. In reality, however, majorities can be wrong. Furthermore, both morality and law deal with human behavior. Any time you legislate the boundaries of human behavior, you are legislating morality.

It seems that the “you can't legislate morality” argument arises most often when the Church speaks up for the right to life of every human person, from conception to natural death, and when the Church insists that such a right must be protected by law. The US bishops did this quite eloquently in their document *Living the Gospel of Life: A Challenge to American Catholics* (1998) Commenting on the criticism that often follows such assertions,

Cardinal John O'Connor once wrote, “Why are bishops criticized only when the public policy question involves abortion? Why would I be praised for encouraging the mayor, the governor, the Congress and the president to intensify the war on drugs, but criticized if I urge the same regarding abortion?” (1990: *Abortion: Questions and Answers*).

No issue is more fundamental than the right to life.

“In an age of artifice, many voters are hungry for substance. They admire and support political figures who speak out sincerely for their moral convictions. For our part we commend Catholic and other public officials who, with courage and determination, use their positions of leadership to promote respect for all human life” (US Bishops, *Living the Gospel of Life*, 1998, n. 31).

The present election cycle is no time for silence. “American Catholics have long sought to assimilate into U.S. cultural life. But in assimilating, we have too often been digested. We have been changed by our culture too much, and we have changed it not enough. If we are leaven, we must bring to our culture the whole Gospel, which is a Gospel of life and joy. That is our vocation as believers. And there is no better place to start than promoting the beauty and sanctity of human life” (ibid, n. 25).



The Jubilee Day for Teachers and Professors was celebrated at a Mass at the Cathedral Church of the Sacred Heart in San Angelo on Sunday, September 10. Dr. James Hindman, President of Angelo State University, and his wife; Dr. Joseph Gonzales, Superintendent of the San Angelo Independent School District; and Sr. Elizabeth Ann Swartz, SSND, Superintendent of Diocesan Catholic Schools sat in the first pew.

# Teacher's Jubilee Day

Dr. Hindman addresses the congregation at the Mass.



# DEBT

from page six

This year, the United States has an historic opportunity to change this revolving cycle of despair. On July 13, after a heated debate and very narrow vote, the United States House of Representatives finally agreed to increase US funding toward the international debt reduction plan for the poorest countries to \$225 million. This is a hard-won victory, but unfortunately it does not go far enough. In order for Honduras and the 35 other countries to receive debt relief promised under the international plan, Congress must approve the full amount of \$8 1 0 million. This amount represents only 4 percent of the cost of the \$27 billion plan, yet it will leverage billions of dollars in contributions from other creditor nations. With those funds in place, debt forgiveness for these impoverished nations can truly begin.

Members of the Texas/Oklahoma-Honduras Initiative call upon Members of Congress from our states to return from this recess with a renewed commitment to the people of Honduras by approving full payment of our G-7 pledge. Pope John Paul II has called debt relief a “precondition for the poorest countries to make progress in their fight against poverty.” Indeed, biblical ideology calls for the assisting of those who are most vulnerable so that the entire community can be strengthened.

Debt relief for Honduras and around the world will send a clear message that every citizen is entitled

to the basic human rights of access to healthcare and education. The rewards for passing the Foreign Operations Bill now will shine in the faces of the children of these countries for years to come.

# SAINT

from page one

nun and founded the Sisters of the Blessed Sacrament, which carried out a teaching apostolate among the poor. The pope noted that Mother Drexel taught a spirituality that combined prayerful union with the eucharistic Lord and zealous service to the victims of racial discrimination.

He said he hoped this example of faith in action would appeal to young people today, showing them there is nothing better than following Christ with an undivided heart and sharing one's gifts in the service of others, to build a more just world.

Among those who came to Rome for Mother Drexel's canonization were many who had met her personally before her death in 1955, including some who had been taught in her schools.

“What she did was not easy. She encountered many difficulties in creating these schools, and we can never repay her. I could not have done what I did without her,” said Robert A. Simon, an African-American who was taught in one of Mother Drexel's elementary schools in Lake Charles, La., and recalls her visiting from time to time. He went on to become a general manager in the U.S. Postal Service.

Attending the Mass were members of the Sisters of the Blessed Sacrament, whose 225 nuns run more than 40 schools and ministry sites in 13 states. Also present were faculty, students and alumni of Xavier University of Louisiana, which Mother Drexel founded in 1915 and which became a leading institution for black education in the segregated South. The Xavier University Concert Choir sang at the liturgy.

Among those seated near the altar was Robert Gutherman, whose cure from inner ear disease in 1974 was attributed to the miraculous intercession of Mother Drexel.

Earlier this year, church authorities officially recognized another miracle attributed to Mother Drexel's intercession when a U.S. girl, Amy Wall, was cured of deafness in 1994. That cleared the way for Mother Drexel's canonization, completing a process that began 36 years ago in Philadelphia.

# HOME

from page one

She also stated that the atmosphere in which she works with the young students on campus is a “divine milieu.” The parents of these students should obtain a great deal of comfort and solace knowing that Sr. Malachy and the Center provide for the spiritual, educational, psychological and physical nourishment taken during their faith and academic journey at the university.



# Third Annual Hunger Walk

By Pete Micale, WTA

San Angelo once again demonstrated its charitable heart on Saturday October 7th, along a 4.5-mile route in which packages of food were collected for the needy. Tom Blase, an executive with Town & Country Food Stores, was the driving force behind the effort that was sponsored by the two Knights of Columbus Councils in San Angelo.

Bishop Michael D. Pfeifer, OMI, prayed a blessing and provided some comments of encouragement and gratitude to the volunteers prior to the walk. More than one hundred walkers and several vehicles traveled the route picking up packages laid out on street corners or brought to the vehicles. The walk began at

the Shannon Clinic parking lot on Oakes Street and Beauregard Avenue and ended at the parking lot of the Colts Stadium. Boy Scouts and Girl Scouts provided liquid refreshment at several places along the walk for the participants.

At this writing the complete total of items collected was not known, but the collected items were split among the three organizations: Christians in Action; Salvation Army; and Catholic Outreach. Food collections were also held during the previous weekend at such places as Abbott's Super Market, the Food Basket stores and Wal-Mart. Various organizations and churches also collected food.

A lunch of hot dogs and drinks

was provided at the concession stands at the Stadium, and helping sponsor the lunch were Town & Country Food Stores, Wells Fargo Bank, Concho Valley Concessionaires, and Coca-Cola Bottling Company.



Photos by Pete Micale - WTA.



**Help the Hungry**

# South Dakota Priest Honored As Top US Missionary

Amidst tribal drum beats and ceremonial pow-wows is Father Richard Jones, an 85-year-old Jesuit priest who has humbly labored with the Native Americans of South Dakota's Rosebud Reservation for 40 years and now is honored with the Catholic Church's highest award for missionary work in America.

Monsignor Kenneth Velo, president of Catholic Extension, the organization that financially supports missionary work in America, presented the 2000 Lumen Christi Award to Jones in his diocese of Rapid City on September 18.

The Lumen Christi derives its name from the Latin equivalent "light of Christ," and is given annu-

ally after nominations are judged by Ethel Kennedy, Knights of Columbus leader Virgil Dechant and other prestigious panelists.

Nominated by Most Rev. Blase J. Cupich, Bishop of Rapid City, Father Jones has witnessed 60 years of change in this diocese. As a young member of The Society of Jesus, Jones desired to work with Native Americans.

After receiving his master's degree in philosophy in 1940, he was assigned to teach at St. Francis Mission School on the Rosebud Reservation. Teaching positions in St. Louis and

Milwaukee followed, and he returned to the Lakota people in 1963,

focusing on family strengthening.

In the last 40 years, Jones has seen a great deal of suffering — early deaths, broken homes, violence, and alcoholism — all of which are especially prevalent in the Lakota community. But Jones maintains, "We have no problems here, only challenges."

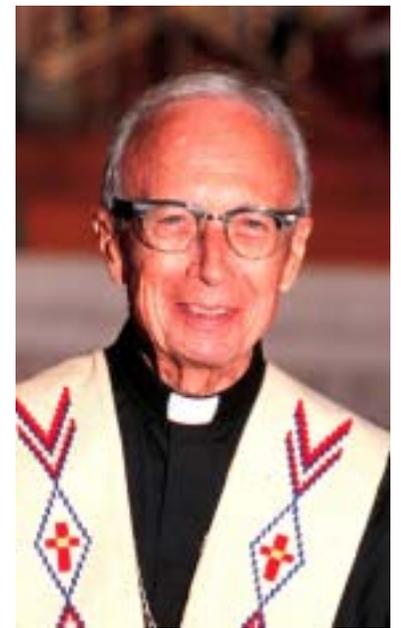
Jones integrates Catholic teaching with Native American tradition. "We are trying to understand them and they are trying to understand us," he said. Beloved to thousands, Jones prays over the homeless in a park near his residence and the blessing is often returned by the waving of a feather — or smudging ritual — as he enters the homes of

area residents grateful for his presence. "It is not us imposing on them, it's a two-way street. You love them, and they'll love you."

As a Jesuit, Jones has had a special interest in education and, sparked by the high number of high school dropouts, was responsible for launching the reservation's first Adult Education Program in the 1960's. The G.E.D. program continues under the direction of a local university.

At the conclusion of his term in 1969, Jones asked to remain in St. Francis and was assigned to oversee spiritual renewal in the towns of Spring Creek, Grass Mountain, and St. Francis. In the 1970's he initiated weekly Charismatic Renewal meetings that continue currently.

Catholic Extension further honored Father Jones with a gift of \$10,000; Bishop Cupich receives \$25,000 for the Diocese of Rapid



City. To learn more about Catholic Extension, call 1-888-473-2484 or visit their Web site at [www.catholic-extension.org](http://www.catholic-extension.org).

# Choosing the Lesser Evil

by Bishop James T McHugh

Increasingly, many Catholics feel called to make their election choices based on the principle of choosing the lesser evil. In many congressional and state office elections that will be especially true this year. The traditional principle holds that, when a person is faced with two options, neither of which can be described as morally good, the person may choose the lesser evil. In the case of candidates, both of whom have supported some type of abortion rights, the voter must look at the record.

Compare two candidates: one who claims to be unequivocally pro-choice, who opposes any restriction

on the practice of abortion, supports government funding and would use abortion as a criterion in the selection of federal or state judges. The second candidate supports a woman's "right to choose" with some qualifications: respect for parental responsibility, opposition to government funding, opposition to partial-birth abortion, and unwillingness to use abortion as a selection criterion for judges.

The voter has three options: (a) vote for neither; (b) vote for the absolute pro-abortion candidate; (c) vote for the candidate who is not absolutely opposed to abortion. In this case, the third choice, (c), is the

lesser evil.

To vote for neither candidate may well allow, if not ensure, victory for the pro-abortion candidate, with all the consequent evils that would follow. To vote (b) seems to signal approval of promoting abortion and raises the question of willing cooperation in the evil actions of others.

The point is, as Catholics we must bring new political sophistication to the electoral process and be concerned not only with sending messages but also with scandal and with cooperating in continuing the evil of permissive abortion.

Reprinted from *Columbia*, September 2000, with permission

