Marriage Encounter: Quality enrichment opportunity

By Jimmy Patterson
Online editor

Effective communications between a husband and wife is an ongoing challenge; a challenge that enhances a relationship when done well and one that can create barriers when the ability to communicate well falters.

Worldwide Marriage Encounter assists couples to improve their ability to share which in turn improves the marriage itself.

Upcoming Marriage Encounter Weekends:
- SAN ANGELO: June 4-6, 2010, Christ the King Retreat Center.

Tom and Jeanie Van Vranken, volunteers co-directors with Worldwide Marriage Encounter.

October 25
World Priest Day to honor those who honor us

By Bishop Michael Pfeifer, OMI

As we continue to celebrate the beautiful “Year for Priests,” we also focus our attention on how we can honor our good priests as we celebrate the annual World Priest Day [WPD], which traditionally is on the last Sunday in October. World Priest Day this year falls on October 25.

World Priest Day is the wonderful day to prayerfully celebrate the wonderful Sacrament of Holy Orders, as we first and foremost give thanks to Christ for this beautiful Sacrament that is integrally united to the greatest of Sacraments, the Eucharist. On World Priest Day, I encourage our communities to develop one or more experiences and events to affirm all the priests of the Diocese of San Angelo.

The main purpose of WPD is to celebrate and affirm the good men who commit their lives to the Lord and the Church via the Sacrament of Holy Orders. It is the opportunity for all parishioners to thank, affirm,

(Please See PRIESTS/22)

Pope John Paul II’s personal items coming to Midland College

By Jimmy Patterson
Online editor

MIDLAND -- For the first time in history, the personal effects of a former leader of the Roman Catholic Church will go on exhibit in the United States.

“Have No Fear -- Pope John Paul II,” an exhibition consisting of over 180 objects from the personal possessions of His Holiness, the late Pope John Paul II, will begin a multi-city U.S. tour at Midland College’s Allison Fine Arts Building.

The late pope’s possessions will be on display in Midland from December 7-February 14, 2010. After leaving Midland the exhibit will travel to New York, Milwaukee, Chicago, Houston and Albuquerque.

Preceding the arrival of the pope’s effects will be a visit by Stanislaw Dziwisz, the Cardinal of Poland and the

(Please See POPE/20)

IN THIS MONTH’S ANGELUS:
Month of Mary, Missions

The month of October is traditionally dedicated to Mary, under her title, Our Lady of the Rosary, and to the promotion of missions of the Church throughout the world.

Read More / Pg. 2

OCTOBER CALENDAR
4 -- 27th Sunday of the year
11 -- 28th Sunday of the year
18 -- 29th Sunday of the year
25 -- 30th Sunday of the year
28 -- Feast of Sts. Simon and Jude

Just 4 Kids
Jesus explains how to inherit eternal life / Pg. 16

Changes coming to Roman Missal/Pg. 4

Pope John Paul II, accompanied longtime friend and personal secretary, Cardinal Stanislaw Dziwisz who will reportedly visit Midland later this year.

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(Please See POPE/20)
From the Bishop’s Desk

**October: Celebrating the month of Mary and missions**

By Bishop Michael Pfeifer, OMI

The month of October is traditionally dedicated to Mary, under her title, Our Lady of the Rosary, and to the promotion of missions of the Church throughout the world. Renewing devotion to Mary in this month is highlighted with the celebration of Our Lady of the Rosary on October 7, and interest is renewed in mission by generously supporting World Mission Sunday which is scheduled for October 18. There is an ecclesial connection between these two celebrations—devotion to Mary under title of Our Lady of the Rosary, but especially under her title of “Mother of the Church,” and the remembrance of the Church’s goal to be missionary and support mission activities around the world.

A special way of promoting devotion to Mary, or increasing devotion to her, is by praying the holy Rosary individually and as a family during Rosary month. At the heart of the Rosary is a summary of the complete life of Jesus Christ as we review in our hearts the mysteries of His life, death, and resurrection as the beads of the Rosary go through our fingers. It can be said that the Rosary is a way of meditating on the life of Christ through the eyes of Mary.

**DIOCESAN BRIEFS**

**Youth Minister needed-Odessa**

ODESSA -- St. Elizabeth Ann Seton Parish is seeking a full-time youth minister (full-time salary plus medical insurance). Duties include: coordinating youth ministry leadership team of adults and young adults; coordinating junior high and senior high youth programs; coordinating junior high (7-8th grades) religious education, and confirmation program (high school years). We are about to construct a large youth building and covered/outdoor athletic center for our expanding program. Contact: Youth Minister Search Team, 432-202-0336, 432-367-4657.

**Marriage Encounter**

A Marriage Encounter Weekend is scheduled for **October 30-November 1** at the Circle 6 Ranch in Stanton.

Marriage Encounter is designed to give married couples the opportunity to examine their lives together, a time to share their feelings, hopes, disappointments, joys and frustrations and to do so openly and honestly in a face-to-face, heart-to-heart encounter with the one person they have chosen to live with for the rest of their life. The emphasis on Marriage Encounter is on communications between husband and wife, who spend a weekend together away from the distractions and the tensions of everyday life to concentrate on each other.

Registration fee is $50. For more information on the upcoming Marriage Encounter weekend at Circle 6, please contact Tom and Susan Williams, Midland, 432-697-9904 or email padanimal@sbcglobal.net. Gary Collins in Abilene, at GaryLc2@sbcglobal.net or call 325.670.6026, or Rich Meixner, info@cacradicalgrace.org, or 505.242.9588.

**Days of Discernment**

The Sisters of the Incarnate Word and Blessed Sacrament are holding Days of Discernment for Women expressing an interest in Religious Life **Saturday, October 24** (8:45 am - 4:00 pm) and **Sunday, December 6** (8:30 am - 1:00 pm) at their Motherhouse, 3400 Bradford, Houston, 77025. Interested women are also welcomed each Saturday evening to join in Scripture Sharing (in preparation for Sunday’s readings) from 7:00 - 8:00 pm and each first Sunday to attend Mass followed by Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament, beginning at 8:30 am and closing with a noon lunch. Please contact Sr. Scholastica (ssscholastica@yahoo.com) or 713-668-0423 or our website: incarnatesistershouston.org for more information.

**Men’s Right of Passage**

BLANCO -- Internationally known contemplative Franciscan and speaker Rev. Richard Rohr will present the Men’s Rite of Passage, **Oct. 21-25**, in Blanco.

The MROP program is a 5-day, 4-night prayerful and soulful experience that builds on the classic patterns of male initiation through simple and moving rituals and teaching. Each day includes group prayer, major teachings on central masculine spirituality themes, quiet time for reflection and sharing in the context of a “home group.”

MROP is a personal discovery about masculinity and the Holy Mystery; a time to savour the healing and awesome power of nature; a process to address issues of loss, grief and relationships with father, other men and others; an opportunity examine life’s priorities and ask courageous questions about ‘your next step’; an invitation to listen to the ‘quiet voice of God’ and a chance to return to life with a renewed commitment to your gifts.

For additional information on attending the Men’s Rite of Passage in Blanco, contact our Vocation Promoter at frcharlie@dominicanvocations.com (504-837-2129 ext. 10).

**Natural Family Planning**

Helping couples to deepen conjugal love and achieve responsible parenthood is part of the Church’s total pastoral ministry to Catholic spouses. Fulfillment of this ministry includes both education and pastoral care. This means “instilling conviction and offering practical help to those who wish to live out their parenthood in a truly responsible way” (Pope John Paul II, Familiaris consortio, #35). Below are scheduled seminars (San Angelo) and contact numbers for people who can help you with more information:

**SAN ANGELO, Christ the King Retreat Center,** (325) 651-5352, 2-4 p.m. **2009 Dates:** Dec. 6, 2010 Dates: January 17, March 7, May 23, September 19. Contact Amy at amdg@wcc.net.

**MIDLAND-ODESSA, Our Lady of Guadalupe,** call Christina Nevarez, (432) 682-2581;

**ABILENE, Holy Family Church,** call Mrs. Herman Blahak, (325) 692-1820

**Scheduled Executions**

The Angelus publishes the execution dates of Texas offenders on death row each month so that the faithful in the Diocese of San Angelo can pray for them. The following offenders face upcoming execution dates. Please pray for them:

Offender/Scheduled Execution Date:
- John Balentine/September 30
- Reginald Blanton/October 27
- Kristian Oliver/November 5
- Yosvanis Vaile/November 10
- Gerald Eldridge/November 17
- Danielle Simpson/November 18
- Robert Thompson/November 19
- Michael Sigala/March 2, 2010

**OBITUARY**

Deacon Jesus R. Mercado

ODESSA – Deacon Jesus R. Mercado passed away September 5, 2009, at Medical Center Hospital in Odessa. He was born on May 16, 1922 in Durango, Durango, Mexico. He came to the U.S. in 1957 where he worked as a painter for 52 years. He served as a deacon at St. Joseph's Catholic Church for 26 years. During his spare time he enjoyed photography, composing music and collecting coins and antiques.

He is survived by his wife of 60 years, Carmen Mercado; son, Jesus Mercado and wife Anna of Odessa; daughters, Maria Gomez and husband John of Odessa, Carmen Carrillo and fiancé John Vanderbur of Arlington and Lorena Heredia and husband Felipe of Odessa; 11 grandchildren, Annette Munoz, Jacob Munoz, Angelica Mercado, Adrian Carrillo, Jesus M. Mercado, Alexandra Carrillo, Jeremy Mercado, Noah Heredia, John Andrew Gomez, Calista Heredia and Ethan Gomez.

Pallbearers were Jesus M. Mercado, Adrian Carrillo, Jeremy Mercado, Danny Valles, Jesus Valles, Arturo Valles and Jesse Valles Jr.

Wake service was September 7 at St. Joseph’s Catholic Church. Mass was celebrated September 8 at St. Joseph’s Catholic Church with Bishop Michael Pfeifer and Father Joe Uecker officiating.
Bishop's Dates

**Bishop's Calendar**

**OCTOBER**
10 -- ODESSA, 4 p.m.
   Confirmation, St. Mary
11 -- ODESSA, 10 a.m.
   Mass, St. Anthony
13 -- SAN ANGELO, 1 p.m.
   Presbyteral Council meeting
14 -- MIDLAND, St. Stephen – Mass and Bless New Buildings at 5:30 p.m.
15 -- BIG SPRING, 6:30 p.m.
   Confirmation, Holy Trinity
17-18 HOUSTON, Holy Sepulchre meeting
20 -- SAN ANGELO, 11 a.m.
   – Legal Team meeting.
20 -- SAN ANGELO, 6:30 p.m.
   – White Mass, Sacred Heart Cathedral
21 -- McCAMEY, 6:30 p.m.
   Confirmation, Sacred Heart
22 -- ABILENE, 6:30 p.m.
   Confirmation, Sacred Heart
25 -- SAN ANGELO, 4 p.m.
   – McNeece Center – Diocesan Youth Event with Mass
27 -- ABILENE, Holy Family – Presentation to RCIA, 6:30 p.m.
28 -- SAN ANGELO, 10 a.m.
   – Christ the King Retreat Center – Fall Retreat for Staff
30 -- SAN ANGELO, 12:30–3:30 p.m.
   “Dealing with Difficult Behaviors or People” workshop, Christ the King Retreat Center, San Angelo
31 -- SAN ANGELO, Calvary Cemetery – All Souls Day Mass at 11 a.m.

**NOVEMBER**
1-3 -- MINNESOTA, National Catholic Rural Life Conference.
4 -- SAN ANGELO, Newman Center, Mass, Noon
5 -- MIDLAND, St. Stephen, speak to RCIA groups, 7 p.m.
6 -- ODESSA, Mass, Catholic Student Association, Noon.
8 -- SAN ANGELO, Invocation, H-E-B Feast of Sharing.
9-10 -- SAN ANTONIO, Visit seminarians
11 -- ODESSA, Mass at 16th anniversary of Adoration Chapel at St. Mary’s.
12 - MIDLAND, Drug Taskforce Meeting, 11 a.m.
13 -- FORT STOCKTON, 50th anniversary Mass for Sister Isabel Tadeo, OND, 6 p.m.
20-22 -- KANSAS CITY, MO. -- National Catholic Youth Conference.
23 -- SAN ANGELO, First Baptist Church, Ecumencial Thanksgiving Prayer Service, 7 p.m.
24 -- SAN ANGELO, Diocesan Pastoral Center, Staff Mass, 8:30 a.m.; Staff Meeting, 11 a.m.
26 -- SAN ANGELO, Sacred Heart Cathedral, Thanksgiving Mass, 9 a.m.
27-29 -- Rest and Prayer.

2009 Cursillo
Retreat Center, San Angelo
**OCTOBER 15-18** -- Women’s Spanish Cursillo, St. Mary’s, San Angelo
**OCTOBER 22-25** -- Men’s English Cursillo, St. Thomas, Big Spring
Anyone needing more information may e-mail cursillo-sanangelodioceces@gmail.com or call (432) 413-6136.

**CHRIST THE KING Retreat Center **

**OCTOBER**
13 -- Adoration
16-17 -- Mid-Cities Community
18 -- CKRC Confirmation Retreat
19 -- Heart of Mercy Prayer Grp
20 -- Adoration
22-25 -- Women’s Walk to Emmaus
26 -- Heart of Mercy Prayer Grp
27 -- Adoration
28 -- Bishop’s Staff Day of Reflection
30-Nov 1 -- Engaged Encounter
30 -- Bishop’s Meeting 12:30 – 3:30 p.m.

**NOVEMBER**
1 -- Engaged Encounter
2 -- Heart of Mercy Prayer Group
3 -- Adoration
4 -- Shannon Volunteers
6 -- Heart of Mercy Prayer Grp
7 -- Tres Rios Presbyterian Women's Retreat
8 -- CKRC Confirmation Retreat
9 -- Heart of Mercy Prayer Group
10 -- Adoration
13-15 -- Deacon Training Program
16 -- Heart of Mercy Prayer Grp
17 -- Adoration
19-22 -- Men’s Walk to Emmaus
23 -- Heart of Mercy Prayer Grp
24 -- Adoration
26-29 -- Closed – Thanksgiving
30 -- Heart of Mercy Prayer Grp

**NECROLOGY**

**NOVEMBER**
27 -- Rev. Michael Dwyer, MSC (1997)

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**Bishop makes appeal for SE Asian disaster areas**

Bishop Michael Pfeifer issued the following appeal to parishes on Oct. 2 in an effort to help those affected by recent disasters in southeast Asia:

As you have learned from various media sources, two major disasters have struck the human family in the Philippines, in the Samoa and Indonesia areas. The massive flooding has brought death and destruction to our dear brothers and sisters in the Philippines and has displaced thousands of people. Then, we received news also of the massive earthquakes that hit the Samoa and Indonesia areas, causing tsunamis, bringing death and destruction to the human family of that part of the world.

While the people affected by these tragedies are far removed from us, they are part of our human family and are our sisters and brothers in Christ. In order to assist them, I am asking that as soon as possible a special collection be taken up in all the parishes and missions of our Diocese to assist the victims of these terrible disasters. I will share some of the funds sent to me with the Filipino priests who are serving in our Diocese to be given to their families, relatives, and other people they know. The majority of the funds will be sent to the people of the Philippines and Samoa through Catholic Relief Services. Please send your donations to the Diocesan office marked for the assistance of the victims of these disasters.

Please bring this urgent appeal to the attention of our people. As I encourage this financial assistance of all, I also ask all to send prayers and spiritual support for the thousands and thousands who have been affected by these tragedies. Thank you for your cooperation and generosity.

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**Del Escritorio del Obispo**

**Octubre: mes de María y misión**

Por el Obispo Miguel Pfeifer, OMI

El mes de octubre es tradicionalmente dedicado a María, bajo su título, Nuestra Señora del Rosario, y para la promoción de misión de la Iglesia por todo el mundo. Renovando la devoción a María en este mes es resaltado con la celebración de Nuestra Señora del Rosario el 7 de octubre, e interés es renovado en la misión por medio de apoyar generosamente el Domingo Misional de las Misiones que está perteneciente al 18 de octubre. Hay una conexión eclesial entre estas dos celebraciones—devoción a María bajo su título de Nuestra Señora del Rosario, pero especialmente bajo su título de “Madre de la Iglesia,” y el recordatorio de la meta de la Iglesia de ser misionero y apoyar las actividades de la misión alrededor del mundo.

Una manera especial de promover devoción a María, o aumentar la devoción a ella, es por medio de rezar el sagrado Rosario individualmente o como familia durante el mes del Rosario. Al corazón del Rosario es el resumen de la vida completa de Cristo Jesús mientras repasamos en nuestra cooperación y generosidad.

(Mira OBISPO/22)
Web site to help educate faithful about coming missal changes

WASHINGTON (CNS) -- A new Web site launched Aug. 21 by the U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops was produced to educate Catholics about the forthcoming English translation of the new Roman Missal, the book of prayers used for Mass.

The site, www.usccb.org/romanmissal, has background material on the process of development of liturgical texts, sample texts from the missal, a glossary of terms and answers to frequently asked questions.

Content will be added regularly over the next several months, according to an Aug. 21 news release from the USCCB. The bishops' Committee on Divine Worship hopes the site will be a central resource for those preparing to implement the new text, the release said.

In the years since the Second Vatican Council, "we have learned a lot about the use of the vernacular in the liturgy and the new texts reflect this new understanding," said the committee's chairman, Bishop Arthur J. Serratelli of Paterson, N.J., in a video that welcomes visitors to the site.

"The new texts are understandable, dignified and accurate," he said. "They not only strive to make the meaning of the text accessible for the listener, but they also strive to unearth the biblical and theological richness of the Latin text."

After more than five years of consultation, study and reflection, the U.S. bishops are expected to conclude their review and approval of the final portion of the translated texts at the end of this year. Final approval, or "recognitio," of the text from the Vatican Congregation for Divine Worship and the Sacraments will be the last step before the publication of the texts for use in the liturgy.

Bishop Serratelli called the period between now and the final approval "a great opportunity" not only to learn about the changes and the revised texts, "but also to deepen our own understanding of the liturgy itself." He said, "We encourage priests, deacons, religious, liturgical ministers (and) all the faithful to avail themselves of the information that we are making available."

The new Latin edition of the Roman Missal was released at the Vatican in March 2002. Since 2003 the bishops of the English-speaking world have been preparing an English translation of the missal.

Translations prepared by the International Commission on English in the Liturgy are submitted to each participating bishops' conference, which is free to adopt or reject any text ICEL proposes. Once a bishops' conference adopts a text, it is submitted to the Vatican for approval. In June 2006, the U.S. bishops meeting in Los Angeles approved the first section of the missal translation that involves the penitential rite, Gloria, creed, eucharistic prayers, eucharistic acclamations, Our Father and other prayers and responses used daily. In 2008, the Vatican gave final approval of those texts.

In July of this year the USCCB announced that the bishops had approved four more liturgical texts -- prefaces for the Mass for various occasions; votive Masses and Masses for the dead; solemn blessings for the end of Mass; and prayers over the people and eucharistic prayers for particular occasions, such as for evangelization or ordinations. The next step is Vatican approval.

The bishops' vote on the texts was completed in mail-in ballots nearly a month after their spring meeting in San Antonio.

In the fall the bishops will consider the Proper of the Saints Gray Book, the commons Gray Book, U.S. propers for the Roman Missal, U.S. adaptations for the Roman Missal and the Roman Missal supplement Gray Book. Gray Books are revised translations proposed to the International Commission on English in the Liturgy.

Last November during the bishops' fall general meeting, Bishop Serratelli said that, with the time needed for publishers to produce the new edition of the missal and for Catholics to receive proper catechesis about the changes in the Mass, the use of the new missal is not expected before Advent of 2012.

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Missal Changes
(Although changes are likely still months away, they are coming. Here are examples of more prominent changes in the Missal:)

**Present**

Priest: The Lord be with you.
People: And also with you.

**New**

Priest: The Lord be with you.
People: And with your spirit.

**PENITENTIAL ACT**

**Present**

I confess to almighty God, and to you, my brothers and sisters, that I have sinned through my own fault, in my thoughts and in my words, in what I have done, and in what I have failed to do ...

**New**

I confess to almighty God and to you, my brothers and sisters, that I have greatly sinned in my thoughts and in my words, in what I have done and in what I have failed to do, through my fault, through my fault, through my most grievous fault ...

**GLORIA**

**Present**

Glory to God in the highest, and peace to people of good will. We praise you, we bless you, we adore you, we glorify you, we give you thanks for your great glory,

**New**

Glory to God in the highest, and on earth peace to people of good will. We praise you, we bless you, we adore you, we glorify you, we give you thanks for your great glory,

**NICENE CREED**

**Present**

We believe in one God, the Father, the Almighty, maker of heaven and earth, of all that is seen and unseen. We believe in one Lord, Jesus Christ, the only Son of God, eternally begotten of the Father, God from God, Light from Light, true God from true God, begotten, not made, one in Being with the Father. Through him all things were made. For us men and for our salvation he came down from heaven: by the power of the Holy Spirit he was born of the Virgin Mary,

**New**

I believe in one God, the Father Almighty, maker of heaven and earth, of all things visible and invisible. And in one Lord Jesus Christ, the only Begotten Son of God, born of the Father before all ages. God from God, Light from Light, true God from true God, begotten, not made, consubstantial with the Father; through him all things were made.

For us men and for our salvation he came down from heaven: by the power of the Holy Spirit he was born of the Virgin Mary,

(For additional changes to the Gloria, Nicene Creed and elsewhere, please consult www.usccb.org/romanmissal.)
2009 PARISH FESTIVALS

OCTOBER 10
ST. MARY QUEEN ON PEACE
BROWNWOOD
2009 FALL FESTIVAL
10 a.m. – 6 p.m.
‘Songfest’ Vocal Singing Contest
$1,000 1st prize; $500 2nd prize; $250 3rd prize
CAR SHOW: Registration begins at 10 a.m.
NASCAR-style Race Track and Tournament
Fun and excitement for the whole family
RAFFLE
(Tickets $5.00 each)
1st Prize $1000.00 Gas Card
2nd Prize $40 LCD HD TV
3rd Prize Lap-Top Computer
4th Prize $250.00 Kroger Shopping Spree
LIVE AUCTION–Kohler Whirlpool plus more
SILENT AUCTION
FOOD BOOTH
Gorditas, Stuffed Jalapenos, Turkey Legs,
Burgers & Curly Fries, Frito Pie, Roasted Corn,
Filipino Food, Taquitos, Sausage Wraps, Home
Made Gourmet Desserts and Breads
You won’t leave hungry!!!
Games and fun for children including inflatables:
Bounce House, Giant Slide, Bungee, petting zoo, duck pond, temporary tattoos
All proceeds to Youth Center building fund.

OCTOBER 11
ST. BONIFACE -- OLFEN
Saint Boniface Fall Festival
11 a.m Lunch Meal, $7 Adults, $4 children
10:45 Drive Thru $7
1 pm Auction
3 pm Candy Drop
Games & Country Store

OCTOBER 17
ST. ANN’S
COLORADO CITY
St Ann’s Catholic Church will be holding its
annual Fall Festival on October 17. It will be at
the Mitchell County Ag Barns in Colorado City.
There will be lots of food, games, live music
and fun. It will be an all day event. Please
come out and join us.

OCTOBER 18
ST. AMBROSE-WALL
St. Ambrose/Holy Family 70th Annual Fall
Festival, “Salute to our Hometown Heroes”,
will be on Sunday, October 18 in Wall.

A meal consisting of turkey, dressing, German
sausage and all the trimmings will be served from
10 a.m. to 2 p.m. Guests may eat in our
dining hall or purchase plates-to-go. Meal
prices are $7 for adults and $4 for children.
German sausage will be available to purchase.
Games for the young and the young at heart
will be available from 11 a.m. until 4 p.m.
Entertainment provided by “The Embers”
engineering the entertainment. A quilt raffle, bingo,
and a market consisting of food items, arts,
and crafts will also be available.

OCTOBER 25
ST. ANN’S – SONORA
St. Ann’s Church is celebrating its 80th
Anniversary Celebration & Festival Mass at 9
a.m. at St. Ann’s Church located at 311 W.
Plum in Sonora.
Brisket with all the trimmings including home-
made dessert will be served from 11 a.m. to 2
p.m., at the Civic Center, 1700 N. Crockett.
Music and games for children and adults
including Cake Walk, Toy Wheel and more
from 11 a.m. to 4 p.m. Brisket sandwiches at 3
p.m.; Raffle and quilt drawing will conclude at
4 p.m.
Everyone is invited to attend this special
80th Anniversary celebration especially former
pastors and parishioners.
For more information, contact festival coordinators
Mary Jean Sims, 325-387-5433
Janell Sparks, 325-277-2717

NOVEMBER 7
ST. JOSEPH’S
ROWENA
87th Annual Fall Festival
Theme: "We Believe"
10:30 a.m: Flag Raising: Veterans’ Monument
11 a.m.-2 p.m.: Turkey, Dressing & Trimings
Rowena German Style Sausage
Drive Through plates available
1:30 p.m.: Auction begins
11:45 a.m. - 3:45 p.m.: Games for all ages
Country Store throughout the day
4:30 p.m.: Sausage Sandwich Supper begins

Also:
NOVEMBER 8
ST. PETERS -- MERZON
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Email your festival information when it is available to
JimmyLPatterson@grandecom.net

Census gives us chance to stand up, be counted
By Bishop Michael Pfeifer, OMI

The year 2010 is Census time again
for the United States of America. The
information gathered by Census 2010
helps us to understand our nation, our
state, and our community better. Sadly,
although the U.S. is spending $14 bil-
on the 2010 Census, many people
may ignore the survey when they receive it.
Only 67% of Americans completed and
returned their data in the year 2000. It is
imperative for all of us stand up and be
counted when Census forms arrive during
March of next year.
Why should one fill out the Census
form? The Census can help our communities
to thrive. The Census numbers can help our community work out public
improvement strategies. Non-profit
organizations use Census numbers to
estimate the number of potential volun-
teers in communities across the nation.
The Census is a way to get help in
times of need. Many 911 emergency sys-
tems are based on maps developed for
the last Census. Census information helps
health providers estimate the spread of the
H1N1 flu and other diseases through
communities with children or elderly peo-
ple. When floods, tornadoes or earth-
quakes hit, the Census tells rescuers how
many people will need their help.
The Census makes government work
for us. It is a good way to tell our leaders
who we are and what we need. The num-
bers are used to help determine the distri-
bution of more than $400 billion a year
in federal monies alone. These funds give
essential support to our educators, trans-
portation workers, health care providers,
farmers and ranchers, business owners,
community and faith-based service work-
ers, and so many other vital contributors
to our communities.

More than 1.4 million temporary
workers will be hired by the Census
Bureau making it one of the nation’s
biggest employers during the census-tak-
ing process.
The Census also determines how many
Congressional seats a state has. More
representatives in Congress means greater
influence for a state. The 2010 numbers
will be used to redraw Congressional and
local legislative districts for the 2012
elections. Taking part in the Census is
one of best ways to get our political leaders
closeness to the people.
The 2010 Census form is also the sim-
plest ever, including only 10 basic ques-
tions about each person counted. The
2010 Census is important for the reasons
listed here and many more. The 2010
Census also safeguards personal privacy
with a strong body of law that prohibits
the Census Bureau from sharing your per-
sonal information with anyone for 72
years. This prohibition includes any law
enforcement agencies, immigration
agents, private marketing and advertising
operations, or anyone else.

Now is the time to stand up and be
counted. I encourage all to cooperate with
the United States Census.

Denominational Distribution

Hispanics in the U.S. are primarily Catholic and most U.S. non-
Hispanic whites are Protestant.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>Catholic</th>
<th>Protestant</th>
<th>Secular</th>
<th>Other</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Hispanics</td>
<td>68%</td>
<td>20%</td>
<td>8%</td>
<td>4%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Non-Hispanic Whites</td>
<td>22%</td>
<td>57%</td>
<td>11%</td>
<td>7%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

*Secular category includes those who say they have no specific
religious affiliation or say that they are agnostic or atheist.
Source: The Pew Forum on Religion and Public Life/Pew Hispanic Center
©2007 CNS
All forms of pornography devastate individuals, families

By Bishop Michael Pfeifer, OMI

Our generation has witnessed the devastation of terrorism, war, the scourge of AIDS, and many other sorrows and pains. Today we are faced with another form of devastation. It is the devastation of pornography which rips families apart, destroys the innocence of children, and removes the sense of trust we once had in normal family relationships.

The last Sunday in October through the first Sunday in November is Pornography Awareness Week. The White Ribbon Against Pornography (WRAP) is a major promoter of this week. Our society, more than ever, needs to be educated on the harms of pornography, for today it is an evil that is tolerated, but should not be.

Pornography degrades and objects women, spoils the credulous minds of young people who view it and destroys many families of the people who become addicted to it. Pornography is destructive and cancerous.

Our society is witnessing an incredible increase in filth in public communications which is a major financial enterprise that enters our homes, contaminates our entertainment, and tries to make a joke of any attempt to regulate, restrain or limit it. The defenders of pornography try to convince people that any limitation on what is broadcast over the public airwaves will inevitably lead to serious erosion of our freedom of speech. However, the drafters of the Constitution were not intent upon protecting obscenity with no concern for the rights of people.

More and more we need to ban together in effective strategies that will restore a level of decency to the public airwaves and printed media. The WRAP campaign is a leader in this effort. This campaign is a reminder that pornography is an evil that should not be tolerated, and that all good citizens must use every effort, even political and legal means, to eradicate this cancer from our society.

Basic question to be addressed is on ethics of stem cell research

By Bishop Michael Pfeifer, OMI

A stem cell is any cell that exists in a relatively immature stage, and is able to divide to produce one cell that replaces itself and one that will go on to become a more specialized cell type. Because stem cells replace themselves every time they divide, they are considered self-renewing or “immortal.”

There are three broad classes of stem cells: embryonic, adult, and reprogrammed. Human embryonic stem cells are obtained by the destruction of human embryos that are between three and six days old. In contrast, any stem cell that is found in a specific type of tissue (whether in an older embryo, a fetus, or a more mature individual) is considered an adult stem cell. Finally, recent studies have shown that adult body, or “somatic,” cells can be reprogrammed to a state very similar to a human embryonic stem cell. These induced pluripotent stem cells or iPSCs, are not identical to embryonic stem cells, but they are functional equivalents. In recent weeks, two different teams of Chinese scientists have achieved a major scientific discovery of producing pluripotent cells without destroying the human embryo. This experiment shows the so-called iPSC cells have the full range of uses that embryonic stem-cells are proposed for.

Dr. Leon Kass, former chairman of the President’s Council on Bioethics said, “The moral issue does not disappear just because the embryos are very small or because they are no longer wanted for reproductive purposes: because they are living human embryos, destroying them is not a morally neutral act. Just as no society can afford to be callous to the needs of suffering humanity, none can afford to be cavalier about how it treats nascent human life.”

Ethical objections to embryo-destructive research are based on religiously neutral reasoning and takes into consideration both the scientific evidence and current U.S. law regarding the protection of those who participate in experiments. Protecting human research subjects is an important ethical consideration. The Nazi experiments on Jews, the Tuskegee syphilis experiments on black men, and the Japanese hypothermia experiments on prisoners of war were unethical and were not justified simply because they led to new and exciting discoveries that benefited patients. Science, like all human endeavors, must operate within an ethical framework. This is not a religious objection, it is just common sense.

(Permission to use and reprint information used in this article was granted by National Catholic Bioethics Center, Phil.PA, Aug.2009 Vol.34,#8).
St. Ann’s parish in Sonora reaches notable milestone

Editor’s Note: St. Ann Parish will celebrate its 80th anniversary with a 10am mass, meal from 11am-2pm and afternoon festival on Sunday, Oct. 25th. Everyone is invited to join in this celebration. The following article on St. Ann’s history was submitted by the parish council.

SONORA — Earliest records show that by 1924, Father Peter Baquet, pastor of Sacred Heart Church, San Angelo, purchased property for a church in each of three towns: Sonora, Ozona and Eldorado. The church at Sonora was named St. Ann and in 1929 a rectory for the priest was built.

By 1938, additional lots around the church were purchased. Two Franciscans were located in Sonora with the missions of Ozona and Eldorado under their charge, thus relieving the load of San Angelo. Also attending Sonora were the missionary catechists. With the help from Bishop Richard Cushing of Boston, a small house was built next to the Church for them.

St. Ann’s was canonically erected as a parish on August 15, 1955 with the missions at Ozona and Eldorado. The Franciscan Order took care of the Southwest Texas churches until September 7, 1967 when the Sonora parish was annexed to the diocese of San Angelo and the first diocesan priest, Father Michael Fernandez, from Spain, became its parish priest.

The present Church was built under the guidance of Father Michael Fernandez. A Building Committee consisting of Mr. and Mrs. Louis Davis, Mr. Polo Cervantes, Mr. Cesario Martinez, Mr. Pete Gomez, Sr., Mr. Louis Olenick and Father Michael Fernandez set about planning and execution of the building. Alvin Julian, San Antonio architect,
Miss Texas talks of importance of prayer on visit to Midland

By Jimmy Patterson
Editor

MIDLAND -- The reigning Miss Texas, Kristen Blair, talked about the importance of her Catholic faith and her upbringing as an altar server and a cantor on a trip to St. Ann’s in Midland last month.

“I attended Catholic schools growing up in Washington and went into the music ministry and was a cantor for five years,” Blair said. “Any chance I get to sing in church, I jump at it.”

Blair’s talent officially as a contestant and unofficially is singing. Her angelic voice filled the sanctuary at St. Ann’s as well as the Midland High-Midland Lee football game where she sang the National Anthem during pregame festivities Sept. 4.

Blair’s aunt and uncle, Jeri and John Drozd, are parishioners at St. Ann’s.

“Faith is a huge part of my life, not just being a practicing Catholic but it is something both mom and dad always celebrated together; both my parents came from large families. Prayer is something we’ve always shared together as a family and it has definitely played a huge role in who I am and the character I have developed over the years. No matter what happens in your life, you always have a home base to come back to with your faith.”

Blair, a student at the University of North Texas in Denton, said she “was just a normal college student” until three months ago when pageant officials came calling for her to consider being a contestant. She says the upcoming Miss America Pageant -- January 30, 2010 -- will likely be the final phase of her life as a beauty pageant contestant.

“I never would have dreamed this,” she said. “I wasn’t the most confident young lady growing up but when I got involved in music and theater I made new friends and became more outgoing.”

Blair said she is anxious to graduate with her bachelor in music arts and begin focusing on a music career, including auditioning for companies and eventually teaching music as a vocal coach or in children’s musical theater.

Two young men from diocese take vows as oblates

Special to The Angelus

BELLEVILLE, Ill. -- Scholastic Brothers David Uribe, O.M.I. and Devin Watkins, O.M.I. are members of a class of seven candidates who made their religious consecration as Missionary Oblates of Mary Immaculate on August 1 in Belleville, Illinois. David and Devin, who hail from families in the Diocese of San Angelo, pronounced their vows in the presence of Very Rev. Louis Lougen, O.M.I., Provincial of the Oblates, with The Mass of Religious Profession celebrated in the church at the National Shrine of Our Lady of the Snows in the presence of a large number of relatives, friends and fellow Oblates.

David and Devin will begin their studies later this month at the Oblate School of Theology, San Antonio.

These gregarious young Texans, who have been guided during their novitiate year by novice director, Father Tom Horan, O.M.I., and their assistants Frs. Rudy Nowakowski, O.M.I., and Mark Dean, O.M.I., will be joined in making vows of chastity, poverty, obedience and perseverance as Missionary Oblates of Mary Immaculate, by two men from California, Lucio Castillo Escamilla, and Jesus Jesse Esqueda, and three members of the United States Province from the Zambian delegation — Mathews Zulu, Joseph Nkomeshya, and Felix Bwalya Nyambe.

The first profession of the vows is the culminating event of the novitiate year shared by the newly professed Oblates at the Immaculate Heart of Mary Novitiate in Godfrey, Ill. For each of the seven men, their novitiate lasted for one year, beginning on August 17, 2008, and concluding on August 1, the birthday of the Founder, St. Eugene de Mazenod, with that profession of first vows. Vows are taken for a year and renewed annually for 3-6 years, by which time the call to perpetual (final) vows is discerned. The provincial of the United States Province, Fr. Louis Lougen, OMI, will receive their vows in the name of the Superior General.

“These novices spent a year at the Novitiate to discern their call from God,” said Father Lougen. “This required a lot of prayer, quiet, interior work, and study. The Novitiate staff assisted them by helping them to understand the

(Texas K C awards scholarship to San Angelo seminarian)

The Angelus

The Texas State Knights of Columbus is proud to announce that Eunel Paderog, a seminarian for the Diocese of San Angelo, was chosen to receive a $1,000 scholarship.

One seminarian per diocese in Texas is selected as a recipient of the educational grant money. A native of the Philippines Paderog is a second year theologian at Assumption Seminary in San Antonio. He is the nephew of Fr. Bernadito Getigan, pastor of Holy Redeemer Church in Odessa.

Eunel wrote an essay outlining his personal reason for applying and how receipt of the Educational Grant would assist him in his pursuit of the priesthood.

The diocese has a Seminarian Education Burse which is used to assist with the cost of educating a seminarian. Donations in memory of or in Honor of a loved one may be sent to the Pastoral Center. For more information, please contact Fr. Hubert Wade, Director of Seminarians, at 325-365-2687.

(Please See NOVITIATES/21)
By Debra Michalewicz

With 11 different events spanning the 11 Days of Global Peace, beginning with the World Day of Prayer on September 11 and closing with the International Day of Peace on September 21, the Peace Ambassadors of West Texas celebrated peace, love, and unity in diversity, all under the guidance of our One Loving God.

This year the focus was on how each faith tradition “Reaches In” through prayer, meditation, and contemplation and how each faith tradition “Reaches Out” through service and justice. Participants journeyed through 7 different faith tradition rooms (Muslim, Jewish, Christian, Native American, Taoist, Hindu, and Baha’i) learning and experiencing how each celebrated the one God in many different manners and cultures while giving thanks to unity amid diversity at the ALL FAITH DAY at First Christian Church.

The Muslim Prayer Service and Eid Celebration complete with Gambian Imam, Basiru Jallo, prayers – with formal postures – spoken in Arabic with English translations, and tables of Middle Eastern food with recipes from Turkey, Egypt, Bangladesh, and Pakistan was overlaid with the joy and excitement found when the major world faith traditions come together to celebrate as one.

The closing celebration at Angelo State University’s Catholic Newman Center hosted by Sr. Malachy Griffin, O.P. seemed to be the crowning event. Celebrants from six different faith traditions lit their own candles from the One Source Light while each said a prayer for peace. Then the candles of the many others gathered were lit from the diverse candles as Peace Ambassador Becky Benes observed no one candle was diminished when lighting the candle of another. The rest of the evening was filled with symbol, song, and a success story.

As their own Reaching Out project, the Peace Ambassadors launched the San Angelo Pennies for Peace (P4P) campaign setting a goal of $12,000 – enough to build a school for girls and boys in Afghanistan. At the Closing Celebration, Becky Benes announced through the collection of pennies and dollars, the goal was exceeded even through the beautiful P4P collection cans decorated by children around San Angelo were still out and donations are still being accepted by the Peace Ambassadors. (See November Angelus articles about Three Cups of Tea and the Pennies for Peace project.)

Other special events included a 24 hour Opening Prayer Vigil, Christian Prayer Service, 9-11 Memorial Service, Jewish Sabbath Service and Dinner, and the International Day of Peace song celebration facilitated by composer/musician Cindy Jordan and Muslim Peace Ambassador Ara Rahman was invited to the First Christian Church to speak on One Human Family.

Dirt Turns in Mertzon

From left to right, Santiago Ibarra, Valentin Gomez, Deacon Victor Bellman, Deacon Michael Kahlig, Father Joseph Vathalloor, Bishop Michael Pfeifer, Pastor Mark Smith, Valdomero Gomez, Trey Carrillo, Samantha Martinez, Alexandra Martinez and Julisa Halfmann break ground on a new hall in Mertzon.

Prayer Sharing

Prayer written and submitted by Mary Ann Book, Miles.

An Evening Prayer

Lord, forgive us all the wrong we have done this day.
Forgive us if we have been bad tempered and hard to live with.
Forgive us if we have hurt those we should love.
Forgive us if we have made life more difficult for anyone.
Forgive us for any word of comfort or praise or thanks which we might have spoken but did not speak.
Forgive us for any help we might have given to someone in need and did not give.

Lord, we pray tonight for all mankind.
-- for the good, for the bad.
-- for the believer and for the unbeliever.
-- for those who are trying to find you and for those who are trying to ignore you.

Bless those who are lonely and who feel their loneliness worst of all at evening time.
Bless those who are old or sick, and who will not sleep tonight.
Bless all homes and families and bless those who have no home of their own.

Give us all restful sleep and the peace of the heart that comes from knowing that our sins are forgiven and that we are always in the hands of our heavenly father. In the name of the Father and of the son and of the Holy Spirit. Amen.
Making Sense of Bioethics

The ethics of ‘correcting’ mitochondrial disease

By Rev. Tad Pacholczyk

Mitochondria are small, elongated structures in a cell that produce energy. These “cellular batteries” contain their own small piece of DNA, separate from the rest of the cell’s DNA found in the nucleus.

When defects or mutations occur in this mitochondrial DNA it can result in a number of diseases. In severe cases, children can be born blind, epileptic, unable to crawl and may manifest severe neurological delay and die at an early age. No real therapies exist for most mitochondrial diseases beyond treating the symptoms.

Scientists in Oregon, however, recently announced a technique to “swap out” defective mitochondria in an egg cell by using healthy mitochondria from another egg. The technique loosely resembles cloning, since it involves transferring the nucleus from the defective egg into a non-defective egg that has had its own nucleus removed. This newly ‘reconstructed’ egg will then contain mitochondria only from the new egg cell, leaving behind any defective mitochondria from the original cell. The reconstructed egg can then be fertilized with sperm by in vitro fertilization (IVF) to create an embryo that is free of mitochondrial mutations or defects.

Mitochondrial swap-
Catholic Voices

Working together to create a Christianized economy

By Tony Magliano
Catholic News Service

Beyond having time off, enjoying cookouts and shopping for bargains, the time period around Labor Day is an excellent opportunity to reflect on the meaning of work.

If we don't sometimes think about the purpose of work, if we don't consider its divine origin and design, we run the risk of becoming cogs in the corporate wheel, buying unneeded things, making weapons of war, polluting the earth, becoming greedy and ultimately dehumanizing others and ourselves in the process.

From the beginning of time God worked, creating the cosmos. He exemplified for us the importance, beauty and wholesomeness of creative work.

Considering all that God made is good -- especially human beings -- and because God does not favor any one group of humans over another, the bounty of creation must be kept well-preserved and made available to all people, for all time.

But society's endless quest for profit, its insatiable hunger for more and more stuff at cheap prices, is an offense against the God-given dignity of countless men, women and even children. They have become cogs in the wheel of the economy, exploited by transnational corporations and forgotten by governments.

Our capitalistic, consumption-driven economic system is in crisis primarily because it is morally sick. It seductively Tempts us to indulge our physical selves while starving our individual and societal souls.

The global economic Humpty Dumpty has fallen. And it appears that the world's political and economic powers are doing little more than trying to put this Humpty Dumpty back together again.

But like the nursery rhyme, it would be far better if all the king's men could not put their Humpty Dumpty back together again. Instead of throwing trillions of dollars away attempting to rebuild an ethically sick economy, they should be creatively laboring to build a system that works for people everywhere.

Pope Benedict XVI, in his recent encyclical, "Caritas in Veritate" ("Charity in Truth"), writes about the absolute need for economic systems to be based on ethical values.

In addressing the crisis confronting the global economy, the pope writes, "the primary capital to be safeguarded and valued is man, the human person in his or her integrity."

The pope adds that food and water are the "universal rights of all human beings without distinction or discrimination."

Yet our ethically sick global economy ignores the sad fact that over 1 billion human beings lack adequate food and water.

And in the United States, still the richest nation on earth -- at least for some -- the gap between the rich and poor is greater than at any time since the Great Depression. Over 12 million children live in poverty.

The economy is morally broken. It doesn't deserve to be put back together again!

The U.S. bishops, back in 1986, wrote a wise and compassionate pastoral letter, "Economic Justice for All: Catholic Social Teaching and the U.S. Economy." It's still so relevant, it could have been written yesterday.

The bishops boldly proclaimed that "the time has come for a 'New American Experiment' -- to implement economic rights, to broaden the sharing of economic power and to make economic decisions more accountable to the common good.

"This experiment can create new structures of economic partnership and participation within firms at the regional level, for the whole nation and across borders."

"Let's do it!

Let's create a new economic American experiment based on Christ-like values.

Let's labor to create a Christianized economy!

Will we ever see an end to war?

By Antoinette Bosco
Catholic News Service

The news almost every day of more people killed in Afghanistan, Pakistan, Iraq and other countries is a continuing heartbreaker. I keep finding myself asking silently why are most of the countries in the world so hung up on war as the way to hold onto power.

I often recall what G.A. Studdert Kennedy, an Anglican priest who ministered to World War I British soldiers, wrote as that war raged on: It was hard "trying to keep the hope of heaven alive in the midst of bloody hell."

It wasn't possible during World War I, during the 130-plus wars the world had endured in the century before or now. The "enemies" remain faceless numbers and certainly not our brethren.

As we have seen in the recent massive killings in Rwanda, nothing is wrong that destroys an "enemy" and anything is right that wins a war.

Jesus' life was about teaching us to end injustice, violence and inequality in this world, to end hate with forgiveness, compassion and love, thus making this a universe of peace.

But this has never happened.

Pope John Paul II preached this truth about Jesus for his entire papacy, and never so pointedly as he did in his January 2002 World Day of Peace message.

"To pray for peace is to seek God's forgiveness and to implore the courage to forgive those who have trespassed against us," he wrote, lamenting, "What sufferings are inflicted on humanity because of the failure to reconcile!"

Famed author H.G. Wells, in his 1920 book "The Outline of History," was deeply affected by the killings in World War I. He wrote of the necessity for "unity in mankind. ... Sooner or later that unity must come or else plainly men must perish by their own inventions."

But Wells knew the odds, adding, "Set against these motives of unity indeed are other motives entirely antagonistic, the fear and hatred of strange things and peoples, love of and trust in the old traditional thing, patriotism, race prejudices, suspicions, distrusts -- and the elements of spite, scoundrelism and utter selfishness that are so strong still in every human soul."

Another voice after World War II was writer Lewis Mumford, whose son was killed in that war. The atomic bomb had changed the history of the human race, he believed, and he wrote: "Not to seize power, but to protect and cherish life is the chief aim of man; and the godlike powers that the human race now commands only adds to its responsibilities for self-discipline and make more imperative a post-magical, post-mechanical, post-nuclear ideology which shall be centered not on power but on life."

I could include a hundred more voices crying out to seek an end to "the pagan doctrine and spirit of retaliation," as President Woodrow Wilson put it, appalled by the punitive Treaty of Versailles after World War I.

Knowing prophetically that this vindictive treaty signed by victorious "Christian states" held the seeds for another more devastating war, he said, "What it treats with utter ignorance is (Please See BOSCO/23)
Many parishes depend greatly on the income generated every year by their parish festivals and family fairs, which are typically staged during the closing days of summer or the fall months. Included today is a collection of scenes from parishes sent in showing scenes of the fun times people have at these annual special occasions.
Chicago woman runs in order to raise funds to enter religious life

By Joyce Duriga
Catholic News Service

CHICAGO -- When Alicia Torres laced up her running shoes and tackled the 13.1 miles of the Chicago Half Marathon Sept. 13, her goal was to become a nun.

Torres is not a runner and had never run a distance race. But she ran the race as part of an appeal to friends and strangers to help pay off more than $90,000 in student loans so she can enter religious life.

When Torres felt God calling her to this vocation, she realized there was one major obstacle in her path -- $94,000 in student loans that must be paid off to enter the Franciscan community she's chosen. Most of her loans are held by private lenders so they can't be consolidated or the interest rates negotiated.

It is a contemporary issue: Men and women graduate from college with student loan bills and feel God calling them to join communities that take vows of poverty. But they must enter debt-free since the communities do not typically have resources to pay off the loans.

The 24-year-old graduated in 2007 from Loyola University Chicago with a degree in theology and bioethics and works in the Respect Life Office for the Archdiocese of Chicago.

Facing this large debt and feeling God's call to her becoming clearer every day, Torres chose to do something public to seek help. She took the "nun run" vocation idea literally and decided to run a half marathon to call attention to her situation and to encourage donations.

Torres created www.TheNunRun.com to chronicle her journey. Several of her friends ran the half marathon with her in solidarity.

She is also working with the Laboure Society (www.labourefoundation.org), a nonprofit that provides financial assistance to individuals who must eliminate personal debt in order to pursue their vocation to the priesthood or religious life.

Torres tells anyone who asks that she's not looking to get out of paying her loans. She will continue to work until they are paid and she can enter the community free and clear. She's just looking for help to realize her vocation sooner rather than later.

She is peppered with questions and comments whenever she shares her story. Why can't her parents pay the loans for her? (They don't have the means and still have kids at home.) Why doesn't she just get a better-paying job? (She's doing good work where she is.) Why can't the community pay it for her? (They have a vow of poverty.)

They are all questions she takes in stride and opportunities she uses for evangelization.

Editor's Note: For more on Torres' story or to donate to her effort, visit www.TheNunRun.com.

Vatican may intervene in Honduran political crisis

TEGUCIGALPA, Honduras (CNS) -- Days after deposed Honduran President Manuel Zelaya returned secretly to the country, there were signs that the leaders who ousted him were considering negotiations, and the foreign minister said the Vatican might help mediate a solution to the crisis.

On Sept. 24, Auxiliary Bishop Juan Pineda Faquelle of Tegucigalpa spoke with both of the main players in the political standoff. The bishop visited both Zelaya and Roberto Micheletti, who heads the de facto government that ousted Zelaya in a coup June 28.

As he left the Brazilian Embassy, where Zelaya took refuge after returning to Honduras Sept. 21, Bishop Pineda told reporters he hoped the visit would be a "first step" toward dialogue.

A representative of Michelelli and four candidates planning to run in presidential elections in November also visited Zelaya.

Jesuit Father Ismael Moreno, director of Radio Progreso, called the events "hopeful signs that we could be nearing a way out" of the three-month-old political impasse.

The overtures came after several days of protests in which at least one person was killed and various others injured or arrested.

On Sept. 24, Acting Foreign Minister Carlos Lopez Contreras announced that Michelelli was willing to begin talks. When a reporter asked who might participate in the dialogue, Lopez mentioned the Vatican. Church sources said Tegucigalpa Cardinal Oscar Rodriguez Maradiaga had spoken with Pope Benedict XVI earlier in the week.

This could restore the church's credibility as a mediator, which some observers said was undermined by a statement by the bishops in early July that was widely seen as supporting the coup.

Although retired Bishop Real Corriveau of Choluteca told Catholic News Service that the statement was misinterpreted and that the bishops found fault with both sides, the bishops' failure to insist on Zelaya's return to office contrasted with the stance of the

Pope: Divorce, cohabitation can ruin kids' lives

CASTEL GANDOLFO, Italy (CNS) - Many children raised by cohabitating, separated, divorced or remarried parents are deprived of fixed points of reference and can suffer from inner conflict and confusion, Pope Benedict XVI told Brazilian bishops. The traditional family based on a man and woman united in an indissoluble marriage is under attack in today's world, he said. "There are forces and voices in present society that seem committed to demolishing the natural homestead of human life," the pope said during a meeting Sept. 25 with bishops from the northeastern area of Brazil.

Families in secularized cultures, especially where divorce is legal, seem deeply immersed in uncertainty, he said. More and more couples build their unions on the fragility and impermanence of cohabitation, which is merely based on an "individual's feeling or subjectivity," he said. He said as divorces increase and cohabitation is on the rise, the children in these situations are "deprived of their parents' support and become victims of malaise and abandonment, thus spreading social disorder."

(Please See HONDURAS/21)
Forgiveness, back in the news, is also human

By Father William J. Byron, SJ  
Catholic News Service

Forgiveness is back in the news. Public reports of marital infidelity in high places and the release of the convicted Lockerbie bomber raise for wronged spouses and grieving survivors the question of forgiveness.

The challenge to forgive is, for most of us, never far away, but we don't deal with it all that well.

Our better judgment, as well as divine revelation, tells us that we should always be ready to forgive.

Is there any limit on how many times to forgive, say, seven times?

No, "77 times" (Mt 18:22) is the Christian answer to the question of how often we should forgive.

There is a biblical understanding of "remembering" that means simply to make present again, to relive an event. This is rooted in the Hebrew Bible where to forget is to obliterate and to remember is to keep a relationship very much alive.

The Lord "forgets" our sins and "remembers" his promises, his covenant, with us. We can be nothing but grateful for that. In the spirit of gratitude, we have no real choice but to forget our grudges.

Since childhood, we've heard it said that "to err is human and to forgive divine," and we excuse our refusal to forgive by acknowledging the obvious fact that we are human, not divine.

Far less obvious, however, is the fact that we Christians are "divinized" by the grace of the sacraments and are thus not only expected to forgive, but made capable of forgiving and forgetting (obliterating, for all practical purposes) any offense.

God stands ready to forgive; how can we refuse to do the same?

National forgiveness is something that we tend not to think about very often, let alone pray for. Personal forgiveness is another story. We pray for that all the time.

But we should think about forgiveness writ large. Our nation stands in need of forgiveness from time to time. When issues of forgiveness emerge in the news, we might give that some thought both to giving and receiving forgiveness on a personal and national scale.

A proclamation for a National Day of Prayer, issued by President Abraham Lincoln in 1863, read in part: "And, (Please See BYRON/23)

Longing for God part of human condition

By Father John Catoir  
Catholic News Service

In the liturgy of the church, only one person prays; namely, Jesus Christ. At every Mass, he and the members of his mystical body are able to enter the inner chamber of divine love. United to him, we become the adopted children of the Father.

Understood properly, the sacrifice of the Mass is an act of love more intimate than human intercourse.

Gaining access to God the Father in this way is only possible through the mediation of Jesus Christ.

St. Augustine articulated the mystery of our longing for God when he wrote: "Our hearts are restless until they rest in you, O Lord."

Nostalgia for paradise resides in the heart of every human being, saints and sinners alike.

As we try to reach out to our maker, we usually experience frustration and disappointment. We do not feel God's embrace, and this is upsetting.

But our longing for God is an essential part of the human condition.

Did you ever stop to think that this yearning is a gift? God wants you to feel empty, and he gives you his Son to help you find your way home.

Jesus announces himself as the privileged channel of communication for everyone who is searching for union with the Father: "No one comes to the Father except through me" (Jn 14:6). He also said, "Come to me, all you who labor and are burdened, and I will give you rest" (Mt 11:28).

The church teaches us that the sacrifice of the Mass is an event involving intimate union with God. The doctrine of the Trinity tells us God is a furnace of love made up of three persons -- Father, Son and Holy Spirit -- eternally loving one another.

To enter the love that passes between the three requires a supernatural passport. You become one with the second person, Jesus Christ, and become covered with his holiness.

The relationship between Jesus and his Father is unique and personal. As the second person of the Trinity, Jesus is always offering himself to the Father. The marvel of it is that he allows us to participate in this supernatural act of love: "I am the vine, you are the branches" (Jn 15:5).

United to his self-offering, we are no longer isolated human beings. With him we have become one mystical body.

This is why Jesus taught us to address God as "our Father", not "my Father."

The Mass is more than a church ritual; it is an act of love in the fullest sense. Our faith enables us to rise above our petty fears of inadequacy and unworthiness.

No one is worthy. We have been chosen in spite of our unworthiness. We are no longer poor, helpless creatures.

(Please See CATOIR/22)

Our Holy Father’s Monthly Intentions 2009

OCTOBER

Sunday Eucharist. That Sundays may be lived as the day on which Christians gather to celebrate the Risen Lord in the table of the Eucharist.

Spirit of Mission. That all the people of God, whom Christ has commanded to go and preach the Gospel to every creature, may diligently fulfill their missionary responsibility.

NOVEMBER

Care of Creation. That all peoples of good will, especially those who make political and economic policies, may commit themselves to care for all creation.

Peace of God. That believers of every religion may witness through their lives and through dialogue that the Name of God brings peace.

Daily Offering Prayer

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

Mystical Rose Catholic Books and Gifts

1317 N. 8th Street, Suite 100  
Abilene, TX  
(325) 829-8512

Our sole purpose is to bring Jesus and Our Blessed Mother to Catholics in West Texas by offering Catholic books, statues, rosaries and other Sacramentals. All of our profits are donated to Catholic causes.

Hours -- MWF -- 2:00-5:00  
Sat. -- 12:00-5:00

mysticalrosefloral@hotmail.com
Jesus explains how to inherit eternal life

Jesus had finished preaching and was preparing to leave for the next town with his disciples. A man ran up to him and knelt down on the ground in front of Jesus. "Good teacher," he said, "what must I do to inherit eternal life?"

Jesus looked down, put one of his hands on the man's shoulder and said, "Why do you call me good? No one is good but God alone. You know the commandments," and Jesus recited several of the commandments God had given to Moses.

The man nodded. "Teacher, all of these I have observed from my youth."

Without any anger but only love in the sound of his voice, Jesus said, "You are lacking in one thing."

He was a very wealthy man and he had many possessions. He rose and walked away from Jesus, shaking his head. He could not do what Jesus had asked him to do.

Then Jesus turned to his disciples, who had seen and heard everything. "How hard it is for those who have wealth to enter the kingdom of God!"

The disciples also did not understand, so Jesus said, "Children, how hard it is to enter the kingdom of God! It is easier for a camel to pass through the eye of a needle than for one who is rich to enter the kingdom of God."

"Then who can be saved?" the disciples asked.

Jesus smiled at his friends and answered, "For human beings it is impossible, but not for God. All things are possible for God."

Peter, who often spoke what the other disciples only thought to themselves, said, "We have given up everything and followed you."

And Jesus replied, "Amen, I say to you, there is no one who has given up house or brothers or sisters or mother or father or children or lands for my sake and the sake of the Gospel who will not receive a hundred times more now in this present age. ... But many that are first will be last, and the last will be first."
Family

Using your cell phone while already engaged with others

By Karen Osborne
Catholic News Service

These days, checking your cell phone seems as natural as breathing. You simply slide it out of your pocket or purse, switch it on, check for messages, reply to your friends and then put it back.

No harm done, right?
Wrong.

It's one thing to check your phone during a car ride or in a waiting room where everyone's bored and not doing much else. It's another thing to text when your attention is needed elsewhere.

Imagine you are having a conversation with your best friend about something you think is really cool -- the new Rock Band expansion packs. Right when you're getting to the interesting part, your friend takes out her cell phone and starts texting someone else.

"But I wanted to tell you about the new songs they're including," you say.
"No, really, I'm listening to you," she says.

But she does not look like she's listening -- and she doesn't seem interested in what you have to say!

How would this make you feel?

Arguably, half of human communication involves body language of some sort. Body language is all about how we use posture and facial expressions to present our opinions and feelings nonverbally.

Body language is how your parents usually know if something is bothering you (even if they don't always know what to do about it). Someone interested in your opinions will lean forward while someone who doesn't agree may cross his or her arms. Someone bored with you might focus on something else, look away and fidget a little.

When our brains note someone looking down and away at a cell phone, they register that the other does not value the speaker and is so bored with what is being said that he or she is willing to shove the dissatisfaction right in the speaker's face!

But I bet that's not really what people want to say.

I've seen cell phones whipped out during funerals, at wedding receptions, family holidays, during meetings and class. And every time this has happened, I've noticed people around the cell phone user looking hurt and annoyed.

Speaker Matthew Arnold Stern tells a story on his blog about how his boss called a meeting to tell him how important Stern was to the company, and then took a cell call where he said, "I'm in a meeting, but it's not anything important!"

Sure, Stern felt important -- as important as a paramecium!

When you're checking your cell phone in class, you're telling the teacher of your disinterest more by your body language than you ever could by speaking aloud.

OK, I know class can be a little boring at times, but isn't that really a message you want to broadcast to your teacher -- and to everyone else in the classroom?

Cell phones are amazing. They've completely eliminated tiny daily annoyances like getting locked outside your house for hours because of a forgotten key, not being able to find friends in a crowd or having to talk to friends about personal stuff in front of everyone else in the family.

They also have the potential to make life a lot more vulgar.

If you can't -- or don't want to -- excuse yourself from the room to check your texts, it might be better to just leave the phone in your pocket until you are in a more convenient place. Doing that shows that you're polite, interested. And in return more people will be more interested in you.

It's a win-win situation!

Your Family

Why parents hate homework so much

By Bill and Monica Dodds
Catholic News Service

It seems that even grade-schoolers' homework has been affected by the recent economic troubles. No, we don't mean Mom and Dad have lowered any promised payments on good report cards. (The two of us never had that deal as children and never offered it as parents.) We mean colleges have cracked down on the number of students they're accepting.

And so, as one Catholic grade-school teacher told us, representatives from the local Catholic high school recently stopped by to tell the faculty that incoming freshmen were shocked -- shocked! -- to learn that if they didn't turn an assignment in on time they would receive a greatly reduced credit for it. Or -- horrors! -- a big fat zero for it.

And so, the high school was getting the word out to the local grade schools that those 14-year-olds would have been helped if they had been given a taste of that harsh reality when they were 12 and 13. And a hearty dash of it when they were 10 and 11.

And so, the grade school's new policy for seventh- and eighth-graders is a grade of 50 for any assignment turned in one day late and zero if two days late. And now for fifth- and sixth-graders, it's 75 for one day late, 50 for two days late and zero for three days.

Amazingly, a poor semester grade during freshman year can hound a student's grade point average throughout high school and tip the balance when it comes to getting into college. And not just at an exclusive college. A state college. (Not that we, as state college graduates ourselves, have anything against state colleges!)

And so, now parents have even more reason to hate homework. And that doesn't seem possible, does it?

A Few Suggestions

As the new school year is unfolding, here are a few suggestions for helping your sons and daughters finish those assignments on time, with a minimum of frustration and tears. (And without your children being frustrated or crying too!):
-- Know what those assignment deadlines are! Keep an up-to-date calendar in a prominent place. (Love those fridge magnets.) Break down big assignments into smaller, more manageable steps that can be met with incremental deadlines.
-- Establish a place, time and environment for homework. All of us are creatures of routine, and it's possible to establish good habits (as well as fall into bad ones).
-- Remember you're there to help, not to do the work.
-- Never hesitate to get outside help for yourself and your student. For some kids and their parents, homework really is torture, and that's not a reflection on the parents or the children.
-- Keep in mind that in the long run and throughout life, effort, attitude and perseverance often trump IQ. (The smart kids don't necessarily do well in the many years following school and the not-so-smart kids can do very well indeed.)

Bill and Monica Dodds are the founders of the Friends of St. John the Caregiver and editors of My Daily Visitor magazine. Their Web site is www.FSJC.org.

ANSWERS

Answers:
4. Sarah, 5. Jonah, 6. Peter,
7. Revelation.
Books

3 books focus on teaching, contemplating and meeting Jesus


Reviewed by Allan F. Wright
Catholic News Service

For those interested in a scholarly analysis of Jesus in the Gospels and Acts of the Apostles, Daniel Scholz, who chairs the philosophy and religious studies department at Cardinal Stritch University, provides an excellent survey which is accessible to the student and layperson alike.

Pulling from more than 20 years of experience in teaching at the collegiate level, Scholz offers an authentic academic study of Jesus Christ in his book, "Jesus in the Gospels and Acts: Introducing the New Testament." He opens the book with an explanation of the "historical world of Jesus" and introduces the reader to the realm of biblical studies.

The synopsis and further study of Jesus in the Gospels and Acts is certain to both educate and intrigue. With numerous sidebars, charts and questions, the book will keep the reader interested in the topic.

Scholz provides an excellent resource for teachers and students that will spur the reader on to further study.

Father Joseph Girzone, author of some 18 books, including the popular "Joshua" series, offers 44 meditations on the actions and words of Jesus in his book, "The Wisdom of His Compassion: Meditations on the Words and Actions of Jesus." Girzone weaves in stories from his own life experiences to highlight the compassionate and emphatic actions of Jesus as found in the Gospels.

Unlike Scholz, who provides an excellent resource for teachers and students that will spur the reader on to further study, Father Girzone weaves in stories from his own life experiences to highlight the compassionate and emphatic actions of Jesus as found in the Gospels.

While Father Girzone uses Gospel passages to explore an aspect of Jesus' teaching, he fails to draw out the background, meaning and original intent of the story as used by the Gospel writers -- and Jesus himself -- which can minimize the importance of the Gospel story. Drawing from his ministry experience, the retired Catholic priest does reveal that individuals both need and want a relationship with Jesus Christ and that the relationship with Jesus is the source of what compassion is.

He concludes that people "want to meet the real Jesus and learn what he is really like. They want to be part of him and follow him like all the people in that Gospel passage." This book provides insights into the inner life of Jesus and encourages thoughtful, prayerful reflections on the way Jesus related to the people we encounter in the Gospels so that we might bring that compassion to a world that desperately needs it.

In "Meeting Jesus in the Gospels," George Martin, author and commentator on Scripture, offers 55 concise reflections on events and encounters people had with Jesus as we find them in the Gospels.

Each chapter begins with a verse from Scripture followed by one or two teaching points to illustrate the meaning for the believer today. Each chapter ends with a reflection question such as: "What is the next step Jesus is inviting me to take in order to follow him more closely?"

Martin's chapters faithfully carry out his intention to have the reader meet Jesus in the Scriptures as well as in the providence of living their daily lives. This book is recommended for any devout Christian seeking a closer walk with Jesus, one small step at a time.

Wright is author of "Silent Witnesses in the Gospels" and "Jesus in the House: Gospel Reflections of Christ's Presence in the Home."

Catholic League prez fights cultural 'saboteurs' in new book


Reviewed by Brian T. Olszewski
Catholic News Service

If the cultural war requires bare-knuckled brawlers, Bill Donohue might be its undisputed champion. Head of the Catholic League for Religious and Civil Rights since 1993, Donohue has been at the forefront of battles that he says provide evidence of the sabotage about which he writes -- a threatened 2002 boycott of the American Red Cross when its Orange County, Calif., chapter banned high school groups from singing patriotic songs at Red Cross events; a nationwide boycott of Wal-Mart in 2005 when the retailer posted Hanukkah and Kwanzaa sections on its Web site, but no "Christmas" section; and a 2007 boycott of the Miller Brewing Company when the brewer's logo appeared on poster mocking the Last Supper.

Donohue takes a chapter by chapter approach in detailing how the sabotage has taken place. In the chapter on multiculturalism, he writes: "Words like tolerance, diversity and inclusion constitute a mantra. They' are a holy trinity of multiculturalism." He states that secular saboteurs see multiculturalism as a "godsend. It gives them all the justification they need to attack our Judeo-Christian roots."

He concludes the chapter on artistic sabotage by stating that a line from Jerry Springer: The Opera" -- "Nothing is wrong and nothing is right" -- underscores "the central point of this book: the secular sabotage of America is driven by nihilism as much as it is by hate. All of it is deliberate and all of it is intended to offend."

About saboteurs, for whom he uses "extremists," radicals" and "nihilists" as synonyms, Donohue writes, "The goal is not reform: it is an attempt to gut core beliefs and practices. And to a disturbing extent, the secularists have succeeded in turning things upside down and inside out."

Among those he views as "the radical secular activists out to disable America" are the American Civil Liberties Union, Anti-Defamation League, People for the American Way, National Abortion Rights Defense League, Catholics for Choice and the Democratic Party. Lawyers and Hollywood are named, too. Regarding the latter, he uses films such as "Priest," "Dogma," "The Golden Compass" and "The Da Vinci Code," and refers to the short-lived 1997 TV show "Nothing Sacred." That chapter also includes an examination of the controversy that surrounded "The Passion of the Christ."

Donohue devotes a chapter each to self-sabotage being done by Catholics and

(Please See BOOK/21)
USCCB Movie Ratings

NEW YORK -- Here is a list of recent films the Office for Film & Broadcasting classification of the U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops has rated on the basis of moral suitability.

The first symbol after each title is the USCCB Office for Film & Broadcasting classification. The second symbol is the rating of the Motion Picture Association of America.

Office for Film & Broadcasting classifications: A-I -- general patronage; A-II -- adults and adolescents; A-III -- adults; L -- limited adult audience, films whose problematic content many adults would find troubling; O -- morally offensive.

MPAA ratings: G -- general audiences. All ages admitted; PG -- parental guidance suggested. Some material may not be suitable for children; PG-13 -- parents strongly cautioned. Some material may be inappropriate for children under 13; R -- restricted. Under 17 requires accompanying parent or adult guardian; NC-17 -- no one 17 and under admitted.

A

Aliens in the Attic, A-II (PG)

B

Bandslam, A-I (PG)
The Boys: The Sherman Brothers Story, A-I (no rating)
Bruno, O (R)

C

A Christmas Tale (Un Conte de Noel), L (no rating)
The Collector, O (R)

D

District 9, L (R)

E

Easy Virtue, O (PG-13)

F

Four Christmases, A-III (PG-13)
Fugitive Pieces, A-II (R)
Funny People, L (R)

G

G-Force, A-I (PG)
The Goods: Live Hard, Sell Hard, O (R)

H

The Hangover, O (R)
Harry Potter and the Half-Blood Prince, A-II (PG)
House, A-III (R)

I

Ice Age: Dawn of the Dinosaurs, A-I (PG)
I Love You, Beth Cooper, O (PG-13)
Imagine That, A-I (PG)
Inglourious Basterds, L (R)

J

Julie & Julia, A-III (PG-13)

K

My Life in Ruins, A-II (PG-13)
My Sister's Keeper, L (PG-13)

L

Night at the Museum: Battle of the Smithsonian, A-I (PG)
Nothing Like the Holidays, A-III (PG-13)

O

Observe and Report, O (R)
Orphan, L (R)

P

A Perfect Getaway, L (R)
Ponyo, A-I (G)
Post Grad, A-III (PG-13)

A Previous Engagement, O (no rating)
The Proposal, A-III (PG-13)
Public Enemies, A-III (R)

S

Shorts, A-II (PG)
Star Trek, A-III (PG-13)
State of Play, A-III (PG-13)
The Stoning of Soraya M., L (R)

T

Taking Woodstock, O (R)
Terminator Salvation, L (PG-13)
The Time Traveler's Wife, A-III (PG-13)
Transformers: Revenge of the Fallen, L (PG-13)

U

The Ugly Truth, O (R)
Up, A-I (PG)

W

Whatever Works, O (PG-13)

X


Y

Year One, O (PG-13)

Z

Editors: Letters of the alphabet have been omitted where there are no movies beginning with that letter.

The Adult Catechism

Lay faithful and the teachings of Christ

By Archbishop Donald Wuerl

In the last session of the Second Vatican Council, in 1965, the fathers of that ecumenical synod approved among other documents the Decree on the Apostolate of the Laity (Apostolicam Actuositatem). The document is remarkable for a number of reasons, but its very existence calls us to reflect on the role of the Holy Spirit in guiding the Church.

A cursory review of the Official Catholic Directory will show that as the council met from 1962 to 1965, the Church in the United States, reflective of the Church throughout the world, enjoyed the highest number of priestly vocations and membership in religious communities in the Church's recent history. Seminaries, major and minor, high school, college and theologate level, were filled. Religious communities of women and men rejoiced in ever-increasing numbers of candidates, novices and postulants. Throughout the Church in North America there was the highest priest-per-Catholic ratio that we had ever experienced. There was no shortage of priests and women and men religious, nor was there any sign of letting up in the steady stream of responses to vocations to the priesthood and religious life.

It was at this time that the Second Vatican Council called the whole Church to reflect on the role of the laity in the Church, reminding everyone that, like the clergy and religious, lay Christians are entrusted by God with the apostolate by virtue of their baptism and confirmation. They have the right and duty, individually or grouped in associations, to work so that the message of salvation may be known and accepted by all people throughout the world.

Sometimes we hear that the increasing emphasis on the role of the
**MARRIAGE: Next encounter Oct 30-Nov. 1 in Stanton**

(From 1)

Marriage Encounter is designed to give married couples the opportunity to examine their lives together, a time to share their feelings, their hopes, disappointments, joys and frustrations and to do so openly and honestly in a face-to-face, heart-to-heart encounter with the one person they have chosen to live with for the rest of their life. The emphasis on Marriage Encounter is on communications between husband and wife, who spend a weekend together away from the distractions and the tensions of everyday life to concentrate on each other.

“The weekend features a series of presentations given by a team of three couples and a priest,” said Tom Van Vranken, a co-leader of the Marriage Encounter with wife Jeannie. “The presentations are centered in the relationship between the couple, and the priest with his relationship with the people of his parish.”

Marriage Encounter differs from many retreat-type weekends in that there are no group discussions; all sharing is between the married couple.

“Marriage Encounter complements ministries already offered at local parishes, especially the ACTS Retreat,” said Mrs. Van Vranken. “The ACTS Retreat offers the self discovery of your role as a Catholic and your relationship individually with Christ in the Parish and Marriage Encounter offers self-discovery of your role as a husband or wife, and your relationship collectively with each other and with Christ in the Family.”

The encounter weekend offers a way to take a deeper look at your marriage and your relationship with each other, with God, and with the Church, which in turn opens up a brand new way of communication that helps the couple uncover things that may have caused disillusionment in their marriage and to bring healing and forgiveness so that they can live out their vocation – their Sacrament, the way God intends.

The next Marriage Encounter Weekend is scheduled for October 30-November 1 at the Circle 6 Ranch in Stanton. Registration fee is $50. For more information on the upcoming Marriage Encounter weekend at Circle 6, please contact Tom and Susan Williams, Midland, 432-697-9904 or email padanimal@sbcglobal.net.

A Marriage Encounter weekend is also scheduled for February 26-28, 2010 in Stanton, and June 4-6, 2010 in San Angelo.

**HONDURAS: Vatican should take part in mediation, official says**

(From 14)

Organization of American States and most other governments.

Grass-roots church workers have been critical of the coup. Jesuit-run Radio Progreso was closed briefly after the coup in June. Father Moreno said police surrounded the station after Zelaya’s return in September, and he received a death threat, but local people occupied the station to keep authorities from closing it.

Father Moreno said Bishop Pineda’s visit to Zelaya was an "acknowledgment that during these nearly three months, the church hierarchy has not taken a well-refined position," and that the church was interested in leading "along the road to reconciliation."

Nevertheless, he said a Vatican representative should take part in mediation, because some bishops are seen as supportive of "sectors that are close to the de facto government."

**POPE: Exhibit to feature replica of pope’s office during time as Bishop of Krakow**

(From 1)

"Have No Fear -- Pope John Paul II" Overview of Exhibit

Items to be on exhibit as part of "Have No Fear -- Pope John Paul II."

Some of the 180 items on display include Pope John Paul II’s personal wooden skis, backpack and tent. The pope thoroughly enjoyed the outdoors in his youth and continued skiing, hiking and kayaking when he was pope. Also:

- a family item containing rarely seen photos of his parents and a brother;
- a Pectoral Cross from the Holy Land given by the Patriarch of Jerusalem in 1957;
- an exact replica of his room as it looked in Poland when he was Cardinal of Krakow;
- his personal notebook while pope;
- a pair of red leather shoes from Italy, 1978;
- a silver forged jar in the shape of a pomegranates given him during a visit to Mexico by President Fox, 2002;
- a silver and gold medal for the 20th anniversary of diplomatic relations between the Vatican and United States and provided to Pope John Paul II by President George W. and First Lady Laura Bush in 2004;

Never before seen special diplomatic documents pertaining to the fall of the Iron Curtain in Poland.

former pope’s personal secretary and friend for 40 years.

During his tenure as head of the Roman Catholic Church and the father of Christianity, the beloved Pope John Paul II visited the United States six times. His immense faith and courage were inspirational and admired by both Christians and non-Christians throughout the world. People of all ages claimed Pope John Paul II as a friend and even personal pontiff.

“Not only will the Catholic population be keenly interested in this, but a lot of historians and a lot of others who thought a lot of Pope John Paul II will be interested,” said Dr. Steve Thomas, president of Midland College. “We’re working hard to get our minds around how you manage something like this with the potential to have a lot of traffic. I don’t know how to speculate what kind of traffic flow we’ll have but we’ve had estimates that from 50,000-150,000 will come through our doors, so I don’t know.”

“There will be a lot of humorous things you’ll discover,” said Rev. Malcolm Neyland, president and executive director of the National Exhibits Association in Lubbock, “such as how the pontiff escaped the Vatican (wearing a Panama hat to disguise himself) to walk the streets of Rome in the evenings.”

At a September press conference at Midland College announcing the exhibit, Neyland told a story of when the pope was on a ski trip and a little boy recognized him. The boy asked him if he was the pope, and the pope said, “last time I checked.” The boy said aren’t you supposed to be in Rome and the pope said yes, but the mountains are here.

“You’ll get a lot of personal insights of a leader who literally changed the world,” Neyland said. “... It is a universal exhibit, period.”

The NEA is partnering with Totus Tuus, LLC Latin for ‘Totally Yours’.

Tickets will be $15; additional ticket info and schedules will be announced in upcoming Angeluses as well as on the diocesan website, sanangelodioce.org.
SONORA: Tracing history of St. Ann’s

(From 7)

...drew the plans for the new building which would be capable of seating 400 people. Construction started in early 1969, built from native rock donated by Mrs. Stella Miers Keene. The church was dedicated Dec 28, 1969.

In 1981, Father Gilbert Rodriguez became the pastor. He started the Society of our Lady of Guadalupe with 28 members. He added a chapel on the east side of the church dedicated to Our Lady of Guadalupe. The image of Our Lady of Guadalupe in the chapel was obtained from Mexico by Father Rodriguez. This chapel was built with the generous help of the Society of Our Lady of Guadalupe.

In 1983, a new rectory was purchased and the former rectory was converted to house parish office and CCD classrooms. In 1987, the pastor, parish council and other church members began planning for renovation of the interior of the Church to conform to the laws of Vatican II document on liturgy. Donations for this project came from the St. Ann Prayer Group, the Eucharistic Ministers and Our Lady of Guadalupe Society.

In 1991, pastor, Father William DuBuisson, O.M.I., requested and successfully received funding to add four additional classrooms to the Parish Hall, built by the Franciscans in 1963. During the early 90s, an electronic carillon was installed which continues to provide beautiful melodic chimes throughout the day. Father Bill also started a parish hall building fund which continues to grow reminding all of the continued growth and spiritual needs of our faith community. Our current pastor, Father Lionel Fernando, came to St. Ann in Aug 2008 from the Tyler Diocese and has undertaken an aggressive campaign to upgrade parish facilities and increase the building fund to make a new Parish Hall complex a reality.

BOOK: Reads like literary talk radio

(From 18)

...Protestants. Among the former he delineates damage done by such groups as Catholics for Choice, Call to Action and Voice of the Faithful, to name a few. He chastises Catholic colleges and universities for becoming victims of "religious cleansing" rather than adhering to Catholic teaching and tradition:

"To be sure, there will always be those who respectfully challenge the church to rethink its ways. They are not the problem. The problem lies with those raging Catholics who would like to shove their fanciful 'Nothing Sacred' church down the throats of the faithful," he writes.

Even those who have heard or read the stories -- e.g., the law school professor whose objection to a Christmas tree on the Indiana University campus resulted in its removal; the student at the College of Alameda (Calif.) who was threatened with suspension and accused of "disruptive or insulting behavior" because she was praying for an ailing professor on campus; and

NOVITIATES: Men ‘represent boldest and brightest’ of candidates

(From 8)

Oblate way of life and learning about the life of St. Eugene de Mazenod. They attended retreats and seminars that deal with the core values of religious life such as the vows, community living, the Oblate mission, spirituality, prayer and contemporary social justice issues. Devin was born in San Angelo in 1984 to Richard and the late Sue Ann Watkins. Raised on his family's farm in Midkiff, Devin attended primary and secondary school in Rankin. In 2003, he entered Texas A&M University. Devin completed his studies at A&M in 2007 and earned a Bachelor of Science in Agribusiness and felt drawn to the Oblate presentations he encountered there with Fr. Charlie Banks, OMI Vocations Director. Around Christmas of 2006, Devin visited Oblate Bishop Michael Pfeifer, OMI, of San Angelo, and inquired about a regard to a call to his religious community. Devin then contacted Fr. Charlie Banks, OMI, the Oblate vocations director, and began a process of discernment which led to his eventual entry to Oblate formation in August 2007 following his graduation from A&M. Devin entered the Oblate formation program in Buffalo, New York in August, 2007. One year later, he began his novitiate with the Oblates in Godfrey, IL., and recently ended his one year of preparation to profess his vows.

A native of Seminole, David was born in 1973 to David and Mary Uribe who now reside in Midland. David attended grammar school in Seminole and later entered St. Anthony High School Seminary, San Antonio. Afterwards for two years he was in the college seminary program of the Oblates at St. Edward's University, Austin.

Like so many actively discerning the priesthood, David was compelled to eventually leave the seminary program in order to work. David later returned to St. Edwards and earned a Master’s of Science Degree in 2004. Around the time he graduated from St. Edwards, David started to discern again a call to the religious life and priesthood. In 2007 he applied to the Oblates and in August of that year entered their formation program in Buffalo, New York. Since August, 2008, David has been a novice at the Oblates' Immaculate Heart of Mary Novitiate, Godfrey, IL.

David and Devin will begin their studies later this month at Oblate School of Theology, San Antonio. They will live at George Sexton House of Studies, the religious formation community of the Oblates in the Alamo City upon leaving Illinois.

"These are young Catholic men who seek to follow Jesus Christ by following the charism of the Missionary Oblates of Mary Immaculate,” said Father Horan.

WUERL: Politicians say they don’t hear much from many Catholic laity

(From 19)

...of women and men baptized into Christ and confirmed in the gifts of the Spirit. The Second Vatican Council defines the work of the laity as specifically the responsibility to "take on the renewal of the temporal order as their own specific obligation." (Decree on the Apostolate of the Laity, 7)

Yet, on occasion we hear politicians say that while they may hear from bishops and priests on specific issues, they do not hear much from significant portions of the Catholic laity.

"We feel that we are called to live in community as priests and Brothers, inspired by the charism of the Oblates and St. Eugene de Mazenod, our founder. They come from all over the United States, Canada and Zambia, and these men represent the boldest and the brightest to be drawn to the Oblates."

The principle of lay involvement holds not only for the political world, but for other areas as well. We are always edified when the voice of Catholic physicians is heard in the area of medicine, when Catholic lawyers speak out addressing the ethics involved in the practice of law and when Catholic parents are involved in school choice issues. The list goes on. This is what the Second Vatican Council meant when it said that the laity are responsible for the "renewal of the temporal order."
PRIESTS: A good day to reflect on role priests play in our lives

(From 1)

and share their love and support for priests. This is a unique occasion for reaching out to all of our priests.

The WP Day celebration can be as simple as sending a card or having a dinner with your Pastor or associate. Dear lay people, consider providing your priests with special gifts on this day, but the more importantly, this is the occasion for reaching out and showing our love for our priests and affirming them in their priestly ministry.

On WP Day, it is a good time to reflect on the significant roles priests play in our lives. They minister to us, teach us, preach to us, counsel us, offer the Eucharist for us, and bring God’s forgiveness, and comfort us in our sickness and illness, as they continue to journey with us in faith. Let us share our lives, our appreciation and love for our good priests.

Another special way of honoring our priests on their beautiful day is to have some prayer with and for them. This is a day to pray for deeper relationships between our priests and our families. Another way to thank God for the gift of priesthood is to adopt a seminarian, and send letters to seminarians, letting them know that they are loved and prayed for as they continue their journey on the path to priesthood.

World Priest Day Prayer

I am sharing here a prayer for priests on their day as prepared by Worldwide Marriage Encounter -- Bishop Pfeifer

Heavenly Father, we come before you today to ask your blessings on our brothers, whom you have called to the Sacrament of Orders. Lord Jesus, we ask that you support them with your presence and fill them with grace to serve you faithfully.

Gracious Spirit, unite us in service with those whom you have called and open our hearts to encourage our brothers and sons to pursue your calling, and open their hearts to hear your call to this most holy Sacrament. Amen.

OBISPO

(Para 3)

María dedicaba su entera persona y vida para traer a Cristo el Salvador a nuestro mundo mientras se rendía totalmente a la inspiración del Espíritu Santo. Al rezar el Rosario, ella nos ayuda a entender como Cristo quiere ser el Señor y Pastor de nuestras vidas hoy. Ella proclamó la bondad y la misericordia de Cristo con su ser entero. María es verdaderamente la primera y gran misionera de Cristo, al damos el “Único” quien es el fin de toda actividad misionera—nuestro Señor y Salvador, Cristo Jesús. En la visitación de María a Elizabet, ella es el modelo de cómo deberíamos “ir de prisa” a traer a Cristo a otros.

El Domingo Mundial de las Misiones, que es celebrado en el mes de octubre, nos recuerda del carácter misionero de la Iglesia, y como la Iglesia es llamada a evangelizar, a traer las Buenas Nuevas de Cristo Jesús a toda la gente por los siglos de los siglos. El Domingo Mundial de las Misiones concentra en los esfuerzos de la Iglesia por medio de oración, sacrificio, predicar, y muchos ministerios ambos sagrados y sociales para proclamar a todo el mundo las Buenas Nuevas del Evangelio que Jesús es Señor y Salvador para todo el mundo. Por la vida de Dios que recibimos en nuestro bautismo, y con nueva fortaleza dada en confirmación, cada católico es llamado a ser misionero, o sea—usar nuestros vida, nuestros dones, y nuestros talentos para traer a Cristo y Su mensaje salvador a otros.

El Rosario que enfoca en Cristo y nos da un resumen de su vida entera, es únicamente conectado a Domingo Mundial de las Misiones, que nos recuerda a todos nosotros del privilegio y deber de ser misioneros, de ser evangelizadores por medio de abrir

BISHOP: Unique connection exists between rosary, Mission Sunday

(From 2)

the one who knew Christ the best. Mary dedicated her entire person and life to bring Christ the Saviour into our world as she surrendered herself totally to the inspiration of the Holy Spirit. As we pray the Rosary, she helps us understand how Christ wants to be the Lord and Shepherd of our lives today. She proclaimed the goodness and mercy of Christ with her entire being. Mary is truly the first and greatest missionary of Christ, as she gave us the “One” who is the goal of all missionary activity—our Lord and Saviour, Jesus Christ. In the visitation of Elizabeth, she is a model of how we should “go with haste” to bring Christ to others.

World Mission Sunday, which is celebrated in the month of October, reminds us of the missionary character of the Church, and how the Church is called to evangelize, to bring the Good News of Jesus Christ to all people of all times. Mission Sunday focuses on the efforts of the Church through prayer, sacrifice, preaching, and many ministries both sacred and social to proclaim to the whole world the Good News of the Gospel that Jesus is Lord and Savior for all people. Because of the life of God that we receive in our baptism, and with new strength given in confirmation, each Catholic is called to be a missionary, that is—to use our life, our gifts, and our talents to bring Christ and His saving message to others.

The Rosary which focuses on Christ and gives a summary of his entire life, is uniquely connected to Mission Sunday, which reminds all of us of the privilege and duty to be missionaries, to be evangelizers by opening our hearts to receive and share the presence and word of Christ, right where we live and work. The one who can best teach us about Christ and how to make Him present in our everyday reality is Mary, His Mother, our Mother, because she knew Him best, and her simple command for each of us is simply: “Do whatever He tells you.” Yes, on World Mission Sunday, we think about the efforts of generous women and men who go throughout the world devoting themselves to spread the Gospel and make Christ present, especially among people who still do not know Him. But World Mission Sunday is also a reminder of how each one is called to be a missionary in the reality of one’s everyday life.

As we pray the Rosary each day in the month of October, let us ask Mary our Mother and missionary to teach us how to be missionaries for Christ in our contemporary world. Let us pray for all the missionary works of the Church, for all missionaries, and I encourage all to be generous in giving in the special mission collection that will be taken up in all the communities of our Diocese on World Mission Sunday—October 18.

May Mary, Our Lady of the Rosary, and the “Star of Evangelization” as she was called by Pope John Paul II, watch over us and guide us as we strive to fulfill her wish of doing whatever Christ asks of us to do today.

CATOIR: A privileged guest in God’s home

(From 18)

Miraculously we have become lovers of our Father in heaven.

As we enter this profound mystery, we are humbly grateful. We no longer see the sacrifice of the Mass as an irksome obligation. Our feelings of unworthiness dissolve. The charisma of the priest, or the lack of it, becomes irrelevant. All that matters is that we are one with Jesus in an act of love.

Jesus alone has access to the sacred presence of the Father. In him, with him and through him we enjoy the mystery of divine love.

Even if you feel nothing, be assured that you are a privileged guest in God’s home. Learn to live by faith, not feelings. Rejoice and be glad.
nuestros corazones a recibir y compartir la presencia y palabra de Cristo, donde vivimos o trabajamos. La persona que nos puede mejor enseñar acerca de Cristo y como hacerlo presente en nuestra realidad diaria es María, Su Madre, nuestra Madre, porque ella lo mejor conocía, y su simple mandamiento para cada uno de nosotros es sencillamente: "Hagan todo lo que Él les diga." Sí, en Domingo Mundial de las Misiones, pensamos en los esfuerzos de hombres y mujeres generosos quienes van por todo el mundo entregándose a sí mismos para predicar el Evangelio y hacer presente a Cristo, especialmente con gente que aún no lo conocen. Pero Domingo Mundial de las Misiones es también un recordatorio de cómo cada uno es llamado a ser misionero en la realidad de la vida diaria de cada uno.

Al rezar el Rosario cada día en el mes de octubre, hemos de pedirle a María nuestra Madre y misionera que nos enseñe como ser misioneros para Cristo en nuestro mundo contemporáneo. Recemos por todas las obras misioneras de la Iglesia, por cada misionero, y animo a todos a dar generosamente a la colecta especial para las misiones que se recogerá en todas las comunidades de nuestra Diócesis el Domingo Mundial de las Misiones—el 18 de octubre.

Que María, Nuestra Señora del Rosario, y la "Estrella de la Evangelización" como fue llamada por el Papa Juan Pablo II, nos guíe y nos guíe mientras nos esforcémos a cumplir su deseo de hacer cualquier cosa que Cristo pida de nosotros hoy.

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**PADRE TAD**

(Para 8)

importantes. Para muchas personas en nuestra sociedad, el sufrimiento se ha convertido en un mal que hay que evitar a toda costa, llevándolas a tomar muchas decisiones irracionales y destructivas.

Si bien es cierto que el dolor físico está presente en todo en el reino animal en general, la diferencia en cuanto a los seres humanos es que nosotros somos conscientes de nuestro sufrimiento y nos preguntamos el por qué; y mucho más sufrimos cuando no encontramos una respuesta satisfactoria; necesitamos saber si nuestro sufrimiento tiene un sentido.

Desde una cama de hospital o una silla de ruedas es difícil evitar la dolorosa pregunta “¿por qué?”, cuando la enfermedad grave o la debilidad nos hace sentir inútiles o una carga para los demás. Sin embargo, analizándolo, ningún sufrimiento es “inútil”, aunque efectivamente mucho de él se pierde y desaparece cuando lo rechazamos y nos negamos a aceptar su sentido profundo. El Papa Juan Pablo II nos recordaba constantemente que la respuesta a la pregunta sobre el sentido del sufrimiento Dios se la dio al hombre en la Cruz de Jesucristo.

El tema del sufrimiento siempre está presente en el campo de la atención médica católica, y aunque los profesionales de la salud luchan con dedicación por disminuir el sufrimiento y el dolor, no han logrado eliminarlo completamente. La Conferencia Episcopal de Obispos Católicos (The U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops), en un importante documento titulado Directrices Éticas y Religiosas para los Servicios de Atención Médica Católicos (Ethical and Religious Directives for Catholic Health Care Services), nos recuerda que “los pacientes que experimentan un sufrimiento no mitigable deberán recibir ayuda para comprender el significado cristiano del sufrimiento redentor”.

El solo concepto de “sufrimiento redentor” ya deja ver que el sufrimiento humano es mucho más de lo que vemos a simple vista, y no solamente un mal que hay que rehuir instintivamente. Más bien, es una fuerza incomprensible que puede moldearnos en formas importantes y hacernos madurar; una fuerza con la que tenemos que aprender a colaborar y aceptar como parte del viaje y destino del ser humano.

En el sufrimiento y el dolor, todos y cada uno de nosotros podemos hacernos partícipes del sufrimiento redentor de Cristo. Desde que éramos niños quizá ya se nos enseñaba la frase “¡Ofrécelo al Señor!” “Estas sencillas palabras nos recordaban que el sufrimiento puede beneficiarnos no sólo a nosotros mismos sino a todos a nuestro alrededor, dentro del misterio de la comunión humana. Al estar inmovilizados en nuestra cama de hospital nos hacemos como Cristo, inmovilizado en el madero de la Cruz, y si aceptamos y acogemos nuestra propia situación en unión con Él, se abren para nosotros momentos redentores poderosos.

Gracias al amor personal que el Señor nos tiene, podemos cooperar con Su plan de Salvación al unir nuestro sufrimiento con Su Cruz salvadora, como lo hace una mamá cuando deja que su niña le ayude a preparar un pastel añadiendo los huevos, la harina y la sal. La mamá puede hacerlo sola pero la ayuda de la niña es real y significativa pues el amor de la madre encuentra la cooperación de la hija para crear algo nuevo y maravilloso. De igual forma, Dios permite nuestro sufrimiento y nosotros se lo ofrecemos, dejando así una marca imborrable en Su trabajo de Salvación. Esta transformación de lo “inútil” de nuestro sufrimiento en algo con significado profundo, se convierte así en una fuente de gozo espiritual en aquellos que lo viven. Para quienes están en Cristo, el sufrimiento y la muerte representan el dolor de parto hacia una creación nueva y redimida. Nuestros sufrimientos, aunque nunca deseables en sí mismos, siempre apuntan hacia posibilidades trascendentes, si es que no los rehuimos por miedo.

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El Padre Tadeusz Pacholczyk hizo su doctorado en neurociencias en la Universidad de Yale y su trabajo post-doctoral en la Universidad de Harvard. Es Sacerdote para la Diócesis de Fall River, Massachusetts, y se desempeña como Director de Educación en el Centro Nacional Católico de Bioética en Philadelphia. The National Catholic Bioethics Center: www.ncbcenter.org Traducción: Maria Elena Rodríguez

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**BYRON: God’s forgiveness needed for our excesses, omissions, wrongful actions**

(From 15)

insomuch as we know that by his divine law nations like individuals are subjected to punishments and chastisements in this world, may we not justly fear that the awful calamity of civil war which now desolates the land may be but a punishment inflicted upon us for our presumptuous sins to the needful end of our national reformation as a whole people? ...

"We have grown in numbers, wealth and power, as no other nation has ever grown; but we have forgotten God. ...

"It behooves us then to humble our-}

selves before the offended Power, to confess our national sins and to pray for clemency and forgiveness."

We readily admit that nobody's perfect, but we hesitate to admit that our nation can indeed be quite imperfect, morally flawed and in need of forgiveness.

We can all think of a long list of moral flaws not only in ourselves but in our nation, some supported by law and custom, others tolerated by a permissive society.

If we are honest and humble, we will acknowledge a national need for God’s forgiveness for our excesses, omissions and wrongful actions.

In considering the dimensions of the forgiveness we all need, we can get a glimpse of the immeasurable dimensions of our forgiving God.

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**BOSCO: When will war ever end?**

(From 11)

the Christian doctrine of atonement and redemption."

Jesus spoke continuously of compassion, mercy, forgiveness and overcoming hate with love. The world talks of vengeance and retaliation. Everything Jesus was about was often a contradiction to the world.

We who are Christians revere Jesus as the prince of peace. He died to bring us this message, that our Father wants us to embrace forgiveness in order to rid the world of hatred, greed and eros that always want to "even the score."

This is the only way to become a world of peace, not war.
Rowena

Members of the cluster parishes of St. Joseph, Rowena; St. Thomas, Miles; and St. Boniface, Olfen, (right) bid a fond farewell to Father Magnus Chilaka, who had been their pastor since October 1, 2008. A reception honoring Father Magnus was held in St. Joseph Parish Hall on September 13. Father celebrated Mass at St. Joseph's on Monday, September 14, before beginning his journey back to his home in Nigeria. At left, Father Magnus expresses his thanks to the people for the love they showed him during his stay.

Dioce-Scenes

An Ecumenical Service of Rededication and Celebration was held September 5 at the Zoar Community Church in Rowena. The event was to mark the rededication of the Zoar Church and the dedication of a newly constructed handicapped ramp which was built as an Eagle Scout project of Jamie Robinson of Troop 7 in San Angelo. The joyous occasion also celebrated the more than 100 years of church service provided by St. Joseph’s and the Zoar Church to the people of Rowena and the surrounding area. Bishop Michael Pfeifer, far left, was present for the celebration as well as St. Joseph’s Choir and members of the Rowena Community.

Miles

After months of praying for rain, the good Lord sent plenty of it just in time for the Miles Cotton Festival. But no amount of rain could dampen the spirits of those riding the St. Thomas float in the annual festival parade. Representatives of the church council, Knights of Columbus, St. Theresa Altar Society, the Guadalupana, the Columbian Squires, and Religious Formation proudly rode the float.

Colorado City

The confirmation class of St. Ann’s Church in Colorado City, with Fr. Michael, and Bishop Michael Pfeifer, center. The class was confirmed in a special Mass Sept. 13.