Bishop Addresses Cemetery Desecration

by Bishop Michael D. Pfeifer, OMI

(Editor's note: The following are the Bishop’s comments at Calvary Cemetery prior to the annual All Souls Day Mass on Friday, November 2.)

I again welcome you to this All Soul’s Day Mass here at Calvary Catholic Cemetery, and I offer this mass for all of our beloved deceased who are buried here in this beautiful cemetery – “We walk by faith, not by sight” (2 Cor 5, 6).

In the touching scene that we heard proclaimed in our Gospel, we hear how one of the thieves on the cross next to Jesus was repentant and humbly and confidently pleaded with Christ before he died, “remember me when you enter upon your reign”. And then we heard Jesus address this thief with words that we hope all of our loved ones who are deceased have heard, and that one day we all hope to hear when we meet Christ as we enter eternity: “This day you will be with me in paradise.” That is our great hope, and that is what we strive for in life, to hear Jesus one day address these words to each one of us.

While I am happy here to come to our cemetery and offer Mass for our beloved deceased, this year, like all of you, I am very saddened about the recent incidents of desecration that have taken place in this sacred place. A cemetery is indeed a most sacred place, because here lie the remains of what Paul calls temples of the Holy Spirit.

In the past 10 days two terrible acts of desecration have happened in this holy place. On Tuesday, October 23rd, some irreligious individuals, destroyed the precious statue that represents the most sacred person for us as Christians after Christ – Mary the Mother of Jesus and our Mother, weeping at the foot of the cross as her innocent Son died to save all the people of all time, including the ones who performed this hateful act. You have before you the shattered remains of the beautiful statue that once shows Mary weeping as she looked up at her Son dying on the cross for the salvation of all of us. While we do not believe Jesus nor see “BISHOP”, page eleven...
A Message for Thanksgiving
(Give Thanks by Giving)

By Bishop Michael D. Pfeifer, OMI

Traditionally the month of November has been dedicated by the Church to reflect on the last things and to pray for our deceased. We begin the month on November 1 with the celebration of All Saints Day, and on November 2, we focus on the fact that we all must die, as we remember All the Souls of the faithful departed. In November we also celebrate one of the most important days of our country—Thanksgiving Day. While this is not a holy day, it is a day that is very sacred to all Americans.

Thanksgiving Day reminds us that everything we have in life, especially the precious gift of life, are pure gifts from God. We will be judged on the final day by how we have used these gifts. The season of Thanksgiving is a time to recall the many blessings we have received individually in our family, and as a country. The terrible events that have followed the Day of Terror, September 11, 2001 remind us that it is easy to become complacent and to take our gifts and even life for granted.

The best way to celebrate the season of Thanksgiving is by taking time in the Eucharist to thank God for our gifts, and then by sharing our gifts with others who are most in need. The first meaning of the word, Eucharist, is thanksgiving.

We can share our gifts in countless ways. We ask the question: Who is it in our Church, in our community, in our family, who needs a visit, a phone call, a letter, a gift to help through difficult financial times? How can we encourage a discouraged young person, a sick person in the hospital, or an elderly person who feels forgotten?

This Thanksgiving season our country is involved in a war against terrorism, the new evil that has brought much affliction on our world. As our nation continues this military action,

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**Vocation Circle**

**The Story So Far**

by Joey Faylona

December 8th, 1998. That particular day of the feast of our Blessed Mother’s Immaculate Conception was the day I first called West Texas “home” or at least I got a first glimpse of this soon to be new home. Together with another Filipino seminarian, I landed at the San Angelo airport and began my journey with the Diocese. I have not looked back since. But the journey to the priesthood has yet to find fulfillment as the road still lies ahead. There is a lot of hope. And so the story continues on.

Clearly, my vocation story does not start on that day. It goes quite a way before my first cold day in the Diocese. I guess it started with my family and all of my other previous endeavors. You see, I come from a brood of four brothers with my mother as the only female presence in the family. As we were all growing up, my mom would always tell us how she wished that at least one of her boys would find his way into the priesthood. Since she had four she said she was willing to give at least one up to the Lord. Frankly, being the second of the four, I wasn’t the main target for this nagging, as we all called it, for she thought that the first three were hopeless cases. Somehow, her targeting missed my youngest brother and I ended up doing the deed, so to speak.

God’s call unfolded in a rather funny way. It was a typical Sunday in Laredo and I was listening to a priest give a homily in one of the Churches in the Philippines. It was one of those “coming from nowhere and going nowhere” type speeches which I’d rather not get into. In any case, it simply occurred to me in the middle of this forced suffering that “Hey, it would have been better if I were the one speaking in front!”

Chills. That was what I felt. Forget. That was what I wanted to do about it. But the good Lord indeed had other plans for not only was I given constant affirmation but even all the challenges I put before God were answered and cleared. Needless to say, despite all the excuses I tried to make to delay the inevitable, I eventually had to surrender to it at one point. I guess it’s a case of what God wants, God gets.

Hey, it hasn’t been that bad. From the time I said “yes” to the Lord, the road has been one of growth and fulfillment. It has not been easy but it has been rewarding, and still is. The road has neither been straight nor direct. I’ve had to shift gears a couple of times here and there. You see, the time I discovered my vocation I was in the middle of university studies. In fact, becoming a medical doctor sounded pretty good to me. It was a done deal. I was studying to enter medical school. In fact, I was already accepted by a couple. Boy, were the brakes ever put on that one.

I still finished Biology at the state university in the Philippines and then pursued the priesthood after that. Given the longevity of further studies for the priesthood, I thought it would help to have a degree under the good old belt. In any case, the first leg of the journey was in the Philippines, trying to solidify my vocation through prayer both by myself and countless others. Eventually, through offered scholarships, I ended up in beautiful Pamplona, Spain where I first entered seminary.

The three years I lived there brought realizations that there (Spain) was not the place for me. I found myself questioning my own vocation itself and question it I did. I ended realizing that I still wanted to pursue the priesthood, but Spain was not the place where it was going to happen. All through that time though, I got a degree in Philosophy and finished part of Theology. Oh, and I learned a language too!

And so I went back home to Manila to try and find my way once again. I guess it was my way of telling God that I was giving it all up, again, to what he wanted. Compli-

sations with my diocese there stressed the fact that I was a bit lost. After a few months of being home, I got an invitation from this little diocese in West Texas to come study for ordination. The novelty of it all was that I did it all through e-mail. I am probably one of the first internet bred vocations for this diocese. Who else can claim that? Soon I was back on a plane going halfway around the world away from home to find a new home. West Texas has certainly erased my first notions of what Texas was all about. I must admit, at first I thought this state was all cowboys and cactus plants though people will still have to forgive me for not appreciating country music nor for enjoying Tex-Mex food very much.

In all, the past three years have been growth years for me. I entered Assumption Seminary in San Antonio in the Fall of 1999. This school year I am doing my internship year at Sacred Heart parish in Abilene with Fr. Bob Bush and will be here until May 2002. God willing, the Fall and Spring of 2002-2003 will find new hope in the priesthood for the diocese as three of us are slated for ordination. There is hope indeed.

At present there still lies quite a bit of journey left. I am not as excited for the day of ordination as for the day after that for that is when it all really begins. But until then, this is my story, so far.

**Seminarians Receive Ministries**

Recently, five of our seminarians received Ministries in their seminary formation toward ordination. On September 30, at St. Mary’s Seminary in Houston, Michael Matthiesen received the Ministry of Acolyte. Bishop Curtis Guillory, SVD of the Diocese of Beaumont conferred this ministry. On October 7, at Assumption Seminary in San Antonio, Ruben Covos, Luis Jorge Ramirez, and Emilio Sosa received the Ministry of Lector; and Ariel Lagunilla, Luis Jorge Ramirez, and Emilio Sosa received the Ministry of Acolyte. Bishop James Tamayo of the Diocese of Laredo conferred these ministries. These Ministries are two of the official steps conferred in seminary formation to the priesthood.

The Ministry of Lector reminds the seminarians to make Sacred Scripture the guide of their own lives as they prepare themselves to take the Word of God to the World. The Ministry of Acolyte reminds the seminarians to make the liturgical celebrations the Church sacred gathering times for the community and to live the Eucharist in their daily lives of service.

At left, from left to right, Fr. Tom Barley, Director of Vocations and Seminarians; Norbert Matthiesen, Dad; Michael Matthiesen, Acolyte; Billie Joan Matthiesen, Mom. (Photo by Office of Vocations.)

Above left to right, Fr. Tom Barley, Director of Vocations and Seminarians; Ariel Lagunilla; Luis Jorge Ramirez; Bishop Tamayo; Emilio Sosa; Fr. Gerry Brown, Rector of Assumption Seminary; Ruben Covos. (Photo by Office of Vocations.)
Twelve Questions on the Institutio Generalis Missalis Romani 2000 and the Pastoral Introduction to the Order of Mass

(Editor’s note: Starting in the September edition and in the following three editions of the WT Angelus questions and answers will be printed, which were prepared by the Bishops’ Committee on the Liturgy Secretariat (BCL) to help clarify the work in progress on the revision of the Roman Missal and its implementation in the dioceses of the United States. They are reprinted with permission from the September 2000 BCL Newsletter. With the recent news releases regarding the upcoming promulgation of the third edition of the Roman Missal, along with the publication of the English study translation of the General Instruction of the Roman Missal, many pastors and liturgical leaders are asking how they might prepare their parishes for this next step in the ongoing renewal of the liturgy. The anticipation of a new Sacramentary in English provides an opportune moment for a renewed catechesis among the faithful. This catechesis, well prepared at the diocesan and parish level will provide the firm foundation on which to understand the ongoing reform.)

7. Don’t we have to wait for an official English translation before implementing the new Institutio Generalis?

The effective date of the Institutio Generalis is not contingent upon its publication in English but its publication as a part of the editio typica latina. Needless to say, the changes in euchology could not be implemented until an English language translation has been approved. Changes in rubric, however, become the universal law of the Church upon its publication in Latin.

8. What about the Appendix to the General Instruction found in the front of the Sacramentary?

In keeping with general principles on the revocation of law (canon 20), the Appendix to the General Instruction of the Roman Missal for the Dioceses of the United States of America (found in the front matter of the present Sacramentary) remains in effect, even with the publication of a revised Institutio. A review of these appendices will be conducted by the BCL at its November 2000 meeting. Any changes to the Appendix will then be proposed to the NCCB for their approval in June 2001. Any such changes would, of course, require confirmation by the Holy See.

9. What about the changes proposed in the revision of the Sacramentary several years ago?

In the course of the revision of the translation of the Sacramentary, the NCC13 approved a number of changes to the Order of Mass, including an optional location of the Sign of Peace before the Preparation of the Gifts and certain restructuring and renaming of portions of the Entrance Rites. These changes still await confirmation by the Holy See before becoming law.

Human Rights Activist, 91, Named Top Catholic Missionary

by Carrie Swearingen

CHICAGO - “You can get angry at the things people do, but you can’t hate any person,” said Marie Wilkinson while grasping the torture whip she inherited from her father-in-law, an escaped slave. “I take this whip and I teach a lot of people not to hate.”

Wilkinson, 91, is the recipient of the Catholic Church’s highest honor for missionary work in America. The Lumen Christi award – Light of Christ in Latin – is presented annually by Catholic Extension, the organization that distributes more than $16 million each year to missionary efforts in poor Catholic dioceses throughout the United States and its territories.

Nominations, made by U.S. bishops, are judged by a prestigious panel of humanitarians which includes Ethel Kennedy, select bishops, and actress Catherine Hicks of TV’s “7th Heaven.”

Aside from spending a lifetime speaking against hate, Wilkinson has developed child care centers for single mothers, rescued Hispanic workers living in box cars, launched college funds for underprivileged children, and enabled more than 60 charitable organizations. When refused a seat at an Aurora, Ill. diner in the 1950s, it was Wilkinson who won her case before the Illinois Supreme Court.

Born Marie LeBeau in New Orleans, Wilkinson studied business at now defunct Straight College, visited Chicago at age 20, and settled in Aurora, Ill., where she was married to the late Charles Wilkinson for more than 60 years.

“I’ve tried to be an advocate for the persecuted – those who just weren’t getting a fair deal,” said Wilkinson, who has the launch of many respected organizations to her credit. “God points me in the right direction. I know it is God, because the things I felt passionate about were always 30 years ahead of their time.” She refers to her insight about the need for preschools for the children of single mothers, fair housing laws, Feed The Hungry Program, Breaking Free Drug Program, the Catholic Social Action Conference, Sci-Tech youth science museum, and the Urban League – to name a few.

Catholic Extension honored Mrs. Wilkinson with the Lumen Christi and a gift of $10,000 at a ceremony in her diocese of Rockford, Ill. on October 24; nominating Bishop Thomas Doran received $25,000.

To learn more about Catholic Extension, call 1-888-473-2484 or visit www.catholic-extension.org on the worldwide Web.

Seminarians Gear Up for the Pro-life Battle

by John Fagundes

The seminarians of today are abortion survivors, and many of them have grown up in pro-life activism. It is no surprise, then, that they are forming, on their own initiative, new networks to encourage one another to focus on bringing an end to this injustice in our society.

Seminarians from across the country are responding to the call of the American Bishops to live the Gospel of Life. They are uniting to form a group called Seminarian Life Link. The purpose of this group is to network its members to communicate the pro-life message and to support each other. Utilizing the modern media tools of the Internet they will assist each other in their formation as spiritual leaders of the Church ready to boldly proclaim the truth that “the Gospel of Christ is the Gospel of Life.”

National Director Eric Bowman explains, “In a society where the destruction and devaluation of human life is becoming the norm, the Church, led by the example of our Holy Father John Paul II, has inspired us to live the Gospel of Life vigorously and publicly. As future leaders of the Church it is imperative that we be at the forefront of the struggle to defend life.”

A similar group is Seminarians for Life, led by Deacon John F. Cyr. “Seminarians for Life is an independent organization run by seminarians at Mount St. Mary Seminary in Emmitsburg, MD. The principle focus is to educate and unite seminarians around the world on pro-life...”
When The Bread And Wine Become The Body And Blood Of Christ Why Do They Still Look And Taste Like Bread And Wine?

by Bishop Michael Pfeifer, OMI

As I have been doing, I am featuring a question from the United States Catholic Bishops’ document, The Real Presence of Jesus Christ in the Sacrament of the Eucharist. I present for the reflection of all our readers the third question from this document – “When the Bread and Wine become the Body and Blood of Christ, why do they still look and taste like Bread and Wine?” I especially encourage our parents with their children to review and discuss this question. When the Bread and Wine become the Body and Blood of Christ why do they still look and taste like Bread and Wine?

In the celebration of the Eucharist, the glorified Christ becomes present under the appearances of bread and wine in a way that is unique, a way that is uniquely suited to the Eucharist. In the Church’s traditional theological language, in the act of consecration during the Eucharist the “substance” of the bread and wine is changed by the power of the Holy Spirit into the “substance” of the Body and Blood of Jesus Christ. At the same time, the “accidents” or appearances of bread and wine remain. “Substance” and “accident” are here used as philosophical terms that have been adapted by great medieval theologians such as St. Thomas Aquinas in their efforts to understand and explain the faith. Such terms are used to convey the fact that what appears to be bread and wine in every way (at the level of “accidents” or physical attributes – that is, what can be seen, touched, tasted, or measured) in fact is now the Body and Blood of Christ (at the level of “substance” or deepest reality). This change at the level of substance from bread and wine into the Body and Blood of Christ is called “transubstantiation.” According to Catholic faith, we can speak of the Real Presence of Christ in the Eucharist because this transubstantiation has occurred (cf. Catechism, no. 1376).

This is a great mystery of our faith – we can only know it from Christ’s teaching given us in the Scriptures and in the Tradition of the Church. Every other change that occurs in the world involves a change in accidents or characteristics. Sometimes the accidents change while the substance remains the same. For example, when a child reaches adulthood, the characteristics of the human person change in many ways, but the adult remains the same person – the same substance. At other times, the substance and the accidents both change. For example, when a person eats an apple, the apple is incorporated into the body of that person – is changed into the body of that person. When this change of substance occurs, however, the accidents or characteristics of the apple do not remain. As the apple is changed into the body of the person, it takes on the accidents or characteristics of the body of that person. Christ’s presence in the Eucharist is unique in that, even though the consecrated bread and wine truly are in substance the Body and Blood of Christ, they have none of the accidents or characteristics of a human body, but only those of bread and wine.

Catholic Campaign for Human Development

by Bishop Michael D. Pfeifer

My dear Sisters and Brothers:

For more than thirty years, the Catholic Campaign for Human Development has worked in our name to help people break the cycle of poverty, not just for a day, but for a lifetime. CCHD projects in our diocese and throughout the United States encourage self-sufficiency by empowering local groups of poor people to create jobs, improve neighborhoods, provide training for adults, and enhance educational opportunities for children.

In recent years, CCHD regrettably has found it necessary to turn down many funding requests as it granted, because there are always more qualified organizations with worthy ideas than there are monies to support them. I hope you will give generously to the Catholic Campaign for Human Development when the annual collection is taken in your parish on November 18, 2001. We send 75 percent of the donations to the CCHD national office to support antipoverty projects across the country. We keep 25 percent here in our diocese to fund local self-help initiatives to benefit our local communities.

Poverty does not have to be a permanent condition – but we can only end poverty if we face it together. I thank you for your past generosity and encourage you to be generous to this year’s appeal and pray for all of God’s poor and needy. May God bless you.

Sincerely in Christ and Mary,
Most Reverend Michael D. Pfeifer, OMI Bishop of San Angelo

Pray for Peace
... And God Said “GO”!!!

by S. Joan Markus

"Here I Am, Send Me" echoed throughout the Midland Center time and time again as Colette Kennett, keynote presenter for the 2001 Diocesan Youth Event reminded young people of their call and responsibility to make a difference in the world today! Colette is the Director of Youth Ministry from the Diocese of Belleville, IL.

More than 430 youth in Grades 9-12 and their adult leaders from across the Diocese of San Angelo gathered at the Midland Center on October 20, 2001 to celebrate the theme Journey Along the Road of Hope. Participants were reminded that "the call of Jesus, the challenge of the prophets and the living tradition of our Church calls us to work for justice, to serve those in need, to pursue peace and defend life, dignity and rights of all our brothers and sisters. " (A Century of Catholic Social Teachings)

Throughout the day, youth shared their gifts in a variety of ways, among them being leaders of prayer, hospitality, skits, music, liturgical dance, liturgical ministries and more.

During the break-out sessions, Laura Strube, Heather West and Jason Vaquera of St. Ambrose, Wall shared their experience of their summer visit to San Pedro Sula in Honduras, an opportunity and experience that touched their hearts and has made a tremendous impact on their lives. Michael Matthiesen, seminarian for this diocese and studying at St. Mary’s Seminary in Houston, TX recalled his experience by recognizing the blessings and gifts he received in the process of giving. Carmen and Eddie De Hoyos and RoseMary Pena of St. Margaret, Big Lake focused on outreach in the local community. Each of us is called to be the hands and feet of Jesus wherever we live.

Eucharist was celebrated with Bishop Michael Pfeifer, OMI presiding. The offering taken at this liturgy was designated for the Diocese of San Pedro Sula, Honduras. A total of $500.53 was collected.

The day, which closed with a dinner and dance, was filled with opportunities for building community, catechesis on justice and service, evangelization, prayer and worship, leadership development and meeting new friends.

Photos by Office of Education and Formation.
Farmers Wary Of Terrorism

by Monte Mace
Catholic News Service

KANSAS CITY, Kan. (CNS) — All over the country worry is spreading about anthrax, but there is another kind of terrorist threat that could impact far more Americans: agroterrorism.

It is the deliberate sabotage of a food supply, and could be carried out on the nation’s farms or in its agricultural research facilities, say government officials and agriculture experts.

“Our nation’s crops and livestock are now at very high risk,” said Sen. Pat Roberts, R-Kan., in a statement introducing federal agriculture security legislation Oct. 15. “Frankly, I am very worried. At least one of the terrorists on the FBI’s most wanted list has agriculture training.”

Roberts’ proposed measure is the Bio-Security for Agriculture Act of 2001. It would authorize spending $1.1 billion next year and after that $271 million annually over the next 10 years in a crash program to prevent agroterrorism attacks and to develop vaccines and antidotes to counter such diseases as foot-and-mouth in cattle or killer fungi in plants.

Floyd Horn, a top administrator at the U.S. Department of Agriculture, calls such terrorism “quite plausible” because agents for such attacks are readily available and the economic effects would be significant.

Professor Peter Chalk, an expert on international terrorism at the Rand Corp. in Washington, said chemical or biological attacks against food crops or livestock would be “substantially easier and less risky to carry out” than attacks on people.

In an interview with The Leaven, Kansas City’s archdiocesan newspaper, Chalk gave several reasons why:

— Existing germ agents that are lethal or contagious to animals number at least 22, many more than could harm humans. Most agents can live for long periods and are “reasonably easy to acquire and produce,” he said.

— Intensive agriculture techniques now used in the United States have made livestock more vulnerable to disease. Overuse of antibiotics and steroids has lowered the natural tolerance of animals to disease and bred drug-resistant strains of germs.

— Attacks against livestock or crops are harder to detect because they can imitate natural occurrences.

— Agroterrorism is not as risky for the perpetrators as attacks like those of Sept. 11. Diseases such as hog cholera, foot-and-mouth disease, African swine fever and others are fatal to animals but can’t be spread to humans.

The Gilmore Commission, a panel created by Congress to assess the threat of weapons of mass destruction in the United States, concluded that a “concerted biological attack against an agricultural target offers terrorists a virtually risk-free form of assault, which has a high probability of success.”

What would happen if such an attack were to occur?

If livestock were infected, authorities most likely would be forced to slaughter hundreds or thousands of animals, according to Chalk.

Dealing with a huge number of rotting animal carcasses would present another health problem. If buried in landfills covered with quicklime, the corpses could contaminate ground water. Burning the bodies in pits would create pollution.

If row crops were the target, widespread contamination of a crop could collapse U.S. export markets, according to a report prepared by Sen. Roberts’ staff. Wheat, for example, is a huge export crop with nearly one-third of production shipped overseas in 1999.

But officials are taking steps to address the threat.

If enacted, Sen. Roberts’ bill would provide funding to increase security at five major USDA facilities, including the National Animal Disease Center in Ames, Iowa.

The measure also would require development of genetically-engineered vaccines effective against “all the highly infectious disease agents of bioterrorism concern,” and the creation of mass delivery systems for animal, poultry and fish vaccines.

In Kansas, Agriculture Secretary Jamie Clover Adams said the economic fallout from agroterrorism could be devastating, but added that the public and the government are now alert to the risk.

“Farmers, like everyone else, are at a heightened state of awareness,” Adams said. “And the Kansas Department of Agriculture has field staff on the lookout for pests and diseases. That awareness is key to our ability to spot as early as possible any threat to our agricultural resources.”

Some state agencies are forming task forces to deal with such threats, according to Carol Jordan, director of education and outreach for the Kansas Department of Agriculture.

Farmers are beginning to think about what they can do, but family-run farms will have a harder time protecting their property than big operations.

Dusty Turner, who runs a $55 million, 70,000-head feedlot, already has tightened security at the facility. Visitors are allowed through just one gate, and they must submit to an interview. The company also has devised plans for coping with a large outbreak of disease in the herd.

But brothers Dale and Gail Kueser said there really isn’t much they can do to protect the 3,000 acres they own or lease. The Kuesers raise soybeans on 3,000 acres near Richmond, Kan. They are beginning to consider how farmers can respond to possible terrorist strikes on crops and livestock. (CNS photo by Monte Mace, The Leaven)
Office Of Education And Formation Mission And Goal Statement

by S. Joan Markus

Annually the staff of the Office of Education and Formation reviews its Mission and Goal statement. It is revised and changed as needed to meet the needs of those served. Each Goal is implemented by a number of specific strategies. A complete statement of Mission, Goals and Strategies is distributed at the spring deanery meetings and gatherings of catechetical and adult youth leaders. Copies are also available at the Office of Education and Formation. Below is the Mission and Goal Statement for 2001-2002.

As diocesan leaders called by baptism to proclaim the gospel, we strive to meet the needs and challenges of a multicultural diocesan church through education and formation. Therefore, in collaboration with the Bishop of San Angelo, anticipating the challenges of the 21st Century, we are called to:

- provide leadership training opportunities for Directors/Coordinators of Religious Education and Adult Youth Ministers;
- implement the adult faith pastoral “Our Hearts Were Burning Within Us” according to the five year plan so that adults can continue the lifelong process of faith formation leading to a powerful sense of mission and discipleship;
- continue parish level implementation of “Renewing the Vision: A Framework for Catholic Youth Ministry”;
- collaborate with the Director of Campus Ministry to implement “Sons and Daughters”, a pastoral plan for young adult ministry;
- provide opportunities for the formation of lay ministers, including catechetical and adult youth ministers;
- provide catechetical models that are sensitive to family needs and foster ongoing faith formation;
- implement the Loyola Institute for Ministry Extension (LIMEX), leading to the Master of Religious Education/Pastoral Studies degrees for professional leaders;
- collaborate in the planning and implementation of the Mustard Seed Program which provides additional leadership training for parish leaders;
- select Media Center resources for parish use;
- meet with an Advisory Committee tri-annually to vision, support and evaluate the implementation of the goals of the Office of Education and Formation.

LIMEX Facilitators Trained

by S. Joan Markus

A week-long training program to provide additional LIMEX facilitators for the Diocese of San Angelo was held at Christ the King Retreat Center June 18-22, 2001. Dr. Catherine Zeph, Ed.D, from Loyola University in New Orleans conducted the training. Participants were Judy Phaneuf (Abilene Deanery), Tom Burke and Carol Ann Hunt (Midland-Odessa Deanery), Mike Kahlig and S. Carol Markus (San Angelo Deanery). They were joined by S. Theresa Lux from the Diocese of Omaha, NE and Terry Colville from the Diocese of Richmond, VA. The participants indicated that the training was intense, educational and enriching for them personally and ministerially. Additional training will be required after each of the newly trained facilitators has had some experience co-facilitating with an experienced facilitator.

LIMEX facilitators are persons with graduate degrees in pastoral studies, theology or religious education and selected by diocesan personnel. They implement the learning design for the ten sessions of the twelve required courses created by Loyola faculty. Facilitators have a highly significant role in preparing for and leading the learning group at each weekly session.

Three of the newly-trained facilitators (Judy Phaneuf-Holy Family, Abilene, Carol Ann Hunt-St. Ann, Midland, Mike Kahlig-St. Peter, Mertz) earned their Master’s Degree in Pastoral Studies from Loyola University, New Orleans through the LIMEX program. S. Carol Markus (Southcentral Catholic Communities) earned her MA degree from Incarnate Word University, San Antonio, Texas and Tom Burke (St. Elizabeth Ann Seton) earned his MA degree from Louvain, Belgium. These five persons have successfully completed the training and are now certified facilitators for the LIMEX program. They join Deacon Jerry Schwab (Holy Family, Abilene), S. Hilda Marotta and S. Joan Markus who are presently facilitating the LIMEX program in the Diocese. S. Joan Markus also serves as the LIMEX Liaison Administrator for the Diocese and Loyola University.

LIMEX is a 36-hour (12 courses) graduate program that develops the theological and ministerial competencies of participants through an integration of rigorous academic study and theological reflection on ministerial practice. The program originated as a response to Vatican II’s universal call to ministry. It particularly responds to the educational needs of Catholic dioceses with little or no access to residential graduate programs by providing a program of long-distance learning for participants in their own localities. The program is in process at two centers, St. Ann, Midland and the Diocesan Pastoral Center in San Angelo.
Reverse The Question

by Fr. Frank Pavone
National Director/Priests for Life

Even when we understand the dimensions of the abortion tragedy, which kills our youngest brothers and sisters in numbers larger than any disease, disaster, or war, we are often afraid to act.

We can gain courage, however, from the story of the Good Samaritan (Luke 10:25-37). On the road from Jerusalem to Jericho, a man fell in with robbers. A priest and a levite came by, but did not stop to help. Despite their knowledge of the Law and Leviticus, which kills our youngest brothers and sisters in numbers who can easily hide not too far from their victims. Perhaps the priests and levites who passed by that man asked themselves. “If I stop to help this man, what will happen to me? Maybe the robbers who attacked him are still here. Maybe they’re hiding just around the bend. This is a dangerous road. I better keep going.”

Sometimes we ask the same question. If I speak up too loudly about the victims of abortion, what will happen to me? Will I face persecution, will I lose my popularity if I get involved in a cause like this?

Priests sometimes ask the same question. If I preach about abortion, what will happen to me? Will it happen to my parish, my effectiveness, my image? What legal troubles might I provoke?

Politicians sometimes ask the same question. If I say I am pro-life, what will happen to my votes, to my standing in the polls, to my chances in the election?

And then the Good Samaritan came along, and he reversed the question. He didn’t ask, “If I help this man, what will happen to me?” The Good Samaritan asked, “If I do not help this man, what will happen to him?” And that’s the question for us. If I do not address this evil, what will happen to the unborn? If I do not get involved, what will happen to those who are vulnerable, to those who are marginalized in our society, those who are oppressed, those who have no voice, no one to speak for them?

Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. brought out this same lesson from his own parable on the night before he was assassinated. He called the people to a “dangerous unselshness” as he rallied them to stand with the oppressed sanitation workers in Memphis. And in regard to himself, he declared that it didn’t matter what happened to him; he just wanted to do God’s will.

These words of holocaust survivor Elie Weisel sum it up well: “I swore never to be silent whenever and wherever human beings endure suffering and humiliation. We must always take sides. Silence encourages the tormentor, never the tormented.”

Contact Priests for Life at PO Box 141172, Staten Island, NY 10314; Tel: 888-PFL-3448, 718-980-4400; Fax: 718-980-6515; email: mail@priestsforlife.org; web: www.priestsforlife.org.

A Tradition in Rowena

by Kelly Matschek

ROWENA - On November 11, 1922, members of St. Joseph Parish, Rowena, began a tradition that has survived for 79 years - a celebration of Armistice Day.

In the first years, the event was kicked off with a parade featuring floats and the town’s brass band. The festival was held on Armistice Day - November 11 - no matter what day of the week it occurred. German-style sausage and other homemade foods were featured as well as various games.

For the years the festival has evolved and grown. Now it is scheduled the second Sunday in November. Although there is no longer a parade, the German-style sausage is still as popular as ever, along with turkey and dressing and all the trimmings served at the noon meal. Home-made food items, arts and crafts are still a big drawing card.

This year the festival will actually be on Armistice Day - November 11, 2001. This year also marks the 60th Anniversary of Pearl Harbor and the 50th Anniversary of the Korean Conflict.

The people of St. Joseph’s, Rowena, want to pay special tribute to ALL veterans who served in the military, whether actually in war time or not. The theme of the day will be a patriotic one, with emphasis on honoring and thanking all veterans, who at the very least, gave a part of their lives to service their country.

Plans are being made to have a “Salute to Veterans”. Any veteran of the area is welcome to be a part of this tribute. Information requested is full name, branch served, years served, location, any memorable event or award that the veteran wishes to share. If a photo taken during the military years is available, it would be great to have for display along with other information provided. Any size photo will be accepted. A 5x7 or 4x3 would be perfect. Realizing how precious original photos are, we encourage that copies of photos be submitted. Family members of veterans who are deceased are welcomed to provide information and photo for the “Salute to Veterans”.

If more information is needed or if you wish to submit to the “Salute to Veterans”, contact Kelly Matschek at 617 CR 257, Rowena, Texas 76875, (915) 442-2047 or Pat Vancil at 1002 CR 348, Winters, Texas 79567, (915) 365-2966.

St. Joseph Catholic Church
79th Annual Fall Festival
Sunday, November 11, 2001
“A Salute to Veterans”
Rowena, TX • 11:00 AM - 7:00 PM
German Sausage, Turkey & Dressing Lunch
Served 11:00 AM - 2:00 PM
Sausage Sandwiches 4:30 PM - 7:00 PM
Auction at 1:30 PM, Games, Country Store, Fun for the Whole Family

A Feast of Sharing
A Community-Wide Thanksgiving Dinner

To be held again this year at the San Angelo Coliseum’s Concho Pavilion Building (Formally known as the Exhibition Building)

Sunday, November 18, 11:00 a.m. until 2:00 p.m.
Free to ALL

Call 942-9044, Ext. 232, 9:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. Monday - Friday if you want to be a volunteer.

City buses will be running 10:30 a.m. - 3:30 p.m. for those who need transportation.

S.T.S. buses for the handicapped will be available. Please call 655-4293 to schedule a pickup time by 3:00 p.m. Saturday, 18.

Call 655-9952 for more information about city buses and S.T.S.

Meals will be delivered to the homebound and the elderly by Meals for the Elderly. Please call 655-9200 by 5:00 p.m. Wednesday, November 15 for free meal delivery.

Sorry, No Take Out Meals.
The White Ribbon Against Pornography

by Doris Block

Most people do not know that pornography is America’s social dilemma. For a long time porn has been considered insignificant, or it was ignored, accepted, and some considered porn “harmless”.

Porn has prevailed in areas such as magazines, movies, music, videos, television, commercials, and now porn is on the internet, in just any room in the home.

So, what do we do now? We need to play the “catch up” game. We’ve been asleep too long, and now we want to change that prevalent attitude as much as we can.

Our Catholic Daughters Court Santa Angela’s goal is connected with the WRAP campaign. THE WHITE RIBBON AGAINST PORNOGRAPHY is designed to educate and inform the public of the dangers and consequences of porn.

For the past 45 years, our San Angelo court has participated in many charitable projects. However, each October for the past 14 years, we have made the WRAP campaign our primary effort to reach people in this cause. The campaign runs from Oct. 28 through Nov. 4.

At this time with the aid of the Standard Times and some of the churches we will distribute approximately 27,000 flyers on the local level and reach out to the near by Concho Valley areas.

Our Court Santa Angela and courts from Wall, Rowena and Odell along with Knights of Columbus Councils from San Angelo, Wall and Odell and the Diocese of San Angelo helped finance the work and help in the distribution of the materials. The flyers will cover these areas of social scourges, porno consequences and how to combat the issues.

Don’t believe the lie that PORN is HARMLESS. It is not protected by the first amendment. Obscenity laws are grounded in community standards and Porn addiction grows.

With the help of 4 Catholic Daughter courts and 6 Knights of Columbus councils we hope this concerted effort will in some small way make this spot in the world a better place to live – and then we will feel that all the work and energy will be worth it. In short let’s say it this way – push the stop button, change channels, speak out, right the wrong, protest, most of all, DON’T TAKE IT, DON’T MAKE IT AND DON’T BUY IT.

All Year We Need To Combat Obscenity And Pornography

by Bishop Michael Pfeifer, OMI

Pornography Awareness Week, October 28 - November 3, 2001, and the White Ribbon Against Pornography Campaign (WRAP) are intended to highlight awareness about the pornography problem in our communities and what can be done about it. Fighting porn, however, is a year-round challenge. Pornography is a “cancer” in our culture today, and it is literally corroding our national character. The problem of illegal pornography is a cancer eating away at America. Unless we begin to aggressively begin to treat this cancer by prosecuting it as the law says and intends, it will continue to attack our marriages, our children, and our society.

When we participate in the White Ribbon Against Pornography Campaign, we are standing up against this moral “cancer.” We participate because we understand that unless America begins to aggressively treat this cancer by prosecuting it as the law says and demands, it will continue to eat away at our nation’s moral fiber. We are fighting against the porn industry that has distorted and destroyed the lives of countless men, women and children through pornography addiction.

The communities and homes of our nation are more vulnerable than ever to pornography throughout the year. Pornography not only invades our homes through magazines and papers, but through TV and the internet. This is why we shouldn’t limit our opposition to porn to just one week a year.

The largest consumer group of pornography is young boys ages 12 to 17 years old. The average age of exposure because of the Internet has fallen to the age of 11. Illegal pornography is teaching an entire generation of young men distorted values about their sexuality, about marriage, about healthy relationships with women and respect for others.

Pornography, and its effects on individuals, families and communities, is ultimately a spiritual and moral problem. Pornography appeals to the vice of lust, and distorts the true image of the human being. It is important to understand what lust is and what it isn’t. Pope John Paul II reminds us that lust, is not the same thing as sexual attraction. Sexual attraction is a normal part of our wiring. Men were made to be physically attracted to women, and vice versa. It is a big part of the motivation that gets people together in marriage to have babies, and thus populate this world and the next. Pope John Paul II says that sexual attraction is a “storehouse of virtues.” In other words, when we see a person as an image and likeness of God, and feel drawn to give self to that person out of love, then sexual attraction is correctly ordered.

Pornography, which feeds on lust, makes the person nothing more than a means to personal sexual satisfaction. It is absolutely and completely de-humanizing. Pornography is degrading. It degrades and denies the image and likeness of God, especially in women, turning them into mere means to selfish sexual satisfaction. But there is more. In doing that, it degrades the reader, the “consumer” of pornography, as well.

Pornography is not “harmless.” Every woman depicted in pornography images is somebody’s sister, somebody’s daughter, somebody’s friend. She is an image and likeness of God. Treating her as less than that degrades her. It degrades the men who view her that way, and it degrades us as a society. It degrades the incredible, awesome gift of sexuality.

(Some information from Morality in Media.)
Diocese Helps Those Affected By World Trade Center Disaster

by Edward Cardinal Egan
Archbishop of New York

Dear Bishop Pfeifer,

Thank you most sincerely for your generous gift in the amount of $27,359.60.

While prayer is undoubtedly the greatest gift we can offer to those most affected by the World Trade Center disaster, we realize that their material needs are also very significant. Your generosity will enable the Archdiocese to assist our brothers and sisters in need at this most difficult time, and for this I am most appreciative.

With renewed and heartfelt gratitude, may I remain very truly yours in Christ, Edward Cardinal Egan, Archbishop of New York.

by Most Reverend Paul S. Loverde
Bishop of Arlington

Dear Bishop Pfeifer,

I have received your supportive letter of October 11, 2001, in addition to your previous correspondence of September 19, 2001 and the enclosed checks totaling $11,043.50, representing the financial sacrifices of the faithful of the Diocese of San Angelo to assist those in need in the Diocese of Arlington, in the wake of the September 11, 2001 terrorist attacks. We have been blessed in so many ways since our beginnings in 1974, and in a particular way, the abundance of material resources in this region has been an added blessing. Since the incidents of September 11, however, and the wonderful outpouring of support those tragedies have stimulated, we must count as our greatest blessing the solidarity we enjoy with our brothers and sisters in the Body of Christ.

I am grateful for the manifestation of this reality which these two donations from the Diocese of San Angelo have provided to me and the faithful of the Diocese of Arlington. In my name, please extend my gratitude to your flock and reassure them that in this time of grave need, they have revealed the face of Christ to us. Also, please let them know that you and they shall be gratefully remembered in my prayers. Faithfully in Christ, Most Reverend Paul S. Loverde, Bishop of Arlington.

BISHOP
from page one

Mary are in the statues we hold these images sacred for what they represent. For example we do not believe our mothers are in pictures, but we would be outraged if someone stamped on them in mud. As these disrespectful individuals destroyed the statue of Mary, they also shattered parts of the original altar where the sacrifice of the Mass is offered. The altar is most sacred to us because this is where Christ becomes present in His Body and Blood during Mass. This sacred scene has been part of our cemetery for 40 years. This terrible act has deeply saddened me and all of you. I ask you to contribute what you can to help me place a new statue of Mary at the base of the cross and to also restore the part of the altar that was shattered.

Another terrible act of desecration took place on the night of October 24th when the same or other individuals removed one of the caskets with the apparent intention of doing harm to the human remains whose body was a temple of the Holy Spirit. This was a very painful situation for many, myself included, but especially for family members.

I have been in contact with the family of offer our apology and profound regrets.

I thank the police for what they have done to try and find the one or ones who have committed these terrible deeds, and I pray that they will be found. I pray in a special way to our Blessed Mother that she would change the hearts of her wayward children who have committed these crimes, and help them realize the magnitude of their despicable acts. In spite of their terrible deeds they are her children. How sad it is that there are some individuals who have no respect for human life and for the human remains of what were temples of the Holy Spirit.

I take this opportunity to assure all of you that I along with those who serve with me will do everything we can to provide proper security and safety for the remains of our loved ones who are here in this cemetery. It will cost us money, but we cannot invest our money in a better purpose. As you also know, I have offered a $1,000.00 reward to anyone who can contact crime stoppers and give the police information on the ones who committed these terrible deeds.

I did have a longer spiritual message to give to you, but I felt I needed to share with you my feelings and emotions about these acts of desecration.

I close by reminding you that this day is dedicated to praying for all of our deceased, and also to remind you that in order to one day be with our Lord up in heaven we have to pass through the doorways of death. Death can frighten us, but when we face it with Jesus our good shepherd, and try to follow him and live His gospel in this life, especially His teaching to love one another, that we have confidence that when the final day comes for each one of us, we will hear Christ speak to us comforting words of our Gospel - “This day you will be with me in paradise.” – “We walk by faith, not by sight.”

As I do every year, after Mass I will go to the cemetery giving a special blessing to each one of the graves. I ask you to stand by the grave of your loved one and I will be happy to give a blessing. After mass today, I will have a special blessing to give to our cemetery to make up for these terrible acts of desecration. If any of you have any information on anyone who has committed these vicious acts, I ask you to please share that information with me, my office or the police. God’s peace.

FARMERS
from page seven

cattle, wheat, corn and soybeans near Richmond and attend St. Therese Church.

“The only thing we can do is keep an eye out,” Dale told The Leaven. “It’s hard to catch someone on this much land. If we were closer to the city, we probably would worry more.”

Dan Nagengast, executive director of the Kansas Rural Center at Whiting, also is urging officials to look at long-term solutions such as changing current farming practices and marketing strategies. The center’s mission is to promote family farms, sustainable agriculture and rural social justice.

Nagengast called for a return to more natural farming practices, smaller concentrations of livestock, less reliance on single varieties of seeds, less reliance on heavy dosages of antibiotics and the development of markets for products closer to home.

MESSAGES
from page two

Pray For Justice
A Special Day -  “Double Celebrations”

by Gloria Robledo

Fr. Jerry Burnett, O.M.I., Pastor of Our Lady of Guadalupe Parish, Midland, Texas, celebrating 48 years as an ordained Priest, September 8, 1953.

And Praesidium, “Maria Inmaculada”, of Our Lady of Guadalupe Parish, Midland, Texas celebrating 50 years in existence as a part of The Legion of Mary Society.

50 years ago, Fr. Ed Murray, O.M.I., (now residing at the Oblate Madonna House in San Antonio, Texas) asked Juanita Martinez (deceased about 5 years ago, but not forgotten) to start the Legion of Mary Society.

Juanita Martinez worked with Praesidia from Midland, Stanton, Odessa and Big Spring in the early years. She began the Spanish Curia; “Queen of All the Saints”, affiliated with Guadalupe Parish, Midland, Texas, celebrating 48 years of Our Lady of Guadalupe Parish, Midland, Texas, celebrating 50 years in existence as a part of The Legion of Mary Society.

Juanita Martinez began this society with Deacon Jesus Guajardo and his wife, Margarita Guajardo. She included 25 other youth (boys & girls) under 18 years of age. Along with Deacon Jesus, Juanita included 25 other youth (boys & girls) under 18 years of age.

One of our most important prayers in the Legion of Mary is for our Priests, and all religious members and vocations to the religious life. Our own Sister Lilly Oliver, O.N.D. shares with us that she chose her vocation because of the Legion of Mary.

We are also grateful to Mrs. Mimie Mooney, of St. Mary’s, Odessa and Teresa Rocha of Big Spring, Texas, who both helped Juanita Martinez with her strong and energetic works.

The devotion to The Legion of Mary helps each of its members to be good Lay Apostles, enriching each one’s state of life and building a strong foundation to successfully work in all facets of life. Juanita Martinez began the Legion of Mary at Our Lady of Guadalupe Parish, Midland, Texas (now deceased, but never forgotten). Juanita Martinez was a charismatic leader. She also started the Guadalupanas Society at Our Lady of Guadalupe Parish and affiliated the organization at The Basilica of Our Lady of Guadalupe, Mexico City, Mexico. She taught religion classes at church and at home. She sponsored many girls and boys, women and men to the sacraments: Baptism, Confirmation, First Holy Communion and Matrimony.

THE RED MASS

A call to prayer,

to Catholic and other Christian lawyers, judges, and other public officials,

who serve the cause of justice, peace and compassion in our community,

to join in this occasion of prayer and commitment, in

A Eucharistic celebration

In honor of the Holy Spirit

upon the opening of the Judicial Year

Most Reverend Michael D. Pfeifer, O.M.I.,

Bishop of San Angelo,

Celebrant and Homilist

Hon. Marilyn Aboussie, Chief Justice,

Third Court of Appeals, Speaker

Christ The King Retreat Center Chapel,

San Angelo, Texas

November 28, 2001, 7:00 P.M.

Catholic Daughters Of The Americas Memorial Scholarships

by Doris Halfmann

The Catholic Daughters of the Americas Texas State Court has announced the winners of the 2001 Memorial Scholarships. Winners sponsored by the Court St. Monica, #1262, Olfen, Texas; their amounts; and CDA sponsors are: Jennifer Chancellor, $750.00, granddaughter of Mary Lou Multer; Kayla Kieschnick, $750.00, granddaughter of Doris Halfmann; and Blake Franke, $500.00, nephew of Felda Lange.

Mandy Jost was awarded $30.00 for her art contribution. Her parents are Susan and Lee Allen Jost.

Monies for awards in the Education division come from the Memorial Scholarship fund. Memorial Mass cards are a wonderful way to remember friends and loved ones. While you are contributing to the education of young men and women, your loved one is being lifted up in prayer by the State Chaplin, the Most Reverend James A. Tamayo on the first Friday of each month. A minimum donation is asked for each card and can be purchased from the Treasurer of a Catholic Daughter Court.